THE AFRICAN COMPANY PRESENTS

RICHARD III

By Carlyle Brown
Directed by Ron OJ Parson

JULY 28 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2018 | Austin Gardens | Oak Park, Illinois
WELCOME

“Art is an effort to create, beside the real world, a more humane world.”
~ Andre Maurois

Dear Friends,

Don’t make waves, we are warned. Say and do, live and love within society’s definitions. Go with the flow. But what if the flow would drown you? Swallow your humanity?

The Oak Park Festival Theatre 2018 Season celebrates the passionate, personal striving for self-determination and the self-definition of the souls who choose to swim against the tide.

Our 44th season promises to continue not only our rich legacy of professional theatre, but what we have always felt to be the very spirit of Shakespeare – exploring our humanity.

More than eighty years after it premiered on Broadway, our first play of the season, Kaufman and Hart’s Pulitzer-winning You Can’t Take It With You has lost none of its heartwarming message. We are looking at this laugh-out-loud classic with fresh eyes and hearts as we bring this story to life for today’s audience.

Now we are thrilled to be telling the story of The African Company Presents Richard III. This contemporary play by award-winning playwright Carlyle Brown is based on the real-life experiences of black actors performing Shakespeare in New York City forty years before the Civil War. It is part of American history, Black history, and Theater history that is almost never told. It is a behind-the-scenes story like no other – funny, uncompromising and uniquely American.

In addition to our traditional summer season of outdoor plays, this year we are also honored to present a cooperation with Oak Park’s Open Door Theater. The powerful and original Daughters of Ire is a one-woman show in which a modern Seanachai (Irish Storyteller) brings to life women from Ireland’s rich mythology. Savanna Rae has crafted a script that’s biting, fierce, hilarious, sexy, and unsentimental – not to mention full of contradictions and incisive feminist political and cultural analysis.

Our work continues to be surprising, touching and powered by bringing fresh life to classic stories. We wish to thank our loyal audience, as well as those individuals, businesses, arts agencies, and foundations that support us with their generous donations and gifts. Without you, we simply would not exist. Together we are striving to create not only great theatre, but also that so much more humane world that we all seek.

Anne Rooney
President, Board of Directors

Jhenai Mootz
Managing Director

Barbara Zahora
Artistic Director
This year, we at Oak Park Festival Theatre celebrate stories of passion, personal striving for self-determination, and self-definition of the souls who choose to swim against the tide. This summer will be full of humor, full of wit, full of fun, but always with an eye towards the future. It is a summer of asking difficult questions, of making waves. And there is no better person to dedicate this season to than our captain of 15 years, Jack Hickey. Nor could there be a better more appropriate season to dedicate to him.

On March 1st of this year Jack stepped down as Artistic Director, a position he has faithfully held since 2003. However, we are both proud and grateful to say that he will remain as Artistic Director Emeritus and an active part of our company. “I am stepping aside, but I am not stepping away. I have been invited to serve as Artistic Director Emeritus, where I will continue to lend my support to this company,” Jack said. “It’s been incredible serving this company for so many years and seeing the work we do have such an effect on the vibrancy of Oak Park. I’m proud of the successes of OPFT and excited to return to focusing on my personal goals as an actor and director.”

“When the sea was calm all ships alike showed mastership in floating”- William Shakespeare

In 2003, Jack took upon himself the monumental task of leading the Midwest’s oldest professional outdoor classical theatre. Good leaders know when change is necessary and navigate those seas with grace. And like any theatre company we have seen our share of challenges and changes. Almost immediately upon accepting the position, Jack oversaw a change that would forever define our company: the change from producing exclusively Shakespeare to expanding our repertoire to other timeless stories. This was a risk, a calculated one, and one of the best we could have made. Under Jack’s leadership, we have shattered four decades of attendance records and produced 38 productions, in which Jack has acted or directed in over 25 of them. He oversaw adding a second show to the summer season – and didn’t stop there. The exploration into expanding our Festival into producing indoor shows began under his leadership and continues as we steer the future of our company.

While faithfully dedicating himself to Oak Park Festival, he also serves as a company member at ShawChicago, is a founding member of the Shakespeare Project of Chicago, and performs with The Backroom Shakespeare Project. He also fills what is potentially his most important role of all: that of dedicated husband, father, and grandfather.

Jack has spent over a decade serving our company, serving our community, and serving our stories. On behalf of Oak Park Festival Theatre, we are honored to dedicate this 44th Season of our Festival to him and his legacy.
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The African Company Presents Richard III was written by Carlyle Brown in 1994. The play is based on the true events of a company known as both The African Company and The African Grove Theatre.

The African Company was the first known black theatre troupe. In 1816, William Henry Brown (1815-1884), a retired West Indian steamship steward, acquired a house on Thomas Street in lower Manhattan, New York. He offered a variety of instrumental and vocal entertainments on Sunday afternoons in his tea garden, attracting a sizeable audience from the five boroughs of New York City.

In 1821, Brown moved to Mercer and Bleeker Street into a two-story house with a spacious tea garden. He converted the second floor into a 300-seat theatre and renamed the enterprise The African Grove Theatre. Opening the season with a performance of Richard III (21 September 1821), the company mounted productions ranging from Shakespeare to pantomime to farce. Brown followed with Tom and Jerry, or, Life in London; The Poor Soldier; Othello; Don Juan; and Obi, or, Three-Finger'd Jack.

Brown also wrote and staged the first African American play, The Drama of King Shotaway (1823), a historical drama based on the Black Carib War in St. Vincent in 1796 against both English and French settlers. The Company’s principal actors were James Hewlett (1778-1836), the first African American Shakespearean actor; and, a young teenager Ira Aldridge (1807-1865). They reportedly learned their craft while sitting in the balcony of Stephen Price’s landmark Park Theatre (New York City) observing the acting styles of European transports in Shakespearian plays. Stephen Price who managed The Park Theatre after managing Drury Lane theatre in London, had a reputation for bringing in great stars of the Shakespearean stage from England.

