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Contact Communications Coordinator **Hope Campbell** at (312)-943-8722 or hope@aredorchidtheatre.org

Program cover painting by **John Judd** Programs by **Hope Campbell**

THE MALIGNANT AMPERSANDS

By **Brett Neveu***Directed by **dado***

Featuring

Sherman Edwards, Meighan Gerachis+, Emilie Maureen Hanson, John Judd+, Travis A. Knight*+, Steve Schine*+ & Jackie Seijo

Scenic Design by Grant Sabin* Costume Design by Myron Elliott-Cisneros* Lighting Design by Mike Durst*^ Sound Design by Matthew Muñiz Prop Design by Eren Ahn Puppet Design by Lolly Extract/Jabberwocky Marionettes Technical Direction by Tom Daniel Stage Management by **Kathleen Dickinson+** Assistant Stage Management by Lauren Krohn Production Management by **Amal Mazen Salem** Assistant Direction & Scenic Charge by **Ava Calabrese Grob** Dramaturgy by Tanya Palmer Assistant Dramaturgy by Peter Ruíz Artistic Production by Lance Baker* Casting by Kyle Stoffers Public Relations by Cathy Taylor PR

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^{*} Ensemble Member of A Red Orchid Theatre

⁺ Member of Actor's Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

[^] Member of United Scenic Artists-Local USA 829-IATSE

THE MALIGNANT AMPERSANDS

Cast & Creative Team

Cast (In Order of Appearance)

| Gabe Ampersand | Travis A. Knight*+ |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Summer Ampersand | Emilie Maureen Hanson |
| West Ampersand | John Judd+ |
| Corey Ampersand | Steve Schine*+ |
| Hiker Ampersand | |
| Jamie Ampersand | Sherman Edwards |
| Bobbie Morgan | |

Understudies

| U/S Gabe | Stevie Rose |
|--------------------|---------------|
| U/S Summer | Hope Campbell |
| U/S West | |
| U/S Corey & Hiker | |
| U/S Jamie & Bobbie | |

- * Ensemble Member of A Red Orchid Theatre
- + Member of Actor's Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

A Red Orchid Theatre sits upon the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: The Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other Tribes like the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. Located at the intersection of several great waterways, the land naturally became a site of travel and healing for many Tribes. American Indians continue to call this area home, and now Chicago is home to the sixth largest Urban American Indian community that still practices their heritage, traditions, and care for the land and waterways. Today, Chicago continues to be a place that calls many people from diverse backgrounds to live and gather here. Despite the many changes the city has experienced, both American Indians and A Red Orchid see the importance of the land and this place that has always been home to many diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Creative Team:

| Playwright | Brett Neveu* |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Director | dado* |
| Scenic Designer | Grant Sabin*^ |
| Costume Designer | |
| Lighting Designer | |
| Sound Designer | Matthew Muñiz |
| Prop Designer | Eren Ahn |
| Puppet DesignerLolly Extrac | |
| Technical Director | |
| Stage Manager | Kathleen Dickinson+ |
| Asst. Stage Manager | |
| ASM Assist/Cover | Alivia Arizaga |
| Production Manager | Amal Mazen Salem |
| Asst. Director & Scenic Charge | |
| Sound EngineersDaniel Et | |
| Dramaturg | Tanya Palmer |
| Dramaturgical Assistant | Peter Ruíz |
| Artistic Producer | Lance Baker* |
| Casting Associate | |
| Public Relations | - |

^{*} Ensemble Member A Red Orchid Theatre

Special Thanks to our Saints Ushers!

