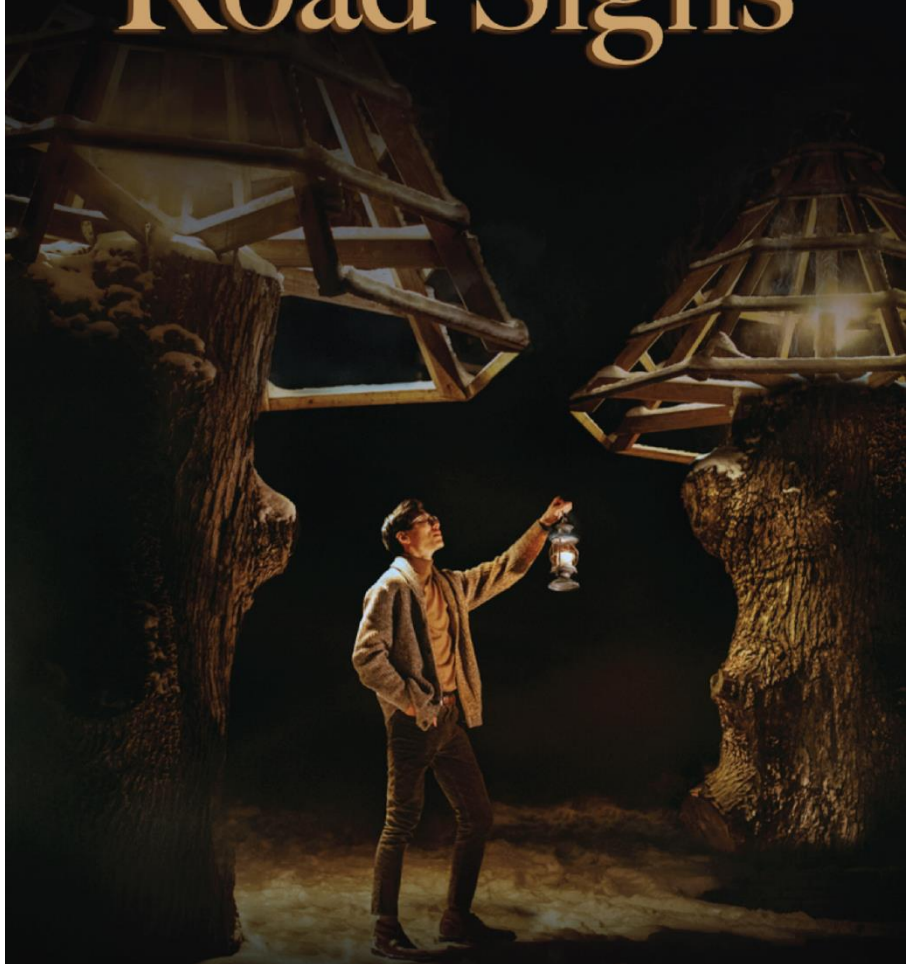


A RED  
ORCHID  
THEATRE

JON TAI  
IN  
**Road Signs**



**CO-CREATED & DIRECTED BY ALEX GRUHIN**

AUGUST 4-31, 2024 AT A RED ORCHID THEATRE

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Program cover photo by **Joseph Wyman**  
Programs by **Hope Campbell**

A Red Orchid Theatre Presents

**Jon Tai** in  
**ROAD SIGNS**

Co-Created by **Jon Tai & Alex Gruhin**

Directed by **Alex Gruhin**

Performer & Co-Creator.....	<b>Jon Tai</b>
Director & Co-Creator.....	<b>Alex Gruhin</b>
Mechanical Engineer/Programmer.....	<b>Quinn Chisenhall</b>
Stage Manager.....	<b>Faith Locke</b>
Assistant Stage Manager.....	<b>Josh Fitch</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Assistant Stage Manager.....	<b>Grace Archer</b>
Technical Director.....	<b>Tom Daniel</b>
Production Manager.....	<b>Patrick Starner</b>
Poster Image Photographer.....	<b>Joseph Wyman</b>
Public Relations.....	<b>Acacia Consulting Group</b>

***Please turn off all cell phones during the performance.***

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*Special Thanks to our Saints Ushers!*

**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



**JON TAI** (Performer & Co-Creator) is a magician and storyteller, whose mission is to foster connections between people through shared moments of astonishment. He performs magic across the country and around the world, in person and virtually, and has called the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's Liberty Magic his home base since its grand opening in early 2019. He is best known for having co-created and starred in *Missed Connections* off-Broadway at 59E59, following its premiere at, yes indeed, the MacArthur Award-winning A Red Orchid Theatre! A graduate of Cornell University with a degree in Psychology, he lives in the Troy Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, where he can often be found drinking coffee at Scratch & Co., his favorite neighborhood café.



**ALEX GRUHIN** (Co-Creator & Director): Favorite endeavors prior to *Road Signs* include *Missed Connections* – also with Jon Tai – at AROT and off-Broadway at 59E59, and his work with the late visionary chef David Bouley. Alex is currently Programming Director at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. His proudest production (and light of his life) is Daphne Shel, age 2, co-created with (other light) Ariel Reid. Special thanks to Kir, team AROT and, of course, JT for making magic happen. The universe says hello!

