

The Zip Code Plays: Los Angeles

Celebrate the culture and history of the diverse neighborhoods of Los Angeles with *The Zip Code Plays: Los Angeles*, a series of six original audio plays, each set in a different L.A. ZIP code.

Featuring

Bernard K. Addison, Tony Amendola, Gigi Bermingham, Jon Chaffin, Dawn Didawick, Nike Doukas, Bo Foxworth, Harry Groener, Veralyn Jones, Luis Kelly-Duarte, Kavi Ramachandran Ladnier, Adrian LaTourelle, Abby Marks, Catia Ojeda, Lloyd Roberson II, Marcelo Tubert, Marlow Wyatt

Written by members of the Antaeus Playwrights Lab

Nayna Agrawal, Angela J. Davis, Alex Goldberg, Deb Hiett, Steve Serpas, Khari Wyatt

Directed by

Julia Fletcher, Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx, Ann Noble, Carolyn Ratteray, Steven Robman, Bernadette Speakes

Hosted by

Ramón de Ocampo

Audio Producer, Sound Designer, and Foley Artist

Jeff Gardner

Original Music by

Ellen Mandel

Sound Editor

Adam Macias

Dramaturg

Ryan McRee

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The Zip Code Plays: Los Angeles

90272: Pacific Palisades Annexing the Palisades

by Alex Goldberg

Directed by Ann Noble

Featuring: Nike Doukas, Harry Groener, Adrian LaTourelle

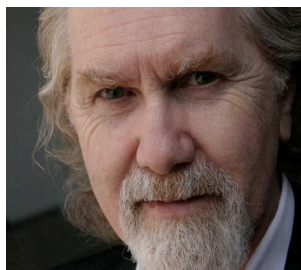
Sponsored by The Peter Glenville Foundation

Talented craftsman Joseph Kurtz arrives at the palatial Murphy Ranch ready to carve an ornate balustrade for the estate's magnificent staircase, but the job turns out to be much more complicated than he realized. Set in 1939 and based on a true story, this is a chilling piece of LA's hidden history.

CAST - 90272: Pacific Palisades - Annexing the Palisades



Nike Doukas



Harry Groener



Adrian LaTourelle

Artist Bios

ACTORS

NIKE DOUKAS (WINONA STEPHENS/2016 RADIO VOICE): At ANTAEUS: *Cousin Bette*, *Tonight at 8:30*, *The Liar*, *The Wood Demon*, countless readings, including ClassicsFests. She is well-known to both California and regional audiences, having performed at South Coast Repertory, The Mark Taper Forum, The Old Globe, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theater, A.C.T, Berkeley Rep, A Contemporary Theater, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, and Shakespeare Festival LA, among others. TV: *Modern Family*, *NYPD Blue*, *Numbers*, and recurring roles on *Desperate Housewives* and *Almost Perfect*. She was the co-teacher of the Antaeus Academy for two years, and also teaches Shakespeare at The Art of Acting and A Noise Within. Additionally, she is an accent coach for television and theater, including Antaeus, A Noise Within, South Coast Repertory, Pasadena Playhouse, LA Theatre Works, Boston Court, Rogue Machine and Sacred Fools. She was the recipient of the 2011 Lunt Fontanne Fellowship, a national award to regional theatre actors. M.F.A., The American Conservatory Theatre.

HARRY GROENER (NORMAN STEPHENS/1940S RADIO VOICE): ANTAEUS founding member. At ANTAEUS: *Pera Palas*, *Mother Courage*, *The Bear in Chekhov x Four*, and the title role in *King Lear* (Drama Circle Award), *Big Daddy* in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Ovation, Drama Critics Circle and Stage Raw Awards), *Three Days In The Country* and *Uncle Vanya*. His multiple Broadway and Off Broadway credits include *Crazy For You* (Tony and Drama Desk Nominations), *Cats* (Tony Nomination), *Oh Brother!*, *Oklahoma!* (Tony Nomination and received Theater World Award), *Harrigan and the Hart*, *Is There Life After High School*, *Sleight of Hand*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Imaginary Friends*, and *Spamalot*. Nominations and Awards: Ovation Award *Equivocation* (Geffen Playhouse), Jefferson Award *The Madness of King George* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Jefferson Award Nominations: *Cyrano De Bergerac* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), William Tecumseh Sherman in *The March* (Steppenwolf Theater). Recent credits include: Lincoln and LBJ in *Appomattox* (The Guthrie); *The Train Driver* (Long Wharf Theater). Film/TV: *About Schmidt*, *Patch Adams*, *Road to Perdition*, *Cure For Wellness*, *Dear John*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *CSI*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *Medium*, *Bones*, *Las Vegas*, *Breaking Bad*, *The West Wing* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Voyager*, and *Enterprise*.

