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## **A BODY OF WATER**

**February 7 – March 15, 2020**

**Actors Co-op Crossley Theatre**

The Award-winning Actors Co-op Theatre Company proudly presents “**A Body of Water**” written by Lee Blessing with the world premiere of Blessing’s new ending, directed by Nan McNamara, produced by Crystal Jackson. The play will run February 7 through March 15, at Actors Co-op Crossley Theatre in Hollywood, California.

“**A Body of Water**” - In this play about lost identity and rediscovering love, a couple in their fifties wake up in an isolated house above a picturesque body of water, with no idea where they are or why they are there. The situation is further complicated by the arrival of a young woman with questionable explanations. Funny and charming, this lyrical, intriguing drama examines the wisdom of embracing a pure moment of joy...when nothing else is certain.

“**A Body of Water**” premiered in 2005 at The Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, Minnesota and won the 2006 Steinberg New Play Award. Primary Stages presented the New York premiere in 2008 Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters.

### **What critics have said about the play**

"...a play rich in ideas about memory, identity, and fiction...[Blessing] lays down...a rich philosophical groundwork for the play's intrigue...artfully presented...." — *Variety*

"...gets the audience talking...raises questions about what is true and whom to believe...intriguing stuff."  
— *Los Angeles Times*

"...one of America's greatest playwrights...satisfying, ninety-five minutes of existential hide-and-seek."  
— *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

"...the work of a mature master dramatist in complete control of his materials." — *San Diego Union-Tribune*

The Actors Co-op cast features the talents of Ivy Beech, Bruce Ladd, and Treva Tegtmeier.

Production and design team includes Rich Rose (Scenic Design), Mateo Rudich (Assistant Set Design/Master Carpenter), Paula Higgins (Costume Design), Andrew Schmedake (Lighting Design), Warren Davis (Sound Design), Nicholas Acciani (Projection Design), Lori Berg (Property Design), Richard Soto (Fight Design), Shawna Voragen (Stage Manager), and Katie Lee Merritt (Assistant Stage Manager).

### **About the CAST**

**IVY BEECH (Wren)** is thrilled to bring this beloved classic to life with such an incredible group of people. A graduate of the University of Minnesota Guthrie BFA Training Program, Ivy trained in London at Shakespeare's Globe and London International School of Performing Arts. Theatre: *Stage Kiss* (Geffen Playhouse), *Pride & Prejudice* (Guthrie Theater), *The Seagull* (Nina), *Constellations* (Marianne), *The Tempest* (Ariel). Actors Co-op credits: *Anna Karenina*, *Cat's Paw*, *My Children! My Africa!*, *Pride & Prejudice* and *The Diviners*. Film/TV: *Criminal Minds*, *Switched at Birth*, *The Last Protestor*, *The Orchid*, and many other short films. SAG-AFTRA [www.ivybeech.com](http://www.ivybeech.com)

**BRUCE LADD (Moss)** Previously at Actors Co-op: *33 Variations*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *A Perfect Likeness*, *The Miracle Worker*, *To Be Young Gifted and Black*, *Long Day's Journey into Night*, *The Crucible*, *Leading Ladies, 1776*, *Dietrich*, *Woman in Black*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Angel Street*, *Twelfth Night*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Seagull*, *Terra Nova*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other: *A Perfect Likeness* (Fremont Theatre Centre), *Judah Ben-Hur* (Singapore World Premiere), *Elmer Gantry* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Three Sisters* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Henry V*, *Twelfth Night* and *Measure for Measure* (California Shakespeare Festival). MFA Acting, UCSD. SAG-AFTRA.

**TREVA TEGTMEIER\* (Avis)** is an award-winning actress whose work on LA stages includes *A Man for all Seasons*, *33 Variations* (Ovation Award Best Production, Ovation Nomination Best Ensemble, Robby Nomination Best Actress), *The Baker's Wife*, *110 in the Shade* (Ovation Award Best Musical, Robby Nomination and Scenic Award Best Actress), *Damn Yankees*, *She Loves Me* (1997 Ovation Nomination Best Actress and Best Musical, Robby Nomination and Dramalogue Award Best Actress), *Light up the Sky* and *The Elephant Man* (all at Actors Co-op), as well as productions at The Groundlings and PRTE. She has also worked extensively in Chicago at Second City, The Goodman, Drury Lane, and The Royal George. TV/film credits include *Grey's Anatomy*, *90210*, *Switched at Birth*, *The Tonight Show*, *The X-Files*, and *Roseanne*.

