



THE
TREASURER
BY
MAX POSNER





Cody Estle
Artistic Director

Libby Amato
Managing Director

Presents

THE TREASURER

by Max Posner

Directed by
Cody Estle*

Co-Scenic Design
Jeffery D. Kmiec^, Milo Bue

Lighting Design
Becca Jeffords

Costume Design
Gregory Graham^

Sound Design
Josh Schmidt^

Properties Designer
Em Allen

Stage Manager
Natasha "Nat" Goeller+



The Director is a Member of the
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



^Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829

+Member of Actors' Equity Association

April 24 – May 19, 2024

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THE TREASURER was developed, in part, at the 2016 Sundance Institute Lab in MENA

THE TREASURER was written, in part, in residence at SPACE on Ryder Farm

THE TREASURER was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds provided by the Doris Duke Charitable

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Special thanks to the Time Warner Foundation for its leadership support of the New Works Lab at Playwrights Horizons

Special thanks to the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting new plays and musicals at Playwrights Horizons

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THE CAST



*Reese Madigan**..... The Son
*Annabel Armour**..... Ida Armstrong
David Flores..... Male Actor
*Alexis Green**..... Female Actor



*Member of Actors' Equity Association

TIME:

Recently

PLACE:

Around Denver, CO
Around Albany, NY
On the telephone
And just beyond

The play will be performed without intermission.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Director..... Mohammad N. ElBsat*
Associate Sound Designer..... Martilia Marechal
Technical, Facility and Interim Production Manager.....Katie Anderson
Assistant Stage Manager.....Malaina Moore
Technical Director.....Adam Hastings
Wardrobe Manager.....Shelby Kaishian
Scenic Artist.....Carri Dahl
Assistant Master Electrician and Light Board Operator..... Faith Lensmith
House Management Staff.....Kaylene Howard, Ariana Manghera, Caroline Norton,
Audwin Short, Matthew Torkilsen, Barbara Slagter
Ticket Office Manager.....Christine Yüendem
Ticket Office Staff.....Cathryn Jakicic, Pia Russo, Audwin Short

*Participant in Next Act Theatre's Inclusion, Equality and Opportunity Internship

SPECIAL THANKS

Max Posner
David Cromer
Orchestral Tools
Tawnie Thompson

In 2007, I went to see *THE SAVAGES*, a film starring Laura Linney and Philip Seymour Hoffman, at a movie theatre in Cincinnati, Ohio. The movie centers around two estranged siblings who must come together to care for their elderly father. While watching, it struck me for the first time that there would inevitably come a day when I would have to care for my own parents. As an only child, I couldn't help but feel the weight of that responsibility. Unlike the characters in the film who had each other for support, I knew that when the time came for me, the burden would fall solely on my shoulders.

Max Posner's play *THE TREASURER* delves deep into these same themes: complexities of family dynamics, aging, and obligation. The play centers around the character of Ida Armstrong, an elderly woman navigating the twilight years of her life with a mixture of stubbornness and vulnerability. As her health begins to decline, Ida's son steps in to take on the role of her financial caretaker, a responsibility that dredges up unresolved tensions and emotional baggage from their past. What sets *THE TREASURER* apart is how the play is about absence. The absence of one's mother in childhood. The absence of feelings for a parent, especially when it seems everyone has feelings for their parents.

In many respects, *THE TREASURER* serves as a reflection of universal familial experiences, urging us to confront the realities of caregiving with candor and openness. While the prospect may seem daunting, the play underscores that within the void lies potential for growth, understanding, and even forgiveness. As I navigate my own journey, I carry the lessons gleaned from both *THE SAVAGES* and *THE TREASURER*, recognizing that while the road ahead may be challenging, it also offers moments of profound connection and grace.



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We have great news for patrons who require a hearing boost while attending our shows. Longtime supporter Milan Racic honored his beloved late wife Gordana with a generous memorial gift. Milan's donation was used to install a state-of-the-art Induction Loop listening system at Next Act. (The black striping you see on the theatre's floor along the front rows is part of the new system.) This greatly improves the listening experience for patrons who have special "T-coil" hearing aids, as well as for those who rely upon conventional sound augmentation. The

Loop replaces our older radio signal system, offering a much better quality of sound with far less background noise.

