



THE ALLEY THEATRE | 2024-2025 SEASON

Show & Character Descriptions

GENERAL AUDITIONS: Saturday & Sunday, October 5th & 6th, 2024

DEATHTRAP

by Ira Levin

directed by Andy Persinger

NOVEMBER 14, 15, 16, 17, 2024

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday at 7:00pm / Sunday at 2:00pm / Jake Hoover Theatre

Rehearsal Window: October 21st – November 12th

In Ira Levin's classic comedic thriller, Deathtrap, a washed-up playwright finds a chance to rise to the top once more, a shot he'd be willing to kill for. Sidney Bruhl hasn't written a hit play for 18 years when he receives a script from a former student, Clifford Anderson, that's a guaranteed success. His wife, Myra, suggests the two men could collaborate; Sidney jokes that it'd be just as easy to murder the young man and steal the script for his own. When Clifford arrives later that evening, no one--not even the visiting psychic--could predict where the dark events of the night will go. Who is innocent? Who only seems that way? Deathtrap is a sharply funny play full of twists and turns that keep an audience on the edge of their seats. Is anyone really safe when a man sees a clean shot at success?

CASTING THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

SIDNEY BRUHL: 50s. Sidney Bruhl is playwright living in Westport, Connecticut with his wife, Myra. He specializes in thrillers and his plays are quite well-known, but he hasn't had a hit in 18 years. Sidney is a charming, intelligent, impressive man. He is polished and sophisticated and cares a great deal about his reputation. As evidenced by his office, decorated with relics of past successes, he tends to be proud and self-satisfied. Sidney is a brilliant writer--smart and quick-thinking, with a clever and crafty mind--but while his intelligence comes in handy when plotting his dramatic or real-life murders, it also blinds him from noticing when he has been outwitted. Sidney lies smoothly and easily, so much so that its hard to tell when he's telling the truth or not or whether he can ever be trusted. He slips into his role as a murderer with shockingly few reservations or regrets.

MYRA BRUHL: 40s. Myra Bruhl lives in Westport, Connecticut, with her husband, the famed playwright Sidney Bruhl. Myra is a sophisticated, nervous, self-effacing woman. She has her own money, but prefers a simple lifestyle and is willing to support Sidney. She is caring and dutiful towards her husband--she constantly encourages him and reassures him of her own faith in him. Myra has a history with heart problems, and has a nervous, skittish temperament. Her emotions overwhelm her, especially fear. When she sees Sidney for who he really is, though, Myra seems to find a new source of strength and resolve.

CLIFFORD ANDERSON: 20s. Clifford Anderson is an aspiring playwright. He's had to take odd jobs to make ends meet--housesitting, working in a welfare office. Clifford is a handsome, charming, and seemingly innocent young man. He is good-looking and flirty, hard for anyone to dislike. He is clever and far more crafty than he lets on; unlike Sidney, Clifford is happy to scheme in the shadows and hide his intelligence to achieve his ends. Clifford is ruthless in his own self-interest. He's hiding a spotty past, and coldly tosses aside people when he's finished with them.

HELGA TEN DORP: 50s. Dutch accent. Helga ten Dorp is a Dutch psychic renting a cottage in Westport, Connecticut. Back in Europe, her ESP was highly regarded by the police and she has

made a name for herself consulting in many high-profile criminal cases. Her success and fame has led her to America, where she is invited to appear as a guest on talk shows. She's renting a home near the Bruhls in Westport while she collaborates with a local writer on her autobiography. Helga is extremely confident in herself and her abilities, and shares her visions freely with absolute faith in their accuracy. She has an avant garde, New Age-y, gypsy-like vibe to her. She is dramatic and emotional with a flair for showmanship.

PORTER MILGRIM: 50s. Porter Milgrim is an attorney in Westport, Connecticut. He is married with children. He is friends with his client, playwright Sidney Bruhl, and harbors a secret dream becoming a successful playwright in his own right. Porter is a steady, observant man. He has a sharp and suspicious mind. He always comports himself in a professional, business-like manner--making his snap at the end of the play all the more shocking.

