

Steep Theatre Presents the Midwest Premiere of

OUR DEAR DEAD DRUG LORD



BY ALEXIS SCHEER DIRECTED BY SOPHIYAA NAYAR



STEEP THEATRE COMPANY

Steep Theatre Company is an ensemble of artists driven by a shared commitment to the organization's mission: *To bring out the everyday truths in the stories we tell through ensemble work and to reach out to non-traditional theatregoers by seeking out stories and creating experiences relevant to them.* Steep believes theatre should stoke conversations about the issues and conditions that are part of all of our lives; conversations that take place between artists and audiences in the theatre, in the lobby, and long after everyone has gone home.

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

Laura Alcalá Baker	Thomas Dixon	Emily McConnell	Joe Schermoly
Catherine Allen	Patricia Donegan	Peter Moore	Joanie Schultz
James Allen	Pete Dully	Caroline Neff	Julia Siple
Debo Balogun	Jonathan Edwards	Jim Poole	Sasha Smith
Jonathan Berry	Nate Faust	Jon Ravenscroft	Dan Stratton
Lucy Carapetyan	Alex Gillmor	Egan Reich	Kendra Thulin
Chris Chmelik	Nick Horst	Joel Reitsma	Brandon Wardell
George Cederquist	Destini Huston	Melissa Riemer	Chelsea M. Warren
Matt Chapman	Lauren Lassus	Brandon Rivera	Robin Witt
Brad DeFabo Akin	Kristin Leahey	Omer Abbas Salem	Brendan Melanson
Maria DeFabo Akin	Cindy Marker	Amber Sallis	<i>in memoriam</i>

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES

Alison Siple	Simon Stephens <i>Assoc. Playwright</i>	Ellen Willett
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Help Steep create more theatre like *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*. Scan to donate, or inquire at the box office.

STEEP THEATRE COMPANY

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Steep Theatre Company

proudly presents the U.S. Premiere of *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*

by Alexis Scheer



Content Advisory

Our Dear Dead Drug Lord includes content of a violent and sensitive nature. Scan to view details or inquire at the box office.

CAST (in speaking order)

Kit	Isabel Rivera
Squeeze	Elena Victoria Feliz
Zoom	Lauren Smith
Pipe	Isabella Maria Valdes
Additional Roles	Liliana Renteria
Additional Roles	Adriel Irizarry

UNDERSTUDIES

Kit	Isabella Abel-Suarez
Squeeze	Kandace Mack
Zoom	Jourdan Lewanda
Pipe	Zoë DePreta
Additional Roles	Aaliyah Montana
Additional Roles	Raphael Diaz

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Sophiyaa Nayar
Stage Manager	Lauren Lassus ^{^*}
Scenic Designer	Sydney Lynne
Lighting Designer	Eric Watkins [†]
Associate Lighting Designer	Liz Gomez
Costume Designer	Serena Sandoval
Scenic Collaborator	Shannon Evans
Sound Designer	Matthew Chapman [^]
Props Designer	Lonnae Hickman
Intimacy & Fight Choreographer	Gaby Labotka
Choreographer	Jenn Freeman
Assistant Director & Brujería Consultant	Daniela Martinez
Dramaturg	Kristin Leahey [^]
Dialect Coach	Sándor Menéndez
Production Manager	Jennifer Aparicio
Technical Director	Darren Brown
Co-Casting Director	Lucy Carapetyan [^]
Assistant Stage Manager	Lili Bjorklund
Assistant Costume Designer	Jessica Gowens
Young Performer Supervisor	Amber Sallis [^]
Photographer	Jeremy Hall

[^]Steep Theatre Ensemble Member [†]Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829

^{*}Appearing through an Agreement between Steep Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The World Premiere of *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* was presented in September 2019 by WP Theater and Second Stage Theater; For WP Theater: Lisa McNulty, Producing Artistic Director | Michael Sag, Managing Director; For Second Stage Theater: Carole Rothman - President and Artistic Director | Casey Reitz - Executive Director; Originally Produced by Benjamin Simpson, Joseph Longthorne & Jana Shea.

The video and audio recording of this show is strictly prohibited. You may take photos of the stage before or after the show, but not when actors are present. If you post these photos online or elsewhere, please credit the production's designers listed above.

