

anaïs nin

U N B O U N D

A Hybrid Theatrical Event

Conceived and Created by Janet Roston and Cindy Shapiro

Music and Lyrics by Cindy Shapiro

Directed and Choreographed by Janet Roston



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U N B O U N D

is a critically-acclaimed work created by composer/lyricist Cindy Shapiro and director/choreographer Janet Roston incorporating music, dance and visual projections into a cutting edge stage production that explores and illuminates the riveting life of famed diarist and literary figure Anaïs Nin and her world of words, sex, passion and creativity.

Anaïs Nin: Unbound celebrates Nin's story as one of personal and artistic triumph which continues to influence the world today. Sensuous, probing, compelling and thought provoking, the production is presented with one live female vocalist as Eternal Anaïs supported by six dancers who, with projections, tell the absorbing life story of Anaïs Nin. The dancers bring the controversial author to life in a production that shatters stage conventions in the same way Nin herself violated literary and societal expectations.

Cindy Shapiro's lyrics and music, with Janet Roston's intricate choreography and direction, and deeply engaging visual projections by designer Joe LaRue, weave Nin's story, intertwining excerpts from her diaries and her groundbreaking erotica.

The dancers and vocalist unveil the author's journey of self-discovery which took her from a naïve young housewife into the café society of Paris, where she emerged as an important literary figure during the 1930s, through her life in the United States during and after World War II, to her death and its aftermath in the 1970s.

These adventures of self-exploration led the author through numerous simultaneous relationships, bigamy, and grand deceptions which she kept track of using what she called her "Lie Box." Nin believed in living her life as freely as a man and for that she was chastised after her death. Her legacy is currently being revived, she is revered as a multifaceted, multidimensional woman who created her own heat and became her own sun.

The production premiered at the Greenway Court Theatre in Los Angeles, played to sold-out crowds and extended its run to accommodate demand. It was produced by Mixed eMotion Theatrix.

has the support of the
anaïs nin **Anaïs Nin Trust and**
U N B O U N D **Nin's publisher, Paul Herron.**



The show is designed to tour easily with no sets, limited costumes and props, and all music, except lead vocal, on track.

The music and lyrics by **Cindy Shapiro**, an artist-in-residence at Cité International des Arts and a Tides Grant recipient, blend classical contemporary layering with a rock sensibility.

The choreography by **Janet Roston**, an Ovation Award-winning choreographer, is contemporary with sections inspired by vintage dance.

Joe LaRue, whose projections amaze and enlighten, is the editor of Nigeria's top-grossing film of 2014, and a filmmaker whose shorts have been screened at numerous film festivals.

Poster Design: James Levy
Photo: Barry Weiss

[Press and Links to Full Reviews](#)

STAGE RAW RECOMMENDED - TOP TEN

"A persuasive and entertaining argument for the important of Nin's empowering defiance of gendered sexual stigmas, lyrically captured in Shapiro's feminist war cry, 'And my body is mine!'"

[Gray Palmer, Stage Raw](#)

"Totally Amazing. Conceived and created by Janet Roston and Cindy Shapiro the show is a must see for everyone and anyone who loves art, music, and dance... You don't have to know anything about Anais Nin at all to appreciate and get the story of her life. Music/Composer Cindy Shapiro and Director/Choreographer Janet Roston coupled with the Projection Designer Joe LaRue have teamed up to create a masterpiece of storytelling."

[Discover Hollywood](#)

"Janet Roston's choreography takes on Nin's desire to be loved by her father, her sometimes emotional emptiness and her sexual appetites brilliantly. The duets between Dancer Anais and the men in her life are truly beautiful. "

"Cindy Shapiro's music and lyrics capture the essence and directness of Nin's writing in her diaries."

"The production is filled with gorgeous visuals and sounds that both delight and educate."

[Jeff Slayton, seedance.com](#)

"Roston and Shapiro's hybrid theatrical is a smashing show"

[Bill Raden, LA Weekly](#)

"Sensuous, compelling and thought provoking"

"Shapiro's powerful lyrics and music combine with Roston's inventive choreography and designer Joe LaRue's visual projections to weave a compelling rendition of Nin's life story, intertwining excerpts from her diaries and her groundbreaking erotica."

