



UAA College of
Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE



PERSEVERANCE THEATRE
— Alaskan Regional Theatre —



The THANKSGIVING PLAY

Written by Larissa FastHorse
Directed by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse



ANCHORAGE

April 4 - 13, 2025

JUNEAU

February 28
- March 16, 2025

PERSEVERANCE THEATRE LAND and STEWARDSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that Perseverance Theatre is on the sacred homelands of the Áak'w Kwáan and T'aakú Kwáan, adjacent, on Lingít Aaní, also colonially known as Juneau-Douglas. We also acknowledge that Lingít Peoples have been stewards of this land since time immemorial and we are grateful for that stewardship and incredible care.

We recognize the series of unjust actions that attempted to remove the Lingít from their land, which includes forced relocations and the burning of villages. We honor the relationships that exist between Lingít Peoples; their lands, their ancestors, descendants, and future generations. We aspire to work toward healing and liberation, recognizing our paths are intertwined in the complex histories of colonization in Alaska.

We also honor and express deep gratitude to the Dena'ina of southcentral Alaska where we also conduct our work in what is colonially known as Anchorage, Alaska.

An acknowledgment is only the beginning – we must include an acknowledgment of ongoing colonial violence against Indigenous peoples everywhere. Perseverance is taking on the responsibility to forward decolonizing and re-indigenizing processes to be in right-relations and alignment with Alaska Native and all Native/Indigenous Ancestors, Elders and Descendants past and present to support and advocate for their sovereignty now and well into our future. We work to encourage our neighbors and friends to join us in the continued re-Indigenization of the field of theatre as we work towards our collective liberation, and become good stewards of our relationships, community, land, air and sea.

We know the brilliance; the vibrant languages, cultures, traditions, ways of life and relationships with all aspects of Alaska Native worlds bring knowledges and understandings we cannot know or access without their consent or partnership. We acknowledge that we arrived here by listening to the leaders/peoples/elders and their lessons from the past and these stories carry us as we weave a healthier world for future generations.

We are grateful to the Lingít, Dena'ina and all Alaska Native and Native/Indigenous Peoples for our ever-growing relations and collaborations with their leaders, elders, descendants, and organizations that bless us to continue our work and stewardship of Perseverance on Lingít Aaní.

Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Nt'oyaxsn, Chin'an!

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to the Fine Arts Building at UAA. We are delighted to have Perseverance Theater as one of our premiere partners and to be able to host their Anchorage performances. The UAA College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is dedicated to strengthening our relationship with the community. Over the past year, we have had over 1,500 events with 10,000 people attending and over 100 classes offered in the Fine Arts Building. It has become a hub of the creative arts on campus in our community. Our partnerships include Perseverance Theater and the Sitka Music Festival as well as Midnight Sun Theater and Alaska Theatre of Youth. We're proud to have launched a program called Friends of the Arts at UAA that gives community members an insider view of what's going on in the Arts here on campus. I invite you to join our community of supporters. We are hosting the final installment of the 24-25 CAS Community Lecture Series on May 1, 2025, and will announce our 25-26 speakers then. We are pleased to partner with the World Affairs Council to host a Conversation with Liz Cheney on May 1. Our goal in the lecture series is to bring people together to discuss topical issues. Our many and diverse partnerships enrich students' educational experience and provide new opportunities for professional growth and development. Likewise, our collaborations enhance our community by encouraging and inspiring us to explore fresh perspectives, expand our knowledge base, and broaden our understanding of others. I hope you enjoy tonight's show and that you will continue to support the Arts in our community.

Dean Jenny McNulty
College of Arts and Sciences

P.S. We are pleased to announce that parking will be free for all Fine Arts Building patrons after 5:00 PM in the East Lot, as we want to make sure there are no barriers to attending Arts events on campus.



**UAA College of
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UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

A NOTE FROM PT'S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome To Perseverance Theatre's 46th Season!
We Proudly Present *The Thanksgiving Play* By Larissa FastHorse

We are excited to culminate our Season of Power here at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, with this play, which premiered in 2018 and has brought forth many noteworthy firsts. Larissa FastHorse's play has been named not only to the top ten list of most produced plays throughout the United States, but it is also the first Native/Indigenous play to be included on this list. We recently learned *The Thanksgiving Play* has received approximately 300 productions and Larissa is also the first Sicangu Lakota and Native/Indigenous playwright to be produced on Broadway. Perseverance is honored to produce the Alaska premiere of *The Thanksgiving Play* and to be reconnecting with Larissa, who has directed at Perseverance and has been a part of the Perseverance Writer's Circle of 2017. We offer our hearty congratulations to Larissa!

