

A Star Has Burnt My Eye

Written by
Howard Fishman

Music and lyrics by
Connie Converse

Directed and choreographed by
Paul Lazar

DATES: NOV 9—12 at 7:30pm

LOCATION: BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)

RUN TIME: Approx 1hr 40min, no intermission

#AStarHasBurnt
#BAMNextWave

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A Star Has Burnt My Eye

PLAYWRIGHT

Howard Fishman

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Paul Lazar

COMPOSER

Elizabeth “Connie” Converse

PERFORMERS

Howard Fishman

Charlotte Mundy

Jean Rohe

Nicholas Webber

PRODUCERS

Jennifer Conley Darling

Sandra Garner

DRAMATURG

James Harrison Monaco

SET/COSTUME DESIGNER

Christopher Heilman

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Megan Lang

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

Megan “Dallas” Estes

SOUND DESIGNER

David Margolin Lawson

PRODUCTION MANAGER/ VIDEO DESIGNER

Tanner Simpson

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Nic Adams

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Chris Andrae

PRODUCTION CONSULTANTS

Peter Wilderotter

Dan Dzula

LEGAL COUNSEL

Lindsay Bowen

ABOUT

A Star Has Burnt My Eye

SETTING

The living room of Henry Adler’s one-bedroom apartment in Brooklyn, NY; a radio studio; a music executive’s office; and Shiver Me Timbers—a live music venue in New York City.

A Star Has Burnt My Eye began as a documentary concert tribute to Connie Converse at Joe’s Pub at The Public Theater in NYC, in July, 2011, featuring the performers Howard Fishman, Russell Farhang, Anastasia Barzee, Charlotte Mundy, Susan Oetgen, Jean Rohe, and Rob Adkins. Subsequent performances were programmed at Abrons Arts Center, The Rattlestick Theater, and again at Joe’s Pub. In 2014, the show was workshopped at the Vox Theater Festival at Dartmouth College under the direction of Sarah Hughes, who subsequently directed a workshop production on the mainstage of The Brick Theater in Williamsburg, Brooklyn in the spring of 2015. This cast featured Charlotte Mundy, Liam Robinson, and Jean Rohe. The project had its final development workshops in 2016 with assistance from The Orchard Project, a program of The Exchange (exchangenyc.org), Celebration Barn in Maine, and as part of IRT Theater’s 3B Development Series. This BAM Next Wave production is the world premiere.

Who's Who

HOWARD FISHMAN
Playwright and performer ("Henry")

Howard Fishman is a Brooklyn-based songwriter, guitarist, singer, bandleader, and theater artist. Fishman and his various musical ensembles have headlined at venues internationally, including Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall, Celebrate Brooklyn, The Flynn, Redfern Arts Center, and Duke Performances. He has been a frequent guest on NPR, appearing on *Fresh Air*, *World Café*, *Soundcheck*, *Word of Mouth*, and others. Fishman's oratorio "we are destroyed:" *A Meditation on the Donner Party Tragedy of 1846*, has had workshop showings at Abrons Arts Center and at the Pasadena Playhouse; his original score for Buster Keaton's *The Frozen North* was performed as part of the New York Guitar Festival; and his New Orleans-inspired brass band regularly performs in Europe (most recently in Estonia and Finland). His 11th recording, *Uncollected Stories*, was released last year. As an actor and director, Fishman studied with Jose Quintero and Estelle Parsons, and is an alum of the Lincoln Center Directors Lab. He produced and directed the world premiere of Elmer Rice's final play *Court of Last Resort* (Culture Project) and the American premiere of Krasnogorov's *The Dog*

(*Todo Con Nada*). Fishman is currently working on a full-length biography of Connie Converse. This performance is dedicated to his father, Harvey Fishman (1944—2015).

