

OCTOBER SURPRISE

By Miguel Muñoz

Directed by Miguel Muñoz



DESIGN BY BRYSCOTLAND

SEPT. 28–OCT. 12, 2024

Playing at Odell Brewing Company
800 E. Linden St. Fort Collins, CO

Sydney Parks Smith
Producing Artistic Director

Bruce and Denise Freestone
Founders



**OCTOBER
SURPRISE**

By Miguel Muñoz

Directed by Miguel Muñoz

Costume Design by Alicia Muñoz

Lighting Design by David Grinnell

Sound Design by Victoria Villalobos

Properties Design by Kate Austin-Gröen

Cinematography by Jack Krause, Playhaus Productions

Victoria Villalobos, Assistant Director, *Stage Manager*

Kate Austin-Gröen, *Production Manager*

SEPTEMBER 28 TO OCTOBER 12, 2024

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

September 28, 29, October 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 · 7:30pm

Student/Educator Performance · September 27 · 7:30pm

Pay-What-You-Can Performance · October 3 · 7:30pm

Odell Brewing Company

800 E. Linden St, Fort Collins, CO 80524

The World Premiere of OCTOBER SURPRISE is produced by OpenStage Theatre & Company
in cooperation with Miguel Muñoz, playwright.

OpenStage Theatre & Company is a member of the Colorado Theatre Guild and Theatre
Communications Group, the national organization not-for-profit professional theatres.

A World Premiere by Miguel Muñoz! In the midst of a high-tension Texas senate race, a political crisis at the border, and a sibling rivalry, Maria, a passionate, strong-willed immigration lawyer and activist is running against her brother Antonio, the new charismatic face of conservatism. When Maria uncovers a secret that could decimate her brother's campaign and his life, she must decide if her family ties mean more than her ideals. *October Surprise* is a heart-wrenching look at the disparity between family loyalty and personal convictions in America.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

October Surprise (US politics): a significant revelation or event in the month prior to an election that has the potential to shift public opinion about an election candidate and that is often orchestrated to influence the election's outcome.

I am so grateful to be able to produce this play with OpenStage, where I've seen a strong commitment to telling bold stories in the most fearless of ways. Thank you to everyone who's contributed to this production and the play's development.

The question *October Surprise* asks is too ever-present to prescribe to one age in our nation. That question has torn this country apart in both the past and present, exponentially growing each year. During a time in which relationships are severed, families are divided, and morality is called into question because of the state of our politics, Americans have been put into a difficult position where priorities have to be uncomfortably placed and lines have to be painfully drawn. Where those lines are drawn is each person's decision to make and, in some cases, their cross to bear.

At the core of this conflict are a pair of siblings. Family members, bound by blood. It has been a great privilege to see the themes of family, love, and loyalty be brought to life by the actors, as well as the joy, love, and hardships of our beautiful Latino culture.

Arriba Perú,
Miguel Muñoz

CAST

Maria	Jordan Hull
Antonio	Davie Gonzalez
Cindy	Jessica MacMaster
Dolores	Susan Conceicao
Lake Roberts/The Principal	Stephen Gillespie
Ricky/Ensemble	Kimber Freestone-Hoven
Ensemble	Jolie Beth Boudreaux

PRODUCTION STAFF

Master Carpenter	Kimber Freestone-Hoven
Head Seamstress/Wardrobe Supervisor	Alicia Muñoz
Master Electrician	David Grinnell
Sound Engineer	Victoria Villalobos
Properties Supervisor/Intimacy Coordinator	Kate Austin-Gröen
Stage Violence Coordinator	James Burns
Intimacy/Fight Captain	Stephen Gillespie
Sound Board Operator	Victoria Villalobos
Light Board Operator	Molly McGuire
Company Photographers	Kate Austin-Gröen, Aubrey Bierman, Steve Finnestead, Joe Hovorka, Soleil Lean-Geddes
Company Videographer	Steve Finnestead
Poster Designer/Program Designer	Brys Scotland
Program Coordinator/Dramaturg	Sarah J Baker
Set-in Crew	Caleb Gilbert, David Grinnell, The Fabulous Cast and Crew of <i>October Surprise</i>

PLACE & TIME

El Paso, Texas. Present Day.

