

LUCID BY PROXY

About Lucid by Proxy

Lucid by Proxy is an independent Los Angeles theater production company founded in 2000. We specialize in the creation of original theater and, as of Spring 2008, have produced 15 new plays, including ten full-length plays, four short plays and a staged workshop of an original musical. Our collective of top-notch writers, designers, directors and actors have garnered a great deal of praise, including several *Backstage West* "Critic's Picks" and *Los Angeles Times* and *LA Weekly* "Recommended Picks," along with many great reviews in the *LA Times*, *BSW*, *LA Weekly*, *The Daily News* and *Variety*.

LbP is a not-for-profit theater organization (501[c][3]), which does not charge any dues to its actors and runs entirely on charitable donations and ticket sales.

Mission Statement

Lucid by Proxy is committed to fueling theater in Los Angeles through the development of original performance by new and innovative artists.

Our Values

Lucid by Proxy is committed to the following core values: nurturing artistic excellence in Los Angeles theater, discovering and fostering new and emerging playwrights and other theater artists, practicing cultural pluralism, connecting theater artists with audiences, and developing a community for new work.

Our Vision

Lucid by Proxy is committed to advancing the art form by helping professional theater artists produce their innovative work, and using that innovation to attract a new and younger theater audience. LbP advocates for both emerging and advanced artists, creating a space for their new work to be seen, heard and enjoyed.

A Brief History

In the year 2000, a group of friends came together and in three weeks produced two original one-act plays (*SAP*, *boy meets tree* by Rick Robinson and *Something Persists* by Valerie Rachelle) as part of the 2000 LA Edgefest. Despite a breakneck pace, rehearsals in living rooms, and a broken foot incurred by one actor on opening day, we garnered our first *BSW* Critic's Pick. We have since produced 13 more plays:



Multiverse • 2007
Jerome Hawkins & Shannon Nelson
photo by Rick Robinson



Asymmetry • 2006
Melody Doyle & Alex Fernandez
photo by Rick Robinson

"The play's emotional core is compelling and so, too, is the fearless creative grab of this vigorous company."

• Lynne Heffley
LA Times

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- **School of Jesus Fish** by Rick Robinson (one-act version) • 2001
Backstage West Critic's Pick
- **Jack Cracker, Viking Slave Detective** by Eli Chartkoff and Jeanette Scherrer • 2001
- **Cotillion** by Jeanette Scherrer • 2002
- **irl:in real life** by Rick Robinson • 2002
Backstage West Critic's Pick
- **School of Jesus Fish** by Rick Robinson (new full-length version) • 2003
LA Times Recommended Pick, LAWeekly Recommended Pick
- **Spare Parts & Cynic**, a musical workshop by Rick Robinson & Joshua N Hsu • 2003
LAWeekly Recommended Pick
- **Quickening** by Rebecca Tourino • 2004
- **irl:in real life** by Rick Robinson (new full-length version) • 2005
- **Psalms of a Questionable Nature** by Marisa Wegrzyn • 2005
LAWeekly Recommended Pick
- **Asymmetry** by Rick Robinson • 2005
Backstage West Critic's Pick, LAWeekly Recommended Pick, LA Times Recommended Pick
- **String** by Jessica Lind • 2006
The Daily News 3 Stars
- **Asymmetry** by Rick Robinson (new full-length version) • 2006
LA Times Recommended Pick
- **Multiverse** by Rick Robinson • 2007
Backstage West Critic's Pick, LA Times Recommended Pick



String • 2006
Chuck Raucci & Shannon Jarrell
photo by David Nett

After attending a production of LbP's *Asymmetry* in 2006, LbP resident playwright Rick Robinson was contacted by a representative from Samuel French and, in 2007, Samuel French published *Asymmetry*.



