



IS BACK! IN PERSON

35th Anniversary Season



Dear MAC Friends!

I am so thrilled to be writing to you with the wonderful news that we are returning to in-person performances in time to celebrate our 35th anniversary together! We have [safety protocols](https://www.atthemac.org/safety-protocols) in place to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, which you can read about on our website, [atthemac.org](https://www.atthemac.org). As the pandemic changes, so will our policies and we will keep you updated.

This season is packed with your favorites. Music fans will enjoy everything from electrifying BoDeans, to the legendary Oak Ridge Boys, to The Texas Tenors. Get ready for a Mardi Gras and Zydeco party with the Dirty Dozen Brass Band at Mardi Gras Mambo. I also look forward to sharing one of the most compelling concerts I've seen, in an evening with Tony Award-winning Broadway star, Heather Headley.

We are happy to remain the home of our resident companies Buffalo Theatre Ensemble and New Philharmonic. BTE brings live theater back with *Stove Toucher*, a one-man show written and performed by Kurt Naebig, and closes the season with the hysterical *One Man, Two Guvnors*. New Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Muspratt are putting on a blockbuster season starting with a Spooktacular concert filled with themes from your favorite horror cinema classics, followed by American melodies in Dvořák's *New World Symphony* featuring the incomparable David Taylor playing one of the most complex violin pieces, culminating in a concert version of *West Side Story*.

Following the blockbuster Frida Kahlo exhibition this summer, the Cleve Carney Museum of Art will open its season with COD alum and brilliant contemporary artist Tony Fitzpatrick. We will close the MAC season in 2022 by bringing back the beloved free outdoor Lakeside Summer series!

We look forward to seeing you and engaging in thought-provoking, joy-inducing, exciting LIVE entertainment. I look forward to seeing you back at the MAC soon!

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center



Dear Friends of BTE,

"I regard the theater as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being." -Thornton Wilder

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble is incredibly proud to embark on our 35th Anniversary Season! We can hardly wait to welcome people back into a space where as the house lights darken, the hush of the collective room tunes into active listening, and we share our experience.

It is with enormous optimism and gratitude that we look forward to the reopening of the theatre where we can continue to explore, enrich, and engage with each other through Giving Stories Life. All three of our productions are a celebration of people on the precipice of change, who move forward with courage and joy — a theme which seems appropriate given the last couple of years — and as we all look to the future.

Please know that as our subscribers, our extended family, we value your safety, as well as that of our artists; we are practicing safety guidelines set forth by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Illinois, and the McAninch Arts Center/College of DuPage. These guidelines will be modified based on evolving standards.

Thank you for joining us on the next steps of our anniversary and more! With great affection,
Sincerely,

The Ensemble

Aly Renee Amidei^, Robert Jordan Bailey*, Amelia Barrett*(Associate Artistic Director), Bryan Burke* (Business Manager), Robyn Coffin, Rebecca Cox, Lisa Dawn, Nick DuFloth, Jon Gantt, Loretta Hauser, Connie Canaday Howard* (Managing Artistic Director), Christopher Kriz^, Michael W. Moon, Kurt Naebig*, Laura Leonardo Ownby, Galen G. Ramsey*, William "Sandy" Smillie, Kelli Walker and Norm Woodel. For more information about BTE, visit btechicago.com.

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Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Presents

STOVE TOUCHER

by Kurt Naebig

Director and
Managing Artistic Director
Connie Canaday Howard*+

Scenic and
Properties Design
Michael W. Moon+

Lighting Design
Rachel Levy^

Projections Design
Smooch Medina

Original Music and Sound Design
Christopher Kriz+^

Associate Artistic Director
Amelia Barrett*+

CAST
Kurt Naebig*+

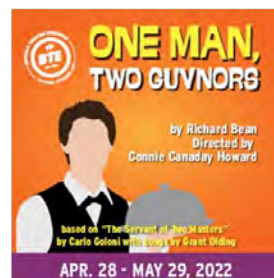
Time and Place: Various locales and years throughout the Chicagoland area

Presented by arrangement with **Kurt Naebig**

There will be no intermission.

Please note: Adult themes and language used during the show.

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without a flash is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices, such as cell phones and watches.



