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This presentation of *The Brothers Paranormal* contains flashing lights.

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Perseverance Theatre is still alive, in-person, and celebrating our 43rd Season!

It is thrilling to bring you our production of *The Brothers Paranormal* by Prince Gomolvilas, a celebrated Thai American playwright in the American Theatre.

I had the honor of being a part of a multi-Asian/Pacific Islander theatre world premiere of *The Brothers Paranormal* in winter/spring of 2019, the acclaimed co-production with Theater Mu and Penumbra Theatre Company in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ever since, I couldn't wait to introduce this play to Perseverance Theatre. Our staff fell in love with it immediately! We have known, since postponing our planned season in 2020, that we wanted to persevere to bring this play to life for all of you.

Prince Gomolvilas has written one of the most well-crafted plays that supports cross-racial character relationships. To produce this play, as we deepen our learning and respect for the Black communities of Alaska and Black History month, Perseverance Theatre recommit itself to working cross-culturally and racially, as we also celebrate our growing Thai and Southeast Asian Communities of Alaska. What better way to celebrate than through Princes' favorite genre? We must talk about this at our post-show discussions! (Visit our 2022 BAAM Virtual Exhibition: VISIONARY at ptalaska.org/BAAM-Visionary)

With themes that address the impact of Hurricane Katrina and what it means to be a climate refugee, an immigrant, and one holding on to make a bigger life for themselves while in a society that demands you assimilate to its dominant rhythms and culture, this story leapt out at our staff as one that Alaskans deeply understand. This play has opened our hearts and takes us on a journey of humor, love, loss and release. We are also thrilled to death to bring you the spookiness this play deserves. Perseverance Theatre loves a good theatre-magic challenge, and we are committed to bringing you our excellence in spookiness!

I am also so excited to introduce another dear friend and colleague to our Alaskan artists and communities, Randy Reyes, (Filipino) an esteemed director, actor, and leader in the American Theatre. Randy's leadership builds upon the 1960's groundbreaking work of our founding Artistic Leaders that has led to our growing US and transnational Asian/Pacific Islander/Native/Middle Eastern/North African theatre networks. Thank you, Randy, for your generosity of spirit with our production and in our communities.

Lastly but certainly not least, I want to lift up our entire cast, crew and design team. Our brilliant artists consist of returning Perseverance Theatre artists, artists that are of Alaska and new to our theatre, and those who have traveled from the Lower 48. It is because of our dedicated staff and this tremendous group of artists that we were able to bring together a cast composed of the most Thai artists in the history of this play!

Break-legs to us all and I can't wait to take this journey with you!



Leslie Ishii
Artistic Director, Perseverance Theatre



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Juneau Radio Center Presents
Perseverance Theatre's Presentation of

