

The Chosen

September 28 - October 15, 2023

EXTENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 22!



1st
STAGE 

1st Stage
With generous support from

EILEEN MANDELL

Presents

The Chosen

ADAPTED BY
AARON POSNER and CHAIM POTOK
From the novel by Chaim Potok

DIRECTED BY
ALEX LEVY

FEATURING

ZACH BREWSTER-GEISZ
David Malter

SASHA OLINICK*
Reb Saunders

ETHAN MILLER
Reuven Malter

JACOB PELZMAN-KERN
Daniel Saunders

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

SOUND DESIGN AND COMPOSER
ETHAN BALIS

DIALECT COACH
JANE MARGULIES KALBFELD

SCENIC DESIGN
NADIR BEY

INTIMACY COORDINATOR
LORRAINE RESSEGGER-SLONE

LIGHTING DESIGN
WILLIAM K. D'EUGENIO+

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DEIDRA LAWAN STARNES

COSTUME DESIGN
RAKELL FOYE

STAGE MANAGER
SARAH USARY

PROPS DESIGN
LUKE HARTWOOD

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
LUÍS RAMON CÓRDOVEZ

The Chosen was co-produced by the Arden Theatre Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Terrence J. Nolen, Producing Artistic Director; Amy L. Murphy, Managing Director) and the City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Marc Masterson, Artistic Director) on March 11, 1999.

This play was developed in part through a workshop made possible by Frank Gagliano and The Showcase of New Plays at Carnegie-Mellon University.

This production is made possible in part by gifts from
our generous 1st Stage donors and with the support of



* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States, appearing under a Special Appearance Contract.
+ Member, United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829

THE PLAYWRIGHT



AARON POSNER has written numerous plays. All but one are adaptations of short stories, novels, novellas, or plays. His canon of work includes *JQA* (fully original), *The Heal*, *Life Sucks*, *No Sisters*, *District Merchants*, *Who Am I This Time? & Other Conundrums of Love*, *My Name is Asher Lev*, *Sometimes A Great Notion*, *Cyrano* (with Michael Hollinger), *A Murder, A Mystery & A Marriage* (with composer James Sugg), *The Gift of Nothing* (with composer Andy Mitton), *ME...JANE: The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall*. In 2015, his reimaging of Chekhov's *The Seagull*, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, was one of the ten most produced plays in the country. Aaron's plays have received over 400 productions including Off-Broadway (*My Name is Asher Lev* and *Life Sucks*), major international theatres, such as Australia, Canada, Estonia, Luxembourg, and Sweden, with future productions planned for Argentina, England, Italy, Spain, major American regional theatres, universities, high schools, community theatres, and all manner of amateur companies. Mr. Posner has received six Helen Hayes Awards, two Barrymore Awards, The Outer Circle Critics Award, a Joseph Jefferson Award, an Elliott Norton Award, The Bay Area Theatre Critics Award, The John Gassner Prize, an Off-Broadway Alliance Award, and more. Additionally, he is a celebrated director and has directed more than 100 productions at major regional theaters across the country including The Alliance Theatre, American Players Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, Arden Theatre, Arena Stage, Artists Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Folger Theatre, Ford's Theatre, Imagination Stage, The Kennedy Center, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Round House Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, South Coast Rep, and Two River Theater.

DID YOU KNOW?

1st Stage offers free 5 artist tickets each performance.

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THE DIRECTOR



ALEX LEVY has been the Artistic and Executive Director of 1st Stage since 2014. Alex's 1st Stage directing credits include *The Last Match*, *How the Light Gets In*, *The Phlebotomist*, *Secret Things*, *Trying*, *columbinus*, the American premiere of *Hero's Welcome*, the world premiere of *Swimming with Whales* (6 Helen Hayes nominations including "Outstanding Director"), *The Farnsworth Invention* (6 Helen Hayes Nominations

