

MAR 8-30 2025

# BIRTHDAY



# CANDLES

BY Noah Haidle  
DIRECTED BY Marc Masterson

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SAT. **may 17**



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This one-night only cabaret-style event will feature music from *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and other favorite numbers that have found their way to City Theatre's stage over the years. Of course, the fun doesn't stop there: keep up with us after the curtains close for an afterparty you won't want to miss!

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Since reopening following the pandemic, we have centered *the art* on our stage, *the people* who make it, and *our values* to guide how we navigate the treacherous waters of an ongoing financial recovery. And, with your support, we have made extraordinary strides in rebuilding City Theatre.

Uncertainty and upheaval are significant risks to nonprofits, including ours, which undermine the ability to deliver on our mission and programming. And over these last few weeks, it has been proven that we are, again, not in normal times. We mustn't continue as if they are.

We are living in a singular moment, where theatre—the stories it tells and the empathy it fosters—is vital. Our mission is to **develop and produce work that engages and challenges a diverse audience**. Our values are **community; collaboration; creativity; and equity, diversity, inclusion & accessibility**. They greet you on a sign just downstairs as you enter our building. We read them out loud at each first rehearsal and use them as a guiding compass to inform all our operations.

Our commitment to this mission and these values is unwavering – and should *not* be controversial. Unfortunately, critical government institutions, such as the National Endowment for the Arts, have announced new “compliance” policies that significantly endanger funding for City Theatre and thousands of other nonprofits across the country.

The NEA has funded us for decades and we stand in solidarity with the extraordinary civil servants who are dedicated to this critical federal agency. However, changes in their grant-making due to recent Executive Orders, if upheld, make us – and countless other cultural institutions – *ineligible* to receive support simply because of our programming, personal identities, and values. We urge everyone to become advocates and speak up for the arts and freedom of expression.

Losing funding from the NEA, donors and grant-makers shifting funding from the arts to other equally critical community needs, and rising costs from inflation or tariffs present an existential challenge. We need you more than ever – not just as donors, but as frequent attendees: here on the South Side AND at venues across Pittsburgh. Be a “culture vulture” and relish the joy and beauty that can only be found at a performance or exhibition while being reminded that our diversity is a strength.

We produce plays that hold up a mirror to society and invite conversation. The person sitting in the seat next to you may come from an entirely different walk of life, but today you will share space and a collective experience. It is our sincere hope that rooms full of people telling and listening to human stories can play some small part in combatting the forces that would tear us apart, while fostering a just and thriving Pittsburgh, country, and world.

**Thank you for being here.**

–Clare, Monteze, James  
and the entire City Theatre team







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CLARE DROBOT and  
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Managing Director

PRESENTS

# BIRTHDAY CANDLES

BY

**NOAH HAIDLE**

DIRECTED BY

**MARC MASTERSON<sup>+</sup>**

CAST

Deena Aziz\*

Andrew William Smith\*

Gavin Lawrence\*

Saige Smith\*

José Pérez IV

Robin Walsh\*

Sasha Jin Schwartz\*\*  
Scenic Design

Damian E. Dominguez  
Costume Design

Xuwei (Eva) Hu  
Lighting Design

Darron L West\*\*  
Sound Design

Patti Kelly\*  
Stage Manager

Tomé Cousin  
Intimacy

J. Cody Spellman  
Assistant Director

March 8 through March 30, 2025

Approx. 90 minutes with no intermission

\* Members of Actors' Equity Association \*\* Members of United Scenic Artists  
+ Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

*Birthday Candles* is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

Originally Produced on Broadway in 2022 by Roundabout Theatre Company  
*Birthday Candles* was originally commissioned and produced by Detroit Public Theatre, Detroit MI  
Producing Artistic Directors: Courtney Burkett, Sarah Clare Corporandy and Sarah Winkler  
Developed as part of Chautauqua Theater Company's New Play Workshop series, 2017,  
underwritten by the Roe Green Foundation

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# CHARACTERS

## CAST

Alice / Madeline / Ernie	Deena Aziz
Kenneth	Gavin Lawrence
Billy / John	José Pérez IV
Matt / William	Andrew William Smith
Joan / Alex / Beth	Saige Smith
Ernestine Ashworth	Robin Walsh

**Setting:** A kitchen in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A working oven. A goldfish in a bowl.

**Time:** One hundred years and ninety minutes concurrently.



**NOAH HAIDLE (Playwright)** is an award-winning playwright whose work has been seen on six continents. For the 2017-2018 season, he was the writer-in-residence at the National Theater of Mannheim, Germany, a position first held by Friedrich Schiller in 1785. A graduate of Princeton and Juilliard, Noah lives with his perfect wife Kelsey, their heaven-sent son Butch, a dog, a bunny, and a blue lobster named Suzanne.



