

# *theatre* **KAPOW**

*Girlboss your way  
up the pyramid.*

*But is Paradise at the top?*



*"Endlessly watchable, truly hysterical" - TimeOut*

*"Smart, funny, heart-bruising" - The Stage*

*Presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books. [www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/plays-to-perform/](http://www.nickhernbooks.co.uk/plays-to-perform/)*

*June 7 and 8 at 7:30pm*

*June 9 at 2:00 pm*



**Capitol Center  
for the Arts**  
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[www.tKAPOW.com](http://www.tKAPOW.com)

## **A Note from the Director**

Gabriel, Baby, Alex, Laurie, Carla, Anthie, Fiona. I've never loved any character in any play as much as I love the characters of *Paradise Now*. This is testimony to the brilliance of playwright Margaret Perry, who has crafted these rich, layered, flawed, striving women with wit, love, and economy, leaving so many secrets unspoken and inviting us – director, actresses, designers, audience – to puzzle out the mysteries. It is also testimony to these seven incredibly talented actresses, who have breathed vibrant and determined life into the characters, inhabiting each surprising layer with ingenuity, vulnerability, and joy.

The world and themes of *Paradise Now!* are important - the action takes place in, and because of, a multi-level marketing enterprise, or MLM, a kind of Ponzi scheme that's driven as much by the promise of friendship, community, support, and a meaningful life as it is by the allure of financial independence and "being your own boss." MLMs attract (or target) women because friendship, community, support, and meaning are our currency.

But I don't think *Paradise Now!* is about MLMs. Not really. I think it's about fierce, determined, complex women who strive to do their very best in an environment where they cannot possibly succeed. Maybe MLMs are the only places where the odds are so severely stacked against a woman's success. But maybe not.

~ Wanda Strukus

theatre KAPOW presents

**Paradise Now!**

by Margaret Perry

Gabriel ..... Katie Collins  
Baby ..... Sheree Owens  
Anthie ..... Madaline Falcone  
Carla ..... Kyrie Ellison-Keller  
Alex ..... Carey Cahoon  
Laurie ..... Deirdre Hickok Bridge  
Fiona Franks ..... Barbara Holbrook  
Director ..... Wanda Strukus  
Stage Manager..... Samantha Autumn  
Intimacy Choreographer ..... Samantha Griffin  
Lighting Design.....Tayva Young  
Costume Design ..... Barbara Holbrook  
Scenic Design ..... Matt Cahoon  
Director of American Sign Language ..... Nicole Marie Cruz  
ASL/English Interpreters ..... Nicole Comtois and Jola Leary

*Paradise Now! is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.*

*World premiere of Paradise Now! By Margaret Perry was produced in London by the Bush Theatre, December 2022.*

**Setting**

London. Now. Several worlds layered on top of one another... including: Gabriel and Baby's flat, Carla's flat, Alex's home, Laurie's home, a dance studio, a bowling alley, a restaurant, a busy street, and a mid-priced conference hotel in Brighton.

**~ There will be one 15-minute intermission ~**

**The Company**

**Deirdre Hickok Bridge** (Laurie) is honored to be included among this badass ensemble. Her previous theatre KAPOW productions include *Dance Nation* (Sofia), *Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play* (ensemble), *Stupid F%cking Bird* (Emma), and *Burial at Thebes* (Eurydice), as well as tkapow's 24 HR Play Festival. She is particularly proud of her 2019 performance in the titular role of *Bo-Nita: a Play for One Woman* at the Hatbox Theatre, which she also co-produced. Deirdre finds that theatre is a much better way to find community than direct sales could ever be. Thanks to John and the whole fam for helping me find time to do all the things. Xo

**Carey Cahoon** (Woman) was last seen on stage with tKAPOW in *On the*

## *acknowledging the land we inhabit*

tKAPOW's work is based primarily on N'dakinna (En-DA-kin-ah), which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations. This moment calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well.

We do this to pay respect to the Abenaki, Pennacook and Wabanaki Peoples and their elders past, present, and emerging. We hope to inspire greater curiosity among non-Native peoples about the land on which they live, to halt the erasure of Indigenous history, and to encourage support of Indigenous communities both locally and globally.

