The Crowd You’re In With

By Rebecca Gilman

Directed by Derek Bertelsen

THE CROWD YOU’RE IN WITH received its world premiere at Magic Theatre, San Francisco, California. Chris Smith, Artistic Director; David Jobin, Managing Director.

AstonRep Theatre Company is supported by grants from the following organizations:
CAST

Windsong .............................................................................................................................................. Maggie Antonijevic
Karen .................................................................................................................................................... Lynne Baker
Tom ....................................................................................................................................................... Javier Carmona
Jasper .................................................................................................................................................... Martin Diaz-Valdes
Dan .......................................................................................................................................................... Nick Freed
Melinda .................................................................................................................................................. Sara Pavlak McGuire*
Darcy ....................................................................................................................................................... Erin O’Brien
Dan understudy ................................................................................................................................... David Coupe
Karen understudy ................................................................................................................................. Lara Caprini*

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/Co-Artistic Director ............................................................................................................... Derek Bertelsen*
Stage Manager ...................................................................................................................................... Melanie Kulas
Assistant Director ............................................................................................................................... Aja Wiltshire*
Scenic and Props Designer/Technical Director .................................................................................. Jeremiah Barr*
Lighting Designer/Production Manager .............................................................................................. Samantha Barr*
Costume Designer .............................................................................................................................. Uriel Gomez
Sound Designer ..................................................................................................................................... Melanie Thompson*
Logo Design ........................................................................................................................................ Lea Tobin*
Co-Artistic Director/Casting Director ................................................................................................. Sara Pavlak McGuire*
Box Office Manager ............................................................................................................................ Amy Kasper*
Publicist .................................................................................................................................................. David Rosenberg
Photographer ......................................................................................................................................... Paul Goyette

*denotes AstonRep company member

Time/Place: July 4, 2007 in Chicago, IL

Please note: the run time is 75 minutes and there is no intermission.
If you leave the theater during the performance, re-admittance is not guaranteed.
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Maggie Antonijevic (Windsong) holds a BFA in Acting from West Virginia University and has recently trained with Acting Studio Chicago, and Second City Training Center. She was recently seen in a production of Anton in Show Business by: Jane Martin produced by Three Brothers Theatre, and Picasso at the Lapin Agile by Steve Martin, produced by Ghostlight Ensemble. Maggie would like to thank her family and friends for their loving support. Maggie would also like to thank the AstonRep company for welcoming her into this “crowd” so warmly.

Lynne Baker (Karen) is thrilled to be working with AstonRep after participating in their Writer’s Series last winter. In Chicago, Lynne has had the pleasure of performing with Raven, Haven, Citadel, Invictus, Babes with Blades, Artistic Home, Reutan Collective, Theater Evolve, and Piccolo, among others. She can be seen in the recent independent film, Double Major (Best Feature Film, Windy City Film Festival 2018), and was the co-founder of an improvisational comedy group in Madison, Wisconsin. Lynne is represented by the awesome folks at Big Mouth Talent.

Javier Carmona (Tom) is an actor and filmmaker and has performed in Chicago with Three Cat Productions, Ghostlight Ensemble and Dandelion Theatre, among others. Recently, he has studied at The Actor’s Space, Barcelona and Black Box Chicago. Javier is represented by Lily’s Talent Chicago.

Martin Diaz-Valdes (Jasper) Previous Chicago credits include: Melancholy Play (Organic Theater); Arms and the Man, and Forty-Two Stories (City Lit Theater); Earthquakes in London (Steep Theatre); Love’s Labour’s Lost, and Othello (Invictus Theatre); Firefly Love (Something Marvelous); and The Winter’s Tale (Honest Theatre). He graduated with his M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University, he has also studied in Russia at the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT). He received his B.A. in Theatre Arts at the University of Oregon. Born of Chilean parents, Martin is a proud first gen. He is also a bilingual member of the Alliance of Latinx Theater Artists of Chicago (ALTA).

Nick Freed (Dan) Nick is very excited to be working with AstonRep for the first time. He most recently was seen in Next Big Thing with The Factory Theatre, Falling with Interrobang Theatre, and Betrayal at Raven. Other credits include Hesperia and Titus Andronicus with Right Brain Project, belladonna luna sonata and Season Pass with The Plagiarists, and Motel 666 with WildClaw Theatre. He is a company member with The Plagiarists and former Artistic Director of Chicago dell’Arte. He is represented by the lovely ladies at Shirley Hamilton, and is a graduate of Truman State University.

