WORLD PREMIERE

WITCH

WRITTEN BY JEN SILVERMAN
INSPIRED BY THE WITCH OF EDMONTON BY ROWLEY, DEKKER & FORD
DIRECTED BY MARTI LYONS

Featuring David Alan Anderson*, Audrey Francis*, Steve Haggard*, Ryan Hallahan*, Arti Ishak and Jon Hudson Odom*

Scenic Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Original Sound Design and Composition
Properties Master
Choreographer
Fight Director
Dramaturg
Casting Director
Stage Manager

Yu Shibagaki, USA
Mieka van der Ploeg, USA
Paul Toben, USA
Mikhail Fiksel, USA
Scott Dickens
Katie Spelman
Matt Hawkins
Bobby Kennedy
Geoff Button
Cara Parrish*

*Denotes Members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

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ComEd

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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Additional support for Witch provided by the Director’s Society Sponsors.

Use of cameras, video recorders, audio recorders and/or any other type of recording device during a performance is strictly prohibited.
## CAST

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Arthur Banks</td>
<td>David Alan Anderson*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Sawyer</td>
<td>Audrey Francis*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuddy Banks</td>
<td>Steve Haggard*</td>
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<td>Scratch</td>
<td>Ryan Hallahan*</td>
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<td>Frank Thorney</td>
<td>Jon Hudson Odom*</td>
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<td>Winnifred</td>
<td>Arti Ishak</td>
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## UNDERSTUDIES

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<tr>
<td>Cuddy Banks, Scratch</td>
<td>Sam Boeck</td>
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<td>Sir Arthur Banks</td>
<td>Ken E. Head*</td>
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<td>Frank Thorney</td>
<td>Sam Hubbard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Sawyer, Winnifred</td>
<td>Annie Prichard</td>
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## SETTING

The Village of Edmonton: a semi-rural small town lost in the country. Then-ish.
But equally of our moment.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Marti Lyons, SDC</td>
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<td>Katie Spelman, SDC</td>
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<td>Scenic Designer</td>
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<td>Mikhail Fiksel, USA</td>
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<td>Melissa Perkins</td>
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<td>Bobby Kennedy</td>
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<td>Abigail Medrano</td>
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<td>Anne Liddick</td>
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<td>Wardrobe Crew</td>
<td>Shelby Brand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Master Electrician</td>
<td>Aaron Lorenz</td>
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<td>Scene Shop/Scenic Construction</td>
<td>Means of Production</td>
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PRODUCTION STAFF, CONT.

Draper ....................................................................................................................... Uber Costume
Wig and Hair Design................................................................................................. Penny Lane Studios
Stitcher ..................................................................................................................... Janelle Manno
Carpenter ................................................................................................................ Nikolas Mikkelsen
Electricians ................................................. Jessie Cole, Victoria Fox, Grover Hollway, Neal Javenkoski, John Kelly, Matt McMullen, Tristan Meredith, Madeline M. Scott
Technical Supervisor ............................................................................................ Adam Veness
Wardrobe Supervisor ............................................................................................... Jane Heuer
Costume Supervisor .............................................................................................. Emily Waecker
Master Electrician .................................................................................................. Simon Robinson
Sound Engineer ..................................................................................................... Amanda Hosking

SPECIAL THANKS

A.C. Smith, Kate Fry, Andrea San Miguel, Tosin Morohunfola, Mallory Bass, Nyssa Lowenstein, Megan Otto, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Davis McCallum, Katie Liberman, Christine Scarfuto, Paco Tolson, Tina Chilip, David Ryan Smith, Justin Mark, Birgit Huppuch, Peter Mark Kendall, Emma Philipbar, David Castellanos, John Watkins, Mia Katigbak, Sara Turner, Kate Rigg, The Lark, Sandi Goff Farkas & the Playwrights of New York (PoNY) Fellowship, New Dramatists, Rachel Viola and Sarah Heberlein

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A SPECIAL SALUTE TO SPONSORS OF WITCH

Writers Theatre extends a sincere thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their sponsorship support of Witch:

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WRITERS THEATRE SALUTES **ComEd**  
OFFICIAL LIGHTING SPONSOR

Writers Theatre is thrilled to welcome back ComEd as its Official Lighting Sponsor for the 2018/19 Season. ComEd is a longtime supporter of the arts in Chicagoland, and Writers Theatre is honored to partner with a company that acknowledges the power of theatre to contribute to the health and vitality of our community by bringing us together. The 2018/19 Season marks ComEd’s fourth season as Official Lighting Sponsor, and Writers Theatre is extremely grateful to once again have ComEd’s partnership.
WRITERS THEATRE ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD PRESIDENT DAVID N. KNAPP

Please join us in congratulating our new Board President, David N. Knapp! David has served on our Board of Trustees for almost five years and in that time, he has taken on multiple Executive roles, serving as Member at Large for two years and most recently as Treasurer for the past two years. His work has been invaluable as we have moved onto our next stage and we are excited to see where his leadership will guide us next.

