

GRUNGE

A HELLA 90'S MUSICAL ABOUT LETTING GO

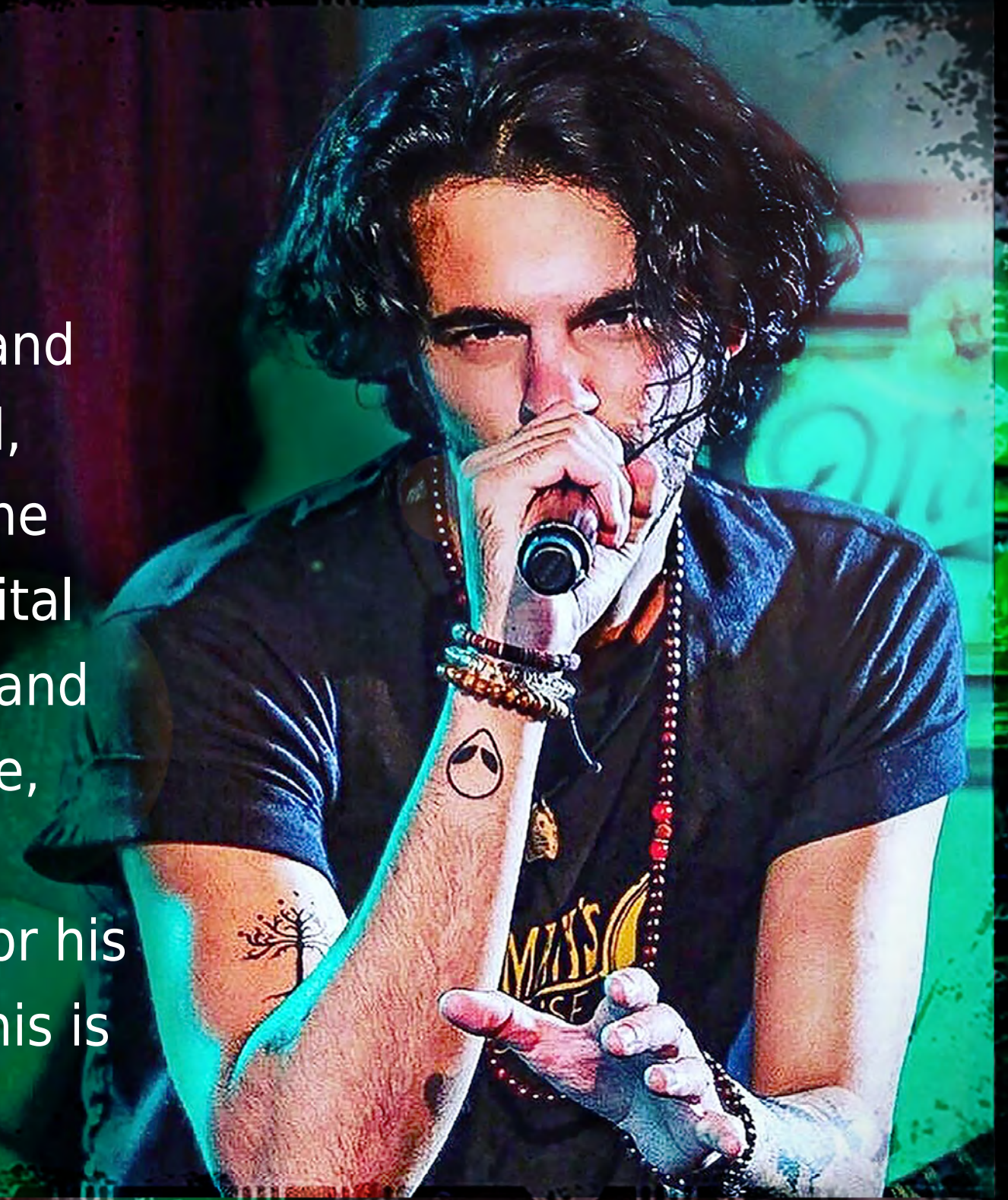
News

GRUNGE, a musical with an idiosyncratic approach, finds its way to stage!

