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## Elements of Oz

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

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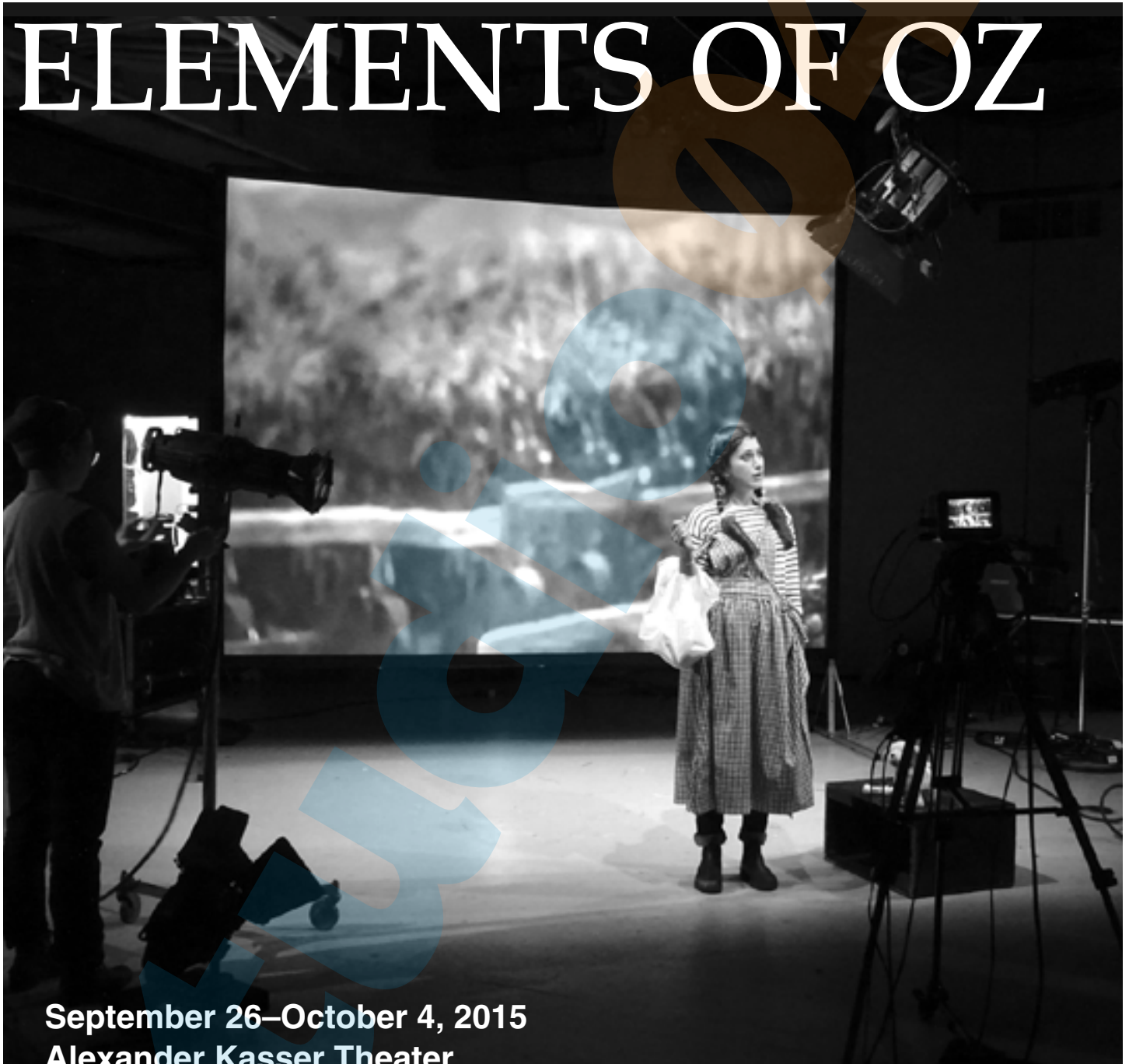
# **Peak Performances**

2015|2016 SEASON

**World Premiere!**

**The Builders Association**

# **ELEMENTS OF OZ**



**September 26–October 4, 2015**

**Alexander Kasser Theater**



**MONTCLAIR STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

Photo by Katy Alexander

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President  
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts  
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

