ARDEN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

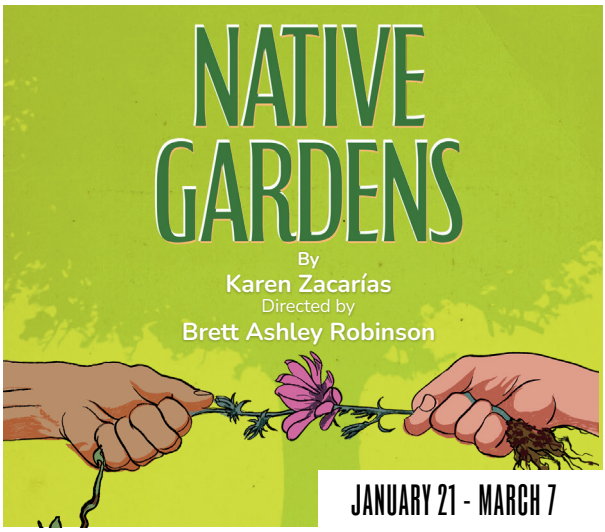


Arden THEATRE CO.

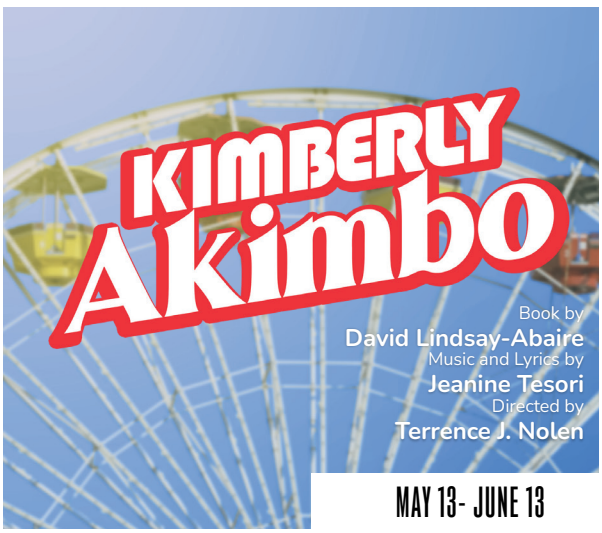
GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY SEP 24 - OCT 25

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG OCT 29 - DEC 13

2026/27 SEASON



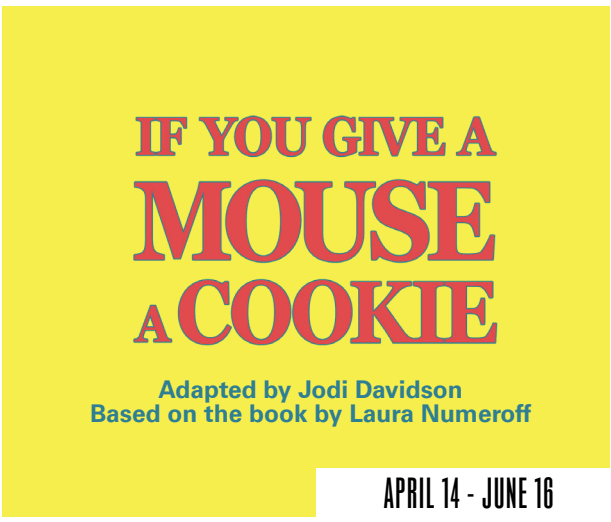




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And join us for Arden Children's Theatre!





WELCOME

From the Producing Artistic Director



Welcome to the Arden's 39th year and the theatre's fall season!

We are thrilled to open with *Girl from the North Country*, a new musical by Conor McPherson with songs by Bob Dylan, and to follow that up with Suzan-Lori Parks' *Topdog/Underdog*, directed by Amina Robinson.

Conor McPherson is an Irish playwright telling a very American story. The Arden previously produced McPherson's *The Weir* (2000) and *The Seafarer* (2009), and Lantern Theatre is producing *The Weir* later this season. *Topdog/Underdog* is Suzan-Lori Parks' brilliant Pulitzer Prize-winning play, recently hailed by *The New York Times* as the best American play of the past 25 years. We are co-producing T*opdog/Underdog* with People's Light in Malvern, with whom we partnered on productions in our early days, starting with *As You Like It* in 1992.

Both of these productions feature the work of leading artists here in Philadelphia and build upon important ongoing relationships. Amina Robinson and Akeem Davis collaborated on *Intimate Apparel* two seasons ago. Greg Wood, who first worked at the Arden in 1991, appeared with Scott Greer as the Loman brothers in *Death of a Salesman*. Sarah Gliko has appeared in several past Arden musicals and also played a memorable Charlotte in our 2011 production of *Charlotte's Web* (other Charlotte veterans include Maggie Lakis as Lamb, Matteo Scammel as Templeton, Charlie DelMarcelle as Gander, and Scott Greer as our original Wilbur). Joining these folks are new artists bringing new energies and perspectives to the work. The value of ongoing collaborations and the discovery of important new artistic voices who will be shaping the work on our stages and beyond for many years to come is foundational to what the Arden strives to be. A home for Philadelphia artists.

The Arden's fall season is dedicated to the memory of Ryane Nicole Studivant. Ryane was devoted to the Philadelphia theatre community, and we were so lucky that she had a long relationship with the Arden, as a staff member, understudy, donor, and onstage in her Barrymore Award-nominated performance as Erzulie, the Goddess of Love, in our 2024 production of *Once on This Island*.

Ryane loved her husband Ian most of all. But these fall productions contain within them two of Ryane's great joys: her passion for musical theatre and the devotion she shared with her director, mentor, and friend Amina Robinson. We sing for Ryane Nicole Studivant and celebrate her life, for she was beloved by so many of us.



A Message from our Honorary Producer



As an attendee, supporter, and volunteer leader at the Arden for more than 20 years, I am delighted to welcome you to the Arden's 39th season!

There is something uniquely powerful about sharing a story—its joys, sorrows, and surprises—alongside friends and strangers alike, and *Girl from the North Country* is a perfect example of that powerful storytelling in action. This play weaves together keenly relatable human experiences through the music of Bob Dylan. It's not a traditional musical in which songs simply advance the plot. Instead, Dylan's music has been reimagined and threaded through the work as an emotional current, pulling the audience deeper into the characters' inner lives in surprising and moving ways. The result reveals new dimensions in songs we may have known for years—and invites us to hear them as if for the first time.

This play also presents an opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary actor-musicians who bring their complex characters to life. Their ability to move seamlessly between acting, singing, and playing instruments makes each performance an impressive display of artistry, versatility, and true ensemble storytelling. Under Terry's keen direction, I have no doubt this is a show that will linger in our memories for years to come.

Enjoy the performance!

Harvey B. Swedloff

Accessibility Services

Accessible Seating & Seating Requests
Removable seats for wheelchairs & Accommodations for comfort, mobility, and hearing or vision needs.

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs)
Amplification of all onstage sounds.
Available with headphones or a t-coil neck loop.

Open Captioning (OC)
Text display of all dialogue and sounds.
Available select Friday and Saturday performances.

KultureCity Sensory Tools
All Arden staff are Sensory-Friendly trained.
Quiet Area, Social Stories, and Fidgeting Tools available.

Caption Glasses (CG)
Wearable, customizable closed captioning glasses.
Available 1 week after Opening Nights.
Ask Box Office to borrow.

