THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

WRITTEN BY OSCAR WILDE
DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL HALBERSTAM

Featuring Anita Chandwaney*, Shannon Cochran*, Aaron Todd Douglas*, Alex Goodrich*, Steve Haggard*, Rebecca Hurd, Jennifer Latimore* and Ross Lehman*

Scenic Designer Collette Pollard, USA
Costume Designer Mara Blumenfeld, USA
Lighting Designer John Culbert, USA
Sound Designer Josh Schmidt, USA
Properties Master Scott Dickens
Dramaturg Pedro Castillo Garcia
Dialect Coach Eva Breneman
Production Stage Manager David Castellanos*

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CAST

Miss Prism........................................................................................................... Anita Chandwaney*
Lady Bracknell............................................................................................... Shannon Cochran*
Reverend Canon Chasuble.............................................................................. Aaron Todd Douglas*
John Worthing ................................................................................................. Alex Goodrich*
Algernon Moncrieff ........................................................................................ Steve Haggard*
Cecily Cardew.................................................................................................. Rebecca Hurd
Gwendolen Fairfax ............................................................................................... Jennifer Latimore*
Lane/Merriman................................................................................................... Ross Lehman*

UNDERSTUDIES

John Worthing ........................................................... Adam Wesley Brown*
Reverend Canon Chasuble, Lane/Merriman ........................................ Patrick Clear*
Algernon Moncrieff ....................................................................................... Niko Kourtis
Cecily Cardew, Gwendolen Fairfax .............................................................. Isabel Thompson
Lady Bracknell, Miss Prism ............................................................................ Karen Janes Woditsch*

SETTING

Woolton, England.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .............................................................................................................. Michael Halberstam, SDC
Production Stage Manager ........................................................................... David Castellanos*
Scenic Designer ............................................................................................. Collette Pollard, USA
Costume Designer ........................................................................................ Mara Blumenfeld, USA
Lighting Designer .......................................................................................... John Culbert, USA
Sound Designer................................................................................................ Josh Schmidt, USA
Properties Master ............................................................................................ Scott Dickens
Assistant Scenic Designer ............................................................................... Yeaji Kim
Studio Assistant ................................................................................................ Lauren Nichols
Assistant Costume Designer ........................................................................... Catharine Young
Assistant Lighting Designer ............................................................................. Daniel Friedman
Dramaturg ........................................................................................................ Pedro Castillo Garcia
Dialect Coach .................................................................................................. Eva Breneman
Assistant Director ............................................................................................ Peter Andersen
Assistant Stage Manager .................................................................................. Janelle Boudreau
Deck Crew ....................................................................................................... Joe Creen
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

PROGRAM

Light Board Programmer .................................................................................................. Aaron Lorenz
Light Board Operator ................................................................................................. Jack Horwitch
Scene Shop/Scenic Construction ................................................................................ Means of Production
Costume Construction .................................................................................................. Uber Costume
Wig and Hair Design .................................................................................................... Penny Lane Studios
Stitcher ......................................................................................................................... Katie Friedman
Props Artisan ................................................................................................................ Abigail Reed
Interim Technical Supervisor ....................................................................................... Adam Veness
Wardrobe Supervisor ..................................................................................................... Jane Heuer
Costume Supervisor ..................................................................................................... Emily Waecker
Master Electrician .......................................................................................................... Simon Robinson
Sound Engineer ............................................................................................................. Ben Zeman

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Writers Theatre is thrilled to welcome back ComEd as its Official Lighting Sponsor for the 2017/18 Season. ComEd is a longtime supporter of the arts in Chicagoland, and Writers Theatre is honored to partner with a company that acknowledges the power of theatre to contribute to the health and vitality of our community by bringing us together. ComEd previously served as Official Lighting Sponsor for the 25th Anniversary Season, the 2015/16 Season, and for The Diary of Anne Frank and Doubt: A Parable during the 2014/15 Season. Writers Theatre is extremely grateful to once again have ComEd’s partnership.
Anita Chandwaney (Miss Prism) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Anita has worked with Chicago Dramatists, Next Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Stage Left, Organic Theatre Company, Pegasus Theatre Chicago, Collaboration Theatre, Silk Road Rising and Rasaka Theatre Company—where she was a Founding Director and co-produced The Masrayana (Non-Equity Jeff, Best New Play). New York work includes Playwrights Horizons, Ensemble Studio Theatre and Open Eye. Playwriting includes Gandhi Marg (3Arts Fellowship recipient, Writers Digest Stage Play Contest—2nd Place and selected for Chicago Dramatists Many Voices Project). Anita also co-wrote Thirst with M.E.H. Lewis (Ecodrama Prize, Eugene O’Neill Conference semi-finalist, Women in Arts & Media Collaboration Award [2nd Place] and selected for the International Womens Playwright Conference in Stockholm). Her monologue “Helpline” was produced in Yoni ki Baat by Rasaka, and is archived in Lincoln Center’s South Asian Theatre Project. Thanks to my family for their loving encouragement through the years!

