

Burning Coal Theatre Company presents

the
**CHEERY
ORCHARD**

written by Anton Chekhov
directed by Randolph Curtis Rand

April 6-23, 2023

burningcoal.org | 919.834.4001



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A Note From the Artistic Director

Some playwrights hammer away at 'big ideas' and end up with very small plays. Plays that seem to grow flaccid like a French fry left on the plate too long. The shape is still there, the coloring, but it just isn't appealing anymore. Other playwrights, like Anton Chekhov, focus on the minutiae of everyday life and somehow find that they have written plays for all people, for all times. *The Cherry Orchard* might be his best example of that rare skill. In this play, we meet a well off community, a group so comfortable in their position, that they almost literally become blind to their own impending doom. Chekhov thought this was a comedy. So do I.

In present day America, we have discovered that there is a 'class' of people, not unlike the Czars of old Russia, that own everything, that control the flow of information, that are buddy-buddy with those entrusted with making us 'safer', and that instantly change the law to allow their indiscretions and criminalize those who resist them. In short, they got it all! For them, the logical question would be: "Now how do we hold on to it?" In Czarist Russia, the answer was to bury your head in the sand and hope that what happened yesterday will happen tomorrow. But are we much different here, today? As I look around for clues, I'm inclined to believe the answer is 'no'. The ruling class in America seems to believe that tightening their grip on those who would object to their rule is the quick and easy solution. That impulse has grown worse in my lifetime, and particularly so in the past decade. In days of old, five minutes ago, it was possible to lose gracefully, if you were a public figure. Not so much, anymore. If they win, hosannahs abound. If they lose, let the 'blame game' begin as they reach for a broadcasting or print media paycheck and control of the public discourse that way.

But fear not. There's an old saying: "Journalism is the first draft of history. Art is the final draft." Or, to put it more directly: "Chekhov has got your back."

Here, then, is the 'final draft' on a declining society. On a creeping authoritarianism that knew and knows that its spiritual rot was and is finally starting to show.

Enjoy *The Cherry Orchard*. And enjoy the laughs. While you can!

-Jerome Davis, April 2023

BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY SY

Jerome Davis, Artistic Director
Simmie Kastner, Managing Director

Presents

The Cherry Orchard

by **Anton Chekhov**

Directed by
Randolph Curtis Rand

Production Stage Manager
Adam Budlong

Scenery Design **Matthew Pezzulich**

Lighting Design **Chris Popowich**

Properties Design **Philip R. Carter**

Technical Director **Joel Soren**

Sound Design **Valentina Cordoba**

Costume Design **Stacey Herrison**

Assistant to the Director **Carry Vaughan-Sprouse**

Master Electrician **Barry Jaked**

Scenic Charge Artist **Meredith Riggan**

House Manager **Carry Vaughan-Sprouse**

Assistant Stage Managers **Christopher Barefoot, Juliana Frasca,**

Emily Johns, Samantha Kiser

Choreographer **Avis Hatcher Puzzo**

Study Guide **Eric Kildow**

Assistant to the Scenic Artist **ColeTrain**

We cannot produce the quality of work done at Burning Coal without the assistance of our many wonderful **volunteers**.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the Volunteer Opportunities at Burning Coal, please contact us at

info@burningcoal.org

CAST

(In Alphabetical Order)

Erin Amlicke	Yasha
Lynda Clark	Love, Daughter of Andrewy, Wife of Ranevsky
Abigail Colborn	Charlotta, Daughter of Ivan
Gene Cordon	Boris, Son of Bors Simyonov-Squeekytoy
Maxine Eloi	Varya
Mark Filiaci	Leonid, Son of Andrey Gayev
Matthew Hager	Pyotr, Son of Sergey Trofimov
Juan Isler	Yermolai, Son of Alexsey Lopakhin
John Jimerson	Semyon, Son of Panteley Yepikhodov
Stephen Jones	Firs
Elise Kimple	Anya
Jordan Lichtenheld	Dunyasha

The role of Yasha will be understudied by **Susanna Skaggs**

Special Thanks

City of Raleigh Arts Commission, NC Arts Council, United Arts of Wake County & Raleigh, Shubert Foundation . ManBites Dog Fund . Maggie Frilla, David Ranii, Glenn Sappie, RLT, Dennis Berfield and Raleigh Little Theatre, Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation, Cari Grindem-Corbett . Gabriel Simone, KD Kennedy, Nick Karner, House Managers & Volunteers all the wonderful volunteers who have helped make our theatre and this production strong.

