

A close-up photograph of a man with a grey beard and blue eyes, looking upwards. He is wearing a dark blue feathered headdress. A hand is visible on the left side of his head, adjusting the headdress. The background is a blurred blue and white feathered texture.

# BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

*BY ANNA OUYANG MOENCH*

*DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KIRSTEN FITZGERALD*



presents

# *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*

*BY ANNA OUIYANG MOENCH*

*DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KIRSTEN FITZGERALD<sup>\*,^</sup>*

## *CAST:*

John.....John Judd<sup>\*,^</sup>

Caitlyn.....Cassidy Slaughter-Mason<sup>^</sup>

## *UNDERSTUDIES:*

John U/S.....Guy Wicke

Caitlyn U/S.....Sahar Dika

## *CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM:*

Scenic Designer.....Morgan Laszlo

Costume Designer.....Ben Argenta Kress

Lighting Designer.....Seojung Jang

Composer & Sound Designer:.....Ethan Korvne

Props Designer & Set Dressing.....Spencer Diaz Tootle

Assistant Director.....Amy Carpenter

Dramaturg.....Jojo Brown

Technical Director.....Tom Daniel

Production Manager.....Shelbi Weaver

Stage Manager.....Alivia Arizaga

Assistant Stage Manager.....Faith Locke

Casting Director.....Kyle Stoffers

Public Relations.....David Rosenberg PR

Flutist.....Suzanne Hannau

Overhire.....Florence Borowski, Steel Brooks,  
& Patrick Starner

\* Ensemble Member of A Red Orchid Theatre

^ Member of Actor's Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers

**Time:** Autumn 2014–2025

**Place:** A back yard in Baltimore, Maryland

# SPONSORS

Production Sponsor:



Opening Night Partner:



A Red Orchid's 33<sup>rd</sup> Season is sponsored by  
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This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. This project is partially supported by a CityArts Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events as well as additional support from support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA is presented through special arrangement with  
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[www.trwplays.com](http://www.trwplays.com)

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA artwork by Adam T. Crawford  
Photo of Ensemble Member John Judd by Jeff Kurysz  
Playbill design by Stephanie Shum

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## *LANDACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

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.

## *CONTENT WARNING*

Discussion of miscarriage and brief violence.

## *SPECIAL THANKS*

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Suzanne Hannau,  
& Josh McCammon

Bird illustrations in lobby display:  
Michele Clamp (Cardinal), David Sheirer  
(Tufted Titmouse), Caleb Tucker (Nuthatch),  
& Holly Wach (Blue Grosbeak)

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by Hanna Kime

Directed by Grace Dolezal-Ng



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## PROFILES



**JOHN JUDD** (John) [he/him] last appeared on the A Red Orchid Theatre stage in *SIX MEN DRESSED LIKE JOSEPH STALIN*, and was previously seen in *THE CAVE*, *THE MALIGNANT AMPERSANDS*, and *GAGARIN WAY*, as well as the McCarter Theatre's presentation of *SIMPATICO*. A Chicago based actor for forty years, John has acted at The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Writer's Theatre, Court Theatre, Drury Lane, Northlight, Shattered Globe, Lookingglass, Victory Gardens and Next, as well as numerous regional, international and Off-Broadway venues.



**CASSIDY SLAUGHTER-MASON** (Caitlyn) [she/her] is a Chicago based actor and writer. Recent theater credits include: *BROOKLYN LAUNDRY* (Northlight Theatre), *THE LUCKIEST* (Raven Theatre, Equity Jeff Award for Best Performer in a Principal Role), *HOW A BOY FALLS* (Northlight Theatre), *KISS* (Haven Theatre), *SIGNIFICANT OTHER* (Theatre Wit/About Face), and *RAPTURE BLISTER BURN* (Goodman Theatre, Equity Jeff nomination for Performer in a Supporting Role). Film and TV credits include: "All Happy Families," "Ultra-City Smiths," "Chicago Fire," and "Easy." Her short film "Rabbit Rabbit" (co-written

with Poppy Golland) will stream this spring on OpenTV. Cassidy is represented by Paonessa Talent Agency.



**GUY WICKE** (John U/S) [he/him] A lover of birds and nature, Guy leapt at the chance to immerse himself in this lovely play. He returns to A Red Orchid after appearing in *INFINITY BURNS* as part of the Incubator. Other highlights: *LIFE ON PAPER* (Jackalope Theatre Company); *TRES BANDIDOS* (The Agency); *A MURDER MOST NOVEL*, *THE BASEMENT COMPANY* (Death & Pretzels); *NOISES OFF*, *THE MOUSETRAP* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre); *THE EXPLORERS CLUB*, *DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER* (Citadel Theatre); and various projects as an ensemble member of Avalanche Theatre. A specimen native to

Chicago, Guy pops up in random bits of mischief around town and on TV, thanks to his reps at Lori Lins. [GuyWicke.com](http://GuyWicke.com)