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart

directed by Brian Shetterly

DECEMBER 12, 13, 14, 15, 2024

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday at 7:00pm / Sunday at 2:00pm / Jake Hoover Theatre

Rehearsal Window: November 18th – December 10th

*Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Stanley are thrilled when Sheridan Whiteside, a brilliant, witty, and widely beloved radio celebrity, accepts their invitation to dinner on his tour through their little town of Mesalia, Ohio. However, when Whiteside injures himself by slipping on a piece of ice on their doorstep, and is confined to their home for the better part of December, the Stanleys are not so pleased with the change in their household. Brilliant, witty, and highly beloved he may be, but Whiteside has the behavior of a mischievous, sarcastic, entitled princeling, and he does not suffer fools. Demanding control of the entire household -- on top of the \$150,000 for which he is suing Mr. Stanley -- in recompense for his injury, Whiteside commandeers the telephone, fills the library with penguins and cockroaches, and invites a band of paroled convicts over for lunch. For his part, Whiteside finds his small-town confinement to be incredibly irritating, and is bewildered and annoyed by his encounters with persistent Dr. Bradley, who has written a book, and Mr. Stanley's spooky sister Harriet, who bestows a holly branch on him as a token of regard. Bert Jefferson, a personable young reporter with ambitions to be a playwright, seems to be the only local worthy of respect -- but when Whiteside's secretary Maggie Cutler, upon whom he relies for her sharp intelligence and endless patience, falls in love with Bert and declares that she will leave her job to marry him, Whiteside descends into a panic. He calls on glamorous vamp Lorraine Sheldon, an actress with quite an offstage reputation, to lure Bert away from Maggie, under the guise of pursuing his brilliant play. Maggie counters with a trick of her own, aided by the vocal impressions of sophisticated British performer Beverly Carlton. Her plan to send Lorraine on a wild goose chase is discovered, however, and the venomous Miss Sheldon prepares to take great pleasure in destroying Maggie's heart, and ultimately Whiteside's peace of mind. With Maggie preparing to leave his service, married or not, and Mr. Stanley preparing to throw him out into the snow, a newly contrite Sheridan Whiteside must save the day armed only with his knowledge of famous murderers, his friend Banjo's airplane to Nova Scotia, and his newly acquired mummy case, sent as a Christmas present from the Khedive of Egypt. Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's *The Man Who Came to Dinner* is a brilliantly witty madcap play, which manages to combine the sophistication of great comedic literature, the frenetic energy of the silliest farce, and a genuinely sweet heart into one of the most beloved comedies of the American theatre. Filled with fascinating character roles and winking homage to the intellectual and popular culture of the 1930s, this play is both a great period piece and a timeless classic.*

CASTING THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

SHERIDAN WHITESIDE: 40s - 50s, Standard American accent. Sheridan Whiteside, wit, critic, and internationally beloved radio star, is a man of incredible charisma, energy, and vitality -- despite

an injury which keeps him wheelchair bound for most of his time onstage. Described as having "Falstaffian proportions," Whiteside is also blessed with a larger than life personality, a booming and golden speaking voice, and an unparalleled gift for biting insult. He is almost always the smartest person in a room, and being someone who does not suffer fools gladly, he is never shy about pointing out what is flawed and ridiculous in those who try to approach him -- or simply inventing a bad quality, when he is bored, or in a cantankerous mood. Whiteside is unpredictable, having the ability to be genuinely charming when he likes someone, or is planning to gain something by good behavior; he has a manipulative quality that is often deliberate, but sometimes unconscious. He has a grandiose and immature sense of entitlement, and behaves like the tyrannical heir to the throne of his own particular kingdom. Whiteside has an often delightful sense of humor, however, and subversive gleam of mischief, which shines from underneath both the superstar celebrity and the cantankerous despot to make him a truly likeable person, and he does manage to count a surprising number of local and international celebrities, scientists, and leaders amongst his genuine friends. This leading role calls for an actor with intelligence, charisma, and abundant mischief, who can make himself likable to the audience while remaining hateful to the other characters, and has the boundless energy to carry the show.

MAGGIE CUTLER: 30s, Standard American accent. Maggie Cutler is an intelligent, efficient professional, and a very patient woman. She has worked for ten years as a personal secretary to Sheridan Whiteside, a world-renowned wit, critic, and radio celebrity, and has enjoyed and been equal to the jet-setting lifestyle of the rich and famous, gaining the affection of many of Whiteside's famous friends, in the process. Maggie has retained her down-to-earth manner, however, and has a broad streak of common sense, and a likeable demeanor. She is fortunate to possess a good sense of humor, as Whiteside's petty tyrannies, arrogant demeanor, and constant insults try the patience and alienate the good-will of anyone he chooses to displease. She is helpful, organized, and extremely tactful, and she can exercise an air of command when necessary, even over Whiteside, of whom she is really extremely fond. The relationship between two is one of bantering insult and mutual respect, and Maggie is one of the few people who can stand up to Whiteside's most petty manipulations.

