The following artists significantly contributed to today’s performance and the play’s creation:
Lizzie Bracken (set design, costume design, prop design), Dan Broberg (set design), Maggie “Fullilove-Nugent” (lighting design), Leah Urzendowski (choreography) and Mike Tutaj (sound design)

_Burning Bluebeard_ originally opened on November 19, 2011
Produced by The Neo-Futurists at The Neo-Futurarium • Chicago, IL

*The original cast included*
Anthony Courser, Dean Evans, Molly Plunk, Jay Torrence, Leah Urzendowski and Ryan Walters

This evening’s performance runs 100 minutes without an intermission and will feature water-based haze and flashing lights. Please be aware this play does contain some moments that may trigger an adverse reaction with sudden loud noises and sounds of violence.
CAST

Fancy Clown ..................................................................................................................... PAMELA CHERMANSKY
Henry Gilfoil .................................................................................................................... ANTHONY COURSER
The Faerie Queen ............................................................................................................. CROSBY SANDOVAL
Robert Murray .................................................................................................................. JAY TORRENCE
Nellie Reed .................................................................................................................... LEAH URZENDOWSKI
Eddie Foy ...................................................................................................................... RYAN WALTERS

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudy performance will occur only with an announcement to the audience prior to the show.

Nellie Reed: KAITLYN ANDREWS;
Henry Gilfoil / Eddie Foy: DAVE HONIGMAN;
Fancy Clown: JAY TORRENCE;
Faerie Queen / Robert Murray: RAWSON VINT

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S NOTE

In December of 2012, I attended a performance of a musical play that, the year before, had been highly recommended in its debut production at the intimate Neo-Futurist Theatre in Andersonville. “Enthralling,” “pitch-perfect,” “heart-wrenching,” “hilarious” were some of the words associated with this story of the infamous 1903 staging of the family musical Mr. Bluebeard at Chicago’s former Iroquois Theatre, now the site of the James M. Nederlander Theatre, on Randolph Street.

I had some slight knowledge of that turn-of-the-last-century event, particularly the lore surrounding the participation of star comedian Eddie Foy in addressing the audience from the stage in an effort to stave off panic and of the resulting improvement of fire safety laws that were established as a result of the tragedy.

But I was not prepared for the impact this astonishing group of all-around clowns, acrobats, and poetic actor-dancers called “The Ruffians” had in store for us. Profoundly moved by the production, I urged everyone I knew to go see this fantastic, made-in-Chicago creation. The next year, we brought our entire Porchlight staff to the production as our annual holiday outing. And having not missed any of the return visits the show made at various venues over the past seven years, I wanted to see how we could host this remarkable production, and the exceptional company of artists who create it, on the Porchlight stage. So, with thanks to Jay, Halena and all The Ruffians, we present Porchlight’s holiday gift to you—the opportunity to bask in the magic that is Burning Bluebeard.

For those of you about to experience this production for the first time, all I can say is, “I envy you.”

Happy holidays to all,
Michael Weber
Artistic Director, Porchlight Music Theatre
“If the pleasure is great, then the clown is forgiven. He’s allowed to be no good over and over.”
-Phillippe Gaulier

The Neo-Futurists originally supported the creation and first production of *Burning Bluebeard* in 2011 and we remain grateful to them and to all the folks who were part of its conception. It is a great honor to be given the opportunity to continue the tradition of sharing the story to Chicago audiences and a delight to collaborate with the talented and generous new friends at Porchlight.

The *Burning Bluebeard* cast and production team are a bunch of clowns who like to tell stories with our words, bodies, humor and heart. If this is your first time seeing the show, we hope you will enjoy some moonlight. This piece of Chicago’s history is one that continues to resonate with our lives as theater artists and we are honored to put it out there into the world once again this year. Thank you for being here.

