

UNNECESSARY FARCE

By Paul Slade Smith
Directed by Kurt Naebig



Dear Friends of BTE,

“Theater is the art form of the present: it exists only in the moment, and then it’s gone.” – Sarah Ruhl

Welcome to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble’s 39th Anniversary Season! We are proud to continue our mission of Giving Stories Life by offering productions that embrace the humor, heart, and humanity of everyday life. This season, we invite you to experience stories of second chances and unexpected love, dizzying misunderstandings and comic chaos, and one woman’s poetic journey through a lifetime of birthdays. Each production reminds us of the beauty found in connection and the joy of sharing the present moment together.

Whether you are a longtime subscriber or joining our extended family for the first time, we are so glad you will be with us this season. Thank you for being part of the moment! We cannot wait to welcome you to the theater.

Sincerely,
The Ensemble

The Ensemble

Aly Greaves Amidei[^], Robert Jordan Bailey*, Amelia Barrett*, Bryan Burke* (Business Manager), Rebecca Cox, Lisa Dawn, Nick DuFloth, Jon Gantt, Connie Canaday Howard*, Christopher Kriz[^], Michael W. Moon, Kurt Naebig*, Laura Leonardo Ownby, Galen G. Ramsey*, William “Sandy” Smillie*, and Kelli Walker. For more information about BTE, visit btechicago.com.

BTE Board of Directors:

Robert Jordan Bailey* (Secretary), Connie Canaday Howard*, Rebecca Cox, Julie Elges, Elyse Kennard (Vice President), Brandee Martin (President), Laura Leonardo Ownby, Anthony Tumea (Treasurer), Barry Tusin, Kelli Walker, and Kathy Wessel

Legal Counsel: Derek M. Johnson

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

[^] Member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829

<p><i>Georgiana AND Kitty</i> CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon Directed by Connie Canaday Howard</p>	<p>UNNECESSARY FARCE By Paul Slade Smith Directed by Kurt Naebig</p>	<p>BIRTHDAY CANDLES By Noah Haidle Directed by Steve Scott</p>
Nov 20 - Dec 21, 2025	Jan 29 - Mar 1, 2026	May 7 - Jun 7, 2026

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Presents

Unnecessary Farce

by **Paul Slade Smith**

Director
Kurt Naebig+*

Original Music & Sound Design
Christopher Kriz+^

Scenic Design
Sarah Lewis^

Costume, Hair, Makeup Design
Aly Greaves Amidei+^

Properties Design
Kimberly G. Morris

Lighting Design
Garrett Bell

Violence and Intimacy Director
Jay Donley

Managing Artistic Director
Gus Menary

Associate Artistic Director
Daniel Millhouse*

+ Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Please note: Adult themes and language.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

www.playscripts.com

Originally Produced by
BoarsHead Theater, Lansing, Michigan
Kristine Thatcher, Artistic Director

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without a flash is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices, such as cell phones and watches.



Jan 29 – Mar 1, 2026 | Playhouse Theatre

CAST

Eric Sheridan Brad Lawrence
Billie Dwyer Laura Leonardo Ownby+
Karen Brown..... Lisa Dawn+
Mayor Meekly Frank Nall
Agent Frank Bryan Burke+*
Todd Robert Koon
Mary Meekly Doreen Dawson

Understudies

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at time of appearance. Joe Bushell for Eric Sheridan, Tammy White for Billie Dwyer, Elizabeth Bushell for Karen Brown, Harry Hultgren for Mayor Meekly, Paul Mazzocco for Agent Frank, David Scott Crawford for Todd, and Chrissy Hogue Bartels for Mary Meekly.

+ Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

Time and Place:

Time – The present

Place – Two adjoining motel rooms in a big town/small city somewhere in America

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Today, the world is moving faster, attitudes are getting sharper, and politics is getting meaner. We know this. We don't want it. And yet... algorithms, corporations, and AI have figured out how to keep dragging us back in.

So we all need a break. A breather. A respite. A laugh. Maybe even a place to go... to sit next to strangers and discover we're all laughing at the same ridiculous thing. Together.

Where we're all there for one reason: to enjoy a comedy. Together.

And to glance across the aisle and see somebody laughing with us (or snorting... no judgment).

Unnecessary Farce is exactly that kind of night out. A tried-and-true comedy that runs like a finely crafted timepiece. It's no accident the play has been produced more than 350 times worldwide.

So when the opportunity to direct what can only be described as "comedy gold" came my way, my response was immediate and enthusiastic: "Heck yeah!"

Now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the chaos.

~ Kurt Naebig

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Unnecessary Farce received its world premiere production at the BoarsHead Theater in Lansing, Michigan on October 27, 2006, under the direction of Artistic Director Kristine Thatcher. The set design was by Shelley Barish; the costume design was by Holly Spears; the lighting and sound design were by Alana Shepherd; and the production stage manager was Jonathan Courtemanche.

Acknowledgements

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble is partially supported and funded by generous grants from B2B Arts: Arts Illinois Alliance Resources, The DuPage Foundation, Benevity, Choose DuPage, The Norm Woodel Inspiration Fund, The Illinois Arts Council, and a gift from Dr. Thomas R. Scott and the late Shirley Klein Scott of Glen Ellyn through the College of DuPage Foundation and the generous support of the College of DuPage Trustees.





