

A colorful, stylized graphic of a city skyline with various skyscrapers in shades of blue, green, and purple, set against a background of colorful splatters and paint strokes.

# Ensemble Theatre

*Great Scripts. Cleveland Artists*

:: **Lucia Colombi**, Founder :: **Celeste Cosentino**, Executive Artistic Director ::

# Describe the Night

by Rajiv Joseph



**OCT 28 - NOV 13**

**Ensemble Theatre** :: **2022-2023** Season::

Performing Arts Center-Notre Dame College  
4545 College Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121

**216.321.2930**

**[www.ensembletheatrecl.org](http://www.ensembletheatrecl.org)**

# *A Message from the Artistic Director/Director*

Dear Friends,

What a journey the last few years have been. Navigating a pandemic and a move from a space we used for almost a decade. We are so thankful for our new partners at Notre Dame College. We are so excited to become a part of the Performing Arts Family here in South Euclid. Both my mother and I graduated from Regina (which is now part of the college). How wonderful it is to return to where alot of this journey began for me! My office is in my old highschool, and what an honor to help young artists like myself as they navigate the beginings of a journey I started so many years ago.

Thank you for joining us for the second production in our new home at Notre Dame College. The art of storytelling, how we frame narratives, legacy, history, and the reshaping “truths” are all at the heart of this play. Is history destined to repeat itself? This bold new play by one of my favorite playwrights navigates some of these monumental questions. What are the meaning of words and how do we use them in all of our lives. At the heart of each story is a message we hope to convey to our communities. Do we use them to soothe, to startle, to inspire, to defeat? Although this play has historical elements, it is a story about people navigating the same things that we are. The journey of myth, love, loss, power, pain, purpose and what kind of world we might leave behind when we are gone. What legacy do we each leave for those who come after us, whether it reflects personal interactions, or global relations. These are just some of the questions this story raises for me. I hope it raises some questions for you as well. Those, for me, are the best kind of stories to tell. Enjoy the show!

Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director

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:: Lucia Colombi, Founder :: Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director ::  
Presents

# Describe The Night

By **Rajiv Joseph**

**Director** :: Celeste Cosentino **Set/Light/Projection Design** :: Ian Hinz  
**Costume Design** :: Kelsey Tomlinson **Intimacy Director** :: Julia Fisher  
**Prod. Stage Manager/Props/Scenic Painting** :: Becca Moseley  
**Scenic Carpenters** :: August Scarpelli & Sam Landgraf  
**Sound** :: Becca Moseley & Celeste Cosentino **Dramaturg** :: Tyler Whidden

## :: The Cast ::

**Joe Pine** as Issac :: **David Vegh\*** as Nikolai :: **Laura Perrotta Ford\*** as Yegenia  
**Aaron Elersich** as Vova :: **Katie Wells** as Urzula :: **Kyle Huff** as Feliks  
**Laura Rauh** as Mariya/Mrs. Petrovna

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association

## Please Note:

This production contains **strong language** and **themes**.

:: **Act One:** 1 hr 10 min :: **10 min. Intermission** :: **Act Two:** 1 hr

**Scene 1:** Lies -1920-Polish Country Side :: **Scene 2:** Car Rental-2010- Smolensk

**Scene 3:** Fate-1937-Moscow :: **Scene 4:** Bureau 42-1989-Moscow

**Scene 5:** Blood-1989-Dresden

-INTERMISSION-

**Scene 6:** State Approved Nostalgia-1940-Moscow :: **Scene 7:** Escape-1940-Moscow

**Scene 8:** Glasnost-1989-Moscow :: **Scene 9:** Freedom-1989-Dresden

**Scene 10:** More Lies-1940-Moscow :: **Scene 11:** Silence-2010-Moscow

**Scene 12:** Laundry-2010-Moscow

DESCRIBE THE NIGHT was first presented in 2014 in a student production at New York University's Graduate Acting Program (Mark Wing-Davey, Chair)

DESCRIBE THE NIGHT was developed at TheatreWorks, Palo Alto, CA,  
as part of their New Works Festival

The world premiere of DESCRIBE THE NIGHT was commissioned and produced by the Alley Theatre (Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director; Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director)

“DESCRIBE THE NIGHT” is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com)).

