



Georgiana AND *Kitty*

CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY

By Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon
Directed by Connie Canaday Howard



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:

Lisa Ahlgrim (Secretary), Robert Jordan Bailey*, Connie Canaday Howard*, Rebecca Cox, Ted Donner (Vice President), Elyse Kennard, Brandee Martin (President), Laura Leonardo Ownby, Anthony Tumea (Treasurer), Barry Tusin, and Kelli Walker

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

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<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

Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley

by **Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon**

Director

Connie Canaday Howard+*

Original Music & Sound Design

Christopher Kriz+^

Scenic Design

Jacqueline and Richard Penrod^

Costume, Hair, Makeup Design

Aly Greaves Amidei+^

Properties Design

Paloma Locsin

Lighting Design

Garrett Bell

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.

Presented by Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

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.



Nov 20 – Dec 21, 2025 | Playhouse Theatre

CAST

Georgiana Darcy.....	Olivia Finkelstein
Kitty Bennet	Ksa Curry
Elizabeth Darcy.....	Paige Klopfenstein
Lydia Wickham	Leela Watts
Jane Bingley.....	Charlotte Foster
Mary Bennet	Elexis Selmon
Henry Grey	Peter Alfano
Thomas O’Brien.....	Daniel Millhouse*
Fitzwilliam Darcy	Keenan Odenkirk

Understudies

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at time of appearance. Kailey Nelson for Georgiana Darcy, Katherine Abel for Kitty Bennet, Kate Schiliro for Elizabeth Darcy, Jenny Hoppes for Lydia Wickham, Bek Szilagyi for Jane Bingley, Audrey Fosson for Mary Bennet, Garrett Hale for Henry Grey, Kevin Romano for Thomas O’Brien, Evan Fenne for Fitzwilliam Darcy.

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Time and Place:

Act One - 1815, Christmas Season, Pemberley

Act Two – Six years later, 1821, Christmas Eve, London

DIRECTOR’S NOTE

For those of you joining us at Pemberley with this production, we’re certain the story will be full and complete, delightful, thoughtful, and affecting, and we wish you a most enjoyable experience. Thank you for joining us!

For those of you who have seen both *Miss Bennet* and *The Wickhams* during our past two seasons, which are the first two plays in the trilogy by playwrights Gunderson and Melcon that this script completes, we have no doubt that the evolving story of *Georgiana and Kitty* will bring as much stimulation and joy as the previous two productions; in some ways, the balance of those elements is even more evident in this final installment. It’s been a joy for BTE to share these stories with you.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Though each script has focused on family, both by birth and chosen, on honor and honesty, and on loving one another through this journey of life, as does *Georgiana and Kitty*, for me, this final installment in the trilogy is about coming into your own true self. It's about insisting on being seen, heard, and valued by those who matter to you, as well as the world as a whole.

And, perhaps just as crucially, it is also about the vital skill of unveiling your own eyes to clearly see those around you as who they are, which may not be as you wished or assumed. A pivotal line, though there are many in this script, is: "It is my turn to tell my truth. You will not decide for me, not my future and not my heart."

Wishing us all clear sight, peace, and joy in our complex world.

~CCH



Dining Partners!

**Eat, drink & enjoy -
MAC dining partners**

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!

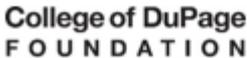
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Arrowhead GOLF CLUB

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley was commissioned and originally produced by the Jungle Theater (Christina Baldwin, Artistic Director; Robin Gillette, Managing Director), Minneapolis, Minnesota; Marin Theatre Company (Jasson Minadakis, Artistic Director; Meredith Suttles, Managing Director), Mill Valley, California; and Northlight Theatre (BJ Jones, Artistic Director; Timothy J. Evans, Executive Director), Skokie, Illinois, in 2021 and 2022.

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.



PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Caitlin I. Quinn*
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Chris Yee
BTE Stage Management Scholar	Harry Smith◇
ASL Coordinator	Laura Kostomiris
ASL Interpreter.....	Daniel Englund
Dialect Coach	Amelia Barrett+*
Technical Director	Caitlyn Woods
Scene Shop Manager	Sabrina Zeidler
Scene Shop Crew.....	MeiXi DiBernardo, Mack Lechtenberg, C.J. Morris, Gi Nascimento, Violet O'Connor, Vinny Scanio, 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	River Wise

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.....	Christine Graham, Abigail Williams, Hannah Grimm, Breanna Auriemme, Sophia Marino, Alexis Schiro, Ross Dumont-Snider, Nathaniel Rodriguez, Scott Kucera
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BTE Shadow Coordinators..... Lisa Dawn+, Laura Leonardo Ownby+

+ Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble

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◇ Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Stage Management Scholarship Recipient



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Paul Rom

CAST PROFILES



Olivia Finkelstein (Georgiana Darcy) - is delighted to be making her BTE debut! Chicago credits: *The Storm of the Century* and *Tales of the Ten* (Laughing Stock Theatre). Seattle credits: Reality Winner in *Is This a Room* (Harlequin Productions). Film credits: *Stargazer* and *The Road to Plan C*. Finkelstein received her BFA in Acting from Illinois

Wesleyan University. Sending love to her people, especially to her sisters (familial and chosen). oliviafinkelstein.com



Ksa Curry (Kitty Bennet) is thrilled to be returning to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble for another *Christmas at Pemberley*. Recent Chicago credits include *Mary's Wedding* (Oil Lamp Theater), *Skunk and Badger* (Lifeline Theater), and *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble). Recent regional theater credits include

The Cake (San Luis Obispo Repertory Theater), *Once* (San Luis Obispo Repertory Theater), and *Mother Road* (PCPA Pacific Conservatory Theater). She is a graduate of PCPA's Acting Conservatory and is represented by Lily's Talent. She's forever grateful to her family, her Chicago community, and her little black cat Bridget for all of their support, and to BTE for welcoming her back! www.ksacurry.com



Paige Klopfenstein (Elizabeth Darcy) is pleased as punch to be back at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble for this next unfolding of *Christmas at Pemberley*. Recent credits include *The Wickhams* as well as *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble), *Collected Stories* (Oil Lamp Theater), *Silent Sky* (Citadel Theatre, U/S), *Our*

Town (Asolo Repertory Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (FSU/Asolo Conservatory), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (North Dakota Shakespeare Festival), and *The Flick* (Dobama Theatre). She holds an MFA in Acting from FSU/Asolo Conservatory and is an Intimacy director trained with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators. Love and deep thanks to the Home Team, xo.

CAST PROFILES



Leela Watts (Lydia Wickham) is delighted to be returning to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble to play Lydia Wickham after understudying for *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*! Recent theatre credits include *Factory Roulette: Double or Nothing*, *Factory Roulette*, and *Kitty James and Destiny's Trail to Oregon* (The Factory Theater), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Goodly Creatures Theatre). Watts is a graduate of Illinois State University's School of Theatre, Dance, and Film. She thanks her family and friends for their generous support!



Charlotte Foster (Jane Bingley) is delighted to be working with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble again for the third installment of *Christmas at Pemberley*! She played Jane previously in the 2023 BTE production of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Recent theatrical credits: *The 39 Steps*, *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt 2B*, and *Boeing Boeing* (Third Avenue Playworks); *Our Town*, *Much Ado About Nothing* (Asolo Repertory Theatre); *Dead for a Ducat*, *Star-Crossed* (Love Drunk Productions via the Toronto and Orlando Fringe Festival); and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (North Dakota Shakespeare Festival). She received her MFA from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training in 2022, and her BFA from the State University of New York at Fredonia. Lots of love to PK and HG.



Elexis Selmon (Mary Bennet) CHICAGO: *Rome Sweet Rome* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre). REGIONAL: *Jaja's African Hair Braiding* (Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati); *Hello Dolly* (The Carnegie Theatre); *The Spongebob Musical* (The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati). REGIONAL TOUR: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *Hamlet* (Cincinnati Shakespeare Company). EDUCATION: BA in Theatre, Loyola University New Orleans; BS in Psychology, Loyola University New Orleans. Selmon would like to give a special thanks to her mom, family, friends, and Jesus!