THANK YOU TO *Our Sponsors*

Baili®



Illinois
ARTS
Council

enjoy
illinois

DuPage
Foundation **DF**

Sullivan Taylor
Family Trust

 **BROOKDALE**
GLEN ELLYN
SENIOR LIVING SOLUTIONS

Frank Modruson
& Lynne Shigley



College of DuPage
FOUNDATION

Anonymous

John Rutledge
& Betty Joseph

Paul Rom

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Caitlin I. Quinn*
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Chris Yee
BTE Stage Management Scholar	Morgan Erickson◇
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Angela Joy Baldasare
ASL Coordinator	Laura Kostomiris
ASL Interpreters	Dan Englund, Patti Shore Kaden
Dialect Coach	Amelia Barrett+*
Technical Director	Caitlyn Woods
Scene Shop Manager	Sabrina Zeidler
Scene Shop Crew.....	MeiXi DiBernardo, Paul Langan, Mack Lechtenberg, Allo Peterson, C.J. Morris, Gi Nascimento, Violet O'Connor, Harry Smith◇, Connor Welker
Costume Shop Manager.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Shop Manager	Gretchen Woodley
Costume Shop Assistants	Lynn Borge, Noor Khankan, Simeon Shama, Crystal Shearill
Wardrobe	Chris Yee
Scenic Charge Artist	Lydia Moss

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Director and Acting Shadows

This is an invited opportunity for select students who are working at the level of at least Acting II and/or Play Directing to shadow a theater professional and gain meaningful insight into developing a character.

Acting Shadows..... Nicholas Washington, Kelly Kuper,
Jamiya Haynes, Alfonso Padilla, Jimmy Kalal,
Alexander Recchia, and Jane Stults

BTE Shadow Coordinators..... Lisa Dawn+, Laura Leonardo Ownby+,
Connie Canaday Howard+, and Rebecca Cox+

+ Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829

◇ Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Stage Management Scholarship Recipient

CAST PROFILES



Brad Lawrence (Eric Sheridan) has appeared in commercials, films, industrials, and on stages around Chicago, most notably with the Goodman and Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (5th time, woo!). Also a playwright, Lawrence's plays have been produced at various venues around the city and suburbs. He was selected as a semifinalist in the Goodman's David Mamet Speakeasy playwriting contest, and his work has been featured at Chicago Dramatists' ASCAP Cabaret. Lawrence holds an MFA in acting from Western Illinois University, where he also taught acting, Shakespeare, and theatre studies. Thank you for supporting live theatre!



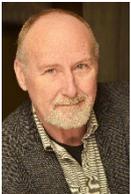
Laura Leonardo Ownby+ (Billie Dwyer) was last seen on BTE's stage in *The Outsider* (Louise Peakes), for which she was nominated for a Jeff Award (Best Performer in a Supporting Role, Play), *Into the Earth With You* (Carly Carver), *Season's Greetings* (Phyllis), *Defiance* (Margaret Littlefield), *Improbable Fiction* (Jess), and *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Suzanne). Currently, Ownby serves on BTE's Board of Directors. Some of her favorite acting credits outside of BTE include Rosemary in *Outside Mullingar** (Citadel Theatre, Jeff Nomination, Best Ensemble, midsized), Masha in *Sonia and Vanya and Masha and Spike* (Dunes Summer Theatre), Alma Winemiller in *Summer and Smoke*, Mrs. Robinson in *The Graduate* (TWS), Belinda Blair in *Noises Off* (TATC). Long ago, Ownby was herself a theatre student at the College of DuPage. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She would like to thank her husband and four children for supporting her antics on and off the stage.



Lisa Dawn+ (Karen Brown) is a Jeff Award-nominated actor, and proud company member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble where audiences have seen her in *The Cake*, *Into the Earth with You*, *Clybourne Park*, *Time Stands Still*, *Naperville*, *Shining City*, *The Outsider*, and *Blithe Spirit*. During the pandemic, she appeared in Oil Lamp Theatre's drive-in/streaming one-woman production of *Bad Dates* (Haley) and returned to their live stage in *The Revolutionists* (Marie Antoinette). In Los Angeles, Dawn performed *A Long Way Down* (Jess) - Ken Kaden's

CAST PROFILES

stage adaptation of Nick Hornby's novel - a production supporting suicide awareness. She also serves as an instructor/improv actor with Crisis Intervention Team, training officers to advocate for individuals experiencing mental-health crises. Dawn founded the all-female troupe *No Beard Shakespeare*, and her modern adaptation of *Love's Labour's Lost* produced this fall with iambe theatre ensemble, in which she also directed and performed (Berowne). Dawn is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Other favorite credits: *Communicating Doors* (Poopay), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *YAGMCB* (Snoopy), *The 39 Steps* (Annabella/Pamela/Margaret), *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Abridged), and *As You Like It* (Rosalind).



Frank Nall (Mayor Meekly) has been an active member of the Chicago theatre for over 40 years. He recently took Artistic Homes production of *Malapert Love* to the Tank Theater in New York and his recent works include Paul In Jackalope's production of *Neighborhood Watch*, Dr.