Season Sponsor: **Bayless Family Foundation**

This production of *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* was sponsored by: **Shirley & David Holdeman, Karen Shankman**





Dear Temporary Members of the Dead Leaders Club,

Welcome to our tree house. We have three rules:

No parents allowed.

Don't take your shoes off.

Leave your real life at the door. We know the outside world is seeping in, crawling through every corner it can find. We understand that grief looms over us and that its takeover is inevitable. But here, for now, inside our tree house, we are safe. We are in control. Here, we get to choose our own names, our own rules, our own rituals and our own gods. Here, we get to play pretend and try adulthood on for size. Marinate in our anger, try on the skins of our parents, and burst through them. How far will we go?

Welcome to the Dead Leaders Club. In the words of the one true living pop goddess Britney Spears, "are you sure you want a piece of ~~me~~ us?"

~ Pipe, Squeeze, Zoom and Kit.

ARTISTS



Isabel Rivera (Kit) Isabel is excited to be doing her first show with Steep Theatre! Some past works include *Tasters* (U/S Rivendell), *After* (Barrens Theatre Company),

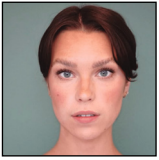
Goose (Rhino Fest dir. Brent Eickhoff), and *123* (Wayward Sisters Ensemble). She received her BFA in Acting from Ball State University (*Chirp*, *Chirp!*). She would like to thank her family for always being so supporting and loving. Women's rights are human rights.



Elena Victoria Feliz (Squeeze)

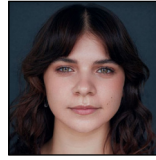
Elena is a Chicago-based Afro-Latina actor, singer and writer. Theatre credits include *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Red Tape Theatre, Non-Equity

Jeff Award Winner-Best Ensemble, Best Production of a Play), *Romeo and Juliet* (Teatro Vista), *Our Town* (Redtwist Theatre), *Cosmic Events are Upon Us* (Waltzing Mechanics), and *In the Heights* (Musical Fare Theatre). Short film credits include *Lost Boys Pizza* and *Hi8*. She is proudly represented by DDO Artists Agency.



Lauren Smith (Zoom) Lauren is excited to be back in the city and performing! Since growing up in a small town in Wisconsin, she knew from a young age that she had

dreams of moving to Chicago to pursue a career in theatre. Lauren studied Theatre at North Central College with a minor in dance. NCC credits include *Morticia* (*The Addams Family*), *Charity* (*Sweet Charity*), and *Thea* (*Spring Awakening*). Lauren has also been seen in *The Wizard of Oz* at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. She would like to thank her parents and sister for their unconditional support, her friends and aunt for making these first months in the city more amazing than she could have imagined, and Gray Talent for getting her this amazing opportunity.



Isabella Maria Valdes (Pipe)

Isabella is a proud New World School of the Arts alum, and recent graduate from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, marking

this their Chicago theatre debut. Isabella's most recent work includes *Huldey* in Jen Silverman's *The Moors* (Rutgers Theatre Company) as well as Sir Told Belch in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe).



Liliana Renteria

Liliana is thrilled to be a part of Steep Theatre's production of *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord!* She is looking forward to working with such an incredible cast and

crew. Coincidentally, Liliana is truly the little sister in a family of five amazing sisters. Liliana is sending so much love and shout outs to her whole family and her Maywood Fine Arts family! Liliana was last seen in the Chicago Lyric Opera's fall production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. And debuted in her first podcast in the Merry Beggars production of *On The Night Train*.



Adriel Irizarry

Adriel is a Chicago-born actor, having grown up in Romeoville, IL. He graduated from the American Musical & Dramatic Academy in NYC, having attended both

campuses in LA and NY. Recent theater credits include: Paul in *Sons of Hollywood* (Windy City Playhouse); Older Brother U/S in *The Leopard Play, or sad songs for lost boys* (Steep Theatre); Xavier in *Y Tu Abuela, Where is She: Part 1* (Visión Latino). Film credits include: *VITA* (opposite Joe Morton). He is a huge fan of all things NBA and the Chicago Bulls, Puerto Rico, and his favorite TV series, *ER*. Find him on Instagram (@irizarry). He is represented by Gray Talent Group.

