milwaukee chamber theatre

presents

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY
In The CLAIR DE LUNE

by Terrence McNally

Sep. 20 - Oct. 15, 2017

Mary MacDonald Kerr
Director

Judy Martel*
Production Stage Manager

Brandon Kirkham
Scenic Designer

Amy Horst
Costume Designer

Holly Blomquist
Lighting Designer

Meghan Savagian & Madelyn Yee
Properties Masters

Kristian Wiborg
Sound Designer

Raeleen McMillion
Dialect Coach

* Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The scenic package technically designed, constructed and finished by Skylight Music Theatre Scenic Studios.

Originally Produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club on June 2, 1987.

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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Where Great Stories Come To Life.
**CAST**

Frankie.................................................................................................................. Marcella Kearns*
Johnny.................................................................................................................... Todd Denning*

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**SETTING**

An evening in Frankie’s one-room apartment,
in a walk-up tenement in the west 50s.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Photography and video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited. The audience is asked to silence mobile phones and refrain from using electronic devices during the performance.

**DIRECTOR’S NOTES**

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE starts where most fairy-tales, harlequin romances and romantic comedies finish – with the sex.

Terrence McNally has written a play that then asks “What now?” He has created two characters with very different ideas about love in middle age, despite the long list of commonalities they discover in the afterglow. Both Frankie and Johnny are damaged, lonely, smart and physically hungry. Both are all too aware of how temporary and dangerous loving another human usually is. But on this night, by the light of the moon, they are tempted to put their fears away and actively choose to fall in love.

McNally’s discussion of our intense need to connect with other beings is poetic, realistic, pragmatic, sarcastic, hilarious and heartbreaking. He proposes that if two people can choose to “be everyone and everything” to each other, they “have a chance to make everything turn out all right again.”

In an address to the League of American Theatre and Producers, McNally stated plays can “provide a forum for the ideas and feelings that can lead a society to decide to heal and change itself.” The key idea here is the choice to fall in love, the decision to heal and change.

McNally proposes that we humans have the power to create happiness in this often brutal thing called life, and I happen to agree. Enjoy!

~ Mary MacDonald Kerr

**SPECIAL THANKS**

First Stage, Christopher Guse and UWM Peck School of the Arts recording studio, Jim Guy and the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Prop Department, Dave Luhrsseen, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Costume Department, Debbie Patel, James Pickering, Lisa Schlenker and the Skylight Music Theatre Prop Department, Tami Workentin
For more than 40 years, MCT has been dedicated to producing intimate, high-quality plays that engage and challenge audiences, while nurturing top-caliber local artists. But while we were telling all of these great stories, we weren’t always as good at telling our own.

This summer, we launched an effort to change that: our first-ever branding campaign, designed to promote our mission throughout southeast Wisconsin and re-emphasize what makes this company a unique home for lovers of the written word translated to the stage. Built around the idea that MCT is “Where Great Stories Come To Life,” the campaign began with the production of a special brochure highlighting the company’s past, as well as how we’re engaging with the Milwaukee community and nurturing the next generation of theatre artists and audiences. We also launched a social media competition asking for patrons to send in their own true stories.

As we enter our 2017-18 season, we’re excited to further share this campaign with our audiences. In the theatre lobby, you’ll find more information about what we’ve done so far, and we encourage you to take a look! It’s a story we’re as happy to tell as we are about every play on our stage.
The Montgomery Davis Play Development Series presents a staged reading of

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TERRENCE McNALLY (Playwright)

Terrence McNally was awarded the Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. He is the winner of Tony Awards for his plays LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! and MASTER CLASS and his books for the musicals RAGTIME and KISS OF THE SPIDERWOMAN. In 2010 the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts presented TERRENCE McNALLY’S NIGHTS AT THE OPERA, a three-play festival of his work. In addition to FRANKIE AND JOHNNY…., his other plays include LIPS TOGETHER, TEETH APART; CORPUS CHRISTI; A PERFECT GANESH; THE RITZ; IT’S ONLY A PLAY; SOME MEN; GOLDEN AGE; DEUCE; THE LISBON TRAVIATA; BAD HABITS; THE STENDHAL SYNDROME; DEDICATION OR THE STUFF OF DREAMS; NEXT; UNUSUAL ACTS OF DEVOTION; SWEET EROS; WITNESS; WHERE HAS TOMMY FLOWERS GONE? and his first play... AND THINGS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT. He has written the books for the musicals THE FULL MONTY, A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE, THE VISIT and THE RINK. He won an Emmy Award for Best Drama with his teleplay ANDRE’S MOTHER. He wrote the screenplays for FRANKIE AND JOHNNY, LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION! and THE RITZ. He wrote the libretto for the opera DEAD MAN WALKING with music by Jake Heggie. Among his many awards are a Citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best New Play, four Drama Desk Awards, three Hull-Warriner Best Play Awards from the Dramatists Guild, two Obies, two Lortel Awards and two Guggenheim Fellowships. Mr. McNally has been a member of the Dramatists Guild since 1965 and served as its Vice-President from 1985 to 2001. He lives in Manhattan with his spouse, Tom Kirdahy.

