

# LOVE AND INFORMATION

BY CARYL CHURCHILL

DIRECTOR JOHN GREEN  
CHOREOGRAPHY JENNIFER MARIE LEDESMA  
AND LIGIA SANDOVAL

MARCH 9-19, 2016  
THE SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE



Columbia  
COLLEGE CHICAGO

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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*Love and Information* is a formal experiment by Caryl Churchill in creating a dramatic experience from a series of unstructured texts. The “given circumstances” by which a playwright traditionally gives shape and meaning to a text—character, place, time, action—are entirely missing from this work. On the page, no characters are indicated and there is little sense of time, place or action; reading the play is akin to surfing through multiple TV channels late at night, staying on any one just long enough to snatch a sense of the content before moving on. The meaning of the piece is derived from the accumulated experience of witnessing fragments of lives lived, and in this, Churchill once again proves that she is our most adventurous theatrical chronicler of the contemporary condition of being human.

At one level, *Love and Information* is an investigation of “memory,” a memory play. A central scene (“Memory House”) explores and illustrates the technique for developing a strong memory created by the ancient Greeks, which survived up to the time of the Renaissance and was only supplanted by the introduction of printing and the mass availability of books. It also evokes memories of Churchill's earlier works: her fascination with gender politics and families, the socio-political environment, the manner in which history weighs on the present time, the role of religion in society, together with her formal experiments in combining spoken text with dance, and her belief that the playwright is just one of the collaborators in the creation of a piece of theatre.

## The following ideas inform this production:

*“Emigration, forced or chosen, across national frontiers or from village to metropolis, is the quintessential experience of our time.”*

—John Berger

*“Every love story is a ghost story.”*

—David Foster Wallace

*“Depression is an essential part of the play.”*

—Caryl Churchill

**John C. Green**  
Director

# LOVE AND INFORMATION

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**BY CARYL CHURCHILL**  
**DIRECTOR JOHN GREEN**

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**CHOREOGRAPHY** JENNIFER MARIE LEDESMA  
AND LIGIA SANDOVAL

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**SCENIC DESIGN** KEVIN ROLFES

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**LIGHTING DESIGN** WILLIAM ALLEN

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**COSTUME DESIGN** MELANIE GREEN  
SASHA MARKGRAF  
LIANA PROKOPIS  
CHARLOTTE GOLDEN

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**MAKEUP DESIGN** CLAUDIA ROY  
HEATHER MICLLEF

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**DIALECT COACH** ADAM GOLDSTEIN

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**STAGE MANAGER** JESSICA HUMKE

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## CAST

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TALIOR ARNOLD DANE AVDON

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SIERRA BUFFUM JESSICA CASILLAS

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SARAH COHEN AUSTIN EBERT

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EVELYN FINNE DAVID GALLO

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TRISTIN HALL ALICIA KRAFT

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KAREN LEFFERTS JON LEVERT

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ADDISON LEWIS CARMEN LIAO

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MARIAH MORRIS AYA NAOKI NAKATANI

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ALMANYA NARULA BRANDON NELSON

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GAGE NELSON MARTI SKOLER

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JELANI SMITH ALICIA WATLEY

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REBECCA WHITTENHALL MAHAILA WOODS

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**THE SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE, 72 E. 11<sup>TH</sup> ST.**

*Love and Information* is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

# THE ENSEMBLE

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**Talior Arnold** is an acting major from Evergreen, Colorado. He is a transfer student from Franklin and Marshall College's government/pre-law program. He spent last year as the assistant to Jennifer McCray Ricon, the executive artistic director of the Denver Academy of Dramatic Arts, and performed in the shows *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kauffman (Matt Galloway, Aaron Kriefles, Russel Henderson), *Life Underwater* by Richard Greenberg (Kip), *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams (Jim), *The Long Goodbye* by Tennessee Williams (Joe) and *A View From The Bridge* by Arthur Miller (Rodolpho). Arnold performed in two Directing II projects in his first semester at Columbia College Chicago, playing Adam in *Paradise Regained*, directed by Paul Diccicio, and Mic in *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen*, directed by Amber Teadway.

