

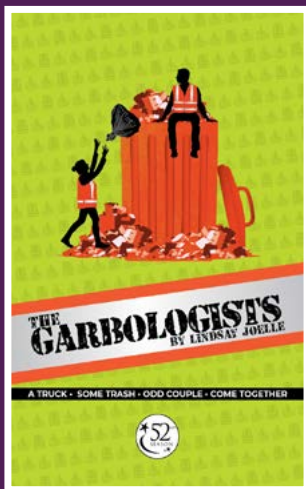
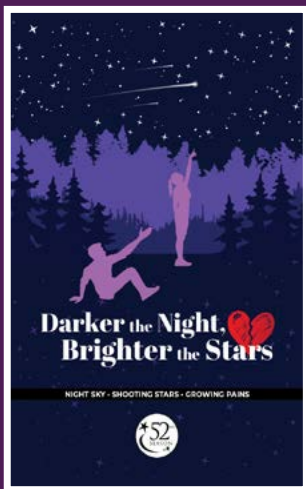
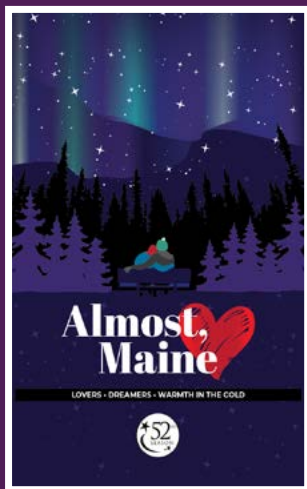
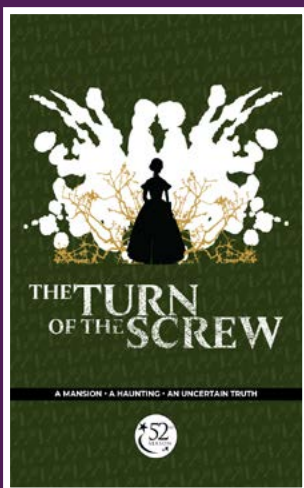
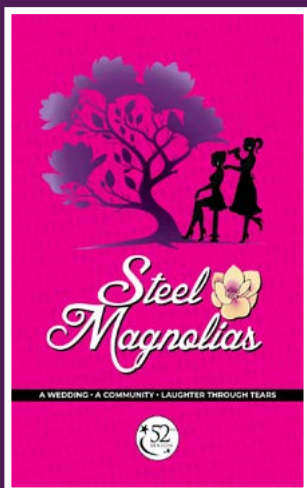
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2026

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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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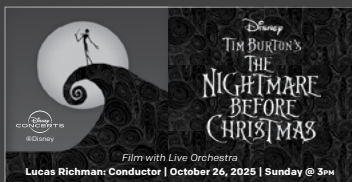
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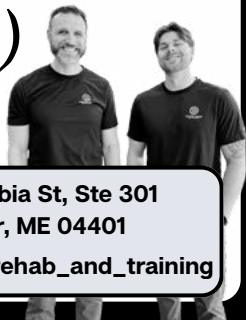
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Sept 4 - 28, 2025

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

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Feb 18 - Mar 8, 2026

The Garbologists

Apr 23 - May 10, 2026

The Fantasticks

Jun 11 - Jul 12, 2026

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→ 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.

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Artistic Director **Jen Shepard**

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Operations Administrator **Amanda Neitz**

Development Director **Sarah Parker**

Director of Marketing **John Siedenberg II**

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House Manager **Ceraya Nichols**

The Stage Door Bar Manager **Heather Astbury-Libby**

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DA Education Director **Nellie Kelly**

DA Administrator **Kacie Gerow**

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Technical Director **James Kuzio**

Head Carpenter **William Dellinger**

Costume Dept Manager **Kevin Jacob Koski**

Costume Apprentice **Anna Kate Mason**

Light/Sound Supervisor **Gavin Kearns**

Resident Artists

Costume Design **Kevin Jacob Koski**

Props Supervisor **Thomas Demers**

Scenic Charge **Gwen Elise Higgins**

Fight & Intimacy Director **Angela Bonacasa**

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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.



A handwritten signature of Jen Shepard in black ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name 'Jen' clearly legible.