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Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

Erin Amlicke (Yasha) is a NYC-based actor and playwright hailing from Nashville, TN. She's thrilled to be returning to the Burning Coal community as an actor after developing two original works here: *Thursday* (developmental workshop) and *Selene & The Dream Eater* (Second Stage Series). Recent acting credits include *The Comedy of Errors* (Adriana), *Amphitryon* (Jupiter), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Agrippa), and *Lysistrata* (Lampito, Leader of the Female Chorus) at Theatre at Monmouth. She has also worked at Hangar Theatre, The Brick, Smart Mouth Theatre, and Navigator's Theatre Co. Erin received her MFA in Acting from the University of Houston's Professional Actor Training Program last year. At UH, she appeared in *The Oresteia* (Clytemnestra), *Henry V* (Exeter), *Silence* (Ymma), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *The Cherry Orchard* (Varya), and *Picnic* (Rosemary). She's a proud former student of the late Wynn Handman and currently has a mild obsession with Salvador Dalí. erinamlicke.com/@erinamlyes

Christopher Barefoot (Assistant Stage Manager) has dabbled in local theatre since 1999. In that time, he has been involved with a number of productions doing anything from selling concessions to ushering to Assistant Stage Managing. His last theatre work (pre-pandemic) was on NRACT's production of *Church and State* where he worked as the Assistant Stage Manager and Light Board Operator. Chris is excited to be making his return to local theatre after a 4-year hiatus.

Adam Budlong (Stage Manager) has been involved with Burning Coal Theatre since 1999. While primarily a stage manager, Adam also enjoys any other element of the technical side of theatre. Most recently Adam was stage manager for NRACT's 2020 production of *Calendar Girls*, which unfortunately went on hold due to Covid. For Burning Coal: *I and You*, *The Normal Heart*, *Darkside*, *Skylight*, *The Wiz*, *State of Dance*, *The Heretic*, *Man of La Mancha*, *St. Nicholas*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, *Inherit the Wind*, *1776*, *Einstein's Dreams* ('06/07), *A New War*, *Accidental Death of An Anarchist*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *Tartuffe*, *The Mound Builders*, *Company*, *The Weir*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Einstein's Dreams* ('98/99).

Randolph Carter (Properties Design) is tackling his first Props Manager role in *The Cherry Orchard* - before his recent retirement he was an award-winning industrial designer and UX architect. He's excited to combine skills working in plastic, wood, metal, machining and finishing with decades of electrical, acoustic and digital design research - to help our director, actors, and production crew create inspiring experiences.

Lynda Clark (Love Daughter-of-Andréy Wife-of-Ranévsky) is an accomplished theatre artist with numerous film and television credits including *Crazy People*, *The Perfect Crime*, *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, *The Water Is Wide*, and recurring roles on the CBS series *American Gothic* and the Showtime series *Linc's*. Lynda was part of a team of theater professionals who originated the NC State University summer repertory program that became known as THE-

ATREFEST, where she was a leading lady for over thirty years. She has appeared extensively on most of the regional stages, including Theatre In The Park, North Carolina Theatre, Peace University Theatre, Manbites Dog, Theatre Raleigh, Temple Theatre, Virginia Stage, and Cape Fear Regional Theatre. Previous shows for Burning Coal include *Night and Day*, *Macbeth*, and *All the King's Men*. Recent projects include *This Little Show of Mine* with Elynn Daniels, streaming on Amazon; and *The Evil Queen Shivarous 1000* for Creative Visions LED Adventure. When not performing, Lynda works as a theatre director, producer, costume designer, and acting coach. She has been recognized as one of our region's most distinguished theatre artists, with a career spanning four decades.

Abbi Colborn (Charlotta Daughter-of-Iván, Passer-by) is delighted to make their debut with Burning Coal Theatre Company! Recent credits include a tour of *Hamlet* (Horatio, Ophelia, Laertes, Guildenstern) as well as *Pericles: Prince of Tyre* (Thaliard, Lychorida, Leonine, Dance Captain) with Sweet Tea Shakespeare, and *Medea* (Chorus) with Shenandoah Conservatory. She also recently assistant directed *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing in the Ice*, written by Tatty Hennessey, Dir. Lucy Jane Atkinson at Burning Coal Theatre Company. They have a BFA in Acting from Shenandoah Conservatory ('22), and have also trained with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. Currently, Abbi is an intern with Burning Coal, and plans to move to Chicago later this year to pursue theatre! Instagram @abbi_colborn

Valentina Cordoba (Sound Design) is thrilled to assemble *The Cherry Orchard's* sound design. They are a fourth year NC State student most well known for their sound and lighting design at the Fuquay Arts Center. Valentina is currently manifesting their dream to work in film with their new music video releasing this summer with music artist *Kuper*. Look out for *King of Corinth*.

