THE HARVEST

By Samuel D. Hunter
Directed by Jonathan Berry

William Massolia
Artistic Director

presents

Set Design
Sotirios Livaditis

Lighting Design
Heather Gilbert

Costume Design
Mieka van der Ploeg

Sound Design
Sarah Ramos

Properties Design
Lacie Hexom

Production Manager
Catherine Allen

Stage Manager
Jacqueline Marschke

FEATUREING
Kathryn Acosta, Patrick Blashill, Taylor Del Vecchio,
Raphael Diaz, Paloma Nozicka, Collin Quinn Rice & Kiayla Ryann

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ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION SUPPORT
Kassie Davis & Bruce Beatus

The Griffin Theatre Company is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, Theatre Communications Group, Western Arts Alliance, Association of Performing Arts Presenters, International Performing Arts for Youth and is partially supported by a grant the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.
**THE CAST** in order of appearance

Raphael Diaz......................................................................................................................... Josh
Collin Quinn Rice .................................................................................................................. Tom
Kayla Ryann ........................................................................................................................ Ada
Kathryn Acosta ...................................................................................................................... Denise
Taylor Del Vecchio ............................................................................................................... Marcus
Paloma Nozicka ................................................................................................................... Michaela
Patrick Blashill .................................................................................................................. Chuck

**Place & Time:** A small church in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Present Day.

**UNDERSTUDIES**

Josh........................................................................................................................................ Amy Morton
Tom/Marcus .......................................................................................................................... Jack Olin
Michaela............................................................................................................................. Carolyn Molloy
Denise ..................................................................................................................................... Cydney Moody
Ada ......................................................................................................................................... Shaina Schrooten

**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

There is, I think, a slow steady progression to becoming comfortable both with who you are and what you believe that can, in most cases, be a lifelong pursuit. And while the progress is generally forward, there is an occasional trembling seismic shift that, after an incredible amount of pressure and resistance, lurches us forward into a new and frightening territory. Standing on this sudden new ground, what we believe collides with what we know and who we were no longer recognizable to who we are.

The young people in Sam Hunter’s play strike such a chord of recognition for me. I remember so well that shift from adolescence into adulthood and feeling, on either side of that shift, insecure and unready, clinging to identities old and new to better clarify and define the changing ground beneath my feet. How I yearned, in that moment, for something solid, something trustworthy, something in which I could place my faith. At that time, I grabbed hold of the theater community at U of M and committed myself fully to that particular dogma, but in that moment of uncertainty, things certainly could have gone another way.

In these increasingly uncertain times, I appreciate the impulse to seek out clarity; defining ideas and people and actions as good or bad, black or white, sane or crazy. In *The Harvest*, I feel like Sam is making the far more brave choice – to take individuals and their beliefs and explore them not just with curiosity but with compassion. In times defined by divisive polarity, Sam asks us for a conversation and insists that we see these individuals, who may seem so foreign to us, as human beings in all their complexity and contradiction. In these young people’s search for meaning, we may find something far more elusive these days: Common ground.

— Jonathan Berry
KATHRYN ACOSTA (Denise) is excited to be back working with Griffin Theatre! She recently toured this winter with their production of The Stinky Cheese Man. Recent Chicago credits include Night in Alachua County and Motel 666 (Wildclaw Theatre), The Bottle Tree (Stage Left Theatre), What of the Night? (Stage Left Theatre and Cor Theatre), Beaten, Time of Your Life and Interrogation (The Artistic Home), Jet Black Chevrolet (Side Project Theatre), Dividing the Estate (Raven Theatre), The Toast of the Town (Factory Theatre), The Fundamentals- First Look (Steppenwolf Theatre), 4000 Miles- U/S (Northlight Theatre), and Augusta and Noble- U/S (Adventure Stage). Kathryn is a proud graduate of Columbia College Chicago and School at Steppenwolf 2014 and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.

