Proudly Presents...

**HAMLET**

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Guest Artist Monty Cole

The Gift Theatre Company

4802 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630

(773) 283-7071 | www.thegifttheatre.org

“Come Closer.”

Claudius ....................................................................................................................+ John Kelly Connolly
Polonius / Ghost .....................................................................................................* Robert Cornelius
Gertrude ..................................................................................................................* Shanesia Davis
Laertes ..................................................................................................................+ Gregory Fenner
Hamlet ..................................................................................................................* Daniel Kyri
Fortinbras / Voltemand / Marcellus .........................................................................Alexander Lane
Guildenstern / Grave Digger ..................................................................................+ Martel Manning
Horatio ...................................................................................................................Casey Morris
Rosencrantz / Second Man / Captain .......................................................................+ Hannah Toriumi
Ophelia / Osric ..........................................................................................................Netta Walker

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers
+Indicates Gift Ensemble Member

UNDERSTUDIES

Laertes / Rosencrantz / Guildenstern / Captain ......................................................... Brian Bradford
Hamlet ......................................................................................................................+ Gregory Fenner
Horatio / Fortinbras ............................................................................................... Cory Hardin
Claudius ................................................................................................................... Tom McGrath
Ophelia / Osric / Gertrude ...................................................................................... Myesha-Tiara
Polonius / Ghost .................................................................................................... Watson Swift

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

SHOW INFORMATION

The play runs approximately 2 hours 45 minutes.
There will be one 15 minute intermission.

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.
Hamlet is made possible with the support, enthusiasm and more than generous contributions of the following individuals and organizations:

Greg & Anne Taubeneck  
Mark Lancaster  
Gabriel Faith Howard  
Kate Booth  
Gannon Graphics, Inc.

Jason Merel and Devonte Washington  
For their time, energy and carpentry skills

Production Sponsor:  
2018 Season Sponsor:

Major Contributors to The Gift’s 2018 Season:
2017 GIFT GALA SUPPORTERS
MAKING THE 2018 SEASON POSSIBLE!

LEAD SPONSOR
Arlene P. and Richard D. Small

TABLE SPONSORS
Paul Botts and Heather McCowen / Lori and Ross Dimun / Finkel, Martwick & Colson / Jacobs, Buns, Orlove & Hernandez / Laura and Ed Gale / Marc and Shannon Wallace / Korn Ferry / Frank, Rita, Michael and Lindsey Thornton / Shirley Ryan Ability Lab / O’Connell, Tivin, Griffin & Burns / Greg and Anne Taubeneck

FOOD AND BEVERAGE, SILENT AUCTION AND RAFFLE SPONSORS:

You are cordially invited to join local writers, actors and musicians for an evening of stories, wine and entertainment in the grand tradition of a Parisian salon.
Tuesday, September 11 at Community Tavern
4038 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago

giftLIT For details, go to www.communitytavern.org or call (773) 283-6080.
GREG AND ANNE TAUBENECK have joined The Gift as Individual Production Sponsors on three productions including: GOOD FOR OTTO, A LIFE EXTRA ORDINARY and PILGRIMS.

As an Individual Production Sponsor, you are given complete access to the entire Gift process. From first rehearsal to closing night, you become a part of the production.

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
THE GIFT INDIVIDUAL PRODUCTION SPONSORS SINCE 2015

To learn more about joining The Gift as a production sponsor please call 773-283-7071 or email John at j.gawlik@thegifttheatre.org
PRODUCTION, ARTISTIC, & ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Artistic Director ................................................................. Michael Patrick Thornton
Associate Artistic Director ............................................. Paul D’Addario
Managing Director ............................................................ John Gawlik
Audience Services / House Manager ............................... Rita Thornton
Marketing Director / Photographer ............................... Claire Demos
Technical Director ........................................................... David Preis
Production Manager .......................................................... Sarah Luse
Casting Director .............................................................. Emjoy Gavino
Publicist ............................................................................ David Rosenberg Public Relations
Box Office Assistants .................................................... Kenny Mihlfried, Alexandra Main, Sarah Luse
Box Office Staffers ......................................................... The Gift Ensemble
Graphic Designer ............................................................ Paul Koob
Footlights Program Coordinator ..................................... Alexandra Main
Production Assistant ..................................................... Frank Thornton
giftED. Director ............................................................... Jay Worthington
giftED. Consultant ......................................................... Lindsey Barlag Thornton
Natural Gas Artistic Director ......................................... Kieran Fitzgerald
giftLIT. Director ............................................................ Maggie Gawlik
4802 New Play Development Director .......................... Andrew Hinderaker

THE GIFT ENSEMBLE


NATURAL GAS ENSEMBLE

Kieran Fitzgerald, Ed Flynn, James Kozyra, Joey Lesiak, Kirby Longbrake, Eric Muller, Carly Olson, John Pantlind, Michael Patrick Thornton and Kyle Zornes

giftED. ALUMNI

Corbett Baratta, Francesca Plantz and Pat Weber
Jacopo De Marinis, Owen O’Malley, Declan Schliesmann and Symone Rodriguez