Asymmetry • 2005
Alan Loayza & Shannon Nelson
photo by David Nett

In addition to our own work, LbP's "Solo Artist Program" supports new work from solo performers. To date we've provided space, technical and promotional support for three new one-person plays: Shannon Jarrell's *Searching for Wake-Up*, Keaton Talmadge's *define: different* and Stephen Ivey's *Mindless Pawns*.

Lacking a permanent home of our own, LbP has produced in spaces throughout LA, including the LATC (downtown LA), the El Portal Theater (North Hollywood), the Renberg Theater (Hollywood), the Secret Rose Theater (North Hollywood), and the Paul E. Richards Theater (Silverlake).



In 2004, *LAWeekly* named Lucid by Proxy one of LA's top actor-driven ensembles, calling it, "[a] young, vibrant troupe unafraid of tweaking convention." Also in 2004, *Backstage West* wrote, "the young, ambitious theatre ensemble Lucid by Proxy gets a lot of credit for its commitment to new writing and the dedication of its versatile company members." And, in 2007, *Backstage West* featured Lucid by Proxy in an in-depth examination of four top actor-driven theater companies in Los Angeles who have "earned respect and praise for their contributions to the local scene."

Psalms of a Questionable Nature • 2005
Shannon Nelson & Sasha Harris
photo by David Nett

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Creative Staff

Shannon Nelson • President, Founding Producer

Shannon is proud to be a founding producer of Lucid by Proxy. A Magna Cum-Laude graduate with a BFA in acting from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, she has appeared in 12 of LbP's original productions, including: *Multiverse*, *Asymmetry* (both versions), *String*, *Psalms of a Questionable Nature*, *Quickening*, *Spare Parts & Cynic* (original workshop), *School of Jesus Fish* (both versions), *Cotillion*, *Jack Cracker*, *Viking Slave Detective* and *SAP*. Shannon will also be seen in LbP's upcoming world premiere play *March On, Dream Normal* by Jeanette Scherrer. Shannon has also costume designed many of LbP's original productions including the recently published *Asymmetry* by Rick Robinson, which included her innovative costume design.

Shannon has also appeared in LA with the Colony Theatre (*The Country Girl*), Musical Theatre West (*Hello Dolly!*), *Nomme de Guerre (Pains of Youth)* and others. Films include a supporting lead in New Line Cinema's *Drop Dead Gorgeous* and on TV you may have caught a glimpse of her in any of her numerous national commercials or seen her guest spots on *ER*, *The West Wing* or *The Practice*.

David Nett • Vice President/Technical Director, Founding Producer

David is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, Duluth, with a BFA in Acting. He's one of the founders of Lucid by Proxy, having been right there (read: Val & Rick's living room) when the group was formed in 2000. David has acted in thirteen LbP shows: *SAP*, *Something Persists*, *Jesus Fish* (both versions), *Jack Cracker*, *irl* (both versions), the *Spare Parts & Cynic* workshop, *Quickening*, *Asymmetry* (both versions), *String* and *Multiverse*. In addition, he directed *String*, designed scenery for the original *irl*, *String*, the revised *Asymmetry* and *Multiverse*, lighting for the original *Asymmetry*, and has produced, provided tech direction, graphic design and publicity for nearly every LbP show.

David is also the editor and primary author of *We & GWB: Notes from the First Four Years* (2005, Random Werewolf Press), editor of the eclectic online magazine *Clark Schpiell Productions* (readcsp.com), and writer and executive producer of the upcoming web series *GOLD* (fall 2008). He is married to fellow LbP board member and extraordinarily talented actress, Shannon Nelson. Other Los Angeles theater (as an actor) includes *Spoon River* (Ethical Art), *Phantom* (Musical Theater West), and *Peaches En Regalia* (Sacred Fools).

"In my book, the young, ambitious theatre ensemble Lucid by Proxy gets a lot of credit for its commitment to new writing and the dedication of its versatile company members."