PATRICK BLASHILL (Chuck) is glad to be back at Griffin after playing Lt Osbourne in 2008’s Journey’s End. An ensemble member of Lifeline since 1996, Patrick has performed in roughly 30 plays there, favorites include Towny in Midnight Cowboy, Old Bailey and the Earl in Neverwhere, Edgar Drake in The Piano Tuner (After Dark Award: Outstanding Performance), Victor in Lizard Music, Hugh Thane in The Talisman Ring, Tom in Pistols for Two (Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Ensemble), Ferdinand the Bull in The Story of Ferdinand, the Mighty Gorilla in The Snarkout Boys and the Avocado of Death (remounted for Chicago Theatre on the Air with guest star Brent Spiner), and Bunter in Strong Poison (Non-Equity Jeff nomination: Ensemble). He is especially proud to have acted in all three of Lifeline’s Lord of the Rings trilogy, spanning The Fellowship of the Ring (Bilbo Baggins), The Two Towers (Frodo Baggins), and The Return of the King (Frodo Baggins). Patrick has worked with numerous other Chicago theatres, including Eclipse Theatre (Long Day’s Journey Into Night), Theatre Mir (The Sea), Backstage Theatre Company (A Number), Filament Theatre (Eurydice), and Reverie Theatre (Emma). Patrick has also appeared as Mickey on Chicago PD for NBC Universal.

TAYLOR DEL VECCHIO (Marcus) is thrilled and honored to be making his Griffin Theatre Company debut. Credits include understudying Michael Cera in This is Our Youth (Steppenwolf Theatre/Dir. Anna D. Shapiro); Romeo and Juliet (Barefoot Shakespeare Co. in New York); The Wild park series (Walkabout Theatre Company). You can also hear him on Taboo Artist airing weekly starting in September on the podcast he co-founded and co-hosts with Clayton Usher. Taylor is a graduate of The School at Steppenwolf and Ball State University. “A special thanks to Nina, Corey, Liv, G, and my Mom and Dad. You have all filled me with love when I was bombarded with fear.”
RAPHAEL DIAZ (Josh) returns to Griffin. Previously he has worked with: Raven, Redtwist, Rivendell, Teatro Vista, and Victory Gardens. Film and TV credits include: Chicago Fire and JAG. A film school dropout, he studied acting at Black Box. Raphael is represented by the boss babes at Paonessa Talent. He would like to thank his friends and family for their love and support. “Some of us think holding on makes us strong; but sometimes it is letting go.” (Hermann Hesse)

PALOMA NOZICKA (Michaela) makes her Griffin Theatre Company debut. Most recently she was seen in the world premiere of Ike Holter’s The Light Fantastic at Jackalope Theatre, where she is a company member. Chicago theatre credits: Native Gardens (Victory Gardens); The Light Fantastic, The Snare, Exit Strategy, Long Way Go Down (Jackalope Theatre Company); Give It All Back, Antigonick (Sidshow Theatre); Bobbie Clearly (Steep Theatre); Our Lady of 121st Street (Eclipse Theatre); The Play About My Dad (Raven Theatre); Teddy Ferrara (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits: Boeing Boeing (Theatre Squared). TV: Chicago Med, Chicago PD (NBC); Empire (FOX); The Secret Santa (TLC); Underemployed (MTV). Paloma has voiced radio and TV campaigns for Kmart, The Room Place, and Ford, and is the current Ford spokesperson for the Midwest. Paloma is an instructor at Black Box Acting, and is represented by the wonderful people at Stewart Talent Chicago and NV Talent. Thanks to my family and especially to Ryan, my biggest supporter and celebrity crush. PalomaNozicka.com.

COllin Quinn Rice (Tom) is delighted to be working with Griffin Theatre Co. for the first time! They were most recently seen in Hatfield & McCoy (The House Theatre), the world premiere of Le Switch (About Face Theatre), Going to a Place where you Already are (Redtwist Theatre), Priscilla: Queen of the Desert (Pride Films and Plays), The Hilary Duff Project (MCL Chicago), The Book of Maggie (Death & Pretzels), and Thirteen Candles (SADHAUS). Film credits include The Play Cycle, written & directed by Stephen Cone. Collin is a graduate of Northwestern University, and they are represented by Big Mouth Talent. For Scott & Wilson. www.collinquinnrice.com.