ADRIAN LATOURELLE (JOSEPH KURTZ/1970S RADIO VOICE): At ANTAEUS: *King Lear*, *The Hothouse*, *The Malcontent*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The Seagull*. Other Theater: Mark Taper Forum, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Old Globe, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Yale Repertory Theatre. TV: *NCIS*, *Castle*, *The Legend of Korra*, *Last Resort*, *The Closer*, *House M.D.*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *Boston Legal*, *Without a Trace*, *Criminal Minds*, *Numb3rs*, *Sons of Anarchy*. Adrian has also worked abroad, performing in theater and film in Russia and the Netherlands.

CREATIVE TEAM

RAMÓN DE OCAMPO (SERIES HOST): At ANTAEUS: *Measure for Measure*; *Henry IV, Part One* (Hal), *The Curse of Oedipus* (Oedipus), *Macbeth* (Banquo), *The Malcontent* (Mendoza), *King Lear* (Edgar), *Tonight at 8:30*, *Pera Palas*. Other LA: *Girl Most Likely To*, *Sick* (Playwrights Arena); *Dogeaters*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Neva* (Kirk Douglas). Regional: NY Public, Delacorte, Kennedy Center, EST, Signature, Lincoln Center Lab, NJSF, Ojai, O'neil, Yale, South Coast Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Ma-Yi, etc. Film: *Happy Endings*, *xXx: State of the Union*, *Hamlet*. TV: Recurring roles on: *12 Monkeys*, *The West Wing*, *Medium*, *Killer Instinct*, *Sons of Anarchy*. Guest Star on *NCIS: New Orleans*, *Castle*, *Bones*, *CSI*, *NCIS*, and *Gang Related*. B.F.A., Carnegie Mellon. Awards: OBIE Award; Princess Grace Award. Narrator of more than a hundred

audiobooks including the best selling *This is Where I Leave You* and the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. He has won 8 AudioFile Audiobook Awards including “Best Voice”.

JEFF GARDNER (AUDIO PRODUCER, SOUND DESIGNER, FOLEY ARTIST): At ANTAEUS: *Eight Nights, The Abuelas, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Diana Of Dobson's, The Cripple Of Inishmaan, The Little Foxes, Native Son, The Hothouse, Cat On A Hot Tin Roof, Picnic, Wedding Band*. Other Theater: Geffen Playhouse, The Kirk Douglas Theatre, The Wallis Annenberg Center, A Noise Within, Boston Court Pasadena, Circle X Theatre, Echo Theater, Rogue Machine Theatre, Skylight Theatre, IAMA Theatre, Odyssey Theatre, The Colony Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre, Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, and Williamstown Theatre Festival. An Ovation Award-winning sound designer, Jeff can be seen at L.A. Theatre Works, where he regularly performs live sound effects, and is the resident sound designer for the Westridge School in Pasadena. jeffthomasgardner.net

ALEX GOLDBERG (PLAYWRIGHT): Alex is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and director. More than a dozen of his plays, including five full-lengths, have been produced around the world. His play *It Is Done* has been published (Original Works Publishing) and produced in site specific venues in New York City and Hollywood, and in traditional regional theaters such as Theatre in the Park in Raleigh, NC and Theatre40 in Beverly Hills, CA. Other notable plays include *America's Brightest Star* (Railroad Playhouse), *Stock Home* (Fringe NYC), *I'm in Love with Your Wife* (winner, Playwriting of a New Script, Midtown Int'l Theater Festival) and *Mayor of the 85th Floor* (LAB RESULTS reading series, Antaeus Theatre Company). He is a two-time O'Neill semifinalist and a one-time finalist. He wrote and directed the indie feature film *Closure* which won seven festival awards including two Best Feature awards (Washington D.C. Independent Film Festival and The Valley Film Festival [Los Angeles]) and two Audience Choice Awards (Austin Indie Fest, Manhattan Film Festival). He directed the feature film *Today Will Be Yesterday Tomorrow*, which featured Billy Dee Williams. He is a member of The Dramatists Guild, Inc. and ASCAP, a former playwright in residence at Railroad Playhouse in Newburgh, NY, former member of the Playwright/Director Unit at The Actors Studio West, and current member of The Playwrights Lab at Antaeus Theatre Company. He lives with his wife, actress Catia Ojeda, and their two sons, in Burbank. alexgoldberg.net