T-coil listeners simply need to switch their aids to the Loop setting. For conventional listeners, handy receiver packs with headphones are available at the Concessions Counter. The same strong sound will be available through either method of listening. We hope you take advantage of this terrific improvement and enjoy Next Act's intimate brand of theatre even more!

Many, many thanks go to Milan for his tremendous generosity. We believe that Gordana would have heartily endorsed this thoughtful and practical gift. Special thanks is also due to Nancy Einhorn for her advocacy and support of this project.

AUDIO LOOP INSTRUCTIONS

T-Coil Listeners: Simply set your hearing device to the Loop setting and enjoy the show.

Conventional Listeners: Check out a receiver and headphone set at the Concessions Counter. The House Manager can instruct you on its use, but here are some simple instructions.

Like a transistor radio, the small box has an off-on and volume knob; turn on and adjust for your comfort level. You will need to be seated in the theatre to receive the Loop signal.

The box works directionally; that is, it matters which way it is pointing.

- **In most of our seating,** the box works best when held up straight, with the volume knob on top, and the flat back pointing toward the stage.
- **In the front rows,** you will get the strongest signal with the box laying flat on your leg, with the flat back pointing straight to the floor.

Please ask the House Manager for assistance, if needed. We hope you enjoy the show.

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MAX POSNER (Playwright)

Max Posner's productions include *THE TREASURER* (Playwrights Horizons, directed by David Cromer), *JUDY* (Page 73, directed by Ken Rus Schmoll), *GUN LOGISTICS* (Drama League, directed by Knud Adams), *SNORE* (Juilliard, directed by Knud Adams), and *SISTERS ON THE GROUND* (NYU Tisch, directed by Ken Rus Schmoll). Max suffers from multiple sclerosis, a diagnosis that informs his newest plays *THE POOL* (TBA, directed by Sarah Benson) and *HANNUKAH SPECTACULAR* (TBA, directed by David Cromer), which was recently developed in residency at the Berkeley Rep Ground Floor starring Kate Berlant. He is a Sundance Institute Fellow, recipient of a Heideman Award, a Helen Merrill Emerging Playwright Award, the Page 73 Fellowship, three MacDowell Fellowships, an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award and two Le Compte du Nuoy Awards from Lincoln Center. He graduated from Brown University (Weston Award for Playwriting) and completed a two-year Lila Acheson Wallace Fellowship at Juilliard. Alum of I73, the Soho Rep Writer-Director Lab, The Working Farm at Space and Ars Nova's Playgroup. He has commissions for Lincoln Center Theater, Williamstown, The Denver Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, Clubbed Thumb and Audible. For Film/TV, Max is adapting Percival Everett's novel *So Much Blue* into a screenplay to be directed by artist Rashid Johnson. He contributed to John Early's episode of *THE CHARACTERS* (Netflix). He conceived and wrote the libretto to *SINGING IN A CHORUS*, *AGE 14 + LYING IN A FIELD*, *AGE 67* for the Brooklyn Youth Chorus (Premiere at BAM, National Sawdust). Max also completed a translation of *THREE SISTERS* by Anton Chekhov (with Russian scholar Ilya Khodosh). Max lives in Brooklyn, New York with Sarah DeLappe, their cat Zander and dog Joan. Proud member of the Writer's Guild of America East (WGAE) and the Dramatists Guild of America (DGA).

**CODY ESTLE (Director, Artistic Director)**

Cody is excited to be making his Next Act directorial debut with *THE TREASURER*.

He became the Artistic

Director at Next Act Theatre in December 2022. Before coming to Next Act Theatre, he served as the Artistic Director at Raven Theatre in Chicago. His directing credits at Raven Theatre included *THE LUCKIEST* (2022 Jeff Award nominee for Best Production and Best Director), *SUNDOWN*, *YELLOW MOON*, *HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE* (named by Windy City Times as the best of Chicago theatre in 2019), *THE GENTLEMAN CALLER* (2019 Jeff Award winning new play by Philip Dawkins), *THE ASSEMBLED PARTIES*, *A LOSS OF ROSES* (named by Chicago Tribune honorable mention as one of the year's best in 2016), *DIVIDING THE ESTATE*, *VIEUX CARRÉ* (named by Chicago Tribune as one of the year's best in 2014), *GOOD BOYS AND TRUE*, *BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS*, *BOY GETS GIRL* and *DATING WALTER DANTE*. He has also directed plays at Northlight Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre, First Floor Theatre, Redtwist Theatre, The Artistic Home, Haven Theatre, Mary-Arrchie Theatre and Citadel Theatre. In 2022, Cody was named one of NewCity's Fifty People Who Really Perform For Chicago. He is a member of SDC and an alumnus of Columbia College Chicago.

