

Southwest Theatre Productions

P R E S E N T S



by

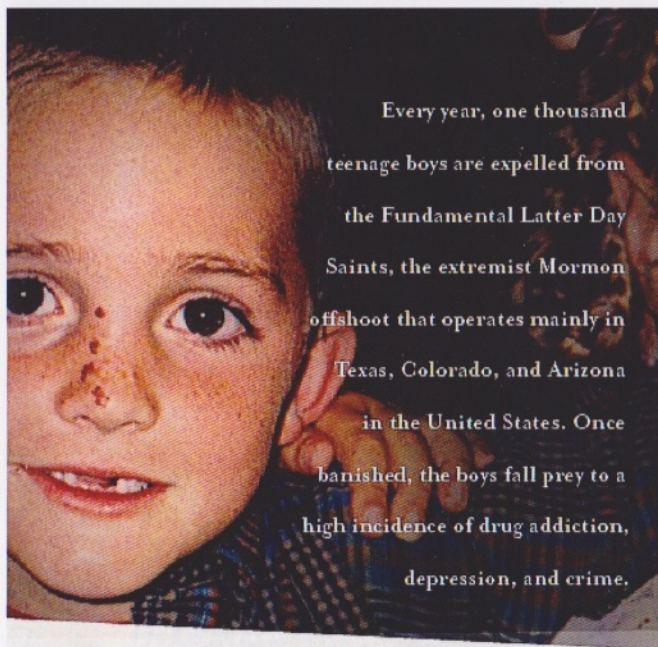
Aleks Merilo

READ THE

TRUE STORY OF THIS LOST BOY

Brent W. Jeffs

Nephew of Warren Jeffs
Exiled from the FLDS



Every year, one thousand teenage boys are expelled from the Fundamental Latter Day Saints, the extremist Mormon offshoot that operates mainly in Texas, Colorado, and Arizona in the United States. Once banished, the boys fall prey to a high incidence of drug addiction, depression, and crime.

Lost Boy

I was one of those boys.

Brent W. Jeffs
WITH MAIA SZALAVITZ



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

PRODUCED IN HONOR OF THE LOST BOYS OR UTAH: THOSE WHO SURVIVED, AND THOSE WHO DID NOT.

From the beginning we knew this was a very different story, and an important one to tell. But I was especially, and maybe ironically, drawn to its subliminal topic: Mind control. The study of why people do what they do based solely on another person's words, baffles and fascinates me. This play provides a rare and honest glimpse into the minds of those it affects. With mind control, its power is strongest when the subject is convinced they should fear everything in the outside world, and everyone who isn't them. Warren Jeffs and other leaders in the FLDS have proven to be masters at this. They convinced these boys not to wear red. They said they could impregnate a girl simply by looking at her. And they made it clear that if they associated with people who aren't members of the FLDS (The "Outsiders"), they were doomed to eternal damnation.

Listening to the logic these Lost Boys applied to choices they made long after they were removed from the sect really impacted me. It's a moving and intriguing human behavior study. I learned it takes a very strong person to reject those teachings even after the threats are removed. You can be freed, but freedom is not guaranteed.

I couldn't close without thanking these talented actors for their commitment to the entire process. Each of them are dependable, professional, on time, learn their lines quickly, are open to direction and fully embody their characters. As a bonus they're all kind and supportive of one another. The Dream Team.



Music Selection

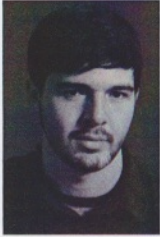
EXIT 27 by Aleks Merilo



The choice of African-American spirituals and working songs has been made very consciously in the play's musical score. The archetypal power in these songs comes largely from the identification of oppressed people's of African descent with the journey of the Children of Israel out of the slavery of Egypt. African-American working songs also express the struggles of life. Interestingly, the lyrics of these songs were used as code to guide those escaping slavery on the underground railroad. Later on, the lyrics might also change to express the struggles of, say, the civil rights movement, with the same melodies. On the one hand there is the obvious connection between the Lost Boys of Utah and others who have sought freedom from oppression, but there is also the sad paradox that, as a member of the Fundamentalist LDS, these young men were part of a church body that was considered a hate group by the state for its rhetoric against people of color. In these days after Martin Luther King day, this can give us pause to consider the ways in which all oppression is interrelated and whether we have yet acknowledged that fully enough.

