tasty little rabbit

A TRUE STORY

Written by
Tom Jacobson

Directed by
George Bamber

Starring
Robert Mammana
Rob Nagle
Massi Pregoni

PHOTOGRAPHY & GRAPHIC DESIGN
Philip Pirolo

EXEUNT PRODUCTIONS & BINC present

tasty little rabbit

BY TOM JACOBSON

STARRING

robert mammana rob nagle massi pregoni

SCENIC DESIGNER
mark mendelson

LIGHTING DESIGNER
dan weingarten

SOUND DESIGNER
john zalewski

COSTUME DESIGNER
garry lennon

PROJECTION DESIGNER
nicholas santiago

PROP MASTER
jenine macdonald

STAGE MANAGER
mara aguilar

PHOTOGRAPHY & GRAPHICS
philip pirolo

CASTING
michael donovan csa

DIRECTOR
george bamber

TIME / PLACE taormina, sicily, 1936 and 1897

THE PERFORMANCE IS 90 MINUTES WITH NO INTERMISSION

CREATIVE TEAM

CAST OF CHARACTERS

cesare acrosso / wilhelm von gloden - robert mammana

francesco maffiotti / sebastian melmoth - rob nagle

pancrazio buciuni at 57/ pancrazio at 18 - massi pregoni

PRODUCTION TEAM

playwright.....tom jacobson
director.....george bamber
scenic designer.....mark mendelson
lighting designer.....dan weingarten
sound designer.....john zalewski
costume designer.....garry lennon
projection designer.....nicholas santiago
prop master.....jenine macdonald
photography & graphics.....philip pirolo
stage manager.....mara aguilar
carpenter.....bill voorhees
scenic painter.....angelene storey
technical crew.....choloe verbestel
house manager.....ethan abrams

tastsy little rabbit is made possible by generous gifts from melody kanschat, diane naegele, reverend robert sterling richards, patricia serenbetz, john storr, elaine kramer, al latham and marilyn flynn.

GLOSSARY

COSA NOSTRA is the traditional name for the Sicilian Mafia, one of the most infamous and powerful organized crime syndicates in the world. After the unification of Italy (1861), the central government was weak in the south. Local landowners turned to private enforcers to protect their property and settle disputes—these enforcers evolved into Mafia clans.

UMIRTA is a Southern Italian term that refers to a code of silence and loyalty, especially amoung members of the Mafia. It is a vow to never cooperate with authorities or outsiders -- no snitching, no talking, no betraying the family.

URANIAN WRITERS in the 19th century were part of a loosely connected group of mostly English male poets and intellectuals who celebrated male love, particularly ephebic (youthful) male beauty, in a highly idealized, often Hellenistic way. The term "Uranian" itself comes from a classification made by Karl Heinrich Ulrichs in the 1860s, who used Urning (based on Aphrodite Urania, the "heavenly" love goddess) to describe men who were attracted to other men—associating them with a nobler, purer form of love. These writers were working during a time when homosexuality was criminalized, so their writing was often coded or symbolic.

1936 SICILY found itself under the tightening grip of Mussolini's Fascist regime, which sought to impose strict censorship and control over the island's cultural and social life. The government orchestrated a campaign to suppress dissenting voices and promote a singular, nationalistic narrative that glorified Fascist ideals. This effort extended to the arts, literature, and journalism, as authorities monitored and restricted any expression that could be deemed contrary to the regime's propaganda. Writers and intellectuals faced imprisonment or exile if their works challenged the status quo, leading to a climate of fear that stifled creativity and free thought. Moreover, the regime's focus on promoting a homogenous Italian identity often marginalized Sicily's unique cultural heritage and historical complexities, further alienating the island from its rich traditions.

