

# August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*

## The Acting Company

Monday, February 10  
Boroughs Theatre  
Prior Presents 2024–25

**PRIOR**  
Performing Arts Center

# Welcome

Dear friends,

The great American dramatist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner August Wilson is best known for his “Century Cycle,” a series of ten plays chronicling Black American life in each decade of the twentieth century. Nearly all of these plays are set in Pittsburgh’s Hill District, where Wilson was born. At the beginning of the century, the Hill District was a racially diverse neighborhood sometimes likened to New York City’s Harlem. By the 1960s, when *Two Trains Running* is set, the Hill District’s residents were mostly African American—8,000 of whom were displaced, along with 400 businesses, when the city razed a significant portion of the neighborhood to build a civic and sports arena.<sup>1</sup> As we’ll see, the physical and economic instability of this period informs the characters’ responses to broader political events of the Civil Rights Movement, even as those events touch them each in individual ways.

In the wonderful documentary “August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand,” the owner of Eddie’s Diner in the Hill District recalls how Wilson used to pass hours at the diner taking notes on overheard conversations. Much of this language worked its way directly into his plays. Wilson’s dialogue is famous for being at once earthbound and poetic, rendering everyday people with the complexity that everyone deserves. While his characters sometimes invoke the spiritual or supernatural (as with the offstage character of Aunt Ester in *Two Trains Running*), they remain fundamentally grounded in the ordinary settings and experiences that Wilson held dear.

As The Prior lives into its identity as an institution that is, as Holy Cross itself aspires to be, truly “in and of Worcester,” *Two Trains Running* insists on the dignity of local history, local venues, and local stories. We aspire to this example in our second summer of creative residencies for local Worcester artists, a Scholarship in Action partnership with the City of Worcester’s Cultural Division and the Worcester Cultural Coalition. Our 2024 cohort of fellows included a screenwriter developing a film about Black cyclist Major Taylor, whose story wound its way through Worcester, and a composer inspired by the diasporic musical traditions represented in his Worcester Public Schools classroom. The application for the 2025 cohort opens today—help us spread the word!

This production of *Two Trains Running* has also given us the opportunity to connect with other partners a bit further from home. The artists you’ll meet tonight arrived to Holy Cross from Connecticut College and head next to Middlebury College. Their tour is funded in part by a joint award to all three schools from the New England Foundation for the Arts—affirming the enduring importance of Wilson’s work and strengthening the inter-institutional bonds so necessary for the health of our regional and national arts ecosystem. We look forward to partnering on more theater in the years to come.

In the meantime, it’s not too soon to begin planning your next visit to The Prior. Check out the end of this program for the rest of the 2024-25 Prior Presents series; and visit our website, [www.priorperformingartscenter.org](http://www.priorperformingartscenter.org), for our full slate of academic and community programming.

Warm wishes,

Kyle Frisina  
Nancy Savage Skinner '79 Interim Director

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<sup>1</sup> August Wilson Education Project.

# Program

## The Acting Company

Kent Gash, Artistic Director

Erik Schroeder, Managing Director

In partnership with Play On Shakespeare

In association with Honorary Producers Willette and Manny Klausner

Devin Brain, Producing Director

Margot Harley, Founder

## August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*

Directed by Lili-Anne Brown<sup>°</sup>

## Cast (in alphabetical order)

Wolf, Sterling u/s

Hambone, Wolf u/s

Risa u/s

Holloway

West, Memphis u/s

Sterling

West u/s, Holloway u/s, Hambone u/s

Memphis

Risa

J'Laney Allen\*

Chuckie Benson\*

Diana Coates\*

Brian D. Coats\*

Robert Cornelius\*

James Milord\*

Jeffrey Rashad\*

Michael A. Shepperd\*

DeAnna Supplee\*

## Creative Team

Scenic Design

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Original Music & Sound Design

Props Design

Voice & Speech

Intimacy Director

Wig & Hair Design

Associate Director

Casting

Tanya Orellana†

Samantha C. Jones†

Jared Gooding†

Lindsay Jones†

Anna Dorodnykh

Duane Boutté

Ann James<sup>°</sup>

Tommy Kurzman†

Irvin Mason Jr.<sup>°</sup>

Murnane Casting

Amber Snead, CSA

Chad Eric Murnane, CSA

Nathanial Riccio

Esther Bermann

Imani Ross

Production Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager

Originally Produced on Broadway by Yale Repertory Theatre (Stan Wojewodski, Jr., Artistic Director), Center Theatre Group/Ahmanson Theatre (Gordon Davidson, Artistic/Producing Director) Herb Alpert/Margot Lion, Scott Rudin/Paramount Pictures, and Jujamcyn Theaters (James H. Binger, Chairman; Rocco Landesman, President; Paul Libin, Producing Director; Jack Viertel, Creative Director); produced in association with Huntington Theatre Company (Peter Altman, Producing Director; Michael Maso, Managing Director), Seattle Repertory Theatre and Old Globe Theatre (Jack O'Brien, Artistic Director; Thomas Hall, Managing Director) Originally mounted by Yale Repertory Theatre (Lloyd Richards, Artistic Director; Benjamin Mordecai, Managing Director). The Acting Company's national tour of *Two Trains Running* and *The Comedy of Errors* received its first performances at Rubicon Theatre Company of Ventura, California in January 2025.

<sup>°</sup> The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

† Designers represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

• Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## Staff For Repertory

Production Manager  
Associate Costume Designer  
Associate Scenic Designer  
Associate Sound Designer  
Assistant Scenic Designer  
Assistant Lighting Designer  
Assistant Props Designer  
Intimacy/Sensitivity Specialist  
Production Assistant  
Costume Shopper  
Key Art Illustration

Neal Goleta  
Sharné Van Ryneveld Nel  
Danielle DeLaFuentes  
Nat Houle  
Ningning Yang  
Trey Brazeal  
Malena Logan  
Ann James  
Kydiana Jeanty  
Alex Rockey  
Brianna Pippens

## Tour Staff

Company Manager  
Assoc. Production Manager/Tour Technical Director  
Tour Lighting Supervisor  
Tour Sound Supervisor  
Tour Wardrobe Supervisor  
Tour Lighting Drafter  
Tour Crew

Holly Adam  
Chris Grainer  
Molly Garrison  
Danny H. Saturne  
Krista Grevas  
Jessica Neill  
Hannah Sgambellone

## The Acting Company Staff

Artistic Director  
Managing Director  
Producing Director  
Director of Development  
Associate Producer  
Development Associate

Kent Gash  
Erik Schroeder  
Devin Brain  
Hillary Cohen  
B. Rafidi  
Natalya Ribovich



# From The Acting Company's Artistic Director

## On The Acting Company's 2025 National Tour of *Two Trains Running* and *The Comedy of Errors*

In 2003 I had the great good fortune to direct August Wilson's KING HEDLEY II for the Alliance Theatre. August Wilson came to Atlanta and continued to revise the script and rehearse with our company. During the opening August signed a poster for me saying "THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES..." As always, August was prescient and indeed even now in 2024-25, the struggle continues. Our current political climate in America continues to illustrate the sense of dislocation and exclusion that many African Americans feel. In TWO TRAINS RUNNING August Wilson's characters are on the precipice in America, struggling to stake their claim to a piece of the American Dream. It is a story about questioning your place in the world and amidst the turbulent 1960s these brilliant, witty, wry, and eloquent characters strive to thrive and realize the promise made by this great Country to all of its citizens.