KIAYLA RYANN (Ada) is thrilled to return to Griffin Theatre for The Harvest! Chicago credits include Lexi, Hookman (Steep Theater), Miriamne, Winterset (Griffin Theatre), Ya ya, Mother of the Dark Water (MMPACT theater- JEFF nominated for best ensemble) Monica, The Next Big Thing (Factory Theater) and Trisha, Five Women Wearing the Same Dress (Loop Players) as well as understudying The Crucible at Steppenwolf. Kiayla received her BA from Bradley University and is a School at Steppenwolf 2016 Alum. She is grateful to God for her amazingly supportive family, friends, and team at Stewart Talent.

SAMUEL D HUNTER (Playwright) plays include The Whale (Drama Desk Award, Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, GLAAD Media Award, Drama League andOuter Critics Circle nominations for Best Play), A Bright New Boise (Obie Award, Drama Desk nomination for Best Play), The Few, A Great Wilderness, Rest, Pocatello, Lewiston, Clarkston, and most recently, The
Healing and The Harvest. He is the recipient of a 2014 MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellowship, a 2012 Whiting Writers Award, the 2013 Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, the 2011 Sky Cooper Prize, the 2008 PONY/Lark Fellowship and an honorary doctorate from the University of Idaho. His plays have been produced in New York at Playwrights Horizons, Lincoln Center Theater, Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Clubbed Thumb and Page 73, and around the country at such theaters as Seattle Rep, South Coast Rep, Victory Gardens, Williamstown Theater Festival, The Old Globe, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Denver Center Theatre Company, the Dallas Theater Center, Long Wharf Theatre, and elsewhere. His work has been developed at the O’Neill Playwrights Conference, the Ojai Playwrights Conference, Seven Devils and PlayPenn. Two published anthologies of his work are available from TCG books. He is a member of New Dramatists, an Ensemble Playwright at Victory Gardens, and was a 2013 Resident Playwright at Arena Stage. A native of northern Idaho, Sam lives in NYC. He holds degrees in playwriting from NYU, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop and Juilliard.

JONATHAN BERRY (Director) is a director and teacher in Chicago, and a company member at The Griffin where productions include: Winterset, Pocatello, Balm in Gilead, Golden Boy, The Burnt Part Boys, Spring Awakening, the North American premieres of Punk Rock (Jeff award Director, Lead Actor, and Ensemble) Port, and On the Shore of the Wide World, Company, Picnic, Time and the Conways, Dead End, The Hostage and Journey’s End. He is an Artistic Producer at Steppenwolf Theatre where productions include: You Got Older, Constellations, the SYA productions of The Crucible and A Separate Peace, and the world premiere of Melinda Lopez’s Gary. He is also a proud ensemble member of Steep Theatre where productions include: Birdland, Earthquakes in London, Posh, The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle, IfThere Is I Haven’t Found it Yet, The Knowledge, Festen, Moment, The Hollow Lands and The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui.

He was the Assistant Director for Anna D Shapiro’s Broadway productions of Of Mice and Men and This is our Youth. Gift Theatre: The world premieres of both Dirty and Suicide, Incorporated by Andrew Hinderaker, as well as Shakespeare’s Othello. Goodman Theatre: The Solid Sand Below and The World of Extreme Happiness for their New Stages Festival. Other work includes: American Theatre Company: Kill Floor, American Blues: Little Shop of Horrors and Sideman; Redtwist: Look Back in Anger and Reverb, Chicago Dramatists: I am Going to Change the World, Jackalope Theatre’s The Casuals, Strawdog’s Conversations on a Homecoming, Remy Bumppo: The Marriage of Figaro, Theatre Mir: Bond’s The Sea and Brecht’s Caucasian Chalk Circle, Lifeline Theater: The Piano Tuner (Afterdark award – Best Production) He has been nominated 8 times for the Joseph Jefferson award for directing, winning for his production of Simon Stephen’s Punk Rock. He pursued his MFA in directing from Northwestern University and has taught acting, directing, and viewpoints at University of Michigan, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Act One Studios, Columbia College and The School at Steppenwolf.