THE GIFT’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Gale (Chair), Paul Botts, Lori Dimun, Bryan Dowling, Danielle Gallet, Shanna Karamaniolas, Sharon Martwick, Naveed Moosa, Darci Nalepa, William Patrick Nedved, Jeff Perry, Kat Rothstein, Michael Patrick Thornton, Rita Thornton, and Shannon Wallace
**BIOGRAPHIES**

**John Kelly Connolly** (Claudius) is grateful to be part of this wonderful cast. He wants to thank you for coming to this show and supporting Chicago Theater. Some of the shows he’s enjoyed being part of have been Bonhoeffer's Cost as Klopstock (Provisions Theatre); in *Flare Path* as Lt. Swanson; Roxy in *Golden Boy* (both Griffin Theatre); Michael in *Dancing at Laughnasa* (Center Stage); and way back as Man in *Waiting for Lefty* (Artistic Home). Now that’s not to say he didn’t just recently love being part of A Life Extra Ordinary, The Lonesome West, Broadsword, Ace in The Royal Society of Antarctica, White People or Timothy in Good for Otto all with The Gift Theatre. It’s just the Gift Theatre is my family and I didn’t want to show favoritism. Thank you to his friends and family who remind him constantly, that in this life anything is possible. Anything. Peace.


**Shanesia Davis** (*Gertrude*) is excited to return to The Gift Theatre where she was last seen as Queen Margaret in *Richard III*. A few favorite Chicago credits include: Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliott the Musical* (Porchlight Music Theatre); Hannah in *Native Son*; Bianca in *Othello* (Court Theatre); Evie in *What I Learned in Paris* and Mayetta in *Brothers of The Dust* – BTAA & BEA Awards, Best Actress (Congo Square Theatre); Queen in *Cymbeline*, Amanda in *The Glass Menagerie*, girl on yacht in *One Arm* and Inez in *Our Lady of 121st St.* (Steppenwolf Theatre); Evy in *Immediate Family*, Hannah in *Drowning Crow* and Amy Jacques in *Black Star Line* (Goodman Theatre); Kanika in *Permanent Collection* (Northlight Theatre) among others. Regional credits include: *Violet* in *JAZZ* (Baltimore Center Stage); Evy in *Immediate Family* (Mark Taper Forum) – NAACP Image Award nomination; Nella in *Gees Bend* (Cleveland Playhouse); Salamina in *The Syringa Tree*, Ruth in *A Raisin in the Sun* (Kansas City Repertory Theatre); Ester in *Intimate Apparel* (Centerstage Baltimore, South Coast Repertory); Ophelia in *Hamlet* and Desdemona in *Goodnight Desdemona* (*Good Morning Juliet*) (San Diego Repertory); and Missy May in *Spunk* (Penumbra). Film credits include: *Working Man*, *BLUEPRINT*, *External Rivals*, *Consumed*, *Damaged Goods*, *Morning Due*, *The Weatherman*, *Uncle Nino*, *Life Sentence*, *Chicago Cab* and *With Honors*. Television credits include: *The Chi* (SHO), *Cleveland Abduction* (LFT), *Empire* (FOX), *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *CRISIS* (ABC), *Detroit 187* (ABC), *Early Edition* (CBS), *Missing Persons* and *Gabriel’s Fire* (ABC) and *Making a Case for Murder: The Howard Beach Story* (NBC). She is a proud Artistic Associate of Congo Square Theatre and Teaching Artist at UIC, School of Theatre & Music. Love to my NHW, TBD!

**Gregory Fenner** (*Laertes / Understudy Hamlet*) is thrilled to return to The Gift where he is a recent ensemble member. Previous Gift credits include *Richard III* and *Hang Man*. Other credits include *Megastasis* (Eclipse Theatre-Jeff Nominated); A *Small Oak Tree Runs Red* (Congo Square Theatre); 10 out of 12 (Theater Wit); 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); *The Whipping Man* (New Jewish Theatre);
and the one-man, 40-character comedy *Fully Committed* (Stray Dog Theatre-St. Louis Theatre Circle Award for Best Leading Actor in a Comedy). TV credits include *The Chi* (SHOWTIME), *Empire* (FOX), and *Chicago Fire* (NBC). He is a graduate of The Second City Conservatory and is proudly represented by Paonessa Talent.

**Daniel Kyri** *(Hamlet)* is THE most excited to play at The Gift Theatre! He last appeared as Lady Macduff in Robert O’Hara’s *Macbeth* at the Denver Center for Performing Arts. Other Chicago credits include *Objects in the Mirror* (Goodman Theatre); *Monster* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); *Tug of War pt. I & II* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); *Moby Dick* (Lookingglass Theatre). He is also featured on this season’s *Chicago Med* and in Stephen Cone’s award-winning film *Henry Gamble’s Birthday Party*, now streaming on Netflix. He is represented by Stewart Talent and is currently working on his writing/directing/producing debut, *the T*, for which he was named Chicago’s 2018 Filmmaker-in-Residence.