During the pandemic of 2020, the original presentation was shut down. The script adapted as a first of its kind audio drama with concept album. Sound design by 5 time Emmy Award winner Dave Smith. Musical performances by Grammy nominated drummer Scott Amendola, Jon Evans, bass player with Tori Amos, Marc Von Em, vocals and guitar with Rob Thomas, Nakia featured on the Voice and many other great talents who helped bring this story based on true events, to life. Pandemic be damned. We are thrilled to introduce this original work to you and bring this show to a live audience. Peace out.

About the Show

It's the 1990's and Charley, a broody working-class guy and reluctant frontman of an up-and-coming indie rock band, discovers a note that brings him on the verge of finding the father who abandoned him. Unaware of the burgeoning digital revolution that will change the music industry forever, the band gets its first big break. Facing loss in times of great change, courage and confidence are elusive, opportunities for independent artists are fleeting. Should he move on or wait for his time to come around? Bringing back *wack slacks* and *fuzz*, this is a generation-gone-by story about a fatherless son, the brotherhood of a band and what it means to let go.



Creatives, Cast, Producing Team



Librettist

Leyna D'Ancona

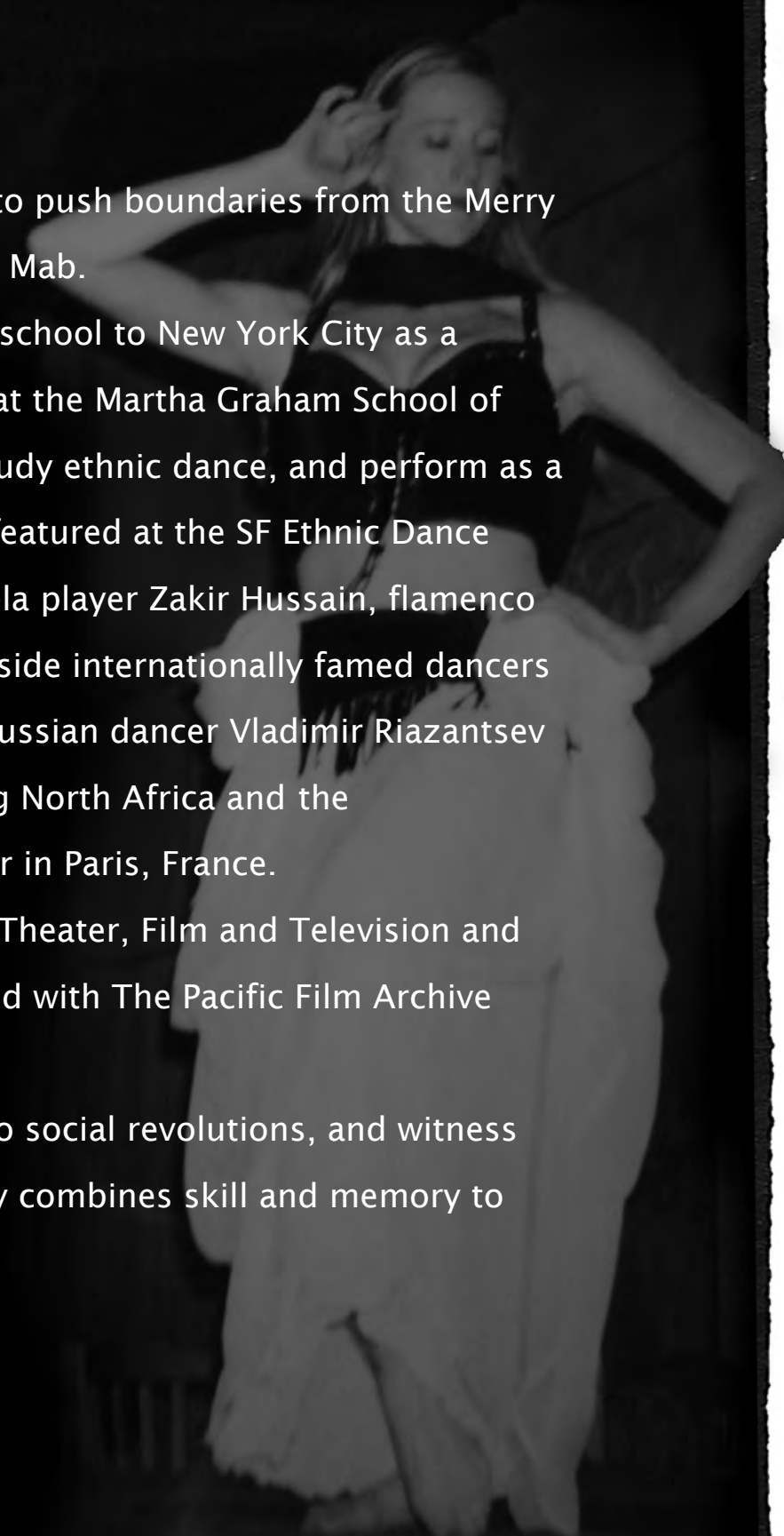


Born into an unconventional life in Berkeley, California, Leyna learned to push boundaries from the Merry Pranksters, road tripped with Dead Heads and slam danced at the Fab Mab.

Leyna's stage career developed hitting the pavement right out of high school to New York City as a dancer. She trained at Steps on Broadway, Peridance and as a student at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. She returned to the San Francisco Bay Area to study ethnic dance, and perform as a principal dancer with the company