



PRESENTS



STUDIO 101
1824 Spring Street

August 5 – 20, 2022

Twelve Angry Jurors

By Reginald Rose
Adapted by Sherman L. Sergel

CAST

Foreperson – Patrice McKinney

Juror Two – Hilary Unger

Juror Three – Jim Lawrence

Juror Four – Kenneth Royce Barrett

Juror Five – Noe Gonzalez

Juror Six – Sepi Zimmer

Juror Seven – Mark Gonzalez

Juror Eight – John Raley

Juror Nine – Joe Alexander

Juror Ten – Aditi Deal

Juror Eleven – Barbara Stalder

Juror Twelve – Natalia Cornelio

Guard – Matt Mendoza

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director – Christine Weems

Assistant Director – Whitney Zangarine

Lighting Design – Aaron Garrett

Set Construction – Christine Weems, Whitney

Zangarine, Barbara Stalder, Joe Alexander

Custom Props – S&D Custom Props & Costumes

SPECIAL THANKS

Stageworks Theatre, 4th Wall Theatre Company,
Sheila Skidmore, Ruth McCleskey, Autumn Clack,
Harris County Democratic Lawyers Association

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I teach a class in jury selection at the University of Houston Law Center and on the first day of class, we read this script out loud with each student playing a part. I start the semester with this show so that the students can think about the jurors' perspective and keep in mind what can happen in the jury room once the door is shut, how it is important to look at the different personalities on a jury panel, know who your leaders and followers are and know whether the leaders are going to be on your side.

Even though this is a fictionalized account of jury deliberations, I think *Twelve Angry Jurors* hits really close to home when it comes to what juries will do when they are left to their own devices. And make no mistake that when the jury door closes, they are left to their own devices. Imagine finally being able to talk about the case after being forced to sit through the presentations by both sides – often without the ability to question or comment. My experiences talking to jurors after my trials as a lawyer and as a judge have made it clear that after passively watching a trial, they can start the process with one decision and then, through the careful sifting of evidence and persuasion of others, they can change their mind. I have also learned that in pursuit of persuasion, jurors will occasionally stray outside the evidence, do their own reenactments and disregard the arguments of counsel to come to their own conclusions. As I have said many times in rehearsals, one of my worst nightmares as a trial lawyer is a jury unilaterally doing their own recreation of any part of a crime using their own approximations to come to a decision.

But these are the things that happen behind closed doors. We only know what juries do in the pursuit of justice if they choose to tell us and many times they do not. As imperfect of a system as it may be, I still stand by the notion that it is the best system there is to determine what is fair and what is just because it relies on the wisdom of everyday, uninvolved people.

I am so thrilled to be able to present this fantastic and thought-provoking play with this amazingly talented group of lawyers and judges. I am confident this play will give you a new perspective on our jury system and maybe make you a little less annoyed the next time you get a jury summons.

- Christine Weems 08/05/22



Joe Alexander (Juror Nine) is making his comeback to the community theater stage after a 14-year hiatus. His prior roles included Mr. Bucket (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), Benny Southstreet (*Guys and Dolls*) and Vince Fontaine (*Grease!*). His day gig is with The Alexander Firm where he practices personal injury and civil litigation and as a mediator. Joe wishes to thank his wife Marcia for her support in allowing him to play in this sandbox, his family, including his new grandbaby, Owen, for their encouragement, and the entire cast and crew for the opportunity to be a part of this show.

Kenneth Royce Barrett (Juror Four) is ecstatic to be performing in his first play since playing Hansel in 4th grade. He is very appreciative of the *12 Angry Jurors'* Director and Assistant Director for including me in this artistically challenging production, and for their patience and teaching. He is and will be forever grateful to his extraordinarily supportive family members - especially his Mother, wife and daughters - who, by exposing him to the art in all its forms, and "doing their artistic things" so brilliantly, have unwittingly inspired him to use his right brain. His most recent acting credit was the role of Mr. Jewel in the 2021 film *Acid Test*. He is a graduate of the Film Production program at the Vancouver Film School where he focused on screenwriting and direction.



