

2023/2024



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MAY 24 - JUNE 9, 2024

ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

MATT AUGUST

KASSER FAMILY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

GERI WRIGHT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TRUE WEST

SAM SHEPARD

SCENIC DESIGNER
ALEXANDER DODGE

COSTUME DESIGNER
ALEJO VIETTI

LIGHTING DESIGNER
PHILIP ROSENBERG

SOUND DESIGNER

KEN TRAVIS

FIGHT DIRECTOR

ORIGINAL MUSIC
ANGELA STEINER

STAGE MANAGER

AMBER R. DETTMERS*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
MYKEL MARIE HALL*

BRENT GIBBS

CASTING DIRECTOR
KELLY GILLEPSIE

DIRECTED BY
JENN THOMPSON

"True West" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
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LETTER FROM KASSER FAMILY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MATT AUGUST



Thank you for joining us as we close our 56th Season with Sam Shepard's Pulitzer finalist and Tony-nominated play *True West*, directed by the brilliant Jenn Thompson. Jenn is a Drama Desknominated director whose work has been seen and praised in New York City and in theatres across the country. She directed the National Tour of *Annie*, which is currently touring North America, and she served as the Co-Artistic Director of Off-Broadway's acclaimed TACT/The Actors Company Theatre, where she did incredible work. The synthesis of raw emotion and show-business spectacle of her aesthetic was exactly what I felt *True West* needed so it would have a larger resonance.

True West is a magnet for modern actors, as it holds two of the great roles in the American canon – Austin and Lee. These roles are comparable to Stanley Kowalski in Tennessee Williams' A

Streetcar Named Desire and James Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's Long Day's Journey into Night. In fact, John Malkovich and Gary Sinise's careers were launched from Steppenwolf's legendary production in 1982. Philip Seymour Hoffman and John C. Reilly starred in the Broadway revival in 2000, where they not only alternated roles nightly, but each received a Tony nomination for Best Actor, and the production was also nominated for Best Play and Director. Additional notable actors who have taken these roles on include Bruce Willis, Tommy Lee Jones, Peter Boyle, James Belushi, Dennis and Randy Quaid, Ethan Hawke, Paul Dano, and Kit Harington.

Sam Shepard was a towering figure in American theatre and film who left an indelible mark on the industry through his groundbreaking works such as the Pulitzer winner *Buried Child, Curse of the Starving Class, Fool for Love,* and the genre bending Rock-n-Roll play *Cowboy Mouth.* He challenged conventions and broke barriers with his fearless exploration of the human condition, the myth of the American Family, and the form of theatre itself. He was known for redefining the landscape of the American West and capturing the dark side of the American family, and while he is no longer with us, his voice lives on as one of the most influential writers of his generation. Before there was Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez, before *Breaking Bad, Deadwood*, and edgy cable television, Sam Shepard was cutting the trail.

Enjoy this last show of our 2023/2024 Season, and get ready for a whole new adventure this fall with our lineup of five mainstage shows that include a World Premiere, a Zany Comedy, a new take on a Classic Thriller, a Tony- and Olivier-nominated musical, and the return of our Holiday Spectacular. It's a season filled with humor, intrigue, nostalgia, and lots of love ... with a dose of the blues and holiday magic mixed in.

We'll see you in the fall!

Matt August

Kasser Family Artistic Director

"/////// CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

AUSTIN, SAUL KIMMER - **DENNIS TAMBLYN**; LEE - **CARLOS LEE HALL**; MOM - **CYNTHIA MEIER**

ASSOCIATE SCENIC DESIGNER
CLAYTON DOMBACH

On this original Arizona Theatre Company production, the ATC Production Staff is responsible for scenic construction, costume construction, lighting, projections, sound, props, furniture, wigs, scene painting, and special effects,

Cell phones and other devices that make a noise or emit light can greatly disturb your fellow audience members and the performers. PLEASE TURN THEM OFF before the performance.

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR^(S)'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists

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Arizona Theatre Company operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT) and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States; Stage Directors and Choreographers, an independent national labor union; and United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.



The Actors and Stage Managers employed in these productions are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



The Director and/or Choreographer is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.



Scenic, Costume, Lighting, and Sound in LORT Theatres are represented by Union Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.



LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GERI WRIGHT



ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



As I reflect on this year of stellar shows and look ahead to our 57th Season, I think about the art of storytelling and the myriad ways we tell stories in everything we do. The final product you see on stage is the most visible way we interpret a story through the playwright's dialogue and intentions, but we add our own unique layer to the story through the sets, costumes and wigs, lighting, staging, and sound. This is what makes each and every production a unique experience you'll only see at ATC.

We also work to bring you "behind-the-scenes" stories that offer a glimpse into the lives of the actors and crew during rehearsals and when they're off stage. If you haven't signed up for our emails or aren't already following us on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok, you're missing some fun glimpses into the world of theatre-making!

Beyond the stage, we hear incredible stories about how theatre has touched our patrons and donors, leaving an indelible mark that has impacted – and continues to impact – their lives. Their commitment to support ATC reinforces their beliefs in the power of theatre and its importance in our community. It's their generosity that allows us to continue on this storytelling journey.

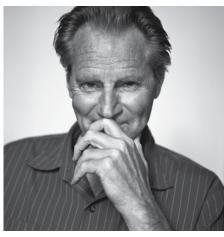
We hear stories from teachers about how their students continue to talk about a student matinee they attended days and even weeks after the show. The impact is profound. We hear from patrons who share how their conversations continue long after the final bows. That's the power of theatre.