**Marc Masterson (Director)** returned to City Theatre in 2018 after serving as artistic director at Actors Theatre of Louisville and at South Coast Repertory Theater in Costa Mesa, CA before retiring in 2024. He previously served as City Theatre's artistic director from 1981 to 2000. In over three decades as an artistic leader, he has produced the world premieres of some of the most produced plays in the American Theatre, along with innovative productions of the classics. He has championed pioneering work in community engagement, arts education, and diverse voices for the American stage.

The position of director for this production has been generously underwritten by Kathleen & Paul Gaberson

# Interview with playwright Noah Haidle

## What inspired you to write *Birthday Candles*?

Two conscious inspirations: 1) my wife got me a fish for my birthday that I didn't want, 2) I was commissioned to write a play for my friends at the Detroit Public Theatre. (If you're reading this in the playbill I assume you haven't seen the play yet so the first inspiration will mean nothing but it will start at the top of scene two, when Kenneth gives Ernestine a fish for her birthday). I'm a big believer in utilitarian impetuses towards creativity. What the heck does that mean? Great question. Here's my favorite example: Jean Paul Sartre had three actor friends and he didn't want any of them to be jealous of anyone else's stage time, so he wrote *No Exit*, a play set in hell where nobody could leave. I told my friends in Detroit that my goal for the commission was 'To help you build your own toilets.' *Birthday Candles* quite unexpectedly went to Broadway while The Detroit Public Theatre was in the middle of a capital campaign to build their own theater, in which I now have a restroom named after me, which is definitely my proudest professional achievement to date.

## Describe what your creative process is like.

My Latin teacher in high school summarized his teaching philosophy by saying, 'if you throw enough shit against the barn door, some of it is bound to stick.' That pretty much describes my entire writing life.

## Is there a connecting thread throughout your work, or certain themes you like to explore?

I imagine so but at this point, in the middle of my career, I wouldn't want to name it. Maybe when I'm ancient I'll look back and try to find the pattern but for now I would rather continue throwing shit at the barn door.



## What advice would you give to aspiring playwrights?

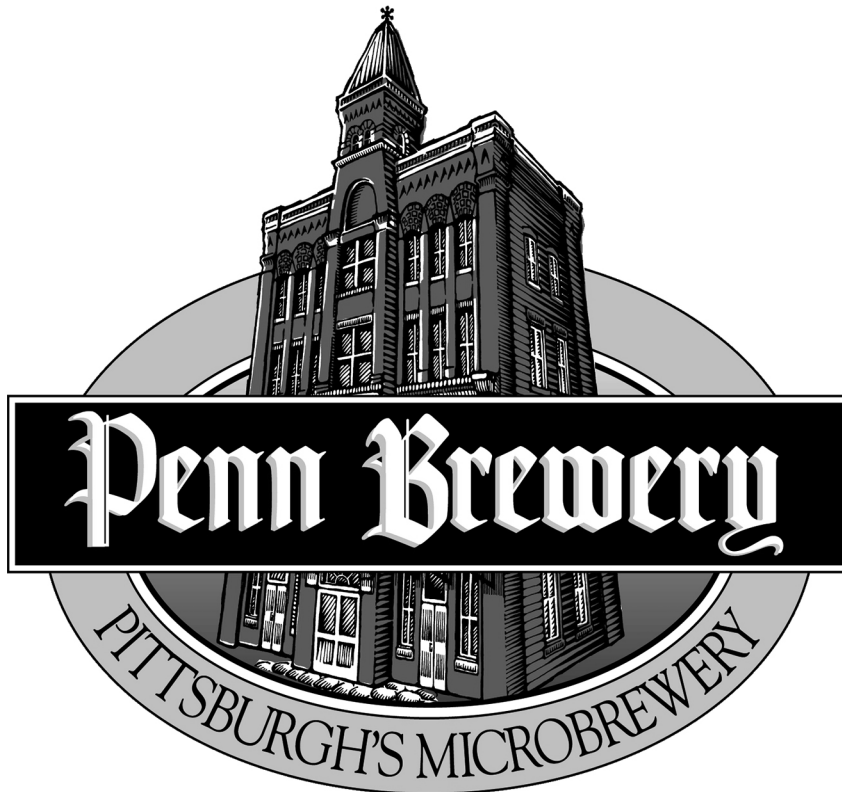
Find a way to take yourself seriously. It's a tough proposition to announce to your family and friends, 'Hey, everybody, I'm going to become a playwright!!' Mostly you'll get blank stares, maybe a slightly condescending 'ohhhhh, good for you.' Getting into graduate school gave me the inner authority to take myself seriously, to look my family, friends (and myself) in the eye and believe the words, 'I'm going to become a playwright.' What would allow you to take yourself seriously? A mentor believing in your talent? Winning a playwrighting competition? Maybe you're one of those unique humans who trust in their abilities unequivocally, but for the rest of us, the acknowledgment of our prospects from an external arbiter is necessary to forge belief.

