TWELFTH NIGHT
OR WHAT YOU WILL

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL HALBERSTAM


Scenic Designer William Boles, USA
Costume Designer Mara Blumenfeld, USA
Lighting Designer John Culbert, USA
Original Music & Sound Design Scott Dickinson, USA
Properties Master Lucas Garcia
Dramaturg Matt Hawkins
Fight Director Rachel Flesher
Intimacy Director Geoff Button
Casting Director David Castellanos*
Production Stage Manager

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

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Julie and Lawrence Bernstein
Laurie and Michael Jaffe

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CAST

Feste ............................................................................................................... William Brown*
Malvolio .................................................................................................... Sean Fortunato*
Sir Toby Belch .......................................................................................... Kevin Gudahl*
Antonio, Curio .......................................................................................... Casey Hoekstra
Valentine, Priest, Others ......................................................................... Nik Kmiecik
Viola ........................................................................................................ Jennifer Latimore*
Sebastian .................................................................................................. Luce Metrius
Sir Andrew Aguecheek ............................................................................ Scott Parkinson*
Captain, Others .................................................................................... John Henry Roberts
Olivia .......................................................................................................... Andrea San Miguel
Fabian ....................................................................................................... Mary Williamson
Maria ......................................................................................................... Karen Janes Woditsch*
Duke Orsino ............................................................................................ Matthew C. Yee*

UNDERSTUDIES

Duke Orsino ............................................................................................ Elliot Baker
Malvolio, Feste, Captain .......................................................................... Karl Hamilton*
Maria, Olivia, Fabian ................................................................................ Michaela Petro
Viola .......................................................................................................... Ariel Richardson
Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek .................................................... John Henry Roberts
Sebastian, Antonio, Valentine .................................................................. Xavier Roe

SETTING

Illyria

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director .................................................................................................... Michael Halberstam, SDC
Production Stage Manager ....................................................................... David Castellanos*
Scenic Designer ........................................................................................ William Boles, USA
Costume Designer .................................................................................. Mara Blumenfeld, USA
Lighting Designer .................................................................................... John Culbert, USA
Original Music & Sound Design ............................................................... Josh Schmidt, USA
Properties Master .................................................................................... Scott Dickens
Dramaturg ................................................................................................. Lucas Garcia
Fight Director ............................................................................................ Matt Hawkins
Intimacy Director ..................................................................................... Rachel Flesher
Assistant Costume Designer ..................................................................... Virginia Varland
Assistant Intimacy Director ........................................................................ Zack Payne
Assistant Director .................................................................................... Sophiyaa Nayar
Assistant Stage Manager .......................................................................... Janelle Boudreau
Stage Management Intern ....................................................................... Rachel Lockett
Deck Crew ................................................................................................ Joe Creen
PRODUCTION STAFF, CONT.

Sound Board Operator................................................................. Dave Rumishek
Wardrobe Run Crew ................................................................. Beckie Price, Bob Stilton
Scene Shop/Scenic Construction.............................................. Means of Production
Stitchers ................................................................................... Ian Liberman, Erin Parker
Drapers ................................................................................... Uber Costume, Emily Waecker
Shopper ..................................................................................... Satoe Schechener
Wig and Hair Design..................................................................... Penny Lane Studios
Technical Supervisor............................................................... Adam Veness
Wardrobe Supervisor ............................................................... Jane Heuer
Costume Supervisor ............................................................... Emily Waecker
Assistant Costume Supervisor ................................................. Janelle Manno
Master Electrician ...................................................................... Simon Robinson
Sound Engineer .......................................................................... Amanda Hosking

SPECIAL THANKS

TBD, Sarah Heberlein.

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Writers Theatre extends a sincere thank you to the following individuals for their sponsorship support of Twelfth Night, Or What You Will:

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Christopher S. Pfaff and Sara Pfaff

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STUDENT MATINEE SUPPORT

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Contact the Advancement Department at 847-786-3504 or advancement@writerstheatre.org to make your honorarium or memoriam gift.
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.

