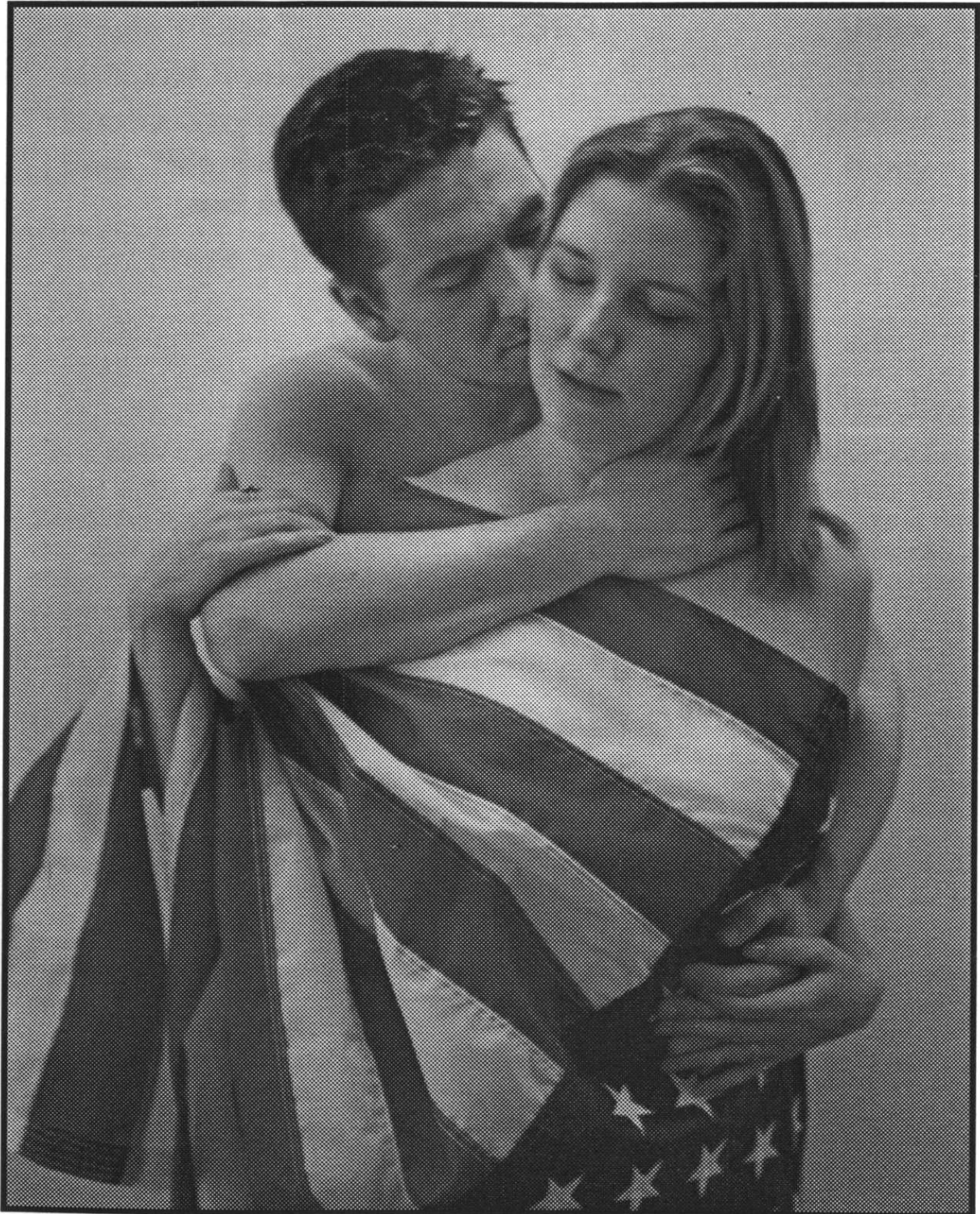


THEATRE FOR THE NEW CITY - CINO THEATRE

# LAST CALL

BY KELLY MCALLISTER



A hope theatre PRODUCTION

# The Cast (in alphabetical order)

*\* actor's appearing courtesy of Actor's Equity Association*

**hope theatre**

Artistic Director **Heather McAllister**

PRESENTS

# LAST CALL

by **Kelly McAllister**

Directed by  
**Jerry McAllister**

***"to absent friends"***

**Stage Manager - Michael Minn**  
**Company Manager - Kelly McAllister**  
**Executive Director - Jerry McAllister**  
**Associate Artistic Director - Stacey Plaskett**

