The Gift Theatre Company proudly presents

WRITTEN BY
Martin McDonagh

DIRECTED BY GUEST ARTIST
Laura Alcalá Baker

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Isa Ramos

SCENIC DESIGNER
Lauren Nichols

**COSTUME DESIGNER
Izumi Inaba

LIGHTING DESIGNER
David Goodman-Edberg

SCENIC ARTIST
Courtney Winkelman

SOUND DESIGNERS & COMPOSERS
Mikhail Fiksel & Jeffrey Levin

MASTER ELECTRICIAN
Kai Magee

PUPPET DESIGNER
Daniel Dempsey

INTIMACY & FIGHT DIRECTORS
Rachel Flesher & Zach Payne

PROPERTIES DESIGNER
Jillian Gryzlak

STAGE MANAGER
Alex Oparka

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
Tori Thompson

PRODUCTION MANAGER
* Sarah Luse

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
David Preis

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

** Member of United Scenic Artists • Local USA 829 • IATSE

The Gift Theatre Company
4802 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60630
(773) 283-7071 | www.thegifttheatre.org

February 27 – March 29, 2020

“Come Closer.”
FEATURING (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Tupolski ...........................................................................................................................................*+ Cyd Blakewell
Ariel ..................................................................................................................................................*+ Gregory Fenner
Katurian..............................................................................................................................................+ Martel Manning
Michal .......................................................................................................................................................*+ Jay Worthington

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers
+Indicates Gift Ensemble Member

UNDERSTUDIES

Ariel & Michal...............................................................................................................................Raphael Diaz
Katurian..............................................................................................................................................Emerson Elias
Tupolski..............................................................................................................................................Kate Staiger

Understudies do not substitute for listed players unless an announcement is made at the time of the performance.

SHOW INFORMATION

The play runs approximately 2 hours, 30 minutes
The play is performed with one 15-minute intermission.

As a courtesy to the actors and fellow audience members, please turn off your cell phone!

Please do not text during the performance.

The use of cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited.
**PRODUCTION SPONSORS & EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS!**

*The Pillowman* is made possible with the support, enthusiasm and more than generous contributions of the following individuals and organizations:

- Gannon Graphics, Inc.
- Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium (CCAC) and the Michael and Mona Heath Fund for the equipment needed for Access Performances

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THE GIFT ENSEMBLE


giftED. ALUMNI

Jacopo De Marinis, Owen O’Malley, Declan Schliesmann and Symone Rodriguez,
Corbett Baratta, Francesca Plantz and Pat Weber

THE GIFT’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ashley Sliva, and Michael Patrick Thornton
Cyd Blakewell (Tupolski) loves her Gift Family and is ecstatic to play this role in this play with these people. Gift credits: Doubt, A Life Extra Ordinary, Good For Otto, Body + Blood, Broadsword, Mine and TEN. Other Chicago credits: The Snare (Jackalope); Balm In Gilead and Port (Griffin); Buddy Cap 2, breaks & bikes and MilkMilkLemonade (Pavement Group); Sweet Confinement and Ivanov (SiNNERMAN Ensemble); Orange Flower Water (Interrobang); Lies & Liars and Mimesophobia (Theatre Seven); and Rewind (The Side Project). Cyd is a graduate of The School at Steppenwolf. All of my love to Keith, Wesley, JKC and The Gift.

Gregory Fenner (Ariel) is thrilled to return to The Gift for another show, where he is an ensemble member. The Gift Theatre credits include: Richard III, Hang Man, Hamlet, Cosmologies. Chicago credits include: The First Deep Breath (Victory Gardens Theatre); Megastasis (Eclipse Theatre-Jeff Nominated); A Small Oak Tree Runs Red (Congo Square Theatre); 10 out of 12 (Theater Wit); Love and Information (Remy Bumppo Theatre); Native Son (Court Theatre, u/s). Regional credits: Pass Over (Curious Theatre Company); Angels in America: Parts I & II, Six Degrees of Separation (Stray Dog Theatre); The Whipping Man (New Jewish Theatre); Fully Committed (Stray Dog Theatre-St. Louis Theatre Circle Award Winner: Best Leading Actor in a Comedy), TV: The Chi (SHOWTIME), Empire (FOX), Chicago Fire (NBC), Chicago P.D. (NBC). He is a graduate from The Second City Conservatory and proudly represented by Paonessa Talent.