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 Turn of the Screw

By Jeffrey Hatcher
From the story by Henry James

*Originally workshopped and developed at
Portland Stage Company's 6th Annual Little Festival of the Unexpected.*

*Originally produced by Portland Stage Company in January 1996,
Greg Leaming, Artistic Director, Tom Werder, Managing Director.*

Originally produced in New York City by Primary Stages Company, Casey Childs, Artistic Director in March 1999.

October 16 - November 2, 2025

Scenic Design
Jess Ploszaj

Costume Design
Kevin Jacob Koski

Lighting Design
Remy Dickinson†

Production Stage Management
Laura Garfein*

Directed by
Cheryl Willis

Fight Director.....Angela Bonacasa
Assistant Stage Manager.....Jess Miller
Scenic Charge.....Gwen Elise Higgins
Wardrobe Supervisor.....Anna Kemble
Light/Sound Supervisor.....Gavin Kearns
Production Photos.....Bill Kuykendall



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*†The designer is a member of the United
Scenic Artists of International Alliance of
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labor union.*

A Note from the Playwright Jeffrey Hatcher

TURN OF THE SCREW is one of the most unsettling ghost stories because it's about children. The notions of death and possession are always troubling, but add children, in this case two children, a boy and a girl, and as James puts it, you've added "a turn of the screw."

When I wrote this adaptation nearly 30 years ago, I was a huge fan of Henry James' novella and a devotee of one of its screen adaptations, Jack Clayton's *THE INNOCENTS* (1961) starring Deborah Kerr. And, as an adaptor, when you think the source material is perfect and a previous cinematic adaptation is perfect, you have to wonder what you can add to the party. Fortunately, I had been asked to write a dramatic adaptation for the theater, and there I did think I could bring something different to the story, at least in the way that it's told.

It's very tricky to depict ghosts on stage. There's the Disney Haunted House version. There is also the actors wearing grey or white makeup version and similar variations which always come across as hokey. And so in this adaptation, my goal was to eliminate the "spook house" aspect and use the stage's ability to suggest character, time and space theatrically rather than try to depict these elements realistically. Because after all, how does one realistically depict a ghost? Should a ghost be made of flesh and blood or is it see-through? Is a ghost an oral or a visual experience? Or both? Is a ghost a memory that won't go away? A hallucination that lives as much behind the eyes as in front of them? Theater allows you to suggest all these things at once, without one idea contradicting another, like a double or triple exposure.

I hope this production of *TURN OF THE SCREW* unnerves and unsettles you - in all the right ways. And I hope when you leave and try to make sense of what you've seen, you experience a satisfying level of uncertainty.

Jeffrey Hatcher

Playwright | *The Turn of the Screw*



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- Oscar Wilde



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WHO'S WHO



Katie
Peabody*



Ben
Layman

Governess.....Katie Peabody*

The Man.....Ben Layman

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless addressed

For Governess: Moira Beale • For The Man: Frank Bachman

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Time: Late 19th Century

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Katie Peabody* (*Governess*) is delighted to be returning to the Bangor Opera House! Last season, Katie performed as Abbie Burgess in *MATINICUS: A LIGHTHOUSE PLAY*. Born and raised in Seattle, Katie is thrilled to return to perform in her father's home state of Maine. Select additional theater credits include: *LITTLE WOMEN* (Beth/Seattle Repertory Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater), *THE HUMANS* (Brigid/Coachella Valley Repertory), *EVERYONE AGREES* (Ceaseless Fun), *LEAR'S SHADOW* (Ensemble Shakespeare Theater). Katie performs regularly with E3W Productions, is a member of Harvest Theater Company, and graduated from the (USC) School of Dramatic Arts (McKinlay Award for Outstanding Performance, Doolittle Award for Best Cumulative Artistic Work). Thank you to her family, partner, and the PTC team. @ktpbdy, www.katiepeabody.net (She/They)

Ben Layman (*The Man*) is a Bangor resident, Maine native and a PTC company member since 2007. Ben served as the Box Office manager & Director of Education for DA. During his time with DA he directed more than 20 youth productions, most recently *THE LIGHTNING THIEF: THE PERCY JACKSON MUSICAL* and *THE HOBBIT*. Ben also toured Maine with PTC's Shakespeare in the Schools program. Favorite credits: Audrey 2 (*LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*), Jinx (*FOREVER PLAID*), Guy (*LAST GAS*), Cowardly Lion (*THE WIZARD OF OZ*), Franklin (*DOCTOR CERBERUS*), Dave (*THE FULL MONTY*), Agatha Trunchbull (*MATILDA THE MUSICAL*), George Banks (*MARY POPPINS*), Gerard (*DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST*), Mr. Mushnick (*LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*) and Kenneth (*BIRTHDAY CANDLES*). Ben has a special relationship with the ghosts of the Opera House, and frequently leads haunted tours of the building. (He/Him)