~ Dr. Logan Sparks, Consultant - Anthropology of Religion

CAST and CREW



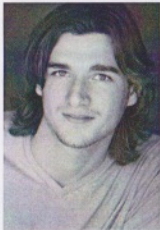
Thomas Burke (Ryker)

Thomas is an Austin-based producer, actor, and editor originally from Joliet, Illinois. He first performed in live theater as a teen while also playing drums in an established heavy metal band. Since then, Thomas has developed his craft as a filmmaker in Austin, Texas, directing and producing dozens of short narratives. He recently won the Best Director award at the Austin 48 Hour Film Project for his work *The Making of the Lost Son*. Thomas has worked as a post-production editor for *On Story*, Austin Film Festival's Emmy award winning program on PBS-KLRU. He continues to work on both sides of the camera in both theater and film style production.



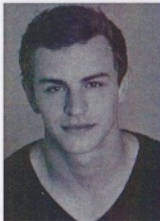
Nathaneal Dunaway (Dodge)

This is Nate's first appearance with Southwest Theatre Productions, and he's thrilled to be bringing this production to Austin for the first time. Past shows include *DNA (Capital T)*, *Los Tequileros* and *The Mexcentrics (Teatro Vivo)*, *Frog & Toad (Scottish Rite)*, and *Austin Is A Place (Theatre En Bloc)*. An Austin native, Nate studied theater at Austin Community College and The University Of Southern California. He'd like to thank his friends and family for their constant support. Nate can be seen next as the title character in *La Fenice's Chad Mercury & The Siege of the Dark Nebula*, opening at the Butterfly Bar in spring 2016.



Sam Stinson (Shyler)

Sam is delighted to be making his debut with Southwest Theatre Productions. Recent credits include work on the 2015 feature film *My All American*, and the HBO series, *The Leftovers*. He currently studies under Laurel Vouvray, learning the Stanford Meisner technique at In the Moment Acting Studio, and previously trained for two years at the State Theater School of Acting in Austin, Texas, where he resides.



Sam Domino (Brodie)

It wasn't until the end of his high school career that Sam first began performing, appearing in musicals as Bryan in *Damn Yankees* and Tommy Dillas in *The Music Man*. Since attending The University of Texas at Austin, he has had the pleasure of working on multiple student and class productions, with roles as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, and multiple characters in *The Laramie Project*. As a born and raised Austinite, he is extremely grateful to live in a city with such a thriving art scene. He continues his career as a full-time 3rd year student, while participating in various stage and film productions in the Austin area.



Lee Eden (The Outsider)

Lee is a 16 year old high school junior. At ten, Lee was already working professionally, and loving every second of it. She considers herself lucky to work in various fields, including theatre, commercials, voice-overs and more. Some of her favorite roles in theatre include Rhoda in *The Bad Seed*, Brigitta in *The Sound of Music*, and Martha in *Spring's Awakening*. Her most recent role was Chris in *Rumors*. She is a *2016 YoungArts Winner in Theater*. Lee is very excited to be working with - and learning from - her exceptionally talented cast mates, an amazing director Kat Sparks, and the superstar stage manager Heather DeMartini.



Kat Sparks (Director)

Kat studied with Ivana Chubbuck at the Roy London Studio in Los Angeles, and now directs and provides private coaching in the Austin area based on many of Ivana's techniques. She appeared in the recurring role of Patty in *The Young & The Restless*, in CEO opposite James Coburn, and in over seventy-five plays in theatres as diverse as Theatre Three in Dallas, and the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles. Her most rewarding role was Sharon in *Three Ways Home* by Casey Kurtti, where she performed in several cities in California including a Ted Lange production for Black History Month in Los Angeles.



