



Boston University College of Fine Arts
School of Theatre

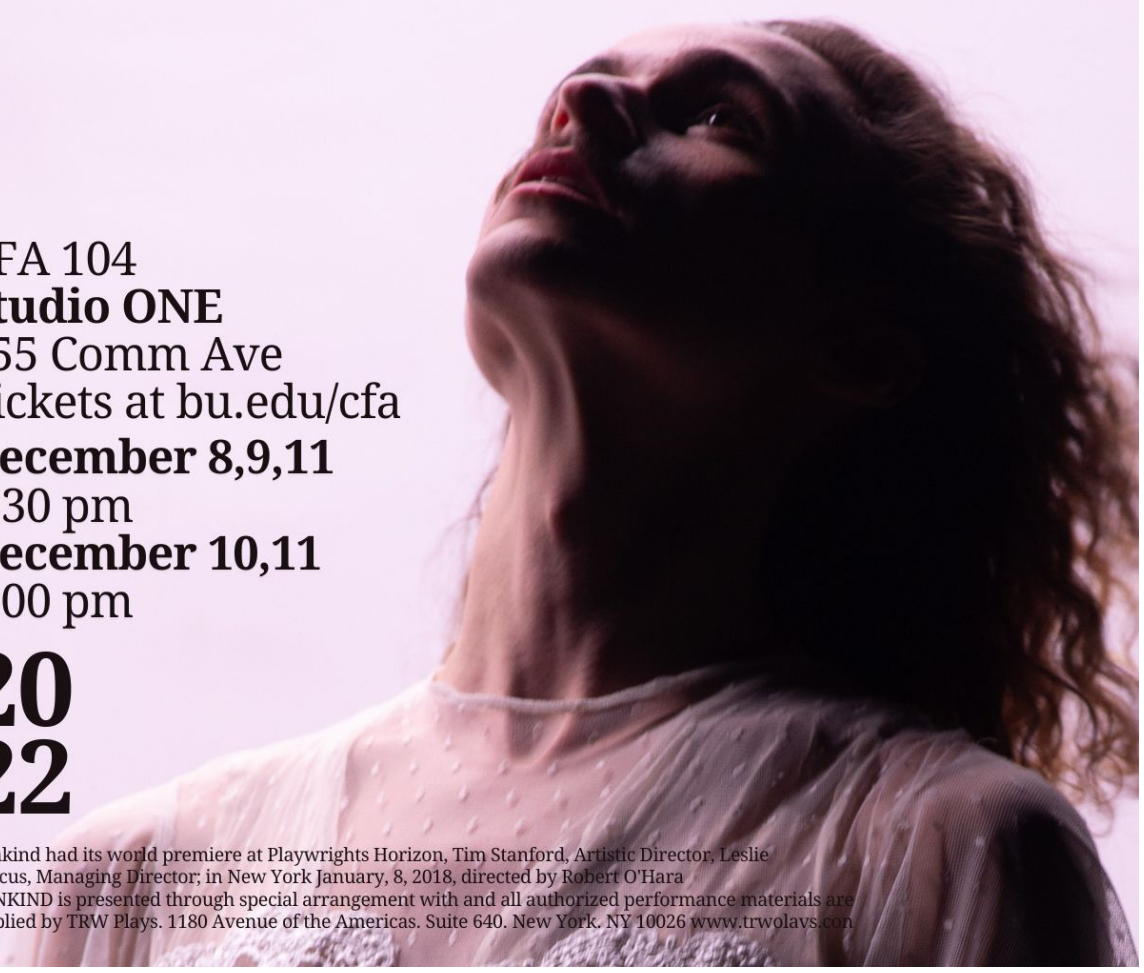
MANKIND

Written by **Robert O'Hara**
Directed by **Rani O'Brien**

CFA 104
Studio ONE
855 Comm Ave
Tickets at bu.edu/cfa
December 8,9,11
7:30 pm
December 10,11
2:00 pm

20
22

Mankind had its world premiere at Playwrights Horizon, Tim Stanford, Artistic Director, Leslie Marcus, Managing Director; in New York January, 8, 2018, directed by Robert O'Hara
MANKIND is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by TRW Plays. 1180 Avenue of the Americas. Suite 640. New York, NY 10026 www.trwolavs.com