For helping bring this production to life, we'd also like to thank:

Doug Vickers, Alivia Arizaga, Daniel Etta-Williams, Brandon Reed, Joe Court, Jeffrey Levin, Matt Chapman

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[#]Member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

CAST



TRAVIS A. KNIGHT (Gabe) [he/him]: It's been a minute, huh? Previous shows at A Red Orchid include Grey House and Small Mouth Sounds. He is a proud member of the artistic ensemble and serves as the Associate Artistic Director. Other Chicago credits include: The Crucible (Steppenwolf); Ah, Wilderness!, Christmas Carol, The Sign in

Sidney Brustein's Window, Measure for Measure, and Camino Real (Goodman); How a Boy Falls (Northlight) and Camelot (Drury Lane). Regional credits include The Brothers Size (Milwaukee Chamber), A Streetcar Named Desire (Uprooted), and Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (Forward Theatre). Selected credits from his five seasons at American Players Theatre are: The Tempest, Glass Menagerie, Two Gentlemen of Verona, Troilus and Cressida, and Richard III. TV and web series: Chicago Fire, Chicago PD, Chicago Med, Mind Games, and Dad Man Walking. Film credits: Henry Gamble's Birthday Party and Runner. Love to Suz and Dash.



EMILIE MAUREEN HANSON (Summer) [she/her] started her career in Seattle, Washington (*The Wolves* and *The Crucible* at ACT Theatre, *Johanna* at ArtsWest). In Seattle, she found a love for ensemble-centered theatre and carries this passion in her Chicago artistic endeavors, often collaborating in devised plays and new works (*American*

Teenager dir. Monty Cole, *VIP* dir. Joanie Schultz). She investigates experimentation in her artistic work, her most recent project being a collaborative EP written by her band Court The Muse. As a recent graduate of The Theatre School at Depaul University, she is excited to bring this experimentation to A Red Orchid's production of *The Malignant Ampersands!*



JOHN JUDD (West) [he/him] previously appeared at A Red Orchid Theatre in *Gagarin Way* in 2005, and in the remount of *Simpatico* at McCarter Theatre in 2017. Over the last thirty-five years in Chicago, he has been seen on virtually all this city's stages where singing is not required. He has also appeared Off-Broadway in NYC, at regional venues

across the US, and internationally. On screen, he's currently appearing in *South Side* on HBOMax.



STEVE SCHINE (Corey) [he/him] is an Ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre and is honored to mark his 9th AROT production with *The Malignant Ampersands*. At AROT, he has appeared in *Fulfillment Center*, *Last Hermanos* (an audio play), *The Nether*, *Solstice*, *Louis Slotin Sonata*, *Hunger & Thirst*, *The Earl* (world premiere by Brett Neveu),

and *Gagarin Way*. Mr. Schine has performed with many, many theatre companies, including: The Goodman, Court, First Folio, Steep, Stage Left, Raven, Veterans Art Project, Lakeside Shakespeare, Strawdog, American Theatre Company, Lifeline, Piven, and Famous Door, among others. TV: Jack Gatins on *Chicago Fire* and Curtis on *Chicago PD*. Commercial: AARP (national). Video Games: Ubisoft's *Watch Dogs*. Voiceover: radio, TV, & internet spots for dozens of major companies over 15+ years. He is represented by DDO Artists Agency for stage and screen, and by Stewart Talent for voiceover. Mr. Schine is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and AEA.



MEIGHAN GERACHIS (Hiker) [she/her]: Chicago credits include Small Mouth Sounds, Solstice (A Red Orchid Theater); Roe, The Wolves, A Christmas Carol, New Stages Blue Skies Process, and Graveyard Shift (Goodman); Admissions, Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England (Theater Wit); Domesticated, Our Town, and The House on

Mango Street (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); The Electric Baby, Precious Little, The Walls, Elliot: A Soldier's Fugue, Indulgences at the Louisville Harem, Factory Girls, My Simple City, Wrens (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble); Measure for Measure (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); Cloud Nine (About Face Theatre); Cigarettes & Moby Dick and Che Che Che (Latino Chicago); The Underpants (Noble Fool Theatricals). Regional: Charm (Mixed Blood Theatre); Elliot: A Soldier's Fugue (Stageworks). Film/TV: Somebody Somewhere, Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice, At Any Price, Virginia, Chicago P.D., Crisis, Bobby & Iza, Sirens, and Battleground.



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SHERMAN EDWARDS (Jamie) [he/him] is elated to be working with A Red Orchid Theatre again after previously being a part of their production of A Killing Game! He was named 2012's "Best Stand-Up Comic in Chicago" by the Chicago Reader and has been lucky enough to perform at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland and a few other

notable places. TV and Film credits include *South Side* on Comedy Central, FOX's *Empire*, and the independent film *Monuments*, among others. He'd like to give a special shout-out to Brittany and Romy, and he is represented by Stewart Talent.



