PLAYBILL®

Cadence Theatre in partnership with Virginia Rep

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In partnership with Virginia Rep

PRESENTS

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

by Larissa FastHorse

Dedicated to the Memory of Wayne Shields

starring

Paul Dandridge

Otto Konrad

Laine Satterfield

Anna Starnes Blair

featuring

June Barry, Pearl Barry, Avery Bernard, Zoe Bernard, Adeline Carpenter, Owen Collins, Dax Crawley, Harlow Crawley, Milo Crawley, Helen Oristian, Sage Pearson, Vivian Pearson, and Ginna Rawles

Scenic Design Joseph Lavigne

Video Direction and Production Austin Lewis

Scenic Painting and Set Decorating Lara Koplin **Direction by**Anna Senechal Johnson

Costume Design Sarah Grady

Properties Design and Assistant Stage Management Yuna Chen, Juliet Grace Gronchowski, and Annika Smith **Lighting Design**Gabriel Beard

Technical Direction
Thomas Hawfield

Stage and Production Management Crimson Piazza

The Thanksgiving Play is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Broadway Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2023
Carole Rothman, Artistic Director, Khady Kamara, Executive Director
Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of THE THANKSGIVING
PLAY in 2018 THE THANKSGIVING PLAY was commissioned and originally produced by Artists
Repertory Theatre Damaso Rodriguez, Artistic Director Sarah Horton, Managing Director Portland,
Oregon.

The running time is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.











CAST & CREW

Cast Members

Logan	Laine Satterfield	
Jaxton	Paul Dandridge	
Caden	Otto Konrad	
Alicia	Anna Starnes Blair	
Class Video Kid	June Barry	
Class Video Kid	Pearl Barry	
Class Video Kid	Avery Bernard	
Class Video Kid	Zoe Bernard	
Class Video Kid	Adeline Carpenter	
Class Video Kid	Owen Collins	
Class Video Kid	Dax Crawley	
Class Video Kid	Harlow Crawley	
Class Video Kid	Milo Crawley	
Class Video Kid	Helen Oristian	
Class Video Kid	Sage Pearson	
Class Video Kid	Vivian Pearson	
Class Video Kid	Ginna Rawles	
Production / Creative		
Director	Anna Senechal Johnson	
Stage & Production Manager	Crimson Piazza	
Scenic Design	Joseph Lavigne	
Costume Design	Sarah Grady	
Lighting Design	Gabriel Beard	
Video Direction and Production	Austin Lewis	
Scenic Artist & Set Decorator	Lara Koplin	
Technical Direction	Thomas Hawfield	
Audio Visual Engineer	Jonathan Pratt	
Properties Design, Assistant Stage Management, and Crew	Yuna Chen	

CAST & CREW

Production / Creative (continued)

Properties Design, Assistant Stage Management, and Crew	Juliet Grace Gronchowski
Properties Design, Assistant Stage Management, and Crew	Annika Smith
Assistant Stage Management, and Crew	El Markee
Assistant Stage Management, and Crew	Marcely Villatoro
Stage Crew	Jackson Floyd
Preshow Speech Voiceover	June Barry
Preshow Speech Voiceover	Pearl Barry



Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation) is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow, award-winning writer, choreographer and co-founder of Indigenous Direction, the nation's leading consulting company for Indigenous arts and audiences. Her satirical comedy, *The Thanksgiving Play* (Playwrights Horizons/Geffen Playhouse), is one of the top 10 most produced plays in America this season. She is the first Native American playwright in the history of American theater on that list. Additional produced plays include *What Would Crazy Horse Do?* (KCRep), *Landless and Cow Pie Bingo* (AlterTheater), *Average Family* (Children's Theater Company of Minneapolis), *Teaching Disco Squaredancing to Our Elders: a Class Presentation* (Native Voices at the Autry), *Vanishing Point* (Eagle Project), and *Cherokee Family Reunion* (Mountainside Theater).

