



KC MELTINGPOT THEATRE



Written by Angelina W. Grimke
Directed by Nicole Hodges Persley
November 10-20, 2016



Nicole Hodges Persley - Director

Nicole Hodges Persley is the Associate Artistic Director of the KC MeltingPot Theatre. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at The University of Kansas. A transplant to Kansas City from Los Angeles, California, Hodges Persley several network television and independent film credits and is a proud member of SAG/AFTRA and SSDC (Stage Directors and Choreographers Union). Hodges Persley has directed shows at P.S. 122 in New York, Highways Performance Space in Los Angeles and Just Off Broadway Theatre in Kansas City. Her local directing credits include critically acclaimed productions of *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Welcome to Arroyo's*, *Sister Cities*, *A Comedy of Sorrows*, *A Soft Escape*, and *Rachel*. Please join us in February for her production of *Leroi Jones (Amiri Baraka's) Dutchman*.



Rana Esfandiary - Assistant Director

Rana Esfandiary is currently a Ph. D. student at the university of Kansas Department of Theater. She holds an MFA degree in Scenography from the University of Kansas (2013) and has designed set, lighting and costumes for shows such as *Summer and Smoke* by Tennessee Williams, *Adding Machine* by Jason Loewith and Joshua Schmidt, *Noah's Art* by Nathan Tysen and Ryan McCall and *The mousetrap* by Agatha Christie. Rana has served as Assistant Director on several of Dr. Hodges Persley's productions including *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry and *Welcome to Arroyo's* by Kristoffer Diaz. Rana is from Tehran, Iran.



Warren Deckert, Technical Director/Designer

Warren Deckert, Technical Director/Designer -- Warren's 45 years of theatre experience include being the Artistic/Technical Director for Great Bend Community Theatre, technical director/designer for the Bethel College Drama Department and union membership in I.A.T.S.E., Local 190, Wichita, KS. He has designed the lighting and/or sets for over 170 productions. Currently he is an assistant house manager for Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the resident technical director/designer for KC MeltingPot Theatre and technical director for Just Off Broadway Theatre. In Kansas City he has directed *Bernice At Bay/The Butterfly Effect*, *Gidion's Knot*, and "*Sue Aside...*" (KC Fringe Festival), *Waiting To Be Invited* and *The Taste Test* (co-productions with KC MeltingPot).



Laura Burt, Stage Manager

Laura Burt is excited to be working with Melting Pot Theatre as a stage manager. In the past she has worked with *Billy Blob* (2016 Fringe Festival), *Tradewind Arts*, *Relevance Productions*, *Olathe Civic Theatre Association* and *Theatrikos Theatre Company*. She also has been on stage around town at *City Theatre of Independence*, *OCTA*, and *The Barn Players*. Some of her favorite shows that she was a part of are *Dinner with Friends* (stage manager), *Extremities* (stage manager), and *Noises Off* (Poppy).



Anna Oakley - Assistant Stage Manager

Anna Oakley, is thrilled to be working with the KC MeltingPot family on *Rachel*! She works as an actor, assistant stage manager, and production assistant throughout KC and received her BA in Theatre Performance from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. She has a passion for connecting students with the theatre and has had an incredible time watching the talented youth cast of *Rachel* grow and find their voices throughout the process. Anna also serves as a Co-Director of Education and Community Programs with KCMPT.



David Ruis - Dramaturge

David Ruis, is currently a Ph.D. student at the University of Kansas in the Department of Theatre. He holds a MA degree in Theatre History and Dramaturgy from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a BFA in Theatre from Stephens College in Columbia, MO. At UMKC, he was the dramaturg for the *Shakespeare Intensive* (2014) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (2015). At KU, he was dramaturg for this fall's production of Sarah Ruhl's *Late, a Cowboy Song*. Across the Kansas City area, he has acted on stage at the *Coterie Theatre*, *Missouri Repertory Theatre* (now *Kansas City Repertory Theatre*), *Theatre for Young America*, and the *Unicorn Theatre*.