



**Artistic Director**

Leda Hoffmann

# THE EFFECT

**By Lucy Prebble**

**Directed by Elly Green\***

**Scenic and Projections Design**

Yeaji Kim

**Lighting Design**

Claire Chrzan\* and John Kelly\*

**Fight and Intimacy Coordinator**

Tristin Hall

**Costume Design**

Leah Hummel

**Sound Design**

Isaac Mandel

**Properties Design**

Hillarie M Shockley

**Stage Manager**

Madeline M. Scott

**Production Manager**

Paul Cook

**Casting Director**

Karissa Murrell Meyers

\*Denotes Strawdog Company Member

## CAST

Sam Hubbard*	Tristan Frey
Daniella Pereira*	Connie Hall
Cary Shoda	Dr Toby Sealey
Justine C Turner*	Dr Lorna James

## UNDERSTUDIES

Zhanna Albertini, Al Herrmann, Kelly Levandar, Shane Richlen

## ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Kamille Dawkins*	Assistant Director
Alyssa Maldonado	Assistant Stage Manager
Manny Ortiz	Technical Director
Shelbi Ardnt	Master Electrician

\*Denotes Strawdog Company Member

## A NOTE FROM DIRECTOR ELLY GREEN

*"Love is what you feel / When you feel you want to sing / Love is what you feel / About your most favorite thing / Love is a feeling / Everybody likes to feel / Yes love is a really good feeling to have."*

– *A Really Good Feeling, Big Bird*

Feelings are subjective, and so we spend a great deal of time – as humans and as artists – trying to articulate how we feel, and empathize with others. But we can never truly understand what it feels like to be in another person's mind or in their skin, with their particular nervous system, or with their blood pumping around their body. Nevertheless, we try. In an interview about *The Effect*, Lucy Prebble talks about wanting to create onstage "what love feels like and equally on the other side what depression feels like" and how these two feelings are "oppositional to each other."

Most of us have experienced the euphoria of falling in love, and it's addictive, drug-like quality. Many of us also have, unfortunately, some direct or indirect experience of depression. I'm fascinated by the idea at the core of this play: that the neurotransmitters of the brain which are acted on by antidepressants, are the same as the neurotransmitters that are acted on when you fall in love. Does this mean it's possible to create the experience of love through a drug? And if so, are our feelings real? We are constantly struggling to understand what's happening in our brains, and our bodies. Directing *The Effect* and sharing it with our audience feels like part of that struggle.

— Elly

## A NOTE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR LEDA HOFFMANN

Welcome to Strawdog! Whether you've been coming for the past 32 years, or this is your first Strawdog production, we're so glad you're here.

*The Effect* kicks off my first season at Strawdog. When the ensemble first introduced me to this play, I was really excited. It's a wonderful ensemble piece and showcases the work of many talented artists, both new to Strawdog and old.

In my first few months as Artistic Director, I've loved meeting people, learning what this company means to this community, and experiencing the talent of the artists working at Strawdog. Shaping this season's productions with the incredible artists working on them has been such a joy.

I hope you'll join us for the rest of our season - *Thirst*; *Welcome to Keene, New Hampshire*; and our annual family show, *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*.

— Leda

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Sam Hubbard\* (Tristan Frey)** is a Strawdog Ensemble Member, seen in *Damascus*, *Cymbeline*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home* and *Neighborhood 3*. Recent credits include *The Book of Will* (Northlight), *A*

*Loss of Roses* and *Playboy of the Western World* (Raven), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Writers), productions with Jackalope, Michigan Shakespeare Festival and various understudy credits at Chicago Shakespeare, Writers, Northlight and Steppenwolf. Sam is also a Jeff Award winning Fight Director, a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and represented by Grossman & Jack and NV Talent.