Wertham in City Lit's production of *The Seduction of Innocence*, Giles Corey in *The Crucible* for Invictus, The Elder in *The Christians* at Citadel Theater. Jay McMullen in *Her Honor Jane Byrne* at Lookingglass Theatre, Howard Khil in *Traitor* at Red Orchid, Freddy Filmore in *It's A Wonderful Life: The Radio Play* at the Clarence Brown Theatre in Knoxville, and as Cornelius Melody in the Artistic Home's critically-acclaimed production of *A Touch of the Poet*. Previously he has played Bill O'Wray in *Trouble in Mind*, Captain Jack in *Juno and the Paycock*, (nominated for and won a Jeff Award); *The Tallest Man* (Jeff-nominated for best original play); *Sweet Bird of Youth* as Boss Finley (chosen by several critics as one of the best plays of the year); and W.O. Gant, in *Look Homeward Angel*. Nall's other credits include: Uncle Roman in Noble Fool's production of *Polish Joke*, Sir Toby in City Lit's *Twelfth Night*, features in Seanachai's production of *War*, Kittel in dearly departed Famous Door's production of *Ghetto*, for which he received a Jeff nomination for best actor, title role in *Mister Roberts* for Powertap, Frank van de Hoy in *Gagarin's Way* for Red Orchid, Uriah in *Mann ist Mann* for Famous Door, Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Master Ford in *Merry Wives*, Banquo in *Macbeth*, Stephano in *The Tempest*, Oberon in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, all for Illinois Shakespeare festival and too

CAST PROFILES

many others to mention. Film and TV credits include: the CNN report from *Spygame*, Bar Brawler in *Early Edition*, Possessed Bum in *Prince of the City*, *Chicago Med*, *Empire*, and numerous commercials. Nall has a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana.



Bryan Burke+* (Agent Frank) is a member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Burke's acting credits include his Jeff Nominated performance as Gunner in BTE's production of *The Outgoing Tide*. Other BTE credits include the Jeff recommended productions of *Native Gardens* (Frank Butley), *Andy Warhol's Tomato* (Mario "Bones" Bonino), *Clybourne Park* (Russ/Dan), *The Cake* (Tim), *Defiance* (Col. Littlefield), *The 39 Steps* (Richard Hannay) and *Good People* (Mike), as well as *Red, White and Blacklisted* (Christopher Trumbo), *Leading Ladies* (Leo), *Moon Over Buffalo* (George), *Faith Healer* (Frank), *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Johnny), *Italian-American Reconciliation* (Huey), *Sleuth* (Andrew Wyke), *The Melville Boys* (Lee), *Noises Off* (Frederick Fellows/ Phillip Brent) and *Visiting Mr. Green*. Other acting credits include *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The Lonesome West*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Living, Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Look Homeward Angel*, *Warrior*, and *Hamlet*. Burke also directed *Frozen*, *Shining City*, *Love Song*, *Stones in His Pockets*, *The Weir*, and *Three Days of Rain* for BTE. College of DuPage directing credits include *Defying Gravity*, *Anton in Show Business*, *The Laramie Project*, and *The House of Ramon Iglesia*. Burke was also a founding member of Chicago's Cactus Theatre Company. Acting credits with The Cactus Theatre Company include *Golden Boy*, *Fishing*, *Paradise Lost*, and *Waiting for Lefty*. He also directed their productions of *Hurly Burly* and *Valentine's Day*. Burke holds a BGS degree in Theatre from the University of Kansas. He is also a member of Actors' Equity Association.



Robert Koon (Todd) is happy to be working with the fine people at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. He was most recently seen in *As You Like It* at Writers' Theatre. Other appearances include *Macbeth* for Invictus Theatre, *Hamlet* for Red Theater, *The Kelly Girls* for Factory, *Man of the People* for Stage Left, and *Middle Passage* for Lifeline. Other credits include *Casa Valentina* for Pride Films and Plays, *A Dickens Carol* and *Taming of the Shrew* at Oak Park Festival Theatre, *The*

CAST PROFILES

Woman in Black for Wildclaw Theatre, and *Chagrin Falls* for The Agency (Jeff nomination). He is also a playwright, and his plays include *Odin's Horse* (Jeff nomination) and *Vintage Red and the Dust of the Road* (Joseph Jefferson Award for New Work). He is a member of the Dramatists Guild. Visual artwork available at www.rkartbreak.com. Love to JM and Dr. K.



Doreen Dawson (Mary Meekly) is happy to be returning to BTE where she previously understudied for *The Cake* (performed) and *Miracle on South Division Street*. She was also a performing understudy for *The Tempest* at Oak Park Festival Theatre.

Dawson was most recently seen as Don Armado in the all female *Love's Labour's Lost* for iambe theatre ensemble, where she is co-founder and artistic director. Also for iambe, she played Margie in *Good People*, Virginia in *Wake up, Mrs. Moore*, Winifred in *Into the Breaches!*, Sharon in *The Roommate*, and Corryn in *Gidion's Knot*. Other favorite roles include Mrs. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* for Parker Players, Dorothea in *Eleemosynary* for Madison Street Theater, Hertha in *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* for Janus Theatre, Alice in *The Tin Woman* for ETC, The Moor-hen in *The Moors* for Riverfront, Hrothgar in *Beowulf* for Janus, Vivian Bearing in Wheaton Drama's *Wit*, Mattie Fae in MCC's *August: Osage County*, and Dotty in TOTH's *Noises Off*. Dawson sends out so much love and thanks to her son, Christopher, for all his support.