Boston University School of Theatre Presents

MANKIND

Written by Robert O'Hara

Directed by Rani O'Brien

December 8-11, 2022

Studio ONE
855 Commonwealth Ave
College of Fine Arts
Boston University

Runtime: 1 hour and 50 minutes
(includes one 10-minute intermission)

Caution: This play includes blood, flashing lights, strobe lights, sounds of gunshots, bombs, and other loud noises

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

CORE COLLABORATORS

DIRECTOR

RANI O'BRIEN

SCENIC DESIGNER

STEVEN VELASQUEZ

COSTUME DESIGNER

DANTE GONZALEZ

LIGHTING DESIGNER

KEVIN FULTON

SOUND DESIGNER, COMPOSER, MUSIC DIRECTOR

MACKENZIE ADAMICK

PRODUCTION MANAGER

GRECIA HERNANDEZ-RAMIREZ

STAGE MANAGER

ASH STRANGE

ASSOCIATE COLLABORATORS

MOVEMENT & INTIMACY DIRECTOR

Yo-EL CASSELL

INTIMACY CAPTAIN

DANTE GONZALEZ

ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER

RIVER HAYES

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

MADDIE KOURY

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNERS

TESSA BARRY

JACKLYN CINNAMON

PAINT CHARGE

GUTHRIE MORGAN

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

GABY TOVAR

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

VALERIE ZHAO

PROPS ARTISTS

CLEO BROOKS & JALEN ZHOU

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER

KATIE CHEN

SOUND ENGINEER

SAM BLISS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

TESS EVANS-SHELL

ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

MATTHEW KADAM

MASTER ELECTRICIAN

ZACHARY CONNELL

ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN

VALERIE ZHAO

DRAPERS

SABER STETSON

ESTHER O'SHEA

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

IVY COMERY

LIGHTING PROGRAMMERS

DAVIN MARTIN

PRODUCTION CREW

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR

RUN CREW

RUN CREW

PHOTOGRAPHER

FRONT OF HOUSE

USHERS

WARDROBE HEAD

WARDROBE ASSISTANT

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

PENNEY PINETTE

CHARLOTTE COMPO

KENNEDY YOUNG

KATIE NELSON

ZACHARY KAUTTER

OLIVIA KELLY

CLAIRE MITCHELL

NATALIA MARTINEZ

TAYLOR NEEDLEMAN

LIV ANDERSON

CAMERON CARCASSON

CAST

ACTOR 1. JASON

KYLE SWEARINGEN

ACTOR 2. MARK

THOMAS BILOTTA

ACTOR 3. OBGYN, CO-HOST BOB, FEMINIST, ETC.

SAMUEL REGUEROS

ACTOR 4. DETECTIVE, CO-HOST *BOB*, CIVIL WRITER, ETC.

AND ACTOR 5 US

ERNESTO GARRIDO

ACTOR 5. WARDEN, MARK'S FATHER, FEMINIST, ETC. AND

MARK US

JULIEN TORNELLI

ACTOR 6. NOT MARK'S FATHER, JASON'S FATHER,

FEMINIST, ETC. AND ACTOR 3 US

TYLER STATKEVICUS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I saw the original production of *Mankind* at Playwrights Horizons and was pissed.

I had just watched a play in which seemingly none of the actors on stage had a uterus, and yet the play was about issues affecting women and trans folks. This made me deeply uncomfortable. Why weren't we a part of the conversation?

This **crime of the play** isn't far off from present reality: people who are most affected by an issue are often not in the room in which it is being addressed. To top it off, the play offered no answers in recompense.

Why were we being provoked like this?

Since when did I need a moral to allow a play to go down easily?

Wait... did I need a tidy thematic answer about love or justice to comfort myself at the end of a play?

As I walked down 42nd street away from the production, these questions stirred in my mind. Even the woman I met in the bathroom at Playwrights Horizons was not happy. This reminded me of my time at The Second City when my favorite satires were the ones that were so uncomfortable the audience *stopped* laughing. Rewind to a production I directed and led the writers' room for at The Second City. It was about the 2016 presidential candidates and told through song. Trump's song was not original material, but lines lifted from his speeches. Needless to say, the audience turned stone cold when they realized what was happening. The truth was disturbing.

