

*Regional Premiere*



by **Lloyd Suh**

# *Franklinland*

November 5 – December 10

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# NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP & DIRECTOR'S NOTE

**From Jada Suzanne Dixon, *Artistic Director*  
and Jeannene Bragg, *Managing Director*:**

Welcome to our 25th Anniversary!

The staff, artistic company, and board are all filled with pride and delight as we celebrate our silver anniversary and 25 years of bold and audacious theatre. As loyal patrons to Curious Theatre Company many of you are familiar with our rich history and legacy of artistic excellence, exploration of contemporary issues through provocative theatre, and our fearlessness and feistiness that we carry and uphold in every aspect of our work. In 1997, a vanguard group of artists were inspired to create and cultivate artistic work together and more importantly, artistic work that meant something. From the beginning, those vanguard artists dreamed of an artistic home for fearless political and progressive new works focused on social justice and equality. That origin is what has catapulted Curious Theatre Company to where it is today! And the undercurrent that has carried us forward and kept us afloat is you. Deep thanks and appreciation to so many artists, patrons, and of course our community.

Yes, 25 years is something to celebrate. Something to reflect on. Under Chip Walton's leadership and vision and Dee Covington's heart and vision, Curious Theatre Company has created a remarkable body of artistic work through our shared vision, commitment to our mission and values, and the exceptional ensemble of artists that make up our artistic company. 25 years is also creating a spark. A new spark challenging us to dream big. Yes, we will remain rooted in our mission-driven goal of creating artistic work that stimulates conversation beyond the theatre doors. Yes, we will continue to advocate for a future that is better than today.

*Continue reading online...*

**From Dee Covington, *Director*:**

Without question, the bond between parent and child is deeply extraordinary. Parents are our first illustrators and illuminators, shining light on our brightest potential. But what happens when the dreams for potential turn toward the shadow side of expectation? When children feel the pressure of pleasing and the pain of disappointing? Even in the best of circumstances, the act of unconditional love can carry some complicated conditions. Especially if your father is Benjamin Franklin. This delicate balance is what makes individuation and a declaration of independence inevitable.

As it is in families, so it was with the colonies. There came a time in our early history when the patriots could no longer live in the shadow of English rule. We were a pre-country divided. Those hungry for liberation or "no taxation without representation," and those remaining loyal to a governance that wreaked of tyranny. The desire for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness sparked what was essentially our first civil war. For over 8 years, we fought to individuate. To shine in our own light. Like a child maturing into adulthood, the declaration of independence was necessary for growth. Necessary for the future. After all, this revolution brought about the United States of America.

And now here we are, grappling again as a country with shadow and light. A country divided. Collectively asking what we are willing to fight for. Has life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness lost its luster of idealism? Or are we still standing strong with a belief in we the people?

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READING**



SCAN ME

# CURIOUS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

## *Franklinland*

by Lloyd Suh

Directed by **Dee Covington**

SETTING

1752 to 1785

### CAST

(in order of appearance)

*Ben Franklin:* **Erik Sandvold\***

*William Franklin:* Kenny Fedorko

*William Temple Franklin:* Danté Finley

### SPECIAL THANKS

CU Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance

Opera Colorado

TDF Costume Collection

David Zimmerman

### PRODUCTION TEAM

*Set & Costume Design by* **Markas Henry\*\***

*Lighting Design by* Vance McKenzie

*Sound Design by* Brian Freeland

*Props Design by* **Annette Westerby**

*Fight Choreography by* Dane Torbenson

*Wig Designer,* Amanda Clark

*Stage Manager,* Wayne Breyer\*

*Scenic Artist,* Annika Radovcich

*Rigging,* Adam L. Garb

*Assistant Stage Manager,* Katy Gentry

*Scenic Construction,* Roy MacFarlane

*Board Op,* Chyanne Huynh

***FRANKLINLAND* will be performed without an intermission.**

*Originally commissioned and developed by The Ensemble Studio Theatre /*

*Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science & Technology Project.*

**Bold** = Curious Artistic Company Member

\*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Curious Theatre Company, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. \*\*Member of the United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829



# BIOS



**Erik Sandvold** (Benjamin Franklin) marks his 24th full production with Curious over these 25 meaningful years with *Franklinland*—in addition to appearances in many staged readings, Denver Stories, Curious New Voices plays, and development workshops.

