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# CELEBRATING OUR PAST - CREATING OUR FUTURE: 90 YEARS OF CREATING ARTS EXPERIENCES AT BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS BY LUCINDA EINHOUSE, BECK CENTER PRESIDENT & CEO

This is the first history book about Beck Center for the Arts covering the organization's nearly 90 years of existence.

Available for \$29.95 exclusively on Amazon.com, the book is printed and delivered on-demand, with all profits going to an endowment for Beck Center for the Arts. This collectable coffee table paperback book is 196 pages in length, with full-color photos starting with an explanation about the country's "Little Theatre Movement," the early days of the organization as "The Guild of the Masques," to the evolution of Lakewood Little Theatre and the education programs, through today. Vital collaborations and historic news articles are included along with vibrant production shots of plays and musicals throughout the years. Stories of challenges and triumphs abound, and the birth of many of Beck Center's stars, especially in theater and dance, are regaled.



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#### ABOUT BECK CENTER Creating Arts Experiences

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to be a part of Northeast Ohio's professional theater landscape. Like our colleagues Playhouse Square, Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, and Great Lakes Theater, Beck Center has a letter of agreement with Actors' Equity Association. We hire professional actors from the Northeast Ohio region, including members of Actors' Equity. Specifically, we are a Small Professional Theater (SPT) based on the number of seats, number of our performances, and the maximum weekly hours of work we provide to actors. We are also a producing theater. We produce every show on our stages. Meaning we choose the play, cast and rehearse it, build the sets, props, and costumes, direct and perform the music, and design lights and sound, utilizing regional resources and talent, all for you, our valued patron of the arts. Thank you for supporting live theater!

#### HOUSE INFORMATION

CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES - Copyrights strictly prohibit the photographing, audio or video recording of all productions. Cameras and cell phones may be confiscated.

**CELL PHONES** – Please turn off all cell phones and audible devices as the sound and screen light are distracting to the audience and especially the cast. Texting is not permitted during performances.

ACCESSIBILITY – Wheelchair ramps, an elevator, and accessible restrooms make all areas of Beck Center accommodating to patrons. Theatergoers in wheelchairs should request seats in Row J.

LARGE PRINT PLAYBILLS - Available upon request at our Customer Service desk.

**PARKING** – Convenient, free, on-site parking.

**RESTROOMS** – Restrooms are located on the ground floor near the garden court at the west end of the Galleria and on the second floor just outside the elevator.

**SMOKING** – Beck Center is a non-smoking facility. Smoking is permitted outdoors.

FIRE – Exits indicated by red lights are the shortest route to safety. In case of an emergency, please walk to the nearest exit.

**LOST & FOUND** — Customer Service maintains a Lost & Found service as a courtesy to our patrons. Please report any misplaced items, lost or found, immediately.

**RECYCLING** – Beck Center believes in recycling! If you decide to discard your playbill, bottles or cans, please do so in the designated recycling receptacles.

CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS — 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; and open through intermission on performance dates. For ticket information visit beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540.



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国际説回 **BOX OFFICE** — Scan the QR Code and be connected to season tickets, group sales, and Smart Seats®.

#### **ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES @ BECK CENTER**

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES (ALDS) amplify and clarify sound by cutting down or eliminating ambient noise. Assistive Listening Systems are installed in both the Senney Theater and the Studio Theater and were completely overhauled during the summer of 2021 to improve sound quality and performance. Headsets may be used at any seat and, with the upgrade, induction neck loops are also now available for patrons who use hearing aids and cochlear implants with a "T" switch. Ask your audiologist whether your hearing aid or cochlear implant has a "T" switch (telecoil) and how to use it with an assistive listening headset.

#### WHO CAN USE AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE?

Everyone! While induction neck-loops are only compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants that include a "T" switch, the ear speaker can be used by anyone who wants a little volume boost.

## WILL THE PATRONS NEXT TO ME BE DISTURBED BY THE ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE? ALDs are

designed to deliver sound directly to an individual and work using specific reserved radio frequencies so as to not conflict with any other devices or equipment in use by the theatre or our patrons. In addition, the ear speakers and the neck loops are designed to be as inconspicuous as possible. It's likely no one will even know you're using one.