TODD DENNING (Johnny)

Todd is a Milwaukee-based actor, director, teacher and fight choreographer, who is thrilled to be making his first appearance with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Most recently, he was seen as Benedick in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING with Optimist Theatre. Todd has been an adjunct faculty member at Marquette University since 2008. Regional acting credits include Utah Shakespeare, South Coast Repertory, Illinois Shakespeare, Tennessee Repertory, Georgia Shakespeare, Willamette Rep, PCPA Theaterfest, Next Act Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare, In Tandem, Umbrella Group and First Stage. Todd holds an MFA in Acting from the University of California-Irvine.

MARCELLA KEARNS (Frankie)

Marcy returns to MCT after appearing in BOEING BOEING, JEEVES IN BLOOM, and MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS. Selected Midwest credits include productions with Forward Theater Company, Renaissance Theaterworks, First Stage, In Tandem Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare, and Milwaukee Repertory Theater; outside the region, she has worked with Chamber Repertory Theatre, Texas Repertory Theatre, and Studio Arena. She also serves as an instructor at Carthage College and First Stage and as MCT’s Associate Artistic Director. Most recently, she directed MOCKINGBIRD at First Stage. Training: MFA, University of South Carolina; Fulbright Fellowship, Vienna, Austria. Many thanks to Michael and Mary for this opportunity. For Ben.
MARY MACDONALD KERR (Director)
Mary is delighted to be directing FRANKIE AND JOHNNY for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Mary has been a theatre artist in Milwaukee for 20-plus years, both as a director and an actor. Most recently she directed LUNA GALE for Renaissance Theaterworks. Other favorite directing projects include THE GLASS MENAGERIE at In Tandem, CRIMES OF THE HEART at MCT, GOING TO ST. IVES at Next Act, URINETOWN at Carthage College and CRASH at First Stage. Last season Mary played the role of QZ in THE FEW here at MCT. Other favorite roles here include Alice Conroy in THE DETECTIVE’S WIFE, Dana in THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL, Sheila in JOE EGG and Seta in BEAST ON THE MOON. Mary has also appeared in productions at Renaissance Theaterworks, First Stage, Milwaukee Rep, Milwaukee Shakespeare and Next Act Theatre. Later this season she is directing MOTHER COURAGE at Carthage College and appearing in TOP GIRLS at Renaissance Theaterworks.

JUDY MARTEL (Production Stage Manager)
Judy’s MCT highlights include 17 Shaw Festivals, THE TRAIN DRIVER, UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL, HEROES, THE DALY NEWS, TALKING HEADS, ANGELS IN AMERICA, 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD, MASTER CLASS, THREE DAYS OF RAIN, RAT IN THE SKULL, MAN AND SUPERMAN, and BEYOND THE FRINGE. Other memorable local productions include: BAD DATES, CHAPS!, 2 PIANOS 4 HANDS, and GUYS ON ICE at Milwaukee Repertory Theater; EARS ON A BEATLE, ROUGH CROSSING and THE REAL THING at Next Act Theatre; and GORGONS at Renaissance Theaterworks.

Before coming to Milwaukee, Judy worked at The Yale Rep, Manhattan Punch Line, The Station, The Hangar, and the Lake George Opera Festival. She is also a freelance editor and writer and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama. Judy has two wonderful daughters, only one of whom escaped working in the theater.

BRANDON KIRKHAM (Scenic Designer)
Brandon Kirkham is delighted to return for his fourth scenic design at MCT (previously: VANYA & SONIA & MASHA & SPIKE, BOEING BOEING and A THOUSAND CLOWNS). By day Brandon is the Design Supervisor at First Stage, where his favorite designs include LOVABYE DRAGON, RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER, BIG FISH, MOCKINGBIRD, and SPOOKLEY THE SQUARE PUMPKIN. He's also a freelance costume and puppet designer/builder. Regional employers include Milwaukee Rep, Steppenwolf, Santa Fe Opera, Children’s Theatre Company, Enchantment Theatre Company, Kohl’s Wild Theatre, and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. Brandon received his MFA in Costume and Scenic Design from Ohio University, his bachelor’s degree in Theatre Design and Technology from the University of Evansville, and is currently pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Puppet Arts from the University of Connecticut. Brandon is a proud member of Puppeteers of America and UNIMA-USA, the American chapter of Union Internationale de la Marionnette.