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William Brown (Feste) returns to Writers Theatre, where he previously directed A Moon for the Misbegotten, Company, Doubt: A Parable, Port Authority, The Liar, A Little Night Music, Heartbreak House, Do the Hustle, Old Glory, As You Like It, Another Part of the Forest, Arms and the Man, Our Town, Rocket to the Moon, Misalliance, Incident at Vichy and The Glass Menagerie. He has also appeared as an actor in Bus Stop, Nixon’s Nixon, Candida, Private Lives, Dear Master and Butley. Bill has directed 20 productions at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin, including The Recruiting Officer, Three Sisters, King Lear, Travesties, The Importance of Being Earnest, All My Sons, Troilus and Cressida, The Critic, Hay Fever, The Comedy of Errors, Night of the Iguana, Antony and Cleopatra, All’s Well That Ends Well, You Never Can Tell and The Matchmaker. He directed and wrote (with Doug Frew) To Master the Art for TimeLine Theatre Company where he is an Associate Artist and most recently directed the world premiere of Susan Felder’s Wasteland. He has also directed plays at Northlight, Court Theatre, Indiana Rep, Goodman, Milwaukee Rep and Marriott Lincolnshire. He is the Associate Artistic Director of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, where he has directed and acted since 1980. He regularly teaches and directs at universities across the country, most recently Loyola University Chicago, University of Houston, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Northwestern. As an actor, Brown has appeared in over a hundred productions. He appeared as Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol at Goodman Theatre where he also appeared in Light up the Sky, Sunday in the Park with George, The Misanthrope and Wings. At Court Theatre, he appeared as Falstaff in Henry IV, Jack in The Importance of Being Earnest and Almady in The Play’s The Thing. He created the role of Jody in Steven Dietz’s Lonely Planet (Northlight Theatre). Brown received a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Director for The Liar (Writers Theatre) and a Best Actor award for his portrayal of Henry Kissinger in Nixon’s Nixon (Writers Theatre). He received a 2010 Spirit of Diversity Award from Actors’ Equity Association and was named Chicagoan of the Year for Theatre by the Chicago Tribune in 2003.

Sean Fortunato (Malvolio) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody, The Diary of Anne Frank, Hedda Gabler, The Real Thing, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, Travels with My Aunt, The Chosen, Rough Crossing, A Phoenix Too Frequent, Spite For Spite, Incident at Vichy, Richard II. Chicago credits include: Billy Elliot (Porchlight Theatre), 2666, Measure for Measure (Goodman Theatre), Cabaret, Spamalot, The Producers (Theatre at the Center), M. Butterfly (Court Theatre), over two dozen productions with Chicago Shakespeare Theater including Book of Joseph, King Charles III, School for Lies, Sunday in the Park with George, Timon of Athens, and work at Northlight Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, About Face Theatre, Next Theatre and First Folio Theatre. Regional credits include: Intiman Theatre (WA), The Old Globe (CA) and 14 seasons with Peninsula Players (WI), where he played Black Stache in Peter
and the Starcatcher, Billy Flynn in Chicago, Father Flynn in Doubt and George in Sunday in the Park with George. Off-Broadway: Rose Rage (The Duke on 42nd). TV/Film: Chicago Med, Chicago PD (NBC) and The Merry Gentleman directed by Michael Keaton. Sean has received six Joseph Jefferson Award nominations and an After Dark Award.

Kevin Gudahl (Sir Toby Belch) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in Parade, The Diary of Anne Frank, She Loves Me, A Minister's Wife, The Doctor's Dilemma and Othello. Other Chicago credits include over thirty productions with Chicago Shakespeare Theater including Mary Stuart, Elizabeth Rex, Timon of Athens and the title roles in Macbeth and Antony & Cleopatra. Additional Chicago credits include shows at Goodman Theatre, Court Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater and Drury Lane Theatre. International stage appearances include Pacific Overtures at the Donmar in London, Henry V at the Swan Theatre for the RSC and five seasons with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival in Canada. Film credits include While You Were Sleeping, Home Alone III and Poker House. Television appearances include Chicago Fire (NBC), Empire, Chicago Code (Fox), Boss (Starz) and Early Edition (CBS). Kevin is a recipient of Chicago’s Joseph Jefferson Award, teaches Shakespeare when possible and is blessed with the love and support of his wife Alyson and their son Nathaniel.

