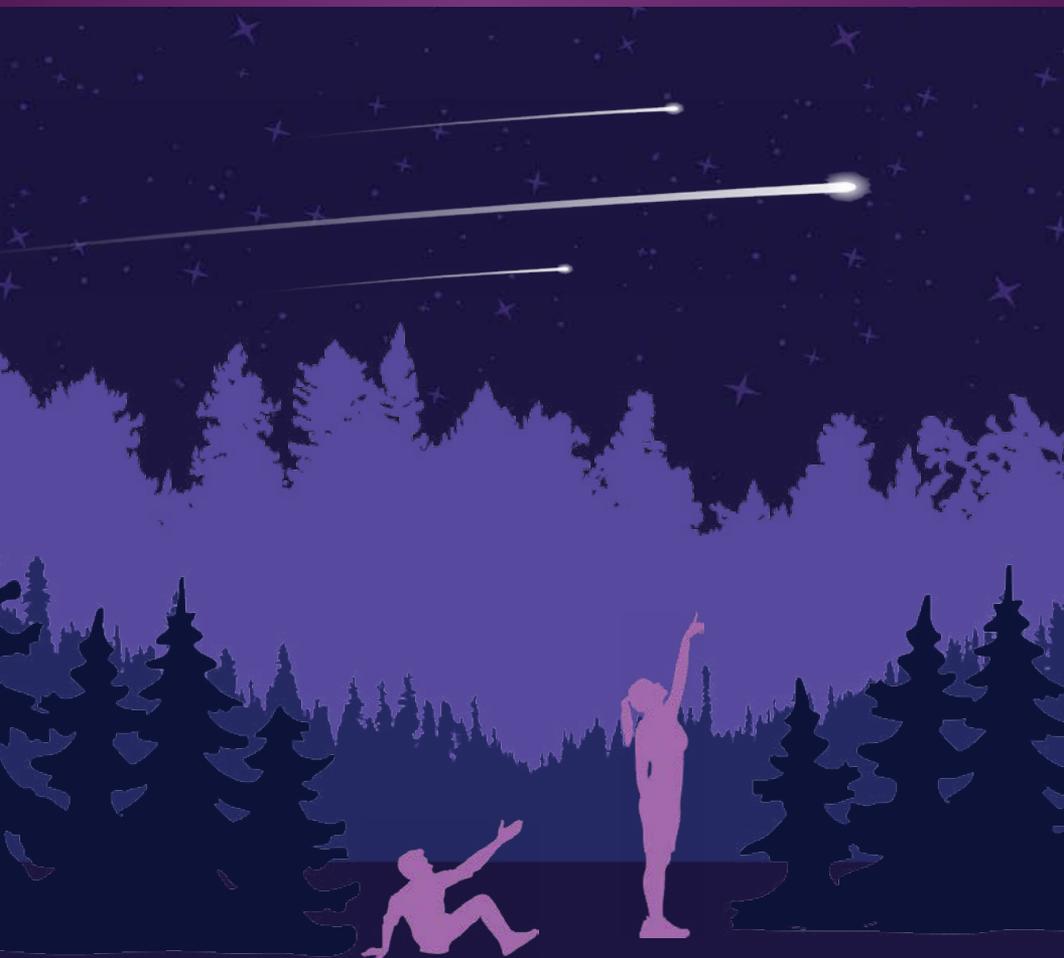


PENOBSCOT THEATRE COMPANY



Darker the Night 
Brighter the Stars



“a surprisingly humane and honest play that’s filled with as much laughter as it is drama.”

- Chicago Theater Review



THE GARBBOLOGISTS

Written by Lindsay Joelle

So much of who we are can be discovered in what we throw away, and no one knows that better than a city sanitation worker. Danny, gruff and opinionated, is tasked with showing the ropes to his new highly educated but inexperienced partner Marlowe. The two could not be more different and naturally sparks fly in both hilarious and harrowing ways as they work their route. Two essential workers from opposite worlds discover there's more that binds them together than the shared task of taking out the trash.