Shannon Cochran (Lady Bracknell) returns to Writers Theatre, where she previously appeared in The Dance of Death (Joseph Jefferson Award), Hamlet, A Little Night Music, The Lion in Winter, The Father and Private Lives (Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination). Her recent theatre work includes the world premiere of A Doll’s House, Part 2 (South Coast Repertory), The Christians (Steppenwolf Theatre Company) and the Roundabout National Tour of Cabaret. She performed in the National Tour of August: Osage County, for which she received a Helen Hayes nomination and Chicago Theatre award. She is an Obie and TheatreWorld Award winner for the role she created in Bug (Gate Theatre-London, Barrow Street Theatre). Other theatres include The Old Globe, Long Wharf Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Geffen Playhouse, Court Theatre, Victory Gardens, Route 66 Theatre, The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Playhouse on the Square, Barbican (London). Her directing credits include Fallen Angels (Remy Bumppo), Dirty (Zephyr Theatre, West Coast premiere), Bug (Barebones Productions), The Rivalry, The Real Dr. Strangelove and Judgment at Nuremberg (LA Theatreworks), Therese Raquin (greasyjoan) and Private Passage (Odyssey Theatre Ensemble). Film credits include Captive State (in production), The Ring, Star Trek: Nemesis, Be Good for Rachel, The Perfect Family, Flowers and Weeds, Fenton Black. Television credits include Modern Family, Scandal, Grey’s Anatomy (ABC), NCIS: LA, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (CBS), The Office, Law & Order: SVU (NBC) and others.

Aaron Todd Douglas (Reverend Canon Chasuble) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Aaron is a founding ensemble member of Congo Square Theatre Company, where his acting credits include their multiple Jeff Award-winning production of Seven
Guitars, The Piano Lesson, Before it Hits Home, Spunk, and Ali. He originated the role of Flip in the world premiere of Stick Fly by Lydia R. Diamond (the play was later produced on Broadway) and performed in Joe Turner’s Come and Gone at The Goodman Theatre, commemorating the Goodman’s historic completion of Wilson’s Century Cycle. Other acting credits include Tree and Wheatley (Victory Gardens Theater), Wait Until Dark (Court Theatre), Journal of Ordinary Thought (Chicago Theater Company), Iphigenia 2.0 (Next Theatre Company), Fortunes of the Moor (eta Creative Arts Foundation), The State of Mississippi v. Emmet Till (Pegasus Theatre Chicago), Julius Caesar (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Perfect Mendacity (Steppenwolf Theatre Company) and Measure for Measure (Goodman Theatre). He is a member of the Acting Faculty at Northwestern University and a member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.

Alex Goodrich (John Worthing) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Chicago credits include Hero: The Musical (Jeff Award, Best Supporting Actor in a Musical), Honeymoon in Vegas, She Loves Me, How To Succeed in Business..., ELF the musical, On The Town, I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change, For The Boys (The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire), Love’s Labor’s Lost, The Emperor’s New Clothes, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Seussical, The Taming of the Shrew, Aladdin, How Can You Run... (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Miss Bennet, Shining Lives, Civil War Christmas and She Stoops to Conquer (Northlight Theatre), Old Jews Telling Jokes (Royal George Theatre), The Comedy of Errors, One Man Two Guvnors (Court Theatre), Everything Is Illuminated (Next Theatre Company), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Indiana Repertory), Goodnight Moon and Harold and the Purple Crayon (Chicago Children’s Theater). He loves his wife and two kids very much.

