

**BURNING COAL  
THEATRE**  
Presents

**SECOND STAGE  
SERIES**

**Sea Change**

**by Tamara Kissane**

**Produced by Burning Coal Theatre**

**Performances**

**June 12, 14, 15, 21, 22, 25**

**Mansion of Many Apartments**

**by Bronwen Carson**

**Produced by SoundingLine Arts**

**Performances**

**June 14, 21, 22, 27, 28**

**Ride the Cyclone**

**by Jacob Richmond & Brooke Maxwell**

**Produced by Pure Life Theatre**

**Performances**

**June 13, 14, 15, 18, 28, 29**

**Forgive Us, Gustavito!**

**Devised and produced by**

**The Otherland Theatre**

**Ensemble**

**Performances**

**June 19, 20, 21, 26, 28, 29**

# Burning Coal

## Production Team

**Matthew E. Adelson** (Lighting Designer) has designed extensively for Burning Coal since 1998, including all of their work in London, and their recent productions of *Merrily We Roll Along* and *A Little Night Music*. Later this year for BCT: Here In America. Other recent and upcoming productions include: *The Elephant Man* and *Metamorphoses* (Berkshire Theatre Group) and *How To Not Save the World With Mr. Bezos and Madame Mozart the Lacrimosa* (Great Barrington Public Theater). Matthew is the Production Manager for the Five College Dance Department (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith and the University of Massachusetts Amherst) and is a graduate of the Yale Drama School.

**Julianna Babcock** (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a proud regular of Burning Coal, with the second stage series marking her sixth show with them. Her other work includes *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Paint Me This House of Love*, *Copenhagen*, and *Haughey Gregory* as ALD. She also has designed two shows for Burning Coal: *Matilda Jr.* and, most recently, *Being Chaka*. Outside of Burning Coal, she has designed lights for three other shows and has been involved with many more. She has a passion for all things theatre and lighting design and hopes to have a future career in the industry. Special shout out goes to her dog, Walter, for not tearing up all her stuff during her long days of tech week.

**Izzy Council** (Assistant Light Designer) is delighted to be making her debut with the Burning Coal Theatre Company. She is a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is majoring in History and Drama. Her recent credits include lighting designer for *John Proctor is the Villain* with the Kenan Theatre Company and *Bonnie and Clyde* with the UNC Pauper Plays and Company Carolina. She also recently assisted with electrician work on *At the Wedding* with the Kenan Theatre Company.

**Jerome Davis** (Artistic Director). For Burning Coal Theatre: *Copenhagen*, *A Little Night Music*, *Arcadia*, *Evita*, *Ashe in Johannesburg*, *The Weir* (twice), *Rat in the Skull*, *Pentecost*, *Winding the Ball*, *Steward of Christendom*, *Night & Day*, *Company*, *Road to Mecca* (twice), *Juno & the Paycock*, *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Inherit the Wind*, *Hamlet*, *Hysteria*, *Prisoner's Dilemma*, *1960*, *The Seafarer*, *Shape of the Table*, *Enron*, *Jude the Obscure* Parts 1 & 2, *Shining City*, *The Heretic*, *Iron Curtain Trilogy* (Raleigh and London), *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Spoonface Steinberg*, *Written on the Heart*, *Dark Vanilla Jungle* (London), *Iphigenia in Splott* (Raleigh and DC). Acting: *Love's Labours Lost*, *Mound Builders*, *St. Nicholas*, *Skylight and Talley's Folly* (Raleigh and London). Also, *Skylight in Orlando* and *King Lear* (Lear/Wilmington). Other: *See How They Run* (Southern Pines), *Twelfth Night* in Apex and *Turn of the Screw* for NC Opera. Jerry worked with or studied with Uta Hagen, Adrian Hall, Richard Jenkins, Hope Davis, Horton Foote, Denis O'Hare, Nikos Psacharapolous, Julie Bovasso, Ralph Waite, Oliver Platt, Ben Gazzarra and Ellen Burstyn at Trinity Rep (Providence), People's Light & Theatre (Philadelphia), NJ Shakespeare, SoHo Rep, Barrow Group, Columbia University, Phoenix Theatre (SUNY/Purchase). This is his 28th year running Burning Coal which he and his wife Simmie Kastner founded in 1995. He received the 2019 Raleigh Medal of Arts.

