C. Michael Wright  
Producing Artistic Director

Kirsten Finn  
Managing Director

milwaukee chamber theatre

presents

MIRACLE on SOUTH DIVISION STREET

by Tom Dudzick

Nov. 22 - Dec. 17, 2017

C. Michael Wright**  
Director

Judy Martel*  
Production Stage Manager

Stephen Hudson-Mairet  
Scenic Designer

Debra Krajec  
Costume Designer

Alan Piotrowicz  
Lighting Designer

Terrance Barrett  
Sound Designer

Meghan Savagian  
Properties Master

Tyne Turner  
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 Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREographers SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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

MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET was originally produced by Penguin Repertory Theatre, Stony Point, New York. Joe Brancato, Artistic Director. Andrew M. Horn, Executive Director.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.  
(www.playscripts.com)

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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Jimmy ................................................................. Josh Krause
Ruth ................................................................. Kat Wodtke
Clara ................................................................. Raeleen McMillion*
Beverly .............................................................. Greta Wohlrabe*

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SETTING

Time: Christmas Eve, 2010
Place: Clara Nowak’s kitchen in Buffalo, NY

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

I decided that I really want to have fun this holiday season! So I’m taking you back to my place of birth: Buffalo, NY!

The family that Tom Dudzick has created here truly tickles me. And deeply touches me. I feel like I know this family. I definitely recognize their quirks and foibles. They actually remind me of the Bojans, who were our next door neighbors when I was growing up. They were a very funny Polish family that also happened to be devoutly Catholic. And just a little bit behind the times.

I’m incredibly fortunate to be working with this particular group of wonderfully game actors, who are totally ready, willing and able to dive into some pretty serious fun!

This season, let’s all raise a glass to good old-fashioned values like tolerance, acceptance and unconditional love! That is my holiday wish for you!

(And maybe for myself, too.)

~ C. Michael Wright

SPECIAL THANKS

Todd Benzin, Kaylynn Bowen, Don Gervasi, Jim Guy and the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre Prop Department, Ray Jivoff, Christina Rausa, Lisa Schlenker and the Skylight Prop Department, Orianna Valentine, Madelyn Yee, and the citizens of Buffalo
Let’s look at the math. Like $100 million for our local economy. Or the thousands and thousands of jobs they create. Or the hundreds of thousands of kids who do better in English and science and, you guessed it, math. But there’s also 50—as in the 50 years UPAF has supported the arts in Greater Milwaukee, and the over $300 million we’ve raised to set the stage since 1967. Let’s keep it going.

Donate today at UPAF.org/donate
ABOUT MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE

Founded in 1975, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) produces intimate and accessible theatrical works that engage and challenge the audience, while employing and nurturing principally local theatre artists. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director C. Michael Wright and Managing Director Kirsten Finn, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre performs at the Broadway Theatre Center in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. For more information, visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

We welcome people of all races, all religions, all genders, all countries of origin, all sexual orientations, and all abilities. We welcome everyone. We stand with all those who feel unheard or silenced, and will ensure this is a safe place for all who enter.

IN MEMORY OF JULIE MOSHER

This production of MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET is in memory and honor of Julie Mosher (1944 - 2017). After the sale of their family business, Julie, and her husband George, used their time and treasure to better the Milwaukee community. Like MIRACLE’s Clara Nowak, the most important things in Julie’s life were family (two daughters and a son – just like the Nowaks), faith, and helping others. We consider ourselves so very fortunate that she was part of the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre family.

RUTH SCHUDSON LEADING LADY HONOREE

It is with distinct pleasure that Milwaukee Chamber Theatre designates Raeleen McMillion as our fifth Ruth Schudson Leading Lady honoree.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre was born in 1975, the brainchild of two local actors: Montgomery Davis and his muse and partner-in-crime, Ruth Schudson. Throughout her career, including 65 productions with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre alone, Ruth has served as a mentor, role model, and friend to countless aspiring and established actors.

