

# CURATOR NOTE

“I was looking for a party when I found this one.”

My father says this from time to time and while I have no idea what he’s ever talking about, it reminds me of when I first became interested into the performing arts. It was in college when I figured out that at 7 or 8pm most nights there was always a recital, concert, production, presentation, showing, panel or lecture to attend. I liked being able to dress up a little and act like I had something else going on. I never really cared what I was attending, but mostly it was performance fare. I remember sitting in early music recitals with obscure programs and practicing yogic breathing, figuring I could open myself up to the old sounds and literally inhale the knowledge.

I think the real point of racking up frequent flyer points at events was that I was seeking some sense of community or at least something larger than myself. It’s probably why I became an arts administrator, not so much falling into it as I’ve always told people but because I was looking for interesting people to which I could relate.

Fast forward twenty plus years and I’m thinking about these things as I greeted James Long and Marcus Youssef in our studio on Tuesday night. I have been looking forward to this engagement since I first saw a rehearsal of the show 15 months ago. Not only is it a brilliant work but it also gives me a chance to hang out with friends. Twelve years into this job I find the friend part becoming a rarer proposition. As a producer you say “no” to many more artists than to whom you say “yes” and after many years of doing that you’ve pissed off a lot of artists. I console myself with the idea that this is what happens if you’re doing the job in a responsible fashion. Sometimes it’s worse than that, though. Sometimes the producer/artist relationship turns toxic. I guess it’s like how in many acts of violence victims know their assailants.

I can’t get over how much this takes place in the art world, friends fighting friends. Maybe it’s the point of it; a safe place to play rough. Still, it’s somehow more gut wrenching than watching people have it out who will never get along. This is what fucks me up about this show – not that I am roughly the same height, weight and age of these dudes but because ultimately it is about friends fighting friends. You watch how easily this can occur and feel sad that we ever let this happen.



**Lane Czaplinski, Artistic Director**