While every play is powerful in its own right, this season we uplifted plays of Alaska that address the most challenging issues of our state and our nation. These plays included missing, murdered, Indigenous people, reclaiming identity and healing from systemic racism and being a member of a cult. *The Thanksgiving Play* challenges us to experience what it means to recognize the negative and even harmful impact of our privilege and unconscious bias. What each of these plays has in common is that they effectively examine these issues through the power of comedy.

As Perseverance re-emerged from the global pandemic, we knew we needed humor to bring us through that time of loss, isolation, and grueling uncertainty. *The Thanksgiving Play* had been under consideration and we were finally able to schedule it more than a year ago. Unknowingly our instincts to produce this play were spot-on and it could not be more timely as "diversity, equity, and inclusion" are excluded, even banned from business and educational standards and practices. This timely-ness is illustrated in the first scene of the play when Jaxton, one of four well-meaning white teachers/artists, offers Logan, his partner, a gift as they embark on a rehearsal process to devise a new Thanksgiving play. Jaxon shares:

"...It's symbolic of the way we're going to create this play. We start with this pile of jagged facts and misguided governmental policies and historical stereotypes about race then turn all that into something beautiful and dramatic and educational for the kids..."

We are very excited that the multi-disciplined artist, Frank Henry Kaash Katasse (Tlingít), who has a brilliant funny bone, insightfully draws out the satirical humor in Larissa's play that holds up a mirror

to illuminate the foibles of these well-intended teachers/theater artists. The humor unexpectedly opens our hearts and minds to create a space for true understanding that helps us not to laugh at someone but instead to laugh with each other to reclaim our humanity as a community. I am learning to trust humor and how it opens us to learn from each other's perspectives to receive the truth that guides us to the possibility and power of real allyship. This is theatre at its best through the power of brilliant playwrighting.

During these stressful times of change, know that we can use laughter as a coping and healing mechanism, says Professor William F. Fry of Stanford University. He advises us to learn what makes us laugh out loud. Once we've done this, build a humor corner of items such as lists of experiences that bring us joy and laughter. This might include programs from theatre, concerts, images from books, magazines, videos, TV shows, etc. When you're finding things a bit too much to handle, refer to your humor corner and allow yourself a shot of laughter. This has proven to help us reassess the situation from a more positive viewpoint. Next time you're feeling blue, take the time to see a play or attend a concert to break isolation and experience the enjoyment of laughter from the art and culture created from your very own family, neighbors, and community members.

As we culminate our 46th Season with *The Thanksgiving Play*, it is also my opportunity to offer my deepest Japanese bow of joy to you, our audience, to this brilliant creative team, cast and crew and all of our collaborators, and to our hardworking staff and board for bringing you this important Season of Power.

My deepest gratitude to the UAA Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. McNulty, who champions Perseverance Theatre and the arts and culture of Anchorage. We are so grateful for your support and we look forward to continuing our work with you, Dan Anteau, the Fine Arts Building Staff, and the Faculty and Students of UAA.

We are so grateful you joined us. We always strive for you to enjoy your time with us in the theatre as we know it supports good health and wellbeing so we live our best and happiest lives.

Stay tuned! We will be announcing an exciting 2025-2026 Season very soon!

With tremendous gratitude for joining us for this Season of Power!

