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**PERFORMANCE! 2023-24**

A Playbill for The Public Theatre and Maine Music Society



### THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

By Larissa FastHorse

Directed by Associate Prof Tim Dugan

Gannett Theater

Nov 2,3,6 at 7:30 pm

Nov 4, 5:00 pm | Nov 5, 2:00 pm

Good intentions. Bad decisions. Great fun. This satirical comedy a troupe of really well-meaning theater artists dream of creating something revolutionary: a culturally sensitive, totally inoffensive Thanksgiving school pageant that finally gives a voice to Native Americans. Finding said Native Americans... isn't so simple. Sending up a whole feast of social issues, this biting funny play roasts everything right, wrong, and woke in America.

### FALL DANCE CONCERT

Schaeffer Theatre

Artistic Director: Asst. Prof Brian J Evans

Dec 2, 5:00 pm | Dec 3, 2:00 pm

Dec 4, 7:30 pm

Featuring Composition Seminar students and capstone works by graduating choreographers.

### THE GRAVEDIGGERS UNION

By Brian James Polak

Directed by Kevin R. Free

Gannett Theater

March 7, 8,11 at 7:30 pm | March 9, 5:00 pm

March 10, 2:00 pm

A colorful collection of gravediggers at a New Hampshire cemetery are suddenly at risk of losing their livelihoods when the Walmart of

cemeteries opens just across the street. Faced with the possible loss of their dysfunctional but comforting existence, they do what most people would do in this circumstance, they try to buy their graveyard by putting on a play to raise money. What could go wrong?

### EL PROXIMO TREN

A senior thesis project

by Miguel Pacheco Gonzalez '24

The Martin Andrucki

Black Box Theater

March 28, 29, April 1, 7:30 pm

March 30, 5:00 pm | March 31, 2:00 pm

Venezuelan Interdisciplinary Arts and Performance major Miguel Pacheco Gonzalez '24 will lead a devised theater project, inspired by Argentinian theater artist Alfredo Rosenbaum, exploring the topic of human migration and the resulting loss and rebirth.

### THE MARCY PLAVIN SPRING DANCE CONCERT

Schaeffer Theatre

Artistic Direction: Asst Prof Tristan Koepke

April 5, 8 at 7:30 pm

April 6, 5:00 pm | April 7, 2:00 pm

Featuring repertory works by contemporary choreographers in collaboration with the Bates Dance Festival.



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Sun., March 17 • 2:00 pm



Sat., May 11 • 7:00 pm  
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## Paint Night

**Oct 20 - 29** by Carey Crim

Imagine *Steel Magnolias* with modern day issues, as six women gather for a much-needed girls' night out. This world premiere is a hilarious and heartfelt look at mothers and daughters and the way women support each other in our unpredictable world. A great girls' night out!

## My Witch: The Margaret Hamilton Stories **Nov 10-12**

Jean Tafler portrays Margaret Hamilton in a delightful story about the famous "Wicked Witch of the West" actress who left an indelible mark on all of us.

## A Christmas Carol

**Dec 8 - 10** adapted by C. Schario

Six actors and a fiddler perform the Dickens out of this beloved holiday classic in a way you've never imagined and will never forget! Children 18 and under only \$15!

## Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Jan 26 - Feb 4** by Katie Forgette

Get ready for heartwarming laughter and all the polyester you can handle! Whether you grew up Catholic, lived through 1973, or your family resembles the "fun" in dysfunctional, this nostalgic and heartfelt new comedy is for you!

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## Secret Hour

**Mar 15 - 24** by Jenny Stafford

Married couple Kate and Ben invent a game called "terrible secret hour" where they each confess an unflattering truth and promise to love one another regardless. But is being truthful the same thing as being true to oneself? Entertaining, humorous, poignant, and thoughtful, you'll be talking about this provocative new play all the way home.

## Lunenburg

**May 3 - 12** by Norm Foster

When Iris's husband is unexpectedly killed in a plane crash, her lawyer reveals she has inherited a beautiful home in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia - that she never knew existed! What follows is the perfect combination of mystery, comedy, and romance, as she and her best friend set out from their home in Brunswick, Maine for a laugh-filled, poignant road trip North to unravel the mystery of her husband's secret life.

