

JOHN VENTIMIGLIA would be the first person to tell you he's nothing like the Italian tough guys he's played in everything from "Law & Order" (NBC, 1990-2010) to "Mickey Blue Eyes" (1999). The Queens-born, New Jersey-bred actor studied at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York City and honed his acting chops on the stage before turning to film and TV in the 1990s. A student of classic '70s films and indie icon John Cassavetes, Ventimiglia parlayed his wiseguy looks into early roles as a dock-dwelling hoodlum in Woody Allen's "Bullets Over Broadway" (1994) and a criminal lowlife on "Homicide: Life on the Street" (NBC, 1993-99). But it was his portrayal of a sadsack mechanic in "Trees Lounge" (1996), Steve Buscemi's directorial debut, that eventually led to Ventimiglia's best-known role; restaurateur Artie Bucco on the critically-acclaimed "The Sopranos" (HBO, 1999-2007). His self-pitying but good-natured entrepreneur quickly became a fan favorite, giving the show several memorable moments. After the award-winning show went off the air, Ventimiglia, who once played in an '80s metal band called Zuzu's Petals, played against type with roles as a centuries-old vampire in the horror-comedy "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Undead" (2009); and as a beleaguered superhero in the small-scale "Alter Egos" (2012). A recurring performer on the primetime procedural "Blue Bloods" (CBS, 2010—) since 2011, Ventimiglia later appeared opposite Michael Shannon in the real-life Mafia hitman film "The Iceman." As intentional as he is thoughtful, John Ventimiglia is much more than meets the eye.

JACK KEROUAC (March 12, 1922–October 21, 1969), original name Jean-Louis Lebris de Kerouac. American novelist, poet, and leader of the Beat movement whose most famous book, *On the Road* (1957), had broad cultural influence before it was recognized for its literary merits. *On the Road* captured the spirit of its time as no other work of the 20th century had since F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925).



THE VILLAGE TRIP's mission is to uplift, to entertain and to celebrate the arts for all New Yorkers, their families and all people from around the world who come to visit Downtown Manhattan's special oases, Greenwich Village and the East Village.

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THE STRAND was born in 1927 on Fourth Avenue on what was then called "Book Row," an area that covered six city blocks and housed forty-eight bookstores. Our founder Benjamin Bass was all of twenty-five years old when he began his modest used bookstore and sought to create a place where books would be loved, and book lovers could congregate. Ninety years and a move over to Broadway, the Strand is still run by the Bass Family and is home to four floors of over 2.5 million used, new, and rare books, a wide array of bookish gifts, and fun literary events held almost every night of the week. From the dollar carts outside to the Rare Book Room on the third floor, and cheeky graffiti-ing throughout the store courtesy of Steve "EPSO" Powers, the iconic store now stands testament a place for book lovers to explore.

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THE VILLAGE TRIP

WHERE THE BEAT LIVES ON
in collaboration with HB Studio
Presents



directed by
David Deblinger

with music by
David Amram
Adam Amram
Rene Hart
Kevin Twigg

featuring
Stephanie Berry
Kevin Corrigan
John Doman
Marsha Mason
Dael Orlandersmith
Mercedes Ruehl
José Rivera
John Ventimiglia

September 17, 2022
at The Strand's
Rare Book Room
828 Broadway
New York, NY 10003

Program Line-Up

Opening Remarks
David Deblinger

- Excerpts**
1. Mercedes Ruehl
 2. José Rivera
 3. Marsha Mason
 4. Kevin Corrigan

10-minute Intermission

5. Dael Orlandersmith
6. John Doman
7. John Ventimiglia
8. Stephanie Berry

Closing Remarks
David Amram

DAVID AMRAM has been described as “the Renaissance man of American music.” He has composed over 100 orchestral and chamber works, written two operas, and many scores for theatre and films. He has collaborated with such notables as Leonard Bernstein, Dizzy Gillespie, Dustin Hoffman, Charlie Mingus, Elia Kazan, Odetta, Jack Kerouac, Betty Carter and Tito Puente. He has conducted and performed as a soloist with symphony orchestras around the world, participated in major music festivals, and traveled from Brazil and Cuba to Kenya and Egypt. Since being appointed first composer-in-residence with the New York Philharmonic in 1966-67, he has become one of the most acclaimed composers of his generation, listed by BMI as one of their “Twenty Most Performed Composers of Concert Music in the United States.”

