The Skokie Park District’s Devonshire Playhouse presents

The Rimers of Eldritch

By Lanford Wilson

Directed by Robert Bouwman

Presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service Inc.

Saturdays, February 22 & 29 / 7P
Sundays, February 23 & March 1 / 3P

Devonshire Cultural Center

Videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.
THE CAST OF THE RIMERS OF ELDritch

Robert Conklin ................................................................. Taylor Atchison
Eva Jackson ........................................................................... Arwyn Gorecki
Evelyn Jackson ........................................................................ Kelsey Ledford
Nelly Windrod ................................................................. Shelby Slager
Mary Windrod .......................................................................... Nancy Kabat
Patsy Johnson ......................................................................... Megan Keating
Mavis Johnson .......................................................................... Anita Silvert
Peck Johnson (2/22 & 23) ..................................................... Tom Denman
Peck Johnson (2/29 & 3/1) ..................................................... Tom Campbell
Josh Johnson ............................................................................ George Petermeier
Lena Truit ................................................................................. Becky Lang
Martha Truit ............................................................................. Faith Douglas
Wilma Atkins ......................................................................... Jaime Churchill
Skelly Mannor .......................................................................... Maximillian Valdez
Preacher/Judge ....................................................................... T.S. Folke
Cora Groves ............................................................................. Jenece Upton
Walter .......................................................................................... Jack Burr
Trucker ......................................................................................... Bruce Urso
Pianist ......................................................................................... Teri Lang

SETTING – THE RIMERS OF ELDritch

The town of Eldritch, USA
Set in no particular time

ACT I

INTERMISSION

Refreshments sold. Proceeds from sales support the Devonshire Playhouse.

ACT II
PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Supervisor ................................................................. Robin Horwitz
Artistic Director ............................................................................ Robert Bouwman
Technical Director ........................................................................... Evans Poulos
Stage Manager/Sound Design .................................................. Sean Smyth
Stage Management Advisor .......................................................... Jennifer King Russell
Stage Combat & Intimacy Coordinator ........................................ Amber Wuttke
Set Designer .................................................................................. Heather Kristan
Costume Designer ............................................................................ Jazmin Aurora Medina
Lighting Designer .............................................................................. Kinaesthetics Inc.
Props Designer ................................................................................ Lynda Piatt
Scenic Artists................................................................................. Heather Kristan & Lynda Piatt
Carpentry .................................................................................. Heather Kristan & Tyler Skafgaard
Light Operator ............................................................................... Sean Smyth
Sound Operator ............................................................................... Heather Kristan & Evans Poulos
Intimacy Captain ............................................................................... Maximillian Valdez
Marketing Manager ........................................................................ Jim Bottorff
Graphic Designers ................................................................. Rachel Pozner & Scott Walker
Program Coordinator ..................................................................... Robin Horwitz
Program Design .............................................................................. Sydney Kornowski, Marcus Promotions
House Management ........................................................................ Robin Horwitz, Andrea Collins,
  Eileen Hand, & Gayle Starr
House Crew .................................................................................. Alvin Sampath, Michael Glassner, Bryan Liston,
  Jonathan Sancen, Danny Sassetti, Lorenzo Verdugo & Mario Villegas
Ushers .................................................................................................. The Saints
Box Office Supervisor ....................................................................... Caryn Watson
Tickets Sales Staff ........................................................................... Barb Doherty, Elizabeth Garcia,
  Sandra Garcia, Amos Gillespie, Mary A Hake,
  Nasser Khan, Tyler Skafgaard, Ali Syed & Sue Zaccagnini

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Although *The Rimers of Eldritch* by Lanford Wilson was written in 1967, I chose it because the play still resonates today. I am sure you are aware that we live in a time where fact and fiction have become blended and the truth is fluid, but truth matters. Facts are real. Honesty, though it’s hard to see it now, is still the best policy. *The Rimers of Eldritch*, at its heart, is a cautionary tale. It holds a mirror to our faces and says, “Where do you stand? What is important to you? What will you do?” It provides no answers other than to show us what we could become if we don’t act. For now, the choice is still ours. Soon we all must take a stand or live with the consequences.

I dedicate this show to the memory of my college professor, Denny Bettisworth. I auditioned for *Rimers* in college and Denny was directing. When I didn’t get cast, I was crushed. He pulled me aside and asked if I would be his stage manager. He said I could be numerous parts in the play with ease, but he wanted to teach and challenge me with stage management. He said it would open the world of theater for me and he was right. Thank you Denny, for that life-altering challenge.
COMING SOON TO THE DEVONSHIRE CULTURAL CENTER

Spring Theatre, Dance, Music, Fine Art & Cooking Classes
Ask for a copy of our Spring Activity Guide at the front desk. Registration is open now!