# Who's who in the Cast:



**Joe Pine** (Isaac) (he/him) is so happy to return to Ensemble for the second time, last seen as John (The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail). Joe is a company member and former actor/manager with the Ohio Shakespeare Festival where recent credits include Chris (All My Sons), Prince Christopher (Cinderella), Rocky (Rocky Horror Show), Jonathan (Dracula), Romeo (Romeo and Juliet), Feaste (Twelfth Night), Athos (The Three Musketeers) and Prince William (King Charles III). Joe also wrote stage adaptations of The Three Musketeers, Dracula and Frankenstein (co-written with wife Sarah Pine) all of which were produced by Ohio Shakes. Joe Has performed at Dobama Theatre, and with the Seven Stages Shakespeare Company in New Hampshire and NYC. All the moods and tenses...



**David Vegh\*** (Nikolai) (he/im) is very excited to be returning to Ensemble, where he previously performed in another Rajiv Joseph play, THE NORTH POOL, as well as Jez Butterworth's JERUSALEM. Locally, he has performed in THESE MORTAL HOSTS at None Too Fragile and ON THE GRILL at Dobama. His recent film and TV work includes the Netflix film SHIRLEY (opposite Academy Award-winner Regina King), the Paramount+ series MAYOR OF KINGSTOWN, and the LeBron James biopic SHOOTING STARS for Peacock. Additional film and TV credits include Steven Spielberg's SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (opposite Tom Hanks), GREY'S ANATOMY (pilot episode), DEXTER, and MANHUNT: DEADLY GAMES (Netflix). Thank you to Celeste and Rajiv for making this possible, and a very special thank you to Erica for her off-the-charts levels of continual humor, love and support! \*Member of Actors' Equity Association



**Laura Perrotta\*** (Yevgenia) (she/her) is thrilled to return to Ensemble. Her last show before the pandemic was as Evelyn in "KINDERTRANSPORT" at Ensemble. A native New Yorker, she's lived and performed regionally and throughout the Cleveland area. Favorite roles include Arkadina in "The Seagull", Kate in "The Taming of the Shrew", Lady M in "Macbeth", Mrs Cheveley in "An Ideal Husband", Elizabeth Proctor in "The Crucible", Emma in "Stupid F\*\*\*ing Bird" and Amanda Prynn in "Private Lives". During the pandemic she wrote and performed her own piece in the Cleveland Play House's virtual series, Theater Thursday, and zoom workshoped "Lake Erie Oubliette" by Chelsea Mercantel. She's a certified actor and teacher of the Michael Chekhov technique, and volunteers as an end of life doula at Hospice of the Western Reserve. \*Member of Actors' Equity Association



**Aaron Elersich** (Vova) (he/him) returns to Ensemble in it's new home with joy and gratitude. Past Ensemble credits include: The Great Gatsby (Tom Buchanan) , Prelude to a Kiss (Peter), and The Iceman Cometh (Chuck Morello). Aaron sends love always to his family, friends, and collaborators, with special thanks and apologies (tech week is long) to Carrie, Lon and Cat.e is thrilled to be working with the company.



**Katie Wells** (Urzula) (she/her)- is thrilled to be back on stage at Ensemble where she was last seen as the the Rose and the Snake in The Little Prince. After attending CSU she has been acting professionally on stages and screens throughout OH and NY for the last 10 years. Favorite NEO theatres she has worked with include: Cleveland Public Theatre, Cleveland Shakespeare Festival, Blank Canvas Theatre, French Creek, Ohio Shakespeare Festival, None Too Fragile, Rubber City Theatre, The Illusion Factory Children's Theatre, Magical Theatre Co., and Avenue Arts Theatre in Canton to name a few. She is a proud Actors' Equity Membership Candidate. She is also an award winning costume designer, award nominated director and devoted theatre educator. She would like to thank Celeste for this wonderful opportunity. Thank you for supporting local theatre!



**Kyle Huff** (Feliks) (he/him) is grateful to be back on stage after a long creative hiatus. Kyle was in the Greater Cleveland theatre scene for a hot minute - you've probably seen him in one thing or another. Kyle's wants to thank Celeste and Ensemble for the opportunity. A special thanks to Becca, his folks, Brian, Ahmed, and everyone else for helping him keep it simple.



**Laura Rauh** (Mariya/Mrs. Petrovna) (she/her) is very happy to be returning to the Ensemble stage after last performing with them as Maureen in Rajiv Joseph's "All This Intimacy". Ironically, her next role was as a real-life Mom. She has also played in many wonderful Cleveland and Chicago stage and screen productions, including King Henry VIII, The Maids, No Exit, & Miracle on 34th Street. Studies include Second City, Cleveland Play House, and Steppenwolf Theatre, with a BFA from Ohio University. She is very grateful to Ensemble Theatre and her wonderful family for support.