THE BROTHERS อากุสพณ BABANOBWAT

By
Prince Gomolvilas

Directed by
Randy Reyes

Scenic Designer **Leah Ramillano**

Lighting Designer **Nina Agelvis**

Sound Designer **Scott W. Edwards**

Costume Designer **Shelly Wright**

Makeup Designer **Phai Giron**

Stunt/Violence Choreographer **Frank Delaney**

Thai Language and Cultural Consultant **Jasmine Blackwell**

Dramaturg **Rio Alberto**

Stage Manager **Makayla Michael**

Properties Master

Richard Carter

Producer

Joseph W. Biagini

Assistant Director

Jared Olin

Assistant Stage Manager

Sarah Brownstein

Technical Director

Brian MacMillan

House Sound Engineer

Studio A

Poster Design

Pat Race

Engineering and Consulting Technical Director

Evan Price

Production Manager / Master Electrician

Ryan Anderson

Director of Photography / Editor

Josh Lowman



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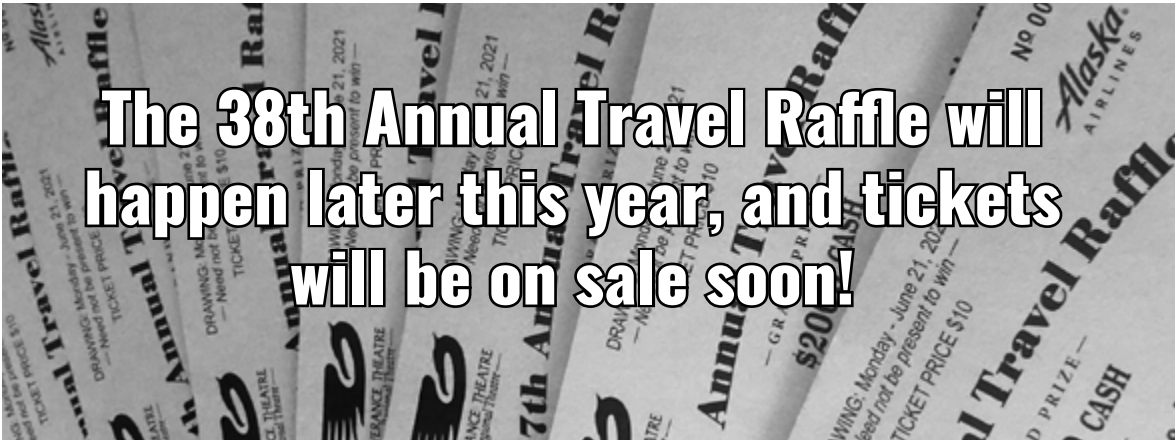
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Perseverance Theatre thanks all the businesses who contributed to our 37th Annual Travel Raffle earlier this year! This fun and exciting fundraiser is a key part of our annual budget, and it wouldn't be possible without the fabulous prizes donated by so many wonderful businesses:

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The 38th Annual Travel Raffle will happen later this year, and tickets will be on sale soon!

CAST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Phai Giron.....Visarut
Leslie Ishii.....Tasanee
Eddie Jones.....Felix
Vivian Melde.....Delia
Elizabeth Lynn Rakphongphairoj Kilrain.....Jai
Mike Rao.....Max

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Skiba J. Wuoti.....Scenic
Bo Anderson.....Scenic
David Woodie.....Scenic Charge Artist
Todd Hunt.....Electrician
Susan Settje.....Wardrobe Crew

SPECIAL THANKS

Suwanna Thai, The Alaskan Bar and Hotel, Kai Monture, and
Christopher, and Wannarat Giron.

Jolynn Stevens Shriber, and the Blood Bank of Alaska, Juneau Center for
assistance with props.

Rock Dump for their assistance, Tina Halvorson for set help, and
Heather Ridgeway for her artistic contributions.

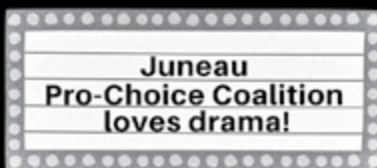
Kurt Riemann for finding the 'unicorn' (The Sands Slotmachine)

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Prince Gomolvilas is a Thai-American writer and winner of a PEN
Center USA Literary Award for Drama. His critically acclaimed play, *The
Brothers Paranormal*, debuted Off-Broadway at the Beckett Theatre, in a
production by Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. It has since been published
by Dramatic Publishing, performed across the country, and scheduled
for productions in Juneau, Anchorage, and Los Angeles. He is the co-
creator of a new TV series currently in development at Amazon Studios,
and he is a former Assistant Professor of Writing at the University
of Southern California. More information about him can be found at
princegomolvilas.com



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NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

At first glance, *The Brothers Paranormal* by Prince Gomovilas appears to be a horror-genre play centering two marginalized communities. But actually, Prince brilliantly uses horror to explore the unspoken issues that haunt these communities and the deep cultural practices that connect them. The horror that exists in displacement, mental illness, addiction, and the climate crisis are at the heart of this beautifully constructed play.

I was introduced to Prince's play, while I was the Artistic Director of Theater Mu (an Asian American theater company in the Twin Cities) and the Board President of the Consortium of Asian American Theater and Artists (where I worked closely with Perseverance Artistic Director, Leslie Ishii). I was looking for a project in collaboration with Penumbra Theater (a premier Black theater in the country) and the fact that this play centered the Black/African American and the Thai/Thai American experience was perfect. That production featured Leslie Ishii in the part that she is reviving in this production, so when Leslie asked me to direct it at Perseverance, I knew it was going to be a very special experience.

