

COMPANY OF FOOLS

A proud part of the Sun Valley Center for the Arts

Study Guide

4000 MILES



By Amy Herzog

Directed by Gary C. Hopper

Generously sponsored by Big Wood Landscape. Student matinees are sponsored by Hailey Rotary Foundation, the Kiwanis Club of Hailey and Wood River Valley Papoose Club

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WELCOME TO COMPANY OF FOOLS

Dear Educator,

Company of Fools and the Sun Valley Center for the Arts are pleased to offer you this study guide to prepare you and your students for our performance of 4000 MILES, by Amy Herzog. Working with schools is a fundamental part of The Center's mission.

We hope this study guide will serve as a useful resource for you as educators and parents. It is designed to enhance student learning both before and after the performance, to support your classroom lesson plans and deepen the educational value of your students' experience. The resources and activities in this study guide support the Idaho Content Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy for grades 9–12.

Thank you for the sharing the magic of performing arts with your students!

—Company of Fools



ABOUT THE PLAY: *4000 Miles*

After suffering a major loss while he was on a cross-country bike trip, 21-year-old Leo seeks solace from his feisty 91 year-old grandmother Vera in her West Village apartment. Over the course of a single month, these unlikely roommates infuriate, bewilder and ultimately reach each other. *4000 Miles* looks at how two outsiders find their way in today's world.

The play was a finalist for the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and winner of the 2012 Obie Award for best new play.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



AMY HERZOG's plays include *After the Revolution* (Williamstown Theater Festival; Playwrights Horizons; Lilly Award), *4000 Miles* (Lincoln Center; Obie Award for the Best New American Play, Pulitzer Prize Finalist), *The Great God Pan* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Belleville* (Yale Rep; New York Theatre Workshop; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist; Drama Desk Nomination). Amy is a recipient of the Whiting Writers Award, the Benjamin H. Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Helen Merrill, the Joan and Joseph Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity, and the New York Times Outstanding Playwright Award. She is a Usual Suspect at NYTW and an alumna of Youngblood, Play Group at Ars Nova, and the SoHo Rep Writer/Director Lab. She has taught playwriting at Bryn Mawr and Yale. MFA, Yale School of Drama.



ENGAGING STUDENTS

★ Start the conversation!

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER **BEFORE** SEEING THE PLAY

1. What relationships have an impact on your life and why?

2. How does communication strengthen or challenge your relationships?

3. In what ways do you cultivate strong relationships with people in your life?
What do you wish you could do differently?



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER **AFTER** SEEING THE PLAY

1. What themes do you recognize as most important in the play?

2. What are the characters' strengths and weaknesses in developing their relationships with each other?

3. What do you believe happens next in this story?



★ **Teacher Tip!**

WAYS TO ENGAGE STUDENTS **AFTER** SEEING THE PLAY

Using the above questions as potential prompts, here are some ways to encourage further examination of the play-going experience.

EXPLORE

- Write a scene, short play or story about a relationship you have with another person
- Write an alternative ending

ANALYZE

- Draw a connection to a current event or cultural reference

INTERACT

- Improvise scenes
- Talk to others in your community about their relationships

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM:



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the US #EquityWorks

**Member of United Scenic Artists, I.A.T.S.E. Local 829

CAST:



JANA ARNOLD* (Vera Joseph) worked in film and television before moving to the Wood River Valley and has more than 40 guest roles to her credit. She is the recipient of two Los Angeles DramaLogue

Awards for Outstanding Female Performance in Theater and has worked locally with nexStage, Laughing Stock, Sun Valley Center for the Arts, Sun Valley Shakespeare Festival, and St. Thomas Playhouse. *4000 Miles* marks her 27th production with Company of Fools, and she is incredibly grateful to be surrounded by the amazing family of talent that COF has gifted her. She has shared the past 28 years with the love of her life, K.O., as well as a variety of four-legged family members.



MAGGIE HORAN* (Bec) is thrilled to be back in Idaho with Company of Fools family! She was last seen on the Liberty stage as Nina in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*.

Maggie resides in Brooklyn, New York, and is a company member with Brooklyn-based Brave New World Repertory Theatre as well as The Workshop Theater in Manhattan. She currently studies acting with Rob McCaskill at McCaskill Studio. Favorite credits include Catherine in *A View from the Bridge*, Emily in *Our Town*, Lauren in *Circle Mirror Transformation* and Juliet in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. *Love to mom, dad, Addie and Wand*. www.maggiهورanactor.com



ADAM TURCK (Leo Joseph-Connell) is delighted to step on Company of Fools' stage for the first time! *4000 Miles* marks his third collaboration with director Gary C. Hopper: *The Hound of the*

Baskervilles (Sir Henry) with Virginia Repertory Theater and *Hand to God* (Jason/

Tyrone) with TheatreLab/5th Wall, the latter for which he received Best Actor in a Play at the Richmond Theater Critics Circle Awards this past October. Adam spent multiple years performing across the country with National Players, America's longest running touring theater company, based out of Olney, MD.