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS is Shakespeare's most lunatic comic escapade. It is similarly, about who belongs where and with whom. Identity, lineage and the privileges associated with these are all a part of the madness of THE COMEDY OF ERRORS. But its real motor is the family. Brothers, sisters, parents...family is where the sense of belonging begins for many of us. This may well be the thread that connects both of these plays. In both of these plays the characters go to physical, financial, and emotional extremes in order to achieve the happiness and freedom that they believe is the right of every human being.

In very different ways, both TWO TRAINS RUNNING and THE COMEDY OF ERRORS challenge our sense of how we identify and define ourselves, as well as how others project their perceived values of us onto our day-to-day lives. Both plays wonder if the tension between these two perspectives can ever be resolved, and if so... HOW? August Wilson doesn't give us concise answers. In TWO TRAINS RUNNING characters must cultivate their own hope but Wilson believes we are ever resilient and so we endure. Shakespeare and Christina Anderson allow for hope. Mishaps and missed opportunities are somehow righted, disparate family members rediscover each other and are joyously reunited. Happiness, the blessing of belonging and the freedom to realize our authentic selves is indeed possible. These are but a few of the reasons why August Wilson's TWO TRAINS RUNNING and Christina Anderson's translation of Shakespeare's THE COMEDY OF ERRORS adapted are more necessary, essential, and vital than ever before.

Kent Gash  
Artistic Director  
The Acting Company

# Acknowledgements

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**"August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*"** is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## Special Thanks

Rubicon Theatre Company (Producing Artistic Director Karyl Lynn Burns; Associate Artistic Director Stephanie Coltrin; Production/Company Manager Julia Donlon; Technical Director Jimmy Callahan; Master Electrician Claire Cleary; Run Crew: Joe Lopez and Gabi Baltzell; Carpenters: Stewart Forgey and Ross Mantor; Prop Artisans: Alex Choate and Alex Johnson; Costume Assistant Tara Vanoni; Wig/Production Assistant Danielle White; Sound Technician Danny Fiandaca)

Theresa Posorske and Concord Theatricals

Sally Cade Holmes, Taylor Bailey, and Play On Shakespeare

Matt Gross and Heart Spade PR

Additional Production Staff: Kyle Daniels, Joy Hanks, Quintin Nel, Hannah Sgambellone, Ellery Suffridge-Brown, Taylor Suffridge-Brown, Hannah Yankowitz

Harkness Center for Dance Injuries

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# Biographies

## Cast

**J'Laney Allen** (Wolf, Sterling u/s) Extremely grateful to be joining The Acting Company! NYC Theatre: *Twelfth Night* (Classical Theatre of Harlem/Audelco Nominee). NYU: *Pipeline*, *Cloud 9*, *The Tempest*. Irene Ryan, Kingsley Colton & Mark Twain Award Recipient (KCACTF). Education: MFA: NYU Grad Acting. BS: North Carolina A&T. Social Media: @jlaneyallen.

**Chuckie Benson** (Hambone, Wolf u/s) Lansing, MI native. Holds his BFA in Music Theatre Performance, from Western Michigan University. Chuckie comes to the Acting Company from being a proud, Jeff nominated Chicago actor. He is also an alum of Forbidden Broadway's *Spamilton*, the Chicago cast as well the first National Tour. Having performed in *The Three Musketeers* presented by The Acting Company at OSF, it is an honor to reunite and to officially join the Acting Company family. Regional credits include: *Dreamgirls* (McCarter, Goodspeed); *Rent*, *Once on This Island*, *The Three Musketeers* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); *The Color Purple* (Drury Lane); *The Wiz* (Kokandy); *Sophisticated Ladies* (Porchlight Theatre); *Heartbreak Hotel* (Broadway Playhouse); Buddy in *The Buddy Holly Story* (American Blues Theatre); *Hair* (Mercury Theatre); *Rent* (Theo Ubique); *Ragtime*, *Sister Act* (Wagon Wheel), *Big River*, *Hairspray* (Timber Lake Playhouse). National Tour: *Spamilton* (1st National Tour). Love you Mom and Dad. IG:@chuckie.benson

**Diana Coates** (Risa u/s) is delighted to be telling these marvelous stories with The Acting Company. Originally from DC, she now resides in NYC. Most recently she was seen as Lady Macbeth at The Chenango River Theatre in New York and in productions of *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Minnesota. Other Select Regional: *The Nacirema Society* (Goodman Theatre); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Drury Lane); *Henry V*, *The Winters Tale* (First Folio); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), *The House that Will Not Stand* (Victory Gardens), *Our Town*, *Into the Breeches* (Asolo Repertory Theatre); *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, *The Rover* (Michigan Shakespeare Festival). TV/Film: *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Chicago Med* (NBC), *Deli Boys* (Hulu), and *Emperor of Ocean Park* (MGM+). She is represented by DDO Artists Agency and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Always for mom.

**Brian D. Coats** (Holloway) has been in August Wilson's *King Hedley II*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Seven Guitars* (Two River Theater). New York credits include Broadway's tour of August Wilson's *Jitney*, (Manhattan Theatre Club) *the best we could (A Family Tragedy)*, (Lincoln Center Theater/LCT3) *On the Levee* (Working Theater), *La Ruta* (Pan Asian Rep), *The Brothers Paranormal* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *Travisville* (Classical Theater of Harlem), *The Bacchae*, *The First Noel* (The Public Theater), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Other Regional/Touring credits include productions at Mark Taper, Old Globe, Arena Stage, Seattle Rep, Shakespeare and Co, Pittsburgh Public, Huntington, Cincinnati Playhouse, Denver Center, Williamstown Theater Festival, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Geva Theatre and others. Television credits include: *Queens*, *FBI: Most Wanted*, *Luke Cage*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Organized Crime*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *JAG*, *Blue Bloods*, and *The Sopranos*. Mr. Coats is a graduate of the University of North Carolina's School of the Arts.

