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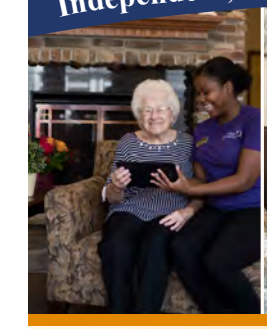

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# FROM THE HEART: THE LOVE STORIES OF MILWAUKEE THEATRE

By Ryan Albrechtson

There's no business like show business. For many artists, their love of the arts consumes their lives... sometimes even including their love lives! We sat down with some of our favorite local artist couples to talk about what it really takes to keep the romance alive while both building a career in the performing arts.

## Jane + Chris FLIELLER

"Chris and I met when I moved to Milwaukee from Detroit following my graduation from Wayne State University with a degree in Stage Management," said Jane. "He had just gotten back from a summer at the Utah Shakespeare Festival... I worked as a stage manager for a company called Theatre Tesseract. Rehearsals started two weeks after I moved here, and Chris was in the cast. We began dating before the show closed and we've been inseparable ever since."

Jane and Chris's love of this artform led to the birth of what would become a large staple in the Milwaukee theatre community: In Tandem Theatre. "We realized that we wanted to work together in our chosen industry, and that the only way to do so was to form our own company - hence, In Tandem Theatre was born," said Jane, who ran the company with her husband for over two decades. And while the dynamic duo decided to take a step back after 21 seasons, they've found that the freed up nights and weekends have given them more down time to spend together.

## Brenda + Randall DODGE

"It was a showmance!" said Brenda. "We met onstage in a 2005 production of *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Moonlight Amphitheatre in Southern California."

Brenda and Randall opened Forte Theatre, a professional company based in Franklin. Their inaugural production, *Miracle on 34th Street*, ran this past December.

"The advantage of creating a theatre company together is that we wake up every day working side by side towards the same goal. The challenge is that we wake up every day working side by side towards the same goal," said Brenda. "All kidding aside, it's pretty incredible to share the same vision and be in the trenches every day with your partner, colleague and best friend."

The couple, and their new company, are quite the ambitious force. Currently, they are campaigning to purchase and renovate a historic hardware store in Franklin to turn into a new theatre space.

"The advantages of being a theatre couple are that you have someone who truly understands what it is like..."

- MARCEE DOHERTY-ELST -

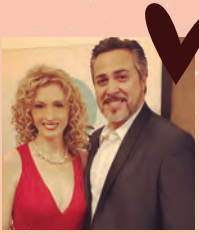
## Marcee DOHERTY-ELST + Christopher ELST

"We actually met doing a show," said Marcee, who met Christopher in 2008. "We were both in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Christopher played Charlie Brown and I played Lucy!" Although they developed a friendship during the process, it wasn't until after the show had closed that they began to date.

Their passion for theatre went to the next level in 2013, when the couple opened their own theatre company: Theater RED. And while they've worked together on many shows with the company, and with other groups, being in the arts means that their schedules don't always align. "Being a theatre couple mostly means not seeing each other all that often," said Christopher. "The good news is we both understand a theatre schedule, so we're not as put out as the average person might be when a production bites a month or two out of the standard social schedule."

"The advantages of being a theatre couple are that you have someone who truly understands what it is like to audition, rehearse, perform and all the nerves, ups, and downs that go along with it," said Marcee. "Christopher knows what it is like for me to go into an audition, nerves aplenty, and either walk out feeling great or walk out wanting to bury my head in the sand. Christopher knows the stress, exhaustion, and joy of tech week. Christopher knows the joy of getting a role you really want and the disappointment of not."

## Susan + Andrew VARELA



"We met on the National tour of the show *Evita*," said Susan. We became friends right away, but didn't start dating until the tour ended."

Susan and Andrew, after establishing themselves in New York, decided to make Milwaukee their new home. Both have performed with many local groups, and they've had the chance to work together on several projects, including *Sweeney Todd* and *Les Miserables* at Skylight Music Theatre.

"It can be challenging when a gig takes us away for weeks, or months," said Susan. "But we have a 'three week rule' - we can't go longer than that without seeing each other, no matter what. Even if it's only for 24 hours!"

That commitment to their art, and to each other, has helped them find a successful work/life balance. "We feel grateful to be in the same business, because we understand the requirements, schedule and commitment inherent in this life," said Susan.

## C. Michael WRIGHT + Ray JIVOFF

"We met 36 years ago in San Francisco, while I was touring with *"MASTER HAROLD" ... and the boys,"* said Michael. "Ray was in the audience on our opening night there and we met at this very fancy dinner afterward."

Both Michael and Ray have had impressive performing careers, as well as taking on the hats of Artistic Directors. Ray served as Artistic Director of Skylight Music Theatre until last season, and Michael is currently in his last season as Artistic Director of Milwaukee Chamber Theatre.

"One of the greatest advantages is that we both understand the crazy highs and lows of a life in the theatre," said Michael. "There can certainly be a lot of joy and fulfillment, but there can also be a lot of instability and stress. It's a regular roller coaster. The greatest challenge is trying to find enough quality time together while we're both dealing with the long days and erratic hours."

