

NEW
OHIO
theatre

CALIGULA

by Albert Camus
adapted by Justin O'Brien

Producers Club 2020
Feb 11-12

The only mistake one makes in life is to cause others suffering...

August Nielsen

Dennis Yueh-Yeh Li & Toney Brown

Producer

Dennis Yueh-Yeh Li

Director

Yi-Chung Chen

Lighting Designer

Alexander Grover

Scenic Designer

Dominus Sowell

Costume Designer

Tom Walker

Dramaturge

Shan Y Chuang

Choreographer

August Nielsen

Image Designer

Featuring

Ilayda Akin

Leah Bachar

Toney Brown

Riccardo Carcangiu

Chun ChoShan Y Chuang

Shadow

Yael Haskal

*"Caligula" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*

SYNOPSIS

Caligula, a relatively kind prince so far, realizes on the death of Drusilla, his sister and his mistress, that "men die and they are not happy." Therefore, obsessed by the quest for the Absolute and poisoned by contempt and horror, he tries to exercise, through murder and systematic perversion of all values, a freedom which he discovers in the end is no good. He rejects friendship and love, simple human solidarity, good and evil. He takes the word of those around him, he forces them to logic, he levels all around him by force of his refusal and by the rage of destruction which drives his passion for life.

— Albert Camus

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

One must reflect upon oneself daily. This is what I've learned and carried with me from my culture. When I first read *Caligula*, what struck me the most is the phrase, "the only mistake one makes in life is to cause others suffering." I looked around, in the streets, on the social media and mass media, and all I've seen is that people blame others for causing suffering. Rarely did we ever look into ourselves and questioned maybe we are the ones who are part of these trouble from the beginning. Sartre states, "l'enfer, c'est les autres." One must not forget "one" creates "others," and likewise, "others" creates "one." What *Caligula* speaks to me is exactly his awakening moment. The moment that no one knows what he's been through, which turns him into a tyrant. He is going after the absolute freedom. He wants to liberate all, with the decision on this destructive manner as his tactics. What I am interested in not his tyrannical temperament. Instead, I find myself in Caligula. There have been moments when I felt deep despair. I saw people out on the streets day in and day out clocking their routine, being who they "are supposed to be." Man, woman, binary, nonbinary, banker, waiter, plumber, teacher. We live in conformity, and yet we are barely aware of it. For times, I thought about a total annihilation, because only through that, we can all start over and think again. And I believe, I am not the only one that identifies with Caligula on that mentality, and I even find it exciting to notice people who repulsively disassociate with Caligula. I want to create a moment when we can freely respond to Caligula, and are forced to examine viscerally and intelligently who we are in relation to others. And from there, we reconstruct our existence, and the existence of this reality.

ARTIST BIOS

Dennis Yueh-Yeh Li, *Lead Artist as Director*

Originally from Taiwan, Dennis Yueh-Yeh Li is a director/playwright, having created productions addressing sexuality, philosophy, humanity, and class, to give his unique perspective on time, space, and power relations. Dennis is an alumnus of Drama League's New York Directing Fellowship, Target Margin Theater's Institute Fellowship, and a member of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab.

Directing credits: *Caligula* (New Ohio Theatre), *Deathwatch* (New Ohio Theatre), *Blind* (Theater for the New City), and *The (New) Trial* (Theater for the New City). www.dennisyuehyehli.com

Toney Brown, *Producer/as CHEREA*

Toney Brown: Toney is an actor/director from North Shore, Massachusetts. Recent: *Bye, Bye, Blue Blankey*, and *A Crack Up at the Race Riots* by Harmony Korine (TNC). His an alumnus of the Performance Project Fellowship, and worked extensively with Dennis Yueh-yeh Li. He hosts the podcast NYTF Radio, SUBSCRIBE NOW www.nytf.org/radio

Tom Walker, *Dramaturge*

Tom Walker has worked with The Living Theatre for 45 years. He performed in *L.EAR* as King Lear directed by Dennis Yueh-Yeh Li two years ago. He recently appeared in Theodora Skiptares' *The Transfiguration of Benjamin Banneker* at LaMaMa.