Our storytelling continues next season with an array of shows to appeal to a breadth of audiences. Check out the lineup on page 26. We invite you to join us as a Season Tickets subscriber and see all five shows. You can exchange tickets for another same-show performance for free, plus purchase additional tickets at 50% off the single ticket price ... and we waive the \$8 fee for subscribers! If you're only able to see a few plays, Flex Passes offer you flexibility at a great price. Single tickets are set to go on sale in late July.

We're pleased that you are part of ATC's story, and that together we are continuing the legacy of Arizona's State Theatre. Enjoy your summer, stay cool, and we'll see you back in your seats in the fall!

Geri Wright

Geri Wright
Executive Director



Sam Shepard has been described by *New York Magazine* as "the greatest American playwright of his generation," a description earned as a result of several successful works he created. Gruff, gritty, and bold, Shepard's work stands out amongst the peers of his time. "He was Tarantino, before Tarantino," said Kasser Family Artistic Director Matt August. It's almost hard to believe that this was not always the path for him.

Born in 1943, Shepard became the first of three children in what would become a dysfunctional family unit. His father, a former bomber pilot in World War II and an army officer, was an aggressive alcoholic, while his mother was a mild teacher. The family, like many other military families, moved from place to place based on assignments. This shaky foundation laid the groundwork for Shepard's dark and abstract plays.

As he grew into adolescence, he took to farming and worked on a ranch during his teenage years. He had also gained an interest in acting and writing, although they were more hobbies than pursuits. As college quickly approached, Shepard set his sights on studying animal husbandry – the general care and raising of livestock. Yet, the creative forces of jazz, expressionism, and Samuel Beckett enticed him to explore new horizons. So, when a touring company came through town, he up and left with them.

Eventually, Shepard made his way to New York and, like so many struggling artists, served as a busboy at a diner. He dug his heels in and got to work. The rest is history.

In 1966, he received a grant from the University of Minnesota and went on to make history as the first person to earn three Obie Awards in one year. The following year, Shepard earned yet another Obie Award for his play *La Turista*. And by 1968, he would hold six Obie Awards under his belt.

His career progressed and his creative genius expanded beyond the theatre world and into the film and television industry, when he starred as the lead in Terrence Malick's *Days of Heaven*. From then on, Shepard cleverly navigated the grand expanse of the entertainment industry, both writing and starring in productions. Some notable appearances include *Steel Magnolias* (1989), *The Pelican Brief* (1993), *The Notebook* (2004), and *August: Osage County* (2013).

Shepard went on to win the Pulitzer Prize for Best Play in 1978 for *Buried Child* and was nominated for an Academy Award for his work as an actor in *The Right Stuff* in 1983.

Despite the demand for Shepard as an actor, he continued to deliver thrilling and edgy plays such as 1980's True West, considered by some to be the final component of Shepard's "Family Trilogy" of tragedies. However, unlike many of his other works, True West follows a more traditional narrative to emphasize the rivalry between brothers.

True West received Drama Desk Award nominations for Outstanding Play and Outstanding Revival of a Play. Additionally, it has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and a Tony for Best Play.

Sam Shepard passed away on July 27, 2017, but his legacy lives on through his timeless works, which continue to be performed and studied by theater artists and audiences alike. Throughout his career, Shepard continued to push the boundaries of theatre and explore new forms and styles. His impact on American theater is undeniable, and he will be remembered as one of the most important playwrights of the 20th century.



Zack Fine (Lee) is thrilled to be making his debut at Arizona Theatre Company. He is an actor, director, playwright, and teacher originally from Chicago now living in Brooklyn. As an actor, he's appeared on Broadway in China Doll with Al Pacino. He also has

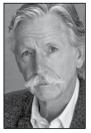
performed Off-Broadway with The Acting Company, Mint Theater Company, Fiasco, Red Bull, TFANA, Pearl, and Bedlam. Regionally, he has performed with the Alley Theatre, Guthrie Theater, McCarter Theatre, Folger Theatre (Helen Hayes Award), Shakespeare Theater DC, Asolo, and PlayMakers Repertory Company. TV/Film credits include Person of Interest, Blackbox (recurring), and New Amsterdam. When not making theatre, Fine teaches clowning at NYU and Fiasco Conservatory, and he holds workshops and seminars around the world with his company Recess (letsgotorecess.com), using the power of play to help build community and spread joy whenever possible.



Rhett Guter (Austin) is making his Arizona Theatre Company debut. He has been seen on stages throughout the country including The Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, PCPA, St. Louis Rep, The Paramount, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Pio-

neer Theatre Company, Arena Stage, and Carnegie Hall. He played the role of Action on the international tour of West Side Story and received a Joseph Jefferson nomination for his choreography of the musical at Drury Lane Theatre. Other credits include Don Lockwood in Singin' In the Rain (Helen Hayes nominated), Bert in Mary Poppins, and Gabey in On the Town at the Olney

Theatre Center. At Goodspeed Opera House, the Roles of Conrad in Bye Bye Birdie and Curly in Oklahoma! earned him a win and a nomination from Connecticut Critic's Circle. Guter spent nine seasons at the Utah Shakespeare Festival and played roles including Chris in The Play That Goes Wrong, Mr. Knightly in Emma: The Musical, The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, The Boy in Peter and the Starcatcher, and Houdini in Ragtime. Guter is also a professional magician. RhettMagic.com | @rhettmagic



Geoffrey Wade (Saul Kimmer) is making his ATC debut. Wade portraved Snape and Lord Voldemort in the original San Francisco company of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child. He has appeared on Broadway and Off-Broadway, and he did the National Tours of Crazy

for You and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime. His extensive regional theater appearances include at The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Center Stage, Geva Theatre Center, Guthrie Theater, Denver Center Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, and Philadelphia Drama Guild, as well as a long association with Vermont's Weston Theater Company. Most recently, he performed in Gypsy at Goodspeed. Los Angeles work includes projects at La Mirada, the Odyssey, LA Theater Works, and Henry IV with Tom Hanks, directed by Daniel Sullivan. TV credits include NCIS, Mad Men, Brothers and Sisters, Numb3rs, ER, and four Law & Orders, etc. Film credits include City Hall, The Divide, and Steven Spielberg's The BFG. Wade directed acclaimed productions of A Walk in the Woods and The Crucible. He has taught for many years at the Antaeus Academy. He was trained at Central in London where he met his

wife, the poet and actress Amelia White. He is an avid photographer.