UNDERSTUDY PROFILES



Joe Bushell (Understudy: Eric Sheridan) is overjoyed to return to BTE—previously appearing in *The Outsider*—and work with this incredibly talented team of artists on *Unnecessary Farce*. Other recent theatre credits include *Angels in America* (Invictus Theatre), *Dames at Sea* (Citadel Theatre), *Bill W. and Dr. Bob* (Theatre 68), *The Wizards*

(Free Street Theatre) and *Airport Time* (Yellow Rose Theatre). Up next, you can see him in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Invictus Theatre. Many thanks and much love to his family. Lastly but not leastly, he couldn't be more grateful to play opposite his real-life "Karen" (and wife) Elizabeth!

UNDERSTUDY PROFILES



Tammy White (Understudy: Billie Dwyer) is grateful for the opportunity to work with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Favorite past roles include Costard in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Kate Jerome in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, Officer Billie Dwyer in *Unnecessary Farce*, and Vernadette Simms in *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*. She

holds a BFA in Theatre from Illinois State University and has studied with The Second City, Goodman Theatre, and Steppenwolf Theatre. White thanks her family and friends for their love and support.



Elizabeth Bushell (Understudy: Karen Brown) an actor/performer/producer is thrilled to be making her BTE debut! Recent theatre credits: Chicago: *The Play* (Redtwist); *Misery*, *Dames at Sea*, *The Cottage* (Citadel); *Immersion* (The Beautiful City Project); the world premiere, *Red and the Wolf* (Songbird); *City of Angels* (JPAC); *The*

Mad Ones (Towle). In addition to performing, Bushell serves as Executive Producer of The Beautiful City Project - a charitable theatre organization and works as an independent finance and strategy consultant. www.elizabethbushell.com



Harry Hultgren (Understudy: Mayor Meekly) first experience with BTE and delighted to be a part of this production. Other stage work includes *Outside Mullingar* (Tony), *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (Pseudolus), *The Tin Woman* (Hank), *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Selznick), *The Lion In Winter* (Henry), *All My*

Sons (Joe), *Noises Off* (twice), *A Few Good Men* (Jessup). Camera roles include *Victory at Lepanto* (Charles V), *The Onion* (Wall Street Reporter), *The CEO* (CEO). Voice work includes *Catherine of Sienna* (Count Beaufort), *Thomas Aquinas* (Father Albert), *Alvaro del Portillo* (Cardinal Benelli). To Ann Marie.



Paul Mazzocco (Understudy: Agent Frank) would like to thank BTE for this enriching opportunity to get back into the craft he loves. Blessed to have his family for support!

UNDERSTUDY PROFILES



David Scott Crawford (Understudy: Todd) is a professional actor of film (including *Bachelors Grove* - 2014, *Nowhere Mind* - 2017, *Directing Actors* - 2014) and stage (including *Macbeth*, *Our Town*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Pullman Car Hiawatha*, and *The Tempest*). He is also a professional singer, pianist, and songwriter whose album releases include "The Penultimate Motel" (2022), "Belle Époque" (2006), and "A Room of Green Rain" (1997). As Crawford was growing up, his father's work took the family to Australia, California, Libya, New Orleans, England, and Aberdeen, Scotland. He supports the Premiership Scottish Football team Aberdeen F.C.



Chrissy Hogue Bartels (Understudy: Mary Meekly) is thrilled to make her Buffalo Theatre Ensemble debut. Theatre credits include her Pulitzer Prize–nominated solo show *The Stupid Economy* written for her by Robert Lynn (Theatre Row, NYC; regional tour), *Pieces of My Heart*, *The Revolutionists*, *Ballad Hunter*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and multiple productions across New York City, Chicago, and the tri-states. The follow-up solo work, *The Stupider Economy*, was recently selected for a SPANK at Upright Citizens Brigade Los Angeles. Bartels also appeared as a co-star on NBC's *Chicago P.D.* She holds an MFA in Film & Television, a BA in Theatre, and conservatory training from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NY), The Acting Studio Chicago, and The Second City.



Dining Partners!

Eat, drink & enjoy - MAC dining partners

Coupons are only valid on performance days or nights.

For all your pre-show meals and post-show bites, we are thrilled to be partnering with these neighborhood restaurants. Our dining partners offer MAC patrons exclusive discounts and special offers. All MAC ticket orders receive coupons to these local favorite restaurants!