David is Senior Managing Director of Wealth Management for Northern Trust in Chicago where he leads a team of experienced investment, fiduciary and private banking professionals who broadly serve the wealth management needs of successful families and individuals. David received a B.A. degree in Philosophy from Lawrence University and an MBA degree in Finance from the University of Iowa. He is a Trustee of Lawrence University where he chairs the Investment Committee and serves on multiple additional committees. David and his wife Cindy are raising a family in Lincoln Park.

KATE LIPUMA NAMED NEW CHAIR OF THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are thrilled and proud to announce that Writers Theatre Executive Director, Kate Lipuma, has been elected as Chair of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) Board of Directors! Kate has served on the Board for over 6 years, the past 5 of those in the role of Vice Chair. For over 55 years, TCG, the national organization for U.S. theatre, has existed to strengthen, nurture and promote the professional not-for-profit theatre. TCG has over 700 Member Theatres and affiliate organizations and more than 12,000 individuals nationwide.

Please join us in congratulating Kate on attaining this important and exciting new role in American theatre!
David Alan Anderson
(Sir Arthur Banks)
makes his Writers Theatre debut. Other Chicago credits include Gem of the Ocean (BTAA winner) and The Mountaintop (Jeff Nominee), both with Court Theatre. David has over twenty-five seasons with Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, where his many credits include Looking Over the President’s Shoulder, What I Learned in Paris, Julius Caesar, The Whipping Man, Romeo and Juliet, A Christmas Carol and many others. Recent works include Troy in Fences (Indiana Rep, Denver Center, Arizona Theatre Company and Milwaukee Rep), Morning After Grace (Asolo Rep), Radio Golf (Cleveland Playhouse) and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime (Indiana Rep and Syracuse Stage). Other regional credits include The Guthrie, Centerstage Theatre Arts Conservatory, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, KC Rep, Geva Theatre, and many others. Directing credits include MVP, The Color of Justice (Indiana Rep), Topdog/Underdog and Two Trains Running (Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis). He is a company member with Penumbra Theatre in St. Paul, MN. Recent television works include Showtime’s new hit series The Chi. He is a recipient of the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship sponsored by the Ten Chimneys Foundation.

Audrey Francis
(Elizabeth Sawyer)
returns to Writers Theatre where she previously appeared in Othello and Another Part of the Forest. Audrey is an ensemble member at Steppenwolf Theatre and most recently performed there in The Doppelgänger, You Got Older, The Fundamentals, Between Riverside and Crazy and The Herd. Audrey is also a director who recently received a Jeff nomination for her production of The Invisible Hand at Steep Theatre. Film credits include: Signature Move, Medal of Victory, Dig Two Graves and the upcoming independent feature, As With Knives and Skin. Television Credits include: Empire, Chicago Med, Chicago Fire, and Written Off. Audrey is the proud co-founder of Black Box Acting.