# RIVERFRONT EVENT SERIES

## 2023-24



**Oct. 7 Runnin' Down a Dream: Tom Petty Tribute**



**Oct. 13 Sweet Baby James: America's #1 James**  
Taylor tribute artist Bill Griese



**Oct. 14 Baked Bean Supper with dessert**



**Oct. 15 Piano Series Duo Mundi George & Guli**

**Oct. 19, 20, 21 Fright Night Walk**

**Oct. 29 Fiddle-icious**



**Nov. 3 The Women Who Risked Everything for Freedom concert with Malinda Haslett**

**Nov. 9, 10, 11 Bricks & Bridges Comedy Fest**

**Nov. 17 Robert Washington: Elvis Tribute**



**Dec. 15, 16 Sights & Sounds of Christmas Show**

**Dec. 17 "Just Us" Entertainers Christmas Show**



**Jan. 26 Piano Men: The Music of Elton & Billy**

**Feb. 3 Welcome to Maine comedy show**



**Feb. 10 Imari & the Sahara Desert Dancers**

**Feb. 17 Josee Vachon**

**March 9 Magic Bus: The Who Tribute**



**April 3 Windham Chamber Singers**

**April 5: Studio Two: The Beatles Tribute**

**July 13: Heather Pierson Trio**



**More events in our online calendar!**



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October 28 & 29, 2023

### Soulful Expressions

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Dmitri Shostakovich

*Anastasia Antonacos,  
Guest Pianist*



January 20 & 21, 2024

### Song & Dance Music from Around the World

Copland, Strauss, Mahler,  
Ginastera, Piazzolla,  
Moncayo, Bernstein

*Philippe Lema,  
Guest Baritone*



March 23 & 24, 2024

### A New Artistic Mélange

Jessie Montgomery,  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,  
Edward Elgar

*Emily Jacobsen,  
Guest Conductor*



May 18 & 19, 2024

### Cityscape, Seascape, Soundscape

Aaron Copland,  
Claude Debussy,  
Ludwig van Beethoven

*Tim Newlan, Trumpeter  
Billie Jo Brito, English*

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Right now some people in our community just can't afford to see theatre on a regular (or even occasional) basis. Why does that matter? Because the free exchange of ideas between people of different backgrounds is what inspires growth and change and compassion in a community -- and who couldn't use more of those?

If you're someone who would pay more for a play at The Public Theatre, and believe in the value of an inclusive community, please make a contribution. You can even add it to your order the next time you purchase a ticket.

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The Public Theatre was founded to bring high quality professional theatre to the people of Maine, at an affordable price. We strive to make our presentations accessible to all, especially those less likely by tradition or inclination to attend live theatre. In choosing our season, we look for plays that speak from the heart; that are life-affirming and uplifting even when the subject matter is dark or painful; that use our language in powerful and provocative ways; that invite the audience to see their world in a new way. Artistic excellence is central to the mission of The Public Theatre.

***The Public Theatre is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.***

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# LUNENBURG

## BY NORM FOSTER

Directed by  
Janet Mitchko

Stage Manager  
Adam P. Blais\*

Costume Design  
Frederica Jepson Johnson

Set Design  
Kit Mayer

Lighting Design  
Florence Cooley

### CAST

(in order of appearance)

Iris Oulette ..... Beth Hylton\*  
Natalie Whitaker ..... Heather Dilly\*  
Charlie Butler ..... Torsten Hillhouse\*

**Place:** The back deck of a home in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. Located on Shore road, the deck looks out onto the harbour and beyond that, the Atlantic Ocean.