Award-winning roles with Curious include Mason Marzac in *Take Me Out*, Tom in *Lucky Me*, Milton in *Homebody/Kabul*, and all 36 characters in *I Am My Own Wife*. Other favorite Curious experiences include: *Refuge*, *Pass Over*, *Your Best One*, *The Luckiest People*, *Clybourne Park*, *Opus*, *Fuddy Meers*, and *Closer*. Erik's other credits feature: *Plainsong*, *When We Are Married*, *Well* (Denver Center Theatre Company); *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *1940's Radio Hour* (Arvada Center); *Twelfth Night*, *The Rivals* (CSF); *The Explorers' Club* (Lone Tree); *An Iliad* (Theatreworks); *The Rembrandt* (BETC); and *Bubs* (Denver Post Ovation Award, Best Solo Performance). He narrated all the Harry Potter books for The Library of Congress, along with about a thousand others, is a Boulder native, and an alumnus of Northwestern University.



**Kenny Fedorko** (William Franklin) is excited to be making his Curious Theater Company debut. Off-Broadway: *Vanity Fair* dir. Eric Tucker and *Public Enemy* dir. Hal Brooks with the Obie Award-winning Pearl Theater Company. Regional: *Noises Off*, *The Crucible* and

*Midsummer Night's Dream* (Asolo Rep.) *Hang* and *Antigone* (Asolo Conservatory Theater), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival), and *Ranger Ned's Adventure* (Yosemite National Park). Film: *Rachel Hendrix* dir. Victor Nunez with Lori Singer. *Impatience*, a short film

which he wrote, starred and edited, was accepted to half a dozen film festivals, including The Bare Bones Film Fest. He is the recipient of the Paul Newman Trophy for Best Actor at Kenyon College and was a professional clown for over 1500 events in and around NYC, including birthday parties, corporate events, and funerals! He also writes short stories and flash fiction. MFA in Acting from FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. [www.kennyfedorko.com](http://www.kennyfedorko.com)



**Danté J. Finley** (William Temple Franklin) is very pleased to be making their Denver main stage debut with Curious Theatre. A native of La Junta, Colorado, where they first fell in love with theatre many years ago. Their most recent credits are primarily with

Theatreworks of Colorado Springs in productions such as *Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummers Night Dream*, *House Arrest*, and *Comedy of Errors*. Other credits include *The Totalitarians* (Springs Ensemble Theatre), *Short Eyes* (Theatre d'Art), and *Dog Sees God* (Funky Little Theatre).

**Lloyd Suh** (Playwright) is the author of *The Chinese Lady* (recently produced with Ma-Yi at the Public Theater), Bina's *Six Apples* (Alliance Theatre and Children's Theatre Company), Charles Francis Chan Jr.'s *Exotic Oriental Murder Mystery*, *The Wong Kids in the Secret of the Space Chupacabra Go!*, *Franklinland*, *Jesus in India*, and many more, including *The Far Country*, which will premiere at Atlantic Theater Company in December, and *The Heart Sellers*, which will premiere at Milwaukee Rep in February. His work has been produced at theaters across the country including Ensemble Studio Theatre, Magic Theatre, Denver Center, Artists Rep, Interact, Geva, Timeline, the Guthrie with Theater Mu, ArtsEmerson, Long Wharf and others, and internationally at the Cultural Center of

# BIOS

the Philippines and with PCPA at the Guerilla Theatre in Seoul, Korea. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the Horton Foote Prize, the Helen Merrill Award, and the Lilah Kan Red Socks Award. He served from 2005–10 as the Artistic Director of Second Generation and Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, and from 2011–20 as Director of Artistic Programs at The Lark. He was elected in 2016 to the Dramatists Guild Council.

**Dee Covington** (Director) is a founding member of Curious Theatre Company. Over the past 24 years she has garnered awards for her work as an actor and director. Dee's select directing credits at Curious include *Refuge*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *The Humans*, *Your Best One*, *Hand to God*, the three-part *The Brother/Sister Plays*, *Collapse*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Speech & Debate*, and *The Denver Project*. As an actress she most recently participated in the development of a new play by Max Posner (Curious New Voices alum) during the Colorado New Play Festival. At Curious, representative roles include Claire in *Sanctions*, Empty in *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide...*, Toni in *Appropriate*, Roz in *White Guy on the Bus*, Margaret in *Good People*, Veronica in *God of Carnage*, Bev/Kathy in *Clybourne Park*, and The Homebody in *Homebody/Kabul*. She is also a longtime member of the improvisational theatre company, Playback Theatre West; a theatre form that spontaneously builds community one story at a time. Dee has spent the last three decades fostering the creative process in adults and teenagers. Serving as Education Director for Curious Theatre Company, she facilitates all aspects of Curious New Voices programming, including all playwriting intensives. Most recently she has joined the University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) where she has been involved in teaching theatre and writing classes.