Large Print Programs
Enlarged-text printed programs for low-vision patrons.

Audio Description (AD)
Live verbal commentary of all visual elements.
Available select Friday and Saturday performances.

Service Dogs
We welcome patrons with Service Dogs to attend our performances.

PNC arts alive be part of art | Accessibility: The Arden is for Everyone

Visit **ardentheatre.org/plan-your-visit/accessibility** for more details about our services and offerings.

ARDEN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

Written by
CONOR McPHERSON

Music and Lyrics
BOB DYLAN

Music Director
RYAN TOUHEY

Choreographer
DEVON SINCLAIR^

Scenic Designer
JAMES KRONZER+

Costume Designer
ALISON ROBERTS

Lighting Designer
CHRIS LEE

Sound Designer
DAMIEN FIGUERAS+

Assistant Music Director
JAKE COLLINS

Assistant Director
KEVIN NADDEO

Fight Choreographer
IAN ROSE

Assistant Stage Manager
LYNDSEY CONNOLLY*

Orchestrations & Arrangements
SIMON HALE

Additional Arrangements
CONOR McPHERSON & SIMON HALE

Orchestrations Adapted by
RYAN TOUHEY

Stage Manager
ALEC E. FERRELL*

Directed by
TERRENCE J. NOLEN^

Honorary Producer: Harvey B. Swedloff

Instrument Sponsors: Sandy and David Beswick

Girl from the North Country was first performed at The Old Vic Theatre, London 8 July 2017

Originally produced in the West End by Tristan Baker & Charlie Parsons for Runaway Entertainment, Steven Lappin, Sony Music Entertainment UK, David Mirvish and The Old Vic.

Originally produced on Broadway by Tristan Baker & Charlie Parsons for Runaway Entertainment, Steven Lappin, Sony Music Entertainment/ Sony ATV, David Mirvish, Len Blavatnik, The Dodgers, Eric & Marsi Gardiner, Dianne Roberts, John Gore Organization, Nederlander Presentations, Inc., Tommy Mottola, Independent Presenters Network, Rod Kaats, Dianna Dimenna, Mary Beth O'Connor, Barbara H. Freitag, Patrick Catullo, The Old Vic, and The Public Theater with Aaron Lustbader serving as Executive Director.

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+ Member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

^ The director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Music and Lyrics by Bob Dylan

"Sign on the Window" from *New Morning*, 1970

"Went to See the Gypsy" from *New Morning*, 1970

"Tight Connection to My Heart (Has Anybody Seen My Love?)" from *Empire Burlesque*, 1985

"Slow Train" from *Slow Train Coming*, 1979

"License to Kill" from *Infidels*, 1983

"I Want You" from *Blonde on Blonde*, 1966

"Like a Rolling Stone" from *Highway 61 Revisited*, 1965

"Make You Feel My Love" from *Time out of Mind*, 1997

"What Can I Do for You?" from *Saved*, 1980

"You Ain't Goin' Nowhere" from *The Basement Tapes*, 1975

"Jokerman" from *Infidels*, 1983

"Sweetheart Like You" from *Infidels*, 1983

"True Love Tends to Forget" from *Street-Legal*, 1978

"Girl from the North Country" from *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan*, 1963

"Hurricane" from *Desire*, 1976*

"All Along the Watchtower" from *John Wesley Harding*, 1967

"Idiot Wind" from *Blood on the Tracks*, 1975

"Duquesne Whistle" from *Tempest*, 2012**

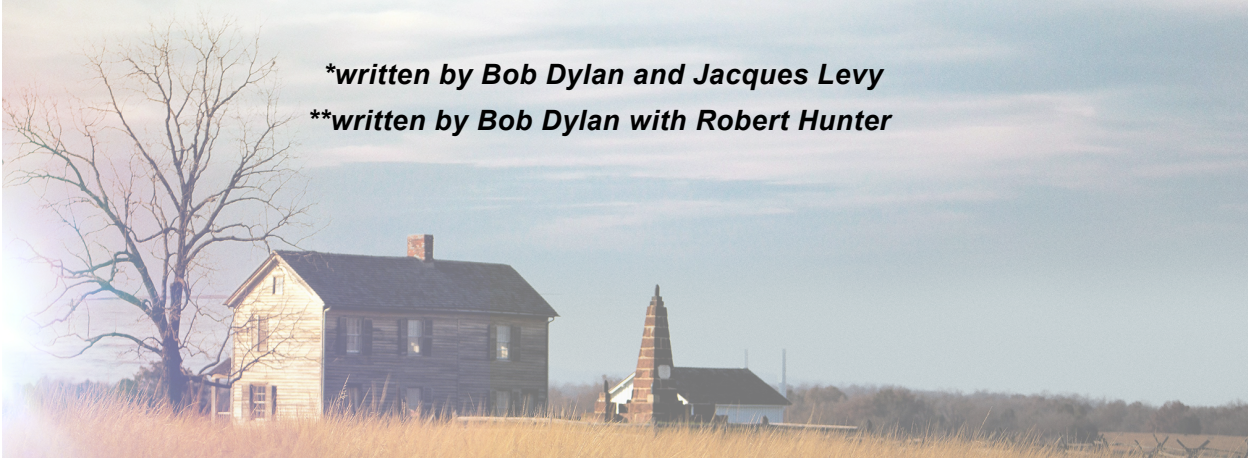
"Señor (Tales of Yankee Power)" from *Street-Legal*, 1978

"Is Your Love in Vain?" from *Street-Legal*, 1978

"Forever Young" from *Planet Waves*, 1974

written by Bob Dylan and Jacques Levy

****written by Bob Dylan with Robert Hunter***



A Note
From the Director



When the great Irish playwright Conor McPherson was asked if he was interested in writing a musical with Bob Dylan's music, and if he had any idea what that might be, his first impulse was this:

"I'm thinking of an expansive Eugene O'Neill type play with Bob Dylan's love songs intertwined. Perhaps set in a depression era boarding house…with a loose family of thrown-together drifters, ne're do wells and poor romantics striving for love and understanding…"

And that early idea is indeed what he has written – a Eugene O'Neill play alongside songs by Bob Dylan. A completely audacious idea for a musical.

We have long been drawn to audacious musical theatre – musicals that explore challenging subjects such as *Parade*, based on the true story of Leo Frank, *Next to Normal*, about a woman coping with mental illness, and world premiere musicals such as Michael Ogborn's *Baby Case*, about the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and the media circus that followed. And, of course, the musicals of Stephen Sondheim, which revolutionized the art form – daring us to keep pushing the boundaries of what musical theatre can do.

Inspired in part by his work on *Once*, Music Director Ryan Touhey suggested that we tell this story with a cast of actor-musicians. More audacity. And so we have brought together this remarkable ensemble – 13 actor-musicians, long-time collaborators and voices new to the Arden, coming together to bring McPherson's story and Dylan's songs to radiant life.

I've never directed O'Neill, but when I graduated high school I decided to read every play O'Neill wrote, which I ultimately did. Those plays rocked my world – surging with passion and hurt and desperate love. Throughout my career, I've been inspired by how other great dramatists, particularly Arthur Miller and August Wilson (who wrote his own boarding house plays), continued to tell uniquely American stories about struggle and survival in this country. So much passion, hurt, and desperate love. In O'Neill and Dylan.