### **About the CREATIVE TEAM**

**LEE BLESSING (Playwright)** On Broadway and London's West End: *A Walk in the Woods*. Off-Broadway: *Eleemosynary*, *Cobb*, *Thief River*, *Chesapeake* and *Down the Road* -- plus *Fortinbras*, *Lake Street Extension*, *Two Rooms* and the world premiere of *Patient A*, all in the 1992-93 Signature Theatre Season. Recent regional productions include *Whores* at the Contemporary American Theater Festival and *Black Sheep* at Florida Stage and Barrington Stage. Other plays include *Going to St. Ives*, *Independence*, *Riches*, *Oldtimers Game* and *Nice People Dancing to Country Music*. Awards: The American Theatre Critics Association Award, the L.A. Drama Critics Award, the Great American Play Award, the Humanitas Award, and the George and Elisabeth Marton Award, among others. His plays

have been nominated for Tony and Olivier Awards, as well as for the Pulitzer Prize. Mr. Blessing is the author of over twenty plays and screenplays. He currently resides in New York City.

**NAN MCNAMARA (Director)** directed *Last Train to Nibroc* and *See Rock City* at Actors Co-op, two of the three plays which comprise *The Nibroc Trilogy* (Critic's Choice-*Los Angeles Times*, Critic's Pick-*Backstage West*, Recommended-*LA Weekly*). *The Nibroc Trilogy* garnered six *LA Weekly* nominations (two wins) and a Garland Award Honorable Mention for her direction. She also directed Actors Co-op's 20th Anniversary season opener, the musical *The 1940s Radio Hour*, which garnered four NAACP Theatre Award nominations. Additional directing credits include the critically-acclaimed production of *The Boys Next Door* (Critic's Choice-*Los Angeles Times*, Critic's Pick-*Backstage West*). Nan was Producing Director of Actors Co-op from 1999 to 2002 where she was responsible for overseeing all elements of theatre production. She is also an award-winning actress (Los Angeles Drama Critics Award, *LA Weekly* Award, *Stage Raw* Award, Robby Award) appearing in numerous stage productions (*Wit*, *33 Variations*, *A Walk in the Woods*, to name a few) as well as television and film (*Criminal Minds*, *Major Crimes*, *Switched at Birth*, among others). She enjoys a vibrant career in voiceover and has narrated nearly 100 audiobooks. Nan taught acting at The Imagined Life, Asuza Pacific University and Vanguard University. She is thrilled to be directing *A Body of Water* written by fellow Minnesotan, Lee Blessing.

**CRYSTAL JACKSON (Producer)** is an actress and writer who studied drama at Howard University. She was last seen on stage as the Stage Manager in *Our Town* at Actors Co-op. Other theatre credits include Ma Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Calpurnia in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Lead Chorus in *Electra* at WCE. She was also in a film called *Collusions* (2018) as Momma. Crystal produced her first show, *She Loves Me*, at Actors Co-op and fell in love with it. Not only is she happy to produce another show for Actors Co-op, she is also thrilled to work with longtime friends Tricia and Don on *The Water Tribe* as Producer.

**RICH ROSE (Scenic Design)** designed the last five national tours for LA Theatre Works including the 2019-2020 tour of *SEVEN*. His latest designs include *Andy Warhol's Tomato* at the Pacific Resident Theatre; *Other Desert Cities* and *The Chalk Garden* at Will Geer's Theatricum Botanicum; *Rabbit Hole* for The Guangzhou (China) Dramatic Arts Centre; and *A Man for All Seasons*, *The Baker's Wife*, *Summer and Smoke*, and *Our Town* at Actors Co-op. Other productions include *American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Floyd Collins* at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts, and *Lainie Kazan presents The Great American Songbook*. [www.richrosedesign.com](http://www.richrosedesign.com)

