



When We Were Young and Unafraid

By
Sarah Treem

Directed by
Erin McBride Africa

May 5-21, 2023

**Studio Theatre/PA 32
Performing Arts Building
Kentfield Campus**

COLLEGE OF
MARIN

DRAMA | PA.MARIN.EDU

Director's Notes

Sarah Treem is a television writer, producer and playwright. Treem is the co-creator and showrunner of the Golden Globe-winning Showtime drama *The Affair*. Previously, Treem was a co-executive producer on the inaugural season of *House of Cards*. She also wrote on all three seasons of HBO's *In Treatment*. Treem began her career writing for theater. Her plays *When We Were Young and Unafraid*, *A Feminine Ending*, *The How and the Why* and *Mirror Mirror* have been produced multiple times over and published by Samuel French and the Dramatists Play Service.

Sarah Treem strategically plunked her characters down into this moment of momentous change. So much revolution was swirling around in the country, yet this remains on the periphery of the play. This story lives in the eye of the storm, a calm refuge with all of that as an influential backdrop. The play is rich with tiny historical illusions, and its examination of different approaches to feminism is nuanced. The play is not so much about ideology as it is about the importance of human connection. Not one character is an easily definable type. Each is a complexly developed figure embodying desires and inhibitions, passionately held beliefs and human contradictions. There are five individuals whose paths cross within the two weeks of this story, and each of them is changed in some way. Some, in tremendous ways.

When this piece premiered in 2014, the playwright couldn't have anticipated all the ups and downs we'd see within the next decade. But even in 2023 the play is also not about loss or regression. It's about optimism. Courage. Future vision. Continuing to work for change even when the political climate is daunting. That might mean doing what you can to make a difference one story at a time. One woman at a time. One person at a time.

ABOUT ERIN MCBRIDE AFRICA

Erin McBride Africa is a stage director and theatre professor, currently acting as Interim Chair of Drama at College of Marin. In her first year at COM she directed *The Stories of Eva Luna* and *Everybody*. She earned her MFA in Directing from UC Irvine and her BA in Theatre Arts from CSUN. A few items she directed in the Los Angeles area include *Veronika Decides to Die*, *A Piece of My Heart*, *Dog Sees God*, and *Coffee Chronicled*, a devised play about time. She served 8 years as Associate Artistic Director of the Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival, where she directed Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2016), a rock musical adaptation of *Twelfth Night* (2015), and *Cymbeline* (2014). Erin has worked with Shakespeare & Company (Lenox, MA), Utah Shakespeare Festival (Cedar City, UT), and South Coast Repertory (Costa Mesa, CA). She is a founding member of the S.O.B. Theatre Company in Los Angeles and is a member of Company of Strangers. Her background includes training in classical text, community-based theatre, Linklater Voice, and Viewpoints Techniques.



The story of *When We Were Young and Unafraid* is set in the spring of 1972. Just a few months prior, Roe V. Wade had been argued before the Supreme Court and the nation awaited its landmark decision on reproductive rights. In the same season, both houses of Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment and sent it to the individual States for ratification—a ratification which still hasn't happened. Our nation was making strong strides towards progress and equality, while also stumbling, and sometimes regressing. The second wave of feminist activism and a surge of consciousness-raising had grown out of the 1960s Civil Rights movement, Vietnam War protests, and Gay Rights marches happening in cities around the country.

Cast of Characters

Agnes.....Kaleda Walling
Penny.....Syd Walling
Mary Anne.....Maya Giacomazzi
Hannah.....Natalie Jordan
Paul.....Gage Samoun-Smith

Understudies:

Agnes.....Barbara Roberts
Sunday, May 7, 2023 and Saturday, May 13, 2023
Penny.....Olivia Jackson
Friday, May 12, 2023 and Friday, May 19, 2023

SETTING

Spring 1972, Whidbey Island, WA
There will be a 15-minute Intermission

CONTENT WARNING

This play addresses domestic and sexual violence in a frank manner.
The performances include kisses and simulated sexual acts.
A prop gun appears onstage and is not fired.
Fake puff cigarettes are used.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks go to Kira Thelin for her hair coloring magic;
Elena Todorova, DNP, FNP-C, COM Registered Nursing Program Faculty;
Dianne O'Donnelly; and Joanna Pinckney.

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The Staff

Artistic Staff

<i>Director</i>	Erin McBride Africa
<i>Set Designer</i>	Malcolm Rodgers
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Pamela Johnson
<i>Technical Director/ Lighting Design</i>	David M. White
<i>Movement, Fight, and Intimacy Director</i>	Elena Wright
<i>Music Director, Composer, Sound Designer</i>	Billie Cox
<i>Properties Designer/ Scenic Artist</i>	Dhyanis Carniglia

Production Staff

<i>Stage Manager</i>	Chelsey Rodriguez Reyes
<i>Lighting Assistant</i>	Michele Samuels
<i>Costume/Set Construction/ Scenery/Props</i>	Hana Ahmad, Diana Arias Chavez Maya Giacomazzi, Olivia Jackson Roger Porter, Chelsea Rodriguez Mouhamed Thiane, Kaleda Walling

Running Crew

<i>Sound Board Operator</i>	Jacob Kinsman
<i>Light Board Operator</i>	Skylar McMorro
<i>Graphics and Program Design</i>	Shook Chung, Roger Dormann
<i>Photographer</i>	Robin Jackson
<i>House Manager</i>	Moss Fallat
<i>Administrative Assistant II/ Publicity</i>	Kim S. Foulger

Music

- Alone Again Or - Love; Bryan Maclean
- Angels from Montgomery; Bonnie Raitt; John Prine
- At Seventeen; Janis Ian; Janis Ian
- The Bells; Originals; Marvin and Anna Gaye, Elgy Stover; Iris Gordy
- Boys; The Shirelles; Luther Dixon and Wes Farrell
- Brand New Key; Melanie; Melanie Safka
- Dandelion; Rolling Stones; Mick Jagger, Keith Richards
- Do Right Woman, Do Right Man; Aretha Franklin; Chips Moman and Dan Penn
- Heart Like a Wheel; Linda Ronstadt; Kate & Anna McGarrigle
- I'd Much Rather Be With the Girls; Donna Lynn; Oldham, Richards
- If I Were Your Woman; Gladys Knight & the Pips; Pam Sawyer, Clay McMurray, and Gloria Jones
- Jesus Was a Crossmaker; The Hollies; Judee Sill
- Just Because I'm a Woman; Dolly Parton; Dolly Parton
- Love has No Pride; Bonnie Raitt; Libby Titus, Eric Kaz
- Luka; Suzanne Vega; Suzanne Vega
- Texas Girl At the Funeral of Her Father; Randy Newman; Randy Newman
- Theme from Mahogany (Do You Know Where You're Going To); Diana Ross; Michael Masser and Gerry Goffin
- Twelve Thirty (Young Girls Are Coming To the Canyon); The Mama's & the Papas; John Phillips
- Walkin My Cat Named Dog; Norma Tanega; Norma Tanega
- Wild Things; Cris Williamson; Cris Williamson
- Mary Anne; by Sarah Treem

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