## ARE ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES AVAILABLE FOR EVERY SHOW AND EVENT AT BECK CENTER?

YES! As long as the event is held inside the Senney or Studio Theater.

**DO I NEED TO REQUEST AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE IN ADVANCE?** You do not need to request an ALD in advance of arriving at the theatre and an ALD can be requested at any time during an event. ALDs are distributed on a first-come-first-served basis free of charge. You may request your ALD at the Customer Service desk in the Beck Center lobby.

IS THERE A COST FOR USING AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE? No, ALDs are distributed free of charge on a first-come-first-served basis.

DO I NEED TO SIT IN A SPECIFIC PLACE TO USE AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE? No, all of our ALDs will work from any seat in any of our three theatres.

#### DO YOU CLEAN YOUR ASSISTIVE LISTENING

**DEVICES?** Yes, we follow the manufactures maintenance recommendations and use antimicrobial wipes to clean all earpieces and neckloops when they are returned before placing them back into storage.

## **DO I NEED TO ARRIVE EARLY TO OBTAIN AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE?** While obtaining an

ALD will not take very long, we strongly recommend that all patrons arrive AT LEAST 20 minutes before the performance to allow time to park, get to the theatre, and find your seat.

#### I HAVE A HEARING AID OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT, WILL AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE WORK FOR ME?

Induction neckloops are also now available for patrons who use hearing aids and cochlear implants with a "T" switch. Ask your audiologist whether your hearing aid or cochlear implant has a "T" switch (telecoil) and how to use it with an assistive listening headset. Patrons find this to be the best way to use the ALD's.

I HAVE SEVERE HEARING LOSS, WILL AN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICE WORK FOR ME? ALDs will generally help anyone who can understand normal conversation either without aid or with a hearing aid. For more severe hearing loss, an ALD alone may not be enough.

QUESTIONS? Please contact customer services at 216.521.2540 or email boxoffice@beckcener.org. Hours of operations; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday; and open through intermission on performance dates.



#### STUDIO THEATER SEPT 22 - OCT 22

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# Written by William Mastrosimone

TIME: APRIL 1983
PLACE: WASHINGTON D.C.
SET: A WAREHOUSE

DIRECTOR WILLIAM ROUDEBUSH+

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER GRACELYN SHALASKI

SCENIC & LIGHTING DESIGNER
CHERI PROUGH DEVOL

COSTUME DESIGNER INDA BLATCH-GEIB

SOUND DESIGNER CARLTON GUC

cat's-paw: (noun) A person who is used by another to carry out an unpleasant or dangerous task.

Derived from Jean de la Fontaine's 1679 Fable THE MONKEY AND THE CAT.

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\*MEMBERS OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS. +THE DIRECTOR IS A MEMBER OF THE **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, A NATIONAL THEATRICAL LAROR LINION.



#### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

My note is to listen. It's 1983. The year the internet was launched. How many of you sitting here right now have ever known life without the internet? That's how far back I want you to listen from. Ronald Reagan was president and, yes, we reveled in our video tape collections. CNN was only three years old. Listen to the words you are about to hear from that place, that time, that moment of potential change. The prophecy in this play amazes me at every rehearsal; that a play could send an alarm so loud that no one listened. They may have heard the truth but, obviously, based on what is occurring in our world today, no one was actually listening. So..."Director's Note". Listen. Those of you who graduated High School around 1983 or before will get an opportunity to listen to that alarm bell once again. May we all listen, create and pay it forward because the next forty years is turning out to be quite different than the past forty. Tick, tick, . . . tick.

#### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jessica
Darling
Cathy
William Roudebush <sup>+</sup>
Gracelyn Shalaski
Angela Tsevdos
Cheri Prough Devol

Chris Richards\*

#### **CRFW**

Dan Telford	Carpenter
Connor Stout	
Pat Ciamacco	
Micaela Barrett	Scenic Artist
Monica Chung	

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

#### **WILLIAM MASTROSIMONE**

**PLAYWRIGHT** 

A writer and producer, was born in Trenton, New Jersey. His first play was *The Woolgatherer*, produced in 1979. His screenwriting credits include, *With Honors, Into the West*, and the adaptation of his play *Extremities*. He won 2 Daytime Emmy Awards for *Bang, Bang You're Dead*, and was nominated for a Prime Time Emmy for *Into the West*, and *The Burning Season*.



