PROUDLY PRESENTS...

HANG MAN
A WORLD PREMIERE

WRITTEN BY
Stacy Osei-Kuffour

DIRECTED BY
Jess McLeod

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Ian Martin

SCENIC DESIGNER
Arnel Sancianco

LIGHTING DESIGNER
** Mike Durst

COSTUME DESIGNER
Alarie Hammock

SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST
Elyse Balogh

MASTER ELECTRIAN
Andy Kloubec

PROPERTIES DESIGNER
John Nichols III

SOUND DESIGNER
Stephen Ptacek

RIGGIN MASTER
Brian Christensen

INTIMACY & VIOLENCE
DESIGNER, FDC
Rachel Flesher

ASSISTANT INTIMACY &
VIOLENCE DESIGNERS
Daniel C. Brown
Jamir Nelson

SCENIC DESIGNER
Arnel Sancianco

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Courtney Winkelman

STAGE MANAGER
* Corinne James

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
David Preis

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Sarah Luse

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Courtney Winkelman

*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

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March 2 – April 29, 2018

The Gift Theatre Company
4802 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630
(773) 283-7071 | www.thegifttheatre.org

“Come Closer.”

The Gift Theatre Company’s 2018 season is made possible, in part, by generous contributions from Paul Adelstein, Shirley Ryan AbilityLab (formerly RIC), Greg and Anne Taubeneck, The Alphawood Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation, an Anonymous Donor and The SaintsSM.
Featuring (in alphabetical order)

Archie ................................................................................................................................. + Paul D'Addario
Darnell ............................................................................................................................... + Gregory Fenner
Wipp ................................................................................................................................... Andy Fleischer
Sage ....................................................................................................................................... * Jennifer Glasse
G .......................................................................................................................................... Mariah Sydnei Gordon
Jahaad .................................................................................................................................. + Martel Manning
Margarie .............................................................................................................................. Angela Morris

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

+ Indicates Gift Ensemble Member

Understudies

Margarie ............................................................................................................................. Katherine Bourne
Wipp / Archie ....................................................................................................................... Nick Caesar
Sage ....................................................................................................................................... Jalyn Greene
Darnell / Jahaad .................................................................................................................... Robert Howard
G .......................................................................................................................................... Destini Huston

Understudies do not substitute for listed players unless an announcement is made at the time of the performance.

Show Information

Time
Now

Place
A shit town in Mississippi

The play runs approximately 85 minutes.
The play is performed without intermission.

“We live in a world where amnesia is the most wished-for state. When did history become a bad word?” — John Guare

As a courtesy to the actors and fellow audience members, please turn off your cell phone!

Please do not text during the performance.
The use of recording devices is strictly prohibited.
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Without the support of patrons like Greg and Anne, our shows would not be possible. We thank Greg and Anne and all our production sponsors supporting live theater in Jefferson Park.

"At The Gift you're up close, really close, with some of the best actors in Chicago. Or anywhere. The plays are always smart and provocative and you talk about them for a long time afterward. The Gift is actually a gift to Chicago. We are thrilled to support them!"

GREG AND ANNE TAUBENECK
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NATURAL GAS ENSEMBLE

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**Paul D'Addario** (Archie) is an ensemble member and Associate Artistic Director of The Gift, where he has appeared in over twenty shows. Favorite roles include Pa in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Jimmy in Good for Otto and Seth in *The Language of Angels*. At Steppenwolf he has been seen in *The Ironbound* and *Of Mice and Men* and has worked at Griffin and Next Theatre. He is thrilled to be a part of this world premiere.

**Gregory Fenner** (Damell) is thrilled to return to The Gift in this challenging world premiere. Previous credits include *Megastasis* (Eclipse Theatre); 10 out of 12 (Theater Wit); *A Small Oak Tree Runs Red* (Congo Square Theatre); *Richard III* (The Gift Theatre); *Love and Information* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *Native Son* (Court Theatre, u/s); *Angels in America: Parts I & II* and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Stray Dog Theatre, St. Louis, MO); *The Whipping Man* (New Jewish Theatre); and the one man, 40 character comedy *Fully Committed* (Stray Dog Theatre) for which he received a St. Louis Theatre Circle Award for Best Leading Actor in a comedy. TV credits include *The Chi*, *Empire* (FOX), and *Chicago Fire* (NBC). He is an ensemble member here at The Gift, a graduate of The Second City Conservatory, and is proudly represented by Paonessa Talent.