We encourage you to learn more about the Indigenous communities where you are currently. You can visit <https://native-land.ca/>.

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*Exhale.* She is a three-time winner of the NH Theatre Award for Best Actress. Favorite roles include Sarah Briseis in *Living in Exile*, Cassandra in *Agamemnon*, Hedda Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*, Penelope in *The Penelopiad* and Ashlee in *Dance Nation*. Carey is a founding member of theatre KAPOW and has also performed, directed or designed with Glass Dove Productions, Boston Playwright's Platform, Stage One Productions, the Palace Theatre, and the Anselmian Abbey Players. She holds a BA in Classics from St. Anselm College, and trained at the Atlantic Acting School, Shakespeare & Company, and with SITI Company. [careycahoon.com](http://careycahoon.com)

**Katie Collins** (Gabriel) is delighted to be working with theatre KAPOW again, having previously appeared in their productions of *Breadcrumbs*, *Dance Nation*, *Mr. Burns* and *Circle Mirror Transformation*. With over 45 years of theater experience, Katie has worked with several other companies throughout NH and her favorite roles include Vivian Bearing in *W;t* (2013 NH Theater Award for Best Actress); Marty in *Circle Mirror Transformation*; Hannah in *Spitfire Grill*, Maude in *Bakersfield Mist*, and Alita in *Breadcrumbs*. Katie is in her 19th season as the Director of Development at the Capitol Center for the Arts and lives in Manchester with her patient wife Kelly and several cats, while enjoying frequent guest appearances by her talented daughter Liza. On the side, she is a contributing writer for the website *Grown and Flown*, where she has published over 40 essays and articles. Katie is so grateful to be working with Wanda Strukus again and thanks her and tKAPOW for this latest opportunity to continue to grow as an artist.

**Kyrie Ellison** (Carla) is a performance maker and intimacy choreographer based in New Hampshire. Her work utilizes the choreographic, through

stage combat and movement, to build femme communal spaces & speculative narratives to confront oppressive forms. She's curious about the stories we tell each other to "just get through it" and how they relate to the fairy tales and tropes made popular by writers. She is passionate about the facilitation of safe spaces for artists, audiences, and creatives to engage with their communities, both locally and globally. Her work has been seen on stage at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse, Bank of New Hampshire Stage (theatreKAPOW), and Sarah Lawrence College. She's thrilled to be on stage with theatre KAPOW again working on *Paradise Now!* Generated works include *Weekend Warrior*, *I'd Be All Alone*, and *The Pattern*. Performance credits include *The Ferryman* (Caitlin Carney), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hippolyta, Egeus, Titania, Puck), *Everybody* (Ensemble), *The Trojan Women* (Hecuba), *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (The Hostess of the Garter Inn), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don John). She holds a B.S. in Musical Theatre from Russell Sage College, an M.F.A. in Theatre from Sarah Lawrence College. Currently, she's working as the Assistant Director of Theatre at New Hampton School. [www.ellisonarts.com](http://www.ellisonarts.com)

**Madaline Falcone**, she/her (Anthie) is so grateful to be working with theatre KAPOW again. Madaline is a New England based theatre artist and screen actor. A few of her previous roles include Ms. Lauren in *The Cookie Referendum* with Free Soil Arts, Actor 1 in *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* with Studio 506, Nina in *Stupid F%cking Bird* with Balefire Productions and Letter Writer 3 in *Tiny Beautiful Things* with theatre KAPOW. Madaline would like to thank her family for their enormous love. She would also like to thank this magnificent cast and crew, full of inspiring, warm and uplifting human beings. Working on this show has been healing, enriching and simply beautiful. Enjoy the play!

**Sheree Owens** (Baby) is happy to be back onstage for her fourth production with theatre KAPOW, having previously performed in *Melancholy Play*, *Mr. Burns*, and *The Penelopiad*. She was most recently onstage with the cast



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Photo by Matt Lomax

The image is a promotional graphic for Wax Idiotical Films. It features a black background with white text and a logo. The logo consists of a circle with a horizontal line passing through it, and the letters 'wi' inside. To the right of the logo are three small, square, black and white photographs: the top one shows a person in a boat on a lake, the middle one shows a person with a telescope on a beach, and the bottom one shows a person sitting in a chair in a room. The text 'Photo by Matt Lomax' is at the bottom right.

of *Sondheim on Sondheim*, and as Bea in *Something Rotten* (Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative). Big thanks to Carey, Matt, and the cast, crew and creative team of *Paradise Now!* Lots of love to Sammy, Tamara, John and the boys.