Casey Hoekstra (Antonio/Curio) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Casey splits his time between Chicago and American Players Theater in Wisconsin, where he’s recently played Happy in Death of a Salesman, Antipholus in Comedy of Errors and Marco in A View from the Bridge. Other favorites include Jerry Devine in Juno and the Paycock at the Guthrie Theater and Shere Khan at Minneapolis Children’s Theater. He wants to thank Stewart Talent for their representation. He is a skilled stage combatant and enjoys studying a variety of martial arts in his down time.

Nik Kmiecik (Valentine/Priest/Others) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Nik most recently appeared as Andrej in Paramount Theatre’s production of Once. Other credits include Henry V, Short Shakes! Twelfth Night, Love’s Labours Lost (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Franklinland (Jackalope Theatre), The Hundred Dresses (Chicago Children’s Theatre), The Distance (Haven Theatre) and Pinocchio: The Folk Musical (Filament Theatre). Up next: Borris in Can-Can, a part of Porchlight Theatre’s revisits series. Nik is a recent graduate of North Central College in Naperville and is proudly represented by Stewart Talent. Nik is an artistic associate with Other Theatre.
Jennifer Latimore (Viola) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously appeared in The Importance of Being Earnest and The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights. Chicago credits include Harvey (Court Theatre), Macbeth, Love’s Labor’s Lost (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) and Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley (Northlight Theatre). Regional credits include The African Company Presents Richard III, Arcadia, An Ideal Husband (American Players Theatre), Good People, The Color Purple, Dreamgirls and A Christmas Carol (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). TV credits include The Chi (Showtime), Empire (FOX), and upcoming show Proven Innocent (FOX). She is represented by Stewart Talent. Jennifer hails from Georgia but is proud to call the Midwest home as well.

Luce Metrius (Sebastian) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in East Texas Hot Links. Chicago credits include All Our Tragic (The Hypocrites), Buzzer (Goodman Theatre), The March (Steppenwolf Theatre Company) and Red-Handed Otter (A Red Orchid Theatre). He holds a BFA in Acting from Roosevelt University. He is proudly represented by Big Mouth Talent.

Scott Parkinson (Sir Andrew Aguecheek) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in Julius Caesar, Arcadia, Booth, Candida, Crime and Punishment, The Doctor’s Dilemma, The Glass Menagerie, Hamlet, Hedda Gabler and Marriage and Bears. He was also the co-director and co-adapter for Julius Caesar. Chicago credits include sixteen productions at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, including the title role in Richard II, the Fool in King Lear, Caesar in Antony & Cleopatra and Speed in The Two Gentlemen of Verona. Other Chicago credits include Puck in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Guys & Dolls (Court Theatre), Angels in America (The Journeymen), Northlight Theatre, Goodman Theatre; title roles in Hamlet and Richard III, Iago in Othello (Shakespeare on the Green). Regional credits include An Iliad and Cock (Studio Theatre), Angelo in Measure for Measure, Cassius in Julius Caesar, The Persians (Shakespeare Theatre Company), Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet, Treplev in Seagull (The Old Globe), Reverend Hale in The Crucible (Olney), The School for Scandal (Mark Taper Forum), Hartford Stage and La Jolla Playhouse. Off-Broadway credits include Hamlet (Classic Stage Company), You Belong To Me (Ensemble Studio Theatre), Stage Manager in David Cromer’s Our Town, Orson’s Shadow (Barrow Street Theatre), The Third Story (MCC Theater), Rose Rage, and Crime & Punishment. National Tour: The 39 Steps. Broadway: The Coast of Utopia (Lincoln Center Theater). Featured interview: North American Players of Shakespeare.
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John Henry Roberts (Captain/Others, u/s Sir Toby, Sir Andrew) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in To the Green Fields Beyond, and understudied roles in Marjorie Prime and Buried Child. He is a member of Strawdog Theatre Company, where his credits include Old Times, Cherry Orchard (both directed by Kimberly Senior), Aristocrats (directed by Rick Snyder, Non-Equity Jeff Nomination, Actor in a Supporting Role), Detective Story (directed by Shade Murray, Non-Equity Jeff Award, Ensemble), After Miss Julie and The Night Season (both directed by Elly Green). Other recent credits include: The Little Flower of East Orange (Eclipse Theatre, Non-Equity Jeff Nomination, Actor in a Principal Role), Neverwhere, Miss Holmes (Lifeline Theatre), Diamond Dogs, The Hammer Trinity (The House Theatre), in which he shared the stage with his daughter, the actress and blogger Ada Grey. Film and television: Widows, Chicago PD and Chicago Med (NBC). He’s also the author of the play The Sweeter Option (which premiered at Strawdog Theatre Company, directed by Marti Lyons). He is represented by Paonessa Talent.

