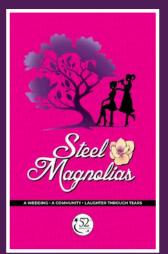
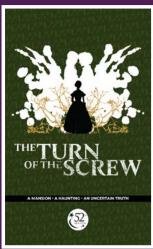
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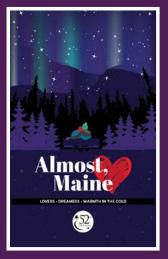




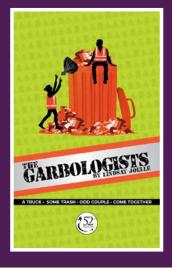
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2025 YOUR 52nd SEASON 2026 Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge Penobscot Theatre Company's presence on the unceded ancestral lands of the Penobscot people. The land from which we benefit continues to be a place of foremost importance to the Penobscot Nation and all descendants of the Wabanaki Confederacy. We recognize that the Wabanaki people continue to seek resolution on issues concerning water, territorial rights, and threats to sacred sites.

The Penobscots have inhabited Maine and the surrounding areas for over 11,000 years. Their ancestral territory included many rivers that flow into the Gulf of Maine, including all the watersheds from the Machias River in the east to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. The Penobscot Nation is one of the oldest, continuously operating governments in the world. The Penobscot Nation is part of the Wabanaki Confederacy, which also includes the Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet.

PTC resolves to be an anti-racist institution. We are proud to be members of the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition and are committed to living our values by promoting the history and cultures of the Wabanaki Peoples and sustaining an ongoing relationship which supports the art, resources, and values of indigenous peoples and tribes.



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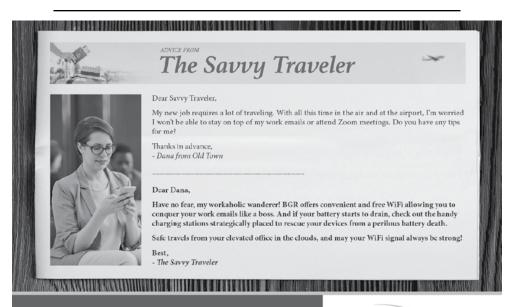




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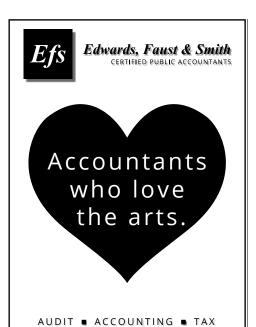




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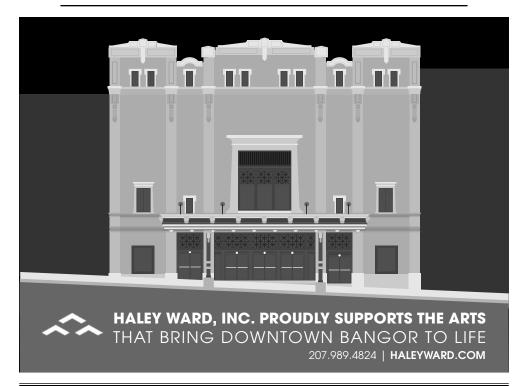
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Your 52nd Season

Steel Magnolias

Sept 4 - 28, 2025

The Turn of the Screw

Oct 16 - Nov 2, 2025

Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella

Dec 4 - 28, 2025

ImprovAcadia's Another Kick in Your Dickens

Dec 3 - 21, 2025

Almost, Maine

Jan 29 - Feb 22, 2026

Darker the Night, **Brighter the Stars**

Feb 18 - Mar 8, 2026

The Garbologists

Apr 23 - May 10, 2026

The Fantasticks

Jun 11 - Jul 12, 2026

Audience Services

Box Office Hours

→ Tuesday – Friday: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

→ The Box Office is open three hours before show time on performance Saturdays & Sundays and through intermission at all performances.

Restrooms → 2 all-gender welcoming restrooms are located downstairs from the lobby level.