**Andy Fleischer** (Wipp) is excited and honored to make his debut at The Gift. He is a Chicago-based actor and writer from Louisville, Kentucky. He has worked with Steep Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, and The Arc Theatre. Andy has a special interest in new work and new play development. He performed in the O’Neill finalist play, *The Art of Losing*, and directed a staged reading of Linda and *Suella’s Urban Safari*. He was a founding member of The Wulfden Collective, where he premiered his play, *Fool’s Paradise*. Andy also performed in the Shawnee summer stock in plays by Rebecca Gilman, Neil Simon, and David Hare. He graduated in 2014 with a BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University. He is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

**Jennifer Glasse** (Sage) is thrilled to return to The Gift Theatre where she was last seen in *A Life Extra Ordinary*. Thank you so much to this incredible cast and production team, so grateful we get to share this story together! Other Chicago credits include: *Breath, Boom* (Eclipse Theatre); *The Book Club Play* (16th Street Theatre); *The Mutilated* (a Red Orchid Theatre); *Love and Information* (Remy Bumppo Theatre); *Saturday Night/Sunday Morning* (Steppenwolf Garage); *For my Brothers Whenever I May Find Them* (Step Up Productions); *The Mountaintop*, *The Misanthrope*, *Tartuffe* (all u/s Court Theatre); *The MLK Project* (u/s Writers Theatre); *The North Plan* (Theatre Wit); *Amuse Bouche* (Pavement Group); and *The Darkest Pit* (Prop Theatre). Television credits include *Chicago Fire*. Jennifer received her degree in Musical Theatre from North Central College. She is also a graduate from The Conservatory at Act One Studios and The School at Steppenwolf. Jennifer is the Founder and Artistic Director of Hope Theatre Co. (www.hopetheatrechicago.org). She is represented by Hayes Talent. www.jenniferglasseactor.com.

**Mariah Sydnei Gordon** (G) is extremely excited about joining The Gift Theatre as ‘G’. She is an energetic, fun loving 13-year-old who is very conscientious, pleasant and caring. Mariah has been working on her art since she was four years old, appearing in print, television commercials and internet videos. Mariah has a vivid imagination which comes to life especially when she is in front of the camera. In addition to acting and singing, Mariah loves to write music and fiction stories. Mariah is also very active in sports. She competes in her middle school’s basketball and soccer teams as well as volleyball team. Her teammates will describe her as very competitive and an inspiration. She also is involved in her school’s drama program, as well as band where she plays the alto saxophone. Mariah is from a large family and often times, she can be found acting, writing and performing with her cousins at family functions. Her credits include; *The Chi* (Showtime TV series); *Stay Close* (Short Film Documentary); *A Christmas Carol* (The Goodman Theater 2016); *A Christmas Story* (Theatre at the Center 2015); *Balm in Gilead* (The Griffin Theatre); *The Musical Annie Kids!* (Evanston...
BIOGRAPHIES


Martel Manning (Jahaad) is so glad to be part of this show, and it’s his first as a Gift ensemble member! Chicago credits include Richard III and The Grapes of Wrath (The Gift Theatre), Fallen Angels and Pirandello’s Henry V (Remy Bumppo), and Cymbeline (Strawdog Theatre Company). Regional credits include Romeo and Juliet (Juliet’s Journey) (Oregon Shakespeare Festival - School Visit Program), Still Dance the Stars (New Light Theatre Project co-production with Chicago Dramatists), and an acting internship with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Martel received his MFA from the University of Houston and is also an ensemble member at Lifeline Theatre.