AMY HORST (Costume Designer)
Previously at MCT with Ms Kerr: THREE DAYS OF RAIN, JOE EGG, THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL. Other credits: LUNA GALE, STOP KISS, THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL. Other credits: LUNA GALE, STOP KISS, THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL, THE TROJAN WOMEN, SPINNING INTO BUTTER, A DIFFERENT MOON (happy birthday, Renaissance Theaterworks!), CRASH, A WOMAN CALLED TRUTH (First Stage); many shows for Theatre X and Bialystock and Bloom (of blessed memory). Thank you to Marcy, Todd, and actors everywhere for their
fearlessness in connection. You inspire me. Extra special thanks to BP, and to the many small decisions we made 20 years ago this month that led to our wonderful life today. I love you.

**HOLLY BLOMQUIST (Lighting Designer)**
Holly's lighting design work this season includes THE OUTGOING TIDE at In Tandem Theatre and URINETOWN at Skylight Music Theatre. Previous favorite productions for MCT include RABBIT HOLE, THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL, MAURIITIUS, HEROES, and THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) [REVISED]. Other favorite past productions include CROWNS at Skylight, THE GLASS MENAGERIE at In Tandem, JACKIE AND ME at First Stage, and THE INTERNATIONALIST at The Boulevard Theatre. When not lighting plays, Holly works as a lighting designer for architectural projects with Ring & DuChateau Consulting Engineers. Holly is LC certified by the National Council on Qualifications for the Lighting Professions and is an active member of the Illuminating Engineering Society. Thank you to Michael and Mary for this opportunity!

**MEGHAN SAVAGIAN (Co-Properties Master)**
Meghan Savagian is excited to return to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre after a long hiatus. A UW-Milwaukee PTTP graduate, Meghan is the assistant prop director for American Players Theatre, and a prop artisan with Skylight Music Theatre.

**MADELYN YEE (Co-Properties Master)**
Madelyn Yee is so very glad to be back at MCT this season. Currently residing in Milwaukee, she is a freelance designer and props artisan. She has worked with theatres around town including Milwaukee Rep, Skylight Music Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Bronzeville Arts Ensemble, KOHL’s Wild Theatre, and Splinter Group. MCT prop credits include GREAT EXPECTATIONS, LOBBY HERO, and A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR. Other recent credits include scenic design for ANIMAL FARM (First Stage), and THE BALLAD OF EMMETT TILL (Renaissance Theatreworks); and the Azor puppet build for ZÉMIRE ET AZOR (Skylight Music Theatre). Many thanks to her family and Joe for their love and support.

**KRISTIAN WIBORG (Sound Designer)**
Kristian is a senior in the BFA Theatre Technical Production program at UWM. He is originally from Norway and grew up in Florida. His main interest lies in sound design, and is happy to get to work with great people at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre for this production. Previously, Kristian has worked for Lake Dillon Theatre Company where he worked as a Sound Apprentice and designed their production of GROUNDED.

**RAELEEN MCMILLION (Dialect/Vocal Coach)**
Raeleen is very happy to return to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre! She has coached several shows here, including DEATHTRAP, THE FEW, A LESSON FROM ALOES, and FALLEN ANGELS. And for other Milwaukee groups: SKIN TIGHT, THE ROAD TO MECCA, LETTICE & LOVAGE, and BALLAD OF EMMETT TILL at Renaissance Theaterworks; Scottish for Milwaukee Entertainment Group; Appalachian for Carroll University’s production of AS IT IS IN HEAVEN; and for Skylight: SWEENEY TODD, LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, MY FAIR LADY, and VIOLET. Raeleen is a member of Voice & Speech Trainers Association (VASTA) and The American Dialect Society. She teaches Acting, Voice & Speech, and Dialects at UW-Milwaukee’s Peck School of the Arts.
C. MICHAEL WRIGHT (MCT Producing Artistic Director)
Since joining the staff here in 2005, Michael has directed quite a number of MCT productions including THE FEW, LOBBY HERO, FALLEN ANGELS, SLOWGIRL, THE TRAIN DRIVER, HEROES, DRIVING MISS DAISY, PICNIC, THE DALY NEWS and DICKENS IN AMERICA (which he also directed at American Players Theatre). Before MCT, he served as Associate Artistic Director of Next Act Theatre for eight years. Since moving to Wisconsin in 1988, Michael has directed well over 75 productions. Some favorites have been THE STORY OF MY LIFE for Milwaukee Opera Theatre, STONES IN HIS POCKETS for Next Act, THE SYRINGA TREE for American Players Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks and Delaware Theatre Company and A NIGHT IN NOVEMBER for Next Act, Madison Rep and Riverside Theatre in Vero Beach, Florida. Michael has been acting professionally for 40 years, having appeared in regional theatres all across the country, as well as in Athol Fugard’s “MASTER HAROLD”...and the boys on Broadway, in Israel and in the national tour. His most recent performances have been as Paul in a concert version of A CHORUS LINE with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED, and as Vanya in VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE here at MCT. In 2009, Michael was honored with an “Artist of the Year” award by the City of Milwaukee Arts Board.