Kafkas, Dance of the Silk Roads, featured at the SF Ethnic Dance Festival. She studied Kathak with Antonia Minnecola, wife of famed tabla player Zakir Hussain, flamenco with the renowned Rosa Montoya Bailes Flamencos, and danced alongside internationally famed dancers Timur Koridze (choreographer of Cirque du Soleil's show "Varekai"), Russian dancer Vladimir Riazantsev of the prestigious Moiseyev Dance Company and others. After traveling North Africa and the Mediterranean solo as a belly dancer, she retired from her dance career in Paris, France.

For her directorial education, Leyna audited classes at UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and worked on projects with the UCLA graduate program. She later worked with The Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA), Canyon Cinema, and the SF Cinematheque.

A Cal graduate (UC Berkeley in Comparative Literature), survivor of two social revolutions, and witness by happenstance to the rise and fall of arena rock bands, Leyna artfully combines skill and memory to write the story of "Grunge."



Composer & Lyricist

Paul Martin Siegel

Paul Siegel grew up off the Palisades Parkway just outside of New York City where he started writing songs at the age of 10. His tastes were influenced by Neil Young and Led Zeppelin, but the music of his "mishpuka" at home was from musicals like "West Side Story" and "Fiddler on the Roof." His mother, an avid Broadway fan, took him to shows in the city that today are considered Broadway classics with the iconic original casts. A great inspiration was his uncle Larry Siegel, lead writer of the Carol Burnett Show. Larry wrote the Off-Broadway musical revue "The Mad Show" and collaborated on it with Stephen Sondheim back when Sondheim was getting his start on Broadway. This experience gave Paul his first "taste of backstage," and a love of live musical performances.