Amelia White (Mom) returns to ATC after roles in The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley and Silent Sky. Born in Nottingham, England, she was trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London. White has worked on Broadway in The Heiress directed by Jerry

Gutierrez, Crazy for You directed by Mike Okrent, and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof directed by Rob Ashford. Select Off-Broadway plays include Chains (Mint Theatre), Barefoot in the Park (Ground UP Productions), The Butter and Egg Man (Atlantic Theatre Co.), and The Accrington Pals (Hudson Guild Theatre), for which she was awarded the Theatre World Award. Most of White's work has been regional, all over the great United States, from The Music Man (Goodspeed Musicals), Angel Street (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (Denver Center Theatre Company), and many more. She is delighted to be back at ATC and hopes that any young actor will write and let her know what shows they are doing! Thank you!



Carlos Lee Hall (Understudy Lee) is excited to be back at ATC, where he was Carlson Understudy in 2016's Of Mice and Men. A Tucson native, his recent credits include starring as both Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in Arts Express Theatre's Jekyll & Hyde and as Seth Koenig in

the West Coast debut of Sabbath Girl at The Invisible Theatre. Hall holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from the UA (Full Monty, Cabaret, Tempest, Evita) and double minors in Film Production and Music. From teaching Musical Theatre with OMA to captivating crowds at The Gaslight Theatre over the last 18 years, his impact on the local arts scene is undeniable. Currently lending his voice to various musical projects, "Charlie" (Carlos in English) is deeply rooted in the community, co-founding Magdalena Productions to foster collaboration among local talents. He is very grateful for the guidance of Director Jenn Thompson, both Zack Fine and Rhett Guter, the unwavering support of his mother, Dora Emilia, and his friend and scene partner, Dennis Tamblyn. @MrCharlieHall | facebook.com/MagdalenaProductions



Dennis Tamblyn (Understudy Austin / Understudy Saul Kimmer) performed in ATC's Scrooge! as Punch and Judy Man, as Stagehand Understudy in Master Class, and as Eddie Understudy in The Legend of Georgia McBride. He has recently been seen with The Rogue

Theatre as Papin in Babette's Feast and with Invisible Theatre as Ned in Small Mouth Sounds. He is also a classically trained singer and has appeared with The Arizona Opera Company for the past 20 seasons in various comprimario and chorus roles. Tamblyn has a BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics from the University of Arizona, and then decided to pursue a career in opera and musical theater. He has a master's from the University of Northern Colorado. Some of his favorite roles include Max Bialystock in The Producers, for which he was nominated for a MAC award, and Quasiomodo in The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Tamblyn was also honored to sing the National Anthem in 2011 for Barack Obama at the Together We Thrive event in Tucson.







Cynthia Meier (Understudy Mom) is Co-Founder and Managing/Associate Artistic Director of The Rogue Theatre in Tucson, for which she has directed or acted in over 80 plays. She has acted with Arizona Theatre Company, Borderlands Theatre, Arizona

Repertory Theatre, and Michigan Repertory Theatre, and she has been nominated nine times for *Arizona Daily Star* Mac Best Actress Awards for Stevie in *The Goat* (winner), Solange in *The*

Maids, Big Mama in Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, A in Three Tall Women, Mrs. Alving in Ghosts, Anna Fierling in Mother Courage, Ma Joad in The Grapes of Wrath, Bolla in The Night Heron, and Mrs. Drudge in The Real Inspector Hound. Most recently, she played Mrs. Ogmore-Pritchard in The Rogue Theatre's Under Milk Wood. She was also co-founder of Bloodhut Productions, a women's theater company performing original monologues and comedy improvisation, which toured throughout the western United States and was published by St. Martin's Press. Meier holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from the University of Arizona.

Sam Shepard's (Playwright) first New York plays, Cowboys and The Rock Garden, were produced by Theatre Genesis in 1964. For several seasons, he worked with Off-Off-Broadway theatre groups including La MaMa and Caffe Cino. Eleven of his plays won Obie Awards, including Chicago, The Tooth of the Crime, and Curse of the Starving Class. Other award-winning plays include Fool for Love, True West, A Lie of the Mind, and Buried Child, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1979.

In 1986, Shepard was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and he received the Gold Medal for Drama from the Academy in 1992. He was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame two years later. As a writer and director, he filmed Far North and Silent Tongue. As an actor, he appeared in numerous films including The Right Stuff, Days of Heaven, and Resurrection. His final works of prose, The One Inside and Spy of the First Person, were published in 2017, the year of his death.

