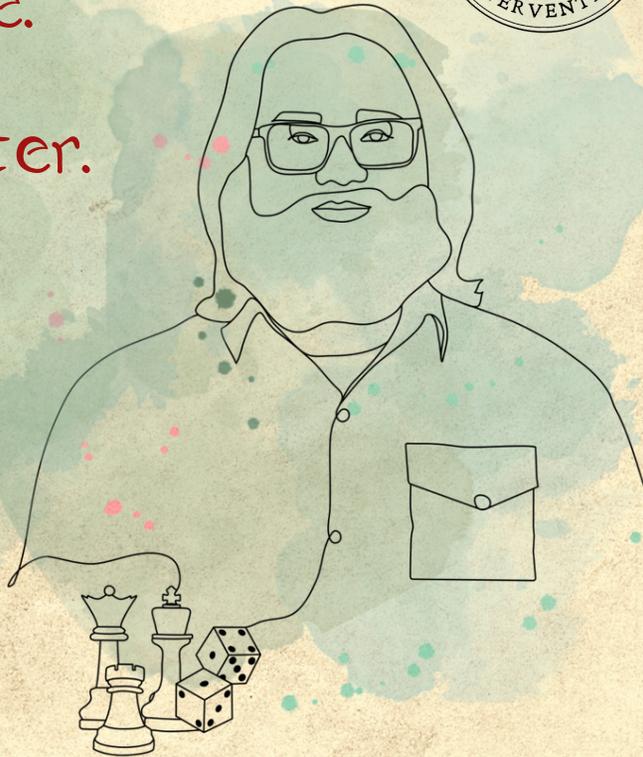


Part game.
Part theater.
Like life.



~ Program Notes ~

by co-conceiver
and writer Rusty Thelin

Thank you for being here with us in person tonight, and thank you for sticking with us through the pandemic. We came up with the idea for our 'new' series People of Pittsburgh several years ago, but a world- and society- altering event put the brakes on it for a bit.

RealTime stayed productive during the pandemic, working to tell the stories of Pittsburgh childcare workers during the pandemic with the online [toy theater piece SHARON](#), as well as conceiving and coordinating [POST THEATRICAL](#), an international postal plays festival including 12 other companies & artists from around the world, including our own offering, [THE BIRTH OF PAPER](#), a long distance love letter between Beirut, Lebanon, and Mt. Lebanon, PA.

In deciding what show we wanted to produce first in coming back to in-person performance, Molly and I felt like "People of Pittsburgh" was the perfect way to celebrate the resilience and beauty of this incredible city we call home. "People of Pittsburgh" is a series of theatrical portraits of extraordinary, ordinary Pittsburghers. These are not "Pittsburgh-famous" folks. They're everyday people who we've met and find fascinating here in the 'burgh. And soon we're going to open up nominations for "People of Pittsburgh to the public! The shows are created through collaborations with artists working in wildly different mediums, like tonight's show- I teamed up with ceramicist Emmanuelle 'Manu' Wambach, who is also a life-long gamer, just like myself and Candra, the subject of tonight's show. Together Manu, co-Artistic Director Molly and I conceived the basic shape of the show, locking in many game-like elements, before I went off to write the script and Manu designed many of the physical components, which were beautifully detailed and finished by artist Melanie Marshall.

Of course, all RealTime projects are personal for me, but this one is even more so than usual. Not only did Molly and I agree to swap our traditional roles, with Molly taking on direction of the show as I penned the script furiously, but in December of 2021, right in the middle of everything, my father passed away. And while this is not a show about me or my dad, his spirit is definitely in there, along with so many others we met along the way. I want to dedicate this one to my Dad, Alan Leigh Thelin-- and also to the People of Pittsburgh who you are going to meet and learn about tonight, and hopefully be better off for the knowing.

RealTime Interventions presents

People of Pittsburgh

The Alchemist of Sharpsburg

The first in RealTime's 'People of Pittsburgh' series of theatrical portraits celebrating extraordinary, ordinary Pittsburghers.

PEOPLE OF PITTSBURGH

The Alchemist of Sharpsburg

Creative Team

Rusty Thelin - Lead artist, Writer, Co-conceiver, and Game Master

Emmanuelle "Manu" Wambach - Lead artist, co-conceiver, & game-piece designer

Zev Woskoff - Game Facilitator & Voice of Candra

Melanie Marshall - Shield design & Dice Tower art

Molly Rice - Co-Conceiver, Director, Dramaturg

Danielle Bergman - Production Stage Manager & Projectionist

Slideshow design by Molly Rice

Additional Prop creation by Bri Fallahee

Game-piece painting by Melanie Marshall and

Michelle & Harper Boehm...thank you!