As the African Grove Theatre’s popularity grew, it also became a diversion and meeting place for white patrons. The company lasted three years before it burned down in 1823 under suspicious circumstances. A rivalry had grown between The African Grove Theatre and the nearby Park Theatre. Park Theatre owner, Stephen Price, was suspected in, but never arrested for, a case in which 20 white men came to the African Grove Theatre's performance of Richard III (intentionally staged nearby to Park's production) and demolished the set, lights, costumes off of the actors' bodies and assaulted William Brown. According to records, after the theatre was burned down, it continued as a mobile theatre until 1827 when it finally closed after much financial hardship and a smallpox epidemic.

Shortly after the theatre burned in 1823, Ira Aldridge, by now one of the Company's leading performers, sailed to London where he was free to practice his craft as a respected professional. Aldridge reached the pinnacle of acclaim internationally as a stage actor for over 42 years throughout the capitals of Europe.

He has received commissions from Arena Stage, the Houston Grand Opera, the Children’s Theatre Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Goodman Theatre, Miami University of Ohio, and the University of Louisville. He is recipient of playwriting fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Jerome Foundation, Theatre Communications Group and the Pew Charitable Trust. Mr. Brown has been artist-in-residence at New York University School of the Arts Graduate Acting Program, The James Thurber House in Columbus, and Ohio State University Theater Department where he directed his music drama, *Yellow Moon Rising*.

He has been a teacher of expository writing at New York University, African American literature at the University of Minnesota, playwriting at Ohio State University and Antioch College, African American theater and dramatic literature at Carlton College as the Benedict Distinguished Visiting Artist, and “Creation and Collaboration” at the University of Minnesota Department of Theater. He has worked as a museum exhibit writer and story consultant for the Charles Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. Brown is a Core Writer of the Playwrights’ Center in Minneapolis, and he is an alumnus of New Dramatists in New York. He has served on the board of directors of The Playwrights’ Center and Theatre Communications Group, the national organization for the non-profit professional theater, and is a member of the board of the Jerome Foundation. He is a member of the Charleston Jazz Initiative Circle at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, where his works and papers are archived. He is the 2006 recipient of The Black Theatre Network’s Winona Lee Fletcher Award for outstanding achievement and artistic excellence, a 2008 Guggenheim Fellow, a 2010 recipient of the Otto Rene’ Castillo Award for Political Theatre, and 2010 United States Artists Friends Fellowship.
CAST

Sarah ........................................................................................................................................ Velma Austin*
Papa Shakespeare .................................................................................................................. Johnny Lee Davenport*
James Hewlett ..................................................................................................................... Brandon Greenhouse
Stephen Price ....................................................................................................................... Jack Hickey†
Constable .............................................................................................................................. Joel Ottenheimer
Anne ......................................................................................................................................... Ariel Richardson
William Henry Brown ........................................................................................................ Matty Robinson†

SETTING

TIME & PLACE
1822
Manhattan, NY

There will be one 15-minute intermission

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless announced at the time of the performance

For Sarah and Anne— Jasmine Traylor
For Constable— Reed Percifull‡
For James Hewlett and William Henry Brown— Tristien Marcellous Winfree
For Papa Shakespeare— Brandon A. Wright

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association - The Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers
†Oak Park Festival Theatre Company Member
‡Summer Intern

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The African Company Presents Richard III
PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ............................................................................................................. Ron OJ Parson*
Assistant Director .................................................................................. Ash Heffernan‡, Tarina Bradshaw
Stage Manager ............................................................................................ Leigh Anne Barrett*‡
Assistant Stage Manager ........................................................................ Wallace Craig‡
Production Manager .................................................................................. Jennifer Aparicio
Technical Director ..................................................................................... Brian Sprague
Set Design ...................................................................................................... Jessica Wardell
Costume Design ............................................................................................ Rachel Sypniewski
Assistant Costume Designer & Wardrobe Supervisor ...................................... Gary Nocco
Lighting Design ............................................................................................ Brandon Wardell
Sound Design ............................................................................................... George Zahora
Props Design ................................................................................................... Jamie Karas
Dialect Specialist ........................................................................................... Jason K. Martin
Choreography ............................................................................................... Erica Bittner‡
Violence Design ............................................................................................. Mark Lancaster‡
Sound Operator ............................................................................................. Mitchel Boyle‡,
Light Operator .............................................................................................. Miranda Curtis‡,
Box Office ..................................................................................................... William Armonda‡
Concessions .................................................................................................... Reed Percefull‡
Photographer ................................................................................................. Jhenai Mootz†

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CAST PROFILES

Velma Austin* (Sarah)
last appeared in Hobo King and Brothers of the Dusk (Congo Square). Velma has appeared in the production of Trouble In Mind (The Artistic Home), as Birdie in the production of Birdie Blue (Seattle Repertory Theatre) and multiple Chicago Theatres including, The Goodman, Victory Garden’s Biograph Theater and Steppenwolf. Some of her grand productions include Intimate Apparel, Denmark, Joe Turner’s Come And Gone, God’s Trombones, Un-Spoken Prayers, Bourbon At The Boarder, Waiting To Be Invited, The Sovereign State of Boogedy, The Sutherland, and Root Causes to name a few. You may have also seen Velma at the St. Louis, Madison and Milwaukee Repertory theatres. Her TV credits include Chicago Fire and most recently Empire. In film she can be seen in Losing Isaiah with Halle Berry and Jessica Lange and Light It Up with Usher and Vanessa Williams. Velma’s awards include a Jeff Award for Best Actress in a Revue of The Colored Museum; A Woodie Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in Screened In Porch; Black Theatre Alliance award for Best Actress in Intimate Apparel; and most recently, she was nominated for a Special Recognition Outstanding Award for her performance in Court Martial at Fort Devens. When not on stage, Velma enjoys traveling and cooking. First giving thanks to God, Velma would also take this time to say thanks to her husband and son Jeffery and JP for their continued support.