Jenn Thompson (Director) is a NYC-based and Drama Desk-nominated director whose work has been seen in NYC and at theaters across the country including Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Denver Center, Hartford Stage, Goodspeed Musicals, St. Louis Rep, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, CTC, City Theatre, Portland Stage Company, Pioneer Theatre Company, Barrington Stage, Theatre Aspen, Hartford TheatreWorks, and Dorset Theatre Festival, among others. Recent productions include the current National Tour of Annie as well as the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway productions of Chains, Conflict, and Women Without Men (The Mint Theatre Company), which garnered Lortel and Off-Broadway Alliance Award nominations for Outstanding Revival as well as five Drama Desk Award nominations including Outstanding Director and Revival. NYC credits include work at Rattlestick, Barrow Group, The York Theatre Company, Abingdon, MCC, NAMT, NYMF, Primary Stages, and FringeNYC, as well as serving as Co-Artistic Director of Off-Broadway's TACT/The Actors Company Theatre, where her directing credits for the company earned a Drama Desk nomination for her revised revival of Neil Simon's Lost in Yonkers as well as an Off-Broadway Alliance Award for her production of Beth Henley's play Abundance.

She is married to actor Stephen Kunken. They live in Brooklyn and Connecticut with their daughter, Naomi. jennthompsondirector.com

Alexander Dodge (Scenic Designer) designed Intimate Apparel for ATC. Broadway credits include I Need That, Anastasia (Outer Critics Nomination), A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Nominations), Present Laughter (Tony Nomination), Old Acquaintance, Butley, and Hedda Gabler. Off-Broadway credits include Russian Troll Farm, Harry Clarke, The Whisper House, The Understudy, and Observe the Sons of Ulster ... (Lortel Winner). Other projects include Disney's Hunchback of Notre Dame (La Jolla and Paper Mill Playhouses/ Japan/Germany/Austria). London West End credits include Harry Clarke and All New People. Opera projects include Samson et Dalila (Metropolitan Opera), The Thirteenth Child (Santa Fe), Ghosts of Versailles (L.A. Opera), Ukiyo-E (Grand Théâtre de Genève), Il trittico (Deutsche Oper Berlin), and Lohengrin (Budapest). Dodge, who holds an MFA from Yale and resides in New York City, grew up at Taliesin West in Scottsdale. Alexanderdodgedesign.com | @alexanderdodgedesign

Alejo Vietti (Costume Designer) is an Argentine native who immigrated to the U.S. in the late 1990s. New York credits include Broadway's Holiday Inn, The New Irving Berlin Musical, Allegiance (Drama Desk Award nomination), Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (also national tour, West End-Olivier Award nomination, Australia, Japan, and UK tour), Titanique (Lucille Lortel Award), Smokey Joe's Café, Amy and the Orphans, The Dance of Death, and The Last Sunday in June, among others. He has designed for the Radio City Rockettes, Roundabout Theatre Company, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York City Opera, Second Stage, Atlantic Theater Company, NY Theatre Workshop, and Primary Stages, among others. Other credits include West Side Story world tour, Disney's The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Japan, Germany,

and Austria), Lyric Opera of Chicago, Minnesota Opera, Donesk Opera (Ukraine), Colorado Ballet, and the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Regional credits include projects at Alley Theatre, Goodspeed Opera, Guthrie, Hartford Stage, Paper Mill, Shakespeare Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Williamstown Theatre Festival, and The Old Globe, among others. Vietti is recipient of the 2010 TDF Irene Sharaff Young Master Award. @alejo_vietti_costume_design

Philip Rosenberg (Lighting Designer) has designed lighting throughout the country, including many shows at ATC. Broadway credits include Mrs. Doubtfire, Pretty Woman, The Elephant Man, A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, and It's Only a Play. Regional credits include shows at Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, Ford's Theatre, Guthrie Theater, The Old Globe, TheatreWorks, Hartford Stage, Alliance, Huntington Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Dallas Theatre Center, Denver Center Theatre, Alley Theatre, Arena Stage, McCarter Theatre, Manhattan School of Music, Portland Stage Company, TACT, Barrington Stage Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dorset Theatre Festival, Bay Street Theatre, Goodspeed Opera, Two River Theatre Company, George Street Playhouse, and Westport Country Playhouse.

Ken Travis (Sound Designer) is making his ATC debut. Broadway credits include Aladdin, In Transit, Jekyll and Hyde, A Christmas Story the Musical, Scandalous, Newsies, Memphis, The Three Penny Opera, Barefoot in the Park, and Steel Magnolias. Travis has worked with numerous New York and regional theaters and companies including DCPA, The Old Globe, The 5th Avenue Theater, McCarter Theater, Seattle Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, LA Center Theater Group, ACT Seattle, Guthrie Theater, KC Rep, Dallas Theater Center, Playwrights Horizons, The New Group, NYSF Public Theater, CSC, Signature Theater NYC, SoHo



Rep, Vineyard Theater, The Civilians, and Mabou Mines. He also has worked on several national and international festivals and tours. Travis has won Helen Hayes and NAACP Awards for his sound design work. ken-travis.squarespace.com

Angela Steiner (Original Music) has arranged and composed for multiple new musicals including Ghost Girl, Influence/Her, Amelia's Big Idea, and Rattlesnake Kate (Denver Center for the Performing Arts). She has arranged and composed numerous choral pieces that have been performed across the United States. Along with her compositional credits, she is a music director/conductor and orchestrator. Select regional theater credits include Beautiful, Crazy for You, Cabaret, and Sweeney Todd (Asolo Repertory Theatre); La Cage, Cabaret, and Next to Normal (Barrington Stage Company); Hair! (The Old Globe); Rodger and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Alabama Shakespeare Festival and Geva Theatre); and A Little Night Music, Rattlesnake Kate, The Who's Tommy, Oklahoma, Indecent, and Twelfth Night (Denver Center for the Performing Arts). Steiner holds a bachelor's degree in piano from Wichita State University and a master's in collaborative piano from the University of Northern Colorado. She specializes in creating and collaborating on new musicals. angelasteiner.com