Graphic Design by Allie Reefer

Original Line Drawing Art by Megan Jones

Administrative & Marketing Team

Marketing consultation & ideation - Veronica Aiken

Intern, Social Media - Eliza Moore

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Games Unlimited in Squirrel Hill

Special Thanks

Lee Scheman, The Hollander & ForGoodPGH, Onyx at Atithi Studios, Corey Ochai, Brittany Reno and the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Association, Joe Davis for the gong, and Kylie Prymus.

Games that inspired this play, & which we recommend

Dialect (Thorny Games), Choose Your Own Adventure - House of Danger (Z-Man Games), Burning Wheel, The Last of Us, Warhammer Quest...
...and, of course, D&D.

* * *

The Rules of the Game

Ask Questions.

Speak Up.

Embody your Character.

Choose Wisely.

Roll the Die of Fate.

You Have a Magic Sword.

BIOGRAPHIES

DANIELLE BERGMAN (Production Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be the Production Stage Manager for the Remount of this piece! She had a grand experience as the PSM of the first rendition of *The Alchemist of Sharpsburg*. Other local credits include being the Asst. Stage Manager for *Amahl* and *The Night Visitors* with Resonance Works and she is currently the Stage Manager for *You on the Moors Now* at CMU. Danielle is a current graduate student in the Stage and Production Management Program at CMU. She graduated from Indiana University with her BA in Stage Management. Other favorite credits include being the Stage Management Production Assistant for *Trading Places* at the Alliance Theatre and being a Stage Manager for *Parallel 45's* 2021 Summer Season. Danielle would like to thank her friends, family, partner, and mentors for their support in this wacky game of life!

MOLLY RICE (Director, Dramaturg, Co-conceiver) is a theatermaker/musician who gravitates toward big, aspirational community collaborations and small, strange musicals. Her work has been developed/produced in NYC and nationally. Honors include Brown University's Weston Prize, Women's International Theater Festival, Princess Grace Award (finalist), and nominations for the New York IT Awards, the Carole R. Brown Award, the Kesselring Fellowship, & Global Pittsburgh's Organizational Diversity Champion Award (2020). Residencies include Yale/P73, Tofte Lake, Orchard Project & 2 New Works Initiatives with composer Orion Johnstone and Rachel Chavkin (2019 TONY, *Hadestown*), Productions include *Futurity* with the Lisps at ART and Soho Rep/ *Ars Nova* (Lucille Lortel Award, Best New Musical, 2016) and *The Saints Tour*, occurring across the country since 2009. She is an Artistic Director & Lead Playwright of RealTime.

RUSTY THELIN (Lead artist, Writer, Co-conceiver, and Game Master) is a graduate of NYU/Playwrights Horizons Theatre School. In NYC, he has worked with 13P, Clubbed Thumb, Soho Rep, The Brick and New Georges. Rusty graduated from the Commercial Theater Institute and produced the indie musicals *ERNEST SHACKELTON LOVES ME* by The GrooveLily's *FUTURITY* by The Lisps (A.R.T.) *STRUCK* by Rebecca Hart *SOMETIMES IN PRAGUE* by Orion Johnstone & Joshua William Gelb and Molly Rice's *CANARY* (NYTW), directed by TONY Winner Rachel Chavkin. Rusty has directed new plays by Lucy Thurber, Maura Campbell, Justin Maxwell, and Molly Rice, as well as classics like *DEATH OF A SALESMAN* and *HAMLET*. He is on the Advisory Committee of the Orchard Project Labs and is the Artistic/Executive Director of RealTime.

BIOGRAPHIES

EMMANUELLE WAMBACH (Lead Artist, Co-conceiver, & Game-piece designer) Manu received her BA in art from Swarthmore College in 2008, her Post Baccalaureate Certificate from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 2009, and her MFA in ceramics and sculpture from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2012. Emmanuelle moved to Pittsburgh in 2014 to hone her ceramics skills and become part of Pittsburgh's vibrant ceramics and arts community. Currently, Emmanuelle is a full time Early Childhood Preschool Educator at the JCC of Greater Pittsburgh. Her work can recently be found at PG&H Pop up shop in Downtown Pittsburgh, Love Pittsburgh in Mount Washington, Gather Sewickley, Ton Pottery in Millvale, and The Society Of Contemporary Craft, Songbird Artistry in Lawrenceville, and Kennywood!