Steve Haggard (Cuddy Banks) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in The Importance of Being Earnest, Doubt: A Parable, Old Glory, The Subject Was Roses and Our Town. Chicago credits include 33 to Nothing, 3C, Sender, The Mutilated, Accidentally Like A Martyr, The Aliens, Kimberly Akimbo and The Mandrake (A Red Orchid Theatre), Tribes (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Funnyman, Season’s Greetings and She Stoops to Conquer (Northlight Theatre), Wasteland (TimeLine Theatre Company), Alias Grace and Winter (Rivendell); King Lear, As You Like It and Romeo and Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Regional credits include Arcadia, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, Two Gentlemen of Verona, The Tempest, Hay Fever, Comedy of Errors and Ah Wilderness! (American Players Theatre), Almost Maine (Milwaukee Repertory Theater) and Fallen Angels (Indiana Repertory). Steve is an ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre and a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Ryan Hallahan (Scratch) returns to Writers Theatre, where he previously appeared in A Streetcar Named Desire and The Real Thing. Some recent Chicago credits also include Pass Over, Straight White Men (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Cyrano de Bergerac, Pericles (Chicago Shakespeare
Jon Hudson Odom (Frank Thorney) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Chicago credits: A Christmas Carol (Goodman Theatre). Regional credits include: An Octoroon, Botticelli in the Fire (Woolly Mammoth Theatre), Angels in America parts 1 & 2 (Round House and Olney Theatre Center), A Christmas Carol (McCarter Theatre Center), The Magic Play (Actors Theatre of Louisville), The Magic Play, Piano Lesson, Our Town, Hay Fever and Colossal (Olney Theatre Center) Nat Turner in Jerusalem, Passion Play (Forum Theatre) Father Comes Home From the Wars Parts 1, 2 & 3 (Round House Theatre), Yellowwoman (Rep Stage), You Can’t Take It With You (Everyman Theatre), A Christmas Carol, Our Town (Ford’s Theatre), 2-2-Tango (Studio Theatre), Under the Skin (The Public Theatre ME), A Few Good Men (Keegan Theatre), Reals (Theater Alliance DC), The BFG (Imagination Stage, The National Children’s Theatre) and The Ramayana (Constellation Theatre). He is a three-time nominee and a recipient of the Helen Hayes Awards. He is a company member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, an Artistic Associate at Olney Theatre Center and a member of The Ensemble at Forum Theatre in DC. Education: University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Arti Ishak (Winnifred) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously appeared in Buried Child. Arti is an actor, writer and teaching artist originally from Detroit. Recent Chicago credits include Men On Boats (American Theater Company), Johnny 10 Beers’ Daughter (Chicago Dramatists), Venus in Fur (Circle Theatre), Fantastic Super Great Nation Numero Uno (The Second City), Harbur Gate (16th Street Theatre) and A Story Told in Seven Fights (The Neo-Futurists). A graduate of Western Michigan University’s Theatre and Business schools. Love and gratitude to my parents & my moon. Repped by Shirley Hamilton. www.artiishak.com.

Sam Boeck (u/s Scratch, Cuddy Banks) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Chicago credits include: Insurrection: Holding History (Stage Left), Richard III, The Grapes of Wrath (The Gift) and The Comedy of Errors (Commission Theatre Company). Los Angeles credits include: An Enemy of the People (LA Theatre Works) and Gus’s Fashions & Shoes (VS. Theatre Company). TV/Film: Unusual Suspects, August: Osage County and The Veil. Sam would like to thank his family and beautiful group of agents at Shirley Hamilton for all of their love and support. www.SamBoeck.com.

Kenn E. Head (u/s Sir Arthur Banks) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Kenn has performed on many stages in the Chicago theater scene. At Steppenwolf he was last seen in Monster and before that, briefly as Sissy NaNa in Airline Highway. And many loved his...
performance as the Doctor in the Bruce Norris play *The Unmentionables*. He was also seen in *Douglass* performed at Theater Wit. Before that you may remember him in *Sucker Punch* at Victory Gardens. *Lost Boys of Sudan* was his previous show there. Some audiences will remember his performance as Dr. Black in a very celebrated production of *The Project(s)* at American Theater Company. He appeared in *Fish Men* at the Goodman as well as *The Convert*. He was also part of a very successful run of *Invisible Man* at Court Theatre where he also did *Spunk*. You may have seen him in *Romeo and Juliet* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Some of his work that he is most proud of includes a very successful run of *The Overwhelming* at Next Theatre. Other theaters familiar with his work include Congo Square where he was proud to be part of *Seven Guitars* where they garnered the coveted Jeff Award for Ensemble as well as Best Play. His television credits include *The Chi*, *Chicago Med*, *Empire*, *The Exorcist*, *Chicago Fire*, *Early Edition* and *ER* as well as various commercials. Look for him next in *Tony Stone* by Lydia Diamond with Roundabout Theater in New York.

**Sam Hubbard (u/s Frank Thorne)** returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in *Julius Caesar* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Chicago credits include: *The Book of Will* (Northlight Theatre), *Damascus*, *Cymbeline*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *Neighborhood 3* (Strawdog Theatre), *A Loss of Roses*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Raven Theatre) and productions with Jackalope, Oak Park Festival Theatre, The Factory and understudy credits with Steppenwolf and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Regional credits include *Hamlet* and *Cymbeline* (Michigan Shakespeare Festival). Fight direction credits include productions for Court Theatre, Northlight, Victory Gardens, Strawdog, Teatro Vista, The Artistic Home, Jackalope, Steep and Raven. Sam is a Strawdog Theatre Ensemble Member, graduate of Columbia College Chicago and represented by NV Talent and Grossman and Jack.