Jay Worthington (Michal) is a proud ensemble member of The Gift Theatre. Jay's previous Gift credits include A Life Extra Ordinary, The Grapes of Wrath, Richard III, Good for Otto, The Royal Society of Antarctica, Othello, Thinner Than Water, War of the Worlds, Vigs, Absolute Hell, Cloud 9, Night and Her Stars, Suicide Incorporated, and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. Jay was most recently seen at TimeLine Theatre in To Catch A Fish. Recent film credits include Dreaming Grand Avenue and The Last Shift. To those in attendance: bless you. You are The Gift. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Raphael Diaz (Understudy Ariel and Michal) was recently featured in Non-Disclosure Agreement as part of The Gift Theatre's TEN.2020 season kick-off festival of ten-minute plays. He is a film school dropout turned stage actor. Some of his favorite projects include, The Harvest (Griffin Theatre), Native Gardens (Victory Gardens), and The Wolf at the End of the Block (Teatro Vista). He can next be seen in First Floor Theatre's world premiere of The Juniors. Raphael trained at Black Box Acting and is represented by Gray Talent. Love and gratitude to his friends and family. For Brad and Dexter.

Martel Mannin (Katurian) is so excited to be a part of this team. Previous performances with The Gift Theatre include Kentucky, Cosmologies, Hamlet, and Hang Man among others. Chicago Credits: Photograph 51 (Court Theatre); Fallen Angels and Pirandello's Henry V (Remy Bumppo); Cymbeline (Strawdog Theatre Company); Her Majesty's Will and Miss Buncle's Book (Lifeline Theatre). Regional credits include Romeo and Juliet (Juliet's Journey) (Oregon Shakespeare Festival – School Visit Program); Still Dance the Stars (New Light Theatre Project co-production with Chicago Dramatists); and Michigan Shakespeare Festival’s 2019 season. Martel received his MFA from the University of Houston and is also an ensemble member with Lifeline Theatre.
Emerson Elias (Understudy Katurian) first began acting in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio where he trained and worked on film and stage productions along with the Columbus Children’s Theatre, Gallery Players, SRO Theatre Company, and Running Tiger Films. Now based in Chicago, Emerson has had the fortune of working on American Rev as George Washington with Theatre Unspeakable, Sam Foster in Cursed with Birch House Immersive, Armin in Equivocation with Idle Muse and several other great minds in the Chicago Theatre! “It is such an honor and a joy to be here. I couldn’t be more excited!”

Kate Staiger (Understudy Tupolski) is a Chicago based performer, director, and writer. Her collaborations include other works with Steppenwolf, Oracle, Lookingglass, Piven, Red Tape, Metropolis, and Playmakers Lab. She is the mother of two awesome kids and is thrilled to be working with The Gift.