Shan Y Chuan, *Choreographer/as HELICON*

Shan Y Chuang is thrilled to make her New Ohio Theatre debut. She was trained at the Circle in the Square's Professional Musical Theater Workshop. Her credits include, *Comfort Women*, *The Surrogate*, *Behind the Mask*, *Midnight Kill*, *Until We Get Caught*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Monkey King: A Musical*, *Anything Goes*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*. She is a current member of Katharine Pettit Creative (KPC), LINKED Dance Theater, The Westfall Music Group and TMTA. Much thanks to my parents and friends!

Yi-Chung Chen, *Lighting Designer*

Yi-Chung Chen, originally from Taiwan, is a NYC based lighting designer. She designs lights for live performance at various venues throughout the country and internationally. Her designs have been seen in NY at New York City Center, The Joyce, Chautauqua Theater Company, La Mama, Target Margin Theater, Kitchen Theatre Company, Shadowland Stages, New Ohio Theater, LaGuardia Performing Arts Center, Judson Memorial Church, etc; internationally at Palais Garnier, National Taichung Theater, NCPA Beijing, Wuzhen Theatre Festival. MFA: Boston University. www.yichungchen.com

Alexander Grover, *Scenic Designer*

Alexander Grover is an international performance designer and visual artist. He is interested in interrogating frustrating and potentially unanswerable questions through his manipulation of installed space and visual gestures. Recent international work includes *THE END*, *THE END*, *THE END* . . . and *Gunshot Medley* for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, as well as an Associate Designer for *Buried Child* at Hong Kong Repertory Theatre. Recent projects include *Hamlet* with Scarlett Kim, *Jackie* with Blake Harris, *COBBLEFUCK STONETOWN* - an adaptation of *Titus Andronicus* in a parking lot with members of the devised performance group Dead Practice, *Rain*, *River*, *Ocean* with Monty Cole, *Caroline Island* with Salvatore Mannino, and *KOLOB* with choreographer Jodi Porter at the Sharon Disney Lund Dance Theater. alegroverdesign.com

Dominus Sowell, *Costume Designer*

Dominus Sowell, aka Domi, is a young Brooklynite, whose journey started off in theatre, working and studying under top tier professionals. Domi was taken by fabrics and textiles; leading him into a new world of art. Inspired by Thom Browne, Alexander McQueen and Oswald Boateng. Domi's designs impact the audience with a sense of regalness and ethereal vibes with upcycled and repurposed fabrics. Leaving the theatre to pursue his dream career, has taken Domi to new heights; working with top productions companies and a barrel full of experience. Domi is still acting on occasion and spends most of his time designing

Ilayda Akin, *as LEAD PATRICIAN/INTENDANT*

Ilayda Akin is an actor who is holding a BFA in Drama and Acting from Istanbul Aydin University, Istanbul, Turkey. She went to Czech Republic to attend Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts, Brno as an exchange student. After studying in Czech Republic, Ilayda was awarded an Acting and Theatre workshop at University of Siena, Italy. Ilayda has received her MA degree in Theatre History and Criticism from City University of New York, Brooklyn College. She has performed *Electric Awakening* with The Living Theatre in 2018.

Leah Bachar, *as CALIGULA*

Leah Bachar is a performer/producer/director/experimenter. Fascinated with human connection, Leah is drawn to unique, interactive situations/performances that create spontaneous experiences and shatter barriers between spectators and performers. Currently, Leah works with The Living Theatre, and Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth, Institute of Experimental Arts, Void Network, Notara 26, and Theatre of Changes in Greece.

Riccardo Carcangiu, *as PATRICIAN*

Originally from Sardinia (Italy), Riccardo is passionate about filmmaking and acting. He acted in commercials and plays in his hometown of Cagliari. He graduated in Political Science and International Relations in Italy and studied Broadcast Journalism at Nottingham Trent University, then worked as video journalist for the Nottingham local television Notts TV. Being particularly interested in knowing different cultures, Riccardo joined many cultural exchange projects both within and outside Europe.