Steve Haggard (Algernon Moncrieff) returns to Writers Theatre, where he previously appeared in Doubt: A Parable, Old Glory, The Subject Was Roses and Our Town. Chicago credits include 3C, Sender, The Mutilated, Accidentally Like A Martyr, The Aliens, Kimberly Akimbo and The Mandrake (A Red Orchid Theatre), Tribes (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Funnyman, Season’s Greetings and She Stoops to Conquer (Northlight Theatre), Wasteland (Timeline Theatre Company), Alias Grace and Winter (Rivendell), King Lear, As You Like It and Romeo and Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Regional credits include Arcadia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, Two Gentlemen of Verona, The Tempest, Hay Fever, Comedy of Errors and Ah Wilderness! (American Players Theatre), Almost Maine (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and Fallen Angels (Indiana Repertory). Steve is an ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre. He is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.
Rebecca Hurd (Cecily Cardew) makes her Writers Theatre debut. She just wrapped up her second season at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI—where she appeared as Irina in *Three Sisters* and Madame in *The Maids*. Her other credits include *Short Shakespeare!* Twelfth Night (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Stage Kiss, *The Master Butcher’s Singing Club* (Guthrie Theater), Super Monkey, *Blue Stockings* (Guthrie Dowling Studio), *Arcadia, A Flea in Her Ear, Comedy of Errors* (American Players Theatre), *A Little Night Music, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, The Merchant of Venice* (Montana Shakespeare in the Parks) and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Creede Rep). She is a YoungArts award winner in musical theatre and holds a B.F.A. from the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater.

Ross Lehman (Lane/Merriman) returns to Writers Theatre, where he previously appeared in *Hamlet, She Loves Me, The Uneasy Chair, As You Like It* and *Bach at Leipzig*. Chicago credits include: *Kiss Me Kate, Hot Mikado, Hairspray, The Producers and Fiddler on the Roof* (The Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire), As You Like It, Twelfth Night, *The Comedy of Errors, King Lear, Troilus and Cressida* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre) and *Henry IV Parts 1 & 2* (Chicago Shakespeare and on tour to the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon), *The Man Who Came to Dinner, One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Waiting for Godot, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Joseph Jefferson Award), *The Rover, A Christmas Carol* and *Stage Kiss* (Goodman Theatre), *A Man of No Importance* (Joseph Jefferson Award), *The Dresser* (After Dark Award) and *Where’s Charley?* (Joseph Jefferson Award, Apple Tree Theatre). Broadway credits include: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (St. James Theatre), *The Tempest* (Broadhurst Theatre) and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* (Bernard B. Jacobs Theatre). His reprise of his role as Koko in *The Hot Mikado* in London’s West End production earned him a Laurence Olivier Award nomination (Queen’s Theatre).

Jennifer Latimore (Gwendolen Fairfax) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Other Chicago credits include *Harvey* (Court Theatre), *Love’s Labor’s Lost* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Northlight Theatre). Regional credits include *The African Company Presents Richard III, Arcadia, An Ideal Husband* (American Players Theatre), *Good People, The Color Purple, Dreamgirls* and *A Christmas Carol* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). Jennifer hails from Georgia, but is proud to call the Midwest home as well. Much thanks to family and friends for the constant support and love.
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Adam Wesley Brown (u/s John Worthing) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Broadway credit includes Once. Regional credits include Million Dollar Quartet (Paramount Theatre), A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead (Folger Theatre, Helen Hayes Best Actor Nominee), Book of Joseph, The Tempest, Julius Caesar, Henry VIII (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) and Long Way Go Down (Jackalope Theatre, Jeff Award Best Actor Nominee). Film credits include Widows and Keith Urban’s 30 Songs in 30 Days. Debut album out on all streaming services, Adam Wesley Brown: Live at Bowery Poetry. Represented by Paonessa Talent.

Patrick Clear (u/s Lane/Merriman, Reverend Canon Chasuble) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in Port Authority. Patrick has appeared in more than 60 productions in the Chicago area, including Carlyle, Meet Vera Stark, Teddy Ferrara, Race, The Clean House and The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia? (Goodman Theatre), The March, Song of Jacob Zulu, The Secret Rapture (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Native Gardens (Victory Gardens), By the Water, You Can’t Take It With You, The Mousetrap, The Miser, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Pride and Prejudice (Northlight Theatre), Seascape (Remy Bumppo Theatre Company), The Madness Of George III, Henry V, As You Like It, King Lear, Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2 and Measure For Measure (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). His regional credits include appearances at Hartford Stage, the Asolo Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Arena Stage, the Guthrie Theater, American Shakespeare Theatre, Centerstage, the Folger Shakespeare Theatre, the Huntington Theatre and the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. He appeared on Broadway in Noises Off and Hollywood Arms. Film and television credits include The Dark Knight, Empire (FOX), Boss (Starz), Losing Isaiah, The Untouchables and Early Edition.

Niko Kourtis (u/s Algernon Moncrieff) makes his Writers Theatre debut. He recently appeared in BoHo Theatre’s production of Three Days of Rain. Other recent credits include The Assembled Parties (Raven Theatre), The Good Person of Szechwan (Cor Theatre), A Splintered Soul (ARLA Productions), Animals Commit Suicide (First Floor Theatre), Bent (The Other Theater Company), Angels in America Parts I & II (Kansas City Repertory Theater) and The Normal Heart (TimeLine Theatre).