April 23 - May 10, 2026 | at the historic
Bangor Opera House
Get Tickets (or use a Flexpass) at the Box Office

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.



In This Playbill

Our Sponsors & Advertisers

Bangor Symphony Orchestra.....	4	Damon's Beverage.....	20	Maine Savings FCU.....	27
Edwards, Faust, & Smith CPA.....	5	Tiller & Rye.....	20	Bomarc Self Storage.....	28
Haley Ward Inc.....	5	Coffee News.....	20	ANM Properties.....	28
Moe's Essential BBQ.....	5	Premier Rehab & Training.....	21	Farrell Rosenblatt & Russell.....	28
Darling's.....	6	Bangor Int Airport.....	21	Griffin & Jordan.....	28
NCG Heating.....	8	Diversified Ink.....	21	Inspired Consulting Group.....	29
Unionstreet Laundromat.....	8	A Body in Knead.....	22	Orono Brewing.....	29
Harvest Moon.....	8	Birchbrook.....	22	The Mimi Foundation.....	30
Blueberry Broadcasting.....	9	Portland Pie Co.....	22	The Rock & Art Shop.....	31
Bangor Savings Bank.....	10	WERU.....	23	WKIT.....	32
Fairmount Dental.....	11	Gross, Minsky & Mogul.....	24	Advertising Specialists of Maine.....	34
Rudman Winchell.....	12	ERA Dawson-The Rock Team.....	24	Newscenter Maine.....	35
Downtown with Rich Kimball.....	18	The Hive Mortgage Solutions.....	24	Pulse.....	36
First National Bank.....	19	Penobscot Vet Services.....	26		

Our Company

The Garbologists.....	2	A Letter from the Artistic Director.....	13	The Cast & Crew.....	17
Land Acknowledgement.....	3	The Stage Door.....	14	Who's Who.....	23
PTC Staff.....	7	Our Leading Sponsors.....	14	Our Leading Donors.....	33
Audience Services.....	7	Show Credits.....	15		
Board of Directors.....	7	The Fantasticks.....	16		

BANGOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Lucas Richman, Music Director & Conductor