Andrea San Miguel (Olivia) makes her Writers Theatre debut. After her second season in the beautiful woods at American Players Theatre appearing in The Recruiting Officer, Our Country’s Good and As You Like It, she’s excited to be back in the city. Other favorite credits include: The Maids, A Flea In Her Ear, Pericles (American Players Theatre), Short Shakes! Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth (Chicago Shakespeare Theater) and Constellations (Theatre Lila). Recent regional credits: Indiana Repertory Theatre, Guthrie Dowling Studio and three seasons with Montana Shakespeare the Parks. Catch her next as Celia in As You Like It at The Guthrie Theatre. Andrea graduated from The University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater and is represented by Paonessa Talent. Love to C and to her beautiful family.

Mary Williamson (Fabian) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Mary is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University. She is a member of The Inconvenience, a regular contributor at Salonathon and host and writer for The Fly Honey Show (The Inconvenience). Some Chicago credits include: The Minutes (u/s, Steppenwolf Theatre Company), A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Gynecologic Oncology Unit... (Route 66), Sender (A Red Orchid Theatre), Tony Kushner Contemplates Writing a Gay Fantasia Based On National Themes (Goodman Theatre), Three Sisters (The Hypocrites), Hit The Wall (The Inconvenience, Steppenwolf) and Reverb (Red Twist). TV and Film credits include: Chicago PD, Bobby and Iza, Shrink (NBC) and RideShare (Space Camp Productions). Recently, she played Macbeth in Macbeth and Mercutio in Romeo and Juliet with The Backroom Shakespeare Project. When she is not acting, she is working as a visual artist and gore designer. She is represented by Grossman and Jack Talent.
Karen Janes Woditsch (Maria) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously appeared in The Importance of Being Earnest, Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody, Doubt: A Parable, Do the Hustle, Yellow Moon, Heartbreak House, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, The Beats, Blake, Butley, Candida, The Doctor’s Dilemma, Fallen Angels, In the Heart of Winter (1993-96), Love & Lunacy, Othello (After Dark Award - Outstanding Performance), A Phoenix Too Frequent, A Play on Words, Rocket to the Moon, Seagull and Spite for Spite. She has also previously assistant directed A Moon for the Misbegotten and Arcadia. Chicago credits include Harvey, M. Butterfly (Court Theatre), Romeo and Juliet, Taming of the Shrew, Measure for Measure (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Domesticated (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Rapture, Blister, Burn, A Christmas Carol, Crumbs from the Table of Joy (Goodman Theatre), To Master the Art (TimeLine Theatre Company and Broadway Playhouse at Water Tower Place, Joseph Jefferson Award nomination - Actress in a Principal Role) and many others. Regional credits include Our Town, Foreigner (Indiana University Summer Theatre), nine seasons with Peninsula Players Theatre and a summer with Montana Shakespeare in the Parks. TV credits include Patriot (Amazon), Chicago PD, Crisis (NBC) and Runner (ABC). Film credits include Bad Johnson and American Fable. wojanes.wix.com/karen-janes-woditsch.

Matthew C. Yee (Duke Orsino) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in Vietgone. Other theatre credits include Once (Paramount Theatre), Treasure Island (Lookingglass Theatre Company), Alice’s Rock and Roll Adventure, The Year I Didn’t Go to School, A Year With Frog And Toad (Chicago Children’s Theatre) and The Wheel (Steppenwolf Theatre Company). Next spring, he can be seen in Cambodian Rock Band at Victory Gardens Theater. Television credits include Chicago Fire, Chicago Justice (NBC) and Empire (Fox).