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Leslie Ishii. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Leslie Ishii
Artistic Director

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INFORMATION



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Lecture Series

Liz Cheney | Thursday May 1, 2025
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A Conversation with Liz Cheney

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Elizabeth Arnold

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PERSEVERANCE THEATRE

— Alaskan Regional Theatre —

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Perseverance Theatre presents

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

Written by **Larissa FastHorse**

Directed by **Frank Henry Kaash Katasse**

Scenic Designer **Akiko Nishijima Rotch***

Lighting Designer **Jonnie Painter**

Projection Designer **Ryan Anderson**

Costume Designer **Kayla Gonzalez**

Sound Designer **Sean-Joseph Takeo Kahāokalani Choo**

Stage Manager **Winnie Y. Lok**

Props Master
Virginia Roldan

Dramaturg
Anika Adames

Assistant Costume Designer
Kate Bergey

Assistant Stage Manager
Cecilia Funk

Master Electrician
Nick Lynch

House Sound Engineer
Lucy Peckham

Choreographer of
Children's Ensemble
Kylie Ferguson

NNPN Producer in Residence
Rio Alberto

Technical Director
Erik Chadwell

Poster Graphic Design
Karolina Studios

Production Manager
Risa Kurosaki

Cultural Consultant
Xáalnook Erin Tripp

Playbill
Josh Lowman

Intimacy Choreographer
& Fight Consultant
Frank Delaney

Broadway Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2023 Carole Rothman, Artistic Director, Khady Kamara, Executive Director Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of "THE THANKSGIVING PLAY" in 2018. "THE THANKSGIVING PLAY" was commissioned and originally produced by Artists Repertory Theatre Damaso Rodriguez, Artistic Director Sarah Horton, Managing Director Portland, Oregon

Juneau Run
February 28 - March 16, 2025

Anchorage Run
April 4 - April 13, 2025

*Member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

The Thanksgiving Play is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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CAST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Ben Brown.....	Caden
Travis Clark Morris.....	Jaxton
Lauren Parkinson.....	Alicia
Kristen Rankin.....	Logan

CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Grayson Ashley, Sunny Cruz, Kaash Katasse, Rose Katasse, Alayna Hyatt, Paul Hyatt, Nelenna O'brien, Elenor Peterson, Kainoa Thole, Niko Thole, Kiana Twitchell, Ava Twitchell.

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION STAFF

Rio Alberto	Electrics Overhire
Kylie Anteau.....	Electrics Overhire
Brandy Bowmaster	Electrics Overhire
Kate Bergey	Costume Supervisor / Wardrobe Crew
Matthew Bradley.....	Wardrobe Crew
Liz Dean	Board Operator
Earnest Eckerson.....	Carpenter
Marissa Puller.....	Electrics Overhire
Akiko Nishijima Rotch.....	Scenic Charge Artist

UAA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES STAFF & FACULTY

Jenny McNulty.....	Dean
Meghan Owens.....	Student, Academic & Divisional Support for the Fine Arts
Daniel J. Anteau	Professor/Fine Arts Building Managing Director
David Fink.....	Event Support Technician

UAA's Theatre and Dance Program and the College of Arts and Sciences is proud to have Perseverance Theatre as a resident company to the Fine Arts Building. This partnership offers students in the OEC in Event Production (Technical Theatre) the opportunity to work with the professionals of Perseverance Theatre. Through this collaboration, they gain real world experience and contribute to productions such as The Thanksgiving Play. UAA students who have worked on the technical aspects of this show are: **Ris Baily, Lauryn Worley, Joshua Gainy, Andrew Kellard, Jana Lage, Kylie Anteau, Abigail Spear.**

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to Wendy Byrnes, Miah Lager, Alaska State Museum, Holly Moore and Tom Nousias of CBS TV's, "Elsbeth"

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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation) is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow, award winning writer/choreographer, and co-founder of Indigenous Direction, the nation's leading consulting company for Indigenous arts and audiences. Her satirical comedy, *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizons/Geffen Playhouse), is one of the top ten most produced plays in America this season. She is the first Native American playwright in the history of American theater on that list. Additional produced plays include *What Would Crazy Horse Do?* (KCRep), *Landless and Cow Pie Bingo* (AlterTheater), *Average Family* (Children's Theater Company of Minneapolis), *Teaching Disco Squaredancing to Our Elders: a Class Presentation* (Native Voices at the Autry), *Vanishing Point* (Eagle Project), and *Cherokee Family Reunion* (Mountainside Theater).

Over the past several years Larissa has created a nationally recognized trilogy of community engaged plays with Cornerstone Theater Company. The first was *Urban Rez*, the second project, *Native Nation*, was the largest Indigenous theater production in the history of American theater with over 400 Native artists involved in the productions in association with ASU Gammage. Their current project, *The L/D/Nakota Project* is set in Larissa's homelands of South Dakota. Her radical inclusion process with Indigenous tribes has been honored with the most prestigious national arts funding from MacArthur, Creative Capital, MAP Fund, NEFA, First People's Fund, the NEA Our Town Grant, Mellon Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and others.