With retirement on the horizon, the two look ahead to what other projects may arise. "It would be fun to act in something together. We haven't done that since *Guys and Dolls* at Skylight back in 1997," said Michael. "How about a gay *Odd Couple?*"

"It would be fun to act in something together...
...How about a gay Odd Couple?"

- C. MICHAEL WRIGHT -

## Jes + Jacob SUDBRINK

We met as performers in *Malt Shop Memories*, a jukebox musical written by a local artist," said Jes. Since then, the pair have worked on a variety of shows and projects together. Their creative personalities led them to founding the Sudbrink Performance Academy in 2015, a Waukesha based organization that offers classes and produces shows for youth performers.

The couple also run the Main Street Song and Dance Troupe, another youth arts organization. With all of these intertwined artistic endeavours, they've found there can be good and bad moments. "It makes planning a show much easier. We can have more discussion about vision and other things more often to keep the creative team on the same page," said Jacob. "Challenges come from being able to meet more often - especially if vision or ideas don't align. If you're not careful, that disagreement can carry into other parts of life."

"Working on a show together has advantages because we can stay up late at night in front of the fireplace, planning in the comfort of our home," added Jes. "We are often able to discuss a lot of the vision and intentions in the evenings and mornings, so we can arrive on the same page to meetings and rehearsals."

## Laura GRAY + Jonathan WAINWRIGHT

"We met in 1999 during a Ten Minute Play Festival produced by Playwrights Studio Theatre at the Miramar Theater," said Laura. "It was my first show in Milwaukee after interning at Milwaukee Rep, and Jonathan was already working regularly with many local companies. Although we weren't in any of the same plays, there was an immediate connection and interest in each other."

Both Laura and Jonathan have built solid careers in the Milwaukee theatre community. And while their work spreads wide across a variety of companies, some of their favorite projects are when they get to work together.

"On occasion, we get to act opposite each other," said Laura. "As well as providing a chance to spend more time together, many of these moments acting with each other have been personal and professional highlights. Also, you have someone who you can come home to who understands the job. A partner you can spitball ideas with, work through a challenge, speak the same language. An ally who knows the ins and outs of the process and the highs and lows of the profession."

## Tami WORKENTIN + Jim PICKERING

"Jim and I met when we worked on *Exonerated*, the inaugural production of Next Act's new space," said Tami. "Jim played a cop who interrogated my character, Sunny, who's husband was wrongly accused and placed on death row."

"Prior to the start of rehearsals I reached out to Jim via email to tell him how nice it will be to work together. He responded back with a list of rules of when I was allowed to speak to him, which was not before noon, and a number of other star requirements. I had no idea he was pulling my leg!"

The two of them have a long list of theatrical roles under their belts, many of which have been shared together. Most recently, the duo was seen in Milwaukee Rep's *A Christmas Carol*. "Its nice to have a shared experience especially during the hustle and bustle of the holidays," said Tami. "It feels like we truly experience the fullness of the season as we prance around in our Dickensian costumes like moving Christmas cards. I look across the rehearsal hall and see him kicking up his heels in the Fezziwig dance, then getting really frustrated with himself and his momentary two left feet, and it makes me giggle."

"He responded back with a list of rules of when I was allowed to speak to him, which was not before noon..."

- TAMI WORKENTIN -

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# Announcing the 2020 *Footlights People's Choice Awards*

For the 4th year in a row, Footlights is proud to announce the 2020 Footlights People's Choice Awards. The event, which first began in 2017, is a celebration of all of the artists and arts organization in the Greater Milwaukee Area.

"We're so grateful for this opportunity to bring so many local artists together each year," said Ryan Albrechtson, the Footlights People's Choice Awards Chair. "Seeing all of the excitement, celebrating, and connecting on Awards night is one of the best parts of my job."

This 2020 Footlights People's Choice Awards will be held on Thursday, June 18th at the Broadway Theatre Center, sponsored by Skylight Music Theatre.

"We look forward to welcoming the arts community to our beautiful home, the Cabot Theatre," said Jack R. Lemmon, the Executive Director for Skylight Music Theatre. "As Skylight celebrates its 60thanniversary season this year, we are delighted to also celebrate our vibrant, local arts scene as sponsor of the 2020 Footlights People's Choice Awards."

In a change from the previous years, the 2020 Awards will have two co-hosts, who will follow in the footsteps of past hosts John McGivern and Matt Kemple. The first of the co-hosts is the incredible Rána Roman, a local performer who you've surely seen up on stage at Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks, and many others. Stay tuned for our announcement of the second co-host.

Nominations for the 2020 Footlights People's Choice Awards will open on Thursday, January 2nd at 10:00am CST, and will remain open until Tuesday, March 31st at 11:59pm CST. Voting will begin on Monday, April 6th at 10:00am CST, and close Friday, April 24th at 11:59pm CST. Roman and her soon-to-be announced co-host will announce the finalists at a Finalist Happy Hour event on Thursday, May 7th at the Broadway Theatre Center.

As always, there will be a flurry of activity on the big day including the VIP Party, Red Carpet Hour, the Ceremony, and After Party. Make sure to keep your eye on Footlights.com, and follow us on social media, to be the first to know the details - from presenters, performers, and other special surprises!