## Meet The Playwright



**Rajiv Joseph's** play *Bengal Tiger* at the Baghdad Zoo was a 2010 Pulitzer Prize finalist for Drama and also awarded a grant for Outstanding New American Play by the National Endowment for the Arts. He has twice won the Obie Award for Best New American Play, first in 2016 with *Guards at the Taj* (also a 2016 Lortel Winner for Best Play) and then in 2018 with *Describe the Night*. Other plays include *King James*, *Letters of Suresh*, *Archduke*, *Gruesome*, *Playground Injuries* and *Animals Out of Paper*. He has written for TV and film, including the feature film *Draft Day* which he co-wrote with Scott Rothman. He has been awarded artistic grants from the Whiting Foundation, United States Artists and the Harold & Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust. He served for three years in the Peace Corps in Senegal.

### About this Play:

In 1920, the Russian writer Isaac Babel wanders the countryside with the Red Cavalry. Seventy years later, a mysterious KGB agent spies on a woman in Dresden and falls in love. In 2010, an aircraft carrying most of the Polish government crashes in the Russian city of Smolensk. Set in Russia over the course of ninety years, this thrilling and epic play traces the stories of eight men and women connected by history, myth, and conspiracy theories.

Although there are historical figures and events that are part of “Describe The Night”, this play is at its core a fictional account.

Please visit our website:

[www.ensembletheatrecl.org/describethenight](http://www.ensembletheatrecl.org/describethenight)

There you will find a link for the **Dramaturgical Packet** created for this play by Ensemble member Tyler Whidden.

#### **Please Note:**

**Due to the ongoing pandemic, Ensemble has suspended pre and post show talks backs that were originally planned to surround this production.**

We believe that community conversation is an essential component to the work we do and a reason why we choose the scripts that we do! We encourage our audience members to create continued conversations about the very important issues addressed in this production.

Reach out to local civic organizations that guide and champion the themes and issues addressed in this play. Create community conversations around the Cleveland connections to this work.

#### **Special Thanks To:**

Notre Dame College, Aaron Elersich, Becca Moseley, Sam Landgraf, The City of South Euclid, The Ebony Bobcat Network, Tom Moore, Martin Cosentino, Ian Hinz, Austin Hinz, August Scarpelli, The Board of Ensemble Theatre, & Kyle Huff.



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Ensemble's critically acclaimed 2013 production of  
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Harriet Warm  
Maxine Birrer  
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Ann Cohen  
Shelia P. Cooley  
Susan G. Danford  
Deena Epstein  
Dennis Grossman & Julie Short  
Dagmar Celeste  
Joyce Pope  
Linda M. Katz  
Cat Kenny  
Berenice Kleiman  
Jane Sutphin Leitch  
Nora Kancelbau,  
Robin Holzman  
Marcia Mandel  
Claire Robinson  
Lina Park  
Patricia Gentile  
Cathy McCall  
Amy Rosenfield  
Melissa Jones  
Thomas Hanline  
Carla Rautenberg  
Irene Vegh

These levels indicate giving (2020 through 2022) as of August 2022.

Please note there may be names omitted as we attempt to keep as up to date a list as possible.

**Please** let us know if you do not see a name that should be listed.

Email [celeste@ensemble-theatre.org](mailto:celeste@ensemble-theatre.org) or call 216-321-2930

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## Meet the Crew :

**Celeste Cosentino** (Director, Executive Artistic Director)(she/her) has served in some "role" for Ensemble Theatre since she could walk and has worked in one capacity or another for local Cleveland theater's her entire life, spending many formative years "in the house" while her mother, Lucia Colombi, was interim artistic director for Karamu in the early to mid 80's, the same years her mother spent founding Ensemble Theatre. She has worked with worked with The Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Clague Play House, Cain Park, Bang & Clatter, Willoughby Fine Arts and others. She is a graduate of the Ohio University School of Theatre and returned to Cleveland in 2008, after living and working in New York City. Some of her favorite acting credits are Marela in 'Anna in the Tropics', Alice in 'Closer', Desdemona in 'Othello', and Kayleen in 'Gruesome Playground Injuries'. Favorite directing credits include 'The Gospel According to James', 'Death of a Salesman', 'Lower Ninth', 'Animals out of Paper', 'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo', The North Pool and most recently both parts of Tony Kushner's epic 'Angels in America'! Celeste also spent some time in the corporate/business management world and worked for the Cleveland Museum of Art in their groundbreaking ARTLENS technology gallery for almost a decade. She recently accepted the 'role' of Director of Theatre Studies for Notre Dame College, where Ensemble has new residency, and where both her and her mother started their journey's many years ago on the Regina stage. Celeste is the daughter of Ensemble Founder, Lucia Colombi and has returned home to support her mother's mission by providing a fresh perspective as the next Artistic Director. She was raised by Ensemble Theatre and has a special dedication to its continuation for many years to come.