ELIZABETH "CONNIE" CONVERSE
Composer

Elizabeth "Connie" Converse was born in Laconia, NH in 1924 and moved to New York City in 1945, where she wrote and edited for *The Far Eastern Survey* and composed and self-recorded a catalog of music for which she is only now beginning to be recognized. She was also a painter, poet, cartoonist, and amateur photographer. Converse left New York in 1961 for Ann Arbor, MI where she became managing editor for the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, before setting out for parts unknown in 1974. *How Sad, How Lovely*, a collection of home recordings of Converse singing and performing her guitar songs in the early 1950s, was released in 2009.

PAUL LAZAR
Director and choreographer

Paul Lazar founded Big Dance Theater in 1991 with Annie-B Parson. His work with the company includes conceiving, directing, and/or performing in such works as *Triple Feature* and *Supernatural Wife* (BAM); and *Comme Toujours Here I Stand* (The Kitchen). Other works with Big Dance Theater include *PLAN B*, Mac Wellman's *Antigone*, *Another Telepathic Thing*, *Shunkin*, Mac Wellman's *Girl Gone*, Tristan

Tzara's *The Gas Heart*, Ödon von Horvath's *Don Juan Returns from the War*, and Fassbinder's *Bremen Freedom*. He received a Bessie Award in 2002. As an associate member of The Wooster Group, Lazar has appeared in The Wooster Group's *North Atlantic*, *Brace Up!*, *Emperor Jones*, and *The Hairy Ape*. Other acting credits include *Tamburlaine* directed by Sir Michael Boyd; *The Three Sisters* directed by Austin Pendleton; Marie Irene Fornes' *Mudd*; Richard Maxwell's *Cowboys and Indians*; Young Jean Lee's *Lear*, *The False Servant*; and *Richard III* directed by Brian Kulick. Lazar directed Young Jean Lee's *We're Gonna Die* which will be reprised in London this summer featuring David Byrne. Other directing credits include *Bodycast* with Frances McDormand (BAM); Christina Masciotti's *Social Security* (Bushwick Starr); and *Major Bang* (The Foundry Theatre at St. Ann's Warehouse). He is an instructor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He has taught acting, directing, or theater history at SUNY/Purchase, Rutgers University, the Bill Esper Studio, and the Michael Howard Studio. In fall of 2015 he taught at Yale College. Lazar's film career includes roles in *Silence of the Lambs*, *Mickey Blue Eyes*, *Lorenzo's Oil*, *Philadelphia*, *The Host*, and *Snowpiercer* as well as numerous other films and television shows.

JEAN ROHE
Performer ("Lauren Marchese")

"A sure-footed young singer/songwriter," in the words of *The New York Times*, Jean Rohe writes one-of-a-kind narrative songs, concerned as much with the internal world as with the external. She can be found fronting her large ensemble, collaborating as one half of the duo Robinson & Rohe, or playing intimate solo sets in the US and abroad. Her 2013 release with her band, *Jean Rohe & the End of the World Show*, won three Independent Music Awards. An *Elmore* magazine reviewer hailed it as "enchanting" and "remarkable in so many ways I can think of no comparison." Rohe's aspirational alternative national anthem for the United States, "National Anthem: Arise! Arise!," has now been performed by choirs and artists across the country and was published last year in the second edition of the popular songbook *Rise Up Singing*. *No Depression* wrote, "Not only does she make astoundingly beautiful music but she is thoughtful, reflective, and courageous." This year, Rohe was a finalist in the Telluride Troubadour songwriting contest. She is hard at work on her performance memoir, *The Odysseus Agreement*, as well as two recording projects, one with her band and the other with Robinson & Rohe, both set for release in early 2017. jeanrohe.com

CHARLOTTE MUNDY
Performer (“Emily Wood”)

