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Audience Services

Restrooms

→2 all gender-welcoming restrooms are downstairs from the inner lobby level.
→ Single-stall restrooms can be found in the lobby or in The Stage Door.

Accessibility

→Hearing Loop system (T-Coil hearing aids, earbuds, or PTC headset.) **PenobscotTheatre.org/loop**
→Large print & digital playbills available.
→Accessible bathroom is located in the lobby.

To See more about PTC, including our Mission Statement, Land Acknowledgement, Work Statement, staff bios and more visit www.PenobscotTheatre.org

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Hello & Welcome to PTC,

Once upon a time a beloved college professor told me, "A witch is a woman who will not hold her tongue." I have carried that with me my whole life. When I read Broomstick in 2020, it stuck with me because it is about a witch who wants to tell us her story. When a pattern emerges in my life, I pay attention.

Broomstick defies genre; it is a drama, comedy, horror play that is funny, sad, enraging, intriguing, and scary. At the heart of the play is The Witch. Yes, THE Witch. A towering figure of danger that looms in every cautionary fairytale.

The Witch is not an easy character to love and yet I find myself identifying and even empathizing with her. She is spurred on by a deep need for justice. That need is driven by rage, guilt, and sorrow at the state of the world. Many people, particularly women, feel it right now. We are confronted with violence, and hunger for reckoning for those who hurt the most vulnerable among us is palpable. That's why we like fairytales. The Witch brings a reckoning for those who have wronged her. If they show remorse, she may relent. If they do not, woe be unto them.

As we are all aware, even when it's scary to do so, we must speak up. We must become witches. When we don't, then we live with the consequences of our inaction. Hopefully, we learn from that and do better the next time. Meanwhile, don't be afraid to approach the cottage in the deep woods that holds a witch with a story to tell.

Thanks for being here!

Jen Shepard
Artistic Director | Penobscot Theatre Company

Your 53rd Season

On Golden Pond
Sept 10 - Oct 4, 2026

Broomstick
Oct 22 - Nov 8, 2026

Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas the Musical
Nov 27 - Dec 27, 2026

The Book Club Play
Feb 4 - 21, 2027

A Kick in Your Cabot Cove
Feb 27 - 28, 2027

The Mallard
Mar 18 - Apr 11, 2027

Birds of North America
May 6 - 23, 2027

Clue
Jun 17 - July 18, 2027

Blueberries for Sal the Musical
Jul 8 - 25, 2027

PENOBSCOT THEATRE COMPANY

PTC Staff

Administrative Staff

Artistic Director	**Jen Shepard**
Interim Director of Business Operations	**Robert Libbey**
Director of Development	**Kae Cooney**
Operations Administrator	**Kacie Gerow**
Director of Marketing	**John Siedenberg II**

Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	**Frank Bachman**
House Manager	**Ceraya Nichols**
	Katie Limberis
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**
Scenic Charge	**Gwen Elise Higgins**
Fight & Intimacy Director	**Angela Bonacasa**

Board of Directors

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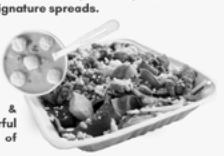

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We wish Jen and the entire production team success in this year of celebration and in creating a vision for the theatre's next half century.

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.



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The Penobscot Theatre Company production of

Broomstick

by John Biguenet

"BROOMSTICK" was first produced in a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere by New Jersey Repertory Company (Long Branch, NJ), Montana Repertory Theatre (Missoula, MT), and Southern Rep Theatre (New Orleans, LA) with support from the National New Play Network's continued life of new plays fund.

Permission granted by Stewart Talent 1430 Broadway Suite 601 New York, NY 10018.
All inquiries concerning rights to the Play shall be addressed to the above.