# Burning Coal

## Production Team

**Julianna Frasca** (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre for the 2025 Second Stage Series after stage managing for *Being Chaka* earlier this year. Before Burning Coal, she stage managed 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, and loving dog, Nacho, for supporting her while she leaves every night for rehearsals.

**Barry Jaked** (Technical Director) is the Resident Technical Director and has been working as a Technical Director or Master Electrician for Burning Coal since 2011. Most recently for Burning Coal: *Copenhagen*, *The Rainmaker*, *Paint Me This House of Love*, *Being Chaka*, *Merrily We Roll Along*. If it needs to be built, plugs in and turns on he takes care of it. He would like to thank Jerry Davis for putting up with him for all these years.

**Carry Vaughan-Sprouse** (House Manager) has been with Burning Coal Theatre since 2013 as their lead House Manager/Front of House Coordinator. She has also stage managed, assistant stage managed and assistant directed numerous productions in her time at Burning Coal. Her favorites are *The Heretic* (2013), *Iron Curtain Trilogy* - Raleigh and London Tours (2014), *Romeo and Juliet* (2015), *Dark Vanilla Jungle* - London Tour (2016), *The Normal Heart* (2018), *A Hundred Words for Snow* (2020), *I and You* (2021), *A Great Big Woolly Mammoth Thawing from the Ice* (2022), and *Radio* (2024).

# SEA CHANGE

by Tamara Kissane

Produced by: Burning Coal Theatre

## Production Team

Director.....Rebecca Holderness  
Stage Manager.....Julianna Frasca  
Sound Designer.....Jared Rivera  
Lighting Designer.....Matthew Adelson  
Lighting Assistant.....Julianna Babcock  
Lighting Assistant.....Izzy Council  
Scenic Charge Artist.....Meredith Riggan  
ASM.....Cori Ann Holder  
ASM.....Michael Pratt

## Cast

Miranda Curtis.....Miranda  
Alexandra Finazzo.....Mary/ Mama/ Archive Intern 2/  
Random Person  
Mike Foley.....Archive Intern 1/ Former Archivist/  
Council Person/Mr Barker/ Mr Hogsdale  
Christa Irby.....Beverly  
Jack Wood.....Announcer/ Security/ JT

# A Note from the Director

I think of a theater as the world. Within the dark painted walls of a theater we can present from all of history, or create predictions of the future. From the Burning Coal theater walls history resonates. It is remarkable that this theater is here. I love it deeply. I am grateful that it exists. Yet, we find ourselves in a difficult moment, careening rapidly into a future we hesitate to predict. In response to this, I made some very specific directorial choices that I would like to share with you. The casting of the play deliberately reflects the community at large in a diverse way. This requires an act of imagination by the audience. I invite you to not look past this variety; rather to look at it. This casting considers not just diversity but also memory and the experience of time. I hope you observe it in a poetic way, befitting the heart of this new work.

The entirety of the physical production is made of recycled materials. And the greater part of these materials could be used again many times, or recycled. I believe that some of the best art is to be made from the simplest of materials. No better place to speak to recycling and reuse than with this play. Additionally, I want to inspire and encourage the making of art of all kinds. You have the materials- just look around you. No one can tell you not to be an artist. Just make art; "three boards and a passion," This is agency. This is power. This is pleasure.

Thank you, Rebecca Holderness

# Cast



**Miranda Curtis** (Miranda Hayes) is pleased to make her Burning Coal Theatre debut in *Sea Change*. Recent credits include *King Lear* (Oswald) and *12th Night* (Viola) with South Stream Productions, *The Crucible* (Abigail Williams) with Henderson Rec Players, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena) and *Richard III* (Queen Elizabeth) with Sweet Tea Shakespeare. Miranda graduated from Knox College with a BA in theatre. She also studied at The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland earning a certificate in theatrical performance. Following this production, she will appear in Henderson Rec Players *Big Fish The Musical* (Josephine Bloom) in July.