**• Jennie Webb
Backstage West**



irl: in real life • 2005
David Nett, James Paul Xavier & Joanna Senatore • photo by Rick Robinson



Quickening • 2004
Jessica Pennington, Shannon Nelson, Jessica Seeley, Angel Laketa Moore & Jeanette Scherrer
photo by David Nett

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Patty Ramsey • Board Member, Associate Producer

Patty graduated with Honors in Directing from the University of California Irvine, where she also attained a degree in psychology.

She plays many roles in her current position as Associate Producer with Lucid by Proxy, ranging from director and assistant director to lighting designer and resident stage manager. At UC Irvine, she directed *Found a Peanut*, *The House of Yes*, *Ballast*, and Rick Robinson's *School of Jesus Fish*. During that time, she also directed LbP's first Solo Artist Project collaboration: Shannon Jarrell's *Searching for Wake-Up*. With LbP, she has had the amazing opportunity to co-direct *Asymmetry* and *String*, and was the director for the most recent production: *Multiverse*.

Valerie Rachelle • Vice President/Artistic Director, Founding Producer

Valerie Rachelle is a founding member of Lucid by Proxy: when *Something Persists* and *SAP* were selected as part of the 2000 LA EdgeFest, she and Rick rounded up 26 of their friends and produced their first work. Since then, Valerie has directed the following Lucid by Proxy shows: *Jack Cracker*, *Viking Slave Detective*, *School of Jesus Fish* (second version), *Quickening* and *Spare Parts & Cynic* (workshop production). She will also direct and choreograph the new, full production of *Spare Parts & Cynic*.

Valerie is currently Casting Director and a Resident Director/Choreographer for PCPA Theaterfest. She graduated with her Masters of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of California, Irvine and from California Institute of the Arts with her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Acting. Valerie has directed and/or choreographed the following shows for PCPA: *Company*, *Life x 3*, *Hot Mikado*, *A Little Night Music*, *Seussical*, *Dames at Sea*, and *Crazy for You*. Ms. Rachelle has been directing, choreographing, and acting for the last ten years for Summer Repertory Theater, Utah Shakespearian Festival, Utah Festival Opera, The Falcon Theater, The Company Rep, South Coast Repertory, Theater A Go-Go, The Great American Melodrama, and many others.

Rick Robinson • Board Member, Founding Producer

Rick has a BA in theater from UC Davis, and is one of the founders of Lucid by Proxy, having been involved in some capacity in every production since its inception. LbP has premiered six of Rick's plays: *SAP*, *School of Jesus Fish*, *i r l: in real life*, *Asymmetry*, *Multiverse* and the workshop of the musical *Spare Parts & Cynic* (with composer Joshua N Hsu). These productions garnered six Backstage West Critics' Picks, four L.A. Weekly 'GO' picks and two L.A. Times 'Recommended' picks. After its second run



Spare Parts & Cynic (workshop) • 2003
Chris Kohlhoff, Jessica Pennington,
Shannon Nelson, Chris Hall, Jonathan
Reiser, Jeanette Scherrer, James Paul
Xavier, David Nett, Keaton Talmadge &
Sarah Orr • photo by Chris Sousa-Wynn

**"Young, vibrant troupe
unafraid of tweaking
convention."**

• **LAWeekly**



School of Jesus Fish • 2003
Keaton Talmadge
photo by David Nett

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with Lucid in the Paul E. Richards theater, *Asymmetry* was published by Samuel French in late 2007. In addition to being one of Lucid's resident playwrights, Rick has directed his own work five times: (*SAP*, *School of Jesus Fish* (first version), *i r l* (first version) and *Asymmetry* (both versions). He served as dramaturge on Rebecca Tourino's *Quickening*, and, under his stage name Richard Wylie, acted in *Something Persists* and *String*.

Outside of Lucid, Rick was a founding member of the Company Rep, where he was an actor, director and company dramaturge. He workshopped his most recent play, *A Dream of Passion*, at PCPA Theaterfest in early 2008.

