

OLEANNA

A PLAY BY DAVID MAMET
SHOW PROGRAM



ICARUS
THEATRE

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to Icarus Theatre's first three-show season! I'm going to split this note into two sections: one, a note from me as the Artistic Director introducing you to the year ahead. Second, a bit about my thoughts on the play you are about to see tonight, which I'd prefer for you to read after the play is over. Here goes!

The Season

Thank you for being here tonight. We're taking a bold leap in the development of our company, investing in the quality of storytelling, and all the while doing it with some downright incredible and challenging scripts. Our season investigates this increasingly blurry idea we call the 'truth', and will bring together some of the city's best emerging and established artists to tackle it. If you've been with us since the beginning, or you're just joining us for the first time, thank you. It means a great deal to have each and every one of you here.

The Show (Read after the play, spoilers ahead!)

When I read this play, I had a hard time believing it was written in 1992. I had just graduated from a post-secondary program, and had seen and heard about so many situations similar to what you witnessed tonight.

I wanted you to read this note after the play, because I think what is most important is your feelings towards the characters. I think it's more interesting to ask these questions in hindsight. Do you side with one over the other? Why? What could their foil have done differently to make this situation better? Or was it all inevitable?

For my part, I don't side with one or the other. I think that both characters are in many ways, very wrong and very right. All I really have to say about the play is this: This has happened, it is likely happening, and it will happen again.

-Anthony Goncharov

OLEANNA

By David Mamet

CAST

Star Slade
Carol

Aris Athanasopoulos
John

CREATIVE

DIRECTOR: Anthony Goncharov

STAGE MANAGER: Jenna Hsu

FIGHT/INTIMACY DIRECTOR: Afton Rentz

COSTUME/PROP DESIGNER: Emily Anne Corcoran

LIGHTING DESIGNER: Lidia Foote

SOUND DESIGNER: Erik Richards

SET DESIGNER: Bharat N Vyas

PIANO RECORDING: Bjorn Kriel

FOR ICARUS THEATRE

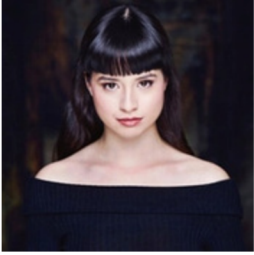
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: Anthony Goncharov

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Connor Briggs

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Emily Anne Corcoran

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER: Erik Richards

POSTER PHOTOGRAPHY: Emily Anne Corcoran



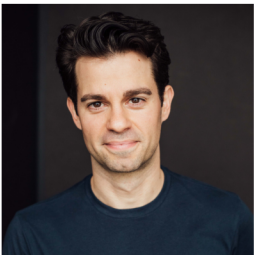
Star Slade*

Carol

Star Slade has appeared opposite Nicolas Cage in *Dream Scenario* (A24), with Jason Momoa in *Frontier* (Netflix), and guest starred on *Diggstown* (CBC). For four seasons she played Luna Spence on the legal drama *Burden of Truth* (CBC/CW) alongside Kristin Kreuk. Her leading film credits include her award-nominated performance as Yvette Wong in *Cafe Daughter*, Jen in the comedy *Deaner '89*, and Madison in the upcoming feature *Nika & Madison*, premiering at TIFF this year. She has several projects in development, including leading roles in *Binding Spells & Sour Jars* and *No Other Love*.

Deeply curious about this world, Star believes that asking questions is everything. She is grateful to Icarus Theatre for offering her this opportunity, and to her team, Adam Stutt and Philip Grenz, for all their hard work and belief in her. This show is dedicated to her brilliant mom: "Thank you for everything."

Oleanna marks her professional stage debut.



Aris Athanasopoulos*

John

Aris Athanasopoulos is thrilled to make his Icarus Theatre debut in *Oleanna* by David Mamet. Born in Elliot Lake and raised in Mississauga, Aris trained at York University's Acting Conservatory. On stage, he's played a number of roles, including Baruch Spinoza in *New Jerusalem* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company) and Tristan in the Canadian premiere of *The Effect* (Coal Mine Theatre). On screen, his work ranges from "Juicehead #2" in a TV movie with Pauly Shore to guest roles on *Law & Order Toronto: Criminal Intent*, with the upcoming film *Maya & Samar* coming soon. Aris is beyond excited to dive into this timeless, provocative play, and sends love and thanks to his wife Jenny, his family, and his agent Karen Williams-Posival for their incredible support.



Anthony Goncharov

Director

Anthony Goncharov is an Associate Producer at Coal Mine Theatre, a Founding Associate of The Vault Creation Lab, and (most importantly) Artistic Director of Icarus Theatre. He loves good theatre, a well-crafted performance, and challenging scripts.