Amber R. Dettmers (Stage Manager) (she/her) is making her debut at Arizona Theatre Company with True West. Selected previous credits include Charlie & The Chocolate Factory (ASM, Paramount Theater), Star Choir (SM, The Industry LA), The First Deep Breath and The Mountaintop (ASM, Geffen Playhouse), Grownup (SM, The Associates Theater Ensemble), Cirque Dreams Holidaze (SM, Cirque du Soleil/VStar Entertainment), The Great Jheri Curl Debate (SM, East West Players), HI, SOLO (SM, MOCA), All's Well That Ends Well (ASM, A Noise Within), Noel Noel (SM, San Diego Symphony), Fly (SM Resident, La Jolla Playhouse), A Number and Scenes From an Execu-

tion (SM, Runcible Theatre Company), Seminar, A Walk in the Woods, Jake's Women, and A Bright Room Called Day (SM, Spartan Theatre), and Ghost Gardens (PSM, Pegasus Theatre). Dettmers has also served as Production Manager on various projects at MOCA (LA), Runcible Theatre, and The Poor Theatre (Chicago). She holds an MFA in Stage Management from UC San Diego.

MyKel Marie Hall (Asst. Stage Manager) has worked with ATC for three seasons and was ASM for this season's Barefoot in the Park and Intimate Apparel. She also was ASM for The Lion (2022), The Glass Menagerie (2023), and Private Lives (2023) at ATC. Some of her favorite credits include ASM for Pirates of Penzance and PA for The Conclusion of Henry VI Parts 2 and 3 (Utah Shakespeare Festival), and PSM for Legally Blonde, Assassins, and 42nd Street (Southern Utah University). Hall received her BS in Theatre Arts and Psychology from Southern Utah University. All the love and gratitude to her friends and family for their endless support and encouragement.

Kelly Gillespie, CSA (Casting Director) has been on the casting staff at Manhattan Theatre Club for 17 seasons. Favorite MTC projects include Prayer for French Republic (Broadway and Off-Broadway), Mary Jane, Jaja's African Hair Braiding, The Best We Could, Skeleton Crew, Ink, Choir Boy, and The Explorers Club. Other credits include Bite Me, Sancocho, Our Dear Dead Drug Lord, What We're Up Against, Sundown Yellow Moon, and Ironbound (WP Theater); Melancholy Play, A Map of Virtue, The Zero Hour, and Monstrosity (13P); Good Person of Szechwan (Foundry and Public Theater); Photograph 51 (Ensemble Studio Theatre); Exclusion and POTUS (Arena Stage); Age of Innocence and Trouble In Mind (The Old Globe); Two Sisters and a Piano (Two River Theater); and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Angels in America, Residence, Seven Guitars, 4000 Miles, Dot, The Roommate, and Eat Your Heart Out (Actors Theatre of Louisville).

Gillespie also was resident casting director for several seasons for the Off-Broadway companies TACT and Keen Company. She holds a BA from the University of Michigan.

Brent Gibbs (Fight Director) is very happy to return to ATC, where he has choreographed violence for many productions over the years including *Romeo and Juliet, Disgraced,* and *Fences,* to name just a few. He is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Arizona, where he headed the professional actor training program and served as Artistic Director for The Arizona Repertory Theatre. At ART, he directed more than 50 productions including 21 different Shakespeare titles.

A certified teacher and fight director with the Society of American Fight Directors, he has gained recognition as an Advanced Actor/Combatant by the Society of British Fight Directors and Fight Directors Canada. He has taught stage combat workshops around the country and at the International Theatre School Festival in Amsterdam as well as at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. In Arizona, he garnered an ariZoni Award for his fight direction in the Southwest Shakespeare Company's production of *Henry V*, and in 2020 he was named an Arizona Arts Hero for his work as a director, fight director, and educator.







EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP



Matt August is the Kasser Family Artistic Director. He is a theatre, opera, and film director and educator whose productions have broken boxoffice records on Broadway (*Grinch*) and played in London, across the UK, Off-Broadway, in major Regional theatres, at festivals, on national tours, at the Grand Ole Opry, and for three holiday seasons at Madison Square Garden. His work has been featured on television talk shows and NPR and performed at the White House for President Bush, Cabinet Members, and military children.

He was the Associate Director to multi-Tonywinning director Jack O'Brien on the Broadway productions of *Henry IV, The Full Monty, The Invention of Love,* and *Imaginary Friends.* He was promoted to Resident Director on Tom Stoppard's *The Invention of Love,* for which both lead actors received Tony Awards, and on the Tony-winning *Henry IV* (Best Director and Best Revival). He also directed the Australia production of *The Full Monty,* earning a Helpmann Award co-nomination for Best Direction. August directed World, American, and Regional Premieres including the record-breaking productions of *Sixteen Wounded* at the Cherry Lane and Long Wharf Theatres (starring Martin Landau), *In the Heights* (starring

////////////////////EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Anthony Ramos in his AEA debut), and King Charles III and The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens, and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord for Arizona Theatre Company.