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Each year, Milwaukee Rep welcomes up to 275,000 people at nearly 700 performances of 15 productions ranging from compelling dramas, powerful classics, new plays and full-scale musicals in its three unique performance venues – the Quadracci Powerhouse (720 seats), Stiemke Studio (205 seats) and Stackner Cabaret (186 seats).

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**Eric Noden and James Scheider**

*Scenic Designer*
**Scott Davis**

*Costume Designer*
**Scott A. Rött**

*Lighting Designer*
**Marisa Abbott**

*Sound Designer*
**Josh Schmidt**

*Casting Director*
**Frank Honts**

*Stage Manager*
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## CAST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Blue ..... **Brandin Jay***
Queen ..... **Maiesha McQueen***
Harp ..... **Eric Noden**
Professor ..... **James Scheider***

**UNDERSTUDY**

For Maiesha McQueen – **Dawn Bless***

Understudies never substituted for listed players unless a specific announcement is made prior to the performance.

## PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Dance Captain ..... **Maiesha McQueen**
Line Producer ..... **Deanie Vallone**
Stage Management Resident ..... **Krista Kanderski**

*Chasin' Dem Blues* will be performed with a 15 minute intermission.

*The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.*

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## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production ..... **Jared Clarkin**
Stackner Cabaret Production Manager ..... **Kaitlyn Anderson**
Co-Technical Director ..... **John Houtler-McCoy**
Co-Technical Director ..... **Sean Walters**
Properties Director ..... **Jim Guy**
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## BIOGRAPHIES

**Brandin Jay,**
*Blue*

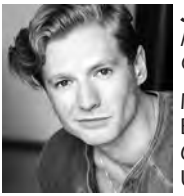
Brandin Jay studied at Berklee College of Music and is an accomplished singer-songwriter who was featured on the new NBC songwriting reality series "Songland" and has made a name for himself in theatre, TV and film. Film credits: Disney Channel Original "Let It Shine," Billy Lynn's "Long Halftime Walk," "Welcome Home Roscoe Jenkins," "Dirty Laundry." TV credits: "Meet the Browns" on TBS, "Reed Between the Lines" and "The Quad" on BET, "Bring It!" on Lifetime. Regional theatre credits include: *The Wiz* (Kenny Leon, dir.); *The Color Purple* (Actor's Express); *Five Guys Named Moe* (Theatrical Outfit); *Black Nativity* (Dominion Entertainment). *@brandin.jay*

**Maiesha McQueen,**
*Queen*

Maiesha McQueen is thrilled to be back at Milwaukee Rep after making her debut in *Sirens of Song*! She was last seen playing the principal role of Becky in the national tour of the Broadway show, *Waitress*. Regional credits include: *The Color Purple*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *His Eye is on the Sparrow* (Portland Center Stage); *East Texas Hotlinks*, *Chasin' Dem Blues* (True Colors Theatre, GA); *Black Nativity* (Dominion Productions, GA); *In the Red and Brown Water* (PG Entertainment, GA); *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Show Boat*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Guys and Dolls* (Forestburgh Playhouse, NY). Film credits include: "DayBlack" (ArtistDirector Media), "Down to Earth" (Paramount Pictures). This one is for you, Mommy. Love, your Baby Girl. www.maieshamcqueen.net @ maieshamcqueen

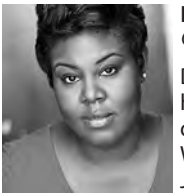
**Eric Noden,**
*Harp,*
*Co-Music Director*

Eric Noden is a Chicago musician who specializes in 1920's and 30's blues and roots music. Noden is a multi-instrumentalist who sings and plays guitar, banjo, harmonica and piano. When he's not on tour you can hear him at Chicago blues venues like Buddy Guy's Legends and the Chicago Blues Festival. Noden has released over 10 albums of original roots and blues music (CDs are available for purchase at the Stackner). Eric is excited to return to Milwaukee Rep and the Stackner Cabaret. He was previously featured in the Milwaukee Rep productions of *Grafton City Blues* and *Fire on the Bayou*. More info at www.ericnoden.com



**James Scheider,**
*Professor,*
*Co-Music Director*

Milwaukee Rep debut! Broadway: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Jerry Lee Lewis U/S). Off-Broadway: *Evening 1910* (George Spencer), Axis Theatre. 1st National Tour/ Chicago: *Million Dollar Quartet* (Jerry Lee Lewis). Regional: *Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story* (Jerry Lee Lewis/Dick Clark), *Rock of Ages* (Drew), *Mary Poppins* (Bert), *The Cotton Patch Gospel* (Matthew), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Simon), *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Joel). James toured worldwide with the USO Show and is a founding member and frontman of the folk rock band, The Ol' So & So's. Love to Abby, thanks to Hudson Artists Agency, proud AEA member since 2008. JamesScheider.com



**Dawn Bless,**
*Queen U/S*

Dawn is pleased to make her Milwaukee Rep debut. A Black Excellence Winner and Joseph Jefferson nominee for her portrayal of Patti Labelle in Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater's *A New Attitude*. Other credits: 1st National Broadway Tour of *Waitress the Musical;* Mazeppa in Porchlight Music Theatre's *Gypsy*; American Repertory Theater's *The Black Clown*; Congo Square Theatre; Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Theo Ubique; West Virginia Public Theatre and others. She's currently writing an upcoming jazz special for Second City Theater.