Sara Pavlak McGuire (Melinda) is a proud AstonRep company member where she serves as Co-Artistic Director and Casting Director. She recently finished a three month contract with Windy City Playhouse, understudying their
CAST BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Chicago hit: *Southern Gothic*. AstonRep credits include: *Time Stands Still* (Jeff Award nomination for Leading Performer in a play), *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Women of Lockerbie*, and *The Water’s Edge*. She has also worked with Remy Bumppo Theatre, Oak Park Festival, Filament Theatre, Hubris Productions, Spartan Theatre, among others. She received a Jeff Award for her work as Agnes in *Agnes of God* with Hubris Productions. Sara holds an MFA in acting from Western Illinois University, class of ’09. She lives in Hyde Park with her husband Tim and their cat, Coory.

**Erin O’Brien (Darcy)** is excited to work with AstonRep again, appearing in last summer’s *The Laramie Project*. An Oklahoma native and Columbia College alum, Erin has also worked with Strawdog Theatre Company, Broken Nose Theatre, and The Comrades and co-hosts a weekly podcast. Thank you to Derek Bertelsen and to Rebecca Gilman for allowing me to bring Darcy to life.

**Lara Caprini (Karen understudy)** is pleased to take on a different job with AstonRep and is a proud company member. Lara dedicates her work to the memory of Vicky J Strei, with love and laughter.

**David Coupe (Dan understudy)** is a native New Englander who has been a Chicago based actor/writer since 2006. He was most recently seen in *Row After Row* (The Comrades, where he is a company member), *Deadpool Andronicus* (New Millennium), *Low-Hanging Fruit* (Fearless Fiction), *The Incredible Hank* (New Millennium), and *Prelude to a Kiss* (The Comrades). He also played major roles in the feature film *2 Jennifer* (LA Horror Productions) and the web-series *Contacts*. David wrote & directed the web-series *Post*. He is excited to work with AstonRep on this wonderful show!

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

**Derek Bertelsen (Director)** joined AstonRep in 2013 and he currently serves as Co-Artistic Director. Previous directing credits with AstonRep include *Doubt*, *Next Fall*, *Wit*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Lyons*, the world premiere of *The Black Slot*, *The Laramie Project*, and co-directing *Eleemosynary* with Jeremiah Barr. He produced the sold-out run of *Four By Tenn*, a festival of one-act plays by Tennessee Williams. He serves as Artistic Director of The Comrades where he’s directed *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Mary-Kate Olsen Is In Love* and produced countless others. He’s also directed for BrightSide Theatre, Wilmette Center for the Arts, Pride Films & Plays. Assistant director credits include Goodman and Steppenwolf. Regional credits include Festival 56, Shawnee Summer Playhouse, New Ground Theatre and five seasons at Timber Lake Playhouse. Upcoming: the world premiere of *Roast* at the Greenhouse with The Comrades. Thanks to the *Crowd* team for bringing this show to life. Love to Nelson.

**Melanie Kulas (Stage Manager)** is so excited to be working with AstonRep again! In Chicago, Melanie has worked as a stage manager with Circle Theatre, Interrobang Theatre Project, Pride Films & Plays, Strawdog, and The Comrades, where she also serves as an Artistic Associate.
Each spring, Melanie travels to her alma mater to stage manage the UW Varsity Band Spring Concert in Madison, WI. Melanie would like to thank her friends and family for all of their support, especially Joe, for late night pick-me-ups and an enduring, true partnership.

Samantha Barr (Lighting Designer/Production Manager) 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.

Jeremiah Barr (Scenic and Props Designer/Technical Director) is very pleased to be working with the excellent cast and crew of The Crowd You’re In With. 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 Promethean 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 Crowd team and the AstonRep family, and as always a huge thanks to Samantha for her love.