Johnny Lee Davenport* (Papa Shakespeare) returns to OPFT where he was seen in 1992 as Mephistopheles in Dr. Faustus, and Oberon in OPFT’s 1994 production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Other area credits include Thurgood, The Whipping Man, and A House with No Walls (New Repertory Theatre); The Unbleached American (Stoneham Theatre); It’s A Wonderful Life, A Radio Play (Wheelock Family Theatre); Water by the Spoonful and Broke-ology/Elliot Norton Award, Best Actor (The Lyric Stage Company); Driving Miss Daisy and Master Harold…and the Boys (Gloucester Stage Company); and Invisible Man/Helen Hayes Award, Best Ensemble (Studio Theatre Washington, D.C. and The Huntington Theatre Company). Mr. Davenport has played more than 50 roles in 24 of Shakespeare’s plays including Richard III (Commonwealth Shakespeare Company); Pericles (Actors’ Shakespeare Project); and Richard II (Shakespeare & Company). Film credits include Ted, The Fugitive, U.S. Marshals, and Ascendants. He was named Best Actor in Boston Magazine (2011). johnnyleedavenport.com

Brandon Greenhouse (James Hewlett) is elated to be working with Oak Park Festival Theatre for the first time. Other Chicago credits include Not About Nightingales, Red Velvet, and Direct From Death Row: The Scottsboro Boys (Raven Theatre, Jeff Award: Best Ensemble), Red Velvet (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), The Matchmaker and The Little Foxes (Goodman Theatre), HAIR (American Theatre Company), Intimate Apparel (Eclipse Theatre Company), and Softly Blue (MPAACT). Regional credits include Hamlet, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, and Two Gentlemen of Verona (American Players Theatre). He holds a B.F.A. from Santa Fe University of Art and Design and an M.F.A. in Acting from Northern Illinois University.
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Jack Hickey*† (Stephen Price) is delighted to return to the Festival stage, where he just completed playing the role of Martin Vanderhof in *You Can't Take It With You*. Last season Jack was seen as King Duncan and the Porter in *Macbeth* and The King of Fez in *The Fair Maid of the West*. With the Festival over the years, Jack has been privileged to play roles such as Col. Pickering in *Pygmalion*, Gremio in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Sheriff Heck Tate in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, King Claudius in *Hamlet*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, and Charlie in *Seascape*. He was nominated for an Equity Jeff Award for playing Michael in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. Additionally, he played Henry Drummund in *Inherit the Wind*, Falstaff in *The History of King Henry the Fourth*, Fluellen in *Henry V*, Teddy in *Faith Healer*, Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Jack has served as Artistic Director of the Company for the past 15 years, where he has acted in or directed over 25 productions. Jack will now serve as Artistic Director Emeritus of Oak Park Festival Theatre where he hopes to help continue the growth of this extraordinary company. Jack is also a company member of ShawChicago, where he has been seen in *Jeeves in Bloom*, *The Devil’s Disciple*, *Misalliance*, *Jeeves Intervenes*, *Heartbreak House*, *Don Juan in Hell*, *You Never Can Tell*, *Geneva*, *Major Barbara*, *Pygmalion*, *Widowers’ Houses*, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*, *Man and Superman*, *St. Joan*, *Androcles and the Lion*, *Candida*, *The Philanderer*, *The Doctor’s Dilemma*, *The Apple Cart*, and *John Bull's Other Island*. Jack is a founding member of Shakespeare Project of Chicago now celebrating its 23rd season where he has been seen in *Coriolanus*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Julius Caesar*. He has also been seen with The Backroom Shakespeare Project playing in *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline*, and *Titus Andronicus*. TV credits include *Chicago Med* and *Unsolved Mysteries*. He was in two commercials with Michael Jordan and appeared briefly (uncredited) in *Continental Divide* with John Belushi. Thanks to his wife Torry Hickey for her unfailing support.

Joel Ottenheimer (Constable) is delighted to be making his Chicago stage debut with Oak Park Festival Theatre this summer! Before Chicago, he spent five years working in Baltimore and Washington DC where regional credits included: *As You Like It* (Shakespeare Theatre Company), *Amadeus* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Titus Andronicus* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company), *Sense and Sensibility*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *A Tale of Two Cities* (Annapolis Shakespeare Company), and *She Stoops to Conquer* (Pallas Theatre Collective.) Film/TV credits include: *Made in America* (Rocket Media), *American Titans* (History Channel), and *House of Cards* (Netflix). Joel is currently receiving his MFA in acting from Northern Illinois University in nearby DeKalb.

Reed Percifull‡ (u/s Contable) Please see Intern Profiles

Ariel Richardson (Anne) is honored to be making her Oak Park Festival Theatre debut. Ariel is from Dallas, Texas and received her BFA (Acting) from Oklahoma City University. Her recent theatre credits include *An Octoroon*.
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CAST PROFILES CONT.

Matty Robinson†
(William Henry Brown) As an actor, he appeared in BoHo’s recent production of Cyrano as Raguneau, OPFT’s productions of A Dickens Carol as Chapman, The Taming of the Shrew as Grumio, and he worked on The Fair Maid of the West and To Kill A Mockingbird. Matty is also an Artistic Associate of OPFT, as well as their Intern Coordinator. Matty is a proud Illinois State University alumni holding a Bachelor of Science degree in theatre. Want more Matty? Check him out Friday nights at Pimprov as Prince Mida$, doing improv with The Moonsharks, writing and performing sketches with The Martin Luther Kings of Comedy, and performing stand-up around the city. Follow his adventures on Instagram: @mattydor11

Jasmine Traylor (u/s Sarah/Anne) is extremely excited to be involved with Oak Park Festival Theatre for the first time. Originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, Jasmine graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Theatre and Political Science. Her favorite credits include: Mayme in Intimate Apparel, Danielle in the original production of Dontrelle Who Kissed the Sea, and Thorn in

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the Chicago debut of Malefactions. Jasmine is very thankful for the opportunity to work with this wonderful group of artists! Enjoy and lean in to this beautiful production of The African Company Presents Richard III!!

