

To REACH the Unreachable Star: a Retrospective

Director's Note

With last year's production of The Who's Tommy, we came back after a hiatus caused by my need for some personal leave. Our major strategic goal being pursued with this benefit and other fundraising efforts is to stabilize the company's infrastructure and make it independent of one person's influence. The work we do is important and needs to continue.

Charlie Chaplin's character of the little tramp is our guide through the context and history of disability. I have always admired how Chaplin used that device to show the triumph of the little man against the larger backdrop of oppression and inequality around him. So we meet the little tramp at the beginning when people with disabilities were left to beg on the street. Then we celebrate as society began to recognize their rights and personhood.

Simultaneously, we are happy to entertain you with some of the unique ways that we have found to make a story accessible to all onstage as well as in the audience. We believe that disability can lead to artistic innovation and enhance a story rather than be a barrier to its telling. OCT's function has always been to show professional artists with disabilities in productions and roles not traditionally thought of as being accessible to them. ('Scuse the pun!)

Ultimately, the little tramp unlocks that last barrier to understanding: we are all disabled and non-disabled. We all have our strengths and weaknesses. This struggle is the last great civil rights movement can ultimately unify humanity. After all, if you insist on the labeling, we are the largest minority group in the world and the only one you can join at any time and you will if you live long enough. This is a movement meant to champion all of us, so welcome to our room. Let's play!

Additional Special Thanks

Nehemiah Dixon III, Emily Kranking, Erick Morgan

Open Circle Theatre Moonbeams!

Tranquility Bases

Doretha Dixon, Dr. Kathryn T. Farley, Monica Lijewski, Paula Sweeney, Timothy Zimmerman

Harvest Moons

Liam Conlon, Harv Lester, Bob Lyness, Nicholas Olcott, Jean-Paul Richard, Elena Widder

Half Moons

Ron Dominicis, Amy Harbison, Paul Douglas Michnewicz, Elizabeth and Francois Mollard, Joe and Sue Palka, Sarah Rizor, Ed & Shaunna Robey, Keith Rubin, Brian Scott, Stefan Sittig, Joel Snyder, Frank Ullman, Lee Voegler

Quarter Moons

David Berkenbilt, Tracy Brennan, Herb Golden, Anna May Lijewski, Chris Phelps, Deborah Rogers, Judy & Jay Shapiro, Helen Shaw, Lyle Smythers, Herbert Snyder

New Moons

Ian Armstrong, Jody Barasch, David Core, Kristina Marie Doyle, Thomas Holzman, Lana Lambert, Diane Martin, Lisa Morenoff, Kristin Nelson, Myra Paul