SOTIRIOS LIVADITIS (Set Design) is thrilled to be making his debut with Griffin Theatre. His recent credits include The Light Fantastic, 1980: or Why I’m Voting for John Anderson (Jackalope Theatre), Equivocation (NextAct Theatre) Sex with Strangers (Citadel Theatre), Anna in the Tropics, Danceworks 2016, Sweet Charity, Urinetown:The Musical, The Orange Garden (Northwestern University), Jason and (Medea), Lysistrata ((re)Discover Theatre), A Beautiful Spell (Rare Terra) and Checking Boxes (About Face Theatre). A Colorado native, Sotirios has worked with Bas Bleu Theatre (Old Times, Well), Openstage Theatre.
(The Cripple of Inishmaan, Little Shop of Horrors, RENT), Canyon Concert Ballet (The Nutcracker), Fort Collins Children's Theatre (Oliver!) and the Denver Center Theatre Academy (Electra, Golashes of Fortune).

Upcoming projects include Fun Harmless War Machine at New Colony and A Midsummer Night's Dream at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre where he is the associate scenic designer with Todd Rosenthal. He was honored with the Best Exhibition Award at the 2017 Michael Merritt Awards and received his MFA from Northwestern University. Please experience more of his work at www.sotiriosdesigns.com.

HEATHER GILBERT (Lighting Design) designs have been seen on many Chicago stages including The Hypocrites, the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theatre, Writers’ Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and countless storefronts all over the city. Her regional credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, American Repertory Theater, Studio Theatre, Magic Theatre, Kansas City Rep, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Huntington Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Alley Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Pasadena Playhouse, and Actors Theatre of Louisville. Off Broadway includes Barrow Street Theatre. International credits include the Almeida in London and the Singapore Repertory Theatre. Heather was a recipient of the NEA/TCG Career Development Grant and the 3Arts Award. Heather serves as the head of lighting design at Columbia College Chicago, and received her MFA at the Theatre School at DePaul.

MIEKA VAN DER PLOEG (Costume Design) is a costume designer based in Chicago. Credits include designs with Lyric Opera Unlimited, Paramount Theatre, Writers Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, The Hypocrites, Chicago Children’s Theatre, About Face Theatre, The House Theatre, Theater Wit, Next Theatre, The Building Stage, Albany Park Theater Project, Dog and Pony Theatre, and Manual Cinema. She is an Artistic Associate at About Face and a member of USA829.

SARAH RAMOS (Sound Design) has been the Resident Audio and Video Supervisor at Court Theatre for seven years. Other Chicago credits include Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, American Blues Theatre, Gift Theatre, About Face Theatre, Congo Square Theatre, Bailiwick Chicago, Teatro Luna, Prop Thtr, Firebrand Theatre, and Livewire Chicago. National credits with Indiana Repertory Theatre (IN), First Stage (WI), Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (WI), Renaissance Theatreworks (WI), AndHow Theatre Company (NY), Gateway Playhouse (NY), and Piedmont Opera (NC). She is an alumnus of the North Carolina School of the Arts.

LACIE HEXOM (Properties Design) is delighted to be making her Griffin debut with The Harvest! Other Chicago credits include; Damascus (Strawdog); The Light Fantastic, Franklinland, 1980 or Why I am Voting for John Anderson, Ideation, and Octagon (Jackalope); Cyrano, Marie Christine (BoHo); Alias Grace (Rivendell). Regional credits; Steppenwolf, Goodman, Chicago Shakespeare, Glimmerglass Opera, Cleveland Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center, Santa Fe Opera. Lacie received her MFA in Props Design from CalArts and BA in Technical Theatre from UW-Stevens Point.

