



ReEntry

Written by **Emily Ackerman** and **KJ Sanchez**

Director **KJ Sanchez**

Assistant Director **Marie Byrd Sproul**

"Liz/Suzanne" **Jessi Blue Gormezano**

"CO" **Larry Roger Mitchell**

"John/Pete" **Brandon Jones**

"Mom/Maria" **KJ Sanchez**

"Charlie/Tommy" **Ben Rosenblatt**

Stage Manager and Tour Coordinator **Denise Cardarelli**

Sound Designer and Production Manager **Zach Williamson**

Scenic and Costume Designer **Marion Williams**

Lighting Designers **Russell Champa** and **Dani Clifford**

Video Designer **Alex Koch**

PROGRAM

There will be no intermission.

Friday, March 8 at 8 PM
Saturday, March 9 at 2 PM

Harold Prince Theatre

ReEntry is presented in partnership with Penn Medicine.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Emily Ackerman (Writer)

Ackerman is a playwright and actress based in NYC. Her first play (co-authored with KJ Sanchez) *ReEntry*, is based on interviews with members of the Marine Corps and was commissioned by Two River Theater Company. *ReEntry* has received critical acclaim at Two River, Urban Stages, Baltimore Center Stage, Round House and at numerous military bases around the US and Europe. Ackerman is also a member of The Civilians.

KJ Sanchez (Writer)

Sanchez is the CEO and founder of American Records. Other American Records plays conceived and directed by Sanchez include *Life in the Middle*, a middle-school rock musical, commissioned by Asolo Rep; *Death...for a living*, a musical based on interviews with people who work with death for a living, which recently premiered at Juniata College; and *Highway 47*, a one-woman play about an ancient land feud in New Mexico. Americanrecordstheater.org.

Jessi Blue Gormezano ("Liz/Suzanne")

Gormezano's credits include: *ReEntry* (Round House Theatre Bethesda), *Equus*, *Smash*, *The Constant Wife* (Asolo Repertory), *Epic Story* (Manhattan Theatre Source), *Great Pecan*, *Happiness* (Drilling Company Theatre), *The Rivals* (Ampersand Theatre), *Mark My Words* (Emerging Artists Theatre), *The Secretaries* (Project:Theater), *This is Our Youth*, *The Bacchae*, *Blue Window* (Asolo Conservatory) and *ReEntry* (Army posts in Germany & Italy). Her self-written solo show, *Mark My Words*, was accepted into the 2011 United Solo Theatre Festival in NYC, and she is a proud company member of Project:Theater. She is also the creator of OUR BAR, a monthly performance event in New York featuring all new work...in a bar. Jessiblue.com

Larry Roger Mitchell ("CO")

Mitchell originated the role of Joey in the NYC workshop premiere of *A Steady Rain* and can be seen in the upcoming feature film *Pollywogs*. NY stage highlights: *Orange Flower Water*, *Enemy of the People* (Stockmann), *Lobby Hero* and *No Exit*. Film work includes: *The Departed*, *American Gangster*, *Staten Island*, *Stealing Martin Lane*, *Happy New Year*, *The Assassin* and *Moffat County*. Television appearances: *Without a Trace*, *Hope & Faith*, *ED*, *Third Watch*, *Queens Supreme* (recurring), *Law and Order: SVU*, *As the World Turns*, *Michael Stahl-David: Behind the Star* and *Guiding Light*.

Brandon Jones ("John/Pete")

Recent credits include: *ReEntry* (Actors' Theatre of Louisville and Round House Theatre), *Mush* (FringeNYC), *The Right Reverend Dupree in Exile*, *Lobby Hero*, *Tales From the Tunnel* and *Race Music*. Film: *Pvt. Francis of Williamsburg*, *Trust22*, *Brothers Incorporated*, *Mildred Richards* and *Tagged*. Jones has also done voiceovers for McDonald's, LMR Marketing, Pierre Foods, MTV2 and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

Ben Rosenblatt ("Charlie/Tommy")

Credits: Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Richard III*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Hamlet*. The Delphi Theatre: *The Oresteia*. Project:Theater: *Language of Angels*, *Shel's Shorts*, *The Great American Desert*. Berkshire Theatre Festival: *The Who's Tommy*, *Babes in Arms*, *Candide*, *Where Has Tommy Flowers Gone?*, *Peter Pan*, and *Arabian Nights*. Connecticut Rep: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Red Noses*, *Measure for Measure*. Shakespeare & Co.: *The Taming of the Shrew*. Ivoryton Playhouse: *Inherit the Wind*.

Brandeis Theatre Company: *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Love's Labours Lost*, *Siddhartha*, *The Three Sisters*, *Everything in the Garden*. Ben has an MFA in Acting from Brandeis University.

