presents

THE LONESOME WEST

by MARTIN MCDONAGH

directed by DANA ANDERSON

THE LONESOME WEST is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

THE LONESOME WEST was first presented as a Druid Theatre Company and Royal Court Theatre co-production in Galway, Ireland and then in London in the summer of 1997.
CAST

Valene Connor .................................................................................................................................Dylan Todd
Coleman Connor ............................................................................................................................Robert Tobin+*
Girleen Kelleher .............................................................................................................................Phoebe Moore
Father Welsh .....................................................................................................................................Mark Tacderas
Coleman Connor Understudy .........................................................................................................Timothy Sullivan

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager .................................................................................................................................Lara Caprini*
Scenic/Props Designer ....................................................................................................................Jeremiah Barr*
Costume Designer ..........................................................................................................................Cody Von Ruden
Lighting Designer/Production Manager ..........................................................................................Samantha Barr*
Sound Designer ..............................................................................................................................Melanie Thompson
Fight Choreographer .......................................................................................................................Claire Yearman
Dialect Coach ...................................................................................................................................Carrie Hardin
Co-Artistic Director/Casting Director ..............................................................................................Sara Pavlak McGuire*
Co-Artistic Director ..........................................................................................................................Derek Bertelsen*
Box Office Manager ..........................................................................................................................Amy Kasper*
Publicist ...............................................................................................................................................David Rosenberg
Photographer .........................................................................................................................................Emily Schwartz

*denotes AstonRep company member
+appears courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association
Phoebe Moore (Girleen Kelleher) is thrilled to be a part of The Lonesome West! A recent graduate of Northwestern University, Phoebe has spent the past year working with Steep Theatre (Linda), Emerald City Theatre (Knuffle Bunny), Redtwist Theatre (Frost/Nixon), and Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre (Merchant of Venice, Coriolanus). She looks forward to joining Porchlight Music Theatre as the Female Swing for A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder this winter. Thanks to Sam, Mom and Dad, and the entire AstonRep team. www.phoebeemoore.com  @phoebeelmoore

Dylan Todd (Valene Connor) is beyond thrilled to be making his AstonRep debut! Dylan recently went on tour with Hampstead Stage Company performing around the Midwest/Western area of the country in Beauty and the Beast and The Tale of Psyche and Eros. Other credits include A Star is Dead (Metropolis PAC), A Christmas Carol (Metropolis PAC), and The Art of Watchability (LoudMouth Theatre). Dylan holds a BA in Acting from Columbia College Chicago, and is also a Teaching Artist at Windy City Performs. He would like to thank Sara, Derek and Dana for this awesome opportunity; and his family and friends for the continuous support! Enjoy!

Robert Tobin (Coleman Connor) As an actor Robert has performed with AstonRep in Time Stands Still, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, Wit, God of Carnage, Doubt, Closer, 4Pinter, Rusty Pipe. He has also been involved in every AstonRep show in various roles such as producer, writer, designer, and/or director. Other Chicago theatre includes work with Shakespeare Project of Chicago, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, RedTwist, Oak Park Theatre Festival, Promethean Theatre Ensemble, & several others. Regional theatre includes Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespearean Festival, Montana Shakespeare Company, The Geffen Playhouse (Los Angeles) The MET Theatre (Los Angeles) among others. As a writer, he won Best Literary Adaptation at City Lit Theatre's “Art of Adaptation” Festival.

Mark Tacderas (Father Welsh) is extremely grateful for the opportunity to be performing with AstonRep Theatre Company. Mark’s notable credits include: Chilli/Jabber from In The Blood (Stage Center Theatre), Cheché from Anna in the Tropics (Harper Ensemble Theatre) and Jesus from The Odd Couple-Female Version (u/s, Oil Lamp Theater). Mark graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a B.A in Communication, Media & Theatre. He also trained at Acting Studio Chicago, T. Schreiber Studio, and Piven Theatre. In early 2019, Mark will be performing at City Lit Theater Company in Fuente Ovejuna. Mark is represented by Lily’s Talent Agency.