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**Dane Avdon** is a freshman musical theatre major from Lubbock, Texas. Some of his favorite performance credits include C.A.T.S Playhouse's *Spring Awakening* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* at Texas Tech University. His last Columbia College Chicago performance was the musical theatre NewStew Showcase *Heart & Music*.

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**Sierra Buffum** is a junior acting major from St. Louis, Missouri. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *M. Butterfly*, *Fiddleheads and Lovers*, and a NewStew musical theatre revue. Recent regional credits include *Dog Sees God* (Stray Dog Theatre), *The Master Builder* (Against the Grain) and *Medea* (Theatre Y).

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**Jessica Casillas** is a junior acting major from Mexico, where she performed in a local production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. She was most recently seen in Columbia College Chicago's Directing II/Triple Bill as part of the Chorus of Women in *Women of Troy*, directed by Makena Metz. This is her first Mainstage production at Columbia College Chicago.

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**Jemima Charles** is junior acting major from Miami. *Love and Information* is her Columbia College Chicago debut performance.

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**Sarah Cohen** is a sophomore acting major from Mexico City. Her recent work includes a staged reading of *Faust Fatale* by Aaron Lockman and a part in the ensemble-devised piece *Terror*, directed by Travis Coe.

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**Austin R. Ebert** is a sophomore acting major from Olathe, Kansas. Previous productions at Columbia College Chicago include *U.S. Drag*, directed by Amelia Bolstad; *Fiddleheads and Lovers*, directed by Max Colvill; and *Scary Pants*, directed by Joe Janes. This is his first Mainstage production.

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**Evelyn Hilleren Finne** is a junior BFA musical theatre major from Oslo, Norway. Previous performance credits include Columbia College Chicago's production of *Glockenspiel* (Justine), directed by Steven Dykes, and a Norwegian TV production of the musical *Jakten på Juleskurken*. She attended the Broadway-integrated actor training program Open Jar in New York City in summer 2015.

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**David Gallo** is a sophomore musical theatre major from Clarendon Hills, Illinois. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Love Song* and the musical theatre NewStew showcase *#NoVoice: Equality in a Time of Conflict*. This is Gallo's first Mainstage production at Columbia.

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**Tristin Hall** is a sophomore majoring in musical theatre and minoring in stage combat. Previous productions at Columbia College Chicago include *Bridal Dance* (Deb), *Shelter* (Ella) and a staged reading of *Faust Fatale* (Wagner). Outside shows include *The Nerd* (Tansy), *Crimes of the Heart* (Meg Magrath) and *Carrie and Francine* (Carrie).

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**Alicia Kraft** is a senior acting major. She got her start in acting while attending Marin School of the Arts in Northern California. Her Columbia College Chicago performance credits include roles in *Dog Sees Good*, *U.S. Drag* and *The Altruists*.

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**Karen Lefferts** is a sophomore BFA acting major from Dallas. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include Isreal Horowitz's *Speaking of Tushy*, directed by Maydi Diaz, and Carol Churchill's *Not Not Not Not Not Enough Oxygen*, directed by Amber Treadway.

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**Jon LeVert** is a sophomore screenwriting major and avid YouTube content creator from Chicago's south suburbs. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Getting Out*, directed by Wendi Weber and Colleen Halloran. *Love and Information* is his second Mainstage production.

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**Addison Lewis** is a junior acting major from Edmond, Oklahoma. Previous Columbia College Chicago credits include *On the Edge of a Dark Wood*, directed by Ann Boyd and John Green; *Inconsolable*, directed by Michelle Locke; and *Two Chairs and a Lightbulb*, facilitated by Mickle Maher and Tom Mula. This is her first appearance in a Mainstage production at Columbia College Chicago.

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**Carmen Liao** is a freshman acting major from Malaysia. She began acting in 2014 and has since appeared in several student projects, musicals and theatre productions. She recently performed in theatrethreesixty's *Love and Information*, and in Columbia College Chicago's 24 Hour Play Festival in December 2015.

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**Mariah Morris** was raised in Los Angeles, where she received dance training at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy for 11 years. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Oklahoma!*, *The 90s Show* and *Got Talent*. Morris has also appeared on the television show *Empire* as a soloist dancer.