Return to 2018, the morning after the production, still curious, I wrote to Robert O'Hara himself. What I learned helped crystalize what I previously could not put my finger on.

Robert has spoken about how the world is not a safe and comfortable place for him as a Black gay man, so why should he make the audience comfortable when they come to see his work? Robert O'Hara's "theatre of choke" doesn't go down easily. Because the truth doesn't go down easily. Ah ha! The uncomfortability of his work is what causes the evocation of deeper knowings, essentially the revelation of the truths of human existence.

The truth in our production may evoke catharsis or laughter or agitation, or any number of other uncomfortable responses. I welcome you to sit in the unknowing, the uncomfortable, the question, the curiosity, the fear, the desire, the anger, and allow whatever comes up to come up.

As Robert says, "Everyone is welcome and no one is safe,"

Rani O'Brien, Director

Rani O'Brien (DIRECTOR) is a third year MFA Directing Candidate interested in theatre that engenders critical conversations of our time. Rani directs, writes, teaches, and supports non-profit theatres. Rani has worked for Kansas City Repertory Theatre, The Second City, The Lark, Pacific Symphony, McCarter Theatre Center, The Vagrancy, How! Happening: an Arturo Vega Project, amongst others. **NYC Directing:** *Modern Chalk Circle, A Midsummer Night's DreamMachine, Disconnected Touch, Lights Out!, R&J workshop*, and readings/workshops. **Regional:** *Twelfth Night*, Associate Director, K.C. Rep; *Skylight*, SDC Observer, McCarter Theatre. **BU Directing:** *Hamlet, Constellations, Three Sisters* (upcoming). **Second City, LA, and Chicago Directing:** *Candidate Confessions: A 2016 Cabaret, Break In, Scifiology, Oh, The Magical Musical Places You Will Go!, The Big Funk, Les Misérables Jr*, and others. Rani produces new works and ensemble developed plays. SDC Associate. The Second City Directing program graduate. www.raniobrien.com

Robert O'Hara (PLAYWRIGHT) Robert O'Hara has received the NAACP Best Director Award, the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding New Play, 2 OBIE Awards and the Oppenheimer Award. He directed the World Premieres of Nikkole Salter and Dania Guiria's *In the Continuum*, Tarell McCraney's *The Brother/Sister Plays (Part 2)*, Colman Domingo's *Wild with Happy* as well as his own plays, *BootyCandy* and *Insurrection: Holding History*. His new plays *Zombie: The American* and *Barbecue* recently world premiered at Woolly Mammoth Theater and New York Shakespeare Festival, respectively. He has been an Artist in Residence at the American Conservatory Theater, New York Shakespeare Festival, Theater/Emory, and the Mellon Playwright in Residence at Woolly Mammoth as well as a Visiting Professor at DePaul University School of the Arts and Adjunct at NYU/Tisch School of the Arts. As a playwright, his work is produced all over the country and Mr. O'Hara has been commissioned by Playwrights Horizons, Steppenwolf, the Public Theatre, LaJolla Playhouse, McCarter Theater, Mark Taper Forum and Woolly Mammoth Theater. He is currently under commission from Lincoln Center and OSF. He has written screenplays for Martin Scorsese, Spike Lee, Jon Avnet, HBO, ABC, Universal Pictures, Sony Pictures, New Line/Fine Line Cinema and Artisan Entertainment. Mr. O'Hara has been awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship, a TCG Extended Collaboration Grant, NEA/TCG Fellowship, and was a Van Lier Fellow at New Dramatists. He received the LAMBDA Literary Award for best LGBT Drama, the Mark Taper Forum's first Sherwood Award and the TANNE Award for Exceptional Body of Work. He is currently directing a new musical, *UNI/SON* inspired from the poetry of August Wilson at OSF, a new musical, *BELLA* by Kirsten Childs at Playwrights Horizons and the Chicago premiere of *BOOTYCANDY*. He received his Directing MFA from Columbia University.

SPECIAL THANKS

Rebecca Abraham
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Levi Branson
Nelson T. Eusebio III
Peggy Firestone
Tolin FX
Miles Mandwell
Kim McNerney
Jeremy Meyers
Alexis Notabartolo
Robert O'Hara
Matthew Parker
Jim Petosa