

# INTERROBANG

THEATRE PROJECT

A NEW ~~ZOOM~~ PLAY  
*virtual*



Written & Directed by  
Spenser Davis

Commissioned by Interrobang Theatre Project, Chicago, IL

# INTERROBANG

THEATRE PROJECT

presents  
the world premiere of

## THE SPIN

Written & Directed By  
**Spenser Davis**

**THE SPIN was commissioned by  
Interrobang Theatre Project, Chicago, IL**

VIDEOGRAPHER

Matthew Freer

COSTUME DESIGN

LaVisa Angela Williams

STAGE MANAGER

Shawn Galligan

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Richie Vavrina

PRESS RELATIONS

David Rosenberg

Notes from Playwright & Director, Spenser Davis

### RARE

At a time when live theatre is at a standstill, and video-conferencing programs have become part of our day-to-day, the ITP artistic family and I decided to try an experiment: could we possibly use the latter as a platform to create something resembling the excitement of the former? Rather than bemoaning our circumstances and adopting the “it isn’t theatre if it isn’t live” mentality, could we create something specifically for the virtual medium that embraced the limitations it presents and find artistically creative ways around them? While much of what’s been released over the past several months has been adapted for the digital landscape, we’re proud to present one of the first wholly original works written specifically for the virtual stage, with roles custom-fit to ITP’s incredibly talented ensemble.

### RELEVANT

Every time we hop online or turn on the television, there they are again... despicable men in high-ranking positions abusing their power, while dismissing the wellness and safety of those they claim to serve. THE SPIN, thank goodness, is not about those men, but rather the folks whose job it is to speak to the public on their behalf - the press agents, the spin doctors, the PR consultants, the high-level aides. With the most important election in modern history looming at our doorstep, and a campaign trail riddled with uncountable lies and misinformation, our play asks the question: When your job hinges on your ability to assign blame elsewhere, what, if anything, do you accept responsibility for? Do you swallow bile before lying for your client, or do you convince yourself that their truth is the truth? And for the rest of us, how do we fight the bad guys when they’re convinced that they’re actually the heroes of the story?

### RAW

Human communication (and lack thereof) is rarely pretty, full of stops and starts and self-interruptions. But move that communication online, and you throw into the mix the time delays and technical hiccups that create a sort of clumsy cacophony that is nevertheless real. This play seeks to capture that. But equally as messy are our characters’ morals. Women find themselves taking on the blame for bad men’s behavior. Colleagues fight like family. And because of the pandemic, it all takes place over Zoom, where everyone always sits in close-up. THE SPIN is a fast, surprisingly funny, and completely unapologetic look at the world of Spin Doctors, the people who curate the news we digest daily, in hopes that we’ll see things their way, whether it’s true or not.



TIME - Present

## Cast

Clark Megan ..... Salar Ardebili  
 KC Pecarrero ..... Laura Berner Taylor  
 Paul McGuire ..... Tom Dacey Carr  
 April Henning ..... Sarah Gise  
 Dierdre Young ..... Elana Elyce  
 Lorne Collier ..... Matthew Martinez Hannon  
 Shawn Treadmore ..... Scott Sawa  
 News Anchor ..... Elise Marie Davis  
 Campaign Commercial Narrator ..... Darren Jones



**SALAR ARDEBILI** (Clark Megan) is an actor hailing from Tehran, Iran. He has worked regionally around the country and with many theatres in the Chicago area. Recent Chicago stage work includes: I CALL MY BROTHERS (Cleveland Public Theatre, Interrobang), THE NORTH POOL (Interrobang), LANGUAGE ROOMS (Broken Nose Theatre), THROUGH THE ELEVATED LINE (Silk Road Rising), YASMINA'S NECKLACE (Goodman, 16th Street Theatre). He is an ensemble member with ITP. For more info, visit [www.SalarArdebili.com](http://www.SalarArdebili.com)



**TOM DACEY CARR** (Paul McGuire) is thrilled to be making his Interrobang debut. A classically trained actor and founding member of Facility Theatre, his Chicago credits include work with TUTA, Victory Gardens, Bailiwick Repertory Theatre, Next Theatre, the Organic Theatre, and Erasing the Distance. Regional credits include Cincinnati Playhouse In The Park, Playmakers Repertory Theatre, and Cumberland Theatre. Tom earned his MFA at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with Playmakers Repertory Theatre and is married with two grown daughters.