Jeanette Scherrer • Secretary/Treasurer, Founding Producer

Jeanette Scherrer, originally from Herculaneum, Missouri, is a proud founding producer of the Lucid by Proxy Theater Group, and is responsible for the "Proxy" part of the name. She has co-produced all of LbP's 15 original productions, acted in many of them, wrote and directed two, and helped build and paint every single set. She will also direct her upcoming play, *March On, Dream Normal* early this summer – Lucid's 16th original production.

Jeanette holds two bachelor's degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Political Science and Philosophy, and a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts. In 1999, her first play, *Cat Got Your Tongue?*, was a finalist for the American College Theatre Festival National Playwriting Award. As part of the national festival that year, she was invited to direct a prize winning ten-minute play at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC as part of their inaugural 10-minute play contest.

When she's not working as a professional actor, she is a story producer for television, and is currently producing and writing two episodes of an 8-part documentary about the Port of Los Angeles for the National Geographic Channel.

James Paul Xavier • Board Member, Founding Producer

James is an LA native, and one of the founders of Lucid By Proxy. He's acted in six of Lucid's world premieres: *SAP*, *Something Persists*, *Jack Cracker Viking Slave Detective*, the *Spare Parts & Cynic* workshop and *i r l : in real life* (both versions). He is also the resident prop designer, set dresser, and scenic artist.

In addition to his work with LbP, he has performed up and down California at PCPA Theatrefest, Summer Repertory Theatre, Marquee Dinner Theatre, Glendale Centre Theatre, and The Great American Melodrama and Vaudeville. Some of his favorite roles include Ellard Sims in *The Foreigner*, Malcolm MacGregor in *The Full Monty*,



i r l : in real life • 2002
Gary Karp
photo by David Nett



Cotillion • 2002
Tina Gloss, Sarah Culberson, Kila Kitu
& Shannon Nelson
photo by David Nett

**"...a quality company that
has been around the block
and should go far."
• Backstage West**

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Woyzeck in *Woyzeck*, Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Simon Bliss in *Hay Fever*.

Our Audience

Over the years, Lucid has established an enthusiastic following, which has allowed us to compile both email and snail-mail contact lists each nearly 600 patrons long. In addition, we do our best to make use of strategic poster and postcard placement in various LA venues, traditional marketing tools such as press-releases and newspaper arts listings, and online services such as Goldstar Events, ExperienceLA and aggressive SEO (search engine optimization) of our own website to attract new audience to every production.

Through a recent online survey, we've determined a few key pieces of information about our audience base and how they gain information about theater events (especially via the internet) which will be extremely helpful as we market upcoming productions. But, most interesting to us was the fact that our largest demographic is between the ages of 25 and 34, followed by the 35 to 44 age group (25 - 34: 41.5%, 35 - 44: 36.6%). This is very different from the national average as determined by the NEA, which found in 2002 its highest theater-going rates in the demographic aged 45 to 54, a median theatergoer age of 46, and an overall increase in the average age of theatergoers between 1992 and 2002 from 44 to 46.

This difference between the aging national average theatergoer and our much younger average audience member is encouraging, as it shows that LbP is meeting one of its most important goals: attracting a new, younger audience to the theater by presenting innovative, challenging and relevant new content.

"Lucid by Proxy has got the right idea. The theater company presents new plays in unfussy surroundings ... showcasing emerging writers and young actors."

• Katherine Karlin
LA Daily News



Jack Cracker, Viking Slave Detective • 2001
JoAnna Senatore, Gary Karp, Shannon Nelson, Brian Stanton, Nghia Luu, Stacey Cunningham, Ron Wingate, Jr., James Paul Xavier & Beret Malmgren
photo by Rachel Myers



School of Jesus Fish • 2001
Tina Fallon, Shannon Nelson, Kristen Prewitt, Sarah Orr & Lisa Grady
photo by Rachel Myers