**Wanda Strukus** (Director) is a theater artist, producer, and teacher whose practice emphasizes ensemble-building, physical theater, and interdisciplinary exploration. Previous directing credits with theatre KAPOW include *Dance Nation*, *Natural Shocks*, and *Desdemona: A Play about a Handkerchief*. She has collaborated with Yellow Springs Theater Company, Adam Theater, White Snake Projects, Artists for World Peace, Daniel McCusker Dance Projects, Crabtree/Carabetta Collaborative, Chicago Women's Theater Alliance, and others. As co-founder of the award-winning Two Roads Performance Projects, she produced site-specific public art projects across a wide range of media. She was the founding director of the BFA in Contemporary Theater at Boston Conservatory at Berklee and has taught, directed/choreographed, and produced at universities throughout New England. She is an alumna of the Jacob's Pillow Choreographer/Director Lab and has served on the Medford Arts Council.

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**theatre KAPOW is growing: providing more accessibility and inclusion in our performances and programs, more partnerships and collaborations! You can help us make the most of new opportunities to create shared theatrical experiences and keep the growing going!**

**To sustain our momentum will you make a gift to theatre KAPOW this giving season? Your support keeps us putting stories on stage to create safe spaces to start conversations to begin to heal communities, families, and hearts.**



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**theatre KAPOW is proud to be a Senior Fellow in the New Hampshire Dance Collaborative's Accelerator Program and we are grateful for their support.**



**Samantha Autumn**, she/her (Stage Manager) BFA '26 Theatre Education & Performance at Emerson College. College Credits: *Little Women* (Props Assistant); *Dog Sees God* (Assistant Stage Manager) for *BlueJay*; *Ride the Cyclone* (Stage Manager) and *13 The Musical* (Stage Manager) for Musical Theatre Society. Other Credits: *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Stage Manager) for tKAPOW; *Pippin* (Catherine) and *She Kills Monsters* (Vera) for Pinkerton Players. Samantha is so thrilled to be back with tKAPOW for another amazing production!

**Matt Cahoon** (Scenic Designer) is the Artistic Director of theatre KAPOW. Matt has directed many productions for the company including: *The Boyg*, *Agamemnon*, *A Dream Play*, *Raining Aluminum*, and *The Penelopiad*. His work with theatre KAPOW has resulted in three NH Theatre Awards for Best Director. Matt has directed for a number of other companies including the Winnepesaukee Playhouse (*Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, *Miss Julie*, *Robin Hood*), Jean's Playhouse (*Kimberly Akimbo*), and LaMaMa ETC. (*The Life and Times of Lee Harvey Oswald* in NY and *Me and Bea* at LaMaMa International in Spoleto, IT). Matt's theatre training includes work with Double Edge Theatre Company, SIT Company, the New England Center for Circus Arts, and Tectonic Theater Project. In 2013, Matt attended the International Symposium for Directors at LaMaMa Umbria in Spoleto, Italy. After 18 years as the Director of Cultural Programming at Pinkerton Academy, Matt is excited to be the new Theatre Director at New Hampton School.

**Samantha Griffin**, she/her (Intimacy Choreographer) is so honored to be back working with theatre KAPOW. Sam graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a BFA in May 2023, and this is her fourth tKAPOW production (*Helena* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* & Assistant Intimacy Choreographer for *The Thanksgiving Play*, Stage Manager for *On the Exhale*). An actor, playwright, and all around theatre human, Samantha can also be found serving coffee in Concord and reading all sorts of books.

**Barbara Holbrook** (Costume Designer) has a BA in Theatre, an MFA in Costume Design, and a passion for creative collaborations on stage and off. She's delighted to work with tKAPOW again. Past projects with special places in her heart include *Pippin*, *The Secret Garden*, *Annie*, *Godspell*, *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Candide*, *Shadowlands*, *The Good Person of Szechwan*, and *The Man of La Mancha*. Her path has taken her through various positions in theater, retail, consulting, and being a mom of three. She enjoys practicing and teaching energetic intelligence; she's the co-founder of 4th Wheel Flow, a Reiki Master, yoga teacher (Yoga Alliance RYT-500), and serial pattern disruptor. She lives north of Boston in a multi-generational household where she hones her daily practices of love, humor, resilience, and unapologetic self-care.