Heather DeMartini (Stage Manager)

Heather DeMartini is so excited to have the opportunity to work with SWTP for another fantastic production. She has previously worked as Stage Manager for *Rapture*, *Blister*, *Burn* and recently played Jolly for their second production of *Dear Penelope* in October. She can be found in several theatres in the Austin area as an actor and in behind-the-scenes roles. She feels very fortunate to be a part of the Austin premiere of *EXIT 27* and so very happy to work with such a talented group of people.



Peter Kent (Stunt Consultant)

Peter's association with Arnold Schwarzenegger as his stunt double spanned 14 films over 13 years, from *Terminator* through *Jingle All The Way*, working with notable producers such Joel Silver and directors Walter Hill, James Cameron and others. Peter received a Gemini Award for Excellence in Television in the Human Interest Category for creating and hosting his behind-the-scenes stunt series, *STUNTDWAGSe*. Broadcast in Canada on The Movie Network, Movie Central and Discovery Channel Europe, the series has won many accolades for its gritty expose' of the great risks stuntmen and women take, while at the same time illustrating how intricate movie stunts are planned and executed. Peter was inducted into the Hollywood Stuntmen Hall of Fame in 2009 for outstanding achievement. Peter owns Peter Kent's School of Hard Knocks, a stunt school in Vancouver, British Columbia.



Scott Galbreath (*Movement Consultant*)

Scott's credits include Will and Grace and a variety of independent films. He starred in the low budget Indy film Able Edwards which premiered at the SXSW film festival in 2004. After 16 up and down years in LA Scott has found his true home here in Austin. He is absolutely thrilled to be doing consistent theatre again and plans to create new roles for many years to come. He would like to dedicate his contribution to EXIT 27 to the love of his life. And to her he says, "You're my person."



Wesley Riddles (*Production Design*)

Fortunate to apprentice as a carpenter in addition to scenic construction under his father, Wesley's career came easily and transitioned naturally into the Texas film industry. Wesley is proud of his two young daughters. They are always included in his art as he plans to continue to be so lucky to have them as a major part of his creative team. Wesley would like to most exclusively thank his mother Karen, as well as the wonderful director Kat Sparks. The support from strong and inspirational women of their caliber is credit to his success as a father to his girls.



Amy Lewis (*Lighting Design*)

Amy a graduate of McMurry University with a BFA in Theatre. She is very active in the Austin theatre community as both an actor and a lighting designer. Amy's recent lighting credits include, The Muttracker Vortex, People of Color Christmas The White Elephant in the Room Color Arc Productions, The Strings of Time Agni Dance Company, Veronica's Room Oh Dragon!, Once Upon a Mattress Buzz Productions, Mauritius Different Stages, Godspell Austin Theatre Project, All's Well That Ends Well Seven Towers, and Assassins Soubrette Productions.



Fabian Duran (*Sound Design*)

Fabian studied audio at The Art Institute of Austin where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Audio Production. He has worked on a variety of sound projects, mixing and editing studio recordings, live sound set up and mixing, and electronic component soldering. His passion is in sound design for music, short films, and movie/game trailers.

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A Very Special Thanks to Savannah Riddles and Jocelyn Riddles for the willingness to help in any way possible and showing a professional maturity that far exceeds their years on this planet. Welcometo SWTP!

A special "Thank You," to our veteran organizations.

Many of those sitting in the theatre seats surrounding you tonight have served our country. Many of them continue to do so. If you consider donating to an organization this year, please give these listed below special consideration. They all have websites. The first two are local organizations based here in Austin, Texas.

Feel free to contact SWTP for additional information.

And please join us in thanking them for all they do!