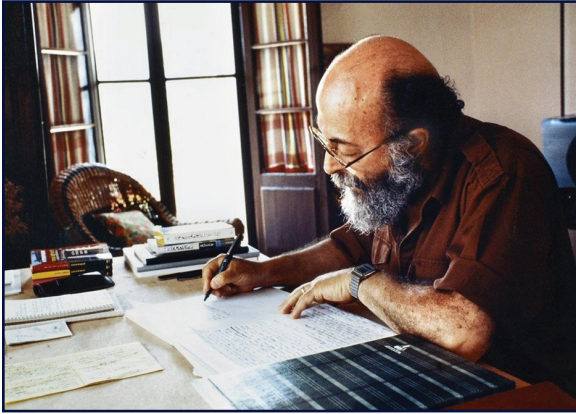
including "Outstanding Director"), *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* (winner of 2 Helen Hayes Awards and The BroadwayWorld Award for "Outstanding Production of a Play"), the regional premiere of *Trevor* (2018 Helen Hayes nomination for "Outstanding Production of a Play"), *Lobby Hero* (named Best Regional Revival of 2016 by *The Wall Street Journal*), *Proof*, *The Good Counselor* (BroadwayWorld DC Award for "Best Director of a Play"). Since Alex joined 1st Stage, the company has won several awards including the American Theatre Wing's "National Theatre Company Grant" and was named "One of America's most impressive smaller theater companies" by *The Wall Street Journal*. Since Alex joined 1st Stage the company has won or been nominated for the Helen Hayes Award for "Outstanding Production" eight times. Before joining 1st Stage, Alex served as the Artistic Director of Ballybeg Theatre in New York City and Artistic Director of Pegasus Players in Chicago. In March 2017, his award-winning play *Safe at Home* was produced at Mixed Blood Theater at CHA Field, the home of the St. Paul Saints in St. Paul, Minnesota and was recently produced again at Tempe Diablo Stadium, the spring training facility of the Los Angeles Angels. Alex holds an MFA in Directing from The University of California-Los Angeles.

"While I think the play's core is universal, it has been especially meaningful to me to dig into the Jewish questions. To wrestle with my own perception of what brings our community together and what divides us." - Alex Levy

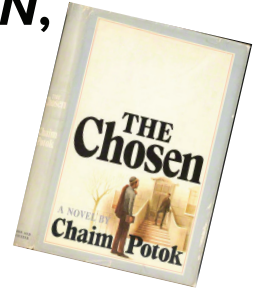
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CHAIM POTOK, *THE CHOSEN*, AND OUR MODERN WORLD



Credit: Granger Historical Picture Archive/Alamy



I think that those are the ages where individuals from any given culture are profoundly affected by ideas that might come to them from other cultures.

-Chaim Potok, interview by Seattle Pacific University

Chaim Potok was born Herman Harold Potok on February 17, 1929, to Polish immigrant parents. Raised in an Orthodox household, Potok had close ties to Hasidism through his family line. His desire to closely examine the bonds and divides of secular and religious life started to bloom early on in his life.

Potok began with a strong interest in writing. At about the age of 16, he encountered two life-changing novels: *Brideshead Revisited* and James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. Fascinated by their use of language to animate a world outside of his own, Potok started writing as a means to express his growing questions with the world. Graduating from Yeshiva University with a degree in English, Potok went on to attend the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and become ordained as a Conservative rabbi. He also obtained a master's degree in Hebrew literature, and went on to foster an illustrious career as a writer and editor.

The Chosen was first published in 1967, and started a thematic trend that is present in many of Potok's works: dissecting the needs of tradition versus modernity in Judaism, and how secular and religious life can overlap more than one might expect. Potok's works reflect his own seemingly contradictory life; as a professor, an artist, a rabbi, a writer, a lover of art and a devout follower of his faith. Yet Potok sought to remain a strong questioner and seek truth beyond restriction. In his following works, including *The Promise* and *My Name is Asher Lev*, Potok continues examining the relationship between art and religion, and what he calls the Western secular world growing around the characters.

Chaim Potok died on July 23, 2002, at the age of 73.