Isabel Thompson (u/s Gwendolen Fairfax, Cecily Cardew) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Chicago credits include Tug of War (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Truth and Reconciliation (Jeff Award Nomination, Sideshow Theater) and A Winter’s
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Tale (Lakeside Shakespeare Theater). Film and television credits include Chicago PD (NBC). Isabel is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, where she studied acting and playwriting.

Karen Janes Woditsch (u/s Lady Bracknell, Miss Prism) returns to Writers Theatre, where she previously appeared in Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody, Arcadia, Doubt: A Parable, Do the Hustle, Yellow Moon, Heartbreak House, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, The Beats, Blake, Butley, Candida, The Doctor’s Dilemma, Fallen Angels, In the Heart of Winter, Love & Lunacy, Othello, A Phoenix Too Frequent, A Play on Words, Rocket to the Moon, Seagull and Spite for Spite.

Chicago credits include Harvey, M Butterfly (Court Theatre), Romeo and Juliet, Taming of the Shrew, Measure for Measure (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Domesticated (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Rapture, Blister, Burn, A Christmas Carol, Crumbs from the Table of Joy (Goodman Theatre), To Master the Art (TimeLine Theatre Company and Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, Joseph Jefferson Award nomination - Actress in a Principal Role) and many others. Regional credits include nine seasons with Peninsula Players Theatre, and a summer with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. Television credits include Patriot (Amazon), Chicago P.D., Crisis (NBC) and Runner (ABC). Film credits include Bad Johnson and American Fable. wojanes.wixsite.com/karen-janes-woditsch

Oscar Wilde (Playwright) was born in Dublin on October 16, 1854. Wilde was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Magdalen College, Oxford. While at Oxford, Wilde became involved in the aesthetic movement. After he graduated, he moved to London to pursue a literary career. His output was diverse. A first volume of his poetry was published in 1881, but as well as composing verse, he contributed to publications such as the Pall Mall Gazette, wrote children’s stories and published the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891). His greatest talent was for writing plays, and he produced a string of extremely popular comedies including Lady Windermere’s Fan, An Ideal Husband, The Importance of Being Earnest and Salomé.

Michael Halberstam (Director) is the co-founder of Writers Theatre. He has directed over thirty-five productions for the company, including Not About Heroes (starring Nicholas Pennell), Private Lives, Look Back In Anger, Candida, The Father, Crime and Punishment, Benefactors, The Seagull, The Duchess of Malfi, Othello, The Savannah Disputation, the world premiere musical A Minister’s Wife, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, She Loves Me, The Real Thing, Hamlet, Sweet Charity, Days Like Today, Isaac’s Eye, Arcadia, Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody (which he co-directed with Stuart Carden) and Julius Caesar (which he co-adapted and directed with Scott Parkinson). Halberstam has appeared in numerous Writers Theatre productions, including Richard II (title role), Loot and Misalliance. Previously, he spent two years at The Stratford Festival in Ontario and performed in Timon of Athens, The Knight of
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PROGRAM

the Burning Pestle (title role), Much Ado About Nothing and As You Like It. Halberstam’s other Chicago acting credentials include productions with Wisdom Bridge Theater, Court Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Elsewhere he directed The Gamester (Northlight Theatre), A Man for All Seasons (Peninsula Players Theatre), Hamlet (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), Candida (Jean Cocteau Repertory in New York), Ten Little Indians (Drury Lane Theatre), a highly acclaimed revival of Crime and Punishment, which Writers Theatre produced off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters in New York City, Enchanted April and State of the Union (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). In 2011 he directed A Minister’s Wife at Lincoln Center Theater, and also directed the west coast premiere at San Jose Repertory Theatre in 2013. His forays into opera have included The Rape of Lucretia (Chicago Opera Theater), Francesca da Rimini featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christoph Eschenbach and Le Freyshutz, a Berlioz adaptation of the Weber opera conducted by Christoph Eschenbach in its North American Premiere (Ravinia Festival). He spent two and a half years teaching Shakespeare at The Theatre School at DePaul University and has received awards for excellence in theater management and artistic achievement from The Chicago Drama League, The Arts & Business Council, Chicago Lawyers for the Creative Arts and The Chicago Associates of the Stratford Festival. He also received the 2010 Zelda Fichandler Award, the 2013 Artistic Achievement Award from the League of Chicago Theatres, was named Chicago Tribune’s 2013 “Chicagoan of the Year” for Theater; received the 2016 Award of Honor for Outstanding Contributions to the Field from the Illinois Theatre Association; a special award for 2016 from the Joseph Jefferson Award Committee for outstanding theatrical accomplishments and contributions to Chicagoland theatre for the past 25 years; and a distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois. He currently serves on the board of the Arts Club of Chicago.