Over the past several years, FastHorse has created a nationally recognized trilogy of community engaged plays with Cornerstone Theater Company. The first was *Urban Rez*, the second project, *Native Nation*, was the largest Indigenous theater production in the history of American theater with more than 400 Native artists involved in the productions in association with ASU Gammage. Their current project, *The L/D/Nakota Project* is set in FastHorse's homelands of South Dakota. Her radical inclusion process with Indigenous tribes has been honored with the most prestigious national arts funding from MacArthur, Creative Capital, MAP Fund, NEFA, First People's Fund, the NEA Our Town Grant, Mellon Foundation, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and others.

Additional theaters that have commissioned or developed plays with FastHorse include The Public, Yale Rep, Guthrie, Geffen Playhouse, History Theater, Kennedy Center TYA, Baltimore's Center Stage, Arizona Theater Company, Mixed Blood, Perseverance Theater Company, The Lark Playwrights Week, the Center Theatre Group Writer's Workshop and Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor

FastHorse's company, Indigenous Direction, recently produced the first land acknowledgement on national television for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on NBC. Along with partner Ty Defoe, their other clients include Roundabout Theater Company, American Association of Arts Presenters (APAP), Western Arts Alliance, Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Brown University and many more. Their groundbreaking work is redefining Indigenous art representation and education in America.

In 2019, FastHorse entered film and television with a series at Freeform, a movie for Disney Channel, and a special for NBC. She is currently in development as the creator for projects with Apple TV, Taylor Made Productions, Echo Lake and another NBC project. FastHorse began her writer training as a Sundance Native Feature Fellow, Fox Diversity Fellow, ABC Native American Fellow, and an intern at Universal Pictures before theater.

FastHorse's other awards include the PEN/Laura Pels Theater Award for an American Playwright, NEA Distinguished New Play Development Grant, Joe Dowling Annamaghkerrig Fellowship, AATE Distinguished Play Award, Inge Residency, Sundance/Ford Foundation Fellowship, Aurand Harris Fellowship, and the UCLA Native American Program Woman of the Year. She was vice chair of the board of directors of Theater Communications group and represented by Jonathan Mills at Paradigm, New York.

Playwrights Horizons

Playwrights Horizons is dedicated to cultivating the most important American playwrights, composers, and lyricists, as well as developing and producing their bold new plays and musicals. Tim Sanford became Artistic Director in 1996 and Leslie Marcus has been Managing Director since 1993. Under their decades of leadership, Playwrights builds upon its diverse and renowned body of work, counting 400 writers among its artistic roster. In addition to its onstage work each season, Playwrights' singular commitment to nurturing American theater artist guides all of the institution's multifaceted initiatives: their acclaimed New Works Lab, a robust commissioning program, an innovative curriculum at its Theater School, and more. Robert Moss founded Playwrights in 1971 and cemented the mission that continues to guide the institution today. André Bishop served as Artistic Director from 1981-1992. Don Scardino succeeded him and served until 1996. Over its 47-year history, Playwrights has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including six Pulitzer Prizes, 13 Tony Awards, and 39 Obie Awards.

Second Stage Theater

Second Stage Theater creates and champions plays and musicals solely from living American writers. On their mainstage Broadway theater, the Hayes, and in their two Off Broadway theaters over the past 45 years, they have developed and presented over 200 daring and provocative theatrical experiences by working with countless artists who have contributed their talents to their award-winning productions. As the only Broadway company exclusively devoted to living American writers, Second Stage is dedicated to introducing the world to bold and diverse voices of American creativity.