→ Single-stall restrooms can be found in the 1st floor lobby and in The Stage Door.

If you have any suggestions for how to improve your experience: HouseManager@penobscottheatre.org

Accessibility

Hearing Loop system available for patrons with T-Coil hearing aids, earbuds, or PTC headset.

→ See Box Office for more info or www.PenobscotTheatre.org/loop

→Large print & digital playbills available.

→Accessible seating is available.

→Accessible bathroom is located in the lobby.

PTC Staff

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Artistic Director Jen Shepard Business Manager Andrew Speed Operations Administrator Amanda Neitz Development Director Sarah Parker Director of Marketing John Siedenberg II

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Box Office Manager Frank Bachman House Manager Ceraya Nichols The Stage Door Bar Manager Heather Astbury-Libby

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THETURN OF THE SCREW

Written by Jeffrey Hatcher | From the story by Henry James

A classic of gothic horror. In the late 1800's a young woman arrives at a remote English manor house to serve as governess to two orphaned children. Perplexed by the behavior of the children, the governess begins to unravel the unseemly mystery of the previous governess, a former valet, and the possibility that the children are haunted by their ghosts. A spine tingling thriller that will leave you grasping for answers and questioning what you know to be real in an adaptation that is an imaginative tour de force for the two actors.

Oct 16 - Nov 2 | at the historic Bangor Opera House

A Letter from Jen Shepard, Artistic Director

Hello and Welcome to PTC's 52nd Season,

I'm PTC's new Artistic Director but I've been here for a bit. In 2004, I moved to Maine and opened ImprovAcadia which was a professional seasonal improv comedy cabaret. At the end of our first season, I was thrilled to discover that Bangor had a professional regional theater. I went to school for theater and have been an actor since I was 16 so having a professional theater so close to home was a delight.

The first show I saw at PTC was Rebecca Gilman's Spinning into Butter. I was so impressed with the production, the building, the staff, the talent, the whole thing, really. I wanted to get involved but I wasn't able to. The demands of my own small business, ImprovAcadia, and my winter work with The Second City kept me from auditioning but not from attending shows. I continued to attend shows and fostered the hope that one day I would work at PTC. In 2014, we stopped leaving every winter to work for Second City and I auditioned. I was so excited but I didn't get the part but that's an actor's life. I didn't give up and the next season, I landed two plays: It's a Wonderful Life and Hair Frenzy. That began my continuing relationship with PTC's staff, artists, and patrons. I found rewarding work, a community of artists, and a passionate and engaged audience.

In July 2020, Bari Newport brought me onboard as her Interim Executive Director and in 2021 I was offered the position full time. I led PTC with her, then with Acting Artistic Director Tricia A. Hobbs, and most recently, with Jonathan Berry. When Jonathan announced his departure, I knew that I wanted to step into the role of AD. I have always loved this company and this community. I know that for many folks PTC is their first and most frequent theatre experience. Everyday I see kids come for Dramatic Academy classes, or a student matinee, folks new to town or maybe longtime Mainers come for their first play drawn in by a beloved classic or a new play about Maine and they find more than that. They find a shared experience that is filled with human emotion and connection. They may only come one time but many visit again and again.

Right now, I believe that our audiences need joy, love, heart, and laughter. What better to give to a world that is hurting and angry than love, joy, and laughter? A moment of respite and solace in a world that feels rough and fractured can give one the strength to go on, to offer joy and caring to another human, or to themselves. I have lived my life in the world of comedy as well as the world of drama. There is no joy without sadness and the deepest most cathartic laughter comes from human connection. Laughter disrupts the darkness and fosters hope and community.

I hope to bring you joy, laughter, tears, and back to laughter again.



Jen Shepard

Artistic Director | Penobscot Theatre Company

Our Mission

Penobscot Theatre Company creates extraordinary theatrical experiences that engage and inspire our community, fostering a better quality of life in the heart of Maine.