Larissa's company, Indigenous Direction, recently produced the first land acknowledgement on national television for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on NBC. Along with partner Ty Defoe, their other clients include Roundabout Theater Company, American Association of Arts Presenters (AAP), Western Arts Alliance, Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Brown University, and many more. Their groundbreaking work is redefining Indigenous art representation and education in America.

In 2019 Larissa entered film and television with a series at Freeform, a movie for Disney Channel, and a special for NBC. She is currently in development as the creator for projects with Apple TV, Taylor Made Productions, Echo Lake, and another NBC project. Larissa began her writer training as a Sundance Native Feature Fellow, Fox Diversity Fellow, ABC Native American Fellow, and an intern at Universal Pictures before theater.



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In the Fall of 2023, Larissa joined Arizona State University's Department of English as professor of practice (literature) alongside frequent collaborators Ty Defoe and Michael John Garcés.

Larissa's other awards include the PEN/Laura Pels Theater Award for an American Playwright, NEA Distinguished New Play Development Grant, Joe Dowling Annamaghkerrig Fellowship, AATE Distinguished Play Award, Inge Residency, Sundance/Ford Foundation Fellowship, Aurand Harris Fellowship, and the UCLA Native American Program Woman of the Year. She was vice chair of the board of directors of Theater Communications group and represented by Jonathan Mills at Paradigm NY. She lives in Santa Monica with her husband, the sculptor Edd Hogan.

ABOUT 2ND STAGE THEATRE

Under the artistic direction of Carole Rothman, Second Stage Theater operates three New York City venues, exclusively dedicated to producing living American playwrights. Second Stage recently completed its 43rd season, which included the Tony Award-winning revival of Richard Greenberg's *Take Me Out* and the New York premiere production of Lynn Nottage's Tony nominated play *Clyde's*, as well as the world premieres of Rajiv Joseph's *Letters of Suresh* and JC Lee's *To My Girls*. For more information, please visit www.2ST.com.

ABOUT PLAYWRIGHTS HORIZONS

Playwrights Horizons is dedicated to cultivating the most important American playwrights, composers, and lyricists, as well as developing and producing their bold new plays and musicals. Tim Sanford became Artistic Director in 1996 and Leslie Marcus has been Managing Director since 1993. Under their decades of leadership, Playwrights builds upon its diverse and renowned body of work, counting 400 writers among its artistic roster. In addition to its onstage work each season, Playwrights' singular commitment to nurturing American theater artists guides all of the institution's multifaceted initiatives: our acclaimed New Works Lab, a robust commissioning program, an innovative curriculum at its Theater School, and more. Robert Moss founded Playwrights in 1971 and cemented the mission that continues to guide the institution today. André Bishop served as Artistic Director from 1981-1992. Don Scardino succeeded him and served until 1996. Over its 47-year history, Playwrights has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including six Pulitzer Prizes, 13 Tony Awards, and 39 Obie Awards.

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PROFILES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Ryan Anderson (Projections Designer) is an artist specializing in augmented reality and projection living in Anchorage, Alaska. He's served as a technical director for a multitude of Alaska arts orgs, including the Light Brigade & Momentum Dance Co. He might finally be done trying to steal a shopping mall in downtown Anchorage.

Kate Bergey (Assistant Costume Designer / Costume Supervisor / Wardrobe Crew) is a Tlingit and Haida artist, born and raised in Alaska. She graduated from Southern Oregon University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Technology, with a specialization in costume design. She has experience working as a designer, draper, stitcher, and crafter in the costume shop. Additionally, she has worked in lighting, sound, and wardrobe management. The first play Kate ever saw was here, at Perseverance. She is delighted to be able to continue her theatre journey with the very people who gave her this love.