**Alexander Lane** *(Fortinbras / Voltemand / Marcellus)* is happy to be working on his third Shakespeare play with The Gift. He previously performed in *Othello* and had the honor of understudying Artistic Director Michael Patrick Thornton as *Richard III*. Other Chicago credits include *Balm In Gilead* (Griﬃn Theatre); *punkplay* (Steppenwolf Garage Rep); *Girl You Know It’s True and Harry and The Thief* (Pavement Group); *Hamlet* (Oracle); *Adentro* (Aguijón Theatre); and co-creating the piece *Trump International Tower* for the ﬁnal Sketchbook Festival (Collaboraction). New York credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare In The Park/Public Theater); *What The Thunder Said* (River To River Festival/bluemouth inc.); and Antonin Artaud’s rarely performed *The Cenci* (Hotel Savant). He produced and directed the ﬁrst Chicago production of the international theatre project *Theatre Uncut* and has also directed for *TEN* at The Gift. Film/Television includes: *Chicago Fire; Boys and Other Distractions* (Brooklyn Short Film Fest Audience Award); and the forthcoming Chicago web series *The Force*. He is a graduate of the University of New Mexico and the School at Steppenwolf; and is represented by Actors Talent Group. A very special thanks to Emjoy Gavino. Love to Kate. This one is for Eugene Douglas.

**Martel Manning** *(Guildenstern / Grave Digger)* can’t be more excited to be part of this production. Credits with The Gift include *Hang Man, Richard III, and The Grapes of Wrath*. Other Chicago Credits: *Fallen Angels* and *Pirandello’s Henry V* (Remy Bumppo), *Cymbeline* (Strawdog Theatre Company), *Her Majesty’s Will* and *Miss Buncle’s Book* (Lifeline Theatre). Regional credits include *Romeo and Juliet (Juliet’s Journey)* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival - School Visitation 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 Lifeline Theatre.

**Casey Morris** *(Horatio)* is super excited to return to The Gift. You may have seen him in The Gift’s 2016 production of *The Grapes of Wrath*, directed by Erica Weiss. Chicago credits include: *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Northlight Theatre); *Welcome to Jesus* (American Theater Company); *Ah, Wilderness!* (Goodman Theatre); *What of the Night?* (Stage Left & Cor Theatre); *Hand to God* (Victory Gardens); *EOM* (Ignition Festival ‘16, Victory Gardens); *Voyage* (Cock and Bull); *The Revel* (The House Theatre of Chicago); *Post Apocalypto* (Sketchbook ’15, Collaboration); *In a Little World of Our Own* (Irish Theatre of Chicago); *Charlotte’s Web* (Emerald City Theatre). Casey received his MFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University and is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.
Hannah Toriumi (Roscencrantz / Second Man / Captain) is thrilled to be performing in her first production as a Gift ensemble member! Hannah last appeared at The Gift in They Are Decided as a part of the 2016 TEN festival and as Prince Edward in Richard III. Other Chicago credits include: The Pavilion (Open Door Theater); The Firebirds Take the Field (Rivendell Theatre); The Making of a Modern Folk Hero (The Other Theatre Co.); Hundred Flowers Project (Silk Road Rising); The Father (Rendition Theatre). Film and television credits include: NBC’s Chicago PD; #WhokilledHeather? The web series; Robot vs. Verses. Other credits include: Liturgy of Laughs: A Spiritual Hour (The Second City). Hannah is a graduate of North Central College and the School at Steppenwolf, and is represented by Gray Talent.

Netta Walker (Ophelia / Osric) is very excited to be returning to The Gift! Last seen onstage for more than 10 performances while understudying Rose of Sharon/Ruthie/Winfield in The Grapes of Wrath. Other Chicago credits include understudy for The Burn (Steppenwolf Theatre for Young Adults); Continuity (Goodman Theatre New Stages); Great Expectations (Silk Road Rising and Remy Bumppo Theatre); Puff: Believe it or Not! (Remy Bumppo Theatre). Spin Moves (Victory Gardens Ignition Festival of New Plays); truth and reconciliation (Sideshow Theatre); and Coriolanus (Commission Theatre). Proudly signed with Paonessa Talent. She dedicates everything she does to her late father, Tony Walker. Especially this. Love you, old man.

Brian Bradford (Understudy Laertes / Rosencrantz / Guildenstern / Captain) is excited to be working with The Gift Theatre. Chicago credits include Force Continuum (Eclipse Theatre Company) ; Romeo and Juliet (Muse of Fire Theatre Company); In Love and Warcraft, From Every Mountainside/or does it explode, Emperor of the Moon (Halcyon Theatre); Macbeth (Accidental Shakespeare Company); The Bloodhound Law (City Lit Theater); Today We Escape (Tympanic Theatre Company).