**SARAH GISE** (April Henning) has been a proud Interrobang Theatre Project actor and company member since February 2015. She holds a BFA in acting from the University of Southern California (USC) and in 2013 received the LA Weekly Best Actress Award for her performance in The Belle of Belfast. In addition to theatre, she has appeared in several web series, films, and commercials. She is also a voiceover artist, having narrated over two dozen audiobooks, and is the host/producer of The ADHD Artist Podcast. She is represented by the fierce ladies at DDO Chicago. With ITP, she has appeared in REALLY REALLY, OWNERS, STILL, THE AMISH PROJECT (nominated for a 2017 Joseph Jefferson Award- "Best Solo Performance"), FOR THE LOYAL, and OUT OF LOVE. Sarah is so grateful to her Interrobang family, and is thrilled to have found such a wonderful artistic home.



**ELANA ELYCE** (Dierdre Young) acts, directs, writes, coaches and produces. THE SPIN is her 4th production with ITP as an actor, previously performing in THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA?, STILL, and THE ARGUMENT. Besides ITP she has been seen in several productions with The House Theatre of Chicago, most notably three separate runs of UNITED FLIGHT 232; six productions with Fleetwood-Jourdain Theatre, including featuring as Lady in Red in FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE CONSIDERED SUICIDE/WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF; she also had the great pleasure of portraying Chicago- (cont.)

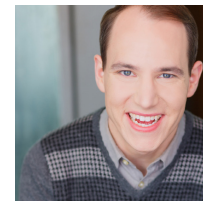
activist Tonika Lewis Johnson in the acclaimed Folded Map. Elana is the Business Manager of The Chicago Inclusion Project. [www.elanaelyce.net](http://www.elanaelyce.net)



**MATTHEW MARTINEZ HANNON** (Lorne Collier) is overjoyed to be joining Interrobang Theatre Project's production of THE SPIN as Lorne. A native of San Diego, California, Matthew recently graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University's MFA Acting program. He previously studied at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, Los Angeles City College Theatre Academy, and earned his BA (double majoring in Theater & Performance Studies and Psychology) from University of California, Berkeley. He has acted, directed, produced, and taught regionally in Southern and Northern California, as well as Chicago. Currently residing in Chicago, Matthew is proudly represented by DDO Artists Agency. He wishes to thank ITP, GG, CM, and—as she'll always be his baby—MC.



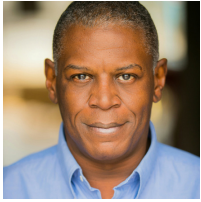
**LAURA BERNER TAYLOR** (KC Pecarrero) has been an ensemble member at Interrobang since 2016, performing in OUT OF LOVE (Jeff Nomination- Actor in a Principal Role), GRACE, STILL and RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS. She'll be working with Eclipse when live theatre is eventually back. Around Chicago, she's also performed with TimeLine, Windy City Playhouse, Silk Road Rising, Backroom Shakespeare Project, and Black Ensemble Theatre. Regionally, she's worked with TheatreSquared and Marin Shakespeare Company. Television credits include CHICAGO MED (2 episodes), CHICAGO JUSTICE (NBC), and THE CHI (Showtime). She has a BFA in Acting from Santa Fe University of Art and Design and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. [www.laurabernertaylor.com](http://www.laurabernertaylor.com)