October 22 - November 8, 2026

Starring
A.J. Mooney* as the Witch

Scenic / Prop Design
Jess Ploszaj

Costume Design
Anna Kate Mason

Lighting Design
Michael DiMauro

Sound Design
Ryan McGowan

Directed by
Ben Layman

Production Stage Manager
Moriah Smith*

Assistant Stage Manager.....Wren Schuyler
Scenic Charge.....Gwen Elise Higgins
Light/Sound Supervisor.....Gavin Kearns
Wardrobe/Crew.....Anna Kate Mason
Production Photos.....Bill Kuykendall

Setting the Stage for Broomstick

Time: *The past and the present*
Place: *A Cottage in Appalachia*
Runtime: *90 Minutes*
Interval: *No Intermission*

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

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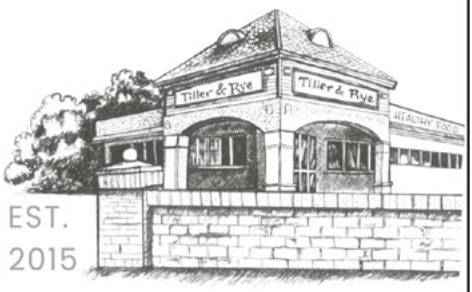

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A.J. Mooney* (*The Witch*) A.J. Mooney is a long standing company member with over 20 years of performing at PTC. She teaches tap and acting via private coaching. She taught theatre at Umaine for 15 years. She currently teaches tap dance at Umaine. She co-created a movement and theatre program for elementary school children called ArtsnKids which has been successfully running for over 20 years. Credits at PTC include, CINDERELLA, BIRTHDAY CANDLES,TRAPPED! A LOBSTER TALE, MISERY, MATILDA, THE GRADUATE, and AUGUST:OSAGE COUNTY. Thank you for coming to see Broomstick.

Ben Layman (*Director*) Ben is a native of Down East and has been a PTC company member since 2007. He has served the company as a teaching artist, Box Office Manager, House Manager, Director of Education and as an actor in many mainstage productions. PTC Credits: MATILDA(Trunchbull), LAST GAS(Guy Gagnon), LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS(Audrey 2 voice), FOREVER PLAID(Jinx), THE FULL MONY(Dave), and A MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET radio play (Kris Kringle). Most recently as an actor Ben has been seen in ON GOLDEN POND(Charlie) and last season's productions of TURN OF THE SCREW and ALMOST, MAINE. Ben has also directed more than a dozen plays with PTC's Dramatic Academy. He has also directed many local community theater productions for Ten Bucks Theater, The Grand and Bangor Community Theater. He is thrilled to be making his mainstage directoral debut at PTC, his home and heart.

Moriah Smith* (*Production Stage Manager*) Moriah Smith (Stage Manager) is a junior at The University of Maine studying theatre and leadership from New Hampton, NH. BROOMSTICK is Moriah's second production with Penobscot Theatre Company. Recent production roles include Stage Manager for theatreKAPOW's AS YOU LIKE IT, ASM on Penobscot Theatre Company's ALMOST, MAINE, and True North Theatre Company's DANCING AT LUGHNASA. Moriah has been involved with 8 productions at The University of Maine, most recently credited as Stage Manager for the University's THE COURAGE TO RIGHT A WOMAN'S WRONGS and THE GLASS MENAGERIE. She would like to thank PTC for this amazing opportunity and hopes that everyone enjoys the show!

Jess Ploszaj (*Scenic / Prop 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 https://jessploszaj.wixsite.com/jessploszaj Enjoy the show!

Anna Kate Mason (*Costume Design*) is delighted to serve as costume designer for her first main stage show at PTC. She previously designed costumes for the Dramatic Academy's productions of ALICE IN WONDERLAND, SHE KILLS MONSTERS, and SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE JR.



Michael DiMauro *(Lighting Design)* is thrilled to be working on his first mainstage show for PTC. Past credits include School House Rock, PTC DA, and various concerts at PTC. Outside of PTC he works as the Technical Production Manager at the Gracie Theatre, where he is the Resident Lighting Designer.

Ryan McGowan (*Sound Design*) is a composer, audio engineer, and sound designer. He has done sound design and music for productions at Portland Players, The Theater Project, Maddy's Theater, Mad Horse Theater Company, The Theater at Monmouth, Penobscot Theater Company and Portland Museum of Art.