CAST PROFILES



Peter Alfano (Henry Grey) is extremely excited to be working with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble again after having understudied for *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley*. Recent credits include *Almost Maine* (Village Theatre Guild); *Waiting for Godot* (The Black Box Theatre), *Noises Off*, *The Crucible*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (The Brunner Theatre Center). Alfano received a BA in Theater from Augustana College. When not exploring his love for theater, he works as a researcher at Midwestern University. He would like to thank BTE for this wonderful opportunity as well as his wife, friends, and family for their incredible support.



Daniel Millhouse* (Thomas O'Brien) 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 *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 Bumpgo, 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 *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. www.danielmillhouse.com



Keenan Odenkirk (Fitzwilliam Darcy) is a Chicago based actor and writer represented by Big Mouth Talent. Onstage, favorite roles include Nick (*Virginia Woolf* - Jeff Nominated Best Ensemble), Crumpet (*The Santaland Diaries*), Erik (*A Green River*), and Osric (*Hamlet*). He has

CAST PROFILES

appeared with Chicago Shakespeare, Invictus, Valiant, Quicksilver Shakes, The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, and The Mississippi Bend Players. His work in television and film include FX's *Justified: City Primeval*, NBC's *Chicago Fire*, the Award-Winning short films *Shovel Man & Ring Ring*, and the feature film *That Night*. His written works of comedy can be read at TheInquist.com

UNDERSTUDY PROFILES



Kailey Nelson (Understudy: Georgiana Darcy) is a College of DuPage Alumni, having participated in several productions throughout the years with her favorite being Snoopy in *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. She is a Second City Conservatory graduate. She was also a student shadow for BTE's *Holmes and Watson*. This will be her first official show with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and she is very excited to share this experience with you.



Katherine Abel (Understudy: Kitty Bennet) is a Cincinnati native, but has called Chicago home the last four years. She last worked with BTE in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Anne de Bourgh) and is so excited to be back! Other recent credits include *The Do Not Sing List* at 54 Below, *The Cottage* (Sylvia), *Carrie: The Musical* (Ms. Gardner), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), and *Disaster!* (Marianne). Proud Oklahoma City University Alum. For Ally, always.



Kate Schiliro (Understudy: Elizabeth Darcy) is elated to be making her BTE debut! She was most recently seen as the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, and some favorite credits include Emmy in *A Doll's House, Part 2*, and #46 in *The Wolves*. Schiliro is a Chicago native and is a graduate of NYU Tisch. All thanks to Mom, Meg, Jen, Lolo, Mommymom, Dad, and the rest of her family and friends for their everlasting love and support.

UNDERSTUDY PROFILES



Jenny Hoppes (Understudy: Lydia Wickham) is ecstatic to return to BTE with this amazing cast and crew. She has understudied each iteration of the *Christmas at Pemberley* series here, and is honored to complete the trilogy this year. She is a graduate of Point Park University's BFA Acting Program, and Milwaukee Rep's EPR Acting Internship. In her free time, she is usually watching old mysteries or chilling with her adorable cat. Notable theatrical credits: Ursula/Sexton in *Much Ado* and Vanessa U/S in *Nativity Variations* (Milwaukee Rep), Regan in *King Lear* (Shakespeare Project of Chicago), Lina U/S in *Cry it Out* (Oil Lamp Theater), Hedy in *Garters* (Otherworld Theatre). Overwhelming gratitude to the cast, crew, Daniel, Amelia, and Connie. Thanks to family, friends, and Kenny for their undying support! Jennyhoppes.com



Bek Szilagyi (Understudy: Jane Bingley) is so excited to be understudying for Jane a second time with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Other credits Szilagyi has been a part of are *Imitation of Life* (Theatre 47, Jessie), *Little Women* (Kankakee Valley Theatre Players, Jo), and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Acting Out Theatre Company, Lucy). She is a College of DuPage Alumni and is always happy to be back on campus. She thanks all her friends and family for their support.



Audrey Fosson (Understudy: Mary Bennet) is thrilled to be making her Buffalo Theatre Ensemble debut! She is active in the Chicago dance scene as a member of Bang Bang Dance Company. Past theatrical credits include *Airness* (Cannibal Queen/Nina US), *Gypsy* (Electra), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle Woods). Ball State University graduate and Stella Adler 2019 summer certificate. She would like to thank her mentors, friends, and family for always believing in her.