## What would you like the audience to take away from this play?

To notice and be grateful for all the miraculous seconds you have left on earth.



# WHO'S WHO



**DEENA AZIZ (Alice / Madeline / Ernie)** (she/her) is based in Pittsburgh and Montreal and has followed the work across Canada, in the US, and internationally. Stage credits feature companies like Alberta Theatre Projects, Canada's National Arts Centre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theatre, the Stratford Festival, and Canadian Stage. Screen credits include a smattering of episodic sci-fi, and a chorus of variously ethnic docs and shrinks. Away from stage and camera, Deena works as a dramaturge, coordinator, and producer, and is an active champion for equity and reform in the performing arts.



**GAVIN LAWRENCE (Kenneth)** A Howard University alumnus, Mr. Lawrence has worked at over 30 theatres across the country including Steppenwolf, the Goodman, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth, the Guthrie, Denver Center, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Baltimore Centerstage, Penumbra, and Mixed Blood. He is a member of the core acting company at American Players Theatre where he is in his tenth season. Recent directing credits include August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *The Brothers Size* by Tarell Alvin McCraney. Gavin is an AUDELCO Award winner for Outstanding Lead Actor in Carlyle Brown's *Pure Confidence* seen at 59E59 Theatres. #blacklivesmatter



**JOSÉ PÉREZ IV (Billy/John)** is an actor, playwright, and Resident Fight & Intimacy Director of Pittsburgh Public Theater. Recent acting credits: *The Hobbit* (Pittsburgh Public Theater), *Himbos* (New Hazlett Theater), *Very Berry Dead* (Big Storm Performance Co.) Select fight/intimacy credits: *The Hobbit*, *The Coffin Maker*, *Robin Hood* (Pittsburgh Public Theater), *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (Cleveland Playhouse). Select productions of his plays: *To Battle: a fight play* (Louisville Hivemind Artist Collective), *Or Forever Hold Your Peace* (Kelly Strayhorn Theater). BFA Drama NYU Tisch Experimental Theatre Wing, MFA Performance Pedagogy University of Pittsburgh. JosePerezIV.com



**ANDREW WILLIAM SMITH (Matt/William)** is honored to be returning to City Theatre after playing Max in *The Royale*. Other Pittsburgh Credits include Quantum Theatre (actor in *Far Away*, *The Gun Show*, *The Hard Problem*, *The River*, *Love and Information* and Director for *Scenes from an Execution*) and Pittsburgh Public (*Pride and Prejudice*). Regional work includes Seattle Rep, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, Woolly Mammoth, Roundhouse Theatre. TV Credits include: *American Rust*, *GONE*, *Law & Order*, *Criminal Intent*. He is the Co-Artistic Director of Project Y Theatre Company, NYC, and an Associate Professor of Acting at the Carnegie Mellon School of

Drama. BA Middlebury College. MFA Acting University of California, San Diego / La Jolla Playhouse. smithandrewwilliam.com For my family



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# WHO'S WHO



**SAIGE SMITH (Joan/Alex/Beth)** is thrilled to return to City Theatre to work alongside such incredible talent! Credits include: *POTUS* (Chris), *Clyde's* (Letitia) - City Theatre Company; *The Color Purple* (Squeak), *Sister Act* (Tinal Ensemble), *Puffs* (Leanne), *Kinky Boots* (Pat), *A Musical Christmas Carol* (Fan past /Alice/Belle) - Pittsburgh CLO; *Noises Off* (Brooke) - Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre; *A...My Name is Still Alice* (Laura) - Front Porch Theatricals; *Skeleton Crew* (Shanita) - Barebones Productions; *Hamlet* (Ophelia) - Quantum Theatre; *Something to Live For* (Production Understudy), *Steel Magnolias* (Annelle), *A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem* (Hermia), *Murder on the Orient Express* (Greta) - Pittsburgh Public Theater.