Our Work

PTC's primary work involves a full season of professional, subscription series, & add-on productions, handcrafted stagings of plays and musicals, new and classic. In addition, our diverse educational programming serves thousands of Maine youths through school-based workshops, student matinees, and summer and after-school programs.

Our History

The company has its roots in the Acadia Repertory Theatre, founded in Bangor in 1973 by George Vafiadis and Lou Collier. Acadia Rep presented 97 productions in Bangor before Penobscot Theatre Company was incorporated in 1983. Acadia Rep still operates on Mount Desert Island as a separate entity, while Penobscot Theatre Company is the nation's Northeastern-most year-round professional regional theatre in Northern Maine. Over its long history, the company has earned a national reputation for quality and innovation as its offerings have expanded and audiences have grown.

Our Partners

Even with solid attendance, the company's income from subscriptions, ticket sales, and program registration comprises only 60% of our total operating budget. As a non-profit charity, we rely on support from private foundations, local businesses and individuals like you, who recognize the importance of theatre to a vibrant culture and robust economy. The generosity of our community-based partners makes our work possible, and we operate always with a strong spirit of collaboration. Help solidify the theatre's place in the heart of Maine, and please consider a gift today.

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The Penobscot Theatre Company production of

Steel Magnolias

Roberting Harling

"Steel Magnolias" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service imprint. (www.dramatists.com)

September 4 - 28, 2025

Scenic Design

Daniel Bilodeau

Sound Design
Charlotte Laffely

Costume Design
Alexis Foster

Props Design
Thomas Demers

Lighting Design

Production Stage Management

Jazlynne Williams*

Directed by Sarah Gitenstein

Production Photos by Bill Kuykendall



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THE CAST







Alison Cox



Jenny Hart







Cameron Long



Kae Cooney

Annelle	Stephanie Colavito
Ouiser	Alison Cox
M'Lynn	Jenny Hart
Clairee	Jeri Misler
Shelby	Cameron Long
Truvy	Kae Cooney

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless addressed For Shelby/Annelle: Anna Kemble · For Clairee: Bunny Barclay For Truvy: Molly Dubovy · For M'Lynn: Hannah Sweet · For Ouiser: Jen Shepard

Setting the Stage for Steel Magnolias

Time: *Mid* 1980s

Place: Truvy's Beauty Salon in the fictional town of Chinquapin, Louisiana

Runtime: 2 Hours

Interval: There will be one 15-minute Intermission

Page | 17 The Cast



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Kae Cooney (*Truvy*) is very happy to be returning to PTC. Favorite PTC credits: AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (Karen), COMMUNICATING DOORS (Poopay), THE MIRACLE WORKER (Annie Sullivan), TARTUFFE (Elmire) and TWELFTH NIGHT (Olivia). Kae is a Title 1 Tutor and the Middle School Drama Director at Brewer Community School. She lives in Brewer with her amazing family.(She/Her)

Alison Cox (*Ouiser*) Fresh from MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Quince) with Ten Bucks Theatre, Alison is returning to the PTC stage as Ouiser. She Alson is returning to the PTC stage as Oulser. She is happy to get a crack at this wisecracker. Alison's favorite roles at PTC have been in THE ILLUSION (Alcandre), both ANGELS IN AMERICA (multiple), WIT (E.M. Ashford), CHILDREN'S HOUR (Mrs. Tilford), DIARY OF ANNE FRANK (Mrs. Frank), and CALENDAR GIRLS (Jessie). Alison retired from the University of Maine System a while back. (She/Her)

Stephanie Colavito* (Annelle) a multi-disciplinary artist from Maine, currently based in NYC, is thrilled to be returning to PTC for the start of this incredible season! Select regional credits: MOTHER RUSSIA (PTC), ONCE (Savannah Rep), BIRTHDAY CANDLES (PTC), NATASHA, PIERRE, AND THE GEAT COMET OF 1812 (SCAD GradLab), CRIMES OF THE HEART (PTC), MUSIC OF DENALI (Holland America). MFA in Acting from SCAD. BFA in Musical Theatre with an amplastic in Songwitting from The Beston an emphasis in Songwriting from The Boston Conservatory. @stephanie.colavito (She/Her)

