

# RUBABOO

A MÉTIS CABARET WITH ANDREA MENARD

Written by **Andrea Menard**

Music by **Andrea Menard** and **Robert Walsh**



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**DARYL CLORAN**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**ALAN NURSALL**  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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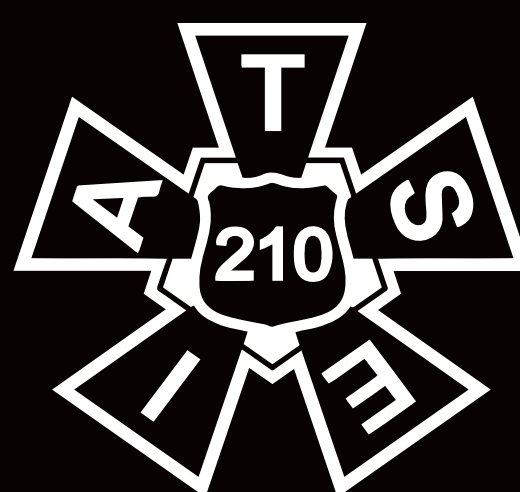


**WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE** that the land on which we gather is Treaty No. 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground and home of the First Nations, including both the treaty signatories Cree, Saulteaux, Nakota Sioux, Stony and Cree-Iroquois as well as other Indigenous peoples, such as the Blackfoot and Métis, who occupy this land. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live, create and perform on this territory.

Nikistêyhtamâkânân oma askîwihtâwin ita kâ mâwasakôyâhk Nikotwâsik Kâ akihtêk omâmawôpayônôwâw Nistam Îyinôwak, nânapo ôkih tipahamawâkan tahkikwanênkêwak-Nêhîyawak, Nahkawînôwak, Opwâsîmowak, Asinî Pwâtak êkwah Nêhîyaw Paskosikanak-êkwah kotakak Îyinôwak, tâpiskôc Kaskitêwayasitak êkwah Âpihtwâyak, kâkîh kikîwîhkêcik otah. Nitâniskê nanâskôtênân tawâw ôtah êh ayâyâhk tita wîci pimâtisîhtamâhk, tita osîhcikêyâhk êkwah tita nôkohtihwêyâhk otah askîwihtâwinihk.

The Citadel engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association. Production personnel for the Citadel Theatre are members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (I.A.T.S.E.)

‡ Indicated designers on this production are represented by the Associated Designers of Canada, IATSE Local ADC659.



# RUBABOO

A MÉTIS CABARET WITH ANDREA MENARD

WRITTEN BY ANDREA MENARD

MUSIC BY ANDREA MENARD AND ROBERT WALSH

## CAST

Nathen Aswell

Andrea Menard

Karen Shepherd

Robert Walsh

## CREATIVE TEAM

Alanis King

Director

Cimmeron Meyer

Set Designer<sup>‡</sup>

Samantha McCue

Costume Designer<sup>‡</sup>

Kimberly Purtell

Lighting Designer<sup>‡</sup>

Mary Jane Coomber

Sound Designer<sup>‡</sup>

Robert Walsh

Music Director

Molly Pearson

Stage Manager

Lore Green

Assistant Stage Manager

**VENUE** Maclab Theatre

**AGE RECOMMENDATION** 10+

**RUN TIME** Approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

**SYNOPSIS** Derived from the Michif word for “leftovers stew” or “big pot,” *Rubaboo* will take audiences on an intimate, moving, and joyous journey—guided by powerhouse Métis performer Andrea Menard. An acclaimed singer-songwriter and actor, Menard’s lyrical voice and masterful storytelling will envelop you in the beauty of Métis culture. Featuring the sounds of drums and guitar, this grand musical feast includes songs of reconciliation, unity, love, frustration, and resilience.