JACKIE SEIJO (Bobbie) [they/he] is ecstatic to be making their A Red Orchid Theatre debut! Other theatre credits include productions with: Redtwist Theatre, The House Theatre of Chicago, and Midsommer Flight. Recent TV Credits: Chicago Med and Chicago P.D. Jackie would like to thank Em for their love and support and his agents at DDO

Chicago. www.jackieseijo.com.



STEVIE ROSE (U/S Gabe) [he/they] is excited to be returning to work at A Red Orchid after serving as the Administrative and Development Intern from 2017-2018. Since then, Stevie has trained at School at Steppenwolf and understudied the world premiere of *Cosmologies* at the Gift Theatre. Stevie is a proud cat-dad to Wisp.



HOPE CAMPBELL (U/S Summer) [she/her] is indescribably amped to make her debut at AROT, where she has worked as the full-time Communications Coordinator since December 2021! Chicago credits include A Midsummer Night's Slam (Violet Surprise Theatre), Smokefall (Possibilities Theatre Company), and Moby Dick -

A Musical (Underscore Theatre). Regional credits: A Midsummer Night's Dream (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival). Hope is a 2020 graduate of the University of Chicago, where she acted in nine mainstage plays and musicals. Her work as a playwright includes The Poet in White (2020 Olga & Paul Menn Playwriting Award; finalist, Beverly Arts Center's 2021 New Playwrights Festival), New Bedford (Accidental Shakespeare Company, 2020), The Interns, and Take Me Dancing (2016 Sherwood Collins Playwriting Award). Hope is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.



JEAN MARIE KOON (U/S West) [she/her] is excited for her first opportunity to work with the lovely people at A Red Orchid Theater. She was most recently seen (in the before-times) as The Duchess of York in *Richard III* for Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, and has also performed with Goodman, Broken Nose Theatre, Babes With Blades, Idle

Muse Theatre, and Pride Films & Plays. She has understudied for Lifeline, Victory Gardens, Redtwist, Interrobang, Erasing The Distance, Piven Theatre Workshop, Eclipse, The Gift, Theater Wit, Steep, and Jackalope. Thanks to Rob and Kelsey for their loving support and Molly for her inspiration.



BARBARA FIGGINS (U/S Corey & Hiker) [she/her] is making her A Red Orchid debut. She was most recently seen as Mrs. Hawk in A Fine Feathered Murder with Hell in a Handbag. Barbara is an ensemble member with the Irish Theatre of Chicago. Credits include: Pipeline (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); My Brilliant Divorce (Jeff

Nomination, Best Solo Performance), *The Shadow of a Gunman, Dancing at Lughnasa* (ITC); *Barbecue* (Strawdog Theatre at Steppenwolf); *Exit Strategy* (Jackalope Theatre); *Hedda Gabler* (Writers Theatre); *The History Boys* (Timeline, Jeff Award Best Ensemble). Film & TV: *Chicago Justice* and *The Chi*. For more information, visit www.barbarafiggins.com.



JOSHUA PENNINGTON (U/S Jamie & Bobbie) [they/he] is so excited to join A Red Orchid Theatre for the first time in *The Malignant Ampersands*! This past summer, they were seen parading around Chicago's Parks as Oberon and Theseus in *A Midsummer Night*'s *Dream*. Theatre (selected): *Romeo & Juliet* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), *Hershel and the*

Hanukkah Goblins (Strawdog Theatre), Neither (Lifeline Theatre). Joshua received training as an actor and a painter from Illinois State University. Joshua is proudly represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent. Instagram: @the.prince_joshua

CREATIVE TEAM



BRETT NEVEU (Playwright) [he/him] has been an A Red Orchid ensemble member since 2004. Film/TV productions include the upcoming Eric LaRue (dir. Michael Shannon) with Big Indie Pictures, Brace Cove Productions and CaliWood Pictures, and Night's End (dir. Jennifer Reeder) with Shudder/AMC. Past theatre productions include