RESERVE
22
RESTAURANT BAR EVENTS
485 Winchell Way,
Glen Ellyn | 630.469.5550

IVY
STEAKS · CHOPS · SEAFOOD
120 N Hale St,
Wheaton | 630.665.2489


ADELLE'S
MODERN KITCHEN · BAR
535 W. Liberty Dr,
Wheaton | 630.784.8015


Altiro
latin • fusion
132 N Hale St,
Wheaton | 630.480.0397


Arrowhead
GOLF CLUB
26W151 Butterfield Rd,
Wheaton | 630.510.5070

PLAYWRIGHT PROFILE

Paul Slade Smith (Playwright) is a writer and actor based in Brooklyn, New York. He is thrilled to return (at least on the page) to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, where he appeared in the dual roles of Victor-Emanuel Chandebise and Poche both in the 1993 world premiere and the 1996 revival of *Hotel D'Amour*, a musical based on Georges Feydeau's *A Flea In Her Ear*. As an actor, Smith's fifteen years of Chicago credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Drury Lane Oakbrook, and Marriott Lincolnshire. His New York credits include the original Broadway casts of *Finding Neverland*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and the Lincoln Center revival of *My Fair Lady*. Following its Broadway run, Smith starred as Willy Wonka in the Australian premiere of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. His national touring credits include *Wicked*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and *My Fair Lady*. He is the author of three plays, which collectively have had nearly 500 productions. His first play, *Unnecessary Farce*, has been produced in Australia, Austria, Canada, Great Britain, Iceland, Japan, Singapore, and Switzerland and translated into French, German, Swiss German, and Icelandic. His newest play, *Theatre People, or The Angel Next Door* premiered last fall in San Diego and will be published this year by Dramatists Play Service. Smith is delighted BTE is bringing you *Unnecessary Farce* and hopes this production brings its actors and audiences as much joy as he had singing and dancing in a Feydeau farce here 32 years ago.

Special thanks to

Lewey Q's

Tap
Beer. Pizza. Wings. Sports

427 N Main Street, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PROFILES

Gus Menary (Managing Artistic Director) is a theatre director, producer, arts programmer, and currently serves as the Managing Artistic Director of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Prior to BTE, Gus served as the Artistic Director of Book-It Repertory Theatre in Seattle, Washington. While there, he produced several world-premiere literary adaptations of works by acclaimed authors such as Amy Tan, Agatha Christie, and Octavia Butler. Additionally, he directed the 2023 season hit *Beowulf* adapted by Julian Glover as well as *Solaris* as adapted by David Greig. Prior to Seattle, Menary served as Artistic Director of Jackalope Theatre in Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood. Under his leadership, the company produced 17 professional productions and hosted more than 200 guest companies. He spearheaded the development of new work and launched several artist development programs. *Newcity Magazine* named him one of the "Fifty People Who Really Perform for Chicago" every year from 2016-2020. He is a founding member of The Roustabouts and the arts collective The Inconvenience, where he served as Director of Music and Theatre Programming. He has worked with a wide range of Chicago theatre companies including Steppenwolf Theatre, A Red Orchid Theatre, American Theater Company, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Company, First Floor Theater, and Strawdog Theatre Company.

Daniel Millhouse* (Associate Artistic Director) is grateful and thrilled to be joining Buffalo Theatre Ensemble as their Associate Artistic Director having worked with BTE as an actor and stage manager since 2016. Previous productions with BTE as an actor include *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley*, *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, and *The 39 Steps*, and as a stage manager for *Naperville* and *Season's Greetings*. Beyond BTE his theater credits also include shows with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Shakespeare Project of Chicago, Remy Bumpopo, A Crew of Patches, ShawChicago, and Second City Training Center. You may also recognize him from his work on the *Call of Duty* video game franchise or his episode of *Chicago Fire*. You can also hear his voice on podcasts as well, including *The Vanishing Act* and

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PROFILES

The Onion's *The Topical*, to name a few. Millhouse is an Associate Professor at the College of DuPage where he directs productions for College Theater. He received his MFA in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his BS in Theater Arts from Eastern Michigan University. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association and is represented by Big Mouth Talent.

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Kurt Naebig+* (Director) - has worked professionally in theatre, film, television, and radio for more than 40 years, and has been teaching and coaching actors since 1992. A Juilliard graduate, he also trained at the Moscow School of the Arts in Russia. Naebig is the former Artistic Director of the Theatre of Western Springs, a member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and has appeared onstage at Portland Stage, Milwaukee's Pabst Theatre, the National Jewish Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. A playwright as well, Naebig performed his solo show *Stove Toucher* at BTE. His film credits include *Public Enemies*, *The Express*, *Witless Protection*, *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*, *The Relic*, *Dillinger*, *Howard Beach: Making the Case for Murder*, and others. On television, he has appeared in *Fargo*, *A League of Their Own*, *Empire*, *APB*, *Sense8*, *Chicago Code*, *Detroit 1-8-7*, and multiple episodes of *Chicago P.D.*, *Chicago Fire*, *ER*, and *Prison Break*. Naebig has directed multiple seasons of *VC – The Webseries*, as well as *The Outsider*, *Into the Earth With You*, *Clybourne Park*, *Naperville*, *Defiance*, *The 39 Steps*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Trumbo: Red, White and Blacklisted*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Visit him at www.kurtnaebig.com.