MR. ERNEST W. STANLEY: Late 40s - 60s, Standard American accent. Mr. Ernest W. Stanley is an example of a solid, substantial businessman, a factory owner in the small town of Mesalia, Ohio. He is conservative, authoritative, and somewhat stern, lacking a sense of humor, or indeed any good humor in his demeanor. As Mesalia's most prominent businessman, Mr. Stanley is used to ruling the roost in both his social circle and his home, and when his dinner invitation to visiting radio celebrity Sheridan Whiteside is accepted, it appears to enhance his prestige. In order to laugh at the misfortunes that befall him, we should not find Mr. Stanley likable at all.

MRS. ERNEST W. STANLEY (DAISY): Late 40s - 50s, Standard American accent. Mrs. Ernest W. Stanley -- Daisy by name -- is a prominent society matron in the small town of Mesalia, Ohio. An anxious but avid hostess, she is thrilled to land the social coup of the season when her dinner invitation to Sheridan Whiteside, a radio celebrity passing through town, is accepted. Mrs. Stanley's star-struck, fluttery excitement is not even dispersed when Whiteside injures himself by slipping on a piece of ice on the Stanley doorstep, resulting in his being confined to the Stanley home for the better part of December while he recuperates. Mrs. Stanley is continuously thrilled by the presence of celebrity in her house, and triumphs when her friends bring her the New York Times article that contains her name as Whiteside's host. She is a warm, if ineffectual, mother to her grown children, Richard and June. Mrs. Stanley is always reacting dramatically to something, and rarely stopping to think, but her basic intention is usually to please, or placate.

RICHARD STANLEY: 21, Standard American accent. Richard Stanley is a pleasant, energetic young man, who is the son of Ernest W. Stanley, a prominent businessman in Mesalia, Ohio. Mr. Stanley would like Richard to follow in the family business as head of the factory, but Richard himself has artistic ambitions. Described by his sister as a "camera fiend," Richard wants to be a photographer and dreams of traveling around the world finding subjects for his pictures.

JUNE STANLEY: 20, Standard American accent. June Stanley is a sweet girl next door, who is the daughter of Mr. Ernest W. Stanley, a prominent businessman in the small town of Mesalia, Ohio.

June is attractive, pleasant, and lively -- an energetic young woman with a romantic temperament. She has the misfortune to be in love with Sandy, a politically conscious young man who happens to be the union organizer in her father's factory. With Mr. Stanley's complete disapproval, June is compelled to sneak around in order to see her beloved, and is plagued by indecision in regards to accepting his proposal of marriage.

BERT JEFFERSON: 30s, Standard American accent. Bert Jefferson is the motivated, idealistic owner of the Mesalia Journal, the premiere -- and only -- newspaper in this small Ohio town. He is an attractive, personable man, with an open and friendly demeanor, direct and self-assured. When the small town is disrupted by the arrival of Sheridan Whiteside, a celebrated radio personality, and his subsequent confinement to the home of Mr. Ernest W. Stanley, Bert determines to score an interview with the great man. He also hopes to promote his ambition of being a playwright, by getting Whiteside to take a look at the first draft of his new play. Successfully charming his way through Whiteside's cantankerous refusal to give an interview, Bert becomes a favorite with the moody celebrity. He also manages to charm Maggie Cutler, Whiteside's attractive and intelligent secretary.

BANJO: 30s - 40s, New York accent. Banjo is a comedian, who got his start in vaudeville, gained his fame in New York City, and has graduated to Hollywood, where he makes movies with his brothers, a humorous bunch whose names also end in "o". He is loud, crude, and goofy, an expert in grinning, mugging, and physical comedy. He has a strong instinct towards mischief, and loves to play pranks. Cheerfully coarse and amorous, part of his shtick involves chasing every woman who crosses his path, with over-the-top and frequently surreal propositions. ("Come to my room in an hour... and bring some rye bread.") For all his roughness, Banjo is a good-hearted man, a kindly wisecracker, who tries to be helpful whenever he can. The role of Banjo is based on the real-life performer, comedian, and movie star Harpo Marx.