130

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STORYTELLING

2025-2026



**The Bangor Symphony Orchestra
wishes to Congratulate
Penobscot Theatre Company
on its 52nd Season!**

<p>JONATHAN BISS, PIANO</p> <p>KELLY HALL-TOMPkins, VIOLIN</p> <p>ANTHONY TRINARD, FLUTE</p> <p>LUCAS RICHMAN, CONDUCTOR</p> <p>DENISHA BALLEW, SOPRANO</p> <p>KEEMAN MCCARTER, BARIitone</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS I A JOURNEY ABROAD</p> <p>September 28 3PM REZNIČEK CHAUSSON BRAHMS</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS II SYMPHONIC GLORY</p> <p>November 16 3PM STILL MARSALIS DVOŘÁK</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS III ETHEREAL STORYTELLING</p> <p>February 1 3PM LUDWIG-LEONE MOZART BEETHOVEN</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS IV THE RITE OF SPRING</p> <p>March 22 3PM RIMSKY-KORSAKOV BOULANGER CHAMINADE STRAVINSKY</p>	<p>MASTERWORKS V OUR AMERICAN STORY</p> <p>April 26 3PM TOWER COPLAND COLEMAN SCHUMAN GERSHWIN</p>
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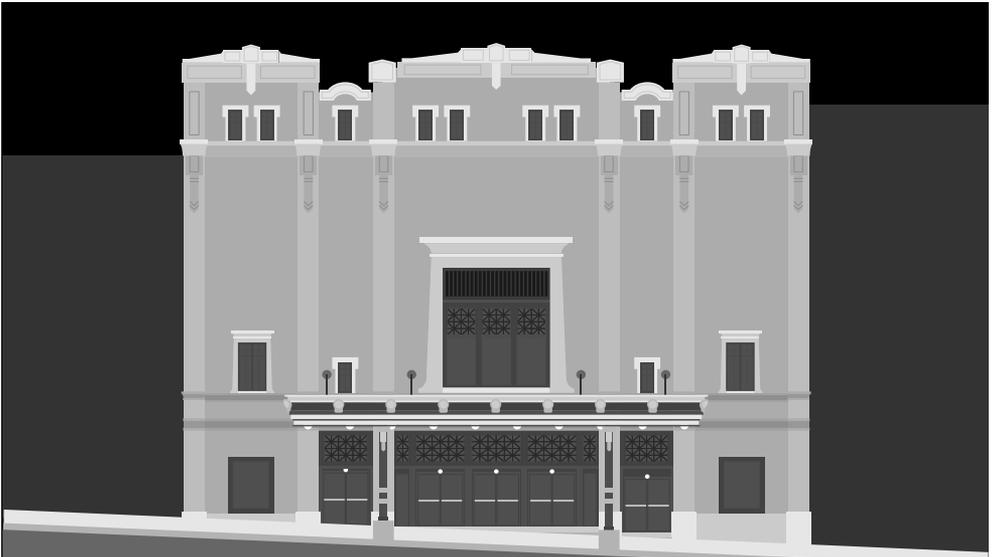
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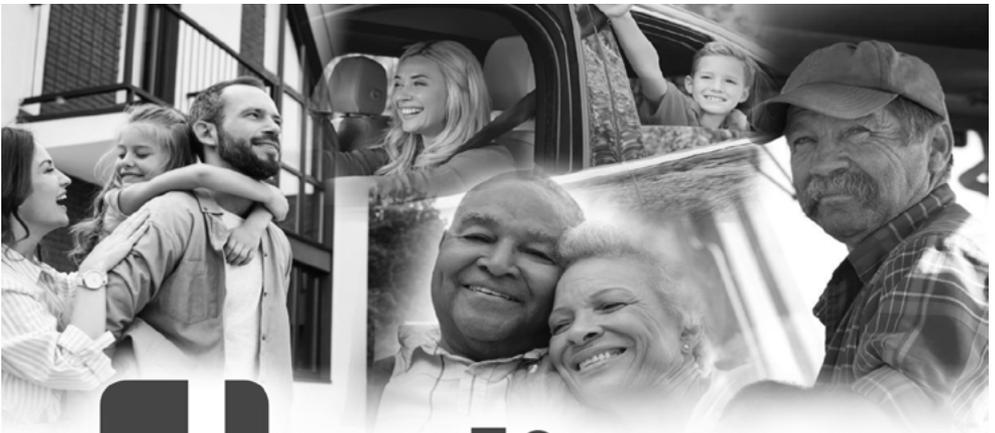
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Your 52nd Season

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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 4 - 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

Administrative Staff

Artistic Director **Jen Shepard**
Operations Manager **Amanda Neitz**
Director of Development **Sarah Parker**
Director of Marketing **John Siedenberg II**

Front of House Staff

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

Dramatic Academy Staff

DA Education Director **Nellie Kelly**
DA Administrator **Kacie Gerow**

Production Staff

Production Manager **Jess Ploszaj**
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 from the Heart of Maine,

On January 6th, we had our first production meeting and rehearsal for *Almost, Maine*. That marks the beginning of the hands-on building, rehearsing, blocking, costume fittings, searching for props, focusing lights, and creating the assets for projections. We've been dreaming and talking about *Almost, Maine* and *Darker the Night Brighter the Stars* since last winter.

In improv there is a phrase often used in movie trailers, "in a world..." It means that you live "in a world..." where there is something different from our everyday world. In *Almost, Maine* under the awe-inspiring northern lights, we enter a world where a woman can carry her broken heart with her, a man can feel no pain, the world can be traversed in 10 minutes, and love so delicate, so fierce can be found and lost in just a few fleeting moments. This world is populated with rural Northern Mainers who are very real, kind, tough, funny, smart, thoughtful, and faithful to the idea that people need each other. As John Cariani states in his notes for the play, "The people of *Almost, Maine* are not cuddly and cute. They're hard-working, ordinary people. They're not glib. But this doesn't mean they're dumb. They're very smart. They just take time to wonder about things. They speak simply, honestly, truly, from the heart."

