THE AGENCY THEATER COLLECTIVE

Mission: The Agency Theater Collective creates extraordinary theatrical experiences by fostering new work and fresh takes from dynamic points of view.

Company

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Tres Bandidos

By Cody Lucas*

Directed by Cordie Nelson* and Jack Schultz*

Assistant Director............................Audrey Gladson*
Stage Manager.................................Teryl Thurman
Assistant Stage Manager......................Cecilie Kvie
Producer/Set Dressing........................Marie Weigle*
Technical Director............................Manuel Ortiz
Costume Designer............................Cristian Esparza
Set Design/Scenic Painter....................Chas Mathieu
Sound Design....................................Ryan Wiechmann
Lighting Design...............................Ellie Humphrys*
Fight Director.................................Hannah Tarr*
Weapons Master...............................Eddy Karch
Dialect Coach.................................Aram Monisoff
Photographer.................................Katie Reynolds

*Member of the Agency Theater Collective

CAST

DAVID.........................................................Joe Lino
LUKE..........................................................Cody Lucas
SHEP..........................................................Guy Wicke

UNDERSTUDIES

DAVID.........................................................Joe Mangles
LUKE..........................................................Erich Peltz
SHEP..........................................................John Miraglia
Director's Notes

I have a complicated relationship with Westerns. I loved them as a kid. In Junior High I watched The Outlaw Josey Wales every weekend at my Grandma’s house. Growing up queer in Mississippi, I identified strongly with the isolated hero found in those films. The broken outsider who followed his gut to know right from wrong. That idea of trusting your moral compass was foundational for me, it gave me armor to navigate the sometimes stifling environment that is the south. But the glorification of suffering and isolation found in westerns never did me any favors. The three men of Tres Bandidos have taken these ideas and built their lives around them. From the moment I picked up Cody’s play I recognized the pain coming from the men in this story, it was familiar. That toxic form of masculinity is frightening to me, especially in today’s political climate. I find myself wanting to shove it away, keep it as far from myself as I can, because I don’t want to fall back into that feeling. The suffocation. The shame. But it was because this play scared me that I knew I had to do it. Although the characters don’t always have the language to express it, Cody Lucas has woven in a deep longing to connect everywhere in these men’s lives. And isn’t that what we all want? Connection and love.

Cordie Nelson, Co-Director

While I didn’t watch many Westerns as a kid, I’ve always been a big fan of heist movies. Fast paced crime films where characters formulate a plan, carry it out, and ride off with the goods. When Cody sent me an early draft of Tres Bandidos I thought, “Great, how fun, we’ll put a heist on stage and keep the audience on the edge of their seat.” As the script developed, it was clear that the men in this story were a lot more complicated than any characters in The Italian Job (2003) or Ocean’s Trilogy (2001-2007). I see the men in Tres Bandidos as the men in my life that can’t talk to each other. I see conversations cut short because somebody got angry or didn’t want to say they were sorry. Similarly to Cordie, I’ve had moments during this process where I’ve needed to turn away and hold my heart because I’m reminded of all the love in my life that’s been lost to roadblocks in communication. I hope watching this play helps remind us all to puff out our chest a little less and listen to each other a lot more.

Jack Schultz, Co-Director

BIOS

Cordie Nelson (Co-Director) is a freelance director and the Casting Director of The Agency Theater Collective. She has been teaching Meisner Levels 1-5 at Green Shirt Studio since 2016. She has directed several new works for The Basement Series, and directed I’m Falling In Love All The Time for The Agency last winter, and is looking forward to directing Hellcab with them this Fall.