**REESE MADIGAN (The Son)**

Reese is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful cast and to be back at Next Act where he's appeared previously in *LOMBARDI* (Paul

Hornung/JFK) and *SILENT SKY* (Peter). Recent Milwaukee credits include: *WITCH* (Sir Arthur), Renaissance Theaterworks; A

CHRISTMAS CAROL (Bob Cratchit) at Milwaukee Rep – where he has appeared in 20 productions, his favorites including: CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF (Brick), DEATH OF A SALESMAN (Biff), KING LEAR (Edmund), LOMBARDI (Paul Horning), VENUS IN FUR (Thomas), OTHELLO (Cassio), THE 39 STEPS (Hannay). Other Wisconsin appearances: MACBETH (Macbeth, fight director), Door Shakespeare; BORN YESTERDAY (Paul), APT; AMELIA (many people), RUSSIAN TRANSPORT (Misha), Renaissance Theaterworks. Broadway: ABE LINCOLN IN ILLINOIS, Vivian Beaumont at LCT; HOLIDAY, Circle In The Square. Off Broadway: RICHARD II, RICHARD III, HENRY IV 1&2, TROILUS AND CRESSIDA, The Public Theater; NIGHT AND HER STARS, Manhattan Theatre Club. Regional: Arena Stage, The Shakespeare Theatre, Baltimore Centerstage, Bay Street Theatre, Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Humana Festival (world premiere APPROPRIATE), Cincinnati Playhouse, Virginia Stage and others. First National Tour: SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION. He's directed both MACBETH and RICHARD II Off-off Broadway in NYC. As a playwright, his plays include ONE DAY IN PIGGSVILLE and LÉTHÉ. Upcoming TV: THE PENGUIN, HBO. Many thanks to Cody.



ANNABEL ARMOUR
(**Ida Armstrong**)

Some favorites as a founding ensemble member at Remy Bumpo Theatre Company: THE YEAR OF MAGICAL

THINKING (Jeff Nominated); HANG; FALLEN ANGELS; THE CLEAN HOUSE (Jeff Nominated); SEASCAPE; THE GOAT or, WHO IS SYLVIA (Jeff Award); MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION, POWER, A DELICATE BALANCE, TOP GIRLS and HAPGOOD. Other favorites include: CABARET (Marriott Lincolnshire/Jeff nomination), CLYBOURNE PARK (Asolo

Rep), AT HOME AT THE ZOO (Victory Gardens/Jeff Nomination), PICNIC (Writers Theatre), PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (Cleveland Playhouse), SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE (Chicago Shakespeare), LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT (Irish Rep & Galway Arts Festival), BEFORE MY EYES (Victory Gardens), ANGELS IN AMERICA I & II (Journeymen/Jeff Award), THE GRAPES OF WRATH (Ford's Theatre D.C.) and The First Look Series (Steppenwolf). Film credits include: GREEN AND GOLD (soon to be released), THE AMITYVILLE HORROR, CONVICTION and CONTAGION. TV credits include: CHICAGO MED, CHICAGO FIRE, CHICAGO PD, WHAT A DUMMY and CHICAGO JUSTICE. Annabel lives in Chicago and is the recipient of three Joseph Jefferson Awards and two After Dark Awards.



DAVID FLORES (Male Actor)

David has performed extensively with many Milwaukee area theater, music and dance companies including Alchemist Theatre,

Amethyst Theatre, Boulevard Theatre, Cornerstone Theatre, First Stage, Forward Theater, In Tandem Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Off The Wall Theatre, Optimist Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks, Skylight Music Theatre, Theater X, Theatre Gigante, Windfall Theatre, Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Wild Space Dance. Credits include everything from Albee to DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE, and Shakespeare to Sondheim. He has also served as stage director for well-received productions with Boulevard Theatre, First Stage, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Windfall Theatre. He studied music and dance at Harvard University. He is a long-time member of the City of Milwaukee Arts Board. "Many thanks to Cody and Next Act for this wonderful opportunity!"