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**Naoki Nakatani** is a sophomore BFA directing student. He attended high school in Halifax, Canada, and is originally from Ube City, Japan. Nakatani was featured in the Columbia College Chicago production of *An Unobstructed View*, directed by Susan Padveen.

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**Almanya Narula** is pursuing BA degrees in acting and arts management with minors in voiceover and stage combat. Raised in Bangkok and Mumbai, she has appeared in numerous Bollywood films, television shows and music videos, including *Pyaar Ke Geet*, *Rangeelo Maro Dholna* and *Say Na Something to Anupum Uncle*. She recently portrayed the queen mother Atossa in the Columbia College Chicago production of *The Persians* and Zinnie in *Glockenspiel*, written and directed by Steve Dykes in collaboration with Rose Buford College. Her professional Chicago theatre experiences include work with Strawdog Theatre, Profiles Theatre and Chicago Dramatists. She received a Sarah Siddons Scholarship in 2015 for being an outstanding theatre student.

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**Gage Nelson** is a senior acting major from Sammamish, Washington. He was last seen in Columbia College Chicago's production of *The Altruists*, directed by Nathan Clifford, and the NewStew showcase *To Kill In America*, directed by Kathleen Perkins.

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**Brandon Nelson** is a sophomore BFA musical theatre major from Rockford, Illinois. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *World of Mirth* (Ken Harley), directed by Alex Avery, and *Paradise Regained* (Tom), directed by Paul Di Ciccio.

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**Marti Skoler** is a junior acting major from Culver City, California. She was most recently seen in *Women in Love* and *On the Edge of a Dark Wood* (Columbia College Chicago); *Recruitment* (The Attic Theatre, Los Angeles); and *Girl Cave* (Theatre of NOTE, Los Angeles).

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**Jelani Smith** is a junior acting major from Los Angeles. She was most recently seen as June in Columbia College Chicago's Fresh Play Prize-winning play *The Lilliput Plan*, directed by Jim Sherman. Smith has also performed with The Seldoms Dance Company in their *Power Goes* performance and has received an NAACP Award for Best Ensemble in her Los Angeles performance of *Sarafina!*

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**Alicia Watley** is a senior acting major from Memphis, Tennessee. She was most recently seen in the Columbia College Chicago production of *Glockenspiel* by playwright and director Steve Dykes. Other credits include *A Raisin in the Sun*, *If Not for the Tears* and *Handles of the Lock*.

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**Rebecca Whittenhall** was born and raised in the cornfields of Genoa, Illinois. Whittenhall is a sophomore who just switched her major from musical theatre to acting. Previous Columbia College Chicago credits include *Luna Park* (Young Rose), directed by Cecilia Adams; *U.S. Drag* (Allison), directed by Amelia Bolstad; and the 24-Hour New Play Festival in December 2015.

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**Mahaila Woods** is a freshman acting major from Ventura, California. Some of her favorite performance credits include *Enchanted Dawn* and *Les Misérables* with her hometown company, Performance Theatre for Young Artists.

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## PRODUCTION

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**John Green** (Director) is the Allen and Lynn Turner Chair of Theatre, and recently served as the interim dean of the School of Fine and Performing Arts at Columbia College Chicago. He was born and educated in England, where he received his PhD in theatre from the University of Plymouth. As a director, he has over 100 productions to his credit, which have been staged in the UK, including four productions at the Edinburgh International Festival, and internationally at theatre festivals in Ireland, France, Slovenia, Russia and Australia. In the United States, he has had a long association as guest director at the Indiana Repertory Theatre, and has directed staged readings of new works in translation for Chicago's International Voices Project. He has received a number of directing awards at festivals including The London Student Drama Festival, The National Student Drama Festival of Great Britain and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Most recently he adapted the text for a new production of *The Photographer*, with music by Philip Glass, which he co-directed with Ann Boyd at Columbia College Chicago, and presented the English language premiere of *The Reunion* in a semi-staged reading at Victory Gardens Theatre as part of the 2015 International Voices Project. He directed *Pornography* by Simon Stephens at Flinders University in South Australia, and his critical study of Mickle Maher's opera *The Hunchback Variations* was recently published in the collection *Music on Stage* by the Cambridge Scholars Press. In May 2015, he was recognized as a cultural ambassador for the Eye on India Festival.