JACQUELINE MARSCHKE (Stage Manager) Jacqueline is thrilled to be joining the Griffin team on The Harvest! Other Chicago credits include stage management for The Opportunities of Extinction (Broken Nose), Montauciel Takes Flight; Giggle, Giggle, Quack; and Northanger Abbey (Lifeline Theatre), The Citizens Anthology (The Inconvenience); And assistant stage management for Pirandello's Henry IV and The Life of Galileo (Remy Bumppo
Theatre Company), and No Wake (Route 66 Theatre Company). Jacqueline is an alumna of Hope College (Holland, MI), where she received her B.A. in Theatre with a concentration in Stage Management.

CATHERINE ALLEN (Production Manager) previously production managed Violet, Ragtime, In To America, Winterset, and Pocatello with Griffin Theatre. Other production management credits include work with Steep Theatre, where she is an Artistic Associate, About Face Theatre, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Route 66 Theatre Company, Congo Square, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Pegasus Theatre Chicago, Haven Theatre, and many circuses with Actors Gymnasium where she is the staff Production Manager. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she received a BFA in Acting.

BRIAN SPRAGUE (Technical Director) is a Chicago based Freelance Theatre Artist. Having received his Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from Northern Illinois University and his Bachelors of the Arts in Theatre from University of Kentucky, he has performed and studied internationally at the Adana State Theatre in Adana, Turkey and the Moscow Art Theatre School. Technical Directing credits include: Birdland, Invisible Hand and Earthquakes in London (Steep Theatre), A Dickens Carol, Macbeth and Fair Maid of the West (Oak Park Festival Theatre), Akeelah and the Bee (Adventure Stage), JB (City Lit Theatre), Twelfth Night (Notre Dame Shakespeare), The Happiest Place on Earth, Give it All Back and Truth and Reconciliation (Sideshow Theatre), The Source (Route 66), Grace (Interrobang Theatre Project), University of Kentucky’s Summer Children’s Theatre, and multiple shows for Actors Guild of Lexington.

SPENCER RYAN DIEDRICK (Assistant Director) is delighted to be making his Griffin debut! Other AD credits include: Magic Tree House: Showtime with Shakespeare (Emerald City), Cymbeline, Once in a Lifetime, and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Strawdog), The Columnist (American Blues), A Loss of Roses (Raven), A Tale of Two Cities (Lifeline), and My Kind of Town (TimeLine). Directing credits include This Random World (Route 66), A Song at Night (American Blues), Black Cat Lost and Gold Medal Pill (The Runaways), SWEET SIXTEEN EXTRAVAGANZA!!! (Blue Goose Theatre Ensemble), Touching/Separate ((re)discover theatre), Mad Science and Remember the Warehouse (Whiskey Rebellion), Heel Shoot & Face Work (Dandelion), The Monster (the side project), and When the Lights Turn Off (Collaboraction). Spencer is a proud ensemble member of (re)discover theatre, and thanks you for bearing witness to this story.

LUCAS PRIZANT (Production Assistant) was born and raised in the suburbs of Chicago. He is currently a candidate for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music. He is ecstatic to be a part of The Harvest.

WILLIAM MASSOLIA (Artistic Director) is a founding member of the Griffin Theatre Company. He is the author of over 30 plays and adaptations including, Be More Chill, Little Brother, Stardust, Loving Little Egypt, Shakespeare’s Dog, In to America, and Frindle. His play Letters Home has been seen in more than 100 cities nationwide and his children’s play, Frindle was presented in 70 US cities since 2009. A graduate of Southern Illinois University, Massolia is a 7-time Joseph Jefferson Award nominee for his work as a playwright, is a past member of the League of Chicago Theatres Board of Directors, the theater advisory panel for the Illinois Arts Council and is a recipient of an IAC Playwriting Fellowship Award. His next project will be a world premiere adaptation of the Emmy Award-winning television show Innovation Nation.
The Griffin Theatre Company is a Blue Star Theater and is proud to support our military enlisted and veterans.

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