Gene Cordon (Boris Son-of-Boris Simyónov-Squeekytov) is thrilled to return to Burning Coal Theatre where earlier this season he appeared in the world premiere of *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing from the Ice*. Following that he joined the cast of Theatre in the Park's annual production of *A Christmas Carol*. Prior to returning home to NC, Gene had a 26-year run in Chicago theatre. Notable productions there include *Let Me Live* (Jeff, After Dark, Black Theatre Alliance Awards) at the Goodman Theatre, *Rosemary* (Jeff Citation nominated for his portrayal of Joseph Kennedy Sr.) at Prop Theatre, *Sin - A Cardinal Deposed* (Jeff Citation) as Cardinal Bernard Law at Bailiwick, Rebecca Gilman's *Crime of the Century* (Jeff Citation) at Circle Theatre, *Train is Coming* (Black Theatre Alliance Award) at the Chicago Theatre Company, *Patient A* (After Dark Award) at Far West Productions, *Cadillac* (Jeff nominated) at Chicago Dramatist, *Judgment at Nuremberg* (Jeff nominated) at Shattered Globe, *Four Queens - No Trump* written and directed by Ted Lange (Love Boat's Isaac) at Onyx, *The Laramie Project* and *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* at Redtwist, *Passion* at Pegasus, *Macbeth* at Next, and many others including work with Apple Tree, Victory Gardens, Lookingglass, Life-line, Journeyman, and Light Opera Works and Regional theatres in Virginia. Gene has also appeared in TV and feature films here and abroad including the Italian TV mini-series *Voices in the Night*.

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Burning Coal Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group, a national consortium of professional theatres, the NC Theatre Conference, Arts NC, NC Center for Non-Profits and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance.

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Maxine Eloi (Varya) is a multidisciplinary artist; an award winning filmmaker, actor, musician, writer, director. Classically trained at Boston University and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts (LAMDA), Maxine has continued to pursue their creative passions through film, theater, and music since graduating with a Bachelors of Fine Arts. Maxine is excited to perform in their second show with Burning Coal Theatre Company, the first being the world premiere of "*Ashe in Johannesburg*" as Amahle. Maxine has performed in other local theatrical productions including but not limited to "Yes To Nothing", "Norway" and "Master Builder" with LGP and "Richard III" and "Henry VI" with Bare Theatre. Maxine has acted in over a dozen films, including sci-fi fantasy feature film *The Broken Swords* available on Amazon. Maxine has been able to share their award winning film *Sunday Funday* through national syndication and film festivals around the world. As a company member of Theater Delta, Aggregate Theatre and Curious Theatre Collective, Maxine combines her love of acting with her drive for social justice, educa-



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tion and positive change. Maxine also acts, writes, produces and directs on the comedy web series *Dot Org*, a mockumentary series about a non-profit environmental organization available on Vimeo and Youtube. Maxine is a singer, guitarist and songwriter, performing original music about resilience, love and healing. Maxine plays live shows locally, sometimes solo and other times with a full band. You can follow Maxine's endeavors on their instagram: @maxsunlove. Maxine is so grateful to live as an artist and collaborate with others to create engaging and thought-provoking work in film, theatre, music, and TV.

Mark Filiaci (Leonid Son-of-Andrey Gáyev) For Burning Coal: *What If/If Only, Pentecost (1998), Enron, Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet, The Normal Heart, Night and Day, Henry IV/V, Peter and Wendy, The Greeks, Camelot, Einstein's Dreams*. Mark has worked on stage at theater's throughout the region since he moved to North Carolina in 1985, including MANBITES DOG, DEEP DISH, REP, NC THEATERFEST, TEMPLE THEATER, CAPE FEAR REGIONAL THEATER, BARTER THEATER, LOUISVILLE REP, HONEST PINT, among others. Directing credits include: *Doll's House Pt. 2* (Premier production for the Durham based theater company REDBIRD); *Three Days of Rain* and *The Chemistry of Change* (American Theatre Practice); *Dial M for Murder* (Temple Theater), *Picasso at the Lapine Ag-ile, Simpatico, The Illusion* (Artscenter Theater Carrboro). Film credits include *Chesterfield* (Black Moriah); *Bandwagon* (Lakeshore Entertainment); *Alamance* (PBS). Mark will direct a staged reading of first time playwright Sharon Black called *Welcome to the RAA* at Burning Coal on May 17th.