## SONG TITLES

<b>Four Directions Prayer</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Gather Round</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Ayn Feu Shansoon</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>This Spark</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Memmere's Rubaboo</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Riel's Prayer</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>Return of the Bell of Batoche</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Nipi Nigamoonis</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>Water Prayer Song</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>L'espoir</b>	Robert Walsh
<b>Ramant Iii Riviere</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>Where is God in this Place</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Silent No More</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>The Kraken/Red River Jig</b>	Karen Shepherd/ Traditional
<b>Weesahkoteweenowuk</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>Mother Nature Gives</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh
<b>Mahican Kita Oyoo</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>Chi Meegwech</b>	Andrea Menard
<b>Sparkle</b>	Andrea Menard, Robert Walsh

**SONGS AVAILABLE ON THE SOUNDTRACK AT:**

<https://andreamenard.bandcamp.com>



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# WELCOME TO *RUBABOO!*

We're so thrilled to present Andrea Menard's beautiful, uplifting cabaret celebrating Indigenous story and song. Rubaboo is a Michif word meaning a big pot of stew or soup, and Andrea describes this production as "a musical feast of my Métis culture that includes songs of reconciliation and resilience, songs of unity and love, drum songs, as well as stories that enlighten Canadians about our collective history."

Andrea is a five-time Gemini-nominated actress and a 15-time music award winner. Expect your hearts to fill and your spirits to soar as Andrea uses her wisdom, warmth, and formidable voice to take us all on a very personal journey.

We're very proud to welcome Andrea and *Rubaboo* to the Citadel. Last season *Rubaboo* played at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario and at the Arts Club in Vancouver. Our thanks to both the Grand and the Arts Club for sharing this production with us.

Enjoy the show!



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Daryl Cloran'.

**Daryl Cloran**

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

dcloran@citadeltheatre.com

**PS:** We just announced our exciting 2024/25 Season! The season includes Disney's hit family musical *Frozen*; the premiere of *The Ballad of Johnny and June*, a musical about the life of Johnny Cash and June Carter; and a special presentation of *Bear Grease*, an Indigenous reimaging of the hit musical *Grease*! We hope you'll join us for the entire season!



# PLAYWRIGHT NOTES



Maarsii. Meegwech.  
Kinanâskomitin for  
coming on this journey  
with me.

Being a mish-mash  
of song, ceremony,  
and storytelling,  
*Rubaboo* is a hybrid  
feast/concert/fireside  
chat and “cabaret” is  
the best term I could

find to describe it. I have too many callings that demand my attention: the singer, the storyteller, the teacher, the advocate, the speaker, as well as the one who prays, follows protocol, and attends ceremonies. I’ve found that the best way to follow all the callings of my heart is to combine them in weird and wonderfully creative ways. And after a globally difficult time that inspired many songs, prayers and dreams, here we are!

Welcome to this theatrical feast that highlights my Métis heritage in a magical setting that only theatre can produce. You are invited to open your hearts and minds as we shift the narrative, decolonize your habitual thinking, and fill you with hope for a better future.

I’d like to honour former Grand Theatre Artistic Director, Dennis Garnhum, for drawing the show out of me in his sneaky way. I would also like



to thank Alanis King, who not only brings her sublime talent to direct this world premiere, but also directed me in my first one-woman show, *The Velvet Devil*, over 15 years ago. A special thank you as well to my long-time collaborator, Robert Walsh, who has been helping me birth projects for over 20 years. Lastly, I'm honoured to be highlighting the artwork of my Métis sister, Leah Dorion. We collaborated on a deck of wisdom cards called the *Seeds from the Sacred Feminine*, and now she is shining from the stage in Cimmeron Meyer's beautiful set design.

Because you asked, the Citadel Theatre has kindly added these links for you to find out more about the giveaway water songs, the *Rubaboo* soundtrack, and the deck of cards featuring Leah Dorion's artwork:

**RUBABOO SOUNDTRACK** <https://andreamenard.bandcamp.com/album/rubaboo-cabaret>

**WATER SONGS GIVEAWAY** <https://andreamenard.com/watersongs>

**SEEDS FROM THE SACRED FEMININE WISDOM CARDS**  
<https://andreamenard.com/cards>

Thank you for letting me share this wild, musical feast with you!