**Brett Christensen . . . . . David**  
**Christine Goodman . . . . . Sheila**  
**Jack Halpin\* . . . . . Jack**  
**R. Paul Hamilton\* . . . . . Carlos**  
**John Patrick Nord . . . . . Carl**  
**Vinnie Penna\* . . . . . Vince**  
**Matthew Rankin\* . . . . . Jerry**  
**Masha Sapon . . . . . Kristen**  
**Sara Thigpen\* . . . . . Molly**

**(there will be one ten minute intermission)**

*{LAST CALL contains full frontal nudity}*

## Play Synopsis

In a small town in California, a disparate group of friends held together by habit gather at the local bar, seeking solace from an increasingly troubled world. Then David, the prodigal friend who left town years ago, returns from New York a new man after 9/11. A manic existentialist, nudist, and lover of life, he is determined to shake his friends out of their stupor and will do whatever it takes to convince them to join him in his newfound lifestyle.

## Director's note

This play may make you angry. It may make you sad. It may make you laugh. It may touch your heart. I hope it will do all of those things. This piece is set, as are we all now set, in the world after last September (it still feels like last Tuesday to me). We address topics that surround us in this new world. As an artist, I try to present the varying points of view I find in this brave new world; and present them as clearly as I can. To present one side of any discussion is to present a diatribe. To present two or more sides is to present a dialogue. I hope we have done that, or at least that we can spur discussion. The American flag is something I personally love and respect, if one can be said to love and respect an inanimate object. I suppose I mean that I love and respect the country and people and freedoms it represents. Our country, our people, our freedoms. And, if some characters in this production appear to disrespect the flag, it is done as part of a drama, to spur response, thought and dialogue. Someone once said that, "the best reason not to burn the American flag is because one has the freedom to do so." I will never forget walking up Lexington Avenue from downtown, smoke and ash filling the sky to my back, and seeing a beautiful young girl calling down from her fire escape to a passing friend. She mentioned that she had an American flag and was thinking of displaying it from the fire escape. He agreed with her, she went inside and a moment later, the flag was flying freely from her balcony. It gave me immense comfort. I hope that, whatever you get from this piece, you remember to love one another and be nice. We are only here for a fleeting instant, let us make that instant a joy for all.

- Jerry McAllister

## WHO'S WHO

**Masha Sapon** (Kristen), a recent graduate of William Esper Studio, is no stranger to the Fringe Festival. She was seen in last year's festival in Anais Nin's Imperative Flight. Recent stage credits include Dogs Playing Poker, Home Fires, and In the Boom Boom Room. Masha would like to throw a thanks out to the wolves for finally making their stage debut, to the McAllisters for making it happen, and to her one favorite lone wolf for not running into the dark forest alone.

**Sara Thigpen\*** (Molly) self-professed small-town girl from Saratoga, NC (population 271, SAL-UTE!) first appeared in the 9-hour adaptation of East of Eden at the Western Stage in Salinas, CA, where she first met the McAllister clan. Since her return to the east coast, she has appeared in Henry IV parts I & II, Twelfth Night, The Mousetrap, and Great Expectations. Off-Broadway in the American premieres of Edward III, a newly-attributed Shakespeare play, and Occurance at Owl Creek Bridge, an opera by Thea Musgrave. Most recently she was seen at the Cannes Film Festival in Johnny Sunshine and the Coffee Break Conspiracy with her real-life leading man, Matthew.

**Heather McAllister** (Set Design / Asst. Dir) in addition to being Artistic Director of hope theatre, Heather is an actress, director and playwright. She just performed her autobiographical Wrath! in Seven Sins, dir. by James Judd of LA's The Groundlings. NY credits - Director: Edward III, A Christmas Carol, The Bald Soprano, Maybe on Monday, The Seagull - 1985. Acting: The Head, Three Sisters, The Cherry Orchard, The Seagull, Comedy of Errors, Julius Caesar, King Lear, Frankenstein, Henry IV parts I & II, Why We Have A Body, etc. Upcoming Film: "A.K.A. Lobster Boy" as German carnival star, "Kory." TV: "16W" directed by award winning Gerald Slota. Playwright: "Fictitious Love Poem Number 3" (published in (t)here magazine) Monsters, The End of It, at FirstStage in LA. Lastly, Heather is proud to have been featured in David Barton Gym's "Look Better Naked" print campaign!

