



A Play for World AIDS DAY

Love Alone: Elegies for Rog

a solo play adapted and performed by Scott Mendelsohn
based on *Love Alone: 18 Elegies for Rog* by Paul Monette
directed by Shelley Wyant

workshop production presented Thursday, December 10th, 2020
by the Brooklyn Community Pride Center,
streamed live from the Streb Lab for Action Mechanics

Paul *Scott Mendelsohn*
Rog's Voice *Zaire Baptiste*
Nurse *Shelley Wyant*

Running time is 40 minutes. This workshop performance is approximately one-half of the projected work.

Please join us for a discussion after the performance, facilitated by David Groff

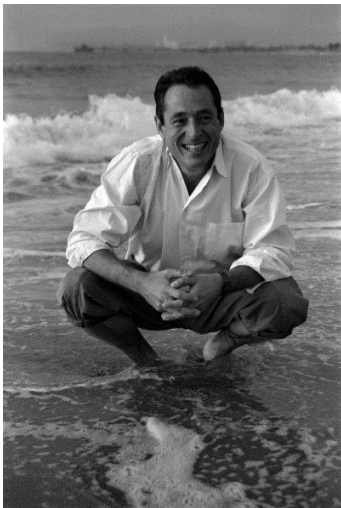
Scenes

Scene 1 October 22nd, 1986 – Here
Scene 2 October 23rd – No Goodbyes
Scene 3 November 22nd – Gardenias
Scene 4 December 7th – The Worrying
Scene 5 December 13th – Your Sightless Days
Scene 6 January 3rd – Three Rings

Production Crew

Zaire Baptiste, Tech Director and Videography	Athena Baer, Production Associate
Peter Harrison, Set Consultant	Bobby Hedglin-Taylor, Theater Manager
Ali Walensky, Stage Manager	J.B. Alexander, Associate Producer
Jamie Shapiro, Screen Manager /Sound Operator	Kimberly Wadsworth, Assistant to Producer

To contact us, please email info@lovealone-play.org,
or visit our website at <https://www.lovealone-play.org/>



Paul Monette: Memoirist, poet, and gay rights activist Paul Monette was born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and earned a BA at Yale University. He taught at Milton Academy and Pine Manor College before moving to Los Angeles with his longtime partner, Roger Horwitz, in 1977, where he became active in the city's gay rights movement.

Frequently elegiac, Monette's poems narrate the trauma and pain of the AIDS crisis. His poetry collections include *West of Yesterday East of Summer: New and Selected Poems 1973-1993* (1994), *Love Alone: 18 Elegies for Rog* (1988), and *The Carpenter at the Asylum* (1975). Monette is also the author of the memoirs *Borrowed Time: An AIDS Memoir* (1988) and *Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story* (1992), which won the National Book Award. His novels include *Halfway Home* (1991) and *Taking Care of Mrs. Carroll* (1978).

Monette died at his home in Los Angeles of AIDS complications in 1995. The Monette-Horwitz Trust, which he and Horwitz founded, offers awards to individuals working to eradicate homophobia. Monette's papers are archived at the University of California, Los Angeles, library.

Scott Mendelsohn, actor and adapter: Scott Mendelsohn is an actor, singer, and writer based in New York City. His stage work spans new plays in New York City, and lead roles in regional theaters. Favorite roles include Stuart Gellman in Tony Kushner's *Caroline, or Change* (Astoria Performing Arts Center, AUDELCO winning production for Best Revival of a Musical); Pete, a pregnant man, in *Tumor* by Sheila Callaghan; Paul in *Company* by Sondheim and Furth at the Philipstown Depot Theatre, and Mowbray and the killers in Shakespeare's *Richard II* with Walking the dog Theater in Hudson, NY.

His writing includes a variety of poetry, and two pieces for the stage: *Jonah* - a choreopoem, based on the biblical story, first presented at West End Synagogue; and *A Mostly Perfect Education: Things They Don't Talk about at Commencement*, a one-man show about his experiences as a Women's Study minor at Vassar College, which began development in Martin Moran's personal narrative workshop at the Barrow Group. www.scottmendelsohn.com

Shelley Wyant, Director: Ms. Wyant is a director, teacher, and performer. The Mask has been her teaching tool since 1981 through workshops and residencies in both neutral and character mask at universities and conservatories such as Yale, Brown, Smith, NYU, The New School and Circle in the Square. Ms. Wyant began working with Jana Sanskriti in West Bengal, India in 2010 where she directed Brecht's THE GOOD PERSON OF SETZUAN in 2019. She also was a Fulbright Senior Specialist Scholar (2010) teaching neutral and character mask at The National University of Theatre and Film I.L.Caragiale in Bucharest, Romania. She is on the board of the New York City Village Halloween Parade and holds an MFA in directing from Brooklyn College and a BA from Brandeis University. www.shelleywyant.com