Denise Cardarelli (Production Stage Manager)

Off-Broadway: *ReEntry* at Urban Stages and *Dov and Ali* with The Playwright's Realm (at The Cherry Lane Theatre). Other New York City credits: *Dutch Masters* with the LAByrinth Theater Company (at The Cherry Pit), *Flip Side* and *Imminence* with The Talking Band. Regional credits: Production Stage Manager for *26 Miles* and *ReEntry* at Two River Theater Company; Production Stage Manager for *ReEntry* at Centerstage (Baltimore) and Round House Theatre; Production Stage Manager for *A Christmas Carol*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, *Twelfth Night* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (abridged) with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey.

Zachary Williamson (Sound Designer & Production Manager)

Recent: *Molly Sweeney* (Long Warf), *Guys and Dolls* (Ordway St. Paul), *Cabaret* (Kansas City Rep), *Amadeus* (Clarence Brown), *On The Town and Joseph...* (5th Avenue Seattle), *White Women Street* and *Give It Up!* (Dallas Theater Center). As associate designer on Broadway: *The Ritz* and *Pal Joey* (Roundabout) and recently, *Lysistrata Jones*. He has also worked with the Pasadena Playhouse, Goodspeed, Virginia Stage, Asolo, St. Louis Rep, Actors Theater Louisville and Broadway Asia International.

Marion Williams (Scenic and Costume Designer)

Williams is a New York-based scenic and costume designer. Regional theatre credits include: Actor's Theatre of Louisville, Barrington Stage, Centerstage, Cincinnati Ballet, McCarter Theatre, The Old Globe, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Round House, Sacramento Theatre Company, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey and Triad Stage. New York: Juilliard, Jose Limon Dance, Manhattan School of Music and Mint Theatre.

Dani Clifford (Co-Lighting Designer)

Off-Broadway assisting: *Fetês de la Nuit* (The Ohio Theatre); *Photograph 51* (Ensemble Studio Theatre); *Smudge*, *Apple Cove* (Woman's Project); *Picked* (The Vineyard Theatre); *Timon of Athens* (Public Theatre). Regional design: *Cruising-The Divide*, *10 in 10*, *Stay Tuned* (Actors Theatre of Louisville). Other designs include: *Piece of My Heart*, *February House*, *Sam Bendrix at the Bonsoir*, *Margret and Craig* (New York Stage and Film); *Two Small Bodies*, *The Loveliest Day of the Year* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Tour credits assoc. LD: The Universes *Ameriville*. Clifford has spent the past two years as the Lighting Supervisor at New York Stage and Film.

Alex Koch (Video Designer)

Koch leads production and post-production tasks for narrative film, video installations and theatrical projections. Recent and upcoming projects include *Goodbar*, a rock opera performing in The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival; the first stage adaptation of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* originating at The Court Theatre in Chicago; and *Chaos Manor*, a dynamic site-specific work which premiered at Brooklyn's The Invisible Dog Gallery. Other design work includes for Waterwell, The Woodshed Collective, The Director's Company, Urban Stages, Repertorio Espanol, Little Opera Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre, TerraNOVA Collective, Theater Mitu, Ma-Yi, The Assembly, The Electric Pear and SummerStage. Alexkochdesign.com

PROGRAM NOTES

Notes about *ReEntry* from the Director

All of the dialogue in this play came directly from interviews Emily Ackerman and I conducted. We wanted to find out what it was like to go from combat to home, from downrange to standing in line at the grocery store.

The interviews were conducted in private settings, after much trust was gained, and to honor those we interviewed, we did not filter ANYTHING—including the very adult language and irreverent sense of humor. Regarding the language: one of our first performances in front of an all-military audience (we have since performed the play at over 30 military bases and hospitals) was at USMC Base Parris Island Recruit Depot, and we performed in the Recruit Chapel, *on the alter*. I was very nervous about the language in a house of worship, but during introductions, the Regimental Chaplain said to his Marine: "what better place than this to tell the unfiltered truth." As for the humor: Marines taught us that humor is an important part of what they do (it breaks the panic cycle) and who they are and it's OK to laugh.

We listened to many extraordinary people who took great risk, both personally and professionally, to talk to us. The hardest part of the creative process was deciding which stories to tell and which would not be included. For guidance through this process, we created a few rules. First, if our audience could easily find the material in the news, we didn't need it in the play. Next, we decided to go deeper with fewer stories rather than covering every aspect of coming home. **It is very important to note that we do not mean to say with this play that what you will see is everyone's experience coming home from deployment. It is not our intention to make any blanket statements—there are as many truths, opinions and experiences as there are brave and dedicated people serving, and we would not suggest that the few characters you hear from represent the whole.**

We decided about halfway through the interviewing phase to concentrate on the Marine Corps. Through a stroke of good luck, we spent time at Camp Pendleton and decided that the culture and values of the Marine Corps provided an interesting lens through which to look at the issue of coming back from deployment and re-entering one's life, family and society.

To those who welcomed us into their homes and their lives, a heartfelt and sincere thank you. You have taught us how to see, listen and understand. Your names are not listed in this program's 'special thanks', to respect your confidentiality, but we hope you know how truly grateful we are. We honor your commitment, dedication and sacrifice.