

Indie Chi Productions presents  
Jane Kaczmarek and Gregory Harrison in  
“The Snake Can”  
by Kathryn Graf

*Welcome to middle age... proceed with caution*

Los Angeles, Calif. — December 11, 2012 — Welcome to middle age... proceed with caution! **Diane Cary, Jane Kaczmarek** and **Sharon Sharth** star as three successful, women who challenge themselves to find love and personal fulfillment in the middle years of life. **Steven Robman** directs the ensemble cast, which also includes **Gregory Harrison, James Lancaster** and **Joel Polis**, in the **world premiere** of *The Snake Can* by **Kathryn Graf** (*Hermetically Sealed*). Performances run **January 19** through **February 24**, presented by **Indie Chi Productions** at the **Odyssey Theatre** in West Los Angeles.

Growing older doesn't always mean growing wiser. Harriet (Kaczmarek) is a widow and single mother; Nina (Cary) has left her actor husband to escape the shadow of his celebrity; and twice-divorced Meg (Sharth) has been navigating the single world for ten years. These women, and the men in their lives, take a journey of self-discovery, stopping along the way to examine the gray areas of marriage and divorce, want and need, sexual ambiguity and dating in the age of online matchmaking.

“This play comes very much out of my own personal experience,” explains Graf. “I’m a widow who raised two kids, my husband was a successful film and television actor, and I know what it means to be single for a long time. I’ve often felt the way these characters do—at once free and eager, wild and surprised, unhinged and terrified.”

“I was won over by the wit and insight in Kathy’s writing,” says Robman, a veteran stage and television director who is new to L.A.’s 99-seat theater scene. “I directed the premieres of Wendy Wasserstein’s first two plays [*Uncommon Women and Others* and *Isn’t It Romantic*], and now, with *The Snake Can*, I feel like I’m coming full circle. The landscape is very different for those of us in middle age than it was for the women in Wendy’s plays. The divorce rate is higher, people are living longer, we switch jobs and locales more easily—and then there’s the Internet.”

Set design for *The Snake Can* is by **Jeffery Eisenmann**; lighting design is by **Adam Blumenthal**; projection design is by **Hana S. Kim**; sound design is by **Cricket S. Myers**; costume design is by **Miguel Montalvo**; props are by **Lorely Trinidad**; casting is by **Helen Geier**; production stage manager is **Liana Dillaway**; and **Diane Levine** produces for **Indie Chi Productions**.

Kathryn Graf’s first full-length play, *Hermetically Sealed*, garnered extensive critical praise and award nominations in its recent four-month run at The Skylight Theatre. She began writing when she penned and performed *Surviving David*, a one-woman play chronicling her first year as a young widow (2100 Square Feet in L.A.; Outstanding Solo Show, NYC Fringe Festival). Her other plays include the one-acts *Poor Pretty Birds* (Philipstown Depot Theatre, NY) and *The Stiff* (finalist, 2010 Tennessee Williams One-Act Competition). She is also the author of the award-winning children’s book *Always My Dad* (Mom’s Choice Award, gold medal). As an actress, Kathy has guest-starred in dozens of television shows including *ER*, *Courthouse*, *Presidio Med* and in a recurring role on the soap, *Passions*.

Steven Robman has directed at Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, Chelsea Theatre Center, Phoenix Theatre and Jewish Repertory Theatre, as well as at the Guthrie, Arena Stage, Long Wharf, Actors Theatre of Louisville and Yale Rep. In Fall 2013, he will direct Brian Dennehy in *The Steward of Christendom* by Sebastian Barry at the Mark Taper Forum, where he previously staged *Babbitt*; *Says I*,

*Says He; Hoagy, Bix and W.B. Bunkhaus; and Made In America.* Other theater work includes the world premieres of *Moonlight and Magnolias* and *High Holidays* at the Goodman, as well as *Rat in the Skull* at Wisdom Bridge Theatre and the revival of *Lunching* for the Apollo Group. Mr. Robman has directed premieres of plays by Wendy Wasserstein, Ron Hutchinson, D.L.Coburn, Fay Weldon, Alan Knee and James Yoshimura. For television, Mr. Robman has directed numerous episodes of dramatic and comedy series, movies-of-the-week, and the ABC miniseries *The Audrey Hepburn Story*. For three seasons he was co-executive producer of *Party of Five* for Fox Television.