ALEXIS GREEN
(Female Actor)

Alexis (she/her) is an artist-activist based in Chicago (but still connected to her desert girl roots of Phoenix, Arizona). Alexis has

a BA in Theatre Arts from Arizona State University and an MFA in Acting from Brown University/Trinity Rep. She is also a member of Actors' Equity Association. Recent acting credits include Sybil in PRIVATES LIVES (Raven Theatre); Madame DeFarge in A TALE OF TWO CITIES (Bread Loaf School of English); Zoe in THE NICETIES (Portland Stage) and Vera in SEVEN GUITARS (The Black Theatre Troupe). Alexis is currently the Director of Programs for artEquity and the DEIA Board Chair for Notch Theatre Company. Alexis carries the values of social justice and Black liberation into every project and room she's in and enters every artistic opportunity knowing the power and responsibility of art to incite reflection and further our collective liberation. "Nobody's free until everybody's free." - Fannie Lou Hamer

NATASHA "NAT" GOELLER (Stage Manager)

Nat's been overly involved in theatre since 2013 when their stepmother schemed their way into a production of SHREK JR. at Waukesha Civic Theatre. They're proud to call Next Act Theatre their home since the 2021/2022 season. They've also worked with Renaissance Theaterworks, Summit Players Theatre and Kohl's Wild Theatre. They'd like to thank their close and personal friends for understanding that no, they can't hang out this weekend, but they will check back with you in 6-8 weeks.



MOHAMMAD N. ELBSAT (Assistant Director)

Mohammad (he/him) is very excited to be part of the creative team of The Treasurer. He would like to thank

Cody Estle for the opportunity. Acting credits: THE WHO & THE WHAT (Afzal U/S), The Milwaukee Rep; BACK OF THE THROAT and LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR, Next Act Theatre; MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, KING LEAR, Optimist Theatre; RED HERRING, BY JEEVES, RED, THE METROMANIACS, SONS OF THE PROPHET, CITY OF ANGELS, PRIN, AN EMPTY PLATE IN THE CAFÉ DU GRAND BOEUF and OMNIUM GATHERUM, Windfall Theatre; DR. FAUSTUS and CALL ME ISHMAEL, Off the Wall Theatre and SIGNIFICANT OTHER at Boulevard Theatre. Exhibit credits: "Chasing Rainbows" and "Ordered Chaos": Acrylic paintings. Mohammad would like to thank his family and friends for their continuous love and support.

JEFFREY D. KMIEC (Co-Scenic Designer)

Jeffrey is an award-winning Chicago-based Production Designer for theatre and television. His designs have been seen on NBC, Apple+, Comedy Central and the CW, as well as Norwegian Cruise Line, The Rev, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Lyric Opera, Theatre Under the Stars, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Timeline Theatre, American Players Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Porchlight, Raven Theatre, The Artistic Home, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre, Heritage Theatre Festival and The Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Jeffrey received his MFA from the University of Virginia, BA from Illinois State University and is a member of USA 829.

MILO BUE (Co-Scenic Designer)

Milo is excited to be joining Next Act Theatre on this production. He is an MFA candidate at Northwestern University where he designed THE REVOLUTIONISTS, INDECENT, FRIDA LIBRE and WORKING. Select credits include HELLO DOLLY, JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (Marriott Theatre), INTO THE WOODS (The Rev Theatre Company), THE MOORS (A Red Orchid), SPAMILTON (Forbidden Broadway), PINOCCHIO (Neverbird/Chicago Children Theatre). Select associate design credits include BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Paramount Theatre), THE KING'S SPEECH (Tour), THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (Dominion Theatre London) and much more. Milo graduated from Columbia College Chicago.

BECCA JEFFORDS (Lighting Designer)

Becca is thrilled to be joining Next Act Theatre on this production of THE TREASURER. Becca is a Chicago-based designer and storyteller who loves to work on theatre, dance and other live events. Her work has been seen internationally. Some recent credits include: BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY, GALILEO'S DAUGHTER, TOP GIRLS (Remy Bumppo); PRIVATE LIVES, SUNDOWN YELLOW MOON, A DOLL'S HOUSE, NICE GIRL (Raven Theatre); A SNOWY DAY WITH BEATRIX POTTER, WAKE UP BROTHER BEAR (Chicago Children's Theatre); EXTRA YARN, BUNNICULA, NEVERWHERE (Lifeline Theatre); SOUTHERN GOTHIC (Windy City Playhouse).