Laine Satterfield

as Logan

(she/her) is an award-winning artist who's performed in, taught, choreographed, directed, & devised theatre nationally & internationally. She has worked at the Public Theatre & Lincoln Center in NYC and toured commedia dell'arte and solo shows around Europe. She holds a BFA from TSOA at NYU. Acting roles: Cadence's Native Gardens, Gloria, Sight Unseen, Detroit, Virginia Rep's Pipeline (Best Supporting Actor, RTCC), The Curious Case of the Dog in the Nighttime, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Little Dog Laughed, RTP: Cloud 9, 5th Wall: Gidion's Knot (Best Ensemble, RTCC), Firehouse: Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Best Actress, RTCC), Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Eurydice (Best Play, RTCC), This is How it Goes, Richmond Shakes: MacBeth. Company of Fools: Uncle Vanya, The Tempest, Death and the Maiden, James Joyce's The Dead, Buried Child. Recent Direction: Virginia Rep's Cinderella, Airline Highway and Cadence's Small Mouth Sounds, The Mountaintop (Best Director, RTCC).



Paul Dandridge

as Jaxton

(he/him) is an educator, artist, husband, and father. He is thrilled to make his stage debut with Cadence having previously choreographed for their musicals *Grease* (High School Edition), *Elf Jr.*, *High School Musical Jr.*, and *Carrie the Musical*, as well as working with the preprofessional TRAIN program. Acting roles: Virginia Rep's *West Side Story* (Dance Capt.), *Mamma Mia* (Dance Capt.), *Mary Poppins*, Dogwood Dell: *Forbidden Broadway*, *Spamalot*. Choreographic credits include *Newsies* and *Beauty and the Beast* with the Center for the Arts at Henrico High School as well as *Gold: The Midas Musical* with Virginia Rep's Children's Theatre. He is the Lead Dance Teacher at the Center for the Arts at Henrico High School, and he aims to create a safe place for thriving artists. He thanks his family, Emily, Eleanor, and Charlotte for supporting him with this work and his parents, Beth and Bill, for spending so much time and energy with his little girls.



Otto Konrad

as Caden

(he/him) is proud to be making his return to the Cadence stage, having previously starred in Cadence's world premier of *Cross Stitch Bandits*. Otto received his BA in Theatre Performance from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with student credits such as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and Artie in the *House of Blue Leaves*. Otto's professional credits include Roland in *Present Laughter* with the Clarence Brown Company. Otto also has his JD from the Washington and Lee University School of Law, and has been a practicing lawyer for 32 years. A partner with the Richmond law firm of Williams Mullen, Otto's extracurriculars have included hosting a decade of radio shows at 97.3 FM WRIR Richmond and working the performance stages of the Richmond Folk Festival as an announcer and artist presenter.



Anna Starnes Blair

as Alicia

(she/her) is thrilled to be leaping back into theatre by joining the unbelievable team of artists behind Cadence and Virginia Rep's rendition of *The Thanksgiving Play*— the cast and crew have made her feel truly at home. In years past, Anna performed in musicals at Swift Creek Mill Theatre, Firehouse Theatre, and the Jewish Family Theatre. She first fell in love with theatre performance at Vanderbilt University where she was a proud member of a student-run musical theatre organization called The Original Cast. Although Anna has found endless magic and mystery in exploring mindful practices, teaching middle school, and being a mom, it has been an unexpected gift and pleasure to engage with this character and work with this team! #DisneyLevelMagic. Anna would not be able to experience Disney-level magic without the next-level support of her family and friends. Simply the best. Thank you!



June Barry

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is excited to be performing in Cadence and Virginia Rep's production of *The Thanksgiving Play*. Some of June's past credits include Gingy in *Shrek JR*. (Cadence) and Tessie in *Annie JR* (Cadence). June is always excited to put on a show, and hopes you enjoy the performance – gobble gobble!



Pearl Barry

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is thrilled to be a part of Cadence and Virginia Rep's production of *The Thanksgiving Play*. Some of Pearl's past credits include Shrek in *Shrek JR* (Cadence), Ursula in the *The Little Mermaid* (Pine Camp), and Pepper in *Annie JR* (Cadence). Pearl would like to thank her family and friends for always encouraging her to find her light!



Avery Bernard

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) has been performing since she was an infant with her first appearance as Baby Simba! Her favorite role so far was playing Gretl in *The Sound of Music* with Jewish Family Theatre. She loves everything about performing and also enjoys art, basketball, and making Google Slides. She would like to thank her mom and dad for helping her with the show.