1897 TAORMINA, a picturesque town perched on the cliffs of eastern Sicily, was a vibrant hub for artists and intellectuals, particularly attracting the Uranian poets and photographers like Wilhelm von Gloeden. This group of poets and writers, who sought to express their aesthetic and emotional experiences outside the bounds of conventional society, found in Taormina not only a stunning backdrop but also a sanctuary for their artistic expression. The town's ancient ruins, lush gardens, and breathtaking views of Mount Etna provided an inspiring setting for creative collaboration and exploration of themes such as love, longing, and the pursuit of beauty, making Taormina a significant cultural crossroads at the turn of the century. Through this confluence of art and nature, Taormina emerged as a symbol of both the aesthetic movement and the burgeoning discourse on sexuality in late 19th-century Europe.

BIOS

CAST

Robert Mammana (Cesare Acrosso / Wilhelm Von Gloeden) is honored to be working again with the incredible Tom Jacobson and with such an incredible group of actors and designers. BROADWAY: *Les Miserables*, NATIONAL TOURS: *Show Boat, Les Miserables, The Sound of Music*, OFF-B'WAY: *The Twentieth-Century Way*, REGIONAL: Geffen Playhouse *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Pasadena Playhouse *The Father, Casa Valentina, Sleepless in Seattle*, South Coast Repertory *Sweeney Todd, Cloudlands*, Denver Center *The Constant Wife*, Pioneer Theatre Company *Prayer for the French Republic, Mary Stuart*, Portland Center Stage *Fun Home, Ragtime, Guys and Dolls*, Alliance *Beast on the Moon*. TV: Guest starring roles on *The Office* as Sweeney Todd, *Frasier*, *NCIS*, *CSI*, *The Good Wife*, *How To Get Away With Murder*, *CSI:NY*, *Days of Our Lives, Elementary*, *Wizards of Waverley Place*, *The Young and the Restless*, FILM: *Baby Money*, *Just Say Love*, *Flightplan*. AWARDS: 2-time LA Drama Critics Award winner, LA Weekly Theatre Award winner. NOMINATIONS: 3 LA Ovations, 3 LA Drama Critics, 2 Chicago Joseph Jefferson, Helen Hays. Robert graduated from the University of Arizona (Cum Laude and Fine Arts Creative Achievement Award recipient).

Rob Nagle (Francesco Maffiotti / Sebastian Melmoth) began his career in Chicago, before years in New York & Washington, DC. His Los Angeles theater credits include work with Antaeus Theatre Company, Boston Court Pasadena, Fountain Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Road Theatre Company, Rogue Machine Theatre, Skylight Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, Mark Taper Forum, Troubadour Theater. Regional work at Centerstage, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, The Old Globe, Portland Center Stage, Shakespeare Theatre Company. Film credits include: *Alien Vacation, The Wolf and the Lamb, Missing Rhythms, Paper Marriage*, *Sisters, Blonde, Bad Samaritan, New Year's Eve*. Television credits include: *Good American Family, Suits LA, Good Trouble, NCIS: Los Angeles, Batwoman, Dynasty, Modern Family, Grey's Anatomy*. Training: Northwestern University. Spouse: Heather Allyn. Pug: Houston. @nagdoggie www.robnagle.com

Massi Pregoni (Pancrazio Buciuni age 57 / Pancrazio Buciuini age 18) is Trilingual in English, Italian, and Spanish. He recently starred in the crime thriller *Guns and Moses*, opposite Dermot Mulroney, Neil McDonough, Christopher Lloyd, Mark Feuerstein and Jake Busey. Massi just wrapped leading alongside Sean Gunn in the dark comedy *Appofeniacs*, directed by MTV Video Music Award winner Chris Marrs Piliero. He also guest starred in Ep 5 of NCIS's newest

season, 21, directed by Lionel Coleman. At the Odyssey Theatre, Massi appeared in Greg Burdick's *Accommodation* – "Breakout Performance in a Play" award from Stage Scene LA. Massi voiced, in both English and Italian, a role for Guillermo del Toro's Academy Award-winning animated film Pinocchio. Massi gained global attention starring in David Leitch's 2023 worldwide trailer for *Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare III* and in Melina Matsouka's Amazon campaign The Climate Pledge, both amassing over 200 million views. His commercial work combined has garnered a total of over 700 million views. A dual citizen of the US and Italy, Massi is based in Los Angeles and shares his time between LA and Rome, and wherever else his talents take him. Instagram/TikTok 400,000+ followers @Dontpanicmassi. Repped by Endorse Management Group.