Sarah Lewis^ (Scenic Design) is a Scenic Artist and Scenic Designer based in the Chicago area. Previous designs with BTE include *Into the Earth With You*, *Season's Greetings*, *Clybourne Park*, *Naperville* (Jeff nomination), *Miracle on South Division Street*, and *The 39 Steps*. Other designs have been seen at Lifeline Theatre, Big Noise Theatre, The Factory Theatre, The Wilmette Children's Theatre, Mudlark Theatre, Piccolo Theatre, The Jewish Community Center- Mayer Kaplan, Pegasus

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Theatre Chicago, and others. Lewis is currently the Scenic Charge Artist at Court Theatre and paints for The Joffrey Ballet, Lyric Opera, Lookingglass Theatre, and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. She previously worked as the Assistant Charge Scenic Artist at Steppenwolf Theater Company for eight years. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. Her work can be seen at sarahdaltonlewis.com.

Aly Greaves Amidei⁺ (Costume, Hair, and Makeup Design) focuses her professional design practice on ensemble theatres, new works, and re-envisioned classics. She is currently the Associate Professor of Design at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was previously an Associate Professor of Design at UNC-Charlotte and worked for 14 years as the Costume Assistant and Costume Coordinator at College of DuPage. She continues to work in the Madison and Chicago area, and other regional theatres as a costume designer and playwright. She is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Union 829 and an ensemble member at Lifeline Theatre, Strawdog Theatre Company, and Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Recent Buffalo Theatre Ensemble designs include: *Georgiana and Kitty*, *Miss Bennet*, *The Wickhams*, *The Outgoing Tide*, and *Andy Warhol's Tomato*. Upcoming designs include: *Loki: End of the World Tour* for Lifeline Theatre and *Annie* for Children's Theatre of Madison.

Christopher Kriz⁺ (Original Music and Sound Design) is an award-winning composer and sound designer based in Chicago, and a member of BTE. Previous BTE designs include: *Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley*, *The Outgoing Tide* (two Jeff nominations), *Native Gardens*, *Andy Warhol's Tomato*, and dozens of others. A winner of seven Joseph Jefferson Awards, Kriz has designed hundreds of productions for companies in Chicago including Goodman, Steppenwolf, Court, Chicago Shakespeare, Paramount, Timeline, Victory Gardens, Writers, Shattered Globe, Remy Bumpo, and many others. Regional design credits: Seattle Repertory Theatre, Kansas City Repertory, Indiana Repertory, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Repertory, Peninsula Players, American Stage, and many others. Kriz is a proud member of United Scenic Artists

ARTISTIC PROFILES

829 and is represented by the Michael Moore Agency. To hear more of his work, visit www.christopherkriz.com

Garrett Bell (Lighting Design) - Garrett is a Lighting Designer based out of Chicago, and a lecturer at the University of Chicago and the City Colleges of Chicago. Recent Lighting Design credits with BTE include *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Native Gardens*, *The Outgoing Tide*, *Into the Earth With You*, and *Andy Warhol's Tomato*. Other recent credits include *Tecumseh!* (Scioto Society), *Black Bone* (Definition Theatre, world premiere), *Coronation* (world premiere, Joseph Jefferson award) and *A Play About David Mamet Writing a Play About Harvey Weinstein* (Refracted Theatre Company), *Queen for a Day* (World Premiere, Hell in a Handbag), *Heisenberg* (Lighting & Scenic Griffin Theatre), and *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story* (Oak Park Festival Theatre). More of Garrett's work and contact information can be found at www.garrettmBell.com.

Kimberley G. Morris (Properties Design) is excited to work again with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Based in Wheaton, she is the costume, hair, and makeup designer for the College of DuPage. Favorite past projects; recreating five outfits worn by Frida Kahlo for the *Frida Kahlo Timeless* exhibit and garments for the WARHOL and HOKUSAI exhibits at the CCMA at COD. Puppet design/build of Allan the dog for the movie *Allan the Dog the Movie*. Costumes for *The Merry Widow*, *The Mikado*, and *La Traviata* with New Philharmonic. Props design for *100 Dresses* and *A Year with Frog and Toad* with Chicago Children's Theatre. Costume and puppet design for *Blue Planet* with Akvavit Theatre. Puppet, mask, and costume design for *Neverwhere* and *Island of Dr. Moreau* with Lifeline Theatre. Upcoming projects include *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Fight Girl Battle World* with College of DuPage.

Jay Donley (Violence and Intimacy Director) is honored to be working with the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. His stage combat journey began at the tender age of four, when his aunt Polly gave him a plastic sword and shield. In 2008 he was fortunate to have the opportunity to take a stage

ARTISTIC PROFILES

combat course at his alma mater: EMU, beginning his study of movement. He would go on to take workshops with the SAFD, and later IDC, further honing his focus on storytelling through movement. Now, living in Chicago he continues to ply his trade as a founding member of Violent Delights Staged Combat and Intimacy Design, creating choreography, consulting, and teaching workshops. Donley is most proud of his ability to create compelling narrative moments in scenes of violence and intimacy, spin a fabulous yarn, and the time he once wrestled a more than slightly tipsy adult brown bear to a begrudging draw.

STAGE MANAGER PROFILES

Caitlin I. Quinn* (Stage Manager) - is excited to return to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble! She is proud of her stage management work on *Georgiana and Kitty*, *Native Gardens*, and *The Wickhams* at BTE. As well as *The Addams Family*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Any Other Name* at Williams Street Rep. With more than 15 years of prior theatre experience, it's always thrilling to start a new project. Special thanks to her partner, Jim, and to the BTE team for welcoming her on this journey of collaboration.