**Alexandra Finazzo** (Intern 2, Mama, Mary) is an actor, improviser, producer, teaching artist, and dog mom. For Burning Coal: *Evita* (Eva u/s, Ensemble), *The Life of Galileo* (Little Monk/Singer), and several years of The Oakwood series. Other favorite credits: *A Sherlock Carol* (Emma Wiggins/Lestrade), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Julia), *The Addams Family* (Grandma Addams), and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (Mrs. Clause). Following this production Alexandra will be performing in The Standby's Cabaret at Raleigh Fringe Festival in July. Gratitude to Jerry & Rebecca for your trust, Tamara for the beautiful script and the eggs, and to Tim for your constant support and love. Follow @alexandra\_finazzo



**Michael Foley** (Intern 1, Former Archivist, Council Member, Mr. Barker, Mrs. Hogsdale) For Burning Coal: *Romeo and Juliet* (Capulet), *A Doll's House* (Dr. Rank), *Juno and the Paycock* (Needle/Captain) *Tartuffe* (Loyal/Mme. Pernelle); For Meredith College: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Leonato); For Firebox Theatre: *The Dumb Waiter* (Ben), *Anna Christie* (Chris), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Father Jack); For Scrap Paper Shakespeare: *Prince Hal* (Falstaff); For Sweet Tea Shakespeare: *Richard III* (Clarence/Mayor). In addition, Michael has appeared in more than 50 other productions over the years for regional companies, including ManBites Dog, Little Green Pig, Shakespeare and Originals, ShaLeigh Dance Works, Raleigh Ensemble Players, Deep Dish, Theatre in the Park, Dog and Pony Show, and others, and directed for ManBites, Little Green Pig, and the Carrboro Arts Center.

# Cast

**Christa Irby** (Beverly Hayes) is a Fayetteville-based actor, writer, and educator. Theatre credits include *Sea Change* and *Being Chaka* (Burning Coal Theatre), *Bright Star* and *Motown Christmas* (Pure Life Theatre), *Hair* as Dionne, and *Porgy and Bess* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre). With over 20 years of experience working with children, Christa is passionate about storytelling. She is grateful to God, the creative team, and her fellow artists for the opportunity to return to the Burning Coal stage.



**Jack Taylor Wood** (J.T., Radio Announcer, Security Guard) is thrilled to be a part of Burning Coal's production of *Sea Change*. Jack is currently working towards his Associates in Fine Arts in Theatre, and after previously appearing in their Oakwood Cemetery production of *Butterfly Wings* (Eagles) he is excited to take on the role of J.T. in and hopes you enjoy the show!

# Production Team

**Rebecca Holderness** (Director) has gratefully directed more than 20 projects for Burning Coal, putting her unique stamp on North Carolina theater. Rebecca is known internationally as an Entrepreneur, Artist, and Professor creating vitality and viability for artistic scenes, people and cities where they reside. Production venues include The Public Theatre, Lincoln Center, The Culture Project NY. Regionally at Burning Coal, NC, Spooky Action DC, Ukrainian Institute NYC, Villa Terrace Museum WI and multiple new work festivals nationwide. Holderness is a Zelda Fichandler Award winner, Drama League Director, Lincoln Center Lab member and proud member of SDC.

In addition, Holderness is founder of 2FtD – a SAAS business tool for entrepreneurial capital investment in cities, winner of an Idea-Advance Award, UW- Madison. And as an innovative educator, she developed and managed the successful University of Wisconsin Milwaukee BFA in Acting. She was also Founder and Director of 3 celebrated Not-for-Profit Corporations; Oculus 4174, Ltd. (current) and past Holderness Theater Company and The Battery Factory-MKE. Full professor, Columbia MFA in Directing. [rph@rebeccaholderness.com](mailto:rph@rebeccaholderness.com)

**Cori Ann Holder** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Durham, NC native with a B.M. in Musical Theatre Performance from UNC Pembroke. She enjoyed her time performing at Jordan High School and UNCP and is thrilled to be working with Burning Coal again! Love to her parents, brother, husband, and cats. Credits: *Little Mermaid Jr.* (SM), *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* (SM), *Silent Sky* (SM), *A Christmas Carol* (ASM), *Paint Me This House of Love* (ASM), and *Merrily We Roll Along* (ASM)

**Meredith Riggan** (Scenic Charge Artist) is a North Carolina based artist and is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre Company for the production of *Sea Change*. This will be Meredith's 9th season painting for Burning Coal Theatre. 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 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 painting for The International Festival and painting custom pet portraits through her business, Riggan Originals.