And directing in Juneau has not disappointed. I'm so proud that this production features three Thai American actors along with a Thai culture consultant. Perseverance Theatre's commitment to decolonizing and indigenizing its producing practices has been a revelation. The talent and the dedication of the design/production team is world class. The COVID protocols and procedures have been thorough and thoughtful, building a safe environment where we can give ourselves fully to the creative process. All in the backdrop of this gorgeous northern state, has allowed me to work with a clear mind connected to the amazing energy of nature and all her elements for maximum economy and focus on what really matters when making art in community.

As you watch the play think about the things that haunt you and what makes it so hard to let them go. Is it personal or systemic? Conscious or unconscious? Real or imaginary? Is it a need-based or fear-based choice? And finally, how do you define HOME and FAMILY?

Thank you so much for completing the process of theater making and being part of this live experience!

--Randy Reyes

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YOUR SUPPORT makes possible the artistic quality you enjoy at Perseverance Theatre. Your tax-deductible donation ensures a future for professional theatre by and for Alaskans. It makes pay-as-you-can performances and student matinees possible. Ticket sales and other earned income only cover half of Perseverance's costs. Tough times in Alaska make giving from individuals like you even more vital to our day-to-day operations.

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DRAMATURGICAL NOTE

The Brothers Paranormal by Prince Gomolvilas weaves a powerful cross-cultural horror narrative that is grounded in the real-life horrors of the universal human experience. Exploring themes of mental health, internal displacement, and immigration, Gomolvilas confronts audiences with a question: what do we leave behind for those we love?

Thai immigration to the United States reached its peak in 2006, one year after Hurricane Katrina devastated communities of the American South, and one year before the events of *The Brothers Paranormal* take place. Tasanee and her two sons, Max and Visarut, settle in a community whose cultural demographics vary drastically from the community they left behind. They express feelings of loneliness and isolation from other Thai immigrants, most of whom have settled in communities along the West Coast.

Delia and Felix, Black Americans displaced by Hurricane Katrina, drive North in search of a land-locked haven to call home - only for strange events to follow them to the midwest. Felix specifies that the couple hopped on Route 61 to escape the storm, so it makes sense that they too would end up in St. Louis. With a Black residents accounting 44.9% of the population, it would make sense that Delia and Felix are able to feel a sense of community that Tasanee and her family do not.

Despite a sense of isolation felt by the Thai protagonists in *The Brothers Paranormal*, there exists a historical precedent of solidarity amongst Black and Asian communities in the United States. As early as 1869, abolitionist Frederick Douglass argued on behalf of Chinese immigration to America in his "Composite Nation" speech. He advocated for free migration and emphasized equality and human rights for the earliest Asian immigrants. As time moved on, Black communities were some of the loudest opponents of the Vietnam War, naming that their own communities were disproportionately impacted by the draft: 64% of all eligible Black Americans were drafted, as opposed to 31% of eligible White Americans. Black men also had a casualty rate twice that of White men between 1965 to 1966. The Vietnam War marked the start of significant Thai immigration to the United States. On a micro scale, the story of these two families models the power of solidarity and community building that has liberated Black and Asian American communities in the ways we can observe today.

As of 2019, 49% of Americans reported believing in ghosts of some sort. Nearly everyone knows of at least one person who describes seeing or hearing something that they couldn't quite explain - the concept of haunting is universal. Regardless of the beliefs of any individual, there is now scientific evidence that explains the physical manifestations of what haunts many of us. Heart disease, diabetes, and schizophrenia are just a few of the ailments that exist as a result of what is referred to as "weathering" - the physical, mental, and emotional toll that socioeconomic adversity, political marginalization, and racial trauma has on the bodies of the global majority. We also know now that the impacts of racial trauma can continue to live on in the genetics of descendants.

The Brothers Paranormal asks audiences to consider what they leave behind, but has a message of encouragement: what are we doing to demonstrate solidarity with our neighbors, and what can we do - as neighbors, friends, and siblings - to interrupt the cycle? Whether you're hunting ghosts of your own, or taking the first steps your family has ever taken in a new land, one thing will always ring true: human beings are strongest when we work together.