**Jerry McAllister** (Director/Light Design) is the Executive Director and Production Manager for hope theatre. Western Stage (Salinas CA) for four years. Touring Stage Manager: Theatreworks/USA 2000-present. Production Manager/Assistant Director: Edward III for hope Production Manager /Resident Director/ Lighting Design: Expanded Arts/Shakespeare in the Park(ing Lot) 1995-2000. Director: Henry IV (parts 1 & 2; abridged), Measure for Measure,

Henry V, Macbeth, Taming of the Shrew for "the Lot;" Falling Awake, Dracula 2K, Frankenstein, The Cherry Orchard, Ghosts, Abortion for Expanded Arts; Mishkin's Paradise for Theatre at St. Clement's. Jerry is also an actor, poet & playwright. "I did enact Julius Caesar. I was killed i' the Capitol. Brutus killed me."

**Kelly McAllister** (Author/Sound Design) as a writer, this is Kelly's first full-length play. He previously wrote the libretto for a musical version of The Snow Queen for Children's Theater Workshop in CA, and has had excerpts from his first novel, "The Aviary" published in (t)here magazine. Aside from writing he is also an actor. Favorite roles include: the title character from last year's Edward III, Cassius in Julius Caesar for Shakespeare in the Park(ing Lot), Adam/Aron in East of Eden at the Western Stage. Last Call was first done as a one act at Turnip Theatre as part of a new play series. Thanks must go to Jack Halpin for suggesting Kelly should submit Last Call for the Fringe. Thanks also to Nicole, for keeping me balanced. Kelly dedicates this show to all his fellow wolves, especially DanO, who long ago told Kelly "it's biting cold."

**Michael Minn\*** (Stage Manager) is delighted to be back in New York after touring the country this spring with Theatreworks/USA's Charlotte's Web and seeing more motels, elementary schools and emergency rooms than he ever wants to see again. For the Kaleidoscope Theatre Company, Michael stage managed The Stairwell and God and Mr. Smith. As a performer he has appeared Off-Broadway in Making Tracks and Shanghai Lil's and regionally in 42nd Street (Julian - Carousel Dinner Theatre), The Pajama Game (Sid - The Depot Theatre), The King & I (King - Struther's Library Theatre). Michael is a graduate of AMDA and North Texas State University and sends much love to his parents and grandmother. [www.michaelminn.com.theatre](http://www.michaelminn.com.theatre).

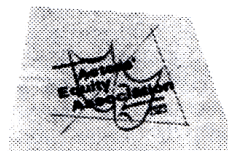
**Stacey Plaskett** (Asst. Dir.) just recently worked for The Blunt Theater Company as an Assistant Director for their production of Godspell. Other credits include Edward III (Music Director, Fight Captain), Henry IV parts 1 and 2 (Music Director), and The Disney Magic (Fight Captain - Fight Dir. Rick Sordelet). New York acting credits include Jekyll and Hyde (Dir. Robert Cuccioli) at Westchester Broadway, Tartuffe (Elmire) and The Misanthrope (Celimene) at Expanded Arts. Regional: The Will Roger's Follies (Betty Blake) with Tom Woppat, Blood Brothers (Linda), The Sound of Music (Maria), and Crazy for You (Irene).

## WHO'S WHO

**Jessica Wallenfels** (Choreographer) is a director/choreographer/performer. Recent projects include: original physical theater works Rest Room: HERE's American Living Room Festival and Soul Geek: Culture Project's Women Center Stage Festival. Choreographer: Dreamplay, a new play in a swimming pool, with director Tracy Young in LA. Participant in this year's Lincoln Center Director's Lab, and core collaborator on their Memorial Day Project. Jessica has performed her original pieces at PS122 and chashama, and her choreography has been seen in Speed Hedda at La MaMa etc, as well as with the Civilians at Joe's Pub and HERE. Her work has also been seen at the Mark Taper Forum and the Taper New Works Festival, the Old Globe Theater, the Actor's Gang, and the Evidence Room. Wallenfels is an associate artist with Cornerstone Theater Company.

**Melissa Welburn** (Asst. Stage Manager) comes from England where she studied theatre at the London College of Fashion. She completed her B.A. in directing at Cleveland State University in Ohio. In Cleveland, she directed several productions including Sylvia, Taking Steps, The Nerd, Harold Pinter's The Lover and Revue Sketches. She spent part of last season assistant directing (Infinite Regress of Human Vanity) and assistant stage managing (Measure for Measure) at the Cleveland Play House.