**SAHAR DIKA** (Caitlyn U/S) [she/her] is a Chicago-based actor and writer. She is thrilled to be understudying *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA* at A Red Orchid! Other readings and productions include *SHARON* and *PRETTY SHAHID* (A Red Orchid Theatre); *WISH YOU WERE HERE* (Remy Bumppo; U/S); *MODERN WOMEN* and *NEST* (The Story Theatre); *CRUSHED* (The Understudy); *HAPPY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN* (Steep); *MODERN WOMEN* and *LAYALINA* (Goodman Theatre); *DOUG* and *PRETTY SHAHID* (Jackalope Theatre Company); *MOSQUE4MOSQUE* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Scout); *VENUS IN FUR*

(Circle Theatre; U/S) and *MOSQUE ALERT* (Silk Road Rising). Television and film credits include "Chicago Fire," "Emperor of Ocean Park," "Christmas with Felicity," "Monuments," "Good Years," and "Happy Hour." Upcoming: *WORK HARD HAVE FUN MAKE HISTORY* at First Floor Theater. She is represented by DDO Artists Agency and is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA.

## PROFILES



**ANNA OUYANG MOENCH** (Playwright) [she/her] is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays include YOUR LOCAL THEATER PRESENTS: A CHRISTMAS CAROL, BY CHARLES DICKENS, AGAIN, MAN OF GOD, BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, MOTHERS, and SIN EATERS. Anna's work has been produced at the La Jolla Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Geffen Playhouse, East West Players, the Playwrights Realm, NAATCO at the Public Theater, A Red Orchid Theatre Company, The Gift Theatre, and many others. She is a former Jerome Fellow at the Playwrights' Center, Van Lier

fellow at the Lark and Page One fellow at the Playwrights Realm. Awards include two 2023 WGA Awards for her work on "Severance" (Apple TV+), the 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award, the Gerbode Special Award in the Arts, the Paul Stephen Lim Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center, and the NYFA Award in Playwriting/Screenwriting. Anna received her MFA in Playwriting from UCSD and now lives in Los Angeles with her family.



**KIRSTEN FITZGERALD** (Director) [she/her] is a proud member of the Ensemble at A Red Orchid Theatre and has served as the Artistic Director since 2008. Recent directing credits include the world premiere of GORGEOUS by Keiko Green at Raven Theatre, THE MOORS at A Red Orchid (Jeff Award for Best Production and Best Director of a Play-Midsized) and DANCE NATION at Northwestern University's Wirtz Center. As an actor Kirsten has originated roles in the world premieres of THE CAVE, GREY HOUSE, TRAITOR, PILGRIM'S PROGRESS, WEAPON OF MASS IMPACT, and more (A Red Orchid); SWING

STATE, I HATE IT HERE (Goodman); LETTIE, APPROPRIATE (Victory Gardens); MARY PAGE MARLOW, THE QUALMS (Steppenwolf). TV: "Dark Matter," "Shining Girls," "Somebody Somewhere," "The Exorcist," "Sirens," "The Big Leap," "Chicago Med/Fire/Justice," "Underemployed," "ER." Film: "Widows," "Working Man." Kirsten is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

**MORGAN LASZLO** (Scenic Designer) [they/them] is a Chicago based scenic designer and painter. This is their debut design credit at A Red Orchid Theatre. Other credits included: Scenic Design - YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMPANY (Piven Theatre Workshop). Scenic Charge - VEAL (A Red Orchid Theatre), URINETOWN, TLDR: THELMA LOUISE DYKE REMIX, DIANA, TELL ME ON A SUNDAY (Theo Ubuque Cabaret Theatre), MATILDA JR, TUCK EVERLASTING (Actors Training Center), GOLD LEAF RAGTIME BLUES (American Blues Theater), ROOTED (Bramble Theatre Company).

**BEN ARGENTA KRESS** (Costume Designer) [he/him] is a Chicago-based visual artist and costume designer. Recent select credits include: COME AGAIN and THE DISTRIKT OF LAKE MICHIGAN at Stage Left Theatre; HAIRSPRAY at Uptown Music Theatre; THE AUDIENCE at Drury Lane Theatre (co-designer); THE HERO WITHIN at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre; THE LOVE OBJECT at The Story Theatre; THE PROM, THE TEMPEST, and SWEAT at Northwestern University. Ben graduated with a BFA in psychology and theater from Kenyon College and an MFA in stage design from Northwestern University. [www.benargentakress.com](http://www.benargentakress.com)

## PROFILES

**SEOJUNG JANG** (Lighting Designer) [she/her] is a lighting designer working across theatre, musicals, opera, and dance. Originally from South Korea, she earned her MFA in Lighting Design from Northwestern University in 2024. Her design credits include THE TEMPEST, WORKING: A MUSICAL, THE REVOLUTIONISTS, and MULAN, with recent projects such as HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARS ROVER, PASSION, GORGEOUS and THE LOVE OBJECT. In 2025, she received the USITT YDMT Barbizon Jonathan Resnick Lighting Design Award and Opera America's Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize.