Tristien Marcellous Winfree (u/s Hewlett/Brown) Regional theatre stage credits include August Wilson’s Jitney (Congo Square), The Art of Langston Hughes (ShawChicago), Love’s Labour’s Lost (Shakespeare Project of Chicago), Kingdom (Broken Nose Theatre), The Boys Upstairs (Pride Film & Plays), The Elephant Man (Alley Theatre), A Few Good Men (Alley Theatre), Guest Lecture (Landing Theatre Company), A Soldiers Play (Ensemble Theatre), Smokey Joe’s Cafe (Okane Theatre), Aida (Houston Grand Opera), Das Rheingold (Houston Grand Opera), and Otello (Houston Grand Opera). Off-stage credits include A.D Two Trains Running (Goodman Theatre), A.D Women In The Pit (Ensemble Theatre). Mr. Winfree is gratefully represented by Lily’s Talent Agency.

Brandon A. Wright (u/s Papa Shakespeare) is proud to join OPFT this season! Originally from New Jersey, Brandon earned his MFA in Acting from Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. In the Michigan theatre community, he has performed with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival (As You Like It), Flint Youth Theatre (Robin Hood), and Hope Summer Rep Theatre (The Wiz), among others. He is grateful to God, family & friends for continued love & support. Social media: @iactwright

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December 8th,
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Events subject to change
**PRODUCTION TEAM PROFILES**

**Jennifer Aparicio (Production Manager)** is happy to be back at OPFT, where she worked on *A Dickens Carol*. For the past few years, she has been working in the Chicago theater scene as a production manager and stage manager. She is the resident production manager for Teatro Vista and has also worked as a production manager with Griffin Theatre Company (*Ghosts of War, Letters Home*), Broken Nose Theatre (*At the Table* summer remount), Sideshow Theatre (*Give It All Back*), Pegasus Players (*Blacula, The Youth Playwright’s Festival*), and 16th Street Theater (*Book Club Play, Living Large in a Mini Kind of Way*). As a stage manager, credits include work with 16th Street Theater (*Carroll Gardens, Book Club Play, Mariposa Nocturna, Graveyard of Empires, The Gun Show, Empanada for a Dream*), Lifeline Theatre (*A Wrinkle in Time, Sparky!, The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Arnie the Doughnut, Last of the Dragons*), and Teatro Luna (*Machos, S-E-X Oh!*). She is also an Artistic Associate with Teatro Vista and 16th Street Theater.

**Leigh Anne Barrett*† (Stage Manager)** has been a producer, designer and stage manager in Chicago since landing here in 1989, most recently directing *The Invisible Scarlet O’Neil* for her artistic home, Babes With Blades Theatre Company. Leigh became an Artistic Associate with the OPFT in 2017 where has stage managed the productions *A Dickens Carol, Macbeth, Inherit the Wind, Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me*, and *Hamlet*. Other Chicago credits include work with Shattered Globe, Next Theatre, Bailiwick Repertory, Strawdog, City Lit, Stage Left Theatre (where she’s a member emeritus), Artemisia, and Plasticene.

**Tarina Bradshaw (Assistant Director)** is a Chicago based actress from Long Island New York and is delighted to be a part of the team! Tarina has performed with various theatre companies including: New Colony, Redtwist, First Floor, MPAACT, Waltzing Mechanic, among others. She is eager to continue to navigate through the Chicago theatre community. She can be seen next in Artistic Home’s One Act Festival and her understudy performances with Raven Theatre’s production of *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*. Tarina gives thanks to God, and to her family and friends for their undeniable love & cheer!

**Erica Bittner† (Choreographer)†** returns to OPFT where she’s appeared in *You Can’t Take It With You, A Dickens Carol, Pygmalion* and *Love’s Labours Lost*. Favorite credits include: *King Charles III* (Cardinal Stage Company); *Bad Jews* (Theatre Wit); *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe* (First Folio Theatre); *A Christmas Carol* (Drury Lane); *Richard III: No Beast So Fierce* (Oracle Theatre); and work with Piven Theatre, Music Theatre Works, Redmoon, One Year Chekhov, GreatWorks, Chicago Dramatists, Victory Gardens, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater.International: *The Two Noble Kinsmen* (RADA) and *Momentary Opera* (Redmoon). Television: *Chicago Fire* and *American Greed*. Erica holds a BFA from the Chicago College of Performing Arts and a certificate from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Represented by Gray Talent Group.

**Jamie Karas (Props Designer)** is excited to be working on *The African Company Presents Richard III!* In Chicago she has worked on *Bull in a China Shop* (About Face Theatre); *Girl Found* (Idle Muse); *Flies! The Musical* (Pride Films and Plays); *The Aristocat Kids, Legally Blonde Jr, and Seussical the Musical* (Wilmette Park District); *Le Puff, Or Believe it or Not* and *Born Yesterday* (Remy Bumppo); *Wolf At The End Of The Block* and *In The Time Of The Butterflies* (Teatro Vista); *Becky Shaw, Bootycandy, Apartment 3A, This*, and *Explorer’s Club* (Windy City Playhouse); *Tall Girls* (Shattered Globe); *We’re Gonna
Be Okay, Welcome to Jesus, and Men On Boats (American Theatre Company); Nutcracker, and Death And Harry Houdini (House Theatre of Chicago); Get It All Back (Sideshow Theatre); The Invisible Hand, Bobbie Clearly, and The Cheats (Steep Theatre); Gypsy, Peter Pan, and Mame (Light Opera Works) and many others. She is also the current Prop Shop Supervisor at Loyola University of Chicago.

Mark Lancaster† (Violence Design)
Mark became an Artistic Associate at Oak Park Festival Theatre in 2017 where he has been seen in A Dickens Carol, Macbeth and The Fair Maid of the West. Mark moved to Chicago in 2007 from Dallas, TX. He completed an MFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University in 2012, and has since been working as an actor, burlesque emcee/performer, creature effects model, and is currently pursuing a path up the ranks of the Society of American Fight Directors. Favorite credits include performing in Commedia Beauregard’s A Klingon Christmas Carol in 2012 (and returning as performer and fight director for the 2013 production), and as hapless Sam Lowell in Bo Thomas and the Case of the Sky Pirates with Babes with Blades.