**ROBIN WALSH (Ernestine Ashworth)** originated roles in *The Niceties* and *Gideon's Knot* for the Contemporary American Theater Festival. She won a Harry Schwalb Excellence in the Arts Award, a Pittsburgh Foundation Creative Achievement Award and was a *Post-Gazette* Performer of the Year. Favorite roles include Flora in *Indian Ink*, and the title roles in *Hapgood* and *Hedda Gabler*.



**PATTI KELLY (Production Stage Manager)** is thrilled to return to City Theatre! Having been with the company for over half of its life-time, some of Patti's favorite shows at City Theatre include *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, *The Royale*, *Hand to God*, *The 39 Steps*, *Marcus*; or *The Secret of Sweet*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *Molly Sweeney*, *The Baltimore Waltz*, and *Our Country's Good*. Other credits include *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at Hartford Stage; *Hysteria* for Pittsburgh Public Theater; *Richard II*, *The Tempest*, *Othello*, *As You Like It*, *Horse of a Different Color*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Macbeth* for Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival; and over 30 plays for the Carnegie Mellon Showcase of New Plays. Patti is a recipient of the Fred Kelly Award for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre and is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

**SASHA JIN SCHWARTZ (Scenic Design)** is a theater scenic designer and artist inspired by family and how spaces tell stories. Selected Designs: *Fat Ham*, *What the Constitution Means to Me* (City Theatre Company), *Dragon Lady* (Pittsburgh Public Theater), *The Devil is A Lie* (Quantum Theatre), *Kentucky* (Pittsburgh Playhouse), *Pinocchio* (Arden Theatre Company), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Virginia Theatre Festival), *The Thanksgiving Play* (Dorset Theatre Festival), *Off Peak* (59e59). Recognition: Prague Quadrennial Featured Emerging Designer, Theatre Communications Group Rising Leader of Color, Pittsburgh Children's Museum F.I.N.E Artist In-Residence. She is an advocate for representation of BIPOC and queer voices in the arts, and access to the arts for all. Teaching Artist with Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse. BFA Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. [www.sashaschwartzscenic.com](http://www.sashaschwartzscenic.com)



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## WHO'S WHO



**DAMIAN E. DOMINGUEZ (Costume Design)** is a Mexican American costume designer and stylist based out of Pittsburgh, PA. Past design credits include *Somewhere Over The Border*, *American Fast* (City Theater), *The Winter's Tale*, *~ [Almost Equal To]*, *Cinderella* (Pittsburgh Playhouse), *The Perfect Mate*, *Tick Tick... Boom* (CLO Cabaret), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra), *Rapunzel* (Byham Theatre), and *The Lavender Terrace* (New Hazlett/KST). Damian was one of the five selected artists for *Flowers Meet Fashion: Inspired by Billy Porter* at the Phipps Conservatory in 2023. In 2024, he won the Kennedy Center Arts College Theater Festival Award for Outstanding

Achievement in Costume Design for his work on *~ [Almost Equal To]*. Upcoming design projects include *Anna Bolena* (Resonance Works) and *The Seagull* (Quantum Theater). He currently works as a buyer for *The Mayor of Kingstown* (Paramount+). Damian holds an M.F.A. in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University. See more of his work at [www.damianedominguez.com](http://www.damianedominguez.com) or IG: [damianedominguez](https://www.instagram.com/damianedominguez)



**XUEWEI (EVA) HU (Lighting Design)** is a New York City-based lighting designer who is thrilled to return to City Theatre Company. Originally from China, Xuewei brings a global perspective to her artistry. Inspired by the boundless possibilities of light, she enjoys weaving the poetic nature of light into authentic narratives, enriching the human experience with storytelling, and sparking curiosity to explore the world that impacts us all. Selected credits include: *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (City Theatre Company), *The Glass Menagerie* (Ocala Civic Theatre), *South Side Stories Revisited* (City Theatre Company). Learn more at [xuewei.hu](http://xuewei.hu).

**DARRON L WEST (Sound Design)** is a TONY and OBIE award-winning sound designer whose 30 year career spans theater and dance, Broadway and Off Broadway and numerous regional theaters. His work has been heard in over 700 productions all over the United States and internationally in 15 countries. Additional honors include the Drama Desk, Lortel, Audelco and Princess Grace Foundation Statue Award, among many others. Thirty year company member designing the productions of Anne Bogart's SITI company. Previously at City Theater: *The Medium*, *Room*, *The Chosen*, *Alices Adventures Underground*, *Culture of Desire*, and *SLAVS*.