**ETHAN KORVNE** (Composer & Sound Designer) [he/him] is a composer and sound designer from Akron, OH and based in Chicago. Recent credits include: TAMING OF THE SHREW at Court Theatre (composer), OAK at Raven Theatre, HAMLET at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN at The Story Theatre, NO SUCH THING at Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, CORONATION at Refracted Theatre Company (Joseph Jefferson Nomination – Best Sound Design), SHORT SHAKES! ROMEO & JULIET at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, and the Chicago premiere of TAMBO & BONES at Refracted Theatre Company (2 Joseph Jefferson Awards – Original Music in a Play and Best Sound Design). Ethan graduated from The Theatre School at DePaul University with a BFA in Sound Design. He believes in theatre that draws a diverse audience, plays that challenge and thrill, and work that puts a spotlight on perspectives that don't receive hardly enough attention. Listen to his work and more at: [ethankorvne.com](http://ethankorvne.com)



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## PROFILES

**SPENCER DIAZ TOOTLE** (Props Designer & Set Dressing) [she/her] is grateful and excited to be making her A Red Orchid debut! Over the course of her 11 years in Chicago she has worked as a prop designer, playwright and actor: The Story Theatre (POT GIRLS, AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN, THE LOVE OBJECT), The Second City (THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE, WELCOME TO THE PARTY, PEANUT BUTTER JELLY TIME) and Steppenwolf Lookout Series (PREACH: THE BLOCK PARTY, LADYLIKE, FUKHAUS LIVE). Her first play, LAS FANTASMAS Y FRIDA KAHLO, was awarded the Chicago DCASE New Play Residency and she is an NBCUniversal Bob Curry Fellow. Spencer is one half of the duo producing CHiSME, a todo Latine y todo queer variety hour here in Chicago. You can find and follow her journey on instagram @spencerdiaztootle.

**AMY CARPENTER** (Assistant Director) [she/her] is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist from Atlanta, GA whose practice centers around negotiating uncertainty and finding revelation through performance. In Chicago, she has been privileged to work with First Floor Theater, TimeLine Theatre, Raven Theatre, The Barrens Theatre, and Refracted Theatre Company. She co-founded artistic collective [producingbody] in 2021 and directing credits include: 4.48 PSYCHOSIS (co-direction w/ Claire Bauman), BIG LOVE, SPECTACULAR SPECTACULAR, and the workshop of Hanna Kime's NEXT DOOR. BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA is her first production with A Red Orchid Theatre and she's grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with this immensely talented team.

**JOJO BROWN** (Dramaturg) [she/her] is excited to return to A Red Orchid Theatre, where she previously appeared in THE ROOM (2016) and VEAL (2025). Her recent credits include assistant directing GORGEOUS (a Raven Theatre and Rivendell Theatre Ensemble co-production). Jojo is grateful for the continued mentorship and collaboration of the A Red Orchid community.

**TOM DANIEL** (Technical Director) [he/him] is thrilled again to be a part of another A Red Orchid production, it has been three wonderful years, helping to create environments for all the marvelous performers. This time Tom is honored to be building a set for Morgan Laszlo, this production's scenic designer. Special thanks to Shelbi, Jordan, Steel, Faith, and Kirsten.

**SHELBI WEAVER** (Production Manager) [she/her] is a Chicago-based Production Manager. She attended the University of Northern Colorado, where she received a B.A. in Acting. She recently Production Managed VEAL at Red Orchid and is honored and grateful to be collaborating with such an incredible group of people again! Some of her production credits include: Co-Director of Production on WORK HARD HAVE FUN MAKE HAPPY, ONE PARTY CONSENT, EVANSTON SALT COSTS CLIMBING, and IN HIS HANDS (First Floor Theater); Production Manager on PRO-AM and HATEF\*CK (First Floor Theater); VEAL (AROT); AT THE WAKE OF A DEAD DRAG QUEEN and POT GIRLS (The Story Theatre); Staff Stage Manager (iO Theater).

## PROFILES

**ALIVIA ARIZAGA** (Stage Manager) [she/her] is so excited to be working with A Red Orchid Theatre again. She is a stage manager from Houston, Texas that is fueled by a passion for creativity, storytelling, and leadership. She has recently worked with AROT on LAST HERMANOS (Cover ASM) and THE MALIGNANT AMPERSANDS (Cover ASM). Other recent credits include 321 PLAYS FOR TRANS FUTURES, EVANSTON SALT COSTS CLIMBING (First Floor Theater); FOOL FOR LOVE (Steppenwolf Theatre Company); and EL BARZON (Free Street Theater).

**FAITH LOCKE** (Assistant Stage Manager) [all pronouns] is an Assistant Stage Manager for Birds of North America, and this is their seventh time working at A Red Orchid Theatre! Faith was the Stage Manager for ROAD SIGNS and an Assistant Stage Manager for VEAL, THE CAVE, TURRET, REVOLUTION, and IS GOD IS. Other recent credits include Stage Manager for INFERNAL (produced by Proboscis Theatre, performed at Bramble Arts Loft), and ROYKO: THE TOUGHEST MAN IN CHICAGO (performed at Chopin Theatre).

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