Artists, continued



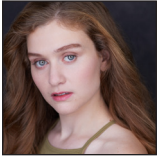
Isabella Abel-Suarez (Kit U/S)

Isabella is a Dominican-American actress who grew up in Las Vegas. She graduated from Southern Utah University in 2018, and has worked at Utah Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Rep, and Marriott Theatre in Chicago. Big thanks to Gray Talent Group. Love you mom, dad, & Lila.



Kandace Mack (Squeeze U/S)

Hailing from Omaha, Nebraska, Kandace is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. While she has played many roles in her time in school, she is excited to share that understudying Squeeze in *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* is her first professional opportunity. She is eager to learn from this process and continue to grow as an actor, and she hopes to grace many more Chicago stages in the future.



Jourdan Lewanda (Zoom U/S)

Jourdan is thrilled to be making her Steep Theatre debut! CHICAGO: *Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negroes* (Story Theatre u/s), *COWBOY PLAY* (Interrobang Theatre Project), *2 unfortunate 2 travel* (Prop Thtr), *Indecent* (Victory Gardens Theater u/s), *May Day* (RhinoFest). REGIONAL: *Life Sucks*, *The Old Man and The Old Moon* (Dobama Theatre), *Pinocchio*, *Charley's Aunt*, *The Jungle Book* (Peterborough Players). WORKSHOP: *The Enchanted* (Book by John Kander and Greg Pierce). FILM: *Widows* (Dir. Steve McQueen), *I Guess I'm Talking About This Now*. EDUCATION: Oberlin College, NTI at Moscow Art Theatre School. jourdanlewanda.com



Zoë DePreta (Pipe U/S)

Zoë is an actor, musician, and comedian from Stamford, CT. She has worked around Chicago with Kokandy Productions, Red Tape Theatre, Prop Thtr, Lifeline Theater, among several others. She is an alumna of the Professional Training Company at Actors Theatre of Louisville and holds a BA in Theater and Creative Writing from Oberlin College.



Aaliyah Montana (U/S)

Aaliyah is thrilled to join the Steep Theatre family. She is a 7th grader. Aaliyah previously played Chip in Paramount Theater's *Beauty and the Beast* and was in the Children's Ensemble for *Evita* at Drury Lane. Other credits include *Lion King Jr.* (Little Nala), *Annie* (July), and *Junie B. Jones Jr.* (Junie B. Jones). Special thank you to everyone who has helped her reach the stage. Represented by Gray Talent.



Raphael Diaz (U/S)

Raphael is happy to be here. Previously he has worked with First Floor Theatre, Teatro Vista, Raven, and Griffin. He is represented by DDO. Love and gratitude to his family and friends.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Alexis Scheer (Playwright) Alexis Scheer's plays include *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP Theater/ Second Stage, NYT Critic's Pick, John Gassner Award, Kilroy's List, LTC Carnival of New Latinx Work, Relentless Award semifinalist), *Laughs in Spanish* (Kennedy Center's Harold & Mimi Steinberg Award, NNPN Showcase), and *Christina* (O'Neil Finalist, Roe Green Award). Her work has been developed at the Kennedy Center, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, McCarter Theatre Center, Boston Playwrights' Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse, San Diego REP, and more. Alexis' favorite acting credits include the Boston premiere of *Blasted*, a storefront *Equus*, and a regional production of *Fiddler on the Roof* she did when she was 13 instead of getting Bat Mitzvah'ed (true story). Alexis is a proud New World School of the Arts alum, and holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and MFA in Playwriting from Boston University. She is currently under commission by Second Stage, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Miami New Drama. In television, Alexis is a writer on *Pretty Little Liars: Original Sin*, and is developing a project with HBO Max + Salma Hayek's *Ventanarosa*.