Jay Torrence, *Playwright*; Halena Kays, *Director*; and all the Ruffians

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**A Few Common Elements Typically Found in 1903 Pantomimes**

- Audience participation; members of the audience are directly addressed by the onstage performers
- Adaptation of commonly known fairy tales and the use of good faeries, evil villains, and well-intentioned heros
- Silent scenes or “dumb shows” consisting only of dancing, physical movement, and gestures
- Use of popular songs of the era. Pantomimes incorporated songs and tunes that were recognizable to the audience but with rewritten lyrics to surprise and amuse
- Freestanding scenes in slapstick style
- Cross-dressing (performers commonly portrayed various gender roles for comedic and dramatic impact).
- Use of risque, potentially offensive jokes and double entendres
- A transformation scene where the faerie queen magically transports the characters to safety

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Porchlight Music Theatre is proud to be a member of the vibrant Ruth Page Center for the Arts performing arts community and an Artist-in-Residence. An incubator of artistic energy and excellence, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts carries forward the vision and mission of its founder, legendary dance icon Ruth Page, to be a platform for developing great artists and connecting them with audiences and community.
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

PAMELA CHERMANSKY
ANTHONY COURSER
CROSBY SANDOVAL
JAY TORRENCE
LEAH URZENDOWSKI
RYAN WALTERS
KAITLYN ANDREWS
DAVE HONIGMAN
RAWSON VINT

SAVE THE DATE!
PORCHLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE’S
Silver Anniversary
ICONS Gala
MONDAY, MARCH 23
5:30PM RECEPTION
6:30PM DINNER
TICKETS ON SALE JAN. 7

FEATURING
JOEL GREY
STAR OF CABARET,
CHICAGO, WICKED & MORE!
BIOGRAPHIES

PAMEL A CHERMANSKY (Fancy Clown) is a Chicago Theatre Artist who is "ON FIRE" about bringing back the role of Fancy Clown for her SIXTH SCORCHING YEAR!! She currently works as a clown for Vaudeville Chicago and Healthy Humor. Pamela worked for many years as a mime artist and teacher and is honored to have spent several years in what she considers the magical orbit of the late Marcel Marceau, who is also the inspiration for her clown, Madame Bustiere! Her work as a mime, actor, clown and teacher has taken her across the United States as well as China, France, Taiwan and Mexico.

ANTHONY COURSER (Henry Gilfoil) was last seen Clowning around the country for New Belgium Brewery’s Beer and Bike festival, Tour De Fat, or you may have caught him as Princess, the drunken elephant, in the Jeff Recommended Ivywild on the Hypocrites stage. It was his fourth collaboration with Halena Kays, Jay Torrence and Ryan Walters following Burning Bluebeard, Daredevils and Daredevils’ Hamlet with the Neo-Futurists. Also on the Neo-Futurists stage: Picked Up, The Fool Returns To His Chair, and guest starring as Abraham Lincoln in “Anthony Courser Guest Stars As Abraham Lincoln” in Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind. He was also set designer for Analog. Barrel of Monkeys emeritus class of 2001, Anthony is a graduate of Dell Arte International School For Physical Theatre; he studied Panchinko Clowning with Sue Morrison at the Canadian Clown Institute. Also he has been named an artistic associate of The Neo-Futurists since 2012.

CROSBY SANDOVAL (The Faerie Queen) is a circus performer and circus arts teacher specializing in Chinese Pole, Trap and Silks. Crosby can also be seen spinning the entire weight of his body by the roots of his hair under a the national stage of a Big Top. This is Crosby’s second year with The Ruffians and he would like to thank Jay and Molly and Halena for this magical opportunity. Enjoy some moonlight.

JAY TORRENCE (Playwright, Robert Murray, u/s Fancy Clown) is a Ruffian and the playwright who created Burning Bluebeard, Roustabout! The Great Circus Trainwreck and Ivywild. As a former Neo-Futurist Artistic Director and ensemble member, Torrence has worked over a decade writing, directing and performing new works that debuted here in Chicago and toured throughout the nation. Other Theater Credits include: 500 Clown, Theater Oobleck, Akvavit Theatre, The Actor’s Gymnasium, Theater on the Lake, The Hypocrites, Redmoon Theater, Woolly Mammoth, Geva, Shakespeare Theatre Company (DC), The New Victory Theater (NY), The Actors Theatre of Louisville and Edmonton Actors Theatre. Internationally, this is the 13th production of Burning Bluebeard.

