

FINE ARTS CENTER THEATRE COMPANY  
Scott RC Levy, Producing Artistic Director  
Presents

# LEONIDAS

By

Jonathan Andujar



**FEATURING**

**Zachary Seliquini-Guzman** as Lon Chaney  
**Nels Jacobson** as John Chaney, his brother  
**John C. Ashton** as John Chaney, his father  
**Jennifer DeDominici** as Emma Chaney, his mother  
**Max Ferguson** as the Director & Vendor

Directed by  
**Scott RC Levy**



**John C. Ashton** has been involved in theater in one capacity or another since Aristophanes was a stagehand. For thirteen years he was head of Denver's Avenue Theater, where he produced all, directed most and acted in some of the plays. With Bob Wells, John wrote the comedy murder mystery *Murder Most Fowl*, which ran for five years. Acting credits include an appearance with Bryan Cranston in Episode 504 of *Breaking Bad*, and a few scenes with Robert Redford in the Netflix film *Our Souls at Night*. John is a proud recipient of the Colorado Theatre Guild Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Jennifer DeDominici** has performed at the FAC as Francesca in *Bridges of Madison County*, Charity Barnum in *Barnum*, Mary Poppins, Judy in *9 to 5*, Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*, Grace in *Annie*, and in the concert performance of *Dogfight*. Also in Colorado Springs, Jennifer has been Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Carmen, Emperor Joseph II in *Amadeus*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Hänsel, Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Angelina in *La Cenerentola*, and Mrs. Jones in *Street Scene* and has worked with Opera Theatre of the Rockies, Colorado Springs Philharmonic, Chamber Orchestra of the Springs, and Theatreworks. She teaches voice at Colorado College.



**Max Ferguson** is a Theatre Artist and Colorado Springs Native. As an actor he has worked with the FAC (Lord Farquard, *Shrek*; The Lecturer, *Reefer Madness*; Freddy, *Noises Off*), UCCS Theatreworks (Cord Elam, *Oklahoma*; Macdonald Dick III, *Servant of Two Masters*), and Actors Theatre of Louisville (Oliver, *Kid Simple*). He is proud to have also worked locally with Millibo, SET, The Philharmonic, The Chamber Orchestra and a number of other schools and organizations. Max is proud of his work as a producer and director with Springs Ensemble Theatre (*Gnome in the Room*, *The Goat*, *Pillowman*), as well as his work in the community as a theatre educator.



**Zachary Seliquini-Guzman's** involvement with the FAC began when he landed the role of George in *The Drowsy Chaperone* in 2013. Since then he became known for various roles including *The Wizard of Oz* (Tin Man), *White Christmas* (Phil), *9 to 5* (Joe), and *Bye Bye Birdie* (Conrad Birdie). Zach is ecstatic to take part in the *Of Spacious Skies* series and is thankful to the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College for always being his home away from home.



**Nels Jacobson** is incredibly excited to be returning to the FAC! You may have seen him before in previous stage productions such as *Barnum*, *Matilda*, *Shakespeare in Love*, and several others at the FAC. He has also been in *Measure for Measure* and *Oklahoma!* across town at THEATREWORKS. He is excited to participate in his first radio play, and hopes that he can continue to expand his acting to various other mediums. He would like to thank his amazing family for their continued support in pursuing his passion.

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### **JONATHAN ANDUJAR (WRITER OF *LEONIDAS*)**

**Jonathan Andujar** has been writing, acting, directing, and producing theatre in Colorado Springs since 2013. Having graduated from Adams State University with a degree in Theatre, and Creative Writing, Jonathan has adapted literary works for the stage, and written shorts for various non-profits in Colorado Springs. He has adapted the works of H.P. Lovecraft in THEATREdART's production of *Excerpts from Miskatonic University: An Evening with HP Lovecraft*, written shorts for the Manitou Springs Heritage Center's Haunted History of Old Manitou walking tours, and dabbled in copywriting with the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, and THEATREdART. Jonathan is currently a Theatre/Spanish teacher at the Colorado Springs School and has been the President of THEATREdART since 2019.

## ABOUT LON CHANEY

Lon Chaney was born April 1, 1883 in Colorado Springs. He was the son of deaf mute parents, Frank and Emma Chaney, and he learned from childhood to communicate through pantomime, sign language and facial expression. In 1901, he went on the road as an actor in a play that he co-wrote with his brother titled “The Little Tycoon.” After limited success, the company was sold and Lon continued on with the new owner. He arrived in California in 1910 and found consistent employment as a stage manager, choreographer and actor. A public scandal damaged Lon’s stage career and he was forced to seek new employment. He turned to the booming industry of silent films. This move began one of the most legendary acting careers in film history.

Between 1913 and 1930 he played more the 150 widely diverse roles, frequently villainous and sometimes bizarre and macabre, almost always pathetic and moving. For *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* in 1923 he devised a hump and harness reportedly weighing in excess of 50 pounds, twisting his torso to feel the pain of Quasimodo. He delivered an outstanding performance earning him worldwide fame. In 1925, Lon created the makeup that secured him into film immortality with his portrayal as “Erik,” the tortured opera ghost in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Due to his ability to portray an endless variety of characters, Lon became known as “The Man of a Thousand Faces.” He, like Charlie Chaplin, shunned the transition to talking films and was one of the last silent screen stars to holdout against speaking roles. His stock and trade as he professed “was in makeup and the art of pantomime.” In 1930 he made his one and only talking film, a remake of 1925 “The Unholy Three.” He played Echo, a crook ventriloquist and used five different voices in the movie, thus proving he could make the transition from silent films to the talkies. Unfortunately, less than two months after the film’s release on August 26, 1930, he died from a throat hemorrhage.



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### OF SPACIOUS SKIES STAFF

#### THE WRITERS

Mélisa Annis

Jonathan Andujar, Mickey Burdick, Marisa D. Hebert, Jessica Kahkoska, Xochitl Portillo, Jess Weaver

#### THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Scott RC Levy & Nathan Halvorson — Episode Directors

Jacob Keough-Mishler — Sound Designer, Engineer & Mixer

Bob Morsch — Assistant Sound Designer

Stephanie & Jay McGuffin — Composers, *Of Spacious Skies* Theme Music

Kate L. Ferdinandi, Morgan Gatson & Terri Harrison — Production Management

Christina Shoemaker — Theatre Company Assistant

#### FOR THE VISUAL VERISON

Christopher L. Sheley — Production Design and Art Direction

Holly A. Rawls — Associate Art Director and Video Editing



COLORADO SPRINGS

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at COLORADO COLLEGE