

# GARY JAFFE

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2011–2012

Director & Playwright

*“Once we weren’t needed as heroes, only wisps and strange shapes or voices only. I wanted the audience to remember that, too. Remember something they’d never known.”*



## Spirits to Enforce

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written by Mickle Maher

a Capital T Theatre production

January 19th – February 12th, 2011

at the Blue Theatre

Twelve superheroes speaking over telephones hold a fundraising drive for their production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. To build a soundscape out of the play's demanding polyphonic script, I often acted as a conductor in rehearsal, using music terminology to conduct the "choir." Additionally, to provide a visual counterpoint, I created a spectacle of blandness with the rote materials of a call center.

*"Capital T's first-time director Gary Jaffe puts all superheroes on stage, all the time. They hardly move from their stations at the telethon table ... but the psychic energy sizzles. [...] Cast and director do an impressive job of containing this chaos and directing the audience's attention so that each of the dozen players is stamped out as crisply as a newly-minted quarter."*

Michael Meigs, [AustinLiveTheatre.com](http://AustinLiveTheatre.com)







*"With a true sensitivity to language, serious comic chops, and seamless ensemble work, Gary Jaffe and his superteam of actors transformed The Tempest into something rich and strange."*

Robert Faires, [www.austinchronicle.com](http://www.austinchronicle.com)

## Awards/Nominations

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Austin Chronicle's  
#2 Theatrical Wonder of 2011

Austin Critics' Table Award Winner:  
**Outstanding Production of a Drama,**  
**Outstanding Sound Design**

Austin Critics' Table Award Nominee:  
**Outstanding Ensemble**

Austin Theatre Examiner Nominee:  
**Best Production of a Comedy,**  
**Best Director of a Comedy,**  
**Best Ensemble in a Comedy,**  
**Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy,**  
**Director of the Year**

AustinLiveTheatre Awards Nominee:  
**Best Ensemble**





All Photos by Mark Pickell

## Reviews

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"A thing of wonder [...] A good director knows when to pump up the spectacle, and when to let the words speak for themselves, and in this vein, Gary Jaffe shows himself in a rare class, showing amazing restraint and subtlety. [...] We can expect great things from this young director."

**Ryan Johnson, Austin Theater Examiner**

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"Gary Jaffe directs this difficult and static play effectively on the whole. [...] The dialogue moves in waves — often overlapping, rising to a cacophony, and receding into quietude [...] *Spirits to Enforce* is a fun adventure in meta-theater."

**Cate Blouke, Austin-American Statesman**

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"Capital T Theatre's *Spirits To Enforce* by Mickie Maher is the best play I've seen at FronteraFest in the five years I've attended. Hilarious, layered, well-executed — the show leaves you feeling fuller than when you walked in. [...] Gary Jaffe's direction of the highly complex script is strong, the ensemble carries the show, and the sound (Brett Hamann) and set design (Mark Pickell, also Capital T's artistic director) are appropriately minimalist. Together, it is most excellent."

**Elizabeth Cobbe, Austin Chronicle**

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"90 minutes of frenzied hilarity."

**The Daily Texan**

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Photo by Gary Jaffe

# THE DUDLEYS!

A Family Game

Full-Stage Premiere

written by Leegrid Stevens

a Tutto Theatre Company production

May 6th – 22nd, 2011

at the Blue Theatre

The Dudleys have an impossible task: replay the family's messy history as an 8-bit video game; try to win by saving Dad from cancer. They always fail. My direction emphasized the melding of 2D and 3D, both visually, through crisp gestures, pixelated designs and shallow staging, and emotionally, through a dynamic interplay of caricature and heartfelt realism.





Photo by Gary Jaffe

## Reviews

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*"The Dudleys!* is incredibly ambitious both as a play and a production. [...] Helmed by new Tutto Theatre Artistic Director Gary Jaffe, synthesizes a lot of impressive contributions. First and foremost are the exquisite 8-bit video renderings. Not only do they hearken back to 8-bit classics ... but the characters seamlessly interact with the animation. The design team embraced the video-game roots of the script, and it really paid off. And the choreography by Melinda Rebman and Zenobia Taylor warrants mentioning: a lot of strangely delightful group movement pieces.