Cheryl Willis (*Director*) is making her PTC debut which she couldn't be more thrilled about! She is a graduate of the Mountview Conservatoire for the Performing Arts in London, England. She predominantly works in Minneapolis as an Actor, Director, Voice Over Artist and Puppeteer and in Maine as Co-Artistic Director of the Acadia Rep Theatre on Mount Desert Island where she also designs sets and properties. Cheryl graduated in 2024 from Maine College of Art and Design with a Master's in Studio Arts. (She/Her)

Laura Garfein* (*Production Stage Manager*) is so excited to be back at PTC. She had worked for PTC in previous seasons as the assistant stage manager for *PETER AND THE STAR CATCHER* and *MARY POPPINS*. Laura has worked in regional theaters across the country, most recently The Wick Theater in Boca Raton, FL and The Little Theater on the Square in Sullivan, IL. She is now very excited to have returned to Maine. Enjoy the show! (She/Her)

Jess Ploszaj (*Scenic Design*) is a Artist/ Designer/ Creative type who is excited to be working with Penobscot Theatre Company on this venture. For past work and portfolio please visit jessploszaj.wixsite.com/jessploszaj Enjoy the show! (She/Her)

Kevin Jacob Koski (*Costume Design*) is a Maine native & awarded graduate of UMaine's Theatre program. He focused on costume design & construction while also designing multiple productions. With a nearly 10-year tenure at PTC, he has designed many mainstage & DA productions including: *WIT*, *ONE BLUE TARP*, *ALICE IN WONDERLAND*, *CALENDAR GIRLS*, *ROCK OF AGES*, *THE FULL MONTY*, *MISERY*, *UGLY LIES THE BONE*, & *GASLIGHT*. (He/Him)



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Remy Dickinson, (*Lighting Design*) has nearly ten years of experience as a lighting designer & electrician for live events. He also specializes in arena & theater rigging, and is a licensed apprentice electrician. He is a proud member of IATSE Local 114 and IBEW Local 567. He's a native Mainer, living and working in the greater Portland area. (He/Him)

Angela Bonacasa (*Fight Director*) is PTC's Resident Fight/Intimacy Director. Previous PTC credits: ROCKY HORROR, BIRTHDAY CANDLES, MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY, DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, IRONBOUND, TRAPPED!, & PETER PAN. PTC acting credits: MARY POPPINS (Bird Woman) and A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Christmas Past). She is the Artistic Director of the Orono-based True North Theatre, where she has directed multiple productions, including LIFE SUCKS, THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, SILENT SKY, THE ODD COUPLE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, HOUSE OF YES, & THE LION IN WINTER. (She/Her)

Jeffrey Hatcher (*Playwright*) Broadway: NEVER GONNA DANCE (book). Off-Broadway: THREE VIEWINGS AND A PICASSO at Manhattan Theatre Club; SCOTLAND ROAD & THE TURN OF THE SCREW at Primary Stages; TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE (with Mitch Albom) at The Minetta Lane; MURDER BY POE, THE TURN OF THE SCREW, & THE SPY at The Acting Company; NEDDY at American Place; FELLOW TRAVELERS at Manhattan Punchline. Other Plays/Theaters: COMPLEAT FEMALE STAGE BEAUTY, MRS. MANNERLY, MURDERERS, MERCY OF A STORM, SMASH, ARMADALE, KORCZAK'S CHILDREN, TO FOOL THE EYE, THE FALLS, A PIECE OF THE ROPE, ALL THE WAY WITH LBJ, THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR, DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE & others.

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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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.