**Robert Cornelius** (West, Memphis u/s) hails from Chicago and is pleased to be working with The Acting Company. Most recently Robert has performed regionally in *Jitney* (Arkansas Rep), as Jean Charles in *Where the Mountain Meets the Sea* (Signature Theatre), *Dreamgirls* (Goodspeed Opera House and McCarter Theatre Center), *Chicken and Biscuits* (Front Porch Arts Collective), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Huntington Theatre). He has also done *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Madison Rep), *You Can't Take it With You* and *The Rivals* (Milwaukee Rep), *Spunk* (St. Louis Black Rep), and *Great Expectations* (Indiana Rep). In Chicago, he has performed in the World Premieres of *Her Honor*, *Jane Byrne* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Lottery Day* (Goodman Theatre), and *Rightlynd* (Victory Gardens Theater). Robert has also done *Aida* (Drury Lane Theatre), *Raisin* (Court Theatre), *Picnic* (American Theatre Company), *Wit* (The Hypocrites), *Total Bent* (Co-production with About Face and Haven Theatres (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination)), *Hamlet* (The Gift Theatre), *The Taming of the Shrew* (First Folio Theatre), and *Wheatley*, *Takunda*, and *Spiele 36* (Victory Gardens). A proud member of SAG/AFTRA, Robert can be seen on TV in *The Chi*, all three seasons of *South Side*, *Chicago PD*, *Shameless*, and *Turks*. Robert also performs as a singer with the band Poi Dog Pondering and as singer songwriter of his own band, RC7.

**James Ricardo Milord** (Sterling) is a Boston native Haitian-American actor. He recently won a New England Theatre Critics award for Outstanding Lead Performance as King Hedley in *King Hedley II* (Actors Shakespeare). He was also nominated for a Norton in his lead performance as Herald Loomis in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Huntington Theatre). Mr. Milord appeared in the riveting premier of *K-I-S-S-I-N-G* (Huntington Theater). That previous year, he was seen in *Common Ground Revisited* (Huntington Theatre), while completing productions of *Paradise Blue* (Gloucester Stage) and the premier of *Young Nerds of Color* (Central Square Theatre). Prior to the pandemic, Mr. Milord was seen in *Pipeline* (WAM, Front Porch, & Central Sq. Theatre). Other credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Underground Railway), *The Handmaid's Tale* (Boston Lyric Opera), *The Agitators*, *Cyrano* (Gloucester Stage), *Anna Christie*, *Barbecue* (Lyric Stage), *Akeelah & the Bee* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *The Good Negro*, *Splendor*, and *The Brothers Size Trilogy* (Company One). Film credits include *Salem's Lot* (Warner Bros. Pictures), *Honest Thief* (Solution Entertainment Group), *Proud Mary* (Screen Gems), *The Brotherhood* (Showtime), and a multitude of indies. Mr. Milord dedicates this tour to the late great Johnny Lee Davenport. "Hold a good thought!"

**Jeffrey Rashad** (West u/s, Holloway u/s, Hambone u/s) Off Broadway: *A Christmas Carol in Harlem* (Classical Theatre of Harlem). Regional: *Passover* (Resident Ensemble Players), *The Comedy of Errors*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew* (The Old Globe), *Treasure Island* (MSMT). Film: *First Date* (JazziDreamer Ent.), *Time to Leave* (Before the Crown Productions), *Generational Curses* (Fly in Rice Media/Black Hours). Education: B.F.A. - Howard University, M.F.A. - The Old Globe/USD Shiley Graduate Acting. [www.JeffreyRashad.com](http://www.JeffreyRashad.com). @jeffryjeff\_ on Instagram.

**Michael A. Shepperd** (Memphis) Directing: *Blood at the Root* (Open Fist Theatre Company) - Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle nomination for Best Director; *The Boy From Oz* (Ovation Award, LADCC Award, Best Director); *Rotterdam* (The Kirk Douglas Theatre (LADCC Award Best Production, Stage Raw: Best Production and Best Director)); *West Addams* (Skylight Theatre (LA Times Critics Choice)); *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (The Garry Marshall Theatre); *Sucker Punch* (The Courage Theatre); *Too Heavy for Your Pocket* (Sacred Fools (LA Times Critics Choice)). Acting: Miss Trunchbull in *Matilda* (La Mirada), *The Producers* (Roger; Ovation Award nom.), *Fences* (Troy; Ovation, LADCC nom.), *BootyCandy* (LADCC nom. Ovation, Stage Raw Win), Mister in *The Color Purple* (Ovation Award), *Steel* (Ovation Award), *Master Harold and the Boys* (NAACP Theatre Award nom.), *Intimate Apparel* (NAACP Theatre Award), *Choir Boy* (NAACP nom.); *Athol Fugard's Valley Song* (International City Theatre). Broadway/Regional: *Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Caroline, or Change*; *The Whipping Man*. TV: *NCIS: Origins*, *Bosch*, *Why Women Kill*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Hot In Cleveland*, *Wizards of Waverly Place*, *Monk*, *Criminal Minds*. @shepdawg1122.

**DeAnna Supplee** (Risa) is a Philadelphia-born, New York City-trained actress. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, she has also studied at the British American Drama Academy at the University of Oxford and the Actors Studio Drama School (MFA, Acting). NYC Theater: *American Rot* (La Mama, dir: Estelle Parsons), *The Winter's Tale* (NYSX), *On Strivers Row* (Metropolitan Playhouse), *Much Ado About Nothing* (NYSX), *The Trojan Women* (The Flea Theater), *Fires in the Mirror*, *Laundry & Bourbon*, *Platanos Y Collard Greens*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. Regional Theater: *The Garbologists* (Shadowland Stages), *B.R.O.K.E.N. code B.I.R.D. switching* (Berkshire Theatre Group), *The Niceties* (Mile Square Theatre), *Skeleton Crew* (TheatreSquared). International Theater: *Look/Alive* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). TV: *Elsbeth*, *Law and Order: SVU*. @deannasupplee