GREGORY GRAHAM (Costume Designer)

Gregory (he/his) is a Chicago costume designer and milliner. His credits include: SHORT SHAKESPEARE! ROMEO AND JULIET, DREAM: A COMMUNITY REIMAGING OF A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); MOTHERS (Gift Theater); THE WRITER (Steep Theatre); BLUES FOR AN ALABAMA SKY, ANNA IN THE TROPICS,

ROUTES (Remy Bumppo Theatre); THE PORCH ON WINDYHILL, THE GARBOLOGISTS, FIREFLIES (Northlight Theatre); ONCE (Writers Theatre); IS GOD IS (A Red Orchid Theatre); FROM THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA (Lifeline Theatre); A MILE IN THE DARK (Interronbang Theatre Project); THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre); 1919 (Steppenwolf Theatre); ENOUGH TO LET THE LIGHT IN (Teatro Vista); PRIVATE LIVES (Raven Theatre); ERNEST SHACKLETON LOVES ME, RENT, PORCHLIGHT REVISITS: PASSING STRANGE (Porchlight Music Theatre); ON THE GREENBELT, HERSHEL AND THE HANUKKAH GOBLINS (Strawdog Theatre); THE TRAGEDY OF OHELLO, THE MOOR OF VENICE (Court Theatre); THE FACTS OF LIFE: SATAN'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, THE DRAG SEED (Hell in a Handbag Productions). Regional: THE WIZ (Children's Theatre of Madison); RAISIN (Skylight Music Theatre); BLOOD AT THE ROOT (Millikin University, School of Theatre and Dance). Education: BA in Theatre Design, University of Illinois at Chicago. www.gregorygrahamdesign.com

JOSH SCHMIDT (Sound Designer)

Josh is excited to return to Next Act Theatre after previously designing THE MOUSETRAP, SPLASH HATCH ON THE E GOING DOWN, KILL MOVE PARADISE and providing music for GOD'S SPIES. Recent credits include THE CHOSEN and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING at Milwaukee Rep; THE GARBOLOGISTS at Northlight; THE LIAR, THE BROTHERS SIZE and GIFT OF THE MAGI at American Players Theatre; WITCH, COST OF LIVING, THE HOW AND THE WHY, ROSE and ACTUALLY at Renaissance Theaterworks; A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN, LIBERACE, MISERY, WHERE DID WE SIT ON THE BUS and MALA at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; BOSWELL at 59e59 and

BUG at Steppenwolf. In Chicago, credits include Steppenwolf, Goodman, Writers, Victory Gardens and Raven, among others. Composition credits include A MINISTER'S WIFE (Lincoln Center), ADDING MACHINE (Minetta Lane), WHIDA PERU (59E59), MIDWESTERN GOTHIC (Signature, VA), GIFT OF THE MAGI (American Players Theatre) and KILLING THE CAT (Riverside Studios, London). Broadway credits include THERESE RAQUIN (Roundabout/Studio 54), HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES (Walter Kerr) and BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS (Nederlander). Off-Broadway credits include ABOUT ALICE (TFANA), DINNER WITH FRIENDS (Roundabout) and MODEL APARTMENT (Primary Stages) and WATER BY THE SPOONFUL (Second Stage), among others. Upcoming projects include the film THE END (Joshua Oppenheimer/Final Cut for Real) and FALLINGWATER (Met Opera). Josh exclusively used Orchestral Tools software to realize the music for this production.

MARTILIA MARECHAL (Associate Sound Designer) Martilia is thrilled to be the Associate Sound Designer for THE TREASURER! She also had the pleasure of working on SPLASH HATCH ON THE E GOING DOWN and THE MOUSETRAP earlier this season! She graduated from Marquette University last year with a degree in Theatre Arts and Psychology. She is from Milwaukee, WI, and has previously done sound for Marquette's THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE and CALIFORNIA SUITE. She also acts and was seen as Frances in MUD ROW, Chelle in DETROIT '67, Lady Bracknell in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST and Genesis in THE LIGHT at Marquette as well as appearing in BLACK NATIVITY with Black Arts MKE in 2021. In addition, she has performed in the Milwaukee Black Theatre Festival three summers in a row! She would like to thank you for supporting live theatre - enjoy the show!