Jenny Hart (M'Lynn) is excited to be returning to the PTC stage in STEEL MAGNOLIAS. Previous PTC credits: MR. BURNS, A POST ELECTRIC PLAY (Ensemble/Itchy), BOEING BOEING (Gretchen), HOCKEY MOM (Cindy), CLARKSTON (Trisha) and CRIMES OF THE HEART (Chick). In addition to her

work with PTC, Jenny has performed with True North Theatre, The Belfast Maskers, and Winterport Open Stage. When not on the stage Jenny works as a Pre-K teacher in Orrington. She wishes to thank the STEEL MACNOLIAS team for their dedication and hard work in bringing this production to the stage at PTC. (She/Her)

Cameron Long (Shelby) is thrilled to be making her PTC debut! Recent credits include SPAMALOT (The Lady of the Lake) and LEGALLY BLONDE (Brooke Wyndham) at Priscilla Beach Theater. Cameron received a BA in Drama from Vassar College and a diploma in Classical Acting from The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA). She currently resides in NYC but can often be found enjoying a Bagel Central bagel while visiting her Powell. A million thanks to her amazing support system for their unwavering encouragement. TikTok: @cameroncharlotte Inst: @cameronclong www.cameron-long.com (She/Her)

Jeri Misler (*Clairee*) is honored to have the opportunity to revisit this beautifully written play, opportunity to revisit this beautifully written play, this time through the eyes of a different character. Jeri most recently appeared in True North's LIFE SUCKS. PTC Credits: MR. BURNS..., PETER AND THE STARCATCHER, THE GRADUATE, GOD OF CARNAGE, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, ON GOLDEN POND, and her personal favorite TALE OF THE ALLERGIST'S WIFE. Jeri holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the managing artistic director of the Gracie Theatre, and adjunct faculty member at Husson University. and adjunct faculty member at Husson University. She dedicates this to all women and the healing power of female friendships. (She/Her)



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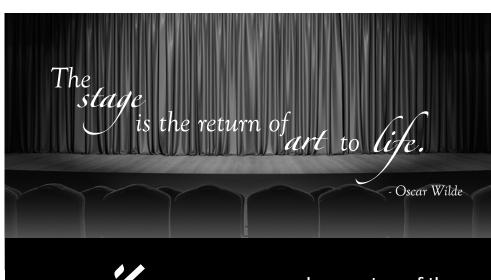
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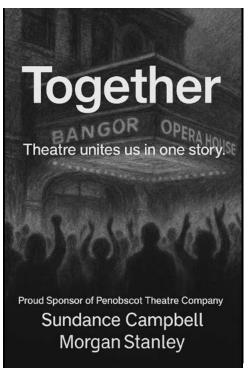
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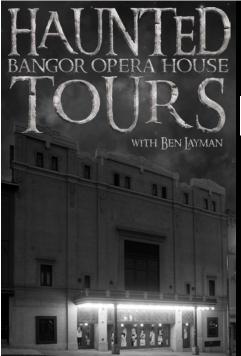
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Sarah Gitenstein (*Director*) is a freelance director and Assistant Professor in Theatre Directing at University of Notre Dame. Her research, The Body Onstage: Best Practices in Directing, addresses harm reduction in theatrical spaces and investigates how to bring our authentic selves into collaborative processes. Raised in Washington, DC she graduated from Kenyon College (BA in theatre) and Northwestern University (MFA in Directing). She is a founding member of The New College. Colony where she devised and directed 5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche. She has directed at Chicago Commercial Collective, Curious Theater, The Cift Theatre, American Theater Company, A Red Orchid Theatre, Raven Theater (Jeff Nomination Best Director, Best Production), Writers Theater. Love to CJF, CHF and ISF. (She/Her)