Angela Morris (Margarie) is excited to be working with The Gift Theatre for the first time. Theatre credits include: Twilight Bowl (Maddy, Goodman Theatre New Stages); Ah, Wilderness! (u/s, Goodman Theater); The Comedy of Errors (Messenger, Kennedy Center); The Hamlet Project (Claudius, The Collective); Horatio (Ophelia/Gravedigger, A Beautiful Fight Productions). Television/Film credits include Chicago Fire and the award-winning shorts Spaceman and Trash as well as My Best Girl, which she also co-wrote. She voices the main character (among others) in the video game Perception and has been heard on commercial spots including those for Sears and Google Books. www.AngelaMorris.net

Katherine Bourne (Margarie – Understudy) is so excited to be working on this beautiful piece of theatre and to be working for the first time with The Gift. In Chicago, she has worked with Raven Theatre, The House Theatre of Chicago, Back Room Shakespeare and tours Macbeth to area high schools with A Crew of Patches. She is an instructor at Black Box Acting. Regionally, she is a company member at Undermain Theatre and has worked at Dallas Theater Center, Watertower Theatre, Stage West and others in the Dallas-Fort-Worth area. She is a co-founder of Shakespeare in the Bar, winner of The Best of Big D and other awards. She is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and The School at Steppenwolf. Stay up to date at www.Katherine-Bourne.com.

Jalyn Greene (Sage – Understudy) is an actress and teaching artist in the Chicago area. She is so thrilled to be working with The Gift for the first time! Hailing from Detroit, Michigan, she received her BFA from Michigan State University and has since worked as an arts educator for several Chicago theatres including Lifeline Theatre Company and Pegasus Theatre. Jalyn was last seen in as Angel in Breath,Boom (Eclipse Theatre). Other projects include The Fly Honey Show (The Inconvenience), Black Lives, Blacks Words, and The Chicago One-Minute Play Festival.

Robert Howard (Darnell / Jahaad – Understudy) graduated from The School at Steppenwolf in 2014. He is thrilled to be back at The Gift after being seen in Ike Holter’s Stay Woke which was a part of TEN.2016. Some previous credits include Four (Joe) at Jackalope Theatre, Death and The Ploughman (Ploughman) at La Mamma.
Destini Huston (G – Understudy) was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she attended solely art-based schools. Developing a passion for performing at a young age, Destini practiced dance (modern, jazz, ballet, hip hop) and moved on to memorizing plays, rather than the Seinfeld reruns she watched when she was little. Some of her theatre credits include Disney's High School Musical and Fashion 47 (Minneapolis Children's Theatre), Force Continuum (Eclipse), A Midsummer Night's Dream and Cinderella (Stages Theatre). Most recently, Destini was proud to perform in two of Eclipse Theatre’s season productions by playwright Kia Corthron (Force Continuum and Breath Boom). Since graduating with her BA in Film/Television Writing and acting minor from Columbia College Chicago, Destini has had the opportunity to perform within various mainstream and independent film and television projects. Working with The Onion, Michael Slovis for Chicago Fire, and a collection of web series, Destini is proud to continually tread the line between screen and stage productions. Outside of “the biz,” Destini can be found teaching dance/fitness classes throughout the city, binging on her horror movies/shows, reading and snacking. So much snacking.

Stacy Osei-Kuffour (Playwright), born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, is a BFA graduate from Hunter College (major: Playwriting). Previous plays include: The Painter, Samuel French Festival finalist. Breathless, workshop productions at the Dream Up Festival and Downtown Urban Theater Festival (both at Theater for the New City). Dirty Blood, reading at Rattlestick Theater. Animals, Irv Zarkower Award winner through Hunter College; readings: Lark Development Center, NYTW, Blank Theatre, and IAMA Theatre. The Pearl (written by Jenni Lamb; music and lyrics by Diana Lawrence), and The Unauthorized Musicology of Ben Folds. McLeod served as Director of Programming of The New York Musical Theatre Festival from 2005-08, coordinated the Louder Than A Bomb Youth Poetry Festival for Young Chicago Authors from 2016-17 and has worked as a teaching artist with Storycatchers Theatre. M.F.A., Northwestern University. 2017 Michael Maggio Directing Fellow, Goodman Theatre. In development: Mill Girls (book by Samantha Beach; music and lyrics by Diana Lawrence), and Ellen Bond, Union Spy (written by Jenni Lamb; music and movement by Tanji Harper and the Blu Rhythm Collective).

Ian Martin (Assistant Director) is an emerging theatre artist who is pleased to be working with The Gift Theatre for the first time. Chicago credits include The Toilet (Director) for Haven Theatre, Insurrection: Holding History (TI) for Stage Left Theatre, and Truth and Reconciliation (Zimbabwean Husband) for Sideshow Theatre Company, where Ian is now an Artistic Associate. He is currently the Community Engagement Coordinator at Goodman Theatre, where he recently completed an Artistic Producing Apprenticeship. He received his BA in Theatre and Drama from Indiana University and his Diploma in Drama from the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, OH. Ian sends
love to the women of color who made him the man he is today.