Performances for Devonshire Young Performers’ Mary Poppins Jr.
April 18 & 25 / 7P and April 19 & 26 / 3P

E.D.G.E. Youth Theatre presents The Neverending Story
March 6 & 7 / 7P & March 8 / 3P

Thin Ice Ensemble presents Emma.
March 13 & 14 / 7:30P & March 15 / 3P

E.D.G.E. Theatre’s Constellation Project presents High School Musical Jr.
March 26 & 27 / 7P, March 28 & 29 / 3P

Devonshire Dance Ensemble presents DDE Rocks.
March 21 / 7P & March 22 / 3P.

Auditions for The Devonshire Playhouse’s Company.
March 15 & 22 / 6-9P and March 23 / 7-10P.

For more information or to make an audition appointment, call 847-929-7420 or email rhhorwitz@skokieparks.org

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Taylor Atchison (Robert Conklin) has been a part of the Skokie community for two years now after living on Chicago’s North Side for seven years. He is originally from a small farming town outside Rockford IL. He attended college at North Central in Naperville and currently works as an account manager for a commercial insurance firm. His favorite hobbies include Bikram Hot Yoga, playing the clarinet/saxophone and traveling as much as possible. His favorite character played was the title role in The King and I.

Arwyn Gorecki (Eva Jackson) is excited to join the cast of The Rimers of Eldritch. She previously enjoyed acting in Tarzan, the Musical (Jane), The Adventures of Tom Sawyer! (Judge Thatcher), Summer School Musical (Claire), Into the Woods Jr. (Rapunzel), The Lion King Jr. and Best of Broadway. Arwyn was also onstage in A Chorus Line and she helped to build the set and performed for the Devonshire Playhouse production of Into the Woods.

Kelsey Ledford (Evelyn) is a recent graduate of the University of Missouri with a B.A. in English and East Asian studies. She currently serves as an intern with Travel Media Publishing.

Theatre credits include: Little Women (Meg), The Dining Room (Tonya, Sarah & Christina) Legally Blonde, A Chorus Line, Footloose, Fame (Grace “Lambchops” Lamb), Into the Woods Jr. (Evil Stepsister), Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (Candyman), Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Sound of Music and The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (Baby Angel). Kelsey is excited to participate in her eleventh production with the Devonshire Playhouse.
Shelby Slager (Nelly Windrod) is excited to perform for the first time at the Devonshire Playhouse. She has performed at North Central College in Other Ways to Resist (American 1), Vinegar Tom (Outer Play), and Mosque Alert (Jen Baker). She also recently worked on the short film, The Fear of Finding Something Worse (Shannon). She would like to thank her amazing partner, family, and friends for all their love and support.

Nancy Kabat (Mary Windrod) is thrilled to play Mary Windrod in The Rimers of Eldridge. Past credits include: Tom Sawyer (Judge Thatcher), Into the Woods (Jack's Mother) and A Little Night Music (Mrs. Segstrom) with Devonshire Playhouse. She has also been a part of several Opera Theater productions at Northeastern Illinois University. For 34 years she has been a general music teacher in Chicago Public and Glenview Schools. In addition, she is a professional Cantor and Flautist for various churches in the Chicago Area. She dedicates her performance to her family and thanks them for their love and support of her acting endeavors.

Megan Keating (Patsy Johnson) is so excited to premiere in her first Devonshire Playhouse production. Past theatre credits include: The Vagina Monologues at Oakton Community College. She graduated from Oakton with an Associates in Art degree, and will be pursuing a Bachelors in Parks and Recreation at Northeastern University in the fall. She would like to thank her friends and family who constantly support her in her artistic endeavors, and thanks to all of YOU for coming to see the show!

Anita Silvert (Mavis Johnson) is happy to be back at Devonshire with such a welcoming cast. Previous much loved shows include: Follies (Phyllis), Cabaret (Fraulein Schneider), Fiddler on the Roof (Golde), Beau Jest (Miriam), Annie (Miss Hannigan), Crossing Delancey (Bubbe), The Man Who Came To Dinner (Miss Preen). Anita’s Cabaret You Really Shouldn’t Sing that: An Evening of Inappropriate Songs is available on YouTube, (search Anita Silvert). Anita is Director of Enrollment at Spertus Institute and is eternally grateful to her family, husband Don, Rachel, Malia, David and mother Charlene, who started it all.

Tom Denman (Peck Johnson 2/22 & 23) is excited to be working on his second show at the Devonshire Playhouse. He was last seen in the orchestra of Pippin in 2018 as the bassist. He has also done several shows with Robert as an actor. Tom has played in the Evanston Symphony Orchestra for almost 20 years and in seven Gilbert and Sullivan productions with the Savoyaires. He was also in a dad band called “East of Edens” for several years. The cast and crew of the Devonshire Playhouse are honored to have both Tom Denman and Tom Campbell step in to share the role of Peck Johnson!

