

DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

Contributions are tax-deductible.

**DO THE BLIND DREAM? BY BARRY GIFFORD
PRODUCTION PROPOSAL**



CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary Contact Name:	Alexandra T. Siladi, Director/Producer
Contact Phone:	646-477-6898
Contact Email:	tajli.siladi@gmail.com , blacklodgetheater@gmail.com
Production Company:	Black Lodge Theater
Websites:	www.tajlisiladi.com www.blacklodgetheater.org www.barrygifford.com



DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

Contributions are tax-deductible.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project:	Off-Broadway, world-premiere of <i>Do the Blind Dream?</i>
Presenting Theater:	The Players Theatre, Mainstage (199 seat) 115 Macdougall Street, New York City
Approximate Running Time:	70-90 min
Performance Dates:	August 30 - September 16, 2017
Budget:	\$30,000
Primary Artists:	Alexandra Siladi (Director), Barry Gifford (Writer) Cristina Lippolis (CARA), Rochelle Slovin (BEATRICE)
Cast Size:	12-14
Setting:	Switzerland, Southern Italy
Set:	14 Chairs, 5-6 Cafe Tables, 2-3 benches, 1 bed
Current Funding:	The Puffin Foundation
Current Timeline:	October 2013 - Initial Reading November 2014 - Fundraiser hosted by VICE Spring 2016 - Staged Reading Fall 2016 - Fundraising Event Spring 2017 - Fundraising Event Fall 2017 - Full Production (3 weeks)
Press:	<i>Beyond Wild at Heart Hosted by VICE</i> <i>1985 Artists: Barry Gifford</i> <i>Paris Review: Still Weird on Top</i>
Upcoming Staged Reading Details:	The Players Theatre, Wednesday, June 8, 2016



DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

Contributions are tax-deductible.



ABOUT THE PLAY

Do the Blind Dream? is a world-premiere play by Barry Gifford about how a woman's past affects relationships in her present. Set in Southern Italy with a cast of 12, the play is a multi-generational examination of sexual abuse and an honest confrontation with basic human nature. It is also an "intimate, stylistically daring examination of the darkest secrets in the history of an Italian family" (Seven Stories Press). The main character is the family's matriarch, BEATRICE, who speaks to us as a "ghost", observing life from beyond the grave. She peels away the layers to reveal a family savagery and magical realism similar to that found in the work of Lorca. Her youngest daughter, CARA, is an actress. No matter how much physical distance CARA has put between herself and her home, she finds herself unable to escape recurring violence at the hands of men. In the end, it takes a dream to make CARA face her inner truth and finally recognize that compassion does exist. Does anyone, sighted or not, see the truth of daily events? To paraphrase the poet Delmore Schwartz, in dreams reside responsibilities. *Do the Blind Dream?* is based on Gifford's novella of the same title, published by Seven Stories Press.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"I believe this story is more important now than ever in the way that it handles female relationships, the bonds that tie women together who have faced sexual abuse, and the intense drama between mothers and daughters. With the rise of internet communities, we hear more stories every day about the incredible amount of violence done to women on a daily basis. This play gives women hope that finding strength, kindness, and self-respect is possible, whether in this life or beyond, while still acknowledging the evil that surrounds us. The setting of Southern Italy is the perfect place to contrast American society in the treatment of sex within a culture. The character of BEATRICE is unique in that we have an older woman dealing with the reality of her body and soul on a liminal plane, and speaking in a highly sexualized way that we are not used to hearing from motherly figures. Exposition of events through CARA and BEATRICE allows the audience to come up with their own imagery for what has transpired, creating a perversion that exists in our own minds and not transposed on stage, which I find to be the strongest method of storytelling: utilizing our own imaginations to project onto the characters." —*Alexandra Siladi*

DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

Contributions are tax-deductible.



FROM THE PRESS

"For his [Barry Gifford's] characters, he passes no judgement, even in the most despicable, the most deprived of moments, the most graphic of details....Warts & all wouldn't even tell the half of it. Slowly, his gentle ability to inhabit, with a performer's fullness of heart, each & every life to be found in his description & telling, overtakes us. It disarms us. It gives pause to the notion that we are in fact --- not there, but here, save for his direction, his words leading us, luring us deeper. ...Like the good book says, the light has always been 'shining in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.'" —*1985 Artists*

"The way Barry Gifford lets people talk articulates everything about their unfamiliar inner lives, and ours." —*Boston Globe*

"I love *Do the Blind Dream?*—a wonderful and delightful piece that tastes of Buñuel and Cocteau." —*Pedro Almodóvar*

"Gifford, a master of the short story and nasty vignette, can sum up in a few words the cruelty, horror, and crushing banality that shape an entire life." —*New York Times Book Review*

"Director Alexandra Siladi's dark and moody staging deepens the jaded view of the men's microcosm...The production is stunning from the first moment to the last." —*The Happiest Medium, Review of The American Play*

DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

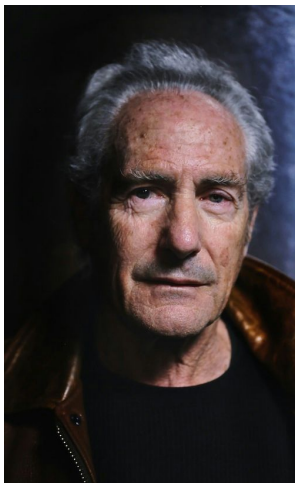
Contributions are tax-deductible.