BARON VON GLOEDEN'S VILLA/PHOTO STUDIO

PRODUCTION TEAM

Tom Jacobson (Playwright) received the 2024 Ted Schmitt Award from Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle and a Stage Raw Award for Playwriting for *Crevasse*. Off Broadway: *The Twentieth-Century Way*, Rattlestick Playwrights Theatre and Boston Court Pasadena. Los Angeles: *Plunge* and *Crevasse* at Son of Semele, *Tar* and *The Orange Grove* at Playwrights Arena, *Mexican Day* at Rogue Machine, *Bunbury, Tainted Blood, Ouroboros* and *The Friendly Hour* at The Road, *Cyberqueer* at Celebration, *Making Paradise* at Cornerstone, *Sperm* and *The Chinese Massacre (Annotated)* at Circle X, *House of the Rising Son* at Ensemble Studio Theatre-LA,*Diet of Worms* at Chalk Rep, *The Devil's Wife* at Skylight, *Walking to Buchenwald* and *The Bauhaus Project* at Open Fist. Film: *Prairie Sonata*. Opera: *Hopscotch*. Next up: *The Bear Republic* at Open Fist *and Mrs Christmas* at Signal Hill Productions.

George Bamber (Director) most recently worked on the Broadway production of *A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens*, the Disney+ TV series The Crossover, and the feature film Eenie Meanie. He has directed for stage, screen, and music, with his hallmark being smart story-driven content. Additional credits include the stage premieres of *Gay Face* and *Big Money* at Hollywood Fringe Festival, Paramount+ films Pet Sematary 2023 & Zoey 102. George's directorial debut, The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green, premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival and was sold in a bidding war two hours after its first screening. He has followed with directing films, episodes and second units for 20th Century Television, Sony, YouTube, CBS and BET.

Mark Mendelson (Scenic Designer) Recent designs include the premier productions of *Corktown '39*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, and *can i touch it?* (Rogue Machine), Sukkot (directed by Joel Zwick), *A Beautiful Lie* (directed and choreographed by Jamal Sims), *The Civility of Albert Cashier* (Colony Theater), and *Peg + Cat Live!* (PBS Kids/Bay Area Children's Theatre). Other designs include *Lines In The Dust* (Collaborative Artists' Bloc/Support Black Theatre), *End of the Rainbow* (OMG Productions), and *Aerwacol* (U.S. Premiere); as well as projects for Mattel and Disney Imagineering. His work has also been seen at Rubicon Theatre Co, La Mirada Theater, Pacific Symphony, Broadway by the Bay, Berkeley Playhouse, Diablo Theatre Co, 42nd Street Moon, and many more.

Dan Weingarten (Lighting Designer) Credits include: Rogue Machine's *Corktown '39*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing, Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Gruesome Playground Injuries, Monkey Adored, The Word Begins, I Wish I Had a Sylvia Plath, The Sunset Limited and Compleat Female Stage Beauty. Smile, UBP* and *Found* for IAMA. 24th St. Theater's *Rapunzel Alone, ICE* and *Walking the Tightrope,* East West Player's *Chess, A Little Night Music, Pippin* and *Wrinkles*. Bootleg's *Stranger*, The Santa Barbara Theater's *Doubt*, The Ebony Repertory Companies' *Five Guys Named Moe, Paul Robeson, Two Trains Running* and the Echo Theater Companies *Wirehead*. Actors Gang's *Heart of Darkness.* Recipient of the LA Drama Critic's Circle Angstrom Award, the LA Weekly Award, the Garland Award and the Dramalogue Award. Faculty at California State University at Northridge, received his MFA from California Institute of the Arts.

