The Gentleman Caller

By Philip Dawkins
Directed by Cody Estle

March 28 thru May 13, 2018

Setting/Time:
A garden apartment in St. Louis and a hotel suite in Chicago. 1944 and 1945.

The Gentleman Caller will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

The Gentleman Caller was developed with support from the Playwrights Center PlayLabs program, Minneapolis, MN.
CAST

Tennessee Williams ............................................................ Rudy Galvan
Bill Inge ................................................................. Curtis Edward Jackson

UNDERSTUDIES: Peter G. Andersen, Devon Nimerfroh
Understudies will not substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director ............................................................. Alan Weusthoff
Scenic Artist .............................................................. Eileen Rozycki
Assistant Director .......................................................... Eli Newell
Assistant Stage Manager .................................................. Destiney S. Higgins
Fight & Intimacy Assistant Choreographer ......................... Sam Hubbard
Assistant To The Playwright ................................................ Isabel Thompson
Costume Associate ........................................................ Marci Rodriguez
Master Electrician .......................................................... Diane D. Fairchild
Assistant Electrician ...................................................... Jonah White

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Artistic Director .............................................................. Cody Estle
General Manager .......................................................... Stephen Johnson
Marketing Manager ....................................................... Jake Freund
Development Manager .................................................. Dana Besmanoff
Audience Services Manager ........................................... John Weagly
Production Manager ...................................................... Cole von Glahn
Director of Education ..................................................... Mechelle Moe
Education Manager ....................................................... M. Nunzio Cancilla
House Manager ........................................................... M. Nunzio Cancilla
Box Office Managers ..................................................... Morgan Araujo, Max Colvill
Artistic Intern ............................................................... Bailey Davis
Ushering Services ........................................................ The Saints
RUDY GALVAN  
(Tennessee Williams) is happy to be back at Raven Theatre after appearing in Not About Nightingales and Bang the Drum Slowly. He was a member of Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co. from 2011-2016, the theatre’s closing. Theatre Credits include: American Buffalo, Uncle Bob, The December Man, Cherrywood, Geography of a Horse Dreamer (Mary-Arrchie), United Flight 232 (The House Theatre), A Life Extra Ordinary (The Gift Theatre), Our Lady of 121st Street (Eclipse Theatre), Lord of the Flies (Steppenwolf Theatre), Pornography (Steep Theatre). Film/TV Credits include: Slice (A24), Widows (20th Century Fox), Megan is Missing (Trio Pictures), Chicago P.D., Chicago Fire (NBC), Shameless (Showtime). Rudy is represented by Paonessa Talent. “...and when I am lucky it always seems like Chicago!” - Tenn

CURTIS EDWARD JACKSON  
(Bill Inge) makes his Raven debut. Chicago credits include: Eden Prairie, 1971 (Goodman Theatre, New Stages); Hand to God (Victory Gardens); How the World Began (Rivendell Ensemble); Brilliant Adventures (Steep Theatre); Tribes(u/s), The Heart is a Lonely Hunter(u/s) (Steppenwolf); Men Should Weep, Letters Home (Griffin Theatre); Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake) (Jackalope); Shakespeare’s R&J (Idle Muse); Good Boys and True (Kokandy Productions). Regional: King Charles III (Cardinal Stage); Other Desert Cities (Farmer’s Alley Theatre), Richard III, Twelfth Night (Arkansas Shakespeare). TV/Film: Chicago P.D.; Teacher; The Falls: Covenant of Grace. Online: @theCurtiss

PETER G. ANDERSEN  
(Bill Inge U/S) obtained his BFA in Acting from Emerson College. Recent roles include Benjamin in Cicada Summer (Rough House Theatre Company), Aaron in Titus Andronicus (The Humanist Project), Avery in The Flick (Company One), Young Clifford in Henry VI, Part 2 (Actor’s Shakespeare Project) and Laertes in Hamlet (Shakespeare and Company). He has also worked at TimeLine Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and Yale Repertory Theatre as an assistant director. www.petergandersen.com

DEVON NIMERFROH  
(Tennessee Williams U/S) recently appeared with Redtwist Theatre as Simon Stimson in Our Town and Bernard in Death of a Salesman. Other Chicago theaters he has worked with include The Hypocrites, Linchpin Theatre, Slimtak Theatre and Colorbox Theatre. He has also worked regionally at Illinois Shakespeare Festival and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Devon is a graduate of Illinois State University and Kishwaukee College.