Martin McDonagh (Playwright) is an Irish-British playwright, screenwriter, producer, and director. Born in 1970, the son of Irish parents, he was brought up, along with his older brother, in a South London neighborhood among many other working-class Irish émigré families. His mother cleaned offices and houses; his father was a construction worker who hailed from Connemara, on Ireland’s west coast, a rocky, windswept district that served as the setting for most of McDonagh’s plays. At the age of 16, he announced his intention to become a writer, and wound up living on public assistance. A few years later, his parents moved back to Ireland, while he and his brother remained in the family home. During the decade that followed, McDonagh held various jobs, including a stint in a supermarket and another as a part-time administrative assistant at the British Department of Trade and Industry. In 1994, McDonagh’s brother went to California to study screenwriting, and McDonagh began a nine-month stretch of writing that yielded his first seven plays. Separated into two trilogies, McDonagh’s first six plays are located in and around County Galway, where he spent his holidays as a child. The first play he finished, The Beauty Queen of Leenane, premiered in 1996 at the Druid Theatre in Galway, Ireland and was nominated for a Laurence Olivier Award as Best Play for its London production. In 1998, the play went on to a successful run on Broadway and was nominated for six Tony Awards, winning four, for Best Leading Actress in a Play, Best Featured Actor in a Play, Best Featured Actress in a Play and Best Direction of a Play. The two other plays in McDonagh’s Leenane trilogy, A Skull in Connemara and The Lonesome West, were both staged in Galway in 1997. The Lonesome West also garnered a Tony Award nomination in 1999 for Best Play. His second trilogy is set across the Aran Islands, off the coast of County Galway, and consists of The Cripple of Inishmaan (1996), The Lieutenant of Inishmore (2001) and The Banshees of Inisheer. The third play has never been published. McDonagh’s first non-Irish play, The Pillowman, premiered at the Royal National Theatre in 2003. The play was awarded the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Play in 2004 and received a 2005 Tony Award nomination for Best Play. Other plays include Hangmen (2015) and A Very Very Very Dark Matter (2018). McDonagh did stop writing for the stage for a time, turning his attention to film. In 2006, McDonagh won an Academy Award for his short film Six Shooter (2004), the first film that he wrote and directed. McDonagh directed In Bruges (2008), a feature-length film based on his own screenplay and received a nomination for Best Original Screenplay at the 81st Academy Awards. Other films include Seven Psychopaths (2012) and Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (2017). Three Billboards received numerous accolades and won four awards at the 2017 Golden Globes, including Best Screenplay for McDonagh. – Extracted from the Encyclopedia of World Biography and Wikipedia.

Laura Acalá Baker (Director) (she/her/hers) is thrilled to be making her Gift Theatre debut. She is a Chicago based director and served as the Casting Director/Artistic Programs Manager at Victory Gardens Theater from 2016-2019 leading programs such as The Access Project and Directors’ Inclusion Initiative. Most recently, Laura directed the world premiere of Isaac Gomez’s The Leopard Play, or sad songs for lost boys (Steep Theatre) and The Way She Spoke: A Docu-
mythologia (DCASE, Greenhouse Theater Center). She also directed the audio drama BRAVA by Nancy Garcia Loza (Make-Believe Association) which is available on all podcast platforms. Other select works include: Equivocation, The Giver, 11:11, and Collapse (B Street Theater); There is No Message in the Message, Shamed (The Gift Theatre’s TEN); Project Potential (Broken Nose Theatre’s Bechdel Fest); and Jets, Sharks, and Beckys (Collaboraction’s Peacebook Festival). Laura is a proud member of the Alliance of Latinx Theatre Artists and was nominated for ‘Best Casting Director’ at the 2018 ALTA Awards and “Best Director - Brava” at the 2019 ALTA Awards.

Isa Ramos (Assistant Director) is a theatre artist from Tucson, Arizona. Her Chicago credits include Lake understudy in Strange Heart Beating (Cloudgate Theatre); Mercutio in Romeo & Juliet (Teatro Vista); 2 Unfortunate 2 Travel (Prop Thtr); THE ROARING ONES (Labyrinth Arts Underground) for Rhinofest 2019; Hook understudy in Neverland (Prop Thtr); Spikes in Unwell, A Midwestern Gothic Mystery (HartLife NFP); and Prince Miguel in The Princess Without Pots (Ghostlight Ensemble). She also assistant directed Queen of Sock Pairing (Red Tape Theatre); Blues for Mister Charlie (Echo Theatre Collective). Other credits include Anne in What Every Girl Should Know (Something Something Theatre Co.); Alice in the short-films Gun-Crossed Lovers and Carnicera. She graduated from The University of Arizona with a BFA in Theatre History & Dramaturgy and is grateful to be working on such thrilling work with lovely artists!

Lauren Nichols (Scenic Designer) is a freelance set designer and scenic artist who works full time as a scale model maker and draftsperson. Recent design credits include Always...Patsy Cline (Firebrand); Cat in the Hat and Knuffle Bunny (Northbrook Theatre for Young Audiences); P.Y.G (Jackalope); Mamma Mia (Highland Park Players); American Idiot (Harper College); Big Fish (Boho); Lyle Lyle Crocodile (Lifeline); and assistant work on Roe (Goodman). Upcoming projects include Beat Bugs (The Children’s Theatre of Madison); Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (Metropolis Performing Arts) and assisting on projects presented at St. Louis Opera and Julliard. MFA Northwestern. laurenangeldesigns.com
BIOGRAPHIES cont.