Charlotte Mundy is a “preternaturally focused Canadian soprano” (*The New York Times*) who loves a challenge. Born in Toronto and originally trained in classical voice, she is now a proud member of some of New York City’s most cutting-edge musical #squads. She “slays the thorniest material like it’s nothing” (*WQXR*) with TAK ensemble, performs new complexity duels with guitarist Jordan Dodson, and sings stratospherically high microtonal lines with Ekmeles vocal ensemble. As a soloist she has given critically acclaimed performances of Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire* (“remarkably arresting,” *I Care if You Listen*), Boulez’s *Le Marteau sans Maître* (“excellent,” *NY Times*), and Feldman’s *Three Voices* (“mesmerizing,” *NY Times*). Mundy recently sang while dancing with New Chamber Ballet, while sauntering in Martin Creed’s installation at the Park Avenue Armory, and has lent her voice to theater pieces presented by The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival, St. Ann’s Warehouse, and Toronto’s Theatre Centre. To round things out she also sings 16th-century mass settings every Sunday at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in midtown Manhattan and hosts weekday afternoons on *Q2music*, a Peabody Award-winning affiliate of *WQXR* dedicated to contemporary music. She studied classical voice at the University of Toronto and contemporary performance at the Manhattan School of Music.
charlottemundy.com

NICHOLAS WEBBER
Performer (“Sam Kirby”)

Nicholas Webber is from Upland, California and majored in acting at Carnegie Mellon University where he co-founded the roots-rock band NICKCASEY with fellow artist Casey Spindler. Their recent film *Boneshaker* is currently being rejected from festivals around the world! Webber is married to actress Sarah Wilson.

JENNIFER CONLEY DARLING
Producer

Jennifer Conley Darling is a live event producer and consultant. She is the producing artistic director of terraNOVA Collective (terranovalcollective.org), a non-profit new play development and production company in NYC. She has led this award-winning company since 1999. She is also the president of Darling & Company serving off-Broadway and independent theater projects and private events of all scopes. Her many producing and planning credits include Euphoria Festival (Austin, TX), Electric Zoo (Randall’s Island), World Connect’s annual galas, IDC Conference with Sesame Workshop, commencement ceremonies (Javits Center and Theater at Madison Square Garden), and *MobilityShifts: An International Future of Learning Summit* both for The New School, *Bumbug the Musical* at Theatre Row, and Theatre Communication Group’s *Free Night of Theater NYC* (a new audience development program in NYC’s five boroughs). On-site producing credits

include Tribeca Film Institute’s Awards Ceremony, and private concerts and events with John Mellancamp, Tony Bennett, Katy Perry, and Mario Lopez through Hollywood Pop Gallery.

SANDRA GARNER
Producer

Sandra Garner is an independent producer working under the helm of her production company, Lingua Franca Arts (LFA), dedicated to the development, support, and presentation of contemporary performing arts projects. Current projects include Alessandro Magania’s *Radio Delirio*, James Allister Sprang’s *GAZR: Life Does Not Live*, Andrew Schneider’s *YOUARENOWHERE*, and Howard Fishman’s *A Star Has Burnt My Eye*. Previous projects include Jason Schuler’s *The Oracle*, Flako Jimenez’s *How to Make it in Black America*, Julia May Jonas’ *Emily Climbs*, Julia Jarcho’s *Grimly Handsome*, and Gary Winter’s *DAREDEVIL*. LFA is about cultivating a common language among artists, art forms, and audiences. Prior to striking out on her own with Lingua Franca Arts, Garner was the general manager for The Wooster Group from 2011—14. linguafrancaarts.com

JAMES HARRISON MONACO
Dramaturg

James Harrison Monaco is a storyteller, writer, and performer. As a storyteller and performer he often works with composer Jerome Ellis and with directors Rachel Chavkin, Andrew Scoville, and