Jason K. Martin (Dialect Specialist) is thrilled to work with OPFT for the first time. He last worked with Raven on Nice Girl, The Assembled Parties, The Play About My Dad, Direct from Death Row the Scottsboro Boys and The Playboy of the Western World. Jason has guided voice and/or dialects recently for Raven, Haven, Lifeline, Piccolo, First Folio, and less recently, for Red Tape, Shattered Globe, Silk Road, and the Goodman. He directed Midsummer at Piccolo in Evanston in 2014. He is an Assistant Professor at UIC’s School of Theatre & Music.

Gary Nocco (Assistant Costume Designer & Wardrobe Maintenance) is pleased to return to Oak Park Festival Theatre. He is a Chicago-based freelance stylist, costume designer and make-up artist. Film Credit: Every 21 Seconds (Wardrobe Supervisor and Personal Stylist / Make-up Artist/Assistant to lead—Two 9 Productions). Theatrical Design Credits: L’Imitation of Life (Hell in a Handbag Productions), The Next Big Thing (The Factory Theater), Muthaland (16th Street Theater– Jeff Recommended), The Liar (Promethean Theatre Ensemble– Jeff Recommended), Eurydice (Promethean Theatre Ensemble), Carroll Gardens (16th Street Theater), Dating & Dragons (The Factory Theater), The Taming of the Shrew (Oak Park Festival Theatre). His work has been seen at Improv Olympic Chicago and Victory Gardens Biograph Theater.
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Oak Park
Festival Theatre
Ron OJ Parson* (Director) hails from Buffalo, New York and is a graduate of the The University of Michigan’s professional theatre program. He is a resident artist at Court Theatre, co-founder and former Artistic Director of Onyx Theatre. Recent directing credits include *Gem of the Ocean* by August Wilson, at Court Theatre, *Sunset Baby* by Dominique Morisseau (Timeline Theatre), *The Who & The What* by Ayad Akhtar (Victory Gardens Theater); *Seven Guitars* by August Wilson, *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall, and *Waiting For Godot* by Samuel Beckett (Court Theatre); *Detroit 67* by Dominic Morisseau (Northlight Theatre); *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry (TimeLine Theatre, Associate Artist). Other Chicagoland theatres Ron has worked with include Black Ensemble Theatre, eta, Congo Square Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Writers Theatre (Associate Artist), Victory Gardens, Teatro Vista (associate artist), Chicago Dramatists, Urban Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre, Chicago Theatre Company, and City Lit Theatre. Regional theatres Ron OJ has worked with include Virginia Stage Company, Portland Stage, Studio Theatre, Studio Arena Theatre, Roundabout Theatre, Mechanic Theatre, Center Stage Baltimore, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Milwaukee Rep, St. Louis Black Rep, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre, Geva Theatre, Signature Theatre (New York), Alliance Theatre, South Coast Rep, and Pasadena Playhouse. In Canada, Ron directed the world premiere of *Palmer Park* by Joanna McClelland Glass at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Ron is a proud member of AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and SDC.

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.

Rachel Sypniewski (Costume Design) is excited to be returning to OPFT this summer, previously designing *A Dickens Carol, Pygmalion, Taming of the Shrew, Hamlet and The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other companies she has worked with include Goodman, Windy City Playhouse, Emerald City, Gilbert and Sullivan Opera, Redtwist, Lifeline, Haven, 20% Theatre, 16th Street Theater, Griffin (Non-Equity Jeff Nomination for Best Costume Design for *Ragtime, Titanic and London Wall*), CityLit, Trap Door (Non-Equity Jeff Award for Best Costume Design, *La Bete* and nomination for *The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui*), Chopin, Promethean, Strawdog, Vitalist, Rasaka, and the Factory. She also has designed at Wheaton College, North Central College, St. Patrick’s High School, Indiana University Northwest, and the Chicago Academy for the Arts. Rachel is a company member with The Factory and an Artistic Associate with 16th Street Theatre. More info at www.rachelsyp.com

Brandon Wardell (Lighting Design) is a Chicago based lighting and scenic designer. He is an Artistic Associate at Steep Theatre Company and Adventure Stage Chicago. Recent productions include *Birdland, Lela & Co., Earthquakes in
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London, and Wastwater at Steep; In The Next Room with TimeLine; Men On Boats at ATC; Becky Shaw at Windy City Playhouse; Frost/ Nixon at Redtwist; Titanic, Bat Boy, London Wall, and Men Should Weep with Griffin; The Game of Love and Chance at American Players; and Million Dollar Quartet at Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival. Upcoming designs include The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Steppenwolf), Linda (Steep), The Father (Remy Bumppo), and A Number (Writers). Brandon earned his MFA from Northwestern University and is Professor of Lighting Design at Northern Illinois University.

Jessica Kuehnau Wardell (Set Design) is a freelance scenic/costume designer, teacher and artist in Chicago. Jessica is a founding ensemble member of Adventure Stage Chicago and an artistic associate with MPAACT. Her Chicago design credits include Hypocrites, Ruffians, Lifeline Theatre, Griffin Theatre, Rivendell Theatre, A Red Orchid, 16th Street Theatre, Pegasus Players, Circle Theatre and Metropolis Performing Arts Center. Earning her MFA from Northwestern University, Jessica is Assistant Professor of Theatre/ Director of Design and Production at North Park University. Check out her designs at jesskdesign.com.