David Castellanos (Production Stage Manager) returns for his 17th season with Writers Theatre—the longest he has worked at any theatre. Some of David’s favorite WT productions have been Crime and Punishment, A Minister’s Wife, Our Town and The Old Man and The Old Moon. Castellanos began his training at The Theatre School at DePaul University and graduated with a B.F.A. in Production Stage Management. David worked at several small theaters in Chicago and around the country before returning home. He worked for three seasons at Northlight Theatre and four seasons at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. David also teaches Stage Management at the University of Illinois at Chicago’s theatre program. David is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.

Collette Pollard (Scenic Designer) returns to Writers Theatre having designed The Hunter and The Bear with PigPen Theatre Co. and Arcadia. Collette recently designed HIR at Steppenwolf Theatre Company along with others, including, The Fundamentals, Between Riverside and Crazy, Head of Passes, 1984 and To Kill a Mockingbird. Collette is a company member at The House Theatre of Chicago, where she has designed 20 plus productions, including Death and Harry
Houdini, The Nutcracker, The Hammer Trinity, Rose & The Rime and The Sparrow, all remounting at The Adrienne Arsht Center, Miami. Other recent Chicago credits include Chicago Voices (Lyric Opera Chicago) and Thaddeus and Slocum (Lookingglass Theatre Company). Regional credits include Hannah and the Dread Gazebo and Great Expectations (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), How I Learned to Drive (Cleveland Playhouse and Syracuse Stage), Hamlet and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Santa Cruz Shakespeare), The Oldest Boy (Marin Theatre Company), A Minister’s Wife (San Jose Repertory Theatre), Geller Girls, Good People and The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls (Alliance Theatre). She is an Artistic Associate at TimeLine Theatre. Collette is the recipient of several Jeff Awards, and has joined the faculty at UIC as an Associate Professor of Design at the School of Theatre and Music. Endless thanks to her family for their constant support.

Mara Blumenfeld (Costume Designer) returns to Writers where she previously designed TREvor the musical, Parade and Julius Caesar. Other Chicago credits include numerous productions at the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Court Theatre, and Lookingglass Theatre Company, where she is an ensemble member. Regional credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Weston Playhouse, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre and McCarter Theatre. International credits include Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Canada), the Donmar Warehouse and Barbican Centre (U.K.), Opera National du Rhin (France), Teatro alla Scala (Italy), Melbourne Theatre Company (Australia) and K-Ballet and Tokyo DisneySea (Japan). Broadway credits include Metamorphoses (Circle in the Square). Off-Broadway credits include The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci (Second Stage), The Glorious Ones (Lincoln Center Theater), Lookingglass Alice (New Victory). Opera credits include Rusalka, Lucia di Lammermoor and La Sonnambula (The Metropolitan Opera), The Merry Widow and Oklahoma! (Lyric Opera of Chicago). She is the recipient of four Joseph Jefferson Awards and was the 2012 recipient of the Michael Merritt Award.

John Culbert (Lighting Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where he designed Arcadia and Sweet Charity. Recent credits include The Hard Problem, Man in the Ring, Satchmo at the Waldorf, (Court Theatre), Two Trains Running, Objects in the Mirror (Goodman Theatre), Chimerica (TimeLine Theatre) and Faceless (Northlight Theatre). He also designed Romeo and Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Argonautika (Lookingglass Theatre Company), Regina (Lyric Opera of Chicago) and Iphigenia at Aulis (Getty Villa). He has designed productions for the Singapore Repertory, Opera National du Rhin, Berkeley Rep, McCarter Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre. He serves as the dean of The Theatre School at DePaul University.
Josh Schmidt (Sound Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where he most recently designed Arcadia, and is proud of his 16-year association with this wonderful company. As a composer/co-author, Josh has written—A Minister’s Wife (Lincoln Center, Writers Theatre), ADD1NG MACH1N3 (Minetta Lane), Whida Peru (59E59), Midwestern Gothic (Signature, VA) and Gift of the Magi (American Players Theatre, WI). For incidental scores—When the Rain Stops Falling (Lincoln Center) and Fifty Words (MCC). As composer/Sound Designer—Therese Raquin (Roundabout Theatre Company/Studio 54) House of Blue Leaves (Walter Kerr), Brighton Beach Memoirs (Nederlander), Dinner With Friends (Roundabout Theatre Company), Model Apartment (Primary Stages), Her Requiem (LCT3), Dying For It, 3 Kinds of Exile (Atlantic), Water By The Spoonful (Second Stage), Crime and Punishment (59E59) and many others. Additional Chicago credits include Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Next Theatre Company, Seanachai Theatre Company and many others. Regional credits include over 250 productions at venues across the country including three seasons at Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Ontario, Canada), Philadelphia Theatre Company (PA), The Kennedy Center, Ford’s Theatre (Washington DC), Seattle Repertory Theatre (WA), Alley Theatre (Resident Artist, Houston, TX), Arizona Theater Company (AZ), Cleveland Playhouse (OH), Kansas City Rep (MO), South Coast Repertory (CA), Delaware Theatre Company (DE), fifteen seasons at American Players Theatre (Spring Green, WI), Milwaukee Repertory Theater and many others. Commissioned work includes Metropolitan Opera, RKO, Groundswell, Playwrights Horizons. Recordings include ADD1NG MACH1N3, A Minister’s Wife—both released on PS Classics and available on iTunes, Amazon, etc. Josh is an Associate Artist at Alley Theatre in Houston. Josh is a proud member of ASCAP Awards and nominations include Lortel, Outer Critics, Jeff, ASCAP NEA/TCG, Prague Quadrennial 2007, Sundance Theatre Lab UCross 2012. fortytwofootgrand.com.