**Jared Rivera** (Sound Designer) has appeared as a background actor in TV shows like *Hawaii Five-O* and *Magnum P.I.*, and in films such as *Press Play*. On stage, he recently performed in *Arcadia* (Mr. Noakes), *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Simeon), and *Ino Leucothea* (Apollo). He was previously a radio personality in Pennsylvania and San Diego, and a Production Manager and commercial voice talent in the Los Angeles region. In 2024, he won Best Sound Design for *She Kills Monsters* with KMC Onstage (Germany) and designed sound effects for *Cary Players*. This is his first production with Burning Coal Theater Company.

**Cole Train** (Shop Dog "Paint Assistant") 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 leaves a paw print on every set. ColeTrain is a 10/10 good boy.

# MANSSION OF MANY APARTMENTS

By **Bronwen Carson**  
Produced by **SoundingLine Arts**

## Production Team

Director.....Bronwen Carson

## Cast

Bronwen Carson .....Rowan  
Cora Hemphill ..... Casia/Support Group Member  
Paul Kilpatrick ..... Oliver/The Stranger  
Alexandra Oliver ..... Nurse Lily / Irritated  
Stranger/Support Group Member  
Tammera Sudderth-Hill.....Dr.Warner/Sheila/  
Bel/Support Group Member/Officer

# Cast



**Bronwen Carson** (Writer/Director/Rowan) Bronwen is thrilled to return to Burning Coal's Second Stage Series with her latest play. She's a New York International Fringe Festival Excellence in Directing award recipient, member of the 2022-24 playwrighting cohort at The Dramatist's Guild, recipient of the 2023 Engaged Artist Grant, the 2022 Unleash Press Award, the 2021 Rona Jaffe Breadloaf Scholar Award, and is a Riggio Honors: Writing and Democracy Scholar at The New School University. She's a Ross Foundation playwrighting finalist and a two-time Drama League national directing fellowship finalist. Bronwen's work has been supported by The Director's Lab at The Actors Studio, Sarasvati Creative Space, Irondale, The Ross Foundation, The Rona Jaffe Award, NY Int'l Fringe Festival, The Ailey Center, Skirball, The Watt Family Foundation, Meetinghouse Literary Journal, Unleash Press, TÉA Artistry, Duke Films, Nix Creek Films, GRASP, The Private Theatre, Triality Studios, The Dramatist's Guild, and The Sundance Institute. Her latest film, *Has Anyone Seen Bill?* was shot in North Carolina in January of this year, after which she travelled to New York to direct the US premiere of *Red Silk*, a dramatic play about Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Anne Sexton. Member of SDC, SAG-AFTRA, and AG.

[www.bronwencarson.com](http://www.bronwencarson.com)/<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1291496/>

**Cora Hemphill** (Casia/Support Group Member) Cora is passionate about storytelling and building community. She is Co-Artistic Director and Founder of Firebox Theatre Company. Cora received her degree in Theatre Performance from Greensboro College. Texas credits include- A.D. Players; Miller Outdoor Theatre: Ima Jean in *Wedding Belles*. Unity Theatre: Emily Brent in *And Then There Were None*, Miss Stephanie in *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Miep in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Lady in Blue Productions: *Sister in Lady of Agreda*, World Premiere. Houston Grand Opera: Old Woman in *Barber of Seville*. Books Alive! Tour: Tacky in *Tacky the Penguin*. Strange Moose Productions: Delilah in *Lock by Lock*, a one-woman novella. NC credits include- Sweet Tea Shakespeare: Paulina in *A Winter's Tale*. Firebox Theatre Company: Sissy in *A Piece of My Heart*, Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Susan in *Flight*, and Catherine in *The Foreigner*.



# Cast

**Paul Kilpatrick** (Oliver/The Stranger) is making his Burning Coal debut in this production. His previously local stage work has mostly been with Moonlight Stage Company, The Uproar, and Urban Garden Performing Arts. You may have seen him on your gas pump tv screen with an absurd mustache reminding you to Click It-or-Ticket, please do. He is represented by KUTalent. The support of his family, church, the incredible acting and production community in North Carolina, and the flexible people at Nation's Catering remain essential to his survival. He is thankful for all of them.



**Alexandra Oliver** (Nurse Lily/Irritated Stranger/Support Group Member) Alexandra is thrilled to be returning to the stage after devoting several years to the screen. For High Point University: Rosalind in *As You Like It*, Kitty in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Cécile de Volanges in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Cinderella's Stepmother in *Into the Woods*, and Loud Stone in *Eurydice*. For Trinity of Raleigh: Janet in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Louise in *The Song of Louise in the Morning*, Lady Bracknell in *Ernest in Love*, Fabian in *Twelfth Night*, Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice*, and Lillian Gish in *The Biograph Girl*. For Broadway Arts Conservatory: Penny in *Honk!*, and Bird Girl in *Seussical*. Awards: Won Excellence in Acting for *The Song of Louise in the Morning* at NC Theatre Conference, Nominated for *Ernest in Love* at NC Theatre Capital Awards.