ARTISTS, continued

Sophiyaa Nayar (Director) Sophiyaa is from New Delhi, India. Directing (selected): *Shakuntala by Lavina Jadhvani* (Future Labs, Goodman); *Plural (Love)* by Jen Goma and Haruna Lee (film, WP); *EthiopianAmerica* by Sam Kabede (Definition); *Love in The Time of Jonestown* by Omer Abbas Salem (New Coordinates). AD (Off Broadway): *The Search for Signs...With Cecily Strong* (The Shed); *Nollywood Dreams* by Jocelyn Bioh (MCC); *Soft Power* by David Henry Hwang and Jeanine Tesori (The Public). Sophiyaa is a 3Arts Make a Wave Grantee, WP 20-22 lab member, Definition ensemble member, and Milwaukee Rep's 2017/18 resident. Upcoming: *Movement Live Tour* (Lincoln Center); *Mosque4Mosque* by Omer Abbas Salem (About Face Theatre). sophiayanayar.net

Lauren Lassus (Stage Manager) Lauren is a proud Steep Ensemble Member. She has stage managed *Light Falls*, *Pomona*, *Linda*, *Lela & Co.*, *Brilliant Adventures*, *Motortown*, and *Love and Money*. She is so excited to be back doing live theatre after the last couple of years! Thanks to the cast, and crew!

Eric Watkins (Lighting Designer) Eric is a lighting designer for theatre, opera, and dance based in Chicago. CHICAGO (selected): *Routes* (Remy Bumppo); *The Magnolia Ballet* (About Face Theatre); *Fireflies* (Northlight Theatre); *Sugar in Our Wounds* (Jeff Nomination) and *Hooded: or Being Black for Dummies* (First Floor Theater); *EthiopianAmerica* (Definition Theatre Company); *Machinal* (The Greenhouse Theater Center; Jeff nomination); *In The Blood* (Red Tape Theatre); *A Swell In The Ground* (The Gift Theatre); *The Man Who Was Thursday* (Lifeline Theatre); *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery* (Pegasus Theatre); *Punk* (The New Colony); *The Safe House* (City Lit Theater Company); *Bomber's Moon* (Williams Street Rep); *Fallen* (Mozawa); *Porcelain* (Prologue Theatre; Jeff nomination); *The Property* (Lyric Unlimited) and many more. REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL (selected): *Mrs. Harrison* (Indiana Rep); *Don Pasquale* (Fort Worth Opera); *Hansel and Gretel; Show Boat*; and *Falstaff* (Dallas Opera); *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Opera Santa Barbara and Kentucky Opera); *The Rake's Progress* (Merola Opera); *Barber of Seville* (Lithuanian National Opera); *Song of Home* (Theatre

Lumina–Eastern European tour). Eric received his MFA from Boston University and is a proud member of USA Local 829, the theatrical design union.

Liz Gomez (Associate Lighting Designer) Liz is thrilled to be a part of her first show with Steep. Recent design credits include: *Routes* (Remy Bumppo-ALD), *Fun Home* (Paramount Theatre-ALD), *The Tragedy of King Christophe* (House Theatre of Chicago-ALD), and *Passage* (Remy-Bumppo-Co-LD). She would like to thank Sophie for all of their love and support.

Serena Sandoval (Costume Designer) Serena is ecstatic to return to Steep, having previously assistant designed *Birdland!* Additional design credits: *Elf the Musical* (upcoming at Drury Lane Theatre, Asst. Design) *Dreamgirls* (Paramount Theatre, Asst. Design), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Mercury Theater), *The Magnificent Wonder*, *Cursed Costumes*, and *Another Castle* (Actors Gymnasium), *Lolita De Lares*, *Julia DeBurgos: Child Of Water* (Urban Theater), and *Dog Fight, Seussical The Musical Jr., Xanadu Jr.* (Bravo! Performing Arts Academy). Additional selected costume and wardrobe credits: *Emma* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* (Lookingglass Theatre), *Spamalot* (Mercury Theater), *Pippin* (Venus Cabaret). Serena dedicates this production to all her fellow BIPOC womxn creators.

Matthew Chapman (Sound Designer) Matthew is a proud ensemble member and last designed with Thomas Dixon for Steep's radio play, *Moony*, but he is delighted to return to the (new) Steep live stage after designing for *Earthquakes in London*, *The Few, Posh, The Cheats*, *The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle*, *Motortown*, *If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet*, *The Knowledge*, *2000 Feet Away*, and *Harper Regan*. He has also designed for Steppenwolf's *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* (stage and audio adaptations), *You Got Older*, *The Burials* and mixes and edits their Half Hour podcast; for Lyric Opera of Chicago's *Chicago Voices*; as well as for the world premieres: *Give It All Back*, *Mai Dang Lao* (Sideshow Theatre Company), *Prowess* (Jackalope Theatre), and *Body and Blood* (The Gift Theatre). He is Steppenwolf's *Look Out* Production Supervisor.