*The Dudleys!* asks a lot of itself and its audience. At times, the drama practically hits you over the head with its rawness, and yet the next level will have a visit to a failing cancer clinic degenerate into a co-op

zombie brawler game. But for all its complexities and shifting tone, the ending is quite emotionally affecting, and there are lots of delights along the way."

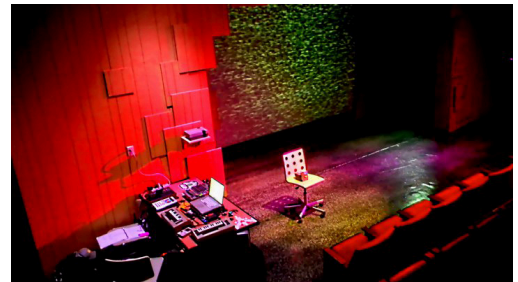
**Avimaan Syam, Austin Chronicle**

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"The reality of [the play's] unreality was intense and moving. I thoroughly enjoyed this show."

**Mark Briody, Theatre Austin**

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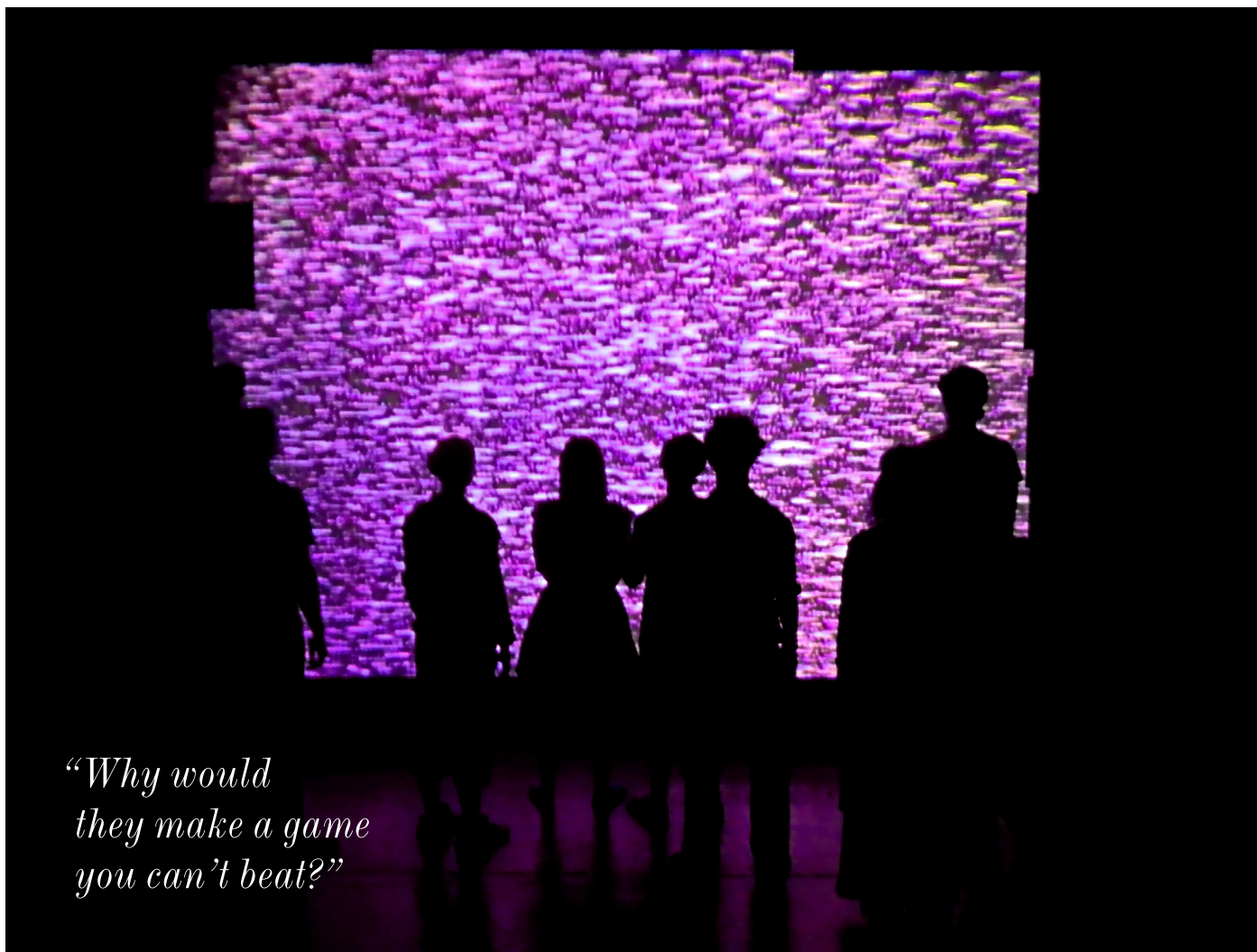


