



V i t a

1997 - 2003



# Zoo District 2003

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Opening March 2003

## THE LIVELY LAD

WRITTEN BY Quincy Long

PRODUCED BY Lorenzo Gonzales

DIRECTED BY Joe Seely

*Hilarity erupts when little Eva and the secret cult of Xerxes struggle to preserve their cherished institution of eunuch servitude.*

The Lively Lad is part of Hot Properties at [Inside] the Ford. Hot Properties at [Inside] the Ford is a collaboration of Los Angeles County Arts Commission and A.S.K. Theater Projects, and is supported, in part, by a generous grant from the James Irvine Foundation.

Opening August 2003

## TAMING OF THE SHREW

WRITTEN BY William Shakespeare

Zoo District's production of William Shakespeare's TAMING OF THE SHREW will be performed in the opulent, grand lobby of the restored ORPHEUM movie palace in Downtown Los Angeles.

January 2003

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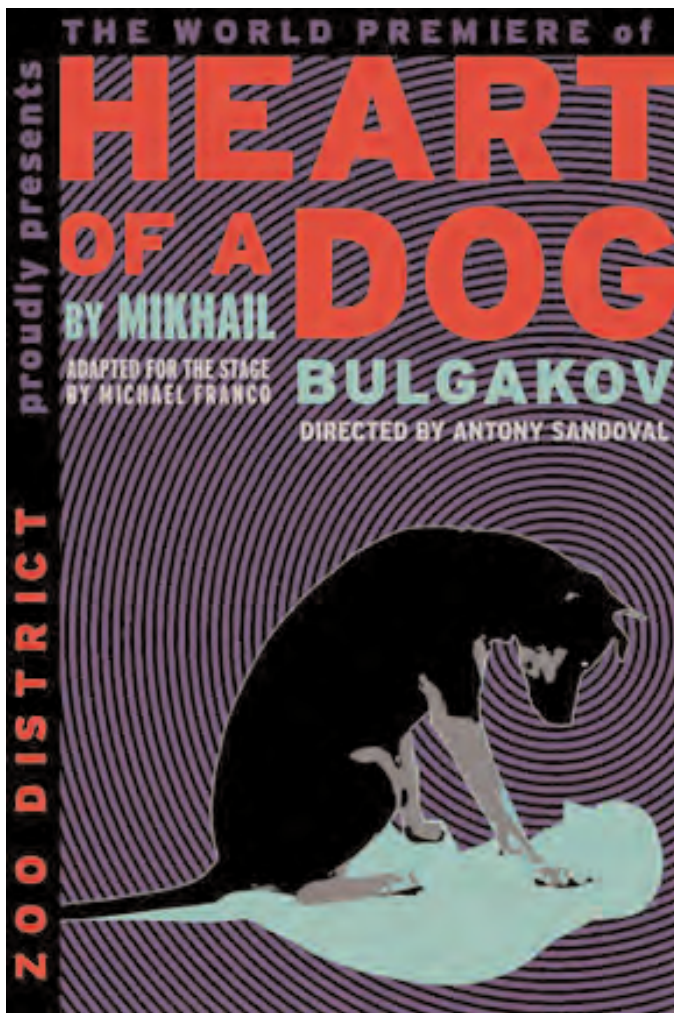
ANGELA CARTER'S

## *The Bloody Chamber*



ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE AND DIRECTED BY  
Kara Feely

*A dark and sensuous tangle of stories emerges from the heart of Bluebeard's Castle*



## HEART OF A DOG

Performed in Kiev, Ukraine. September 2002

Zoo District is proud to announce its participation in the First Annual Bulgakov Festival this September in Kiev, Ukraine, performing Michael Franco's adaptation of Mikhail Bulgakov's classic novella, "Heart of a Dog," directed by Antony Sandoval.