PHILIP DAWKINS  
(Playwright) is a Chicago playwright and educator. His plays include Failure: A Love Story (Victory Gardens), Le Switch and The Homosexuals (About Face), The Burn (Steppenwolf), and Dr. Seuss’s The Sneetches, the Musical with composer David Mallamud (Children’s Theater Company, Minneapolis) as well as many plays for young audiences and performers. He received the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best New Work for his plays Charm (Northlight, MCC, NY) and Miss Marx: Or The Involuntary Side Effect of Living (Strawdog), as well the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Solo Performance for his play, The Happiest
Place on Earth (Side Show/Greenhouse Theater Center). At the end of April, look for The Gentleman Caller at Abingdon Theatre, NYC. Philip currently teaches playwriting at his alma mater, Loyola University Chicago.

CODY ESTLE (Director/Artistic Director) is the newly appointed Artistic Director of Raven Theatre. Directing credits include The Assembled Parties, A Loss of Roses, Dividing the Estate, Vieux Carré (named by Chicago Tribune as one of the Year’s Best in 2014), Good Boys and True, Brighton Beach Memoirs, Boy Gets Girl and Dating Walter Dante at Raven Theatre; Five Mile Lake at Shattered Globe Theatre; By The Water at Northlight Theatre; American Hero at First Floor Theatre; Scarcity at Redtwist Theatre; The Seagull and Watch on the Rhine at The Artistic Home; Don’t Go Gentle at Haven Theatre; Uncle Bob at Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company and Hospitality Suite at Citadel Theatre. He’s had the pleasure of assistant directing at Steppenwolf Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Court Theatre, Writers Theatre, Next Theatre and Strawdog Theatre. Estle is an associate member of SDC and a graduate of Columbia College Chicago.

JEFFREY D. KMIEC (Scenic Designer) is an award-winning Chicago-based scenic designer. His designs have been seen at the Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Timeline Theatre, American Players Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Porchlight, Raven Theatre, The Artistic Home, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Heritage Theatre Festival and The Children’s Theatre of Charlotte. He is the only person to have won three consecutive Equity Jeff Awards for his work on The Little Mermaid at the Paramount Theatre (2017), Deathtrap at Drury Lane Theatre (2016), and Les Miserable at The Paramount Theatre (Co-Design with Kevin Depint in 2015). Jeffrey received his MFA from the University of Virginia and is a member of USA 829.

MELISSA NG (Costume Designer) is thrilled to make her Raven debut with The Gentleman Caller. Recent credits include: The Burn (Steppenwolf YA), We’re Gonna Be Okay (American Theater Company), Fun Home (Victory Gardens). Upcoming: Lettie (Victory Gardens). She holds a BA from University of Chicago and an MFA from UC-San Diego.

MICHELLE E. BENDA (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer based in Chicago. Lighting design credits include Frankenstein (Bower Theatre Ensemble), Ohio State Murders (Dandelion Theatre), Failure: A Love Story (Illinois Theatre), and Cabaret (No Stakes Theater Project). She has assisted lighting designers at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, TimeLine Theatre Company, and Goodman Theatre. Michelle holds an MFA in Lighting Design and Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

KEVIN O’DONNELL (Sound Designer/Composer) is happy to be back at Raven Theatre, after working on Betrayal last season. Chicago credits: Steppenwolf, The Court, Northlight, Lookingglass, Chicago Shakespeare, Chicago Children’s Theatre, The Hypocrites, The House (where he is a company member), amongst many others; 20 Jeff Nominations (receiving 10 Awards). Recent regional credits include Le Petite Theatre (New Orleans), The Pasadena Playhouse, and The Skirball Center (NYC). He is also a drummer, most recently touring with Andrew Bird in 2016-2017.

CLAIRE STONE (Properties/Set Dressing) is a Chicago artist and educator honored to team up with Raven for the first time in The Gentleman Caller. Among her favorite designs are The Perfect Arrangement (Pride Films and Plays), Two Mile Hollow, Peerless, and American Hero (First Floor Theater). Claire proudly serves as company manager for First Floor Theater.
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW CONT.