The MCT board of directors, staff, and friends have honored her achievements by raising over $100,000 to establish the Ruth Schudson Leading Lady Fund. The Leading Lady Fund promotes the work of women on the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre stage, and embodies MCT’s mission to employ and nurture local theatre artists by supporting the salary of one actress each season.

Audiences may recognize Raeleen best from her work on the stage – most recently as another family matriarch in OCTOBER, BEFORE I WAS BORN in 2014 – but she has been a member of the MCT team behind the scenes too, as a dialect and voice coach. In the last two years alone, she’s worked with actors on productions as diverse as FALLEN ANGELS, THE FEW, DEATHTRAP, and FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE.

Thank you to the many generous donors who made the Ruth Schudson Leading Lady Fund possible and congratulations to Raeleen McMillion.
During the run of MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre is partnering with the Cathedral Center, a nonprofit located in the heart of downtown Milwaukee, in the shadow of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Once, it served as a convent; today, it quietly serves as just one of two emergency shelters serving homeless women and families in Milwaukee – a city with one of the highest rates of homelessness.

The Cathedral Center combines emergency shelter with case management, employment assistance, education, housing, access to benefits and more to help women and families transform their lives and achieve their goals - fulfilling their mission to provide a safe environment for women and families while working to end homelessness, one life at a time. The Cathedral Center serves 32 women and 8 families with children each night - close to 1,000 each year.

During the holiday season, the Cathedral Center has need of the following items for the women and families they serve: adult socks, adult winter gloves, and $10 gift cards to Walmart, Walgreens or CVS Pharmacy. A collection box will be available at each performance of MIRACLE for patrons who would like to help them out! For more information about the Cathedral Center, visit cathedral-center.org or facebook.com/TheCathedralCenter. Or call 414-831-0394 ext. 2127 for a tour.

TOM DUDZICK
(Playwright)
Tom Dudzick’s first theatrical experience was in a college production of THE CAT’S PAJAMAS OF 1973 where he played Groucho Marx (alongside fellow student C. Michael Wright, who sang and danced “Steppin’ Out With My Baby” in top hat, white tie and tails.) Since that humble beginning, Tom has gone on to become one of the few playwrights who makes a living at it. His first play, a Christmas tale called GREETINGS!, opened at New York’s John Houseman Theatre and starred Darren McGavin and Greg Edelman. It is now a holiday favorite across the country and has had well over 100 productions. His next play, OVER THE TAVERN, the first in a semi-autobiographical trilogy, has over 200 productions under its belt, with many box office records broken throughout the U.S. The Irish adaptation, OVER THE PUB, also broke the box office record at Cork Arts Theatre in Ireland. Tom has written eight plays to date, most published by Playscripts, Inc. He was recently honored with a memorial plaque embedded in front of his boyhood home in Buffalo. And an even greater honor – he was once a question on Jeopardy!

JOSH KRAUSE (Jimmy)
Josh Krause is delighted to return to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, where he was last seen as Pip in GREAT EXPECTATIONS. He recently completed the 2017 Apprentice Program at American Players Theatre, where he appeared in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM, CYRANO DE BERGERAC and A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE. Other regional credits include A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Fred) for Children’s Theater of Madison, and VISITING MR. GREEN (Ross) and JEEVES AT SEA (Crumpet) for Artists’ Ensemble Theatre. Josh received his Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Indiana University. Look for him this coming February at Next Act in EQUIVOCAION. In
addition to acting, Josh is a teaching artist for the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and Sunset Playhouse.

RAELEEN MCMILLION (Clara)
Raeleen is very happy to be spending the holidays working with one of her favorite theatre companies! MCT audiences may remember her as A Lady of Letters in TALKING HEADS, Mrs. Potts in PICNIC, and Martha in OCTOBER, BEFORE I WAS BORN. She has also served as a dialect coach for several productions at MCT, most recently, FRANKIE & JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE. Raeleen is a proud member of two labor unions: American Federation of Teachers & Actors’ Equity Association. She teaches Acting, Voice & Speech, and Dialects at UW-Milwaukee’s Peck School of the Arts. Happy Holidays!