Annie Tippe. Recent dramaturgy credits include Dave Malloy’s *Ghost Quartet* (Bushwick Starr 2014, McKittrick Hotel 2015) and Salty Brine’s *Spectacular Living Record Collection Cabaret* (Red Room 2015). Recent storytelling works include *Museum* with composer Jerome Ellis (BRIClab 2016); *Tales For Telling* (Ars Nova’s ANT Fest 2015); *Aaron/Marie*, also with Jerome Ellis (Under the Radar Festival’s Incoming! 2015, The Public Theater’s Devised Theater Working Group 2014, Ars Nova’s ANT Fest 2013); *Reception* (HERE Arts Center 2012, soloNOVA at The New Ohio Theatre 2013); and *They Ran and Ran and Ran* (HERE Arts Center 2010). He composed and performed the musical scores for *Love Machine* (Incubator Arts 2013) and *John Faustus and the Overclocked Deathdrive* (The Tank 2011). He has received residencies through BRIC, The Public Theater’s Under the Radar Festival, and HERE Arts Center. He performs regularly at events such as Catch, Fresh Ground Pepper, and Little Theatre at Dixon Place.

CHRISTOPHER HEILMAN
Set and costume designer

Christopher Heilman is a designer of environments for theater, opera, film, and dance. Recent NY credits include *Seen/By Everyone* (HERE); *Iceman Cometh, Act 1* (Target Margin Lab); *City of Glass* (New Ohio); *Tiger Tiger* (Dixon Place); *Sea Fraud* (The Brick), *The Pig* (3LD); *The Travels* (NYMF); and *Gin & “It”* (Under the Radar Festival, 3LD, PS 122). His work has been seen regionally at the Princeton Festival, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Wellfleet Harbor

Actors Theater, Provincetown Theater, Wexner Center, Walker Arts Center, Guthrie Theater, Théâtre de la Jeune Lune, and REDCAT. As an associate/assistant designer he has worked with designers KK Barrett, David Zinn, and Chris Barreca on multiple projects. Heilman has also recently worked as a creative consultant at Walt Disney Imagineering, Creative Entertainment, and Universal Studios, Tokyo. He has an MFA in scenic design from California Institute of the Arts. christopherheilman.com

MEGAN LANG
Lighting designer

Megan Lang has designed at Abrons Arts Center, EST, Under St. Mark's, the Berkshire Fringe, NYC Fringe, the Wild Project, Dixon Place, 59E59, JACK, The Brick, Stella Adler, Atlantic Stage 2, and The Bushwick Starr, among others. Assistant work includes productions at Rattlestick, The Cherry Lane, BAM, NYLA, and 3LD. Assistant special effects work includes Sting's *The Last Ship*, *Our Lady of Kibeho*, and *An Act of God*. She received her BA from Fordham University. meganlangld.com

MEGAN "DALLAS" ESTES
Assistant lighting designer

Megan "Dallas" Estes is a Brooklyn-based lighting and scenic designer. Lighting credits include *Marie Antoinette*, *Hedda Gabler*, and *Grizzly Mama* (The Gamm Theatre); *Macbeth* (New York Distilling Co.); and co-lighting for immersive diamond heist play *Untameable* (St. Paul's Church).

Assistant scenic credits include The Public Theater (NYC), Trinity Repertory Co (RI), Opera Philadelphia (PA), the Old Globe Theater (CA), and the Dallas Theater Center (TX). Estes graduated with a degree in theater arts and performance studies from Brown University. She is currently studying for her MFA at NYU Tisch.

DAVID MARGOLIN LAWSON
Sound designer

David Margolin Lawson is a New York-based sound designer and recording engineer. He has worked with, recorded, and designed for many New York area performing arts organizations including BAM's *DanceAfrica 2016*, terraNOVA Collective, Abdel R. Salaam's Forces of Nature Dance Theater, The Signature Theater, Atlantic Theater, American Place Theater, The Juilliard School, New York University, Repertorio Español, Manhattan Theater Club, La MaMa ETC, The Joffrey Ballet, New World Stages, Theater Row Theaters, The Culture Project, Muna Tseng Dance, NYMF, The Public Theater, Abingdon Theater, The Cherry Lane, Intar, Theater for a New City, PS 122, HERE Arts Center, Urban Stages, Ohio Theater, Ars Nova, Studio Dante, 59E59, Playwrights Horizons, Manhattan Ensemble, and others. Regional credits include Two Rivers Theater, the Alliance Theater, Hartford Stage, Capital Rep, Long Wharf, Luna Stage, and Studio Arena. As a recording engineer, Lawson has recorded and produced several spots for Movado featuring the voices of Mikhail Baryshnikov, Judith Jamison, and Wynton Marsalis. Lawson has

also recorded for Macy's, Radio Shack, HBO Films, United Nations, Toyota, WGBH, PBS, WCBS, and the BBC, among others. Lawson teaches sound design at Pace University, and is a member of TSDCA. dmlsoundny.com