Elliot Baker (u/s Duke Orsino) makes his Writers Theatre debut. A member of the art collective, The Stoop Feast, Elliot was most recently seen on stage in Facility Theatre’s Phoebe in Winter (Liam), where he is also literary manager. He has also been seen on stage in Piccolo Theatre’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Lysander) and in the A Red Orchid Incubator productions of Celebration and A Night Out (Lambert; Kedge). Also a trained playwright, his work The Silence That Follows and A Comic Book Ending has been produced in Chicago and London. He holds an MFA from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and is proudly represented by Paonessa Talent.
TWELFTH NIGHT, OR WHAT YOU WILL

TWELFTH NIGHT, OR WHAT YOU WILL PROFILES

Karl Hamilton (u/s Malvolio, Feste, Captain/Others) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Off-Broadway credits: Ride the Cyclone at the MCC Theatre. Other Chicago credits: Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Marriott Lincolnshire, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Porchlight Music Theatre, Mercury Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre, Theatre at the Center, Congo Square, Broadway Playhouse and First Folio Theatre. Regional credits: Peninsula Players Theatre (Fish Creek, WI), Asolo Repertory Theatre (Sarasota, FL) and Timber Lake Playhouse (Mt. Carroll, IL). For the last decade, he has remained a proud and outspoken member of Actors’ Equity. Karl is married to actress Elizabeth Haley.

Michaela Petro (u/s Maria, Olivia, Fabian) makes her Writers Theatre debut. An ensemble member with Strawdog Theatre since ’08, some of her favorite Strawdog credits include: Cymbeline, Once in a Lifetime, The Sweeter Option, Big Love and Old Times. She has performed with Mary-Arrchie Theatre, Lifeline Theatre, Wildclaw Theatre, Interrobang Theatre Project, Cole Theatre, Lakeside Shakespeare and A Red Orchid Theatre. She is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

Ariel Richardson (u/s Viola) makes her Writers Theatre debut. An alum of Oklahoma City University, Ariel received her BFA in Acting. She was most recently seen in Oak Park Festival Theatre’s production of African Company Presents Richard III. Other theatre credits include Southern Gothic (Windy City Playhouse) and An Octoroon (Definition Theatre Company). Her television credits include: Empire (Fox) and The Chi (Showtime). Ariel can be seen in Northlight Theatre’s production of Nina Simone: Four Women. Ariel is represented by Stewart Talent. Endless love and thanks to her family and friends.

Xavier Roe (u/s Sebastian, Antonio, Valentine) makes his Writers Theatre debut. Other Chicago credits include: Romeo and Juliet (Teatro Vista) and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Regional credits include Merry Wives of Windsor, Henry V and Shakespeare in Love with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, as well as A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Cyrano De Bergerac and Three Sisters with American Players Theatre. Xavier received a BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is ever grateful for his family’s support. #BlackLivesMatter
William Shakespeare (Playwright) William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. He rose to fame in London as a playwright, actor and partner in a company of players known as the Lord Chamberlain’s Men. King James I, after ascending to the throne in 1603, would eventually patron the group, thereby changing the name to The King’s Men. During Shakespeare’s career, he wrote 38 plays, 154 sonnets and several other famous epic poems. There are many apocryphal plays thought to be Shakespeare’s and he alone is credited with contributing close to 2,000 words to the English language. He is without question the most highly regarded and studied playwright in the history of literature. In 1613, Shakespeare is said to have retired to the place of his birth. It is believed that he died there on his birthday, April 23, 1616.

Michael Halberstam (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 “Chicagoman of the Year” for Theater; received the 2016 Award of Honor for Outstanding Contributions to the Field from the Illinois Theatre.
TWELFTH NIGHT, OR WHAT YOU WILL

Profiles

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.


Mara Blumenfeld (Costume Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously designed The Importance of Being Earnest, TREVOR the musical, Parade and Julius Caesar. Chicago credits include numerous productions at the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Court Theatre, and Lookingglass Theatre Company, where she is an ensemble member. Regional credits include Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Mark Taper Forum, Weston Playhouse, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Huntington Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre and McCarter Theatre. International credits include Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Canada), the Donmar Warehouse and Barbican Centre (U.K.), Opera National du Rhin (France), Teatro alla Scala (Italy), Melbourne Theatre Company (Australia) and K-Ballet and Tokyo DisneySea (Japan). Broadway credits include Metamorphoses (Circle in the Square). Off-Broadway credits include The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci (Second Stage); The Glorious Ones (Lincoln Center); Lookingglass Alice (New Victory). Opera credits include Rusalka, Lucia di Lammermoor and La Sonnambula (The Metropolitan Opera); The Merry Widow and Oklahoma! (Lyric Opera of Chicago). She is the recipient of four Joseph Jefferson Awards and was the 2012 recipient of the Michael Merritt Award. www.marablumenfeld.com.