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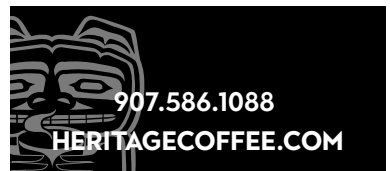
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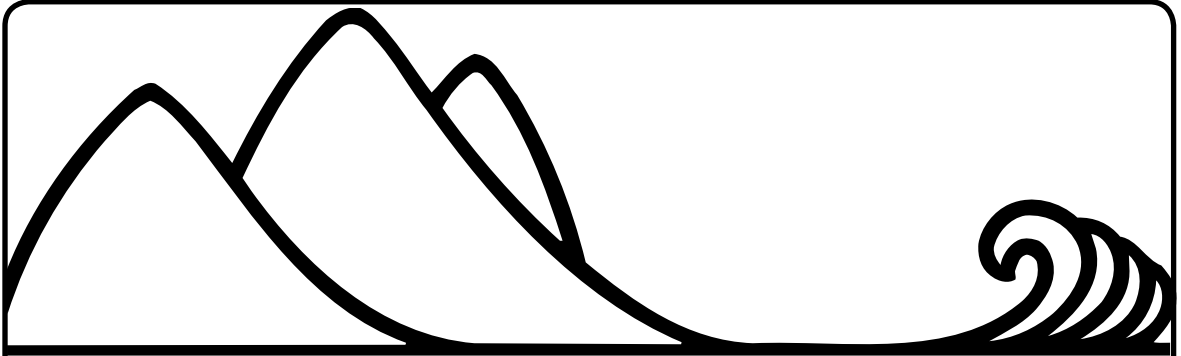
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PROFILES

Nina Agelvis (Lighting Designer) is a freelance lighting designer, draftsman, and programmer currently based in Cincinnati, Ohio. She recently graduated with her MFA in Lighting Design & Technology, at CCM-University of Cincinnati. She graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a BA in Drama and Honors in Lighting Design. Her most recent work was designing the production of *Pride & Prejudice* at the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company in February of 2020. Recently she has started working with Quantum Creative Studios as an Assistant Designer, and at Lori's Roadhouse as a Lighting Director for their weekly concert shows. She is excited to be on her first show. *The Brothers Paranormal* with Perseverance Theatre with an amazing group of individuals!

Jasmine Blackwell (Thai Language and Cultural Consultant) is a longtime member of the Perseverance Theatre family. As an alum of the STAR program, Blackwell is excited to step into the role of Thai cultural consultant for this production of *The Brothers Paranormal*. Born to a Thai mother, she is fluent in two dialects and is well versed into Thai culture. She is excited to be sharing cultural context with the community. In addition to being a culture bearer, Blackwell is also a portrait photographer (@jasmineblackwellphoto on IG).

Sarah Brownstein (She/Her) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from Sarah Lawrence College, an aspiring stage manager, director, and playwright. She is delighted to join Perseverance Theatre as the production/stage management apprentice and the assistant stage manager for *The Brothers Paranormal*. She has previously acted as assistant stage manager for Chester Theatre Company, stage manager for the Melancholy Players, and produced and stage managed for Downstage Theatre Company. Sarah was the recipient of The Greta Minsky Prize for Stage Management in May of 2021 and can't wait to continue to learn throughout Perseverance Theatre's 2021-2022 season.

Richard Carter (Props Master) began his theatre journey in a college play production course under the direction of Juneau theatre guru, Shona Osterhaut. Since then, he's worked on and been in a handful of productions with Perseverance Theatre. He is also Vice President of the Board of Juneau Ghost Light Theatre. Richard is grateful to be a part of the team that worked on this show.

Scott W. Edwards (Sound Designer) grew up in the Minneapolis theater scene. He was the Guthrie Theater's resident sound designer for 21 years, designing over 200 productions and working with artists from all over the world. He has worked with many theaters in the Twin Cities including Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre and The Jungle Theatre and many regional theaters around the country. He was also the live sound engineer and production manager for Garrison Keillor's A Prairie Home Companion. In 2016 his work on Mark Rylance's and Louis Jenkins' *Nice Fish* premiered in London's West End. AWARDS: 2018-19 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow; San Francisco Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for *The Kite Runner* (San Jose Repertory Theatre); Minneapolis Star Tribune Outstanding Sound Designer for the Guthrie's *Pride and Prejudice* and *The Pirates of Penzance*; Helen Hayes Award nomination for *You Can't Take It With You* (Arena Stage)



Perseverance Theatre appreciates support from the wonderful Alaskans who work for the Federal Government! We would be grateful for your support in the 2021-2022 Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC No. is 17484, and we hope you'll consider a donation to help us keep creating professional theatre by and for Alaskans!