BEVERLY CARLTON: 30s - 40s, English accent. Beverly Carlton is a flamboyant, charismatic, multi-talented star, a world-renowned composer, playwright, and actor. He is incredibly witty, sophisticated, humorous, always cheerful, often deliciously sarcastic. Beverly travels the world, charming Kings and Princes, purloining jewels, and composing operettas on the fly -- or so he says. He is always bursting into a comically intellectual song of his own composition and is the life of any high-toned party. Beverly Carlton stops in the small town of Mesalia, Ohio, to visit his friend Sheridan Whiteside. The role of Beverly Carlton is based on real-life performer, composer, and playwright Noel Coward.

LORRAINE SHELDON: 20s - 40s, Standard American accent. Lorraine Sheldon is a glamorous actress, a star of the stage and screen. She is incredibly beautiful, chic, and stylish, with a flirtatious, seductive manner and a penchant for melodrama. Lorraine is larger-than-life and is described as glittering while she walks. She drips with sweet charisma when actively trying to charm someone, but she can reveal a cold, calculated side when challenged, or upstaged. A Midwesterner, a Kansas City girl made good, Lorraine is constantly seeking to better her status by active gold-digging, her most recent target being an awkward, stuttering, fabulously wealthy Englishman named Lord Cedric Bottomley. She may have a siren's allure, but Lorraine is well-known amongst the celebrity set as a woman of loose morals and is often the target of snarky society columns regarding whose room she has been seen exiting. She is apt to be blinded by self-regard, but she is not a stupid person, and can see through a scheme when necessary. The role of Lorraine Sheldon is based very loosely on real-life star Gertrude Lawrence.

HARRIET STANLEY: 40s - 60s, Standard American accent. Harriet Stanley is the shy, retiring sister of Mr. Ernest W. Stanley, one of Mesalia, Ohio's most prominent businessmen. Harriet has an eerie, off-kilter behavior, a delicate and ethereal way of fluttering up and down the stairs, and generally the appearance of someone who is not in touch with reality. She is usually portrayed with a gentle demeanor. Finally, aided by the fact that SHERIDAN WHITESIDE is an expert on murderers and other gruesome criminals, he realizes that Harriet Stanley is in fact famous homicidal maniac Harriet Sedley, who, in her youth, dispatched her parents with "forty whacks" of an axe. The character of Harriet is based on the real-life historical figure of Lizzie Borden.

JOHN: 40s - 60s, Standard American accent. John is a manservant, a butler, employed by in the comfortable home of Mr. Ernest W. Stanley to act as a butler and man of all work. He and his wife Sarah, the cook, make up the domestic staff of the household. John is friendly, pleasant, and hard-working. He has a cheerful and upbeat temperament.

SARAH: 40s - 60s, Standard American accent. Sarah is a cook employed in the prominent household of Mr. Ernest W. Stanley. She is a warm and cheerful woman, with considerable culinary talent. She and her husband John, the manservant, make up the domestic staff of the household.

MRS. DEXTER: 30s - 60s, Standard American accent. Mrs. Dexter is a kind, cheerful, and pleasant busybody, living in the town of Mesalia, Ohio.

MRS. McCUTCHEON: 30s - 60s, Standard American accent. Mrs. McCutcheon is a friendly, nosy, and excitable woman, living in the town of Mesalia, Ohio.

SANDY: Early 20s, Standard American accent. Sandy is a handsome, earnest young man, an active union organizer, working in a factory in the small town of Mesalia, Ohio. He often clashes with Mr. Ernest W. Stanley, the hard-nosed businessman who owns the factory in which Sandy is organizing, and he has the dubious fortune to have fallen in love with Mr. Stanley's pretty young daughter, June. Sandy is keen and energetic, devoted to his work, but equally up to playing Romeo to June's Juliet in a forbidden romance.

MR. BAKER: 30s - 50s, Standard American accent. Mr. Baker is a guard and prison warden, charged with the care of a pack of convicts, famous, gruesome murderers, who have been invited to be the luncheon guests of radio personality Sheridan Whiteside. Mr. Baker, a man of few words, is tough, responsible, and fairly weathered. Traveling with so many dangerous men, he might carry some tension; he also might be fairly dangerous himself.