THE CAST



ZACH BREWSTER-GEISZ (DAVID MALTER) is excited to be making his 1st Stage debut. Previous shows include: Keegan Theatre: *The Outsider* (Ned Newley) (Helen Hayes Award nominee, Outstanding Lead Performer in a Play, Helen; and recipient: Outstanding Ensemble, Helen); Avant Bard: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom); Rorschach Theatre: *Annie Jump and the Library of Heaven* (Dr. Jump); NextStop Theatre: *East of Eden* (Adam), *Richard III* (Hastings/Lord Mayor); Prologue Theatre: *Grand Concourse* (Frog), *The Explorers Club* (Sir Humphries); Pallas Theatre Collective: *Assassins* (Charles Guiteau); Annapolis Shakespeare Company: *Kiss Me Kate* (First Gangster); Chesapeake Shakespeare Company: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Verges), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Lindner); Baltimore Shakespeare Factory: *The Tempest* (Prospero), *King Lear* (Cornwall), *The Merchant of Venice* (Antonio), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Bottom). Television work includes *We Own This City* (HBO) and the forthcoming *Lady in the Lake* (Apple TV+). He is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and teaches at the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. www.ZachBG.com



ETHAN MILLER (REUVEN MALTER) is thrilled to be back for his third production at 1st Stage! Previous productions include: *The Last Match* (Sergei), and *Swimming With Whales* (Owen). Other past productions include: *Macbeth* (The Drunk Shakespeare Society), *The Watch on the Rhine* (Arena Stage), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (The Theater at Monmouth). Ethan is proud to be working on a production that is not only so personal to him and his Jewish identity, but also so relevant to the world today. Education: The University of Minnesota Guthrie BFA Actor Training Program.



SASHA OLINICK (REB SAUNDERS) returns to 1st Stage having performed previously in *The Phlebotomist* and *Fly By Night* (Helen Hayes award Best Ensemble/Best Musical) LOCAL CREDITS INCLUDE: *Beauty & the Beast* (Olney Theatre Center); *Einstein's Wife* (ExPats Theatre); *Two Jews Walk Into A War*, *Love Sick*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *The Last Schwartz*, *G-d's Honest Truth*, *Life Sucks*, *Yentl*, *Our Class* (Theater J); *Secrets of the Universe* (Helen Hayes nomination Best Actor), *Abominable*, *A Man, his Wife and his Hat* (The Hub Theatre, company member); *Oslo*, *Amadeus*, *The Book Club Play*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*, *A Prayer for Owen Meany* (Round House Theatre); *The Music Man* (Arena Stage); *King John* (Folger Shakespeare Library); *Chasing George Washington*, *OLIVÉrio* (Kennedy Center TYA); *Jungle Book*, *Wind In The Willows* (Imagination Stage); Film and Television Credits: *Enemy of The Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story*, *VEEP*, *Minyan Duty*. Sasha holds an MFA in acting from The Trinity Rep Conservatory and teaches acting at Montgomery College, the National Conservatory of Dramatic Art and through the Educational Theatre Company.

THE CAST



JACOB PELZMAN-KERN (DANIEL SAUNDERS) is a fresh graduate from University of Maryland, and is elated to be working with this wonderful cast and crew. In the past he has played other roles, such as: (Werewolf) Romeo, Jason “JD” Dean, Chico Marx, and an actual bull. Jacob is also currently playing Banquo with the DC production of *Drunk Shakespeare*. He would like to thank all the people who helped him along the way, and made this impossible dream possible!



STEPHEN RUSSELL MURRAY (UNDERSTUDY)
Olney Theatre: *Kinky Boots*, *The Music Man*; Signature Theatre: *Which Way to the Stage*, *Spin*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Shakespeare's R&J*; Folger Theatre: *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*, *Pericles*, *The Way of the World*; ; Arena Stage: *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls*; Keegan Theatre: *Legally Blonde*, *Chicago*, *Spring Awakening*, *What We're Up Against*, *American Idiot*; Constellation Theatre: *Little Shop of Horrors*; 1st Stage: *Never the Sinner*; 4615 Theatre: *Separate Rooms*; Pointless Theatre: *Rhinoceros*; Spooky Action Theater: *Maple & Vine*; Adventure Theatre: *Winnie the Pooh*. Education: MFA Classical Acting, Shakespeare Theatre Company www.stephenrussellmurray.com

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Connecting our community through artwork, stories, and conversation.