Courtney Winkelman (Scenic Artist) is thrilled to be working with The Gift Theatre for the 4th time! Courtney is currently working as the Scenic Art Apprentice at Steppenwolf Theatre Co. Other Scenic Art credits include A Chorus Line, Billy Elliot, Memphis (Porchlight Music Theatre); Freaky Friday, Hello Dolly! (Trollwood Performing Arts); All That He Was (Pride Film and Plays); Southern Gothic (Windy City Playhouse); Detour (Silk Road Rising); The Roommate (Citadel Theatre Company); James and the Giant Peach (Drury Lane Theatre); Carrie 2:The Rage, Hello My Name is Annie King (UnderScore Theatre Company); Ros and Rey (Victory Gardens). Previous ASM works include Doubt, Hangman, A Swell in the Ground (The Gift Theatre); Bus Stop (Eclipse Theatre Company).

David Goodman-Edberg (Lighting Designer) is delighted to be working with The Gift Theatre. Some recent designs include: ARC (Eisenhower Dance Detroit); Centered (Water Street Dance Milwaukee); America / Americans (Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre); The Silence in Harrow House (Rough House); His Shadow (16th Street)—please read note about this theater on my website if not familiar with #talesfromhisshadowat16thstreet); Saving the World (Chicago Tap Theatre); We Are Pussy Riot (Red Tape); The Memo (Organic); May The Road Rise Up (Factory); Tabletop Tragedies (Cabinet of Curiosity); The Stranger and the Shadow (Adventure Stage); Nuts and Bolts (Joel Hall Dancers); TAKE (Visceral Dance); and Naked (Trap Door). He has additionally toured with such companies as Manual Cinema, Eisenhower Dance, Visceral Dance, and Adventure Stage. daviddesignsthings.com.

Kai Magee (Master Electrician) (he/him) is a master electrician and lighting designer based in Chicago. Originally from Tokyo, Japan, Kai has worked as a lighting technician for many top Chicago theater companies, including Lookingglass, Steppenwolf, and Victory Gardens Theater. He attended Wesleyan University in CT, where he studied theatrical lighting design and physics. You can find his work at kaimageedesign.com.

Community TAVERN

4038 N. Milwaukee Avenue
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Izumi Inaba (Costume Designer) is delighted to come back to The Gift Theatre, where she previously designed Broadsword, Pilgrims, and Cosmologies. Her recent Chicago credits include Verboten (The House Theatre of Chicago); How A Boy Falls (Northlight Theatre); A Doll’s House (Raven Theatre); Kill Move Paradise (Timeline Theatre). Regionally her works appeared on stages at Goodman Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, The Repertory Theatre in St. Louis, City Theatre Pittsburgh, Baltimore Center Stage, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, and Kirk Douglas Theatre. Her upcoming projects includes Teenage Dick (Theater Wit), and The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington (Steppenwolf Theatre).

Mikhail Fiksel (Co-Sound Designer and Composer) is a designer, composer, musician and DJ based in Chicago and Brooklyn, NY. Recent Chicago collaborations include The Goodman Theater, Chicago Shakespeare, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens and Albany Park Theater Project. Other projects include Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theater, Signature Theater, La Jolla Playhouse, The Vineyard, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Rep, A.C.T., Writers Theatre, The Civilians, PlayCo, Manhattan Theatre Club, Williamstown Theater Festival, and original audio plays with Make Believe Association. Film work includes original scores for Glitch, The Wise Kids, and In Memoriam. He is a recipient of two Lucille Lortel Awards, multiple Joseph Jefferson Awards, two Drama Desk nominations, and the Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award. He is a proud member of TSDCA and USA, mikhailfiksel.com