**Cary Shoda (Dr. Toby Sealy)** is pleased to make his Strawdog debut. He has previously worked with Halcyon Theatre, James Downing Theatre, Teatro Vista/Goodman Theatre, American Blues

Theater, Tritonysia Festival, Chicago Dramatists, the side project, and others. He co-founded A-Squared Theatre, an Asian American theatre company for which he served as Producing Artistic Director (2014–2018) and co-curated the A-Squared Asian American Performing Arts Festival with Links Hall and Asian Improv aRts Midwest. For Helen and Esther.



**Daniella Pereira\* (Connie Hall)** has been a member of Strawdog's artistic ensemble since 2018, after appearing in *Cymbeline*. Some of her most recent credits include *Elizabeth Rex* (OPFT), *Bus Stop*

(Eclipse Theatre); *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Theater Wit); *The Taming of The Shrew* (OPFT) and *Letters Home* (Griffin Theatre). Other Chicago credits include: *Electricidad*, and *As You Like It* (Chicago College of Performing Arts, where she received her BFA in Acting). TV credits include *Empire* (FOX) and *Chicago PD* (NBC). She is represented by Gray Talent Group.



**Justine C Turner (Dr. Lorna James)** is an ensemble member of Strawdog theatre where some of her credits include *The Night Season*, *Miss Marx*, *The Master and Margarita*, and *Red Noses*.

Other credits include *Spill*, *The Farnsworth Invention* (Timeline Theatre); *Monstrous Regiment* (Lifeline Theatre); and work at Writers' Theatre, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Factory Theatre, The Den theatre, City Lit, Defiant Theatre, Famous Door, Rivendell, Noble Fool theatricals, Journeymen and is a former company member of Crew of Patches and The Plagiarists. TV credits include Chicago Med and Chicago Fire. She is represented by Shirley Hamilton, inc. Love and thanks always to M & A.

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

**Zhanna Albertini (U/S Connie)** is excited to be working with Strawdog for the first time, and is grateful for the opportunity! She has enjoyed working on a number of new works with Steep Theatre, Silk Road Rising Theatre, MMPACT, Other Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, and Stage Left Theatre. Zhanna has a BFA from Loyola University and is a proud, recent graduate of the ACADEMY at Black Box Acting.

**Al Herrmann (U/S Dr. Toby)** Despite the gray in his beard, understudying at Strawdog is Al's first foray into professional theatre. Prior to earning his MFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University, Al spent many years in the visual arts, in animation, installation, painting, curating, photography, and graphic arts. Al is thrilled and grateful to be at a point in his life where every day is new and every hiccup is a lesson to be examined, felt, and archived. Al would like to thank everyone for playing along generously.

**Kelly Levandar (U/S Dr. Lorna)** Kelly is so thankful to get to collaborate with Strawdog on this superb piece of theater. Other Chicago companies she has been honored to work with are Jackalope, Akvavit, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, Muse of Fire, Arc Theater, Metropolis PAC, and Artemisia. Before living in Chicago, she worked in a variety of regional theaters on the East Coast. Check Kelly out online at [www.kellylevander.com](http://www.kellylevander.com). or on IG - @klevander.

**Shane Richlen (U/S Tristian)** is thrilled to be a part of this production with Strawdog! Other Chicago credits include *Henry V* (Nym/Warwick) with First Folio, *Love's Labor's Lost* (Ferdinand/Longaville understudy) with Invictus Theatre, and *Roll of Thunder and Number the Stars* with GreatWorks Theatre. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Parkside, with a B.A. in Theatre Arts. Favorite credits there include *Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* (Joe Pitt), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Stanley).