Wren Schuyler (*Asst. Stage Manager*) is a transdisciplinary artist and performer. They are new to the Bangor area having moved here recently from Colorado. Their creative background includes physical theatre, scenic and properties design, dance, and more. When not at the theatre Wren teaches yoga and tai chi locally. After working with PTC on a few shows this past season, including THE GARBOLOGISTS (PTC/Bangor) they are excited to be back and ready to create more!

John Biguenet (*Playwright*) is the author of "Oyster," a novel, and "The Torturer's Apprentice: Stories," as well as four other books, and his plays have been widely produced. Biguenet's radio drama WUNDMALE was broadcast on Westdeutscher Rundfunk and Österreichischer Rundfunk. Two of his stories have been featured in Selected Shorts at Symphony Space on Broadway. THE VULGAR SOUL won the 2004 Southern New Plays Festival and was a featured production in 2005 at Southern Rep Theatre. His play RISING WATER was the winner of the 2006 National New Play Network Commission Award. SHOTGUN, the second play in his RISING WATER trilogy, received a National New Play Network Continued Life of New Plays Fund Award and an Access to Artistic Excellence development and production grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2009. He was awarded a Marquette Fellowship for the writing of his next play, NIGHT TRAIN. Biguenet was named 2008 Theatre Person of the Year at the Big Easy Theatre Awards. His work has received an O. Henry Award and a "Harper's Magazine" Writing Award among other distinctions, and his stories and essays have been reprinted or cited in "The Best American Mystery Stories," "Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards," "The Best American Short Stories," and "Best Music Writing." He has served twice as president of the American Literary Translators Association and as writer-in-residence at various universities, including his position as the Robert Hunter Distinguished University Professor at Loyola University in New Orleans.

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.





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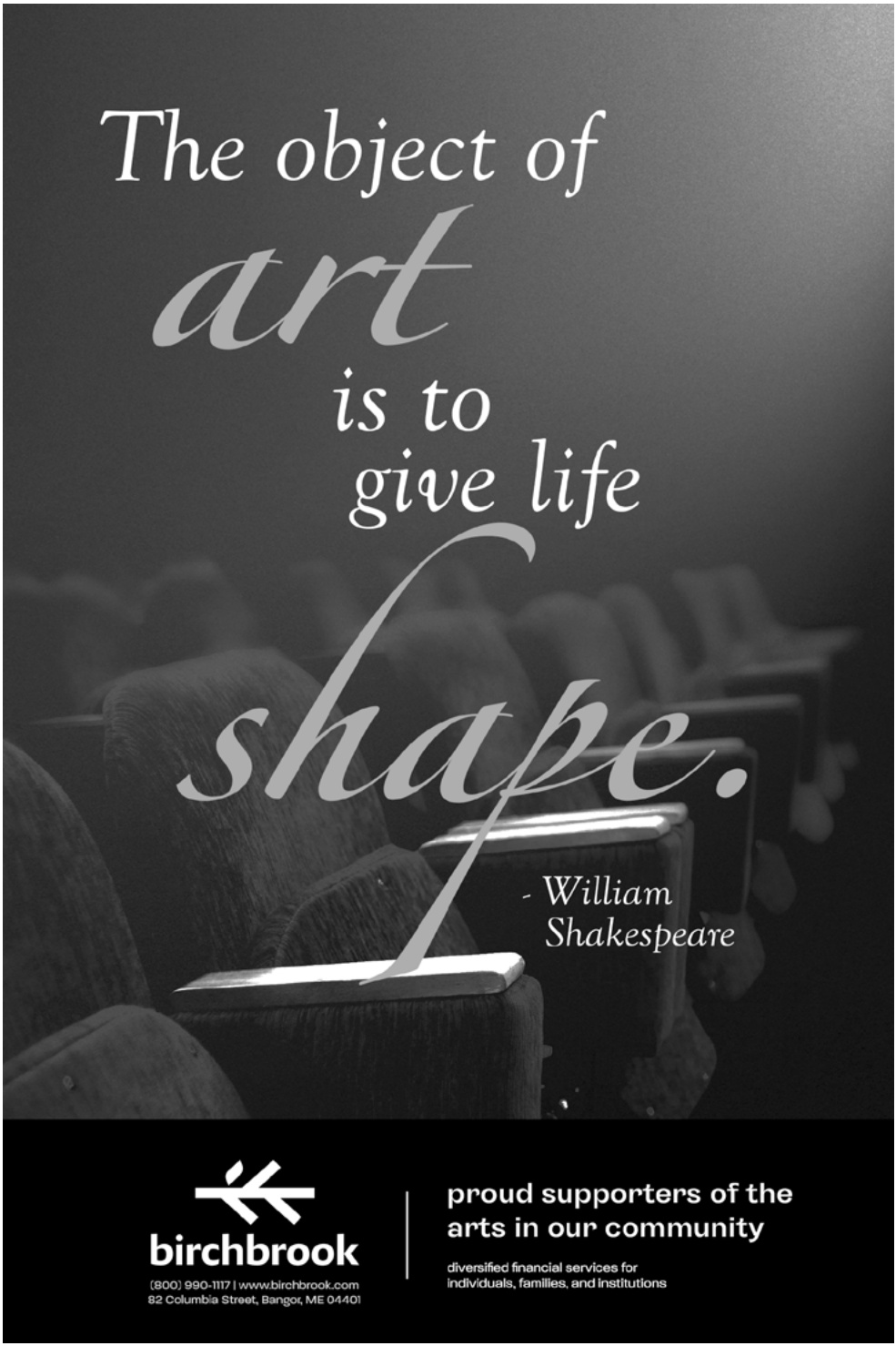
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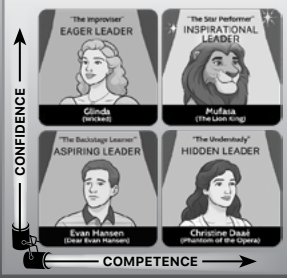