Verböten with House Theatre (Joseph Jefferson Nomination, New Work), Traitor with A Red Orchid Theatre (Joseph Jefferson Award, New Adaptation), and To Catch a Fish with Timeline Theatre. A Sundance Institute Ucross Fellow, Brett is also a recipient of a Steinberg/ATCA New Play Citation (Verböten), The Marquee Award from Chicago Dramatists, The Ofner Prize for New Work, and the Emerging Artist Award from The League of Chicago Theatres. Brett has been produced and/or commissioned by The Royal Court Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, A Red Orchid Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, House Theatre, TimeLine Theatre Company, Writers Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, Northlight Theatre, and several of his plays have been published through Broadway Play Publishing, Dramatic Publishing, and Nick Hern Publishing. He currently teaches writing for the screen and stage at Northwestern University.



DADO (Director) has been an A Red Orchid Ensemble Member since 2007. She was most recently seen onstage at AROT as the Moor-Hen in *The Moors*, the Ancient in *Grey House*, and Karla Stock in *Traitor* (another Brett Neveu premiere). At AROT, Dado has directed *Killing Game*, *The Room*, *The Mutilated*, *Red Handed Otter*, *Simpatico* (which

moved to McCarter Theatre), Megacosm (another Brett Neveu premiere), The Unseen, The Hothouse, The Sea Horse, The Fastest Clock in the Universe, and The Grey Zone. Dado is the recipient of the Edes Prize from the University of Chicago and produced David Lang's chamber opera little matchgirl passion (Facility Theatre) with this award. She is also the director of Erik Satie's surrealist Ruse of Medusa (Facility Theatre) and the original vacuum cleaner opera, which was produced at the MCA and Prop Thtr. Dado is currently a professor at Purdue University Northwest and holds an MFA in visual art from the University of Chicago.



GRANT SABIN (Set Designer) [he/him] is excited to be back with the A Red Orchid Theatre team. A native of rural Illinois, Grant blends his rural roots with urban art. He's a recipient of the 2015 Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award. He is known throughout Chicago for his keen eye in capturing atmospheric detail and his ability to design

"impressively executed sets" on a storefront theater budget. His designs have been seen at Northlight, Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf, Next, The Royal George, McCarter Theater (NJ), Overture Center (WI), Theatre Wit, Gallagher Bluedorn (IA), American Blues, ATC, The House, The Hypocrites, Christina Isabelle Dance, The Seldoms Dance, and A Red Orchid. He was nominated for Joseph Jefferson awards for his designs of American Blues Theatre's *Yankee Tavern*, A Red Orchid's production of *The Sea Horse*, and Dog & Pony's production of *Mr. Marmalade*. He was recently named one of the Top 50 Players in Chicago Theatre by *New City* Magazine. Grant is currently a full-time faculty member at Columbia College.



MYRON ELLIOTT-CISNEROS (Costume Designer) [he/him] is pleased to return to A Red Orchid. Previous AROT collaborations include *The Moors* (Jeff nomination), Small Mouth Sounds, An Evening at the Talk House, 3C, The Nether, Pilgrim's Progress, In a Garden, and The Opponent. Other work: Monuments, The Brink (Walkabout

Theatre); Girl Crazy, The Pajama Game, Annie Get Your Gun (Ohio Light Opera); The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, To Kill a Mockingbird (Steppenwolf for Young Adults); Oblivion, Ski Dubai, Honest, Sex with Strangers (Steppenwolf First Look); Dental Society Midwinter Meeting (16th Street/Theatre on the Lake); Eclipsed (Northlight Theatre); and Speech & Debate (American Theatre Company). Collaborations include productions with Stages St. Louis, Concert Dance Inc., Cincinnati Playhouse, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Aurora University, College of Wooster, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, as well as a residency at The Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Recent design projects include Strangers at University of Illinois Chicago, where he is an Assistant Professor. He is currently working with Routledge Press on a volume of interviews with prominent costume designers.



