

THE
BACK
ALLEY
THEATRE

FOUND A PEANUT

written by DONALD MARGULIES
directed by MICHAEL ARABIAN
produced by LAURA ZUCKER
scenic design by RICH ROSE
lighting design by LESLIE ROSE
costume design by BARBARA COX
sound design by ANDREW McCARL

with

DAVID O. CAMERON
KENNY D'AQUILA
WILLIAM DeACUTIS
WINIFRED FREEDMAN
LESLIE JORDAN
BEN MITTLEMAN
LYCIA NAFF
JEFFREY ROGERS

LAURA ZUCKER & ALLAN MILLER,
Producing Directors
15231 Burbank Blvd., Van Nuys, CA 91411
(818) 780-2240

1986

ABOUT THE BACK ALLEY

The Back Alley is a nonprofit theatre. That means our work is not aimed at a commercial market, but chosen because it is challenging, provocative, or innovative. Since we began producing in 1979, we have produced only plays that are new to Los Angeles, and hopefully, speak with a unique voice. We always try to execute our choice of material with the best actors, directors, and designers who live here.

Because living here is what it is all about. Although people attend the Back Alley from all over Los Angeles County, we feel we have a special relationship with the 1.5 million residents of the San Fernando Valley. This is our neighborhood, we live here and we work here, and we're glad we can bring professional theatre to the Valley. The theatre is grateful for the support this community has given us.

If you would like to join in the activities of the Back Alley as a volunteer, or would like to know more about the theatre or subscribing, please fill out the coupon inserted in this program and give it to the house manager, or mail it to us.

Previous productions include:

- 1986: THE GREEKS, DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA
- 1985: RINGERS, IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE, DUET FOR ONE
- 1984: SUBURAN ROMANCE, FIREBIRD THEATRE COMPANY, ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN, SLAB BOYS, THIN WALLS
- 1983: ARE YOU SURE?, CISTERNS, HOT & COLD, A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS
- 1982: THREE TOP HATS, 24 HOURS
- 1981: THE FOX
- 1980: RUBBERS, YANKS 3, DETROIT 0, TOP OF THE SEVENTH, FEEDLOT, PUTTING ON THE DOG, COWBOY MOUTH
- 1979: THE JOURNALISTS

BACK ALLEY BOARD

STUART BERTON
TOM CAMP
LINDA CHIAVAROLI
JOHN FISHER
VIVIAN FORBES
JOHN GOSCH
HELEN KLEINBERG
STAN LAVINE
LEE RAMER
ADAM SAXON
SUSAN SCHWARZ
IRIS SIEGEL
MARTIN SPEAR
LEONARD STERN

Advisory Board
ROBB AXTON
ASSEMBLYMAN TOM BANE
COUNCILMAN ERNANI BERNARDI
MICHAEL J. BOND
TIPTON HUNTLEY CONRAD
WILLIAM CONRAD
WILLIAM GREENBLATT
PAM DIXON MICHAELSON
ROWLAND PERKINS
SENATOR ALAN ROBBINS
SHEILA ROSS
COUNCILMAN JOEL WACHS

BACK ALLEY DONORS 1985-1986

The Back Alley Theatre gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support of the following donors. Only 80% of theatre expenses are covered by ticket sales, so contributions are always needed to support the theatre's activities. Please think of joining the distinguished list below by returning the envelope inserted in this program.

Over \$15,000

California Community Foundation

Over \$10,000

City/State/Local Partnerships

Over \$5,000

Apple Computers
California Arts Council

Over \$1,000

American Medical International
City of Los Angeles
County of Los Angeles
Bill and Tippy Conrad
Garry K. Marshall
Michael Nader
Pacific Telephone
Lee and Larry Ramer
Southern California Gas Co.
Frank & Julie Von Zerneck

Over \$500

Atlantic Richfield
Stuart & Susan Berton
Michael Cavanaugh
Gang, Tyre & Brown, Inc.
Gary Goldberg & Diana Meehan
Patrick & Marian Hogan
Linda Kelsey
Stanley & Jean Lavine
MTM
Adam Saxon
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Swig
Yorkin Foundation

Over \$250

Dr. & Mrs. Barry Blumenthal
Sumner & Judie Cotton
Vivian & Peter Forbes
Bruce & Kathleen Givner
John Gosch
Carroll O'Connor
Noam Pitlik
Michael Pressman
Leonard & Gloria Stern

