

UC San Diego

ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Theatre and Dance

WINTER 2023



A FLEA IN HER REAR

BY GEORGE FEYDEAU
DIRECTED BY STEPHEN BUESCHER

A Flea in Her Rear

by Georges Feydeau
directed by Stephen Buescher

CAST

Babette	Emmalias
Tournel	LD
Lucienne	Gabrielle Chen
Nana	Emily Rose Cronan
Etienne	Sophia Donner
Fianche	Xavier Downs
Chandebise/Loche	Victor Flores
Dimitri Histangova Homenicov	Lucas Grimwade
Blaise	Rachel Halili
Gisele	Ellen Nikbakht
Mousquetard	Kat Peña
Edouard	Alex Savage
Antoinette	Frank Seed
Guangli	Charlotte Yu

CREATIVE TEAM

Scenic Designer	Tzu Yu Su
Costume Designer	Zoë Trautmann
Lighting Designer	Russell Chow
Sound & Video Designer	Ethan Eldred
Fight and Intimacy Coordinator	Rachel Flesher
Production Stage Manager	Stephanie Carrizales
Dramaturg/Assistant Director	Mia Van Deloo
Dialect/Vocal Coach	Ursula Meyer
Dialect Coach (French)	Julie Burelle
Assistant Costume Designer	Jonathan Fong, Lex Verdayes, Tess Twomey
Assistant Lighting Designer	Shelby Thach
Assistant Sound Designer	Fabricio Apuy-Novella
Assistant Stage Manager	Katie Davis, Huai Huang
Production Assistant	Sydney Enthoven
Scenic Crew	Stephanie Chavez, Paul Hampson, Cybil Hellerud, Aiden Meyndert
Costume Crew	Cyera Ellis, Joaquin Enriquez, Tairan Liu, Tess Twomey, Lihui Xiong
Light Board Op	Sophie Anastas
Follow Spot Op	Swati Agarwal, Melody Vilitchai
Sound Board Op	Grant Brubaker

A NOTE FROM THE DRAMATURG

The original production of *A Flea in Her Ear* is culturally and physically distant from our world today. Set in the early 20th century, a central aspect of George Feydeau's original piece is playing with traditional gender and societal norms within marriages. This new production acknowledges the history of the play while also allowing it to transcend across cultures and generations as shown through the inclusion of contemporary pop fixtures such as K-pop and punk aesthetics. Our modernized version is deserving of its updated title, *A Flea in Her Rear*, which represents an adaptation that speaks more directly to the current times.

In a whirlwind of door slams, sexual reparings, and alter egos, Feydeau creates a sense of "human pinball" as these characters navigate spontaneous comedic encounters. When Gisele gets a suspicious package of suspenders from the Hotel Paramour – a hotel known as a place for couples engaging in adulterous rendezvous – this sends Gisele into a spiral as she is convinced her husband is cheating on her although she has no proof. What else is a wife to do but create an elaborate and secretive plan with her best friend to catch him on the basis of an assumption? Seems perfectly logical. Except for the fact that logic and reason don't exist in this world. Instead, everything goes from zero to one hundred in an instant. And all the chaos is sparked by Gisele's "flea in her ear" – i.e., the unshakable gut feeling that her husband is being unfaithful. For a night of misadventures and peak farcical comedy, come ready to laugh, play and engage with the vibrant company of *A Flea in Her Rear*.

THE DIRECTOR

Stephen Buescher is a Director, Choreographer, Actor and Teaching Artist. Stephen is currently choreographing *Twilight Los Angeles* at Center Theater Group. Choreography credits include the world premiere of Karen Zacarias' *The Copper Children* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), and Virtual Reality film *Atomu* (Sundance Film Festival). He choreographed numerous productions at the American Conservatory Theater including *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Premiere), *Hamlet*, *Monstress* (Premiere), *Orphan of Zhao*, *Let There be Love*, *Stuck Elevator* (Premiere), and *Underneath the Lintel*. Additional choreography credits include *Pericles* and *The Imaginary Invalid* (Fiasco Theater), *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Lorraine Hansberry Theater), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare Santa Cruz), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Private Lives* (Long Wharf Theater), *Stockholm* (Triptych Theater), and *A Christmas Carol* (Trinity Repertory Theater). Stephen recently directed a development workshop of York Walker's *Soul Records* at Manhattan Theater Club and is slated to continue to further develop the play at the Vineyard Theater in NY. Stephen has directed multiple MFA shows at the American Conservatory Theater including *Taming of the Shrew*, *Black Orpheus*, *Bacchae*: *Communion Rite*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Can't Pay! Won't Pay!*, *Archangels*, *Don't Play Pinball*, *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Moscow Art Theater),

Crazy for the Country, The Island, and Hotel Paradiso. Stephen was Dramaturg for *It's Christmas, Carol!* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (2022). Stephen also collaborated on a development workshop of Aleshea Harris' play *Feast of Rabbits* at Center Theater Group. Stephen is a graduate of Calarts and the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater. He is a member of SDC and is a past TCG New Generations recipient.