I love this show because it's about relationships. We meet them at different points in their relationship but it's always about what they want, need, and hope for in a partner. The love may be unrequited but it is no less keenly felt. The fictional town of *Almost* has the same issues as our country: Limited opportunities, fear about money and safety, concerns about health, and anxiety about the state of our world. In defiance and response to all of that, they are reaching out to each other. Sharing a burden, a laugh, a worry, a fear, a need with another person creates connection and the byproduct of connection is hope. It is never too late to find love.

See you under the northern lights,



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

Darker the Night Brighter the Stars

Written by John Cariani

*"World Premiere Production:
PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY
Anita Stewart, Artistic Director
Martin Lodish, Managing Director"*

February 18 - March 8, 2026

Scenic Design
Alivia Cross

Costume Design
Mark Muir

Lighting Design
JP Sedlock

Projection Design
Arturo Camacho

Sound Design
Sean McGinley

Prop Design
Thomas Demers

Fight/Intimacy Director
Angela Bonacasa

Production Stage Manager
Laura Garfein*

Assistant Director
Owen Hines

Directed by
Cheryl Snodgrass

Assistant Stage Manager.....Thomas Demers
Scenic Charge.....Gwen Elise Higgins
Assistant Lighting Designer.....Sean Murray
Light/Sound Supervisor.....Gavin Kearns
Wardrobe Supervisor.....Anna Kate Mason
Production Photos.....Bill Kuykendall



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs is strictly prohibited.

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**Appearing through an agreement between PTC & Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the USA*



The Fantasticks

Book & Lyrics by Tom Jones | Music by Harvey Schmidt

Matt & Luisa's parents have been feuding for years. They've even built a wall between their gardens. Despite that Luisa and Matt have fallen in love, a love they've kept secret from their parents. But the feud is fake and the parents want their children to fall in love. The parents hire a dashing actor, El Gallo, to stage an abduction so Matt can play the hero. Their best laid plans go awry – the feud becomes real, Matt flees into the world, and Luisa falls in love with someone else. Can they repair this rift?

The Fantasticks is a play about the love between family, the hurt the world can inflict on one's heart, how to fix what seems utterly ruined, and how a broken heart can heal to become much stronger.

June 11 - July 12, 2026 | at the historic
Bangor Opera House

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THE CAST



Vero
Villalobos*



Anna
Kemble



Josh
Worster



JD
Moore

WHO'S WHO

CARLY & Others.....Vero Villalobos*
SHAY & Others.....Anna Kemble
TEDDY & Others.....Josh Worster
JARED & Others.....JD Moore

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for the listed players unless addressed
Andrew Barrett · Dani Barrett

Scenes

PROLOGUE
Scene 1: IT'S OFFICIAL
Scene 2: BETTER
Scene 3: LIGHT
INTERLOGUE 1
INTERLOGUE 2
Scene 4: PEACE
Scene 5: HAPPY
Scene 6: BEAUTIES
EPILOGUE

Setting the Stage for Darker the Night Brighter the Stars

Time: *Friday, August 12th, 9PM, not too long ago.*
Place: *Various Locales in a small town in far northern Maine.*
Runtime: *2 Hours*
Interval: *One 15-Minute Intermission*



DOWNTOWN

with Rich Kimball

Downtown salutes Penobscot Theatre Company in this 52nd season of bringing top quality productions to the people of Eastern, Central, and Northern Maine. The arts are the lifeblood of a thriving community and the work of PTC has been a key component in the revitalization of Downtown Bangor.

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.