His productions have been recognized with nominations and awards from LA's Ovation. Washington, D.C.'s Helen Hayes, Arizona's Mac, San Francisco's Bay Area Critics, Broadway World, Utah's Audience Choice, and Australia's Helpmann Awards. His work has appeared on Year End Top Ten lists for the LA Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Huffington Post, Arizona Republic, Oakland Tribune, Arizona Daily Star, San Jose Mercury News, and NPR/KQED. He has been awarded internships, fellowships, and residencies from the Old Globe Theatre, Drama League, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Acting Company, Robert Wilson's Watermill Center, the Juilliard School, The Wrestling School, and San Francisco's Zen Center. In addition to theatre, he was awarded the Panavision New Filmmakers Grant and directed the award-winning short family film How to Get to Candybar.

In 2006 and 2007, August directed the Broadway productions of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas – The Musical*, which broke box office records and has been touring every year since 2008, including a UK production in 2019. His production of *A Christmas Carol* ran for five years at Ford's Theatre, and his Shakespeare productions include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Pioneer), *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Old Globe and Acting Company), *Tempest* (Hanger), *Romeo and Juliet* (National Shakespeare Company), and *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Acting Company). He recently directed the opera *La Boheme* (starring Marina Costa Jackson) and *Pirates of Penzance* at Noorda Center.

He served on panels and committees for the Society of Directors and Choreographers, and has mentored emerging directors through both the SDCF and Drama League as well have having taught directing as an Assistant Professor at Utah Valley University. MattAugust.com

Geri Wright, Executive Director, joined ATC in January 2020 and was Managing Director of the company through its most challenging time ever. While the COVID shutdown posed many challenges, it afforded the opportunity to reimagine the 55-year-old organization's structure from top to bottom to ensure sustainability into the future.

Wright brings more than 25 years of nonprofit leadership, management, and fundraising experience to ATC, including as CEO at Act One, where she more than doubled the organization's impact. She also served as Chief Development Officer at the American Red Cross for four years and Director of Development at the Heard Museum for more than 11 years.

Her love of theatre started at Radio City Music Hall in New York City on a school field trip and has grown into a passion for the arts today. Throughout her career, she has been a passionate advocate for the importance that the arts play in creating healthy and prosperous communities. She was recently recognized as a Titan 100 Phoenix CEO and was named one of the *Phoenix Business Journal's* 2019 Outstanding Women in Business. She also has been honored with an assortment of acknowledgments for her work in the charitable community. Wright and her family, along with two horses and an Australian cattle dog, reside at the base of the McDowell Mountains in North Scottsdale.



atc ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

ABOUT THE PLAY

TRUE WEST

"SHEPARD'S MASTERWORK...

IT TELLS US A TRUTH, AS GLIMPSED BY A 37-YEAR-OLD GENIUS."

- NEW YORK POST

Consider the American Dream. Consider the promise that hard work breeds success. Nothing is off the table. As long as you are willing to put in the hours to make it happen, the world is at your fingertips. So, you put your head down and you get to work. You do the best you can to optimize your chances of achieving your goals. You go to a good school. You put yourself out there. You network with the right crowd. Greatness is on the horizon. Then suddenly, your sibling, with practically no effort whatsoever, swoops in, tries their hand, and wins. Poof. Your ambition crumbles and now you start from square one.

Envy. Loathing. Animosity. They are all bubbling at the surface, and it isn't long before they break through. Enlisted to tend to the plants at his mother's home while she's away on vacation, Austin uses house sitting as an opportunity to focus on his next screenplay. The one that has the potential to set him apart from his peers. His concentration is broken when his older brother Lee waltzes in drunk and up to no good. And just like that, after years of living their own lives, the boys are back home.

Ever the opposites, Austin and Lee greet each other with small talk and reacquaint themselves with one another. An Ivy League graduate, Austin's career in screenwriting has taken off and he is on the cusp of something great with his latest project. Meanwhile, Lee only happened upon their mother's house because he was making plans to rob the neighborhood. While this is disappointing, Austin is not at all surprised and makes little effort to hinder him. Austin welcomes Lee to stay with him at their mother's house as long as he is in town and immediately touches a nerve.

Austin's attempt at kindness is misunderstood for pity. His invitation implies he has been given the upper hand. Mom asked him to watch the house, not Lee. Yet, Lee

rejects the need for permission to stay at his own mother's house. He rejects the need for permission to do anything he wants. Let alone permission from his little brother. Austin, needing time alone in the house, bites his tongue and does his best to restore peace. He's scored a meeting with big-time Hollywood producer Saul Kimmer and can't afford for anything to go wrong. Lee agrees to leave, but they remain on shaky ground.

Austin gets his win with Saul after pitching a romantic period piece. His hard work continues to pay off, and the future couldn't be brighter based on Saul's response. Just as they begin to finish their meeting, Lee walks in holding a television set. Austin reluctantly introduces the two while simultaneously ushering Saul out. But Lee's outgoing and bold nature propels the conversation to something more.

After inviting himself to go golfing with Saul, Lee coolly pitches him an idea for a movie. Saul agrees to hear him out, but nothing more. He's a busy man with many other, more established clients to tend to. And yet, one short golf match later, Saul is undeniably impressed with Lee. So much so that Austin pays the price.

Saul drops Austin's project and trades it for Lee's. This small switch pushes Austin over the edge. He drowns himself in alcohol. He resolves to fulfill a true role reversal with his brother by taking a stab at *his* occupation – robbery.

He is no longer calm and composed. He is no longer reasonable and levelheaded. He is no longer willing to try. But Lee, who is now in over his head, needs him. His success completely relies on Austin. He desperately tries to get Austin to write the script for him. He's never been so close to greatness, and he can't let it slip through his fingers. He wants the life that Austin has.

A torrent of emotions rips through the brothers as their struggle escalates beyond a few harsh words. They tear into each other with years of resentment surfacing with each blow. All the while their mother's home falls victim to their reckless rage.