*"Luckily, talented director Gary Jaffe stepped up to the plate with gusto, juggling all of these disparate elements with ease and creating a wonderful mash up that shouldn't work on paper, but which shines in execution. ... the rendition of [familial loss] is one of the most honest and heartbreaking I've ever seen."*

**Ryan Johnson, Austin Theatre Examiner**

Photos by Daniel Brock (left) and Tara Chill (right)





*“Why would  
they make a game  
you can’t beat?”*

Photo by Gary Jaffe

## Awards/Nominations

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B. Iden Payne Award Winner:  
Outstanding Production of a Comedy,  
Outstanding Director of a Comedy,  
Outstanding Cast,  
Outstanding Original Script,  
Outstanding Choreography,  
Outstanding Original Score,  
Outstanding Sound Design,  
Outstanding Media Design

Austin Theatre Examiner Awards Nominee:  
Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy,  
Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy,  
Best Original Score,  
Director of the Year

Austin Critics' Table Award Nominee:  
Outstanding Video Design,  
Outstanding Movement

*Following our production, THE DUDLEYS!  
A Family Game was one of four plays selected  
for the inaugural Alec Baldwin Fellowship  
development program with the Singers Forum  
in New York City.*

# The Alien Baby Play

World Premiere

written by Nicholas Walker Herbert

a Tutto Theatre Company production

January 20th – February 5th, 2012

at a private residence ("Home Births")

and Salvage Vanguard Theatre

Bethany is 15 months pregnant with an alien baby, and she's invited an audience to the birth. I collaborated with actress Kathleen Fletcher and playwright Nicholas Walker Herbert to premiere a one-woman show about a daughter becoming a mother to a potentially world-altering child. By combining bursts of frantic motion, up-close audience interaction, and wandering isolation, we created a surprising, intimate and lonely experience.








*"Tutto Artistic Director Gary Jaffe creates an intimate audience-actor relationship [...] (Expect her to make contact with you, especially if you sit up front). In spite of the cozy setup, the show's air of loneliness never wavers — the audience can empathize, but cannot truly help this woman. [...] It's certainly thrilling and **unsettling to watch an otherworldly event** in the making."*

Georgia Young, [austin.culturemap.com](http://austin.culturemap.com)



A photograph of a man and a woman singing passionately on stage. The man, with grey hair and wearing a blue and black plaid shirt, is leaning in from behind the woman. The woman has long, curly red hair with a gold clip, wears glasses, and a maroon and white patterned dress. She is singing with her mouth wide open. They are holding hands. The background is dark, with a bookshelf visible on the right.