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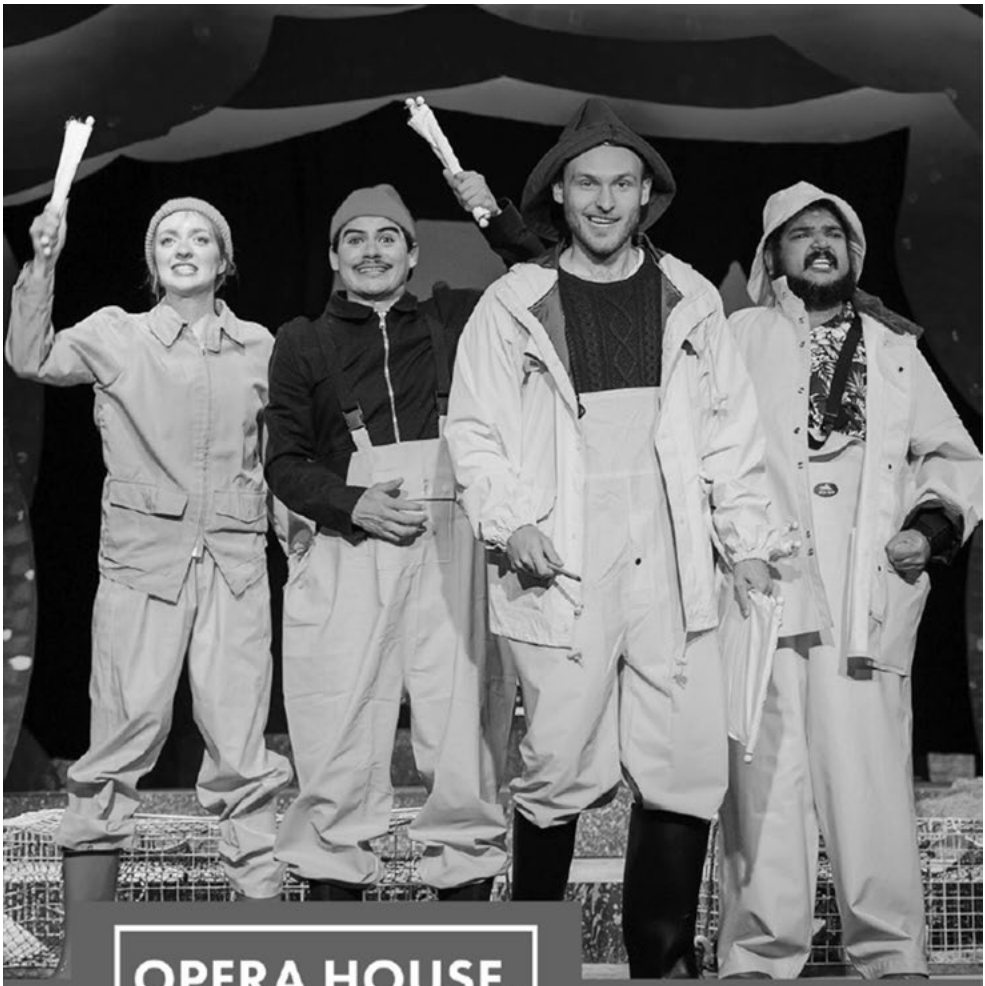