Says McPherson of Dylan's work, "It's like it's actually real literature. It hits you in a place that's beyond reason, beyond rationality, and so at any point in this show I realized you could tear into a song and it's only going to deepen what's happening and make everything resonate. You don't now why, but you've just got to make space for Bob to make that happen for you." There's a reason Dylan won the Nobel Prize in Literature "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition," the first songwriter to do so.

Brilliant artists coming together to share truths and explore the mysteries. Daring to create this unique, audacious piece about people "striving for love and understanding."

Thank you for joining us, for making space for these characters and Dylan's music, and for being part of the journey.

Cast of Characters

Joe Scott.....Sevon Askew*
Mr. Perry.....Charlie DelMarcelle*
Gene Laine.....Giacomo Fizzano
Elizabeth Laine.....Sarah Gliko*
Mr. Burke.....Scott Greer*
Nick Laine.....Eric Hissom*
Mrs. Burke.....Maggie Lakis*
Katherine (Kate) Draper.....Lyndie Moe
Marianne Laine.....Gabrielle North
Reverend Marlowe.....Matteo Scammell*
Elias Burke.....Harrison Smith*
Mrs. Neilsen.....Candace Thomas*
Dr. Walker.....Greg Wood*

UNDERSTUDIES

Alison Ansorg (Katherine (Kate) Draper), Laurel Bendetti (Mrs. Burke), Steven Brandt (Nick Laine), Michael Covel (Dr. Walker, Mr. Perry), Jeffrey Evans (Mr. Burke), Christina Foy (Mrs. Neilsen), Elijah Grier (Joe Scott), Georgette Hamaty (Elizabeth Laine), JT Hawkes (Gene Laine), Jimmy Jesberger (Elias Burke), Matt McPherson (Reverend Marlowe), Brazil Taylor (Marianne Laine)

Arden Theatre Company is a professional company employing members of Actors' Equity Association.
*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
Please check houseboards for any program changes.
Taking pictures and/or making visual or sound recordings is expressly forbidden.
Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. www.actorsequity.org



SEVON ASKEW (*Joe Scott*) Arden: *RENT* (Barrymore Award). Broadway National Tour, *Hadestown*. Regional: *Come From Away* (Paramount Theatre). *Ragtime, Hamlet* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival). *Hair, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (University of Michigan). Education: University of Michigan, BFA in Musical Theatre. Thrilled to be back in Philly with the theatrical marvel that is the Arden. Thank you to this team, this ensemble, the love in my life, and Dylan's poetry.



CHARLIE DELMARCELLE (*Mr. Perry*) Arden: *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Lehman Trilogy, August: Osage County, Charlotte's Web, The Jungle Book, Funnyman.* Regional: Act II Playhouse, Azuka Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company, EgoPo Classic Theatre, Inis Nua Theatre Company, Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Horizon, and Walnut Street Theatre. Proud faculty member of West Chester University. Thanks to Alec and Terry and this incredible cast and crew. All the love to Katherine...for everything. Delmarcelle.com



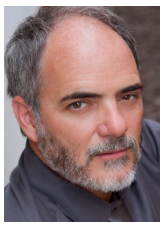
GIACOMO FIZZANO (*Gene Laine*) Arden: *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Regional: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Escape to Margaritaville* (Candlelight Theatre); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Meadowbrook Theatre). Music Director: *Cher, Mean Girls, Pretty Woman* (Clear Space Theatre). Music performance @gnslivemusic. Much love and thanks to the whole team and staff here at the Arden, and to his family and to S. @giacomofizzano & giacomofizzano.com (Go Birds)



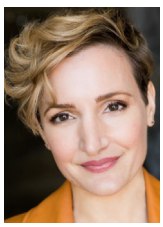
SARAH GLIKO (*Elizabeth Laine*) Arden: *The Secret Garden, Parade, Charlotte's Web, James Joyce's The Dead*. Sarah is an actor/musician and founding member of the Tony Award-winning Wilma Theater's Hothouse Resident Acting Company. Regional: *The Snow Queen, Archduke, The Comeuppance, Eternal Life Part 1, KISS, Heroes of the Fourth Turning, Constellations, When the Rain Stops Falling, The Hard Problem* (The Wilma Theater). *Run Bambi Run* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); *Coriolanus, The Complete Works of Jane Austen Abridged, The Tempest, Sense & Sensibility* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *A Small Fire, The Bridges of Madison County* (Philadelphia Theatre Company). She is a four-time Barrymore Award winner and a grateful recipient of the 2019 Independence Foundation Fellowship Award. Abundant love and thanks to our beautiful community! For Bebe.



SCOTT GREER (*Mr. Burke*) Some Arden favorites: *The Lehman Trilogy, Into the Woods, Wittenberg, Death of a Salesman, Once*. He is a 34-year veteran of Philadelphia theatre and has worked for 1812 Productions, Walnut Street Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, The Wilma Theater, People's Light, Delaware Theatre Company, Theatre Exile, Act II Playhouse, and many more. Regionally, he has worked for Actors Theatre of Louisville, Round House Theatre, Cape May Stage, and The Pearl Theatre Company. He has won six Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre, including the F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Theatre Artist. He was named "Best Theatre Talent" by Philadelphia Magazine. Love to Jen & Lily. For Will.



ERIC HISSOM (*Nick Laine)* Arden: *Cyrano, August: Osage County, Equivocation, Our Town, Moon for the Misbegotten.* National Tour: *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Regional: Seattle Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Asolo Rep, Syracuse Stage, A.R.T. New York, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Folger Theatre, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and many others. Television credits: *One Tree Hill, Sheena, Mortal Kombat*. Feature film: *Out of Time*. Education: MFA, FSU/Asolo Conservatory. He's also a writer and director, recently directing his play *Rude Mechanics* at Bridge Street Theatre in Catskill, NY.



MAGGIE LAKIS (*Mrs. Burke)* Arden: *Romeo and Juliet, Pinocchio, Sunday in the Park with George, Clybourne Park, Sideways Stories*, and *A Year with Frog and Toad*. 1st National Tours: *Mrs. Doubtfire, Something Rotten*, and *Avenue Q*. Off-Broadway credits include: *Jim Henson's Emmet Otter's Jugband Christmas*, John Doyle's re-imagined *Allegro* at Classic Stage Company, and *Avenue Q*. Regional: *Dear Evan Hansen, Jerome Robbin's Broadway*, and *Into the Woods* at The Muny, *Man of La Mancha, Because of Winn Dixie* and *Sylvia* at Delaware Theatre Company. Thanks to Terry, Ryan and Jon for having her back home at the Arden! Love to Sadie and Rob.



LYNDIE MOE (*Katherine (Kate) Draper*) Arden debut! National Tours: *RENT* 25th Anniversary Tour, *RENT* 20th Anniversary Tour; Regional: *Once* (New Light Theatre); *Man of La Mancha* (Montgomery Theater). Education: Wilmington University, BS in Psychology. She thanks her family, friends, partner, and pets for providing unconditional love and support. @Lyndie.Moe on Instagram.