MIKE DURST (Lighting Designer) [he/him] is an ensemble member with A Red Orchid; previous shows for AROT include Grey House (Jeff Award: Lighting Design), Simpatico (McCarter Theatre + A Red Orchid), The Opponent (Off-Broadway + A Red Orchid), Sender (scenic + lighting design), and many more. Off-Broadway: 59e59, Cherry

Lane, Primary Stages, and Theater Row. Chicago and Regionally: Court Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, McCarter Theatre Center, Huntington Theatre, Detroit Public Theatre, Remy Bumppo, Olney Theatre, The Hypocrites, and more. Mike is currently a Lighting Director for CNN in the Washington D.C. bureau. MikeDurst.com



MATTHEW MUÑIZ (Sound Designer) [he/him] is a pianist, composer, game designer and educator, as well as the founder and co-curator of The Lab, a free monthly workshop for creators. Matthew's music has been featured on Chicago artistic projects and on stages for twenty years. His music direction and stage arrangement skills have been

met with rave reviews, often featuring the talents of the multi-instrumentalists Chicago's vibrant theatre scene produces. His work has been called "exhilarating" and "glorious," by print publications and not just his mom. His music has been featured in plays, podcasts, an experimental audio book, in short films, and in one feature-length zombie horror flick. Before discovering Chicago theatre, he released a full-length album and played most of the 'cool' (some might say 'small') stages in Chicago with his band, *The Live Debate*. He created music for *The Last Defender*, an escape room by Cards Against Humanity and the House Theatre of Chicago, where his music direction and performance credits also include *The Nutcracker*, *Verböten*, and *Hatfield & McCoy*. Matthew is currently developing a new musical entitled *Star House* and is developing two games: *Apocalypse Meow* and *Divination RPG*. When Matthew isn't making games or music, he's enjoying time hanging out with his husband, Vincent.



EREN AHN (Props Designer) [they/she] is excited to be back at work in A Red Orchid Theatre! A graduate of the University of Chicago, they were last seen at A Red Orchid as Props Assistant for *Grey House*. Other credits include Death Tax and Rabbit Summer (Redtwist Theatre). When not designing, they can be found on the top of the spotlight

tower at the Shedd Aquarium.



LOLLY EXTRACT (Puppet Design) [she/her]: Jabberwocky Marionettes is the multi-generational puppet theater and puppet production company of Lolly Extract & Amber Marsh. Jabberwocky's oeuvre includes original puppet plays, parade puppets, film, commercial, artistic installations, as well as productions with Chicago Parks

District's Night Out in the Parks; Field Museum Members' Night; Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; Lyric Opera of Chicago; Shedd Aquarium; Chicago Cultural Center; Chicago Public Library; Histopolis Puppet Theater; International Puppet Festival; and Nasty, Brutish & Short Puppet Cabaret. Jabberwocky Puppet Design projects: Chicago Shakespeare Theatre (*Seussical the Musical*), Odd Machine: Enjoy Illinois (*Mini Abe*), Scooty & Jojo (*Alien Queen*), Lake Shore Symphony Orchestra (*Petrushka*), Elgin Children's Theater (*Into the Woods*), Broken Nose Theatre (*After the Blast*), and Hell in a Handbag Productions (*Haywire, Scream, The Birds*, and *A Fine Feathered Murder*).



TOM DANIEL (Technical Director) [*Ine/him*] is thrilled to be working with A Red Orchid. He has been building sets for over 35 years and enjoys the troubleshooting and creative aspects needed to make a two-dimensional design into a three-dimensional piece of art. Special thanks to Kirsten, Grant, Dado, Kirk and Ava for this opportunity!



KATHLEEN DICKINSON (Stage Manager) [she/her] is happy to be back with A Red Orchid Theatre. Past shows include stage managing *The Moors, American Bottom,* and *Sick by Seven,* and assistant stage managing *3C, Traitor, 33 to Nothing, Victims of Duty, Small Mouth Sounds, Fulfillment Center, Killing Game,* and *Grey House.* Other stage/assistant

stage management credits include Steppenwolf Garage Rep, The House Theatre of Chicago, Remy Bumppo, Vitalist Theatre Company, Rasaka Theatre, Eclipse Theatre, and Collaboraction. Kathleen also completed the 2013-2014 Stage Management Apprenticeship at Steppenwolf.