STEPHANIE BERRY, born and bred in Harlem, Stephanie, the youngest of four, was raised in a family of community activists. Stephanie experienced her coming of age during the era of the Vietnam War. In America, this prolonged fight to stop communism and the number of black youth drafted, propagated anti-war protests, peace marches, and fueled battles on college campuses for Black Studies and to end the war. This era would also bring about a heroin epidemic that plagued urban communities. Stephanie found her voice in the movement for justice and empowerment: organizing workers, free breakfast programs for children, women’s rights, and the arts. Stephanie seeks to continue that legacy of humanity and compassion through her work as an artist. In 1984, she co-founded a community based organization, Blackberry Productions Theater Company. The company has developed and produced a repertoire of original works and community forums that give a platform for marginalized voices and pressing issues in the community and celebrate the world of imagination to inspire hope. For the past couple of seasons Stephanie has embodied some diverse roles stepping in and out of a range of ages, social economic statuses and plumbing the gamut of emotional depths. In such roles as: Faye in Skeleton Crew at Baltimore Center Stage; Louise in Seven Guitars at Yale Repertory Theater; Mrs. Breedlove in The Bluest Eye at the Guthrie Theater; Katharine in Mothers and Sons at Cincinnati Playhouse and Adelaide and Aunt Glo in Wild With Happy at Baltimore Center Stage.

One of her greatest creative challenges was as author and actor in her one-woman production, The Shannequa Chronicles: The Making of a Black Woman. Stephanie won an OBIE award, AUDELCO and New Voices Award with Harlem Stage for this coming of age story about an African American woman’s evolution growing up in urban America. She has appeared on Broadway and in principal roles on the following television shows: Bull, The Last OG, Luke Cage, Blacklist, Blue Bloods, Louie, Broad City, and all the Law and Order shows. She can be seen in the upcoming movies: Submission and OG. Other film credits include principal roles in: The Delivery Man, The Invasion, No Reservations, Finding Forrester and several independent films.

KEVIN CORRIGAN is a native of the Bronx, New York, Kevin Corrigan has been acting and writing since the age of 15. He made his film debut in Lost Angels (1989) and around that time, when he was just 17, his original play “The Boiler Room” was produced by the Young Playwrights Festival of New York. He has gone on to star in countless independent films and has made quite an impression. Corrigan is also an experienced guitarist and has played in several New York City bands.

DAVID DEBLINGER is an award winning actor, director, writer, acting teacher and a co-founder of Labyrinth Theater Company. He has appeared as an actor in roles at Labyrinth (The Public Theater), Manhattan Theater Club, TFANA, Vineyard, Williamstown Theater Festival, The Old Globe, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and many more. On TV he will be seen in a recurring role in the upcoming Tulsa King with Sylvester Stallone on Paramount plus and had a recurring role opposite Forest Whitaker in The Godfather of Harlem on Epix. He’s also appeared in Broad City, Blue Bloods, Law and Order SVU, The Sopranos, Sex and the City and more. As a director he recently completed production on his independent pilot, “You n Yours: The Father File.” His “Shakespearean Minute,” won the New York Foundation of the Arts Fellowship award, and he wrote and directed the award winning short, “The Call Back,” with Sam Rockwell.

JOHN DOMAN was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. After graduation he joined the Marine Corps and served in Vietnam. Following Graduate School at Penn State University, John spent 20 years in the advertising business in New York. In 1991 he began a career as an actor. He has worked extensively in television, film and on the stage. Film credits include The Trial of The Chicago Seven, Cold Pursuit, Blue Valentine, Mystic River, You Were Never Really Here, Die Hard With A Vengeance, The Company Men, Cop Land, City by the Sea and Mercury Rising among others. Television work includes The Wire, Gotham, The Affair, Borgia, The Boys, Feed the Beast, Damages, Oz, Person of Interest, Rizzoli & Isles, The Good Wife, Law & Order and many others. He is currently filming a recurring role for Law & Order Organized Crime. He has worked on the stage in New York and major regional theaters in plays by playwrights ranging from Sam Shepard to Shakespeare.

MARSHA MASON has received four Academy Award nominations for her roles in the films The Goodbye Girl, Cinderella Liberty, Only When I Laugh and Chapter Two. She has been the recipient of two Golden Globe Awards for her film roles and an Emmy Award nomination for her role on “Frasier.” Her other TV credits include “The Middle,” “The Good Wife,” “Madam Secretary,” and “Grace & Frankie.” Broadway roles include Impressionism with Jeremy Irons, Steel Magnolias, The Night of the Iguana, The Good Doc-

tor, King Richard III, and Cactus Flower. Off-Broadway she co-starred in the world premiere of Terrence McNally’s Fire and Air at Classic Stage and Little Gem at the Irish Repertory Theatre (Outer Critics Circle Award winner for Outstanding Actress in a Play). Regionally she has starred in All’s Well That Ends Well at Shakespeare in Washington, DC, A Doll’s House at ACT in San Francisco, Arms and the Man at Old Globe Theatre in San Diego and Watch on the Rhine at Arena Stage in Washington, DC.

As a director, Marsha, has helmed productions of Neil Simon’s Chapter Two and Steel Magnolias at the Bucks County Playhouse, Chapter Two and the first female An Act of God with Paige Davis at the Arizona Theatre Company, Juno Swans for Second Stage in New York City and the World Premiere of Tennessee Williams’s Talisman Roses starring Amanda Plummer at the Tennessee Williams Festival in Provincetown, Mass. Marsha was Associate Director with Jack O’Brien for the Roundabout Theater’s production of All My Sons on Broadway. She received a Daytime Emmy® Award for Direction of “Little Miss Perfect”. In 2020, she directed Walter Bobbie and Brooke Shields in The Man Who Came to Dinner for Bucks County Playhouse, starred with Brian Cox in Dear Liar for Bucks County, and opposite Richard Dreyfus in The Letters of Noel Coward for Bay Street Theater. Marsha recently starred and co-directed Neil Simon’s Lost in Yonkers at the Hartford Stage in April of this year.