*Heart of a Dog is the story of a dog that is turned into a man by science, with less than stellar results, and was the first work of Bulgakov's to be banned in the former Soviet Union for its scathing satire.*

Produced for Zoo District by Michael Franco

Written by Mikhail Bulgakov

Adapted for the stage by Michael Franco

Directed by Antony Sandoval

Winter 2001

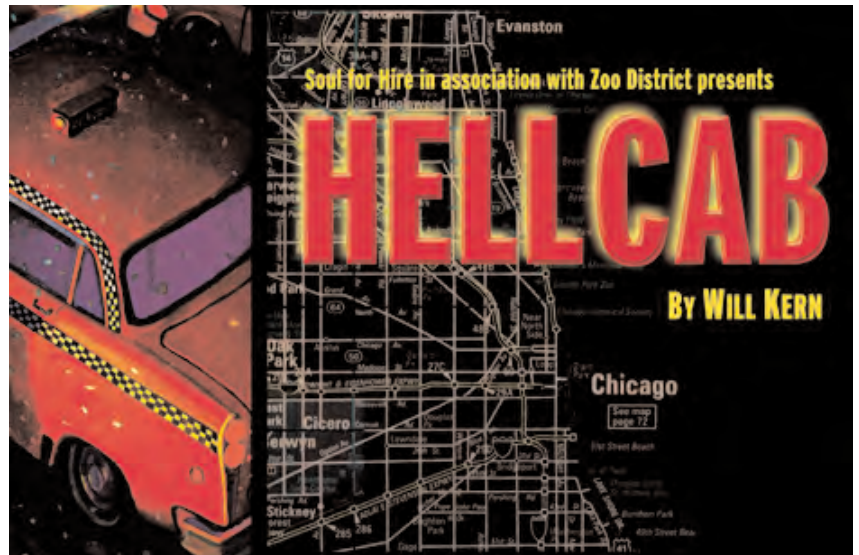
## HELLCAB

Presented by Soul for Hire,  
in association with Zoo District

Written by Will Kern

Directed by David Razowsky

Produced by Michael Franco and Charles Wilson



"power and precision of a well-oiled BMW"

"masterfully subtle"

"hysterical performances"

BACKSTAGE WEST *Critic's Pick*

LA TIMES

LA WEEKLY *Pick of the Week*

Winter 2001

## IN ABSENTIA

*A one man show*

Written and Performed by Ben Davis

Directed by Loren Rubin



“A raw, powerful, poignant narrative of a young man’s coming of age. This brilliant one man show is alternately devastating and funny, grounded and elusive, tough and tender. Ben Davis is luminous.”

Sara Lawrence Lightfoot, Professor of Sociology,  
Harvard University



Fall 2001

## UPPA CREEK

West Coast Premiere!

*The play takes place in the antebellum south representing several eras of our past and present. Hepthesput, (Young Negress) is the new wet nurse to the way-too-old-to-be-breast-feeding, Lil Massa. In a misfired attempt to poison him to death, she instead poisons Miss Anne, (Mistress of the House) and her daughter, Lil Annie with a madness potion.*

Written by Keli Garret • Directed by Patrice Pitman Quinn • Musical Composition & Direction by Graham Jackson  
Produced by Michael Franco and Loren Rubin

“Rather than dramatize the ugly history of American slavery with guilt-drenched yanks at the heartstrings, this edgy staging tackles the subject with nonstop, full-throttle parody.”

LA TIMES



Summer 2001

## THE SLOW AND PAINFUL DEATH OF SAM SHEPARD

*The Slow and Painful Death of Sam Shepard imaginatively reinvents playwright/actor Sam Shepard's dizzying ascent from man to myth. Threading themes from H. P. Lovecraft, Tennessee Williams, Al Capp, John Steinbeck, Patti Smith, Tom Wolfe and Sam Shepard, Dorchen's play careens from moment to cartoon moment exploring the destructive nature of fame. To answer the question, "Can a billion year old monster turn Sam Shepard into a God?"*

Written By Jeffrey Dorchen  
Directed by Bill Cusack  
Musical Composition by Jef Bek & Jeffrey Dorchen  
Musical Direction by Jef Bek  
Produced by Michael Franco and Ben Simonetti