ARTISTS, continued

Lonnae Hickman (Props Designer) Lonnae grew up in Milwaukee but has adopted Chicago as her new home. She graduated from DePaul's Theatre School with a double major in Theatre and Culture History. She's worked with American Players Theatre, as well as Chicago Children's Theatre, Definition Theatre, Theatre Wit, and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, among many others. She's passionate about finding time to tell stories that not only need to be told but have slipped through the cracks of the theatre world.

Gaby Labotka (Intimacy & Fight Choreographer) Gaby is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist who works as an actor, director, intimacy director, fight director, and choreographer across the country. She is a fierce advocate for respect, empathy, representation, inclusion, and safety in the theatre, and they are dedicated to making art that reflects those values. They're excited to return to Steep after previously working on *Zurich!* Recent/Selected: *Last Ascent* (The New Coordinates, Movement & Intimacy Director); *Alma* (American Blues Theater, Intimacy & Fight Director); *House of Joy* (Repertory Theatre St. Louis, Fight & Intimacy Director); *Paradise Square* (Broadway, Intimacy Director); *Revenge Song* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Asst. Director/Asst. Fight Director); *La Ruta* (Steppenwolf, Fight Director); *[Transformation]* (The Living Canvas, Director/Deviser/Co-Choreographer); *This Wide Night* (Shattered Globe, Fight & Intimacy Director); *WHITE* (Definition Theatre, Intimacy Director); and *Romeo+ Juliet+ The Family Crest* (Jacaranda Collective, Prince and Fight Director): Gaby is a Certified Intimacy Director through Intimacy Directors & Coordinators, an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and the recipient of two Alliance of Latinx Theatre Artists Awards for Outstanding Fight Choreography. www.gabylabotka.com | @theatre_warrior

Jenn Freeman (Choreographer) Chicago-based burlesque artist Jenn Freeman also known as Po'Chop uses elements of dance, storytelling, and striptease to create performances and inspire students and collaborators across the country. Po'Chop is the creator and author of the *blogzine, The Brown Pages* and has performed at the Brooklyn Museum in Brown Girls Burlesque's *Bodyspeak*, at the Harris Theater for Music and

Dance for TedxChicago 2022 and headlined shows in New Orleans, Minneapolis, Denver, St. Louis and New York. Po'Chop is a Board Member & Cast Member for Jeezy's Juke Joint, an all *Black Burlesque Revue*. Po'Chop performs on Netflix's *Easy* (Season 2), appears in music videos for songs by Jamila Woods and Mykele Deville, and creates and performs in experimental dance films such as *LITANY*. Jenn was recognized as a 2022 United States Artist Fellow; a 2021 Foundation of Contemporary Art Grant for Artist recipient, selected as a 2019-2020 Urban Bush Women Choreographic Fellow and as a 2018 Chicago Dancemakers Lab Artist. Po'Chop was voted the #10 Most Influential Burlesque Artist by 21st Century Magazine and was dancer in residence at Rebuild Foundation in 2020.

Kristin Leahey (Dramaturg) Kristin (Ph.D.) is an Assistant Professor at Boston University. She served as the Director of New Works at Seattle Repertory Theatre and the Literary Manager at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company. She has freelanced with the O'Neill, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Trinity Repertory Theatre, Primary Stages, Classical Stage Company, New Dramatists, People's Light, Playwrights' Center, Dallas Stages, Classical Stage Company, New Dramatists, People's Light, Playwrights' Center, Dallas Theater Center, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Guthrie Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, The Lark, The Kennedy Center, The Old Globe, Ireland's Galway Arts Festival, Teatro Vista (artistic associate), and A Red Orchid Theatre, among others. She has her MA in from Northwestern University. She was with the WP 2020-22 Lab.

Sándor Menéndez (Dialect Coach) Sándor is a Cuban actor, director, and teaching artist. He is a graduate of Havana's Instituto Superior de Arte. For over ten years, he was part of Cuba's Teatro Buendía where he performed in various productions and with which he participated in several international festivals. In 2013, he reunited with Buendía in Chicago playing the role of Juan Preciado in Buendía's and Goodman Theater's co-production of *Pedro Páramo*. He is an ensemble member of Chicago's Aguijón Theater where he works as an actor, director, and instructor. He has developed his directorial career creating numerous productions with

ARTISTS, continued

standouts such as the world premieres of Abel González Melo's *Within* and *Epopeya and Rey Andujar's Adverses*, and *Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman.