DAEL ORLANDERSMITH plays include Stoop Stories, Black n’ Blue Boys/Broken Men, Horsedreams, Bones, The Blue Album, Yellowman, The Gimmick, Monster, and Forever. Ms. Orlandersmith was a Pulitzer Prize finalist and Drama Desk Award nominee for Yellowman and the winner of the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize for The Gimmick. Dael is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts grant, The Helen Merrill Award for Emerging Playwrights, a Guggenheim, along with several other awards and honors. Her play, FOREVER, was commissioned and performed at the Mark Taper Forum/Kirk Douglas Theatre Fall of 2014, followed by performances at the Long Wharf Theatre Winter 2014/15, New York Theatre Workshop Spring 2015, and will run at Portland Center Stage Winter 2016. Her play ‘Until the flood’ was done at St Louis Repertory fall of 2016. She is currently working on two commissions for Artists Repertory theatre. In Portland and Milwaukee Repertory theatre. ‘Until the Flood’ was done at Rattlestick theatre in 2018 and Milwaukee rep. In 2019 it was done at Portland center stage/ACT Seattle/the Arcola Theatre in London/ The Galway Arts festival at the Druid theatre/ and at the Traverse at Edinburgh Festival...the play is scheduled to be performed in Berlin at the Schaubühner theatre in April of 2022 and at the Spoleto festival in Charleston, SC in June 2022. Ms Orlandersmith is working on a Commission for Rattle stick theatre called ‘watching the watcher’.. and has two plays opening at Milwaukee repertory theatre in 2022: NEW AGE—to be directed by Jade King Carroll and ANTONIO’S SONG/I WAS DREAMING OF A SON—co-written with Antonio S uarez Edwards and directed by Mark Clement. She is also working on a new work with writer/ performer David Cale called ‘ You don’t know the lonely one’. And is working on a new piece called SPIR-ITAS’ In 2020 Ms Orlandersmith received the Doris Duke award.

JOSÉ RIVERA has written 27 full-length plays and is a recipient of Obie Awards for Marisol and References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot, both produced by The Public Theatre, NY, and seen regionally and internationally. His film “The Motorcycle Diaries” was nominated for 2005 Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar, as well as a BAFTA and Writers Guild Award, and received top screenwriting awards in Argentina and Spain. His film “On the Road” premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. Rivera co-created and produced “Eerie, Indiana.” He is the sole writer of 16 episodes of the Netflix series based on One Hundred Years of Solitude. Rivera’s award-winning short films “The Fall of a Sparrow” and “The Civet” have been seen in film festivals around the country. He wrote and directed a zoom/theatre/film hybrid of Sonnets for an Old Century for Paula Vogel’s Bard at the Gate company, 2021.

MERCEDES RUEHL is an award-winning stage, film and television actress. She came to popular attention in 1988’s Married To The Mob, which earned her a National Society of Film Critics Award. Ruehl won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe, as well as other awards, for her role in Terry Gilliam’s film The Fisher King. Other films include Big opposite Tom Hanks, For Roseanna opposite Jean Reno, and numerous others. Ruehl has starred and guest starred in many television series including Entourage, Life in Pieces, Bull, NCIS, Two Broke Girls, Power, Luck, L&O:SVU, and in HBO’s Golden Globe and Emmy winning telefilm “Gia”.

Ruehl earned a Tony Award for Neil Simon’s Lost in Yonkers, as well as The Helen Hayes and Drama Desk Awards. Ruehl received Tony nominations for The Shadowbox, and Edward Albee’s Pulitzer Prize winning The Goat, or Who is Sylvia. She won the Obie Awards for Woman Before A Glass, as well as Christopher Durang’s The Marriage of Bette and Boo. Ruehl was awarded the Clarence Derwent Award for Other Peoples Money and a Drama Desk nomination for Tennessee Williams’ The Rose Tattoo. Ruehl starred in Richard Greenberg’s “The American Plan” at MTC, and in Edward Albee’s “The Occupant” at The Signature Theater. She starred at The Old Vic in Neil Simon’s “Prisoner of Second Avenue w/Jeff Goldblum. Ruehl revived a one-woman show about Diana Vreeland at The Old Globe, and has starred in numerous productions at Bay St. Theater. Mercedes starred in the 2nd stage Off-Broadway revival of Harvey Fierstein’s Torch Song, and starred in the production which moved to Broadway and ran from Nov. 2018 to Jan. 2019. Ruehl recently filmed the lead role in the indie The Nana Project directed by Robin Givens, and co-starred in the feature Hustlers starring Jennifer Lopez.