**ANDREW SCHMEDAKE (Lighting Design)** is an LA-based lighting designer for theatre, dance and live events. Actors Co-op credits include *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *The 39 Steps*, *33 Variations* (2017 Ovation Award for Lighting Design) Other recent designs include *The Last Five Years: A Multisensory Experience* (2019 Ovation Award for Lighting Design – After Hours Theatre Co.), *Beyond the Fluffy World Tour* (Gabriel Iglesias), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2018 Ovation Award for Lighting Design - After Hours Theatre Co.) and *Native Son* (2018 Ovation Award Nominee, 2018 LADCC Award Nominee - Antaeus Theatre Company). Andrew holds an MFA from Carnegie Mellon

University and teaches as a guest lecturer in lighting design at UC Santa Barbara.  
[schmedakelightingdesign.com](http://schmedakelightingdesign.com)

**WARREN DAVIS (Sound Designer)** has been designing sound for L.A. theater for more than 15 years. *A Body of Water* marks his 11<sup>th</sup> show with Actors Co-op. Prior Co-op shows include *The 39 Steps*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Going to St. Ives*, *And Then There Were None*, and *My Children! My Africa*, for which Warren won an NAACP Theatre Award for his design. He most recently designed sound for the Coachella Valley Repertory Theatre's production of *Dinner with Friends* and the Moving Arts L.A. premiere of E.M. Lewis' *Apple Season*.

**PAULA HIGGINS (Costume Design)** Paula has designed costumes for the L.A. LGBT Center, including the acclaimed production of Edward Albee's *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?* and Jane Wagner's *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe: Revisited*. She has also designed for L.A. Opera's Education and Community Engagement Program for over ten years. Paula teaches costuming and props at CSUN, and has sent many students on to professional careers. Paula is from Hometown, Illinois, having grown up in a white house with a white picket fence and brother John and sister Mary. She claims this accounts for her sense of humor.

**NICHOLAS ACCIANI (Projection Design)** is an LA-based scenic and projection designer. Scenic design highlights at the Actors Co-op include *33 Variations* (2017 Ovation Award: Scenic Design, 2017 LADCC Award Nominee), *Violet* (2018 Ovation Award Nominee: Best Production), *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Last Five Years*. Other Scenic Design favorites include *Forbidden Tour* (Todrick Hall), *The 39 Steps* (Dean Productions), *Den of Thieves* (2Cents Theatre), *DNA* (Red Cup Theatre), *The Claw*, *Boxes* (Theatre West). A writer, actor, and director as well, Nicholas teaches and designs at CSArts-SGV and hosts an informational Backstage Youtube Series.  
[www.nicholasaccianidesign.com](http://www.nicholasaccianidesign.com).

**LORI BERG (Property Design)** directed *Collected Stories*, a Co-op Too! 2019 production. Prior to that, she portrayed Clairee in the Co-op production of *Steel Magnolias*. She has propped and staged scores of shows on our boards. She proudly serves as a Board member of her theatre home and teaches performance all over Greater L A. She designs and produces art for several boutique venues.

**MATEO RUDICH (Assistant Set Design)** is a theatrical designer and technical director based in LA. He recently received his BFA in Theatre Arts from Loyola Marymount University. Recent works as a designer include prop design and set dressing for *Fefu And Her Friends* (Odyssey Theatre Ensemble), set design, prop design, and set dressing for *Next to Normal* (Del Rey Players Theatre), and sound design and lighting design for *War Words* (Pacific Resident Theatre). Recent work as technical director include *Andy Warhol's Tomato* (Pacific Resident Theatre), L.A. Contemporary Dance Company's *Terra* (Stomping Ground L.A.), and Vibration Group (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions).

**RICHARD SOTO (Fight Direction)** is an actor, teaching artist, fight director, and writer. Previous appearances and fight direction with Actors Co-op include *Our Town*, *King Lear*, *Wit*, *The Crucible*, *As You Like It*, *Henry V*, and *Hamlet*. He has performed and/or choreographed fights at Southern California

theatres including South Coast Repertory, The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego Rep, Grove Shakespeare Festival, A Noise Within, American Coast Theater Company, LATC. TV/Film credits include Believers, Firebirds, Third Degree Burn, The West Wing, and General Hospital. SAG-AFTRA, AEA.