Zoe Bernard

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) Zoe's favorite thing about performing is being with her mom who is a Theatre teacher and director. She also enjoys gymnastics, snuggling with her kitty Black Beans and going to the pool. She says thank you to her mom, dad, and awesome big sister Avery!



Adeline Carpenter

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is honored to be a part of Cadence and Virginia Rep's production of *The Thanksgiving Play*. Adeline loves acting, reading and writing graphic novels, listening to Taylor Swift, rollerblading, and riding roller coasters. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Owen Collins

as Class Video Kid

(he/him) is delighted to be a part of *The Thanksgiving Play*. Owen started performing on stage two years ago, and his past credits include several of Cadence's Jammin' in June and July camp productions. He has appeared as Roger in *Disney's 101 Dalmations*, Aladdin in *Disney's Aladdin*, and Puss In Boots in *Shrek the Musical JR*. Owen is currently cast as the Duke of Weselton in Cadence's fall program of *Disney's Frozen KIDS*. He would like to thank Anna Johnson, Desirée Dabney, and all the amazing staff and crew at Cadence for giving him the opportunity and confidence to perform on stage. Owen would also like to thank his parents for all their support and encouragement!



Dax Crawley

as Class Video Kid

(he/him) is so happy to be included in *The Thanksgiving Play* with Cadence and Virginia Rep. His most recent performance was as Larry the Lobster with Cadence in *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition*. That experience sparked an even greater passion for musical theatre and he is so excited to continue his acting journey as Hans in *Disney's Frozen KIDS* with Cadence this December! He really enjoys learning new choreography and constantly entertains his family with his dance moves!



Harlow Crawley

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is thrilled to be performing in *The Thanksgiving Play* at Cadence and Virginia Rep. Her first time on stage was with Cadence this past summer as part of *Disney's Aladdin JR*. production and she loved every minute. Harlow enjoys singing, dancing, and performing with her three big brothers!



Milo Crawley

as Class Video Kid

(he/him) is looking forward to performing in *The Thanksgiving Play* with Cadence and Virginia Rep! Milo was recently on stage with Cadence as Mr. Krab in *The SpongeBob Musical: Youth Edition* and looks forward to his upcoming role as Maurice in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, JR*. Milo has also enjoyed working onscreen as a featured actor in the film *The New Norm* and in a commercial for Conexus Vision with Soulidify Productions. Milo is passionate about acting and singing on stage and in film.



Helen Oristian

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is so happy to join another Cadence production. She loved being a part of *Disney's 101 Dalmatians KIDS* (Cruella) *Shrek JR*. (Lord Farquad), *Annie JR*. (Molly) and *Disney's Aladdin JR*. (Genie). Helen wants to thank her parents for all the rides, and a big shout out to all her fantastic role models at Cadence.



Sage Pearson

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is excited to be a part of Cadence and Virginia Rep's production of *The Thanksgiving Play*. Sage previously performed with Cadence as Tessie in *Annie JR*. and will play Young Elsa in the upcoming production of *Disney's Frozen KIDS* at Cadence. Sage is a second grader at Short Pump Elementary School and loves performing, playing soccer and basketball, and doing arts and crafts of all kinds. She would like to thank her parents and three siblings for their love and support.



Vivian Pearson

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is delighted to be in *The Thanksgiving Play*, a Cadence and Virginia Rep production. Vivian will have an ensemble role in Cadence's upcoming production of *Disney's Frozen KIDS*. Vivian is a second grader at Short Pump Elementary School and loves art, gymnastics, graphic novels, and snuggling with her dog, Cinna. She would like to thank her parents and three siblings for their encouragement and love.