Over \$100

Mr. and Mrs. Roy H. Aaron
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Allen
Dorothy Aronwald
Edward and Nancy Asner
Jack Bannon
Gloria Barke
James J. Berton
Herbert R. Bloch, Jr.
John Bowab
Sandy Bresler
Rollins Brook
Jody Carter
Richard Clayton
Mr. & Mrs. George Conte
Joel Cory & Robyn Douglass
Jim & Jan Cota
Ronny and Mary Cox
Bill Cunningham
Christine Dickinson & Robert Broder
Alice and Stephen Elliot
Europa Restaurant
Shirley & Isadore Familian
Rusty Feurer, Actors for Actors
Cassandra Foster
Genie Francis
Barbara Friedman
Charles Fries & Ava Ostern

Gelson's Markets
Joe & Eleanor George
Mr. & Mrs. Ira M. Goldberg
Kristine Greco
Pat Harrington
Judd Hirsch
Richard Irving
Joseph, Heldfond & Rix, Inc.
Dr. & Mrs. Harry S. Kahn
Milton P. Kaplan, M.D.
Dr. & Mrs. Louis H. Laufer
Ada Beth and Bill Lee
Perry Liss
Steve & Mavis McNally
Steven & Debra Magedoff
Rick and Chris Manheim
Herbert F. Margolis
Leslie & Constance Martinson
Walter Matthau
Stanley & Rosalie Minsk
Jim Moore
Charles W. Morris
Alexander & Jean Nicol
Leonard and Sandi Nimoy
Billie & J. D. Pauley
Ralph Peterson
Ronda Pierson
John & Lynn Pleshette
Peggy Pope

Denise & Weston Richter
Jan & Jerry Rogoway
Sam and Hilda Rolfe
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Rosenberg
Rick Rosenthal & Nancy Stephens
Sabrina & Bob Schiller
Joan Scott
Frances G. Seltzer
Joan Selwyn
George Shapiro
Sherman Oaks Community Hospital
Arnold B. Siegel
Iris L. Siegel
Mr. & Mrs. Sanford C. Sigoloff
Martin Spear
Lois St. Clair
Lionel & Stephana Stander
Alex Statler
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Stern
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Stutman
Robert Symonds & Priscilla Pointer
Monya Thomas
Ruth Wald
Jason & Denise Wallach
Lynn Wasserman
Nina B. Zolt
and many anonymous donors

FOUND A PEANUT

Cast in Order of Appearance

Mike, age 11.....DAVID O. CAMERON
Jeffrey Smolowitz, age 11.....WILLIAM DeACUTIS
Melody, age 8.....LYCIA NAFF
Joanie, age 8.....WINIFRED FREEDMAN *
Little Earl, age 5.....LESLIE JORDAN
Scott, age 12.....JEFFREY ROGERS
Ernie, age 14.....BEN MITTLEMAN
Shane, age 12.....KENNY D'AQUILA

*starting July 20, Joanie will be played by HOLLY HABER

Time & Place: 1962, Brooklyn
FOUND A PEANUT is performed with no intermission

FOUND A PEANUT is presented by arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc. in New York.

Director's Note

In looking at Margulies' portrayal of urban youth, we see how society and the environment influence our behavior. In his notes, Margulies states "I wanted to write about childhood as a mythic, universal experience." FOUND A PEANUT examines our primal instincts and, as adults watching adults play children, we realize that our basic values, needs and desires remain the same and that we change very little.

Glossary

"Salooie!" is a signal given from one person to a second to be prepared to catch something snatched from an unsuspecting third and to prevent that person from retrieving it.

"Pensy Pinky and Spalding" are pink rubber balls. Spaldings were status symbols; Pinkies were cheaper at 25 cents.

"I.G.C." stands for Intellectually Gifted Children, a special advancement class (long discontinued) in the NYC public school system for children with above average IQs. Smolowitz, with his high reading level, is the only one of his playmates so distinguished.

"Skelly," is a game played with bottlecaps on a chalk-drawn court on the sidewalk. Flicking the bottlecap with forefinger and thumb, each player must go from Box 1 to Box 13 and back; the first to make the round trip wins.

Waldbaum's is a supermarket chain; Jack's is a candy store.

"P.E." is Physical Education class.

Who's Who



DAVID O. CAMERON (Mike) was born in Boise, Idaho and received his BA degree from Bard College in New York. Inspired by Jerzy Grotowski, he founded Via Theatre, an experimental theatre ensemble, which toured the United States, Europe and the Middle East performing original theatre pieces. The Ensemble disbanded in Israel and he returned to NYC to do one more play, THE GLASS MENAGERIE at the Fordham Theatre, before coming to LA. His film & TV credits include THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS (five months playing "Sparky," a drug dealer), T.J. HOOKER, SIMON AND SIMON, and STAR 80. On stage he has done CALIFORNIA DOGFIGHT with Charles Durning, MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN with Salome Jens, BABY STEPS, NEVER SAY DIE, ANGEL CITY and CLASH BY NIGHT, to name a few.