Timothy Sullivan (Coleman Connor understudy) is excited to be working with AstonRep for the first time. His Chicago credits include Peter(u/s) in The Pavilion (Open Door Theater), Lysander and Cobweb in A
CAST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Midsummer Night’s Dream (Theatre-Hikes), Mrs Who (u/s) and Father (u/s) in A Wrinkle in Time (Lifeline Theater), Mycroft Holmes (u/s) and Stamford (u/s) in Miss Holmes (Lifeline Theater), Arnold Crouch in Not Now, Darling! (BrightSide Theatre), Sir Robin in Spamalot (Metropolis), and Kahless Past in A Klingon Christmas Carol (Commedia Beauregard). Regional credits include King Arthur in Camelot and Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night (Oxford Shakespeare Festival) and Chip in The 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee (Red Barn Summer Theatre). He received his BA and BM from Lawrence University and MFA from WIU.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Dana Anderson (Director) With AstonRep, Anderson has worked on The Laramie Project, Four by Tenn, 1984, Eleemosynary, and The Black Slot. She has recently directed Belle of Austin (Rhinofest) and Little Miss (Davenport’s) as well as the upcoming Wife Material (Underscore Theatre Company). She is the Associate Artistic Director of the prison program Shakespeare Corrected, where she directed Much Ado About Nothing, As You Like It, and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She has also worked with Theo Ubique, Kokandy, Towle Theatre, GreatWorks Theatre, Shawnee Summer Theatre, The New Colony, and Quest Theatre Ensemble. As an educator, she is a teaching artist with Mudlark Theater Company. Much love and thanks to the AstonRep family.

Lara Caprini (Stage Manager) has stage managed The Women of Lockerbie and The Black Slot with AstonRep and is a proud company member. Her work is dedicated to the memory of Ms. Vicky J. Strei, with love and laughter.

Claire Yearman (Fight Director) is excited to be working with AstonRep again. Claire is an actor, SAFD certified teacher, and fight & intimacy choreographer. She has an MFA in Acting from Western Illinois University and is a company member with Interrobang Theatre Project. Some theatres she’s worked with include: Williams Street Rep, Interrobang Theatre Project, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, AstonRep, Red Tape Theatre, Piccolo Theatre, 20% Theatre, and Metropolis Performing Arts.

Melanie Thompson (Sound Designer) is ecstatic to be working on The Lonesome West with AstonRep! Past credits include: Docfest 2018: Learning 101 (Erasing the Distance), The Laramie Project (AstonRep), HIR (Steppenwolf Theatre Co.), Pass Over (Steppenwolf Theatre Co.), I Can Cook Too: an evening of Musical Theatre with Krista Hansen (DUPAC), Erasing the Distance: Dominican, Chapter 2 (DUPAC), Shockheaded Peter (Black Button Eyes Productions), The Addams Family (DUPAC), and The Seagull (DUPAC). She’d like to thank her friends, family, and Prince the Cat for all their love and support.

Jeremiah Barr (Scenic/Props Designer) is very pleased to be working with the excellent cast and crew of The Lonesome West. Some of his other scenic credits include scenic design for The Laramie Project, 1984, and Time Stands Still with AstonRep; Bliss or Emily Post is Dead and Marisol with Prometheus Ensemble; Nightmares and Nightcaps and Shockheaded Peter with Black Button Eyes. In addition to his scenic designs Jeremiah works with a number of other companies designing and building productions including Interrobang Theatre, City Lit,
Northlight Theater, Raven Theater, Congo Square Theater Ensemble and Midsommer Flight. Many thanks to the awesome *The Lonesome West* team and the AstonRep family, and as always a huge thanks to Samantha for her love.

**Samantha Barr (Lighting Designer)** is the managing director and production manager for AstonRep as well as production coordinator at Dominican University and an artistic affiliate with Babes With Blades Theater Co. When not with AstonRep, Babes or Dominican Samantha is found freelancing as a production manager and lighting designer or riding the EL around her beloved city.

**Cody Von Ruden (Costume Designer)** The Lonesome West marks Cody’s AstonRep Theatre Company debut. He is very excited to be sharing this show with all of you. Cody is new to the Chicago storefront theatre scene. His most recent work includes *Holding the Man* and *Hurricane Damage* at Pride Arts Center. Cody works as a Freelance Costume Designer and Graphic Artist. To view any of his work please visit, codyvonruden.com

**Carrie Hardin (Dialect Coach)** is happy to be making her AstonRep debut with *The Lonesome West*. You may have heard her previous voice work around town at The Greenhouse, Lifeline, Pegasus Players, Babes with Blades, CityLit, Red Twist, Bower Theatre, Loyola University Chicago, and the late, great Prologue Theatre, of which she was a founding member. Many thanks to all those involved, and to Brett.