True West explores themes of family, opportunity, and the American Dreams. It examines how siblings compete with and use each other for their own benefits. It illustrates how even two people raised in the same household can become so vastly different from each other. It gives a vivid image to the rivalry that siblings can hold that parents often neglect to acknowledge. As we witness this onstage dynamic power struggle of one family, we are invited to recognize in ourselves the terrible consequences of extreme emotions in our own families and communities. It's a profound metaphor.







All photography by Tim Fuller



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Arizona Theatre Company recognizes the rich history of the 22 American Indian communities in Arizona.

It is important to understand the cultural history of the land and our place within that history.

We invite you to learn more by visiting local cultural sites like the Heard Museum: heard.org or the Amerind Museum: amerind.org, among others.

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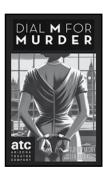


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INTRODUCING OUR 2024/2025 SEASON

Get ready for ATC's magnificent 57th Season filled with suspense, intrigue, nostalgia, and abiding love ... with a dose of holiday magic and bluesy soul mixed in.

For the best seats and prices, Season Tickets and Flex Pass Advantage subscriptions are available now. Single tickets go on sale in late July.



10/19/24 - 11/3/24 DIAL M FOR MURDER

ADAPTED JEFFREY HATCHER ORIGINAL BY FREDERICK KNOTT

Suspense. Deception. Betrayal.

Passion runs high in this classic revenge thriller, newly adapted for a modern audience by ATC favorite playwright Jeffrey Hatcher (*Wait Until Dark, Holmes and Watson, Tuesdays with Morrie, Jekyll and Hyde*). Frederick Knott's nail-biting 1952 play was later adapted by Alfred Hitchcock into the 1954 film. This clever, fast-paced adaptation, which has had box office-busting runs at theatres across the country, adds extra layers of intrigue and emotion to the iconic cat-and-mouse story. Filled with vivid characters, sharp dialogue, and lethal amounts of intrigue, *Dial M* will keep you on the edge of your seat.



12/7/24 - 12/28/24 SCROOGE!

BOOK, MUSIC LESLIE BRICUSSE DIRECTED MATT AUGUST

Spectacular. Transformation. Redemption.

Returning from its blockbuster first season for an encore, ATC's holiday musical extravaganza *Scrooge!* celebrates the season with the beloved story of Ebenezer Scrooge joined by a distinguished cast of more than 24 actors, live musicians, and an all-star creative team. With songs by the illustrious Oscar-, Grammy-, and Tony-nominated composer Leslie Bricusse (Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory), this unique rendition exclusively brought to life by ATC is quickly becoming a cherished holiday tradition to share with your entire family.

"This is a joyous production." - Kathleen Allen, Arizona Daily Star

atc.org/subscribe



2/22/25 - 3/9/25 BLUES IN THE NIGHT

ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY SHELDON EPPS ORIGINAL VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CHAPMAN ROBERTS ORCHESTRATIONS AND ADDITIONAL SY JOHNSON

Soulful. Evocative. Timeless.

A musical celebration of the blues and its influence on American music, this toe-tapping revue weaves the stories of three women and one man as they navigate love, heartbreak, and rebirth. Set in a swanky 1930s Chicago hotel, this emotionally uplifting story features 26 of the hottest torch numbers by blues and jazz icons like Bessie Smith, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen, Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Ida Cox, and Benny Goodman, to name a few. Come celebrate a uniquely American music genre through this powerful and uplifting journey through the hearts of four of the country's best crooners and a dozen of America's best composers.



4/19/25 - 5/4/25 BOB & IFAN: A I OVF STORY

BY ROBERT SCHENKKAN

Nostalgic. Romantic. Inspiring.

Lightning strikes and sparks fly when Bob and Jean meet in New York City, 1941. But their instant attraction is cut short as World War II drives the pair thousands of miles apart. While Bob is off to the Pacific as a bomb disposal officer, Jean is headed to boost troop morale as a USO actress. Is their connection strong enough to withstand the winds of war? Travel through their passionate, funny, sometimes desperate correspondence as they navigate battle, Broadway, and the complexities of the human heart. A new play written by Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning and Emmy-nominated playwright Robert Schenkkan, Bob & Jean: A Love Story is a stirring and romantic world premiere that tells the remarkable story of an exhilarating courtship.



6/14/25 - 6/29/25 MS. HOLMES & MS. WATSON - APT. 2B

BY KATE HAMILL

Fast-Paced. Hilarious. Mysterious.

Modern-day adventure awaits with the most iconic detective duo of all time reimagined as a gal-pal comedy in *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B.* Set in present-day London, depressed American divorcee Dr. Joan Watson moves in with the carefree and eccentric Shirley Holmes, only to find themselves entangled in a series of mysteries, all related to a cunning supervillain who remains one step ahead of them. This twist on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's's cherished Sherlock Holmes characters delivers non-stop laughter inside a rollicking murder mystery that promises fun for the whole family.



2024/2025 SEASON

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	Season Tickets	Limited Season Tickets	Premium Flex Pass Advantage	Standard Flex Pass Advantage
Your Tickets	1 ticket for each of the season's 5 shows	1 ticket for each of the season's shows excluding Scrooge!	8, 6, or 4 vouchers to exchange for tickets to shows/performances of your choice	8, 6, or 4 vouchers to exchange for tickets to shows/performances of your choice
Seating Levels	Premium, Section 1, Section 2, Section 3	Premium, Section 1, Section 2, Section 3	Premium	Section 1, Section 2, Section 3
Ticket Exchanges	FREE - Unlimited for same show	FREE - Unlimited for same show	One FREE after tickets are issued	\$5 per ticket exchanged
Bring a Friend	50% off single tickets, plus \$8 fee waived	50% off single tickets, plus \$8 fee waived (excluding <i>Scrooge!</i>)	Flex Pass per ticket price, plus \$8 fee waived	Flex Pass per ticket price, plus \$8 fee waived
Guest Pass	1 FREE Guest Pass per package purchased by May 15	No	No	No

For more information atc.org/subscribe

Already a Season Ticket or Flex Pass subscriber? Return your 2024/2025 personalized subscriber form or call the box office at 833-ATC-SEAT to renew.



