

# THE CARPLAYS

IN EVERY CAR, THERE'S A STORY

Press Kit



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## What is The Car Plays?

After checking in at the box office, you are escorted by "car hops" into the parking lot where you receive your "Notice to Appear" citation (or program). You and your companion take your seats inside a parked car and quickly notice two other people in the car with you. A moment later, your car door closes and the drama, or comedy, unfolds in front of you...just inches away. Ten minutes later, the doors open, you are ushered into a new car and a whole new story begins. *Welcome to The Car Plays!*



Conceived by Paul Stein and produced by Moving Arts, **The Car Plays™** is "adventurous theatre packed into a Jeep or a Jetta or an Audi" (*Huffington Post*). For Stein, who lives in Los Angeles, his car was a haven of solitary moments of reflection, long talks with friends, an occasional breakup or two and much more. Drawing on those memories, Stein collaborated with playwrights to create an experience that engages audience members in a new "performance model" of voyeuristic intimacy due to proximity.

For the 2015 La Jolla Playhouse WoW (Without Walls) Festival, **The Car Plays: Interchange** offers a new twist on this beloved event. Typically, each play in a series tells a different story, unrelated to the others in the row. With **The Car Plays: Interchange**, the five plays audience members experience during the show will share a common storyline and characters. "We've been working with a talented team of playwrights on the idea of an interconnected plotline for a while now," said Artistic Producer Paul Stein. "I'm excited to see how audiences react, especially as how the story unfolds will be different depending on which car begins your journey."

## The Car Plays History

The event received its first productions by Moving Arts in 2006 and 2007 in the parking lot of the **Steve Allen Theatre** in Hollywood. In 2009, Moving Arts remounted **The Car Plays** for four days at **Woodbury College** in Burbank. **RADAR L.A.**, an international festival of contemporary theatre, held in downtown Los Angeles by REDCAT in collaboration with The Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival (New York) and Center Theatre Group and in conjunction with Theatre Communications Group's national conference, presented **The Car Plays: L.A. Stories** in 2011.

In 2012 and 2013, **Seegerstrom Center for the Arts** presented **The Car Plays** as part of their Off Center Festival, while **The Car Plays: San Diego** was presented as part of **La Jolla Playhouse's WoW** (Without Walls) Program. Each rendition is unique as new plays, directors and actors are added to the mix of veteran artists and trusted plays, keeping the experience fresh and specific to each location.

## Producer Bios

**PAUL STEIN** is the Artistic Producer and Conceiver of *The Car Plays*. Mr. Stein has directed theatre productions and solo shows in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, New York, and Toronto at various venues and festivals including P.S. 122, Beverly Hills Playhouse, Symphony Space and HBO Workspace. Recent directing highlights: Leonard Nimoy's



*Vincent* starring Jean-Michel Richaud at Cine' XIII in Paris, France and UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance; Antonio Sacre's *Let Them Eat Meat!* at United Solo (Winner, Best Storyteller); *The Car Plays* at RADAR LA, Off Center Festivals and La Jolla Playhouse's WoW Series; and W. Kamau Bell's *Ending Racism in an Hour*. Currently, Paul is the Executive Producer of the *Comedy Central Stage*, development venue for the television network. He is Founder/Artistic Director of *The Solo Collective* and is a proud member of the *Dramatist Guild* and *SDC*.

**KIM GLANN**'s recent producing credits include The Ghost Road Company's *The Bargain and the Butterfly* as part of South Coast Repertory's Studio Series, *The Car Plays: San Diego* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Car Plays* (Segerstrom Center for the Arts' Off Center Festival), *Stranger Things*, *The Car Plays: L.A. Stories* (RADAR L.A.), *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (LA Weekly Award nominee for Best Revival 2009) and *Song of Extinction* (LA Weekly Award-winner for Best Production 2008). In 2013, Ms. Glann performed in the English-language translation of *Pantofelnik's Suitcase* at the Korczak Festival in Warsaw, Poland. Ms. Glann is Productions Marketing Manager for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Ford Theatres.