Jeffrey Levin (Co-Sound Designer and Composer) returns to The Gift after previously designing sound for Hamlet. Selected credits include Chicago: Photograph 51 (Court); The Brothers Size (Steppenwolf); Tiny Beautiful Things (Victory Gardens); Small Mouth Sounds, Grey House (A Red Orchid); First Love is the Revolution, Hookman (Steep); KISS (Haven); and The Hairy Ape (Oracle Theatre, Jeff Award). Regional: Scapino (Gulfshore Playhouse); To Kill A Mockingbird (Hope Summer Repertory); The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (Children’s Theater of Madison). Upcoming: Intimate Apparel (Northlight); and The Great Leap (Asolo Repertory). Mr. Levin is the recipient of the Edes Foundation Prize for Emerging Artists, one Joseph Jefferson Award win and ten nominations. MM in Music Composition DePaul University and BMus in Music Composition Columbia College Chicago. www.jeffreylevinmusic.com

Jillian Gryzlak (Properties Designer) has worked with multiple theaters and event companies for over 14 years as a costume designer, prop artisan, educator, and artist. Collaborations include Redmoon, Dance Exchange, Illinois Caucus of Adolescent Health, Cabinet of Curiosities, Adventure Stage Chicago, NewMoon, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Artemisia Theatre, and Elgin Community College. Jillian also works with youth across Chicago Public Schools to create large scale murals and installations and can often be found getting messy at the ceramics studio.

Daniel Dempsey (Puppet Designer) is a thrilled to be working with The Gift Theatre for the first time. Daniel’s credits include Nickelodeon, (Joffrey Ballet); Big Fish (Broadway), Caucasian Chalk Circle (Off-
Stage Manager (Definition Theatre Company); 
Moon - Stage Manager (Red Tape Theatre); No Child Blood - We Are Pussy Riot Kentucky - Stage Manager (The Gift);

back working with The Gift. Chicago credits include: Alex Oparka (artistic storytelling. and changed – focused on character intent and with telling stories that will leave an audience moved is certified in Mental Health First Aid. His passions lay

Actor Combatant with Fight Directors Canada, and he with Redtwist; Spring Herland Favorite credits include

is Zack’s second production with The Gift Theatre. Other Gift credits include Wolf Play, and Hang Man. Select Chicago Credits; Twilight Bowl (Goodman Theatre); I am Not your Perfect Mexican Daughter, The Burials, Constellations (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); Kill Move Paradise, Rutherford and Son, In the Next Room…or the Vibrator Play (Timeline Theatre Company); Hoodoo Love, How I Learned to Drive (Raven Theatre); The Dutch Masters (Jackelope Theatre); First Love is the Revolution (Steep Theatre); The Displaced (Haven Theatre). Television credits include Intimacy Coordination for shows on: NETFLIX, FX, FOX, HBO, HBO MAX, MGM PARAMOUNT, CBS, HULU, and SHOWTIME. Rachel is an Intimacy Director, Intimacy Coordinator, and Lead Instructor with Intimacy Directors International, a creative team member and Instructor with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, and a Certified Fight Instructor with the Fight Directors Canada.

Rachel Flesher (Co-Intimacy and Fight Director) (she/they) is so happy to be back at The Gift Theatre for The Pillowman. Other Gift credits include Wolf Play, and Hang Man. Select Chicago Credits; Twilight Bowl (Goodman Theatre); I am Not your Perfect Mexican Daughter, The Burials, Constellations (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); Kill Move Paradise, Rutherford and Son, In the Next Room…or the Vibrator Play (Timeline Theatre Company); Hoodoo Love, How I Learned to Drive (Raven Theatre); The Dutch Masters (Jackelope Theatre); First Love is the Revolution (Steep Theatre); The Displaced (Haven Theatre). Television credits include Intimacy Coordination for shows on: NETFLIX, FX, FOX, HBO, HBO MAX, MGM PARAMOUNT, CBS, HULU, and SHOWTIME. Rachel is an Intimacy Director, Intimacy Coordinator, and Lead Instructor with Intimacy Directors International, a creative team member and Instructor with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators, and a Certified Fight Instructor with the Fight Directors Canada.

Zach Payne (Co-Violence and Intimacy Director) This is Zack’s second production with The Gift Theatre. Favorite credits include Herland with Redtwist; Spring Awakening and Blackbird (Blank); Twelfth Night, Or What You Will (Writer’s Theatre); Cabaret (Paramount Theatre); In the Next Room...Or the Vibrator Play (Timeline Theatre); In the Next Room...Or the Vibrator Play (Timeline Theatre); Women Laughing Alone With Salad (Theatre Wit); Burials (Steppenwolf for Young Audiences); and others. He is a certified Advanced Actor Combatant with Fight Directors Canada, and he is certified in Mental Health First Aid. His passions lay with telling stories that will leave an audience moved and changed – focused on character intent and artistic storytelling.