EM ALLEN (Properties Designer)

Em is a Scenic and Properties Designer local to Milwaukee. They earned their BA in Theatre Arts from Lawrence University, Appleton, WI, and MFA in Scenic Design from the University of Washington, Seattle. Prop Designs include SPLASH HATCH ON THE E GOING DOWN here at Next Act and MEN ON BOATS at Waukesha Civic Theatre. Scenic Design include LAUGHS IN SPANISH and STEW at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre; ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE at First Stage; DIAL M FOR MURDER at Racine Theatre Guild; PERFECT WEDDING, PIRATES OF PENZANCE and MACBETH at UW-Whitewater; ROMEO AND JULES and INCIDENT AT VICHY at the University of Washington, Seattle and others. Em also works as a Props Artisan at Milwaukee Rep. Website: emallendesign.com

ADAM HASTINGS (Technical Director)

Adam is delighted to be working with Next Act Theatre this season! After just over fifteen years in technical theatre and entertainment industries, he is now the proud owner and master carpenter of Spotlight Construction Co. collaborating with Next Act Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Forward Theater Company and The Fireside Dinner Theatre, among others throughout theatre and film. He would like to thank the highly talented production and creative team behind THE TREASURER and hopes you enjoy the show.

CARRI DAHL (Scenic Artist) Carri is happy to be painting with Next Act Theatre this season. Her work has also been seen on the stages of Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Forward Theater Company, Northern Sky Theater and Florentine Opera Company's upcoming production of LA BOHÈME. She also enjoys egg tempera painting and the company of her delightful cats.

MALAINA MOORE (Assistant Stage Manager)

Malaina is a Milwaukee-based actress and playwright. She is a recent graduate of Marquette University, where she wrote and starred in the award-winning play WHITE

PRIVILEGE. Since graduation, Malaina has featured in PRINCIPLE PRINCIPAL, PIPELINE and SPLASH HATCH ON THE E GOING DOWN (Next Act Theater), STEW (Milwaukee Chamber Theater) and MUD ROW (Milwaukee Black Theatre Festival). Aside from acting, she has enjoyed working behind the scenes helping to bring many stories to life. Malaina is very excited to return to Next Act to share this beautiful, heartfelt story with our community.

SHELBY KAISHIAN (Wardrobe Manager)

Shelby's been overly involved in theatre since 2013 when their father schemed their way into a production of LES MISÉRABLES at Skylight Music Theatre. They're proud to call Next Act Theatre their home since the 2016/2017 season. They've also worked with Renaissance Theaterworks, The Milwaukee Ballet and Kohl's Wild Theatre. They'd like to thank their close and personal friends for understanding that no, they can't hang out this weekend, but they will check back with you in 6-8 weeks.



LIBBY AMATO (Managing Director)

Libby Amato joined Next Act Theatre in 2004 as a House Manager and has worked continually for the company in a variety of roles, including Ticket

Office Attendant, Actor, Deck Manager, Administrative Coordinator and Business Manager. In May of 2023 she took on the role of Interim Managing Director, before being promoted to Managing Director in August 2023. Libby has worked extensively in the Milwaukee theatre community, including as Development Associate for Skylight Music Theatre from 2016 to 2018 and as Co-Founder and Company Director of Umbrella Group Theatre, a small non-profit theatre company, from 2014 to 2017. Over the years, she has worked with many local theatre companies in areas including acting, stage managing, directing and teaching. These companies include First Stage, Renaissance

Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Forward Theater, In Tandem Theatre, All In Productions and Milwaukee Irish Arts, among others. She also made a brief foray outside of the arts world to work with Independence First, a local non-profit organization serving people with disabilities. In addition, Libby owns and operates Abbondanza Soap Co., a natural soap and body product company. She is a graduate of Carroll University.