David Groff, Estate Representative and Discussion Host: David has written two books of poems: *Clay*, winner of the Louise Bogan Award, and *Theory of Devolution*, a National Poetry Series selection. He co-edited the anthologies *Persistent Voices: Poetry by Writers Lost to AIDS* and *Who's Yer Daddy? Gay Writers Celebrate Their Mentors and Forerunners*. An independent book editor, he teaches in the M.F.A. Creative Writing Program at CCNY. He is a literary executor of the estate of Paul Monette. www.davidgroff.com

Zaire Baptiste, Tech Director and Videography: Zaire is a multidisciplinary creative and serial entrepreneur and a member of the Streb Extreme Action Company for 15 years. Zaire's background is in Film and Television and he currently creates content for brand activations and immersive experiences. As a creative, Zaire is 1/3rd of the founders of The Spot for Art, a Brooklyn art gallery that uses Art Therapy and color theory in its work. @zairebaptiste @thespotforart

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Peter Harrison, Set Consultant: Peter designs for opera and theatre in NYC, nationally, and internationally. Opera design credits include New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Juilliard, Manhattan School of Music, and Opera Nordfjord in Norway. He recently designed the premiere of "*Winnie: the Opera*" in Pretoria, South Africa. He has served as resident designer for Alabama Shakespeare Festival, NJ Shakespeare Festival, the Academy of Vocal Arts, and Pioneer Theatre Company.

Ali Walensky, Stage Manager: rediscovered stage management after three years of teaching theatre for grades K-8. She started stage managing shows for Polaris North in 2019 and since then has been the Production Stage Manager for eight productions (sixteen total plays) for the cooperative. She was also the stage manager for *The World Is Lit by Lighting*, winner of Best Play, Best Direction, and Best Actors at The Secret Theater's Act One: One Act Festival. Medium: @awalensky_70977

Jamie Shapiro, Screen Manager and Sound Operator: Jamie is a graduate of NYU Tisch School of Drama. She has originated roles in many new works, notably in *The Undertow* written by Claire Rothrock and Ryann Weir, directed by Andrew Neisler. She fancies herself an actress, writer, director, and producer (as well as professional Couch Potato). Most recently, she Associate Produced National Lampoon's *Radio Hour Podcast*. Jamie is thrilled to be a part of the *Love Alone* family, keeping theater alive in quarantine! Follow her tweetsploits @TheJamieShap.

Athena Baer, Production Associate: Graduate of School of Visual Arts, worked with Irish Rep. Theater, Pearl Theater and more in Manhattan, The Bridge Theater in Catskill, and Woodstock Players, under directors: Ciaran O'Riley, Charlotte Moore, Marshall Mason, Hal Prince, Carrey Harrison, and others. Formally retired, but easily swayed.

Bobby Hedglin-Taylor, Theater Manager: Bobby is the Director of the España-STREB Trapeze Academy at SLAM. Before lockdown, Bobby was busy as the Circus sequence choreographer of SUPER YOU-the Musical getting ready to open at the Daryl Roth theater. His work has been featured on and off Broadway. Broadway-PIPPIN, CHAPLIN, & The Frogs. Off Broadway- CSC's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Wearing Lorca's Bowtie*, and *The Witch of Edmonton*. Other: Cirque choreographer-Holland America Cruise Line. Rock concerts- PHISH at Madison Square Garden 2011 and 2018. 29 productions of the musical BARNUM as well as Circus sequence choreography for TARZAN, THOMAS THE TANK live, MADAGASCAR LIVE & 4 years with the Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS benefit - Broadway Bares. "Why walk when you can fly?" www.bobbyhedglintaylor.com

J.B. Alexander, Associate Producer: J.B. is an actor and playwright (and now an associate producer). [Actor | J.B. Alexander | United States](#)

Kimberly Wadsworth, Assistant to Producer: Formerly a stage manager and literary manager for ten years, with New York's Metropolitan Playhouse and Reverie Productions, respectively. In addition, writer of two short plays, dramaturg for the former Electric Theater Company in Scranton, and writer of a handful of articles for the web site Atlas Obscura. Movie blogger at <https://moviecrashcourse.com/>. Occasional photographer. Makes a great batch of jambalaya.

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