LAUREN KROHN (Assistant Stage Manager) [she/her] is excited to be back for her second season with AROT! She has just returned from Berlin where she stage-managed two operas: Die Fledermaus and Hänsel und Gretel. Other recent stage management credits include The Moors and Last Hermanos with AROT, The Nutcracker and Cinderella with

Syracuse City Ballet, *Matilda* with Syracuse Stage, and *Die Liebe der Danae* and *Mister Rogers*' *Operas* with Pittsburgh Festival Opera. Lauren has recently graduated from Syracuse University with honors and a dual degree in Stage Management and Psychology. She is thankful to be back at AROT and to be a part of the *Malignant Ampersands* team.



AMAL MAZEN SALEM (Production Manager) [she/her] excitedly makes her professional debut at A Red Orchid Theatre, having recently graduated this summer from Northwestern University's theater program. During her time there, she produced several avant-garde plays, such as Hookman and Already Whole, and managed productions for

Northwestern's WAVE Productions. A Chicago native through and through, it's always been Amal's dream to take her place in Chicago's theater community. Joining *The Malignant Ampersands* team has made that dream come true. She's also always dreamed of finding a second-hand foosball table at a reasonable price...



AVA CALABRESE GROB (Assistant Director & Scenic Charge) is a director, spectacle maker, & Jen Silverman Scholar from Dallas, Texas currently stomping around Rogers Park. She is ½ of the theatermaking duo Young Krones. She devises with Facility, directs Young Krones' You Can't Pay the Bills with Feelings: an ongoing theatrical

intervention at Artisan Markets around Chicago, and creates hyperpop under the moniker CoolGirlDollDeluxe23. Previous credits: Bramble Theatre's *Love Story* (Director), AROT's *The Moors* (AD), & Wesleyan University's *Phoebe in Winter* (Director). Upcoming Work: M.K. Rothberg's *Late April, East of Sheridan* at Facility Theater. Thanks to dado, the visionary & reason I moved to Chicago.



TANYA PALMER (Dramaturg) [she/her] is the Assistant Dean and Executive Artistic Director in the School of Communication at Northwestern University. Prior to joining Northwestern, she was an Associate Professor of Dramaturgy in the Department of Theatre, Drama and Contemporary Dance at Indiana University. She spent

fourteen seasons as the Producer and Director of New Play Development at the Goodman Theatre, where she led the theatre's new play programs, and five seasons as the Director of New Play Development at Actors Theatre of Louisville. Her production dramaturgy credits include the world premieres of *Dana H*. by Lucas Hnath, *The Happiest Song Plays Last* by Quiara Hudes, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ruined* by Lynn Nottage. Originally from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, she holds an M.F.A. in Playwriting from York University in Toronto, and an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Concordia University in Montreal.



PETER RUÍZ (Assistant Dramaturg) [they/them] is an actor, playwright, and dramaturg. They are a graduate of the M.F.A. Acting program at Indiana University. Peter is excited to be collaborating with A Red Orchid Theatre on *The Malignant Ampersands*. They also serve as the Literary Intern for AROT. Peter is currently freelancing as a

teaching artist and dramaturg while writing multiple new plays. Recently, their play *Reaching for Infinity* was a part of Occupy the Stage 22 with The National Women's Theatre Festival. Acting credits include Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Fortitude in *Bonnets: How Ladies of Good Breeding Are Induced to Murder*, and Elliot in *Water by the Spoonful*. They are passionate about collaborating with BIPOC and Gender Diverse Playwrights as well as revitalizing the works of BIPOC Playwrights of the past in efforts to decolonize and deconstruct notions of canon. www.Peter-Ruiz.com



LANCE BAKER (Artistic Producer) [*he/him*] has been a Red Orchid ensemble member for a couple of decades now, around about the time Dado cast him in his very first Red Orchid show, *The Grey Zone* (2001). He's been in a few other Dado shows since then, and even though he wasn't cast in this show it seemed like he was going to be hanging around

anyway so we slapped a title on him and hoped he wouldn't make anything but the good kind of trouble. If you see him, remind him he's gotta write a bio for this program before it goes to print.