**Lunenburg** was first produced by the Foster Festival in St. Catharines, ON in August 2017.

**Lunenburg** is staged by arrangement with Pam Winter, GGA, [www.ggagency.ca](http://www.ggagency.ca)



\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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**BETH HYLTON** (*Iris*) is thrilled to return to The Public Theatre, having previously performed here in *The Cocktail Hour* and *On Golden Pond*. Earlier this season, Beth was Celeste in *Into The Breeches* at Gulfshore Playhouse and Margot in *Dial M for Murder* at Everyman Theatre, where she is a member of the resident company of actors. Beth has performed in over 25 productions at Everyman, from world premieres to American and European classics. Favorite roles at Everyman include Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Rosemary in *Outside Mulligar*, Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*, and Bella in *The Sound Inside*. OFF BROADWAY: *59E59*: Liz in *Handbagged* (director Indhu Rubasingham). OTHER NYC: NYC Fringe Fest, Gorilla Rep, founding member, Ground Floor Theatre Lab, Todo Con Nada. Beth's favorite regional credits include Amanda in *Private Lives* at Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre, Bev and Kathy in *Clybourne Park* at Baltimore Center Stage, and the one person play *Throw Me on the Burnpile and Light Me Up* at Round House. OTHER REGIONAL CREDITS: Rep Stage, Woolly Mammoth, Olney Theatre Center, Ford's, Kennedy Center Eisenhower Stage, The Folger, Maltz Jupiter, Delaware Theatre Company, Weston Playhouse, PlayMakers Rep, NC Stage. TV/FILM: *Law and Order* (2022), *House of Cards*, *One Life to Live*, *Thespian* and the lead role in indie feature *The Other You*, to be released late spring 2024. More info available at [www.bethhyltonactor.com](http://www.bethhyltonactor.com). Beth has an MFA from UNC-Chapel Hill/PATP.



**HEATHER DILLY** (*Natalie*) is thrilled to be returning to The Public Theatre for the eighth time. Previously she appeared in *Gun Shy* (Catelyn), *Secrets of a Soccer Mom* (Allison), *Indoor/Outdoor* (Matilda), *Lovesick*, *Human Error* and *Screwball Comedy*. Heather hails from New York City where she has appeared off-broadway in *Walk Two Moons* (Mom), *Bag Fulla Money* (Becky) and the award winning show *Screenplay* (Susie). Big thanks to Chris and Janet and the whole wonderful Public Theatre crew. All the love in the world to my son Gray.



**TORSTEN HILLHOUSE** (*Charlie*) This marks Torsten's fifth time working at the Public. NYC credits: *The Polish Play* (off-Broadway), *The Odyssey* (off-Broadway), *Tender* (Thirteenth Night), *As You Like It* and *The Recruiting Officer* (off-Broadway NY Classical Theatre), *The Perfect Crime* (off-Broadway), *WTC View* ([59E.59th](http://59E.59th)). Regional credits: *A Few Good Men* (Pioneer Theater), *Be Here Now* (world premiere at Cincinnati

Playhouse), *Love/Sick* (world premiere), *The 39 Steps*, and *Out of Sterno* (Portland Stage), *Harvey* and *The Laramie Project* (Arvada Center), *Doubt* (Capital Repertory), *Misery* (Miners Alley Theatre), *Noises Off* (Shadowland Stages), *Pericles* (Theatre at Monmouth), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ART), *Billy Hell* and *Life is a Dream* (Creede Repertory), *Around the World in 80 Days* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Stonington Opera House), *The Lion in Winter* (Commonweal), *Three Sisters* (Moscow Art Theatre), *Cinzano* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Film: *Adam* and *Where God Left His Shoes*. Television: *Bull*, *The Blacklist*, *FBI*, *Law and Order*, *Law and Order SVU*, *As the World Turns*. MFA from ART/M.X.A.T. at Harvard University. Born and bred in Colorado: currently living and working in NYC. Visit [torstenhillhouse.com](http://torstenhillhouse.com) for more information.

**NORM FOSTER** (*Playwright*) has been the most produced playwright in Canada for the past 20 years. Born in Newmarket, Ontario and raised in Toronto, Norm attended West Hill Collegiate Institute and then went on to study Radio & Television at Centennial College in Toronto. Upon completion of his studies, he began a radio career that would span 25 years. In 1980 he ended his radio career in Fredericton, New Brunswick where he was introduced to the world of theatre. In 1982 he penned his first professionally produced play, *Sinners*. His next play, *The Melville Boys* would go on to be produced across Canada and the United States, including a well-received run off-Broadway in New York. Norm has produced over fifty plays, including *The Affections of May*, the most produced play in Canada in 1991.