**World Premiere!**

The Builders Association

# ELEMENTS OF OZ

Directed by **Marianne Weems**

Co-created and Written by **James Gibbs** and **Moe Angelos**

Sound Design and Original Music Composition by **Dan Dobson**

Video Design by **Austin Switser**

Lighting by **Jennifer Tipton**

Scenic Design by **Neal Wilkinson**

Performers **Moe Angelos, Sean Donovan, Hannah Heller**

Augmented Reality Design **John Cleater**

Interactive Design/Programming **Jesse Garrison**

Augmented Reality/Network Consultants **Larry Shea, Kevan Loney**

Identity and App Design **LeClair Lucas**

Costume Design **Andreea Mincic**

Assistant Directors **Sarah Krohn, Eleanor Bishop**

Production Manager **Brendan Regimbal**

Technical Director **Carl Whipple**

Associate Lighting Design **Elliott Jenetopulos**

Associate Video Design **Amanda Long**

Sound Associate **Andrew Lulling**

Unity Programmer **Ben Norskov**

Production Stage Manager **Emma Sherr-Ziarko**

Managing Director **Erica Laird**

Lighting Intern **MJ Kanai**

Montclair State Production Assistants **Kelsey Mulholland, April Sigler, Kasia Skorynkiewicz**

Additionally, the following artists contributed to this production at various stages of the development process:

**Laura Mroczkowski, Dale Thomas Krupla, Jess Barbagallo, Josh Matthews, Geoff Gersh, Matthew Karges, Katy Alexander, Nicolas Graver, Deniese Lara, Virginia Wang, Matt O'Hare.**

*ELEMENTS OF OZ* was co-produced by Peak Performances @ Montclair State University (NJ) and was developed in residence at the Alexander Kasser Theater, Montclair State University.

The Augmented Reality tools for this production were developed in partnership with the students and faculty of Carnegie Mellon University's IDeAte program. The program supports curricula and research in areas that blend technology and arts expertise. Its activities are housed in Pittsburgh and in the new CMU@NYC site in Brooklyn. The CMU Integrative Media program in New York City is part of the NYC Applied Science Initiative.

*ELEMENTS OF OZ* was made possible with support from public funds provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Venue support for this project was provided by 3LD Art & Technology Center, BRIC, and the A.R.T./New York Creative Space Grant, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Duration: 1 hour, no intermission.

The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

# About the Company

Directed by Marianne Weems, The Builders Association is a New York City–based, Obie award–winning performance and media company that creates original productions based on stories drawn from contemporary life. The company uses the richness of new and old tools to extend the boundaries of theater. Based on innovative collaborations, Builders’ productions blend stage performance, text, video, sound, and architecture to tell stories about human experience in the 21st century.

For over 20 years, the Builders have been at the forefront of innovation and creativity in integrating advanced technology and media with live performance. Their work has pioneered the growth, acceptance, and continuing expansion of multimedia technology as part of live performance, evidenced by the integration of such technologies in productions from Broadway to the Metropolitan Opera. What sets the Builders apart is their deep interest in telling stories about the lives of real people. Their long history of success combining the cutting edge of new technology with powerful stories has strengthened their belief that new stage tools can bring storytelling to a new audience.

Past productions include *MASTER BUILDER* (1994), based on Ibsen’s play and built in an industrial space in Chelsea; *THE WHITE ALBUM* (1995), which intermingled the Beatles album with Noel Coward’s *Blythe Spirit*; *IMPERIAL MOTEL (FAUST)* (1996) and *JUMP CUT (FAUST)* (1997), both based on versions of the parable; and *JET LAG* (1998, Obie Award Outstanding Production), a collaboration with celebrated architects Diller Scofidio + Renfro and based on two true stories about travel. In 2010 *JET LAG* was remounted for Peak Performances at Montclair State University. Other productions include *XTRAVAGANZA* (2000), which drew on the history of multimedia entertainment; *ALLADEEN* (2003, Obie Award), a collaboration with the London-based arts company motiroti that explored the collision of cultures in a global economy; *AVANTI* (2004), about the demise of the Studebaker auto corporations; *SUPER VISION* (2005), dramatizing the increasing ways in which our personal information is collected and

distributed; *INVISIBLE CITIES* (2006), which was created with several NYC educational and community centers and featured the reflections of at-risk students on New York's present and future; and *CONTINUOUS CITY* (2008), which explored how disconnect and distance can be created by the same technology we use to remain connected.

Recent projects include *HOUSE / DIVIDED*, a juxtaposition of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* with contemporary stories of the ongoing mortgage and foreclosure crisis; and *SONTAG: REBORN*, based on the journals of Susan Sontag.