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

**Kevin Ramsey,**
*Director, Writer, and Choreographer*

Kevin, a native of New Orleans, is a multi-disciplinary artist whose talents continue to cross over varied artistic mediums. He returns to Milwaukee Rep after previously directing *The Royale* and co-wrote and directed the musical *Sirens of Song*, among others. Broadway: *The Life* (Outer Critics Circle Nomination), *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Oh, Kay* (Theater World and Fred Astaire Awards), *The Lion King* (LA 1st National) and *Black and Blue*. Film/TV: "Cold Case," "CSI: Miami," "24," "The District," "Saving Grace," "Judging Amy," "The Hughley's" and "Charmed." Director/Choreographer:From *My Hometown* (Off-Broadway), TV commercials GM Pontiac's "It's in the Blood" and Prilosec's "The Purple Pill." His musical writing commissions include: *Sirens of Song, Fire on the Bayou, Sam Cooke: Forever Mr. Soul, A Cappella Humana, Soultime at the Apollo* and *If These Shoes Could Talk: A Tap Dance Tale*. Films/TV scripts in development include: "Fire on the Bayou," "Bless Me Father," "State Raised," "A Cappella Humana," "Election Day," "Hit & Run," "The Underground Railroad: Quest for Freedom" and "Tap Rap." Kevin is a recipient of the Barrymore Award and a SDC nominee of the Zelda Fichandler Award for his contribution in the regional theater landscape and for helping bring arts programs into maximum secure care facilities for juveniles. Many thanks to cast, creative team and Milwaukee Rep.

**Scott Davis,**
*Scenic Designer*

Scott Davis is an award-winning freelance scenic designer. Most recently he was the production designer for *Disney On Ice: Road Trip Adventures* and designed *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* at the Emerson Colonial in Boston. Off-Broadway he designed *Ride the Cyclone* at MCC Theater Company and *Othello: The Remix* at the Westside Theatre. He has also worked with the Alliance Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Signature Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Court Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Writers Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre, American Theater Company, Walnut Street Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Getty Villa, Arizona Theatre Company, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Northlight Theatre. Internationally his work has been seen at Shakespeare's Globe, Unicorn Theatre (London), the Neuss (Germany), the Market Theatre (South Africa), Gdansk Shakespeare Theatre (Poland), the Cultch (Vancouver), DUCTAC Theatre (Dubai) and the Edinburgh Festival (Scotland). He is the co-founder of the Chicago-based design firm Brass Ink. www.scottadamdavis.com

**Scott A. Rött,**
*Costume Designer*

Scott is very happy to be joining Milwaukee Rep again. Past designs include *Sirens of Song*, *From My Hometown*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Blue Rose*, *Carolin' Carolynne's Comin' to Town* and *Hula Hoop Sha-Boop*. His designs have appeared on most stages in Milwaukee and Madison including Forward Theater, Madison Rep, Children's Theater of Madison, New American Theatre, Center Theatre, Renaissance Theaterworks and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre – the last 8 seasons of the Shaw Festival. Scott is also the Costume Director for American Players Theatre.

**Marisa Abbott,**
*Lighting Designer*

Marisa works as a freelance lighting designer, electrician and scenic artist around the Milwaukee area. Previous designs at Milwaukee Rep include *Everybody*, *The All Night Strut!* and *Lost Girl*. Other recent designs: *Elf the Musical* and *Elephant and Piggie's We are in a Play!* (First Stage), *Fires in the Mirror* and *Ben Butler* (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre), *The Revolutionists* (Next Act Theatre), *Momentum* (Milwaukee Ballet II), *A Christmas Story the Musical* and *My Fair Lady* (Fireside Dinner Theatre) and *Skeleton Crew* (Forward Theater Company). She has also painted scenery for Milwaukee Rep, Renaissance Theaterworks and Kohl's Wild Theater. ma-stagedesign.com

## CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

**Josh Schmidt,**
*Sound Designer*

Josh returns to Milwaukee Rep after recently designing *The Royale*, *Harvey* and *An Iliad*, among others. As composer/co-author Off Broadway: *A Minister's Wife* (Lincoln Center), *Add1ng Mach1n3* (Minetta Lane), *Whida Peru* (59E59), *Midwestern Gothic* (Signature, VA), *Gift of the Magi* (American Players Theatre). Incidental Scores: *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Lincoln Center), *Fifty Words* (MCC Theater). As composer/sound designer on Broadway: *Therese Raquin* (Roundabout/Studio 54), *House of Blue Leaves* (Walter Kerr), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (Nederlander). Off Broadway: *Dinner With Friends* (Roundabout), *Model Apartment* (Primary Stages), *3 Kinds of Exile* (Atlantic), *Water By The Spoonful* (Second Stage), *Crime and Punishment* (59E59), many others. Chicago: Steppenwolf, Goodman, Writers (Associate Artist), Northlight, Next Theatre, many others. Regional: Over 200 productions at venues across the country; 14 seasons at American Players Theatre. Member: ASCAP. Awards/Recognition: Lortel, Outer Critics, Jeff, ASCAP, NEA/TCG, Prague Quadrennial 2007, Sundance Theatre Lab UCross 2012.