Cory Hardin (Understudy Horatio / Fortinbras) is grateful to work with the lovely folks at The Gift Theatre for the first time. He’s the Co-founder and Artistic Director of The Passage Theatre and host of the theatre podcast In the Loop w/ Cory Hardin. Selected acting credits include: Porcelain (Prologue Theatre); Cabaret (No Stakes Theatre); and Fisheyed (Dandelion Theatre). As a playwright he was admitted into The New Colony’s Writer’s Room and has also written solo and live-lit projects (MOZAWA; No Stakes Theatre; Scout & Birdie). He’s a graduate of the School at Steppenwolf and received his BFA in Acting at Western Kentucky University, where the spirit makes the master. Thank you to his grandparents, Stanley and Sandra, and to his two loves, Rhubarb and Jennifer. “In Death, Cannot Reach What is Most Near”—Allen Ginsberg.

Tom McGrath (Understudy Claudius) joins The Gift Theatre for the first time. Chicago credits include Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead (Promethean Theatre Ensemble); Three Sisters (Steppenwolf); Hand in Hand and Blue Planet (Akavit Theatre Company); East of Berlin and The Russian Play and Plainsong (Signal Ensemble Theatre); as well as work with Right Brain Project, Shakespeare’s Motley Crew, LiveWire, Circle, and various other companies funct and defunct. A photographer who serves the arts community, additional work can be found at www.tcmcgphotography.com. Welcome to Earth, Lucy.
Myesha-Tiara (Understudy Ophelia/Osric/Gertrude) is making her debut at The Gift Theatre. Myesha-Tiara has also been seen in Steel Magnolias as Annelle (Theatre at the Center); The Wedding Band (The Artistic Home–Jeff Recommended); Net-flix & Kill and Pride Ever After (Pride Arts Center); and Stranger Thongs (Gorilla Tango Theatre). Outside of Chicago, Myesha-Tiara has appeared in The Miracle Worker and as Mrs. Muller in Doubt (Round Barn Theatre); Harriet Tubman in North Star (Bright Star Touring Theatre) and she was featured in the film 12 Years a Slave. She is represented by NV Talent. (myesha-tiara.com)

Watson Swift (Understudy Polonius/Ghost) is excited to be working with The Gift Theatre for the first time. He holds an MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a BA in Mass Communication from Wayne State University. He also graduated from Second City’s Improv Conservatory, Acting and Writing programs and Annoyance Theatre’s Advanced Improv program. Watson last appeared as Henry in Broken Nose Theatre’s Jeff Nominated play Kingdom by Michael Allen Harris. Other credits include Speed of Light (Otherworld Theatre); The Dictionary Project Vol. IV (Broken Nose Theatre); At Mister Kelly’s (Jeff Recommended–Three Cat Productions); Death in a Beulah Box (Three Cat Productions); Among the Quick and the Dead (Prologue Theatre); Scenes from an Execution (Runcible Theatre); Stoop Time (You and Me Productions); Freedom Summer (Civil Rights Art Project); Out Loud (Eta Creative Arts Foundation–Nominated Best Actor by African American Arts Alliance and Best Ensemble by the Black Theatre Alliance); Leg Up (Revolution Theatre); EL Stories XII (Waltzing Mechanics); and A Long Walk for Water (City Lit Theatre). He has also appeared in Chicago Med (season 3/episode 6) and the film shorts The Woman Who Loved Weirdo Goon and Six Hour Pass. Watson Swift is represented by Gray Talent Group.

Monty Cole (Director) is based out of Chicago and Los Angeles and has directed for The Goodman Theatre, The Alley Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, American Theatre Company, Definition Theater Company/ALTA, The House Theatre of Chicago, the Chicago Theater Marathon, California Institute of the Arts and others. Cole directed the critically acclaimed and Jeff Award winning production of The Hairy Ape for Oracle Productions. Cole is working with collaborator and choreographer Breon Arzell on revitalizing In Dahomey, the first black written and performed Broadway musical from 1903 for the Center for New Performance. Next up, Cole will direct How to Raise a Freeman by Zakiyyah Alexander at Center Theatre Group, End of Message at the Cape Cod Theatre Project, Borealis by Bennett Fisher at The House Theatre of Chicago and Kiss by Guillermo Calderon at Haven Theatre Company. Cole is currently finishing up his MFA Directing degree at the California Institute for the Arts.

Abhi Shrestha (Assistant Director) is a Chicago based director/dramaturge/teaching artist originally from Kathmandu, Nepal. Working at the intersections of decolonization and queer brown narratives, they are the Literary Manager for Haven Theater, the Resident Dramaturge and Community Organizer for the Chicago Inclusion Project and part of the 2017 SDC Observership Cohort. They recently assisted directed How We Got On (Haven Theatre), Wtj (The Hypocrites), Picnic (American Theater Company), and We’re Gonna Die (Haven Theatre).

BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Zoe Rosenfeld (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, where she worked as a teaching artist at the Palo Alto Children’s Theatre and as a set designer for the San Francisco Playhouse and Custom Made Theatre. From there she moved to Louisville, KY as a part of the 2017-2018 Professional Training Company at the Actors Theatre of Louisville. She holds a B.A. in theatre from Reed College in Portland, Oregon. If it tells a passionate, radical story, she wants to be a part of it.

Elyse Balogh (Scenic Artist) is a graduate from DePaul University’s Theatre School, with a BFA in Scenic Design. Happy to be back with The Gift where past credits include Hang Man, 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 Doppeganger. Recent paint charges include The Antelope Party (Theatre Wit); Puff: Believe It Or Not, and The Skin of Our Teeth (Remy Bumppo); Barbeque (Strawdog). Upcoming designs: Harvey (Three Brothers), The Robber Bridegroom (St. Patrick High School), and The Wizard of Oz (Northbrook). www.elysebalogh.com

Claire Chrzan (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to collaborate with Monty and The Gift for the first time. She received her BA from Columbia College Chicago and has designed with many companies including The Court, About Face, The Raven, A Red Orchid, Sideshow, Strawdog (ensemble member), Chicago Children’s Theatre, Jackalope, Haven Theatre, Route 66, The New Colony, First Floor Theatre, Manual Cinema, The Joffrey Ballet’s Joffrey Academy, Matter Dance, Eisenhower Dance, and more. Claire has toured nationally and internationally as a production stage manager and lighting supervisor. clairechrzandesigns.com

Michelle E. Benda (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer and assistant lighting designer based in Chicago. Lighting design credits include The Gentleman Caller (Raven Theatre); Frankenstein (Bower Theatre Ensemble); Saint Joan (Poetic Forum Collective); Cabaret (No Stakes Theater Project); Ohio State Murders (Dandelion Theatre); Failure: A Love Story (Illinois Theatre); and The Brothers Size (Definition Theatre Company). She has assisted lighting designers at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, and TimeLine Theatre Company. Michelle holds an MFA in Lighting Design and Technology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Shelbi Arndt (Master Electrician) This is Shelbi’s first production with The Gift Theatre. Her most recent Master Electrician credit is Roots in the Alley (Adventure Stage). Other Chicago credits include Fear and Misery in the Third Reich (Haven Theatre Company) and Jitney (Congo Square Theatre Company).

Samantha C. Jones (Costume Designer) is thrilled to make her Gift debut, with these people and this production. Primarily a Chicago based designer, her work has been seen at Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Children’s Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, Timeline Theatre Company, Jackalope Theatre, Congo Square Theatre and others. Regionally, her she has worked with Seattle Children’s Theatre, Triad Stage, Arkansas Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Peninsula Players Theatre, plus some more. Upcoming projects include Shayna Maidel (TimeLine Theatre Company) and the world premiere of Rightlynd by Ike Holter (Victory Gardens Theatre). samanthacjones.com

Kotryna Hilko (Assistant Costume Designer) is a Mexican, Lithuanian, Chicago based Costume Designer. I have been fortunate to work with many talented and important directors, designers, and mentors such as Derrick Sanders, Heidi Stillman, Yasen Peyankov, Dado, Michael Halberstam, Chuck Smith, Ron OJ Parson, and Kristy Leigh Hall. In addition to this, I have also worked on many UIC main stage shows as a stitcher and a wardrobe supervisor. www.kotrynahilko.com

Jeffrey Levin (Sound Designer) is happy to work with Monty Cole again and at The Gift for the first time. Jeffrey is a composer, sound designer, and musician based in Chicago IL. Jeffrey has contributed original music and
sound designs for over 100 productions for various theaters in and outside of Chicago. He has collaborated with Steppenwolf, Court, Timeline, Steep, American Theatre Company, A Red Orchid, Adventure Stage Chicago, Filament, Lifeline, Oracle, Strawdog, Cor Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Emerald City, Theatre Wit, Collaboration, Albany Park Theatre Project, The House Theatre, TUTA, Greenhouse Productions, Jackalope, Stage Left, Chicago Commercial Collective, Chicago Fringe Opera, ChiArts High School, Columbia College, and more. Regionally, he has worked with The Gulfshore Playhouse (Naples, FL), Hope Summer Repertory Theatre (Holland, MI), Denver Center for Performing Arts (Denver, CO), and Children’s Theatre Madison (Madison, WI). Awards and recognitions include six Joseph Jefferson Award Nominations for Sound Design and Original Music and one win for The Hairy Ape (Oracle Theatre, also directed by Monty Cole), Edes Award for Emerging Artists, the Michael Philippi prize for best professional exhibit (2016), Kleinman Composition Competition winner for his original work for Clarinet and Electronics, two Broadway World nominations, TimeOut Theatre Award nomination, and a Wilde Award Nomination. Jeffrey received his Master of Music in Composition at DePaul University and Bachelor of Music in Composition at Columbia College Chicago. www.jeffreylevinmusic.com