Garrett Hale (Understudy: Henry Grey) is excited to be working with the cast of *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley* and with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble for the first time! Recent credits include those with Steel Beam Theatre in the debut of *99th and Nowhere* (Derek) as well as performances in the University of Evansville's *Waiting for*

UNDERSTUDY PROFILES

Lefty (Clayton), *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Schultz), *Measure for Measure* (Lucio), *Everybody* (Somebody), and *Cry it Out* (Mitchell). He'd like to thank his family, friends, and partner for supporting him in following his passion! Hale recently graduated from the University of Evansville in 2024 with a BFA in Theatre Performance.



Kevin Romano (Understudy: Thomas O'Brien) is incredibly excited to be understudying Thomas O'Brien with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble! Coming from a background of screen acting (Indie films, *Chicago PD*), this marks his first professional theater production. He's very thankful for his friends/family's support, and for this opportunity to learn and work onstage with such talented people.



Evan Fenne (Understudy: Fitzwilliam Darcy) is thrilled to be working with Buffalo Theater Ensemble for the very first time. Favorite credits include *Barefoot in the Park* (The Larry Keeton Theater), *A Christmas Carol* (Nashville Repertory Theatre), *Blue Stockings* (Belmont University), and *Love's Labour's Lost* (Nashville Shakespeare Festival). He also has credits in short films like *We Are All Driving Home* and the award-winning *Only Actors*. Fenne graduated from Belmont University in Nashville, TN with a degree in Creative and Entertainment Industries and a minor in theatre.

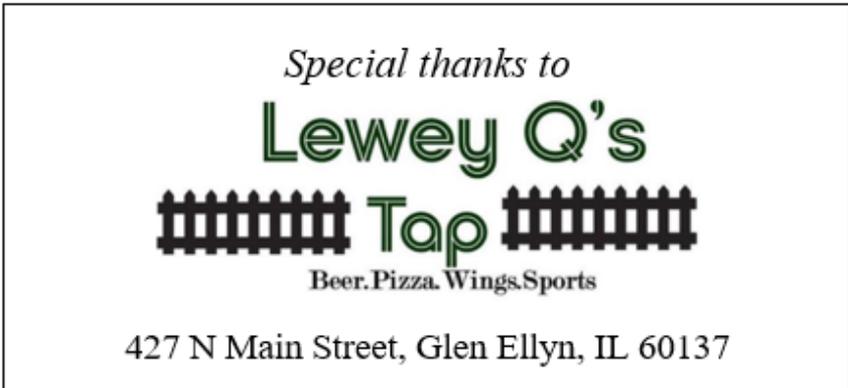
PLAYWRIGHT PROFILES

Lauren Gunderson (Playwright) - is one of the most produced playwrights in America since 2015, topping the list three times. Her incredible talent includes two dozen successfully produced plays as well as nine 10-minute plays. She has won a variety of awards including the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award for *You and I* and *The Book of Will*, the William Inge Distinguished Achievement in Theatre Award, the Lanford Wilson Award, and was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, to name a few. Being a co-writer as well, Gunderson wrote the *Christmas at Pemberley* trilogy with Margot Melcon as well as *The Half-Life of Marie Curie* which premiered off-Broadway. Caring deeply about activism within the theater community and beyond, Gunderson has also written plays that bring awareness to relevant topics and issues. For

PLAYWRIGHT PROFILES

example, her play *The Taming* explores the role of women in politics, and *Silent Sky* and *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* highlight achievements of historical women in science.

Margot Melcon (Playwright) is an accomplished playwright, dramaturg, and arts administrator where she has notably co-written with Gunderson on the *Christmas at Pemberley* trilogy and consults with various playwrights. As an arts administrator, she utilized her dramaturg skills and assisted with over 30 productions - including six premieres - while she served as the Director of New Play Development at Marin Theatre Company. Melcon has developed plays with the Kennedy Center, TheatreWorks, Bay Area Playwrights Festival, among many other remarkable foundations.