**Frank Honts,**
*Casting Director*

Frank is Director of Artistic Personnel at Milwaukee Rep. Prior to joining The Rep staff in 2016, Frank worked at a number of regional theaters, including Utah Shakespeare Festival, Renaissance Theaterworks, The Goodman, California Shakespeare Theater, A Contemporary Theatre (Seattle) and Paramount Theatre. He has worked extensively as both a director and dramaturg, and was honored to be a directing resident at Milwaukee Rep in the 2013/14 Season. Frank spent two seasons as Artistic Associate at Forward Theater Company in Madison, and he was the inaugural recipient of the Michael Flachmann Fellowship at Utah Shakepeare Festival. He is a graduate of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. Frank would like to thank Casting Assistants Thaddeus Kaszuba, Dylan Sladky and Sara Zientek, whose dedicated efforts have helped make this season possible.

**Richelle Harrington Calin,**
*Stage Manager*

Richelle is delighted to be back for her 16th season with Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Regionally Richelle has also worked at BoarsHead Theater, Playhouse on the Square, Alhambra Dinner Theatre, Florida Repertory Theatre, Nebraska Shakespeare, Bay Street Theater and most recently at her Home by the Bay, Peninsula Players Theatre. Love and be loved!

**Emily Kathryn Wright,**
*Stage Manager*

Emily Kathryn Wright is a stage manager from Cleveland, Ohio, who is happy to be back in the Stackner for *Chasin' Dem Blues*. Recent stage management credits include *Nunsense* at Milwaukee Rep and *The Miracle Worker* and *Girls in the Boat* at First Stage. Previous production assistant credits include *West Side Story* and *In the Heights* at Milwaukee Rep, *Big River* and *The Cat in the Hat* at First Stage and *Here Lies Love* at Seattle Repertory Theater. Much love to her family and friends who have supported her on this beautiful, unconventional career path.

**Krista Kanderski,**
*Stage Management Resident*

Krista is delighted to join Milwaukee Rep as an Emerging Professional Resident this season. She is a recent graduate of Marquette University with a B.A. in Sociology and minors in Theatre Arts, Biology, and Culture, Health, & Illness. Born and raised in Milwaukee, she has worked with several companies in the area including Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, The Constructivists and Voices Found Repertory. Recent stage management credits include *truth: The Testimonial of Sojourner Truth*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Murder for Two* (Hope Summer Repertory Theatre). www.kristakanderski.com

**Mark Clements,**
*Artistic Director*

Mark is an award-winning international theater director whose work has appeared in over 100 major theaters throughout Europe and the United States. He began his tenure as Artistic Director with the 2010/11 Season by bringing musicals to the mainstage, starting a tradition that is now the highlight of every season, including *Cabaret, Next To Normal, Assassins, Ragtime, Dreamgirls, The Color Purple, Man of La Mancha, Guys and Dolls, In the Heights* and *West Side Story*. Milwaukee Rep directing credits include the world premieres of *One House Over*, his own adaptation of the current *A Christmas Carol*, *Five Presidents* and *American Song*. Also directed for Milwaukee Rep: *Things I Know To Be True* (American Premiere), *Junk*, *The Glass Menagerie, Of Mice and Men*, *Othello, Death of a Salesman*, *The History of Invulnerability*, *End of the Rainbow*, *Clybourne Park* and *Bombshells*. Some of his New York and international work includes *Speaking in Tongues, The Milliner* and *Blunt Speaking,* in addition to creating and directing the West End and UK National Tour of *Soul Train*. Prior to joining The Rep, Mark served as an Associate Artistic Director for several UK theater companies, most notably, Artistic Director for the award-winning Derby Playhouse in the UK from 1992 - 2002, where he directed over 40 productions. He has been nominated for an Olivier Award and several UK Theatre Awards, and has won three Barrymore Awards from his time at Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. He currently serves on the National Advisory Board for the Lunt-Fontanne Fellowship Program at Ten Chimneys. Mark is currently working with Ayad Akhtar on adapting his critically acclaimed novel *American Dervish* for the stage to make its world premiere at Milwaukee Rep in an upcoming season.