Jennifer Aparacio (Production Manager) Jennifer has been working in the Chicago theater scene for the past several years as an Equity Stage Manager and freelance Production Manager. Select stage management credits include work with Victory Gardens, The Goodman Theatre, Theatre at the Center, Oak Park Festival Theatre, 16th Street Theater, and Lifeline Theatre. As a production manager, credits include work with Teatro Vista, Victory Gardens, Porchlight Music Theatre, Definition Theatre, Sideshow Theatre Company, and Oak Park Festival Theatre. Jennifer is an Artistic Associate with Teatro Vista and 16th Street Theater, and is a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Darren Brown (Technical Director) Darren is stoked to be collaborating with Steep, a long-admired company of his. Darren works in performance, technical theatre, and stage management throughout Chicagoland. Previously he served as Backstage Manager with the critically acclaimed cirque-cabaret show *Teatro ZinZanni* in the Loop. Darren is a recent recipient of a 2020 Chicago/Midwest Regional Emmy Award for the children's television show, *Adventures of Em*, on which he worked as the Lead Puppeteer and Scenic Designer. Darren has also built stages with Glass Apple Theatre, Teatro ZinZanni, Lookingglass Theatre, Writers Theatre, Chicago Opera Theater, Chamber Opera Chicago, Theater Urbano, Time Line Theatre, and Victory Gardens, among others; his most recent show is Prop Thtr's *The Cleanup* (Technical Director). Darren also serves on the creative team for Ohio Playwrights Circle as a script doctor and workshop coordinator, and as the Artistic Director for the *Rocky Horror* company, Dayton Rocky, now celebrating their 15th season. Darren holds an MFA in Acting from The University of Connecticut. In addition to traditional stage work, he has a particular affinity for working in puppetry and voiceover.

Lucy Carapetyan (Casting Director) Lucy first worked with Steep as an actor in 2008, and has been an ensemble member since 2015. As

Casting Director, Lucy is committed to diversifying our stages, making our stories reflect our community, and collaborating with directors to create an empowering and joyful audition room. She is proud to be part of bringing Steep's on-stage ensembles together show after show. Lucy is a graduate of Northwestern University.

Lili Bjorklund (Assistant Stage Manager) Lili is a freelance stage manager and the Resident Stage Manager for Death & Pretzels. Other works include *A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre, 2021), *Shout! The Mod Musical* (Metropolis) *The Abuelas and Hope: Part II* (Teatro Vista), *Poison* (The Plagiarists), *The Light Youth Festival* (Collaboration, 2021), *Musical Therapy* (Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, 2018), *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* (Strawdog Theatre, 2018) and *Fun Harmless Warmachine* (The New Coordinates), They hold a degree in Theatre for Social Change from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, IA.

Jessica Gowens (Assistant Costume Designer) Jessie is an independent Costume Designer and Wardrobe Supervisor. She received her Bachelor of Science in Technical Theater and Design. Since then she has been working as the Resident Wardrobe Supervisor at DePaul University Theater School and designing freelance around the city. Most recently she worked on *Jekyll & Hyde* with Idle Muse Theater at The Edge Off Broadway. She previously worked with Theater Above the Law on their productions of *Hench People*, *Digging Up Dessa*, and *Grimm* (2021). Jessie also supervised *Love Actually: The Unauthorized Parody Musical* and *Bachelor: The Unauthorized Parody Musical* put on by Right Angle Theater at the Apollo Theater.

Amber Sallis (Young Performer Supervisor) Amber is thrilled to be back on stage after two long years post pandemic! She is a proud ensemble member of Steep Theatre and Imagination Theatre. Selected theatrical credits include: *Top Girls* (Remy Bumppo), *Paris, Pomona, Hinter, Mosquitos, Earthquakes in London*, (Steep), touring Chicago and suburban public schools (Imagination Theatre) and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (Eclectic Full Contact Theatre). She is a BFA graduate of Northern Illinois University.