Who's Who



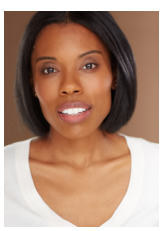
GABRIELLE NORTH *(Marianne Laine)* Arden Debut! Regional: Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (ZACH Theatre); Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* (Impact Arts); Hope Caldwell in *Urinetown,* Lindsay in *Godsepell*; Rapunzel in *Into the Woods*, Sister Mary Hubert in *Nunsense: The Mega Musical!*, Emily in *Walden* (Mary Moody Northern Theatre); Kim MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* (TexArts). IMBD Credit: Destiny in *5th Ward* TV Series; Instagram: @TheGabrielleNorth



MATTEO SCAMMELL *(Reverend Marlowe)* Arden: *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales, RENT, Holy Grail of Memphis, The BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Assassins, Charlotte's Web, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Legend of Georgia McBride, Cinderella, Beauty and the Beast, Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*. Regional: *The Good Person of Setzuan, Our Class, Blood Wedding, Romeo and Juliet, The Cherry Orchard, Fairview* (The Wilma Theater); *Smoke, Really, Buzzer, Wolf Play* (Theatre Exile); *The Comedy of Errors, The Last Match* (Lantern Theater Company); *The Hairy Ape* (EgoPo Classic Theater); *Detroit, Hand to God, Sweat, Empathitrax, Caesar* (Philadelphia Theatre Company); *27, Prom, The Adults, O Monsters, Hello Blackout!* (New Paradise Laboratories); *Million Dollar Quartet, Other Desert Cities, Escape to Margaritaville* (Walnut Street Theatre); Film/Television: *Scabs, I Am That, Traffickers* (Amazon); Education: BFA, University of the Arts. Awards: Barrymore for Actor in a Lead Role; 2020 Independence Foundation Recipient. Wilma HotHouse Company member. Love to Lee and our families!



HARRISON SMITH *(Elias Burke)* couldn't be happier to return to Arden after previously appearing in *Assassins*. He has appeared in over 30 productions in the last decade at theatres all over the DC area. Recent credits include: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Sweeney Todd* (Signature Theatre); *Merrily We Roll Along* (The Keegan Theatre, Helen Hayes Award, Best Musical), *Head Over Heels* (Constellation Theatre Company, Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Ensemble), *Young John Lewis: Prodigy of Protest* (Mosaic Theater Company). Multiple Helen Hayes nominations. Playwright. He is one half of the band, baseball hat; their music is available everywhere you stream. Proud company member of Only Make Believe. On social media: @hhaarriissoonn



CANDACE THOMAS *(Mrs. Neilsen)* Arden: *Dear Evan Hansen* (Virtual Community). Regional: *Ain't Misbehavin', A Raisin in the Sun*, (Peoples's Light); *The First Deep Breath* (Geffen Playhouse) *Nina Simone: Four Women* (Arizona Theatre Company); *Feeding Beatrice, Skeleton Crew* (Forward Theater); *Nunsense, A Christmas Carol, Man of La Mancha* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Bristol Riverside Theater). Film/Television: *Chicago Fire* (NBC); *Easy* (Netflix); *Deadly Garage Sale* (Lifetime); *The Case of the Christmas Diamond* (ION). Education: University of South Carolina, MFA in Acting. Feels good to be back home.



GREG WOOD *(Dr. Walker) Arden: Once, Stupid F**king Bird, Our Town, Sunday in the Park with George, Falsettos, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Death of a Salesman. Broadway: Our Town, Othello (Ethel Barrymore Theatre); To Kill a Mockingbird (National Tour): Native Gardens, (Hartford Stage); Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Walnut Street Theatre); Coriolanus (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); Skylight (McCarter Theatre). Film and Television: The Sixth Sense, Signs, The Happening, Killing Emmett Young, A Gentleman's Game, The Blacklist, Evil, Dr. Death, Homicide, Life on the Street, Law & Order.*

Who's Who

CONOR MCPHERSON (Playwright) Conor McPherson was born in Dublin. His plays include *The Brightening Air, The Weir, Girl from the North Country* (with Bob Dylan), *The Seafarer, The Night Alive, Shining City, Port Authority, This Lime Tree Bower*, and St Nicholas. Honours for his work include the Laurence Olivier Award, New York Critics Circle Award, Evening Standard Award, London Critics Circle Award, and five Tony Award nominations.

BOB DYLAN (Music & Lyrics) is one of the world's most influential and groundbreaking artists. Since first bursting into the public's consciousness via New York City's Greenwich Village folk music scene in the 1960s, Bob Dylan has sold more than 125 million records and amassed a singular body of work that includes some of the greatest and most popular songs the world has ever known. He continues to traverse the globe, performing more than 85 concerts annually. Dylan's work as an author and visual artist has further bur- nished his popularity and acclaim; a worldwide best-selling memoir, Chronicles Vol. 1, spent 19 weeks on the New York Times Best Seller List in 2004, and several major exhibitions of his paintings and iron gates have been shown at some of the world's most pres tigious museums and galleries. Bob Dylan's contributions to our culture have been recognized with numerous honors and accolades. In December 2016, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature by the Swedish Academy "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition." In 2012, Dylan was awarded America's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Barack Obama. He is the recipient of 11 Grammy Awards.

TERRENCE J. NOLEN (Director, Producing Artistic Director) is Co-founder and Producing Artistic Director of Arden Theatre Company. Favorite Arden productions include all-Philadelphia casts of *The Lehman Trilogy*, *August: Osage County*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Hedda Gabler*; and such musicals as *Next to Normal*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *Pacific Overtures*, *Violet*, and *Caroline, or Change*. Terry directed the inaugural production of Arden Children's Theatre, *Charlotte's Web*. He has directed eight world-premiere plays by Michael Hollinger, three by Dennis Raymond Smeal, three by Michael Ogborn, two by Rogelio Martinez, and Bruce Graham's *Something Intangible*. Terry has been nominated for 27 Barrymore Awards for his directing work at the Arden and received awards for *The Baker's Wife*; *Sweeney Todd*; *Opus*; *Winesburg, Ohio*; *Assassins*; *Something Intangible*; and *Fun Home*. He directed Michael Hollinger's *Opus* at Primary Stages in New York and was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Director. His short film *The Personal Touch* was nominated for an Emmy Award.

KEVIN NADDEO (Assistant Director) Arden: *Peter Pan*. Recent acting credits include: *Romeo and Juliet, The Lehman Trilogy, The BFG* (Arden), *Spinner* (DTC), *Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective* (Walnut Street Theatre). Education: University of Cincinnati - CCM, BFA in Acting. Grateful beyond words for my time with this beautiful production and our incredible cast. Many thanks to Terry and the entire team for this opportunity! This one's for Weav! Kevinnaddeo.com

ALEC E. FERRELL (Stage Manager) Arden: *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales, Good Bones, RENT, Holy Grail of Memphis, Intimate Apparel, Once on This Island, Ladysitting* (World Premiere), *What the Constitution Means to Me, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Clyde's, Every Brilliant Thing, Into the Woods, The Snowy Day and Other Stories by Ezra Jack Keats, No Child..., My General Tubman* (World Premiere), *Indecent, Gem of the Ocean, Once, Fun Home, Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, TouchTones* (World Premiere), *Gypsy, The Legend of Georgia McBride, The Secret Garden, Metamorphoses, Macbeth, La Bête, Three Sisters, Parade, A Raisin in the Sun, Next to Normal, August: Osage County, Ghost-Writer* (World Premiere), *Blue Door, My Name is Asher Lev* (World Premiere). Regional: Adirondack Theatre Festival, Theatre Horizon, Trinity Repertory Company,

ALEC E. FERRELL (cont.) Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. International: *[untitled project] #213* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Proud Member of AEA, SMA. Love thanks to the family!