VARIOUS: THE EXPRESSMAN, THE PLAINCLOTHESMAN, PROFESSOR METZ, DR. BRADLEY, WESTCOTT, MISS PREEN and VARIOUS LUNCHEON GUESTS, RADIO TECHS, and DEPUTIES

THE MONKEY'S PAW by W.W. Jacobs / Adapted by Brainerd Duffield
THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE by Christopher Durang
directed by Sharon Stafford

JANUARY 16, 17, 18, 19, 2025

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday at 7:00pm / Sunday at 2:00pm / Jake Hoover Theatre
Rehearsal Window: December 20th – January 14th

THE MONKEY'S PAW: *W. W. Jacob's classic about a mummified monkey's paw that bestows three wishes on its new owner. A married couple first wish to test the efficacy of the talisman. Their second wish brings their dead son back from the grave. Then, at the height of a thunderstorm in the dead of night, comes a knock at the door -- and their third wish! A powerful dramatization of a great ghost story!*

THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE: *This short comic play by Christopher Durang involves an accountant named George Spelvin, who is mistaken for an actor's understudy and forced to perform in a play for which he does not know any of the lines. The play was inspired by the dreams actors and performers often have in which they are about to go on stage and need help remembering their lines or rehearsal instructions. Durang himself had an actor's nightmare after performing in this play, in which he could not remember any lines and could not find his script, and when he did find the script, it was gibberish to him.*

CASTING THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

THE MONKEY'S PAW

MR. WHITE: An Englishman, retired from the civil service. He has purchased a cottage in a remote area. He is a mature man who is both curious and malleable. A poor man, he thinks longingly about the exotic lands he has never visited. The monkey's paw fascinates him in part because of its connection to those lands.

MRS. WHITE: MR.WHITE'S wife, could be a little younger than him. She is a simple pleasant-faced devoted homebody. She is an intelligent and passionate woman. She shares her husband's fascination with Sergeant-Major Morris's stories and questions him just as eagerly as they do. She is lovingly attentive to her husband and daughter, although she also enjoys teasing them. The death traumatizes her.

HELEN: Their daughter, obviously "reads" at appropriate age. She is completing studies at the university. She is an intelligent young woman, good humored and fond of her parents.

SERGEANT-MAJOR MORRIS: A friend of the Whites. A mysterious and possibly sinister figure, Sergeant-Major Morris enjoys talking about his adventures abroad and shows the Whites his monkey's paw, in spite of his professed reservations. A jaded and world-weary man, he discourages Mr. White from dreaming of India, suggesting that life is better and simpler at home in England. He throws the monkey's paw into the fire and urges Mr. White not to make any wishes, but he ultimately tells him exactly how to make a wish.

MISS WARD: She is the Personnel Director for the firm of Burke and Meggins, who are the daughter, Helen's, employers.

THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE

GEORGE: a man who finds himself backstage under mysterious circumstances. He appears to be an accountant and seems to be the understudy of a man named Edwin (Booth), although he cannot actually remember attending any rehearsals or being a part of the production. In *PRIVATE LIVES* he plays "Elyot". In *HAMLET* he plays "Prince Hamlet". In *CHECKMATE* he plays "Willie" (who seems to be based on "Nagg" in *ENDGAME*). In *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS*, he plays "Sir Thomas More."

MEG: the stage manager. A capable worker. When it becomes apparent that George does not know many of his lines, she pretends to be a maid in the production and whispers some to him. In the scene from *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS*, she plays the part of Sir Thomas More's daughter and during the execution she bids him goodbye as "George".

SARAH: a grand actress. In *PRIVATE LIVES*, she plays "Amanda". In *HAMLET*, she plays "Queen Gertrude". In *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS*, she plays Sir Thomas More's wife (she also quotes *HAMLET* in that scene, when trying to convince George to accept the execution and bids him goodbye as "Hamlet"). Name taken from Sarah Siddons.

ELLEN: another actress, but not as grand as Sarah. For some reason, she calls George "Stanley" before the production. In *PRIVATE LIVES* she plays "Sybil". In *CHECKMATE*, her character is unnamed, but she appears to be a cross between "Winnie" (from *HAPPY DAYS*) and "Nell" (from *ENDGAME*). She remains in this character throughout the *A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS* scene and bids George goodbye as "Willie". Name taken from Dame Ellen Terry.

HENRY: a grand actor. In *HAMLET*, he plays the part of "Horatio". According to the script, Henry is also able to play the part of "the executioner". If this is the case, he bids George goodbye as "Sir Thomas". Name taken from Henry Irving.

by William Inge

directed by Kathleen Wile

FEBRUARY 20, 21, 22, 23, 2025

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday at 7:00pm / Sunday at 2:00pm / Jake Hoover Theatre

Rehearsal Window: January 27th – February 18th

In the middle of a howling snowstorm, a bus out of Kansas City pulls up at a small roadside diner. All roads are blocked, and the weary travelers on board have to take refuge in the diner until morning. Cherie, a nightclub singer, has the most to worry about. She's being pursued by "a young cowboy with all the romantic finesse of a rodeo bull." The belligerent cowhand is right behind her, ready to sling her over his shoulder and carry her, alive and kicking, all the way to Montana. As a counterpoint to the main romance, the proprietor of the cafe and the bus driver who have previously only spent time in passing, find time to develop a friendship of their own; a middle-age scholar comes to terms with himself; and a young girl who works in the cafe also gets her first taste of romance.