# Creative Team

**August Wilson** (Playwright) [April 27, 1945 – October 2, 2005] authored *Gem of the Ocean*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Seven Guitars*, *Fences*, *Two Trains Running*, *Jitney*, *King Hedley II*, and *Radio Golf*. These works explore the heritage and experience of African-Americans, decade-by-decade, over the course of the twentieth century. His plays have been produced at regional theaters across the country and all over the world, as well as on Broadway. In 2003, Mr. Wilson made his professional stage debut in his one-man show, *How I Learned What I Learned*. Mr. Wilson's works garnered many awards including Pulitzer Prizes for *Fences* (1987); and for *The Piano Lesson* (1990); a Tony Award for *Fences*; Great Britain's Olivier Award for *Jitney*; as well as eight New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *The Piano Lesson*, *Two Trains Running*, *Seven Guitars*, *Jitney*, and *Radio Golf*. Additionally, the cast recording of *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* received a 1985 Grammy Award, and Mr. Wilson received a 1995 Emmy Award nomination for his screenplay adaptation of *The Piano Lesson*. Mr. Wilson's early works included the one-act plays *The Janitor*, *Recycle*, *The Coldest Day of the Year*, *Malcolm X*, *The Homecoming*, and the musical satire *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*. Mr. Wilson received many fellowships and awards, including Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellowships in Playwriting, the Whiting Writers Award, 2003 Heinz Award, was awarded a 1999 National Humanities Medal by the President of the United States, and received numerous honorary degrees from colleges and universities, as well as the only high school diploma ever issued by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. He was an alumnus of New Dramatists, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a 1995 inductee into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and on October 16, 2005, Broadway renamed the theater located at 245 West 52nd Street - The August Wilson Theatre. Additionally, Mr. Wilson was posthumously inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2007. Mr. Wilson was born and raised in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and lived in Seattle, Washington at the time of his death. He is immediately survived by his two daughters, Sakina Ansari and Azula Carmen Wilson, and his wife, costume designer Constanza Romero.

**Lili-Anne Brown** (Director), a Chicago South Side native, works as a director, actor and educator, and has performed in, directed and produced many award-winning shows in Chicago and nationally. Recent directing credits include: *The Nacirema Society...*, *School Girls, or The African Mean Girls Play*, and the world premieres of Ike Holter's *I Hate It Here* and *Lottery Day* (Goodman Theatre); *Dreamgirls* (McCarter Theater and Goodspeed Musicals), *FELA!* (Olney Theater), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Huntington Theatre), *Ain't No Mo'* (Woolly Mammoth and Baltimore CenterStage), *Rent* and *The Color Purple* (The Muny), *Once on This Island* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Acoustic Rooster...* (Kennedy Center and National Tour), *Put Your House in Order* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Cullud Wattah* (Victory Gardens). She is the former Artistic Director of Bailiwick Chicago, where she focused programming on Chicago-premiere musicals and new play development with resident playwrights. She has received a Helen Hayes Award, 5 Jeff Awards, 2 BTA awards and an African American Arts Alliance Award for excellence in directing. She is a 2021 recipient of the 3Arts Award for Theatre, the 2023 Zelda Fichandler Award Finalist, and an inaugural Platform Award recipient. She is a member of SDC, AEA, SAG-AFTRA, and a graduate of Northwestern University.

**Tanya Orellana** (Scenic Designer) [she/her] designs performance spaces for theatre and opera. Originally from San Francisco's Mission District, she is a core member of the award-winning ensemble Campo Santo. Previous collaborations with Lisa Peterson include *The Kind Ones* by Miranda Rose Hall (The Magic), *Timon of Athens* and *Coriolanus* (Utah Shakespeare Festival). Recent collaborations include *Poor Yella Rednecks: Vietgone 2* directed by Jaime Castañeda, *Fefu and Her Friends* directed by Pam MacKinnon, *Oedipus* directed by Jenny Koons at The Getty Villa, *The Industry's Sweet Land*, an immersive opera directed by Yuval Sharon and Cannupa Hanska Luger, and *LEAR* by Marcus Gardley, co-directed by Eric Ting and Dawn Monique Williams. Tanya received her MFA in Scenic Design from CalArts and is the 2016 recipient of the Princess Grace Fabergé Theatre Award. She is a member of Wingspace Theatrical Design and an organizing member of La Gente: The Latine Production Network. [www.tanyaorellana.com](http://www.tanyaorellana.com).

**Samantha C. Jones** (Costume Designer) [she/her] is excited to join the Acting Company in their work this season. She is a Costume Designer and educator with previous design credits at Geffen Playhouse, Pasadena Playhouse, Center Theatre Group, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, Goodspeed Musicals, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Court Theatre, Paramount Theatre (Aurora), Drury Lane Theatre, Writers Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Children's Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Jackalope Theatre, The Muny, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Cleveland Playhouse, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Alley Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, First Stage Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Peninsula Players Theater, and others. Upcoming productions include: *Fat Ham* (OSF) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Denver Center). Her work can be viewed at [samanthacjones.com](http://samanthacjones.com).

**Jared Gooding** (Lighting Designer) is excited to be designing his first national tour and first design with The Acting Company. Based out of Chicago, his design credits include shows for theaters all over the country. Designs for STAGES Houston, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Goodman Theater, Writers Theater, Court Theater, Chicago Children's Theater, TimeLine Theatre, Madison Children's Theater, MPAACT, Syracuse Stage, Fulton Theater, Bristol Riverside Theater, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Indiana Repertory Theater, First Stage Milwaukee, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Florentine Opera Company, American Blues Theater, Congo Square, and Steep Theater. He was the lighting assistant for *The Wiz Live* on NBC, and has associate designed at the Kennedy Center in DC. He is an Ensemble Member with American Blues and MPAACT theaters, and was named the 2023 emerging artist at the Michael Merritt Awards in Chicago. His work is featured at [goodingdesigns.com](http://goodingdesigns.com).

**Lindsay Jones** (Original Music and Sound Design) Broadway: *Slave Play* (Tony nominations for Best Score and Best Sound Design of a Play), *The Nap*, *Bronx Bombers*, and *A Time to Kill*. Off-Broadway: *Privacy* (The Public Theater), *Bootycandy* (Playwrights Horizons), *Feeding the Dragon* (Primary Stages), *Top Secret* (New York Theatre Workshop) and many others. Regional: Guthrie Theater, Center Stage, American Conservatory Theater, Hartford Stage, Alliance Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, Old Globe Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre and many others. International: *Slave Play* (West End, London), Royal Shakespeare Company (England), Stratford Festival (Canada), and many others. Audio dramas: Disney's *Star Wars: Tempest Breaker*, Marvel's *Wastelanders*, Audible's *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Audra McDonald and Carla Gugino, Next Chapter Podcasts' *Play On Shakespeare*, and Committee For Children's *The Imagine Neighborhood*. Lindsay has received two Tony Award nominations, seven Joseph Jefferson Awards (24 nominations), two Ovation Awards (three nominations), an L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award, and many others. Film/TV scoring: HBO Films' *A Note of Triumph – The Golden Age Of Norman Corwin* (2006 Academy Award for Best Documentary, Short Subject), the newly released *Dinosaur Discoveries* (now playing the Houston Natural Sciences Museum) and over 30 other films. He is the co-chair of Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association (TSDCA), and teaches Composition For Theatre and Music History at the University Of North Carolina School Of The Arts. [www.lindsayjones.com](http://www.lindsayjones.com)

**Anna Dorodnykh** (Props Design) is happy to join The Acting Company family again! Off-Broadway credits: *The Counter* (Props Supervisor), *Love + Science* (Props Designer), *A Sherlock Carol* (Deck Props), *Romeo & Bernadette* (Deck/Props). Regional: *Fiddler on the Roof* - Props Designer (The Axelrod Performing Arts Center), *Odyssey* - Rehearsal Props Lead (The Acting Company National Tour).