BARON WILHELM VON GLOEDEN

John Zalewski (Sound Designer) is a performance and theatrical sound designer and composer active in the Los Angeles theater community and nationally since the late 1990s. He has collaborated with such local stalwarts as Latino Theater Company, Evidence Room, Actors' Gang, Boston Court, Playwrights Arena, Padua Playwrights, East West Players, Lewis Family Playhouse, to state a few. Off-Broadway: *Everything You Touch* and *Mayakovsky and Stalin* at Cherry Lane, *AZAK* at Rattlestick Playwrights. He developed the immersive performance *The Day Shall Declare It*, with Wilderness in London and Los Angeles (Ovation Award for Sound, 2015). Regional work includes Humana Festival At the Vanishing Point, Oregon Shakespeare Festival *Destiny of Desire*; *Macbeth* , Goodman Theatre *Destiny of Desire*, Cincinnati Playhouse, Alliance Theater, Portland Center Stage. Arts venues include Redcat, PS122, Walker Arts, Venice Biennale. He has taught and frequently designs at Occidental College. Awards include nine Ovation Awards, seven L.A. Weekly Awards; five L.A. Drama Critics Circle Awards; Theater Bites; Stage Raw Award 2024 for *A Body's Midnight*, Boston Court, and a special Technical Design Award from LADCC, 2025. He recently received 2024 Career Achievement Award from Los Angeles Theater Critics Circle.Currently: *The Last Play by Rickerby Hinds* at LATC and *The (Un)Double* with The Useless Room to premiere at Venice Biennale in June 2025.

Garry Lennon (Costume Designer) is excited to be working on *Tasty Little Rabbit*. Recent work includes *Into the Burrow* and *Dr Desoto* at the Alliance Theatre, *The Ally* at Mixed Blood in Minneapolis and *The Skin of our Teeth* at A Noise Within in Pasadena. Other work includes *MacBeth, Richard III, A Winter's Tale* among others for Independent Shakespeare in Los Angeles. Plus, he has designed multiple productions at A Noise Within including *Metamorphosis, A Winter's Tale* and *Frankenstein*. He has also worked for Cornerstone Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, The Geffen Playhouse and Trinity Repertory, to name a few. Garry is the Costume Design professor at California State University, Northridge.

Nicholas Santiago (Projection Designer) has worked for numerous theatre companies around Los Angeles including the Mark Taper Forum This Bright Wilderness, the Pasadena Playhouse *Ham*, LA LGBT Center *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life Revisited*, *The Bottoming Process*, A Noise Within *Book of Will, Animal Farm*, LATC *Mix-Mix*, Chance Theatre *Ride the Cyclone*, *American Idiot*, Azusa Pacific University *Murder on the Orient Express, Silent Sky*, Antaeus *She*, Rogue Machine *A Permanent Image*, and The Fountain Theatre *Arrival & Departure*, *The Cost of Living*. He has received including a LA Drama Critic's Circle award for his work on Rogue Machine's *A Permanent Image,* an Ovation Award win for his work on The Fountain Theatre's production of *The Cost of Living*, and an OCTG and Stage Raw Award for his productions of American *Idiot* and *Ride the Cyclone* at The Chance Theatre. www.nsantiagodesign.com