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PROFILES

Phai Giron (Visarut, Makeup Designer) was raised in Pacific Grove, CA, a graduate of Pacific Grove High School in 2009. A survivor in remission for over a decade, Giron is a self-taught makeup and special effects artist with over a decade of experience. It is a personal goal of Phai's to become a professional make-up effects artist and travel the world. Giron began traveling between Alaska and California in 2012, and officially settled in Juneau in 2019. Other hobbies include illustrating, watching movies, and cooking.

Leslie Ishii (Tasanee) See Leadship, pg 19.

Eddie Jones (Felix) is a long time Juneau resident with an extensive history of local theatrical work. Most of his work has been with Theater in the Rough doing Shakespeare but he has also spent some time on the stage at Perseverance. Naming a few productions, Eddie has played the roles of Othello in *Othello*, Oberon and Theseus in *A Midsummers Night's Dream*, D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers*, Silvius and the Wrestler in *As You Like It*, Malcolm X in the *Meeting*, and dozens more. Eddie is so honored to be taking part in this latest Perseverance production of *The Brothers Paranormal*.

Josh Lowman (Director of Photography) is a writer, director, actor, photographer, filmmaker, projection designer, and occasional manager. Perseverance Theatre credits include Director of Photography and Editor on *Voyager One*, Co-Director and Director of Photography on *This Wonderful Life*, Assistant Director on *A Christmas Carol* and *In Love and Warcraft*, Digital Capture and Editing on *Spirit of the Valley* and *The Winter Bear*, and Projection Design for *Rush at Everlasting*, *The Mountaintop*, *Treadwell Gold*, and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*. He has written and directed for the One-Minute Play Festival and he starred in over 30 commercials over 30 years ago. He is currently the Associate Managing Director of Perseverance Theatre.



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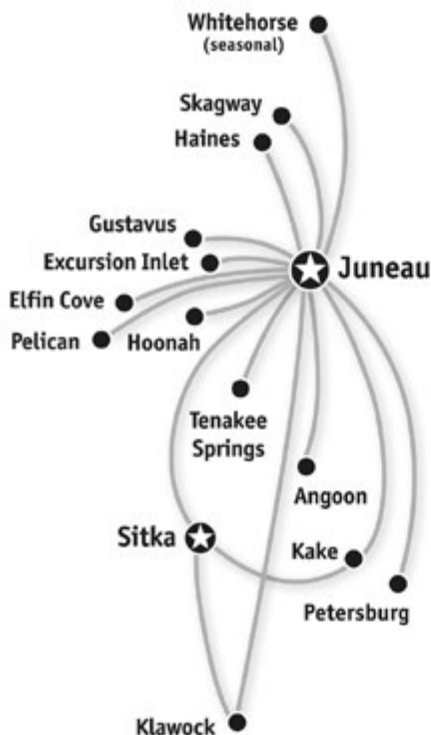
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PROFILES

Elizabeth Lynn Rakphongphairoj Kilrain (Jai) is a vernacular dancer and educator specialising in African Diasporic dances through her organisation, Blue Note San Diego. When not on stage or the dance floor, she is a software engineer at SOCi, Inc. in San Diego and runs a jewellery design business called Ouen ອຸໂນ Designs, with the mission of normalising a non-Western aesthetic and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Vivian Melde (Delia) first stepped on stage in Anchorage as a dancer with the Anchorage Civic Ballet 1967. In 1972, she participated in summer workshop with the Louisville Children's Theatre, performing in a contemporary montage of Shakespeare. While attending the University of Louisville, Vivian joined Fleet Street Dance Company, a modern dance company. Since the late 1970s, Vivian performed with Anchorage Community Theatre, ACT Dance Ensemble, Alaska Contemporary Dance Company, Theatre Guild, Alaska Light Opera Theatre, and Anchorage Festival Theatre. She made her directorial debut at the original *Cyrano's* on 4th and D, when Eccentric Theatre's Jerry Harper asked her to direct Ntoze Shange's *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. From 2016-2019, Vivian directed a one-woman show, that traveled to Victoria, BC, Seward, Amsterdam, Nova Scotia, and Nome. From 2019, she was a principal player with the Saturday Storytelling Theater at the Anchorage Museum, until pandemic restrictions closed the improvisational shows. In 2020, Vivian played the role of Mother in a psychological thriller film called *The Apex*, which is in production. In May of 2021, she played a witch in the film "I Die You Live by Joe Hamilton.