THE CAST

Emmalias (Babette) (she/her) is a third-year theatre and critical gender studies double major who is thrilled to be making her on-stage debut at UC San Diego. UC San Diego Credits: *LABS Series* (Student Representative/production team), *Napoli* (Assistant Dramaturg), *Epicene: A Queer Extravaganza!* (Playwright, Dramaturg), *As You Like It* (PA). External credits: *Night Zoo* (ClownZoo LA), *James the II in The Glorious William and Mary* (Educational Premiere, Idyllwild Arts Academy).

LD (Tournel) is a third-year theatre major. UC San Diego: *Fifty Boxes of Earth* (Nature Ensemble), *Sotoba Komachi* (Lover), *Farside* (AD), *Embers Adrift*, *Dying Art* (Director, Company 157). Other credits: *Matilda*, *Peter Pan* (AD, South Coast Repertory).

Gabrielle Chen (Lucienne) is a third-year theatre and dance double major in Eleanor Roosevelt College. UC San Diego credit: *Exotic Deadly: or the MSG Play* (Exotic Deadly). Other credits: *Rocky Horror Show* (Phantom, u/s Janet), *Big Fish* (Sandra); (Muir Musical).

Emily Rose Cronan (Nana) is a Senior Theatre and Communications double major from San Francisco, CA. Previous UC San Diego credits include *Baal* and *Mr. Burns*. Other credits include *Colors Eve* (Playwright, upcoming), *Night of Tens* (Co Director), *The Seer*, and *Six Characters in Search of An Author* (Company 157).

Sophia Donner (Etienne) is a fourth-year theatre and literature/writing double major. UC San Diego credits: *The Seer*, *Baal*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Neighborhood 3 Requisition of Doom*, *Visions of Bodies Being Burned*, *Epicene*, *As You Like It*, *Electra*, *Title of Show*.

Xaiver Downs (Fianche) is a fourth-year transfer theatre major. Credits: *A Chorus Line* (Muir Musical), *Pippin*, *Hot l Baltimore* (Folsom Lake College), *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Into the Woods* (Los Gatos Youth Theatre).

Victor Flores (Chandebise/Loche) is a second-year MFA candidate from Houston, Tx. Victor graduated with his BFA from Sam Houston State University, his UC San Diego credits include: *Machinal* (Husband), *Fifty Boxes of Earth* (Jon), and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Mace). Other credits include; *Richard III* (King Richard), *Cloud Tectonics* (Annibal De La Luna), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Don Adriano) and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and *Godspell* (Ensemble).

THE CAST cont.

Lucas Grimwade (Dimitri Histangova Homenicov) is a third-year theatre major and psychology minor. UC San Diego credits: *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, *BAAL*.

Rachel Halili (Blaise) is a third-year theatre major and business minor from the Bay Area. UC San Diego credits: *Machinal*, *Fifty Boxes of Earth* (AD/WNPF'22), *Napoli!*, *peerless*, *Uncle Vanya*. She is also the Managing Director of Company 157 and Muir Musical

Ellen Nikbakht (Gisele) is a second-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: *Machinal*, *Fifty Boxes of Earth*, and *Everybody*. Regional: *Fun Home* (KC Rep), *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Urinetown*, *Candide*, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*, and *The Threepenny Opera* (Clarence Brown Theatre); Select credits: *Indecent* (Chautauqua Theatre Company) and *Walls: A Play for Palestine* (FringeNYC).

Kat Peña (Mousquetard) is a second-year MFA acting student. She's a Dominican plant-mom from the Bronx. UC San Diego Credits: *Dance Nation*, *Nonna Kills The President*, *Everybody*. Other credits: *Yaz in Water by the Spoonful* (Cahill Theater/Regional), Sullivan in *Dracula* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Remy in a reading of *A Skeptic and A Bruja* (Urbanite Theatre and San Diego Rep), *Big Green Theater* (The Bushwick Starr), *Escolastica* in *Eight Tales of Pedro* (The Secret Theater), and Michelle in award-winning short comedy, *Reina*. Katpena.com.

Alex Savage (Edouard) is a fourth-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: *Pia Comes to San Ysidro*, *Baal*, *Napoli*, *Epicene: A Queer Extravaganza*, *The Nether*, *Mr. Burns A Post Electric Play*, *Balm in Gilead*.

Frank Seed (Antoinette) is a third-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: *BAAL*. Other credit: *The Tempest* (FairPlay), *I_You*, *Embers Adrift* (Company 157).