Julianna Frasca (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working on her first production with Burning Coal Theatre! She spent the past year stage managing for Eastline Theatre on Long Island in their productions of *Angels in America* (both parts), *In the Next Room*, and *Being Earnest*, a queer adaptation of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other credits include Stage Manager for *Canned Laughter* at the Downtown Urban Arts Festival, and Assistant Stage Manager for *Malefactions* at Cradle Theatre Company. Julianna would like to thank her wonderful husband, William, for supporting her while she takes the car every night for rehearsals.

Matthew Hager (Trofimov) is a Raleigh-based actor and a proud Burning Coal company member since 2012. Other BC productions include *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth...*, *Good, Iron Curtain Trilogy* (Raleigh & London casts), *Selene & the Dream Eater*, and *Mary's Wedding* (second stage). Matthew has also been a longtime performer and teaching artist with BC's *Shakescenes* program. Other acting credits include those for the following local companies: NC Theatre, NC Symphony, Honest Pint, Manbites Dog, Bulldog Ensemble Theater, Deep Dish Theater, EBZB Productions, Justice Theater Project, and Aggregate Theatre Company, among others. In 2017, Matthew founded Aggregate Theatre Company with the mission of developing a younger theatergoing audience in the Triangle (Follow on FB & IG: @aggregatetheatre). For Aggregate, he has directed and written several shows, including the musical *Giselle la Trent the G-zellephant*. As an educator, beyond *Shakescenes*, Matthew teaches acting and

voice for NCT Conservatory, leads Aggregate's HamLit theatre residency program, and directs JTP's annual youth summer camp production. Matthew is currently composing a new musical called *Away Home* with playwright Tamara Kissane for Honest Pint. Deepest love and gratitude to Alli, Dad, and the whole family, here and beyond.

Stacey Herrison (Costume Design) is an Arkansas-based costume designer and the costume shop manager and cutter/drafter at Arkansas Repertory Theatre. Stacey holds a BA in Theatre from Henderson State University and an MFA in Costume Design from Texas State University. Their design credits include *The Tempest*, *The Rivals*, and *A Chorus Line*. They have also designed several shows here at Burning Coal Theater in Raleigh, North Carolina including *Camelot*, *Evita*, *A Hundred Words for Snow*, *I And You*, and *The Life of Galileo* as well as *Driving Miss Daisy* and *The Producers* at Argenta Community Theater in Little Rock, Arkansas. Stacey received the KCACTF Region 6 Barbizon Award for Excellence in Costume Design for *A Chorus Line* in 2018 and the SETC Graduate Costume Design Award for *The Tempest* in 2019. staceyherrison.com

Barry Jaked (Master Electrician) has been working as a Technical Director and Master Electrician for Burning Coal since 2011. Most recently he worked on *Milima's Tale*, *Silent Sky*, *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing from the Ice*. If it plugs in and turns on he takes care of it. He would like to thank Jerry Davis for putting us up with him for all these years.

John Jimerson (Semyón Son-of-Panteláy Yepikhódov) previously played Adagio in *Blue* at Burning Coal, and he's enjoying this opportunity to dig more deeply into Chekhov, to learn to play the guitar, and to take himself slightly less seriously. Most recently, his work has focused on commercials, commercial voiceovers, and audio dramas. His Triangle theatre credits include playing Antonio in *The Changing* (LGP), Salieri in *Amadeus* (Leviathan), Dr. Sweet in *Bug* (REP) and Willem Dafoe in *The Wooster Group's Diary of Anne Frank* (LGP). His NYC and regional acting credits include work with the Arkansas Rep., Workshop Theatre Company, Willow Cabin, and various production companies at the Players Theatre and Lucille Lortel. John is a proud father to an amazing teenage person, and, overall, he is grateful for the opportunity to return home to theatre.

Emily Johns (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Meredith College graduate with a B.A. in Theatre. She recently designed props and worked as an ASM on *The Road to Mecca* and as an ASM on *Art* at Burning Coal. Her other shows with the company include *A Hundred Words for Snow*, *Forever*, and *Girls and Boys* as an ASM. She has also worked with many theatre companies around the triangle, including the recent costume design for Saint Mary's School's production of *The Sound of Music*, *Clue* for Cary Players, and *The Garbologists* for Bulldog Ensemble Theatre. Additionally, She works as a dresser and electrician on the National tours of *Book of Mormon*, *Cats*, *Tina*, *Elf*, *Frozen*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Annie*, *Hamilton*, *Hadestown*, *Ain't Too Proud*, *Aladdin*, and *Miss Saigon*. She hopes you enjoy this beautiful production of Burning Coal's *The Cherry Orchard*.