LEAH URZENDOWSKI (Nellie Reed) is a founding member of The Ruffians, and an ensemble member with the Chicago Neo-Futurists since 2011, where she regularly performs in the late night show The Infinite Wrench. Most recently, she co-created, wrote and performed The? Unicorn? Hour? and choreographed for Red Tape’s Jeff recommended All Quiet on the Western Front. Some Chicago credits include Jeff recommended Mr. Burns (Theatre Wit); Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind, Miss Neo Pageant, (The Neo-Futurists); Burning Bluebeard (The Ruffians); 500 Clown Trapped, 500 Clown Frankenstein, 500 Clown Macbeth (500 Clown); Moby Dick, Dustbowl Gothic (The Building Stage); Hunchback (Redmoon). Choreography and movement direction include The Magic Play (Goodman), Lord of The Flies (Steppenwolf), Ivywild (Hypocrites), Miss Neo Pageant (The Neo-Futurists), and Burning Bluebeard (The Ruffians, The Neo-Futurists). TV and film include Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, Operator, Beats, and For Prophet. Leah is a teaching artist specializing in physical theatre, ensemble and partnership building, and clown, and piloted a Neo-Futurists residency at Georgetown University and The United States Naval Academy. She received her BFA from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, and is represented by Paonessa Talent.

RYAN WALTERS (Eddie Foy) is a founding member of The Ruffians and appeared in the original production of Burning Bluebeard at the Neo-Futurists. Ryan is an alumnus of the Neo-Futurists theater company where he performed regularly in Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind and served as Artistic Director from 2009-2012. With the Neos he conceived and co-created Picked Up, Daredevils, and Daredevils’ Hamlet. An emeritus member of Barrel of Monkeys, he taught and performed in their school program, and performed in the public.
celebration of their students’ work, *That’s Weird, Grandma*. Other credits include: *Life Finds a Way* (InGen), *Patriots, The Fool Returns to his Chair, Roustabout, Fake Lake, Beer The Musical*, 44 Plays for 44 Presidents (Neo-Futurists), *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and *Ivywild* (The Hypocrites). Much love to Dina & Emma!

**KAITLYN ANDREWS** (u/s Nellie Reed) is a performer, writer, and teaching artist here in Chicago. She is a graduate of Northwestern University’s theatre program, a company member and teaching artist with The PlayMakers Laboratory Theatre (formerly Barrel of Monkeys), and an instructor of circus arts for elementary school students through The Actors Gymnasium. Most recently Kaitlyn has worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and The Neo-Futurists. This is Kaitlyn’s second time working on *Burning Bluebeard*, and she is so grateful to have the opportunity to play with all these clowns, and share this story here at Porchlight.

**DAVE HONIGMAN** (u/s Henry Gilfoil/Eddie Foy) was one of the last Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey circus clowns in “Out of This World,” the closing tour. His credits since include *Burning Bluebeard* (Neo-Futurists, Ruffians), *Pardonned by Grace* (Graham Family Films), *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Red Theater Chicago), *Monday Night Live* (iO Chicago), *Promo Code: Family* (Second City Conservatory), and actor/writer with *Proper Clown* and *Overqualified* (iOCN). In association with The Clown School of Los Angeles, Dave became a member of the award-winning theatre company Four Clowns, and was a founding member of The Innocents. Many thanks to his family, Maddie Baird, Gray Talent Group, the Ruffians, the Neo-Futurists, and Porchlight Music Theatre. Connect with Dave @HonigClown.

**RAWSON VINT** (u/s Faerie Queen/Robert Murray) is a graduate of DePaul University’s Acting Conservatory. He has worked with various Chicago theatre companies as a teaching artist, musician and performer including Second City, PlayMakers Lab and Lookingglass Theatre. Excited to be apart of the production of *Burning Bluebeard*.