Alex Oparka (Stage Manager) is delighted to be back working with The Gift. Chicago credits include: Kentucky - Stage Manager (The Gift); We Are Pussy Riot - Assistant Stage Manager (Red Tape Theatre); In The Blood - Stage Manager (Red Tape Theatre); No Child - Stage Manager (Definition Theatre Company); Moon Man Walk - Rehearsal Stage Manager (Definition Theatre Company); Barbecue - Assistant Stage Manager (Strawdog Theatre Company). Forever thankful to my family for all the love and support throughout the years.

Tori Thompson (Assistant Stage Manager) is originally from Arizona but finds herself in the beautiful Midwest pursuing technical theatre. Tori is happy to be back at The Gift for her third production, having previously worked on TEN.2020 and Kentucky by Leah Nanako Winkler. The Pillowman has been an interesting production, and she has enjoyed bringing this story to life.

David Preis (Technical Director) has contributed his woodworking, general handyman, and all-around technical expertise to The Gift since 2002, becoming Technical Director in 2006. He worked as a luthier for nearly 40 years – making cellos and basses for Englehardt-Link based in Elk Grove Village. David studied theatre and design at Illinois Wesleyan and has worked as the sound engineer for “The Night Crawlers,” a Chicago area blues band. Throughout the years, he has designed, built, and/or coordinated lighting, set, and sound for a number of Chicago area productions including critically acclaimed productions of Tango and Josephine, The Mouse Singer both at Chicago Actors Ensemble, Brick/Walls Open Spaces for Shakti Dance Company, Crying Woolf at Zebra Crossing, and Light Up the Sky at Gurnee Theatre Company.

Sarah Luse (Production Manager) has been the production manager at The Gift for the last four seasons. Along with production managing she is a stage manager in the city. A few favorite Gift credits include The Lonesome West, Thinner Than Water, Wt, TEN, Bethany, Richard III, Pilgrims, Cosmologies, and Doubt. Other favorite Chicago stage management credits include Completeness, Thom Pain (based on nothing), Bad Jews, and The Antelope Party (Theater Wit); Bonhoeffer’s Cost and Redeemed: The Fall and Rise of Chuck Colson (Provision Theater); and The Temperamentals (About Face Theatre). Regionally Sarah has worked as part of the stage management team with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival for their 2014, 2018, and 2019 seasons.
Michael Patrick Thornton (Co-Founder, Artistic Director: The Gift) appeared in The Gift’s acclaimed, controversial, non-Jeff-Recommended production of Doubt at Steppenwolf; in Nassim (Barrow St./New York City Center); in Steppenwolf’s The Crucible; as King Richard in The Gift’s Richard III at Steppenwolf; in Gift ensemble member Will Eno’s Title and Deed (Lookingglass) directed by Gift ensemble member Marti Lyons; the premiere of Gift ensemble member Andrew Hinderaker’s Colossal; as well as Othello at The Gift (Iago) directed by longtime pal/collaborator Jonathan Berry. Michael appeared in Actors Theatre of Louisville’s Our Town and Will Eno’s Middletown at Steppenwolf, both directed by theatre wizard Les Waters. Michael played the title role in Steppenwolf’s The Elephant Man, directed Steppenwolf’s Of Mice and Men, and was a very grateful assistant director for Steppenwolf’s August: Osage County. Awards: Best Actor: 2017 Midwest International Film Festival (The View From Tall); Tree of Life Award: Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago; Chicago Finalist: National Shakespeare Contest (Mitzi-Newhouse Theatre; Lincoln Center); 3Arts Artist Award; Northlight Theatre’s Jack Springer Award for Outstanding Performance; The Tim Meier & Helen Coburn Meier Foundation Achievement Award; The Second City Foundation’s Jim Zulevic Chicago Arts Award; The Joseph Jefferson Award for Solo Performance; and induction into The University of Iowa and St. Patrick High School Halls of Fame. TV/Film: Away, All Rise, Madam Secretary, Magnum P.I., Counterpart, The Red Line, Elementary, The Exorcist, The Chicago Code, Jeri’s Grill, The Jamz, Private Practice, The View from Tall, The Dilemma. Michael is the creator of the critically acclaimed improv show YOU & ME, which recently played in Dublin, Ireland.