Eleanor Kahn (Properties Designer) is a freelance scenic and properties designer in Chicago. She most recently designed 33 to Nothing (A Red Orchid Theatre); 9 to 5 and LIZZE: The Musical (Firebrand Theatre); A Story Told in Seven Fights (Neo-Futurists); Moon Man Walk (Definition Theatre); DONTRELL, WHO KISSED THE SEA (First Floor Theatre); I Saw Myself (Red Tape Theatre); and Roots in the Alley (Adventure Stage Theatre). Other scenic work includes: Machinal (Greenhouse Theatre); Swell in the Ground and Open Season (The Gift Theatre); Hairy Ape, The Mother, The Jungle and Waiting for Lefty (Oracle Productions); Her Majesty’s Will (Lifeline Theatre); Into the Empty Sky (Trap...
BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Door); What of the Night (Stage Left and Cor Theatre); Bobbie Clearly (Steep Theatre); The Way She Spoke (Greenhouse Solo Celebration); FORTS!, The Van Gogh Cafe, Fog Island, Monster in the Hall, and Lifeboat (Filament Theatre). She also works with The House Theatre and Chicago Children’s Theatre as a props designer. Eleanor received her MFA in Scenic Design from Boston University. Her full resume and portfolio can be seen at www.eleanorkahn.com.

Gaby Labotka (Fight Director, SAFD) is excited to return to The Gift after serving as the Intimacy & Fight Choreographer for A Swell in the Ground last fall! She is an actor, director, storyteller, choreographer and more, living and working in the city of Chicago. Recent choreography credits include Another Jungle (CloudGate Theatre); A Story Told in Seven Fights (The Neo-Futurists); Through the Elevated Line (Silk Road Rising); Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea (First Floor Theater); The Good Fight (Babes with Blades); ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas (Emerald City Theatre); Hamlet (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis); Night in Alachua County (WildClaw Theatre); Romeo and Juliet (Teatro Vista, 2017); and Battleaxe Betty (ATC CORE Series). You can catch some more of her work this summer in Tilikum presented by Sideshow Theatre Company (Assistant Director); Don’t Smoke in Bed presented by Chimera Ensemble (Intimacy Choreographer); and The Chicago Theatre Marathon for which she is the Associate Artistic Director. Gaby is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and is often a Teaching Assistant for stage combat classes at MACE and The Actors Gymnasium. Check out more: https://www.facebook.com/GabyLabotkaTheatre/ Special Thanks to Mikey, Steve, Chuck, Paul, Chika, Lili-Anne, and the cast and crew of Tilikum. Keep Smiling!

Michael Saubert, Jr. (Assistant Fight Director, SAFD) is thrilled to be working on The Gift Theatre’s Hamlet. Michael is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and has a BFA in Performance

Gale Street Inn
A Proud Sponsor of The Gift Theatre Company
4914 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630
773-725-1300
Dinner-Theatre Subscriptions are Available!
from Chicago’s UIC. Recent fight work includes Cuckoo’s Theatre Project *She Kills Monsters* (Assistant Fight Choreographer), Northwest Ballet Academy’s *The Nutcracker* (Fight Director), and Stoop Feast Theatre’s *Macdoodles* (Fight Choreographer). When not doing choreography, Michael spends his time as a Teaching Assistant for Fight Master Chuck Coyl at The Actors Gymnasium and doing motion capture performance for video games. Michael would like to thank Gaby and The Gift Theatre for including him in this important telling of *Hamlet*.

**Michael Petersen, Ph.D. (Dramaturg)** served as dramaturg for The Gift’s productions of *Othello* in 2014 and *Richard III* in 2016 at Steppenwolf. He is Professor of English and coordinator of the Great Books Program at Wright College in Chicago. He wishes to thank Mike Thornton for inviting him to work on *Hamlet*, and he’s excited to be working again with the talented actors and crew of The Gift.

**Jason Shivers (Stage Manager)** is delighted to be working with The Gift Theatre for the first time. Previous Chicago stage management credits include *The Heavens Are Hung in Black* (Shattered Globe Theater); *A Jewish Joke* (ShPiE L Performing Identity); *Churchill* (Solo Chicago Theatre); and ASM for *The Bardy Bunch: The War of the Families Partridge and Brady* (Disappearing Dog). Other production credits include Production Stage Manager Off-Broadway (NYC) for *Churchill* and Production Manager at The Mercury Theater Chicago.

**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 continuing her work 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* (The 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* (About Face Theatre); and *Bonhoeffer’s Cost and Redeemed: The Fall and Rise of Chuck Colson* (Provision Theater). Regionally Sarah was an ASM for Michigan Shakespeare Festival’s 2014 season and will be returning for their 2018 season.