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EXIT 27 is produced by Southwest Theatre Productions, a company focused on producing quality plays and new works, particularly those that easily transfer to film or television and include strong female roles.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/southwesttheatreproductions>

Website: <http://www.swtproductions.com>



Exit 27 is Presented By Special Arrangement With The Robert A. Freedman Dramatic Agency, Inc.

THE LOOK OF EXIT 27

The look of this performance logo was entirely created by the amazing skills of Emanuel Saba of Sabagraphix. His almost overnight vision came from his insistence upon reading the script, listening to selected music, and asking thought-provoking questions. He also created our poster for *Dear Penelope*, *Love Letters*, and is currently developing the look and feel of *Wolves of Beirut*. You can contact Emanuel Saba through his website: <https://www.sabagraphix.com>.



Southwest Theatre Productions is a sponsored project of Austin Creative Alliance, a non-profit arts service organization. www.austincreativealliance.org

HOLLYWOOD STUNTMEN'S HALL OF FAME

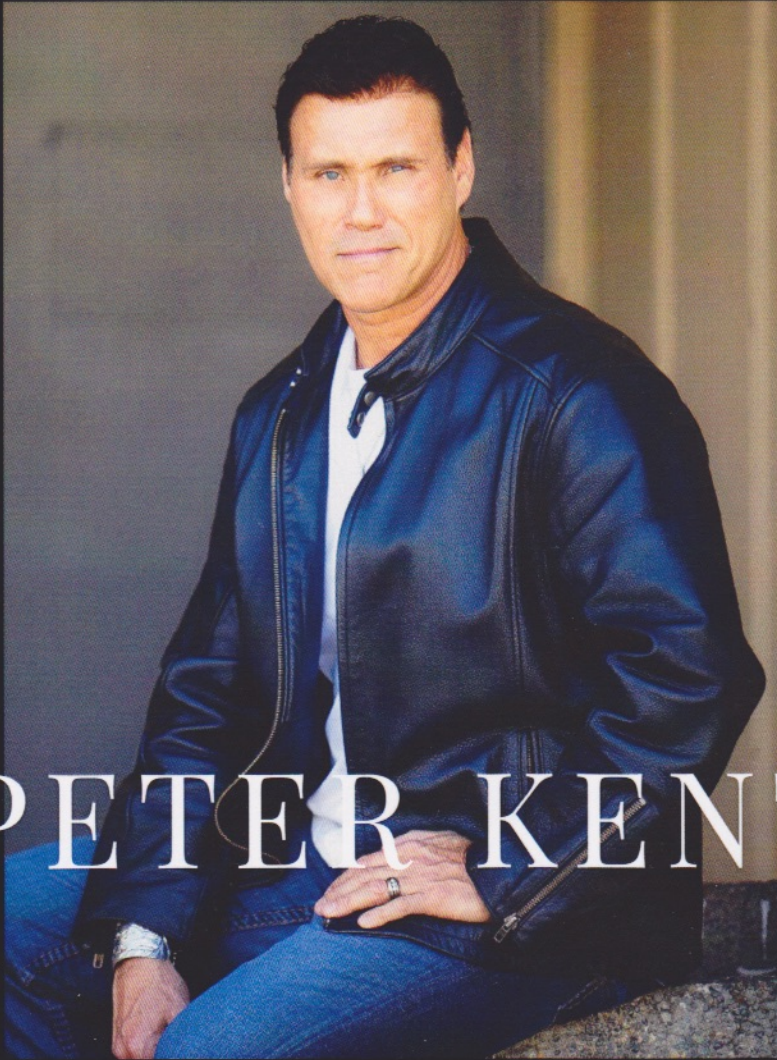
Arnold Schwarzenegger's Stunt Double in 14 Films Over 13 Years

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PETER KENT

Stunt consultant for theatre, film television.

Fight choreography, high falls, wire flying, weapons & car stunts.
2nd unit director, & stunt coordinator.