The Convent of Pleasure

Actor Bios

Hailed by *The New York Times* as “half witch and half cabaret performer,” **Raquel Cion** has performed extensively in NYC, Paris and the Bay Area. Recent projects include: Kim Katzberg’s *DARKLING* (Director) *-*IRT Theater, CATCH Performance Series; Nora Woolley’s *Hip* (Director), IRT Theater; *Gilding the Lonely: An Evening of Cabaret* (Writer/Performer)-Joe’s Pub, Dixon Place; *Lysistrata*, La MaMa, Etc. She is a founding member of NYC’s Eat a Radish Productions and performs monthly with the Obie Award winning *The Secret City*.

**Michael Sean Cirelli** (SAG-AFTRA) most recently appeared in Literally Everyone's sold out sketch run at Atlantic's Stage 2. Previous credits include *Mercury Fur (*Blasmo), *Rhinoceros*(Atlantic Conservatory)*,* *Machinal* (Atlantic Conservatory), *King Lear*, *Much Ado about Nothing*, and readings of Strindberg's *Gustav Adolf* and *Karl XIII .* He performs regularly at the People's Improv Theater and exists in perpetuity online at [michaelseancirelli.com](http://michaelseancirelli.com/).

**Tim Cusack** Artistic Director Theatre Askew. As an actor with the company: "Bald Diva!" (notable performance of the year--Theater Mania and [NYTheatre.com](http://nytheatre.com/)); "I, Claudius Live" (also co-directed/co-adapted; Next magazine Future Legend); "i google myself" ([NYTheatre.com](http://nytheatre.com/) Person of the Year). He is a recent MA graduate from Hunter's theatre program. Next up: "Son of Cockstrong" with Peculiar Works Project in the Tom Murrin memorial festival at La Mama. BFA NYU/TSOA.

**Dion Graham**, from HBO’s *The Wire*, also narrates *The First 48*on A&E. An award–winning and critically acclaimed actor and narrator, he has performed on Broadway, off Broadway, internationally, in films, and in several hit television series. His performances have been praised as thoughtful and compelling, vivid and full of life.

**Daliya Karnofsky** holds a B.F.A from NYU Tisch and an M.F.A. from the New School for Drama. She performs live and on the web in her original baking series "And She Bakes", seen most recently at NYC's Dixon Place. She has toured the world as a monologuist, and performed with Naked in a Fishbowl, New York Theatre Workshop, Red Bull Theater, Les Freres Corbusier, la mama e.t.c., and the T.S. Eliot US/UK Exchange with the Old Vic in London. [www.andshebakes.com](http://www.andshebakes.com/)

**Susan Heyward** - Broadway: Trip to Bountiful (Roundabout), Off-Broadway: Ruined (MTC), Gameplay( Ars Nova), The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler (Exit Pursued By A Bear), Regional: Race (ACT), The Master Builder (Yale Repertory) Film: Mother of George, Busted on Brigham Lane TV: 30 Rock, The Following, 666 Park Ave, Law and Order, Carnegie Mellon, BFA New fan of Madge Cavendish. Thanks for having me O.H.S!

**Taylor Mac** is a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, cabaret performer, performance artist, and sometime director and producer. Taylor played Shen/Shui Ta in The Foundry’s Production of “Good Person of Szechwan” (Public  Theatre and La Mama). Taylor has been named NYC’s Best Theatre Actor by The Village Voice, 2013. Taylor has performed at New York’s Lincoln Center and Public Theater,  The Sydney Opera House, The San Francisco MOMA and Opera House, Stockholm’s Sodra Teatern, The Spoleto Festival, The Bumbershoot Festival, The Time Based Arts Festival, Dublin’s Project Arts Center, London’s Soho Theater, and literally hundreds of other theaters, museums, music halls, cabarets, and festivals around the globe.  Taylor was a HERE Arts Center resident artists and is currently a member of New Dramatists and a New York Theater Workshop Usual Suspect.

**April Matthis** was last seen as Eunice in A Streetcar Named Desire (Yale Rep), and has appeared in productions at The Public Theater/Joe's Pub, Lincoln Center, Soho Rep, New York Theatre Workshop, New Georges, Clubbed Thumb, Ma-Yi, and is a member of Elevator Repair Service.

**Steven Rattazzi**: New York: *Marie Antoinette* (Soho Rep), *Galileo* (CSC w/F. Murray Abraham), *Henry V* (NYSF w/Liev Schrieber), *The Tempest* (w/Mandy Patinkin), *Stunnning* (David Adjmi, Lincoln Center), *Walk Across America for Mother Earth* (Taylor Mac), *Painted Snake on a Painted Chair* (OBIE, Talking Band), *The Really Big Once* (Target Margin), *Marcellus Shale* (LaMama), *Spy Garbo* (3LD), *Dinner Party* (dir.David Herskovits), *Age of Iron* (dir.Brian Kulick), *Therese Raquin* (dir.David Esbjornson), *McGurk* (ERS), *The Fourth Sister* (dir.Lisa Peterson), *Samuel's Major Problems* (Richard Foreman). Regional: *Marie Antoinette* (dir.Rebecca Taichman, A.R.T/Yale Rep), *The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer* (dir.Mark Wing-Davey), *Really Rosie* (Maurice Sendak, National Tour). Film: *The Family*. TV: *The Venture Brothers*.

Not only has **Dan Paul Roberts** written and released two music albums as Dan Paul (the newest of which is titled The Make Up), he also plays Candi Shell, drag actress and front-woman for the glam-pop trio SHE-DICK.  Candi has been featured in music videos, opened for Joan Rivers, and appeared on TV's Ugly Betty.  Dan Paul also illustrated a series of children’s books as well as a graphic novel illuminating SHE-DICK’s out-of-this-world backstory.

**Julia Taylor Ross** is a 2010 graduate of The New School for Drama. She currently plays Dr. Maggie Lin on the hit Canadian medical drama "Saving Hope" for CTV.  Film: “Silent House” 2011. Stage: “Iris” and “On The Verge” at The New School (Dir. Liz Carlson), “No Exit” at 59 East 59 St. Theater, the title role in “The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow” at the W.H.A.T. Stock Company on Cape Cod and “Knock!” and “Lulu” on the main stage at the American Repertory Theater in Boston while an undergraduate at Harvard University.