Arnel Sancianco *(Scenic Designer)* is thrilled to be back designing for The Gift Theatre. Arnel studied drama with honors in design at UC Irvine and received his MFA in scenic design from Northwestern University. He has designed shows in Philadelphia, D.C., Milwaukee, and Chicago. He designed the sets for *Boy* (Timeline Theatre); *The Belle of Amherst* (Court Theatre); *The Crucible* (Steppenwolf for Young Adults); *The Wiz and Little Fish*, (Kokandy Productions); *Pilgrims* (The Gift Theatre); *Hookman* and *Earthquakes in London* (Steep Theatre); *Peerless* (First Floor Theatre); *How We Got On* (Haven Theatre); *You on The Moors Now* (The Hypocrites); *Carousel, Titanic and Rock of Ages* (Timberlake Playhouse); and *Xanadu* (American Theatre Co.). www.ArnelDesigns.com

Elyse Balogh *(Scenic Charge Artist)* is a graduate from DePaul University's Theatre School, with a BFA in Scenic Design. Happy to be back with The Gift, past credits include *The Grapes of Wrath, A Life Extra Ordinary, Unseen,* and *Pilgrims.* Elyse is currently the Scenic Art Apprentice at Steppenwolf, where she has worked on *The Rembrandt,* Spike Lee's *Pass Over, The Minutes, You Got Older,* and currently *The Doppelganger.* Recent paint charges include *The Antelope Party* (Theater Wit), *Puff: Believe It Or Not, The Skin of Our Teeth* (Remy Bumppo), *Barbeque* (Strawdog). Upcoming designs: *Harvey* (Three Brothers), *The Robber Bridegroom* (St. Patrick High), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Northbrook). www.elysebalogh.com

Mike Durst *(Lighting Designer)* is a Chicago based Lighting Designer and ensemble member with A Red Orchid Theatre. Recent and upcoming designs include shows with The McCarter Theatre Center (*Simpatico*); A Red Orchid Theatre (*Traitor*); Court Theatre (*The Belle of Amherst*); Theater Wit (*Santaland*); Timeline Theatre (*To Catch a Fish*); and The Hypocrites (*Aristophanesathon*). Off Broadway credits include Primary Stages, 59e59, and Cherry Lane. Regional: Huntington Theatre Co, Lookingglass Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, McCarter Theater Center, and Court Theatre. National Tour: *It's Always Sunny* in Philadelphia ‘The Nightman Cometh’. Mike is a lecturer of Lighting Design at The University of Chicago. He is a recipient of Chicago's Jeff award, L.A.’s Ovation award, and San Diego's Craig Noel award. Mike is a member of IATSE Local 2 and United Scenic Artists 829. www.MikeDurst.com

Andy Kloubec *(Master Electrician)* is excited to be working with The Gift Theatre family for the first time. He is a Chicago-based freelance Lighting Designer and Technician and a recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago. Recent collaborators include Strawdog Theatre, Haven Theatre, Timeline Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, and Silk Road Rising.

Alarie Hammock *(Costume Designer)* is thankful to be working with the wonderful Gift Theatre. Some of her design credits include Steppenwolf’s *The Burials; Route 66’s The Downpour, Cicada and Twist of Water; The Gift Theatre’s The Grapes of Wrath, A Life Extra Ordinary and The Royal Society of Antarctica; as well as Steep’s Making Noise Quietly.
Other design credits include Emerald City's Fancy Nancy, Hansel and Gretel and Charlotte's Web as well as Emerald City's Little Theater productions of Three Little Kittens and Teddy Bear Picnic. She works as a first hand/stitcher at the Steppenwolf costume shop where, in addition to Steppenwolf works, she has worked on projects for Court Theater, Lookingglass, and the Lyric Opera. She also worked for five years as the wardrobe supervisor for Million Dollar Quartet.

Stephen Ptacek (Sound Designer) hopes you like what you're hearing. He's the sound designer! He won't bore you with a long list of show's he's worked on, other than to point out that he last worked with director Jess McLeod on Haven Theatre's How We Got On, which earned him his third Jeff Award for Sound Design. He's also a musician, composer, playwright, producer, and freelance Audio Engineer. Stephen thinks everyone involved with this production is RAD and The Gift Theatre is RAD and that you're RAD for being HERE.