**Duane Boutté** (Voice & Speech) is a New York based actor, director and theater educator. He trained at UCLA and the National Theatre Conservatory and has taught at Illinois State University, Ramapo College, The New School and National Theatre Institute. Boutté was text coach for Woodward Shakespeare Festival's *Twelfth Night* and *Hamlet* and was a faculty advisor for voice and text on MFA directed productions at ISU. In his private studio, he has helped prepare actors for roles on Broadway and nationwide. Boutté is an Acting Company alum whose first NY job was touring in the company's '91-'92 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other acting credits include *Stonewall* (1996 film), *Brother to Brother* (film), the original Broadway company of *Parade* and the 1994 TONY winning revival of *Carousel*. Among his favorite roles performed are "Mercutio" (OSF), "Bayard Rustin" (Public Theater, Berkeley Rep), "Jeremy" in *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (Denver Center), and "Orestes" in an *Oresteia* inaugurating Berkeley Rep's RODA Theatre. His directing credits include Neil LaBute's *Appomattox* (world premiere), *Home* (Rep Stage), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Worcester Shakespeare), *The Winter's Tale*, *Othello*, *Fences*, *Stalag 17*, *Everybody, Cabaret*, and more. Composer credits include *Caravaggio Chiaroscuro* (LaMama), *Lyin' Up a Breeze* (Second Space), and *Thanks To The Lighthouse* (NY Parks).

**Ann James** (Intimacy Director/Sensitivity Specialist) made her debut as the first Black Intimacy Coordinator on Broadway for *Pass Over*. Broadway credits include: *Sunset Boulevard*, *A Wonderful World*, *Eureka Day*, *Sh\*t. Meet. Fan*, *John Proctor is the Villain*, *The Outsiders* (Tony Award Best Musical 2024), *Lempicka*, *Illinoise*, *Hamilton*, *Parade* (Tony Award 2023 for Best Revival), *Sweeney Todd*, *Heart of Rock and Roll*, *Jelly's Last Jam*. Off-Broadway: *Antiquities*, *The Great Privation*, *Velour! A Drag Spectacular!*, *Cats: The Jellicle Ball*, *The Hippest Trip*, *Sunset Baby*, *Orlando*, *Jonah*, *White Girl in Danger*, *How to Defend Yourself*, *The Comeuppance*, *Evanston Salt Costs Climbing*, *My Broken Language*, *The Half-God of Rainfall*, *Here There Are Blueberries*, *Life and Trust*, *The Lonely Few*. Tour: *Hamilton* UK. James' company, Intimacy Coordinators of Color awarded a 2024 Special Citation from the OBIE Awards and The American Theatre Wing.

**Tommy Kurzman** (Wig & Hair Design) Broadway: *Uncle Vanya*, *I Need That*, *Gutenberg: The Musical!*, *The Cottage*, *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, *Pictures From Home*, *The Collaboration*, *Macbeth*, *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *All My Sons*, *True West*, *St. Joan*, *My Fair Lady*, *Little Foxes*, *Long Day's Journey*, *Bright Star*, *The King and I*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Off-Broadway: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Westside Theatre), *Titanique*, *Roundabout*, *MCC*, *Atlantic*, *The New Group*, *The Public*, *Manhattan Theatre Club*, *New World Stages*. Regional: *The MUNY*, *Goodspeed*, *Drury Lane*, *Chicago Shakespeare Theatre*, *The Huntington*, *Geva Theatre*, *Arena Stage*, *MSM*. Instagram: @TommyKurzmanWigs

**Martine Kei Green-Rogers** (Dramaturg) [she/her] is the Dean of the Theatre School at DePaul University. Her dramaturgical credits include *its not a trip*, *its a journey*, *He Brought Her Heart Back in a Box*, and *The Ohio State Murders* (Round House Theatre); *Wind in the Door* and *Long Way Down* (The Kennedy Center); *The Catastrophist* (Marin Theatre Company); *Toni Stone and Sweat* (The Goodman); *Lion in Winter*, *King Hedley II*, *Radio Golf*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Blues for An Alabama Sky*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, *Seven Guitars*, *The Mountaintop*, and *Home* (Court Theatre); *It's Christmas*, *Caroll*, *Hairspray*, *The Book of Will*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *UniSon*, *Hannah and the Dread Gazebo*, *Comedy of Errors*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; and *Fences* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). Broadway credits include *Jagged Little Pill*.

**Irvin Mason Jr.** (Associate Director) is a director, actor, poet, and teaching artist born and raised in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. His work intersects expressive movement, live music, emerging technology, and Afro-Caribbean traditions to breathe new life to physical storytelling. Irvin seeks to direct work that leaves a residue — unapologetic work that dismantles the traditional foundations of theater and creates space for new voices to tell their own stories. Irvin is the proud, current recipient of the 2024-2026 Drama League Stage Directing Fellowship. He has recently assisted on the new work development of plays and musicals at the Playwrights Center and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor. His recent directing credits include: *Ain't Misbehavin* (Gallery-Players), *Stuck* (Chain Theatre), and *Pipeline* (Gallery-Players). Assistant Directing: *Gospel According to Heather* (AMAS, dir. Rachel Klein). In 2023, Irvin served as a directing observer to Schele Williams on the Broadway revival of *The Wiz*. He was the SDCF directing shadow on *Little Shop of Horrors* (dir. Maggie Burrows) and *Rent* (dir. Lili-Anne Brown) at the MUNY. He was also the directing observer on *Pup! A Chew Story* (NAMT). @iirvinmason | irvinmasonjr.com.

**Murnane Casting** is a first-class office in New York City. With a passion for developing new works, our team specializes in casting for theatre, film, and television projects nationwide. Our mission is to offer a collaborative, relaxed, and highly creative casting experience for our clients. Learn more at [MurnaneCasting.com](https://MurnaneCasting.com)

**Esther Bermann** (Production Stage Manager) is excited to join The Acting Company again after company managing their national tour of *Odyssey* in 2023. As a freelance stage manager based in NYC, her credits include New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theater, New York City Center, Soho Rep, NYMF, NYU, and Bushwick Starr. She also tours with Dianne McIntyre Group on the new dance work *In the Same Tongue*, produced by Octopus Theatricals. Additionally, she has over 20 years of dance and theater performance experience and has worked in the administrative offices of Dance/NYC and Pentacle. She holds a BA in dance and drama from University of California, Irvine.