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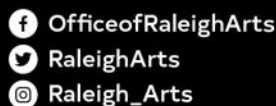
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BURNING COAL PRODUCTION HISTORY

1997/98 Season
Rat in the Skull by Ron Hutchinson—RP
Love's Labours Lost by Shakespeare
Pentecost by David Edgar —RP

1998/99 Season
Winding the Ball by Alex Finlayson—AP
Einstein's Dreams by Kipp Cheng—WP
Question of Mercy by David Rabe —RP
History of King Henne the Fourth by R. Rand —WP

1999/00 Season
The Steward of Christendom by Sebastian Barry —RP
St. Nicholas by Conor McPherson —RP
Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare
Night and Day by Tom Stoppard

2000/01 Season
The Weir by Conor McPherson —RP
Macbeth by William Shakespeare
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Rand and Kay —WP
Watership Down by Deb Royals from Adams —WP

2001/02 Season
A Doll House by R. Rand from Ibsen —WP
The Mound Builders by Lanford Wilson —RP
Company by Sondheim and Furin
Road to Mecca by Athol Fugard —RP

2002/2003 Season
Travesties by Tom Stoppard —RP
Juno and the Paycock by Sean O'Casey
Tartuffe by R. Rand from Moliere —WP
Crumbs from the Table of Joy by Lynn Nottage —RP

2003/2004 Season
All the King's Men by Adrian Hall —WP
Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett
The Man Who Tried to Save the World by Davis/Kay (from Scott Anderson) —WP

2004/2005
James Joyce's The Dead by Nelson & Davey —RP
90 in 90 by Jerome Oster
Safe House by Lydia Stryk —AP
Lipstick Traces by Rude Mechs —RP
Accidental Death of an Anarchist adapted by Simon Nye from Dario Fo —AP

2005/2006
Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare
A New War by Gip Hoppe —RP
A Map of the World by David Hare —RP
Miss Julie adapted by Kelsey Egan and Jack Lienke from Strindberg —WP

2006/2007
1776 by Stone and Edwards
Einstein's Dreams by Kipp Cheng
Pentecost by David Edgar
Midsummer Night's Dream by Shakespeare

2007/2008
Hamlet by William Shakespeare
Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Carson Kreitzer —RP
Inherit the Wind by Lawrence and Lee
Crowns by Regina Taylor —RP

2008/2009
The Prisoner's Dilemma by David Edgar —AP
Hysteria by Terry Johnson —RP
Twelfth Night by Wm. Shakespeare
Way to Heaven by Mayorga & Johnston —AP
1960 by Ian Finley & Burning Coal —WP

2009/2010
Hair by Ragni, Rado & McDermott
Much Ado About Nothing by Shakespeare
The Seafarer by Conor McPherson —RP
SECCA by Angus MacLachlan —WP
Geer's Bend by Elizabeth Wilder—RP

2010/2011
To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
St. Nicholas by Conor McPherson
Crowns by Regina Taylor
Blue by Kelly Doyle —WP
The Shape of the Table by David Edgar —AP

2011/2012
Enron by Lucy Prebble —RP
Henry V (on Trapeze) by Wm Shakespeare
Man of La Mancha by Darion, Leigh & Wasserman
Jude the Obscure, Parts 1 & 2 by Finley, Fitts & Benedict from Hardy —WP

2012/2013
Brigadoon by Lerner & Loewe
Shining City by McPherson—RP
As You Like It by Shakespeare
Good! by C.P. Taylor
Ruined by Lynn Nottage —RP

2013/2014
The Heretic by R. Bean —AP
(3 Men Tempesi) by Shakespeare
Jesus Fund by T. Milner—WP
Diary of Anne Frank by Hackett/Goodrich

2014/2015

Iron Curtain Trilogy/D Edgar WP
Romeo & Juliet by Shakespeare
Sunday in the Park with George by Sondheim & Lapine

2015/2016
Asylum — WP
The Wiz by Smalls & Brown
Blue Sky by Clare Bayley—AP
Spoonface Stenberg by L. Hall—AP