Tom Campbell (Peck Johnson 2/29 & 3/1) grew up in a small town like Eldritch and is excited to make his Devonshire Playhouse debut. Most recently he was in 1776 (Samuel Chase) at the Skokie Theatre. He has performed in several shows at the Conservatory in Chicago as well as at The Miracle Center, where he played in West Side Story.
(Detective Schrank) and in *A Puerto Rican Story* (Father Mark). Thank you Ann for all your love and support.

George Petermeier (Josh Johnson) is a Minneapolis native, Chicago transplant and current Junior in the BFA Acting program at the University of Illinois Chicago. He was most recently seen in *The Next Room* at UIC, and when not acting he is either pouring lattes at Peet’s Coffee, caring for his succulents or learning how to (safely) swordfight. This is his first production at the Devonshire Playhouse and he is grateful for the opportunity to put into practice what he has spent three years studying.

Becky Lang (Lena Truit) is excited to return to the Devonshire stage after many years away. A Northwestern graduate, she has appeared in various professional productions throughout the Chicagoland area in both theatre as well as film/TV, earning her SAG (Screen Actors Guild) eligibility in 2014. Becky has also written, directed and produced her own work. She cares a great deal about making meaningful art and she hopes this production reminds everyone the importance of empathy and imagining people complexly.

Faith Douglas (Martha Truit) Originally hailing from the Quad Cities, Faith is currently a sophomore theatre major at Northwestern University. Favorite past performances include: *Merchant of Venice* (Portia) and *The Rocking Boy* (Dophie). This is their first time performing at the Devonshire Cultural Center and they want to thank the cast and crew of *Rimers* for this opportunity.

They also want to thank their family for their love and support and for just being awesome. Go ‘Cats!

Jaime Churchill (Wilma Atkins) is appearing in her first production for Devonshire Playhouse. She grew up in the theater and has previously performed across Chicago and Milwaukee. Past favorites include: *Laramie Project* (Amanda Gronich), *Uncommon Women* (Rita) and *The Crucible* (Rebecca Nurse). Jaime is also a character actor for Six Flags. By day, Jaime works in Human Resources. She lives in northern Lake County with her husband, daughter and two dogs. Jaime thanks the cast and crew of *Rimers* for making her first show here such a great experience!

Maximillian Valdez (Skelly Mannor & Intimacy Captain) is thrilled to be on a new and local stage in Skokie. He had performed with show director, Robert Bouwman at Cornservatory in *Storefront Theatre Musical* last year. Max’s day job is at Playful Pets Playtime, a doggy daycare and overnight boarding shelter. He has a few rescues who need a good home if any families attending performances are looking for a new family friend be sure to ask Max how and where.

T.S. Folke (Judge/Preacher) This is Mr. Folke’s theatre debut. Born in New Jersey, he migrated west, stopping in Nebraska, Iowa and then Wisconsin. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, he dipped south to Atlanta. It was there that he “got rhythm,” or so he claims. Following a return to the Midwest, he has been...
employed by NBC Sports Chicago. An avid supporter of the arts, he is thrilled to be working and learning with a wonderful, talented group of actors. He thanks his beautiful daughters Callie and Lena for their theatrical inspiration and wife, Patrice for years of love and support.

Jenece Upton (Cora Groves) is excited to return to the Devonshire Playhouse where her love for theater began! In addition to working as a Corporate Social Responsibility professional, Jenece is an experienced vocalist and musician and has been performing for over 20 years. Since relocating to the Chicago area, she's enjoyed performing with Devonshire in Pippin, with Corn Productions in Storefront Theater Musical, and with Harper Ensemble Theatre Company in American Idiot. Jenece would like to thank the cast and crew for this wonderful experience, her amazing friends and most of all, her incredible family for their continuous encouragement and support!

Jack Burr (Walter) is native to Chicago and recently starred in a short film called An Hour and 20, with Taylor LaRue Media, which is currently in a festival run. Before that he played Andrei in New Place Theatre's production of Three Sisters in Aurora, IL. Jack received his training at Acting Studio Chicago and studied briefly at The Second City Training Center. When he isn’t acting, Jack performs as a bassist and singer in the Villa Park based wedding band, Upscale, and hopes to one day have a fantasy/sci-fi screenplay produced.