Natalia Cornelio (Nata) (Juror Twelve) is currently judge of the 351st District Court serving all of Harris County. She is excited to be part of bringing the story of the magic of juror deliberations to this amazing theater near you. She thanks every one of you reading this who have shown up for jury service! Previous acting experience includes a small part in the music video for Serengeti's song, "puppy dog love." She was also previously the drummer in local sensation music groups "brown velvet" and "ornaments". ;)

Aditi Deal (Juror Ten) is a first-year attorney at Locke Lord, having graduated from the University of Houston Law Center last year, where she was a member of the Mock Trial team. She made her acting debut in Cone Man Running's *Smattering* last fall, and is thrilled to be back on the stage. Away from the stage, you can find her playing with her new puppy or eating her body weight in sushi. Many thanks to Judge Weems for this opportunity, to Whitney for her



encouragement and dedication, to my amazing colleagues for their talent and commitment to this performance, and to my friends and family for their support.



Mark Gonzalez (Juror Seven) is delighted to be performing once again with Cone Man Running. When he was 6 years old, Mark decided he wanted to become an attorney after watching the 1997 comedy *Liar Liar* featuring Jim Carrey's ridiculous facial expressions and silly jokes. Many years and mock trials later, Mark became an attorney. "It's nothing like the movie, and I'm no Jim Carrey," says Mark. Still, the legal profession rewards Mark's passions for performance and justice whenever he advocates for clients in court. Mark always looks forward to the challenges of performing outside the courtroom, and he appreciates the encouragement of his wife Janan. Said Janan, "Mark is an excellent yodeler."

Noe A. Gonzalez (Juror Five) is an associate trial attorney at Hinojosa Law, PLLC. His practice focuses on personal injury and civil litigation disputes across Texas. Noe grew up around the legal profession and has always enjoyed helping those in need. This is his first play since he was an undergraduate at the University of Texas and he is proud to share the stage with such accomplished individuals for this important production. Noe would like to thank his parents, his brothers, the Dramaticats, and all his closest friends and colleagues for helping him get to this level. That's all – lawyers can't think of everything!



Jim Lawrence (Juror Three) is grateful for the opportunity to return to the stage after 10+ years of on-camera work. Jim has performed in Houston-area venues such as the original Stages (downtown), Stages (on Allen Parkway), Main Street Theatre, The Little Room Downstairs, Unhinged Productions, Unity Theatre, Interactive Theatre, and Hope Stone Dance. Thank you, Susan Blair for encouraging, and supporting, my passion to return to the stage. And thank you Christine and Whitney for this incredible opportunity!



Patrice Baumann McKinney (Foreperson) is thrilled to be back on stage in a Cone Man Running production. She wants to thank Director Weems for the opportunity to appear on a stage other than the imaginary one in her head. Patrice has previously appeared in *Inherit the Wind* as Mrs. Sarah Brady; and in *Night Court*, an all lawyer musical production, in a number of roles, but her favorites were as a file box, Glenda the Good Witch, Lady Gaga, Dolly Parton, and Baby Bop. During the pandemic, she appeared virtually as RBG (Ruth Bader Ginsburg), Suffragette Carrie Chapman Catt, and Kellyanne Conway. By day, she is an attorney with the Lanier Law Firm.

Matt Mendoza (Guard) is a Houston personal injury attorney who has acted as Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz*, Judge Danforth in *The Crucible*, and a townspeople (and Monkey Man) in *Inherit the Wind*. Matt would like to thank his beautiful wife Amanda Markham for her support.