**David Jordan** (Costumes) was born and raised in Detroit Michigan. David studied Illustration at Ardis School of the Arts in Washington D.C and menswear design at F.I.T. and currently develops visual displays for Banana Republic. David is working on his debut menswear line and lives in Brooklyn, NY.



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

COMING SOON to hope theatre:

**the KILLER B s!**

**Go! Go! Go!, Rocket Romeo; Brontosaurus Man, The Cypokes; Hemp Hysteria!, Sassy!; Toi et Moi (You and Me), Miss Cecily; The Castle of Dr. Von Drake, King William XII; The Steno Pool, Cassiopaea**

- 12 original one acts - 12 different directors - 12 exciting "B movie" themes brought to the stage for the first time in hope theatre's inimitable style!

## Special Thanks

Leona Pickering, Clayton Pax, Lexington Photo Labs, Laurent Girard, Nicole Bradin, Jack Halpin, Brett Christensen, Mark and the rest of the staff of Theatre for the New City's Cino Theatre, Peter, Julia, Terry & the rest of the fringe staff, the cast & crew of Invention of Color, Paul Hamilton, Michael Minn, Alison Norris, Vinnie Penna, The Present Company, Matthew Rankin, Banana Republic, Skippy Regdon, Studio 54 Productions, Sara Thigpen, Theatreworks-USA, Elizabeth Zambetti, Turnip Theatre Co.

## Staff

Assistant Director - Stacey Plaskett  
Assistant Director - Heather McAllister  
Choreographer - Jessica Wallenfels  
Fight Director - Vinnie Penna  
Stage Manager - Michael Minn  
Assistant Stage Manager - Melissa Welburn  
Lighting Design - Jerry McAllister  
Light Board Operator - Melissa Welburn  
Sound Design - Kelly McAllister  
Sound Operator - Michael Minn  
Set Design/Scenic Artist - Heather McAllister  
Production Assistant - Eric "Speed" Smith  
Costume Design - David Jordan  
Hair/Makeup Design - Heather McAllister

## hope theatre Press:

### LAST CALL:

"Last Call is beautifully written: it's messy and poetic, like life. This production, directed by Jerry McAllister and produced by hope theatre, is spectacularly good. The cast is excellent."

- Martin Denton, [nytheatre.com](http://nytheatre.com)

### EDWARD III:

"compelling, solid performances; the directors take particular note of emotional nuances"

- Jocelyn Simpson, *The New Yorker*

"the company lets us feel the force of that rather eloquent story"

- Don Bruchner, *The New York Times*

"cunning, funny, dazzling"

- Donald Lyons, *The New York Post*

## WHO'S WHO

**Brett Christensen** (David) is pleased to be performing in the Fringe Festival for another year. Last year he was seen in the critically acclaimed *Loader #26*. This is his first play with hope theatre. In New York, Brett has also been seen in the long-running cult hit *Mono at Surf Reality*, where he played *The Doormat* and *the Ex-Manager*. Other New York credits include *A Boy, a Girl & a Dog* in the 2000 *Nutshell Festival*, *Pastoral* with the *Rooster Theater Group* and an on-going performance with the *Upright Citizens Brigade Theater* in *New Team Harold Night*. Brett would like to extend extra special, double plus good thanks to *Monique* for her love & support.

**Christine Goodman** (Sheila) loves tomatoes and Chinese cooking, and is pleased as punch to be making her Fringe Festival/hope theatre debut. A graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, Christine was last seen in "Sirens Festival 3: New Works by Women at HERE." Favorite roles include *Caliban* in *The Tempest* (RADATSOA), *Laura* in *Look Homeward, Angel* (Hudson Theatre Ensemble) and *Snug/Snout* in *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Gorilla Rep). Christine also performs spoken word around town and hosts community-based performance nights in NYC and Jersey City, NJ. Poems will be appearing in the upcoming *Lummox Journal* and 2002 *Dialogue Through Poetry Anthology*.

**Jack Halpin\*** (Jack) dedicates his work here to the memory of friend and mentor *Taft Miller* of *The Western Stage* in *Salinas, California*, where he began his work and friendship with playwright *Kelly McAllister* and then later on in *New York*, director *Jerry McAllister* and artistic director *Heather McAllister*. Favorite productions include *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *East of Eden*, *Hamlet*, *The Three Sisters*, *The Bald Soprano*, *Speed-the-Plow*, *In Watermelon Sugar*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Clown Cafe* (Jerry wrote that), and *The Toothless Virgin* (Fringe 2001). Jack's on staff with the Fringe, training volunteers to run box office. He went to PCPA and this is his first play with hope theatre.