**Annie Prichard (u/s Elizabeth Sawyer, Winnifred)** makes her Writers Theatre debut. Chicago credits include *33 to Nothing* (A Red Orchid), *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Remy Bumppo), *Another Bone* (RedTwist – Jeff nomination: Actress, supporting role), *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg* (Stage Left), *American Hero* (First Floor), *Another Kind of Love* (Infusion), *Kinfolk* (New Colony), *Crime Scene* (Collaboraction), *Counterfeiters*, *The Whole World is Watching* (Dog & Pony); *Ride* (Under the Rug), *Complicated* (Three Oaks Festival), *The Altruists*, *Pleasant Dreams* (Two Lights). Annie earned an MFA in acting from the Theatre School at DePaul and is proudly represented by Innovative Artists and NV Talent.

**Jen Silverman (Playwright)** is a New York-based playwright and writer. Born in the U.S., she was raised across the U.S., Europe and Asia. Her theatre work includes *The Moors* (Yale Repertory Theatre premiere, off-Broadway with The Playwrights Realm, Susan Smith Blackburn finalist), *The Roommate* (Actor’s Theatre of Louisville world premiere, produced widely across the U.S. including productions at South Coast Rep, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Steppenwolf) and *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties* (Woolly Mammoth premiere, The Theater @ Boston Court, Southwark Playhouse in London). Jen is a member of New Dramatists, a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis, an affiliated artist with SPACE on Ryder Farm, and has developed work with the O’Neill National Playwrights Conference, New York Theatre Workshop, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, The Ground Floor Residency at Berkeley Rep and the Royal Court in London.
among other places. She’s a two-time MacDowell fellow, recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts grant, the Helen Merrill Award, an LMCC Fellowship and the Yale Drama Series Award. She is the 2016/17 Playwrights of New York (PoNY) Fellow at the Lark. Her plays have been published by Samuel French (U.S.) and Oberon Books (U.K.), and she has a two-book deal with Random House for a collection of stories called The Island Dwellers and a novel. Education: Brown, Iowa Playwrights Workshop, Juilliard. www.jensilverman.com.

Marti Lyons (Director) returns to Writers Theatre, where she previously directed The Mystery of Love & Sex and assistant directed Days Like Today and The Letters. Lyons most recently directed Shakespeare in Love for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Botticelli in the Fire for Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, The Wolves by Sarah DeLappe at Studio Theatre and Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner for Court Theatre in Chicago. Marti has also recently directed Native Gardens by Karen Zacarías for Victory Gardens Theater, Twelfth Night for Montana Shakespeare, Short Shakes! Romeo and Juliet for Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Wit for The Hypocrites, Give It All Back by Calamity West for Sideshow Theatre and The City of Conversation by Anthony Giardina for Northlight Theatre. She directed Wondrous Strange by Meg Miroshnik, Martyna Majok, Jen Silverman, and Jiehae Park for the Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, as well as Will Eno’s Title and Deed for Lookingglass Theatre Company and a reading of Martin Zimmerman’s On the Exhale for the New Stages Festival at Goodman Theatre, where she received the 2015 Maggio directing fellowship. Other projects include Will Nedved’s Body and Blood and Laura Marks’ Bethany and Mine for The Gift Theatre, Catherine Trieschmann’s Hot Georgia Sunday and Theresa Rebeck’s Seminar for Haven Theatre, Prowess by Ike Holter, The Peacock by Calamity West, and The Last Duck by Lucas Neff for Jackalope Theatre, The Play About My Dad by Boo Killebrew for Raven Theatre, Mai Dang Lao by David Jacobi, 9 Circles by Bill Cain, Maria/Stuart by Jason Grote, and co-directing The Golden Dragon for Sideshow Theatre. Next Marti will direct Kings by Sarah Burgess for Studio Theater, Macbeth for Chicago Shakespeare Theater, and Cambodian Rock Band by Lauren Yee for Victory Gardens Theater. Marti is an ensemble member with the Gift Theatre Company, an Artistic Associate with Sideshow Theatre Company, and a proud member of SDC. www.martilyons.com.