**Imani Ross** (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be joining The Acting Company for their 2024-2025 tour. A Purdue Northwest Graduate, she has accumulated years of experience within the different facets of production, education, corporate event planning, and stage management. Based in Chicago, she has worked with many local and national companies including: *Drury Lane Theatre*, *Woman Evolve*, *Writers Theatre*, *The Fearless Fund*, *Lifeline Theatre*, *ONE Church LA*, *SJR Engagements* and *The All Nations Collective*. Select theatre credits: *A Chorus Line*, *Mary Poppins*, *Elf the Musical* (*Drury Lane Theatre*), *Twisted Melodies* (*Congo Square Theatre*), *Noises Off* (*Steppenwolf Theatre*), *Hot Wing King* (*Writers Theatre*).

# Staff For Repertory

**Sharné van Ryneveld Nel** (Assistant Costume Designer) South African born and living in New York. Received her MFA from the University of Illinois. Recent credits from assisting, designing and dressing include *The Lonely Few* with MCC Theatre, *Hansel and Gretel* with Aspen Opera Festival, *La Traviata* with The Santa Fe Opera and *The Christmas Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes* at Radio City Music Hall.

**Danielle DeLaFuente** (Associate Scenic Designer) [she/her] is thrilled to be the Assistant Scenic Designer on these productions! Her recent assistant/associate credits include *The Ghost of John McCain* (Soho Rep), *Henry VI: Parts 1 & 2* (The Old Globe), *What Became of Us* (Atlantic Stage 2), *The White Chip* (MCC), *The Covenant* (Roundabout Theatre), and *Mr Parent* (Lyric Stage Company). She would like to thank Tanya and the entire team for having her back again! [danielledela Fuente.com](http://danielledela Fuente.com)

**Natalie "Nat" Margaret Houle** (Associate Sound Designer) is an LA-based sound designer, associate designer, composer, and spatial audio advocate born and raised in New York with nearly fifteen years of experience in audio. She recently received her MFA in Sound Design at the University of California, Irvine in 2024 and received her BA in Theatre Design & Technology at The State University of New York at New Paltz in 2021. On the West Coast, she has worked with Arizona Theatre Company, PCPA - Pacific Conservatory Theatre, Western Stage, Geffen Playhouse, REDCAT, Shakespeare Center of Los Angeles, Teenage Drama Workshop at CSUN, and Cal State LA. In between running around doing gigs and making sounds go boom, she enjoys tea ceremonies, meditation, and yoga. [natssounddesign.com](http://natssounddesign.com) & [nmhsatial.com](http://nmhsatial.com)

**Malena Logan** (Assistant Props Designer) is a scenic and props designer from Los Angeles, CA and is based in New York City. [She/They] finished her BFA in Theater Design and Technology at Syracuse University. Recent credits include 24 Hour Plays: *Nationals*, and *Dead Air* (SheNYC). Assistant credits include *dig* (Primary Stages). Malena would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her dreams in New York City.

**Kydiana Jeanty** (Production Assistant) is a new member of The Acting Company. Kydiana graduated from FSU with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. There, she refined her skills in stage management and acting. She has worked on many memorable theater productions during her time at FSU and across many theater companies. Recently, she has been a part of many workshops and presentations of new works with New York Stage and Film. She is very excited to be working with The Acting Company and the stage management team as the production assistant for the productions of Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*.

**Alex Rockey** (Shopper) [he/him] is a costume and scenic designer based in NYC. His work has been seen across the country including *il barbiere di sivilgia* (The Santa Fe Opera - Apprentice Scenes) alongside being the Costume Administrative Apprentice for the season, *The Phantom Tollbooth* (Berkeley Carroll School), *Eternal Bonds .2* (UT Austin, Fall For Dance), and many more. He's thrilled to be back in the city after his Grad School hiatus, continuing his work as a designer, maker, and coordinator in both concentrations. Additional credits include *Romeo y Juliet* (Department of Theatre and Dance, Scenic), *Proving Up* (Butler School of Opera, Scenic), his self-produced thesis, *You Can't Drag Us Down* (Department of Theatre and Dance, Scenic & Costume), *KHAITE* (Spring Summer '25, New York Fashion Week, Project Coordinator), *Giorgio Armani* (Spring '25, Collection Coordinator), and so much more. Alex endeavors to showcase queer identity and inspiration in his work through transformation, humor, and at times, subtlety. [@alexrockeydesign](https://www.instagram.com/alexrockeydesign) [alexrockeydesign.com](http://alexrockeydesign.com)

**Ningning Yang** (Scenic Assistant) is a scenic designer for theatre and screens. She is grateful to assist Tanya on these wonderful productions. Recent works include *Pippin* (Syracuse University), a site specific production of the *Rent* (SouthernPlains Productions), and *A Doll's House* adapted by Jasmine Roth (Carnegie Mellon University).



# Tour Staff

**Holly Adam** (Company Manager). Excited to be on the road with The Acting Company! Previously— Broadway: *Stereophonic*. Off-Broadway: *Stereophonic*, *Teeth*, *In the Amazon Warehouse Parking Lot* (Playwrights Horizons), *Show/Boat: A River* (Target Margin Theater). Regional: *La bohème*, *Vanessa*, *Ruinous Gods* (Spoleto Festival USA). University of Michigan. Love to Mom. @holly.adam

**Molly Garrison** (Tour Lighting Supervisor) is a Chicago based freelance lighting designer and stage manager. Select design credits include *Urinetown*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Into the Woods*. She would like to thank The Acting Company for this opportunity. She also would like to thank her wife for her endless support.

**Chris Grainer** (Associate Production Manager/Tour Technical Director) is so excited and proud to be the Associate Production Manager and Tour Technical Director for August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* and Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors*! Prior to joining The Acting Company, Chris spent his winter touring the country with *Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet*. He is looking forward to returning to the Aspen Music Festival this summer as the Meadows Campus Production Manager. Chris is an alumnus of SUNY Purchase College and Collegiate School of Richmond, VA. He would like to thank his friends, family, and peers for their enthusiastic support and kindness. Bravo, everyone!