### GARLAND AWARD WINNER

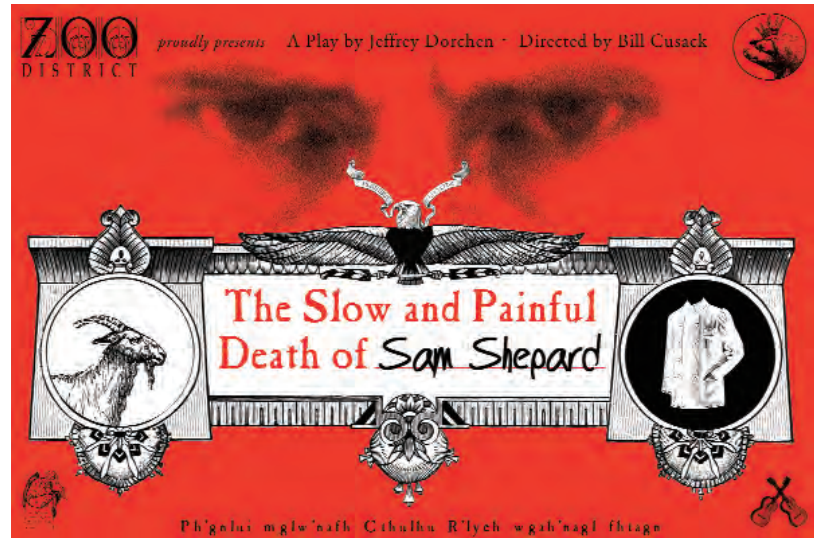
Tamar Fortgang for Best Performance

### LA WEEKLY AWARD WINNER

Jef Bek for Musical Direction  
The Mysterious Cecil Schmidt for Set Design

### OVATION AWARD NOMINEE

The Mysterious Cecil Schmidt for Set Design  
Jef Bek & Eric Snodgrass for Sound Design



Fall 2001

## STARDUST & STRIPES

Commissioned by The L.A. History Project  
Performed at L.A.T.C.

*Using found texts, pictures and songs of Los Angeles during World War II, Stardust & Stripes is a collage of resonant images and events from 1941 to 1945 that profoundly and irrevocably altered the people and landscape of our city.*

This original piece was created using Tadashi Suzuki's actor training method and Anne Bogart's Viewpoints as developed by the SITI company.

Written by the Ensemble  
Directed by Gleason Bauer & Melina Bielefelt  
Musical Composition & Direction by Nina Rolle  
Produced by Gleason Bauer & Lee Bradley

FALL 2000

## PATHE X

*A Play About A Lost Dream About A Lost Play or The Laughter From The Room Next Door*



*Inspired by the art and lives of  
Salvador Dali, Remedios Varo & Leonora Carrington*

Written by Ricardo Zeger, Directed by Antony Sandoval  
Produced for Zoo District by Michael Franco, Ben Simonetti,  
Lorenzo Gonzalez and Tracy Hudak  
Original Music by Jef Bek

**2000 OVATION AWARDS:**  
Kara Feely & Paule Lemasson for Costume Design  
Jef Bek for Sound Design

**OVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS**  
Ensemble Performance, Best Director

**NOMINATED FOR 5 LA WEEKLY AWARDS**  
Supporting Female, Production Design, Costumes,  
Props, Masks

“A strikingly new original production from Zoo District”  
“Stunning visual images”  
“As presentational art this production is a masterpiece.”

LA TIMES

“A sprawling tale of subconscious adventure”  
“Soaring flights of inventiveness”  
“A free-form through-the-looking-glass journey.”

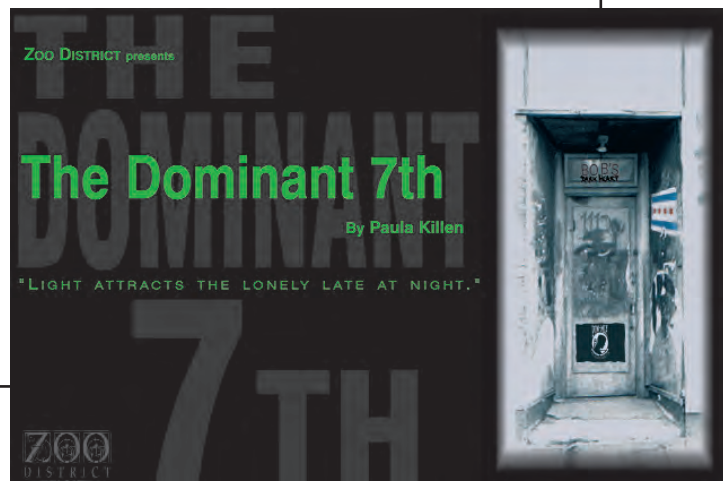
LA WEEKLY

Fall 2000

## THE DOMINANT 7TH

*Light Attracts the Lonely Late at Night*

Written by Paula Killen, Directed by Theresa Larkin  
Produced for Zoo District by Paula Killen, Patrick Towne,  
Brett Paesal, Brian Leahy and Tim O' Shea