2016/2017
Slylight by David Hare
Written on the Heart by D Edgar—AP
Heisenberg by S. Stephens—RP
The Royale by Marco Ramirez—RP

2017/2018
Darkside by Stoppard/P Floyd—RP
Peter Pan & Wendy—WP
The Normal Heart by L. Kramer
King Charles III by M. Bartlett—RP

2018/2019
Stuff Happens by David Hare
The Weir by Conor McPherson
Ashe in Johannesburg by Hannah Bentze—WP
The Great Celestial Cow by Sue Townsend—RP

2019/2020
The Contender by Clare Bayley
Camelot by Lerner & Loewe
Talley's Folly by Lanford Wilson
Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson (postponed)

2020/2021
A Hundred Words for Snow by Tatty Westbrock
Until the Flood by Dael Orlandersmith
Forever by Dael Orlandersmith
Evita by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice

2021/2022
I and You by Lauren Gunderson
The Road to Mecca by Athol Fugard
Art by Yasmina Reza
Galileo by David Edgar/Brecht

WP—World Premiere
 AP — American Premiere
 RP — Regional Premiere

CHAIR PLAQUES

Many wonderful friends of Burning Coal contributed toward the building of the beautiful theatre at the Murphey School through the naming of a chair in the auditorium. Below is a list of all people, in no particular order, who have named chairs, to date. If your name should be on this list and is not, let us know at 919-834-4001. If you would like to name a chair after yourself or a loved one, give us a call. The cost of naming a chair is \$500. We have approximately 25 more chairs to be named!

Sarah Lofton
Bill Caligari
Jerome Davis (3) and Simmie Kastner
Becca Johnson
John S. Clay and Betsy G. Ross
In Loving Memory of Dr. Martin Garstens 1911-2005
Carol and Alexander Lawrence
Jacob Kastner
In Memory of Jim Lofton
Lucy Daniels (3)
In honor of Grace Caitlyn Zipperer
by her grandparents, Frank & Angie Roediger
Erica and Jeff Schecter
Honoring Ruth Green and Little Art Gallery
Bobbi Lechner
Polly Fisher Orsagh
Cameron Kurt Clowes
Mia Elizabeth Clowes
Sean Tristan Clark
Amy E. Swauger
Lynne Kane
James Mark Lofton
Mary Hart-Paul
Hillary L.H. Paul
Jared A.H. Paul
John and Terry Wall and Linda and Lane Wharton
Randi & Shelby Winter
Oakwood Inn B&B
Sally Gerrity
George A. Rozgoniy
Norrish Munson Rozgoniy
Stephanie Lightfoot
Shannon Lightfoot
Mark and Carol Hewitt
George J. Abmayr
Teresa E. Abmayr
Madi Goldsmith
Susan Walsh
Herman F. "Rusty" Spain
Ronald Tell
Jean Tell
Stephen & Carol McDevitt
The Bartlett Family
Paul Leone
Sidney Lawrence Harrell
Raleigh Development Company (4)
Bob Thurber and Rob Wallner
The Beratan Family
Phil Crone & Amy Flynn
Steven D. Schuster
Greg & Mary Ann Poole
Gregory & Irene Poole
Josephine Rand
In Memory of Bo Ramsey & Marie Dearioso
Jean Elizabeth Poole
Mrs. Betty Cline
Mary Ann & Greg Poole, Jr.
William A. Sarratt and Joncie K.W. Sarratt
James & Barbara Goodmon
Sandra J. Shelton
Glynn and Joy Boy
Ryan Newberry & Deirdre Callahan
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Ian and Ethan Finley
Angela Santucci and Marc Burris
Richard & Ann Shirk
Robin Dorff
Carolyn McKenna
Greg Paul (3)
In memory of Capt. Claudius Baker Denson
In Memory of W. Ames Christopher
Alice Garland & Mike Davis
In Loving Memory of Chuck Re Corr
Ann Cole
Trish Healy
John Healy
In Honor of Governor Terry Sanford, by William E. Brewer, Jr & Jo Anne Sanford
The Usual Suspects
The James M. Poyner Family
Chris Brown
Keith Donahue and Meredith Nelson
Lauren Kennedy & Alan Campbell
Lee Limbert
Gregory Poole, Jr. - Murphey School '40 - '43
"Samantha Smith and Greg Hatem"
Claire and Wallace Renfrow
Tara Polhemus
Cast and Crew of Inherit the Wind 2008
Leo Grant Brody
"In honor of Dr. Morton Eli Pizer, Murphey School Class of 1936"
Elliott Highfill
Janet Christenson
In honor of Martha Loeffel by Joyce & Shayne Gad
Mark & Judy Thompson
Jan and Andy Ammons
In memory of Earl L. Roberson—forever loved, R.G.E., Jr.
Samantha Weston Rahn
In memory of Ali A. Lugo, Jr. by Carole A. Lugo and Ali A. Lugo, III