KENNY D'AQUILA (Shane) starred in New York productions of BROADWAY SCANDALS OF 1928 at the O'Neals Theatre, directed by Richard Maltby, Jr.; in the title role of the rock musical MOZEZ at the Henry Clurman Theatre; MOONDANCE at the Ensemble Studio Theatre; SHELTER at the American Theatre of Actors; and PANCHO VILLA at the McBerney Theatre. National tours include the companies of DO BLACK PATENT LEATHER SHOES REALLY REFLECT UP? as Mike Depki, and JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR as Judas. Regional credits include leading roles in STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, WHEN YOU COMIN BACK RED RYDER?, THE WOOLGATHERER, and BIRDBATH. Making his way from New York to Los Angeles only recently, Kenny is an active member of the Theatre West acting company and is making his L.A. stage debut in FOUND A PEANUT.



WILLIAM DeACUTIS (Jeff) originated the role of Tommy in THE NORMAL HEART for the New York Shakespeare Festival at the Public Theatre and again in L.A. at the Las Palmas. He also played the role of Hanchen in Liviu Culie's production of SPRING AWAKENING at the Public. His latest film credit is 9 1/2 WEEKS, directed by Adrian Lyne; on television he has appeared in HOMETOWN. He is a graduate of the Julliard School.



WINIFRED FREEDMAN (Joanie) is a native of Granite City, Illinois, and a graduate of Northwestern University, where she appeared in a number of productions including WHEN YOU COMIN BACK RED RYDER?, TARTUFFE, and their original revue, THE WAA-MU SHOW. Her television credits include numerous guest appearances in addition to a regular role on JOANIE LOVES CHACHI and a recurring role on the syndicated soap RITUALS. She has appeared in the feature films THE LAST AMERICAN VIRGIN, CROSSROADS, and the soon to be released REFORM SCHOOL GIRLS (yikes!). She has studied with Diane Shalet, Robert Lewis, and the Harvey Lembeck Comedy Workshop.



LESLIE JORDAN (Little Earl) stepped off the bus (literally) two years ago from Chattanooga, Tenn. and has not stopped working. With 12 national TV commercials to his credit, he also appeared in a Faerie Tale Theatre production for Showtime, did a pilot for Bob Banner last season and a guest starring role on THE FALL GUY (where he did his usual schtick, took the money and ran). Since his last job involved spending 9 days in the Mojave Desert in monkey makeup with Boy George and a Japanese film crew shooting a series of commercials for saki coolers, Mr. Jordan is ready to return to the stage and do something normal (like playing a 5 year old kid from Brooklyn).



BEN MITTLEMAN (Ernie) has just finished a 4 month sold out run as Jerry the bartender in THE BAR OFF MELROSE. Los Angeles audiences will remember him from John Herman Shaner's critically and publicly acclaimed production of the controversial AFTER CRYSTAL NIGHT and HUNGRY HEARTS by Bruce Hickey at E. S. T. He has worked in the East at Circle in the Square, Long Wharf Theatre, and Williamstown Theatre Festival, and spent a season at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. His film work includes a starring role in MOVING VIOLATIONS, as well as MAKING LOVE, DEADLY FORCE, and the upcoming DIRTY LAUNDRY. His TV credits include FALCON CREST, REMINGTON STEELE, CAGNEY AND LACEY, among others. He was born in Brooklyn, moved a week later, and is now coming home.



LYCIA NAFF (Melody) is the eldest of two children. She has fine penmanship. Her latest feature credit is a costarring role in CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR. She has been a guest star on several TV movies and episodics, including HUNTER, HARDCASTLE & McCORMICK, HELLTOWN, THE JEFFERSONS, and recurring roles on ST. ELSEWHERE and FAME. She has worked in regional and local theatres including South Coast Rep, the Zephyr, and the Cast Theatre. Lycia would like to thank her parents for having survived her childhood.



JEFFREY ROGERS (Scott) Jeffrey's film credits include FRIDAY THE 13th PART III, SURF II, and most recently KARATE KID II. On television he starred as Doug in the NBC pilot YOUNG HEARTS, and has been seen on FACTS OF LIFE, CHIPS, & ST. ELSEWHERE, among other episodic shows. Some of his favorite experiences have been the roles of David and Alan in the Broadway production of Harvey Fierstien's TORCH SONG TRILOGY, working with Robert Wilson in his production of KING LEAR, studying acting with Gene Bua, and being Scott in FOUND A PEANUT.