Builders Association productions have toured around the world at major venues in London, Paris, Bogotá, Singapore, Brussels, Melbourne, and Frankfurt, among others, and in New York City at Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Guggenheim Museum, The Kitchen, Lincoln Center, New York Theatre Workshop, the Public Theater, St. Ann's Warehouse, the Whitney Museum, and elsewhere. **[thebuildersassociation.org](http://thebuildersassociation.org)**

Forthcoming from MIT Press this fall! *The Builders Association: Performance and Media in Contemporary Theater*, authored by Shannon Jackson and Marianne Weems. [mitpress.mit.edu/books/builders-association](http://mitpress.mit.edu/books/builders-association)

Board of Directors **Sharon Connelly** (President), **James Gibbs**, **Ellen Salpeter**, **Jennifer Tipton**, **Marianne Weems**, **Kim Whitener** (Treasurer).

## **Acknowledgments**

Special thanks to Jed Wheeler and his team at Peak Performances, Jason Aylesworth, The Performing Garage, and Adam Thompson.

The Builders Association is grateful to its generous individual donors and contributors.

Builders Foundation Support: New York Community Trust, Toby Devan Lewis Foundation; Goodworks Foundation; Curtis McGraw Foundation.

For complete program information, including artist bios, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/OzPro>.

## About the Artists

**Marianne Weems** (Director) is artistic director of The Builders Association and has directed all of their productions since the company began in 1994. In the past, she has worked with Susan Sontag, The Wooster Group, David Byrne, and many others. She is the former head of graduate directing in the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University (2008–14) and is building their Integrative Media Program in New York City. She serves on the board of Art Matters, is the co-author of *Art Matters: How the Culture Wars Changed America* (NYU Press 2000), and is co-authoring a book with Shannon Jackson on The Builders Association forthcoming this October from MIT Press.

**Moe Angelos** (Co-Creator/Writer/Performer) is a theater-maker, playwright, and crazy cat lady (minus cats) and has collaborated with The Builders Association as a performer and writer since 2000. She is also one of The Five Lesbian Brothers, who have won some awards while retaining their dignity. She wrote and performed The Builders' *SONTAG: REBORN* at New York Theatre Workshop in 2013, and the production continues to tour. Recently Angelos had the pleasure of being in the star-studded remount of Jeff Weiss's serialized downtown drama, *That's How the Rent Gets Paid* at The Kitchen. Angelos works in United Scenic Artists 829, assisting with Hollywood magic when she is not treading the boards. To hear more of what she (and Marianne Weems) have to say about show business, visit [madehereproject.org](http://madehereproject.org) and browse the artists.

**Eleanor Bishop** (Assistant Director), originally from Aotearoa, New Zealand, is currently studying for her master of fine arts in directing at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Drama as a John Wells Fellow and a Fulbright Scholar. She has worked as an assistant director for The Builders Association and as an assistant to the director at The Wooster Group. She is a feminist artist who creates documentary theater that weaves found sources in an intimate dialogue with the performers' lives. Her latest work, *Steubenville* (which explores the Steubenville High School rape case), was presented at Carnegie Mellon last year and is available for touring to colleges and communities.

**John Cleater** (Augmented Reality Design) was educated and trained as an architect, receiving his masters from Columbia University. He worked with Asymptote Architecture, off and on, from 1989 to 2003, where he led projects for clients such as Guggenheim Museum, Venice Biennale 2000, Documenta XI, New York Stock Exchange, and others. He is a founding member of The Builders Association, with whom he has created designs for the stage since 1994. He was introduced to Augmented Reality (AR) in 2010; his AR work has since appeared at Corcoran Gallery 31, DC; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Venice Biennale 2011; Devotion Gallery, NY; Kasa Gallery, Istanbul; DUMBO Arts Festival 2011; FACT UK; Singapore Biennale; and others. In the summer of 2011, he curated and participated in a geo-locative AR exhibition at Art Omi in Ghent, NY. Participants of this exhibition included such architects as Libeskind Studio, SHoP, Asymptote, Acconci Studio, and others. Cleater shows his drawings, sculpture, and photomontages at Thompson Giroux Gallery in Chatham, NY.

**Dan Dobson** (Sound Design and Original Music Composition) is a founding member of The Builders Association and has designed sound for all of their productions. In addition to editing and scoring for film, he has played zither and Chapman stick for Blue Man Group since 1995.