Eva Breneman (Dialect Coach) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously was the vocal coach for The Mystery of Love & Sex, Arcadia, Yellow Moon, Sweet Charity, The Caretaker, Heartbreak House, Do The Hustle, Travels with My Aunt, The Maids, The Puppetmaster of Lodz and Bach at Leipzig. Chicago credits include The Compass, The Herd, Tribes, Good People, The March, The Brother/Sister Plays (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), The Hard Problem, One Man Two Guvnors, M Butterfly, Angels in America (Court Theatre), Red Velvet, Shakespeare in Love, King Charles, Sense and Sensibility, Julius Caesar, Elizabeth Rex, The Madness of King George (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Objects in the Mirror, The Little Foxes (Goodman Theatre), Hard Times, Blood Wedding, Death Tax, Bengali Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo, The Great Fire, Ethan Frome (Lookingglass Theatre Company), By the Water, You Can’t Take It With You, Lost in Yonkers, Outside Mullingar, The Whipping Man, Season’s Greeting, A Life (Northlight Theatre), A Disappearing Number, Chimerica, Danny Casolaro Died for You, Inanna, 33 Variations, Juno, Blood and Gifts, In Darfur, To Master The Art, The History Boys, Fiorello, This Happy Breed (TimeLine Theatre Company) and The Light in the Piazza (Theo Ubique Theatre,

**Pedro Castillo Garcia (Dramaturg)** is a playwright and songwriter from Bogota, Colombia. In 2014, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to earn his M.F.A. in Play/Screenwriting at Northwestern University. He graduated in June 2016. From 2015-2017 he played a part in Chicago’s vast theatrical universe assisting famous playwright José Rivera and with the dramaturgy in the Goodman Theatre’s premiere production of *Another Word for Beauty*. He also had the privilege of teaching at the Goodman for the 2016 Musical Theatre Summer program. He was an intern with After School Matters over the Summer of 2015, giving Latin Music classes to 90 students across the high schools of CPS. He believes in the independence of aesthetic values and the “Life” of the author. Devout lover and studier of 19th century Literature, his work, academic and creative, is highly influenced by the classics, as well as the popular forms. He wrote *Dorian*, a new jazz musical, adapted from Wilde’s immortal novel. This musical premiered at Victory Gardens Theater in May 2017. Given to his experience with Wilde’s studies, and his admiration and love for the WT’s artistic vision, he is honored and humbled to dramaturg this one-of-a-kind production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

**Peter Andersen (Assistant Director)** is a graduate of Emerson College where he obtained his B.F.A. in Acting. He has worked at TimeLine Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Yale Repertory Theatre as an assistant director. Some favorite directing work includes *The Cafe Collections*, *Oedipus and Antigone* and *As You Like It*. As an actor, Peter has performed professionally in Boston, the Berkshires and Chicago. For more information about his acting and directing work visit his webpage at www.petergandersen.com.