ADAM R. MACIAS (AUDIO EDITOR): At ANTAEUS: *Eight Nights, The Abuelas, Native Son*. Other theater: *Native Son* (Kirk Douglas Theater, Block Party 2019); *Les Miserables, Beauty and The Beast* (Video Designer & Sound Designer - Arcadia Performing Arts Center); *She Loves Me* (Sound Designer - Actor's Co-Op); *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, The Giver* (Video Designer, Sound Designer, & Composer - Arcadia Performing Arts Center); *Rope, A Walk In The Woods, Cat's Paw* (Sound Designer & Composer - Actor's Co-Op Theatre); *Fuente Ovejuna* (Sound Designer & Composer - CSULA Arts and Letters). adamrmacias.com

ELLEN MANDEL (COMPOSER): is a composer of art songs and theater music. She has written songs to poems by e.e. Cummings, Seamus Heaney, W.B. Yeats, Glyn Maxwell and more, sung by Todd Almond, Daniel Neer, and Jessica Crandall, and music for over 70 plays from Shakespeare to Stoppard.

RYAN McREE (DRAMATURG): At ANTAEUS: *Measure for Measure, Eight Nights, The Abuelas, The Caucasian Chalk Circle, The Little Foxes*. Other Theaters: as Assistant Director: *Two Fisted Love* (Odyssey Theatre Ensemble), *bled for the household truth* (Rogue Machine Theatre), *Stupid Kid* (Road Theatre Company), *The Kentucky Cycle* (USC School of Dramatic Arts). As Director: *Gilberto* (New Opera West), *Royalton and 5th* (Skylight Theatre Fresh Brews), *The Woman Is Perfected* (Hollywood Fringe Festival), *Equus, Much Ado About Nothing, Six Degrees of Separation* (Aeneid Theatre Company). Training: B.A. Theatre/ Narrative Studies, USC.

ANN NOBLE (DIRECTOR): At ANTAEUS: she recently directed two *Classic Sundays* readings: *St. Joan* and *Measure for Measure*. As an actor, her credits with Antaeus are *Hedda Gabler, The Crucible, Macbeth*,

Dance (Scene Study). As a director, her recent credits include *Smoke* (LifeChild Productions) and *Moonshine Mamas* (Two Heads Are Better Productions). Other theater: *BLISS, or Emily Post is Dead* (Moving Arts); *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?*, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, *Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, and *Stanley Ann: The Unlikely Story of Barack Obama's Mother* (LA's LGBT Center); *Other Desert Cities* (ICT of Long Beach); *American Dead* (Rogue Machine); *Orange Flower Water* (Victory); *Belfry* (Malibu Playhouse); *An Ideal Husband* (Sierra Madre Playhouse); *The Fall To Earth, Bedroom Farce*, and *London's Scars* (Odyssey Theatre); *Betrayal* (ETC of Santa Barbara); *Sidhe, And Neither Have I Wings To Fly, The Friendly Hour, Big Death & Little Death, Shove and Bunbury* (The Road Theatre Company); over six productions with South Coast Rep. She teaches acting and writing to incarcerated/at risk youth at several schools/institutions around LA including Homeboy Industries, and also works as a theatre director/instructor for youth at LA's LGBT Center and LA's Museum of the Holocaust. She is the current Casting Associate for Antaeus.

Historical Information

90272: Pacific Palisades

The Pacific Palisades has been poetically described as “Where the Mountains Meet the Sea,” which is an appropriate epithet for one of L.A.’s most beautiful natural areas. The 90272 ZIP code stretches from the Will Rogers State Beach beyond the Santa Monica mountains and deep into Topanga State Park, reaching the border of Encino to the north, and is bordered to the west by the end of Getty Villa Drive and to the southeast by the Santa Monica city border, near San Vicente Blvd. With 24,000 residents spread across 22.9 miles, the Pacific Palisades has one of L.A.’s lowest population-density ratios.