**TOMÉ COUSIN (Intimacy)** Theatrical Intimacy Educators, Intimacy Coordinators of Color I.C.O.C. Stage: NYC: Lincoln Center Theater, Classic Stage Company, The Vineyard Theatre Company, The York Theatre Company, The Lucille Lortel Awards. Other theaters: Resident Intimacy Coordinator PCLO, TheatreSquared (AK), City Theatre, Quantum Theatre, PGH Public, PGH Playhouse, PGH Playwrights, Point Park University, University of PGH. For Netflix: *The Deliverance* (Lee Daniels Dir), *The Pale Blue Eye* (Scott Cooper Dir), *Rustin* (George C. Wolfe Dir), *What If?* (Billy Porter Dir). He is a Professor of Dance at Carnegie Mellon University and recently served as the Intimacy Coordinator for PGH Ballet Theater's production of *Romeo & Juliet* (Jean-Christophe Maillot (Choreography)).

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## WHO'S WHO



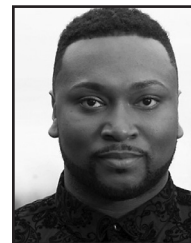
**JAMES MCNEEL (Managing Director)** (he/him) has been managing director at City Theatre for 10 years, having joined the organization in 2015 and making him the longest-serving managing leader in the organization's 50-year history. He previously served in the same position for four seasons at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. James has also worked as a literature specialist with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); director of development and marketing at Off-Broadway's Cherry Lane Theatre in Greenwich Village; and as general manager and development consultant for the Center for Creative Resources, an arts management firm in

New York City. He holds a B.A. degree from Shepherd University and studied arts management in the Master of Arts program at American University. He currently serves on the board and multiple committees for the League of Resident Theaters (LORT); leads a monthly regional convening of arts and culture organizational leaders, hosted by City Theatre; is a community advisor for newly-constituted Regional Capacity Building Initiative; and continues to volunteer and advocate with industry entities such as the National New Play Network (NNPN), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, and the Professional Non-Profit Theater Coalition. Originally from West Virginia, James lives in Lawrenceville with Shannon and Lottie.



**CLARE DROBOT (Co-Artistic Director)** is proud to serve as City Theatre's Co-Artistic Director alongside Monteze Freeland. She joined the staff at the theater in 2015 serving as the Director of New Play Development and later as Associate Artistic Director. A dramaturg, playwright, and producer Clare has worked in various capacities at Premiere Stages at Kean University, Laura Stanczyk Casting, Williamstown Theatre Festival, The McCarter Theatre, The BE Company, Play Penn, and New Dramatists. Her work as a writer has been seen in Ars Nova's ANT FEST and the New Hazlett Theatre's CSA Series among others. She serves on the boards of the National New Play Network and Brew House

Association and is a member of the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh's Generations Group, a Global Fellow through the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, and a graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh (LP XXXVIII). BA/ BFA Carnegie Mellon University, member of LMDA.



**MONTEZE FREELAND (Co-Artistic Director)**, a *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* "Performer of the Year" (2017), has been employed by City Theatre in multiple positions, including actor, teaching artist, and box office associate. In 2020, he joined the full-time staff as Associate Producer and was selected as a Producer in Residence by the National New Play Network. A Baltimore native, his roots in theater began at the Arena Players before moving to Pittsburgh in 2006 to attend Point Park University ('09). He has served as Producing Artistic Associate for Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company and Director of Education for Quantum Theatre Company.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## SPECIAL THANKS

Noah Haidle  
Jessie Ramey

### 50th Anniversary Fun Fact

City Theatre's first home was at the Allegheny Community Theatre, which is now known as the New Hazlett Theater



City Theatre receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



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The Allegheny Regional Asset District, a county agency created to support and finance regional assets, including libraries, parks, cultural groups, sports, and civic facilities, and to distribute tax relief to the 128 municipalities of Allegheny County.



Actors marked with \* and the Stage Manager in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States



The scenic, costume, lighting, and sound designers in LORT Theatres are represented by the United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.



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

City Theatre is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre. City Theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



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# DONOR BENEFITS

## Donor Spotlight:

City Theatre is thrilled to recognize **Ken & Pam McCrory** in our donor spotlight feature for this production! Ken & Pam's longstanding relationship with City Theatre and support of the work produced throughout the years made them the perfect choice to Co-Chairs for City's upcoming fundraiser, The Bash: A 50th Anniversary Concert Celebration on May 17th.