Charlotte Yu (Guangli) is a first-year theatre major. UC San Diego credits: *Best Years*. Other credit: *She Kills Monsters*, *Almost Maine*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Miracle Worker*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling B* (Taipei American school).

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Fabricio Apuy-Novella (Assistant Sound Designer) is a fourth year Theatre Major who transferred from Antelope Valley College. Fabricio lives in Palmdale, California and sends out his gratitude to all the mentors and artists that he has learned from. He thanks his family for their support during this new journey in his life. UCSD Acting credits include: *Napoli*.

Julie Burrelle (Dialect Coach - French) holds a PhD from the joint program in Drama and Theatre at UC San Diego and UC Irvine. Originally from Quebec, Canada, Julie has studied and taught theatre on both coasts of Canada and of the United States. She earned a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Toronto. Julie's research is invested in a decolonizing project and is in conversation with the fields of Performance Studies, Cultural Studies, and Native American

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studies among others. Her most recent work focuses on how questions of First Nations sovereignty, cultural identity, and nationhood are negotiated through performances in the particular context of Quebec, a province whose national aspirations have often occupied center stage. Her case studies include theatrical and cinematic performances, and political and land-based protests. Julie has presented her work in multiple international settings and she has published in *TheatreForum*, *TDR: The Drama Review*, *Dance Research Journal*, as well as in various edited volumes. As a practitioner, Julie works in collaborative settings and has served as a dramaturg for plays (most recently for Native Voices at the Autry, and for The Trip's *Orpheus* and *Eurydice*), for dance projects (Les Nocés Allyson Green / La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, *Dee(a)r Spine* by Sam Mitchell) and for documentary films (*Québécoise* by Mélanie Carrier and Olivier Higgins). Dr. Burelle is the recipient of the 2017 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Distinguished Teaching Award at UCSD -- honoring her superb DEI teaching, cultural advocacy and public service efforts -- and the 2018 Hellman Fellowship to pursue her research on Indigenous theatre and dance in Québec, Canada.

Stephanie Diana Carrizales (Production Stage Manager) is a second-year MFA student. UC San Diego: *FallWorks: Outside In* (PSM), *New Directions* (PSM), *Fifty Boxes of Earth* (PSM/WNPF'22), *Everybody* (ASM), *Men on Boats* (ASM), *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* (Script PA, Old Globe Theatre), *The Little Mermaid* (ASM, Centerstage Clovis).

Russell Chow (Lighting Designer) is a fourth-year theatre major.

Katie Davis (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first-year MFA student. UC San Diego credits: *Dance Nation*. Other credits: *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *The Circuit* (PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, A.D. 16 (World Premiere), and *The Music Man* (Olney Theatre Center).

Ethan Eldred (Sound & Video Designer) is a second-year MFA student. He received a BA in Music from Messiah College in 2015 and a Graduate Certificate in Music Production Analysis and Studio Design from Berklee College of Music in 2021. In 2019 he served as the Sound and Video Supervisor for Jacob's Pillow, a center of dance history and National Historic Landmark. UC San Diego credits: *Fifty Boxes of Earth* (SD & Composer), *Limp Wrist on the Lever*, *winterWORKS '22* (S/PD), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (SD), *Sotoba Komachi* (ASD), *51Barrio* (ASD). Other select credits: *This Too Comes by Hard* (Capital Fringe '17); *The 39 Steps* (KCACTFII '18); *Woyzeck* (Bridgewater College '18). Portfolio and more at BardSound.com.

Sydney Enthoven (Production Assistant) is a third-year theatre major. UC San Diego Credits: *50 Boxes of Earth*. Other credits: *The Rocky Horror Show* (Muir Musical), *Twelfth Night* (Santa Cruz Shakespeare), and *A Chorus Line* (Muir Musical).

Rachel Flesher (Fight and Intimacy Coordinator) (they/she/he) is an Intimacy Director, Intimacy Coordinator, Violence Director, Movement Specialist, blood and gore designer, SAG-AFTRA stunt performer, a teaching artist, an actor, writer, and director. Her acting, fight choreography, and movement training guided her

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to try to find a better way to choreograph and help facilitate scenes with sexual, intimate, and highly suggestive content. Through studying mental health first aid, trauma, and abuse, and collaborating with other directors, psychologists, and mental health experts, she is developing techniques to help actors safely portray trauma and abuse (Traumaturgy) on stage and screen.

Jonathan Fong (Assistant Costume Designer) is a fourth-year undergraduate theatre and communication double major, pursuing honors in Stage Management. He was born and raised in Macau. UCSD credits include: *Bach at Leipzig* (PSM), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (PSM), *Bunny Bunny* (Stage Management Swing), *Limp Wrist on the Lever* (ASM), *Peerless* (ASM), *Backwaters* (ASM), *Epicene* (ASM). Regional credit: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Stage Management Intern, The Old Globe).