**JANET MITCHKO** (*Artistic Director*) As Artistic Director of The Public Theatre, Janet has spent the past 30 years making theatre in Maine as both a director (*Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help*, *Paint Night*, *Morning After Grace*, *Dancing Lessons*, *Middletown*, *Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Sexy Laundry*, *Around The World in 80 Days*, etc) and actress (*Be Here Now*; *A Doll's House, PART 2*; *The Ladies Foursome*; *Good People*; *Time Stands Still*; etc), and is proud to call The Public Theatre her artistic home. Prior to life in Maine, Janet lived in NYC earning her living as a professional actress, voice-over talent, and director as well as teaching acting at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She is a graduate of the acting program at Carnegie-Mellon University and her favorite role will always be the proud mother of [bside.beehiiv.com](http://bside.beehiiv.com) creator Emily Schario.



**RAY DUMONT** (*Executive Director*) is overjoyed to come back to his hometown as Executive Director of The Public Theatre. He grew up in Lewiston and was educated in Lewiston schools. Most recently he was Director of Development for Theatre Aspen, after two years as Associate Education Director at the Ogunquit Playhouse. He attended Boston University School of Management, where he majored in Finance and Marketing. Ray has been working in professional theatre for over 30 years, as performer, educator, director, choreographer, and administrator. Although his career has taken him all over the country, Maine has always been his home base. He has enjoyed over 20 seasons at Maine State Music Theatre, including four incredible years as Managing Director from 1999-2003. During those years, MSMT refurbished a former bus garage into its current production and administrative home in Brunswick. Ray is dedicated to creating art that starts conversations, brings people together, and improves the quality of life in our communities, all the while providing great entertainment, here in Lewiston/Auburn. He is forever grateful for the support of his amazing family, all of whom reside in Maine, and for the daily encouragement of his partner, Josh. Proud member of AEA (Actors' Equity Association) since 1995.

**ADAM P. BLAIS** (*Stage Manager*) is a Maine-based Director, Choreographer, Stage Manager and Educator. Previously at The Public Theatre: *Incident at Our Lady of Perpetual Help* (Stage Manager), *Paint Night* (Stage Manager), *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* (Director/Choreographer), *Murder for Two* (Director/Choreographer), *Dancing Lessons* (Choreographer) and The Midvale High School 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion (Choreographer). Additional credits include *Cox And Box*, *The Story of My Life*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *Murder for Two*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (Theater at Monmouth); *King Lear*, *The Tempest* with Academy Award Winner Olympia Dukakis (Shakespeare & Company); *Sweeney Todd*, *Speech and Debate* (University of Maine), and many others. Upcoming: *Souvenir* (Theater at Monmouth). Adam holds a BA in Theatre and an MA in Leadership Studies and is also the Production Manager and Artistic Associate at The Public Theatre.

**KIT MAYER** (*Set Designer*) is pleased to be returning to The Public Theatre for his 14<sup>th</sup> production. Previous designs include: *Paint Night*, *Under the Skin*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Tigers Be Still*, *Deathtrap*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Sleuth*, *Rumors*, *Steel Magnolias*. A resident of western Wisconsin, he is a freelance designer and scenic artist in the upper Great Lakes region. As a founding

member and designer for the Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre in Fairbanks, AK he has done a considerable amount of work there as well as internationally in Australia, Canada, Germany and the UK.

**FREDERICA JEPSON JOHNSON** (*Costume Designer*) is so excited to be back at The Public Theatre after a 22 year hiatus. In 1993, she began working with Janet Mitchko and Christopher Schario as their first costume designer. Previously, she enjoyed working at Virginia Stage Company, Old Globe Theatre Company, North Carolina Shakespeare, and Portland Stage Company. She earned her MFA in costume design from VCU in Richmond. Other work includes technical designer at LL Bean, costume designer/professor at USM in Gorham. 21 years ago, She married Frank and moved to NJ where she taught at Morris County Community College, before turning her attention to raising their 5 adopted children. She's glad to be back in Maine at her favorite theatre.