- Andrea Menard



# DIRECTOR NOTES

I am thrilled to be a part of Andrea Menard's new work, *Rubaboo*. It is amazing to see her stage writing, performance and music hit the boards in a national sensation which began last year at the Grand Theatre with the artistic belief and support by then Artistic Director, Dennis Garnhum, then onto the co-producer stop at The Arts Club and now The Citadel. Cabaret theatre is Indigenous storytelling that plays across many forms of expression, music, stories, and dance which all convey the relationship and culture of the Métis people.

I have known Andrea sometime now to know she is truly one of Saskatchewan's Métis treasures. Her play *The Velvet Devil* showcased cabaret style music that was created by her and her longtime collaborator Robert Walsh. Both are teaming up again for this new piece along with her other cast mates.

This piece reminds us to pay attention to Métis history through time and scope. With the Michif language, which is the voice of Andrea's motherland, and her stories, both personal and legendary, makes for a unique style of sharing story about this country's history of the founding of a new race. It is my hope that audiences leave with a renewed insight of Canada's Métis nation right along with a little jig in their step. Gchi miigwech (big thank you) to the entire Citadel Theatre artistic team, staff and production crew. We couldn't be here without you!

- Alanis King





**NATHEN  
ASWELL  
PERFORMER**

Nathen is a Montreal-born performing composer, inspirational speaker and soon to be author based in Vancouver. His previous acting credits are: *Rubaboo* (Grand Theatre, London ON) and *Rubaboo* (Arts Club Theatre, Granville Island Stage, Vancouver BC). Nathen is honoured to be a part of this production of *Rubaboo*, and he'd like to thank and bless Andrea Menard, and her songwriting partner Robert Walsh, for one more rich opportunity to serve the world with healing words and music. [www.NathenAswell.com](http://www.NathenAswell.com)





## ANDREA MENARD

PLAYWRIGHT,  
CO-COMPOSER,  
PERFORMER

Andrea Menard is a Métis actor and singer-songwriter from Treaty 1 territory and the Homeland of the Métis. Theatre: *Rubaboo* (Grand Theatre/Arts Club); *Anne of Green Gables*, *Stories from the Red Dirt Road* (Charlottetown Festival); *The Orchard*, *Thanks For Giving* (Arts Club); *Great Expectations*, *Evita*, *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth* (Persephone); *The Velvet Devil* (NAC); *The Velvet Devil*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Governor of the Dew* (Globe Theatre); *The Velvet Devil*, *400 Kilometers*, *Wawatay* (GTNT); *The Rez Sisters*, *Joni Mitchell: River*, *Godspell* (PTE); *Street Wheat*, *The Selkie Wife*, *The Shipbuilder* (Dancing Sky). Film & TV: *Sullivan's Crossing*, *Blackstone*; *Supernatural*; *Hard Rock Medical*; *Moccasin Flats*, *Rabbit Fall*, *The Velvet Devil*.





# KAREN SHEPHERD

PERFORMER

Karen is a vocalist, musician, and composer and enrolled in the Bachelor of Music program at MacEwan University as a Composition Major. Her original music has appeared in short films and documentaries, including Nathaniel Hehir's *The Stonekiller* (2020); Chehala Leonard's documentary, *Living a Legacy* (2021); and an arrangement made for Laura Vinson's song, *Meegwitch* (The Awakeners, AMI, 2022). She was awarded the Dr. Trimbee Country Music Award at MacEwan University in 2022. She was chosen as one of six emerging composers to write choir work for ProCoroCanada under the Canadian League of Composer's Pivot Program (May 15th, 2022) in Edmonton. Her original composition entitled, *The Kraken* was featured during Andrea Menard's and Robert Walsh's debut Cabaret, *Rubaboo* (The Grand Theatre, London, On in March and The Arts Club, Vancouver, BC in April, 2023). In 2023, New Music Edmonton commissioned Karen to create a piece of music for ensemble (Harp, Harpsichord, Violin, Flute, Piano, Mezzo Soprano, Cello) which debut on June 9th, 2023 at Muttart Hall, MacEwan University.





