

theatre **KAPOW**

the
Thanksgiving
play by *larissa*
fasthorse



*The funniest
Thanksgiving roast
you'll attend this year*



Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

*December 1 and 2 at 7:30pm
December 3 at 2:00pm
Bank of NH Stage, Concord*



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Director's Note

As we kick off season 16, I think it is important to reflect on our journey to this moment in theatre KAPOW's evolution as a company. Since the beginning, we have pledged to produce plays from "across ages and cultures." In reality, however, the vast majority of our work over the course of our 16 years has been plays written by white playwrights. With that in mind, in 2020 tKAPOW's co-founder Carey Cahoon designed a play reading circle that would allow people from all over the world to gather online to read and discuss plays by global majority playwrights. The *Expanding the Canon* play reading circle is now in its 4th season and we have read works by Black, Asian American, Indigenous, and Disabled playwrights.

Without question, this program is one of our most important and rewarding initiatives. When we were planning our season for this year, one thing we thought was critical was finding a way to bring the voices amplified in the play reading circle into a full production. For a variety of reasons that is much easier said than done. Larissa FastHorse herself has spoken about the sad fact that the one play of hers that is the most produced is the one play without any indigenous characters. In fact, *The Thanksgiving Play* made it all the way to Broadway making FastHorse just the second indigenous playwright to have a show on Broadway. This weekend, the play makes its New Hampshire premiere.

In addition to taking one small step towards making good on the promises made by the play reading circle, this show also kicks off theatre KAPOW's accessibility initiative. In conjunction with our reading of plays that highlight the disabled voice, we are dedicated to make our work more accessible for all audience members. With that in mind, we have made the commitment to have ASL interpreters at one performance of each of our shows this season. We have also begun the work to ensure our social media posts are fully accessible and to provide audience members with accessibility information for all our venues.

Included in the description of the play reading circle is the language "We simply must do the work...to move toward the equity we want to see in the world." While there is still so much work to do, I am proud that we have dedicated ourselves to this work in season 16.

~Matt Cahoon, Artistic Director

theatre KAPOW and the Bank of NH Stage present

The Thanksgiving Play

by Larissa FastHorse

Logan Rachael Chapin Longo
Jaxton Peter Josephson
Caden Joel lwaskiewicz
Alicia Molly Litt
Director Matt Cahoon
Stage Manager Carey Cahoon
Intimacy Choreographer Kyrie Ellison
Assistant Intimacy Choreographer Samantha Griffin
Guest Choreographers Sallie Ahn Werst, Kyrie Ellison
Lighting Design Tayva Young
Sound Design Kyrie Ellison
Costume Design/ Wardrobe Barbara Hollbrook
Scenic Design Matt Cahoon

~ One act with no intermission ~

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Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of "THE THANKSGIVING PLAY" in 2018. "THE THANKSGIVING PLAY" was commissioned and originally produced by Artists Repertory Theatre, Damaso Rodriguez, Artistic Director Sarah Horton, managing Director Portland, Oregon.

Playwrights Horizons is dedicated to cultivating the most important American playwrights, composers, and lyricists, as well as developing and producing their bold new plays and musicals. Tim Sanford became Artistic Director in 1996 and Leslie Marcus has been Managing Director since 1993. Under their decades of leadership, Playwrights builds upon its diverse and renowned body of work, counting 400 writers among its artistic roster. In addition to its onstage work each season, Playwrights' singular commitment to nurturing

American theater artists guides all of the institution's multifaceted initiatives: our acclaimed New Works Lab, a robust commissioning program, an innovative curriculum at its Theater School, and more. Robert Moss founded Playwrights in 1971 and cemented the mission that continues to guide the institution today. André Bishop served as Artistic Director from 1981-1992. Don Scardino succeeded him and served until 1996. Over its 47-year history, Playwrights has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including six Pulitzer Prizes, 13 Tony Awards, and 39 Obie Awards.

The Company

Joel lwaskiewicz (Caden) is overjoyed to make his theatre KAPOW debut. A New Hampshire native, Joel has performed with community and professional theatres across the state as well as the Greater Boston area, including Vicious Mole Theatre Collective, Theater in the Open, Seven Stages Shakespeare Company, Powerhouse Theatre Collaborative, and more. Most recently, he portrayed the title character in RGC Theatre's October production of *Macbeth* in Newmarket. Offstage, Joel teaches

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

English and directs the drama program at Exeter High School. Joel is grateful to Matt, Carey, Kyrie, and the entire KAPOW team for making this project possible. Furthermore, he thanks you, our audience, for supporting the arts. As always, this performance is dedicated to Laura, Miles, and Phoebe, who make every day a wondrous adventure.

Peter Josephson (Jaxton) is in his fourteenth season as a member of the theatre KAPOW company. An accomplished actor and director, he has won two New Hampshire Theatre Awards for his roles in *Penelope* and *Exit the King* (both with tKAPOW). He has performed with tKAPOW, the New Hampshire Theatre Project, the Winnepesaukee Playhouse, and the Seven Stages Shakespeare Company, and has directed for theatreKapow, the New Hampshire Theatre Project, Threshold Stage, and Glass Dove Productions. Peter has appeared in numerous productions with tKAPOW, including *Agamemnon*, *A Dream Play*, *Macbeth*, *Buried Child*, *Mr. Wolf*, and most recently *Tiny Beautiful Things*. He is the director of The Riverbed Theatre Workshop. For almost 40 years (!) he has benefited from the love and support of his wife Becky, without whom he would be a shadow of his present self.