**HALENA KAYS** (Director) is the co-founder and former artistic director of Playmakers Lab (AKA Barrel of Monkeys) where she created and directed the majority of their public performances. She is a founding member of the artistic collaborative, The Ruffians, former member of the Big Apple Circus Clown Care unit, past artistic director of The Hypocrites and former co-artistic curator for Theater on the Lake. Halena is an Artistic Associate with the Neo-Futurists where she directed *Comfortable Shoes*, *Pop/Waits, 44 Plays for 44 Presidents, Burning Bluebeard, Daredevils, Daredevils Hamlet* and *Fake Lake*. Selected Chicago directing credits: *Endgame, Ivywild, Six Characters in Search of an Author* at (The Hypocrites); *The Magic Play* (The Goodman), *Lord of the Flies* (Steppenwolf); *On Clover Road* (American Blues Theater); *Feast* (part of a collaborative directing effort with The Albany Park Theatre Project and The Goodman). Regionally Halena has directed The Magic Play at The Olney Theater Center, The Actor’s Theater of Louisville, Portland Center Stage and Syracuse Stage, *Love Song* (Nashville Story Garden), and *Secretary* (Nashville Rep’s Ingram New Works Festival). Halena has been nominated for Joseph Jefferson awards for Best Supporting Actress, Best Direction, and Best Production, named one of the top 50 “players” in Chicago theater by *NewCity*, is a recipient of the prestigious 3Arts award and received a signed letter from Mr. Rogers saying she was “special” in 1978. She is a UT-Austin and Northwestern grad, and assistant professor at Northwestern University. Proud member, SDC.

**ARIEL ETANA TRIUNFO** (Choreographer) is delighted to be involved in bringing this soul-stirring story to the Porchlight Music Theatre stage! Choreography credits include: *A Man of No Importance* (Columbia College Chicago), *Fast Food Chain* (Adventure Stage Chicago), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Refuge Theatre Project), and choreographic works for Utah Festival Opera, MODAS Dance Training Program, and Nevada Ballet Theatre. Some favorite performance credits: *Gypsy, Porchlight Revisits: Can–Can* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Spamalot* (Mercury Theater Chicago), *West Side Story* (Utah Festival Opera), *Boy on the Roof* (The School at Jacob’s Pillow), *The Threepenny Opera* (Greer Garson Theatre), and *Stranger on the River* (Bittersweet Arts Company). Ariel received her B.A. in Musical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago. arieltriunfo.com @etana_ariel
JEFFREY D. KMIEC* (Scenic Designer) is an award-winning Chicago-based scenic designer. His designs have been seen at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Timeline Theatre, American Players Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Raven Theatre, The Artistic Home, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Heritage Theatre Festival and The Children’s Theatre of Charlotte. He received three consecutive Equity Jeff Awards for his designs on The Little Mermaid at the Paramount Theatre (2017), Deathtrap at Drury Lane Theatre (2016), and Les Miserables at The Paramount Theatre (Co-Design with Kevin Depinet in 2015). Jeffrey received his MFA from the University of Virginia and is a member of USA 829.

BILL MOREY* (Costume Designer) has designed over two dozen productions at Porchlight. He is a 16-time Jeff nominee, and has received the Jeff Award for Nine, The King and I, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, and Dreamgirls (Porchlight Music Theatre). Proud member of USA 829. www.billmorey.com

LIZZIE BRACKEN (Original Scenic and Costume Design) is a company member with The Ruffians and has enjoyed working on this beautiful show since its inception. Chicago credits include The Magic Play (Goodman Theatre); Lord of the Flies, The Book Thief, Blacktop Sky, and See What I Wanna See (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); On Clover Road (American Blues Theater); Endgame, Ivywild and Six Characters in Search of an Author (The Hypocrites); PopWaits and 44 plays for 44 Presidents (The Neo-Futurists). Regional Credits include Breath of Life (Portland Center Stage); The Magic Play (Actors Theatre of Louisville, Portland Center Stage, and Olney Theatre Center). Lizzie received her Bachelors of Architecture from the University of Notre Dame, and MFA from The University of Texas and Austin.

MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT (Lighting Designer) Chicago: The Magic Play (Goodman Theater); Endgame, Six Characters in Search of An Author and The Threepenny Opera (The Hypocrites); Burning Bluebeard (The Ruffians); The Orchestra, Kokkola, and Red & Green (Akvavit Theatre); Roustabout, Fake Lake, Daredevils: Hamlet and 44 Plays for 44 Presidents (Neo-Futurists). Maggie is the Production Manager at TimeLine Theatre. She is also a founding collective member of The Ruffians and an emerita company member of Barrel of Monkeys. She would like to thank her friends, colleagues, and family for always supporting her in this crazy career.

ROBERT HORNBOSTEL (Associate Sound Designer) Porchlight: A Chorus Line, Gentleman’s Guide…, Gypsy, Memphis, Merrily We Roll Along, Billy Elliot, In the Heights, Dreamgirls, End of the Rainbow, Far From Heaven, Ain’t Misbehavin’, Side Show, …Forum, and Porchlight Revisits Babes in Arms. Robert is a freelance sound designer, audio engineer, composer and educator based in Chicago. He graduated from Illinois State University, and has recently lectured with Fort Lewis College, University of Nebraska, Western Illinois University, and USITT. Selections of his previous work can be found at TechmagicDesigns.com and makebelieve.fm.

SAM MORYOUSSEF (Production Manager) is pleased to have the opportunity to be back with the Ruffians for another production of Burning Bluebeard. He recently moved back to Chicago from North Carolina where he was working as the Assistant Technical Director at Elon University. Sam has had, and continues to have, the pleasure of working in production management, lighting, and carpentry, with several theatres throughout the city, including Lookingglass Theatre Company, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare. Currently he is also working at Lifeline Theatre as the Master Electrician/AV Supervisor. Sam is thrilled to be back in Chicago and working with such a welcoming group of artists and craftsmen.

JUSTINE B. PALMISANO (Stage Manager) is a Collective Member of The Ruffians and incredibly grateful to spend her 7th holiday season stage managing Burning Bluebeard. Previous work includes Eclipsed (Pegasus Theater), Don’t Look Back/Must Look Back (Pivot Arts), A Wrinkle in Time (Lifeline Theatre), Open Season (The Gift: 4802), and Aristophanesathon, You On The Moors Now, Adding Machine: A Musical, All Our Tragic, Endgame, Into the Woods, 12 Nights, Ivywild, Pirates of Penzance/The Mikado, The Fall of the House of Usher, Romeo Juliet, Six Characters in Search of an Author, Sophocles Seven Sicknesses (The Hypocrites). By day she is a Physical Instructor for the Chicago Park District. For useful mirth and salutary woe.
TRISTAN CHIRUVOLU (Assistant Stage Manager) is so grateful to be a part of this story for the first time. He has previously stage managed for Chicago theatre companies such as The Hypocrites, Lifeline Theatre, and (re)discover theatre. He would like to take this opportunity to thank his family, his baby, his roommates, and Grookey for all that they do. Tristan is a proud graduate of Northwestern University.

MICHAEL WEBER (Artistic Director) most recently directed Sunset Boulevard and Gypsy for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits production of 1776. His productions of Gypsy, End of the Rainbow, Side Show, Forum, Sweeney Todd, Pal Joey and Assassins at Porchlight, Grand Hotel at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place and She Loves Me at Theatre at the Center were each nominated for the Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Production—Musical. Other directing credits include Living the History-125 Years of the Auditorium Theatre starring Patti LuPone, John Mahoney, and stars of Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and others, Fifth of July and Talley’s Folly at the Oak Park Festival Theatre, The Petrified Forest at Theatre at the Center, Beauty and the Beast at Marriott Theatre, Over the River and Through the Woods at Mercury Theater, and Cirque du Symphonic at Sears Center Arena. The recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards, he has written and directed the past fifteen Joseph Jefferson Awards ceremonies. Weber’s regional acting credits include The Merry Widow and The Sound of Music at Lyric Opera, 42nd Street at Paramount, Annie Get Your Gun and Gypsy (both starring Patti LuPone) at Ravinia, Disney’s My Son Pinocchio at First Stage Milwaukee, Around the World in 80 Days at Cleveland Playhouse, The Winter’s Tale and Henry V at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Angel Street at First Folio Shakespeare, and The Gifts of the Magi at Indiana Repertory. He served previously as artistic director of Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place (now The Broadway Playhouse) and Theatre at the Center. Michael is proud to serve as a pledge host on WTTW, Channel 11.