LYNDSEY CONNOLLY (Assistant Stage Manager) Arden: Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet, A Wrinkle in Time, The Hobbit, Peter Pan, The Lehman Trilogy, and The BFG (Big Friendly Giant),* Assistant Stage Manager for *Once on This Island, Assassins*, and *Every Brilliant Thing*, Deck Crew for *Clyde's*. Regional: Stage Manager for *The Real Thing* (Lantern Theater Company) Stage Manager for *the pigeon*. (The Strides Collective); Stage Manager for *Hannah + The Healing Stone* (The TerraNOVA Collective). Education: Entertainment and Arts Management with a concentration in Theatre (Drexel University). Love forever to Aaron & Seanie.

RYAN TOUHEY (Music Director): Arden favorites: *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Fun Home*, *Indecent*, *Once*, *Gypsy*, *Parade*. Broadway: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Keyboards). National Tours: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Associate Conductor). Regional: *Paradise Square* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre - Associate Conductor); *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Arena Stage), *Ragtime* (Bay Street Theater - Orchestrator); *The Last Five Years* (Milwaukee Rep); *Tell Me on a Sunday* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Crazy for You* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Recording: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame singer Darlene Love's album Introducing Darlene Love produced by Steven Van Zandt and Columbia Records. AWARDS: Ryan is a Barrymore Award winner for Outstanding Music Direction and an AUDELCO Award winner in New York City for *Dreamgirls*. Education: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from the University of the Arts.

JAKE COLLINS (Assistant Music Director) Arden: *Dear Evan Hansen*. Regional: *Man of La Mancha* (Montgomery Theatre); *Spring Awakening* (Relic Theatre Co.); *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Jersey Boys* (Walnut Street Theatre); *The Producers* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival). Education: Emerson College, BFA Musical Theatre. Many thanks to Ryan, Terry, and his family and friends. he/him. @jakecollins._ | jakecollinsmusic.com

DEVON SINCLAIR (Choreographer) Arden: *Once on This Island*. Devon works as Director/Choreographer, Actor, and Teaching Artist around the Philadelphia Region and is an Adjunct Professor at Temple University. Regional: Choreographer for *The Color Purple*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); Co-Director/Choreographer in *Madagascar Jr*. (Walnut Street Theatre); Choreographer in *School of Rock* (Media Theatre); *Tuck Everlasting* (Centre Theatre); *Mary Poppins* (Quintessence Theatre Group). Director/Choreographer in *Big Fish, Ain't Misbehavin'* (Candlelight Theatre); *Elf The Musical* (Broadway Theatre of Pitman). Film/Television: Self in *Albie's Elevator* (WHYY). Education: Penn State University, Walnut Street Theatre Dorothy Haas Acting Apprentice, Upper Darby Summer Stage. 2023 & 2024 Barrymore Award Winner for Outstanding Choreography in a Musical. Vibrant thanks to Terry for the opportunity, and to my community of loved ones, students, and family for their support!
@CHOREATOR | #FiveSixDevonEight

JAMES KRONZER (Scenic Designer) Arden: *Falsettos*, *Ragtime*, *Fun Home*, *Gypsy*, *Caroline or Change* among others. His regional credits include Broadway, Off-Broadway, and numerous productions around the country. International design work for companies such as The Hong Kong Ballet and Burn the Floor dance company, currently on a world tour. He also designed scenery for Disney Cruise Lines (*Twice Charmed)* and has shows running on fifteen ships on the Norwegian Cruise Line fleet. TV credits include over 300 stand-up comedy specials for Comedy Central, Showtime and Netflix including all Kill Tony arena shows. Awards: Eight Helen Hayes Awards (DC) and two Barrymore Awards; Nomination from the Art Directors Guild. JamesKronzer.com.

ALISON ROBERTS (Costume Designer) Alison is excited to be returning to the Arden again after designing *Two Trains Running* in 2016 and running their costume shop from 2000-2016. After acquiring a BA in Theatre from Rowan University and an MFA in Costume Design from Illinois State University, she has been freelance designing in the Greater Philadelphia Area for the last twenty-five years. She's worked with the Act II Playhouse, Delaware Theatre Company, Inis Nua Theatre, InterAct Theatre Company, Lantern Theater Company, Theatre Exile, 1812 Productions, Theatre Horizon, and Philadelphia Theatre Company. alisonrobertsdesign.com

CHRIS LEE (Lighting Designer) Arden Debut! Chris has designed over 350 productions across London's West End, Broadway, Off-Broadway, regional theatre, film, opera, television, cruise ships, theme parks, and Las Vegas spectacles. His work has earned nominations from the American Theatre Wing Henry Hewes Awards, Helen Hayes Awards, Barrymore Awards, Tina Awards, and Katherine Cornell Awards. He has received a Helen Hayes Award and Katherine Cornell Award, as well as two major industry honors: the 2015 IAAPA Brass Ring Award for Best Overall Production for *King Triton's Concert*, created with Walt Disney Creative Entertainment, and the 2023 TEA Award for Outstanding Live Event for *Untrainable*, created with Universal Creative. A frequent speaker and educator, Mr. Lee has appeared on numerous industry podcasts, magazines and presents a lecture series exploring the opportunities, challenges, and creative possibilities of building a career across multiple areas of the lighting industry.

DAMIEN FIGUERAS (Sound Designer) Arden: *Romeo and Juliet*, *Falsettos*, *Intimate Apparel*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*. Regional: *The Basil Biggs Project* (ArtPhilly); *Penelope* (Theatre Horizon); *The Chequerboard Watch* (Delaware Theatre Company); *Wishing To Grow Up Brightly* (Theatre Horizon); *The Producers* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *Tick, Tick Boom!* (Theatre Horizon), *Kiss* (Wilma Theater - Barrymore Nominated);

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DAMIEN FIGUERAS (cont.) *Jane Eyre* (Philadelphia Artists' Collective); *The Play That Goes Wrong* (1812 Productions); *Cabaret* (Bristol Riverside Theatre); *Beehive-The 60's Musical* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Antihero* (Tribe of Fools – Barrymore Nominated for Sound Design); *Moth* (Azuka Theatre – Barrymore nominated for Sound Design). As always, Damien would like to dedicate his work to the memory of his mother. DFigueras.com

IAN ROSE (Fight Choreographer) has choreographed fights for commercials, film, and stage for over thirty years. Ian's theater credits include Broadways' Booth Theater (*Les Liaisons Dangereuses* with Liev Schrieber and Janet McTeer), the Bridewell Theatre in London, MTM Studios in Rome, Riverside Shakespeare and Interborough Repertory Theatre in New York City, the Whole Theatre in New Jersey, and the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Ian is fortunate to have worked at The Arden, Quintessence Theatre Group and the Wilma, including the Pulitzer Prize winning original production of James Ijames *Fat Ham*. His film work includes the documentary *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment –Disorder* and *A Winter's Tale*. Ian is tremendously delighted to work with the Arden again and is enormously thankful to Terry for his confidence.