Molly Litt (Alicia) is an NH-based actor, voice actor, artist, and model. She is the proud recipient of the 2021 Joan Plowright (Lady Olivier) Acting Prize for Performance. In 2021, Molly obtained her BA (Hons) in Acting from the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA). Noteworthy among her accomplishments are her roles as Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Cordelia in *King Lear*, Bottom in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, Older Sister in *Stoning Mary*, and Sarah/

Ensemble in *4.48 Psychosis*. Molly has also demonstrated her talent as a director and choreographer in productions such as *4.48 Psychosis*, the 2021 LIPA Showcase, and several short films that she wrote and created. To learn more about Molly and her work, please visit www.mollylitt.com.

Rachael Chapin Longo (Logan) received her BS in Theater from Skidmore College and her MA in Educational Theatre from NYU. She is an actor, director, educator and playwright. Rachael has dedicated herself to educational theatre and has worked as a professional teaching artist and education director; creating curriculum and teaching classes in acting, directing, playwrighting and movement. Her directing credits include *The Wizard of Oz*,

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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 by December 31 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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The Laramie Project, The Death of a Caterpillar, West Side Story, The Tempest, South Pacific, Sister Act, Singin' in the Rain, The Ash Girl and Silent Sky (for which she was a finalist for a NHTA "Best Director" Award in 2019). Acting credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest, The Crucible, Desdemona, Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play, The Penelopiad, The Burial at Thebes, Natural Shocks, Gideon's Knot, The Boyg and The Wolves*. Rachael has taught theater at the college level for many years and is the owner of Shawsheen Arts Studio. She is also a company member and actor with theatre KAPOW. She most recently appeared as "Beth" in *Breadcrumbs* and "Letter Writer 2" in *Tiny Beautiful Things* during theatre KAPOW's 15th season. She is grateful to have the support of her tKAPOW family as she continues to train and learn. Special thanks to her incredible family for all their support and cheers.

Carey Cahoon (she/her, Stage Manager) was last seen on stage with tKAPOW as Sugar in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, and she is pleased to don a headset once more to stage manage this production. For tKAPOW's 2017 production of *Living in Exile* as Briseis she won the NH Theatre Award for Best Actress. She also won the 2017 NH Theatre Award for Best Actress as Queen Marguerite in *Exit the King*, and in 2014 for her roles in tKAPOW's 3-person *Macbeth*. Other favorite roles include Sarah Goodwin in *Time Stands Still*, 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

Matt Cahoon (Director) 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, SITL 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. Matt spent 18 years as the Director of Cultural Programming at Pinkerton Academy and is now the Director of Theatre at New Hampton School.

Samantha Griffin (she/her) is an actor, playwright, and theatre artist based in Southern NH. Apart from finding words on the stage fascinating, she is also beginning her work as an intimacy choreographer following a five-week course led by Gregory Geffard. As an actor, her most recent work was on stage with tKAPOW in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* after finishing her college career with *Sunday in the Park with George*. Her writing has been published twice, and she was able to attend the New South Young Playwrights Festival in Atlanta this past May. A recent graduate from Columbia College Chicago, Sam is exploring her relationship

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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.

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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.

with the art of live theatre and all the avenues of connection to be found within it. She wants to thank Kyrie, as well as Matt and Carey, for trusting her to share the space and become a part of this exciting premiere. Samantha can be found on Instagram (@samdgrif) and is in the process of building a website to more easily share her art.

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 have been with Theatre Kapow for all 3 of this season's shows. 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 (Guest 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

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photo by Matt Lomanno

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. Sallie is currently a dancer with NSquared, NH's premiere professional contemporary dance company, founded and directed by Zack and Nick Betty-Neagle.

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!

Larissa FastHorse (Sicangu Lakota Nation) is a 2020 MacArthur Fellow, award winning writer/choreographer, and co-founder of Indigenous Direction, the nation's leading consulting company for Indigenous arts

theatre KAPOW is proud to be
a Senior Fellow in the
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and audiences. Her satirical comedy, *The Thanksgiving Play*, is one of the top ten most produced plays in America this season. She is the first Native American playwright in the history of American theater on that list. Produced plays include *What Would Crazy Horse Do?* (KCRep), *Landless and Cow Pie Bingo* (AlterTheater), *Average Family* (Children's Theater Company of Minneapolis), *Teaching Disco Squaredancing to Our Elders: a Class Presentation* (Native Voices at the Autry), *Vanishing Point* (Eagle Project), and *Cherokee Family Reunion* (Mountainside Theater). Over the past several years Larissa has created a nationally recognized trilogy of community engaged plays with Cornerstone Theater Company. The second project, *Native Nation*, was the largest Indigenous theater production in the history of American theater with over 400 Native artists involved in the productions in association with ASU Gammage. Her radical inclusion process with Indigenous tribes has been honored with the most prestigious national arts funding. Larissa's company, Indigenous Direction, recently produced the first land acknowledgement on national television for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on NBC. Their groundbreaking work is redefining Indigenous art representation and education in America. Larissa's other awards include the PEN/Laura Pels Theater Award for an American Playwright, NEA Distinguished New Play Development Grant, Joe Dowling Annamaghkerrig Fellowship, AATE Distinguished Play Award, Inge Residency, Sundance/Ford Foundation Fellowship, Aurand Harris Fellowship, and the UCLA Native American Program Woman of the Year. She was vice chair of the board of directors of Theater Communications group and represented by Jonathan Mills at Paradigm NY. She lives in Santa Monica with her husband, the sculptor Edd Hogan.

**theatre KAPOW thanks the following people and organizations
for their support of *The Thanksgiving Play*:**

Paul Pouliot ~ Denise Pouliot ~ David Weeden ~ Dale Oakley, Jr.
Andrew Bullock and the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum
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