**Sean Donovan** (Performer) is a New York actor, dancer, and writer. He has been performing with The Builders Association since 2011. He also performs with Faye Driscoll, Miguel Gutierrez, Jane Comfort and Company, Witness Relocation, Jennie Marytai Liu, and others. In 2014 he was



nominated for a Bessie Award for Outstanding Performance. Recent credits include Faye Driscoll's *Thank You for Coming: Attendance* at Danspace Project, Miguel Gutierrez's *Age & Beauty: Part 2* at Abrons Arts Center, and The Builders Association's *HOUSE / DIVIDED* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He received his BFA from New York University's Experimental Theatre Wing. He has trained and performed internationally as well as in theaters and universities throughout the United States. He creates dance theater works with Sebastián Calderón under the collaborative title Donovan & Calderón. Original works include *Se Vende* (2008), *The Climate Chronicles* (2011), and *18 ½ Minutes* (2013). Donovan & Calderón are currently artists-in-residence at HERE Arts Center, developing a new work to premiere in 2017.

**Jesse Garrison** (Interactive Design/Programming) is an emerging Los Angeles–based video designer and multimedia artist. He is an MFA candidate at the California Institute of the Arts, studying Video for Performance with a concentration in integrated media. He is returning from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where he presented his work on *Francesca, Francesca*, directed by Megan Lewicki, and *Thread*, choreographed by Leslie Scott. His other recent stage work includes *Paradise by Design*, directed by Martin Acosta, *Lock and Key*, choreographed by Sophia Stoller, *influentialBody*, choreographed by Andrea Gise, Kristen Smiarowski's *Key Game*, and a workshop production of *Things that Go Bump in the Night* by Katy Alexander. He acted as associate video designer on The Builders Association's *SONTAG: REBORN* and assisted on *HOUSE / DIVIDED*. Garrison is a member of The Builders Association and a Sinking Ship Productions associate artist.

**James Gibbs** (Co-Creator/Writer) is a writer and company dramaturg with The Builders Association. He is currently at work on his first novel and recently had short fiction published with *Storyscape Journal*. Gibbs was a founder and remains a director of DBOX, a company that makes stories about buildings (advertising, branding, media) and won an Emmy in 2012 for *Rising: Rebuilding Ground Zero*. His photography work with DBOX and with husband Dick Page has been published in the *New York Times*, *Surface*, *allure*, *W*, and *Interview* magazines, among others.

**Hannah Heller** (Performer) was recently seen in Nellie Tinder's *Emily Climbs* (The Brick), Obie Award–winning *The World Is Round* (Brooklyn Academy of Music), and Grand Lady Dance House's *Actress Fury* (REDCAT/Bushwick Starr), and she choreographed Half Straddle's *House of Dance* (Abrons Arts Center/COIL Festival). She has worked with Taylor Mac, Donovan & Calderón, Jess Barbagallo, Trish Harnetiaux, and Heather Christian and was a founding member of Savion Glover's group Ti Dii. In France, she played the sole role in a film adaptation of Jean Cocteau's *La Voix Humaine* and directed the short film *Herma's Question No. 151* while studying with the master of humanity Philippe Gaulier. Upcoming, she will be seen in Janicza Bravo's virtual reality short film *Hard World for Small Things*.

**Elliott Jenetopulos** (Associate Lighting Design) works in design and production of dance, theater, and performance and was a collaborator on Sarah Maxfield's *Nonlinear Lineage*. As a lighting designer, Jenetopulos has worked with Jen Rosenblit, Anna Sperber, Marissa Perel, Enrico Wey, Luciana Achugar, Lorene Bouboushian, Tess Dworman, Niv Acosta, Ursula Eagly, and others.

**Sarah Krohn** (Assistant Director) previously assistant directed *JET LAG 2010* and *HOUSE / DIVIDED* for The Builders Association. She has directed and developed work through Clubbed Thumb, the cell, New Georges, The Flea, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dixon Place, JACK, Boston Center for the Arts, and New Repertory Theatre, among others. Krohn is a 2014–16 Time Warner Foundation Fellow at Women's Project Theater Lab, a member and co-facilitator of the New Georges Jam writer/director group, and an alumna of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab. She is a recipient of an inaugural Audrey Residency from New Georges and the Williamstown Theater Festival Sagal Fellowship. She is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon (MFA) and Columbia University (BA).