#### SCOTT SPENCE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Is enjoying his 31st season at Beck Center! Since 1990, he has produced over 200 shows, directing over 100 himself. The list of favorites grows every season, and includes *Parade, A Man of* 

No Importance, Sweeney Todd, Hair, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, The Farnsworth Invention, Reefer Madness, The Fix, Zombie Prom, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Evil Dead The Musical, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and the box

office smash hits The Producers and Altar Boyz. Recently, Scott added to those favorites with productions of City of Angels and Matilda. He is very proud of the awards and acclamations Beck Center for the Arts has received over the past decade. and is especially grateful for having won the Northern Ohio Live Award for Achievement in Theatre in 2006. Outside of these walls, Scott's directorial assignments have included a remounting of Beck Center for the Arts' hit production of Altar Boyz at Playhouse Square's beautiful Hanna Theatre, Das Barbecü at Opera Cleveland, The Last Night of Ballyhoo at Case Western Reserve University's Eldred Theatre. On Dad Poor Dad.... at Cleveland State University Summer Stages, and Noises Off at both Weathervane Playhouse in Akron and Berea Summer Theatre. An adjunct faculty member at Cleveland State University, Scott has also had the privilege to direct Sartre's No Exit and Strindberg's Miss Julie. Scott holds an MFA in Directing from Western Illinois University and is a trained stage fight choreographer, having studied extensively with the SAFD. As always, he dedicates all the work he does to his two extraordinarily talented leading ladies, Rachel and Carleigh. You both amaze me every day.

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



### WILLIAM ROUDEBUSH

Bill relishes his return to his home town of Cleveland each fall to direct the opening production at Beck Center. He directed his first Beck Center production of *They're Playing Our Song* forty years

ago while serving as Resident actor and director at the Cleveland Play House under Richard Oberlin's leadership. His local credits include a wide range of memorable Cleveland productions including Tomfoolery (Cleveland Play House and The Hanna Theatre) Equus. Lies and Ledgends, Ruthless, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Glengarry Glen Ross, and last season's The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night at Beck Center, Bill currently is based in New York City with his wife actress Terri Garber where he writes, directs and coaches actors'. He has been a lecturer at seven Universities and is currently a member of the Playwright/Director Unit at New York's iconic The Actors Studio where his artistic focus is new play development. His book Acting by Mistake is available online at xlibris.com. You will find countless photos, videos and interviews of Bill by visiting his website at www.williamroudebush.com. He has several new plays and musicals in development and is always searching or a new challenge. Contact him via his website to begin a conversation.



#### GRACELYN SHALASKI PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Gracelyn is thrilled to be making her Cleveland theatre debut with Beck Center. She'd like to thank Scott, Bill, Angie and the brilliantly talented cast for making this experience such an incredible one. New

York City: Queering the Cannon (Joe's Pub, The Public Theater). Virginia Commonwealth University: Spring Awakening, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, Eclipsed, In the Red and Brown Water. TV: MTV Music Video Awards.

### CHERI PROUGH DEVOL

Is a Scenic and Lighting Designer based in Austin, TX. Regional credits include: *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Scenic Design—Beck Center for the Arts), *The Sunshine Boys* (Scenic Design—Porthouse Theatre), *All Shook Up* (Scenic and Lighting Design—Zilker Theatre Productions), *The Santaland Diaries* (Lighting Design—Zach Theatre), and *Hang* (Lighting Design—Horizon Line Theatre), as well as over 150 productions at Barter Theatre (Virginia) where she designed lighting and/or scenery as Resident Designer, including the world premieres of Deborah Brevoort's *Blue Sky Boys*, and Richard Alfieri's *Revolustions*. Cheri serves as Head of Design Technology and Management in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Texas State University. To view more of her work please visit www.devol-design.net.