AMY L. MURPHY (Managing Director) A Philadelphia native, Amy co-founded the Arden in 1988 with Terrence J. Nolen and Aaron Posner. She is especially proud of the Arden Professional Apprentice program and its contribution to the Philadelphia cultural community. A graduate of Susquehanna University, Amy received its first-ever Young Alumni Achievement Award. She completed the Executive Program for Non Profit Leaders- Arts which is a joint program of the Stanford Graduate School of Business Center for Social Innovation and National Arts Strategies. Amy has served on the Board of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance and Theatre Philadelphia, as well as the Executive Board of League of Resident Theatres. In addition, she has served on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Jersey State Arts Council, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Arts & Humanities Arts Council of Montgomery County and Theatre Communications Group. Amy was named a Hepburn Fellow 2008-9 by the Katherine Houghton Hepburn Center at Bryn Mawr College and was the recipient of the Inaugural Betsy Award, at the historic Betsy Ross House in 2025.

ARDEN THEATRE COMPANY Founded in 1988, Arden Theatre Company is dedicated to bringing to life great stories by great storytellers–on the stage, in the classroom, and in the community. We create and produce new work through the Independence Foundation New Play Showcase. The Arden Professional Apprenticeship program trains future theatre leaders, and Arden Drama School classes teach children and teens about the craft of making plays. Our access program, Arden For All, makes our work available to the entire community through subsidized tickets and books for economically disadvantaged young people, and our Arden Arts Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for Arden Drama School classes and camps. The Arden has received 13 Philadelphia Magazine "Best of Philly" Awards, the Arts & Business Council's Arts Excellence Award, six City Paper "Reader's Choice" Awards, four Philadelphia Inquirer "Theatre Company of the Year" citations, 96 awards and 456 nominations from the Theatre Philadelphia's Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre, and was named "Best Theatre Company" by Philadelphia Weekly in 2009. Arden Theatre Company, a professional, nonprofit 501(c)(3) theatre company, is a member of the League of Resident Theatres, Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and Old City Arts Association.

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form.

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A Message from our Honorary Producers



Great theatre does not always offer easy answers. Sometimes, it draws us into the tension—asking us to look more closely at family, identity, ambition, and the forces that shape who gets ahead and who gets left behind. Suzan-Lori Parks's Pulitzer Prize-winning play does exactly that. Through a deeply complicated bond between brothers Lincoln and Booth, *Topdog/Underdog* confronts the draw of history, the weight of expectation, and how our struggle to survive can push us well past our limits. Its language is sharp, its humor is dark, and its impact is undeniable.

As lifelong theatregoers and avid Arden supporters, we are proud to support theatre that takes risks and invites honest conversation. Productions like this remind us that the stage can be more than a place of escape—it can challenge assumptions, reveal uncomfortable truths, and create space for perspectives that demand to be heard.

Thank you for being here and for joining us in supporting bold, vital theatre. We hope tonight's performance stays with you long after the final moment.

June and Steve Wolfson

Intern at the Arden



Pictured: Charles Rose and Dr. Mindy Goldberg Rose

The Dr. Mindy Goldberg Rose Internships offer students and emerging theatre professionals the opportunity to learn new skills while being mentored by experienced theatre professionals.

"I'm proud that my work will help people understand the rich history of this company. One of my favorite things I've found in the archive is an illustrated story of 'The Little Theatre Company That Could.' It recognizes all the hard work, skill, and bit of luck that went into founding this company and is deeply inspiring for young artists who dream of doing the same."

- Emily Lathers, Archivist Intern (2025/26)

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Founded in 2022, The Dr. Mindy Goldberg Rose Internship Fund is made possible through the generosity of Charlie Rose and the Rose Family and friends, in honor of Dr. Mindy's commitment to education, the arts, and making lives better.

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ARDEN THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG

by SUZAN-LORI PARKS

Scenic Designer
DAVID P. GORDON+

Costume Designer
LEIGH IVORY CLARK PARADISE

Lighting Designer
J. DOMINIC CHACON

Sound Designer
CAROLINE ENG+

Dramaturg
GINA PISASALE

Fight Choreographer
ELI LYNN

Stage Manager
MATTHEW RYAN MELCHIOR*

Co-Producer
PEOPLE'S LIGHT

Directed by
AMINA ROBINSON^

Honorary Producers:
June and Steve Wolfson

Produced on Broadway by
Carole Shorenstein Hays, Waxman/Williams Entertainment, Bob Boyett,
Freddy De Mann, Susan Dietz, Ina Meibach, Scott Nederlander, Ira Pittelman,
Hits Magazine, Kelpie Arts, Rick Steiner/Frederic H. Mayerson,
The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival.

Original New York production by
The Joseph Papp Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival,
George C. Wolfe, Producer.

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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+ Member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

^ The director is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

A Note
From the Director



Oh, how one could get lost in symbolism!

Topdog/Underdog was written by Suzan-Lori Parks and developed on the precipice of Y2K. For the first time, in a long time, America found itself with a budget surplus, and a government debating about how to spend "alla dat" money. Bush and Gore fought for the presidency, ushering in speeches on how to best capitalize on our robust economy. Internet commerce was growing and remained exciting new terrain. Fear of the Y2K systems bug grumbled in the bellies of a people filled with the light and hope of our America and our "DREAM." Despite this, Black Americans at this same time were being targeted and incarcerated at alarming, systemically engineered paces. Black voting rights were being targeted and there was backlash against affirmative action. The "War on Drugs" ramped up to perpetuate the myth of Black super-predators, while the ever-growing racial wealth gap was wide enough for every Black American descendant of the enslavement to have the 40-acres and a mule that was never delivered.

This is where we find our two brothers, aptly named Lincoln and Booth, in *Topdog/Underdog*.

I became very invested in the macrocosm of the American Dream; The nuclear family, loving relationships, and financial success. It intrigued me to see it rubbing up against the realities of these two brothers being representative of Black maleness and structural disparities, trying to "make a dollar out of 15 cents," scratchin' and surviving, when the cards were literally stacked against them from birth. Lincoln being the "Topdog," symbolic of our "Great Emancipator," and Booth the "Underdog," likened to the enslaved, clawing and hanging on for dear life to Lincoln's promise of freedom that ended up being a game of 3-card monte that all were destined to lose. And believe me, the masterful words of Parks on the page are a virtual treasure trove of theatrical breadcrumbs. I wanted to pull out as much symbolism that my socio-political focused mind could muster.

I feverishly searched for what Parks had to say about all of this.

And you know what she said?

She said it is a play about, "Brothers, family, and being yourself." She said it is a "Dissection of how we behave around each other." She added it is about, "The layers of personality that are required to get through the day. The roles we play to make ends meet."

And I said, "Oh… ok… duh! I'll focus on the brothers."

May we all examine the expense of our relationships and who we become to maintain our lives, masks, and humanity.



Amina Robinson

Cast of Characters

Lincoln.....Akeem Davis*
Booth.....George McGriff*

Arden Theatre Company is a professional company employing members of Actors' Equity Association.
*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
Please check houseboards for any program changes.
Taking pictures and/or making visual or sound recordings is expressly forbidden.
Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. www.actorsequity.org



AKEEM DAVIS (*Lincoln)* Arden: *Good Bones* (Director), *The Mountaintop*, *King Hedley II*, *Intimate Apparel, The Lehman Trilogy, A Streetcar Named Desire, Tiny Beautiful Things, Gem of the Ocean, A Doll's House* (Barrymore Award for Outstanding Supporting Performance in a Play). Regional: *Primary Trust, Choir Boy* (Philadelphia Theatre Company); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival); *The Arsonists* (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company); *King John, District Merchants* (The Folger Theatre); *Buzzer* (Theatre Exile); *Marcus/Emma* (InterAct Theatre Company); *Lobby Hero, In the Blood* (Theatre Horizon); *The Brother's Size* (Simpatico Theatre). Florida State University, 2009 Bachelor's in Humanities. Helen Hayes nominee. 2015 F. Otto Haas Award for Emerging Philadelphia Theatre Artist. Love to Tay and Amias. For Ash.