**Chad Bauman,**
*Executive Director*

Appointed in 2013, Chad is now in his seventh Season at Milwaukee Rep. Under his guidance, the theater has grown significantly from a $9M organization to a $13M organization. He's completed two capital campaigns, one to remodel and expand the Stackner Cabaret and the other to build the endowment, launch the John (Jack) D. Lewis New Play Development Program, create a new *A Christmas Carol* and deepen the theater's community engagement programs. Through his efforts, the theater has been awarded UPAF's Good Steward Award four out of the last six years and became the only performing arts organization in Wisconsin with a 4 star rating from Charity Navigator. Before moving to Milwaukee, he was the Associate Executive Director at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, where he was instrumental in opening the Mead Center for American Theater, a 200,000 square feet, three theater performing arts complex dedicated to American voices and playwrights. While at Arena Stage, he worked on the Broadway transfers of *Next to Normal* (Pulitzer Prize; Tony Award), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Tony Award), *Wishful Drinking* starring Carrie Fisher, *Looped* starring Valerie Harper, and John Grisham's *A Time to Kill* in addition to the world premieres of Marcus Gardley's *Every Tongue Confess* starring Phylicia Rashad and *Red Hot Patriot* starring Kathleen Turner. He has been named to Milwaukee Business Journal's Top 40 under 40 and a "Friend of the Hispanic Community" by the United Community Center. He currently serves as the President of the Milwaukee Arts Partners, Vice President of the Board of Pathways High School, Chair of the Finance Committee of ImagineMKE, and Coordinator for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion for AFS Student Exchange Programs. Bauman is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management program and has a Master of Fine Arts in producing from the CalArts. He and his husband Justin live in Whitefish Bay and have been host parents to AFS Exchange Students from Norway and Germany.

## MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER STAFF

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Chad Bauman
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

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Manager of Artistic Training ..... Lina Chambers
Artistic Administrator.....Dylan K. Sladky
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Ayad Akhtar (Playwright), Lee E. Ernst (Actor), Laura Gordon (Actor/Director), Angela Iannone (Actor), Todd Edward Ivins (Scenic and Costume Designer), Dan Kazemi (Composer/Musician), Marc Kudisch (Actor), Reese Madigan (Actor), Jeff Nellis (Lighting Designer), James Pickering (Actor), Aaron Posner (Director), Todd Rosenthal (Scenic Designer), Eric Simonson (Director/Playwright), Lindsay Smiling (Actor), Deborah Staples (Actor), Nathaniel Stampley (Actor), John Tanner (Composer/Musician)

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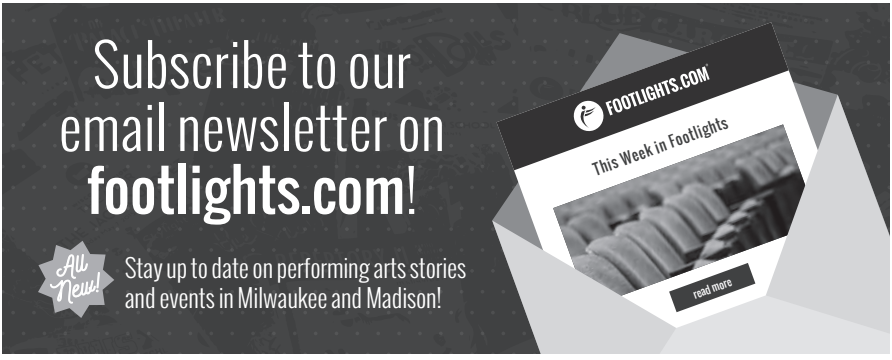

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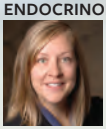
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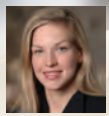
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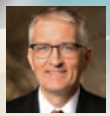
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FEB 14-15, 7:00PM | FEB 16, 1:30PM

**MEDEA**
APRIL 23-25, 7:30PM | APRIL 25-26, 1:30PM

**ROMEO AND JULIET**
JUNE 18-20, 7:30PM | JUNE 20, 1:30PM

Concordia University Wisconsin | Todd Wehr Auditorium
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# Dinner AND A Show

*Arts calendar paired with local restaurants*

# Dinner AND A Show

## RUDDIGORE (OR THE WITCH'S CURSE)
### Skylight Music Theatre
Skylight and Milwaukee Opera Theatre collaborate to create an imaginatively reinvigorated performance of the gothic melodrama *Ruddigore*.

January 2 – 19
Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center
(414) 291-7800

## LOST IN BOSTON
### Oconomowoc Arts Center
Hit Broadway shows sometimes cut great songs. Joel Kopischke, Rána Roman, and Ryan Cappleman bring to light rediscovered gems from well-known classics.

January 3 – 4
Oconomowoc Arts Center
(262) 560-3172

## THE MERCY SEAT
### Outskirts Theatre
September 12, 2001. A man and a woman explore the choices now available to them in an existence different from the one they had lived just the day before.

January 3 – 11
The Underground Collaborative
(414) 367-6484

## ROCK OF AGES
### Greendale Community Theatre
Rock of Ages takes you back to the times of big bands with big egos playing big guitar solos and sporting even bigger hair!

January 9 – 18
Greendale High School
greendaletheatre.org

# Dinner AND A Show

## ON GOLDEN POND
Racine Theatre Guild
With Norman's failing memory and health, this year is blanketed in melancholy until he forms an unexpected bond with his future grandson.

January 10 – 26
Racine Theatre Guild
(262) 633-4218

## JOHN MUELLER'S WINTER DANCE PARTY
Oconomowoc Arts Center
Come in out of the cold as the OAC's Main Stage heats up with the iconic music of rock n' roll legends in *John Mueller's Winter Dance Party*!

January 11
Oconomowoc Arts Center
(262) 560-3172

## THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
An Elvis impersonator with a baby on the way. When the owner of the bar hires a drag show to attract more customers, he's out of a job. Or is he?