*“We can sing  
Hold  
The end is  
Hold  
The end is  
Hold  
This is  
The end  
Hold”*



## Awards/Nominations

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B. Iden Payne Award Nominee:  
**Outstanding Actress in a Comedy**

## Reviews

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"One might imagine that the director's job would consist in large part of planning the physical movement on stage – the blocking. But the venues differ greatly [...] The consistent factors in this collegial conspiracy between director and actor are, necessarily, the definition of this literally larger than life character and the pacing of her presentation – pacing being both Bethany's excited striding and the maintenance of the emotional arc of the story. Their collaboration is a sure one."

Michael Meigs, [austinlivetheatre.com](http://austinlivetheatre.com)

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"Gary Jaffe's direction is great, based on the strength of Fletcher's work. This Tutto Theatre Company show provides an evening of goofy, quirky entertainment."

Elizabeth Cobbe, [www.austinchronicle.com](http://www.austinchronicle.com)

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All Photos by Kimberley Mead



# Love in Pine

World Premiere

written by Gary Jaffe

a Last Act Theatre Company production  
February 16th – March 3rd, 2012  
at the Broken Neck

Inspired by the ritual placating of spirits in the Noh drama, I wrote and directed *Love in Pine* to grant closure to a friend who died young when he crashed his car into a tree. I imagined the spirits of a young couple lingering in a tree they struck on prom night. Guided by their survivors, they must repeat the iconic steps of prom – photos, dinner, car ride, dance – until they can give the night a new ending and continue on toward peace.



*“There’s an affecting intensity in these scenes that allows both dead and living some measure of understanding – as all the while, the flames approach to consume all of these realities. When summarized in this way Love in Pine may seem overly clever in its structure. But the action moves steadily forward and the cast of young adults makes evident their acceptance and respect for the concepts.”*

Michael Meigs, [austinelivetheatre.com](http://austinelivetheatre.com)





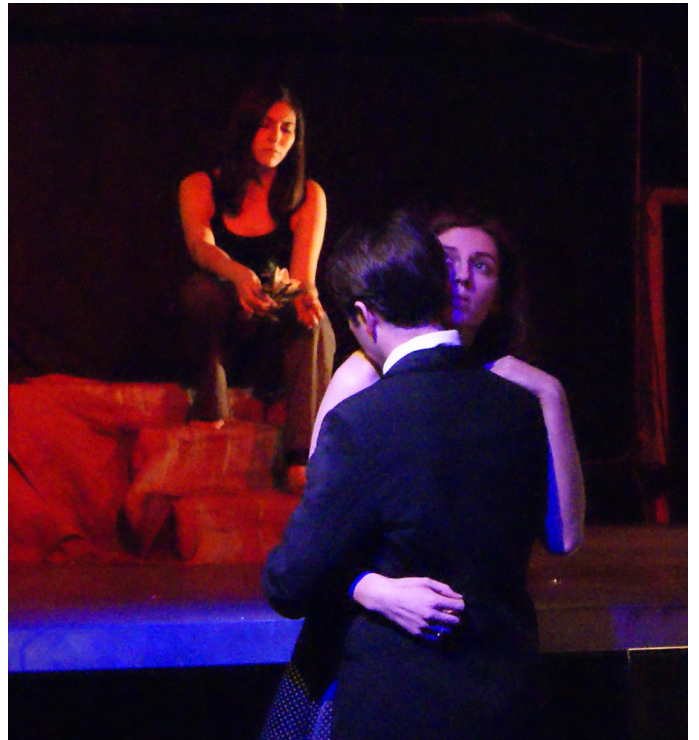


*“as the years pass,  
and you become  
more of a tree  
and less of a person,  
you ... forget.”*





*“This — oh, this part’s the best.  
This is when the rest of the room  
fades away, and it’s just you and  
your partner and the music and  
the touch. The first, public touch.  
The confession of guilt, of romance  
... all in front of your peers.  
And it opens the gateway to the rest  
of the night...”*



All Photos by Lauren Bremen





# The Twelfth Labor

Full-Stage Premiere

written by Leegrid Stevens

a Tutto Theatre Company production  
August 10th – September 1st, 2012  
at the McCallum Laboratory Theatre

In *The Twelfth Labor*, we come to understand the price a hard-scrabble farm family has paid for dignity in unresolvable crises. We experience half of the play through the brain-damaged eldest daughter's eyes, so I established a realistic vernacular of design and motion which could transform depending on our point of view. Additionally, I directed my actors toward vigorous physical performances, to drive their characters to a point of emotional exhaustion by play's end.