Ginna Rawles

as Class Video Kid

(she/her) is ecstatic to be part of this production! Some of Ginna's past performances include Anna in Disney's *Frozen KIDS* (SPARC August Adventure), Owl in *Winnie the Pooh Kids* (SPARC August Adventure) and Molly in *Annie JR* (Cadence). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Anna Senechal Johnson

Director

(she/her) is the Founding Artistic and Managing Director of Cadence and a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College with a B.A. in theatre and dance. She co-founded Richmond's Firehouse Theatre Project, served as Company Artist for Company of Fools (COF) in Hailey, Idaho, and co-founded St. Thomas Playhouse in Sun Valley, Idaho. Anna's recent directing credits include 13, Gloria (RTCC Best Play Winner), Appropriate (RTCC Best Play and Best Director Winner), and Rabbit Hole. Her other notable works include Equus, A Lie of the Mind, Detroit, and Good People (RTCC Best Play and Best Director Nominee). In addition to her artistic pursuits, Anna is involved with the Campfire Foundation in Boise, Idaho, and has worked with Maggie L. Walker Governor's School PTSA and Drama Boosters. When not working, she enjoys hiking, theater, ballet, movies, jogging, and spending time with family, friends, her daughter, and her pets.

Crimson Piazza

Stage & Production Manager

(he/him) is very excited to work with Cadence and Virginia Rep on *The Thanksgiving Play*! Crimson graduated from VCUarts:Theatre in the Spring of 2021, where he got his BFA in Stage Management. As the Resident Stage Manager of The Conciliation Lab in RVA, he worked on *The Niceties, Straight White Men, How I Learned to Drive*, and *Booty Candy*. Crimson's other PSM credits in Richmond include *Martha Mitchell Calling* (Virginia Repertory Theatre), *Carrie the Musical* (Cadence), *The Light* (Yes, And Theatrical Co.), *Footloose the Musical* (WEAD and arts to ALL), the premier of *Chanteuse: A Survival Musical* (Richmond Triangle Players), *Matilda the Musical* (Dogwood Dell), *She Loves Me* (SPARC), and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Dogtown Dance Theatre). When he isn't working in Theatre, Crimson is a stay at home dad to his 10 month old son, or working on his new business, *Crimson's Resumes and Websites*. Savannah and Asher, this is for you.

Joseph Lavigne

Scenic Design

(he/him) has been a resident of Sun Valley, Idaho since 1995. He started his life in theatre over 25 years ago by taking an acting class taught by Company of Fools co-founder Rusty Wilson. This prompted him to go back to college to study theatre. He achieved a degree in Theatre Design from Boise State University in 2006. Joe's first realized set design, *Dante*, earned a regional KCACTF scenic design award. After graduation, Joe accepted a job to work with COF by the late John Glenn. Joe has designed numerous plays for each season at COF and with other professional theatre companies in the region. Highlights from the years include: *K2*, *Doubt*, *God of Carnage*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Proof*, 4000 Miles, Kimberley Akimbo, All is Calm, The Last Five Years, and Red. Joe would like to thank Rusty and Denise for getting this all started; Anna for her years of friendship; and as always to Jen and Ava for their support and spark.

Thomas Hawfield

Technical Direction

(he/him) is a team member of Virginia Rep and has been the Technical Director for the Cadence and Virginia Rep's coproductions for the past several years. Since that time, he has built the scenery for several shows, including but not limited to *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Gloria*, *In My Chair*, *Between Riverside and Crazy*, *Appropriate*, *The Christians*, *Fun Home*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Violet*, and *John*.