George Zahora (Sound Design and Original Music) has been fascinated by sound since a fateful Christmas 40-odd years ago when he received a tape recorder and microphone as a gift. He has done sound design in various professional and non-professional capacities for more than 25 years. OPFT audience members first heard his work in last year’s hugely successful production of Macbeth, and in You Can’t Take It With You earlier this season. You may also have heard his sound design and original music at ShawChicago (Hay Fever, Jeeves in Bloom, The Devil’s Disciple, Misalliance, Private Lives) or in roughly 30 theatrical readings by The Shakespeare Project of Chicago over the last seven years. He hopes you’re able to hear every word of tonight’s performance.
STAFF PROFILES

Jhenai Mootz† (Managing Director)
Jhenai is honored to have been working with OPFT since 2006 as an actor where she has been seen as Kate in *A Dickens Carol*, Lady Macduff/Hecate in *Macbeth*, Kate in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Osric in *Hamlet*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Lady Anne in *Richard III*, Raina in *Arms and the Man*, Chrissie in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Christine in *Murder by the Book* and Madge in *Picnic*. Other credits around town: *Hay Fever*, *Saint Joan*, *Man & Superman*, *Pygmalion*, *The Widowers’ Houses*, *The Millionairess*, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*, *Arms and the Man* (ShawChicago), *Sparky!*, *Jane Eyre*, *The Moonstone* (Lifeline Theatre); *The Mystery of Edgar Allan Poe* (First Folio Shakespeare Company); *The Women* and *The Philadelphia Story* (Circle Theatre). Jhenai joined the staff in 2016 as OPFT’s Managing Director and holds a B.F.A. from the University of Utah’s Actor Training Program. Also a visual artist, Jhenai’s artwork can currently be found in the lobby of the Lifeline Theater and Andersonville Galleria, O’Hare Airport, Northwestern Hospital gift shops and on her website at JhenaiMootz.com

Barbara Zahora*† (Artistic Director)
joined the OPFT Artistic Associates in 2017, after directing their critically acclaimed *Macbeth*. As an actor she has appeared as Penny in *You Can’t Take It With You*, Maggie in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and several benefit performances of Belinda Bremner’s *Mrs. Coney* and *Midwinter’s Tales*. Additional acting credits include *All My Sons* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (American Players Theatre); *Hamlet*, *Heartbreak House*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Misalliance* (Writers’ Theatre); *The Country Girl* (Illinois Theatre Center); *Marionette Macbeth*, *The Moliere
Comedies, The Taming of the Shrew, As You Like It, Richard II, The School for Scandal, and All’s Well That Ends Well (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); Lady Windermere’s Fan (Northlight Theatre); A Christmas Carol, Wit (Goodman Theatre); Hard Times (Lookingglass Theatre); The Devil’s Disciple, Major Barbara, Coward in Two Keys, and What Every Woman Knows (ShawChicago); and many appearances with Shakespeare Project of Chicago, where she served as associate artistic director for eight years. Directing credits include Shrewish (Artemisia Theatre); Misalliance, Private Lives (ShawChicago); and Something Shaw and Spoon River: Coming Home for the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. TV and film credits include Chicago Fire and Operator.

Barbara is a visiting assistant professor at Roosevelt University’s Chicago College for the Performing Arts and previously taught at Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music and North Central College. She is represented by Paonessa Talent and is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association. Love to George, always.

Matty Robinson† (Intern Coordinator)
See Cast Profile

Robert W. Behr (Finance Manager & Park Operations) Since Jack Hickey brought him aboard in 2003, Bob has stage managed 24 productions for OPFT. He has also performed and stage managed for many Chicago area theatres as well as in Toledo, Ohio; Muskegon and Saugatuck, Michigan; and with the opera company of Eastman School of Music. He was last seen on stage in OPFT’s Robin Hood. He specializes in finance and bookkeeping for Oak Park Festival Theatre and was the Treasurer from 2003-2007. He is also a freelance director.

Lucy Carr (Casting Director) Lucy has been involved with Oak Park Festival Theatre since 2008. As an actor: Much Ado About Nothing, Midwinter’s Tales, and The Hound of the Baskervilles. Assistant Director: Betrayal, Faith Healer, Richard III and Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me (Jeff Recommended). She has been the Casting Director since 2012. She has cast Beyond the Fringe, Richard III, Someone Who’ll Watch Over Me (Jeff Recommended), Seascape (Jeff Recommended), Amadeus (Jeff Recommended) and Twelfth Night. Lucy has worked with such theatres as ShawChicago, Remy Bumppo, Rasaka, Irish Repertory, Lookingglass, Bailiwick, Glass Onion, Absolute Shakespeare, A Reasonable Facsimile, Strangeloop, Spartan, The Poor Theatre, Abbie Hoffman Festival and Kennedy Center (Washington,
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DC) as well as PR Casting, Simon Casting, Grossman Jack Talent and Stewart Talent. She also teaches at Piven Theatre Workshop and The Viola Project. Lucy holds a BFA from University of the Arts (Philadelphia), where she was nominated for the Kennedy Center ACTF Best Ensemble award twice, and Gaeity School of Acting (Dublin, Ireland).

**Rio Ragazzone (House Manager & Master Electrician)** Rio is happy to be working with Oak Park Festival Theatre again, after serving as an intern in the summer of 2016. Having received his BA in Theatre Arts from New Mexico State University in May of 2017, he permanently relocated to Chicago to pursue a career in acting. Since moving he has worked with Steppenwolf Theatre Company as a Multicultural Fellow in their electrics department while freelancing all over the city.

**Mary Liming (Box Office Manager)** Mary began her career with Oak Park Festival Theatre in 1990 as Administrative Assistant to then-Managing Director, Sue Levine-Kelly, and as Box Office Manager for the 1990 production of Falstaff. She returned as Box Office Manager in 1992 for Dr. Faustus and has been here ever since. Because of her longevity in this position, she has become an archivist/historian for the Company.

**Jake Cowart (Concessions Manager)** is happy to return to Oak Park Festival Theatre again this year. He has a long history with the company, having made his stage debut at 2 months old with us during a family day performance in the summer of 1998. He worked for years as a Box Office assistant under Mary Liming before moving to Concessions. This is his 6th year as Concessions Manager. A current student at the College of DuPage, he will graduate in the Fall 2018. Starting in Fall 2019 Jake plans to attend Northern Illinois University to study to be an English teacher.

**Actors’ Equity Association (AEA or Equity),** founded in 1913, is the labor union that represents more than 48,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society.