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**Cassie Scaman** (Dramaturg) is a junior playwrighting major with a minor in directing from Oak Park, Illinois. This will be her ninth show at Columbia College Chicago and her first Mainstage production. Previous productions include her two directing projects, *Body Awareness* by Annie Baker and *The Hotel Play* by Israel Horovitz, and her one-act play *Wildflower*, which was produced in spring 2015.

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**Ligia Sandoval** (Co-Choreographer) is a senior musical theatre and business double major from Guatemala City. She was most recently seen in *Alegrías y Lágrimas* (Ana María) at Instituto Cervantes of Chicago. Previous Columbia College Chicago credits include *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Dance Captain/Swing), *Las Madres* (Esther), *Fumed Oak* (Mrs. Rockett) and *July 7, 1994* (Señora Soto). She is also proficient in unarmed, rapier and dagger, and broadsword stage combat.

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**Jennifer Ledesma** (Co-Choreographer) is a senior musical theatre major from Orange County, California. She recently co-choreographed Columbia College Chicago's 2014 musical theatre NewStew show *#NoVoice*. Ledesma was an ensemble member in the Mainstage musical *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* earlier this season. Other theatre credits include the Midwest regional premiere of *American Idiot* (UAC Theatre) and *Oklahoma!* (The Rose Center Theatre).

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**Kevin Rolfs** (Set Designer) is a senior theatre design major from Milwaukee. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *The Altruists* (Set Design), directed by Nathan Clifford, and the senior playwrighting showcase *The Comfort Play* (Production Design), directed by Jarek Pastor.

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**William Allen** (Lighting Designer) is a senior theatre technology major. *Love and Information* is his first Mainstage lighting design assignment. Allen hails from Denver, where he has been studying technical theatre and design since sixth grade. He was the lighting designer on *U.S. Drag* at Columbia College Chicago last fall.

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**Melanie Green** (Costume Designer) is a senior costume design major from St. Joseph, Michigan. Her design credits at Columbia

College Chicago include the Directing 4 project *Doctor Faustus* and the Directing 3 project *The Altruists*. Other design credits include *The Crucible* (Twin City Players) and *Once on This Island* (Lake Michigan College).

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**Charlotte Golden** (Costume Designer) is a senior theatre design student from Highland Park, Illinois. Her previous Columbia College Chicago credits include costume design for *What Rhymes With America*, directed by Nicholas Ware; *U.S. Drag*, directed by Amelia Bolstad; and *Scary Pants*, directed by Joe Janes. Golden assisted and was on the wardrobe running crew for *Blues For An Alabama Sky*, directed by Andrea Dymond. She was a costume intern at Weston Playhouse in Vermont and worked as a seamstress for the Bristol Renaissance Faire in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

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**Sasha Markgraf** (Costume Design) is a senior BFA costume design major from California. Markgraf interned with BJ Rogers last summer on the TV show *Criminal Minds*. Costume credits include Burbank Community Theater's production of *Into the Woods* and the Columbia College Chicago productions *My Sister in This House*, *Bridal Dance* and *Bent*.

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**Liana Prokopsis** (Costume Designer) is majoring in theatre design with a focus in costume and makeup. After pursuing a career in the corporate world, Prokopsis decided she belongs in the world of theatre. This is her first Mainstage experience as a designer. Recent work includes costumes for *Body Awareness*, directed by Cassie Scaman, and makeup for *Dr. Faustus*, directed by Cecelia Adams.

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**Claudia Roy** (Makeup Designer) is a senior acting major and makeup design minor from Fargo, North Dakota. *Love and Information* is Roy's third Mainstage production at Columbia College Chicago as a designer, following *Drowsy Chaperone* and *Oklahoma!* in 2015.

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**Jessica Humke** (Stage Manager) is in her last year as a stage management major at Columbia College Chicago. Born and raised in Iowa, Humke has had the pleasure of working on a variety of shows, including *Titus Andronicus*, *Hairspray the Musical* and *You Can't Take It with You*.