October Surprise runs approximately 2 hours, 15 minutes
—including Intermission



MIGUEL MUÑOZ, Playwright/Director, is a Peruvian-American playwright, director, and actor hailing from the Pacific Northwest. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado, with a B.A. in

Theatre Education. This is his professional directing debut. His satirical play *Lati-NO!* was selected for American Stage's 2023 New Play Festival in St. Petersburg, FL. His political drama *October Surprise* was elected a semifinalist in Orlando Shakespeare Festival's 2023 PlayFest. He was commissioned by American Stage in Florida to write their 2024 TYA musical, titled *Familia de Flamingos*. As an actor, Miguel has appeared professionally in Little Theatre of the Rockies' *The Quest for Don Quixote* as *Don Quixote*, and OpenStage's 2024 production of *Sweat* as Oscar. He currently works at Chappelow K-8 Arts Magnet in Greeley as a Theatre/ELL teacher.



JORDAN HULL, Maria, is thrilled to debut at OpenStage in this production. Born in Denver and raised in the San Luis Valley, she is an actor, voice actor, wig artist, and costume designer who has appeared in

several theatre productions throughout the state. Recent credits include, *Empire of Solitude* as wife at Flamboyant, *Charity* as Betty at Firehouse Theatre Company, *Native Gardens* as Tania at Bas Bleu, numerous productions at Su Teatro, and has received the opportunity to perform with *Boomtown* at Creede Repertory Theatre close to home.



DAVIE GONZALEZ, Antonio, is thrilled to make his acting debut at OpenStage in this production. Born and raised in North Denver, Davie is an actor, musician, singer, and a professional lead guitar player who has

performed in several theatre productions at Su Teatro.



JESSICA MACMASTER, Cindy, has had the pleasure of performing in multiple productions with OpenStage Theatre & Company in roles such as Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Lucy

T. Slut in *Avenue Q*, Officer Billy Dwyer in *Unnecessary Farce*, and Mrs. White in *Clue: On Stage*. JMac is a founding member of the Comedy Brewers Improv Troupe in Fort Collins, which performs regularly at venues such as The Comedy Fort, Bas Bleu Theater, and The Lyric Cinema. She is also an improvisation instructor and produces classes and workshops in Fort Collins. Jessica co-founded, produces, and acts in *The Story Bakers*, an assembly program for elementary students that brings their stories to life on stage. Additionally, she is a photographer with her company *Fê Photography* and a creator at her handmade artisan shop, *JMac Made*. Jess is in awe of the creative and inspiring community in Fort Collins and is so thankful for her entire family's unwavering support.



SUSAN CONCEICAO, Dolores, Susan began her acting career as a professional child actress in New York City. Her most memorable role was that of Nikki Lee Blake in *The Patty Duke Show*. As an adult,

she studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City, and was involved in community theater in New York and New Jersey. Her plays included *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Sisters Rosenzweig*, *The Vagina Monologues* and more. She has been in Colorado for 11 years. She is studying with Benjy Dobrin Studios and has appeared in several plays this year, including *Radium Girls* and *Love Letters*. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to appear in *October Surprise*, and to be part of OpenStage Theatre & Company.



STEPHEN GILLESPIE, Lake Roberts/ The Principal, is a Fort Collins native, and this is his second season with OpenStage. Recent stage credits include *Treasure Island* (Squire Trelawny),

Elf The Musical (Walter Hobbs), *A Musical Christmas Carol* (Jacob Marley), *The Little Mermaid* (ensemble), *James and the Giant Peach* (ensemble), a frequent "suspect" in *The Dinner Detective*, and *Never A Bride* (Paul). Stephen earned his bachelor's degree in Architecture and Art from the University of Illinois. Offstage, Stephen directs digital marketing for clients coast-to-coast, is a culinary hobbyist, and enjoys snuggling with his Goldendoodle Finn and Labrador Retriever John E.



KIMBER FREESTONE-HOVEN, Ricky/ Ensemble/Master Carpenter, Kimber has always carried an appreciation for all aspects of the craft of theatre and entertainment. Kimber believes that working

in both tech and on the stage creates wonderful opportunities for creativity in the theatre world.



JOLIE BETH BOUDREAUX, Ensemble, Jolie Beth holds degrees in Music Theater and Theater from Oklahoma City University, and Psychology from UCO. She is a licensed professional counselor,

working actor, voice and acting coach, and book writer. Prior to moving to Colorado, she performed in multiple productions with theaters across the state including The Pollard Theater, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park, and the Oklahoma City Theater Company. Since moving, she has engaged in several creative projects with her husband Kris including *BachelorQuest*, a new musical that premiered in Wilmington, Delaware this past May, and *Finding Aaron* which will premier in New York in September. Jolie Beth would like to thank OpenStage and everyone involved with *October Surprise* for this wonderful opportunity to return to the stage!