**SCOTT SAWA** (Shawn Treadmore) is honored to return to ITP, after playing Henry in HERE LIES HENRY (Non-Eq Jeff Nomination - Solo Performance) last March. Recent-ish roles include: Cliff Bradshaw in CABARET (Cowardly Scarecrow); George/Valentina (u/s) in CASA VALENTINA, and Bob Neal in TEN DOLLAR HOUSE (Pride Films & Plays). Other favorites: POSEIDON, BEWILDERED! (Hell in a Handbag); HEY! DANCIN! HEY! MUSICAL! (Factory); NIGHTMARE IN PARADISE, FIGHT NIGHT, THE MOST ADO: A PARTY PLAY (Nothing Special). TV/Web: CHICAGO FIRE, REDLINE TO HOWARD. Scott is currently preparing a podcast, "You're On In Five! The Art of Understudying", co-hosted with ITP icon Elana Elyce, featuring conversations with actors about their experiences and technique as understudies, to be released in early 2021. Thanks and Love to Mom, Charlotte, and Elana! When pronounced correctly, Scott Sawa rhymes with "Hot Lava." [www.ScottSawa.com](http://www.ScottSawa.com)



**ELISE MARIE DAVIS** (News Anchor) is a GNC actor who is very excited to be working with Interrobang for the first time! They are the Artistic Director of Broken Nose Theatre, where they've performed in the Jeff Award-winning productions of GIRL IN THE RED CORNER, PLAINCLOTHES, and AT THE TABLE; they've also appeared in LABYRINTH, A PHASE, MY FIRST TIME, and numerous iterations of Bechdel Fest. Recent credits include Promethean Theatre (Best Ensemble Jeff Nomination - BLUE STOCKINGS), Eclipse Theatre, The New Colony, New American Folk Theatre, Lyric Opera, Strawdog, and American Blues, among others. TV credits include the Amazon Prime short-form comedy series SQUID. As a playwright, they've had their work performed at Steppenwolf 1700, First Floor Theater, Broken Nose, and Arc Theatre, while their play A PHASE has been taught at the University of Chicago. They are also an ensemble member of The Factory Theater and are represented by Big Mouth Talent Agency.

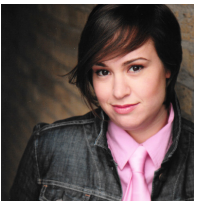


**DARREN JONES** (Campaign Commercial Narrator) Darren’s stage credits include LABYRINTH for Broken Nose Theatre; KING LEAR (Redtwist Theatre); ONE 4 THE ROAD (MPAACT); CRIME AND PUNISHMENT, THE HEAVENS ARE HUNG IN BLACK (Shattered Globe Theatre Company, where he is an Artistic Associate); RUTHERFORD’S TRAVELS (Pegasus Theatre Company); WHAT I LEARNED IN PARIS (Congo Square Theatre); REPAIRING A NATION (eta Creative Arts Foundation); KATRINA: MOTHER-IN-LAW OF ‘EM ALL (Interrobang Theatre Project); FABULATION, OR THE RE-EDUCATION OF UNDINE (Pulse Theatre Company). Film and television credits include CHI-RAQ, HOOD, NO CHASER, ROAD TO FREEDOM, CHICAGO PD (NBC), CHICAGO FIRE (NBC). Darren has done commercials and internet ads for State Farm Insurance, Northwestern Medicine, Rivers Casino, Brookfield Zoo, MetLife and Humana along with training and industrial films for CareerBuilder, Accenture, Northwestern Medical, Walgreens and Sears Auto Center. YouTube web series BLACKBOARD JUNGLE for Opportunity, Inc. and independent film SPOKES. Darren is represented by Lily’s Talent Chicago.

## Creative Team



**SPENSER DAVIS** (Playwright/Director) is the Director of Programming for Broken Nose Theatre, an ensemble member at The Factory Theater, and the current Michael Maggio Directing Fellow at The Goodman. As a director, he’s been nominated for the Jeff Award for Best Director three times, winning once. His credits include A Red Orchid Theatre, American Blues, The New Colony, Hell in a Hand-bag, Promethean Theatre, and First Floor Theater, among others. His production of AT THE TABLE was named “One of the Top 25 Shows of the Decade” by Storefront Rebellion and “One of the Year’s Best” by Chicago Tribune. As a playwright, his work includes PLAINCLOTHES, MERGE, and UN-DERDOGZ. He received the 2019 M. Elizabeth Osborn New Play Award from the American Theatre Critics’ Association, the 2020 Elizabeth George Commission from South Coast Rep, and was named a finalist for the Harold & Mimi Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award. He’s represented by William Morris Endeavor.