### A note from Ken & Pam:

*We have been supporters of City Theatre since its days in Oakland. The presentations are sometimes thought provoking, sometimes humorous and always interesting and entertaining. The theatre has been part of our life for a long time and in fact one of our early dates was for the first play on the South Side - Bricklayers by our friend Elvira DiPaolo.*

*We are honored and excited about co-chairing The Bash, which is an event we look forward to every year and which is permanently on our "must attend" list.*



**Thank you** for trusting our Mission and investing in City Theatre Company. For 50 years, we have brought you NEW, entertaining, innovative, and provocative theatre. Every effort has been made to accurately record and acknowledge all donors. If your name is listed incorrectly, please contact Sarah Gabrick, Annual Fund Manager, 412.431.4400 Ext. 226 or [sgabrick@citytheatrecompany.org](mailto:sgabrick@citytheatrecompany.org).

**Bolded** names indicate increased giving over prior year. All lists are as of 2.15.2025

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**Stuart Olmsted**  
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**Bahar Bazmi**  
**Joyce Berman & Richard Spine**  
**Phyllis & Ron Bianchetti**  
**Lynette Brooks**  
**Laurie & Frank Bruns**  
Charles Buchanan  
**Stephanie Bucklew**  
Bahar Bazmi Campbell &  
Dean Campbell  
Dr. Vicky A. Clark  
**Jim & Jennifer DeGood**  
Barbara DeRiso & Don Newman

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**Elizabeth Evans**  
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**Robert Kraftowitz**  
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Sally & Ned Ruffin  
Kimberly Sachse &  
Joseph Grimes  
Mindy & Zal Sanjana  
Karen L. Scansaroli  
**Linda & Richard Shaw**  
**Mona & EJ Strassburger**  
Tom & Judy Thompson  
**Elaine Wertheim**  
**Sharyn & Herbert Wolfson**

## 50th Anniversary Fun Fact

During City Player' (City Theatre's original name)  
2-year tenure at Allegheny Community Theatre,  
they shared residency with the Pittsburgh Public Theater

## 50th Anniversary Fun Fact

In 1975, City Theatre was founded by  
Marjorie Walker as the Pittsburgh City Players

## SUPPORTERS (\$250-\$499)

**Carolyn Abraham & Jerome Apt**  
 Gerald Bartolomucci  
**Christine & Beau Beard**  
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 Caitlin Green & Drew Martorella  
 Ann M. McHoes & Bob Kleinmann  
**Melissa McSwigan & Robert Raczka**  
 Nancy W. Merenstein  
 Niveditha Mohan & Arunkumar Sanjeevi  
 Barb & Jim Moyer  
 Elinor Nathanson & Peter Kogan  
 Janice Myers-Newbury  
**Lourie & Eric Nyberg**  
 Cori & J. Dax Parise  
**John Patzer & Mary DuQinn**  
 Louise & John Pavia  
 Mason Radkoff & Jan Watson  
**Shannon Reed**  
**Natalie Rogers Baric**

**Susan Rossetti & Curt Woodhead**  
**Deborah Rubin**  
**R. Douglas Rumbarger**  
 Kari Shaffer  
 Thomas & Deborah Stackrow  
 Irene & David Tabish  
**Jane & Ron Thompson**  
 Dr. Edward T. Tomlinson & Dr. Carol Wooten  
 John & Nancy Traina  
 Patricia Prozzi & Thomas Trimm  
 Charles Porter & Hilary Tyson  
 Bria Walker-Rhoze & Tim Rhoze  
**Alma Wisniewski**  
 Thomas Wyse & Robert Neft  
**Judith Yanowitz**  
**Fred & Ronnie Cook Zuhlke**

## GIFTS UNDER \$250

City Theatre is grateful for our supporters at all levels. Please scan the code below to be taken to our website, where you can see all Friends of City Theatre gifts under \$250.



**'IN HONOR OF' GIFTS**  
 Honor someone you love. Honor someone who loves theater.

**IN HONOR OF CITY THEATRE STAFF**  
*Given By*  
 Catherine & Kenneth A. Glick, MD

**IN HONOR OF JANET WALSH AND DAVID TRIMMER, MY FAVORITE THEATER GOERS**  
*Given By*  
 Erin Walsh

**IN HONOR OF MARC MASTERSON**  
*Given By*  
 Ann Harkins

**'IN MEMORY OF' GIFTS**  
 Memorial tributes to honor theatre lovers.

**IN MEMORY OF ANN HARTY**  
*Given By*  
 Ellen & Gilbert DeBenedetti

**IN MEMORY OF BEA GROSS**  
*Given By*  
 Neila & Daniel Bendas  
 Peggy Lowenstein  
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 Emily Medine & Michael Schwartz

**IN MEMORY OF DENNIS LYNCH**  
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**IN MEMORY OF DIANNA DEWEESE**  
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**IN MEMORY OF DIANNE DUURSMAN**  
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**IN MEMORY OF REV. DR. VICTOR PEISCHL**  
*Given By*  
 Janice Peischl

**IN MEMORY OF SUE O'NEILL**  
*Given By*  
 Prof. Denise Pullen

## City Theatre's Vision, Mission, Core Values

### Mission:

To provide an artistic home for the development and production of contemporary plays that engage and challenge a diverse audience.