Jazlynne Williams* (Production Stage Manager) is very excited to share this heartwarming story about resilient and empowered women! It is a about resilient and empowered women! It is a beautifulthing to be a Steel Magnolia. PTC CREDITS: THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (PSM), MATINICUS (PSM), A CHRISTMAS CAROL (PSM), BIRTHDAY CANDLES (PSM), MOTHER RUSSIA (ASM), and DIAL M FOR MURDER (ASM). Prior to arriving in Maine, she traveled the US & Canada while working regionally and then on tour. Jazlynne gives love to be many and dad who are always supportive and her mama and dad who are always supportive and her biggest fans! www.jazlynnewilliams.com IG: @ jazlynne_williams (She/Her)

Daniel Bilodeau (Scenic Design) is excited to be returning to PTC after designing for A CHRISTMAS CAROL, His design work has been seen in professional theatres including Custom Made Theatre Company, Sandra Feinstein Gamm Theatre, the Lewiston Public Theatre, The Theater at Monmouth, Portland Stage Company, and PTC. He designed scenery for Custom Made Theatre Company's Off-Broadway premier of Kurt Vonnegut's MOTHER NIGHT at the 59E59 theatre and has worked nationally on dozens of corporate theater events. Dan has been a guest artist at the University of Rhode Island, Providence College, Ohio Northern University, University of Southern Maine, and Boston College. He has designed over thirty plays at the Theatre at Monmouth, including fifteen by William Shakespeare. Dan holds an MFA in theatre design from Brandeis University and is the Mark and Marcia Bailey professor of speech and theatre, at the University of Maine. He would like to thank Beth and the rest of his family for all their love and support.(He/Him)

Alexis Foster (Costume Design) is thrilled to serve as the costume designer for this production. Her work spans theater, opera, film, and commercial media with design credits including the international opera premieres of FOX AND THE POMEGRANATE, IN A MIRROR, DARKLY, and A LETTER TO EAST 11TH STREET. She was also honored to collaborate with Heather Henson on the touring Muppet Movie Singalong. PTC Credits: CLARKSTON, BIRTHDAY CANDLES, THE LIGHTNING THIEF-THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL and THE LITTLE PRINCE. Additional credits: National Dance Institute, Stages, and photographer/director Premiere Carlos Serrao for national New Balance advertising campaigns. She currently serves as the Costume Director at the University of Maine at Orono. Alexis holds an MFA in Drama with a concentration in Costume Design from the University of Arkansas and a BFA in Costume Design and Technology from Kean University(She/Her)



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> We wish Jen and the entire production team success in this year of celebration and in creating a vision for the theatre's next half century.

Downtown forged a path as Maine's most unique radio show, with a mix of entertainment, sports, and community affairs. The local show with a national reach is now available everywhere as a weekly podcast, found on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio, Podbean, Podchaser, and more. As always we're the home of great guests, from Ken Burns and Heather Cox Richardson to actors and directors from the Penobscot Theatre family.



NORTHEAST CORNER Sundays at 1:00 pm on Maine Public Radio & online at: www.mainepublic.org

NORTHEAST CORNER

Toni Sterling (Lighting Design) is based in Atlanta, GA. She loves to go wherever light takes her. Credits include: BLOOD WEDDING, STATIC HEAD: Theatre Emory, SCHOOL GIRLS, ANTIGONE: Clark Atlanta, CULLAD WATTAH, OH, TO BE PURE AGAIN, INTIMATE APPAREL, RED SPEEDO: ACTOR'S EXPRESS, PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, FEEDING BEATRICE: Aurora Theatre, HOT WING KING (ALD): The Alliance Theatre, PARADISE BLUE: The Gloucester Stage, THE TEMPEST, OTHELLO: Oglethorpe Theatre, JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING: True Colors Theatre. She received her Masters for Lighting Design from the UCONN. www.tonisterling.com (She/Her)

Thomas Demers (*Prop Design*) has been a props designer for DA since Summer 2023 and excited to be PTC's prop supervisor! (He/They)

Charlotte Laffely (Sound Design) A junior audio engineering student at Husson University who has been a part of PTC since the DA performance of The Spongebob Musical in the summer of 2023. She is a singer-musician and live sound engineer. Notable credits: The Little Prince, Godspell, Frog and Toad, Newsies, James and the Giant Peach, Wyoming (UMaine), and Seussical Jr (She/Her)

Robert Harling (Playwright) Born in Dothan, Alabama, Robert Harling lived in several Southern towns before his family settled in Natchitoches, Louisiana when he wastwelve. Upon his graduation from Northwestern University of Louisiana and Tulane Law School, rather than take the bar exam, he opted to become an actor in New York. After years of productive work as an actor in voice-overs and commercials, Harling was inspired to write the highly acclaimed stage play, Steel Magnolias which

was based on events from his family life. To this day, Steel Magnolias continues to thrive in theatrical productions in over 20 languages throughout the world. Immediately bridging a career from stage to screen, Harling adapted his original play into the popular film of the same title which starred Sally Field, Julia Roberts, Shirley MacLaine, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton and Daryl Hannah. The personal nature of Steel Magnolias was further enhanced when the film makers decided to shoot the movie entirely on location in Natchitoches, where the events on which the story was based took place. Harling has become a much sought after screenwriter: other credits include Soapdish, the highly successful First Wives Club; and Laws of Attraction. Currently, Harling is actively involved in creating new live stage projects, including writing the book for a stage musical version of Soapdish, and he is writing a play set in his Louisiana home called The Strangers Room.

Jen Shepard (Artistic Director) has a deep love for PTC, having been cast in IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A RADIO PLAY in 2015, which marked the start of her steady involvement with the company. Favorite credits: BECOMING DR. RUTH, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, and A KICK IN YOUR DICKENS.(She/Her)

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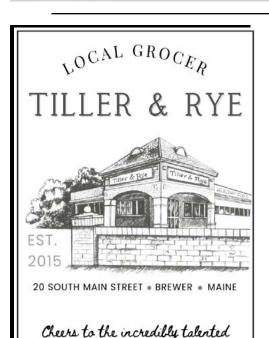
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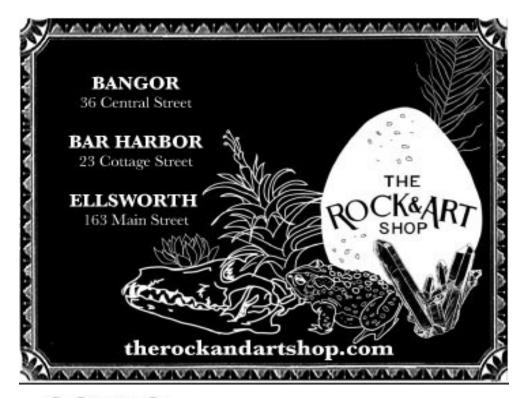






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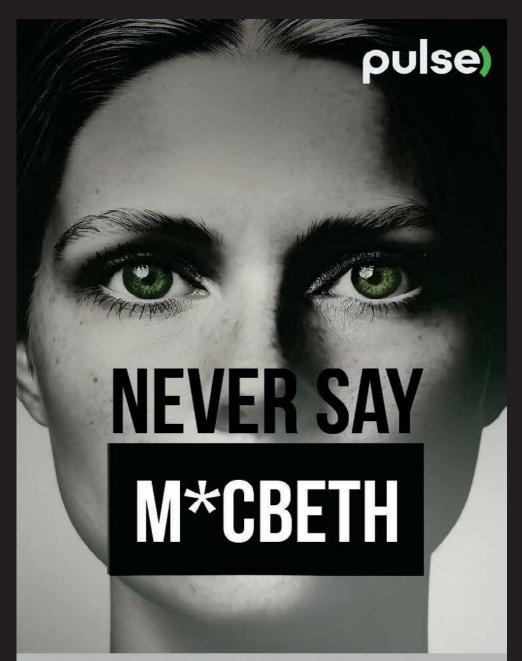
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