GEORGE MCGRIFF (*Booth)* Arden debut. Regional: William (U/S) in *Miz Martha* (Wilma Theater), Phasarius in *The Gladiator* [reading] (EgoPo Theater), Turtle Woman in *Turds in Hell* (EgoPo Theater), Chauncey in *Harlem Canary/Tokyo Crow* [reading] (PlayPenn/Interact Theater), Tiny in *Kill Move Paradise* (South Camden Theatre Company), Larry/Tio (U/S) in *Fat Ham* (Wilma Theater). Tour: George Washington in *The American Revolution Revised Arkansas Tour* (Theater Unspeakable). Commercial/Print: Google PixelBuds Pro, Intel, Rubbermaid. Education: Temple University, BA in Acting. Thank you to my family and friends for their unwavering support. To Jacoby, Jayla, and Jayden: Uncle G loves you!!! Instagram: @thegeorgemcgriff

SUZAN-LORI PARKS (Playwright) Named one of Time magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave," in 2002 Suzan-Lori Parks became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her Broadway hit *Topdog/Underdog*. A MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient, she has also been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She was most recently awarded the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for 2015. Her new play *Father Comes Home From The Wars* (Parts 1, 2, & 3) made its world premiere at the Public Theater in New York, followed by a celebrated run at the A.R.T in Cambridge, MA. The play was named a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and was awarded the 2015 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History, as well as the 2014 Horton Foote Prize. Parks's work on The Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* was honored with a 2012 Tony Award. Her numerous plays include *The Book of Grace*, *In The Blood* (2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Venus* (1996 Obie Award), *365 Days/365 Plays* and *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, among others. She's written a novel, *Getting Mother's Body,* published by Random House. Her first feature-length screenplay was *Girl 6*, written for Spike Lee. She's also written screenplays for Brad Pitt, Denzel Washington, Jodie Foster and Oprah Winfrey, adapting

Who's Who

SUZAN-LORI PARKS (cont.) Zora Neale Hurston's classic novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which premiered on ABC's Oprah Winfrey Presents. Parks is currently writing an adaptation of the film *The Harder They Come* for a live stage musical. Suzan-Lori is the Master Writer Chair at the Public Theater, and she also serves as a professor in dramatic writing at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

AMINA ROBINSON (Director) is an actor, director, and Professor of Acting and Musical Theater at Temple University. She is immensely excited to return to the Arden for *Topdog/Underdog*. Amina has performed on Broadway, National Tours, film, television, national commercials, and various regional productions. Regional: Arden Theatre Company, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Theatre Horizon, Azuka Theatre, IAMA Theatre Company in Los Angeles, Queens Theater in New York, Passage Theatre Company in New Jersey, and the Lantern Theater Company. Amina has won three Barrymore Awards for Directing.

MATTHEW RYAN MELCHIOR (Stage Manager) *he/him* Arden: Assistant Stage Manager for *Dear Evan Hansen*, Stage Manager for *The Mountaintop*. Regional: Stage Manager for *Caesar*, and *The Glass Menagerie* developmental workshop starring BD Wong (Philadelphia Theatre Company); Stage Manager for *A Summer Day*, Assistant Stage Manager for *Archduke, The Half-God of Rainfall, The Comeuppance* (The Wilma Theater); Stage Manager for *Legally Blonde, Winter Wonderland* (Media Theatre); Assistant Stage Manager for *The Comedy of Errors, Assistant Director for Faith Healer* (Lantern Theater Company); Music Director for *Ordinary Days* (New Leaf Theatre Company). He is also an actor, and was the Casting Associate at People's Light for the 2026-2027 Season! Education: West Chester University, B.A. Theater. Much love to Hope and his parents. Instagram: @matthew.melchior

DAVID P. GORDON (Scenic Designer) Arden: 49 productions including *Romeo and Juliet, Once On This Island, Cabaret, Freud's Last Session, If You Give a Mouse a Cookie,* and *Sweeney Todd : The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. People's Light: *Sign of the Lizard*. New York: Public Theater, Theatre for a New Audience, Classic Stage Company, Ensemble Studio Theatre. Regional: Wilma Theater, Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Hartford Stage, Goodspeed Musicals, The Old Globe, Long Wharf Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Kennedy Center. Opera: New York City Opera, LA Opera, Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Sarasota Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Nashville Opera, Lincoln Center. Awards: 5 Barrymore Awards, Elliot Norton Award. Chair of Theater, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. davidpgordondesign.com

LEIGH IVORY CLARK PARADISE (Costume Designer) Arden: *Falsettos, Holy Grail of Memphis, Intimate Apparel.* Regional: *Two Outta Three* and *Bayard Rustin: Inside Ashland* (Costumes), *Four Women* (Assistant Dramaturg), Costumes Cutter/Draper 2014 - 2022. (People's Light); *The America Play* (Wilma Theater); *Plantation Black* (InterAct Theatre Company); *Macbeth* (Lantern Theater Company); *The Way I Walk and This is the Week That Is* ('22 & '23) (1812 Productions); *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Walnut Street Theater); and *TJ Loves Sally 4Ever* (Theater Horizon). Education: The College of William and Mary and Widener University School of Law. She would like to thank the Arden and People's Light costume shops for their help, and her family and friends for their patience and support.

J. DOMINIC CHACON (Lighting Designer) Arden: *The Mountaintop, Holy Grail of Memphis, The BFG (Big Friendly Giant), Clyde*'s. Adjunct Professor at Drexel University and the Lighting Coordinator for the Lang Performing Arts Center at Swarthmore College.

J. DOMINIC CHACON (cont.) Regional: Philadelphia Theatre Company, The Walnut Street Theatre, Azuka, People's Light, Westport Country Playhouse, Sarasota Theatre, Capital Fringe, Edinburgh Fringe, Bowery Street Theatre and Long Wharf Theatre. He is dedicated to making theatre a collaboration as well as a learning experience. domchacon.com

CAROLINE ENG (Sound Designer) *she/her* Arden Debut! Broadway: *Yellow Face* (Roundabout Theatre Company). Off-Broadway & Regional: *Twelfth Night, Hurricane Diane* (People's Light). *Disruption* (Signature Theatre Company), *The Unknown* (Studio Seaview), *The Loved Ones* (Irish Rep), *Cymbeline* (NAATCO), *Cold War Choir Practice* (Trinity Rep), *Irishtown* (Irish Rep), *Merry Me* (NYTW), *Coriolanus* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Portland Center Stage), *Fences* (Shakespeare & Company), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (WAM Theatre, Berkshire Theatre Group), *The Salonnieres* (Greater Boston Stage Company), *Little Women* (Theatreworks Colorado Springs). carolineengdesign.com

ELI LYNN (Fight Choreographer) *they/them* is an inescapably queer actor, Barrymore Award winning fight director, and certified Intimacy Director. Arden: *POTUS, A Streetcar Named Desire*. Regional: *Twelfth Night, Peter Panto, A Raisin In The Sun,* and *Hurricane Diane*. (People's Light); *Moriarty* (PA Shakespeare); 25/26 National Tour of *The Acting Company*, *Caesar* (Philadelphia Theatre Co.), *Plantation Black* (InterAct Theatre), *Macbeth* (Lantern Theater), *The Comeuppance* (Wilma/ Woolly Mammoth), award-winning short film *The Tooth Fairy* (Aspire Studios) and feature film *Scabs* (Tommy Butler); Gulfshore Playhouse, the American Shakespeare Center, The Wilma, PA Shakespeare Festival, 1812 Productions, Theatre Exile, Philadelphia Theatre Co., and Philadelphia Artists Collective, among many others. They are also an Artistic Associate at Philadelphia Artists' Collective. Love always to V. Eli-Lynn.com. @EverInMotley.