## ROBERT WALSH

CO-COMPOSER,  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR,  
PERFORMER

Robert is an Edmonton-based singer-songwriter, producer, educator and author. He has released 5 solo albums; is creator/producer of Robert Walsh and the Fabs (re-imaginings of Beatles music); a member of legacy groups Walsh/Trodd, Allez Ouest and Two Blue; and a member of current groups Bub & Pit and Hot Club Edmonton. Theatre credits as a co-creator: *Catalogue de Société* (with Alain Pomerleau. Le Petit Champlain, University of Alberta); *The Velvet Devil* (with Andrea Menard. Globe Theatre, Broadway Theatre, CBC Movie of the Week); *Forbidden Phoenix* (with Marty Chan. Citadel Theatre, Lorraine Kimsaa Theatre, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, Gateway Theatre); and *Rubaboo* (with Andrea Menard. Grand Theatre, Arts Club, Citadel Theatre). Related credits: Sound Designer and Musical Director for various productions; Songwriter/Composer for TV and film; Musician (Disney, ESO, Edmonton Opera, Alberta Ballet).





# ALANIS KING

DIRECTOR

Alanis King is an Odawa director, playwright and Artistic Producer with the Wikwemikong Nawewin Gamik (The Language House). Previous Credits Include: *Rubaboo* (Grand Theatre, Arts Club); *Kiistsistinonniks - Our Mothers* (Making Treaty 7); *If Jesus Met Nanabush, Tommy Prince Story, Manitoulin Incident* (Debajemujig Theatre); *Velvet Devil, Wawatay, BDawg, Bye Bye Beneshenh* (Gordon Tootoosis Native Theatre); *To Nooshenh* (NAC Indigenous Theatre); *Artshow* (Native Earth); *Awowakii* (Theatre Calgary) in development, world premiere next spring. Alanis would like to thank her late parents Cecil and Virginia King.





# CIMMERON MEYER

SET DESIGNER

This set design was created in collaboration and reflection of the work of Métis visual artist Leah Dorian and brought to life by scenic artists Richard Lawler and Craig Guthrie. Cimmeron is grateful for the opportunity to work with these talented artists and acknowledges their invaluable contribution to the design. *The Mystery of Irma Vep* was the first production Cimmeron has had the pleasure of designing at the Citadel in 2005 (Lighting). Most recently she designed the set for *The Guardsman* at Bluebridge Rep Theatre in Victoria BC. Theatre Credits (Selected): *Pawakan* (Akpik Theatre, Set); *Kaasinooniks* (Making Treaty 7, Set, Lighting, Projection); *Iceland* (Theatre Calgary, Lighting); *The Unplugging* (Gwaandak Theatre, Lighting); *Twelfth Night* (Theatre Calgary, National Arts Centre, Lighting); *Bakkahi* (Stratford Festival, Lighting). Cimmeron is a Graduate of the National Theatre School of Canada. She is indebted to her daughter, a talented theatre artist in her own right, and to Eve Middleton-Meyer, who has been an ongoing inspiration. [www.cimmeron.net](http://www.cimmeron.net).





# SAMANTHA McCUE

COSTUME DESIGNER

Samantha McCue (she/her) is Anishinaabekwe from the Chippewas of Georgina Island and Ned'u'ten from Lake Babine First Nation. She grew up on the Musqueam Reserve in Vancouver, BC, and currently lives in Ottawa. Samantha graduated from York University's Theatre Production program in 2017. Selected design credits include: *Women of the Fur Trade* (Stratford Festival); *Maggie* (Theatre Aquarius); *Little Red Warrior and His Lawyer* (Theatre Calgary/National Arts Centre); *The Breathing Hole* (National Arts Centre); *Kamloopa* (Soulpepper Theatre Company); *Where the Blood Mixes* (Soulpepper Theatre Company).