**Sallie Ahn Werst** (Choreographer) grew up in Merrimack, NH and received her early training at Southern NH Dance Theater under the directorship of Patricia Lavoie. She also studied at Vermont Chamber Ballet, Bossov Ballet Theatre, Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, and Ballet Austin. Sallie graduated from Pace University's Lubin School and Pforzheimer's Honors College with a BBA in Advertising and Promotion, also completing a minor in studio

art through an exchange program with the Accademia di Bella Arti in Florence, Italy. During her time in NYC, Sallie was part of the scholarship programs both at Ballet Academy East and STEPS on Broadway training classically with such esteemed teachers as Darla Hoover, Peter Frame, Cheryl Yeager, Finis Jhung, and Nancy Bielski and explored hip hop with Buddha Stretch, Jonathan Lee, and Vandana Hart. Upon graduating college, Sallie traveled to Africa where she took part in developing a dance outreach program in Arandis, Namibia. She moved back to NH and took her dancing to yet a new context as a New England Patriots Cheerleader. With the NFL, Sallie had the opportunity to perform on the sidelines of Gillette Stadium, model for the team's calendar shoot in Aruba, and appear on national TV during Super Bowl XLV. She has continued sharing her love of all movement, teaching throughout her home state and across the country over the past 16 years, more recently serving on faculty at Regional Dance America's Northeast Festivals and National Choreographic Intensive.

**Tayva Young** (Lighting Designer) is in her 13th year with tKAPOW. She is very excited to be working on the 16th season: *Where we Are*. She considers tKAPOW her theatre family and could not have asked for a more talented, supportive and imaginative group of people to work with. She enjoys the collaboration process with so many talented individuals, bringing the magic of live theatre to all audiences. Some of her favorite tKAPOW productions are: *Melancholy Play* by Sarah Ruhl, *Living in Exile* by Jon Lipsky, *Grounded* by George Brant and *Silent Sky* by Lauren Gunderson. She lives in Maine on a small homestead with her family, where she also runs a small Massage Business out of her home. She thanks each and every one of you for supporting the arts, and hopes you Enjoy the Show!

**Margaret Perry** (Playwright) is from Cork, Ireland, based in London. Her debut play *Porcelain* was produced by the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, in March 2018. Her second play, *Collapsible*, won an Origin Award for Outstanding New Work at Vault Festival 2019, the Fishamble New Writing Award at Dublin Fringe 2019, and transferred to the Bush Theatre in March 2020. Her third play *Paradise Now!* opened at the Bush Theatre in December 2022 and was currently nominated for a 2023 Olivier Award. Margaret was a 2023 fellow at MacDowell, offering talented individuals an inspiring residential environment in Peterborough, NH, in which to produce enduring works of the creative imagination.

**theatre KAPOW thanks the following people and organizations  
for their support of *Paradise Now!*:**

Ann Holbrook ~ Matthew Lomanno ~ Kyp Pilalas  
Bank of New Hampshire Stage ~ Boutwell's Bowling Center  
Community Players of Concord  
New Hampton School  
New Hampshire Dance Collaborative



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## Corporate and Foundation Support

theatre KAPOW is supported in part by grants from:



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### **theatre KAPOW Company Members**

Carey Cahoon ~ Matt Cahoon ~ Peter Josephson  
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## *Anti-racism and Equitable Space Pledge*

We pledge to be held publicly accountable in cultivating an anti-racist, equitable space for learning and creating. We will actively hold ourselves accountable if and when we are not doing our part to stand up against structural racism. We will promote a positive space for all, regardless of race, sexuality, gender expression, or ability. We will listen in order to understand, not to defend or deflect.

We pledge to examine and dismantle our own learned biases. We will sit in the discomfort this brings, and will not let this discomfort render us silent or derail the necessary work.

Thank you for holding us accountable and joining us in this effort to foster an anti-racist, inclusive theatrical community that creates opportunities for all artists and audiences.

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