**SHAWNA VORAGEN\* (Stage Manager)** is a Los Angeles-based stage manager and proud member of Actors' Equity. She is excited to return to Co-op after SM-ing *Steel Magnolias* (2019) and Ovation Award-winning *33 Variations* (2018). Shawna holds a BA in Theatre from Cal State Northridge and spent a year at sea working on cruise ships. Favorite stage management credits include *In The Red and Brown Water*, *Avenue Q*, *Witness Uganda*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Next to Normal*, and the acclaimed remount of *Citizen: An American Lyric* as part of CTG's inaugural Block Party. Shawna is pleased and proud to be joining forces yet again with these creative artists on and off stage.

**HEATHER CHESLEY (Artistic Chairwoman)** is an Actors Co-op member last seen on the Co-op stage in *Our Town*, *Yours*, *Isabel* as Isabel and on the Co-op Too! stage in *Rabbit Hole* as Becca. Heather studied acting at Emerson College under Kristin Linklater and has been a member of Actors Co-op since 2004. Recently Heather directed the west coast premiere of Edward Albee's *Occupant* at the Garry Marshall Theatre, followed by *The Puppeteer* in the Garry Marshall Theatre New Play Series last May. She has directed Co-op productions *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Matchmaker* and *The Learned Ladies*, as well as the Co-op Too! Los Angeles premiere musical *Trails*. She is scheduled to direct *Anna Karenina* this spring! She produced Co-op productions *Makin' Hay* and *Merrily We Roll Along*.

**KAY BESS (Production Manager)** is pleased to be serving as Production Manager for her beloved Actors Co-op! She studied acting in the BFA Program at the USC School of Drama, as well as Philosophy at UCLA. She is a graduate of the Ruskin School where she studied Meisner Technique. She played The Wife in the Co-op production of *The Christians*. Kay is best known as a voice actor, having worked in the field for over 30 years. In addition to hundreds of TV and Radio commercials, she is best known as the voice of The Property Brothers on HGTV - seasons 1-4; and Ana in the video game Lara Croft Rise of the Tomb Raider.

**KATIE LEE MERRITT (Assistant Stage Manager)** is a Los Angeles-based technical theatre jack-of-all trades. They got their bachelor's degree in Technical Theatre from Azusa Pacific University (APU) and graduated with the honor of Outstanding B.A. Set Design. Credits include *Orphans* (Ophelia's Jump), *As It Is in Heaven* (APU), and *Red Lotus*, a student film. Other roles include Production Assistant on *Red Lotus*, Assistant Set Designer for *Wit* (Ophelia's Jump), Pyrotechnics Coordinator and Magic Prop Designer for *Into the Woods*. She also has experience as a writer, actor, and fundraiser for APU's Fringe Festival Team #AllOfUsInWonderland, and worked alongside the original team from *Adventures in Odyssey* as the Live Foley Artist and Producer for their Christmas Show 2014.

## **ABOUT ACTORS CO-OP**

In its 28th Season of transforming theatre, Actors Co-op operates two 99-seat Equity-approved theatres on the campus of First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. Actors Co-op began in 1987 with a dozen actors. Currently, its membership exceeds 50 professionals. Called “a 99-seat miracle” by Daily Variety, Actors Co-op’s numerous awards for theatre excellence include the Los Angeles Drama Critics Polly Warfield Award for “Outstanding Season” (2013) in a small to mid-sized theatre, sixteen Ovation Award nominations including “Best Season” (2013-2014), the Margaret Harford Award for “Sustained Achievement” in smaller theatre from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle as well as the Charlie Award for “Excellence in the Arts” by the Hollywood Arts Council.