Chun Cho, *as CAESONIA*

Chun Cho is a Taiwanese actress based in New York City. Chun's credits: *A and Bea* (The Public Theater), *June is The First Fall* (The New Ohio Theater), *The Trojan Women* (The Flea Theater/ Drama Desk Nominee), *Blind* (The Living Theater), *Salesman 已死* (LPAC), *L.EAR* (Dixon Place), *Midnight Kill* (Yangtze Rep), *Exile 5.42* (Dixon Place).

Yael Haskal, *as SCIPIO*

Yael Haskal is an actor, playwright, and performance artist. She has performed most recently as Polyxena in *The Trojan Women* at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club, directed by Andrei Serban. Her plays have been performed at La MaMa, The Tank, the Kraine Theater, the Midtown International Theatre Festival, IRT/G45 Productions, the Shetler Bridge Theatre/Traguna Productions (NYC); the Ivoryton Playhouse, Trinity College, the Warner Theatre (CT); Theatre Simpson (IN); the InspiraTO Festival (Toronto, CA); and other venues across the U.S. She is the creator of the comedic web series *Fun Moms*, and a proud member of the New York Neo-Futurists.

Shadow, as *PATRICIAN*

Shadow only appears whenever there is Light.

THANK YOU

Thank you for our friends' support who make this project possible. (as of 2/11/2020)

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WHAT IS PRODUCERS CLUB?

Producers Club is our free-floating, ad hoc, instant-gratification, impulse-driven pop-up program. We invite familiar and new-to-our-orbit companies into the New Ohio for a couple of days to flex their muscles, share their current thinking, and test their next great idea. The stakes are low, but the bar is high!

Coming up:

Feb 14-15

NOW LIE IN IT // April Ranger

In a near-future Earth, a tight-knit group of hospital janitors make beds after each patient leaves, alive or dead.

Feb 18-19

bloodymessysurprised // Downtown Negro

In the fight to feel in a world of distraction, remember the following: 1) Soul doesn't go down without a song, 2) Death might be the only freedom, 3) Grief is a worthwhile use of your time.

Feb 22-23

UNTITLED '54: A Title Has to Have A Meaning // Halevy & Gelb

Helen Frankenthaler's process is brought to life by performer/painter Sharone Halevy, set against the backdrop of Frankenthaler's crumbling relationship with critic Clem Greenberg.

FOR PRODUCERS CLUB

Michelle Lane Festival Production Manager
Dmitri Barcomi Festival Technician

FOR NEW OHIO THEATRE

Artistic Director Robert Lyons
Producing Director Marc Stuart Weitz
Associate Producer Jaclyn Biskup

ABOUT THE NEW OHIO

New Ohio Theatre serves Manhattan's most adventurous audiences by developing, curating and presenting bold work by New York's independent theatre community. We believe the best of this community, the small artistic ensembles and the daring producing companies who operate without a permanent theatrical home, are actively expanding the boundaries of what theatre is and what it can be. From our home in the West Village's historic Archive Building, the New Ohio strengthens, nurtures, and promotes this community, providing a professional, high-profile platform for downtown's most mature, ridiculous, engaging, irreverent, gut-wrenching, frivolous, sophisticated, foolish, and profound theatrical endeavors.

BECOME A NEW OHIO LOCAL

Think Globally. See theatre Locally.

As a Local, you'll be entitled to specially discounted tickets, a free drink every time you see a show, and exclusive invites to insider events. We'll even provide you with a special membership card to flash at the box office and bar.

Every time you visit New Ohio, you'll experience the VIP treatment you deserve. Just go to newohiotheatre.org/local and become a member. That's it. It's free.

Become a New Ohio Local today!

ARCHIVE RESIDENCY COMPANIES

Byzantine Choral Project (2019-20)

Radical Evolution (2019-20)

Kareem M. Lucas (2020-21)

Levingston/Hare/Luckett (2020-21)

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Want to stay in touch? Follow us on Facebook at /newohiotheatre, and Twitter and Instagram @newohiotheatre

SUPPORT THE WORK

New Ohio Theatre is funded, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Mental Insight Foundation. If you would like to help us in our mission to support the indie theatre community in NYC, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Visit newohiotheatre.org and click Support.