**John Patrick Nord** (Carl) recently appeared in *4x4x9/New World Order* at *Wings Theatre*. Other credits include *Do Me a Favor* (MCC Theater), *The Murder of Joyce Carol Oates* (Brooklyn Lyceum), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Expanded Arts), and *Writing to Vermeer* (Lincoln Center Festival 2000). He appeared briefly on *100 Centre Street* and has also done a radio commercial for rice. Much love to friends, family, Rob and Fat Moe.

**R. Paul Hamilton\*** (Carlos) New York: *EstroFest2001* at MTS, *Target Margin's Tamburlaine*, *Shakespeare In The Park(ing Lot)'s Henry IV (Falstaff)*, *The Seagull (Sorin)*, *Comedy of Errors (Egeon)*, *Rev Theatre's The Witch of Edmonton (Carter)*, *Merchant of Venice (Gratiano)*, *King Lear (Gloucester)*, *Macbeth (Ross)*, *Uncle Vanya (Telegin)*, *Triangle Theatre's Ebenezer (Fezziwig/Christmas Present)*. Regional: *Dancing at Lughnasa (Michael)*, *Communicating Doors (Harold)*, *Last Night of Ballyhoo (Adolph)*, *Molly Sweeney (Mr Rice)*, *An American Daughter (Alan Hughes)*, *Present Laughter (Morris)*, *Moon Over Buffalo (George Hay)*, *Shadowlands (Warmie)*, *The Foreigner (Charlie)*, *The Woman in Black (Kipps)*, *Death and the Maiden (Roberto)*, *Mass Appeal (Tim Farley)*, *Salome (Herod)*, *A Funny Thing Happened...(Pseudolus)*. Film/TV: *Goodfellas*, *Law and Order*, *All My Children*, *She-Devil*, *The Cowboy Way*. Other: *The Royal National Theatre Of Great Britian (Graduate Program / Invited Artist)* *The Story Line Project (Director/Founding Member)*.

**Vinnie Penna\*** (Vince/Fight Director) Greatest hits include: *Troilus and Cressida*, *Measure for Measure*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Dracula*, *The Drummer Must Die!*, *The Comedy of Errors*, the title role in *Richard III* and 1/3 of all Shakespeare's roles in *The Cmplt Wrks of Wilm Shkspr* (abridged). He has appeared in a number of independent films including the 48-hour film project, *Reflectress IV*. Vinnie also provides voices for several animated programs of varying degrees of quality and clarity. Much love and thanks to: *Jerry*, *Kelly*, all the *Von Doomers* throughout time, the fantastic cast and crew, and, as always, to *Maitreya*, my lovely darlin.'

**Matthew Rankin\*** (Jerry) most recently played the title role in the film *Johnny Sunshine* and the *Coffee Break Conspiracy*, which just got screened at the *Cannes Film Fest*. New York: *Edward III (Off B'Way, US professional premiere)*, *Henry IV, pts. 1 & 2 [Shakespeare in the Park(ing Lot)]*, *Ellis Island Stories (Hypothetical Theatre)*, *The Hope Series* and *Breathe Deep Brother (Ozark Moonshine)*. Regional: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Mousetrap*, *All In the Timing (Self Family Arts Center)*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night (Low Country Shakespeare Fest)*, *East Of Eden (Western Stage)*. Thanks go to the *Clan McAllister*, the wonderful cast of *Last Call*, my band mates in "Han Shot First" (Thanks for your patience), and most importantly, to *Sara*, without whom I really would be "Jerry."



hope theatre would like to thank the following for their generous support:

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Willy Elder, Kisoo Kim, Mr. & Mrs. Kokkoris,  
Elizabeth Reynolds, Bart Lovins

### hope theatre fringe festival picks:

**SIN-AGOG**, an ensemble comedy about sex and religion and the denial structures that make both possible. Set in present-day New York City, seven characters navigate their destinies, negotiate their fantasies and try to find Jesus, or at least get lucky, at *SIN-AGOG*, a nightclub in an old temple. At P.S.122, 150 First Ave. (@ 9th Street).

Noontime Theatre Presents **Giants Have Us In Their Books** (*Flowers, A Tiger In Central Park, The Winged Man*) By Jose Rivera Directed by Amanda Pekoe Aug. 10th @ Noon, 11th @ 7:45, 14th @ 11:15 PM, 16th @ 7:00, 17th @ 4:30 At The Present Co.'s Theatorium, 196-198 Stanton St. 5 Performances Only!!



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