**GEORGETTE VERDIN** (Managing Artistic Director) has been working with ITP since 2014. She is a freelance director, theater & speech educator and arts integration specialist. She was the founding theater teacher at Polaris Charter Academy, an Expeditionary Learning School in West Humboldt Park, where she taught full-time for eight years. Recent directing credits include TRIBES (Nina Raine) at Western Michigan University, Jeff recommended productions of OUT OF LOVE (U.S. Premiere, Elinor Cook), GRACE and RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS (Craig Wright), and TIME STANDS STILL (Donald Margulies), as well as the 2013 & 2016 Yale Drama Series winners, STILL (Jen Silverman) and UTILITY (Emily Schwend). Georgette has also worked with Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Facility Theatre and Chicago Dramatists, among others. Should theatre return to the stage next season, she is slotted to associate direct Mat Smart’s World Premiere, EDEN PRARIE, 1971 (Raven Theatre). Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. She is an associate member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

**MATTHEW FREER** (Videographer) is a Chicago based cinematographer filling the role of videographer for ITP’s production of THE SPIN. Coming from the commercial and independent film space, Matthew has also collaborated with local theater companies including Broken Nose Theater and Red Theater. He’s always excited for new opportunities to create with artists.

**SHAWN GALLIGAN** (Stage Manager) has acted, directed, and stage managed throughout the Midwest. For Interrobang he has stage managed 7 productions. In addition to being a company member with Interrobang Theatre Project, Shawn is a company member and the Asst Stage Manager for Northern Sky Theater in Door County, WI. He also served a few years as the company stage manager for Chicago Tap Theater and was a company member with Actors’ Summit in Akron, OH. When not at the theater, you’ll often find him playing a board game or riding a bicycle.

**RICHIE VAVRINA** (Production Manager) is a production manager, scenic, and lighting designer. This is his sixth production with ITP, having worked on most of their productions since 2017. He owns his own design firm, QZLX, specializing in production design for large events. During the pandemic he has branched out to many forms of digital art, as well. His latest work focuses on digitizing home media, especially printed photography and VHS cassettes. Visit [www.DesignQZLX.com](http://www.DesignQZLX.com) to view his work and/or get in touch!

**LAVISA ANGELA WILLIAMS** (Costume Designer) is happy to be working as Costume Designer with Interrobang Theatre Project again and is also a designing member of City Lit Theater. Her favorite genres to design include contemporary, fantasy, and sci-fi. Her favorite design materials are fabric, leather, metal, heat plastics, and foam. Aside from traditional costuming, she also makes wedding bouquets, helps young actors with styling for print work, and sells mixed media art boxes through ArguablyAdulting.com

‡ denotes ensemble member or artistic associate

## Staff

Managing Artistic Director .....	Georgette Verdin
Artistic Producer .....	Elana Elyce
Literary Manager .....	Laura Berner Taylor
Marketing Director .....	Nancy Payne
Creative Director .....	Zoë Verdin
Production Artist & Box Office Manager .....	Christopher Aaron Knarr
Casting Coordinator .....	Sarah Gise
Digital Media Director .....	Jon-Paul Schaut

## Ensemble Members

Georgette Verdin • Salar Ardebili • Brynne Barnard • Laura Berner Taylor • Elana Elyce  
 Shawn Galligan • Sarah Gise • Noël Huntzinger (artistic assoc.)  
 Christopher Aaron Knarr • Joe Lino • Claire Yearman  
 Richie Vavrina (artistic assoc.) • Zoë Verdin

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## Interrobang Theatre Project

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Interrobang Theatre Project is a non-profit organization that depends on donor support

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## Special Thanks

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