Matthew Bradley (Wardrobe Crew)

Ben Brown (Caden) is a lifelong Alaskan actor who first appeared at Perseverance Theatre in 1996 *Death of a Salesman* (Bernard). He most recently appeared in the virtual production of *White Rabbit Red Rabbit* in 2020. Previous Perseverance work includes Versati in Steve Martin's *The Underpants* in Juneau and Anchorage; *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Cunningham/Taylor), *The Odd Couple* (Roy), *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike* (Vanya), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Baugh), *Raisin in the Sun* (Lindner), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Chasuble), *Leading Ladies* (Duncan), *Mr. Marmalade* (Bradley), *Tommy* (Uncle Ernie), *Hamlet* (Guildenstern), and *The Crucible* (Hathorne). Ben rendered solo performances as Crumpet the Elf in the Juneau and statewide touring productions of David Sedaris's *The Santaland Diaries* for seven years, and the Librarian in Glen Berger's *Underneath the Lintel* on Perseverance's Phoenix Stage for two years.

Sean-Joseph Takeo Kahāokalani Choo (Sound Designer) is a queer, multiethnic + multi-hyphenate theater artist from Honolulu, Hawai'i. Sean is the Lead Steward + Head Jester of Kamamo House, a queer theatre, new work & artist cultivation/advocacy organization. He is delighted to be a part of this production. Sean has done sound design and composed music for many theaters, including Leeward Theatre, Honolulu Theatre for Youth, Kumu Kahua Theatre, and the Hawaii Shakespeare Festival. Some sound design highlights include Atlantic Theater Company (*Hearstrings* by Lee Cataluna), The Studio



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Liz Dean (Board Operator) is a dancer, herbalist, and community advocate who rediscovered their love of theatre backstage through lighting and wardrobe. Liz's most memorable theatre experiences have been working Broadway's *Hamilton*, Anchorage Opera's *Elixir of Love*, and Perseverance Theatre's *Indecent*. Liz is beyond grateful to work with Perseverance again this season!

Kylie Ferguson (she/her) (Choreographer of Children's Ensemble) started at Perseverance Theatre as an Apprentice (floundering in snow) and now serves as the Community Partnership Manager and leads educational programming (with slightly less snow floundering). Her arts journey began in New Orleans with her grandmother's piano accompaniment for musicals and her mother's love of dance. She became a Musical Theatre graduate of the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and trained with the New Orleans Ballet Company. She holds a B.A. in Directing and a minor in Political Science from Webster University's Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts. She is a certified Actor Combatant with the SAFD and trained with the internationally renowned physical theatre company Frantic Assembly. Kylie continues to work as a Director, Choreographer, and Teaching Artist with students to uplift their stories and creativity.

Kayla Gonzalez (Costume Designer) is a costume designer and wardrobe technician based in Anchorage, Alaska. She holds a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Her recent designing projects include *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* and *Barefoot in the Park*, both produced by Cyranos in Anchorage. Additionally, Kayla has contributed her expertise as a wardrobe technician for *Cold Case* by Cathy Tagnak Rexford and *The Great Leap* by Lauren Yee, both staged by Perseverance Theatre. Outside of theatre, Kayla enjoys spending quality time with her energetic nine year old nephew, who always keeps her on her toes. She extends heartfelt gratitude to her Assistant Costume Designer, Kate Bergey, for their exceptional collaboration and dedication throughout the production process.

Frank Henry Kaash Katasse (Director) is a Tlingit (Tsaagweidi) actor, director, producer, improviser, educator, author, and playwright. Frank received his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts from the

PLANNED GIVING

Perseverance is grateful to all our supporters who have believed in and supported professional theatre by and for Alaskans for 45 years. Perseverance has faced tremendous challenges over the past few years but has survived and continued to create beautiful theatre for our audiences. Perseverance is committed to more than merely surviving, and your professional theatre company needs to thrive to create world-class theatre for Alaskans!

Leaving a Legacy with Perseverance Theatre

A gift in your will or estate plans can ensure that the programs you love at Perseverance Theatre are available for future generations. There are many creative ways to make a planned gift that ensure the theatre's future.

-Some examples of Planned Giving-

Bequest

Bequests allow you to make a contribution without reducing current income by designating a fixed amount or percentage of your estate to Perseverance Theatre in your will. Should you desire to designate your gift more specifically, we are happy to discuss that in further detail.