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, he 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*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR PROFILES

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. Menary 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 *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 Bumpo, 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 *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. www.danielmillhouse.com

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Connie Canaday Howard+* (Director) - after 24 years as Managing Artistic Director for BTE, has recently stepped out of leadership for the Company, though she is excited to continue as a dedicated Ensemble member. Canaday Howard has directed numerous productions for BTE, with some favorites being *Time Stands Still*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Noises Off*, *Into the Woods*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. She is also a member of BTE's acting ensemble, most recently playing Peg in *The Outgoing Tide* and Della in *The Cake*. Canaday Howard holds an MFA in Directing, and has worked regionally with Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, City Theatre Company, Belvoir Terrace, Drama Workshop, Down River Dinner Theatre, Ingersoll Theatre, Charlie's Showplace, and tours of both theatre and dance, as well as helping to create and perform several improvisational shows. She is a proud member of Actor Equity Association. She serves on the Artistic Team of the Joseph Jefferson Committee, and, while a professor, also adjudicated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). Canaday Howard is retired as Chair/Professor of the Theatre Department at the College of DuPage, where she directed countless productions, including some favorites of *The Addams Family*, *Joe White and the Seven Dwarves*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Living*. She received COD's Outstanding Faculty in 2004 and served as the Illinois IAI co-chair of the Theatre committee for nearly two decades.

Jacqueline and Richard Penrod^ (Scenic Design) - are very happy to be working with The Buffalo Theatre Ensemble on this production of *Georgiana and Kitty: Christmas at Pemberly*. They also designed the sets for the BTE production of *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberly* and *The Outgoing Tide*. Recent productions include *Big River* for the Mercury Theater. Their award-winning design work has been seen locally and regionally. Some favorite productions include: *Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley* at Northlight Theatre, *Frida... a Self Portrait* at Writer's Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Portland Center Stage, and Kansas City Rep. A few of their favorite designs are: *Around the World in Eighty Days* for Lookingglass Theatre, *Eclipsed* for Pegasus Theatre, *Richard III* for The Gift Theater produced at Steppenwolf

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Theatre; *Stick Fly* for Windy City Playhouse; *Welcome Home Jenny Sutter* for Next Theatre Company; *Pygmalion*, and *Love and Information*, for Remy Bumpo Theatre Company. They are members of United Scenic Artists local 829. Find out more at www.penroddesign.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: *Miss Bennet* and *The Wickhams*, *The Outgoing Tide*, and *Andy Warhol's Tomato*. Upcoming designs include: BTE's *Unnecessary Farce* and *Loki: End of the World Tour* for Lifeline Theatre.

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: *The Outgoing Tide* (2 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 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 829 and is represented by the Michael Moore Agency. To hear more of his work, visit www.christopherkriz.com

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Garrett Bell (Lighting Design) - 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 *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 Bell's work and contact information can be found at www.garrettmBell.com

Paloma Locsin - (Properties Design) This is Locsin's first production with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble.

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 *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, also to Connie and the BTE team for welcoming her on this journey of collaboration.

Chris Yee (Assistant Stage Manager) - Chris is so excited to be returning to the team here at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Chris has previously worked as a Stage Manager at iambe Theatre Ensemble and at Parker Players, as well as working as a Student Assistant Stage Manager here at Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. Chris has also acted, stage managed, and assistant stage managed multiple productions here in the MAC as a student at the College of DuPage.

STAGE MANAGER PROFILES

Harry Smith◊ (BTE Assistant Stage Manager Scholar) - has been part of theatre at College of DuPage for two and a half years, most of that time working in the scene shop. He worked on Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol* in 2024. He is extremely excited to be part of the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble team and to help with *Georgiana and Kitty!* Smith has been involved in theatre since he started high school, but this will be his first show that that he is not on the flyrail! Smith is described as a generally energetic and happy individual, who enjoys learning about any new thing that comes his way and sees every problem as a puzzle and challenge to solve!

+ 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.



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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
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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 September 30, 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.

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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.*

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Student Clerical Assistants.....	Kate Cadag, Claudia Mah Eng Muzuquiz

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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

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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