#### INDA BLATCH-GEIB COSTUME DESIGNER

Inda Blatch-Geib's work as a costume and production designer for over 1.000 theatrical, commercial, and film releases has spanned 35 years and crossed 4 continents. Production and Costume Design has included commercials for Footlocker. The West Virginia Lottery's national award-winning campaigns. The Ohio Lottery, Mictrosoft, Under Armor, McDonalds, TroyBuilt, Meijer, and The Original Mattress Factory as well as the Cleveland Cavaliers' 1970's and 1980's themed videos, national spots for the team, and design for on court half-time shows including their mascot shield design and pyrotechnic sword. Live performance and festival design include Machine Gun Kelly's US and European Tours as well as ESTFEST and Wolstein Arena productions, Specialty projects include microphone stand designs for MGK and Bear. Print designs have included set styling for Harper's Bazaar UK Scarlett Johansson cover and spread as well as catalogue set styling for Foundations and Kilgore Trout. Additionally, Ms. Blatch-Geib's designs have been showcased in exhibits at The Smithsonian Institute with film projects including Ohio Art Direction of The Signal staring Laurence Fishburne and Production and Costume Design of the s The Con. Theatrical Design includes Production & Costume Design for the special off- Broadway Production of Kris Kringle, The Musical, Costume Design for the Cleveland Play House production of Native Gardens, as well as multiple productions for the Colombian National Opera. Music Video Production and Costume Design includes Machine Gun Kelly's Alpha Omega and Let You Go releases, Locally, Inda is the 2022/2023 Resident Designer for Karamu House. Cleveland Public Theatre, Magical Theatre Company, and Cleveland Institute of Music.

#### CARLTON GUC SOUND DESIGNER

Recent design credits include *Sweeny Todd* (Cleveland State University); *Once on This Island* (Beck Center); *Rent* (Cain Park). Additionally, Carlton manages the Performing Arts Center for Nordonia School District; Between shows you'll find Carlton playing guitar, writing computer software, or coaching skiing: www.carltonguc.com

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS



#### **CHRIS RICHARDS VICTOR**

Previously at the Beck: *Really Really; The Producers; My First Time*. Off-Broadway and NYC credits include The Pearl Theatre, The Mint Theatre, Project Shaw, and the Gallery Players. Regional: Pittsburgh Public, the Festival Stage of Winston-Salem, Playhouse on Park, Great Lakes Theatre (four seasons), Cleveland Play House, DOBAMA, Cain Park, none too fragile, Porthouse, Karamu House. Film/TV: *Bull* (CBS), *Skye Hoshi Anime Girl* (Pure Magic Pictures), *Spray Away* (Winner - "Best Comedy" - Myrtle Beach International Film Festival 2023). Upcoming films: *Higher Lows and First of Seven*. Training: BFA in Musical Theatre, Kent State University. Proud member of Actors' Equity Association and SAG-AFTRA. Additional info: www.chrisrichardsonline.com | IG: @thisischrisrichards.



#### LARA MIELCAREK JESSICA

Beck Center for the Arts- Seminar, Meteor Shower. Dobama Theatre- Hurricane Diane, Marie Antoinette, 'Or, Becky Shaw, The Norwegians, Cock, Ensemble Theatre- Moon for the Misbegotten, Well. Lara is a core company member of the Ohio Shakespeare Festival where she has played 13 years worth of the Bard's leading ladies. Favorites include: Beatrice/Much Ado About Nothing, Lady M/Macbeth, Paulina/Winter's Tale, Olivia/Twelfth Night. She runs a program called ARC, a Shakespeare behind bars effort out of the women's prison, NERC. By day, Lara is a Public Speaking teacher at St Ignatius High School.



#### MICHAEL DEMPSEY DARLING

Has written, acted and directed in theatre, film and television for over 30 years. National writing credits include CBS sitcoms, and his plays have been produced Off-Broadway and regionally. Acting: At Beck, in 1776 (Wilson), Fiddler on the Roof (Avram) and The Seagull (Medvedenko). Elsewhere: Mamma Mia! (Harry), Young Frankenstine (Igor), A Funny Thing . . . (Hysterium), Macbeth (Macbeth), Tuck Everlasting (The Man In The Yellow Suit), Baby (Alan) and Comma (Jim). NE Ohio directing: King Lear, Into The Woods, Camelot, The Rocky Horror Show, I am My Own Wife, Sweeney Todd, Jesus Christ Superstar, The Last Five Years, Of Mice and Men. Michael trained at Ohio State University, Cornell University, Actors Theatre of Louisville and National Theatre of Great Britain. Memberships: WGA, DG, SFFWA. Michael's a past recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for playwriting. His novel Necropolis is available from Night Shade Books.