**Tammera Sudderth-Hill** (Dr. Warner/Sheila/Bel/Support Group Member/Officer) Primarily working in film and TV, Tammera is excited to be making her debut at Burning Coal Theater with *The Mansion of Many Apartments*. Other theatre work includes Holly Springs Cultural Center, Doris and Ensemble in *Finding Patience*, the Musical. For Hickory Community Theater, Bet in *Oliver!* and Ensemble in *The Streets of Hickory*.



# RIDE THE CYCLONE

by Jacob Richmond and Brooke Maxwell

Produced by Pure Life Theatre

## Production Team

Director.....	Jireh Ijeoma
Music Director.....	Sky Symonds
Production Stage Manager.....	Janaya Farrar
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Rayne Hooks
Sound Designer.....	James Woodhouse
Scenic Designer.....	Deb Royals
Set.....	Angel Anderson
Set.....	Emily Uwabor
Costume Designer.....	Jennifer Ijeoma
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Jadyn Farrar
Choreographer.....	Aya Wallace
Assistant Choreographer.....	Hannah Ackman
Dance Captain.....	Marian Matos
Artistic Director.....	Aya Wallace
Marketing.....	Tiffani Staten
Producer.....	Verlene Oates

## Cast

Autumn Clark.....	Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg
Rebecca Hodge.....	Jane Doe
River Mann.....	Noel Gruber
Marian Matos.....	Richard "Ricky" Potts
Aliya McCryndle.....	Constance Blackwood
Mason Miller.....	Mischa
Dan Rajaratnam.....	The Amazing Karana

# A Note from the Director

As a college student and emerging artist, directing this production with Revolutionary Voices Theatre—Pure Life Theatre’s platform for young and emerging voices—has been a deeply transformative experience. This show is a reminder of the fierce honesty, vulnerability, and hope that live in the hearts of young people. Centering themes like identity, loss, belonging, and the desire to be seen, it speaks directly to anyone who’s ever felt overlooked or misunderstood. Collaborating with such a passionate and fearless ensemble has reminded me that young voices don’t just echo—they ignite, challenge, and transform.

We are truly thankful for Burning Coal’s invitation to showcase young storytellers like us. Thank YOU, audience, for witnessing our work and, in doing so, affirming that the next generation has something vital to say. This show says: You are not alone. Your voice matters. And even in the face of uncertainty, your story is worth telling.

Jireh Ijeoma

# Cast

**Autumn Clark** (Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg) is a Meredith alum ('25) who is so excited to make her Pure Life debut! Recent credits include a Diva in *DIVAS* (Raleigh Little Theatre), Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing* (Meredith College), and Liv in *Committed! The Musical* (Meredith College). She couldn't do anything without the support of her parents, peers, partner, or pet, so all her love to them. Thank you for supporting local theatre and enjoy the show!



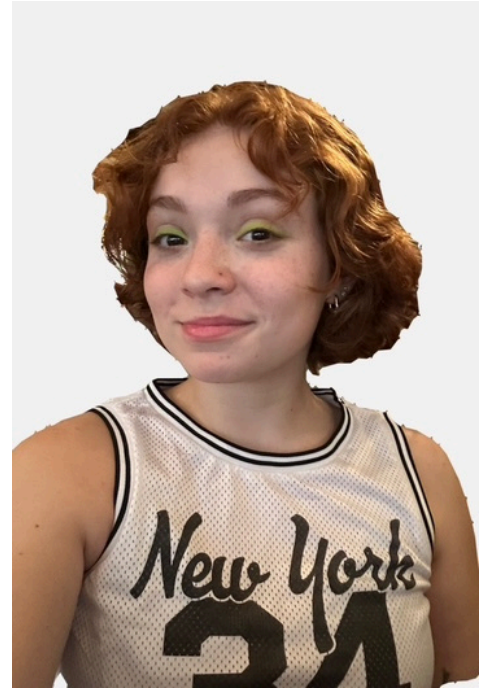
**Rebecca Hodge** (Jane Doe) is eternally grateful to join this team for the ride of a lifetime! She is a multi-hyphenate theatre artist with experience in directing, performance, dramaturgy, and playwriting. Recent projects include directing *Carousel* (Drop Spindle), dramaturgy for *Sonia Flew* (Cary Players), assistant directing *Between the Lines* (NRACT), and starring as Fiona in *Brigadoon* (Cary Players). She received a BFA in Dramaturgy from Carnegie Mellon University, and looks forward to returning later this year to pursue a Master's Degree in Arts Management.