# KIMBERLY PURTELL

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kimberly is a lighting designer for theatre, opera and dance. Recently for The Citadel she designed *Almost a Full Moon*, *The Candidate*, *The Party*, and *Mamma Mia!*. She has designed for Mirvish Productions, Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Soupepper Theatre, National Arts Centre and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Pacific Opera Victoria, Opera Philadelphia, Edmonton Opera, Theatre Calgary, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, among many others. She is the recipient of three Dora Mavor Moore Awards, the Pauline McGibbon Award, a Montreal English Theatre Award, and an Elizabeth Sterling Award. Kimberly is the Vice President of the Associated Designers of Canada.





# MARY JANE COOMBER

SOUND DESIGNER

Mary Jane Coomber (they/them) is a collaborative music and sound artist who primarily works on the unceded, sovereign territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh people. Previous credits: *Snow White, Oz, Ladies & Gentlemen Boys & Girls* (Carousel); *Hurricane Mona, YAGA* (Touchstone); *How Black Mothers Say I Love You, White Girls in Moccasins* (Frank); *Division Infinity Saves The World!* (Newworld); *My Little Tomato* (vAct/ ZeeZee); *Me Love Bingo* (Arts Club); *In My Day* (ZeeZee); *To Perfection* (Shameless Hussy); *Kindred* (Belfry); and *Beautiful Man* (Pi).





**MOLLY  
PEARSON**  
STAGE MANAGER

Citadel: *A Christmas Carol, The Royale, The Garneau Block, Made in Italy* (Stage Manager); *Trouble in Mind, Children of God, Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *A Christmas Carol* (Assistant Stage Manager); Freewill Shakespeare Festival: *Twelfth Night, The Two Gentlemen of Verona, A Comedy of Errors*, and *The Merchant of Venice* (Stage Manager). Other stage management credits include: *Last Chance Leduc* (Snowflake Productions); *Shakespeare's R&J* (Kill Your Television); *Bust* (Theatre Network); and assistant stage managing *Rock the Canyon, Mamma Mia!* (Mayfield Dinner Theatre); and *Vigilante* (Catalyst Theatre).





**LORE  
GREEN**  
ASSISTANT  
STAGE MANAGER

Lore is thrilled to be back at the Citadel doing what she loves! Selected credits include: *A Christmas Carol, West Side Story, Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Sense & Sensibility, Hometown, Silver Arrow, Peter Pan Goes Wrong, Clue, Jersey Boys* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Citadel Theatre); *Timothy Findley's The Wars, Mamma Mia!* and *Titanic* (Grand Theatre); *Barvinok, Michael Mysterious* and *Alina* (Pyretic Productions) and the national tour of *First Métis Man of Odesa* (Punctuate! Theatre). Lore has a BFA in stage management from the University of Alberta.



# STUDENTS CLUB

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Young people are integral to the artistic fabric of the Citadel Theatre, and we are committed to providing programs and initiatives that champion the development of their artistic identities. Students Club offers a unique glimpse into the world of professional theatre to a wide range of local junior and senior high school students. Prior to select performances of each of our mainstage shows, students participate in a highly engaging, interactive presentation with one of our region's talented theatre artists. Following the performance students stay for an informative talkback with members of the production's cast and crew.



Prior to seeing *Rubaboo*, students explored the energetic, traditional dances of the Métis with Felice Glaude from Métis ALIVE. Felice is passionate about sharing her Métis culture and history, especially through dance and story. To Felice, Métis fiddle music and dance are all about community, laughter and movement, and Métis dance is her medicine. It brings joy and vibrancy to her life. Joining Felice at Students Club was her daughter, Willow Gladue, who has been jigging since before she could even walk.