**Markas Henry** (Scenic & Costume Design) is honored to be the Artist-in-Residence as Scenic Designer for Curious' entire 25th season. In previous seasons, he has designed scenery for *Refuge*, *American Son*, *Sanctions*, *The Humans*, *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide...*, *Appropriate*, the three-part *Elliot Plays*, *Lucky Me*, *All the Rage*, *The Whipping Man* (Colorado Theatre Guild Henry Award), *After the Revolution*, *God of Carnage*, *Maple and Vine*, and *Opus*; as well as costumes for *White Guy on the Bus*, *The Whipping Man*, *Time Stands Still*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and *Mall\*Mart*. His selected regional credits include Theatre Aspen, Opera Colorado, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and BETC. Broadway credits include *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Tony Award), *The Life* (Tony nomination) and *Beauty and the Beast* (Tony Award). His film work includes *Elf* and *Leading Ladies*, and he was Costume Producer for Britney Spears' 2001 and 2004 US and World tours. Markas is an Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Colorado Boulder.

**Vance McKenzie** (Lighting Design) is a freelance lighting designer designing his first show for Curious Theatre. He is the resident lighting designer at Miners Alley. Recent designs include *Hair* for Miner's Alley Playhouse, *Once On This Island* at Town Hall Arts Center and *Cinderella* for Candlelight Dinner Playhouse. Other designs include: *The Foreigner*, *White Christmas*, and *She Loves Me* at the Arvada Center, *Clue* for Little Theatre of the Rockies, *Fairfield*, *District Merchants* and *Once* at Miner's Alley Playhouse, *Mama Mia*, *Sister Act* and *Ghost* for Lake Dillon Theater Company and *Jekyll and Hyde* at Candlelight Dinner Playhouse.



# BIOS

**Brian Freeland** (Sound Design) marks his 35th design with Curious Theatre Company with *Franklinland*. Past productions over the last 25 years for Curious have included *Bug*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *9 Parts of Desire*, *Eurydice*, *Opus*, *Homebody/Kabul*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *The Elliot Plays*, *The Whipping Man*, *iHo*, and *Fireflies* (with CeCe Smith). He is an 8 time Henry Award nominee, 8 time Denver Post Ovation Award nominee and Westword Mastermind Award recipient for his sound and projection work.

**Annette Westerby** (Props Design) is an Artistic Company member who has contributed to over 20 Curious Theatre Company productions. She created the blood effects and trained a cat for *Lieutenant of Inishmore*, obtained the live sheep for *Curse of the Starving Class*, made Elvis and Jesus costumes for *End Days*, painted 50 matching violins for *Opus*, created props and smoke effects for *Homebody/Kabul*, and designed the props and costumes for *Red*. Annette returned to Denver in 2021 after years living in Brooklyn and LA. In New York, she designed several Off-Off-Broadway productions and was a studio sewing assistant to artist Marie Watt.

**Wayne Breyer** (Stage Manager) is stage managing his third show with Curious. Previously with Curious, he stage managed *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* and the world premiere of *Refuge*. Other stage management credits: *Public Domain Theatre Festival*, *Eddie and Dave*, *Land of Milk and Honey*, *The Whiskey Tasting*, *The Rough*, *Shockheaded Peter*, and *Everybody* (The Catamounts); *Queens Girl in the World* and *The Music of Black Nativity* (Aurora Fox Arts Center); *Recipe* (Theater Artibus); and the 2019 Colorado New Play Festival. He is also a properties designer and has designed

for Curious, The Catamounts, Phamaly Theatre Company, and Vintage Theatre. Wayne trained as an apprentice stage manager with the Denver Center Theatre Company and is an associate company member of The Catamounts.

**Actors' Equity Association** ("AEA" or "Actors' Equity"), founded in 1913, represents more than 49,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. [www.actorsequity.org](http://www.actorsequity.org)



NEXT UP

Join us for our next production:

**Alma** by  
Benjamin Benne

Regional Premiere

JANUARY 14 – FEBRUARY 18

"Who does the American dream belong to?" Alma and her daughter, Angel, made 16 wishes long ago: good health, love, carne asada every day, perfect SAT scores, and a spot at UC Davis to name a few. Now that Angel is 17 and she's got a different vision for her future than her immigrant single mom's.

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*Gifts received in support of provocative theatre from January 1, 2022 through August 15, 2022.*

*We are grateful for gifts of all sizes!  
For a full list of donors \$100+ please visit our website.*

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**CURIOUS  
THEATRE  
COMPANY**

## STAFF

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Jada Suzanne Dixon, *Artistic Director*  
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Wayne Breyer, *Production Manager  
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**“WHAT DOES  
IT MEAN  
TO BE AN  
AMERICAN  
TODAY?”**

# GO DEEPER

To learn more about *Franklinland*, go to our  
Go Deeper section on the Curious website at  
**CuriousTheatre.org/event/franklinland**  
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**SCAN ME**