### Vision:

To be the finest mid-sized theater in America.

### Core Values:

Community | Collaboration | Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility | Creativity



## CORPORATE, FOUNDATION, AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

City Theatre extends its sincere gratitude to the following businesses, foundations and public agencies for their leadership support.

### STEEL (\$100,000 +)

Anonymous  
Allegheny Regional Asset District  
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The Heinz Endowments  
The Shubert Foundation

### DIAMOND (\$50,000-\$99,999)

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### PLATINUM (\$20,000-\$49,999)

Arts, Equity, & Education Fund  
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### GOLD (\$10,000-\$19,999)

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Trust

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W. I. Patterson Charitable Fund  
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts,  
A state agency  
UPMC/UPMC Health Plan

### SILVER (\$1,000-\$9,999)

Ceeva  
Lewis A. and Donna M. Patterson  
Charitable Foundation

### BRONZE (Up to \$999)

Actors' Equity Foundation, Inc.  
Queequeg Foundation Trust

### *Birthday Candles Community Partners*

**Chatham University's Women's Institute:** Through education, research, and outreach, the Women's Institute works across campus and into the community under the leadership of its founding director, Dr. Jessie Ramey, who will be our talkback guest after the 2pm performance on Sunday, March 16th.

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh—South Side:** Guided by our mission of literacy and learning and our dedication to patron-focused services and programs, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh is a destination space for information, technology, community building, social connection and fun.

**Women and Girls Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania:** Our programs, initiatives, and grant-making seek to drive systemic solutions to the problem of gender inequity. Empowering young people is central to our mission through our GirlGov program. We engage young self-identified women as activists, donors, and leaders.

**MOMSWORK Powered by NCJW Pittsburgh** is a program that focuses on supporting women seeking financial wellbeing, community, and resources. MomsWork encourages, inspires, and supports moms to earn a paycheck and search for new employment – all while they manage their families' evolving needs.

## SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

Enhance your City Theatre experience and take advantage of discounted ticket prices by becoming a subscriber. Prorated and Flex packages are available to best fit your interests and schedule. To subscribe, visit the Box Office, call 412.431.2489, or order online at [CityTheatreCompany.org](http://CityTheatreCompany.org).

## GROUP SALES

Save when you bring friends! Groups of 10 or more are eligible for significant discounts. In addition, we are happy to help you plan your event or party. For more information, contact [Groups@citytheatrecompany.org](mailto:Groups@citytheatrecompany.org).

## DISCOUNTED & RUSH TICKETS

Persons under 30 years of age may reserve \$20 advance tickets by calling the Box Office. Seniors age 62 and older may take advantage of rush tickets, \$25 each, available only on the day of the performance. All discounted/rush tickets are subject to availability.

## TICKET VALUES

Tickets prices vary by date and demand. In addition, pay-what-you-want performances are offered for each production. Call the box office for dates.

## PARKING

City Theatre provides safe, convenient parking for \$10 via lot access at 1317 Bingham St, across from the theatre entrance. Parking is subject to availability. On-street parking meters are monitored until midnight on Friday and Saturday. Visit [www.pittsburghparking.com](http://www.pittsburghparking.com) for more information.

## LATE SEATING POLICY

Our theatres are very intimate. Out of respect for both the actors and audience, late arrivals will be seated only at the discretion of house management. Consider arriving early to enjoy a beverage in the Gordon Lounge or to visit South Side's many eclectic shops and restaurants.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please turn off all electronic devices. Ringing or vibrating cell phones, pagers, and watches disrupt the performance and interfere with the theatre's sound equipment. **No photography or video recording permitted during the performance.**

City Theatre is committed to providing an environment that is inclusive and welcoming to all patrons. Please identify any special seating needs to our Box Office staff when reserving your tickets in advance by calling 412.431.CITY (2489).



Wheelchair accessible seating is available in both the Mainstage and Lillie Studio Theatres.



Selected performances of each production feature open captioning, audio description, and pre-show introductory workshops for those who are hearing impaired, blind, or have low vision. In addition, select productions will include an American Sign Language Interpreted performance. Performance dates are available online or by contacting the Box Office.