TANNER SIMPSON
Production manager and video designer

Tanner Simpson is a NYC-based lighting, sound, and video designer for theater and high profile events. Selected work includes *American Idiot* (Pace University), *Last Call* (IRT), and *Death of a Salesman* (American Theatre of Actors).

NIC ADAMS
Production stage manager

Nic Adams is a Brooklyn-based theatermaker. Upcoming projects include *Icarus in the L.E.S.* (writer, Brooklyn Gypsies/JACK) and *Real Talk / Kip Talk* (director, Eliza Bent/Abrons Arts Center). Some favorite recent credits include *Porgy and Bess* (assistant director, Spoleto Festival USA); *Afterward* (stage manager and assistant director, Sarah Hughes/Columbia University); *Toilet Fire* (stage manager and assistant director, Eliza Bent/Abrons Arts Center/JACK/The Brick); *White Wines* (director, Target Margin Theater/Bushwick Starr); *after the quake* (director, The Rogue Theatre, AZ); *Six Church Poems* (writer/director, Dixon Place); and *Uriel Acosta: I Want That Man!* (assistant stage manager, Target Margin Theater/The Chocolate Factory). Adams' work has been presented at venues such

as the Bushwick Starr, Dixon Place, the Silent Barn, and the Brooklyn Museum. Additionally, he has worked at venues throughout New York, including La MaMa, JACK, Theatre Row, Signature Theatre, The Public Theater, and throughout the country in California, Oregon, Arizona, and Nevada. He has been a playwright-in-residence with Theater Reconstruction Ensemble's TRE|haus program, a playwriting fellow with The In-Between People, and a FAIR assistant director at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. He did an internship with Elevator Repair Service, and received his BA in theater arts from the University of Arizona. Special thanks to Emilyn, Mom, Dad, Jack, Jackie, and Sydney. nicadams.squarespace.com

CHRIS ANDRAE
Assistant director and choreographer

Chris Andrae is a New York-based artist. He has assistant directed a world premiere and US tour for the Olivier-winning Fishamble Theatre Company. Andrae previously interned for The Wooster Group and Big Dance Theater. He earned a BFA in drama from NYU Tisch as the Alec Baldwin Scholar and an MA in Creative Process from the National University of Ireland as a Creative Impact Scholar. For more information or co-rumination, email contact@chrisandrae.com.

Thanks!

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The Converse family, Joe Melillo and the BAM staff, Annie-B Parson, Russell Farhang, Karen Lamb, Lindsay Bernal, Tina Fallon, Didi O'Connell, Barbara Bernal, Marcia Barrabee, Lynn Cohen, Anastasia Barzee, Susan Oetgen, Liam Robinson, Bart Fassbender, Jeff Herrmann, Paul Calhoun, Barbara Toy, Ari Edelson, Ari Barbanell, Jay Wegman, Trey Lyford, Eva von Schweinitz, Philip Caggiano, Amanda Cooper, Patti Miller, Kate Downey, Wendy Goldberg, Nicole Watson, Howard Sherman, Rachel Chavkin, David Herman, Shanta Thake, Mara Isaacs, Zac Kline, Kate Downey, Church of the Ascension of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, Tom Dugdale, Phil Lee and the gang at CityVox NY recording studios, the Sound Design I students at Pace University, and Myra and Adam Fishman.

And most of all, Connie Converse.

Recordings will be available for purchase in the lobby at the conclusion of the performance.



Photo: Connie Converse used by permission of Squirrel Thing Recordings



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