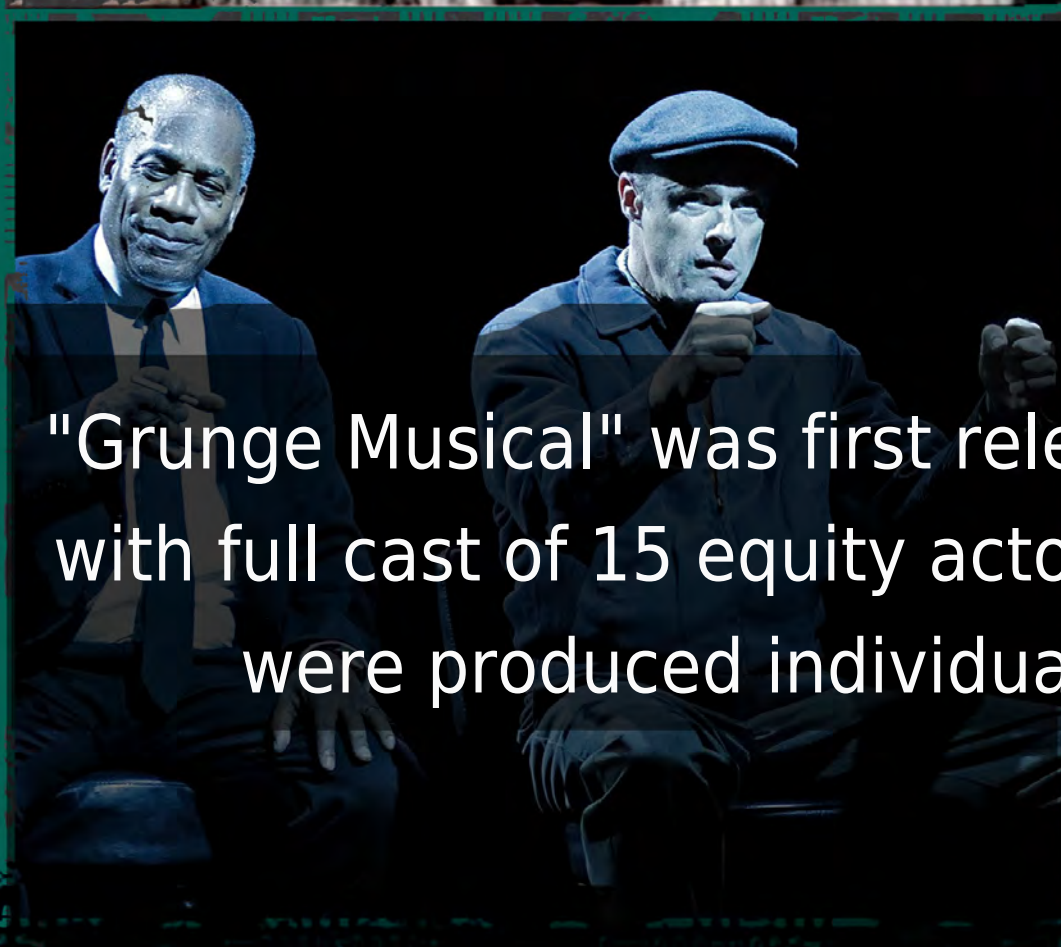
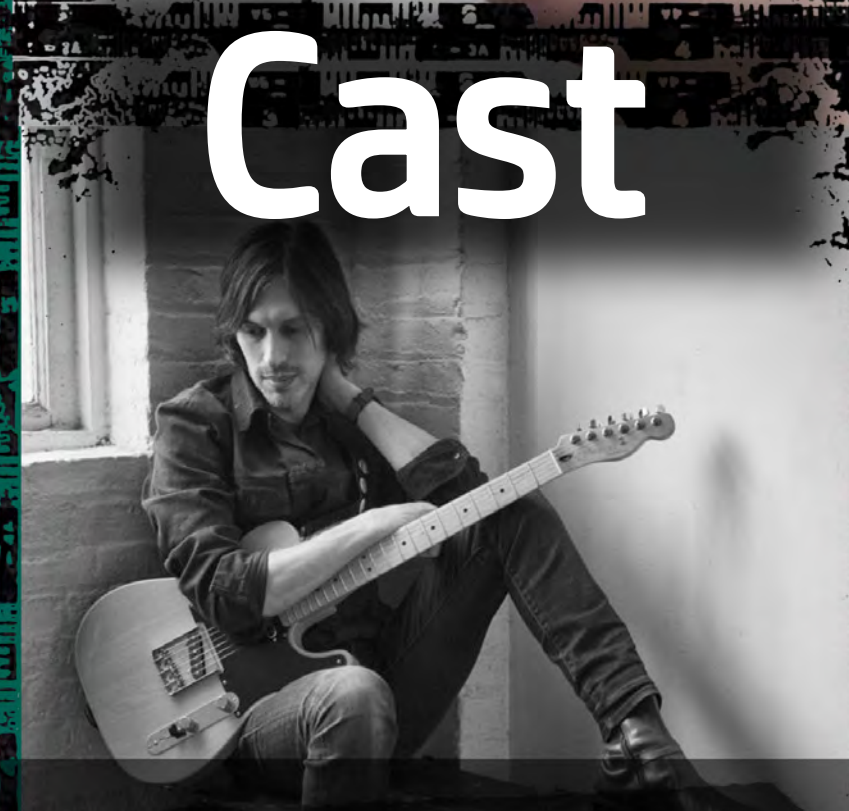
A graduate from Syracuse University, Paul spent 5 years immersed in the band *Dogtalk*. Their independent attitude shone through the music and they gained a devoted following.