**Janelle Boudreau (Assistant Stage Manager)** returns to Writers Theatre, where she previously worked on *TREVOR* the musical, *The Mystery of Love & Sex*, *The Scene*, *The Hunter and The Bear*, *Julius Caesar*, *Company* and *Arcadia*. Other credits include *Red Kite*, *Brown Box* tour (Chicago Children’s Theatre), *Christina*, *The Girl King* (Cor Theatre), *The Tempest*, *Short Shakespeare! Macbeth* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Abraham Lincoln Was a Fo**ot* (About Face Theatre) and *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play* (Theater Wit).
Kathryn M. Lipuma (Executive Director) has served as the Executive Director of Writers Theatre since March 2007 where she is responsible for overseeing all management, administration and operations for the company. Most recently, she led the planning and construction of Writers Theatre’s new state-of-the-art theater complex, designed by internationally renowned architect and MacArthur Fellow and "Genius" grant recipient Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects, which opened in February 2016. Prior to Writers, Lipuma spent nine seasons as Executive Director at the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre Company in New York. At Signature, she produced award-winning revivals of Horton Foote’s *The Trip to Bountiful*, August Wilson’s *Seven Guitars* and Lanford Wilson’s *Burn This* and worked with such acclaimed writers as Edward Albee, Lee Blessing, Horton Foote, Maria Irene Fornés, John Guare, Bill Irwin, Romulus Linney, Paula Vogel, August Wilson and Lanford Wilson. During her tenure, the organization enjoyed consistent growth and recognition as well as the launch of Signature Theatre Company’s successful $15 Ticket Program. Prior to her time at Signature, she spent six years with Chicago’s Goodman Theatre. Lipuma currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the League of Chicago Theatres, an alliance representing more than 200 Chicago-area theater companies and producers and is also the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. She is a member of The Chicago Network, an organization of 400 leading women of Chicago business, professional, cultural, nonprofit and educational communities. She is also the co-creator of DoNorth, an umbrella organization joining four cultural neighbors—Chicago Botanic Garden, Kohl Children’s Museum, Ravinia and Writers Theatre—to attract new audiences to the cultural, environmental and community activities of the North Shore. She is a graduate of The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.
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Writers Theatre’s education programs reach 11,500 students a year throughout Chicagoland. Our programs include Write On!, a customizable artist-in-residence program that pairs teaching artists with schools and community organizations to explore performance and text with a focus on encouraging young people to find their creative voices; The Novel Series, a cutting-edge theatre and literary arts curriculum designed to allow students to explore literature and the art of bringing text to life; The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights, a touring performance written by Yolanda Androzzo that chronicles a student’s journey as she learns about the Civil Rights Movement; a student matinee series; ACTIVATE, a wrap-around in-school residency in conjunction with matinees, designed to deepen students’ experience with plays on our stages; and the WT Youth Council, an artistic leadership advisory board for motivated, passionate high school students interested in hands-on, in-depth exposure to arts administration.

Our audience engagement programming includes: Sunday Spotlight, featuring an expert in a field relating to the themes or setting of our productions; From Page to Stage, a public collaboration between Writers Theatre and select North Shore libraries and community partners that explores the literary and theatrical themes of our stage productions; The Making of… series that provides access to the process behind crafting our productions; Pre-Show Conversation: Up Close, pre-show discussion designed to provide context for the production; and Post-Show Conversation: The Word and The Artist, a facilitated post-show discussion of the play. All of these events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit writerstheatre.org/events.

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WRITERS THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

Writers Theatre was founded to explore productions in which the word on the page and the artists that bring the word to life hold primary importance. Central to this mission are three important core values: valuing text, both classic and contemporary, as the fundamental source of inspiration; creating deliberately intimate performances where audiences are face-to-face with powerful stories; and honoring the time and commitment of our artists by remaining at the forefront of industry compensation. With a reputation for consistent artistic excellence, innovative educational programming and strong ties to our community, Writers Theatre has built an award-winning repertoire and today, serves as a vital and highly-regarded company in the Chicago theatre community.

WRITERS THEATRE HISTORY

In 1992, Writers Theatre was founded in order to create an environment where the written word and the nurturing of artists were the foundation of all productions. We opened our first venue that year in the anteroom of a newly opened bookstore in Glencoe on the North Shore of Chicago. The limited space available gave way to a new aesthetic that has been a company hallmark ever since—intimacy.

Under the artistic leadership of Founding Artistic Director Michael Halberstam, who continues in that role to this day, WT became a welcome addition to the already vibrant Chicago arts community. The Theatre quickly garnered significant critical acclaim and established a reputation as a home for world-class art and artists, opening a second performance space in 2003. Our inviting 108-seat Tudor Court space continued the company’s trademark level of intimacy while allowing for a new scale of production and affording the opportunity to expand audiences, programming and educational outreach.