[Christine Gallagher, Huffington Post](#)

"Shapiro's music is unconventional and daring, and creates a world that flows steadily through the scenes; Roston's energetic and often lyrical choreography similarly sustains the tone throughout. And the projections, by Joe LaRue, are a marvel — yet they always serve the story."

[theatreghost.com](#)

French critics were wild with praise at the Festival Off D'Avignon '17

“The Festival Off of Avignon reveals each year a special production that stands out for its immense creativity. The energy and amazing dynamics of the dancers, the gorgeous voice of the singer, the beautiful projections and the music take the audience in to a dreamlike universe. A large “Bravo” for the radiant music of Cindy Shapiro and the sparkling choreography of Janet Roston. These two women have created a spectacular show with a new blend of music and dance. It is one of the strongest productions of the Festival Off 2017.” — *MPA Communications*

“This is an American show, the quality is outstanding. The artists are multidisciplinary and not a single misstep spoils the production. Besides discovering or rediscovering Anaïs Nin, a feminist before her time, the audience will get great pleasure in the quality, beauty and brimming enthusiasm at the heart of this stunning show.”— <https://www.boiteaculture.com>

“This production succeeds through a series of tableaux vividly representing her life in phrases, in moments. The luminous background...brings dimension to the telling of the story. The dancing is smart and well-thought out and there is never a false step! Nothing is forgotten....props, lights, music, dance, text...a rhythm, precision, and story well-constructed. Bravo to composer Cindy Shapiro, to choreographer Janet Roston and projection designer Joe LaRue. A marvelous moment that we could very well see again in Europe in the near future. A very beautiful dance-opera with very much grace.....a beautiful homage to Anais Nin.” — <http://revue-spectacles.com>

“Amazing..strong, intelligent and inventive..resonates strongly. A vibrant and bold portrait of Anaïs Nin, a “woman in the world of men,” female pioneer, and writer of erotic books who dared to lift the veil on the mysteries of female desire. Undeniably, “Anaïs Nin: Unbound” presents a strong image of Nin, a woman who continues to inspire today.” — Festi.tv

This show is large in all ways, style, scope and quality. The American troupe from Los Angeles of six dancers and a singer are all excellent. The challenge? To present in dance and projections the tormented life of Anaïs Nin, her marriage with Hugh Guiler, a New York banker, and her affair with the fiery Henry Miller. This bold challenge was met by Janet Roston, contemporary choreographer, and Cindy Shapiro who wrote the music and lyrics. Their well developed work was a success at the Festival Off d’Avignon. A succession of visuals draws the viewer on a sensual and erotic journey from France to the USA, including an allusion to Guernica and World War II, a remarkable Cafe Culture and an original Delta of Venus. At the performance I attended the hall was full and the audience was conquered by the show. — regarts.org

Janet Roston

(Director/Choreographer)

As Director/Choreographer credits include *Midsummer Night for the Tennessee Shakespeare Company* and *Texas New Musical Festival* (co-creator with composers Milburn and Vigoda), *Striking 12* (Laguna Playhouse), *Tonya and Nancy*, *The Rock Opera* (ART, Boston), *CarnEvil* (Sacred Fools Theater), *shAme*, (King King Nightclub) and *The Wanting* (Highways Performance Space). Janet created choreography for the hit productions, *The Boy From Oz* and *The Color Purple*, (Celebration Theatre). She received the Ovation Award, NAACP Award and a Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award for choreography on *The Color Purple*. Additional choreography: *Justin Love*, (Celebration Theatre, LADCC Award); *Once On this Island*, (International City Theater, NAACP Nomination); *Avenue X*, (Odyssey Theater, Ovation Award Nomination); *Psyche*, *First Upon a Time*, (Greenway Court Theater) and *Failure*, *A Love Story* (Coeurage Theater, Ovation Nomination). Her contemporary choreography has been presented at London's Royal Academy of Music and in Cannes, France. Her work was awarded at the Palm Desert Choreography Festival and selected for the Los Angeles Dance Festival. She has received two American Choreography Awards, is a proud alumni of the Directors Lab and a member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers.

Cindy Shapiro

(Composer/Librettist)

Cindy Shapiro is a multi-faceted artist with a rich musical history. She was a rock singer in New York City, and has toured the world with *Video Games Live*, a symphonic show of music from Video Games. She has sung with some of the greatest symphonies in the world, including the LA Phil and the London Philharmonia Orchestra. She toured Japan with the Roger Wagner Chorale, and was a Cantor at Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles. She sings on video game, television and film soundtracks.

Cindy was an artist-in-residence at Cité Internationale des Arts where she composed an opera based on the Psyche myth. She is a recipient of a \$25,000 art grant from the Tides Foundation for her *Psyche* opera.

Cindy spent many years as a game developer, specializing in interactive fiction and human behavior modeling. She has also been a software engineer and music teacher.

Joe LaRue

(Dramaturg/Projection Designer)

Joe is a stage/film director, video editor, photographer, graphic designer, and projection designer. His short films *Adobo*, *Loaded*, and *Thanksgiving* have screened at festivals including the Boulder International Film Festival, D.C. Asian Pacific American Film Festival, Philadelphia Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and the Long Island Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. He is the editor of the Nigerian romantic comedy feature film *When Love Happens*, which was one of Nigeria's top grossing films of 2014. He has also edited festival favorite shorts *Just Like the Movies* (Indie Spirit Film Festival, Las Vegas Intl. Film Festival) and *Miss Miao* (Dances With Films Festival, Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Film Festival). Projection design credits include *Striking 12* (Laguna Playhouse), four consecutive years of *The 24hr Plays*, *Tonya & Nancy* (Club Oberon, Boston), *Serpentine Pink* (Son of Semele), and *CarnEvil* (Sacred Fools).

Ryan Bergmann

(Producer)

Ryan has worked as a Producer -*Tonya & Nancy: The Rock Opera in Concert* (King King), *The Next Fairy Tale* (Celebration Theatre), *BASH'd: A Gay Rap Opera* (Celebration Theatre, Ovation Nominee), *Midsummer Night* (Lillian Theater). He is also a Director - *Niagara Falls* (Theater of Note), *revolver* (Celebration Theatre), *The Real Housekeepers of Studio City* (LA Fringe, Best of Fringe Winner); As an Assistant Director he has been involved with the following productions: *Wolves* (Celebration Theatre), *Justin Love* (Celebration Theatre, Ovation Nominee, Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle winner Best Production), *Midsummer Night* (Los Angeles Rock Opera Co), *The Color Purple* (Celebration Theatre, Ovation Award, LADCC, LA Weekly winner Best Musical), *Booty Candy* (Celebration Theatre, LADCC Nomination), *Dream Boy* (Celebration Theatre). Ryan has dedicated over a decade of his life to furthering the appreciation of theater in Los Angeles.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Janet Roston, Director/Choreographer, **Cindy Shapiro**, Composer/Lyricist of “Anais Nin: Unbound” offer workshops in dance, theatrical movement, choreography, vocal training, music composition, collaborative creation and research techniques, journaling as a creative tool. Workshops tailored to all levels and ages. Many of these workshops can be open for large group community events.

DANCE TECHNIQUE, DANCE REPERTORY, STORYTELLING THROUGH MOVEMENT

MUSIC COMPOSITION AND VOCAL TECHNIQUE

NIN'S ROLE, COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS, RESEARCH TECHNIQUES



For full reviews, photos and videos please visit anaisninunbound.com

PERFORMANCES

2018 ---

La Nouvelle Eve
Paris, France

March 12, 13, 14, 2018

Festival International du
Théâtre

Casablanca, Morocco
March 20, 2018

2017 ---

Musco Center for the
Performing Arts,
Chapman University,
Orange, CA

September 28, 2017
7:30pm

New Vic Theatre, Santa
Barbara, CA

Co-Produced by Diana Raab

September 8 - 9, 2017

8pm

Festival Off d'Avignon '17
Avignon, France

June 28 - August 1, 2017

2016 ---

Greenway Court Theatre
Aug 27 - Sept 24

2015 ---

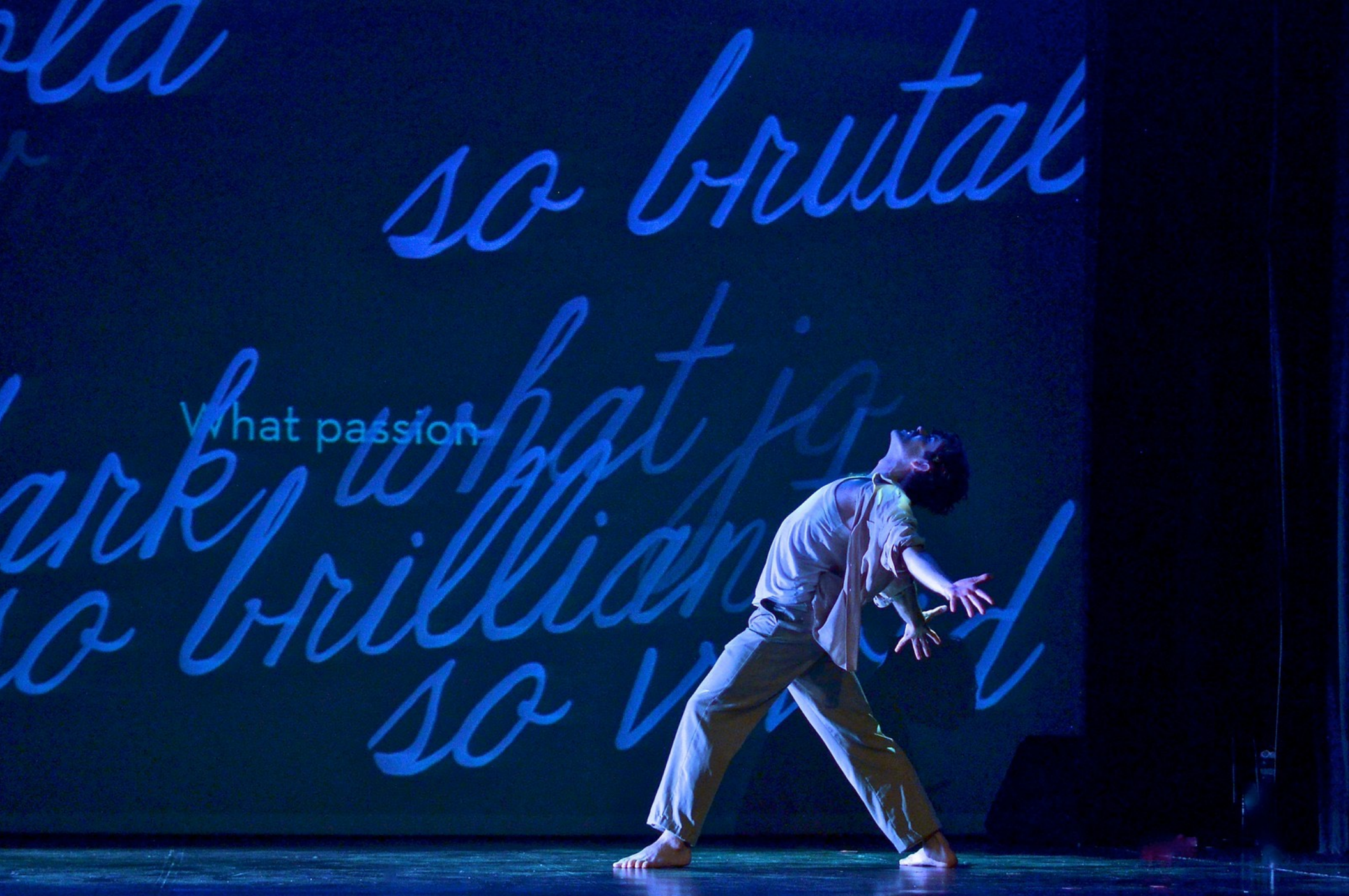
Miles Playhouse, Santa
Monica
Los Angeles Dance Festival.
Los Angeles

Pasadena Dance Festival,
Pasadena
Awakenings and
Beginnings, Los Angeles





Train



To the Edge



Lie Box



The Trapeze



Guernica