Nov. 26 to Dec. 19, 2021
Playhouse Theatre

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager Sarah West*
 Assistant Stage Manager..... Anthony Urso
 Student Assistant Stage Manager Christopher Yee◊
 Technical Director Michael W. Moon+
 Scene Shop Manager Sabrina Zeidler
 Scenic and Lighting Technicians..... Mary Ahlert, Dillon Connolly,
 Kevin Hannigan, Ben Johnson, Elias Morales,
 Anthony Rosalia, Kris Trapani, Chris Yee, Zak Zubka,
 Light Board Operator Nathan Sojka
 Costume Shop Manager..... Kimberly G. Morris
 Assistant Costume Shop Manager Gretchen Woodley
 Costume Shop Assistants..... Rowan Brando, Eleanor Evans,
 Dale Perry, Christopher Yee◊
 Wardrobe Assistant Christopher Yee◊
 College Theater Student Aides..... Elmeka Elme, Kailey Nelson#
 COVID Safety Managers..... Amelia Barrett*+, Connie Canaday Howard*+
 Gina Robertelli, Anthony Urso

+ Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers

^ Member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829

◊ BTE Stage Management Scholarship Recipient

2021 John Belushi/Second City Theater Scholarship recipient

The McAninch Arts Center season celebrates the memory of Joan Frank for a lifetime of service, thanks to the support of family and friends.

CCMA Cleve Carney Museum of Art

Tony Fitzpatrick
 October 16 - January 31

Ayanah Moor
 February 10 - April 10

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

BTE's mantra is "Giving Stories Life." And *Stove Toucher* is such a wonderful story with which to continue BTE's journey with you, our audience.

I've known Kurt for over thirty years, but, when I watched a staged reading of this show in progress, in March 2020, just before we went dark because of the pandemic, the experience was filled with laughter, surprise and such great honesty and compassion.

Throughout this season, BTE's 35th Anniversary, we are focused on presenting stories that are very sincere, sometimes funny and sometimes moving. All three productions this season are heartwarming, and about people on the brink of great change, which seems particularly appropriate given the state of our world, for all of us.

We hope you enjoy *Stove Toucher*! We've missed you; it is wonderful to be in this shared space of theatre, again, with all of you.

~CCH

Acknowledgements

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble is partially supported and funded by generous grants from The DuPage Foundation, Benevity, Choose DuPage, the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program, The Norm Woodel Inspiration Fund, The Illinois Arts Council, and a gift from Dr. Thomas R. Scott and the late Shirley Klein Scott of Glen Ellyn through the College of DuPage Foundation and the generous support of the College of DuPage Trustees.



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CAST PROFILES



Kurt Naebig*+ (Playwright/Performer) has worked professionally in theater, film, television and radio for more than 30 years, and has been teaching and coaching actors since 1992. A Juilliard graduate, he has also studied at the Moscow School of the Arts in Russia. Naebig is the former Artistic Director of The Theatre of Western Springs. Acting credits include Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Portland Stage, Milwaukee's Pabst Theatre, National Jewish Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. He also appeared in such films as *Public Enemies*, *The Express*, *Witless Protection*, *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*, *The Relic*, *Dillinger*, *Howard Beach: Making the Case for Murder* and has been in seen in the television shows *Fargo*, *A League of Their Own*, *Empire*, *APB*, *Sense8*, *Chicago Code*, *Detroit 1-8-7* and multiple episodes of *Chicago PD*, *Chicago Fire*, *ER* and *Prison Break*. Naebig recently directed another season of *VC – The Webseries*. His BTE directing credits include *Defiance*, *The 39 Steps*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Trumbo: Red White and Blacklisted* and *Leading Ladies*. Naebig will also be directing BTE's upcoming production of Mat Smart's *Naperville* (Jan. 27 – Feb. 27, 2022). Visit KurtNaebig.com for more info and how to book this show at your venue.



Daniel Vaughan Manasia (Understudy) is thrilled to be returning to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble as the understudy in *Stove Toucher*. He previously worked with BTE as the understudy for Holmes 2 in *Holmes and Watson*. Previous stage appearances include Dex in *Pride* Film and Arts' *Dex and Abby* (Jeff Recommended), Marvin in Possibility Theatre's *Let's Fight Seasonal Affective Disorder Together Spectacular* (Zoom), Rulon Stacey/Stephan Mead Johnson in AlphaNYC's *The Laramie Project* (Zoom), as well as several short productions and festivals throughout Chicago. His TV/Film credits include Louis on *Chicago Fire* and Paul in *Otherwise a Woman*. Manasia has been fortunate to train with some of Chicago's finest teachers and coaches at Acting Studio Chicago, Vagabond, The Forge, iO Improv and Theatre Momentum.

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Connie Canaday Howard*+ (Director/BTE Managing Artistic Director) has directed numerous BTE productions including *Good People*, *Time Stands Still*, *Noises Off*, *Into the Woods*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Rabbit Hole* and *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune*. Favorite BTE acting roles have been Della in *The Cake*, Annie in *The Real Thing*, Harper in *Angels in America*, Nancy in *Frozen* and Ruella in *Communicating Doors*.