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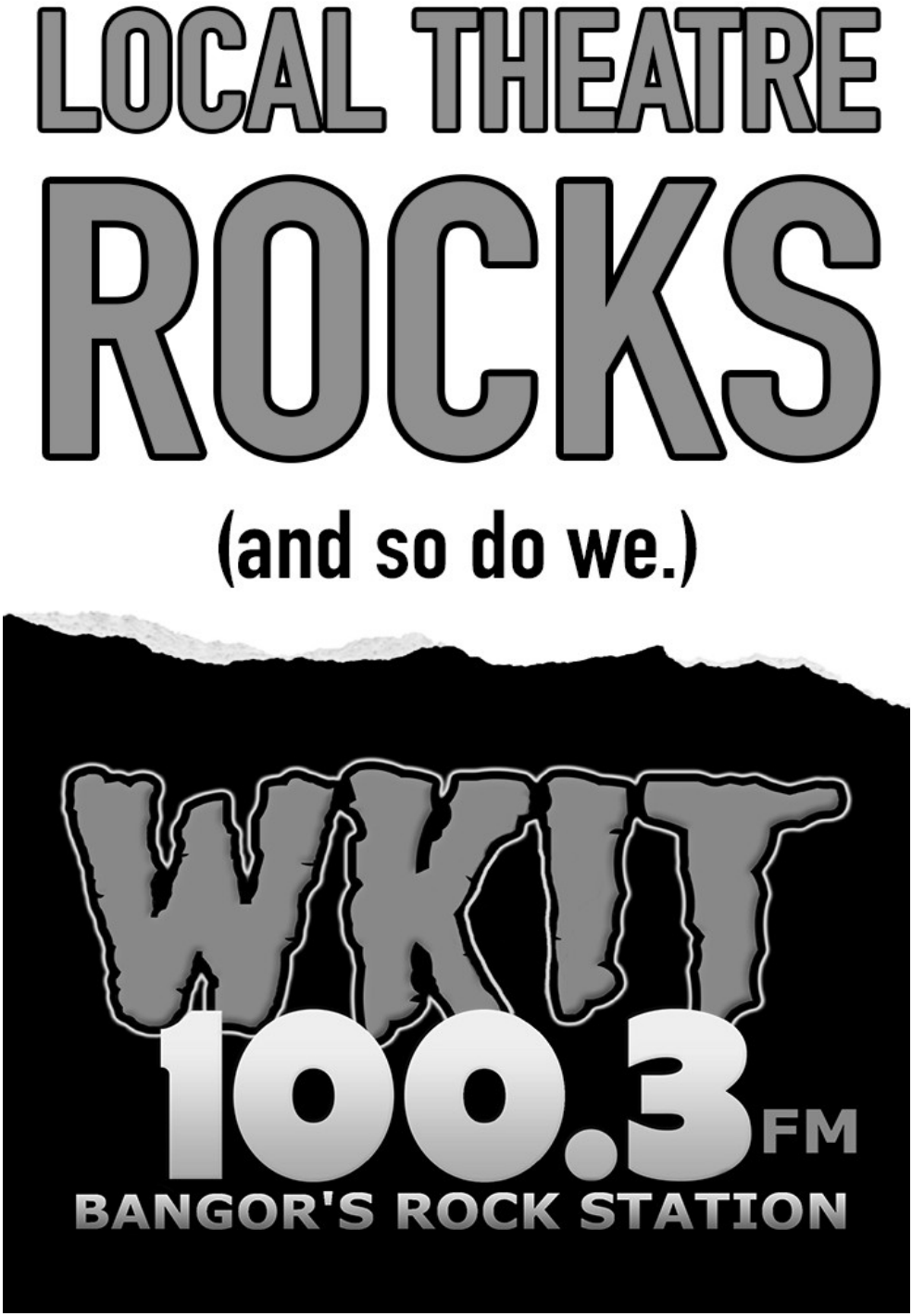
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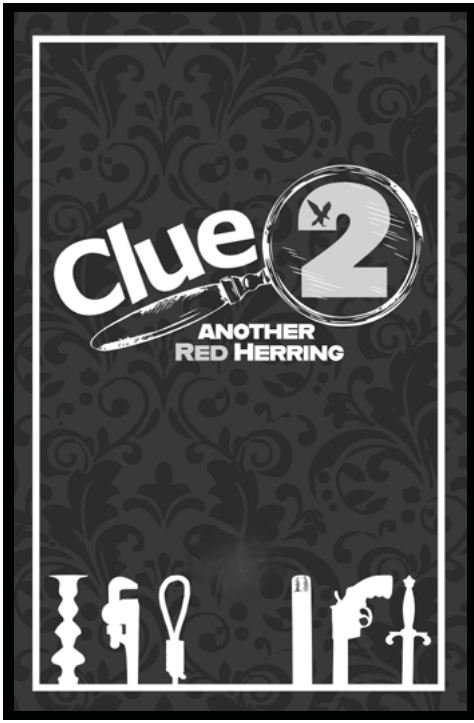