Assistive listening devices are available. Please see the House Manager for details.



Programs are available in both Braille and large print. Please see the House Manager for details.

# STAFF

## ARTISTIC

Clare Drobot  
Monteze Freeland  
Katie Trupiano

Co-Artistic Directors  
  
Director of Education & Accessibility  
City Bridges Coordinator  
Artistic Assistant & Community Coordinator

Britt Dorazio  
Melva Graham

## ADMINISTRATIVE

James McNeel  
Jason Clark  
Kerry Shiller  
Nikki Battestilli  
Jim DeGood

Managing Director  
Director of Operations  
Director of Finance  
Marketing Director  
Interim Director of Development

Sarah Gabrick  
Joel Ambrose

Annual Fund Manager  
Director of Ticketing & Patron Services

Audrey Fennell

Ticketing & Development Manager  
Assistant Ticketing Manager

Amara Walls  
Rachael Ellis

Company Manager/  
Box Office Associate  
Box Office Associate

Jessica Hampton

Patron Services Manager

Devon Young  
Jay Chapman  
Abi Cedeño

House Manager  
House Manager

Mel Holley  
Allison Roup

House Manager  
House Manager

AJ Sansonetti  
Sam Volosky

House Manager  
Parking Attendant

JC Clark

Parking Attendant  
Facility Manager

Emily Landis  
Dustin Medvid

## TEACHING ARTISTS

Cassidy Adkins  
Jamie Agnello  
Cynthia Dallas  
Britt Dorazio  
Rita Dorsch

Brooke Echnat  
Ty Greenwood  
Claire Sabatine  
Melannie Taylor  
Rita Dorsch

## PRODUCTION

Rachel D'Amboise  
Patti Kelly

Production Manager  
Resident Production  
Stage Manager

Taylor K. Meszaros  
John Brucker  
Sam Karas

Resident Stage Manager  
Co-Technical Director  
Co-Technical Director

Emma Cummings  
Sydney Dobbs  
Alexx Jacobs

Shop Foreman  
Carpenter  
Properties Manager

Leah Blackwood  
Madison Michalko  
Jaime Ericson

Lead Scenic Artist  
Costume Manager  
Costume Shop Assistant

Brad Peterson

Sound & Media Engineer

## FOR THIS PRODUCTION

J. Cody Spellman  
Jaime Ericson  
Audrey Lewis

Assistant Director  
Assistant Costume Designer  
Production Assistant

Lauren Connolly  
Shea Sweeney  
Josh Burks

Production Assistant  
Lighting Assistant  
Carpenter

Bob Follette  
Jim Ruperto  
Ethan Perkowski

Carpenter  
Carpenter  
Carpenter

## CONSULTANTS

Landesberg Design  
Morgan Barba  
Clayton Slater Design  
Human Habits

Graphic Design  
Freelance Designer  
Program Design  
Website Development & Video

Kristi Jan Hoover  
Kellee Van Aken  
Benvenuti Arts  
Keene Consulting

Photographer  
Audio Describer  
Grantwriting Services  
Planning

UP NEXT AT CITY THEATRE

APR 19 - MAY 11 2025

# KING JAMES



BY **Rajiv Joseph**  
DIRECTED BY **Monteze Freeland**

Basketball legend LeBron James is the undeclared king of Cleveland, Ohio. Taking place over twelve years, from LeBron's rookie season through the 2016 NBA Championship, *King James* is a buddy comedy that tracks the unlikely friendship of two super fans and examines the bonds that sports can create in a new play that is "intensely watchable and astutely observed" (*THE NEW YORK TIMES*).

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH CLEVELAND PLAYHOUSE



The  
**URBAN**  
◦ TAP ◦

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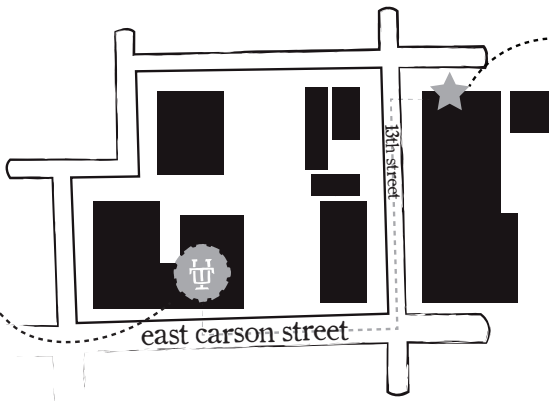
brunch • lunch • dinner



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&

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Located one block from the City Theatre on 12th & Carson