Katie Spelman (Choreographer) returns to Writers Theatre, where she previously appeared in Sweet Charity. Recent choreography credits include The Who’s Tommy (Denver Center), Oklahoma! (Goodspeed Opera House) and Indecent (Victory Gardens Theater); she also directed and choreographed Cabaret at Paramount Theatre, and was the Associate Choreographer on Moulin Rouge (Colonial Theatre). Katie has also collaborated with Lookingglass Theatre Company, Court Theatre, The Hypocrites, Asolo Repertory, Ensemble Studio Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Sideshow Theatre Company, The New Colony, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Northwestern University, and The Inconvenience. Broadway Associate: Once, American Psycho, and Amélie; Off-Broadway Associate: NYTW, The Vineyard, and The Public. Katie was also the Associate Director of Close To You in London (Chocolate Factory, West End); and is a proud graduate of Northwestern University.

Yu Shibagaki (Scenic Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously designed Vietgone. Her designs are seen at Victory Gardens Theater, American Players Theatre, Sideshow Theatre, Haven Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, American Theater Company, Steppenwolf Garage Theater and First Stage. Upcoming Productions are Engaging Shaw (American Players Theatre), I Come from Arizona (Chicago Children’s Theatre), Mansfield Park (Northlight Theatre).
WITCH PROFILES

Mieka van der Ploeg (Costume Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously designed Buried Child. She is a costume designer based in Chicago. Credits include designs with Paramount Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Remy Bumppo Theatre, The Hypocrites, Chicago Children’s Theatre, About Face Theatre, The House Theatre, Theater Wit, Next Theatre, The Building Stage, Griffin Theatre, Albany Park Theater Project, Dog and Pony Theatre and Manual Cinema.

Paul Toben (Lighting Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously designed The Mystery of Love & Sex. Additional Chicago credits include Cry it Out (Northlight), Electra (Court Theatre) and The Firebirds Take the Field (Rivendell). Regional credits include The Wolves (Studio Theatre), Angels in America, Peter and the Starcatcher, 4000 Miles, and many others at Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Book of Will (Denver Center Theatre), NSFW (Roundhouse), Silent Sky, Triangle (Theatre Bay Area Award), Upright Grand (TheatreWorks Silicon Valley), Fly by Night, Medea, School for Wives (Dallas Theater Center), The Who and The What (Kansas City Rep), Daddy Long Legs (New York, regional and international premiers), Another Way Home (The Magic Theatre), Caravan Man, Demon Dreams (Williamstown Theatre Festival) and designs for five seasons of the Humana Festival including Evocation to Visible Appearance, Aineness, The Grown-Up and The Roommate. Broadway credits include The Story of My Life. Off-Broadway credits include The Judy Show (DR2), Saturn Nights (Incubator Arts Project), Electra in a One Piece and The Realm (The Wild Project), Romeo and Juliet (Columbia Stages), When in Disgrace (Examined Man), The Redheaded Man (Fringe Encores), and many more. www.paultoben.com.

Mikhail Fiskel (Sound Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously sound designed Buried Child, The Hunter and The Bear, Isaac’s Eye, The Old Man and The Old Moon, Hamlet, Hesperia, The Real Thing and Travels with My Aunt (Joseph Jefferson Award for Sound Design). Mikhail Fiksel is a designer, composer, musician and a DJ based in NYC and Chicago. Other Regional and Off-Broadway: Lettie, Native Gardens (Victory Gardens Theater), This Flat Earth, The Treasurer, A Life (Lucille Lortel Award, Drama Desk Nomination; Playwrights Horizons), Cambodian Rock Band (South Coast Repertory), Mary Stuart, Book of Joseph (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), The Wolves, King of The Yees, The Sign In Sidney Brustein’s Window, 2666 (Goodman Theatre), The Undertaking (The Civilians, BAM), Tiger Style (La Jolla Playhouse) and Ofrenda and Learning Curve (Albany Park Theatre Project). Other projects with American Theatre Company, American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Dallas Theater Center, Geffen Playhouse, The Hypocrites, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Second Stage Theatre. International credits include Tukkers Connexion (Arnhem, Holland) and International Festival of Londrina (Londrina, Brazil). Film composition credits include Glitch, The Wise Kids and In Memoriam. He has received eight Joseph Jefferson Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, and was honored with The Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award. Fiksel is an ensemble member of 2nd Story, Resident Artist with Albany Park Theatre Project, Teatro Vista and Collaboraction and is a proud member of TSDCA and USA. www.mikhailfiksel.com.