John Nichols III (Properties Designer) is delighted to contribute to The Gift Theatre 2018 Season. Having recently worked at venues such as Chicago Opera Theater, American Blues Theater (It's A Wonderful Life), Music Theater Works (Peter Pan), 20% Theater Company (Spark), and Wilmette Children's Theatre (Seussical Kids), Nichols is honored to serve as Properties Designer for this production of Hang Man by Stacy Osei-Kuffour with guest director Jess McLeod. Nichols also composes modern music and has received international recognition for his works. He has travelled nationally and abroad to present his compositions at celebrated venues such as Centro Mexicano para la Música y las Artes Sonoras (CMMAS, Morelia, Mexico), ST-ART Strasbourg European Art Fair (Strasbourg, France), International Computer Music Conference (Ljubljana, Slovenia), and numerous others.

Brian Christensen (Rigging Master) is a stunt coordinator, rigger, actor, NRA certified Pistol and CCL instructor and the proprietor of Nosewind Productions, Inc. He has worked extensively in film and television.as both an actor and a stunt coordinator. Films include The Family Tree, Game of Death, A Nightmare on Elm Street and Transformers among many others. Television credits include Chuck, Kamen Rider: Dark Knight, Prison Break, CSI Miami and Alias to name a few. Awards: 2010 SAG Awards nomination for Outstanding Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Motion Picture for his work in Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) and received the 2009 SAG Award for Outstanding Performance by a Stunt Ensemble in a Motion Picture for The Dark Knight (2008). Brian's professional experience has involved fight scenes, high falls, fencing and swordplay, horse falls and saddle falls, precision driving and turnovers. The Gift Theatre is supremely grateful for contributions to this production of Hang Man. www.nosewind.com

Rachel Flesher (Violence/Intimacy Designer) is an Intimacy, Violence, and Movement Designer/Instructor. She is thrilled to be joining The Gift Theatre and this incredible team for Hang Man!
Select Chicago violence/intimacy credits include *Cabaret!* (Paramount Theatre); *Constellations* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Women in Jeopardy* and *The Man Beast!* (First Folio); *Apartment 3A* (Windy City Playhouse); *The Burials* (Steppenwolf for Young Adults); *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play* (TimeLine Theatre); and *Insurrection* (Stage Left). Her goal is to create safe space for actors to perform brave work.

Rachel is an Instructor with the Fight Directors Canada, a member of the Society of American Fight Directors, an Instructor with Tactics on Set, an apprentice with The United Stuntmen’s Association, and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College Chicago and DePaul University. Thanks to family and friends for unwavering support. Change the World!

**Daniel C. Brown** (Assistant Intimacy & Violence Designer) is thrilled to be working with The Gift Theatre as an assistant intimacy designer. A recent graduate of Oklahoma City University, Daniel has helped design for (re)discover theatre’s production of *50 Shades of Shakespeare*, as well as been involved with Chicago Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

**Jamir Nelson** (Assistant Intimacy & Violence Designer) is a Musical Theatre Major with a minor in Stage Combat attending Columbia College Chicago. This will be his debut as an Assistant Intimacy and Violence Designer for a play and his first time working under Intimacy and Violence Designer, Rachel Flesher.

**Sammi Grant** (Vocal Coach) is thrilled to be returning to The Gift where she has previously served as dialect coach for *Unseen, The Grapes of Wrath*, and *Broadsword*. Other Chicago theatres she has worked with include: Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Drury Lane, Porchlight Music Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Timeline Theatre, Remy Bumppo, Griffin Theatre, Steep Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, and many more. Her television coaching credits include: *The Exorcist* (Fox) and *Patriot* (Amazon Prime). She would like to thank her mom and Colin for all of their support.

**Corinne James** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to work with The Gift Theatre again to stage manage *Hang Man*. A proud member of the Actors’ Equity Union, Cori has stage managed a number of Chicago productions, most recently *A Swell in the Ground, The Grapes of Wrath, Good*
for Otto, and The Royal Society of Antarctica (The Gift Theatre); The Bachelors (Cole Theatre); The Downpour (Route 66 Theatre). Cori spent four years working as the assistant stage manager at Northlight Theatre and has also previously worked for Ravinia Theater Festival. Cori thanks her family, friends, and her husband Rob for their love and support.