Following the 2 PM Performance

10/14/23: Meet the Director

Chat with 1st Stage Artistic Director and director of *The Chosen*, Alex Levy about the process of bringing this story to life.



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-THE PRODUCTION TEAM-

ETHAN BALIS (Sound Design, Composer) has composed music and designed sound for three productions with 1st Stage - 2021's *Secret Things*, 2019's *Trying*, and 2018's Helen-Hayes-nominated *The Farnsworth Invention*. Other recent credits include sound design and compositions for *MacBeth* (We Happy Few), *Pericles* (We Happy Few), and *Coolatully* (Solás Nua); scoring the hit DC Fringe Festival play *Ambien Date Night*; and string compositions for the Doha Tribeca Film Festival selection *Blue Dive*. He also arranged strings for the National Archives Foundation's ceremony honoring the creators of the musical *Hamilton*.

NADIR BEY (Set Design) is a freelance scenic designer, who received his BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA). DC based. He is also the Technical Director at Mosaic Theater where he charged build of *In His Hands* and *The Till Trilogy*. Selected recent design credits include *Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner* (Brown), *The Agitators* (Theater at Monmouth), *The Bacchae 2.1* (Hangar), *Christmas Eve* (Expatriate), *Maz & Bricks*, *The Playboy of the Western World* (Solás Nua) *Little Women* (NextStop), and *Chemical Exile* (Rorschach).

LUÍS RAMON CÓRDOVEZ (Assistant Stage Manager, They/Them) Luís is a Puerto Rican/Taino Stage Manager and Actor based in DC, who is very excited to be a part of this season at 1st Stage! They are excited to have a wonderfully rich historical piece as the kickoff the 23-24 season. They would also like to dedicate a few words to one of their greatest supporters: Nanichi' Cameron, uara' da eracra, roco zi da asu. Previous stage management credits include: *The Hula Hoopin' Queen* with Imagination Stage (PSM); *Tick Tick Boom* with Monumental Theater Company(PSM); *Acoustic Rooster's Barnyard Boogie*: starring Indigo Blume at Kennedy Center TYA(ASM).

WILLIAM K. D'EUGENIO (Lighting Designer, he/him) returns to 1st Stage where he previously designed *Trying* and *The Brothers Size* [*Helen Hayes Recipient]. Recent favorite lighting credits include: *Good Bones* (Studio Theatre); *Love Like Tuesday* (Faction Of Fools); *In His Hands* and *Native Son* (Mosaic); *Cinderella* (Imagination Stage); *The Events, Mnemonic, Still Life with Rocket*, and *Word Becomes Flesh* [*Helen Hayes Recipient] (Theater Alliance), *Long Way Down* (The Kennedy Center). His television credits include: *Robert Glasper's Black Radio*, *Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra*, *Let My Children Hear Mingus*, *A Joni Mitchell Songbook* (PBS/NEXT at the Kennedy Center); and *The 36th Annual Hispanic Heritage Awards* (PBS), among others. More recent concert designs include: *Declassified: Laufey, dodie & Jacob Collier*; *Gavin Creel in Concert*, *CeCe Winans, What's Going On NOW*, *An Evening with Ne-Yo*, *Ben Rector & Cody Fry*, *Robert Glasper & Jason Moran*, *Ledisi Sings Nina* (The Kennedy Center). You can see his work onstage again for *A Holiday Pops! w/ Norm Lewis* (Kennedy Center). Proud member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829.

RAKELL FOYE (Costume Design) This is her first production with 1st Stage. Other credits include—*Othello/Desdemona* (INSeries) *Flyin' West* (Bowie State University); *Tale of Tarot* (1939 Studios); *Dreamgirls* (Bowie State University). Education: BS, Acting/Directing, Bowie State University.