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ATC's Legacy Society was established to recognize individuals who have made a planned gift to ensure the Company's vision lives on well into the future.

Whether you contribute through a bequest in a will or trust, or a beneficiary designation on your retirement account, life insurance, or other estate-planning vehicle, your legacy gift ensures that ATC continues to bring world-class theatrical productions to our stages, reaching generations for years to come.

LEGACY SOCIETY BENEFITS:

- Recognition in the ATC program book for the entire season.
- Exclusive updates from our Artistic department throughout the season.
- Exclusive invitation to our annual Legacy Society Luncheon event.



To join the Legacy Society, or to learn more about ATC's planned giving program, please contact Cami Cotton, Director of Donor Relations, at ccotton@atc.org or 520-463-7675.



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ATC supports its vital mission with these key initiatives:

ATC Mainstage

Each season, ATC produces five mainstage productions, bringing together the best talent from across Arizona, the country, and the world. ATC

ABOUT ATC

Recognized as the Official State Theatre of

Arizona with a legacy started in 1966, ATC has

an unwavering commitment to delivering excep-

tional theatrical experiences to the communities of

Tucson and Phoenix. As the sole LORT (League of

Resident Theatres) professional nonprofit region-

al theatre in Arizona, ATC proudly sets the gold

ATC is led by Executive Director Geri Wright and

Kasser Family Artistic Director Matt August. Each

season, ATC employs world-class artists to produce

professional theatre, reaching an audience of over

130,000 patrons through mainstage productions,

MISSION

Arizona Theatre Company's mission is to

create world-class theatre about

what it means to be alive today -

inspiring curiosity and creativity,

sparking empathy and joy -

bringing all Arizonans together.

VISION

Arizona Theatre Company's vision is to

transform the lives of every Arizonan

through the power of theatre.

student matinees, and community outreach.

standard for artistic excellence and innovation.

COMPANY

playwrights, directors, designers, actors, and production teams represent the finest artists and technicians working today.

Engagement in Phoenix and Tucson ... and Beyond

ATC operates in two major cities, unlike any other LORT theatre in the country, providing a place for communities across Arizona to gather, share, and explore the art-making process, reaching beyond the metropolitan areas of Tucson and Phoenix, and enriching the theatre learning experience for all.

New Play Development

ATC provides playwrights and theater makers, both locally and nationally, a place to develop their work. Through workshops and readings, we give artists a place to incubate and launch productions, both at ATC and beyond. ATC is also proud to support emerging voices with the annual National Latine Playwrights Award and Festival.

Education and Outreach

ATC delivers inspiring experiences in a number of ways, both connected to our stages and beyond our walls, in schools, and across the state. Core programs of our education efforts include Student Matinees, playguides, and post-show discussions.

Living Our Values (LOV) Initiative

We strive to put our values at the center of who we are and what we do – continuously connecting our audiences, artists, staff, and stakeholders to our core values, creating a true sense of belonging, equity, and diversity within the organization and the communities we serve. Nowhere is this more important than the work we build and perform on our stages.

Welcome to the new home of Arizona Theatre Company

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Opened in 2007, Tempe Center for the Arts houses a state-of-the-art, 600-seat proscenium theater, a 200-seat studio theater and a 3,500-square-foot gallery. The following services and policies ensure your comfort and enhance your experience at the theater.

THEATRE POLICIES

Latecomers – Latecomers will be seated only at an appropriate and predetermined break in action. In order not to disturb patrons who are already enjoying the performance, latecomers may be seated in alternate locations until intermission.

Cameras – As a courtesy to our patrons and the actors, the use of cameras and recording devices is not permitted within the theater during the show.

Cellphones, Smart Watches & Light/Soundemitting Devices – Please silence or turn off all cellphones, digital watches, or any other noisemaking or light-emitting devices for the courtesy of other patrons and the actors.

Children – Children under 5 are not permitted in the theater during performances.

Smoking – Smoking is strictly forbidden in City of Tempe facilities. Receptacles are located outside the main entrance.

THEATER SERVICES

Accessibility – Tempe Center for the Arts provides a variety of accessible services in the lobby and accommodations including, but not limited to:

- Accessible parking
- Accessible/family restrooms
- Listening devices Available on request in the lobby
- Accessible seating available on all levels
- Seating assistance Please contact a TCA Experience Team member

Elevators – Elevators are located on the west end of the lobby and serve all three patron levels.

Restrooms – Restrooms are located on the first and second levels and are accessible to patrons with disabilities.

Eat & Drink – Food and beverages are available in the lounge through intermission. Please use trash and recycling receptacles at all entrances.

Lost & Found – For assistance, see an Experience Team member or call 480-350-2883 the following day.

Captioning – Coordinated with the action onstage, those in open-captioned seating will be able to read the play's dialogue displayed large letters on an LED screen. For open-captioned performance dates, contact the ATC Ticket and Information Office at 833-ATC-SEAT.

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ARIZONA THEATRE COMPANY

10/19/24 - 11/3/24



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