Emjoy Gavino (The Gift’s Casting Director/ Associate Artistic Director) Chicago credits include Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theater, About Face Theatre, The Hypocrites, The Second City, House Theatre, Northlight, Victory Gardens, Paramount, Broadway Playhouse, Lookingglass, The Neo-Futurists, The Gift and The Goodman Theatre. Regional credits include ReAct, Book-It Repertory, ACT, 5th Avenue Theatre, Village Theatre and Studio Theatre. On television, she was featured in The Exorcist, Mob Doctor, Empire (Fox); Chicago Fire and Chicago Med (NBC). Emjoy graduated from The School at Steppenwolf. She is a 3Arts Make a Wave grantee and is the founder/producer of The Chicago Inclusion Project.
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Footlights - Chicago
John Kelly Connolly
September 5, 1963
November 23, 2019

MAY THE ROAD rise up to meet you.
MAY THE WIND be always at your back.
MAY THE SUN shine warm upon your face:
MAY THE RAINS fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again
MAY GOD HOLD YOU in the palm of His hand.

TRADITIONAL IRISH BLESSING
In November 2016, The Gift lost one of our most passionate and passionately generous supporters.

Carol Cyganowski was and will always be an angel to all of us at The Gift. As a subscriber, Carol was at every production and it was a joy to hear her refreshingly wry, wonderful, spot-on critiques. And as a Production Sponsor, Carol got to be in the room with one of her theatrical heroes, David Rabe, as The Gift rehearsed and premiered his new play *Good for Otto*, a production that quite literally could not have happened without the generosity of the Cyganowskis.

The best way we at The Gift can honor Carol’s memory is to continue to seek out great, daring writing for the American Theatre and to present it with only the highest of aesthetic values. This memorial fund will allow us to do precisely that this season and seasons to come.

We miss you, Carol.

Thank you for giving us a kick in the pants when we needed it. Thank you for believing in us.

Thank you for your tremendous gift.

**DONATE NOW...**

If you would like to send a check, please make it out to The Gift Theatre and send it to:

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“Acting is a particularly thankless art. It dies with the actor. Nothing survives him but the reviews, which do not usually do him justice anyway, whether he is good or bad.

So the only source of satisfaction left to him is the audience’s reactions... The actor, in this special process of discipline and self-sacrifice, self-penetration and molding, is not afraid to go beyond all normally acceptable limits...

The actor makes a total gift of himself.”

—Jerzy Grotowski, Towards A Poor Theatre
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Without the support of patrons like Greg and Anne our shows would not be possible. We thank Greg and Anne and all our production sponsors supporting live theater in Jefferson Park.

"At The Gift you're up close, really close, with some of the best actors in Chicago. Or anywhere. The plays are always smart and provocative and you talk about them for a long time afterward. The Gift is actually a gift to Chicago. We are thrilled to support them!"

GREG AND ANNE TAUBENECK
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To learn more about joining The Gift as a production sponsor please call 773-283-7071 or email John at j.gawlik@thegifttheatre.org
The Gift Theatre is tremendously appreciative of all the support we need and receive. We humbly thank the benefactors below for their generous gifts. This list reflects gifts made from January 1, 2016 thru February 1, 2020. A special thanks goes out to our 2020 Season Subscribers – both new and renewing - we couldn’t do what we do without you!

Every effort is made to ensure that the information included in our program is correct. If you have a question or wish to revise your listing in any way, please call 773-283-7071.