KATIE ANDERSON (Technical, Facility and Interim Production Manager)

Katie is a technical theatre specialist who has worked on just about every type of live

event you can think of. After graduating from Kalamazoo College in 2015 with her B.A. in Theatre and Studio Art, Katie went on to work as the Lighting/Sound Design Intern at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, designing shows and teaching volunteers of all ages. After her internship, she went on to work for Exclusive Events, Inc. in St. Louis, MO as a technician, building scenery and lighting for corporate meetings, weddings, live concerts and everything in between. Eventually, she moved up to Milwaukee to work for Blizzard Lighting as a full-time repair tech, while continuing to freelance as a technician and designer for live music and street festivals around town. Her favorite shows she has worked on include CARRIE: THE MUSICAL, ROMEO AND JULIET, TK NEW PLAYFEST, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, STILL LIFE WITH IRIS, HAIRSPRAY, IN THE NEXT ROOM (OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY), OF MICE AND MEN, SIDESHOW, PEER GYNT and A CHRISTMAS STORY: THE MUSICAL. When not in the theatre, Katie enjoys knitting, rock climbing, swing dancing and cuddling her two cats.



A.J. MAGOON
(Marketing Director) A Milwaukee-based arts administrator and actor, A.J. holds a BA in Theatre Arts and a minor in Public Relations from Marquette University. He

was a founding member of Summit Players Theatre and served the company for nine years, including four years as Executive Director. He has also worked administratively with First Stage, Theatre Gigante and Theatre Nervosa. In addition to his behind-the-scenes work, A.J. has been seen onstage with First Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Theatre Gigante, Summit Players Theatre, Acacia Theatre Company, The Boulevard Theatre, Quasimondo Physical Theatre, Sunstone Studios, Voices Found Repertory, Bard and Bourbon, Theatre Nervosa, Windfall Theatre and Cooperative Performance. Outside of theatre, he enjoys baking and spending time in the great outdoors.



CAROLINE NORTON
(Administrative and Artistic Manager) Caroline is excited to join the Next Act staff this season. She has worked with Next Act Theatre previously as a

House Manager. In addition to her roles here, she has been an Artistic and Education Intern with Skylight Music Theatre, a Teaching Artist with First Stage, and she currently serves as Director of Education with Summit Players Theatre. In addition to her efforts in arts administration, Caroline is an actor and director who has worked with companies such as Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (Black Theatre Festival, Young Playwrights Festival), Summit Players Theatre, Sunstone Studios, Forte Theatre and Voices Found Repertory. Outside of theatre, Caroline enjoys reading, camping and running her small business, Millennial Granny.



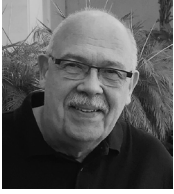
PIA RUSSO (Education Manager) Pia is a multidisciplinary theatre educator who graduated from Marquette University in 2022 with degrees in Theatre Arts and Secondary

Education. While most of her credits are still from Marquette, such as stage managing *ANTIGONE* and assistant stage managing *MAMMA MIA!*, she has also interned at Door Shakespeare, where she mostly overcame her fear of bugs, and has helped run the Next Actors program with her predecessor Grace DeWolff. She has taught a little at a lot of places, including Wauwatosa West, Pius XI High School, West Allis-West Milwaukee School District, Maple Dale Middle School (with Pink Umbrella Theatre Company) and Milwaukee Youth Theatre. When not at Next Act, she can be found playing board games, chilling with her roommate and cats and yelling about how much she loves her students to anyone who will listen.



TAWNIE THOMPSON
(Development Manager) Tawnie is an actor, fight director, podcaster and writer. After graduating from UW-Whitewater with a BFA in Theatre and

relocating to Milwaukee in 2013, she began studying stage combat and holds a number of certifications with the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD) and Dueling Arts International (DAI). She has since worked with a wide variety of theatre companies as both a performer and fight director. Tawnie comes to Next Act with three years of experience in the nonprofit space and was most recently the grant writer for Meta House. In her spare time, Tawnie can be found playing tabletop games, backpacking, biking, rock climbing and cheering on the NWSL (Go Red Stars!).



THOMAS DARROW
(Administrative
Volunteer)

Tom is a retired paralegal and teacher who has been enjoying Milwaukee area professional and community theatre for

more than 30 years. He started his volunteer theatre career at In Tandem Theatre, where he provided his computer and organizational skills for five years. Since 2019, Tom has been offering the same skills to Next Act. Volunteering at Next Act allows Tom to relive his youth when he worked in the business office of his high school drama club. When he is not working at the theatre, he is exploring his family genealogy or traveling with his husband Michael, exploring the U.S. on road trips and touring foreign countries.