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Intern Profiles

Ash Heffernan (General Internship; Assistant Director) is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is studying to earn her Bachelor’s degrees in Dramatic Arts and Communications (emphasizing Performance Studies) with a minor in Social and Economic Justice. She attended a semester at The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. This is her first project with OPFT. Her credits include producing the world premiere of Orange Light by Howard Craft, and performing as Rhonda and Deena in Almost, Maine, among producing, directing, and performing other projects.

Caroline McCance (General Internship) is thrilled to be interning at Oak Park Festival Theatre this summer. A rising senior in the University of Oklahoma Helmerich School of Drama, her credits include Ophelia/Imogen/Anne Boleyn in Shakespeare’s Other Women and Courtney in Vote. Next year she will make her directing debut with a production of The Mystery of Love and Sex by Bathsheba Doran.

Emma Davis (General Internship) This is Emma Davis’ first summer working at OPFT and she is thrilled to share all of the hard work everyone has contributed thus far. Emma is a sophomore at Emerson College majoring in Theatre and Performance. Her previous credits include G-d of Vengeance (Rifkele), This Is Our Youth (Jessica), and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Titania).

Grace Beyerl (General Internship) is thrilled to be joining the OPFT team this summer. She is a recent graduate of St. Ignatius College Prep, and she looks forward to beginning her acting training at Syracuse University in the fall. At St. Ignatius, she has appeared in Mary Poppins, The Great Gatsby, The Matchmaker, Crazy for You, and Peter and the Starcatcher. Locally, she has worked with Theatre Above the Law, Galaxy Theatre, Odd’s Bodkins Theatricals, and Saltbox Theatre Collective.

Jen Jackowski (Costume Design Internship) graduated from Illinois State University with a BA in Theatre Studies in 2013. She has performed as a character in the Bristol Renaissance Faire's Kidd's Kingdom, where she helped guests get immersed in the historical setting. Jen has also volunteered as a costume consultant for the original comedy musical, Sheep's on the Lamb (Annoyance Theater). All of the show’s profits benefited Heifer International. She is excited to be involved in the theatre community in Oak Park this summer.

Julia Skeggs (Casting Internship) After interning at Shirley Hamilton and Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Julia joined the OPFT team as the casting assistant last fall. She has also freelanced in casting for various NYC and Chicago theaters, including Greenhouse Theater Center, Silk Road Rising, Raven Theatre, Strawdog and many others. She was the assistant director for Nothing
INTERN PROFILES cont.

Without a Company’s Cornerstone and Babes with Blades’ production of The Good Fight. She has also worked as an actress and understudy for Redtwist Theatre, Broken Nose Theatre and The New Colony Theatre.

**Katie Kleve (General Internship)** is absolutely thrilled to be a part of the Oak Park team this summer. Katie will be a junior at Augustana College and plans on finishing her degrees in English Writing and Musical Theater Arts Performance. Her most recent credits include Kitty (The Drowsy Chaperone) and Mademoiselle Gabrielle (The Madwoman of Chaillot). This is Katie’s official debut in Chicago’s regional theater scene, and this fall will be her debut as Dramaturg for Augustana College’s production of The Crucible.

**Miranda Curtis (General Internship)** is a recent graduate of Knox College where she earned her BA in theatre. Favorite performance credits at Knox College include The Nether, The Secret in The Wings, Crumble: Lay Me Down Justin Timberlake, Torvald: The Musical, and Richard III. She has also appeared in many productions in her hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina. These include Bat Boy: The Musical, Urinetown, and Once Upon A Mattress (North Raleigh Arts and Creative Theatre); Much Ado About Nothing and Comedy of Errors (Bare Theatre); and Rainbow Round the Moon (Carrboro Arts Center). She has previously trained at The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland and participated in a summer intensive course at University of North Carolina School of The Arts.

**Patti Meadors (General Internship)** is ecstatic to be joining the OPFT team! She is a rising sophomore at Southeast Missouri State University and is a Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate for musical theatre at the Holland Conservatory. Previous credits include Mary Poppins (SEMO & Oak Park River Forest High School), Little Shop of Horrors, Radium Girls and Into the Woods (OPRF). Film: Chicago Fire and Teenage Ghost Punk. Other experience includes Chicago Children’s Choir, University of Cincinnati & Oklahoma City University musical theatre intensives.

**Reed Percefull (General Internship; u/s Constable)** will be a sophomore BFA Acting Major at Chicago College of Performing Arts and has previously attended UNCSA as a senior (Class of 2017) in their high school drama program. This is Reed’s debut into the Chicago theatre scene as an intern at OPFT.
Wallace Craig (General Internship, Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from The University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where she earned a BFA in Stage Management. Wallace is excited to work at OPFT and join the Chicago theatre community. Previous productions include The Magic Flute (Cincinnati Opera); Peter Pan, Seussical The Musical, Love & Information, and Il Signor Bruschino (CCM); Mary Poppins JR (CCM Prep); and Les Mamelles de Tirésias and Suor Angelica (CCM Opera Bootcamp).

William Armonda (Administration Internship) is a graduate of Monmouth College with a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and a minor in Theater Arts. Previously, William has worked with Chicago Children’s Theatre as the Access and Inclusion Apprentice. Some of his favorite performances from college were Cadmus from The Bacchae and Mouse Soldier from The Nutcracker. William has also acted as a Dramaturgical Assistant for A Christmas Carol and Twelfth Night, Assistant Stage Manager for Christmas Carol, Sound Designer for The Good Doctor, and props designer for Awesome 80’s Prom.
2018 INTERNS

Ash Heffernan.................................University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Class of 2019
Caroline McCance ........................................University of Oklahoma. Class of 2019
Emma Davis.............................................................Emerson College. Class of 2021
Grace Beyerl............................................................Syracuse University. Class of 2022
Jen Jackowski..............................................................Illinois State University, BA. Class of 2013
Katie Kleve ................................................................Augustana College. Class of 2020
Miranda Curtis ...............................................................Knox College. Class of 2018
Mitchell Boyle...............................................................Knox College. Class of 2021
Patti Meadors...............................................................Southeast Missouri State University. Class of 2021
Reed Percefull...............................................................CCPA at Roosevelt. Class of 2021
Wallace Craig...............................................................The University of Cincinnati CCM. Class of 2018
William Armonda .............................................................Monmouth College, BA. Class of 2016