Tune into our companion show,
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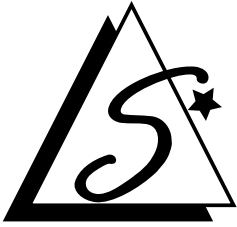


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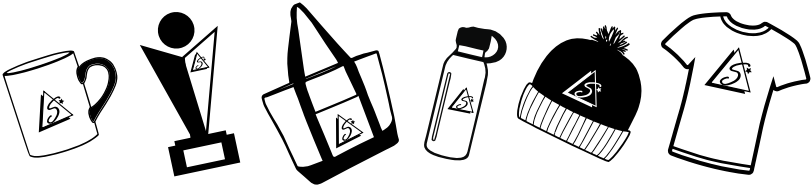
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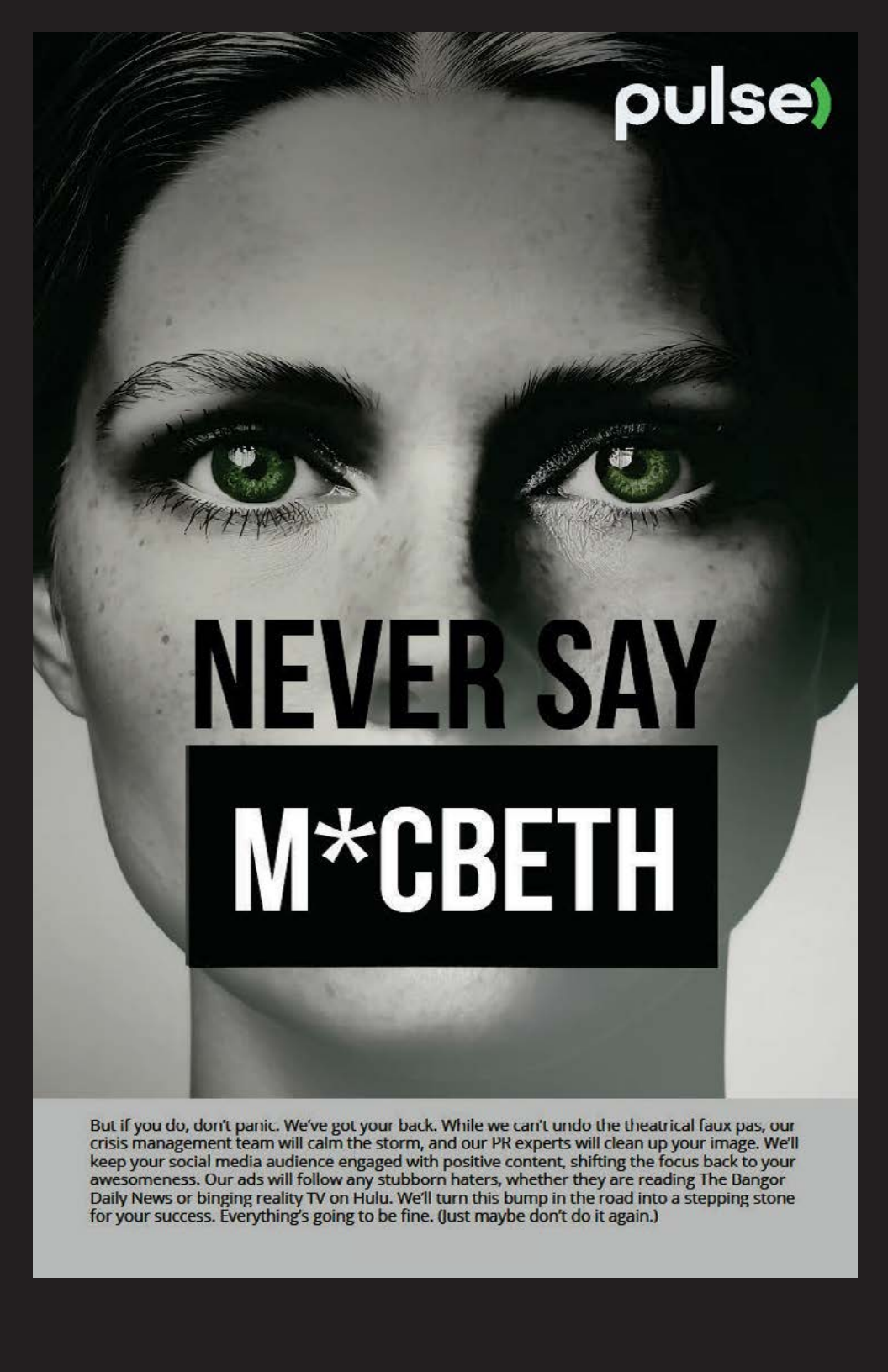
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