LOCAL LATINX-LED BUSINESSES

Steep Theatre is proud to celebrate Latinx voices by highlighting some of Chicago's amazing Latinx theatres and Latinx-led businesses. This list, curated by members of the *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* production team, is just a tiny sample - we encourage you to get out and explore more!

THEATERS

Agujón Theater

Instagram: @aguijontheater

Website: aguijontheater.org

Teatro Vista

Instagram: @teatrovista

Website: teatrovista.org

UrbanTheater Company (UTC)

Instagram: @urbantheater

Website: urbantheaterchicago.org

Visión Latino Theatre Company

Instagram: @visionlatino

Website: visionlatino.com

BUSINESSES

The Honeycomb Network - *Community space & apothecary gift shop*

Instagram: @thehoneycombnetwork

Website: thehoneycombnetwork.com

Latinx Gift Shop - *Gift shop*

Instagram: @mestizashop

Website: mestizashop.com

Plant Stand Collective - *Chicago plant shop*

Instagram: @plantsandcollective

Website: plantsandcollective.com

SPECIAL THANKS

Jason Akemann

Charlotte Berry

Manasi Bhattacharyya

The Bramble

Mary Brennan

Ally Brisbin

Allison Cain

Monica Chadha

Deb Clapp

Dave Cocagne

Columbia College

Chicago

Don Cortelyou

Liz DeBoni

Lee Dickson

Edgewater Chamber of

Commerce

Kelly Fitzgerald

Diane & Ian Galleher

Jerry Goodman

Jane Hollinger

Molly Johnson

Kosmo Music

Zubin Kammala

Kurt Kolar

Eileen LaCario

Allison Lipsman

Dan Luna

Leo Mendoza

Liz McGarry

Elisa Miller

Lee Miller

Betsy Moore

Gabe Morrison

Bridget O'Keefe

Alderman Harry

Osterman

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Euna Park

Amanda Passmore

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David Raino-Ogden

Kathleen Rafferty

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Jeff Riemer

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Alderman Mary Ann

Smith

The School at

Steppenwolf

Patrick Shanahan

Janet Stengle

Steppenwolf Theatre

Jess Vance

Smitha Vasan

Jack Wallace

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Steep Theatre sits on Native land. This area is the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires, including the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa. American Indians continue to call this area home, and now Chicago is home to the sixth largest Urban American Indian community that still practices their heritage, traditions, and care for the land and waterways. For over 200 years Native Nations have been forcibly removed from this territory, and this land continues to be a site of gathering and healing for more than a dozen other Tribal Nations. You can support them by supporting Native art and artists, organizers, activists, and people in your home and work communities in concrete ways, and by moving with awareness, compassion, and bravery.

No matter where you are coming from or how you got here, we invite you to move respectfully with us on this land and in this space.

DONORS

Steep Theatre is profoundly grateful to the following supporters for their generous contributions.
This list reflects gifts received between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022.

Season Sponsor

The Bayless Family
Foundation

Production Sponsors

Shirley & David
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Through the *Lights Up Edgewater* campaign, Steep is creating a new home for art, artists, and community. Learn more at steeptheatre.com/lightsup.

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- A reserved seat at each of the next three plays for one low price (25% discount)
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Visit the Box Office to purchase your Steep Pass today, or check it out online at steeptheatre.com/pass. Scan the code to visit the website.





steeptheatre.com

Steep Theatre Company is an ensemble of artists driven by a shared commitment to the organization's mission: to bring out the everyday truths in the stories we tell through ensemble work and to reach out to non-traditional theatregoers by seeking out stories and creating experiences relevant to them.

Steep believes theatre should stoke conversations about the issues and conditions that are part of all of our lives; conversations that take place between artists and audiences in the theatre, in the lobby, and long after everyone has gone home.