January 14 – February 9
Quadracci Powerhouse
(414) 224-9490

## THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS
Skylight Music Theatre
With the ground-shaking thunder of a revival meeting and an electrifying gospel and blues score, it is an exuberant re-telling of Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*.

January 16 – 26
Cabot Theatre
(414) 291-7800

# Dinner AND A Show

## THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES
Sunset Playhouse
It's the 1958 Springfield High School prom where we meet Betty Jean, Cindy Lou, Missy, and Suzy, four girls with hopes and dreams as big as their crinoline skirts!

January 16 – February 1
Furlan Auditorium
(262) 782-4430

## TONY DESARE
Cedarburg Performing Arts Center
Named a Rising Star Male Vocalist by Downbeat magazine, DeSare has lived up to this distinction with his acclaimed concert performances.

January 17
Cedarburg Performing Arts Center
(262) 376-6161

## CHASIN' DEM BLUES
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
This revival of a Rep premiere (previously titled *Grafton City Blues*) explores the inspiring story of Grafton, Wisconsin's Paramount Records.

January 17 – March 22
Stackner Cabaret
(414) 224-9490

MYSO
MILWAUKEE
Youth Symphony Orchestra

## SYMPHONIC POWER
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
Featuring the Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, and Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra.

January 24
Uihlein Hall
(414) 267-2950

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# Dinner AND A Show

## HAPPY DAYS
Renaissance Theaterworks
Winnie's buoyant optimism shields her from the harsh glare of the inevitable in Beckett's unforgettable masterpiece of modern theater.

January 24 – February 16
Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center
(414) 291-7800

MYSO
MILWAUKEE Youth Symphony Orchestra

## NOBLE VISION
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
This concert showcases our flagship orchestra, the Senior Symphony, as well as the Brass Choir.

January 25
Uihlein Hall
(414) 267-2950

## HARP SHOWCASE
Frankly Music
Kelsey Molinari, harp, and Marta Aznavoorian, piano, make their FM debuts, joined by versatile returning cellist Alexander Hersh.

January 27
Schwan Concert Hall
franklymusic.org

## HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
This musical sensation played to record-breaking sell-out crowds on Broadway telling the story of one of the most unique characters to ever hit the stage.

January 28 – March 8
Stiemke Studio Theater
(414) 224-9490

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# Dinner AND A Show

## WINTERDANCES 2020
UWM Peck School of the Arts
*Winterdances* will feature a world premiere by dance faculty Simone Ferro, in collaboration with UWM Director of Bands John Climer.

January 30 – February 2
Mainstage Theatre
(414) 229-4308

## MARS LOST
Lake Country Playhouse
A world premiere about grief, loss and the lengths we are willing to travel in order to feel whole, written by local playwright, actor and director Justin Spanbauer.

January 31 – February 16
Lake Country Playhouse
(262) 367-4697

## A SMALL FIRE
Next Act Theatre
Emily, a successful business woman, suddenly and inexplicably begins to lose her senses – first smell, then taste, then sight.

January 30 – February 23
Next Act Theatre
(414) 278-0765

## THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE
Skylight Music Theatre
A group of quirky, socially awkward over-achievers find joy, heartache, and a purpose as they compete in the Bee.

February 6 – 23
Cabot Theatre
(414) 291-7800

## COME BACK
Waukesha Civic Theatre
Sky has been left with the task of finding the perfect resting place for her best friend's remains in an adventure teaching that it's not about the destination, but the journey.

February 6 – 23
Waukesha Civic Theatre
(262) 547-0708

## FOUR GUYZ IN DINNER JACKETS "NOW IN TECHNICOLOR"
Oconomowoc Arts Center
The sounds and sights of the Golden Age with stirring vocal harmony, comedy, and captivating choreography.

February 7 – 8
Oconomowoc Arts Center
(262) 560-3172

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# Dinner AND A Show

## 33 VARIATIONS
Falls Patio Players
A mother coming to terms with her daughter. A composer coming to terms with his genius. Even though they're separated by 200 years.

February 7 – 16
North Middle School Auditorium

## MELODIOUS WOMEN
Wisconsin Philharmonic
Women's right to vote turns a century-old, commemorate this special occasion with performances by talented women composers.

February 9
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center
(262) 547-1858

## MUSICAL DIALOGUES CONCERT
Philomusica String Quartet
Join us for the Philomusica String Quartet's February concert featuring Bach, Mozart, and Schumann.

February 10
Schwan Concert Hall
(414) 443-8702

## JUNIE B. JONES, THE MUSICAL
Concordia University Theatre
A delightful adaptation of four of Barbara Park's best-selling books brought to life in a genuinely comical (and not strictly-for-kids) musical.

February 11 – 16
Todd Wehr Auditorium
(262) 243-4444

## FLUTE FANFARE
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
This concert will feature MYSO's two flute choirs, Flute Chorale and Chamber Flute Ensemble.

February 12
Schwan Concert Hall
(414) 267-2950

## THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY (A MUSICAL)
Marquette Theatre
This unconventional musical celebrates the theory that we are more connected than we realize and shares heartache, dreams, and our shared human connection.

February 14 – 23
Helfaer Theatre
(414) 288-7504

## MOLINARI AND YARMEL DUO
4 O'clocks Free Concert Series
The MSO duo of Kelsey Molinari and Heather Yarmel celebrate Valentine's Day with an afternoon of intimate serenades for flute and harp.