One of the first major developments in the Palisades was the site of the Port of Los Angeles and the “Long Wharf,” built in 1893. About a mile long, it was the longest wharf in the world and became a tourist attraction and symbol of development in Southern California. It fell into decline after 1912 when the Port of Los Angeles was established in Long Beach, and was completely removed by 1933. The area drew further attention when filmmaker Thomas Ince, known as the “father of the Western,” built a massive movie studio known as Inceville in 1911. The site housed 700 people and was made up of above 18,000 acres of land that served as a backdrop for many different kinds of sets, representing locales ranging from Switzerland to a Japanese village to a Native American settlement. A series of fires that destroyed much of the complex and the opening of his studio company in Culver City led Inceville to sell the property to another studio, and in 1922 the land was bought by Reverend Charles H. Scott of the Southern California Methodist Episcopal Church, who envisioned the area as a spiritual and intellectual commune for his parishioners. They came up with the name Pacific Palisades and began development of the residential area. By 1929 the Palisades was an established town; the paving of Sunset Boulevard in 1925 and the opening of the Riviera Country Club in 1927 drew visitors and residents to the area, and further residential development boomed. The completion of the



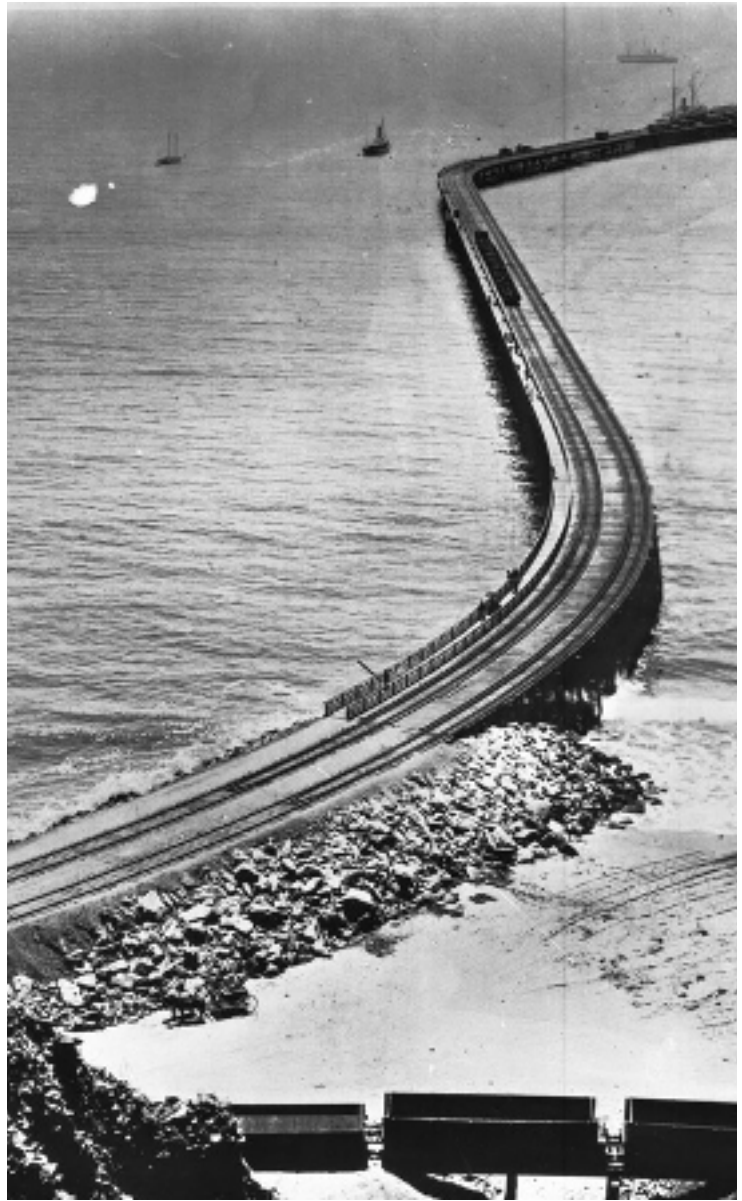
Inceville, 1919 photo: Ferd J. Zettler

Roosevelt Highway (now known as the PCH) in 1929 connected the region to larger cities. The Depression slowed further construction, which had a brief peak in the late thirties and then was slowed again by the onset of WWII.

But the Palisades came to be affected by the war in Europe before the United States had entered it. In the 1930s a community of exiled German-speaking intellectuals and artists began to form in the Palisades. Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg was one of the first notable expatriates, leaving Vienna for Los Angeles in 1934. He was followed by composers Otto Klemperer and Ernst Toch. Writers Thomas Mann and Lion Feuchtwanger left Germany in 1933 as the Nazis came to power and arrived in Los Angeles in 1940. Playwright Bertolt Brecht arrived in 1941. Although several, including Brecht, ended up returning to Germany after the war, a good number of them stayed to make Southern California their permanent home. Feuchtwanger and his wife Marta Loeffler bought the Los Angeles Times Demonstration Home, which had been built to advertise both the latest innovations in household design and the charms of living away from the urban core of Los Angeles, and heavily renovated it. The new house came to be called Villa Aurora, and it became the hub for a community of European exiles and American artists and intellectuals. The community

became known as “Weimar by the Sea” and they drew the attention of the L.A. Times, who called Mann “Goethe in Hollywood.”