**JIM TOTH (Lobby
Gallery Curator)**

Since the 2014- 15 season, Jim has been curating and installing art exhibits for Next Act's lobby gallery. Drawing on his connections

as an artist and retired art educator, he has brought in a wide variety of artists whose work complements our productions and enriches our patrons' theatre experiences. Jim is especially pleased when the art and the play seem to have been meant for each other, as with ARTERYink's organ-oriented designs and the heart transplant theme of Sean Grennan's THE TIN WOMAN. Before

retiring, Jim had a two-career history, first as an Art Teacher and K-12 Art Coordinator for the South Milwaukee School District and then as the Director of Exhibits for the Betty Brinn Children's Museum. In addition to his volunteer work for Next Act, he serves on the board for the Milwaukee Area Teachers of Art and as President of the south side community choir Cantare Chorale. He is also an artist whose sculpture was featured this past summer at Gallery 224 in Port Washington. Jim and his wife Karen are long-time residents of Bay View.

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION
(“Equity”)

Equity, founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

Equity is governed by its own members through an elected Council, representing principal actors, chorus actors and stage managers living in three regions: Eastern, Central and Western. Members-at-large participate in Equity's governance through a system of regional Boards and Committees. Equity has 28 designated area liaison cities with over 100 members each.

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Next Act Theatre engages the hearts and minds of audiences with intimate, compelling productions intended to stimulate thought, foster the exchange of ideas and promote the development of new perspectives and understanding.

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The Charles D. Kakuk Legacy Society, named for the late Charles D. Kakuk, long-time Next Act Theatre Managing Director, recognizes individuals who have made a lasting impact on Next Act Theatre through their generous planned gift. To learn more about including Next Act Theatre in your estate planning, please call Tawnie Thompson, Development Manager, at 414-278-7780 or email tawnie@nextact.org.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION



FOOD AND BEVERAGES – Drinks purchased at Next Act Theatre may be taken into the theatre, but food is not permitted.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE THEATRE SPACE – Please use walkways to access the seating areas and refrain from crossing over the stage.

CANCELLATION POLICY – Next Act does not cancel or reschedule performances due to inclement weather or sporting events, nor do we offer refunds in these circumstances. Any cancellations due to COVID-19 will be handled with ticketholders on a case-by-case basis.

LATECOMER POLICY – Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate time in the performance. This may be at the intermission. *Seating may not be permitted 30 minutes after the start of a performance. If you are running late, please call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765.*

HEARING LOOP LISTENING SYSTEM – The theatre is equipped with an advanced technology Hearing Loop listening system. The system will broadcast directly to those with T-coil hearing aids. Portable assistive listening devices for conventional listening are also available and may be checked out at the Concessions Counter.

LOST PROPERTY – Items left at the theatre are kept in Lost & Found for 30 days. Call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765 if you have lost an item.

TICKET EXCHANGES – Subscribers may exchange their tickets, without fee, up to 48 hours prior to the performance (price adjustments may apply). Single ticket buyers may exchange their tickets for a fee of \$5 per ticket up to 48 hours prior. Exchanges are based strictly on availability. Patrons are strongly urged to request exchanges well in advance.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES – NO cameras or recording devices of any kind are allowed in the theatre. Please turn off all electronic equipment including cell phones.

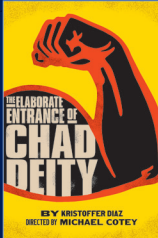
SMOKING – The Next Act Theatre facility is a smoke-free environment.

DISCOUNTS – Seniors, educators, veterans and active service members receive a \$5 discount per ticket on advance sales. Students receive a ticket rate of \$15 plus fees for all performances. Individuals may also purchase half-price rush tickets one half-hour prior to curtain, based on availability. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.

GROUP DISCOUNTS – Groups of 10 or more receive a discount of 20%. To book groups, contact A.J. at 414-278-7780. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.



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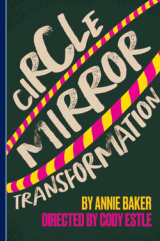
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