Jack Schultz (Co-Director) proudly serves as Interim Artistic Director of The Agency Theater Collective where he was last seen in I'm Falling In Love All The Time. The Agency's Basement Series directing credits include Singing in the Rain, Spoiler Alert, Mackerel Sky, Jibo, and Enjoy. Performance credits with The Agency include I Wish to Apologize to the People of Illinois, The Spirit of ’76, I'm Falling In Love All The Time and Hellcab. Jack is an instructor at Green Shirt Studio where he teaches yoga and Meisner.
Joe Lino (David) is happy to back with The Agency after performing in Chagrin Falls last year. In Chicago he has worked with Steppenwolf, Goodman, Victory Gardens, Teatro Vista, Drury Lane, The New Colony, The Cuckoo's Theater Project, and Interrobang Theatre Project where he is an artistic associate. Regionally he has credits with Actors Theatre of Louisville in shows such as Dracula, A Christmas Carol, and That High Lonesome Sound, which premiered at the Humana Festival. He has also performed Off-Broadway at the BAM Harvey Theatre in Charles Mee’s world premiere of The Glory of the World. He is a proud alumni of Ball State University and the Apprentice Training Program at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Cody Lucas (Luke) is an actor, playwright, director, and company member of The Agency Theater Collective. He is a graduate of the University of North Texas where he received his BA in Theatre Arts. While in college, Cody co-founded Sundown Collaborative Theatre and served as Artistic Director for five years. Cody has written, directed, produced, and acted in dozens of shows appearing on stages in DFW, New York, and Chicago. As a playwright his work has been seen at the Out Of The Loop Fringe Festival and the New York International Fringe Festival. His play, Truth in Context, was nominated for Best New Wok by the Jeff Committee in 2015. Cody would like to thank his mermaid vampire girlfriend and his parents for absolutely everything.

Guy Wicke (Shep) is honored to make his Agency debut with this twisted tale. Theater credits include Einstein’s Gift and Muse of Fire for Genesis Theatrical Productions, The Explorers Club and Don’t Dress For Dinner at Citadel Theatre, A Bright Room Called Day for Spartan Theatre Company, I Hate Hamlet for Theater D, Breaking the Shakespeare Code at Clockwise Theatre Company, and a variety of short works in the Rhinoceros, Paragon, Fringe, and arciTEXT festivals. He has appeared in numerous independent films and a handful of commercials, and he also improvises regularly in Booze Your Own Adventure at Laugh Out Loud Theater Chicago. Learn more and watch things at GuyWicke.com.

Erich Peltz (Luke Understudy) originally from St. Louis, Missouri, Erich has been acting and writing for the stage in the Chicagoland area for four years. In 2014 he received a bachelor’s degree in theater from Millikin University. You might have seen his face and his writing at the Conservatory in North Center. He has also worked with EDGE Theatre Company, 20% Theater Company, and Chicago Kids Company. Tres Bandidos is Erich’s first show with The Agency Theater Collective. He is excited to bring this new work to life as an understudy for Luke. Erich would like to thank his 3 gorgeous roommates, his Family, and his Partner in crime: Bryce, for their love and encouragement.

Joe Mangles (David Understudy) is a graduate of Green Shirt Studio’s Meisner based acting program as well as Second City’s Acting program and Conservatory. He has been in numerous web series and short films. Joe would like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support.

John Miraglia (Shep Understudy) returned to acting after many years away from it. John originally moved to Chicago playing drums with a band and did some acting as well, but began working with children in social work which eventually led to law school. John is married with two young boys and reentering the creative world, acting whenever possible.
Audrey Gladson (Assistant Director) is so happy to be assistant directing on this production of *Tres Bandidos*, with the lovely Agency Theatre. She hails from Saint Petersburg, FL, and is a graduate of The Theatre School at Depaul. She would like to thank Jack and Cordie for their creative insight, trust, and this wonderful opportunity.

Teryl Thurman (Stage Manager) is a St. Louis transplant with two degrees in Theater and Psychology. Most recently, she dramaturred Three Cat Productions’ original musical *Spark* and directed *Bleach*, a one act in The Agency’s 24 Hour Play Festival. Previously working in St. Louis, some of her favorite roles and productions include: *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Servant of Two Masters*, *Spring Awakening*, and *Devil Boys From Beyond*. While serving as Theatre Nuevo’s Production Assistant she wrote and produced, *The Merry Wives of Tinder*, a part of STL’s 2016 Shake30 Festival. Teryl would like to thank the wonderful members of The Agency & Green Shirt Studio, as well as her friends and family for their support.