Parallel to this celebrated community of free-thinking artists was a much more sinister counterpart. Also making a home in the Palisades was the mysterious “Herr Schmidt,” who to this day has never been certainly identified. Rumors began quietly circulating of a small following of mostly wealthy socialites who had become enraptured by Schmidt’s “mystical powers” and his foretelling of Nazi Germany’s conquest of the United States. One of the few remaining traces of this bizarre and mysterious chapter of Palisades history is Murphy Ranch, a series of ruins in the heart of Rustic Canyon that was apparently built to serve as a Nazi compound. Chicago socialites and sympathizers of the fascist Silver Legion of America Norman and Winona Stephens allegedly bought the land in 1933 under the pseudonym “Jessie M. Murphy” and, under the influence of Herr Schmidt, began to build “a self-sufficient farm based on National Socialist ideals.” Architectural drawings from 1934 to 1941 reveal a grand design that less resembled a farm than a grand palace. The compound had its own water supply, a 2,000-gallon oil tank, a double-generator power station, an irrigation system for terraces of plants, and a cold storage locker for food. The plans for the unfinished mansion included four stories, an indoor pool, a grand central hall, multiple libraries and social rooms, a large master bedroom and a number of bedroom suites of various sizes, a four-car garage, suites of various sizes, a four-car garage, extensive patios and balconies, and a music room. By the late 30s only a few of the buildings had been constructed, and very little progress had been made on the mansion. In 1939 the couple hired renowned local architect Paul R. Williams to design the mansion, and construction was completed on the front gates. Plans stopped in 1941 when the United States entered the war. A newspaper article in the Los Angeles Times entitled “Trouble for Traitors” vaguely hinted at the existence of Schmidt and a Nazi following in Santa Monica, and warned that traitors to the United States would be rounded up by the government. Though no concrete proof of his existence exists, rumors say that Herr Schmidt was arrested at Murphy Ranch the day after Pearl Harbor and his colony was scattered. Today the property is owned by the city of Los Angeles and is open for hikers and sightseers to appreciate the eerie landscape of decay.



The Long Wharf, 1895. Credit: L.A. Water and Power

In the late 1940s, Paramahansa Yogananda’s Self-Realization Fellowship acquired ten acres of land connected to Sunset Boulevard and dedicated the Self-Realization Fellowship Lake Shrine, which today features the Mahatma Gandhi World Peace Memorial, containing the only portion of Gandhi’s ashes outside of India. George Harrison, Herb Jeffries, and Tom Petty all had their funeral services at the shrine, which is considered by the Fellowship to be a holy place for all religions and faiths.

Also constructed in the late forties is the Eames House, a landmark of modernist architecture designed as a home and studio by Charles and Ray Eames. The house, also known as Case Study House No. 8, was commissioned by Art and Architecture magazine as a challenge to develop progressive, but modest homes in Southern California. Charles and Ray lived in the house until their deaths, and it now operates as a museum that attracts 20,000 visitors a year by reservation.

The Getty Villa, also located in the Pacific Palisades, began construction in 1954 and was opened to the public in 1971. The Villa was originally built to create more room for J. Paul Getty's extensive collection of Roman, Greek, and Etruscan art, which he had opened up to the public in his home up the hill from the Villa. After Getty's death, the museum inherited a large sum of his estate and began building the Getty Center in Brentwood, and decided to split the 44,000-piece art collection between the two locations. The Getty Villa is adored by tourists not only for its art collection but for its stunning Romanesque architecture.

Today the Pacific Palisades is known for its many midcentury landmark homes and for the celebrity estates that adorn the coastline. The beautiful Will Rogers State Beach that stretches along the length of the Palisades attracts beachgoers looking to escape the crowds of Santa Monica and Venice, and the Pacific Coast Highway is a common recreational drive for those who want to take in the gorgeous coastline and breathe the ocean air.



The Getty Villa. Credit: Peter Reinold



The Murphy Ranch generator building today. Credit: Meelad Mashaw