Diane Cary has performed major roles in countless L.A. stage productions, including the Drama-Logue award-winning *Song for a Nisei Fisherman* (Taper Too), *Standing On My Knees* (Zephyr Theatre) and *Pineapple White* (East-West Players). For TV, she was a series regular on *V* and the NBC cult series *Misfits of Science*, and most recently guest-starred on *Cold Case*, *The Starter Wife*, *Defying Gravity* and recurred on *Ugly Betty*. Feature films include the Academy Award-nominated *El Norte* and the recently completed psychological thriller/horror movie *Kantemir*, which reunited Diane with her *V* co-star, Robert Englund. Diane is the co-founder/executive director of Live Arts Group, a non-profit organization created to bring a free music video/film education workshop to youth in underserved neighborhoods of L.A., with a special focus on LGBTQ and homeless youth.

Gregory Harrison's three-decade career spans television, film and theater, including over 40 movies-of-the-week, multiple mini-series and TV series including *Safe Harbor*, *New York News*, *Family Man*, *Falcon Crest*, *Logan's Run* and *Trapper John M.D.* Gregory debuted on Broadway in 1997 in *Steel Pier*, followed by the 2001 Broadway revival of Sondheim's *Follies*, co-starring Blythe Danner, Treat Williams and Judith Ivey. More recently, Gregory played Billy Flynn in *Chicago*, both on Broadway and in the national, 72-city tour. Regional musical credits include *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Paper Moon: the Musical*, *Festival*, *Guys and Dolls* and *The Music Man*. Dramatic theater roles include *The Hasty Heart* and *Picnic* (both taped for Showtime on Broadway), as well as *Child's Play*, *Top Secret: The Battle For The Pentagon Papers* and the world theatrical premiere of *Carnal Knowledge* at the Pasadena Playhouse. Gregory's Catalina Productions funded and operated the Coast Playhouse in Los Angeles for fourteen years, during which time its sixty productions garnered more than one hundred L.A. theater awards. Gregory was honored with the Ovation Award for "Outstanding Contribution to LA Theater."

Jane Kaczmarek has performed on Broadway in *Lost in Yonkers* and at the Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public, Second Stage, Long Wharf, New York Stage and Film, and the Berkshire and Williamstown Theatre Festivals. In Los Angeles, she appeared in *Awake and Sing* and *Death of a Salesman* at L.A. Theatre Works; *Kindertransport* (Ovation Award–Best Actress), *Dinner With Friends* and *Raised in Captivity* (LA Drama Critics Circle Award–Featured Performance) at South Coast Repertory; *House of Blue Leaves* at the Mark Taper Forum; and *In Mother Words* and *Good People* (Ovation nomination) at the Geffen Playhouse. Kaczmarek starred for seven years in the Emmy Award-winning TV series *Malcolm in the Middle* (Emmy Award nominations, Golden Globe Award nominations, SAG Award nominations, American Comedy Award–Funniest Female Performer–TV Series, TCA Award–Individual Achievement in Comedy, AFI Actor of the Year Award–Female–Series). Other TV credits include: *Raising the Bar*, *The Simpsons*, *Felicity*, *Party of Five*, *Frasier*, *Whitney*, *Wilfred*, *The Middle* and *Law and Order: SVU*. Kaczmarek is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and Yale School of Drama.

James Lancaster was a member of The Abbey Theatre in Ireland and toured extensively with the Irish Theatre Company. He first worked with Steve Robman on *Rat in the Skull* in Chicago. He has been seen at The Goodman Theatre, Long Wharf, The Old Globe in San Diego and the New York Shakespeare Festival in Central Park. More recently he appeared in *The Caretaker*, *Dancing at Lughnasa* (opposite his wife Elizabeth Dennehy) and in *The Weir*, all at The South Coast Rep. His film credits include *Titanic*, *Pirates of the Caribbean II*, *The Prestige*, *Spanglish* and *Gettysburg*. His many television credits include *CSI NY*, *King of Queens*, *Numb3rs* and *Judging Amy*.