PRIMARY ARTIST BIOS



Alexandra Siladi (Director/Producer)—Founder of Black Lodge Theater. Graduate of UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television (Theater Studies). Director/Producer: Mac Wellman's *Swoop* (The People's Theater), Kenneth Rexroth's *Beyond the Mountains* (Fowler Museum), *She's Gone Serious* an evening of one-acts by Tennessee Williams (The Collapsible Hole), *The American Play* (Bleecker Street Theater), *Revelations 12:19* (JACK NYC), *Passing Through: Room 603* including *Tricks & Blackout* by Barry Gifford (Access Theater),

Memories of a Blonde (The Silent Barn), *Do the Blind Dream?* an invited reading (Access Theater). Producer of play festivals *The Devil-May-Play (Festival)* at The Brick Theater and *Sin in the City* (Galapagos Art Space). Winner of Outstanding Production and Outstanding Director at the 2012 Planet Connections Theater Festivity for *The American Play*. Only student director to win the New England Drama Festival statewide competition representing Connecticut (*Metamorphoses*, 2005). Has worked on productions with Theater for a New Audience, The Wooster Group, Incubator Arts Project, and at The Westport Country Playhouse. Collage, production designer, and video artist. Works shown at the Pen & Brush Gallery (NYC). Currently is Associate Manager, Development Events, at The New York Public Library. www.tajlisiladi.com



Barry Gifford (Playwright)—Barry Gifford's fiction, non-fiction and poetry have been published in twenty-eight languages. His novel *Night People* was awarded the Premio Brancati, established by Pier Paolo Pasolini and Albertor Moravia, in Italy, and he has been the recipient of awards from PEN, the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Library Association, the Writers Guild of America, and the Christopher Isherwood Foundation. His books *Sailor's Holiday* and *The Phantom Father* were each named a Notable Book of the Year by the *New York Times*, and his book *Wyoming* was named a Novel of the Year by the *Los Angeles Times*. He has written librettos for operas by the composers Toru Takemitsu, Ichiro Nodaira, and Olga Neuwirth. Gifford's work has appeared in many publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Punch*, *Esquire*, *La Nouvelle Revue Francaise*, *El Pais*, *La Republica*, *Rolling Stone*, *Brick*, *Film Comment*, *El Universal*, *Projections*, and the *New York Times*. His film

credits include: *Wild at Heart*, *Perdita Durango*, *Lost Highway*, *City of Ghosts*, *Ball Lightning* and *The Phantom Father*. Barry Gifford's most recent books are *Sailor & Lula: The Complete Novels*, and *Sad Stories of the Death of Kings*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

<http://www.barrygifford.com/>

DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

Contributions are tax-deductible.



PUBLICITY & MARKETING

Led by Press Rep Matthew Yeager, a press release for the world-premiere of *Do the Blind Dream?* will be sent to contacts at VICE, New York Magazine, Time Out NY, The New York Times, Flavorpill, L Magazine, and other local online and print publications for listings and review coverage.

We will market the show via social media, including personal and professional Facebook and Twitter accounts and blogs. Email blasts will go out to both Black Lodge Theater and The Players Theatre mailing lists. We will do outreach with other theaters and related organizations for inclusion in their newsletters (e.g., The Flea, BAM, The Brick, Incubator Arts Project) and create artwork for the online marketing campaign and printed material. In addition, we will be creating a promotional video for use with a planned crowd-funding campaign on Hatchfund.org and hold additional awareness events along the way. Major supporters of the piece will be acknowledged on the press release and all appropriate production materials.



DONATE TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION

Contributions are tax-deductible.

BLACK LODGE THEATER is an Off-Broadway resident company with The Players Theatre in New York. A collective of producers, publicists, directors, actors, filmmakers, designers, and managers, our mission is to explore the absurdities of reality through production of world-premiere and obscure works across mediums. Black Lodge Theater is operating with non-profit status through a fiscal sponsorship from Fractured Atlas. Current members: Alexandra Siladi (Artistic Director), Alex Vlahov (Managing Director), Shane Jensen, Cristina Lippolis, Tyler McClain, Sonia Oleniak, Remy Bennett, Monroe Robertson, and Matthew Yeager. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to Black Lodge Theater [here](#).



Reading of Do the Blind Dream? October 2013, Access Theater



Funding has been made possible
by the Puffin Foundation.