**River Mann** (Noel Gruber) is an emerging actor and performer in the Raleigh area, he has recently appeared in productions like *Cinderella 40* at Raleigh Little Theatre (Prince), *Much Ado About Nothing* at Meredith College (Claudio), and *Divas! 2025* at RLT. He will also be making his debut into the world of professional theatre in *ONCE* at Burning Coal in the fall. River is incredibly excited to be playing one of his dream roles in this production. All his thanks go out to the entire production team and fellow cast members for helping to bring this wacky but beautiful story to life. Please enjoy the show, and be sure to *Ride The Cyclone*. Bonsoir!



# Cast

**Marian Matos (they/he)** (Ricky Potts/Dance Captain) is grateful for the opportunity to play Ricky in Pure Life's production of *Ride the Cyclone*! RTC is one of their favorite shows and he is thrilled to be a part of this talented cast! They have performed with a variety of community theaters in the Triad area with shows such as; *Rent*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and *Newsies*. He has over a decade of experience in performing arts, including ballet! He would like to thank all of his friend and family for their support. They're just a swinging, space age, bachelor man!



**Mason Miller (Mischa Bachinski)** Hello! My name is Mason Miller and I am so excited to be part of the *Ride the Cyclone* cast as the role of Mischa. I've been doing theater for a couple years now, but this is my first time doing a show with this group and it's been a blast! I am super excited for everyone to see this show, it's going to be a great one!

**Aliya McCryndle** (Constance Blackwood) is an eighteen year old freshman at William Peace University. She has worked with the Pure Life Company before in their previous 2024 production of *The Motown Sound of Christmas* and hopes that this show will help broaden her theatrical horizon and help her become more adjusted to the acting world.



**Dan Rajaratnam** (The Amazing Karnak) is a passionate young theatre performer whose love for performing grows with every performance. He is excited to be making his debut with Pure Life Theatre Company. Previous credits include Bill Austin in *Mamma Mia*, Andrew Carnes in *Oklahoma*, and King Triton in *The Little Mermaid*. You will soar to new heights, be sure to enjoy the show.

# Production Team

**Jireh Ijeoma** (Director), an 18-year-old college student, has performed with several Raleigh-Triangle theaters. Notable roles include Anthony (*I and You*, Burning Coal Theatre), Emmett Till (*The Face of Emmett Till*, Pure Life Theatre), and Ziggy (*Bob Marley's Three Little Birds*, Raleigh Little Theatre). He is passionate about theater and fostering youth voices, co-developing a leadership team for young creatives of color. Jireh continues to explore and develop his craft on stage.

**Hannah Ackman** (Assistant Choreographer) This is Hannah's first show with Revolutionary Voices! Credits include: *Dial M for Murder* (UT), *Bright Star* (PureLife), *Carousel* (Drop Spindle), *Brigadoon* (CaryPlayers), and *A Christmas Carol* (TIP). Hannah wants to thank her parents and sister who always encourage and support her passions.

**Jadyn Farrar** (Costume/Prop Designer Mentee) is excited to be a part of this production and is proud to be involved with the *Revolutionary Voices*. With the group, she has performed in *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King*, where she discovered her love for bringing characters to life on stage. She has also appeared in *Black Nativity* and *The Color Purple* with JTP. In addition to acting, Jadyn loves to dance and is an active member of both her high school cheer team and dance team. She is especially thrilled to be partnering with Jennifer Ijeoma on costumes for this show. Jadyn can't wait to see what's next for the *Revolutionary Voices* and looks forward to continuing her creative journey.