Huai Huang (Assistant Stage Manager) is a first-year MFA student. UC San Diego: *Machinal*. Other Credits: *Takarazuka Revue: Phantom, On the Twentieth Century, Ocean's 11, Elisabeth, Japanese Traditional Dance, I Am From Austria, Aphrodite* (The cultural Taiwan foundation).

Ursula Meyer (Dialect/Vocal Coach) has studied voice with Cicily Berry, Patsy Rodenburg, Andrew Wade, Arthur Lessac and Kristen Linklater. She graduated from the Advanced Voice Studies Program at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London and is a designated Linklater Teacher. Before coming to UC San Diego, she taught Voice/Speech and Text at the UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, University of Washington, and four years at the Yale School of Drama. As a professional Voice and Accent Coach, Meyer has worked at numerous regional theatres including the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis, South Coast Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, the La Jolla Playhouse, and the Idaho, Santa Cruz, Utah, and Oregon Shakespeare Festivals where she has been working off and on since 1985. As a professional actress, she has worked extensively in regional theatre, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, A.C.T. Seattle, the Seattle Repertory Theatre, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, and the La Jolla Playhouse. In 2007, she was a recipient of UC San Diego's Saltman Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

Tzu Yu Su (Set Designer) is a first-year MFA student. UC San Diego: *A Flea in Her Rear* (Potiker Theatre). Taiwan: 57th Golden Bell Awards (Dr.Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall Auditorium); *Afterlife Passport* (Firm of Yeh); *Uncle Vanya Is---* (Taoyuan Arts Center); *Million Creators* (Grand Mayfull Hotel); *God of Taigun* (Corner House) *Niang Party No.2* (Riverside Live House); *Tears of Bodhisattva, The Legend of Geng-Yao Nian* (Taiwan Traditional Theatre Center); *Old Saybrook* (TNUA Experimental Theatre).

Shelby Thach (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a third-year MFA candidate from San Gabriel, California. She received her BA in drama with honors in lighting design and technology from the University of California, Irvine. Throughout her undergraduate and freelance careers, Shelby has worked on a variety of shows, ranging from plays, musicals, and dance concerts. UC San Diego credits: *Bunny Bunny* (ASD), *Dance Nation* (LD), *Fifty Boxes of Earth* (LD), *Limp Wrist on the Lever* (LD), *winterWORKS '22* (ALD), *Everybody* (LD), *Peerless* (L/VD),

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Trojan Women: A Version (LD), *winterWORKS '21* (LD), *As You Like It* (LD), *Letters from Cuba* (ALD). Select credits: *Come Fall in Love* (ALD, The Old Globe), *Lempicka* (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse), *The Garden* (ALD, La Jolla Playhouse), *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (ALD, South Coast Repertory).

Zoë Trautmann (Costume Designer) is a third-year MFA candidate at UC San Diego and holds a BA in Theatre Design/Tech from the University of North Texas. This is her final production as a student at UC San Diego. UC San Diego: *Dance Nation*, *Limp Wrist on the Lever* (WNPF '22), *Napoli*, *Men on Boats*, *Town Hall*. Other selected credits: *Cabaret* (Cygnet Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (Music Theatre of Denton), *The Humans*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Denton Community Theatre), *Nathan the Wise*, *Summer and Smoke* (UNT). Full resume/portfolio at zoetrautmann.com

Tess Twomey (Assistant Costume Designer) is a second-year psychology major with a double minor in theater and political science. UC San Diego credits: *Limp Wrist on the Lever*, *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. Other Credits: *Into The Woods*, *The Rocky Horror Show* (Muir Musical); *Mary Poppins*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Little Women*, *Hello Dolly!* (Forest Theater).

Mia Van Deloo (Dramaturg/Assistant Director) is a third-year theatre and history double major from the Bay Area. UC San Diego credits: *Dance Nation*, *BAAL*, *Everybody*, *Backwaters*. Other Credits: *A Chorus Line*, *Into the Woods*, *Big Fish* (Muir Musical).

Lex Verdages (Assistant Costume Designer) is a second-year undergraduate clinical psychology major and critical gender studies minor. UC San Diego credits: *Dance Nation* (The Forum), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (The Loft), *Dracula: House of Lies* (Che Cafe), *American Idiot* (Mandeville Auditorium).

CONTENT & SENSORY WARNINGS

This play contains some mild language, mature themes, and major laughs. Content includes use of Nerf gun, gunshots, sounds of war, strong language, images of sexual role play, haze, sometimes contains drastic changes of lights and sound.

SPECIAL THANKS

This production of *A Flea in Her Rear* extends a special thank you to Qin-Hong Anderson, Julie Burrelle, Ludmilla Rockett.

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