**QUINN CHISENHALL** (Mechanical Engineer/Programmer) [*he/him*]: Chicago design credits include: Puppet Festival Lab 2023/24 (Chopin/SRBCC), *The Wolves* (UofC), and *At Your Own Risk* (UofC). [QuinnChisenhall.Com](http://QuinnChisenhall.Com)



**FAITH LOCKE** (Stage Manager) [*all pronouns*] is so excited to Stage Manage for A Red Orchid for the first time! Previously, they've been an Assistant Stage Manager for *Turret*, *Revolution*, and *Is God Is*. Around Chicago, she has also been the Stage Manager for Proboscis' production of *Tempest* and Genderfucked Productions' *Queer Dance Breakout!* In September, be sure to see his next show *Royko: The Toughest Man in Chicago* at Chopin Theatre.



**JOSH FITCH** (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working with A Red Orchid Theatre as their Assistant Stage Manager again. Josh Fitch moved to Chicago almost three years ago from Nebraska where he got his degree in theatre with an emphasis on Stage Management. Josh has kept himself busy working with other great theatres around Chicago. He has Stage Managed for amazing theatres such as The Gift Theatre and A Yellow Rose Theatre.



**GRACE ARCHER** (2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Stage Manager) is a writer, director, deviser, and recent college graduate based in Chicago. While in school, she led a new works festival which produced over 15 student productions including plays, readings, concerts, and more. Originally from North Texas, she is passionate about making art accessible in our community and producing new work. Grace earned her BFA in Theatre Arts from The Theatre School at DePaul University and was the 2024 Dean's Prize Recipient. Special thanks to her roommates, friends, sister, and of course Mom and Dad for their continued love and support in all her artistic endeavors!



**TOM DANIEL** (Technical Director) [he/him] is very pleased to be a part of Road Signs! Tom has been building sets for the theatre community for over 35 years. The most recent projects include *Zac Efron*, *Turret*, *In Quietness*, *Right Now*, *Revolution*, *Is God Is*, and *The Malignant Ampersands*. Special thanks to Jon, Patrick, Kirsten and Audrey!



**PATRICK STARNNER** (Production Manager) [he/him] is a Chicago-based director, producer, and production manager and is thrilled to be this season's production manager. Outside of AROT, he production-manages for Oak Park Festival Theatre and is the producing artistic director for Platform (a production company). Previous directing credits include: *Cozy* (PocketTheatreVR), *Eleven Months of Nuclear & Gut* (Platform), *As You Are*, *Coats*, *Winsor & Gertie*, *Urinetown* (University of Notre Dame), and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (South Bend Civic Theatre).  
[patrickstarnner.com](http://patrickstarnner.com)

# SUBSCRIBE TODAY

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THEATRE's 32nd season!

## Regular Subscription

\$90

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Season 32.

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of the 2 shows in our season. Each production  
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## SEASON 32

Sponsored by **Kamehachi, Picnic Wine & Provisions, and Roost Roastery**

### The Cave

by Ensemble Member **Sadieh Rifai**

Directed by **Alex Mallory**

Featuring Ensemble Members **Kirsten Fitzgerald,**  
**John Judd, Guy Van Swearingen & Natalie West**

**World Premiere!**

**Jan. 23 - Mar. 9, 2025**

Dema's life is upended when her Palestinian-American family moves from Las Vegas to Ohio. While Dema rapidly approaches puberty and the first Gulf War intensifies, her father Jamil's mental health deteriorates. The world around her gets physically and emotionally darker as truths are revealed and everything around her shatters.

Production Sponsors: **Heidi Graham & J.P. Madden**

Developmental Sponsor: **Kate Gray**

A to-be-announced

### Spring Production

Directed by Ensemble  
Member **dado**

**May 1 - Jun. 15, 2025**

Stay tuned for  
announcements regarding  
our second production of  
Season 32!

# A **RED** ORCHID THEATRE

## **Ensemble Members**

Brett Neveu • dado • Danny McCarthy • Doug Vickers • Esteban Andres Cruz  
• Grant Sabin • Guy Van Swearingen • Jennifer Engstrom • John Judd •  
Joseph Fosco • Kamal Angelo Bolden • Karen Aldridge • Karen Kawa • Karen  
Kessler • Kirsten Fitzgerald • Lance Baker • Lawrence Grimm • Levi Holloway  
• Michael Shannon • Mierka Girten • Mike Durst • Myron Elliott • Natalie West  
• Sadieh Rifai • Shade Murray • Sherman Edwards • Steve Haggard • Steve  
Schine • Travis A. Knight

## **Board of Directors**

Jane Madden • Lawrence Grimm • Becky Coleman • dado • Myron Elliott •  
Kirsten Fitzgerald • Sean Baloun • Monica Byrd • Georgia Casciato • Elizabeth  
Derrico • Heidi Graham • Eileen Hirsch • Dozie Ibekwe • Gloria Lehr • Erin  
Roberts • Michael Shannon • Fred Spreen • Guy Van Swearingen

## **Staff**

Artistic Director: Kirsten Fitzgerald • Managing Director: Audrey Billings •  
Associate Artistic Director: Travis A. Knight • Development Director:  
Stephanie Shum • Marketing & Communications Coordinator: Hope Campbell  
• Literary Coordinator: Peter Ruiz • Production Manager: Patrick Starner •  
Casting & Administrative Assistant: Kyle Stoffers • Box Officers: Julia Alvarez,  
Grace Archer, Nate Becker & Kiyumi Daniel

**To learn more about A Red Orchid Theatre, including how you can  
get involved with us or support future productions, visit our website  
at [redorchidtheatre.org](http://redorchidtheatre.org).**