Bobby Kennedy (Dramaturg) is the Director of New Work & Dramaturgy at Writers Theatre. He has previously served as dramaturg on Smart People, Quijote: On the Conquest of Self, TREVOR the musical, Parade, The Scene, Julius Caesar, Company, Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody, Arcadia, Marjorie Prime, Isaac’s Eye,
Hedda Gabler, Port Authority, Sweet Charity, The Letters, Hamlet, The Real Thing, Heartbreak House, Do the Hustle, She Loves Me, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Old Settler, Oh Coward!, and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. In addition to his dramatic work at WT, his credits also include the world premieres of Give It All Back (SideShow Theatre Company), Body and Blood (The Gift Theatre), Ibsen is Dead (Interrobang Theatre Project) and The Peacock (Jackalope Theatre Company), as well as the Midwest premiere of The Luck of the Irish (Next Theatre Company). He has also worked with Huntington Theatre Company and New Repertory Theatre, and is an alumnus of Boston University.

Matt Hawkins (Fight Director) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously directed fights for Buried Child, East Texas Hot Links, Julius Caesar, A Streetcar Named Desire, Do The Hustle, and The Caretaker. Matt is a Chicago based director, actor, fight choreographer and movement director. He has been nominated for thirteen Jeff Awards and has received five. He holds a BFA in acting from Southern Methodist University and an MFA in directing from The University of Iowa. This year he will direct and choreograph the new hip-hop musical Stupid Humans (Notre Dame); and choreograph violence for Hamlet (Chicago Shakespeare) and Twelfth Night (Writers Theatre). He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Notre Dame, where he serves as the head of musical theatre for the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre. He is married to actor/playwright Stacy Stoltz.

Hassan Al Rawas (Assistant Director) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Hassan hails from Beirut, Lebanon but was raised in Kuwait City, Kuwait. He is currently in his third year in the MFA in Directing Program at Northwestern University. He is the founder of the IMPROVengers, Kuwait’s first and only improv comedy troupe, and he is a founding member of SiK Productions, Kuwait’s premier English language community theatre. Past directing credits include Sylvia by A.R. Gurney, Les Misérables, Disney’s Beauty and the Beast and a stage adaptation of the novel, Samarkand by French-Lebanese author, Amin Maalouf. Since coming to pursue his MFA in Directing at Northwestern, Hassan has directed The Orange Garden by Joanna Garner, An Evening of Arabic Plays, The Queer Couch by BJ Tindal, and he assisted Bill Brown on a production of Stephen Sondheim’s Company. He will next be directing Stephen Karam’s new adaptation of Anton Chekhov’s The Cherry Orchard. In addition to pursuing his MFA, Hassan is also in the PhD Certificate Program in Middle East/North African Studies at Northwestern. Hassan holds a MA in Theatre from Northwestern University (2003) and a BA in Communication Arts from Xavier University (2000).

Cara Parrish (Stage Manager) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously stage managed The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights, and assistant stage managed Port Authority, Yellow Moon, The Letters, The Blonde, the Brunette, and the Vengeful Redhead and The Caretaker. Cara’s other Chicago stage management credits include productions at Court Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Black Ensemble Theatre and American Blues Theater, where she is an Artistic Affiliate. Her regional credits include working at Music Hall (Detroit, MI), The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies (Palm Springs, CA), Chamber Theatre Productions (Boston, MA) and The Hippodrome State Theatre (Gainesville, FL). Cara would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support.

Abigail Medrano (Assistant Stage Manager) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously assistant stage managed Smart People, Quixote: On the Conquest of Self and Doubt: A Parable. Credits include The Humans, Xanadu (American Theater Company), Dreamgirls (Porchlight Music Theatre), Stick Fly (Windy City Playhouse),
Café Variations (SITI Company/ArtsEmerson), We Are Proud to Present a Presentation... and Astro Boy and the God of Comics (Company One Theatre). She is a proud graduate of Emerson College.