#### **GRACE FAVARRO CATHY**

Baldwin Wallace University: Stupid F\*cking Bird, The Last Days of Judas Iscariot, As You Like It, Henry VI Part II, Stage Door. Regional: Hamlet, Measure for Measure (Ohio Shakespeare Festival), Kiss of the Spider Woman (Blank Canvas Theatre). Film: Broken Links, Chains of Redemption, The Camp. Beck Center holds a lot of great memories for Grace in her youth. She's glad to be back with a new set of chops and a deeper love for the craft. Shoutout to Nonnie, Geno, and her parents for being the best biggest-fans ever. WEBSITE:gracefavarro.com | INSTAGRAM: @gracefavarro

# Act one begins



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by bess wohl

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by heather chrisler

AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN by terry guest

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by selina fillinger

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by joshua harmon

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# WOMEN'S BOARD



**Founded in 1936,** The Women's Board's mission is to support Beck Center for the Arts in its effort to create a community where everyone can be directly involved in the performing and visual arts, Creating Arts Experience. Through the years, the Women's Board has raised and contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars and provided thousands of volunteer hours to support performances, programs, and day-to-day operations at Beck Center.

The Women's Board meets the third Tuesday, September through May, and offers fundraisers and activities year-round.

For additional information, please go to:

www.beckcenter.org /about/womens-board



#### BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTORS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following individuals, corporations, foundations, government grants, and organizations, which have contributed to Beck Center for the Arts' Annual Fund in support of our mission to inspire, enrich, and transform lives through dynamic arts experiences. The current listing includes donors of \$250 or more to the Annual Fund between May 31, 2022 and August 31, 2023. We greatly appreciate all our supporters. For any corrections or more information on the benefits of these giving circles, please contact our Director of Development, Kristen Levy, at klevy@beckcenter.org or 216.521,2540.

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#### BECK CENTER CREATING OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following individuals, corporations, foundations, government grants, and organizations that have contributed \$1,000 or more to Creating Our Future: The Campaign for Beck Center, As of August 31, 2023. For more information on naming opportunities and touring our renovations, please contact Director of Development, Kristen Levy, at klevy@beckcenter.org. We are excited to have begun the third and final phase of renovations, which includes the addition of new restrooms, dedicated classroom space for theater education, an ADA-accessible entrance, and a new marquee for the Senney Theater, When completed, Beck Center will have renovated over 55% of the campus (35,000 sq ft) to bring the standards of our facilities up to those of our programming.

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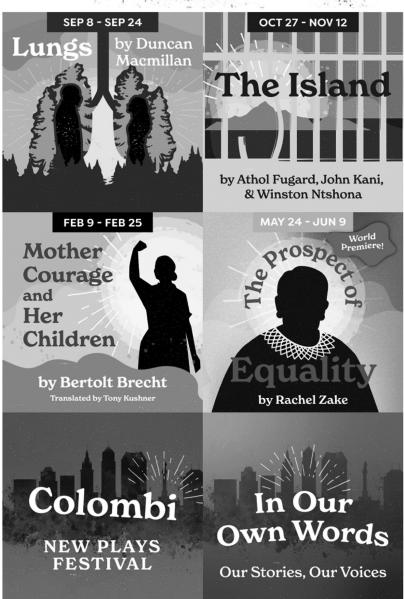
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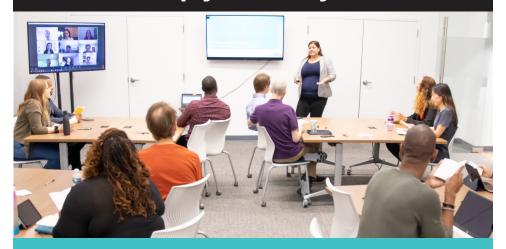


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