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Thanks in advance,
- Dana from Old Town

Dear Dana,

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Anna Kemble (*SHAY & Others*) Anna is thrilled to be both back in her home state of Maine, and on the Mainstage at PTC, after several years abroad getting her Bachelor's in Musical Theatre from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland! Glasgow credits include: SWEENEY TODD (Johanna), 9 TO 5 (Roz), CINDERELLA (w/s Cinderella, Stepmother, ensemble), PTC: OLIVER! (Bet), Broadway Rising. Headshot © Wolf Marloh. (She/Her)

JD Moore (*JARED & Others*) is an Acting student at the University of Maine. He is honored to take part in his first professional production with PTC. He would like to thank PTC for the opportunity, the cast/crew for all of their talent and hard work, and his friends, family, and girlfriend, Bridge for the unwavering love and support from auditions through performances. (He/Him)

Vero Villalobos* (*CARLY & Others*) Originally from Texas, Vero is excited to brave a Maine winter once again! Select credits: THE TEMPEST (Weathervane Theater), MY STORY IS GLUSKABE (PTC), playwright of GLOCK 17. Rooted in her identity as a proud Mexican daughter, she dedicates her performance to all immigrant communities, who find home in small places. To my papa, Te Amo. (She/Her)

Josh Worster (*TEDDY & Others*) is a senior at UMaine studying Theatre with a minor in Psychology. He made his PTC debut back in 2022 in 9 to 5, and is happy to be back! Local Credits: Disney's Beauty & The Beast (Some Theatre Company), Henry V (Ten Bucks Theatre), and Little Women: The Musical (Lace Theatre Company). He would like to thank the UMaine faculty and each of the theatre groups mentioned for keeping his passion for theatre active over the years. (He/Him)

Cheryl Snodgrass (*Director*) returns to PTC after directing WHO'S HOLIDAY in 2022. Cheryl is an alumni ensemble member of Hell in a Handbag where she's directed multiple premieres including THE DRAG SEED, which performed at the famous LaMama Theatre in NYC. Other Chicago companies: Trapdoor, Sweetback, Glass Apple, The Foundlings, Tellin' Tales, and Jonny Staxx Presents. Upcoming projects: THE POSTHUMOUS TRIAL OF GIULIA TOFANA for Larkspur, JOAN CRAWFORD GOES TO HELL for Hell in a Handbag, and an exciting new project for Black Ensemble Theatre. She is passionate about new works & is grateful to John for trusting her with this play. (She/Her)

Laura Garfein* (*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)

Alivia Cross (*Scenic Design*) is a scenic designer, artist, and educator, thrilled to return to PTC for these productions. Alivia holds an MFA in Scenic Design and is currently pursuing a PhD in Arts Education. Her work is driven by a deep love of storytelling and a commitment to engaging theatrical communities. Selected credits include THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW (Penobscot Theatre Co), SWEENEY TODD, URINETOWN, FALSETTOS (Centre Stage), A CHRISTMAS STORY (Millbrook Playhouse), and RENT, JERSEY BOYS, and A BRONX TALE (The Mac-Haydn Theatre). More at: aliviacrossscenicartsanddesign.com (She/Her)



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Mark Muir (*Costume Design*) is a 27 year old freelance costume designer based in Orono, Maine. He's worked previously with PTC as their head of wardrobe during their 50th season and while this is his first professional design you may have seen his previous designs for LIFE SUCKS, PICNIC, or THE CHILDREN'S HOUR with True North Theatre Company. Mark would like to thank his fellow designers, the wonderful cast, and the staff at PTC for making this such an enjoyable show to work on! (He/They)

JP Sedlock (*Lighting Design*) is a lighting designer based out of Orono, Maine. He can mostly be found at UMaine as the Scene Shop and Lighting Supervisor. He is happy to be back at PTC after having designed lights for MATINICUS. Mostly his passion is for exploring Maine with his wife and two sons. (He/Him)