**Becca Moseley** (Production Stage Manager, General Manager) (she/her) is excited to be opening a show at Ensemble's new home, Notre Dame College! In addition to serving as Ensemble's General Manager, she has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager/Assistant stage manager for many Ensemble shows, including both parts of 'Angels in America', 'A Raisin in the Sun', 'The Penopliad', 'Intimate Apparel', 'The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail', 'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo', 'The Iceman Cometh', 'Knock Me A Kiss', 'Anna Christie', 'Thurgood', 'Death of a Salesman', and many more. She co-directed Run, 'Kingsbury, Run' and Assistant Directed 'East of Eden'. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as a chorus leader/puppeteer in 'Around the World in 80 Days', Pea in 'Jerusalem', the Childlike Empress/company in 'The Never Ending Story', 'The Phantom Tollbooth' (Princess Rhyme/Ensemble,) and as Daisy Buchanan in 'The Great Gatsby'. Other favorite credits not at Ensemble include Rosalind (As You Like It,) Fabiana Cunningham (The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,) Dorine (Tartuffe,) Maggie (A Chorus Line), and Ophelia (The Horatio Project.) She thanks Ian and Celeste for building and nurturing a theatre that provides a constant supply of great scripts and people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.

**Julia Fisher** (Intimacy Director) (she/her) is delighted to return to Ensemble Theatre after performing in their production of "The Penopliad". Julia is an intimacy director, playwright, actor, and director, and her work has been seen in professional theatres throughout Northeast Ohio. She is a Teaching Artist with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, where she is in the final stages of certification, and she has trained with Theatrical Intimacy Education, Movement and Combat Education, Cleveland Play House, and the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. She is the Resident Intimacy Director at Rubber City Theatre, as well as a proud member of the Dramatists Guild of America. [www.juliachristinefisher.com](http://www.juliachristinefisher.com)

**Kelsey Tomlinson** (Costume Design) (she/her) is thrilled to be working on this production of Describe the Night. A professional Costume Designer, she currently serves as one of two Resident Costume Designers for Ohio Shakespeare Festival, and designs on a freelance basis from Canton to Cleveland. Favorite designs for Ohio Shakes include Cinderella, Rocky Horror and The Three Musketeers, an Adventure with Music. Audiences may also recognize her work on Spring Awakening (Blank Canvas Theatre), A Little Night Music (Lakeland), and Angels in America (Ensemble). Follow her work by searching #KLuelleCreative. Much love and gratitude to family, friends, and her husband Emerson.

**Ian Hinz** (Projection/Set/Lighting Design) (he/him) is a graduate of Ohio University. Ian has worked professionally as a producer, award winning director, Light, Set, & Projection designer, director of operations and theater educator for over sixteen years in Ohio and New York. He is co-founder of the Ensemble Stage-Wrights' workshop, two-time winner of the Cleveland Critics' Circle Best Director award and served as Artistic Director and Operations Manager for the city of Cleveland Heights' historic Cain Park Amphitheater. He has worked in operations for The Ohio State University Jerome Schottenstein Center and the Cleveland State University Department of Music as a stage production specialist. He has produced off-off-broadway at the Gene Frankel Theater and worked in business development in the tech startup industry in New York City. He is currently the Executive Director for Raise the Roof for the Arts, in charge of program creation and scheduling and major capital renovations to The Historic Sidney Theatre in Sidney, OH.



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Ensemble Theatre  
Great Scripts. Cleveland Artists.  
2022/2023  
SEASON

**Clybourne Park**  
by Bruce Norris



SEP 23 - OCT 9

**Describe the Night**  
by Rajiv Joseph



OCT 28 - NOV 13

**The River**  
by Jez Butterworth



FEB 17 - MAR 5

**The Light**  
by Loy A Webb



MAY 26 - JUN 11

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Cleveland Public Theatre's  
STEP Education Program  
Photo by Steve Wagner

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