JESSI ZHANG (Amanda) is a New York City based actress, singer and playwright. Previous Off-Broadway credits include: *The Mistress of Wholesome* (Jacob Appel), and *In Arabia We'd All Be Kings*

(Stephen Adly Guirgis). Regional Theatre credits include: Tennessee William's *The Rose Tattoo* at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. Original playwriting credits include: *In Their Footsteps* with Infinite Variety Productions. Currently a working finalist at the Actors Studio, Jessi is very excited to be making her debut at Company of Fools.



AMY HERZOG's (Playwright) plays include *After the Revolution* (Williamstown Theater Festival; Playwrights Horizons; Lilly Award), *4000 Miles* (Lincoln Center; Obie Award for the Best

New American Play, Pulitzer Prize Finalist), *The Great God Pan* (Playwrights Horizons), and *Belleville* (Yale Rep; New York Theatre Workshop; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist; Drama Desk Nomination). Amy is a recipient of the Whiting Writers Award, the Benjamin H. Danks Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Helen Merrill, the Joan and Joseph Cullman Award for Extraordinary Creativity, and the New York Times Outstanding Playwright Award. She is a Usual Suspect at NYTW and an alumna of Youngblood, Play Group at Ars Nova, and the SoHo Rep Writer/Director Lab. She has taught playwriting at Bryn Mawr and Yale. MFA, Yale School of Drama.



GARY C. HOPPER (Director)

was an Associate Professor of Theatre where he served as Assistant Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Theatre Department, School of the Arts, at

Virginia Commonwealth University. Gary was a senior faculty member specializing in actor training. Gary's notable productions include *Marat/Sade*, *Red Noses*, *Assassins*, *Stand up Tragedy*, *The Boys Next Door*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Spelling Bee*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Hamlet*, *The Diviners*, *Spittin' Image*, and *Hand to God*. For Company of Fools, Gary has directed *The God of Carnage* and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Gary wishes to thank RL for giving him the opportunity to direct *4000 Miles* as well as his amazing design team and his dedicated cast for their professional work ethic, their talent, and their untiring efforts in bringing this show to the stage.

ELIZABETH WEISS HOPPER Costume Designer

is an Emeritus Professor of Theatre from the School of the Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, where she served as costume designer for 32 years. Professionally she has designed costumes for over 300 productions in theatre, dance and opera including Company of Fools, Theatre VCU, Theatre IV, Barksdale Theatre, The Production Company, the University of Richmond, James River Chamber Opera, Richmond Shakespeare, Cadence Theatre, Henley Street, Virginia Repertory and the Confederation Center of the Arts, Canada. Among the shows designed for Company of Fools are *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Hedda Gabler*, *The God of Carnage*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Quilters*, *The Main Who Came to Dinner*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Clybourne Park*. She is an expert on 1920s and 1930s women's clothing having co-authored two current books: *Women's Wear of the 1920's: With Complete Patterns* and *Women's Wear of the 1930's: With Complete Patterns*, published by Player's Press.

THE CREATIVE TEAM:

DirectionGary C. Hopper
 Stage Management..... K.O. Ogilvie*
 Scenic Design.....Joe Lavigne
 Lighting DesignK.O. Ogilvie

Costume Design . Elizabeth Weiss Hopper
 Sound EngineerChris Henderson
 Scenic ArtistK.O. Ogilvie
 Production Assistant..... Chris Henderson

Running Crew.....Rachel Aanestad,
 Chris Henderson & Melodie Taylor-Mauldin

IDAHO CONTENT STANDARDS

Reading Standards for Literature that apply to Company of Fools performance of 4000 MILES.

KEY IDEAS & DETAILS:

Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

8th grade: Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

9th-10th grade: Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

CRAFT & STRUCTURE:

Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.

8th grade: Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader (e.g., created through the use of dramatic irony) create such effects as suspense or humor.

9th-10th grade: Analyze a particular point of view or cultural experience reflected in a work of literature from outside the United States, drawing on a wide reading of world literature.

INTEGRATION OF KEY IDEAS:

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

11th-12th grade: Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text.

Materials for this study guide were gathered from these following sources:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/127qJT5r4qXkj0GBZ839qn2GDV1xQEQxH/view>

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/academic/shared/ela-literacy/booklets/ELA-Literacy-Standards.pdf>

<https://www.samuelfrench.com/a/257/amy-herzog>

<https://www.samuelfrench.com/p/499/4000-miles>