KAT WODTKE (Ruth)
Kat is delighted to return to MCT, where she appeared previously in the 2013 Young Playwrights Festival. Kat hails from Milwaukee and holds a BA in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota. Kat is an aspiring Renaissance woman who acts, directs, builds, composes, sings, plays, teaches, writes, organizes, dreams, schemes, and creates. She has performed with Renaissance Theaterworks, Forward Theater Company, Optimist Theatre, Theatre Gigante, Splinter Group, Perseverance Theatre, and Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre, among others. Up next, Kat will be appearing in THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE at First Stage. Kat sends gratitude to Michael and the rest of the MCT family for the opportunity to play alongside this wonderful cast.

GRETA WOHLRABE (Beverly)
Greta Wohlrabe feels incredibly blessed to be making her MCT debut. Regional theatre credits: LET THERE BE LOVE, American Conservatory Theater; BOEING BOEING, Indiana Repertory Theater; MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, MACBETH, AS YOU LIKE IT, THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, Santa Cruz Shakespeare; GROUNDED, Cardinal Stage Company; VENUS IN FUR, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park (LCT Award, Best Actress in a Play) and Milwaukee Repertory Theater; CLYBOURNE PARK, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and Arizona Theatre Company; SKYLIGHT (Wall Street Journal Best Performance in a Play 2012), TWELFTH NIGHT, TROILUS AND CRESSIDA, THE CRITIC, THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, THE TEMPEST, American Players Theatre; THE MOUSETRAP, CABARET, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. MFA in Acting from Purdue University, BA from Wheaton College in Massachusetts and an alumna of the Eugene O’Neill National Theatre Institute. gretawohlrabe.com

C. MICHAEL WRIGHT (Director, MCT Producing Artistic Director)
Michael hails from Buffalo, NY, so it’s a real treat to be directing this particular play! Since joining the staff here in 2005, Michael has directed quite a number of MCT productions including THE FEW, LOBBY HERO, FALLEN ANGELS, SLOWGIRL, DRIVING MISS DAISY and PICNIC, as well as three original works: OCTOBER, BEFORE I WAS BORN, 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 Miracle on South Division Street
Opera Theatre, VISITING MR. GREEN 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 and has appeared on Broadway, in Israel and in regional theatres all across the country. His most recent performances have been as Paul in a concert version of A CHORUS LINE for 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.

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.

STEPHEN HUDSON-MAIRET (Scenic Designer)
Stephen is excited to return to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre to design MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET. Stephen is the chair of the Digital Media and Performing Arts department at Marquette University. Stephen has designed scenery and/or lighting for numerous productions at Marquette, around the Milwaukee area, and in the greater Midwest, including the scene design for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s productions of THE LION IN WINTER, THE DALY NEWS, TRYING, COLLECTED STORIES, THE GOOD FATHER and LOBBY HERO. Stephen thanks Michael and the MCT family for making this wonderful opportunity possible. Stephen lives quite happily in a very old house in Wauwatosa with his wife Heidi, and daughters Emma and Grace.

DEBRA KRAJEC (Costume Designer)
Deb is pleased as Christmas punch to be working on this fun holiday show with such a talented cast and crew. Her last design with MCT was THE TRAIN DRIVER in 2015. Deb is an Associate Professor at Marquette University where has served on the Theatre Arts Faculty for the past 34 years. She received her MFA from Texas Christian University, and has worked professionally as a costume designer, a director, and an actress. In Milwaukee, Deb has designed costumes for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, First Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Next Act Theatre. She is very active in the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, where she is a Fellow of the Institute. Deb is a member of Actors’ Equity Association. A special thanks to MCT’s wonderful Production Manager/Company Manager, Brandy Kline, whose work to coordinate everything you see onstage makes it a pleasure to work with this fine company.