Spring 2000

# THE MASTER AND MARGARITA

*A new stage adaptation of the Russian Masterpiece  
by Mikhail Bulgakov*

Adapted for the stage by Richard Helweg and Michael Franco  
Directed by Loren Rubin  
Produced for Zoo District by  
Michael Franco, Lorenzo Gonzalez and Joe Seely  
Original Music by Jef Bek

**WINNER OF 2 GARLAND AWARDS:**

Best Adaptation, Original Music

**OVATION AWARD WINNER:**

Best Original Score

**LA WEEKLY AWARDS:**

Production, Direction, Ensemble, Adaptation,  
Original Music, Production Design, and Costumes

“A bucket of wonders”  
“The atmospheric pleasures keep coming.”

LA TIMES  
*Critic's Choice*

“Bold, gutsy theatre fueled by charismatic  
performers who dive into this work with gusto.”

LA WEEKLY  
*Pick of The Week*

“The courage and daring of this company  
is awe-inspiring.”

BACK STAGE WEST





FALL 1999 & WINTER 2001

# NOSFERATU... ANGEL OF THE FINAL HOUR

*The Third Annual Festival of Horror*

Created by Jon Kellam, K.J. Luker and Bernadette Sullivan

Written by K.J. Luker (additional dialogue inspired by the ensemble)

Directed by Jon Kellam

Produced by Bernadette Sullivan, Michael Franco and Darcine Wdowczak Thomas

Original Music by Jef Bek



**WINNER OF 7 GARLAND AWARDS:**

PRODUCTION • NEW PLAY • MUSICAL SCORE  
CHOREOGRAPHY • MUSICAL DIRECTION  
LIGHTING AND PERFORMANCE

**OVATION AWARD WINNER:**

Musical Direction, and Score

“Entertainingly undead...  
head-snapping, dead on timing...  
fascinating...”

LA TIMES

“Astutely juxtaposes slapstick comedy  
with the darkest of human impulses.”

LA WEEKLY  
*Recommended*

“Zoo District members have pooled their  
artistic blood to course life into a tightly  
crafted dream world...warm, elegant...  
a percussive, balletic feel that is slick and striking.”

BACK STAGE WEST  
*Critic's Choice*



SUMMER 1999

## THE TWO-CHARACTER PLAY

*In a state theater of a state unknown, the psyche of America's greatest playwright hangs in the balance.*

Written by Tennessee Williams, Directed by Gleason Bauer  
Produced for Zoo District by Tamar Fortgang,  
Ashley Osler, and Ricardo Zeger

“Gifted work... Zoo District provides magnificent settings for all its plays, creating memorable environments that transcend traditional theatrical space.”

BACK STAGE WEST

“Zoo District renders a loving and innovative interpretation.”

LA DOWNTOWN NEWS



SUMMER 1999

## BROWN AND BLACK AND WHITE ALL OVER

*A Cuban-American storyteller shares his insights on racism, abuse and what it is to be a man in this society.*

Written and performed by Antonio Sacre • Directed by Paula Killen • Produced for Zoo District by Michael Franco

SPRING 1999

## THE HOSTAGE

*Pimps, whores, thieves, lunatics, IRA members and plenty of stout... Oh, and one young British soldier held hostage.*

Written by Brendan Behan, Directed By Patrick Towne • Produced for Zoo District by Brett Paesal

“A handsome Zoo District revival captures Behan’s affection for his Irish compatriots.”

LA TIMES

“The production’s sheer vitality is infectious... opens the floodgates to parody on the most subversive levels... nothing is sacred.”

“The cast is strong...The production never stops dancing.”

LA WEEKLY  
*Recommended*

“Zoo District is wonderful theatre...one is instantly swept into a bawdy, funny, amazing world of a Dublin brothel...”

TDRL





WINTER 1999

## SCENES FROM AN EXECUTION

*A Woman's brush with history. In the twilight of the Renaissance, a battle is being waged between an artist and the state. Whose truth will History tell?*

Written by Howard Barker • Directed by Gleason Bauer  
Produced for Zoo District by Rick Paladino  
Musical Composition by Jek Bek

### WINNER OF 2 LA WEEKLY AWARDS:

Best Musical Score: Jef Bek

Best Actress: Bernadette Sullivan

“The passionate cast imbues this period drama with raw vitality.”