ELISE KAULZARIC (Dialect Coach) is coaching for Raven for the first time. She has been a member of the artistic ensemble of Lifeline Theatre since 2005. Around Chicago she has coached for Steppenwolf, Marriott Theatre, Timeline, The Hypocrites, and Michigan Shakespeare, among others. She has been twice nominated by the Jeff Committee for dialect work on Busman's Honeymoon (Lifeline) and Punk Rock (Griffin). Elise is also a director and actor and teaches at The Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

DAVID WOOLLEY (Fight and Intimacy Choreographer) is a veteran of Raven Theatre, having staged fights for over 20 productions since their inception, most recently Choir Boy. Favorite Stagings at Raven include The House of Blue Leaves, Vieux Carré, Bus Stop, A Streetcar Named Desire and The Playboy of the Western World (for which he received a Jeff award for Best Fight Choreography). He is a Fight Master with the Society of American Fight Directors, a Professor of Instruction at Columbia College Chicago, and Guido Crescendo in Dirk and Guido the Swordsmen.

TARA MALPASS (Stage Manager) is happy to be working with Raven Theatre once again, after stage managing The Assembled Parties, A Loss of Roses, Dividing the Estate, and The Play About My Dad. She’s also had the privilege of working with fantastic Chicago theatre companies including Stage Left, Haven, Collaboration, InFusion Theatre, Circle Theatre, Babes with Blades, Seanachi, The Side Project, Eclipse Theatre and New Leaf. Love to Mike!

ALAN WEUSTHOFF (Technical Director) is excited to be back at Raven Theatre where he previously built the sets for A Loss of Roses and The Play About My Dad. Other Chicago credits include Hinter, Hookman, and Posh (Steep Theatre); Bonnie and Clyde, Little Fish, The Wiz (Kokandy Productions); We’re Gonna Die, and How We Got On (Haven Theatre). Alan is a graduate of the theater program at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO.

ELI NEWELL (Assistant Director) is a Chicago-based director originally from the Twin Cities, Minnesota. His original play Fair Game, which explores the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, premiered in Evanston’s Cahn Auditorium last year. In Chicago, Eli has assisted at Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Raven Theatre, Strawdog Theatre Company, Haven Theatre Company and Windy City Playhouse. In the Twin Cities, he has worked with Guthrie Theater, Children’s Theatre Company and The Playwrights’ Center. Education: Northwestern University.

ISABEL THOMPSON (Assistant To The Playwright) is so stoked to work with Philip on his latest gift, this beautiful play. She is an actor, writer, and educator. She’s recently worked with Sideshow Theater Company, Erasing the Distance, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Writers Theater. Isabel studied theater at Northwestern University.

DESTINEY S. HIGGINS (Assistant Stage Manager) is originally from Dallas, Texas and joins the Chicago theatre community as an aspiring director. Her credits include assistant directing Choir Boy and Red Velvet at Raven Theatre and Dog Act at Columbia College Chicago. Upon completion of her final semester at CCC, Destiney hopes to take on the industry full-time successfully.

MARCI RODRIGUEZ (Costume Associate) is a freelance costume designer based in Chicago. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Theater Design from Columbia College and her Master’s in Costume Design from the University of Barcelona. Recently she has designed Kingdom for Broken Nose Theater and is excited to be assisting Melissa in this original production of The Gentleman Caller.
MAY 2 - JUNE 17, 2018

SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER

BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
DIRECTED BY JASON GERACE

RAVENTHEATRE.COM
Friends,

The Gentleman Caller is my inaugural directorial production as Artistic Director of Raven Theatre. It is also the first commissioned play in the theatre’s history. I think it’s fitting that the play’s two characters are Tennessee Williams and William Inge. Each was a major figure in the American Theatre and their work is not new to Raven audiences. The theatre has produced eleven Tennessee Williams plays and two William Inge plays. I hope this production will deepen our audience’s knowledge of the lives lived by these two men.

Going into a career in the arts is not an easy task. You have to go into it because you love what you do and feel you must do what you love. I think this was true for Williams and Inge. They had to be playwrights. They were extremely talented and lived a life in the theatre that consumed them.

With talent comes praise and criticism. As artists we are constantly putting our work out on display to be viewed and critiqued. Praise can be intoxicating and leaves you wanting more. Criticism often leaves you annoyed at best. We know from history that these two men received both praise and criticism. In our play they each stand at the beginning of their playwriting journeys, only just realizing the vulnerability and cost that come with a career in this business.