**Emjoy Gavino** (*Casting Director*) Chicago acting credits include Court, Northlight, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Remy Bumpoo, 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 Bumpoo 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*) is the co-founder and 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* directed by Gift ensemble member Marti Lyons (Lookingglass - TimeOut Magazine “Best Actor” award). Michael was also seen in fellow Gift ensemble member Andrew Hinderaker’s *Colossal* (The Kennedy Center, Playwrights Horizons, and the Olney Theatre, respectively); *Othello* (The Gift); *Our Town* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Middletown and Elephant Man* (Steppenwolf). Directing credits at The Gift: the world premiere of Claire Kiechel’s *Pilgrims* (co-directed with Jessica Thebus); the world premiere of Gift ensemble member David Rabe’s *Good for Otto* (Joseph Jefferson Award, Best Director); and *War of the Worlds* (75th Anniversary Production) among many others. Elsewhere: *Of Mice and Men* (Steppenwolf); the world premieres of Sean Graney’s *IS N UR B1UDS-7R3EM…* and Mark Harvey Levine’s *LA 8AM* (Collaboraction). Michael is a graduate of The School at Steppenwolf, The Second City Conservatory, and The Second City Directing Program. Awards/distinctions: Best Actor 2017 Midwest International Film Festival in *The View From Tall,* Tree of Life Award, Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago; Chicago Finalist: National Shakespeare Contest (Mitzi-Newhouse Theatre; Lincoln Center); 3Arts Artist Award; Northlight Theatre’s Jack Springer Award for Outstanding Performance; The Tim Meier and Helen Coburn Meier Foundation Achievement Award; The Second City Foundation’s Jim Zulevic Chicago Arts Award; at The Gift: Jeff Award for Solo Performance in *The Good Thief* and Jeff Award Best Actor nomination for *Suicide, Incorporated.* TV/Film: *The Red Line; Counterpart; Elementary; The Exorcist,* Dr. Gabriel Fife on ABC’s *Private Practice; The Chicago Code; Ron Howard’s The Dilemma;* and *The Jamz.* He lives blissfully in the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Chicago with his wife, performance artist, Lindsey Barlag Thornton.
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, 2016 thru May 15, 2018. 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.

**$75,001-$200,000**  
Dan & Nancy O’Connell  

**$10,001-$75,000**  
Anonymous (1)  
Douglas Brown & Rachel Kraft  
Dan & Carol Cyganowski  
Greg & Anne Taubeneck Family Fund  
George Karzas  
William Petersen & Gina Cirone  
Bill & Maryann Rowe  
The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation  
Frank & Rita Thornton  
Shannon & Marc Wallace  

**$5,001-$10,000**  
Tracy Letts  
Jeff Perry & Linda Lowy  
Arlene P. & Richard D. Small  
The Rabb Family Foundation  

**$1,001-$5,000**  
Paul Botts & Heather McCowan  
John & Gina Brahm  
Mark & Mary Conley-Teresi  
Lori and Ross Dimun  
Brian & Geraldine Donaldson  
Frank & Susanna Ernst  
Ed Flynn  
Laura & Ed Gale  
Danielle Gallet  
Maureen Gawlik  
John & Ann Gearen - In memory of Carol Cyganowski  
Andrea Ginsburg  
Michael & Mona Heath Fund  
Andrew Hinderaker  
Linda L. Norby Family Foundation  

**$501-$1,000**  
Anonymous (1)  
Paul Adelstein  
Kimberly Baratta  
Karen Callaway  
Bruce & Laurie Davidson  
Thomas Doyle  
Timothy Fox  
Jim & Pat Johnson  
Dennis & Joan Klug  
Jeffrey & Linda Kroll  
Bruce & Mary Leep  
Steve O’Brien  
Gary & Elizabeth Potts  
Justin Roberts  
Mary Ann Thebus  
David Westby  

**$251-$500**  
Anonymous (1)  
Allstate The Giving Campaign  
Dr. Geraldine Balut Coleman  
Roland Batten  
Nancy Bellew  
Perry & Michelle Browder  
Penny Brown  
Rainee Denham  
Brother Konrad Diebold  
Anthony & Bonnie Dimun  
Kenneth East  
Donald & Jenny Faliszek  
Mark & Lynn Fitzgerald  
Dr. Harvey Freed  
Lloyd Fry Foundation  
Marjorie Halperin  
Larry & Judy Hicks  
Mark Hudson  
Richard Hudson  

**$101-$250**  
Anonymous (1)  
Peggy Bagley  
Gary & Judy Becker  
Susan Benner  
Mike & Mary Bezanson  
John & Jennifer Boylan  
Alan Brody  
Erika Bruhn  
Janet Burroway  
Kathleen Coyle  
Gerson Ecker  
Carla & Len Feinkind  
Cynthia Frost  
Deborah Garber  
Lawrence Garcia  
Mary Grimm  
Maureen Hegarty  
Georgia Hendrix  
Charles Hoffman  
Tom & Suzy Jackson  
Jeffrey Jones  
Jean Kummerer  
Brian & Kathleen Laffey  
Ellen Lehnert  
Ted & Maureen Lucore  
Morgan Maher  
Eric Markowitz & Karla Zimmerman  
Anne Matheny
THANKS FOR GIVING US A HAND IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