**Krista Grevas** (Tour Wardrobe Supervisor) is a theatre creative based in NYC. Her most recent wardrobe and costume credits include wardrobe supervisor for New Light Theater Project's Room 1214 at 59E59 Theaters. She is a Company Member with New Light having served as wardrobe for several productions as well as costume designer of *Tracks* this past August and September. Recently, she has worked with RWS Global at their New York offices as a stitcher and shop assistant with their wardrobe department. Her other credits include costume associate for *Grease* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Bucks County Playhouse as well as wardrobe supervisor on *Canned Goods* with American Theatre Group. Other production company credits include New York Rep, Trustus Theater, and Pendragon Theater. She holds her BA in Theatre Performance with a minor in Dance from the College of Charleston and her MFA in Actor Performer Training from Rose Bruford College in London, England.

**Jessica Neill** (Tour Lighting Drafter) is a Chicago-based designer, assistant, and artist. She is excited to be providing support for The Acting Company. Chicago area design credits include *Mean Girls Jr*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Sweat* (Paramount Theatre), *The Tragedy of King Christophe* (House Theatre), *Seven Days at Sea* (Light and Sound Productions), *Lighthouses in the Desert* (Glass Apple Theatre), *Bunny's Book Club* (Lifeline Theatre), *Hans Christian Anderson* (Northwestern University), *Admissions* (Theatre Wit), and *Master Class* (TimeLine Theatre). Associate and assistant credits include *Waitress*, *Frozen*, *The Full Monty*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Beautiful*, *Billy Elliot*, *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*, *School of Rock*, *Groundhog Day*, *Kinky Boots* (Paramount), *Lucy & Charlie's Honeymoon*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, *Frankenstein* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Ghost in Gadsden's Garden* (Actor's Gymnasium), *graveyard shift* (Goodman Theatre), and *The Children* (Steppenwolf Theatre). JessicaNeill.com

# The Acting Company Staff

**Kent Gash** (The Acting Company Artistic Director) brings to The Acting Company professional collaborations with stellar living dramatists Tarell Alvin McCraney, Quiara Alegría Hudes, Robert O'Hara, Dominique Morisseau, Suzan-Lori Parks, and Regina Taylor, among many others. He has also directed dynamic modern reconsiderations of Alexander Dumas, Langston Hughes, Noël Coward, Duke Ellington, Frank Loesser, Stephen Sondheim, William Shakespeare, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, and August Wilson. As a director, Kent's productions have been seen at leading U.S. theaters including the Public Theater, Steppenwolf, the Guthrie, Fords Theatre and The Acting Company's newly commissioned production of *The Three Musketeers*, centering Dumas and the Black origins of the classic swashbuckler at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, playing through October 2023. Upcoming: the world premiere musical *Billy Strayhorn: Something To Live For*. Kent was Associate Artistic Director of Alliance Theatre and Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He is the founding director of NYU-Tisch's New Studio on Broadway, he serves on the SDC Foundations' Lloyd Richards New Futures Residency for Black Directors selection committee and the Princess Grace Foundation Arts Advisory Council. Carnegie-Mellon (BFA, Acting) and UCLA (MFA, Directing).

**Erik Schroeder** (The Acting Company Managing Director) served as managing director of The House Theatre of Chicago, director of marketing at Lookingglass Theatre, worked at the Manhattan Theatre Club and received the Theatre Communications Group Leadership U Fellowship, funded by The Mellon Foundation. His work on Broadway includes *Hadestown* (also West End and National Tour), *Water for Elephants*, and *Swept Away*, among others. Erik was an instructor at Columbia College Chicago, a board member of The Hypocrites, and speaker at UChicago, Loyola, NAMP, League of American Orchestras, and INTIX. He has produced and/or performed at 54 Below, American Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and Florida Studio Theatre. Graduate of St. Olaf College and the Commercial Theatre Institute.

**Hillary Cohen** (The Acting Company Director of Development)'s arts administration work represents experience at Vox Populi co-operative art gallery, Manhattan Theatre Club, Film Forum, Wave Hill public garden and cultural center, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Cherry Lane Theatre, and New York Classical Theatre. She has served as a Creative Space Grant panelist for the Alliance of Resident Theatres/New York. Hillary studied Nonprofit Management at NYU's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and is a graduate of Drexel University with a degree in Corporate Communication and a Theatre Production minor. She is a proud IATSE Local One spouse.

**B. Rafidi** (The Acting Company Associate Producer) comes to The Acting Company after working as a freelancer in stage and production management for 7 years. Select stage management credits include *I Wanna F\*ck Like Romeo and Juliet* (New Light Theater Project), *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet* (The Acting Company), and *The Medora Musical* (StageWest Entertainment). Rafidi also worked for three years as the Production Activities Manager for The Juilliard School's Center for Innovation in the Arts after finishing the Juilliard stage management apprenticeship ('18-'19). @rafidi0913

**Natalya Ribovich** (The Acting Company Development Associate) recently joined The Acting Company after working in development at the Vineyard Theatre. She received her BFA in Drama from NYU Tisch. She has produced, directed, and performed in numerous off and off-off Broadway productions. Recent work includes Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (Theatre 71), Ophelia in *Hamlet* (The West End Theatre), Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (New Stage Performance Space), Amy in *Little Women* (Theatre 71) and Mina in *Dracula* (The NuBox). @natalyaribovich

# The Prior Performing Arts Center

An uncommon commons for transformative experiences with the arts

## 2024–25 Prior Presents Season

Prior Presents is the keystone of the Prior Performing Arts Center's public-facing programming, merging thrilling live events by visiting artists with robust educational and outreach activities. Defined by exceptional artistic quality, interdisciplinary impulses, and the potential to spark both wonder and reflection, this annual series celebrates artistic risk-taking and the exchange of ideas and perspectives from around the globe. Short- and long-term visiting artist residencies include performances, artist talks, installations, workshops, and experiential learning opportunities for Holy Cross students and the greater Worcester community.

The internationally acclaimed artists of the 2024–25 season embody our vision for artist residencies at the Prior Performing Arts Center. Their performances and lectures offer an exhilarating complement to the creativity and innovation of emerging student artists and Holy Cross faculty and staff also featured in our season this year.

Coming Soon to Prior Presents:

**Jeremy Flower**

*A Series of Resolutions*

Jeremy Flower, multi-instrumentalist and composer of acoustic and electronic music, will perform a piece commissioned by Composer-In-Residence Osvaldo Golijov at The Prior on February 27. Like much of Flower's work, *A Series of Resolutions* aims to live outside genre definitions, creating a place where moments of harmonic exploration and dissonance can coexist with earnest melodies. The extended sonic tapestry allowed through live electronic manipulation of the string quartet is mixed with synthesized and sampled sounds which can sometimes leave the listener wondering where a particular sound is originating.