KYLE STOFFERS (Casting Associate) [he/him] is a theatre artist based in Chicago focused mainly in stage direction. Previous Chicago credits include those at A Red Orchid Theatre: Traitor and The Mutilated (Assistant Director), Pilgrim's Progress and Red Handed Otter (Assistant Stage Manager), and the Incubator Series' Puget Sound (Director)

and *Celebration* (Stage Manager/Assistant Director), as well as casting for nearly all of A Red Orchid's productions since 2016. Other Chicago credits include: Director of *With Or Without Wings* (Steppenwolf Look Out); Assistant Director *Alias Grace* (Rivendell); and Assistant Stage Manager of *The Sweeter Option* (Strawdog) and *A Scent of Flowers* (BackStage Theatre). Kyle received his BA in Theatre Directing from Ball State University and currently serves as the Interim Managing Director at A Red Orchid Theatre. For more, visit kylestoffers.com.

Don't miss what's next at A Red Orchid!

EXPERIMENTATION & INCUBATION

December 2022 – February 2023

Our ensemble's projects may include play readings, experimental works, conversations, workshops, and more. Stay tuned for announcements!



IS GOD IS

By Aleshea Harris
Directed by Marti Gobel
Featuring ensemble members
Karen Aldridge & Travis A. Knight
April 6 – May 28, 2023

When twins Racine and Anaia receive a letter from the mother they thought was dead, they swear to avenge her — and themselves — with blood. Their epic "mission from God" spans from the Dirty South to the California desert, from hip-hop to Afropunk, from ancient tragedy to the Spaghetti Western.

Winner of the 2016 Relentless Award and the 2018 Obie Award for Playwriting, *Is God Is* asks us to consider the roots, futility, and inevitability of cyclical violence, and to question ourselves for wallowing so happily in stories that traffic in it.

Support for our 2022-2023 Season

A Red Orchid Theatre thanks everyone who has generously donated to our current season. To join these distinguished groups and become a vital part of the organization, please contact Individual Giving Coordinator Stephanie Shum at stephanie@aredorchidtheatre.org.

30th ANNIVERSARY CONSORTIUM (\$10,000+)

This exclusive level of sponsorship is a collective of dedicated supporters of A Red Orchid Theatre in celebration of its 30th Anniversary and beyond. To join this distinguished group, please contact Stephanie Shum, Individual Giving Coordinator, at stephanie@aredorchidtheatre.org.

Lawrence Grimm & Susan Bowen • Jane P. Madden

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The generosity of A Red Orchid's Red League members annually provides vital support for artistic programming. In recognition of their contributions, members enjoy behind-the-scenes access and are invited to private events with the artists of A Red Orchid.

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James Shinkle

This list reflects donations and pledges made between July 01, 2022 and October 5, 2022. Please accept our apologies for any errors and bring them to our attention by contacting **Stephanie Shum** at **312.943.8722** or stephanie@aredorchidtheatre.org

A Red Orchid Theatre's 30th Season is also supported in part by:

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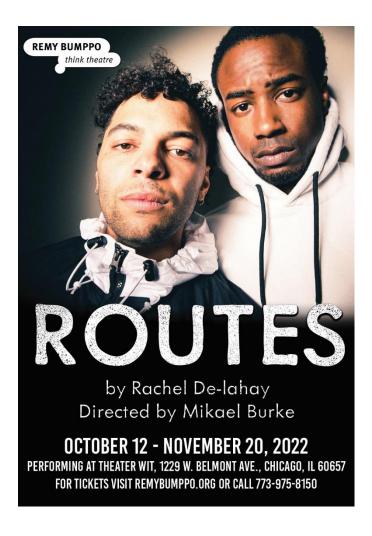
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Check out this new play from our friends at Remy Bumppo!





BOARD MEMBERS support the artistic vision of the Ensemble and serve as enthusiastic, informed ambassadors for the theatre while proactively collaborating with the Administrative and Artistic leadership to pursue funding opportunities and advantageous connections for the organization.

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS are young professionals who serve as an advisory volunteer committee. They work together to increase audience awareness, fundraise, and celebrate artistic innovation.

For more information about joining the Board or Associate Board, email Interim Managing Director Kyle Stoffers at: kyle@aredorchidtheatre.org.



Members of A Red Orchid's Associate Board, April 2022