John Culbert (Lighting Designer) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously lighting designed The Importance of Being Earnest, Arcadia and Sweet Charity. Recent credits include All My Sons, The Hard Problem, Man in the Ring (Court Theatre), Having Our Say, Two Trains Running, Objects in the Mirror (Goodman Theatre), Chimerica (TimeLine Theatre) and Faceless (Northlight Theatre). He also designed Romeo and Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Argonautika (Lookingglass Theatre Company), Regina (Lyric Opera of Chicago) and Iphigenia at Aulis (Getty Villa). He has designed productions for the Singapore Repertory, Opera National du Rhin, Berkeley Rep, McCarter Theatre and the Shakespeare Theatre. He serves as the dean of The Theatre School at DePaul University.
Josh Schmidt (Original Music & Sound Design) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously designed The Importance of Being Earnest, Arcadia, The Diary of Anne Frank, Days Like Today, A Minister’s Wife, The Maids, Nixon’s Nixon, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Old Settler, The Lion in Winter, The Duchess of Malfi, Crime and Punishment, The Savannah Disputation, Othello, The Puppetmaster of Lodz, The Subject Was Roses, Benefactors, Rough Crossing, The Price and A Phoenix Too Frequent. As a composer/co-authorer, Josh has written—A Minister’s Wife (Lincoln Center, Writers Theatre), ADD1NG MACH1N3 (Minetta Lane), Whida Peru (59E59), Midwestern Gothic (Signature, VA) and Gift of the Magi (American Players Theatre, WI). For incidental scores—When the Rain Stops Falling (Lincoln Center) and Fifty Words (MCC). As composer/Sound Designer—Therese Raquin (Roundabout Theatre Company/Studio 54), House of Blue Leaves (Walter Kerr), Brighton Beach Memoirs (Nederlander), Dinner With Friends (Roundabout Theatre Company), Model Apartment (Primary Stages), Her Requiem (LCT3), Dying For It, 3 Kinds of Exile (Atlantic), Water By The Spoonful (Second Stage), Crime and Punishment (59E59) and many others. Additional Chicago credits include Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Next Theatre Company, Seanachai Theatre Company and many others. Regional credits include over 250 productions at venues across the country including three seasons Stratford Shakespeare Festival (Ontario, Canada), Philadelphia Theatre Company (PA), The Kennedy Center, Ford’s Theatre (Washington DC), Seattle Repertory Theatre (WA), Alley Theatre (Resident Artist, Houston, TX), Arizona Theater Company (AZ), Cleveland Playhouse (OH), Kansas City Rep (MO), South Coast Repertory (CA), Delaware Theatre Company (DE), 16 Seasons at American Players Theatre (Spring Green, WI), Milwaukee Repertory Theater and many others. Commissioned work includes Metropolitan Opera, RKO, Groundswell, Playwrights Horizons. Recordings include ADD1NG MACH1N3, A Minister’s Wife—both released on PS Classics and available on iTunes, Amazon, etc. Josh is an Associate Artist at Alley Theatre in Houston. Josh is a proud member of ASCAP. Awards and nominations include Lortel, Outer Critics, Jeff, ASCAP, NEA/TCG, Prague Quadrennial 2007, Sundance Theatre Lab UCross 2012. fortytwofootgrand.com.