**FLORENCE COOLEY** (*Lighting Designer*) is a local freelancing lighting designer, electrician, stagehand, and seamstress, among other things. She has a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Southern Maine (USM). She is also a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage employees, Local 114. She works at many local theaters including Maine State Music Theatre, where she held an apprenticeship in 2009 and has since worked as a stitcher and costume coordinator. This is Florence's second show with The Public Theatre, and she is honored for the opportunity to work with such a wonderful team. Favorite past lighting designs include: *Airswimming* (USM), *Cabaret* (Madhorse), *Twelfth Night* (Fenix Theatre Company), *Into the Woods* (Lyric), *Macbeth* (Camden Shakespeare Festival), *A Christmas Carol* (Espanola's Main Street Theatre). With City Theater Associates she has designed *Rent*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *The Full Monty*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Gunmetal Blues*, amongst others. Favorite lighting designs at Yarmouth High School include *Cinderella*, *Shrek*, *Urinetown*, *The Addams Family*, *Bottom's Dream*, *Secret in the Wings*, *Josephine's Stories*, *Epic Propositions*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Diviners*, *Pippin*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Les Miserables*, amongst many others. Thank you for your support.

**DMITRI KUBBS** (*Technical Director*) Professionally Dmitri has split his career between environmental education, managing petting zoos, and theater production. Most recently he made the titular prop for Opera Maine's production of the "The Rocking-Horse Winner". He lives in Auburn with his wife, son, and lots of unfinished projects.



**ELIJAH MOORE** (he/him) (*Assistant Technical Director*) is a Temple University graduate. Since graduating Elijah has worked mainly as a lighting technician at countless venues in the Philadelphia area such as The Wilma, The Arden, The Interact, The Bucks County Playhouse, and The Bearded Ladies. Additionally, Elijah worked as Assistant LD and Electrician in Medora North Dakota, with Stage West Productions, and most recently filling in as Electric Supervisor in Door County, Wisconsin with the Peninsula Players. During his free time, he likes to go to the skatepark, snowboard, listen to live music, play roller hockey, and disc golf. Elijah is a positive person and loves working with a team.

**MCKENNA CANTY** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is excited to be back at The Public Theatre! She's from the Boston area, and she graduated from UMass Amherst in 2021 where she studied communications and theater. She also appeared as Belle/Fan/Martha in *A Christmas Carol* and assistant stage managed *Paint Night* here, this season. Previously, she was a Development Associate at Studio Theatre in Washington, DC for their 22/23 season. She also has experience as a house manager, wardrobe crew member, and marketing videographer. Growing up, she spent many summers on Sebago Lake and in Fryeburg, so she's thrilled to be back in Maine once again.



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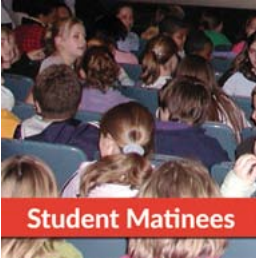


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- **Androscoggin Historical Society** [androhistory.org](http://androhistory.org)
- **Auburn Public Library** [auburnpubliclibrary.org](http://auburnpubliclibrary.org)
- **Bates Dance Festival** [batesdancefestival.org](http://batesdancefestival.org)
- **Bates College Museum of Art** [bates.edu/museum](http://bates.edu/museum)
- **Community Little Theatre** [laclt.com](http://laclt.com)
- **Franco-American Collection at USM** [usm.maine.edu/franco-american-collection](http://usm.maine.edu/franco-american-collection)
- **Franco-Trail L/A**
- **Franco Center** [francocenter.org](http://francocenter.org)
- **L/A Arts** [laarts.org](http://laarts.org)
- **Lewiston Public Library** [lplonline.org](http://lplonline.org)
- **Maine Music Society** [mainemusicsociety.org](http://mainemusicsociety.org)
- **Midcoast Symphony Orchestra** [midcoastsymphony.org](http://midcoastsymphony.org)
- **Museum in the Streets trail** [museumla.org](http://museumla.org)
- **Maine MILL** [mainemill.org](http://mainemill.org)
- **Olin Concert Series** [bates.edu/olin-concert-series](http://bates.edu/olin-concert-series)
- **The Public Theatre** [thepublictheatre.org](http://thepublictheatre.org)
- **The Public Art trail** [laarts.org](http://laarts.org)



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