

Black Bough Productions presents the World Premiere of...

To dream upon a star,  
to sleep upon a kiss.

彩乃

AYANO

Written by Chris Collins  
Directed by Kiff Scholl\*

HOLLYWOOD



# CAST HEADSHOTS



KAZUMI AIHARA



JOHN-PETER CRUZ



BARA KIM



CARLO MANCASOLA



HIRO MATSUNAGA



GABRIEL PRANTER



GLENN RATCLIFFE

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the World Premiere of

# AYANO 彩乃

Written by  
CHRIS COLLINS

Directed by  
KIFF SCHOLL\*

Featuring

KAZUMI AIHARA • JOHN-PETER CRUZ • BARA KIM  
CARLO MANCASOLA • HIRO MATSUNAGA  
GABRIEL PRANTER • GLENN RATCLIFFE

Scenic Design  
KIFF SCHOLL

Costume Design  
SHON LEBLANC

Lighting Design  
AZRA KING-ABADI

Sound Design  
BILL FROGGATT

Projection Design  
CHRISTOPHER JERABEK

Publicity  
PHILIP SOKOLOFF

Production Stage Manager  
ANGELICA DIAZ ESTEVEZ



\*The Director is a member of SDC,  
the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

## CAST

(in alphabetical order)

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| KAZUMI AIHARA.....   | Ayano   |
| JOHN-PETER CRUZ..... | Carl    |
| BARA KIM.....        | Julie   |
| CARLO MANCASOLA..... | Charlie |
| HIRO MATSUNAGA.....  | Father  |
| GABRIEL PRANTER..... | Tom     |
| GLENN RATCLIFFE..... | Peter   |

### AYANO WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION

Face masks are required to be worn at all times.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cell phones and watches.

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and Guests with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable. By attending this production you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.

We thank you for supporting live theatre and helping to keep others healthy.

## A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

The first image of the play, "Ayano", came to me when I watched the Japanese actress, Setsuko Hara. She was in a series of movies by Yatsujiro Ozu. The "Ayano" story has nothing to do with the stories that starred her. But her facial expressions of pity, joy, fear, strength and melancholy freed up the chains that tie most actors to mediocrity. And I wanted to present, to the best of my talent, opportunities for actors to come close to expressing these essential human values.

What better way to discover a full scope of acting skills than to write a story where stress is the underlining engine...the stress of love, of financial burdens, of ambition and the peculiar anxiety experienced by immigrants to America such as Ayano. Ayano is an aspiring actress from Japan endowed with blood-and-tear passions that lured her into exile in a new country. She is haunted by swings of insecurity, happiness, nostalgia for her old country and guilt for leaving her beloved father to die without her. The other characters, who rotate around Ayano, are confronted with her vivid beauty and mysterious deceptions and try to find in their own jealousies, love, admiration, and violence, their own images.

— Chris Collins

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This production has been a long time coming. We were originally scheduled to open two years ago - around this time in 2020. Fortunately a global disaster couldn't stop our momentum, so here we finally are. As a result, I've never had such a long gestation period with a new play before, and yet every time I see this play I hear something new. This gifted cast and I have had a somewhat surprisingly joyous rehearsal process, mining this dense and melifluous text for secrets and lies, and personally, the story is palpable. I was an actor before I was ever a director, and I still have dreams in that arena. This story of a brilliant actor - told by skilled actors - is unavoidably visceral for all of us. I want to thank the actors for their craft, passion and devotion, Chris for allowing me to helm his precious tale, my gifted designers, and of course, Racquel & Misha of Theatre Planners without whom, I'm nothing.

— Kiff Scholl

## CAST BIOS

**KAZUMI AIHARA (Ayano)** Kazumi Aihara is an actress, producer, writer from Japan. As a founding member of The Garage, she produced and starred alongside the late Glenn Headly in the stage production of *BLOOD* written and directed by a Golden Globe and Emmy nominee, the late Robert Allan Ackerman. Her most recent stage appearance was with Al Pacino when she played the role of "Mamasan" in a benefit staged reading of *The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel* at the Wallis directed by Ackerman in March 2020. Her first notable TV appearance was an Apple's Get-a-Mac ad campaign as a "printer" with Justin Long and John Hodgeman. Some of her film and TV credits include: *American Falls* starring Vincent D'Onofrio, *Bones* (FOX), and *Heroes* (NBC). After receiving a drama degree from the University of Montana, she trained at the Lee Strasberg Institute of LA and most proudly with her mentor, Ackerman at The Garage. [www.kazumiaihara.com](http://www.kazumiaihara.com)

**JOHN-PETER CRUZ (Carl)** As this is John-Peter's Los Angeles debut, he is more than thrilled to be a part of this production! His off-off Broadway theatre credits include Alpha NYC's *Spring Awakening* and New Light Theater Project's *Meaningful Conversation*. Most recently, he played the role of Father in a virtual production of *Eurydice* during the beginning of the pandemic through Hunter College's theatre department at The City University of New York. As a military veteran who deployed to Afghanistan in 2017, this role is very dear to him. He can be seen soon in an indie film release of *The Nomad*, and he just finished shooting another indie film, *Yellow Bird*.