**Janaya Farrar** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to serve as Stage Manager for this production of *Ride the Cyclone*. She brings a wealth of experience in stage management, with credits including *Radio Golf*, *Motown*, and *Loving* at Pure Life Theatre; *Bud, Not Buddy*, *Into the Breeches*, and *Peace of Clay* at Theatre Raleigh; and *A Soldier's Play* with The Justice Theatre Project. In addition to her work behind the scenes, Janaya has appeared on stage in *Black Nativity* and *The Color Purple* at The Justice Theatre Project. She also has extensive experience in lighting and sound design. Her technical credits include productions with Pure Life Theatre (*The Face of Emmett Till*, *Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *She Persisted*), Theatre Raleigh (*ASBX Live*, *NC Playwrights Lab*, *Twist of Jazz*, *Bull Durham*, *Deconstructing*, *National music Theatre Foundry*, and more), and Starbright Theatre (*The Lion King Kids*), among others.

**Rayne Hooks** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be serving as Assistant Stage Manager. She has previously performed on stage with JTP in *Oliver* and with Raleigh Little Theatre in *Three Little Birds*. Her backstage credits include *The Wedding Singer*, *The Face of Emmett Till*, *Fences*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Motown*, and *Jitney*. A recent graduate of North Wake College & Career Academy, Rayne is now pursuing a career in the medical field. When she's not immersed in theatre, she enjoys reading and dancing.

# Production Team

**Jennifer Ijeoma** (Costume/Prop Designer/Program Manager) is excited to be working on *Ride the Cyclone*. Jennifer works alongside the leadership of Pure Life Theatre Company as the managing director of Revolutionary Voices Theatre Company. Her love for the arts has propelled her to dive more into costuming the theatre world. Jennifer has costumed *Being Chaka*, *The Motown Sounds of Christmas*, *Fences*, *MaRainey's Black Bottom*, *She Persisted*, *Hymn*, *Home and Jitney*. She has created costumes for Burning Coal Theatre, Pure Life Theater and Revolutionary Voices summer camps production of *Newsies*, *Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, and *Willie Wonka Jr.* Jennifer has worked in education for 27 years and strongly advocates for the NAACP's ACT-SO program.

**Verlene Oates** (Producer/Producing Manager) is the Producing Manager for Pure Life Theatre and Revolutionary Voices Theatre. She is the proud Nana of four adorable young people. She loves live theater and has performed with Pure Life Theatre, Justice Theater Project, Garner Towne Players, Women's Theatre, MOJOAA, Raleigh Little Theater, DL Production, NC State University Theatre and Li V Mahon. She is excited to pull double-duty as a member of the ensemble as well as a producer.

**Deb Royals** (Scenic Designer/Build Team) is honored to serve as part of the Core Leadership for Pure Life Theatre Company, which is dedicated to exploring and nourishing truth, hope, redemption, and love through the power of storytelling. She is proud to support Revolutionary Voices Youth Theatre, Pure Life's emerging artist initiative, which empowers young performers to shift norms and inspire change through theatre and performance. Deb is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of her husband, Joe, and cherishes their three sons—Danny, Noah, and Eli—beyond words.

**Wendell Scott** (Scenic Designer/Build Team) is excited to work with Pure Life again. He is an experienced bass and lead guitar player and enjoys playing all types of music. Wendell is a master carpenter and loves woodworking. He currently works as an IT professional.

**Sky Symonds** (Musical Director) is a music director, actress, and voice teacher across the Triangle area. Music direction credits include *Tuck Everlasting*: TYA (Applause! Cary Youth Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Miscast Cabaret* (Meredith College Theatre), *Seussical Jr.*, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*, and *Annie Jr.* (Academy for the Performing Arts), *Xanadu*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Little Women* (Research Triangle High School), and an Assistant Music Director credit for *Committed: The Musical* (Meredith College). Recent acting credits include Margo (*Bright Star* -- Pure Life Theatre), Jules/Ondine (*Between the Lines* -- NRACT), Nickie (*Sweet Charity* -- Meredith College), Cleante (*Tartuffe* -- Meredith College), and Carrie White (*Carrie: The Musical* -- Meredith College). She sends her thanks to her friends and family for their endless support!

# Production Team

**Aya Wallace** (Choreographer) is the Artistic Director of Pure Life Theatre, a performer, educator, and advocate whose work spans dance, theater, and corporate leadership. She holds a Master's in Dance from NYU and a B.S. in Kinesiology from Temple University. Aya has taught all ages, choreographed for major NC theaters, and performed award-winning roles. Her work explores culture, identity, and social justice. She's also a Client Specialist and an active community volunteer and board member.