Chris Yee (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be back on the team here at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Yee has previously worked as a Stage Manager at iambe Theatre Ensemble and at Parker Players, as well as working as an Assistant Stage Manager here at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. He has also acted, stage managed, and assistant stage managed multiple productions here in the MAC as a student and is excited to return!

Morgan Erickson◇ (BTE Assistant Stage Manager Scholar) with College Theater, credits include *Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-Time* (Mrs. Alexander), *Hare Today Tortoise Tomorrow* (Principal Who), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Ensemble), *Good Kids* (Deirdre), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *Alice in TV-Land* (Tweedle-Dah), and *The Game's Afoot* (Stage Manager). Favorite credits include: *The Wickhams: Christmas at*

STAGE MANAGER PROFILES

Pemberley (Lizzie) and *Into The Earth With You* (Quinn) at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (Shadow Program). Erickson is a 2025 John Belushi/College Stage Management Scholarship and 2026 Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Stage Management Scholarship recipient.

+ *Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble*

* *Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers*

^ *Member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829*

‡ *Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society*

± *Member of Society of American Fight Directors*

◇ *Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Stage Management Scholarship Recipient*

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble's mission is to provide a forum in which artists, scholars, writers, students and community members explore new ideas and provocative issues through the production of quality theatre for the enjoyment of its audiences.



Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (“BTE”) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, professional theatre company in residence at the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) on the campus of College of DuPage.

Ticket revenue only covers a portion of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble’s operating expenses. The rest must be raised through contributions, the majority of which comes in the form of gifts from individuals like you.

It’s because of our close circle of friends that BTE is able to explore new ideas and provocative issues through the production of professional, high quality theater for the enjoyment of its audiences.

The resident ensemble brings professional theater to DuPage County and at the same time enhances the training of students in Theater at College of DuPage, providing opportunities for students to develop their talents alongside working theater artists.



Scan this code to give today!

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble is a designated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your donation may be tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please check with your tax advisor.

**The MAC offers all of this for you,
but we can’t do it without you!**

**YOUR GIFT HELPS PROVIDE CULTURAL
VITALITY THAT ENRICHES AND ENTERTAINS!**

GIVE TODAY! TO SUPPORT THE MAC
visit us at foundation.cod.edu or call (630) 942-3088



FRIENDS OF THE BUFFALO THEATRE ENSEMBLE

For 39 years, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (BTE) has played a major role in the cultural community of College of DuPage and the surrounding area, through the marriage of committed permanent ensemble members, fine Chicagoland artists, and great theatrical works. We gratefully acknowledge the donors who have made it possible to return for our 39th season.

This list of donors reflects contributions made from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025. While we carefully prepared this listing, we recognize that errors may occur. Please accept our apology if you are not properly represented on this list and contact BTE at danielm@btechicago.com so we may correct our records.

Benefactor (\$3000 and above)

Anonymous
Robert Bailey
Katherine Balek
Cleve E. Carney Fund
DuPage Forever Fund
DuPage Foundation
Jean Hawkinson
Illinois Arts Council
Joseph and Beth Kindlon Fund
Margaret McCoy
Karen Owen
Salesforce.com Inc
Linda & Barry Tusin
Scott & Pam Vessel
Kathy Wessel
Donald Westlake
Norman Woodel

Dream Maker (\$1000–\$2999)

Mary & Renato Bacci
Deborah Borge
Peter Bostock
Connie Canaday Howard
John and Pamela Dalby
Debra Fulks
Phil & Amy Gelber
Roberta Gilbert
Art Hirsch
Charlene Kornoski-Duvall
Larry Larson
Paula Chuchro and James Lenihan
Harold & Karyl McAninich

Kathleen McCullough
David J. and Donna M. Millhouse
Joan Morrissey
Tom & Karen Pulver
John K. Rutledge & Betty Joseph
Randy Johnson & Lisa Savegnago
Kristin & Peter Shulman
James & Linda Smedinghoff
Bonnie M. Wheaton

Imaginer (\$500–\$999)

Anonymous
Lynette Arendt
Michael Boyna
Lynn Bruno
Community Foundation of Utah/Bill Phillips Memorial Fund
Gary Dobson
Kathleen Drennan
Jon & Ruth Good
Charles & Phyllis Goodman
John & Emily Herndon
Richard Jarman
John & Rita Meier
Carol & Michael Moon
Kevin O'Brien
Pamela Pipkin
Tina Rudins
Barb & Doug Rundell
Sandra Sansone Brennan
Patricia Spence
Erin & Jeff and Julie Wymore

In Honor of Olivia

Director's Circle (\$250–\$499)

Fran Kravitz
John M. Mulherin
Amelia Barrett
John E. & Suzanne R. Buntrock
Patrice Conaway
James and Marie Drasal
Robert Dulski
Dr. James & Judy Dunlap
Craig D. Goldwyn
Bob & Sue Hartman
Nancy Headen
Cynthia Ann & Andrew Johnson
Lou Ann Kaletka Gayan
Barbara Kamm
Robert & Jean Lindsey
Martha McCoy
Donald & Mary Ellen Newsom
Kenneth Robin
Gerry Sczygiel
Donna Jean Simon
Jon Summerbell
Haruo Kurokawa and Hal Temple
Paul & Colleen Trinko
Kelli Walker
Larry Ward
Robert Wunderlich
Ida Hagman