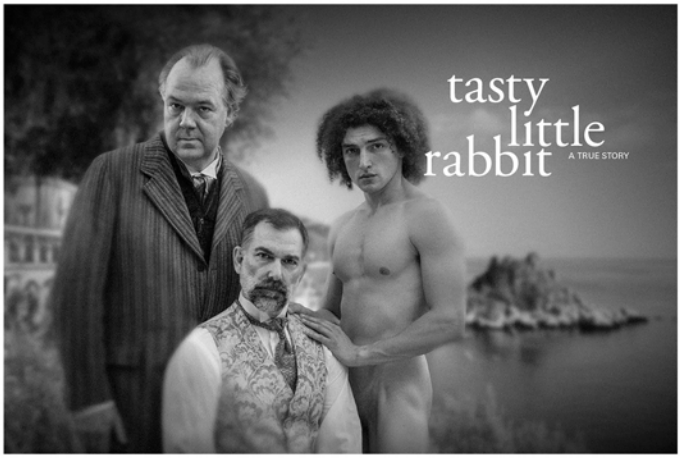
MOUNT ETNA

Jenine MacDonald (Prop Master) Local productions include: *Alabaster, I Daniel Blake*, and *Fatherland* at Fountain Theatre; *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing* and *A Great Wilderness* at Rogue Machine; *Oedipus* at Getty Villa; *Stalin's Master Class, Birds of North America, Picnic, Remembering the Future, God of Carnage, A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney, Paradise, The Death and Life of Mary Jo Kopechne*, and *Beckett5* at Odyssey Theatre; *Into the Woods* and *A Little Night Music* at Greenway Court Theatre; *Singing Revolution* at Broadwater Theater; *Salvage* at Hudson Theatres and Lounge Theatre. Jenine has twice been honored with a StageSceneLA Scenie Award for Outstanding Properties Design.

Mara Aguilar (Stage Manager) I am so happy and thankful for your support of this live theater production. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful cast and crew—this has truly been a memorable experience. Previous works include *Alice in Wonderland: A Follow the White Rabbit Musical Adventure*, which premiered in April 2024 by Brooke DeRosa, as well as the *French Opera Dialogues of the Carmelites* by Francis Poulenc, and the German opera *Daphne* by Richard Strauss, both with Independent Opera Company (IOC). If you'd like to see more of my past, present, and future adventures, feel free to follow me on Instagram: @maramargarita13.

Michael Donovan (Casting Director) Michael is the recipient of 10 Artios awards, presented by the Casting Society of America for Outstanding Achievement in casting. Richie Ferris has 4 Artios awards. The company has cast more than 1,000 shows produced at such venues as the Ahmanson Theatre, the Hollywood Bowl, Pasadena Playhouse, the Kirk Douglas Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, International City Theatre, Ebony Repertory Theatre, the Soraya Performing Arts Center, Ensemble Theatre Company in Santa Barbara, both the Palazzo and Paris in Las Vegas, Arizona Theatre Company, and many more – as well as several national tours, numerous films, TV series and commercials. Michael is the President of the Board for the Foundation for New American Musicals, and also serves on the board for Camp Bravo.

Philip Pirolo (Photography & Graphics) is a Los Angeles artist and award-winning photographer who exhibits internationally. He holds Music Composition and Humanities degrees from the University of Southern California and a Fine Arts degree from Art Center, Pasadena. Through photography, sculpture and painting, Pirolo explores issues of sexual identity, social norms and ways in which surface, beauty and form become potent metaphors for control, desire and loss. Pirolo uses the body and elements of nature as instruments of formal expression and seduction to articulate not only our fragile and temporal existence, but also the visceral nature of being.
@philippirolo



SPECIAL THANKS

csun, darin anthony, fondazione alinari per la fotografia, raffaella perna, rogue machine theatre and the buckley school

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reflections on art and democracy

Reflections on Art and Democracy is a celebration of plays and lectures in Los Angeles aimed at raising awareness about the rise of fascism, racism and antisemitism, the power of art and design to resist them and the confluence of visual and performative artworks to promote democracy. Participants include Los Angeles performing arts and cultural organizations presenting events between March and November to advance art and performance as a platform to confront fascism, racism, antisemitism, and other forces threatening democracy.

APRIL 18 - MAY 25
The Totality of All Things - The Road Theatre Company

APRIL 24 - JUNE 14
Hide & Hide - Skylight Theatre Company

SUMMER 2025
The Bear Republic - Open Fist Theatre Company