Much of this play wrestles with what happens behind closed doors and the consequences that come with being seen. It is, of course, easier for these men to keep their identities locked behind closed doors. But, as we now know, neither would realize their true potential without becoming visible - whether for or against their will. As Tennessee says in the play, this sort of visibility allowed these men to “set the world on fire.”

Philip and I have been working on this play for the past three years. I’m excited that Chicago audiences will get to experience this play first before it gets a separate production this spring off-Broadway at Abingdon Theatre Company.

Yours,
Cody Estle
Artistic Director
SPECIAL THANKS

Eric Backus, The Clare, Alaina Moore, Northlight Theatre, Christopher Semel, Kelli Strickland

The Gentleman Caller is sponsored, in part, by a generous gift from Walter Pophin & Bob Dwyer

Special thanks to our The Gentleman Caller Dining Partners

**Raven Theatre Company**

2018 SUMMER CAMPS
WHERE THEATRE, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INTERSECT!

**SPECIAL SESSION:** DREAM IT! BUILD IT! TECH CAMP
JUNE 25 - 29
(ages 11-16)

**SESSION 3:** FANTASTIC JOURNEYS
JULY 30 - AUGUST 10
Oliver & The Seawigs (ages 6-9)
Jumanji (ages 10-14)

**SESSION 4:** AAAHHH!!! IT’S THE END OF THE WORLD!
AUGUST 13 - 24
Bad Guys: Intergalactic Gas (ages 6-9)
The Last Kids on Earth (ages 10-14)

**SESSION 1:** ANCIENT QUESTS
JULY 2 - 13
Percy Jackson’s Greek Heroes
(ages 6-9 & ages 10-14)

**SESSION 2:** TWISTED TALES
JULY 16 - 27
Once Upon a Ninja (ages 6-9)
The Land of Stories (ages 10-14)

BOOK ONLINE AT RAVENTHEATRE.COM
Like you, we deeply appreciate Raven Theatre. The first play each of us saw at Raven was *Bus Stop* by William Inge in 2011. We’ve been Raven fans ever since.

Raven Theatre tells stories of today and the past, that entertain and engage us, while connecting us to our cultural landscape. It offers a vibrant arts education program at the theatre and in partnership with our neighborhood Chicago Public Schools, which inspire students to “courageously connect, collaborate, and create in their community.”

We want Raven to reach and inspire audiences for generations to come. To help make that happen, we’re including Raven Theatre in our estate plans. In addition to taking care of our families, we’re taking care of future audiences and theatre artists. We’re doing our part to keep Raven Theatre strong and vibrant for the next 35 years.

If you want to be part of Raven’s future in this way, we invite you to join us in planning ahead. You can include Raven in your will or trust, as we have, or consider naming Raven Theatre as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement plan. If you’re 70 ½ or older, you may also make gifts directly from your IRA. Stock is easily transferred to Raven Theatre as well. There are many ways to make a gift, and they all make a powerful impact.

No one makes philanthropic plans lightly—these decisions are important. If you are interested in learning more about including Raven Theatre in your plans, we would be more than happy to speak with you.

See you at the next show.

Sincerely,

Sally Schwartz  
*Secretary and Member of the Raven Theatre Board of Directors*

Stephen Johnson  
*Treasurer and Member of the Raven Theatre Board of Directors*

PS If you’d like to see all the options laid out in a clear way, please visit: www.raventheatre.com/be-part-of-raven
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by Lynn Nottage
directed by Tyrone Phillips
OCTOBER 4 - NOVEMBER 18

How I Learned to Drive
by Paula Vogel
directed by Cody Estle
FEBRUARY 7 - MARCH 24

Yen
by Anna Jordan
directed by Elly Green
MARCH 21 - MAY 5

The Undeniable Sound of Right Now
by Laura Eason
directed by BJ Jones
MAY 2 - JUNE 16

Learn More & Subscribe at RavenTheatre.com
ABOUT RAVEN THEATRE

Raven Theatre tells stories of today and the past that connect us to our cultural landscape.

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A special thanks to our 2017/2018 season funding partners who help ensure that Raven continues to provide the quality theatre and arts education that you’ve come to expect. This list recognizes donations from March 1st, 2017 – March 1st, 2018.

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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

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