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Stephen Jones (Firs) recently appeared as Peter in Edward Albee's *The Zoo Story* at St. Augustine University. He is excited to work with Burning Coal Theater again as Firs in *The Cherry Orchard*. He first appeared for Burning Coal in their 2000 production of *Romeo and Juliet* as Lord Montague. Later that year Steve played Mageeba in Tom Stoppard's *Night and Day*. His other appearances include the role of a school Resource Officer in the film *A Critical Incident* produced and directed by David Creech for Script to Screen Studio. Steve is a USAF veteran whose achievements include having earned the USAF Meritorious Service Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal for deployment during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Eric S. Kildow (Dramaturg). For Burning Coal Theatre: *Man of La Mancha, Brigadoon, As You Like It, Shining City, Good, Ruined, The Heretic, (3 Man) Tempest, Jesus Fund, Diary of Anne Frank, Fayetteville Street, Outrunning Bullets, The Wiz, Blue Sky, Spoonface Steinberg, Oakwood, Skylight, Written on the Heart, Heisenberg, The Royale, Darkside, Peter Pan & Wendy, Normal Heart, King Charles III, Stuff Happens, Ashe in Johannesburg, The Container, Camelot, Animal Farm, A Hundred Words for Snow, Conversations I Always Wanted to Have, Evita, I & You, and The Road to Mecca*. Eric is Associate Professor of Theatre at Kent State University in Ohio and works as a freelance dramaturg & director. As an artistic associate of the London-based Loitering With Intent Theatre, he presented the devised work *Turn Right/Turn Left: A Manual for the End of the World* at the Fleet Street Theatre in Hamburg, Germany. He is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, Literary Managers & Dramaturgs of the Americas, Lincoln Center Director's Lab and Burning Coal Company of Artists.

Elise Kimple (Anya) is excited to return to Burning Coal for *The Cherry Orchard!* For Burning Coal, she appeared in *King Charles III*, as well as *The Iron Curtain Trilogy*. Her recent regional credits include the world premiere of *Rebellious* at Triad Stage, and *The Wolves* at Sonorous Road Repertory Company. She graduated from UNC Greensboro with a BFA in Acting, where she appeared in productions such as *Antigone, Cloud 9, and Reckless*; as well as *Peter Pan*, and *Androcles and the Lion* for North Carolina Theatre for Young People. A Durham native, she currently lives in Greensboro. Instagram @elkimple

Samantha Kiser (Assistant Stage Manager) graduated Summa Cum Laude from NC State University with her Bachelor's degree in English and Honors at eighteen. She has been active in the theatre community for over twelve years. Samantha has performed with Raleigh Little Theatre in their production of *Pride and Prejudice* ('22) and can be seen there again this May (5/5-21) in the play *My Wonderful Birthday Suit*. You can read more about Samantha at samanthakiser.wordpress.com or @samanthalily.kiser on Instagram

Jordan Lichtenheld (Dunyasha) is excited to be making her professional acting debut in *The Cherry Orchard* at Burning Coal Theatre Company. Jordan is a dramaturg, director, and actor based in North Carolina. Most recently, Jordan did dramaturgy for Burning Coal's production of *Mlima's Tale*. Previously, Jordan has directed productions at Burning Coal including *Forever* (2021) and *Nine Lives* (2021). Acting credits from Jordan's time in undergrad include *Hecuba* (2018);

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world premiere of the English translation) and *The Adding Machine* (2017). Jordan received her BA in English Literature, with minors in Business and Theatre, from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Currently, Jordan is the Resident Dramaturg at Local Theater Company (Boulder, CO) and a proud member of Burning Coal's Board of Directors. Instagram @jordan.lichtenheld

Matthew Pezzulich (Scenic Designer) is a director, designer, and collaborator originally from Queens, New York. Burning Coal debut. Recent work includes at Lincoln Center Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, St. Ann's Warehouse, MCC, The Tank among others. Education: Adelphi University, Kennedy Center Directing Intensive. www.matthewpezzulich.com