Gabriel Beard

Lighting Design

(he/him) is currently pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Lighting Design at Virginia Commonwealth University. Previous design credits include *Carrie: The Musical* (Cadence), *Placebo* (Yes, And Theatrical Co.), *Into the Woods* (Homefront Players), *The Space Play*, and *Museum* (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre). Gabriel spent his summer as a Lighting Technician for the Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Sarah Grady

Costume Design

(she/her) is the Resident Costume Designer for Cadence Theatre. Recently she was the Costume Shopper for Apple TV's Swagger, AMC's The Walking Dead: World Beyond and is a proud member of IATSE. Before that, she was the Assistant Costume Director for Virginia Repertory Theatre for 17 years. Favorite designs include Sister Act, West Side Story (RTCC Award for Best Costume Design), In the Heights (RTCC Nomination for Best Costume Design), Dreamgirls (RTCC Award for Best Costume Design), Junie B. Jones, The Music Man (RTCC Nomination for Best Costume Design), Spring Awakening, The Sound of Music (RTCC Nomination for Best Costume Design) (Virginia Rep); Fun Home, Violet, The Mountaintop, Caroline or Change, and Appropriate (Cadence Theatre/Virginia Rep). For three lucky summers, Sarah traveled to Roma, Italy, to work with the Opera festival di Roma, where she coordinated the costumes for The Magic Flute, Suor Angelica, The Marriage of Figaro, and Die Fledermaus.

Austin Lewis

Video Direction and Production

(he/him) Based out of Richmond, Austin is the Founder and Director of Remember Tommy Productions. He has worked as a writer and director since graduating with his MFA in Filmmaking from Maryland Institute College of Art. Writing and directing credits include the short film WILDMAN and the feature films People Don't Die in the Comics Anymore and Shanidar. Freelance videography clients include the Modlin Center for the Arts, VCU Health, Virginia Repertory Theatre, Cadence, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Jonathan Pratt

Audio Visual Engineer

(he/him) is a Richmond-based sound designer and engineer, composer, theatrical projection designer, director, and writer. Starting his theatrical career at 14, Jonathan has worked in every aspect of live theatre. He studied at Southern Oregon University and then went on to hold the resident sound and projection design position at Camelot Theatre Company in Talent, OR. Recently, he relocated to Richmond to join Virginia Rep as their Audio Visual Supervisor.

Lara Koplin

Scenic Artist & Set Decorator

(she/her) has been a decorative and scenic artist in Richmond, Virginia since 1993. Since earning her BFA in Crafts and Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University, she has painted countless finishes for commercial and residential spaces, theatre sets, and film. Her work can be seen locally at World of Mirth, Philip Morris International, as well as VCU's Alumni House. Her theatrical endeavors include Cadence and Virginia Rep's Next to Normal, Sight Unseen, A Lie of the Mind, and Virginia Rep's Busytown. Lara's scenic and set decoration can be seen in films such as Harriet, The Good Lord Bird, Dopesick, Echoes and Swagger. In her spare time, Lara enjoys spending time with her family and creating fiber art.

Yuna Chen Properties Design, Assistant Stage Management, and Crew

(she/her) is a senior at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. She is the head of the Sound and Tech Departments. She is currently participating in a mentorship program through school to study the effect of sound and lights on a show. She has helped run multiple school shows, assemblies, and concerts. This is her third year being involved with tech and hopes to continue her involvement in the future.

Juliet Grace Gronchowski

Properties Design, Assistant Stage Management, and Crew

(they/she/he) is a junior at VCU pursuing a BFA in Stage Management, as well as minors in Sound Design and Education. Production Assistant credits at VCUarts Theatre: *Macbeth3*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *RENT*. They have also worked on numerous Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre (SALT) productions at VCU, as well as serving on the SALT Board as Space Manager for two years. Juliet would like to thank the team for all the laughs during rehearsals. They are honored, thrilled, and giddy to have had the chance to work on such a fun production!

Annika Smith

Properties Design, Assistant Stage Management, and Crew

(they/them) is a sophomore at VCU pursuing a BFA in Stage Management. They are incredibly excited to be working with such an amazing cast, production team, and company! Their recent PSM credits include the world premiere of *Happy Birthday to You* and *Dr. Faustus* (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre). Their recent PA credits include *Let the Right One In* (VCUarts Theatre), *Everybody Comes to Rick's* and *Romeo and Juliet* (Shafer Alliance Laboratory Theatre). When not working or in class, Annika is most likely found with their friends and their roommate, Hope, or doing some sort of baking or cooking.