**BARA KIM (Julie)** is an Actor, Writer, Producer who is passionate about telling Asian American stories with strong female leads. Originally from the suburbs of Boston, she moved to Los Angeles in 2016 and jumped head first into the industry. When she's not acting, drafting scenes for her feature script, or creating films and commercials with her production company Doyen Artists, Bara spends her free time watching movies, listening to podcasts, and hanging out with her one-eyed cat. Check out her recent work on Instagram @barakim\_

**CARLO MANCASOLA (Charlie)** is a Los Angeles based actor who was born and raised in the remote Shasta County of Northern California. He will make his Feature Film debut in the upcoming thriller *Maya*, set to release in 2023. Carlo has recently studied at The Aquila Studio in Los Angeles, and received his formal training at The Meisner Technique Studio in San Francisco. Having been a trained pianist since 10 years old, Carlo has composed original music for multiple independent films in recent years. He is also an exceptional athlete, who competed collegiately at the NCAA Division 1 level in Basketball.

**HIRO MATSUNAGA (Father)** was born and raised in Japan and moved to the United States in 2002. Since completing a 2-year program at Stella Adler Academy of Acting in Los Angeles, he has been in numerous films, including *Survivors*, featured on the Fox film *Darkest Hour* DVD, and *Lil Tokyo Reporter*. His theater credits include *Burai - Standing All Alone* - a samurai sword-fighting play, and the world premiere of *The Waiting Room*. Hiro is also a cancer survivor, and Ayano will be his first production to take part since recovering from the disease. He is very excited to be a part of this wonderful production. He would like to thank his friends, family, and especially his wife Aki for the love and support.

**GABRIEL PRANTER (Tom)** is thrilled to be making his Los Angeles theatre debut in Ayano. He received his BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Central Oklahoma (UCO). While attending UCO, Gabriel began writing plays and immediately fell in love with the written word. After moving to L.A he began writing for film and television. A few of his favorite stage credits include *Angelo*, in *Measure for Measure*, *Tybalt* in *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Teach* in *American Buffalo*. Some of his film credits include: *The Top of the Hill*, *The Last Mermaid*, and *Time Expired*. You can see more of Gabriel's work on his sketch comedy web series, 'mates, on YouTube.

**GLENN RATCLIFFE (Peter)** was born in Scotland. Formerly a professional soccer player, he discovered acting and has been acting ever since. He has worked in theatre, television, and movies. He's also written two screenplays, and loves collaborating with like-minded people. Glenn will go the extra mile to make his performance exceptional.

Beloved and The Play You Want at the Road Theatre Company.  
See more of Christopher's work at [www.jerabekdesign.com](http://www.jerabekdesign.com)

**BILL FROGGATT (Sound Designer)** During the last 22 years, Bill Froggatt has been involved with over seventy-five plays in theatres throughout the Southern California area. "I've learned much from every collaboration and I'm proud to have made contributions as producer, stage manager, sound designer and graphic designer. It's a thrill to work with like-minded creative people: producers, directors, actors, designers and others. Another exciting part of theatre is to see a production evolve from an idea to a script, to a complete show and also to witness audiences moved and delighted by the play's drama or comedy."

**AFK DESIGN (Graphic Designer)** AFK Design has a long history of designing original and eye-catching graphics for Los Angeles theatre and film productions. Long time theatre clients include the wonderful folks over at Theatre Planners, Sierra Madre Playhouse, West Coast Jewish Theatre, Sacred Fools, Theatre of NOTE, as well as countless independent companies. Recently our design for *An Evening with John Wilkes Booth* won Best of the Fringe. Please 'like' AFK Design on Facebook. [www.KiffScholl.com/AFK-Design.html](http://www.KiffScholl.com/AFK-Design.html)

**PHILIP SOKOLOFF (Publicity)** Phil is L.A.'s most active theatrical publicist, representing over 100 live attractions and several dozen independent films annually (in a non-pandemic year). Also an actor, he appeared earlier this year in *Rock 'n' Roll Heretic* (McCadden Theatre) and *Death, with Benefits* (Theatre 40).

**ANGELICA DIAZ ESTEVEZ (Production Stage Manager)** Angelica's love affair with theatre began at a young age when her parents took her to different plays, and she was transported to another time and place. As luck would have it, she landed a work study job in the theatre department at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Angelica felt enraptured by all the facets of theatre, both on stage and backstage. However, there was something that called to her when she landed her first gig as a stage manager, and she has enjoyed that role the most since. Angelica has staged managed many shows from musicals to plays, and her awe for theatre is never-ending. She feels it's truly magical to be part of the theatre world and is so happy to be back. Angelica feels blessed to work with such a talented cast and production team and hopes you enjoy the magic of this performance.

## ADDITIONAL STAFF

Scenic Builder.....Brad Bentz  
Scenic Crew.....Cody Andersen, Alexander Hathaway, Pete Ruhl  
Crew.....Erica Ammerman, Gregory Crafts  
Box Office.....Bonnie Bailey-Reed  
Press Photography.....Jenny Graham  
Key Art Photographer.....Tadashi Tawarayama

## SPECIAL THANKS

Amber Bruegel  
Fritz Davis  
Jenine MacDonald  
Matt Richter  
Lounge on Melrose  
Whitefire Theatre  
The Actors Company  
Terence McFadden  
Matthew Downs  
Henry Noble  
Marc Oka  
David Stanbra  
Katy Tang  
Tim Venable

A portion of all ticket sales will be donated to Stop AAPI Hate.  
[stopaapihate.org](http://stopaapihate.org) #StopAsianHate

Are you a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one? You're not alone. If you feel like you might hurt yourself or someone else: Call 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) anytime to talk to a crisis counselor. Or chat online with a crisis counselor anytime at <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>