Photo by Kimberley Mead





*"A beautiful, dreamscape of a show."*

Cate Blouke,  
critic for the Austin-American Statesman

## Awards/Nominations

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B. Iden Payne Award Nominee:  
Outstanding Actress in a Drama,  
Outstanding Costume Design



Photos by Daniel Brock (left) and Kimberley Mead (right)





*“But God knew this way,  
you’d be one of the first,  
the very front first to go back  
to Him in heaven.  
See, we all got to be judged,  
but you get in scot-free.”*



Photos by Kimberley Mead





## Reviews

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"Tutto has mounted a gorgeously moody, intellectually challenging piece, comprised of Steven's four-part suite in the stark isolation of a farmhouse somewhere out on an alien landscape of the mind. Designer Ia Ensterä again creates a wrap-around environment in weathered wood, a falling-down barn and a two-story farmhouse. [...] Each of these four scenes is rich, powerful and coherent; taken together they are a celebration of the power of spoken language, well-acted. Director Gary Jaffe has once again given us an extraordinary, sophisticated and beautifully designed piece of theatre."

Michael Meigs, [austinelivetheatre.com](http://austinelivetheatre.com)

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"The acting is engaging, with strong performances from several supporting players. Stevens shows a knack for creating a style of language that is at once fascinating and completely clear. Ia Ensterä's chaotic set design is fabulous. [...] *The Twelfth Labor* is a swirling mess of great ideas: classical allusion, powerful imagery, intriguing language, and more."

Elizabeth Cobbe, [austinchronicle.com](http://austinchronicle.com)

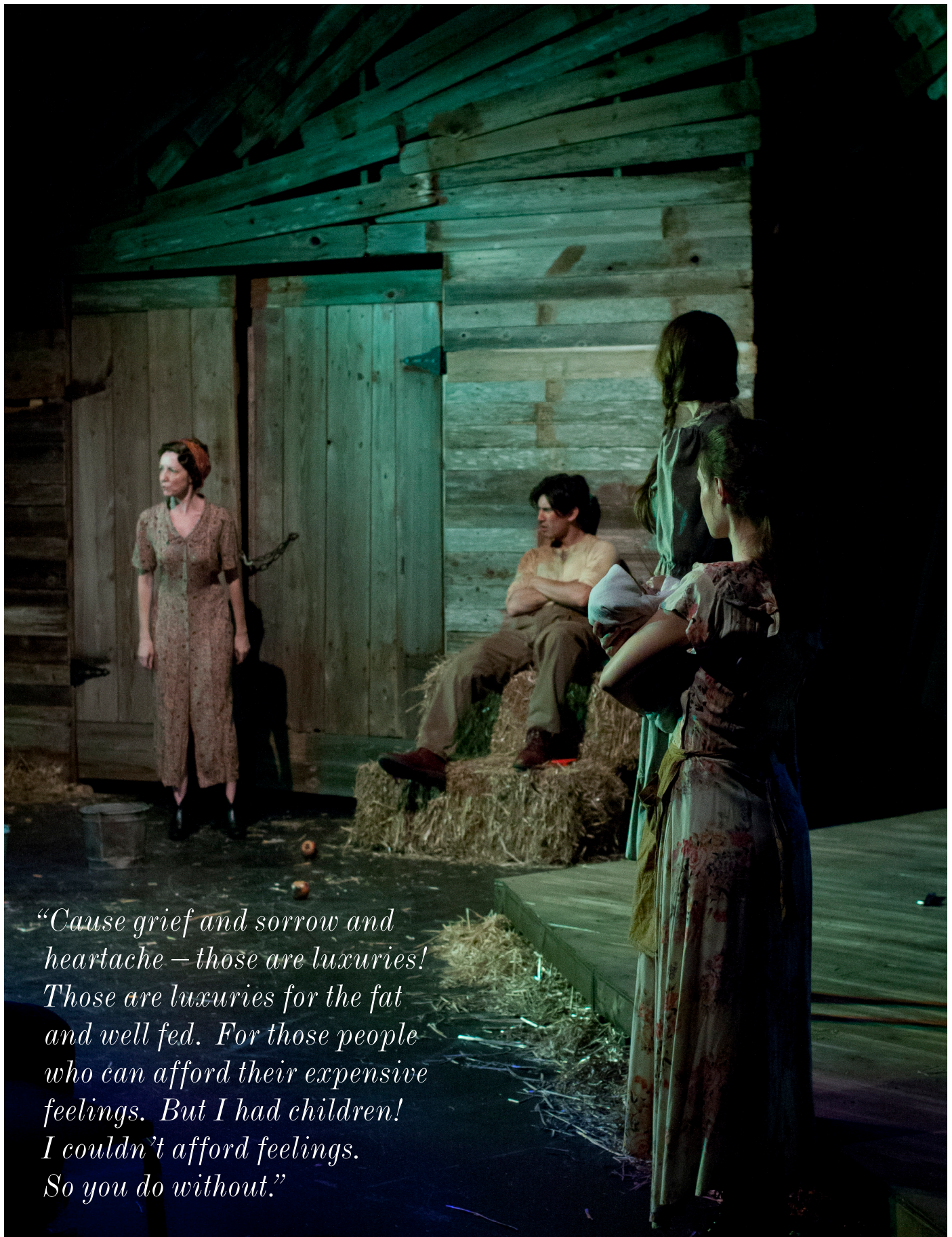
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"Incredible show. Very well done on so many different levels, and what hard work!"