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The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation
Illinois Arts Council
George Karzas
Jeff Perry & Linda Lowy
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William Petersen & Gina Cirone
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Shirley Ryan Ability Lab
Arlene P. & Richard D. Small
Greg & Anne Taubeneck Family Fund
Frank & Rita Thornton
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$5,001 - $10,000
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events (DCASE)
Laura & Ed Gale
Maureen Gawlik
Michael & Mona Heath Fund
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Tracy Letts
Naveed & Ellen Moosa
The Rabb Family Foundation
The Service Club of Chicago

$1,001 - $5,000
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Paul Botts & Heather McCowan
John & Gina Brahm
Mark & Mary Conley-Teresi
Mary Connolly
Bruce & Laurie Davidson
Lori and Ross Dimun
Brian & Geraldine Donaldson

$501-$1,000
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Frank & Susanna Ernst
Donald & Jenny Faliszek
Ed Flynn
Timothy Fox
Danielle Gallet
John & Ann Gearen
Andrea Ginsburg
The Irish Fellowship Club Foundation
Ursula & R. Stanley Johnson Charitable Fund
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The Schield Family Foundation
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Anonymous (1)
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Kimberly Baratta
Daniel Burns
Karen Callaway
Brother Conrad Diebold
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Mark Hudson
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Dennis & Joan Klug
Jeffrey & Linda Kroll
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Mark Tinker
Cecilia Tynus
Lorraine & Al Weber
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Mark & Mary Winter
Kim Wyatt
Christine Ye

$101 - $250
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Peggy Bagley
Robert Blythe
John & Jennifer Boylan
Alan Brody
Erika Bruhn
Janet Burroway
Kathleen Coyle
Gerson Ecker
Carla & Len Feinkind
Linda Forman
Cynthia Frost
Deborah Garber
Lorraine Gawlik
Mary Grimm
Georgia Hendrix
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Jean Kummerer
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Barbara Lanctot
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Anne Matheny
Clark Maxfield
Bill & Donna McGough
Laura Michelini
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Susan Noel
Margaret O’Farrell
Kevin & Carmel O’Malley
Maryann Quinn
Michael Petersen
Plymouth Tube Co.: Matching Funds
Karen Ptak
Patrick Quinn: Matching Gift Program
Jill & Paul Ready
Natalie Reff
Ann & Patrick Riordan
Lester Rogalski
Helen Schmit
Paul & Eileen Schoaff: In memory of Carol Cyganowski
Eva Skowronski
Martha Trueheart
Anne Volz
Jan Willer
Marcin Wojtaszek

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Barbara Billhardt & John Palmer
David Brummer
Janet Bulin
Tracey Burke
Lawrence Butler
Debra Campbell
Maggie Cantrell
Jan Chattler
Peg Cook
Thom Cox
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Vera Kelly
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Colleen Verda
Virginia Wantroba
Juliet Weiner
Gregg Weinstein
Rosemary Whiteside
Maria Winter
Robin Witt
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John Adams
Carolyn Alessio
Kenny Alperstein
Carolyn Bavaro
Andrea Baylog
Stephen Benner
Jonathan Berry
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Peggy Bradley
Becca Brown
Gwynne Carlson
Bredon Clay
Pamela Clarke
Will Clinger
Michaelyn Corbett
Kathy Cunningham
Nicholas Davio
Lynn & Andrew Davis Dykstra
Ashlyn Delaire
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Karen Epton  
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Gian Luca Ferme  
Robert Franchina  
James Frederick  
Laurie Gates  
John & Jane Golanty  
Cindy Gold  
Leon Goldwater  
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Tom & Bonnie Graham  
Jennifer Green  
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Stephen Hersh  
Sandra Hoffman  
Anita Hollander  
Pat Hopson  
Judy Hoskins  
Glenn Humpherys  
Steven Kaiser  
Patricia Kallio  
Judith Kirchoff  
Susan Knisely  
Richard Landgraff  
Marianna Larsen  
Sandy Larson  
Mary Jane Lean  
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Guy Massey  
Lynn Maynard  
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Toby Sachs  
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Donna Sossin  
Amy Speckien  
Nancy Stasiek  
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Lisa Stringer  
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Diana Sykes  
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Katherine Tynus  
Marie Usher  
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Matthew Wallace  
Jeff Weisfeld  
William Whedbee  
Urszula Winkiewicz  
Maria Winter  
Martin Wilde  
Catherine Wilson  
Marcia Wilson  
Matt Wilson  
Denese Wojcik  
Elisabeth Wooton  
Joe Zarrow  
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Sheldon Patinkin

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