KIRSTEN FINN (MCT Managing Director)
Kirsten is in her ninth season as managing director of Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Previously, Kirsten served as a major gifts officer for Milwaukee Public Television Friends and ran her own development consulting firm, KM Creative. She has previously been managing director of Wild Space Dance Company and development director of the Florentine Opera and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Kirsten holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in theatre and communications from Marquette University and is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE).

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Actors’ Equity Association (“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks
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Gifts in memory of Jerome Aronson support the **Jerome and Deborah Aronson Theatre Education Fund** at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. This fund allows MCT to continue expanding our educational initiatives that bring together a richly diverse group of individuals – of all ages and levels of experience – to share their gifts, contribute to the collaborative process of creating theatre and find their unique creative voices.

Peter and Barbara Alter  
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Alan and Sandy Schwartz  
Hal and Ellie Schroeder  
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Ruth Schudson  
Kanak Shah  
Sharpe’s Condominium Association  
Larry and Maureen Sherkow  
Lisa Shiffman  
Lisa and Tal Siegmann and Children  
Susan Sosnick  
Joel Tauber  
Gary and Malke Torgow  
Doreen Vitti and Madell Berman  
Julie and Marty Weiner  
Gertrude and Arthur Weiss  
Alan and Lori Zekelman  
Kathie Zieve-Norman  
Mary Lou Zieve  

In Memory of Margaret Lukow  
Mark Lukow and Luanne Frey  
In Honor of Dr. Anthony Bonfiglio  
Carolie Goniu  
In Honor of Kirsten and Bill Finn  
Don and Mary Ellingsen  
In Memory of Janet Schroeder  
Hans Schroeder  
In honor of Kirsten Finn’s and Patrick Fennelly’s work and leadership  
James Schleif and Mr William Morley  
In Honor of Michael and Lyn Hamilton  
Catherine Rynkiewicz
MCT FRIENDS

Friend for Life ($500 lifetime member)
Marilyn Auer
Nancy Balcer
Cecile Cheng
Donald A. Cress
Pat and Phil Crump
Al and Sally Ferguson
John E. Holland and Konrad K. Kuchenbach
David Keen and Judy Perkins
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Robb Marks
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David Paris
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Mickey and Casey Ripp
Ron and Sandy Roller

Ruth Schudson
Carol and Kevin Schuele
Michael Wright and Ray Jivoff

Angel ($100-$499)
Donna Jordahl
Theresa and Robert Muselman
Allison and Nick Schweitzer

Benefactor ($50-$99)
Karen Aaron
Pat and Tony Busalacchi
Richard Stefanik

Member/ Couple ($25-$49)
George Affeldt

Jill and Fritz Brokhuizen
Carol Z. Dolphin and Mary S. Knudten
Frank and Bonnie Forsberg
Pamela Frautschi and Richard Ippolito
Paula Gaieck
Mary Anne Gross
Jennifer Horth
Donna Lee
Sally A. Lemke
Pat and Allen Rieselbach
Dan Schley and Barbara Haig
Ms. Imy Schley
Nancy Tawney
Mary M. Wegener
Jane and Howard Zeft

INFORMATION

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Administrative Office: 414.276.8842 | Box Office: 414.291.7800
E-mail: mail@milwaukeechambertheatre.com | milwaukeechambertheatre.com

Box Office:
Broadway Theatre Center Box Office, 158 N. Broadway | 414.291.7800
Hours: Monday thru Saturday, noon to 6:00 p.m.
Order tickets online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com

Exchanges:
Season subscription tickets may be exchanged free of charge for another performance of the same production up to 48 hours in advance. Single tickets may be exchanged for another performance of the same production up to 48 hours in advance for a $5 per ticket fee. Contact the box office at 414.291.7800 to exchange.