Makayla Michael (Stage Manager) is a graduate of Wright State University in Dayton, OH. Since then, she has worked on plays, musicals, and operas across the country. Most recently she was the Stage Manager for *A Christmas Story*, *Footloose*, *A Gentleman's Guide*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Sound of Music* at LaComedia Dinner Theatre in Dayton, Ohio. Other credits include *Application Pending & Home* with CATCO in Columbus, Ohio, *Salome* with Dayton Opera in Ohio, and *Faust* with Opera Omaha in Nebraska. She began her career with internships at the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca, New York and Central City Opera in Colorado. She is very excited to be in Alaska and working with Perseverance Theatre to bring this show to audiences. Stay healthy and enjoy the show!

Jared Olin (Assistant Director) is Tl'eeyegge Hwt'aane (Koyukon Athabascan), and grew up in Galena, Alaska. His most recent work has included performances as Carl/Ceygan for Perseverance Theatre's run of *Voyager One* last December and as Sebastian for Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre's run of *Twelfth Night* last summer. He graduated in December 2020 with a Film & Performing Arts- Theatre BA, and is looking forward to learning so much more about creative work. His most meaningful goal is to connect mental health with performance art as a way to bring awareness to mental health issues in Alaska. He believes that storytelling is an impactful way of doing just that. Enaa baasee' ghanee haneedaatt! (Thank you very much for arriving!) You can learn more about Jared on Instagram @jared.olin

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PROFILES

Leah Ramillano (Scenic Designer) is a Southern California based designer who balances work as a CAD III Associate at Mattel, Inc. and freelance scenic design. Her work varies from live and/or virtual theatre and events, drafting work for Mattel's corporate tradeshows and special events, and to assisting other scenic designers. Most recent credits include *The Book of Will* (canceled due to Covid-19), *The Wolves* (canceled due to Covid-19), *Peter Pan*, *House of Desires*, and *The Lodger* (virtual).

Mike Rao (Max) is an amateur chef who has traveled to train on four different continents, a vagabond in chase of rocks to climb, a serial entrepreneur, a devoted servant of Christ; Mike Rao, permanently in search of adventure, has laid claim to many titles throughout his life, but never that of an actor. Although a credit-less rookie to theatre and acting, he was encouraged to audition by his dear friend and fellow actor, Daniel Mah of YouTube's Martial Club, and was humbled to receive an offer to kick off his acting career. Despite this incredible opportunity, the resident of sunny Los Angeles still had reservations about accepting a role in the frigid Alaskan winter. However, upon reading the magnificent script in full, he knew that he was going to be packing his bags and shipping off for the exciting saga that Alaska and *The Brothers Paranormal* would present.

Randy Reyes (Director) is thrilled to be making his directing debut at Perseverance Theatre. Randy is an award-winning theater artist that has worked as a professional actor, director, and theater educator with institutions across the country including Theater Mu, The Guthrie, Mixed Blood, The Jungle Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Ten Thousand Things, Pillsbury House Theatre, St. Olaf College, NYU Graduate Acting Program, University of Minnesota, The University of Utah, Augsburg College, and Macalester College. He's a proud Filipino American and believes deeply in telling untold stories to lift up voices from marginalized and oppressed communities in the most dynamic and theatrical way. He trained at the University of Utah BFA Actor Training Program, where he received the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award, and The Juilliard School.