Sean McGinley (*Sound Design*) is excited to be returning to PTC after being the resident sound designer from 2018-2020. Favorite PTC credits: FUN HOME, MAMMA MIA (Broadway Award for Best sound design, & sound design of the decade), WAIT UNTIL DARK, and WOODY GUTHRIE'S AMERICAN SONG. Sean's designs have been heard all over the country at The Naples Players, The Public Theatre, The Walnut Street Theatre, The Mac-Haydn Theatre, Playhouse on Park, Gable Stage, and many more. PTC will always hold a special place in his heart as it is where he first met and worked with his wife Alivia. As always Sean would like to thank his family for their continued support of his dream. For more information on Sean please visit Seanmcginleysounddesign.com or follow him on social media @Seansounds101 (He/Him)

Arturo Camacho (*Projection Design*) is a visual artist and maker from Juchitepec, Mexico. He earned a BFA in Intermedia and a minor in Photography from Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, and later on a MFA in Intermedial art at the University of Maine. Arturo currently teaches projection mapping and prototyping at the Intermedia department at the University of Maine. He likes to spend time collecting, restoring and cataloging popular culture and electronics, which he uses as teaching tools to open discussion about contemporary artifacts, open source Art practices, and STEM education. (He/Him)

Thomas Demers (*Props Design*) is a Bangor resident and has been a part of PTC since his mainstage debut in Matilda The Musical in 2019. While being the resident prop supervisor for PTC, he has also had his fair share of time on stage. Some of his favorite roles he's gotten to play include Percy Jackson (The Lightning Thief), Emmet Forest (Legally Blonde), Audrey II Puppeteer (Little Shop of Horrors), and a Phantom in The Rocky Horror Show. (He/They)

Angela Bonacasa (*Intimacy/Fight Director*) is PTC's Resident Fight/Intimacy Director. Previous PTC credits: BIRTHDAY CANDLES, MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY, DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, IRONBOUND, QUEEN, TRAPPED!, & CLARKSTON. As an actor, she has appeared on the PTC stage in 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 THE CHILDREN'S HOUR, SILENT SKY, THE ODD COUPLE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, HOUSE OF YES, & THE LION IN WINTER. (She/Her)

John Cariani (*Playwright*) is an actor and a playwright. As an actor, he's been nominated for a Tony Award and a couple Grammy Awards. And most people seem to know him for his roles on TV's Law & Order, The Onion News Network, and Numb3rs. As a playwright, John is best known for his first play, Almost, Maine, which has become one of the most popular plays in the country and around the world with over 5000 productions to date. His play, LOVE/SICK, has had a few hundred productions around the country and around the world and has been made into a film in Mexico called Enfermo Amor. His other plays, Last Gas and cul-de-sac, are his two favorites and he wishes more people did them. John is also a novelist. His first novel, Almost, Maine-a novel, was published in 2020 by MacMillan and is now available in paperback. Originally from Presque Isle, Maine, John lives in the Bronx.

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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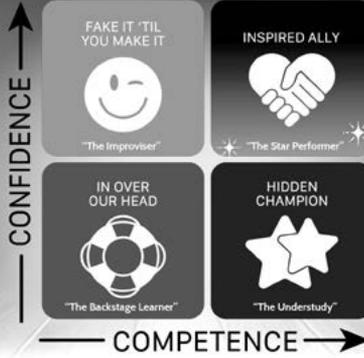
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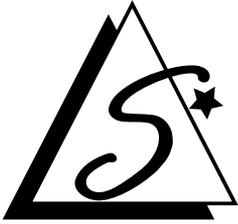