Marcely Villatoro

Assistant Stage Management, and Crew

(she/they) is a Stage Management major at Virginia Commonwealth University and has done a total of 6 shows as run crew, 10 shows as Stage Manager, and 4 shows as Technical Director throughout their middle and high school years. Marcely is nothing short of grateful to have been able to work with all the wonderful people in this production!

Jackson Floyd

Stage Crew

(he/they) is a first year VCU student studying theatre and pre-medicine. He has years of experience in theatre - from acting to directing to technical roles - Jackson has done it all! He looks forward to working on *The Thanksgiving Play*!

NOTES



Exploring Laughter and Reflection: A Glance at *The Thanksgiving Play* and Its Impact on Indigenous Representation

By Eden Johnson

Earlier this year, my mother and I sat in the Helen Hayes Theater, situated comfortably between Broadway and Shubert Alley. We were both excited and skeptical to see Larissa FastHorse's *The Thanksgiving Play* – all we knew was that it was by an indigenous playwright, featured a cast made up entirely of white people, and was about a Thanksgiving play. As two indigenous women and artists, we were used to inaccurate and borderline offensive portrayals of our culture (Disney's *Pocahontas* comes to mind...), so I don't think either of us had particularly high expectations for the show. One cannot imagine just how pleasantly surprised we were by the show. It showcased our culture in a hilarious way and poked fun at how even the most well-meaning people sometimes don't "get it." FastHorse's piece has quickly become one of my favorite plays of all time, and I'm so excited to see Cadence Theatre in partnership with Virginia Rep's production of *The Thanksgiving Play*.

The Thanksgiving Play is a fast-paced, witty, satirical comedy that follows a high school theater teacher, her actor boyfriend, an elementary school history teacher, and an actress from LA as they try to put together a culturally sensitive and age-appropriate play to celebrate Thanksgiving with their students. It deals with uncomfortable subjects like white guilt, the concept of "passing," and the perceived homogeneity of indigenous culture in the United States without ever being too heavy. The show will leave you laughing until your stomach hurts while also making you consider your place in the world and your relationship with the people whose land you stand on.

Following the November 12th performance, join Cadence for a **post-show reception and talkback** with a panel of local indigenous individuals. Dive into the play's themes and their relevance to today's public, exploring the influence of stereotypes and misunderstandings in popular culture, as well as the impact of racial identity on social interactions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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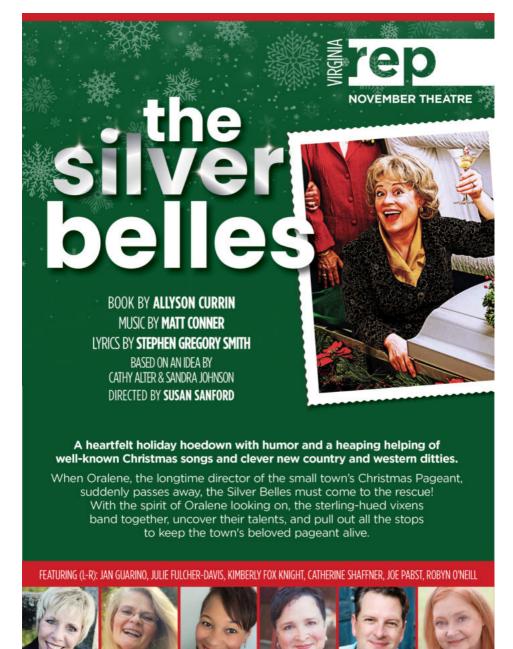


