



LIFE AND TRUST

DIRECTOR'S NOTE FROM TEDDY BERGMAN

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The Faust story, in all its iterations, is a myth about what we are willing to trade our souls for and thereby what we value most highly. Adaptations of the tale tend to reveal truths about the abiding concerns of the time periods during which they are created. What does the protagonist exchange for their soul? Fame? Wealth? Power? Artistic brilliance? Inevitably the values and preoccupations of the particular era come into focus. *Life And Trust* is a kaleidoscopic American riff on Faust that weaves together over 20 stories to examine the present by conjuring a dream of the past.

Initially set on the eve of the Great Crash of 1929, *Life And Trust* sits on the precipice of a world altering crisis: a moment when people lost their faith in money, in government, in the capacity of the American social experiment to lift them up and provide for them. The show then sends audiences back to the Gilded Age, an era when the country was in its adolescence. It was a time of both promise and peril, when America was rapidly transforming and in the process determining what kind of place it was going to be and what it valued most. Immersed between these two historical periods, our audiences are invited to ask a Faustian question of themselves as they choose which character to follow, where to go, what story to invest in, and in doing so decide – at least for tonight– what they want to prize above all else.

- Teddy Bergman