Cecilie Kvie (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with The Agency Theater Collective. She started her acting career in Norway, and came to Chicago a few years ago to get her degree. She recently graduated from North Park University with a degree in Theater Performance. Cecilie has earlier been seen in performances such as Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, Brecht’s *The Threepenny Opera*, Grytten’s *Bikubesong*, and has also been the assistant director of Weber’s *Bleak*. Cecilie is very grateful for the support from her family and friends.

Marie Weigle (Producer/Set Dressing) is a member of the Agency Theater Collective and has been seen in various Basement Series productions, was a writer for their 24 Hour Play Festival as well as appearing in their production of *Hellicab* as Shopper, Sister#2, and Southside Girl. Marie is originally from Virginia where she earned her BFA in Performance Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University. Other acting credits include Bianca in *Taming of the Shrew* with The Arc Theatre and Bonnie in *Bonnie and Clyde* with Titus Ship Production Company. A founding member of Alluvium Group, she co-directed, wrote and produced *I am No Bird*, an original work about the Bronte sisters. Film credits include Angie in the feature film *Scent* and various roles with Giunta Creative.

Manuel Ortiz (Technical Director) is a Chicago native actor, designer and photographer. He received his BFA in Acting at DePaul University and is the founder of The Sonnet Projects; designing/adapting Shakespeare’s sonnets into new ensemble based shows. When he is not producing, building and/or performing theater, you can find him at home joyfully playing with all 18 of his animal friends (yes, he has pictures). As an artist, he has delved into many aesthetics such as puppeteering, makeup, lighting, and more. Working with artists in this renowned theater community of Chicago, Manny has grown and hopes to continue to collaborate and cultivate with passionate artists throughout the many years to come in hopes to one day operate and operate a Theater/education training ground for all ages.

Cristian Esparza (Costume Design) is a Latinx Costumer Designer/Technician who loves sushi burritos and thinking about prom, and what could have been. They hope to find success in their skills as a leatherworker and become the 90’s inspired R&B singer they were always destined to be.

Chas Mathieu (Scenic Designer) is excited to be working with The Agency for his first time. Scenic design credits include: *The Lady Demands Satisfaction* (Babes with Blades), *The Days are Shorter* (Pride Films and Plays), *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Savoyaires), *Encounter* (Collaboraction), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Columbia College Chicago), *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* (Columbia College Chicago), and *Abduction* (Locked Door Productions). Chas is also a scenic artist, carpenter, and technical director, and paints fine art in his free time. Chas holds a BFA in Theatre Design from Columbia College Chicago.

Ryan Wiechmann (Sound Design) is a transplant from St. Louis with two degrees in Theater and Mass Communications. Ryan is ecstatic to be a part of *Tres Bandidos*, his first experience with The Agency Theater Collective. Previous sound and visual design include productions of *Spring Awakening*, *Hedwig and The Angry Inch*, and *Merry Wives of Tinder*, and several One-Act Festivals. Ryan is a Chicago-based writer, designer, and illustrator, having created artwork for Remy Bumppo Theatre, Intrinsic Theatre Company, and other artistic clients.
Ellie Humphrys (Lighting Design) graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in Lighting Design in 2012 and has been working the Chicago storefront theatre scene ever since. As a company member with The Agency Theatre Collective, Ellie has designed numerous Agency shows including Hellcab, Nautilina, Chagrin Falls, At The Center, Truth in Context, and I Wish to Apologize to the People of Illinois. Some additional designs of note include Belfast Girls with Artemesia Theatre, Faces of Eurydice with CUBE Ensemble, and Ladies First with Laboratory Dancers. More information and a beautiful online portfolio can be found at www.ellielightstheatre.com

Hannah Tarr (Fight Director) is beyond excited to release some pent-up aggression and choreograph these talented men. This is her first time on the production side of a performance for The Agency, but her acting credits with them include Skin for Skin (Sgt. Lindsey); Fight, Flight, or Freeze (Herself); Dirty Little Secrets: A 24 Hour Play Festival (Written by Sommer Austin); Hellcab (U/S); and multiple appearances in The Basement Series. Hannah would like to thank Jack, Cordie, and all of The Agency for giving her this opportunity to beat up Cody Lucas, and the boys for making her job so much fun.

Eddy Karch (Weapons Master) would like to thank The Agency for the opportunity to work on such an amazing production.

Special Thanks

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