**Erica Laird** (Managing Director) has been with the Builders since 2009. She was the marketing and residency manager at the Cutler Majestic

Theatre in Boston and a senior associate at international booking agency Micocci Productions in New York, toured as company manager with *Mabou Mines DollHouse*, and spent a few years in corporate finance. Laird is a producer for Switser + Knight, a Brooklyn-based projection design studio.

**LeClair Lucas** (Identity and App Design) is a New York–based graphic-design studio founded by Andrew LeClair and Adam Lucas in 2014. The studio works in close collaboration with artists, architects, and cultural institutions to produce identities, publications, and collateral for print and screen. Their recent projects include a complete redesign of *Metropolis* magazine, an online publishing tool for the Graphic Design Department at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), a new identity and catalog for the furniture designers Egg Collective, and an online publication featuring the work of Lucinda Childs for the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage. Their work has been recognized by the Society of Publication Designers and AIGA and featured in *Print* magazine, *GDUSA*, and *Wallpaper*, among other publications and exhibitions. The partners have taught classes, led workshops, and been visiting critics at RISD and Parsons School of Design.

**Kevan Loney** (Augmented Reality/Network Consultant) is currently a Video and Media Design MFA candidate at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU)'s School of Drama. With a background in interactive computing, 3D animation, and live performance, he is working towards innovative and interactive design for live entertainment. Recently, he has worked as a video/media designer for *The Nina Variations*, *The Wiz* (CMU), *Gertrude Stein SAINTS!* (Abrons Arts Center), *Emily Dickinson OUTER SPACE!* (The Bushwick Starr), *The Irresistible* (Immersive Gallery), the regional premiere of *Pete 'n' Keely*, and *Mack and Mabel* (Stages Repertory Theatre). [KevanLoney.com](http://KevanLoney.com).

**Amanda Long** (Associate Video Design) is a video sculptor whose installations investigate light, color, perception, and universality. Her intention is to engulf the observer in an optical experience or a video mirror. She has exhibited work at Socrates Sculpture Park, the Mattress Factory Museum, the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, and BRIC Arts | Media

House. She is currently making an outdoor interactive video sculpture for a New York City park through the Art in the Parks program. Long lives and works in Queens, NY. [amandalong.org](http://amandalong.org).

**Andrew Lulling** (Sound Associate), with almost 20 years of experience in a range of productions, including intimate music arrangements, theater and performance art, video projection, and live music reinforcement, brings an aesthetic sensibility and subtlety to the audio management of modern productions. This marks his first production with The Builders.

**Andreea Mincic** (Costume Design) recently worked on *The Return* with Tom Lee, *Ancient Lives* with Half Straddle, *Queen for a Day* with John Gould Rubin, *Madame Bovary* with Kyle deCamp, *Scarlet Ibis* with Mallory Catlett, and *dataPurge* with Ryan Holsopple. Other collaborators in New York include Radiohole, Hoi Polloi, 31 Down, Catherine Dill, Yoav Gal, Susan Marshall & Company, Banana Bag and Bodice, Big Dance Theater, and LaGuardia Performing Arts Center. For The Builders Association she previously designed *JET LAG 2010* and *SONTAG: REBORN*.

**Brendan Regimbal** (Production Manager) is a Brooklyn-based theater artist. He worked as Richard Foreman's production/stage manager and assistant director from 2006 to 2010. He is a founding member of the Incubator Arts Project, where he served as one of the curators until it closed in 2014. He has collaborated with several downtown theater companies and artists, including Big Dance Theater, Suzanne Bocanegra, Object Collection, Radiohole, New York City Players, Elevator Repair Service, Young Jean Lee's Theater Company, Bluemouth Inc., Foxy Films, Title:Point Productions, 31 Down Radio Theater, The Paper Industry, and Sponsored By Nobody.

**Larry Shea** (Augmented Reality/Network Consultant) works with a wide variety of digital and analog media to create artworks and develop new media technologies for live events. He enjoys working in creative teams, merging technical possibilities with aesthetic and political concerns, creating layered and meaningful experiences. He has exhibited his artwork and

designed visuals and interactivity for theatrical productions and fine artworks around the world. Shea is currently an associate professor of video and media design in the School of Drama at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he founded and runs the Video and Media Design MFA program.

**Emma Sherr-Ziarko** (Production Stage Manager) is a New York City–based stage manager and actor. With The Builders Association, she previously stage managed *SONTAG: REBORN* and *HOUSE / DIVIDED*. She also works as an actor for theater and voiceover, and you can hear her on the popular audio drama series *Wolf 359*. She holds a BA in Theater from Wesleyan University. [emmasherrziarko.com](http://emmasherrziarko.com).