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# PRODUCTION STAFF

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## COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO THEATRE DEPARTMENT

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**ARTISTIC DIRECTOR** JOHN GREEN, PHD,  
THE ALLEN AND LYNN TURNER THEATRE CHAIR

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**THEATER MANAGER** MARY MACDONALD BADGER

---

**PRODUCTION MANAGER** DAVID PUSZKIEWICZ

---

**SCENIC DESIGN ADVISOR** JACKIE PENROD

---

**LIGHTING DESIGN ADVISOR** HEATHER GILBERT

---

**TECHNICAL LIGHTING ADVISOR** MARC CHEVALIER

---

**MASTER ELECTRICIAN** ALEX AVERY

---

**COSTUME DESIGN ADVISOR** FRANCES MAGGIO

---

**MAKEUP DESIGN ADVISOR** GLENESE HAND

---

**STAGE MANAGER ADVISOR** NYKOL DEDREU

---

**STAGE COMBAT ADVISOR** DAVID WOOLLEY

---

**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** MICHAEL MADDUX

---

**MASTER CARPENTER** MICK THOMASSON

---

**PROPERTY MASTER** GRANT SABIN

---

**COSTUME DESIGN ADVISOR** FRANCES MAGGIO

---

**COSTUME SHOP MANAGER** PATTI ROEDER

---

**COSTUME SHOP FOREMAN** TOM KEIFFER

---

**DRAMATURG** CASSIE SCAMAN

---

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR** JEN SLOAN

---

**ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS** JAKE FEDOROWSKI  
SARAH MCFARLAND

---

**SOUND BOARD OP** KONSTANTINO PLAKAS

---

**LIGHT BOARD OP** PATRICK HERNANDEZ

---

**ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER** JORDAN BURGESS

---

**SOUND DESIGNER** ANTHONY SMITH

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**SCENIC CONSTRUCTION**

MARY BRENNAN

MILO BUE

ALLISON KOZIK

CHAZ MATHIEU

AMANDA ZIEGLER

SCENIC CONSTRUCTION CLASSES 1 &amp; 2

---

**COSTUME CONSTRUCTION**

MEAGAN BEATTIE

CHARLOTTE GOLDEN

MELANIE GREEN

LIANA PROKOPIS

STORMY WEAVER

---

**PROP CONSTRUCTION**

EMMA MAGRADY

JOSIE WILSON

---

**ELECTRIC CREW**

BENJAMIN WITT

MICHAEL JOSEPH

CLAIRE DOTY

ANDY KLOUBEC

BEN CARNE

---

**LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR**

BEN CARNE

---

**DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY**

JOE SZADAY

---

**BOX OFFICE MANAGER**

MC HILL

---

**MARKETING DIRECTOR**

DAWN RENEE JONES

---

**MARKETING ASSISTANT**

ASHLEY GRYGIENC

---

**STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

ALEX AVERY

NICHOLAS BADER

JULES CUNNINGHAM

ASHLEY GRYGIENC

AUDREY KLEINE

GABRIELLE PERREA

KATHERINE PUCILLO

CASSIE SCAMAN

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**STUDENT TECHNICAL STAFF**

TRACEE BEAR

MEAGAN BEATTIE

MARY BRENNAN

MILO BUE

BEN CARNE

LINDSEY CARUSO

MJ DOUGHERTY

CLAIRE DOTY

CHARLOTTE GOLDEN

MELANIE GREEN

ROSE HAMILL

MICHAEL JOSEPH

MEGAN KLCO

ANDY KLOUBEC

ALLISON KOZIK

EMMA MAGRADY

CHAS MATHIEU

ANNA MEDILL

LIANA PROKOPIS

MARCY RODRIGUEZ

CLAUDIA ROY

MICHELLE VASQUEZ

STORMY WEAVER

BENJAMIN WITT

AMANDA ZEIGLER

KAIWEN ZOU

COMING UP NEXT

# DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN

APRIL 13-23

STUDIO 404

PLAYWRIGHT WOLE SOYINKA

DIRECTED BY JOHN HILDRETH &  
SONITA SURRETT





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