LA TIMES

“Dramatically explosive examination of the timeless relevant conflict between honest art and a corrupt establishment.”

LA WEEKLY  
*Recommended*

“Passionate, atmospheric...this ambitious production of a highly challenging play is a praiseworthy effort by a risk-taking company.”

BACK STAGE WEST



FALL 1998

## THE FACE OF EVIL

*The Second Annual Festival of Horror  
A bloody little play for Halloween*

Written by The Ensemble • Directed by Patrick Towne  
Produced for Zoo District by Jon Kellam and Rob Farrior

“Flashes of brilliance... always stylish, highly talented troupe.”

LA WEEKLY

“Exciting physical work and scenic elements at which these artists excel...”

“Zoo District has the talent”

BACK STAGE WEST

SUMMER 1998

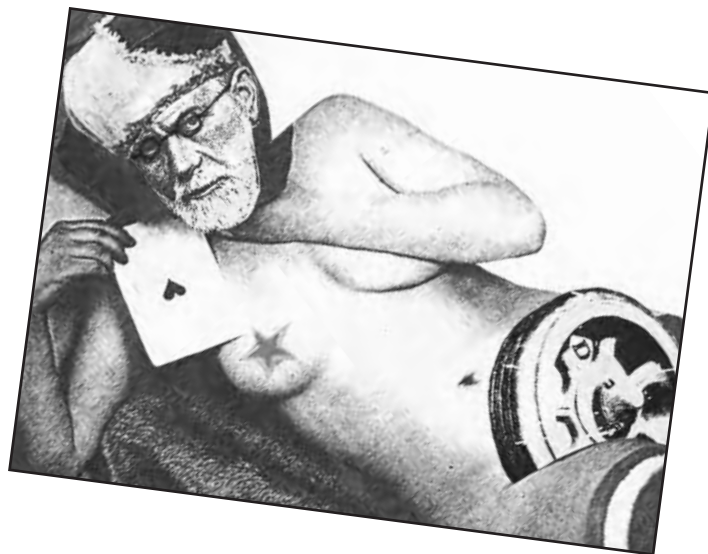
## METALUNA AND THE AMAZING SCIENCE OF THE MIND REVUE

*What would happen if the Dada movement of post WWI Europe met American Vaudeville, and what if the meeting took place in a small town in Indiana?*

Written by Joe Janes, Directed by Kate Hendrickson  
Produced for Zoo District by Loren Rubin

“Zestfully played with great over-the-top style... wild whirlwind pacing...”  
“It’s vaudeville with an avant-garde warping, and intellectual sexual innuendoes galore.”

LA TIMES



## SPRING 1998 TOP GIRLS

*What price does a woman have to pay to be on top?*

Written by Caryl Churchill, Directed by Patrick Towne • Produced for Zoo District by Bernadette Sullivan

“The new Zoo District Theatre brings the ambitious 1982 comedy back to vigorous life in downtown...”

LA TIMES

“A wonderful and important work...a strong ensemble...outstanding...engrossing.

LA WEEKLY *Pick of the Week*

“Some of the strongest performances I’ve seen on the Los Angeles stages...”

BACK STAGE WEST



FALL 1997

## THE DESCENT

*The First Annual Festival of Horror*  
*They say some things are better left unknown. We think otherwise.*

Written by The Ensemble • Directed by Gleason Bauer  
Produced for Zoo District by Gleason Bauer

“Imagine that Samuel Beckett had written *Nightmare on Elm Street*... absurdism meets horror... the evening captures the proverbial descent into Hades... both comical and genuinely disturbing.”

LA WEEKLY

“Hell comes to an artist’s loft... Zoo District... again proves that there are interesting and twisted minds in the Downtown arts scene...”

LA DOWNTOWN NEWS

# OTHER ZOO DISTRICT PROJECTS

## ONGOING

### CROI

A movement company  
Creating original movement based theatre  
Since 1999

### THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Ongoing Since 1999

### YOUNG PLAYERS ENSEMBLE – ORPHAN MAGIC

At The Lillian Theatre

Fall 2000

### THE AFTER SCHOOL TRAINING PROGRAM

At The Delores Mission School

Spring 2000

### CAFÉ FINI

Zoo Districts Late Night Cabaret  
Produced By Charles Wilson  
Since 2000

## IN ASSOCIATION

*Los Angeles Edge Of The World Festival 2000*

### IMPRINT

Written and Directed by Tracy Hudak

### LANDFALL

Written and Performed by CROI

*Soul for Hire Winter 2001*

### HELL CAB

Written by Will Kern  
Directed by David Razowsky  
Produced by Michael Franco and Charles Wilson