Retirement Plan Beneficiary Designation

You may name the Perseverance Theatre as a beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement benefits. Making a charitable gift from your retirement plan is easy and should not cost you any attorney fees. Simply request a change-of-beneficiary form from your plan administrator. When you have finished, please return the form to your plan administrator and notify Perseverance Theatre.

Real Estate

Real estate gifts can be given outright or by will. These significant gifts can be very impactful for Perseverance Theatre and provide the donor with multiple tax savings. A gift in your will allows you to retain flexibility if you change your mind.

Life Insurance

After your lifetime and/or the lifetime of another designated beneficiary, you can designate that the remaining balance of your life insurance policy goes to Perseverance Theatre to be used according to your instructions.

For more information or to notify us of an existing planned gift, please contact:

Benjamin Brown at ben@ptalaska.org or 907-364-2421 xt 241

University of Hawai'i: Mānoa in 2008. He has been involved with Perseverance Theatre (PT) since the fall of 2008 acting in over a dozen productions. In 2017, PT produced (along with Native Voices at the Autry and La Jolla Playhouse) *They Don't Talk Back*. Frank was also the Playwright in Residence at La Jolla Playhouse in 2018 where he wrote *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* and *Spirit of the Valley*. Both of these plays were produced by Perseverance Theatre (Frank Directed both). Frank was also Emmy nominated for his writings for *Molly of Denali* in 2022 and 2023!

Winnie Y. Lok (Stage Manager) Perseverance Theatre debut. Theater Credits - Broadway: *Outside Mullingar*; *An Enemy of the People*; *Venus in Fur*; *The Big Knife*. New York: Signature Theatre; Playwrights Realm; New York Stage and Film; Vineyard Theatre; The Greene Space; 52nd Street Project; Second Stage; Manhattan Theatre Club; New York Theatre Workshop; The Public/New York Shakespeare Festival; Mabou Mines; The Acting Company; 13P; Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab; Ma-Yi Theatre Company. Regional: Westport Country Playhouse; Coronet Theater; Kirk Douglas Theatre; The Theatre @ Boston Court; East West Players; Taper, Too; Walt Disney Concert Hall; Mark Taper Forum. Other - former Instructor, Project and Stage Management (New York University Abu Dhabi) and Manager, Health and Safety for Walt Disney Studios "The Haunted Mansion".

Travis Clark Morris (Jaxton) is an actor, furniture maker, and educator. He's had the good fortune to work on a number of productions in Juneau since moving to Alaska. Travis earned his MFA in Acting at the New School for Drama (NYC) and continued to study with his dear friends and teachers at the Michael Chekhov School in Hudson, NY. You can find out more about his work at www.clarkhandcrafted.com.

Jonnie Painter (Lighting Designer) is excited to be designing for Perseverance Theatre for the first time. They have a history designing shows such as *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Jersey Boys*, Rogers And Hamerstone's *Cinderella*, as well as live music concerts. Jonnie has a BFA in Fine Arts from Texas State University, and now lives and works out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. @jonnie__painter on instagram.

Lauren Parkinson (Alicia) is an actor and singer currently based in Jackson, Mississippi, and she is ecstatic about making her Perseverance Theatre debut. Her previous roles have included *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Cynthia Weil), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta), *Small Mouth Sounds* (Joan), *9 to 5: The Musical* (Ensemble, Judy Bernly u/s), and *I And You* (Caroline). Lauren has

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studied Theatre, Film, and English literature, and she even spent a term at the University of Oxford in England where she studied Shakespearean tragedy. She would like to thank Perseverance Theatre and everyone involved in this show for the amazing opportunity to work on this production.

Kristen Rankin (Logan) is a performer based in Juneau and is thrilled to be making her Perseverance Theatre debut. Her most recent roles include Lydia/Lady Catherine in *Pride and Prejudice* (Theater Alaska), Ron/Maggie in *Bat Boy: The Musical* (Juneau Ghost Light Theatre), and Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* (Theater Alaska). Kristen also improvises, clowns, and co-produces *Mudrooms*, a community storytelling event. She would like to extend enormous gratitude to the talented arts community in Juneau who have taught her so much, and to her dad for first sharing the joy of theater many years ago.

Virginia Roldan (Props Master) was born and raised in Juneau, Alaska. They have been doing theatre since middle school. They started working with Perseverance in 2016 helping with the STAR Program. They would like to thank their friends and family.