## **RECENT AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS FOR ACTORS CO-OP THEATRE COMPANY**

Actors Co-op recently won the 2018 Ovation Award for Direction of a Musical by Richard Israel for their critically acclaimed production of *Violet*. The company takes pride in Four 2017 Ovation Awards for their Critics Pick production *33 Variations*: Best Production of a Play, Intimate Theatre, Best Lighting, Intimate Theatre – Andrew Schmedake, Best Scenic Design, Intimate Theatre - Nicholas Acciani, and Best Direction of a Play – Thomas James O’Leary; Two Robby Awards *33 Variations*, Nan Martin Award Best Production and Sally Kemp Award Best Actress Drama - Nan McNamara. In addition, Actors Co-op Theatre Company garnered Five 2017 Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle nominations for *33 Variations*. In addition, *Steel Magnolia*’s director, Cameron Watson, became recipient of this year’s Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Milton Katselas Award for Distinguished Achievement in Direction at the LADCC Awards Ceremony at the Pasadena Playhouse. For more than a quarter century, ACTORS CO-OP has been bringing audience members world-class theatre.

**About Show Times & Tickets:** Free previews Wednesday, February 5 and Thursday, February 6 at 8:00 pm (reservation required). February 7 - March 15. Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 pm. Sundays at 2:30 pm. Additional Saturday Matinees: 2/15 and 2/22 at 2:30 pm. Talk-backs after the show with playwright Lee Blessing February 9 and 16, March 8 and 15. Running time 1 hour 33 minutes with no intermission. Tickets: Adults: \$35, Seniors (60 & over) \$30, Students w/ ID: \$25, Group Rates Available. Student Rush tickets are available for Friday performances (excluding opening night) on a first-come, first-serve basis subject to availability. Reservations/Information: (323) 462-8460 or visit [www.actorsco-op.org](http://www.actorsco-op.org). The Crossley Theatre is located at 1760 N. Gower Street, Hollywood 90028.

<https://www.facebook.com/ActorsCo.OpTheatreCompany/>

<https://www.instagram.com/actorscoop/>

<https://twitter.com/actorscoop>

**ABOUT ACTORS CO-OP’S 2019-2020 SEASON MIRACLE:** THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP- A PENNY DREADFUL BY CHARLES LUDLAM, ON 34TH STREET: A LIVE MUSICAL RADIO PLAY; A BODY OF WATER, A PLAY IN THREE DAYS written by Lee Blessing with a world premiere new ending, directed by Nan McNamara (February 7 – March 15, 2020); MARVIN’S ROOM

written by Scott McPherson, directed by Thomas James O’Leary (March 20 – May 3, 2020); and THE MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, with book by Terence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, directed by Richard Israel (May 8 – June 14, 2020) presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

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**Calendar listing for *A Body of Water, A Play in Three Days*  
*A World Premiere with a New Ending*  
*By Lee Blessing*  
*Directed by Nan McNamara***

Venue: The Crossley Theatre at Actors Co-op, 1760 N. Gower Street, Hollywood, CA 90028 on the campus of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood

Dates: February 7, -March 15, 2020

Free Previews February 5-6 at 8:00pm (Reservation required)

Performance Schedule: Friday, Saturday at 8:00pm, Sunday at 2:30pm,  
Additional Saturday Matinees: February 15 and February 22

Run Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes, No intermission

Tickets: Prices start at \$30.00 Adults: \$39, Seniors (60 & over) \$35, Students w/ ID: \$30.00 Group Rates Available. Call (323) 462-8460 for more information. Student Rush tickets are available at Friday performances (excluding opening nights) on a first-come, first-serve basis subject to availability.

Online -- [www.actorsco-op.org](http://www.actorsco-op.org)

By phone at 323-462-8460 ex. 300

In person: the day of a show starting 45 minutes before curtain at Actors Co-op 1760 N. Gower, Hollywood CA 90028,

Information: For more information about Actors Co-op and future productions visit [www.actorsco-op.org](http://www.actorsco-op.org)

Description: What if you awoke to find yourself married to someone you didn’t know? With a daughter you’ve never met? And what if you spent each day re-learning things about your past that only proved you never really knew what your life was like? From Tony/Pulitzer-nominated playwright Lee Blessing, comes the story of three people searching for lifelong answers to fundamental questions about our purpose, our past and our future. And all the answers may be found in *A Body of Water*.

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