Ticket Donations:
Season and single tickets are non-refundable. Ticket holders who are unable to use their tickets may donate them for resale and receive a receipt for a tax-deductible contribution. Contact the box office to donate your tickets.

Discounts:
Students and seniors receive $5.00 off the regular ticket price. Half-price rush tickets are available 30 minutes prior to curtain.

Group Discounts:
Groups of 10 or more can receive tickets at a group rate. Contact Matthew Reddin at 414.276.8842 x114 or matthew@milwaukeechambertheatre.com

Concessions:
The Skylight Bar & Bistro, operated by Indulge Wine Room.

CABOT THEATRE PERFORMANCES:
The Skylight Bar & Bistro on the second floor is open two hours before performances and during intermission. Patrons
can enjoy full bar service and pre-performance dinners and lunches. Reservations for full table service are welcomed in advance by emailing skylight@getindulge.com or calling 414.291.3773. No reservations, no problem: Enjoy the full menu by ordering counter service.

STUDIO THEATRE PERFORMANCES: The Studio Lobby Bar on the first floor is open 30 minutes before all performances and during intermission. Patrons can enjoy light snacks and drinks. The Skylight Bar & Bistro upstairs is closed except on dates when Skylight has a performance in the Cabot Theatre.

Parking:
Free and low-cost parking is available throughout the Historic Third Ward. The Broadway Theatre Center recommends parking at the Historic Third Ward parking structure on Milwaukee St. at Chicago Ave. (2 blocks east), where a special BTC deal is available.

Other options include:
METERED STREET PARKING: Throughout the Historic Third Ward, meters are free after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends.
ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER LOT: Jackson St. at Menomonee St. (three blocks east of the Broadway Theatre Center), parking for a small fee.
HISTORIC THIRD WARD PARKING STRUCTURES: Water St. at Chicago Ave. (2 blocks west), parking for a small fee.

VARIOUS SURFACE PARKING LOTS: These lots are only available when an attendant is present and a fee is charged.

SPOTHERO:
Reserve a parking space on spothero.com before leaving home.

Electronic Devices:
Please silence cellular phones, pagers and alarm watches. Photography and recording are strictly prohibited during the performance. Please refrain from using electronic devices or text messaging during the performance.

Latecomer Policy:
Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break in the performance.

Inclement Weather:
MCT does not offer refunds or cancel or reschedule performances due to inclement weather.

Special Patron Services:
Contact the box office, 414.291.7800, to arrange for seating in wheelchair accessible locations. Infrared hearing devices are available for Cabot Theatre productions; see house manager to use a hearing device.

Food & Beverages:
Bottled water and beverages in plastic containers are permitted in the Cabot and Studio Theatres. Lids, available at the Skylight Bar & Bistro, are required for shows in the Cabot Theatre and recommended for shows in the Studio Theatre.

ViewPoints:
ViewPoints is a free series in which knowledgeable presenters share their insights about a particular MCT production, followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. ViewPoints takes place at 6:30 p.m. prior to a Wednesday evening performance.

Talk Theatre:
Prior to Wednesday matinees is Talk Theatre, an opportunity for patrons to participate in an informal discussion with the producing artistic director and other artists involved in a production. The Talk Theatre discussion begins at 12 noon. The Skylight Bar & Bistro is open for lunch service beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Talkbacks:
Fun and informative discussions with cast members are regularly scheduled following Thursday evening performances.

Ushers:
Volunteers interested in ushering should contact the house manager at 414.291.7811 x250 or housemgr@skylightmusictheatre.org

Support MCT:
To become a donor contact Milwaukee Chamber Theatre at 414.276.8842 or dawnw@milwaukeechambertheatre.com or visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

MCT Friends:
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Friends gain recognition and support for MCT through a variety of activities. To get involved, call 414.276.8842 or visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.
2017-2018 SEASON
STAY ENGAGED

SILENT SKY by Lauren Gunderson
Sept. 28 - Oct. 22, 2017

THE SECRET MASK by Rick Chafe
Nov. 16 - Dec. 10, 2017

EQUIVOCATION by Bill Cain
February 1 - 25, 2018

I AND YOU by Lauren Gunderson
April 5 - 29, 2018