## WORKS DEVELOPED

Winter/Spring 2002

### AMERIKAFKA

Written by Ken Prestinenzi  
Directed by Loren Rubin

Summer 1998

### WAKE

In Association with Tuesday's Child  
Written and Directed by Stephen Brennan  
Produced by Freddie Simpson



# ☞ THE ZOO DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Zoo District is a theatre company driven by the collaborative spirit uniting artists from various disciplines to create daring and original work. Based in the Downtown Arts District of Los Angeles, Zoo District fuses a commitment to innovative theatre with the artistic integrity and passion found in this vital community. Zoo District enriches the community by producing work year-round, conducting workshops, and generating outreach programs. Theatrical seasons include original, premiere and established works approached from a variety of provocative styles.

## ☞ THE NAME

Zoo District is an area in Berlin featured in Bertolt Brecht's DRUMS IN THE NIGHT . It is the seedy, downtrodden, low rent section of town, inhabited largely by artists and free thinkers, and where revolution first erupts in Brecht's play.

## ☞ STAFF

Artistic Director - Jon Kellam  
Associate Artistic Directors – Gleason Bauer and Lorenzo Gonzalez  
Managing Director – Debbie Falb  
Director of Development – John Strozier III  
Company Manager – Becky Wahlstrom

## ☞ BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gleason Bauer, Debbie Falb, Lorenzo Gonzalez, John McCarthy, Yana Shukman, John Strozier III,  
Bernadette Sullivan, Charles Wilson

## ☞ FOUNDING MEMBERS

Gleason Bauer, Jef Bek, Rob Farrior, Tamar Fortgang, Tracy Hudak, Jon Kellam, Kaaren .J. Luker, D Morris,  
Rick Paladino, Loren Rubin, John Schofield, Joe Seely, Bernadette Sullivan, Patrick Towne

## ☞ COMPANY MEMBERS

*past & present*

Peter Alton, Matt Astin, Mami Arizono, Gleason Bauer, Jef Bek, Beth Bergman, Stephanie Bettman, Melina Bielefelt,  
Lee Bradley, Stephen Brennan, Tara Callaghan, Michael Childers, Tara Chocol, Ben Davis, Christine Deaver,  
Elizabeth Dement, Kelly Lynn Doherty, Ransford Doherty, Jay Dover, Kevin Dulude, Katherine Edwards, Zach Eisenberg,  
Mark Epstein, Laura Esposito, Debbie Falb, Rob Farrior, Kara Feely, Marianne Ferrari, Jenna Fischer, Kim Fitzgerald,  
Tamar Fortgang, Michael Franco, Aaron Francis, Ruthie Frank, Stan Freitag, Brian Frette, Joe Fria, Robin Fuqua,  
Milly Gallagher, Nick Gillie, Jonathan Goldstein, Lorenzo Gonzalez, Adam Grimes, Lucas Guerin, Carol Guidry,  
Laura Harring, Joe Hernandez-Kolski, Tish Hicks, Tracy Hudak, Graham Jackson, Dylan Jones, Colleen Kane, Jon Kellam,  
Paula Killen, Yuriana Kim, Loren Lazerine, Robert Lee, Kaaren J Luker, Chantal Marcks, Chris McCabe, Bill McCormack,  
Marius Mazmanian, D Morris, Ariel Narkevicious, Bruno Oliver, Tim O'Shea, Ashley Osler, Brett Paesal, Rick Paladino,  
Loren Rubin, Maro Parian, Miguel Perez, Michelle Philippe, Patrice Pitman Quinn, Paul Plunkett, Ken Prestininzi,  
David Razowsky, Antony Sandoval, John Schofield, Sara Sido, Freddie Simpson, Sonia Sanz, Hilari Scarl, Joe Seely,  
Steven Sennett, Matthew Sheasby, Ben Simonetti, Eric Snodgrass, John Strozier III, Bernadette Sullivan, John Sylvain,  
Patrick Towne, Gary Viggers, Becky Wahlstrom, Michael Shamus Wiles,  
Charles Wilson, Ines Wurth, Barry Wyatt and Ricardo Zeger