After moving to San Francisco, Paul expanded on those formative years and devoted himself full-time to narrative songwriting and formed the band *Charley Django*. It is from this time period, with bandmates Scott Amendola on drums and Jon Evans on bass, that songs from recordings "Dutchboy Warehouse Songs" "Lyriculous Meloddities" and "Demoliberation" inspired "Grunge" musical. Scott, a graduate of Berklee School of Music along with Paul Siegel has collaborated with Nels Cline, Charley Hunter, and Mike Patton. The bassist, Jon Evans, also a Berklee School of Music graduate, after playing with *Charley Django* went on to record and tour internationally with Tori Amos, Linda Perry, Chris Cornell, Sarah McLachlan and others who exploded on the 1990's music scene. During the pandemic of 2020, the bandmates reunited to record the soundtrack album for "Grunge Musical".





Cast



"Grunge Musical" was first released as a pioneering audio drama musical podcast and concept album with full cast of 15 equity actors, performers and professional singers. During lockdown, all recordings were produced individually and remotely with no two people in the room at the same time.



Producing Team



Evan Bernardin

Evan Bernardin Productions (EBP) is a NYC based full-service theatrical management company that provides general management for theatrical productions and consulting services. EBP combines golden age practices with new age technological, organizational, and analytic tools.

EBP maintains relationships with agents, theater owners, unions, and suppliers which can be leveraged to provide expert support. Founder, Evan Bernardin, credits include: *The Dodgers*, *We Are The Tigers* (Ovation nomination), *The Navigator* (Drama Desk Nomination), and *More Than All The World*. He has worked with the New York Musical Theatre Festival (NYMF), Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS (BCEFA), Fringe (NY & LA), The Workshop Theatre Company, The Broadway Youth Ensemble (BYE), and The Make A Wish Foundation; his collaborative projects include performances at Lincoln Center, The United Nations, The Harvard Club, Georgetown's Gaston Hall, The Culture Project, The Ohio Theatre, 54 Below, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

www.evanbernardinproductions.com



**Rashad V. Chambers
General Manager**

Rashad V. Chambers is a Tony Award winning producer, talent manager and lawyer. He is the Founder and President of Esquire Entertainment. Rashad recently produced the New York premiere of the award winning musical *Little Girl Blue: The Nina Simone Musical*. His Broadway producing credits include *American Son*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *Betrayal*, *The Inheritance*, *Caroline, or Change*, *The Music Man* and *Topdog/Underdog*.

Rashad attended Morehouse College where he graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration. He also earned his JD and MBA degrees from The Ohio State University. Rashad is a founding member of The Industry Standard Group as well as a board member of On Broadway Performing Arts Training Program and Houses on the Moon Theater Company.

www.esquireentertainment.com

Finance

Grunge is currently in the development stage. Please reach out to us for detailed information.



**Join
Us**

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Thank you!

Booyah!