John Raley (Juror Eight) is a civil trial lawyer with Raley & Bowick, L.L.P. John fought pro bono seven years to free Michael Morton, an innocent man serving a life sentence for murder. The Morton case changed Texas law, requiring prosecutors to disclose their investigation files. The most recent documentary about the case is "Detective Diaries - Guilty Until Proven Innocent" on Apple TV. John's legal work has led to the exonerations of five wrongfully convicted people, who combined spent 97 years in prison. In light of his service, John was named "Houstonian of the Year" by the Houston Chronicle, presented with HCDLA's "Clarence Darrow Award," and selected to receive the Brazos County Bar's "Atticus Finch Award." John thanks his wife, Kelly, for her constant love and unrelenting support.

Barbara Stalder (Juror Eleven) is a lawyer and judge in Harris County, Texas. She is making her acting debut in *12 Angry Jurors*. She wishes to thank Cone Man Running, Christine Weems, and Whitney Zangarine for this amazing opportunity along with heartfelt thanks to her fellow castmates in showing her the ropes. In her spare time Barbara is involved in animal rescue and loves watching her favorite NFL team, the Kansas City Chiefs. Barbara



also wishes to thank her husband Fred for his amazing support and assistance in helping her learn her lines for her very first play. Many thanks to the friends and family who have come out to support local theater and Barbara's debut.



Hilary Unger (Juror Two) came to Houston from Miami Beach by way of New York. While in New York, she dabbled in screenwriting and earlier in the century was pleasantly surprised to learn that one of her screenplays actually made it to the quarter finals of the Austin Film Festival. Her prior acting experience consists of poorly attended comedy open mic nights and starring as a flying monkey in her elementary school's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Hilary is the mother of two, a member of Houston's legal community, and is excited to make her formal acting debut as juror #2.

Sepi Zimmer (Juror Six) never had the courage to participate in theatre or public speaking, but upon discovering Mock Trial in law school, found that she was the best version of herself when in a courtroom, and fell in love with the art of advocacy. Off stage, Sepi has devoted her professional career to seeking justice as an Assistant District Attorney, and teaching advocacy as an Adjunct Law Professor and a mock trial coach at UHLC. Sepi accredits all her accomplishments to her family, friends and mentors for their support and patience, and for always seeing a version of Sepi that she strives to be.



Christine Weems (Director) is a founding board member of Cone Man Running Productions as well as the artistic director of their Smattering/Scattering 24 hour play series. In COVID times, she directed the zoom productions of Cone Man's first *Caper Murder on the Deep Blue Sea (It's Really More of a Bay)* as well *Clue* as well as founded an audio play podcast she co-hosts called *War of the Words: An Audioplay Bracket Battle*. She is a crazy sports fan (Longhorn football, Astros baseball and Rockets basketball), an often director, an occasional playwright, a seldom actor, a photographer, judge, mock trial director, law school professor, wife, mommy and an extra in *Office Space*. Much thanks to the men in her life who make everything she does possible - Michael, Tommy, Jack and Sammy.

Whitney Zangarine (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be making her Cone Man Running directing debut! Whitney is a Houston-area actor and has performed in numerous productions around town, including appearances with The Alley Theatre, Main Street Theatre for Youth, the Ensemble Theatre, Mildred's Umbrella, and more. In addition to acting, she is currently seeking certification as a Stage Intimacy Director. Away from the stage, you can find her around a board game table or D&D session. Many thanks to Christine for this opportunity to play a new sort of role, and to these fearless actors for their commitment to such a daunting piece with their enthusiasm and talent!

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After making the very difficult decision to close our theatre doors for over a year, Cone Man Running Productions is back! We are excited to be returning to the stage and have been so elated that we were able to survive the pandemic and maintain our home at Spring Street Studios. It would not have been possible without grants from the Small Business Administration and the Houston Arts Alliance as well as the support of so many individuals who graciously helped us by donating and supporting Cone Man Running. We would like to thank the following people for their contributions to and support of our theatre company in the past two years since March 2020 when the pandemic started and we were forced to close our physical theater doors:

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