VICTORIA VILLALOBOS, Assistant Director/ Stage Manager/ Sound Designer,

has loved theatre since she was a child. She has worked extensively with OpenStage as a Sound Designer and Engineer, Makeup

and Hair Designer and Stylist, Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Board Operator, Stagehand, and Dresser. Victoria also has worked with Fort Collins Children's Theatre for the past 7 productions, most recently as the Makeup Designer and Stylist for *The Addams Family*. Next on the list, she will be designing for FCCT's production of *SpongeBob The Musical* in November of 2024. In addition, she has worked with companies such as Opera Fort Collins, Canyon Concert Ballet, and The Cheyenne Little Theatre Players. Victoria was recently nominated for a Henry Award for Outstanding Sound Design for her work on *The Book of Will* with OpenStage. She received her associate degree from Front Range Community College, where she was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and was named to the President's List, both for her academic achievements. Victoria wishes to thank her family and friends for all their love and support!

DAVID GRINNELL, Lighting Designer,

has been continuously involved with OpenStage for the last 10 years. David originally worked in the Saint Paul/Minneapolis area, with companies such as The Great

American History Theater, Cricket Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and The Guthrie Theater. For OpenStage, he has served

as the Master Electrician for *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *North Plan*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Avenue Q*, and *Men On Boats*. David served as the Lighting Designer for *Don't Dress for Dinner* (2017), *CABARET* (2022), and *The Book of Will* (2023). Since the 2015 relaunch of OpenStage etcetera, he has served as Lighting Designer and Master Electrician for their productions of *The Submission*, *A Bright New Boise*, *Ultimate Beauty Bible*, *H2O*, *Ideation*, *The Mystery of Love and Sex*, *Fool For Love*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Cry It Out*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, and *Dance Nation*.



ALICIA MUÑOZ, Costume Designer, is a theatre artist from Vancouver, WA. For 10 years, she's immersed herself in the dramatic arts as a director, stage manager, costume designer, and actor. She is

delighted to be making her professional technical debut in this production. She has lived in Greeley, CO for 5 years and graduated from the University of Northern Colorado with a BA in Theatre Education. She is currently pursuing a Master's in Special Education at Buena Vista University. Educational theatre credits include: *Clara (Clara's Little Questions, UNCO)*; Stage Manager/Costume Designer (*Lati-NO!*, UNCO); Director (*Look Me in the Eye, UNCO*); Stage Manager (*Trap, UNCO*).



JAMES BURNS, Stage Violence Coordinator,

moved back to the Fort Collins area in 2010 and has since appeared with OpenStage as Dr. Jason Posner in *Wit*, Sharkey in *The Seafarer*, Austin in

True West, Petruccio in *Taming of the Shrew*, Steve Heidebrecht in *August: Osage County*, Philip Lombard in *And Then There Were None*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Comte de Guiche in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (OPUS Award Outstanding Supporting Actor, Director's Award), Mr. Green in *Clue: On Stage*, and John Heminges in *The Book of Will*. James served as the Scenic Artist for *Three Musketeers*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *Men on Boats*, and *Sense and Sensibility*. He has directed *Christmas Chaos*, *Fool for Love*, and *Sherwood* (Co-Directed with Sydney Parks Smith), as well as serving as a fight director for several shows. James was honored to have won the 2022-2023 Shela Jennings Award and the 2022-2023 Founder's Award. James would like to thank his incomparable wife Jessica and two wonderful children Scar and Sterling for their unending love and support.



JACK KRAUSE, Cinematographer/Video Editor, (he/him),

graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in Direction and Playwriting. He has worked

extensively with OpenStage as a Stage Manager, Assistant Director, Director of Cinematography, and Projection Engineer. His work on stage includes Thomas in *And*

Then There Were None and Dave in *The Full Monty*. Most recently, Jack directed *The Open House* for Bas Bleu Theatre.