OAK PARK FESTIVAL THEATRE STAFF

Managing Director.........................................................................................................................Jhenai Mootz†
Artistic Director..............................................................................................................................Barbara Zahora*
Intern Coordinator..........................................................................................................................Matty Robinson
Park Operations & Finance Manager..............................................................................................Robert W. Behr*
Casting Director..............................................................................................................................Lucy Carr
Box Office Manager........................................................................................................................Mary Liming
House Manager..............................................................................................................................Rio Ragazzone
Concessions Manager.........................................................................................................................Jake Cowart
Master Electrician.............................................................................................................................Rio Ragazzone

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ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES UPDATE

Jack Hickey*  Artistic Director Emeritus - Please see cast profile

The Dark Hunger is currently screening Horror Film Festivals throughout the United States and Canada.

Aaron Christensen recently wrapped a successful run of The Woman in Black at Artists’ Ensemble in Rockford, and will be appearing down the road at 16th Street Theatre in this summer’s world premiere of The Hero’s Wife. You can also catch him onscreen in the scary clown movie Gags.

Kevin Theis* - Kevin Theis continues to record audiobooks for his company, Fort Raphael Publishing Company, and is looking forward to the revival of last year’s hit holiday show A Dickens Carol this Christmas.

Amanda Forman is an actor, playwright, and very proud teacher. They could recently be seen as an understudy in the premiere of Girl Found by Barbara Lhota with Idle Muse Theatre. Up next you can catch Amanda in The Lady Demands Satisfaction with Babes with Blades (Luitger) followed by Les Innocents (Jacques) with (re)discover theatre. Their plays have premiered throughout Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and California.

Belinda Bremner has been concentrating on writing. She created the Anne Hathaway and William Shakespeare dialogue/frame story for Love Spats in which she played Anne. She is currently adapting Agatha Christie's Black Coffee for this year’s 1940’s radio play (October 19th and 21st) and will be appearing in upcoming Play and a Pint performances.

Bryan Wakefield* is an actor, director, and educator of the Chicagoland area. He last directed the Midwest premiere of Lauren Gunderson’s The Revolutionists at the Organic Theater Company and was last seen on stage in OPFT’s 2017 summer season in Fair Maid of the West and as Banquo in Macbeth.

Erica Bittner – Please see production team profile

Mark Lancaster please see production team profile

Mark Richard nothing to report, except a flooded basement.

Matt Gall appeared at OPFT in 2017 in Macbeth and A Dickens Carol. In 2018, he has appeared as Robert in Boeing Boeing at Metropolis Performing Arts Center and as Simon in Hay Fever at ShawChicago.

Matty Robinson please see cast profile

Savanna Rae Savanna Rae is a Chicago based actor and playwright. She is thrilled to bring her award-winning solo show, Daughters of Ire, to OPFT this July.

Tony Dobrowolski recently appeared in Sleuth, as part of the Play and a Pint series. He continues to work on Whistler & Wilde: A Thesis With Music, after receiving generous (and most helpful) comments and suggestions from a wide range of friends and associates.
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Theresa Somrak            Dima Ali and Turquoise and Gold LLC
Thomas Underwood and      Dominican University       Storytown at Stage 773
   Donna Drinan          Performing Arts Center
Thomas Van Ermen           Doug Kelner           Strawdog Theatre Company
Wendy Greenhouse           Emerald City Theatre Apollo Timeline Theatre
                            Erica Bittner           Theatre of Western Springs
                            First Folio Theatre      The Artistic Home
                            Jack Hickey              The Factory Theatre
                            Jhenai Mootz             The Irish Shop
                            Joffery Ballet           The Shedd Aquarium
                            Kevin Theis              The Viola Project
                            Kinslahger Brewing Company Tony Dobrowalski
                            Company                  Writers Theatre
                            Lifeline Theatre
                            Little Gem Café
                            Lydia Berger Grey

Oak Park Festival Theatre makes every effort to accurately acknowledge all of our amazing donors. If we have made any errors or omissions, please let us know by contacting us at info@oakparkfestival.com so that we may make the correction for future programs.
SPECIAL THANKS

The Saints for ushering services
Roosevelt University
Nancy Clark
Northern Illinois University
North Park University
Chris Lindgren and the Park District of Oak Park
The Leadership and staff of Visit Oak Park
The Leadership and Staff of Downtown Oak Park
Paul Meier Dialect Services and the International Dialects of English Archive

WISH LIST

New or gently used iPads
New or gently used computers, particularly Mac products

Oak Park Festival Theatre is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit arts organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. OPFT gratefully accepts donations of all sizes and kinds. If your employer has a matching gift program, please send the necessary paperwork with your gift. Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 4114, Oak Park, IL 60303 or go online at OakParkFestival.com.

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THE GALEN GOCKEL INTERNSHIP FUND

At Oak Park Festival Theatre, our summer interns are the very lifeblood of our company. Every year, 10-15 young people are accepted into the Internship Program and come to us from across the nation. These Theatre Arts majors and recent college graduates join us to learn first-hand about working for a professional outdoor theater company. They participate in professional development workshops, perform in their own Shakespeare scene study showcase, understudy our main productions, and work on everything from set construction to box office management.

In the spring of 2018, former OPFT Board member and long-time community leader and educator Galen Gockel assisted our company in launching the GALEN GOCKEL INTERNSHIP FUND. All donations made to the Galen Gockel Internship Fund are specifically earmarked for stipends for our summer interns.

We thank Galen for this generous investment in Oak Park Festival Theatre and its summer interns.

To make a donation to the GALEN GOCKEL INTERNSHIP FUND please visit oakparkfestival.com/donate-2/ or call our Managing Director, Jhenai Mootz, at 708-300-9396.

Thank you to Galen, and all our donors who are investing in the future of our company, and the talented young professionals who are OPFT current and future interns!
Phantom haunts me to this day.

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