Joel Polis has been seen in Odyssey productions of *Bach at Leipzig*, *Pound of Flesh* (LADCC nomination for Lead Performance), *Three Travelers*, *Richard III*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *After Crystal Night* and *Fedunn*. Off Broadway and regional credits include *The Baby Dance* directed by Jenny Sullivan, *Riga* directed by Marshall Mason, *Julius Caesar* directed by Daniel Sullivan, *Names. Dog Logic.*, *A Penny for the Guy*, *What the Butler Saw*, *Family Business* and *Oleanna*. Joel has appeared in over 100 guest starring roles on television and a dozen feature films. He is a graduate of USC's School of Theater and Yale Drama School. Joel directed the critically acclaimed world premiere of Kathryn Graf's play *Hermetically Sealed* at the Skylight Theater last season.

**MORE-MORE-MORE**

Sharon Sharth was a longtime member and leading actress with Circle Repertory Company where she worked on developing scripts and originated lead roles for playwrights Lanford Wilson, John Bishop, Caroline Kava and Aaron Sorkin, among others. At additional theaters, she originated roles for John Pielmeier, Shirley Lauro, and for Ray Bradbury in the world stage premiere of *Fahrenheit 451*. A member of Actors Studio, she has starred in productions at Manhattan Theatre Club, Mark Taper Forum, Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Actors Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, Yale Rep and the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Playwrights Conference, as well as touring internationally. Earlier this year she starred in the critically acclaimed, *Los Angeles Times* "Critic's Choice" production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Woman in Mind* at Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Indie Chi Productions is an independent company focused on producing new and original material for the stage and screen. Previous theater productions in Los Angeles include the world premiere of *von Lutz*, directed by Jon Lawrence Rivera; the West Coast premiere of *Win/Lose/Draw*, directed by Dorothy Lyman; and a revival of *Love and Whispers* directed by Anthony Caldarelli. Indie Chi has produced two festival short films, *Good* and *Grounded*, as well as the soon-to-be released feature *Kantemir*.

Performances of ***The Snake Can*** take place **Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays @ 8 pm** and **Sundays @ 2 pm, January 19 through February 24**. Tickets are **\$25** on Thursdays and Fridays and **\$30** on Saturdays and Sundays; full time students with ID and seniors are **\$20**. The **Odyssey Theatre** is located at **2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West Los Angeles, 90025**. For reservations and information, call **(310) 477-2055 ext. 2** or go to [www.OdysseyTheatre.com](http://www.OdysseyTheatre.com).

## Details for Calendar Listings "The Snake Can"

### WHAT:

***The Snake Can*** — Welcome to middle age... proceed with caution! Jane Kaczmarek and Gregory Harrison star in the world premiere of a comic drama that proves growing older doesn't always mean growing wiser. Playwright Kathryn Graf (*Hermetically Sealed*) brings us three successful women and the men in their lives as they challenge themselves to find love and personal fulfillment in their middle years.

### WHO:

Written by **Kathryn Graf**

Directed by **Steven Robman**

Starring **Diane Cary, Gregory Harrison, Jane Kaczmarek, James Lancaster; Joel Polis, Sharon Sharth**

Produced by **Diane Levine**

Presented by **Indie Chi Productions**

### WHEN:

*Previews: January 17 and 18*

*Performances: January 19 – February 24*

**Thursdays @ 8 pm:** Jan. 17 (preview), 24, 31; Feb. 7, 14, 21

**Fridays @ 8 pm:** Jan. 18 (preview), 25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

**Saturdays @ 8 pm:** Jan. 19 (opening night), 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

**Sundays @ 2 pm:** Jan. 20, 27; Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

### WHERE:

Odyssey Theatre

2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd.

Los Angeles CA 90025

### HOW:

(310) 477-2055 ext. 2 or [www.OdysseyTheatre.com](http://www.OdysseyTheatre.com)

### TICKETS:

Thursdays and Fridays: **\$25**

Saturdays and Sundays: **\$30**

Students with ID and Seniors: **\$20**