Melanie Thompson (Sound Designer) is excited to return to AstonRep for her third show! Past credits include: His Life Matters (Black Lives, Black Words International Project), That Night (Erasing the Distance), Good Enough (16th Street Theatre Co.), Evil Dead (Black Button Eyes Productions), I Know My Own Heart (Pride Films & Plays), The Lonesome West (AstonRep), KOALAS (16th Street Theatre Co.), Docfest 2018: Learning 101 (Erasing the Distance), The Laramie Project (AstonRep), I Can Cook Too: an evening of Musical Theatre with Krista Hansen (DUPAC). Erasing the Distance: Dominicana, Chapter 2 (DUPAC), Shockheaded Peter (Black Button Eyes Productions), The Addams Family (DUPAC), and The Seagull (DUPAC). She’s a company member at AstonRep! She thanks her friends, family, and Prince the Cat for their love and support.

Uriel Gomez (Costume Designer) Design credits include the Chicago premieres of The Wolf At The End Of The Block, Parachute Men (Teatro Vista); The River Bride (Halcyon Theatre); and many more. He would like to thank Matt; as well as his friends, and family for all their support. For more information & designs please visit ugomez.com
DIRECTORS NOTES

My first encounter with Rebecca Gilman’s work was in college. I came to Chicago for a weekend in the summer of 2005 and some friends and I scored cheap student tickets to Dollhouse – in which she relocated Ibsen’s 19th Century Nora to modern-day Lincoln Park at the Goodman in a production directed by Robert Falls. After seeing that, I read a few of Gilman's other plays and was instantly captivated with the relatability of her characters.

I've had the opportunity to see several of Gilman’s plays since then. Her Luna Gale, also a Robert Falls/Goodman collaboration, remains a favorite since I moved to Chicago nine years ago.

The Crowd You’re In With is not a play about choosing to have children or to not have children. That is simply the backdrop. At the heart of her play is this topical moral dilemma we can all relate to. Her characters are not good or bad, right or wrong. They’re struggling to do the best they can with what they have.

For this production, we’re excited to debut the role of Darcy, played by Erin O’Brien. Previously written as a male-identifying character (named Dwight), we approached Gilman about changing the role to female earlier this year. She was excited by the idea of making a small change that breathes new life into our production.

Breathing new life into a script and exploring the relatability of a character – that ever-so-important relationship between actor and audience – has been at the core of AstonRep’s work since its founding. We’re delighted to have you here. We hope you enjoy The Crowd You’re In With.

Derek Bertelsen
Co-Artistic Director
Director for The Crowd You’re In With

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Rebecca Gilman (Playwright) Plays include Boy Gets Girl, Spinning into Butter, Blue Surge, The Glory of Living, The Sweetest Swing in Baseball, The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, Dollhouse, The Crowd You’re in With, Twilight Bowl and Luna Gale. Among her many awards have been a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Harold and Mimi Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, the Harper Lee Award, the Scott McPherson Award, the Prince Prize for Commissioning New Work, the Roger L. Stevens Award, the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright, and the George Devine Award. Boy Gets Girl received an Olivier nomination for Best New Play and she was a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for The Glory of Living. She received her MFA in playwriting from the University of Iowa and is an associate professor of playwriting and screenwriting at Northwestern University. She is an Artistic Associate at the Goodman Theatre, Chicago.
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 Manager  
Amy Kasper, Marketing Director/Box Office Manager  
Ray Kasper, Executive 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**

Maura Junius, President  
Samantha Barr, Secretary  
Michael Rice, Treasurer  
Anne Bradley  
Elizabeth Katzman  
Amy McAllister  
Joanne O’Hara

**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…

Irina Bozilenko  
Jeff Brown  
Nelson Capetillo  
Maureen Droessler  
Eric & Cathy Fladeland  
Greg & Ann Gills  
Julianne Hahn  
Margretina Hahn  
Matthew Hahn  
Kevin Hricik  
Tom Jacobs  
Raymond Kasper  
Mr. and Mrs. William Keller  
Helen Kessler  
Jude Lemrow  
Brandon C. Long  
Andrew McKenna  
Jim & Ellen Morley  
Keith & Suzanne  
Ross Valerie Schreck  
Emily Santos  
Jim & Kathy Sweitzer  
Patrick & Joann Tobin  
Emilio Williams & Rob Murphy  
Urban Spadaccia & Zbranek Family