Clark Maxfield
Laura Michelini
Michael & Sharon Muryn
Mike & Nance Nalepa
Margaret O’Farrell
Kevin & Carmel O’Malley
Michael Petersen
Plymouth Tube Co. - Matching funds
Karen Ptak
Patrick Quinn - Matching gift program
Jill & Paul Ready
Natalie Reff
Helen Schmit
Paul & Eileen Schoaff - In memory of Carol Cyganowski
Eva Skowronska
Cynthia Stengel
Martha Trueheart
Cecilia Tynus
Anne Volz
Al & Lorraine Weber
Jan Willer

$51 - $100
Anonymous (1)
Barbara Billhardt & John Palmer
Debra Campbell
Thom Cox
Julie Daraska Scheurich
Patricia Donegan
Dr. J. V. Figueredo
Fleischer Family Legacy Fund
Norma Gulyas
Ashlee Hardgrave
Vera Kelly
Elizabeth Kennedy
Jane & Paul Klenck
Mitchelle Kmiec
Elizabeth & Wayne Kozikowski
Betty Krist
Ted Lowitz
Kathleen Makuh
Dan McKearnan
Pat Mikos
Margaret Moore
George Motto
Helen Murray
Sylvia Ortiz
Patti Paul
Ron & Karen Payne
Joann Poplar
David Rigg
Joanna Salicete-Fleming
Paul & Eileen Schoaff
Doug & Lynn Soat
Patricia Sprinkle
Carol Stukey
Donna Thorman
Timothy Thurlow
Virginia Wantroba
Rosemary Whiteside

$0-$50
John Adams
Carolyn Bavaro
Robert Blythe
Janet Bulin
Michaelyn Corbett
Nicholas Davio
Stephanie Devincenitis
Anne-Marie Douglas
Linda Forman
James Frederick
Laurie Gates
Tom & Bonnie Graham
Ellen Harmon
Steve & Anne Hasselbeck
Laure Heffernan
Anita Holland
Steven Kaiser
Patricia Kallio
Susan Knisely
Richard Landgraff
Barbara McDonagh
Bill & Donna McGough
Eileen McNulty
Henretta Means Nelson
Kathy & Terry Metzger
Laura Beth Miller
Joseph Mullane
Erika Napoletano
Michael & Kathleen Nash
Susan Noel
William & Kathleen Norris
Mike & Julie Nussbaum
Ed O’Connell
Janis Olausson
Jody Preston
Rhonda Purwin
Jamal Rogers
Timothy Rottman
Ronald Russell
Hedwig Schellbach
Justine Serino
Michael & Careen Smandra
Gerta Sorensen
Lisa Stringer
Katherine Tynus
Marcia Wilson
Denese Wojcik
Elisabeth Wooton
Joe Zarrow
Christine Zyzda

In-Kind
Donald Elmi
Gannon Graphics, Inc.
Rick Izzi
A. Saccone & Sons
Schwartz Schwartz
Shannon Walker
The Gift Ensemble

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

WE MISS YOU...
On November 11, 2016, 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:

The Gift Theatre
ATTN: The Carol Klimick Cyganowski Gift Legacy Fund
5344 W. Lawrence
Chicago, IL 60630

NOTE: All donors will receive an e-mail with the Gift Theater’s Tax ID for your records. Please call the box office at 773-283-7071 for detailed instructions on how to make your gift to The Gift possible. Thank you!

“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
ANNOUNCING THE 2018/19 WRITERS THEATRE SEASON!

Memorable Classics, Thrilling New Works and a Tony Award-winning musical. You won’t want to miss a moment!

VIETGONE
WRITTEN BY QUI NGUYEN
ORIGINAL MUSIC & MUSIC DIRECTION BY GABRIEL RUIZ
CHOREOGRAPHED BY TOMMY RAPLEY
DIRECTED BY LAVINA JADHWANI
Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre
August 15 – September 23, 2018

WITCH
WRITTEN BY JEN SILVERMAN
INSPIRED BY THE WITCH OF EDMONTON BY ROWLEY, DEKKER & FORD
DIRECTED BY MARTI LYONS
The Gillian Theatre
September 26 – December 16, 2018

TWELFTEH NIGHT
OR WHAT YOU WILL
WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL HALERSTAM
Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre
November 7 – December 16, 2018

AUGUST WILSON’S
MA RAINNEY’S BLACK BOTTOM
WRITTEN BY AUGUST WILSON
DIRECTED BY RON OJ PARSON
Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre
February 6 – March 17, 2019

A NUMBER
WRITTEN BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY ROBIN WITT
The Gillian Theatre
March 20 – June 9, 2019

NEXT TO NORMAL
MUSIC BY TOM KITT
BOOK AND LYRICS BY BRIAN YORKEY
MUSIC DIRECTION BY ANDRA VELIS SIMON
DIRECTED BY DAVID CROMER
Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre
May 8 – June 16, 2019

Packages start at only $149!

847-242-6000 | WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG

2018/19 SEASON SPONSOR

BMO Harris Bank
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.