Courtney Winkelmann (Assistant Stage Manager) graduated with a BFA in theatre design and technology from Auburn University. Since Courtney’s move to Chicago a year ago, she has worked as a Deck Chief for the Haymarket Opera Company and has worked with Victory Gardens, Windy City Playhouse, De Paul University, Underscore Theatre at the Pride Arts Center, and Porchlight Music Theatre as a Scenic Artist. Courtney completed a scenic painting summer intensive at Cobalt Studios in 2013 and has painted scenery for Texas Shakespeare Festival, Springer Opera House and The Haymarket Theatre Company. She was recently the ASM for A Swell in the Ground at The Gift Theatre and is thrilled to be returning for her second show with the company.

David Preis (Technical Director) has contributed his woodworking, general handyman, and all around technical expertise to The Gift since 2002, becoming Technical Director in 2006. He has worked as a luthier for over 35 years – making cellos and basses for Englehardt-Link based in Elk Grove Village. David studied theatre and design at Illinois Wesleyan and has worked as the sound engineer for “The Night Crawlers,” a Chicago area blues band. Throughout the years, he has designed, built, and/or coordinated lighting, set, and sound for a number of Chicago area productions including critically acclaimed productions of Tango and Josephine, The Mouse Singer both at Chicago Actors Ensemble, Brick/Walls Open Spaces for Shakti Dance Company, Crying Woolf at Zebra Crossing Theatre, and Light Up the Sky at Gurnee Theatre Company.

Sarah Luse (Production Manager) is excited to be back with The Gift. This is her second season as production manager. Other production management credits include The Dead Prince, Half-Brothers Mendelssohn, Funeral Wedding, and The Spirit Play (Strange Tree Group); Women at War (Rivendell); A Doll’s House, Fifth of July, Escape From Happiness, The Crucible, and The Grapes of Wrath (Infamous Commonwealth). Sarah is also a stage manager and some favorite Gift credits include Pilgrims, A Life Extra Ordinary, Richard III, Thinner Than Water, W’t, The Ruby Sunrise, TEN, and The Lonesome West. Some other Chicago credits include The Antelope Party, Bad Jews, Thom Pain (based on nothing), and Completeness (Theater Wit); The Temperamentals (About Face Theatre); and Bonhoeffer’s Cost (Provision). Regionally Sarah was an ASM for Michigan Shakespeare Festival’s 2014 season.

Emjoy Gavino (Casting Director) Chicago acting credits include Court, Northlight, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Remy Bumppo, Paramount, Broadway Playhouse, Lookingglass, The Neo-Futurists, The Goodman and Second City Theatricals. Regional credits: Repertory Actors Theatre, Village Theatre and 5th Avenue Theater. Film/TV: Chicago Med, Empire, Chicago Fire, Mob Doctor, Boss, and Freudian Slip. Emjoy is a company member and teaching artist with Barrel of Monkeys, an ensemble member of Remy Bumppo and is the founder and producer of The Chicago Inclusion Project. She has been a consultant for casting several projects in the Chicago area since 2012.