Rising Star (\$50 to \$249)

Peggy Aldworth
Christine Aument

FRIENDS OF THE BUFFALO THEATRE ENSEMBLE

Lois Baker
 Janella Barbrow
 Eugene Benner
 John D Boylan
 Elaine Brodemus
 Joanne Brown
 Robert Burrows
 Virginia Cantu
 Robert Casey
 Michael Church
 Allison Cohen
 Barb Danvir Hepfer
 Erin Diener Matull
 Julia diLiberti
 Gregory Donzelli
 Andrea Duffy
 Marla Eglowstein
 Sally & William Fairbank
 Donald and Catherine
 Fischer
 Ruta Freimanis
 Jackie Friedman
 Chris Gerrib
 Fran Gilles
 Kathleen Graffam
 Lisa Hada
 Kim Joslin Hahn
 Cassy Harlo Schutz
 Gary Harper
 Rebekah & Rodney
 Harris
 James & Ann Helt
 Mary Johnson
 Charles & Margaret
 Jonah
 Alisa Jordheim
 Jean Joslyn

Christine Kenny-
 Sheputis
 Virginia and Charles
 Klingporn
 Deborah Kolek
 Sheila Komarek
 Christina K. Kozich
 Mary Krska
 John L. Ladle
 Virginia Lennon
 Holly Malloy
 Tom Manak
 Sharon M Marcisz
 Corrine Marrinan Tripp
 Rich Matheson
 Carolyn May
 David and Carolyn May
 Jill McWilliams
 Diane Meiborg
 Patricia Miller
 Stanley Nardoni
 Jane Oldfield
 Jean R. and Joanne
 Oliphant
 Judith Olson
 Kenneth Orenic
 Sarah & Roger Poeppel
 Lynda Pratscher
 Joe Pundzak
 Gertrude Rigg
 Gail Robinson
 Bruce Rodman
 Daniel F. and Barbara
 Roos
 Gail Root
 Marlene & Robert
 Rosecrans

Renee Rosen
 Jim Ruffing
 Kathy Schleicher
 Virginia Schweinberg
 and Family
 Steve Scott
 Wei Shissler
 Michael Sitrek
 Walter & Sandra Slazyk
 John Stechman
 Louis & Marilyn
 Steenwyk
 Gloria P. & Kennan R.
 Sullivan
 Nancy Svoboda
 Nancy and Kevin Taylor
 Stephen Tew
 Grayson Van Camp
 James & Carolyn
 Vondran
 Vince & Gloria Walsh-
 Rock
 Scott Wetle
 Mary Wiesen
 Rich & Kathy Wilders
 William Womack
 Mary Ann & Walt Zlotow
 Joy & Bob Barrel

Business Partners

Emergence See
 Photography
 The MAC
 Lewey Q's Tap, Beer,
 Pizza, Wine, Spirits
 Silver Fox Travel
 Skeleton Key



BTE Board of Directors:

Robert Jordan Bailey* (Secretary), Connie Canaday Howard*, Rebecca Cox, Julie Elges, Elyse Kennard (Vice President), Brandee Martin (President), Laura Leonardo Ownby, Anthony Tumea (Treasurer), Barry Tusin, Kelli Walker, and Kathy Wessel

Members Emeriti: Margaret Aldworth, Amelia Barrett, Robert Cappetta, Peggy Connolly, Lisa Dawn, Ted Donner, Ida Hagman, Diane Hicks, Richard Jarman, Michael J. McCoy, Joan Morrissey, Kurt Naebig, Carolyn Oesterle, John K. Rutledge, Sandra Sansone Brennan, Colleen Trinko, Bonnie Wheaton, Richard Wilders, Norm Woodel, and Mary Ann Zlotow

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Olivia Delgado
Corinna Rodriguez

Morgan Erickson
Harold Smith

Nicholas Washington
Abigail Williams

VOLUNTEERS

Rex Howard
Jeff Ownby
Kelli Walker

Laura Leonardo
Ownby
Rebecca Cox

Lisa Dawn
Connie Canaday
Howard

Lisa Ahlgrim
Mike Horst



btechicago.com



facebook.com/BuffaloTheatreEnsemble



[BTEattheMAC](https://twitter.com/BTEattheMAC)

HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at College of DuPage Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or groupptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- **For Americans with Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager.....	Molly Junokas
Assistant Business Manager.....	Linda Sharbaugh
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art.....	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant.....	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patron Services Manager.....	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer.....	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator.....	Mandy Rakow
Project Manager.....	Kari Schoettle
Office Manager/Events Coordinator.....	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Clerical Assistant.....	Kate Cadag

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager.....	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors.....	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants.....	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager.....	Tom Murray
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator.....	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Managing Artistic Director.....	Gus Menary
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager.....	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor.....	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian.....	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager.....	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian.....	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher.....	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager.....	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist.....	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist.....	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE.....	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands.....	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka