



**For Immediate Release**

May 8 – May 27, 2018

Bridge Street Theatre presents  
The Regional Premiere of

**LENI**

by Sarah Greenman

with Roxanne Fay & Olivia Howell

Directed & Designed by John Sowle

May 17 – 27, 2018

**Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage**

44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY



Olivia Howell (Leni) and Roxanne Fay (Helene) in Sarah Greenman's "Leni"

**Bridge Street's "Leni" Delves Into the Life of Controversial Filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl**

The life of Hitler's chosen filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl serves as the springboard for Sarah Greenman's "Leni", a shattering exploration of narcissism, denial, and artistic and moral responsibility, coming to Catskill's Bridge Street Theatre for eight performances only, Thursdays through Sundays from May 17-May 27, 2018.

"There's no question Riefenstahl was a cinematic genius," says Bridge Street Theatre Associate Director and dramaturg Steven Patterson, who'll be giving introductory talks one half hour prior to each performance. "Pauline Kael called 'Triumph of the Will' and 'Olympia' the two greatest films ever

directed by a woman. Techniques she pioneered are ubiquitous today – in advertising, photography, sports broadcasting. Yet her films also ‘greased the wheels’ for the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. Was Riefenstahl, as she always maintained, simply an artist, attempting to create the finest films of which she was capable? Did she willfully blind herself to the moral implications of her works and to the evils of the party that engineered (and financed) their creation? Or did she know exactly what she was doing – glorifying, using, and enabling a fascist regime? What happens when artists allow themselves – knowingly or unknowingly – to become cogs in a propaganda machine? To what lengths will they go when driven by ambition and self-regard? Sarah poses these questions, and plenty more, in this electrifying, entertaining, and thought-provoking piece of theatre, and we’re honored to be presenting its regional premiere.”

Bridge Street Theatre’s production features Roxanne Fay as Helene (the older Leni Riefenstahl) and Olivia Howell as Leni (the younger Leni Riefenstahl), who meet in the afterlife on an abandoned soundstage and confront one another, abetting and challenging each other’s memories, lies, and evasions. The play is directed and designed by Bridge Street Theatre Artistic Director John Sowle, with costumes by Michelle Rogers and sound by Carmen Borgia. Production Stage Manager is Rose Biggerstaff. The production also features a profusion of historical photos and copious film clips from Riefenstahl’s own works.

“Leni” will be presented Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:00pm, from May 17-27 on the Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage, located at 44 West Bridge Street in the Village of Catskill, NY. The Thursday May 17 preview and the Sunday May 20 matinee are both “Pay-What-You-Will” performances. Advance tickets are available for \$22 at [Leni.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://Leni.BrownPaperTickets.com) or by calling 800-838-3006. Tickets can also be purchased at the door prior to each performance (on a space available basis) for \$25. Students age 21 and under are always \$10. Admission to the pre-show talks is included in the ticket price. For more information, visit the theatre online at [BridgeSt.org](http://BridgeSt.org).

Special thanks to Jay Lesenger for his underwriting support of this production.

Events and performances in Bridge Street Theatre’s 2018 Season are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and by Public Funds from the Greene County Legislature through the Greene County Cultural Fund, administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.



Roxanne Fay and Olivia Howell star in Sarah Greenman’s “Leni” at Bridge Street Theatre

## Performance Calendar:

Bridge Street Theatre presents  
The Regional Premiere of

### **LENI**

by Sarah Greenman

with Roxanne Fay and Olivia Howell

Directed & Designed by John Sowle

Costumes by Michelle Rogers

Sound by Carmen Borgia

Dramaturg Steven Patterson

May 17 – 27, 2018

Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage

44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY

Thursday May 17 @ 7:30pm ("Pay What You Will" preview)

Friday May 18 @ 7:30pm (Opening Night)

Saturday May 19 @ 7:30pm

Sunday May 20 @ 2:00pm ("Pay What You Will" performance)

Thursday May 24 @ 7:30pm

Friday May 25 @ 7:30pm

Saturday May 26 @ 7:30pm

Sunday May 27 @ 2:00pm (Closing Performance)

All performances preceded by an informative talk by Bridge Street Theatre's Dramaturg, Steven Patterson. Arrive one-half hour early for the talk.

## Tickets:

Advance tickets available at <http://leni.brownpapertickets.com> or by calling 800-838-3006

Advance Tickets are \$22, \$10 for students age 21 and under

Tickets can also be purchased at the door prior to each performance (on a space available basis) for \$25, \$10 for Students.