**Thu Feb 27 @ 7:00 PM**

**Free entry, registration required**



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

Coming Soon to Prior Presents:

## Jha D. Amazi of MASS Design

Residency supported by the Division of  
Justice, Equity, Belonging, and Identity

A free public lecture from the head of the Public Memory and Memorial Lab at the pathbreaking MASS Design Group. The lab's projects honor the experiences and cultures of communities historically underrepresented in our memorial landscape, with works including *The Embrace* in Boston and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

**Tue Mar 18 @ 6:00 PM**  
**Free entry, registration required**



Coming Soon to Prior Presents:

## Sphinx Virtuosi *American Form/s*

"With a burst of new attention to phrases like diversity, equity and inclusion over the past two years, Sphinx's steady, patient work has come to seem prescient."  
—*The New York Times*

A journey through classically-framed infusions of soul, bluegrass, jazz, blues, and rag from the dynamic and inspiring chamber orchestra Sphinx Virtuosi, *American Form/s* is a co-production with Music Worcester.

**Sun Mar 30 @ 4:00 PM**  
**Use Code SPHINX20 for 20% off your order!**

Scan to purchase tickets and learn  
more about our schedule of  
upcoming presentations.



## Currently at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery

### *Michael Beatty: Fabrications*

Associate Professor Emeritus Michael Beatty's exhibition celebrates his sculpture practice, which investigates a hierarchy of focus and support through a dialogue between digital and handmade forms.

**Open now through Apr 1**

## Upcoming Events from Academic Arts

### *Sweeney Todd* | Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE. Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* is a musical adaptation of a delectably lurid melodrama about a barber whose fury and despair over the loss of his innocent wife turns him into a serial killer. Meaghan Deiter directs.

**Thu Feb 13 through Sun Feb 16**

### Working Writers Series: Heather Treseler & John Hodgen

CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM. Award-winning poets John Hodgen and Heather Treseler discuss and read from their latest collections of poetry—Hodgen's *What We May Be* and Treseler's *Auguries & Divinations*—in a call-and-response format.

**Thu Feb 20 @ 7:30 PM**

### *Form, Structure, and Symmetry: Bach in the Gallery*

CANTOR ART GALLERY. This immersive concert features selections from Bach's iconic Cello Suites, performed by Pietro Romussi (Brooks Scholar '27) and Julianna Stratton ('26), followed by a discussion on Bach, math, and symmetry between Professor Gareth Roberts (Mathematics) and artist Michael Beatty.

**Tue Feb 25 @ 4:00 PM**

### Holy Cross Wind Ensemble & Orchestra Concert

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. The Holy Cross Wind Ensemble and Orchestra present a joint concert featuring timeless melodies from the video game industry. This program will include music from gaming classics such as *The Legend of Zelda*, *Halo*, and *Super Mario*, alongside selections from lesser-known titles.

**Wed Feb 26 @ 8:00 PM**

### *Enron* by Lucy Prebble

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE. How much is an idea worth? Based on real-life events, Lucy Prebble's darkly comic *Enron* shows how ambition, delusion and boy's-club insiderism caused one of the biggest financial scandals of the new millennium. Scott Malia directs.

**Thu Apr 3 through Sun Apr 13**



Scan to purchase tickets and learn more about our schedule of upcoming presentations.

## Prior Performing Arts Center Staff

Ethan Bates, Arts Marketing & Communications Manager  
Marta Beyer, Manager of Artistic and Engagement Initiatives  
Evan Crocker, Event & Front of House Manager  
Morgan Fitzpatrick, Office Coordinator  
Matthew Freije, AV Assistant  
Kyle Frisina, Nancy Savage Skinner Interim Director  
Christine Goguen, Costume Shop Manager  
Katrina Lewonczyk, Manager of Operations & Administration  
Stephen McGonagle, Technical Director  
Judi Olson, Costume Shop Assistant  
Phillip O'Toole, Director of Production  
Mason Parece, Production Technician  
Betsy Pierce, Assistant Technical Director  
Brian Saia, Audio Supervisor  
Brenda Shepard, Senior Production Technician

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Evan Ali, Anna Brown, Emma Butler, Emma Coonan, Ethan Courcelle, Brendon Curtis, Brandon Curtis, Gabriellie De Gouveia, Laurel Deneen, Maggie Dewald, Amy Diaz-Rivera, Julia Divine, Despina Drosinos, Gracyn Epstein, Adele Feldberg, Shane Fitzpatrick, Audrey Forman, Caitlyn Fox, Emily Fox, Nadia Frempong, Kyle Gove, Emmett Griffin, Piper Guiney, Daniel Hickey, Alejandro Irizarry, Patrick Jacobs, Lily Jaramillo, Karamo Kaba, Morgan Kane, Mary Grace Kelly, Nicole Khawl, Jackson Knoll, Joshua Love, Irene Mandile, Eugene Mantilla, Foster Martinuk, James McCarthy, Molly McCracken, Maggie McCracken, Sydney McDonald, Emily McHugh, John Mondì, Camila Müller-Juez, Monique Narvaez, Fiona Nelson, Nohemi Neri, Vanessa Nolan, Brigit O'Connell, John O'Keefe, Elise O'Neill, Regina Palladino, Sarah Park, Ester Paw, Catalina Powderly, Nuala Reynolds, Jacob Ryan, Natalia Salinas, Eliza Simpson, Wesley Smith, Livia Smolizza, Alyshia Solomon, Sophie Sundaram, Paige Thomson, Sebastian Torres, Melina Valencia, Victor Walsh, Xiaoyi Wang, Marquis Wilson, Atiya Woolman

### **NEW!** Refreshments at the O'Connor Family Café

We're delighted to share that patrons may now **visit the O'Connor Family Café** on the ground floor (the Beehive) of The Prior to purchase **coffee, tea, Italian sodas, alcoholic beverages, and snacks**. The Café will be open until show time before all Prior Presents events and on select other occasions.

[priorperformingartscenter.org](http://priorperformingartscenter.org)





## Prior Presents 2024–25

Clockwise from top left: Camille A. Brown & Dancers | Thursday, September 12, 2024;  
 Johnny Gandelsman, violin | Thursday, September 26, 2024; Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band | Friday,  
 November 22, 2024; Mfoniso Udofia's *Sojourners* | Tuesday, November 19, 2024;  
 Aimee Nezhukumatathil | Thursday, October 3, 2024.  
 Photography by Troy B. Thompson.





## Academic Arts 2024–25

Clockwise from top left: Rehearsal photos from Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, Department of Theatre & Dance | February 1, 2025; Opening Reception & Artist Walkthrough for *Michael Beatty: Fabrications* exhibition, Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery | January 30, 2025; Leah Hager Cohen Faculty Reading, Creative Writing Program | January 30, 2025.

Photography by Mike McMath, Troy B. Thompson.