Akiko Nishijima Rotch (Scenic Designer) is so happy to be back to Perseverance Theatre. Since 2008 she has designed several sets including: *Battles of Fire and Water*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Christmas Carol*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *The Mountaintop*, *Our Voices Will Be Heard*, *Devil Fish*, *Where the Summit meets the Stars*, and *Cold Case*. *Barefoot in the Park* at Queens Theatre NY. Since 2020 exploring TV and film industry as a Scenic Artist in New York, TV credits include *Elsbeth*, *FBI*, *City on a Hill*, *The Last OG*. Assisted Opera Designer, Christof Hetzer in Tokyo Niki-Kai Opera. She has taught design and scenic art at Whitman College. Akiko is a native of Tokyo, Japan, and has an MA in Interior and Architectural Lighting Design at Parsons, and NYU-Tisch, MFA set design. Member of United Scenic Artist Local 829 as a set designer and a scenic artist.

Xáalnook Erin Tripp (Cultural Consultant) (Lingít, Deisheetaan, Yéil Hít) is an actor, voiceover artist, and audiobook narrator based in Juneau. She is passionate about working on projects that uplift Indigenous stories across all mediums. On the Perseverance stage, Erin has been in such plays as *Where the Summit Meets the Stars* by Frank Henry Kaash Katasse, *Devilfish* by Vera Starbard, and *Whale Song* by Cathy Tagnak Rexford. She has appeared on ABC's *Alaska Daily* and Fox's *The Great North*. She's also narrated audiobooks, including, *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade, *The Tao of Raven* by Ernestine Hayes, and *Indian Burial Ground* by Nick Medina. Follow Erin on Instagram at @erins_library.



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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
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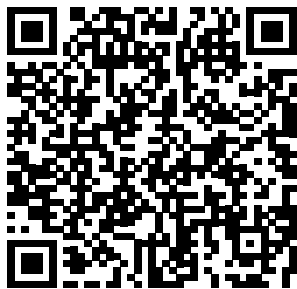
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ABOUT PERSEVERANCE THEATRE

Perseverance Theatre's mission is to produce professional theatre by and for Alaskans while providing educational opportunities that nurture and serve our communities.

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.



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PERSEVERANCE THEATRE 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 it's 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 with in 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) a Yonsei, fourth generation Japanese American, debuted as an actor in Northwest Asian American Theater's *Breaking The Silence* that raised legal defense funds for, WWII US Concentration Camp Resister, Gordon Hirabayashi and his Supreme Court Case. This standing room-only event featured the first play to publicly share the history and stories of Japanese American Concentration Camp survivors, resisters, and their descendants. Since then, Leslie has felt called to support storytelling that is the healing justice of Black/Indigenous/People of Color (BIPOC) artists and the collective liberation of all.

As a director, community builder, and activist, Leslie is grateful to have worked with legacy BIPOC theatres; El Teatro Campesino, East West Players, Penumbra Theatre, Theatre Mu, and Native Voices. These artistic opportunities have informed her advocating in every initiative, space and creative process with which she curates and engages.

(Service) Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists; National New Play Network; Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, E/D/I/A Committee; Anchorage Arts Alliance; Professional Non-Profit Theater Coalition; National Theatre Conference Member; artEquity; Tsuru For Solidarity.

(Awards) SDCF Zelda Fichandler Director Award, 2024; United States Artist Fellowship, 2023; SDC Zelda Fichandler Director Award Finalist 2022; Teachers Making A Difference; New England Foundation for the Arts, Capacity Building Grant; Doris Duke Foundation National Theatre Grant; James P. Shannon Leadership Institute; Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival Integrity Award; SDC 2016, 2017 National Standout Recognition for championing equity/inclusion. (228)

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Benjamin Brown.....	Development Director
Noa Carlson	Arts Administration Fellow
Erik Chadwell	Technical Director / Facility Manager
Earnest Eckerson.....	Carpenter
Kylie Ferguson.....	Community Partnership Manager
Cecilia Funk.....	Production / Stage Management Apprentice
Lydia Garcia.....	Literary Consultant/Associate
William Todd Hunt.....	Juneau Master Electrician
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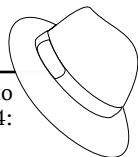
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