PRODUCTIONS

Light Falls by Simon Stephens July 2022
Paris by Eboni Booth June 2022
*The Leopard Play, or sad songs for lost boys**
 by Issac Gomez Jan 2020
Mosquitoes by Lucy Kirkwood Oct 2019
Pomona by Alistair McDowall July 2019
First Love is the Revolution
 by Rita Kalnejais April 2019
*Red Rex** by Ike Holter Jan 2019
Zürich by Amelia Roper Oct 2018
Linda by Penelope Skinner July 2018
Birdland by Simon Stephens April 2018
*Hinte** by Calamity West Jan 2018
The Invisible Hand by Ayad Akhtar Oct 2017
Lela & Co. by Cordelia Lynn July 2017
Hookman by Lauren Yee April 2017
Earthquakes in London
 by Mike Bartlett Jan 2017
*Bobbie Clearly** by Alex Lubischer Sept 2016
Wastwater by Simon Stephens July 2016
The Few by Samuel D. Hunter April 2016
Posh by Laura Wade Jan 2016
*The Cheats** by Hamish Linklater Oct 2015
Brilliant Adventures
 by Alistair McDowall July 2015
Martyr by Marius von Mayenburg April 2015
The Life and Sort of Death of Eric Argyle
 by Ross Dungan Jan 2015
The Vandal by Hamish Linklater Oct 2014
A Small Fire by Adam Bock July 2014
If There Is I Haven't Found It Yet
 by Nick Payne May 2014
strangers, babies by Linda McLean Jan 2014
Motortown by Simon Stephens Sept 2013
Fallow by Kenneth Lin July 2013
The Knowledge by John Donnelly April 2013
Luther by Ethan Lipton Jan 2013
Making Noise Quietly
 by Robert Holman Oct 2012
Moment by Dierdre Kinahan July 2012
The Receptionist by Adam Bock April 2012
Love and Money by Dennis Kelly Jan 2012
Under the Blue Sky
 by David Eldridge Oct 2011
Pornography by Simon Stephens July 2011
Festen by David Eldridge, Thomas Vinterberg,
 Morgan Rukov, Bo Hr. Hansen May 2011
Lakeboat by David Mamet Jan 2011
A Brief History of Helen of Troy
 by Mark Shultz Sept 2010

2,000 Feet Away by Anthony Weigh May 2010
Harper Regan by Simon Stephens Jan 2010
Kill the Old Torture Their Young
 by David Harrower Oct 2009
The Hollow Lands by Howard Korder June 2009
Parlour Song by Jez Butterworth March 2009
In Arabia We'd All Be Kings
 by Stephen Adly Guirgis Jan 2009
*Seven Days** by Egan Reich Oct 2008
Greensboro: A Requiem
 by Emily Mann May 2008
Breathing Corpses by Laura Wade Feb 2008
Coronado by Dennis Lehane Sept 2007
Insignificance by Terry Johnson July 2007
The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui
 by Bertolt Brecht May 2007
Otherwise Engaged by Simon Gray Feb 2007
The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
 by Stephen Adly Guirgis Sept 2006
Bang the Drum Slowly by Mark Harris,
 adapted by Eric Simonson June 2006
Of Mice and Men
 by John Steinbeck March 2006
The Night Heron
 by Jez Butterworth March 2006
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller Oct 2005
Book of Days by Lanford Wilson June 2005
Incident at Vichy by Arthur Miller March 2005
Howie the Rookie by Mark O'Rowe Oct 2004
Dealer's Choice by Patrick Marber Aug 2004
The Time Trial by Jack Gilhooley May 2004
The Hothouse by Harold Pinter Aug 2003
Below the Belt by Richard Dresser Aug 2003
My Donkey Lady by John Wilson Aug 2003
The Job by Shem Bitterman May 2003
The Aspidistra Code
 by Mark O'Rowe Oct 2002
Geography of a Horse Dreamer
 by Sam Shepard June 2002
*These Flowers are for My Mother**
 by Michael McGuire March 2002
Pvt. Wars by James McLure Sept 2001
Search and Destroy
 by Howard Korder Aug 2001
Life During Wartime
 by Keith Reddin March 2001

* World Premiere



LIGHTS UP EDGEWATER

A New Home for Art, Artists,
and Community

A \$3 million campaign to

- ◆ Purchase and renovate Steep's new home at 1044 W Berwyn Ave
- ◆ Invest in artists through increasingly equitable compensation
- ◆ Build on our commitment to fiscal sustainability



Having a home venue has been a vital part of our story over the past twenty years. It has allowed us to create a uniquely warm, inviting atmosphere that supports honest, fearless work from artists and emboldens audiences to engage in challenging stories and conversations. It has grounded us in our community. As we move forward, we are inspired to create a cultural resource for neighbors, artists, and audiences alike.

Join us as we invest in this future together.

Learn more at steeptheatre.com/lightsup