MOLLY MCGUIRE, Light Board Operator,

first performed with OpenStage Theatre in 2004 in *The Women*. She began performing with the Company again in 2014, when she appeared as Nerine in *Scapin*. Since

then, she has appeared with OpenStage as Beatrice in *The Servant of Two Masters*, Millicent/Laurie in *Stage Kiss*, Danielle in *Ultimate Beauty Bible*, Suzanne in *Don't Dress for Dinner*, in the Ensemble of *Christmas Chaos*, Dromio of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors*, Conrade in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Angela in *Natural Shocks*, Fanny Dashwood/Lucy Steele/Lady Middleton/Gossip in *Sense and Sensibility*, Miss Scarlet in *Clue*, Elizabeth Condell in *The Book of Will*, and Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. Molly would like to take this opportunity to give her heartfelt thanks to her OpenStage family. Their support and love has helped her immensely this last year.



KATE AUSTIN-GRÖEN, Properties Designer/Production Manager/Intimacy Coordinator,

has been performing for over three decades, and has done many regional theatre productions in Texas, Virginia,

Minnesota, California, and several other states. Since moving to Fort Collins in 2010, Kate has performed and directed several productions for OpenStage Theatre & Company, Bas Bleu Theatre, Midtown Arts Center, and the Fort Collins Children's

Theatre. Kate is the Production Manager for OpenStage Theatre's *etcetera* season, as well as their resident Intimacy Director.



CALEB GILBERT, Technical Director, started his career in 2008 with a degree in Fine Arts, specializing in sculpture awarded by Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. In 2012, Caleb graduated

from Cranbrook Academy of Art based just outside Detroit, MI, specializing in sculpture. After graduating, he started at Eleventh Street Workshop in Brooklyn, NY as a Carpenter. Eleventh Street Workshop is a full-service design and production facility specializing in the set world. They design and build sets for events, commercials, photo shoots, and short films. While working there, Caleb was a project manager, designer, and production coordinator. By 2020, Caleb was the Head Production Designer, running upwards of five million dollars in projects. Some of his favorite clients/ projects included Google, Nike, Saturday Night Live, and Refinery 29. Caleb is now excited to use his skills and talents as the first (paid) Technical Director for OpenStage. OpenStage has always been a home for Caleb ever since his first show over twenty years ago.



SYDNEY PARKS SMITH, Producing Artistic Director, has worked with OpenStage since 1997 and serves as Producing Artistic Director for the Company. Recent roles include Tracy in *SWEAT*, Marie-Antoinette in *The*

Revolutionists, Sir John Middleton in *Sense and Sensibility*, and Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Recent directing credits include *The Book of Will*, *Hedwig And The Angry Inch*, *Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, and *Avenue Q*. She received the 2016 Founders' Award for her outstanding contributions to the Company. Thanks to Harry, Rex, Gus, and her mom...they know why.



DENISE & BRUCE FREESTONE, Founders, founded OpenStage in 1973 and have provided leadership to both the Company and to the development of the arts in Northern Colorado for the past 50 years. The

Freestones have passed the Theatre's leadership to Producing Artistic Director, Sydney Parks Smith, while still remaining involved in the theatre's productions, operations, and strategic planning. Both Bruce and Denise have extensive experience as actors, directors, producers, and designers; they have garnered regional awards and recognition for both themselves and the Theatre, including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts and the Tree of Peace Medallion, which signifies a lifetime of contributions to the Arts and Culture Industry.



Book by Kevin Murphy & Dan Studney

Music by Dan Studney

Lyrics by Kevin Murphy

Directed by Kenny Moten

Playing at The Lincoln Center Magnolia Theatre



For tickets and more information on the story, the experience, and the creator, visit openstage.com/reefer-madness

SPECIAL THANKS TO

- Canyon Concert Ballet
- Debut Theatre
- The Downtown Development Authority
- Fort Collins Children’s Theatre
- Odell Brewing Company
- Opera Fort Collins
- Kate & David Austin-Gröen
- Karla Baise
- Bella De La Torre
- Matthew Schlieff

DESIGNER



RED CARPET SPONSORS



SEASON SPONSORS

John & Anne BLAIR



Mike & Marsha Marberry

Ken & Carol Severson



SUPPORT FOR THE 2024-2025 SEASON PROVIDED BY GRANTS FROM



OPENSTAGE'S STUDENT PROGRAMMING IS SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM:



Advertise with OpenStage. Interested in learning more?

Contact Us

Sponsor OpenStage's 24-25 Season!

Contact Us