New Year's Eve Murdery Mystery

December 31, 2026

An Interactive New Year's Eve Experience

You've been invited to a lavish gathering where nothing is quite as it seems. The host, Mr. Boddy, is a man with many secrets, and tonight, those secrets will cost him his life. But who among our PTC Stars of the Stage are capable of such a heinous crime? And what iconic weapon will be Mr. Boddy's demise- the lead pipe, the rope, the candlestick, the revolver, the wrench or the knife?

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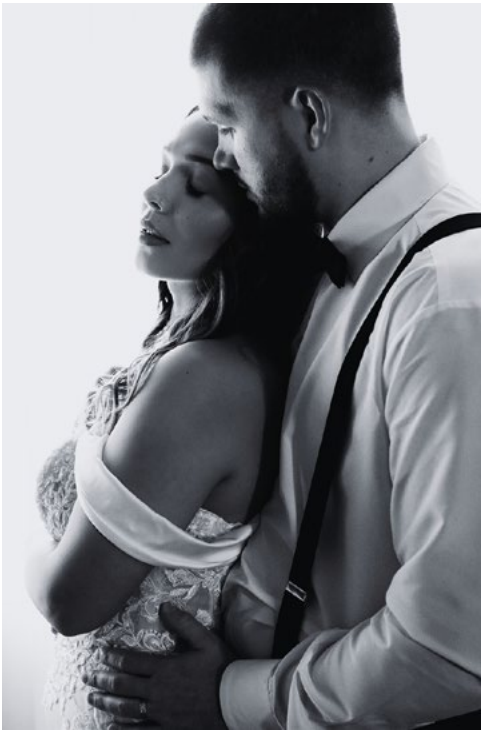

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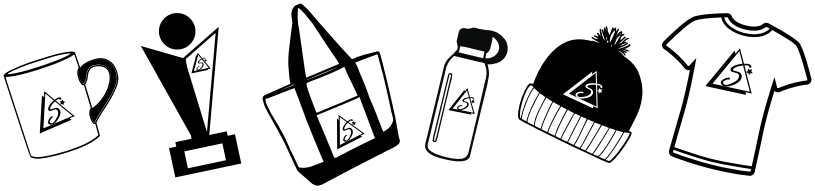

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