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Canaday Howard is a member of Actors' Equity, and is on the Artistic Team of the Jeff Committee. She holds an MFA in directing, and has worked regionally with Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival, City Theatre Company, Belvoir Terrace, Drama Workshop, Down River Dinner Theatre, Ingersoll Theatre, Charlie's Showplace, and tours of both theater and dance, as well as helping to create and perform several improvisational shows. She was the state-wide co-chair of the Theatre Panel for Illinois Articulation Initiative for more than 15 years. Canaday Howard is Chair of the Theatre Department at the College of DuPage and was honored as COD's Outstanding Faculty for 2003–2004.

Christopher Kriz+^ (Original Music and Sound Design) is an award winning composer and sound designer based in Chicago. Recent BTE designs include *The Cake*, *Holmes and Watson*, *Defiance*, and *Outside Mullingar*. Chicago credits: Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, Court Theatre, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Writers Theatre, Remy Bumpo, Victory Gardens, Timeline, First Folio, Shattered Globe, The Gift Theatre, American Blues, and many others. Regional credits: Seattle Repertory, Kansas City Repertory, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Indiana Repertory, Montana Shakespeare, Theatre Squared, and many summer seasons at Peninsula Players. A winner of five Joseph Jefferson Awards with a total of 22 nominations, Kriz is a proud member of United Scenic Artists 829. To hear more of his work, please visit christopherkriz.com.

Rachel Levy^ (Lighting Design) is excited to be working with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble again! Her credits include: *Defiance* (BTE), *Million Dollar Quartet* (GLCA), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Victory Gardens), *Art On The Mart* (The Merchandise Mart Facade), *The Gulf*, *The Secretaries* (About Face Theatre), *A Shayna Maidel*, *Disappearing Number* (Timeline Theatre), *We're Going To Be Okay*, *Welcome To Jesus, T.*, *Picnic*, *Kill Floor* (American Theatre Company), *3C*, *Accidentally*, *Like A Martyr* (A Red Orchid Theatre), House of Blues New Orleans (Resident Lighting Designer, NOLA), *Wallenda Tightrope Live* (Lighting Director), and *So You Think You Can Dance* Seasons 7-10 (Lighting Director, LA). Levy has also received two Primetime Emmy Award Certificates for Best Lighting for a Variety, Music, or Comedy Show (SYTYCD 2011, 2012), a National IES Award (Merchandise Mart Facade), and an Equity Jeff Nomination for *Welcome to Jesus* and *The Gulf*.

Smooch Medina (Projections Design) is thrilled to be working with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble for the first time on *Stove Toucher*. Medina is a Chicago area designer whose other show credits include projection design for *Sheep Dog* (Shattered Globe), *Watsons Go to Birmingham* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *Alice in Wonderland* (Governors State University), *A Swell in the*

ARTISTIC PROFILES

Ground, Pilgrims, and A Life Extra Ordinary (The Gift Theatre), *Women in Jeopardy* (First Folio), *Silent Sky* (First Folio), *Saturn Returns* (Neo-Futurists), *Estrella Cruz: The Junkyard Queen* (Halcyon Theatre), *The White Road* - Jeff Nominated (Irish Theatre of Chicago), *Tightwire* (Chicago Tap Theatre), and lighting design for *A Little World of Our Own* (Irish Theatre of Chicago), *Nutcracker* (Legere Ballet Company), *The Feast* (Red Theatre Company). Smooch holds a BFA in Lighting Design from Columbia College Chicago and you can see his other work by visiting Smoochdesign.com.

Michael W. Moon+ (Scenic and Properties Design/Technical Director) This is Moon's 28th season with BTE. He has enjoyed the chance to work with first class members of the theatrical community and the opportunity to use his talents to enhance a myriad of productions. He would like to thank all the designers and crew who have poured themselves into each BTE presentation. He would like to thank the ensemble for their gifts of themselves showing through each character. He would like to thank the driving force of Connie and Amelia who have steered the ship. Mostly he would like to thank the patrons of BTE; your commitment to this art form gives us the love to continue. Thank you one and all.



2021-22 DINING PARTNERS



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Must present coupon and MAC ticket at restaurant prior to ordering. Offer valid only on day/night of MAC event.