Michael Patrick Thornton (Artistic Director) Co-founder & artistic director of The Gift Theatre, Michael was recently seen as Judge Danforth in Steppenwolf’s The Crucible, as King Richard in The Gift’s RICHARD III at Steppenwolf, and in fellow Gift ensemble member Will Eno’s Title And Deed (Lookingglass) directed by Gift ensemble member Marti Lyons which led to a Time Out Magazine “Best Actor” award. Michael was also seen in the nationally-acclaimed rolling premiere of fellow Gift ensemble member Andrew Hinderaker's Colossal at The Kennedy Center, Playwrights Horizons, and the Olney Theatre directed by Will Davis, Otherllo at The Gift Theatre (lago) Actors Theatre of Louisville's Our Town, and the Midwest Premiere of Will Eno's Middletown at Steppenwolf, directed by Les Waters. Directing credits at The Gift: world premiere of Gift ensemble member David Rabe’s Good For Otto (The Gift) War of the Worlds (75th Anniversary Production) the Chicago Premiere of Will Eno’s Oh, The Humanity (and other exclamations) Prairie View, Night & Her Stars, Stop/Kiss; Santa’s Great American Depression Holiday Show! America; White People; Three Sisters; Long Day’s Journey Into Night; Hurlyburly (Joseph Jefferson Award: Actor In Leading Role); A Young Man In Pieces; Language Of Angels; County Fair; and Orestes 2.0. Elsewhere: Of Mice and Men (Steppenwolf) the World Premieres of Sean Graney’s IS N URB 1UDS7REEM… and Mark Harvey Levine’s LA 8AM (Collaboration) and Picasso At The Lapin Agile (Noble Fool). Michael was a very grateful assistant director on Steppenwolf’s Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning August: Osage County. A Joseph Jefferson Award-winning
actor for Solo Performance in Conor McPherson’s *The Good Thief* (The Gift) Michael was nominated for a Best Director Jeff Award (*Good For Otto*) and also played the title role in Steppenwolf’s *The Elephant Man*. TV/Film: CBS’ *Elementary*, FOX’s *The Exorcist*, Dr. Gabriel Fife on ABC’s *Private Practice*, FOX’s *The Chicago Code*, Ron Howard’s *The Dilemma*, *The Jamz*, and the indie film *The View From Tall*. He lives blissfully in the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Chicago with his wife, the performance artist Lindsey Barlag Thornton.

"Acting is a particularly thankless art. It dies with the actor. Nothing survives him but the reviews, which do not usually do him justice anyway, whether he is good or bad.

So the only source of satisfaction left to him is the audience’s reactions... The actor, in this special process of discipline and self-sacrifice, self-penetration and molding, is not afraid to go beyond all normally acceptable limits...

The actor makes a total gift of himself."

—Jerzy Grotowski, Towards A Poor Theatre
THANKS FOR GIVING US A HAND IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

The Gift Theatre is tremendously appreciative of all the support we need and receive. We humbly thank the benefactors below for their generous gifts. This list reflects gifts made from January 1, 2014 thru September 24, 2017. A special thanks goes out to our 2018 Season Subscribers – both new and renewing - we couldn’t do it without you!

Every effort is made to ensure that the information included in our program is correct. If you have a question or wish to revise your listing in any way, please call 773-283-7071.

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To our beloved friend &
fellow ensemble member...
Sheldon Patinkin

WE MISS YOU...
Last November, The Gift lost one of our most passionate and passionately generous supporters. Carol Cyganowski was and will always be an angel to all of us at The Gift. As a subscriber, Carol was at every production and it was a joy to hear her refreshingly wry, wonderful, spot-on critiques. And as a Production Sponsor, Carol got to be in the room with one of her theatrical heroes, David Rabe, as The Gift rehearsed and premiered his new play *Good for Otto*, a production that quite literally could not happen without the generosity of the Cyganowskis.

The best way we at The Gift can honor Carol’s memory is to continue to seek out great, daring writing for the American Theatre and to present it with only the highest of aesthetic values. This memorial fund will allow us to do precisely that for next season and the seasons to come.

We’ll miss you, Carol.

Thank you for giving us a kick in the pants when we needed it.
Thank you for believing in us.
Thank you for your tremendous gift.

If you would like to send a check please make it out to The Gift Theatre and send it to:

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WHAT’S UP NEXT IN 2018 AT THE GIFT THEATRE

HAMLET
Written by William Shakespeare
Directed by Guest Artist Monty Cole

Previews: June 01 – June 06, 2018
Opening: June 07, 2018
Closing: July 29, 2018

After the death of his dad, a young black man named Hamlet returns home to grieve and seek revenge. Fighting against the injustice of his father’s murder and the powers that want him out of the picture, Hamlet quickly loses power and sanity. Directed by guest artist Monty Cole, The Gift’s retelling of Shakespeare’s great tragedy will crack open the mind of one of western drama’s most fascinating and entertaining characters.

COSMOLOGIES
Written by Ensemble Member David Rabe
Directed by Artistic Director Michael Patrick Thornton

Previews: October 12 – October 17, 2018
Opening: October 18, 2018
Closing: December 09, 2018

Put the whimsical humor of the Keystone Cops and Bugs Bunny into a particle collider with the philosophy of Soren Kierkegaard and George Berkeley and you’re getting close to the style of this existential absurdist comedy from David Rabe. When a young man’s negotiation for a date goes very wrong, we are transported through kaleidoscopic worlds of possibilities, identities, and loves.