Matt Hawkins (Fight Director) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously fight directed Witch, Buried Child, East Texas Hot Links, Do the Hustle and The Caretaker, and performed in Julius Caesar and A Streetcar Named Desire. Matt Hawkins is a Chicago based director, actor, fight choreographer, movement director and intimacy choreographer. He has been nominated for fourteen 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. He is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Notre Dame, where he serves as head of the musical theatre for the Department of Film, Television, and Theatre. This upcoming year he will direct and choreograph a new hip-hop musical Stupid Humans (University of Notre Dame) and choreograph violence for Act(s) Of God (Lookingglass Theatre Company), Hamlet and Short Shakes! Macbeth (Chicago Shakespeare Theater). Matt is married to actor/director/documentarian/playwright Stacy Stoltz.
Rachel Flesher (Intimacy Director) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Rachel is an Intimacy, Violence and Movement Director/Instructor, an actor and Director who has been in the industry almost a decade. Her goal is to create safe spaces for actors to do brave work through spreading consent culture. Rachel is an Instructor with the Fight Directors Canada, an Instructor with Tactics on Set, an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College Chicago and DePaul University. Rachel is Certified in Mental Health First Aid and specializes in Consent and Combat direction for youth. Select Chicago violence/intimacy credits include Robin Hood (Adventure Stage Chicago), The Displaced (Haven Theatre), Women Laughing Alone With Salad (Theatre Wit), Natural Affection (Eclipse Theatre), Cabaret (Paramount Theatre), Hang Man (The Gift Theatre), Women in Jeopardy, The Man Beast! (First Folio), The Burials (Steppenwolf for Young Adults), In the Next Room, or the vibrator play (TimeLine Theatre) and Insurrection (Stage Left). Change the World!

Lucas Garcia (Dramaturg) makes their Writers Theatre debut. Lucas is a Chicago-based writer and dramaturg from Albuquerque, NM. They are also Co-Director of Marketing and Communications for the Alliance of Latinx Theatre Artists and are a member of El Semillero, ALTA’s Latinx playwriting circle. Lucas has worked as a dramaturg on Felons and Familias (Goodman Theatre, Theatre on the Lake), Columbinus (The Yard), Master Class, In The Next Room (TimeLine Theatre Company), Pass Over (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), Wit (The Hypocrites) and Lorca in New York (Chicago Dramatists). They have written for Rescripted, Third Coast Review, Howlround and American Theatre Magazine.

David Castellanos (Production Stage Manager) returns for his 18th season with Writers Theatre—the longest he has worked at any institution. Some of David’s favorite WT productions have been Crime and Punishment, A Minister’s Wife, Our Town and The Old Man and The Old Moon. Castellanos began his training at The Theatre School at DePaul University and graduated with a BFA in Production Stage Management. David worked at several small theaters in Chicago and around the country before returning home. He worked for three seasons at Northlight Theatre and four seasons at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. David also teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago’s theatre program. David is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association.

Janelle Boudreau (Assistant Stage Manager) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously assistant stage managed Vietgone, Buried Child, A Moon for the Misbegotten, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Mystery of Love & Sex, The Scene, The Hunter and The Bear, Julius Caesar, Company and Arcadia. Additional credits include Red Kite, Brown Box tour (Chicago Children’s Theatre), Christina, The Girl King (Cor Theatre), The Tempest, Short Shakespeare! Macbeth (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Abraham Lincoln Was a Fa**ot (About Face Theatre) and Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play (Theater Wit).

Sophiyaa Nayar (Assistant Director) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Sophiyaa is a Chicago-based director from New Delhi, India. After attending the Lab in 2017, she now serves on the steering committee of DirectorsLabChicago, and is currently the Program Coordinator at Steep Theatre. She most recently assisted Ameenah Kaplan in the American Players Theatre’s production.
of Our Country’s Good. As an emerging professional directing resident for Milwaukee Repertory Theatre’s 2017/18 season, she assisted on The Who and The What with May Adrales, Holmes and Watson (Midwest Premiere) with Joe Hanreddy, Black Pearl Sings with Leda Hoffman, One House Over (World Premiere) with Mark Clements and Our Town with Brent Hazelton. Additionally, she assisted on Nobody Gets Hurt, an immersive experience for an audience of one devised by Craig Quintero at Grinnell College. Her directing credits include, Missed Connection (devised from a Craigslist article for Milwaukee Rep’s Rep Lab), a stage adaptation of Lord of The Flies by Nigel Williams, 3:59am: a Drag race for Two Actors by Marco Ramirez and Elephant’s Graveyard by George Brant. She earned her B.A. in Theatre & Dance from Grinnell College in 2017, with a semester abroad at the London Dramatic Academy. She spent summers working with the Neo-Futurists in New York, Synchronicity Theatre, Moving in the Spirit and Youth Creates in Atlanta, Georgia.

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.
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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 27 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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ARTISTS COUNCIL

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 June 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018.

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