GINA PISASALE (Dramaturg) *she/her* At People's Light, Gina has been a proud Company Member since 2012 and has dramaturged around 68 productions, workshops, and readings. Elsewhere, she's dramaturged at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (6 seasons), Virgina Theatre Festival, BAM, PlayPenn, Arden Theatre Company, GoKash Productions, Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival, Villanova Theatre, and A&E Biography. She's taught courses at UArts and Univ. of Maryland, guest lectured at Villanova, Temple, Univ. of Puget Sound, and Univ. of Pittsburgh, and run workshops at West Chester, Drexel, and Rutgers. She recently served as the Director of Equity and Organizational Culture at McCarter, Communications and Dramaturgy Associate at Hedgerow Theatre, and Audio Description Learning Network Fellow. Training: BA (Univ. of Richmond), MA (Villanova), PhD candidate (UMD, College Park).

PEOPLE'S LIGHT (Co-Producer) Founded in 1974, People's Light (Malvern, PA) is one of Pennsylvania's largest professional nonprofit theatres and a national leader in creating and producing new work. With a deep commitment to community, the organization seeks to inspire and connect people through stories that illuminate our shared humanity. Each season features a mix of world and regional premieres, bold new takes on classics and joyful musical revivals, as well as creative community-centered programming that welcomes audiences of all ages and backgrounds. In addition to its season of productions, People's Light is home to an award-winning education program and arts engagement initiatives that transform the campus into a vibrant gathering place. With its resident company of artists and collaborations with playwrights and performers, People's Light continues to be a cultural hub that champions innovation, inclusion, and the transformative power of the arts. People's Light is led by Executive Artistic Director Zak Berkman. Learn more at peopleslight.org or @peopleslight.

2026/27
DINING PARTNERS

Restaurants in Old City and surrounding neighborhoods are ready to welcome you! We recommend these restaurants that support the Arden.

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Calandrino's Old City Vino*
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Cuba Libre*
10 S 2nd Street
215.627.0666
cubalibrerestaurant.com
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The Franklin Fountain*
116 Market Street
215.627.1899
franklinfountain.com
@franklinfountain

Fork
306 Market Street
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Forsythia*
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@forsythia_philly

Fringe Bar*
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215.625.0988
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Khyber Pass Pub*
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lasbugambiliasphilly.com
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National Mechanics*
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nationalmechanics.com
@nationalmechanicsphilly

The Plough and the Stars*
123 Chestnut Street
215.733.0300
ploughstars.com
@theploughphilly

Positano Coast by Aldo Lamberti*
212 Walnut Street 2nd Floor
215.238.0499
positanocoast.net
@positanocoastphilly

Race Street Cafe*
208 Race Street
215.627.6181
racestreetcafe.net
@racestreetcafe

Royal Boucherie*
52 S 2nd Street
267.606.6313
royalboucherie.com
@royalboucherie

Stateside Vodka
1700 N Hancock St
215.425.4200
@statesidevodka

Triple Bottom Brewing
915 Spring Garden St
triplebottombrewing.com
@triplebottombrewing

Restaurants with * offer a special promotion to Arden patrons. Please ask your server for details/ scan the QR code for more details.

For complete restaurant descriptions visit: ardentheatre.org/dining

Dining Partners as of September 1, 2026

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PA Department of Community and Economic Development
The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage
Rosenthal Family Foundation
Shubert Foundation
William Penn Foundation

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Harmelin Media
Wyncote Foundation

$25,000 to $49,999

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The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation
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275
Theatre Professionals Employed

410
Performances Produced

$70K
Spent on costumes and props



In The Classroom

4,800
Free tickets distributed to 24 Arden for All schools

$25K+
Spent on 75 buses for students to attend Arden Children's Theatre

992
Students enrolled in Arden Drama School and Summer Camp, including $46K+ awarded in scholarships to students

In The Community

861
total accessibility devices used, including 299 uses of our Smart Caption Glasses (and counting)

3,500
hours of support from 310+ volunteers

459
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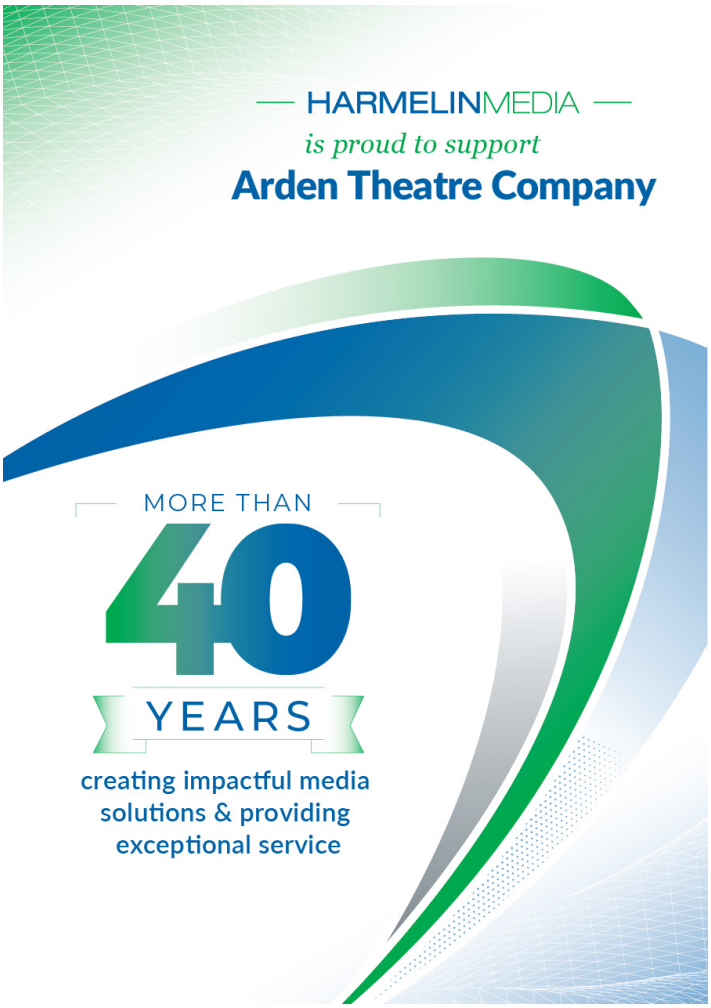




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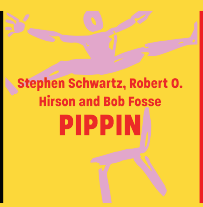
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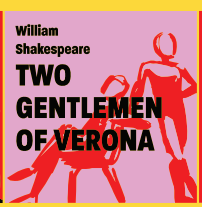


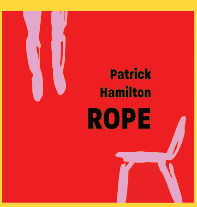
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