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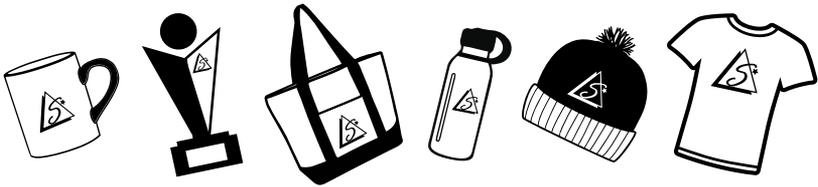
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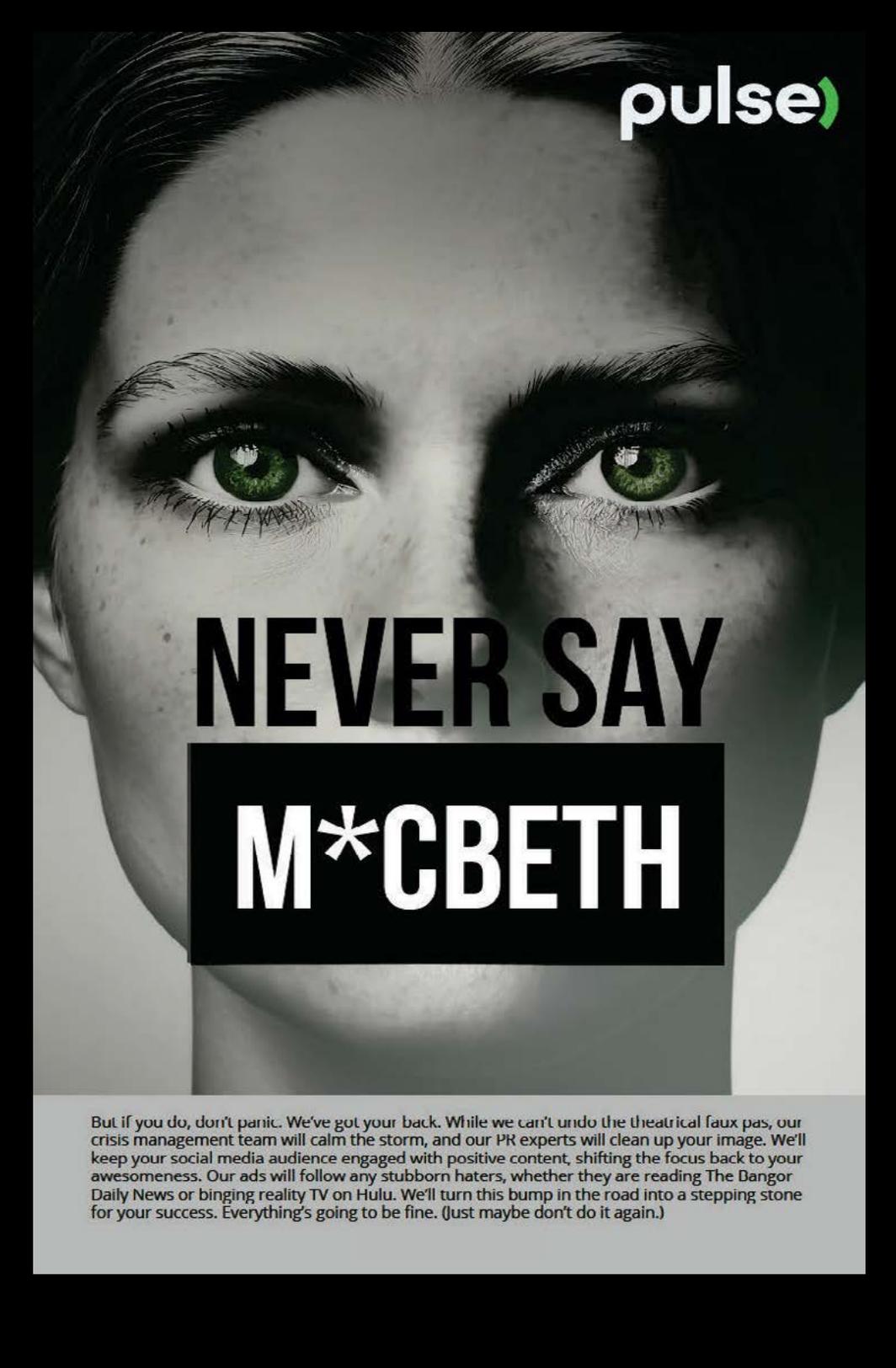
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