Lisa Scheps, *Off Stage and on the Air*

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*"Cause grief and sorrow and  
heartache — those are luxuries!  
Those are luxuries for the fat  
and well fed. For those people  
who can afford their expensive  
feelings. But I had children!  
I couldn't afford feelings.  
So you do without."*

Photos by Kimberley Mead





Artistic Director,  
TUTTO Theatre Company  
Austin TX, 2011 – present

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## Director

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2013	<i>Zeus in Therapy</i> * (upcoming)	Douglass Stott Parker –adapted by director and company	TUTTO Theatre Company
	<i>The Priceless Slave</i> * (upcoming)	J.M. Meyer	Cohen New Works Festival
2012	<i>The Twelfth Labor</i> *†	Leegrid Stevens	TUTTO Theatre Company
	<i>Love in Pine</i> *	Gary Jaffe	Last Act Theatre Company
	<i>The Alien Baby Play</i> *†	Nicholas Walker Herbert	TUTTO Theatre Company
2011	<i>THE DUDLEYS!</i> <i>A Family Game</i> * †‡	Leegrid Stevens	TUTTO Theatre Company
	<i>Spirits to Enforce</i> †‡	Mickle Maher	Capital T Theatre
2010	<i>Beautiful Little Fools</i> *	Tessa Leigh Williams	Yale University
	<i>Passion</i>	Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine	Yale University
2009	<i>Once Five Years Pass</i>	Federico García Lorca –in a new translation* by Gary Jaffe	Yale University
	<i>The Real Thing</i>	Tom Stoppard	Yale University
	<i>Ghosts</i>	Henrik Ibsen	Yale Dramatic Association
2008	<i>L'Enfant et les sortilèges</i>	Maurice Ravel	Opera Theater of Yale College
	<i>The Long Christmas Ride Home</i>	Paula Vogel	Yale University
2007	<i>The Baltimore Waltz</i>	Paula Vogel	Yale University