## The Cast:



**\*ROXANNE FAY** (*Helene*) is an actor, playwright, and Producing Artistic Director of Circle In The Water, LLC, and is thrilled to return to Bridge Street Theatre for *Leni*. She was last seen on stage at Jobsite Theater in Tampa, FL as Prospero in *The Tempest* and as Paige in Taylor Mac's *HIR*. Here at Bridge Street, Roxanne has played Beatrice in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-In-The-Moon Marigolds*, as well as performing Heather L. Jones' *My Unspeakable Confessions: Gala Dali Declines to Explain Herself*, as well as her own original works *Upon This Rock: The Magdalene Speaks*, *Dream Child: The Trial of Alice in Wonderland*, and *Home Fires Burning*. Other roles have included Ruth in *Collected Stories*, Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Feste in *Twelfth Night*, Touchstone in

*As You Like It*, Dr. Emma Brookner in *The Normal Heart*, Terry in *Side Man*, Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, and Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. As a playwright, Roxanne has been awarded the 2018 Artist-in-Residence by The Growler in San Francisco, the 2017 Creative Pinellas Individual Artist Fellowship, and the 2016 Hawthornden Writers' Fellowship (artist in residence, Hawthornden Castle, Scotland). Her plays have been produced in Florida, in Chicago, at the United Solo Festival in NYC, and here in beautiful Catskill. Her latest play, *Fabrication*, was a commission for the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, created to highlight the museum's exhibition on the work of surrealist fashion designer, Elsa Schiaparelli and premiered in November of 2017. [www.roxannefay.com](http://www.roxannefay.com)



**OLIVIA HOWELL** (*Leni*). This is Olivia's Bridge Street Theatre debut, and she couldn't be more thrilled to be sharing the stage with her friend Roxy and tackling the complex character of Leni. Selected past credits include Sunny in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, and Gladys in *Skin of Our Teeth*. Olivia's recent film *Nothing Like the Sun* was recently awarded Best Feature at the LA Film Festival. She also does voice-over work with the popular children's series *Mother Goose Club*. Love to her family, the cast and crew, and her soon to be hubby, Greyson. Thanks for watching *Leni*. We must know our history to shape our future.

## The Production Team:

**SARAH GREENMAN** (*Playwright*) is a painter, playwright, actor, and advocate for women in the arts. She is also the Creative Director for Statera Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to positive action for gender parity in the theatre. Sarah's plays have been produced all over the country. Regional acting credits include the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Stolen Shakespeare Co., Strawberry Theater Workshop, Insight Out Theater Collective, and six seasons at PCPA Theaterfest. She holds a BA in Creative Writing with a Women's Studies emphasis from Mills College. Sarah is also a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory Theater (PCPA) where she most recently served as interim Director of Outreach and Education. Originally from California, Sarah now resides in Halfway, Oregon with her husband Jack Greenman and their two sons Walker and Charlie. Sarah is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America. More info at [sarahgreenman.com](http://sarahgreenman.com) and [staterafoundation.org](http://staterafoundation.org).

**JOHN SOWLE** (*Director/Designer*) is Artistic and Managing Director of Bridge Street Theatre. He founded Kaliyuga Arts in 1986 with his partner Steven Patterson and has received multiple awards for his directing and design work on their Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York productions. He has directed and designed BST's productions of *Redwood Curtain*, *How to Pray*, *The Official Adventures of Kieron and Jade*, *Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus*, *Holiday Memories*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Killing & The Love Death* (late plays of William Inge), and *Grinder's Stand* by Oakley Hall III, and designed their productions of *The Tavern*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, and *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. John has an undergraduate degree in mathematics from M.I.T and a PhD in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley.

**MICHELLE ROGERS** (*Costumes*) began costuming plays while in college and continued working on high school productions throughout her teaching career. She's designed costumes for *Marat/Sade*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Oliver!*, and *Pride and Prejudice*, among others. Now retired from education, Michelle is delighted to be working with Bridge Street Theatre. She has been the costume designer for *The Tavern*, *Frankenstein*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, *How to Pray*, *Redwood Curtain*, and *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*.

**CARMEN BORGIA** (*Sound*) is a musician and sound designer. He has designed and mixed films for PBS, HBO, IFC, and many film festivals. He has also released two CDs of his own work, *North* and *The Red Circle Line*. In 2009 his musical *South* premiered at Dixon Place in New York City and had a concert reading at Bridge Street Theatre in 2017. He operates out of studios in Catskill and The Bronx, doing sound-for-picture work and music recording. He can be found at Magpie Bookshop on Saturday afternoons at his Ukulele Camp, where anyone can learn to uke.

\*Denotes membership in Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

To contact Bridge Street Theatre directly, email [contact@bridgest.org](mailto:contact@bridgest.org) or call their offices at 518-943-3894. For more information, visit the theatre's website at [BridgeSt.org](http://BridgeSt.org) or call their production information line at 518-943-3818.