**Sara Pavlak McGuire (Co-Artistic Director)** joined AstonRep in late 2013 and is excited about her newest role as Co-Artistic Director! As an actor she has appeared in *The Water’s Edge, The Dumbwaiter/In The Moment, Les Liaisons Dangereuses, The Women of Lockerbie, Time Stands Still* (Jeff Award Nomination - Best Lead Performance), *Four By Tenn*, and *The Laramie Project*: all with AstonRep. Also with AstonRep, she assistant directed *Wit, The Lyons, and The Laramie Project*. She has worked with many other theatre companies around the city: Oak Park Festival Theatre, Remy Bumppo, Filament Theatre Ensemble, Spartan Theatre, Rare Terra, Hubris Productions and many others. She is a 2011 Jeff Award winner for her work as Agnes in *Agnes of God* with Hubris Productions. She holds an MFA in acting from Western Illinois University and lives in Hyde Park with her husband Tim and their cat Coory.

**Derek Bertelsen (Co-Artistic Director)** joined AstonRep in 2013 where directing credits include *Doubt, Next Fall, Wit, The Lieutenant of Inishmore, The Lyons, The Black Slot*, co-directing *Eleemosynary* with Jeremiah Barr, and his personal favorite *The Laramie Project*. He also serves as Artistic Director of The Comrades. Directing/Assistant Directing credits include shows at Goodman, Steppenwolf Garage, Pride Films & Plays, Festival 56, Shawnee Summer Playhouse, and five seasons at Timber Lake Playhouse. Upcoming: he’ll be directing *The Crowd You’re In With* in Spring 2019. Love to Nelson.
DIRECTORS NOTES

*The Lonesome West* has many relevant ideas to unpack for the 21st century viewer: toxic masculinity, the cycle of outrage, and true, introspective self-change. Above all and as the title suggests, it is an unflinching look at humanity’s fear of loneliness. Each character goes to great pains to avoid their own isolation, which is brought upon by pride, youth, grudges, and the most nefarious of all, depression. Unfortunately, their world offers little to no comfort or love from others—in fact, often quite the opposite. The two brothers have never grown past their formative years to become fully functioning adults. Instead, they live codependently in a completely toxic relationship that neither of them is capable of leaving.

After witnessing so much cruelty from these two, one must wonder whether being lonely is the worst we can do. As a society, opposing ideologies are continually driving two factions of people apart. Within those factions are many slightly divergent views which further drive individuals from each other. And yet, as we sling insults at each other on social media, we also constantly strive for more followers, more connections, more gratification. Even when it makes us miserable we seek human connection.

McDonagh is highly aware of this painful irony and exploits it to its darkest comedic effect. The maddening reality of this world and his, is that however horrible they may be, people need each other in the deepest sense possible.

— Dana Anderson, director

DONORS

*AstonRep Theatre Company* would like to acknowledge the following for their generosity. Whether the contribution is donations or their valuable time, we are grateful for their support…

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Jim & Kathy Sweitzer
Patrick & Joann Tobin
Emilio Williams & Rob Murphy
Urban Spadaccia & Zbranek Family
ABOUT THE COMPANY

AstonRep Theatre Company is an ensemble of artists committed to creating exciting, intimate theatrical experiences that go beyond the front door to challenge the audience and spark discussion where the show is not the end of their experience: it is just the beginning.

COMPANY MEMBERS
Sara Pavlak McGuire, Co-Artistic Director/Casting Director
Derek Bertelsen, Co-Artistic Director
Jeremiah Barr, Technical Director/Associate Artistic Director
Samantha Barr, Managing Director/Production Artistic Director
Amy Kasper, Marketing Director/Box Office Manager
Ray Kasper, Exec Director/Literary Manager
Dana Anderson, company member
Alexandra Bennett, company member
Lara Caprini, company member
Matthew Harris, company member
Lea Tobin, founding company member
Robert Tobin, founding company member
Aja Wiltshire, company member

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Samantha Barr
Anne Bradley
Maura Junius
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Amy McAllister
Michael Rice

AstonRep is supported by grants from the following organizations:

SPECIAL THANKS

City Lit Theatre Company
Edgewater Development District
Irish American Heritage Center
The Raven Foundation
10TH ANNUAL WRITER’S SERIES
A day long festival of staged readings of developmental works by Chicago writers

Saturday, December 1, 2018
Vagabond School of the Arts

THE CROWD YOU’RE IN WITH
by Rebecca Gilman

Directed by Derek Bertelsen
May 16-June 16, 2019
Raven Theater West Stage

A very special thank you to Karen King and the Team at Fritzy’s for all of their support over the years!