HOLLY HABER (Joanie, starting July 20) Acting since age 9, Holly has played a wide variety of roles. In the past few years she has become an actor/producer, presenting WINNERS and the L.A. premiere of SALLY AND MARSHA at Theatre 40 (for which she won a Drama Logue award). With Mean Noises Productions she presented STRIDER and appeared in their PAYDIRT and MATES, winning a Drama Logue award for the latter. Last season Holly played four different roles, all in Christopher Durang's BABY WITH THE BATHWATER at the L.A. Public Theatre, directed by Matt Casella. She attended Cal Arts and when not working in the theatre she can be seen in film and television.

DONALD MARGULIES (Author) FOUND A PEANUT was originally produced in 1984 by Joseph Papp at the NY Public Theatre, where it was directed by Claudia Weill. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?, was developed at the Sundance Institute Playwright's Conference (where Margulies has twice been in residence) and produced last year at Manhattan Theatre Club. Other off-Broadway productions include RESTING PLACE, GIFTED CHILDREN, and LUNA PARK. He has written over a dozen plays, and is writer-in-residence at the Jewish Repertory Company. His work has been commissioned by Actors Theatre of Louisville and workshops at the Public Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, Circle Repertory Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre, and WPA. He is a member of NY Writers Bloc, Manhattan Theatre Club Playwright's Unit, and the Dramatists' Guild.

MICHAEL ARABIAN (Director) produced and directed the highly acclaimed productions of SCENES FROM AMERICAN LIFE at the Skylight Theatre and REQUEST CONCERT starring Salome Jens and Edith Fields at the Cast Theatre. As an actor he played Tybalt in Milton Katselas' ROMEO AND JULIET, which became the longest running Shakespeare production in LA history. He appeared as the Indian Doctor in the West Coast premiere of Lanford Wilson's ANGELS FALL at the Old Globe, in the Mark Taper Forum/IITP tour of SCHOOL TALK, and in STRIDER at the Cast, as well as film and TV work. In New York he has directed and acted in such theatres as The Roundabout, Playwright's Horizon, Lion Theatre, Mabou Mines (Re Cher Chez), Williamstown, and Norman Renee's Production Company, among others. He is the recipient of the 1979 Villager Award for off Broadway. He trained at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London under a full scholarship from the Gulbenkian Foundation.

LAURA ZUCKER (Producing Director) founded the Back Alley, along with Allan Miller, in 1979. Ms. Zucker serves on the board of Arts, Inc., which administers the Arts Loan Fund and Business Volunteers for the Arts program in Los Angeles. She served on the board of the Los Angeles Theatre Alliance, was a panelist for the California Arts Council, and serves on the steering committee of the County State/Local Partnership Grant Program. She attended the Yale School of Drama and received her B.A. from Barnard College. In the past year she has produced THE GREEKS, RINGERS, IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE, DUET FOR ONE, and ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN for the Back Alley.

ALLAN MILLER (Producing Director) appeared last year in DUET FOR ONE at the Back Alley and The Hollywood Playhouse, and directed THE GREEKS, IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE and RINGERS. Also at the Back Alley he directed and appeared in the long running hit ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN. Mr. Miller won a 1981 LADCC Award for his direction of THE FOX, a play he also wrote and directed Off-Broadway at the Roundabout Theatre. Trained as an actor in New York, his career includes over fifty plays, a hundred and fifty TV episodics and pilots, fifteen movies made for TV, nine feature films, and seven soap operas. His most recent TV movies include HOSTAGE FLIGHT and THE EXECUTION.

RICH ROSE (Scenic Designer) is a member of the UCLA Theatre, Film and Television faculty, where he has designed numerous productions including JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. At the Back Alley, he designed the sets for last season's IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE and RINGERS. He has also designed sets at Theatre 40 and Actor's Alley. Rich's work in TV includes set decorating for THE BILLY CRYSTAL SPECIAL coming up on Home Box Office network.