Michael Halberstam (Artistic Director) is the co-founder of Writers Theatre. He has directed over thirty-five productions for the company, including Not About Heroes (starring Nicholas Pennell), Private Lives, Look Back In Anger, Candida, The Father, Crime and Punishment, Benefactors, The Seagull, The Duchess of Malfi, Othello, The Savannah Disputation, the world premiere musical A Minister’s Wife, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, She Loves Me, The Real Thing, Hamlet, Sweet Charity, Days Like Today, Isaac’s Eye, Arcadia, Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody (which he co-directed with Stuart Carden), Julius Caesar (which he co-adapted and directed with Scott Parkinson) and The Importance of Being Earnest. Halberstam has appeared in numerous Writers Theatre productions, including Richard II (title role), Loot and Misalliance. Previously, he spent two years at The Stratford Festival in Ontario and performed in Timon of Athens, The Knight of the Burning Pestle (title role), Much Ado About Nothing and As You Like It. Halberstam’s other Chicago acting credentials include productions with Wisdom Bridge Theater, Court Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Elsewhere he directed The Gamester (Northlight Theatre), A Man for All Seasons (Peninsula Players Theatre), Hamlet (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), Candida (Jean Cocteau Repertory in New York), Ten Little Indians (Drury Lane Theatre), a highly acclaimed revival of Crime and Punishment, which Writers Theatre produced off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters in New York City, Enchanted April and State of the Union (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). In 2011 he directed A Minister’s Wife at Lincoln Center Theater, and also directed the west coast premiere at San Jose Repertory Theatre in 2013. His forays into opera have included The Rape of Lucretia (Chicago Opera Theater), Francesca da Rimini featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christoph Eschenbach and Le Freyshutz, a Berlioz adaptation of the Weber opera conducted by Christoph Eschenbach in its North American Premiere (Ravinia Festival). He spent two and a half years teaching Shakespeare at The Theatre School at DePaul University and has received awards for excellence in theater management and artistic achievement from The Chicago Drama League, The Arts & Business Council, Chicago Lawyers for the Creative Arts and The Chicago Associates of the Stratford Festival. He also received the 2010 Zelda Fichandler Award, the 2013 Artistic Achievement Award from the League of Chicago Theatres, was named Chicago Tribune’s 2013 "Chicagooan of the Year" for Theater; received the 2016 Award of Honor for Outstanding Contributions to the Field from the Illinois Theatre Association; a special award for 2016 from the Joseph Jefferson Award Committee for outstanding theatrical accomplishments and contributions to Chicagoland theatre for the past 25 years; and a distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois. He currently serves on the board of the Arts Club of Chicago.

Kathryn M. Lipuma (Executive Director) has served as the Executive Director of Writers Theatre since March 2007 where she is responsible for overseeing all management, administration and operations for the company. Most recently, she led the planning and construction of Writers Theatre’s new state-of-the-art theater complex, designed by internationally renowned architect and MacArthur Fellow and "Genius" grant recipient Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects, which opened in February 2016. Prior to Writers, Lipuma spent nine seasons as Executive Director at the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre Company in New York. At Signature, she produced award-winning revivals of Horton Foote’s The Trip...
to Bountiful, August Wilson’s Seven Guitars and Lanford Wilson’s Burn This and worked with such acclaimed writers as Edward Albee, Lee Blessing, Horton Foote, Maria Irene Fornés, John Guare, Bill Irwin, Romulus Linney, Paula Vogel, August Wilson and Lanford Wilson. During her tenure, the organization enjoyed consistent growth and recognition as well as the launch of Signature Theatre Company’s successful $15 Ticket Program. Prior to her time at Signature, she spent six years with Chicago’s Goodman Theatre. Until the 2017/18 season, Lipuma served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the League of Chicago Theatres, an alliance representing more than 200 Chicago-area theater companies and producers. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre and serves as a member of the Arts and Culture subcommittee of The Chicago Network, an organization of 400 leading women of Chicago business, professional, cultural, nonprofit and educational communities. She is also the co-creator of DoNorth, an umbrella organization joining four cultural neighbors—Chicago Botanic Garden, Kohl Children’s Museum, Ravinia and Writers Theatre—to attract new audiences to the cultural, environmental and community activities of the North Shore. She is a graduate of The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.
WT Education reaches 11,500 students a year throughout Chicagoland. Our programs include Write On!, a customizable artist-in-residence program that pairs teaching artists with schools and community organizations to explore performance and text with a focus on encouraging young people to find their creative voices; The Novel Series, a cutting-edge theatre and literary arts curriculum designed to allow students to explore literature and the art of bringing text to life; The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights, a touring performance written by Yolanda Androzzo that chronicles a student’s journey as she learns about the Civil Rights Movement; a student matinee series; ACTIVATE, a wrap-around in-school residency in conjunction with matinees, designed to deepen students’ experience with plays on our stages; and the WT Youth Council, an artistic leadership advisory board for motivated, passionate high school students interested in hands-on, in-depth exposure to arts administration.

Our audience engagement programming includes: Sunday Spotlight, featuring an expert in a field relating to the themes or setting of our productions; From Page to Stage, a public collaboration between Writers Theatre and select North Shore libraries and community partners that explores the literary and theatrical themes of our stage productions; The Making of… series that provides access to the process behind crafting our productions; Pre-Show Conversation: Up Close, pre-show discussion designed to provide context for the production; and Post-Show Conversation: The Word and The Artist, a facilitated post-show discussion of the play. All of these events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit writerstheatre.org/events.