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

**Lucy Prebble (Playwright)** Lucy Prebble is a writer for film, television, games and theatre. She is Co-Executive Producer and writer on HBO's media mogul drama, *Succession*, for which she has been nominated for a WGA Award. *The Effect*, a study of love and neuroscience, was performed at the National Theatre and won the Critics' Circle Award for Best New Play. Previous to that she wrote *ENRON*, a hugely successful piece about the infamous corporate fraud, which transferred to the West End and Broadway after sell-out runs at both the Royal Court and Chichester Festival Theatre. Her first play, *The Sugar Syndrome* (2003) won her the George Devine Award and was performed at the Royal Court. Her latest play, *A Very Expensive Poison*, will be on at the Old Vic Theatre in 2019. For television, she is the creator of the TV series *Secret Diary of a Call Girl* (ITV/Showtime), and has recently made a pilot for HBO starring Sarah Silverman. Lucy also writes for *Frankie*

*Boyle's New World Order* (BBC) and appears on the TV show as a guest as well as appearing regularly on *Have I Got News For You*. She is currently working on a new TV series starring Billie Piper. Lucy is fascinated by new technology and where it meets the arts. She wrote a weekly Tech column for the Observer newspaper and was Head Scene Writer for Bungie's massive first person shooter video game, *Destiny*.

**Elly Green\* (Director)** Elly is happy to be back at Strawdog, where she is an ensemble member, and previously directed *Pillars of the Community*, *The Night Season* and *After Miss Julie*. Other Chicago credits include: *Yen* (Raven Theatre); *In the Canyon* (Jackalope); *You for Me for You*, *No More Sad Things* (Sideshow); *The Woman in Black* (Wildclaw); *The Distance* (Haven); *The Woman Before* (Trap Door); *Happy* (Redtwist); *Rabbit* (Stage Left) and *The Tomkat Project* (Playground & NY Fringe).

**Madeline M. Scott (Stage Manager)** is proud to be a part of her first Strawdog production. Madeline has served on stage management and design teams locally at American Theatre Company, Cards Against Humanity, Court Theatre, House Theatre of Chicago, Haven Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Loyola University Chicago, Music Theater Works and Wilmette Center for the Arts. Regional credits include projects at Adrienne Arsht Center, American Composers Forum, Children's Theatre Company, Old Log Theatre, and Seattle Children's Theatre.

**Alyssa Maldonado (Assistant Stage Manager)** graduated from Iowa State University with a B.A. in Performing Arts, emphasis in Acting and Directing. She was involved in Chicago Shakespeare Theatre's stage management internship program for their production of *Othello*, as well as Drury Lane's *Crazy For You*. This is her third show with Strawdog, previous credits being *Pillars of the Community* and *Masque Macabre*. Alyssa is very excited to be working on this thought-provoking show with a wonderful team!

**Yeaji Kim (Scenic and Projections Designer)** is a set and projection designer based in Chicago, originally from South Korea. She is excited to work with Strawdog for the first time. Her recent credits in Chicago are *Howards End* (set & projections design), *Bloomstday* (projections design) with Remy Bumpgo Theatre, *Art on the Mart-7 Soliloquie* (projection illustration) with John Boesche. She received her MFA from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. More information at [yeajikim.wix.com/yeajikim](http://yeajikim.wix.com/yeajikim)

**Claire Chrzan\* (Co-Lighting Design)** is thrilled to be co-designing with John Kelly. Recent credits include *The Brothers Size* (Steppenwolf Young Adults); *Radio Golf*, *Frankenstein* (Court Theatre); *Yen*, *Suddenly Last Summer* (Raven Theatre); *Grey House*, *The Room*, *The Mutilated*, *Evening at the Talk House* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *Hamlet* (The Gift); *Fun Harmless Warmachine* (The New Colony); *We're Gonna Die*, *Fear and Misery in the Third Reich* (Haven) *Caught* (Sideshow); *Dada* *Woof Papa Hot*, *Bull in a China Shop* (About

Face); *Winning Works* (2017-2019; Joffrey Ballet's Joffrey Academy). In her spare time, Claire is a facilitator with the ABLE ensemble (Artists Breaking Limits and Expectations). [clairechrzandesigns.com](http://clairechrzandesigns.com)