LESLIE ROSE (Lighting Designer) most recently worked at the Back Alley as lighting consultant on DANNY AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA. She was the lighting designer for IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE last season. She taught lighting design at UCLA's Theatre, Film and Television Department for three years. Other lighting design credits include YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU for Theatre 40, MAN AND HIS MACHINE and FEMALE TROUBLES for Actor's Alley, and the BON VOYAGE REVUE which ran for six months aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

BARBARA COX (Costume Designer) has done costumes for theatre, opera and dance. Recipient of awards from LA Drama Critics, Drama-Logue and LA Weekly, her LA theatre credits include KATZ and OLYMPIC TRIALS at the Groundlings, THE COMMON PURSUIT at the Matrix, REQUEST CONCERT at the Cast, SCENES FROM AMERICAN LIFE at the Skylight, SUMMIT CONFERENCE and THE MISER at the Odyssey. Other local credits include South Coast Rep (RECKLESS, PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD, BETRAYAL, OTHERWISE ENGAGED) and the Gem Theatre (OF MICE & MEN, ELEPHANT MAN, TINTYPES). At Long Beach Opera she designed DEATH IN VENICE, GRAND DUCHESS OF GEROLSTEIN, and BARBER OF SEVILLE. At San Jose Civic Light Opera she designed THE KING & I and CAMELOT, and is currently preparing MARRIAGE OF FIGARO. She has also worked at The Alley Theatre, Utah Shakespearean Festival, and Pioneer Memorial Theatre.

ANDREW McCARL (Sound Designer) enjoys his first association with the Back Alley Theatre. A native of Kansas and Nebraska, he served an apprenticeship with the Missouri Repertory Theatre where he picked up stage management and performance credits as well. His move to LA has provided both studio and live theatre work. His most recent show was SCENES FROM AMERICAN LIFE at the Skylight. Andy lives in Glendale with his wife Leesa, a Volkswagon and a baby grand piano.

DONNA F. SAUL (Stage Manager), a recent graduate of the California Institute of the Arts where she received her MFA in Management, is a native of Pittsburgh. Her credits include A RAISIN IN THE SUN, BRECHT ON BRECHT, MACBETH and most recently AMERICAN MUSIC at the Second Stage Theatre in Hollywood. She has worked as production stage manager for the 1985 season of Summer Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa and at CalArts.

BACK ALLEY STAFF

General Manager.....BILL J. COX
 Publicity/Marketing Director.....DIANA DAVES
 Technical Director.....DOUG F.G. BURCH
 Production Stage Manager.....DONNA F. SAUL
 Box Office Manager.....KIM WESTON-MORAN
 Box Office Assistant.....SEAN DOHERTY
 Administrative Assistant.....SUSAN KIRR
 Bookkeeper.....JUDY DONOGHUE
 Photographer.....ED KRIEGER
 Master Carpenters.....JOSHUA OTT, WAYLAND SMALLEY
 Crew.....TOBY HUSS, MARK FITE
 Master Electrician.....ERIN LAI
 Lighting Crew.....JOHN GIZIENSKI, EILEEN GIZIENSKI, MATT ROSSIE
 Scenic Painter.....KENTON D. JONES
 Fight Direction.....MICHAEL ARABIAN

THANKS TO: John Clark, Kitty & Shepard Shedden, Charles G. Davis, Sheri Myers,
 Rebecca Shaw

This project is funded in part by the California Arts Council, a State agency, the County Music and Performing Arts Commission, and the City Cultural Affairs Department. The Back Alley is a member of Theatre Communications Group, California Theatre Council, California Confederation for the Arts, League of Producers of Greater L.A., and the San Fernando Valley Arts Council. The Back Alley has contracted with the Foundation for the Extension and Development of the American Professional Theatre (FEDAPT)'s Management Technical Assistance Program. FEDAPT is a national service organization providing management consulting to not-for-profit theatres and dance companies.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Don't park in the lot next door because they lock the gates and you'll be stuck!

Please turn off all beepers or digital watches which beep.

THE CARRIAGE ROOM UPSTAGED BY NONE OTHER

The Carriage Room caters to the theater crowd. Whether you need a light meal before the show or an after theater repast and aperitif, our fine menu and lounge will accommodate you superbly.

Try the Carriage Room, our delicious food warrants a curtain call.



CARRIAGE ROOM

5525 Sepulveda Blvd ■ Van Nuys, CA 91411 ■ (818) 787-2300



- © is a response to the need for something more personal than the shopping mall in today's automated world.
- © is a gallery of art and fine craft for the sophisticated buyer: graphics, paintings, jewelry, wearables, accessories, ceramics, wood, glass.
- © is a place to browse, unhurried, among well-displayed treasures. An artist-partner is always available for consultation.

CONTEMPORARY IMAGES

A GALLERY OF ART AND FINE CRAFT
14027 Ventura Blvd. / Sherman Oaks, California 91423
Tuesday - Saturday, 11 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. 818 783-2007