CASTING THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

CHERIE: Cherie, about 20 years old, is an aspiring singer from the Ozarks. She's a combination of experienced and naive, worldly and romantic. When she was twelve years old, Cherie dropped out of school to take care of her brothers and sisters. At fourteen, she was ready to get married. Instead, Cherie ran away from home and started performing at the Blue Dragon, a Kansas City nightclub. She emulates the divas she sees on television and in the movies, with too much makeup and glitzy clothing; however, she looks a little absurd, especially in a blizzard. Despite Cherie's tumultuous past with men, and her current situation with Bo, she still believes in the possibility of love and romance. In Act Two, Cherie sings for those gathered in the diner, but her song and vocal style is never specified.

BO DECKER: Bo Decker is a brash and rude cowboy. Originally in Kansas City for the rodeo, he saw and fell in love with nightclub singer Cherie--whom he always calls "Cherry," claiming he can't pronounce her French-sounding name. Bo can't believe that no woman would love him: He has his own ranch, he is handsome, and he stands up for what he believes in. But he mistakes tenderness for weakness, and instead tends to roughly handle Cherie. Bo's loud exterior covers up his insecurities, especially as it comes to women. He mistakes sex for love, and because Cherie was the first woman he ever slept with, he has determined that they must get married. He has very little experience with women; after he was orphaned at ten years old, his father's ranch hand Virgil Blessing became a friend and father figure to Bo. Together, the men are traveling to Bo's ranch in Montana, where Bo is determined to marry Cherie.

VIRGIL BLESSING: Virgil Blessing, about 40 years old, is Bo's longtime friend. After Bo's parents died, Virgil took on the responsibility of raising the boy, and they have been together ever since. While he is a cowboy like the loud and rude Bo, Virgil is more refined and soft-spoken. He has never been married--or even had a truly serious relationship--but understands how to behave towards women. He plays the guitar for the stranded passengers in the diner, and everyone seems to genuinely enjoy his company.

CARL BLESSING: Carl is the bus driver. He has several stops along his route, but his favorite by far is Grace's Diner. He and Grace have had a flirtatious relationship for a while, but when the bus is stranded by the blizzard for the night, Carl jumps at the chance to pursue more than just coy innuendo. Carl does have a protective streak in him; he warns the sheriff (Will Masters) about the rowdy cowboy (Bo Decker) who is pursuing Cherie. He also tells Will about the suspicious reputation of Dr. Lyman.

ELMA DUCKWORTH: Elma Duckworth is a high school student and waitress at Grace's Diner. She is intelligent, but also very naive. Elma stays at the diner during the blizzard, and becomes the object of affection for one of the bus's passengers, Dr. Lyman. She is too innocent to understand that he has nefarious intentions--she just enjoys his poetry recitations and is struck by how much he flatters her. Elma also becomes a confidante for Cherie, a young woman being kidnapped

by cowboy Bo Decker. The two young women discuss love and romance, and Elma is both shocked and impressed by Cherie's colorful past and lifestyle. Elma appreciates music and poetry, and dreams of moving beyond her small town—but until then, enjoys the company she has.

GRACE HOYLARD: Grace Hoylard is the divorced owner of the diner. She is bitter about her ex-husband, but also very lonely. She is motherly towards her teenage waitress Elma Duckworth, and calls herself Elma's "Aunt Grace." While she seems to be disgruntled about men, Grace does have a noticeable affection for Carl, and her regulars see that she is always eager when Carl's bus stops.

WILL MASTERS: Will Masters is the respected and admired town sheriff. He is friendly and down-to-earth, taking his responsibilities for the care of the town seriously. With a blizzard closing down the roads and damaging phone lines, Will is ready to check on anyone and everyone who might need help. Will is also intuitive, and reads people well.

DR. GERALD LYMAN: Dr. Lyman is a graying college professor and passenger on the bus. He's an alcoholic and regularly spikes his coffee from a pocket flask. When Dr. Lyman first enters the diner, he is unremarkable, but quickly perks up when he sees teenage waitress Elma. But Dr. Lyman, in his alcoholic stupor, also seems to recognize how ridiculous he is. Despite being well-spoken and educated, Lyman has been married and divorced three times. He has moved from one teaching position to another, unable to keep a job.