**CECE TIO** is the Producer for Moving Arts and The Playwrights Union, a network of Los Angeles theater artists writing for stage, television and film. Cece recently produced the world premiere of Jami Brandli's *S.O.E.* with Episodic Entity. With Moving Arts: co-produced the world premiere of EM Lewis's *Song of Extinction* (Winner Best Production – LA Weekly Awards) as part of [Inside] the Ford's Inaugural Winter Season; produced the world premiere of Terence Anthony's *Blood and Thunder* which ran for 20 weeks in Los Angeles and appeared at the 2010 Last Frontier Theatre Conference in Valdez, Alaska; *The Car Plays* at RADAR L.A. in 2011, at Segerstrom Center for the Arts' Off Center Festival in 2012 and 2013, and for La Jolla Playhouse's WoW Series in 2012 and its inaugural WoW Festival in 2013; *Fathers at a Game* in April 2014; EM Lewis' *The Gun Show* starring Chuma Gault (Nominee Best Solo Performance – Stage Raw Los Angeles Theater Awards); and *VIRAL* by Mac Rogers, a co-production with Bootleg Theater.

**LEMUEL H. THORNTON III** received his MFA in TV, Film and Theatre Production from CSULA where he has produced, directed and worked as video designer. He served as assistant producer on *tick, tick...BOOM!* and *Jacques Brel*, and producer on *THE V ROOM* for DOMA Theatre Company. Mr. Thornton is also Film Coordinator for the Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival ([www.mxroots.org](http://www.mxroots.org)). He was associate producer on *The Car Plays: L.A. Stories* at Radar L.A., *The Car Plays* for Segerstrom Center For the Arts' Off Center Festival and *The Car Plays: San Diego* at the La Jolla Playhouse.

## About Moving Arts

Called “The tiny Silver Lake theatre with an enviable reputation,” Moving Arts is dedicated to the production of original works. Founded by Lee Wochner and Julie Briggs in 1992, Moving Arts has produced many world, national, west coast and Los Angeles premieres. Moving Arts began as a 22-seat venue in the Silver Lake area and quickly grew to become a resident artist company that includes actors, directors, producers, designers and playwrights.

For the past 22 years, Moving Arts has continuously produced adventurous new plays in a variety of venues across Los Angeles and Southern California, ranging from traditional theatres such as [Inside] the Ford in Hollywood and the Los Angeles Theatre Center downtown, to nontraditional spaces such as the Natural History Museum, the parking lot across from Disney Hall and the valet lane at the La Jolla Playhouse, showing a remarkable versatility and commitment to the craft of theatre.

## The Car Plays in the Press



“The Car’s The Thing” – [KPBS Feature](#)

“The Car Plays combine the pleasures of site-specific theater and voyeurism — one of the better arguments for carpooling since the high-occupancy lane.” (CRITICS’ CHOICE) – *Los Angeles Times*

“This unique melding of site-specific theater and freeway crawl should be hailed as a local treasure.” (GO! PICK) – *LA Weekly*

“It’s adventurous theater packed into a Jetta or a Jeep or an Audi.” – *Huffington Post*

“The most striking feature of *Car Plays* is the perspective and reaction altering intimacy created by the close proximity and shared space of the actors.” – *LAist*

“I don’t know that I’ve ever felt quite so awkward at a theater performance as I did in witnessing 10 of the 15 short works now being staged inside actual cars at La Jolla Playhouse. I do know, though, that I loved just about every mortifying minute of it.”  
– *Union-Tribune San Diego*

“Being in the same car as the actors made for an intensely intimate performance setting. And it was a trip to go through various snapshots of life through the plays. ... Gimmicky? Sure. Novel and clever? Sure. Effective and mind-blowing? Definitely.”  
– *OC Weekly*

“Quirky, engrossing and thoroughly entertaining.” – *North County Times*

“Car Plays takes place in a completely familiar environment — in a car, after all — and completely foreign. My first impression was “this is too close to be watching actors.” Don’t we both need room to breathe? No. There’s no room, or even time, since each story pulls you in and shoots you forward. You aren’t just watching a play from a safe distance, you’re in it.”  
– *San Diego Reader*