JEANNIE LUKOW (Executive Director) is a founding member of Porchlight Music Theatre’s board of directors serving on the board for 19 years, six of them as its president. She was thrilled to join the staff in September 2014 as the company’s first Executive Director. Prior to taking the helm at Porchlight, Jeannie ran Bespoke Cuisine, one of Chicago’s leading cooking party venues, which she co-founded/owned for 12 years. Before the hospitality/food business, Jeannie built a 15-year career in marketing communications, much of it spent in association management. Her most recent position was as Managing Director of the National Association of Realtors, one of the nation’s largest trade associations. She is a native Michigander and a graduate of Michigan State University.
PRODUCTION STAFF
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Production Stage Manager .................................................. JUSTINE B. PALMISANO
Assistant Stage Manager ...................................................... TRISTAN CHIRUVOLU
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THE RUFFIAN’S STAFF
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THE RUFFIANS COLLECTIVE
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The Ruffians would like to thank: Porchlight Music Theatre, Michael Weber, Bernie & Kathy Torrence, Ernie & Melody Blood, Dean Evans, Molly Plunk, Lizzie Bracken, Maggie Fullilove-Nugent, Mike Tutaj, Mikey Moran, Archer Curry, Kurt Chiang, Megan Mercier, Victoria Johnson, Mike Spatafora, Joseph Schupbach, Hilda Annie Coulson, Ryan & Vonni Torrence, The Anna Miller Generational Trust, Emily & Christopher J. Nugent, Sam & Betsy Torrence, Dan & Shelly Ross, Agnes Nancy Simpson and Nate & Christie Torrence.
Porchlight gratefully acknowledges the following individuals, corporations, and foundations who generously gave gifts of $100 or more to The Annual Fund, The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Cash Reserves Challenge Grant, The Rachel Rockwell Memorial Fund for Fierce Women Behind the Table, The George K. Sargent III Cash Reserve Fund, and The Christopher N. Tisone Memorial Stage Management Fund during the period: November 11, 2018 through November 12, 2019. For a full list of all contributions, please consult our website at PorchlightMusicTheatre.org/Our-Contributors.

We also thank those patrons of Gypsy, A Chorus Line, and Sunset Boulevard, whose contributions to the post-show collection support scholarships to Porchlight’s “Make Your Own Musical” Youth Summer Camp and other youth programs.

For information about the multiple ways of supporting Porchlight, please contact Lisa Torgerson, Development Director, at lisa@porchlightmusictheatre.org or call 773.777.9884. We endeavor to make this listing as accurate as possible. Should you detect an error, please contact Rachel Cantzler, Development Manager, at rachel@porchlightmusictheatre.org.

Jill Moore-Pancrazi

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**About Porchlight Music Theatre**

*The 25th Anniversary Season is Dedicated to the Memory of George K. “Kim” Sargent, III*

Porchlight is at a pivotal point in its history—thriving in a new performance home in the Gold Coast, welcoming our growing subscriber and donor base, and bringing more Chicago youth to the theatre through our community outreach programs, as well as providing music theatre education to more local students—in schools, via community organizations, and through our own youth programs—than ever before.

This is a special moment, a time of reaching new audiences and supporters, and of firmly establishing Porchlight as the home for music theatre in Chicago—a valued cultural institution that elevates our city’s spirits and celebrates our shared humanity through the essential intersection of music, dance and drama. Join us!

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