**James Woodhouse** (Sound Design Mentee) is very excited to be working on this show, for it's his first ever time doing sound design for one. You may have seen James doing shows for NRACT like *Southern Baptist Sisses*, *Fun Home*, and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. He's also done shows for TIP like *Harold & Maude* and *Into The Woods*. He hopes you enjoy the show!

**NOT LISTED: Neveah Brown** (Marketing Mentee), **Juan Isler** (Sound Designer) **Tiffani Staten** (Marketing Project Manager), **Emily Uwabar** (Scenic Design Mentee)

# FORGIVE US, GUSTAVITO!

Devised and produced by  
The Otherland Theatre Ensemble

## Cast

Rebecca Finney.....Elvira and The Collector  
Tushar Mathew.....Detective Emilio Hippo  
Lucius Robinson.....Toto, and Walter

# A Note From The Company

In February of 2017, a hippo named "Gustavito" died under mysterious and seemingly violent circumstances at the National Zoo of El Salvador. The play borrows language and reporting from the Washington Post article "What happened to Gustavito, the beloved hippo at El Salvador's National Zoo" by Joshua Partlow to describe aspects of the crime and some of the more mysterious circumstances surrounding it. The play's title, "Forgive Us, Gustavito," was first written as a tweet in response to the crime by a resident of El Salvador.

While this hippo is the namesake of the Gustavito Hippo featured in our play, this is not the story of El Salvador's beloved national hippo. Instead, the anger and sadness we felt upon reading the true story of Gustavito moved us to create the world of this play. "Forgive Us, Gustavito!" is our exploration of the hidden injustices that drive culture, and the many ways in which we are each complicit within them.

# A Special Thank You To Music Collaborators

Emilio's Theme: "Shady Business" by David Renda

A Stroll Down Memory Lane: "12th Street Rag" by Wadsworth, Wheeler, et al.

Club 33: "Flise" by Bladverk Band

Elvira's Theme: "Closed Curtains" by David Renda

Elvira sings a verse from: "You Always Hurt the Ones You Love" by The Mills Brothers

Elvira's Theme: "Closed Curtains\*" by David Renda

Elvira sings a verse from: "You Always Hurt the Ones You Love" by The Mills Brothers

Interrogation Theme: Hybrid Drums by Skygaze

Emilio meets Toto: "Ambient Point of No Return" by Komiku

Dear Gustavito....:  
"The Spectrum Boys" by Nim Sadot

Song on The Jukebox: "Stardust" by Hoagy Carmichael

Emilio's Club 33 Monologue inspired by the YouTube videos of Rob Martinez

# Cast

**Rebecca Finney** is a physical theater maker and somatic practitioner. She has served as an ensemble member with the Bread and Puppet Theater, Dell'Arte International, and Roadside Theater. She is new to the Boston community, where she serves as an affiliated faculty member at Emerson College and a second-year Physical Therapy student at North Shore Community College. She is a cat mom and also loves the Blue Hills Nature Reservation just outside of Dorchester, where she currently resides.



**Tushar Mathew** is a theatre maker and teaching artist from India. Tushar's teaching and creative pursuits often focus on movement, physical embodiment, storytelling, and our relationship to the environment. His current preoccupations include re-framing narratives to center animal protagonists, birds, dystopian worlds, an AI character named Secret Hyena, and our relationship with our neighbors. Tushar is currently an Assistant Professor in the Performing Arts Department at Emerson College, Boston.

**Lucius Robinson** is a Princess Grace award-winning performer, director, writer, and teacher. He received his MFA from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater and is currently based in Baltimore, where he is a grateful primary school teacher for the city. He is beyond delighted to have the opportunity to return to this story with these people.



# 2025–2026 Mainstage Season

## Once

by Enda Walsh, Glen Hansard, and  
Marketa Irglova

**October 9-26, 2025**

## Here in America

by David Edgar  
**December 4-21, 2025**

## Red Pitch

by Tyrell Williams  
**February 5-22, 2026**

## My Fair Lady

by Lerner and Loewe  
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## ABOUT BURNING COAL THEATRE COMPANY

For over 25 years, Burning Coal Theatre Company has been producing literate, visceral, affecting theatre that is experienced, not simply seen. We emphasize works that are experienced viscerally, unlike more traditional, linear plays where audiences are most often asked to observe without participating.

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