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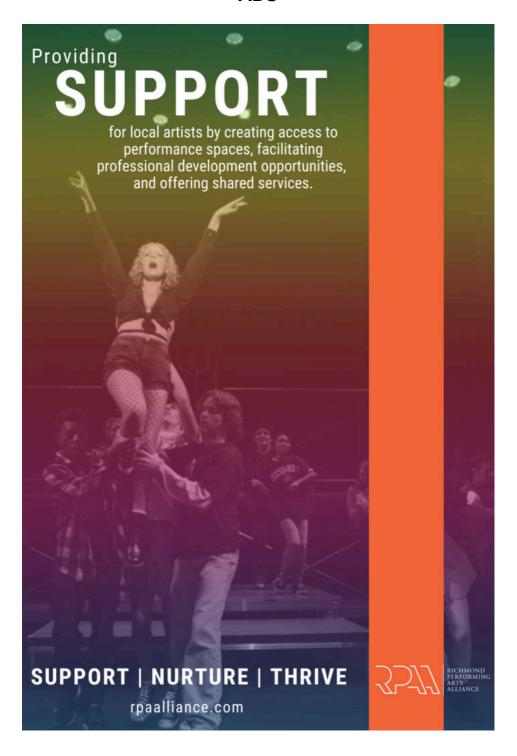


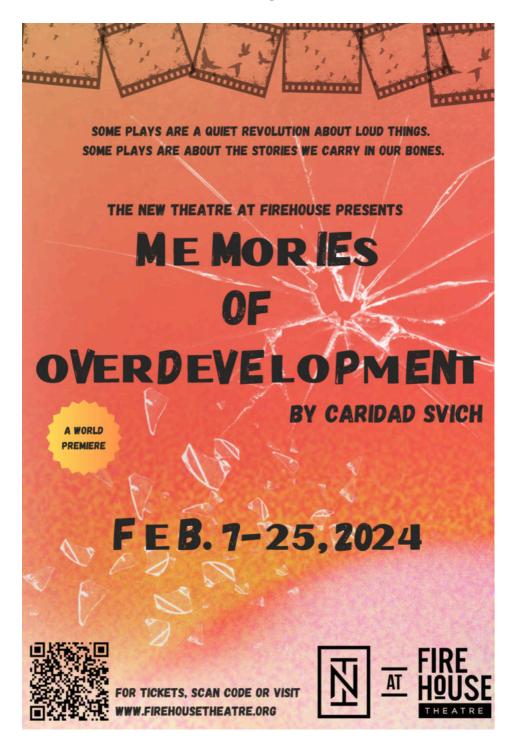
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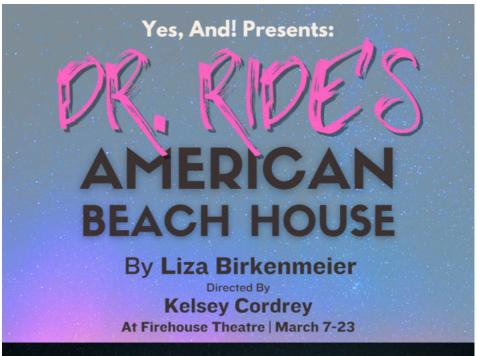


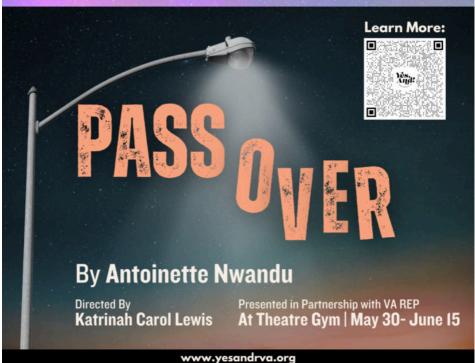
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Wayne Shields
April 17, 1951 - October 16, 2023

With great affection and respect, we dedicate this production to the memory of Wayne Shields. As owner of Shields Collectibles, Wayne contributed to Richmond theatre for decades by being the go-to guy who always seemed to have that impossible-to-find prop. And when he didn't have it, he somehow always knew someone else who might. Shields Collectibles was destroyed in 2003 by smoke damage from an adjacent VCU dorm fire. Even thereafter, Wayne remained committed to helping Richmond theatre. All of Richmond theatre benefits, to this day, by having props and costumes that were originally sourced from his store.