PRODUCTION PROFILES

Sarah West* (Stage Manager) is pleased to be working with the Buffalo Theatre Ensemble. She is an Artistic Associate at First Folio Theatre, where credits include *Mary's Wedding*, *Women in Jeopardy*, *As You Like It*, *Silent Sky*, *Captain Blood*, *Dr. Seward's Dracula*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Amish Project*, *Jeeves at Sea*, *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Gravedigger*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Salvage*, *Rough Crossing*, *The Rainmaker*, *Unnecessary Farce*, *Searching for Peabody's Tomb* and *Macbeth*. Other credits include Oak Park Festival Theatre (*Edgar Allan Poe: A Love Story* 2019 and 2021), United Solo at Stage 773 (*Tall Boy*), Mercury Theatre (*Mary Poppins*), Babes with Blades (*Women of 4G*), and Capital City Theatre (*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*). She is a proud graduate of North Central College.

Anthony Urso (Assistant Stage Manager/COVID Safety Manager) is thrilled to be working with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble again after his prior experiences as ASM with BTE. Having understudied for previous BTE shows, *Improbable Fiction* (Male Understudy) and *The Ding Dong or How the French Kiss* (Understudy Actor #2), he is ecstatic for this opportunity to get backstage and to continue working with this talented and hardworking group of artists. Urso is a Chicago Theatre artist who has directed at The Second City (*Yes And Ish* and *Killing Scrooge*) and was featured in *Semi Charmed: A 90s Love Story* (Ensemble) also at The Second City and with Gorilla Tango Theatre in their new author series production of *...Because I Love You* (Mike/Logan). Urso is a former College of DuPage student and an Illinois State University graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Studies with a concentration in Theatre Management.

Christopher Yee (Student Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be working with BTE as a Student ASM again. Previously he has worked with BTE as an ASM on *Holmes and Watson* and as a shadow on *Miracle on South Division Street*. Favorite credits include acting as Vincent in *The Living* and as The Porter in *Macbeth* both in College of DuPage's theater program.

+ Member of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble

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◇ BTE Stage Management Scholarship Recipient



Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (“BTE”) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, professional theatre company in residence at the McAninch Arts Center (“MAC”) on the campus of College of DuPage.

Ticket revenue only covers a portion of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble’s operating expenses. The rest must be raised through contributions, the majority of which comes in the form of gifts from individuals like you.

It’s because of our close circle of friends that BTE is able to return and explore new ideas and provocative issues through the production of professional, high quality theater for the enjoyment of its audiences.

The resident ensemble brings professional theater to DuPage County and at the same time enhances the training of students in Theater at College of DuPage, providing opportunities for students to develop their talents alongside working theater artists.

We invite you to become a part of this family of supporters by joining the **Friends of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble**. Make checks payable to Buffalo Theatre Ensemble [BTE, PO Box 2608, Glen Ellyn, IL 60138] or donate through PayPal <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2042520> or go to btechicago.com and select donate.

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For 35 years, **Buffalo Theatre Ensemble (BTE)** played a major role in the cultural community of College of DuPage and the surrounding area, through the marriage of committed permanent ensemble members, fine Chicagoland artists, and great theatrical works. We gratefully acknowledge the donors who have made it possible to return for our 35th season.

This list of donors reflects contributions made from **July 2017 through September 2021**. While we carefully prepared this listing, we recognize that errors may occur. Please accept our apology if you are not properly represented on this list and contact BTE at ab@btechicago.com so we may correct our records.

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Gayatri Choudhary	Paul LeFort	Tony Payne	Mary Ann Zlotow
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Christopher Corrigan	Maggie McCoy	Lynda Pratscher	



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BTEattheMAC



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HOUSE NOTES

- **Mailing List:** If this is your first visit to the McAninch Arts Center, please stop by our Box Office to add your name to our mailing list or register your email at www.AtTheMAC.org.
- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Electronic pagers and patrons' seat locations should be given to the House Manager, who will notify you in the event of a call. Patrons wearing wristwatch alarms or carrying cellular phones are respectfully requested to turn them off while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at College of DuPage Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact Kat Kazmierski at (630) 942-3026 or kazmierskik@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- **For Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Ellen McGowan
Assistant Business Manager.....	Kari Schoettle
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Gallery Assistant	Maria VanDyken Li
Project Coordinator, Frida Kahlo: Timeless	Molly Junokas
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Janie Oldfield
Graphic Design and Group Sales Coordinator	Kat Kazmierski
Administrative Assistant	Mandy Rakow
Student Clerical Assistants	Maria Khye, Annie Wagner

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Jim Gosling, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants.....	Patrick Garon, Tatia Hegrans
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
Assistant Patron Services Supervisor	Deborah Kolek
Front of House Manager	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Artistic Director.....	Connie Canaday Howard
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Amelia Barrett
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic, General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic, Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production Coordinator	Jon Gantt
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Production Specialist.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Caitlyn Woods