Shelly Wright (Costume Designer) is a versatile costume designer whose work includes theatre, dance, and opera. She has created many characters while designing for children's theatre, Alaska professional theatre, and many different community performing organizations. She believes that as a successful costume designer she takes the story, characters, and historical facts, and translates them through an emotional and artistic lens. Shelly began sewing and making artwork at a young age. In her early twenties was designing costumes for children's theatre, school productions and sewing clothing for herself and her children. She is self-taught and her specialty is custom design for live theatre and fashion. Her greatest satisfaction comes from seeing the joy on the faces of the actors wearing the costumes she has created, the brides wearing the dress she has fashioned and you, the audience watching this great performance tonight.



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WHO WE ARE

The mission of Perseverance Theatre is to create professional theatre by and for Alaskans.

Perseverance values community engagement, cross-cultural and cross-racial collaboration, professional rigor, and regional voice. Alaska is full of stories and characters that aren't found anywhere else in the world. Perseverance is committed to creating theatre that represents all that is great about Alaska, and to bringing great live theatre to our Alaskan audiences.

Perseverance Theatre believes theatre-going creates shared experiences for our communities, which foster empathy, build relationships, and cultivate communication skills, and in the process better equip us all to solve problems together and create more vital and just communities.

In 1979, Molly Smith founded Perseverance Theatre, following her dream of starting a professional theatre company in her hometown. Over forty years, Perseverance has grown to serve 20,000 audience members, in both Juneau and in Anchorage, employ over 400 artists, and engage 300 volunteers annually to produce a season of classical, contemporary, and world premiere productions on our stages.

Perseverance believes that professional theatres play a vital role in training and cultivating the next generation of artists and audiences. The theatre's education department produces extensive education and training programs, including Summer Theatre Arts Rendezvous (STAR), mainstage student matinees, and season-long internships.

Perseverance has premiered more than 70 new plays by Alaskan and national playwrights. Perseverance has a national profile, known for its commitment to developing artists and engaging programming reflective of the highly diverse communities of Alaska, to deliver the finest professional theatre anywhere to our loyal and local audiences.

LEADERSHIP

Frank Delaney (Managing Director) After completing his MFA in acting Frank worked as a fight choreographer and actor throughout the Midwest. He returned to Alaska to work on *Othello* at Perseverance. Born and bred in Anchorage, Frank is excited to have the opportunity to help lead Perseverance into its next chapter. He has more than twenty years of experience in the IT world as a manager, technician, and project manager. That work took him to every corner of the state. As an actor and choreographer some of the companies Frank has worked within addition to Perseverance Theatre include Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, Shawnee Summer Theatre, Midnight Summit Ensemble, the Know Theatre, Cyrano's Theatre Company, and Anchorage Opera.

Leslie Ishii (Artistic Director) is a leader in the American Theatre in many capacities. (Stage Director) Perseverance Theatre: *Voyager One*, *Devilfish*, *Silent Sky*, *We Hold These Truths*; East West Players: *Takarazuka!!!*, *Taking Flight: The Katherine Cheung Story*, *Crimes Of The Heart*; Artists At Play: *99 Histories*; productions at UC, Irvine, USC, CSLA; Oregon Shakespeare Festival: Founder/Director of API 2x2 Lab New Works Residency, Dramaturgy, FAIR Assistant Director Program Recipient; and where she began, Northwest Asian American Theatre. (Actor) Broadway, regional theatre—Penumbra Theatre Company, El Teatro Campesino, American Conservatory Theatre, and South Coast Repertory to name a few. She has also appeared in TV and film. (National Scope) Board President: Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists; Co-Founder National BIPOC/BITOC Coalition/Commons for the sustainability of artists and theatres of color; Board Member/Membership Committee: National New Play Network; Steering Committee: Anchorage Arts Group; Co-lead of Coalition Building/Website Subcommittees: Professional Non-Profit Theatre Coalition; BIPOC Advisory Circle and co-facilitated the launch of the E/D/I Institute: Theatre Communication Group; Core faculty, artEquity working throughout the US with arts and culture organizations.

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If you love Juneau and want to share your home, your car, a trail, or a meal with a guest artist during the mainstage season, we would love to connect you! Our local hosts make an incredible difference in our artists' experiences.

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