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WRITERS THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

Writers Theatre was founded to explore productions in which the word on the page and the artists that bring the word to life hold primary importance. Central to this mission are three important core values: valuing text, both classic and contemporary, as the fundamental source of inspiration; creating deliberately intimate performances where audiences are face-to-face with powerful stories; and honoring the time and commitment of our artists by remaining at the forefront of industry compensation. With a reputation for consistent artistic excellence, innovative educational programming and strong ties to our community, Writers Theatre has built an award-winning repertoire and today, serves as a vital and highly-regarded company in the Chicago theatre community.

WRITERS THEATRE HISTORY

In 1992, Writers Theatre was founded in order to create an environment where the written word and the nurturing of artists were the foundation of all productions. We opened our first venue that year in the anteroom of a newly opened bookstore in Glencoe on the North Shore of Chicago. The limited space available gave way to a new aesthetic that has been a company hallmark ever since—intimacy.

Under the artistic leadership of Founding Artistic Director Michael Halberstam, who continues in that role to this day, WT became a welcome addition to the already vibrant Chicago arts community. The Theatre quickly garnered significant critical acclaim and established a reputation as a home for world-class art and artists, opening a second performance space in 2003. Our inviting 108-seat Tudor Court space continued the company’s trademark level of intimacy while allowing for a new scale of production and affording the opportunity to expand audiences, programming and educational outreach.

Acclaimed by The Wall Street Journal as “America’s number one theatre company” in 2016, Writers has offered more than 100 productions, including 26 world premieres. We have garnered numerous awards and accolades, including 133 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations and 26 Awards, as well as multiple citations of Artistic Director Michael Halberstam for excellence and contributions to the field, including The 2010 Zelda Fichandler Award and the 2013 “Chicagoan of the Year in Theater” Award from the Chicago Tribune. In 2007, Writers debuted nationally with a New York premiere of Crime and Punishment, followed in 2011 by a Lincoln Center Theater production of A Minister’s Wife—the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw’s Candida, conceived and directed by Halberstam.

In February 2016, Writers Theatre opened a new, state-of-the-art facility. This established the company’s first permanent home in a new theatre center in downtown Glencoe, designed by the award-winning, internationally renowned Studio Gang Architects, led by Founder and Design Principal Jeanne Gang, FAIA, in collaboration with Theatre Consultant Auerbach Pollock Friedlander. The new facility has allowed the Theatre to continue to grow to accommodate its audience, while maintaining its trademark intimacy. The new facility resonates with and complements the Theatre’s neighboring Glencoe community, adding tremendous value to Chicagoland and helping to establish the North Shore as a premier cultural destination.
ABOUT THE WOMAN'S LIBRARY CLUB OF GLENCOE

The Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe shares the space at the theatre center holding meetings, luncheons, book clubs, bridge and other events at the building.

- The Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe, a 501(c)(3) organization, was incorporated on April 18, 1872. The WLC owns the land on which the WT theatre center sits and has provided use of the land to WT without charge.
- WLC is the third oldest woman’s club in Illinois for philanthropic, educational and social endeavors. The WLC book collection was donated to Glencoe to form the nucleus of the original library for Glencoe. WLC’s first building was used as a library until the current Glencoe Public Library was built.
- WLC members meet regularly to pursue the Club’s philanthropic, intellectual and social activities. For a full list of WLC activities and a current calendar, check wlcglencoe.com.
- Club members also staff the North Shore Exchange (an upscale consignment shop). This 501(c)(3) shop is a charitable arm of WLC and is located at 372 Hazel Avenue in Glencoe, 847-835-0026.

Membership in the Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe is open to all women interested in furthering the club’s goals. The current membership consists of over 120 women living in 10 area suburbs. If you are interested in becoming a member, pick up an application in the Writers Theatre lobby, email wlcglencoe@gmail.com or visit the website at wlcglencoe.com.
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The Artists Council is a select group of our most devoted supporters, whose extraordinary annual contributions sustain the Theatre and enable it to realize ambitious artistic and institutional goals. Members of the Artists Council are granted unparalleled access to the creative process as well as the unique opportunity to forge a personal connection with our art. We gratefully acknowledge our Writers Theatre Artists Council members who made commitments in the period between May 1, 2017 and July 31, 2018.

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