For more information on Students Club, or to become a part of the program, please contact

[groupbookings@citadeltheatre.com](mailto:groupbookings@citadeltheatre.com)



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\*Subject to availability, conditions and restrictions may apply



# WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Citadel Theatre is in the heart of amiskwaciwâskahikan ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ (Edmonton, AB), and we are proud to call Treaty 6 territory home. As a regional theatre, it is integral that we ensure that the stories we tell, as well as the composition of our artists, board, staff, students, and audience are reflective of the diverse lived experiences in this dynamic city.

We commit to dismantling the systems of oppression that our organization has benefited from. We acknowledge our privilege as one of the largest arts organizations in Alberta, and one of the largest regional theatres in Canada; it is our responsibility to enshrine this commitment at the heart of our company. We pledge to be held accountable to this ongoing work with transparency and in dialogue with communities and all stakeholders.

We believe this work requires immediate and ongoing action and constant reflection. We will continue to build an anti-racism and anti-oppression intersectional framework through training, paid consultation, internal analysis, the engagement of an Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee, a commitment to Edmonton's 35//50 Initiative, and significant policy changes and accountability throughout the entire organization.

We are proud to be part of our city's vibrant theatre community and commit to working together with our colleagues to exchange knowledge and ensure lasting systemic change at the Citadel and throughout the arts community. We welcome and



celebrate all voices, all bodies, and all experiences.

This is a living statement that has been crafted by Citadel Theatre's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee. If you have any questions, please contact:

**EDICOMMITTEE@CITADELTHEATRE.COM**

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The Citadel Theatre believes in being Inclusive, Innovative, and International in our programming and practices

**INCLUSIVE** We celebrate, welcome and share stories with the many different communities that make up Edmonton. Our stages come alive with different voices and cultures. We strive to make our productions and our facilities inclusive and accessible; we believe the Citadel is a place where everyone belongs.

**INNOVATIVE** Our programming will celebrate new work, new performance styles and productions that experiment with dramatic form. We will develop large-scale new work by Edmontonian, Canadian and international playwrights. We will create collisions between different art forms, and present work that includes dance, music and digital storytelling.

**INTERNATIONAL** We will present and collaborate with exciting theatre-makers from around the world, as well as taking the fantastic work of the Citadel to audiences everywhere.



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**THE  
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THEATRE**



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## **DR. JOSEPH H. SHOCTOR, 1922 2001**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND FOUNDER  
OF THE CITADEL THEATRE

### **JOE'S VISION**

brought professional theatre to Edmonton

### **JOE'S DREAM**

built the Citadel Theatre

### **JOE'S SPIRIT**

continues to inspire the theatre we create today

### **JOE'S LEGACY**

lives on through a generous gift to the Citadel  
from his estate

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## **HENRY HOLE, 1884 1954**

On the Citadel's 30th Anniversary, a gift was made by the Company of Harry Hole, James F. Hole, Ralph K. Hole and Robert W. Hole on behalf of the Hole family — in honour of their late father, Henry Hole.

The Citadel Theatre is proud to honour Henry Hole's integrity, compassion and leadership in the dedication of this complex to his memory.



# VOLUNTEERS

Zoe Afaganis	Brad Heller	Linda Orlecki
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Hasra Ali	Kristen Hennessey	Doug Racine
Johanna Andreoff	Maria Hollinshead	Leila Ragoonanan
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Julie Harvey	Janice Minamide	Dave Wolkowski
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Rosemarie Heaney	Andrea Newman	

*Thank You*

to all our volunteers!  
You help us make the magic possible.



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**THANK YOU!** We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our donors, whose generosity plays a crucial role in ensuring our community has the opportunity to experience performing arts. Our donors have a profound and lasting impact on the quality, accessibility, and relevance of the Citadel's productions, facility, and educational offerings.

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