\* Premiere, † Award Nominee, ‡ Award Winner

## Playwright

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2012	<i>The Cruellest Motherfucker</i> from <i>9 Lives (and Deaths) of Slapdash</i> <i>Love in Pine</i>	Loaded Gun Theory Last Act Theatre Company
2011	<i>Guinea Pig Hamster Sister Sister</i>	DYS theatre, FronteraFest
2010	<i>Daily Practice</i> from <i>Muses IV: Memories of a House</i>	The Vestige Group
2009	<i>Getting Off</i> from <i>YDC 24-hour</i>	Yale University

## Director of Puppetry

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2012	<i>Hamlet</i>	William Shakespeare	Austin Shakespeare
2008	<i>The Long Christmas Ride Home</i>	Paula Vogel	Yale University

## Asst. Director

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2008	<i>L'Orfeo, favola in musica</i>	Ethan Heard (dir.)	Yale Baroque Opera Project
2007	<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Ethan Heard (dir.)	Yale Dramatic Association
2006	<i>Quills</i>	Mimi Jeffries (dir.)	Yale University



## Director/Educator

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2012	<i>sf Dividing the Estate</i> ‡	Horton Foote	Westlake High School
2011	<i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i>	Jay Presson Allen, from Muriel Spark	Westlake High School
	<i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	Center Stage Texas
2010	<i>The Hobbit</i>	J.R.R. Tolkien	Center Stage Texas

## Readings & Short Plays

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2011	<i>Leda's Swan</i>	Leegrid Stevens	Blue Theater
	<i>Satanic Sluts</i> from	Julie Winston-Thomas	Loaded Gun Theory
	<i>Back to the Slapdash</i>		
	SNAP	Jason Tremblay	TUTTO Theatre Company
	<i>The Twelfth Labor</i>	Leegrid Stevens	Blue Theater
	<i>Guinea Pig Hamster Sister Sister</i>	Gary Jaffe	DYS theatre, FronteraFest
2010	<i>Beautiful Little Fools</i>	Tessa Leigh Williams	Yale Playwrights Festival
	<i>Opera Scenes</i>	multiple authors	Opera Theater of Yale College
2007	<i>Tremors from YDC 24-Hour</i>	Lian Walden	Yale University

## Education & Training

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2010	Yale University, BA in Theater Studies Graduated Cum Laude with Distinction in the Major  Teachers: Robert Woodruff, Richard Lalli, Joseph Roach, Connie Grappo, Toni Dorfman, Robert Vorlicky, Deb Margolin, Paula Vogel
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## Relevant Skills & Interests

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Puppet designer, builder, and director  
Translator of Spanish-language drama (including Lorca's *Once Five Years Pass*, Rovner's *Anniversary Concert*)  
Graphic designer and illustrator for professional and undergraduate companies  
Accomplished fundraiser for Tutto Theatre Company and Leukemia Lymphoma Society  
Experienced educator (arts, theatre, leadership, mathematics) in underserved communities  
Enthusiastic triathlete, finishing two Olympic distance triathlons

## Awards & Honors

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2010	Richard B. Sewall Cup recipient for outstanding achievement with creative promise (Yale) Louis Sudler Prize nominee for highest standards of excellence in the arts (Yale)
2011	"New Directions" Director (Capital T Theatre, Austin TX) Austin Critics' Table Winner for Outstanding Production of a Drama ( <i>Spirits to Enforce</i> ) B. Iden Payne Winner for Best Director of a Comedy, Best Comedy, plus 6 more ( <i>THE DUDLEYS!</i> ) Austin Theatre Examiner Best Director of a Comedy nomination ( <i>Spirits to Enforce</i> ) Austin Theatre Examiner Director of the Year nomination ( <i>Spirits to Enforce</i> , <i>THE DUDLEYS!</i> ) Austin Chronicle's "#2 Theatrical Wonder of 2011" ( <i>Spirits to Enforce</i> )
2012	<i>THE DUDLEYS!</i> received the Alec Baldwin Fellowship with the Singers Forum following Tutto's 2011 production