Christopher Popowich (lighting design) has designed the lighting for numerous productions for Theater, Opera, and Dance in Canada, the UK, Asia, and the United States. His professional highlights include the world premiere of *Balls* and the Asian premiere of *Art*, for Singapore Rep; *Nonsense* in Rome for Teatro Dell'Orologio; *Journey West* in London and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; *Terrorism* and *A Midsummers Night's Dream* in London. He is a frequent designer for Burning Coal Theatre Company in Raleigh. Recent productions include *Mlima's Tale*, *Road to Mecca*, *I and You*, *Evita*, *Camelot*, *The Weir*, *King Charles III*, and *The Royale*. Christopher's opera design credits include *The Ring Saga*, *Magic Flute*, *Lost in the Stars*, and *Soldiers Tale* for Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh. Other Pittsburgh credits include *The Skull of Connemara*, *House*, *Julius Caesar* and the Beckett Festival for Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. In Canada, Christopher's work includes shows for Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary Opera, Toronto Workshop Productions, Stephenville Festival, and the Globe Theatre. He is Co-owner and Principal Designer in C & C Lighting, an architectural and entertainment lighting design company in Pittsburgh (cclightingdesign.com). Major projects include lighting for the Gulf Tower, the Koppers Building, the Hunt Library and the Randy Pausch Memorial Bridge.

Avis HatcherPuzzo (Choreography) is thrilled to return to Burning Coal as the choreographer for *The Cherry Orchard*. Her choreographic contributions to North Carolina theater include, *The Wiz* and *Ashe in Johannesburg* at Burning Coal, and *Caroline or Change* at Cape Fear Regional Theater. She has directed shows including, *The Royale* and *The Container* for Burning Coal, *Merry Wives of Windsor* for Sweet Tea Shakespeare, and *A Soldier's Play* for Justice Theater Project. Avis is the Associate Professor of Dance and Theater at Fayetteville State University, and thanks her husband, David, for his love and support.

Randolph Curtis Rand (Director) has a long history with Burning Coal, as an adaptor (*The History of King Henry IV*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*, *A Doll's House*, *The Tempest*), director/designer (*Henry IV*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *St. Nicholas*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Tempest*, *The Wiz*) and performer (*Love's Labors Lost*, *Pentacost*, *The Seafarer*, *The Tempest*, *The Shape of the Table*, *Man of LaMancha*, *Charles III*, *Life of Galileo*). Other artists, theatres, and companies: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Bedlam,

Joseph Chaikin, Elevator Repair Service, Richard Forman, La Mama, Meredith Monk, The Public Theatre (Cleveland, New York, Pittsburgh) The Walker Arts Center, and The Wooster Group to name a few.

Meredith Riggan (Scenic Charge Artist). Meredith is a North Carolina based artist and is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre Company for a 6th season. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Scenic Art from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Meredith has worked as the Scenic Charge Artist at several theatres around North Carolina including The Carolina Ballet, William Peace University, Half Pint Theatre, Sweet Tea Shakespeare, Triad Stage, City Arts-Greensboro Children's Theatre, The Winston Salem Theatre Alliance, ECU Loessin Playhouse, along with several freelance jobs such as repairing sculptures for the Greensboro Children's Library and the Raleigh International Festival.

Joel Soren (Properties/Technical Director) is a theatrical director, technical director, and designer. He also was a production manager for the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute and Paul Taylor Dance Co (Taylor 2). Joel has designed lighting, sound, costumes, projections, properties and scenery for live performances in spaces ranging from inhabited studio apartments to the New York Hall of Science as well as off-broadway and off-off Broadway in NYC. (Playwrights Horizons, Dixon Place, HERE, The Flea, The PIT). Joel was most recently the propsmaster for Carolina Ballet's 2022 Productions of *Dracula* (RMA) & *The Nutcracker* (RMA & DPAC) and is happy to return as a Technical Director at the Burning Coal Theater. (BFA: NYU).

ColeTrain (Shop Dog "Paint Assistant"). ColeTrain is excited to be a part of another production at Burning Coal Theatre. He has been "assisting" his Scenic Artist Mom in several theatres since he was 7 weeks old. He has no formal training in Scenic Art, but will retrieve a paint brush occasionally. He is great at supervising projects, looking cute, and tries to leave a paw print on every set. ColeTrain is a 10/10 good boy.

Carry Vaughan-Sprouse (Assistant Director, House Manager) has been with Burning Coal since 2013. She is a graduate of Appalachian State with degrees in Theatre Education and Creative Writing. Her most recent credits include *I and You* (Assist. Director), *A Hundred Words for Snow* (Assist. Director), and *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing from the Ice* (ASM).