JULIUS CAESAR

Written by William Shakespeare

directed by Rick Vale | featuring Ronnie Johnston as MARC ANTONY

MARCH 20, 21, 22, 23, 2025

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday at 7:00pm / Sunday at 2:00pm / Anderson Museum of Art
Rehearsal Window: February 24th – March 18th

Based on true events in Roman history, Julius Caesar tells the story of the powerful ruler brought down by the betrayal of those he held dear.

Julius Caesar has just emerged victorious in a series of Roman civil wars and has become extremely popular with the populous. A fellow general, Cassius, organizes a group of conspirators -- including Caesar's close friend, Brutus -- to stop Caesar from becoming king. Meanwhile, Caesar ignores warnings from both a soothsayer and his wife, Calpurnia. The conspirators pretend to petition for a recall so that they may crowd around Caesar, and then stab him to death. Caesar fights back at first, but when he sees Brutus takes his turn, Caesar gives in to his fate.

Shakespeare's play not only features the events leading up to the assassination of Caesar, but also details the subsequent war and political turmoil that followed. This thrilling historical drama has been beloved by audiences for centuries and contains many fantastic monologues.

CASTING THE FOLLOWING ROLES

MARCUS BRUTUS: Brutus is a citizen and public figure in Rome. He is known as a man of courtesy and honor and has many friends. Brutus is well respected in society for being wise and honorable. He is not interested in power for its own sake but cares deeply about the wellbeing of Rome and its people. It is for this reason that he ultimately decides to assassinate Caesar, even though he is close friends with him.

Even after Caesar's death, Brutus torments himself by constantly revisiting his reasons for killing his friend and wonders whether or not he made an honorable choice. After Brutus' death at the hands of the triumvirate, Antony refers to him as "the noblest Roman of them all."

Brutus is a rigid believer in ideals and he does not love violence. He wants to believe the best in everyone, but this frequently causes him to make errors and eventually costs him both the

revolution and his life. He is a loving husband and a kind master to his servants. He treats everyone with respect and dignity.

JULIUS CAESAR: Julius Caesar is the most powerful man in Rome. Although he is not technically a king, he does have absolute say and his word is law. His fellow politicians and citizens are both alarmed by and jealous of his authority in Rome and seek to bring him down.

Caesar enjoys a beloved reputation among the people of Rome. He's an extremely decorated military leader and is used to getting his own way and giving orders. He's a perceptive person, and realizes early in the play that Cassius is not to be trusted. However, this does not make him immune to the dangers of pride: his stubbornness is his ultimate undoing. Caesar refuses to listen to the pleas of his wife Calpurnia, who begs him to stay home from the Senate after she is plagued by nightmares. He is assassinated shortly after arriving there.

Physically, Caesar is somewhat weak; he suffers from epilepsy and is deaf in one ear. This is a source of anger for Cassius, who can scarcely believe that the most powerful man in Rome can hardly swim across the Tiber river.

CASSIUS: Cassius is a political figure in Rome. He is known for being passionate, studious, and well-read. Unlike Antony, he does not have many friends and doesn't enjoy spending time at the theater. He rarely smiles.

Cassius is extremely jealous of Caesar's popularity and power. He cannot understand why a man like Caesar, who barely harbors enough physical strength to swim across the Tiber River, is celebrated as the most powerful leader in all of Rome. To bring Caesar down, Cassius teams up with Brutus, a fellow Roman and somebody Cassius knows will lend credibility to their cause. For his part, Caesar is none too fond of Cassius-- he describes Cassius as having a "lean and hungry look."

OCTAVIUS: Octavius is Julius Caesar's adopted son. After Julius' death, Octavius forms a triumvirate with Lepidus and Cassius to rule Rome and to hunt down the conspirators. He is younger than most of his peers--something Antony rarely lets him forget. However, he doesn't let anyone boss him around, and experiences a slight struggle for dominance with Antony.

CASCA: Casca, like Brutus and Cassius, is a political figure and respected citizen of Rome. Like his fellow conspirators, he worries for the future of Rome should Caesar be crowned king. He knows that Caesar shamelessly plays to the crowd and recounts the story of Caesar very theatrically refusing the crown to Brutus and Cassius outside the Senate. He compares Caesar's public behavior to players on a stage, chewing the scenery for an audience.