ZEV WOSKOFF Game Facilitator/ Voice of Candra is overjoyed to be working once again with RealTime Interventions on this wild piece! Recent acting credits include *Twelfth Night* (Pittsburgh Classic Players) and *KDKA Meets Midnight Radio* (Bricolage). Other credits include production management on *Khuraki* (RealTime Interventions), direction on *Victory on Mrs. Dandywine's Island* (UP Stages) and assistant direction on *Chimerica* (Quantum Theatre), *Chatterton* (Quantum Theatre), and *The Ravages of Now* (Non-State Actors). He will be performing in and scenic designing Stephen Sondheim's *Passion with Mr. Smalls* Theatricals this June. When not engrossed in the world of theatre, Zev is an independent artist, designer, arts educator, and D&D nerd. Instagram- [@zevtheartist](https://www.instagram.com/zevtheartist)



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Gaming Map of Sharpsburg



 **Candra's House Growing Up**
His grandfather and mother lived there before him.

 **Marion and Mila's House**
"And here we are. Still not looking back. But never forgetting, either."

 **Candra's Woods**
"...going out into the woods has always felt like I was going into someone's house."

 **"Pleasant Valley" Volunteer Fire Department**
"The locals refer to O'Hara Township as Pleasant Valley..."

 **Bayernhof Museum**
The strangest, most wonderful magic mansion in...the world? Candra's mom was the nurse for the owner, many years ago.

 **Amoco**
Where Candra used to go with his friends for pre-gaming snacks & supplies as a kid.

 **D & E's Collectibles**
Sharpsburg's game store, with sci-fi and action collectibles, toys, and memorabilia

 **Veterans of Foreign Wars**
We thank you for your service.

 **Suma Wares and Wears**
A gorgeous new Sharpsburg shop. They make candles & ceramics at home, jewelry in-house & ethically-sourced product from PGH & beyond!

 **Krazy Karen's Cafe & Galleria**
One of Sharpsburg's most glorious dive bars, where you can play pool for free.

 **Atithi Studios**
Sharpsburg's newest artists' studios and community art space!

 **James Sharp Landing**
A place to sit by the Allegheny, or launch your boat and take a cruise.

 **Dancing Gnome Beer**
Craft beers in inviting digs, with a view of the beer-making area to watch all the magic happen.

About RealTime Interventions

RealTime is a Pittsburgh-based performance company led by playwright Molly Rice and director/ producer Rusty Thelin. We create theatrical events and public experiences that celebrate real stories of real people and real places. Through our work, we seek to generate connection, curiosity and wonder, and help audiences see the world around them in new and unexpected ways. Every project is created by a collective of individuals from diverse walks of life and realms of experience, telling their stories in real time.

Real People. Real Stories. RealTime.

Our Staff

Artistic Directors - Molly Rice, Rusty Thelin

Intern - Eliza Moore



Our Board

Divya Rao Heffley - Assoc. Director, Office of Public Art

Rebecca Johnson (Board Chair) - Director, Career Development Center, JFCS

Melanie Marshall - Mixed-Media Artist

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Past RealTime Projects realtimeinterventions.org/projects

THE SAINTS TOUR, GREATER BRADDOCK

(2015, w/ Bricolage) A site-specific play in the form of a bus/walking tour, created intentionally for and with Braddock residents and artists.

A DOLL HOUSE (IN A DOLLHOUSE)- Ibsen's modernist classic adapted into toy theater, with 3-inch fuzzy Calico Critters dolls.

ANGELMAKERS, SONGS FOR FEMALE SERIAL KILLERS (2017-18) A true-crime concert musical - because "everyone deserves one song."

KHURAKI (2019-20) - a culinary/theatrical experience created with Afghan female refugees, resulting in the launch of their co-op catering business. Nominated for the Mayor's Award for Public Art.

ASSOCIATE (2020), an online, interactive, serial salon/game/talk show centered on the work of Global Majority artists.

INSPIRE (2020), an online dialogue between two Black female spiritual leaders from different religions about the art that helps them in crisis.

SHARON (2020), a toy-theater film series based on interviews with Pittsburgh childcare providers working through the pandemic.

POST THEATRICAL (2021), an international "postal plays" festival that the NY Times called "the most ambitious postal plays initiative yet!"

THE BIRTH OF PAPER (2021), a "humanitarian play" live-streamed from Beirut Lebanon during their ongoing economic crisis, involving over 60 pen pals, volunteers, artists & makers in 2 continents.

Thank you to our supporters!

Our deepest gratitude goes out to all our past and current supporters and funders, including the Heinz Endowments, Pittsburgh Foundation, the Opportunity Fund, AW Mellon Project Support, GPAC, Neighborhood Allies, the AER/Pace Capacity-Building Grant, the Mary E. Cole Fund, the Office for Public Art, and all our individual donors and organizational partners.

To donate to real time, please visit realtimeinterventions.org/support

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