Bruce Urso (Trucker) In 1968, Bruce took a workshop at Second City and was hooked. He trained there for several years, performing in the Children's Theater and Touring Company. Bruce received his Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Performing Arts from Northeastern Illinois University in 1972 and has appeared in several university and community productions since then. He loves performing on the Devonshire stage and returns here for the 5th time! Bruce sends many thanks to the teachers, directors and fellow actors he has met along the way and love to his wife, family and friends.

Teri Lang (Pianist) claims a long-term relationship here after Ed Berger, founder of Devonshire Playhouse, cast Teri in her first role. Her experience now includes many venues, but Teri enjoys returning to Devonshire. Favorite shows include: Pippin (Berthe), Urinetown (Josephine “Ma” Strong), Annie (Miss Hannigan), Once Upon a Mattress, (Queen Aggravain), Oklahoma (Aunt Eller) and The Wizard of Oz Scarecrow. Thanks to Robert, the crew and cast mates. Special thanks to Teri's daughter, Becky, who brought her into this craziness!
Robin Horwitz (Production Supervisor) serves as the Devonshire Cultural Center Manager and maintains her certification as a Parks and Recreation Executive. She has worked 34 years in the arts administrative field while also acting professionally in Off-B-way and regional theatre, films, and commercials. She developed a national award winning improv program for teens and is an experienced director, stage manager and drama therapist but above all she believes in the provision of community theatre. Robin’s best achievement is surrounding herself with the most talented people in this business and she thanks all the staff, cast and volunteers of The Devonshire Cultural Center.

Robert Bouwman (Artistic Director) is the Co-founder and former Artistic Director of Corn Productions, a 26-year-old storefront theater in Chicago. He has written, directed, and performed in over 50 original plays including musicals for children including the recent critically acclaimed comedy, Forgiveness. He has also performed and directed at the Theater Building, Royal George Theater and Bailiwick Theater as well performed in a one man show in Edinburgh Scotland for Fringe Fest. Most recently, Robert directed Pippin here at the Devonshire Playhouse.


Jennifer King Russell (Stage Management Advisor) is pleased to be working with The Devonshire Playhouse. Her 18-year career as a Stage, Production & House Manager included tours, summer stock, dinner theatre and in such Chicago area theatres as the Royal George and Steppenwolf. While on hiatus from theatre, Jennifer put her artistic efforts into getting certified in Interior Design and helping people transform their living spaces. She enjoys applying those skills toward theatre through set dressing, props and furniture procurement. She is thrilled to dip her toe back into stage management, especially at Devonshire where her kids’ lives have been so enriched.

Amber Wuttke (Fight Choreographer/Intimacy Coordinator) is co-founder of Violent Delights with 10 years of stage combat experience. She was fight choreographer for Devonshire’s 2018 Pippin. She designed fights for Sunset Boulevard, Oliver, and The Game’s Afoot with Drury Lane Theatre, where she also works on wigs and costumes. She worked on Reefer Madness with Circle Theatre and high school productions of Les Miserables: High School Edition and She Kills Monsters. In the past year, Amber completed work on Little Shop of Horrors and Three Cat Production’s Maker of Worlds. Amber thanks the crew of Rimers for inviting her to be part of their team.

Jazmin Aurora Medina (Costume Designer) is a professional costume designer, costume manager, and wig/make-up artist in both Wisconsin and Illinois. She has designed: *Follies*, *Tarzan the Musical*, *Fiddler on the Roof Jr.*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *Secret Garden* and *Pippin* for the Devonshire Playhouse. Recently, her work in costume design was selected to be exhibited nationally at USITT and internationally at the 2019 Prague Quadrennial. Previous professional credits have included the Northbrook Theatre, Florentine Opera, and First Stage Children’s Theatre. Her portfolio of previous work and upcoming projects can be seen at www.jazminaurora.com.

Alec Kinastowski & Kinesthetics, Inc (Lighting Design) is thrilled to continue the collaboration with Devonshire. He has been immersed in the technical entertainment industry for over a decade and obtained a BFA in lighting design from DePaul University. Since then, he has become the technical director for Spotlight Youth Theatre and refined his aesthetic through lighting, sound, and scenic design endeavors for productions and theatre companies including The Metropolis, Big Deal Productions, Bravo, Wishing Star, Highland Park Players, St. James Productions and Schaumburg On Stage. Alec is owner of Kinasthetics, Inc., a supplier of lighting, audio products, services, and installations for all facets of the entertainment industry.


Tyler Skafgaard (Carpentry) was most recently seen on the Devonshire stage in *Follies* and *The Man Who Came To Dinner* (*Bert Jefferson*). Tyler has a Bachelor of Arts in Conflict Transformation with a focus in Theatre from North Park University. He is using his degree to increase empathy and understanding through the use of theatre. Tyler also is a company member with Akvavit Theatre performing modern Nordic theatre. He wants to thank all his friends and family for their support.
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