ALAN PIOTROWICZ (Lighting Designer)
Alan Piotrowicz previously designed for MCT’s JEEVES INTERVENES (lighting) and DEAR ELIZABETH (projections). Other work in the Studio Theatre includes LETTICE AND LOVAGE, AGNES OF GOD, and THE DROWNING GIRLS for Renaissance Theaterworks. He has designed for several other companies around Milwaukee,
including All In Productions, Bunny Gumbo, Cooperative Performance, Falls Patio Players, First Stage, In Tandem, Milwaukee Rep, Next Act, Soulstice, Theater RED, and Umbrella Group. He’s also designed for TITAN Theatre (NYC), including their critically-acclaimed A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM and the world premiere of Angela Iannone’s THIS PRISON WHERE I LIVE. He received his training at UW-Madison and The Santa Fe Opera. Proud board member of Cooperative Performance. alanpiotrowicz.com

TERRANCE BARRETT (Sound Designer)
Terrance is humbled to be rejoining the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre for their production of MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET. Terrance has previously been involved with MCT’s productions of LOBBY HERO, THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE, and JEEVES TAKES A BOW. In addition to theatre, Terrance also gigs and records frequently with his band Carbon Bangle and spends days unencumbered with his wife Melissa, Newfoundlands Tuco and Treya and their cat Sadie.

MEGHAN SAVAGIAN (Properties Master)
Meghan Savagian is excited to return to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre after working on FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE earlier this season. A UW-Milwaukee PTPP graduate, Meghan is the assistant prop director for American Players Theatre, and a prop artisan with Skylight Music Theatre.

TYNE TURNER (Dialect/Vocal Coach)
Tyne Turner has served as a voice and speech teacher for the University of Minnesota BFA/Guthrie program, Southern Methodist University/Meadows School of the Arts, the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Professional Theatre Training Program, and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She holds a master’s in teacher leadership from the University of Illinois - Springfield and a BFA in acting from UW-Milwaukee. Together with her husband she created the First Stage Theatre Academy in 1992. She is a nationally recognized voice and speech coach, previously serving the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, Dallas Theatre Center, and a variety of other companies across the country. She currently teaches theatre and provides program support for Golda Meir School for the Gifted and Talented.

APRIL PAUL (Assistant Director)
April is delighted to be back at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, working in an entirely new capacity alongside such an amazing team of artists. With a bachelor’s degree from UW-Milwaukee and over 20 years’ experience on the stage, this position is a first for her! Previously at MCT she has been seen in OCTOBER, BEFORE I WAS BORN (Anne) and PICNIC (Millie). To finish the season, April will be back on stage for DOUBT, A PARABLE as Sister James. A huge thank you to C. Michael Wright for this essential learning opportunity! Enjoy!

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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Stage Manager .................................................................................................. Judy Martel*
Scenic Designer ............................................................................................... Stephen Hudson-Mairet
Costume Designer ............................................................................................ Debra Krajec
Lighting Designer ............................................................................................. Alan Piotrowicz
Sound Designer ............................................................................................... Terrance Barrett
Properties Master ............................................................................................. Meghan Savagian
Dialect/Vocal Coach ......................................................................................... Tyne Turner
Assistant Director ............................................................................................. April Paul
Stage Management Intern .............................................................................. Mattie Voorheis
Assistant Scenic Designer ............................................................................... Julie Ahlgrim
Assistant Costume Designer ............................................................................ Rebecca Gardner
Technical Director ........................................................................................... John Houlter-McCoy
Assistant Technical Director .......................................................................... Alexander Molière
Lighting & Sound Supervisor ......................................................................... Craig Zemsky
Carpenters ......................................................................................................... Matt Carr, Joe Janswig, Ezra Niesen
Scenic Apprentice ............................................................................................. Christina Newby
Scenic Charge .................................................................................................. Chrissy Piontek
Deck Chief ....................................................................................................... Paula Gallarino
Wardrobe Supervisor ....................................................................................... Caitlyn de Araujo
Master Electrician/Lighting & Sound Technician .......................................... Colin Gawronski

*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.

**SDC**
The Director-Choreographer is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREographers SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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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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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.

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.

TRG: Milwaukee Chamber Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.
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