February 16
First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7375

## AUDIOBODY ELECTRONIC CIRCUS ARTS
Wisconsin Lutheran College
A mix of circus arts, relentless comedy, award-winning technology, full-body contortion, juggling, spectacular LED lighting effects, and upbeat music!

February 21
Schwan Concert Hall
(414) 443-8802

# Dinner AND A Show

## A FOX ON THE FAIRWAY
Racine Theatre Guild
Two rival country clubs are competing head-to-head in the Annual Inter-club Golf Tournament, and madcap adventures ensue.

February 21 – March 8
Racine Theatre Guild
(262) 633-4218

## NO WAKE
Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
With determination (and a bullhorn), elderly Peter Michaels is on a mission to save the loons of Lake Winnipesaukee, who are dying in record numbers.

February 21 – March 15
Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center
(414) 291-7800

MYSO
MILWAUKEE
Youth Symphony Orchestra

## SYMPHONIC SPECTACULAR
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
Featuring the Prelude Orchestra, combined String Orchestras North & Central, and Philharmonia.

February 22
Shattuck Auditorium
(414) 267-2950

MYSO
MILWAUKEE
Youth Symphony Orchestra

## CLASSIC CADENCES
Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra
The combined String Orchestras South & West, Sinfonia, and Chamber Orchestra are featured.

February 23
Shattuck Auditorium
(414) 267-2950

## NOISES OFF
Sunset Playhouse
As a company of actors attempts to deliver a comedy onstage, we go behind the scenes where the real farce explodes.

February 27 – March 15
Furlan Auditorium
(262) 782-4430

## CARRIE, THE MUSICAL
Outskirts Theatre
Based on Stephen King's bestselling novel. Carrie's just discovered she's got a special power, and if pushed too far, she's not afraid to use it…

February 28 – March 8
Waukesha North HS Auditorium
(414) 367-6484

## ECLIPSED
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Written by actress-playwright Danai Gurira comes a stunning tale of hope and resilience set in the midst of the Liberian Civil War.

March 3 – 29
Quadracci Powerhouse
(414) 224-9490

HANDEL'S
MESSIAH

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH
Waukesha Choral Union
We perform *Handel's Messiah* as this year's gift to the community. We welcome community singers to the stage with us for this majestic and powerful presentation.

March 8
Shattuck Auditorium
(262) 238-3454

# Dinner AND A Show

## THE LARAMIE PROJECT
Pius XI Performing Arts
Based on interviews after the murder of Matthew Shepard, this show tells the story of what happens when a small town is suddenly thrust into the spotlight.

March 12 – 15
Black Box Theatre
(414) 290-0204

## BIG FISH
Waukesha Civic Theatre
Based on the hit book and film, *Big Fish* follows the stories of Edward Bloom, a father, husband, traveling salesman, and master storyteller.

March 12 – 29
Waukesha Civic Theatre
(262) 547-0708

## ELINA CHEKAN, GUITAR
4 O'clocks Free Concert Series
Expressive, delicate, versatile sounds of a classical guitar. UWM instructor Elina Chekan will amaze you with her prowess.

March 16
First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7375

## SYMPHONY SHOWCASE
Frankly Music
A finale showcasing the stellar musicians of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

March 16
Schwan Concert Hall
franklymusic.org

## EVITA
Skylight Music Theatre
The story follows Eva Duarte and her meteoric rise from impoverished child to becoming the most powerful woman in Latin America.

March 19 – 29
Cabot Theatre
(414) 291-7800

## RICKY NELSON REMEMBERED
Cedarburg Performing Arts Center
*Ricky Nelson Remembered* is a musical celebration of America's first Teen Idol and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Ricky Nelson.

March 20
Cedarburg Performing Arts Center
(262) 376-6161

## THE SECRET GARDEN
Lake Country Playhouse
This enchanting classic of children's literature is re-imagined in brilliant musical style by composer Lucy Simon and Marsha Norman.

March 20 – April 5
Lake Country Playhouse
(262) 367-4697

## SOMETHING ROTTEN!
Peninsula Players Theatre
Welcome to the Renaissance, where the Bottom brothers craft the first musical to compete with "the Bard."

July 8 – 26
Peninsula Players Theatre
(920) 868-3287

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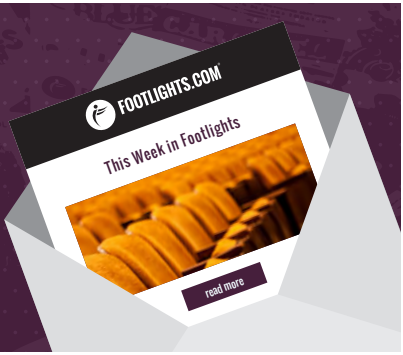

# Giving in small ways can make a **big difference.**

We all have gifts to give and they each can make a big difference. Tune in to Milwaukee's Philanthropic Community on Sundays at 10am on WISN AM1130 or listen on demand to learn how you can make an impact in our community.

The Heart of Milwaukee Philanthropy™

Milwaukee's Philanthropic Community

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