**Austin Switser** (Video Design) has designed *SONTAG: REBORN*, *HOUSE / DIVIDED*, and *JET LAG 2010* for The Builders Association. Recent projects include *Paradise Interrupted* (Spoleto Festival USA), *Big Love* (Signature Theatre), *Facing Goya* (Spoleto Festival USA, Singapore International Festival of Arts), and *Émilie* (Spoleto Festival USA, Lincoln Center Festival, Finnish National Opera). Switser has worked regionally at the Mark Taper Forum, Ahmanson Theater, Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Globe Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, Syracuse Stage, and Second Stage. He is the creative director for the Brooklyn-based projection design studio Switser + Knight. [switserknight.com](http://switserknight.com).

**Jennifer Tipton** (Lighting) is well known for her work in theater, dance, and opera. Her recent work in opera includes *La Traviata* in Barcelona, directed by David McVicar. Her recent work in dance includes Liam Scarlett's *The Age of Anxiety* for the Royal Ballet in London. In theater, her recent work includes *The Room* by Harold Pinter for the Wooster Group. Tipton teaches lighting at the Yale School of Drama. She received the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize in 2001, the Jerome Robbins Prize in 2003, and in April 2004, the Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture in New York City. In 2008 she was made a United States Artists "Gracie" Fellow and a MacArthur Fellow.

**Carl Whipple** (Technical Director) is a freelance carpenter and technical director based in New York City. *ELEMENTS OF OZ* is his first show with The Builders. Recent credits include *Youarenowhere* (Andrew Schneider), *Judy* (P73), and *Straight White Men* (Young Jean Lee's Theater Company) as well as a variety of shops and venues throughout New York City.

**Neal Wilkinson** (Scenic Design) has been a member of The Builders Association's production and design team since *ALLADEEN* in 2003. Recent set design credits include Kaija Saariaho's mono-opera *Émilie* at the Finnish National Opera, Ryan Elisabeth Reid's *Henri* at the Smith Center Las Vegas, and Jack Hitt's *Making Up the Truth* at the Spoleto Festival and Long Wharf. Wilkinson is the founder of Corps Liminis, a production management and design firm working in both the theater and art worlds. Recent credits for Corps Liminis include Michel Gondry's *Hyperballad Wall* for the Björk retrospective and Isaac Julien's *Ten Thousand Waves* (Museum of Modern Art, NYC), Phantom Limb's *Memory Rings* (OZ Arts, Nashville), and the 2015 Live Ideas Festival curated by Laurie Anderson at New York Live Arts. [ndwilkinson.com](http://ndwilkinson.com).

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**Office of Arts & Cultural Programming** (ACP) presents and produces remarkable works of dance, music, theater, and opera at the Alexander Kasser Theater under the banner Peak Performances. Specific to its mission is a willingness to offer work by artists whose ideas are singular and worthy examples of creative innovation. Notable past productions include Richard Schechner's *Imagining O*; Robert Woodruff's *Dog Days* by David T. Little and Royce Vavrek; Robert Wilson's *Zinnias: The Life of Clementine Hunter* by Bernice Johnson Reagon, Toshi Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; David Gordon's *Shlemiel the First* by Robert Brustein, Arnold Weinstein, and Hankus Netsky; Ridge Theater's *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* by David Lang; and The Builders Association's *Elements of Oz*. ACP has commissioned works by Vijay Iyer, Liz Gerring, Bill T. Jones, Susan Marshall, Jan Fabre, Richard Alston, Liz Lerman,

Wayne McGregor, Laurie Anderson (for the Kronos Quartet), Romeo Castellucci, Pat Graney, Fred Hersch, and Nora Chipaumire. ACP has fostered several unique initiatives, such as the Creative Thinking course, which takes the artistic process as impetus for problem solving in all academic disciplines, and Dance for Film on Location at MSU, a multiyear project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

ACP is the proud recipient of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance/New Jersey State Council on the Arts Cultural Access Network Innovator Award and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Citation of Excellence and Designation of Major Impact.

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The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Alison and James T. Cirenza

Holly and Robert Gregory

I. Michael Kasser

The Honorable Mary Mochary



To view our complete season and for more information, visit **[peakperfs.org](http://peakperfs.org)**.