Outside of the theatre world, he likes Muay Thai, listening to metal, and rock climbing.



Jenna Hsu

Stage Manager

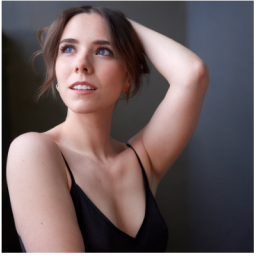
Jenna Hsu is an artist originally from Regina, Saskatchewan and has recently moved to Toronto to work with the immense talent in this city. This is her solo stage managing debut and she's so happy to be working with the Oleanna and Icarus team. Jenna is thrilled to be helping bring David Mamet's work back to Toronto and hopes you enjoy these slices of life from some of the most interesting characters she's ever worked with. Welcome to the world of Oleanna. @itsjennahsu



Afton Rentz*

Fight/Intimacy Director

Afton Rentz is a fight and intimacy director, actor, and stunt performer certified in three different countries. Training across multiple continents has given her a breadth of understanding in the techniques and intricacies of the art form. She is certified with Fight Director's Canada, the Society of American Fight Directors (USA), and The Action Acting Academy (Australia). She settled in Toronto in 2018, performing for the first time here in "Why We Fight," the premiere show from Crux Encounter Productions at the historic Redwood Theatre. Other notable productions include "Plight: A Comic Book Rock Opera" (Group of Rogues), "Echoes of a Lost King" (Leif Ingebrigsten), and the AoC+AAA fight showcases in New York. Her film work includes The Last of Us, The Handmaid's Tale, The Boys, and Murderbot.



Emily Anne Corcoran

Costume and Props Designer

Emily is an actor (etc.) originally from a town called 'Paradise' (no, actually) in Newfoundland. She credits her ocean-side upbringing and the incredible artists of the island for giving her a great love of storytelling. Emily has a BFA in Acting from the UofA and a diploma in Stage & Screen from Memorial University. Selected theatre credits include Marianne in *Constellations*, Dawn in *Lobby Hero* (*Icarus*), Lady Anne in *Richard iii*, Helena/Hermia in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (*Lodestar Theatre*), and Blake in *Leave of Absence* (*New Curtain Theatre*). She has appeared for television on CBC, CityTV, Prime Original and A24.

She is most excited about the work she gets to do with many talented artists making (in her completely unbiased opinion) some pretty cool theatre/film. Icarite for life x



Lidia Foote

Lighting Designer

Lidia is serving as the Lighting Designer for this production of *Oleanna*. A stark and unforgiving glimpse into the escalating meetings between Carol and John, this design is rooted in realism and the unchanging atmosphere of an office. Recently in her theatrical career she has worked on *String of Pearls* (2025) as the LD and Stage Manager, *Day's Since Bo's Been Gone* (2025) as the SM, and *Timon of Athens* (2024) as the SM. In the past, she has done Lighting Design for *Constellations* (2024), *Fiji* (2024) with *Icarus Theatre*, and various Fringe Shows: *Dreams*, and *Sweet Kisses-Tender Limbs*. She is a graduate of Humber College. Thank you to the cast and crew of *Oleanna* for your commitment and support.



Erik Richards

Sound Designer

Erik Richards (He/Him) is a Director, Sound Designer, Musician and Playwright from Treaty Six joining Icarus for the second time. He is fascinated by the intersection between intimate human moments and finding bold dramatic moments through design, text and performance. Selected works include, DION : a Rock Opera, Infinite Life and People Places and Things (Coal Mine), A Little Closer and Discount Dave and the Fix (The Vault) and Takwahiminana (Soulpepper/Punctuate), The Frogs and La Bete (Talk is Free), Brother Rat (ReadyGo) and Fiji (Icarus).

Bharat N Vyas

Set Designer

After exploring various fields of study and working as a cinematographer and photographer in India, Bharat developed a strong foundation in visual storytelling. He graduated from Humber College in Toronto with a diploma in Theatre Production, and his recent theatre credits include Body as Nature (Caitlin Griffin, Toronto Fringe), Lahore (Sawitri Theatre Group) and Bodies of Nature (Cawthra School). His assistant lighting designer credits include Noir (Frog in Hand Productions) and Erased (Open Heart Surgery Theatre + Theatre Passe Muraille). More at acameraperson.com

Special Thanks: David Reale, Charlotte Dennis, Diana Bentley, Ted Dykstra, Anthony Sweeney, The Coal Mine Theatre, Nick Blais, Bjorn Kriel

**The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the Dance-Opera-Theatre Policy (DOT).*



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BY POLLY STENHAM

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