**Tristin Hall (Fight and Intimacy Choreographer)** is extremely excited to be working with Strawdog for the first time! Recent choreography credits include: *Human Resources* (Theatre Evolve), assisted Sam Hubbard with *Yen* (Raven Theater) and *Too Heavy for Your Pocket* (Timeline Theater), *Some Like it Red* and *Munsterspiel* (The Plagiarists), assisted Rachel Flesher with *Sickle* (Red Theater), and numerous projects at Columbia College. Acting Credits include Lisa in *Falling* (Interrogating Theater), Carrie in *Carrie and Francine* (Haven Theater), and Phineas in *A Separate Peace* (Point Theatre Project). Thanks to the family, friends, and mentors who have been there every step of the way!

**John Kelly\* (Lighting Designer)** is happy to be designing *The Effect* with a Claire Chrzan. John has been an ensemble member since 2014 and has designed 15 shows previously for Strawdog. Elsewhere he has designed for companies including The Neo Futurists, Lifeline, Theatre Wit, Red Twist, About Face, Griffin and Adventure Stage. John also does lighting design for Blue Man Group and is their lighting supervisor.

**Kamille Dawkins (Assistant Director)** hails from the island Jamaica and has been a theatre artist in Chicago since 2014. As an ensemble member at Strawdog Theatre, she's performed as an actor, musician, singer and now as an assistant director. Hooray!

**Leah Hummel (Costume Designer)** is very grateful to work with Strawdog Theatre Company for the fourth time. Recent credits include *Yen* (Raven Theatre Company, props design) and *The Revolutionists* (Strawdog Theatre Company, costume design). Leah is a theatre educator at Niles West High School and is a graduate of Western Michigan University.

## PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

**Karissa Murrell Meyers (Casting Director)** is a multidisciplinary theatre artist. As a loud and proud advocate for inclusion and diversity casting in the Chicago theatre community, she has been working in casting since 2017 with several local companies including (re)discover theatre, Black Ensemble Theater, and Our Perspective: Asian American Play Readings. MFA in Performance from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, BA in Acting and Directing from Boise State University. Proud member of SAG-AFTRA. Representation: Big Mouth Talent.

**Paul Cook (Production Manager)** is thrilled to join the Strawdog team. Some favorite Chicago past collaborations include time spent with Pride Films and Plays, Midsommer Flight, Oakton Community College, and the Chicago High School for the Arts (where he is also a staff member). Paul has his MFA in Directing from the University of California, Irvine, and is a proud supporter of Equity in the Arts. Love to Team WPJC.

**Isaac Mandel (Sound Designer)** most recently has done Refuge Theatre Projects *Last Session* and BNT *Plainclothes* and *Girl in the Red Corner*. Other past projects have included *Yank!*, *Some Like it Red*, *A Dolls House*, *Lysistrata Jones* and *Stella* and *Lou*. Before that he was living in his hometown in upstate NY and designed in NJ where he was nominated for

his design of *Brothers Size*. A thank you to his wife for dealing with all of the knavery and rascality.

**Hillarie M. Shockley (Props Designer)** is a freelance Props Designer from central Virginia and is delighted to make her debut at Strawdog Theater. Since graduating from Christopher Newport University with a BFA in Technical Theater and Design she has done Props work in theaters across the country. She now focuses on Props Design and has collaborated with multiple theaters in Chicago and the surrounding areas. You can visit her website [hmshockley.wixsite.com/properties-designer](http://hmshockley.wixsite.com/properties-designer) for more info.

**Manuel Ortiz (he/him/his) (Technical Director)** is a Chicago native actor, carpenter, designer and photographer. He received his BFA in Acting at DePaul University. When he is not building and/or performing on stage, you can find him at home joyfully playing with all 15 of his animal friends (yes, he has pictures). As an artist, he has devoted himself to many artistic mediums such as puppeteering, makeup, lighting, and more. Working in such a prodigiously diverse community of captivating artists, Manny has grown and hopes to continue to collaborate and cultivate communities of inclusion and equity filled with ardent passion of theater.

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