Acclaimed by The Wall Street Journal as “America’s number one theatre company” in 2016, Writers has offered more than 100 productions, including 26 world premieres. We have garnered numerous awards and accolades, including 133 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations and 26 Awards, as well as multiple citations of Artistic Director Michael Halberstam for excellence and contributions to the field, including The 2010 Zelda Fichandler Award and the 2013 “Chicagoan of the Year in Theater” Award from the Chicago Tribune. In 2007, Writers debuted nationally with a New York premiere of Crime and Punishment, followed in 2011 by a Lincoln Center Theater production of A Minister’s Wife—the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw’s Candida, conceived and directed by Halberstam.

In February 2016, Writers Theatre opened a new, state-of-the-art facility. This established the company’s first permanent home in a new theatre center in downtown Glencoe, designed by the award-winning, internationally renowned Studio Gang Architects, led by Founder and Design Principal Jeanne Gang, FAIA, in collaboration with Theatre Consultant Auerbach Pollock Friedlander. The new facility has allowed the Theatre to continue to grow to accommodate its audience, while maintaining its trademark intimacy. The new facility resonates with and complements the Theatre’s neighboring Glencoe community, adding tremendous value to Chicagoland and helping to establish the North Shore as a premier cultural destination.
The Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe shares the space at the theatre center holding meetings, luncheons, book clubs, bridge and other events at the building.

- The Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe, a 501(c)(3) organization, was incorporated on April 18, 1872. The WLC owns the land on which the WT theatre center sits and has provided use of the land to WT without charge.
- WLC is the third oldest woman’s club in Illinois for philanthropic, educational and social endeavors. The WLC book collection was donated to Glencoe to form the nucleus of the original library for Glencoe. WLC’s first building was used as a library until the current Glencoe Public Library was built.
- WLC members meet regularly to pursue the Club’s philanthropic, intellectual and social activities. For a full list of WLC activities and a current calendar, check wlcglencoe.com.
- Club members also staff the North Shore Exchange (an upscale consignment shop). This 501(c)(3) shop is a charitable arm of WLC and is located at 372 Hazel Avenue in Glencoe, 847-835-0026.

Membership in the Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe is open to all women interested in furthering the club’s goals. The current membership consists of over 120 women living in 10 area suburbs. If you are interested in becoming a member, pick up an application in the Writers Theatre lobby, email wlcglencoe@gmail.com or visit the website at wlcglencoe.com.
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Front of House Staff ................................................................. Erin Baker, Linda Cooke, Sonia Goldberg, Karly Hanna, Andrew Lampl, Jennifer Mohr, Andrew Nunley, Susan Parmentier, Weston Williams

EDUCATION
Director of Education .................................................................. Lauren Sale
Education Manager ...................................................................... Kelsey Chigas
Education Coordinator ................................................................ Michele Stine
Teaching Artists ........................................................................ Peter Andersen, Stephanie Chavara, Kelsey Chigas, Elizabeth Dowling, Sean Garratt, Kristin Hammergren, Risha Hill, Andrew Marikis, Lauren Montgomery, Will Quam, Wilfredo Ramos, Jr., Ashley Roberson, Lauren Sale

WT Youth Council ..................................................................... Madeleine Fernandez, Jacob Imber, Kate Macakanja, Rebecca Miller, Olivia Rocklin, Azalia Resendiz

MARKETING
Director of Marketing & Communications .................................... Chad Peterson
Marketing Manager ..................................................................... Erik Kaiko
Database Manager ..................................................................... Meredith Webb
Marketing & Design Assistant ..................................................... Stanton Long
Communications & Social Media Assistant ................................ Hayley Barron
Marketing Intern ....................................................................... Ari Craven
Public Relations ......................................................................... Cathy Taylor Craven
Graphic Design Services .......................................................... Lowercase, Inc.

PRODUCTION
Director of Production & Facilities .............................................. Adam Friedland
Assistant Production Manager .................................................... Kelly Crook
Interim Technical Supervisor ...................................................... Adam Veness
Facilities Technician .................................................................. Shawn J. Goudie
Facilities Consultant ................................................................ Integrated Facilities Management Consulting
Custodians ................................................................................. Marco Bernal, Jose Artega Valdez
Properties Master ...................................................................... Scott Dickens
Sound Engineer ........................................................................ Amanda Hosking
Master Electrician ...................................................................... Simon Robinson
Wardrobe Supervisor ................................................................ Jane Heuer
Costume Supervisor .................................................................. Emily Waecker
Season Production Stage Manager ............................................ David Castellanos
Stage Manager ......................................................................... Rebecca Pechter
Assistant Stage Managers ......................................................... Mallory Jane Bass, Janelle Boudreau, Abigail Medrano