Casca has a very dry and witty sense of humor. He is unafraid to take action for a cause he believes in; he's the first one to stab Caesar in the Senate (he grazes him in the back of the neck).

CALPURNIA: Calpurnia is Caesar's wife. She obviously cares deeply for her husband, because on the night before his assassination she suffers terrible nightmares that seem to show him dying and begs him to stay home with her. He refuses, choosing not to trust in the dreams of a "foolish woman."

She, determined to protect her husband, continues to plead with him. At first it seems as though he might actually listen to her, but then Decius arrives to escort Caesar to the Senate. Decius scoffs at Calpurnia's attempt to decipher her dreams and convinces Caesar that he must come to the Senate.

PORTIA: Portia is Brutus' wife. They have a close and loving relationship, but his secrecy in Act Two bothers her. She's concerned with her husband's mental well-being and wants to be included in his thoughts; she believes that there should be no secrets between married couples. When he refuses to confide in her, she gets upset.

Portia is the daughter of a powerful general named Cato, and she reminds Brutus of this fact to support her theory that she is stronger than "normal women." She also stabs herself in the thigh to show him how tough she is (look, husband, I can be trusted!).

After Brutus flees Rome in the wake of Caesar's death, Portia feels his loss acutely. Her stress over his safety causes her to kill herself by swallowing hot coals (although this is not shown onstage).

LEPIDUS: Lepidus makes up one-third of the triumvirate after Caesar's death, a position he shares with Octavius and Antony. Of the three, Lepidus seems to be the least intelligent; Antony has a particularly low opinion of him and constantly insults him behind his back. It is suggested that Lepidus is somewhat weak-willed and is easy to manipulate.

CAIUS LIGARIUS: Caius Ligarius is one of the conspirators in Caesar's murder. He has been mistreated by Caesar in the past for having supported Pompey (one of Caesar's enemies), and harbors a deep dislike of him. Ligarius is very enthusiastic about the rebellion and insists on joining the cause, despite being very sick and feeble.

DECIUS: Decius is one of the leading conspirators in Caesar's murder. He is a minor character but an extremely important one: when Calpurnia pleads with Caesar not to go to the Senate, Decius arrives and shrewdly convinces Caesar that women know nothing about the interpretation of dreams. He uses mockery and optimism to persuade and manipulate Caesar, thereby ensuring the success of the conspirators.

METELLUS CIMBER: Metellus Cimber is another one of the conspirators. His job during the assassination is to petition Caesar once more for the return of his banished brother. Although he knows that Caesar will deny his pleas, it gives the conspirators the opportunity to physically surround him before the murder.

CINNA THE CONSPIRATOR: Cinna is another member of the conspiracy. In Act One, he helps Cassius brainstorm ways to convince Brutus to join their cause. Later on, Cinna helps plant false documents in Brutus' home, encouraging him to join the conspiracy. After the assassination, a poet who is also named Cinna is murdered when the frenzied mob mistakes him for the conspirator.

CINNA THE POET: Cinna the Poet is just an ordinary citizen of Rome who happens to have the same name as one of the conspirators. After the assassination of Caesar, Cinna the Poet is attacked by the mob of plebeians, who mistake him for Cinna the Conspirator. Although he protests his innocence, they kill him anyway, mocking his "bad verses."

TITINIUS: Titinius is a best friend to Cassius and a soldier in the rebellion. When Cassius and Brutus wage war on Antony and Octavius, Titinius serves as Cassius' right-hand man. During a particularly intense battle, Cassius sends Titinius to assist his troops, which have been surrounded by Antony's army. After he does this, Cassius asks Pindarus, another soldier, to keep an eye on Titinius and make sure he's safe. Pindarus soon delivers an alarming report: Titinius has been taken captive by Antony! Cassius is so distraught that he orders Pindarus to kill him right then and there. Ever the obedient servant, Pindarus does so. Lo and behold, Titinius soon returns (he hasn't been captured, after all) to find his dearest friend slain--and blames himself for the misunderstanding. He falls on his own sword to join Cassius in the afterlife.

SOOTHSAYER: The Soothsayer is a prophet or fortune teller. He knows the future, and attempts to warn Caesar of his impending doom by telling him to "beware the ides of March." The ides of March is another way of saying "March 15th," which is historically the date that Julius Caesar was assassinated. Although he does his best to warn Caesar, he is completely ignored and Caesar dies anyway.

VARIOUS SENATORS, SOLDIERS, and CITIZENS (*may be doubled by characters listed above*)