-THE PRODUCTION TEAM-

LUKE HARTWOOD (Props Design, he/him) is a queer Asian-American designer and artisan based in unceded Manahoac land “Northern Virginia”. He is a recent graduate of George Mason University and is thrilled to be designing his first show with 1st Stage. Recent credits include *A Nice Indian Boy* (Olney Theater Center); *Baño de Luna* and *Kumanana!* (GALA Hispanic Theatre); and *Angel Number Nine* (Rorschach Theater Company). Lukehartwood.com

JANE MARGULIES KALBFELD (Dialect, Casting Director Emerita) is a Founding Artist, and an original incorporation 1st Stage Signatory. She was the Assistant Director for *The Suicide*, *Violet Hour*, *The Game of Love and Chance*, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *By the Bog of Cats*, *Mauritius*, and co-directed the raucous comedy, *Pig Farm*, with Founding Artistic Director Mark Krikstan. Jane has directed fund-raising galas, coached numerous dialects and accents (at least 7 different ones for *Red Herring*) and coached vocalists for musicals and plays, and has provided background singing for numerous 1st Stage productions. Jane has performed in New York, London and in the DMV. One of her favorite stage experiences was playing the powerfully wise, but comically, speech-befuddled stroke victim, Gertie in *Fuddy Mears*, at 1st Stage. Jane Additionally, she teaches singing, acting, and audition preparation in her private studio. She was a student of the legendary Stella Adler, apprenticed to Helena Shenel and Richard Alda in London in Classical Vocal Pedagogy and Bel Canto, has her BFA/Drama from NYU, and is certified at the highest level in Musical Theatre Singing, Somatic Voicework, The LoVetri Method© from the Contemporary Commercial Music Vocal Pedagogy Institute at Shenandoah U's Graduate School.

RASHAUD MATTHEWS (Crew, They/Them), BSU Grad; B.S. Theatre Arts (2020), is A proud black Non-Binary DMV Theater Artist. Rashaud’s artistic mission is to be the voice for the voiceless. Currently, Rashaud is full-time Drama Teacher for Prince George’s County Public Schools. Their recent credits include directorial, supportive and performative. Credits: *Voices Unbarred* (Ally Theatre) Young Playwriting Theatre (DCPCS), *Rock Paper Scissors* (Soulshine Theatre), *Voices of Now* (Arena Stage), *Mojada* (1st Stage) Touring: *Fences* (National Players) *Much Ado About Nothing* (National Players) Director/Assistant Director: *A Different Cinderella Story* (Diamonds Unite), *Duck Harbor* (1st Stage), *What to Send Up When it Goes Down* (BSU Theatre). You can follow Rashaud on their artistic journeys/endeavors: Instagram: @Rashaudist FB:@Rashaud Matthews. “Keep on shining; you beautiful beings.”

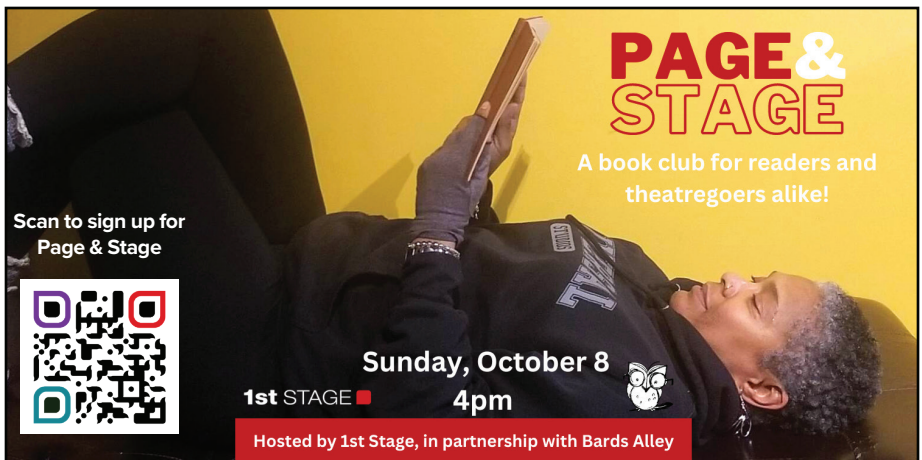
SARAH USARY (Stage Manager) is a stage manager based in northern Virginia. Previous credits—*The Last Match*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *Fly By Night*, *The Farnsworth Invention* (ASM), and *My Name is Asher Lev* (1st Stage); *Frankenstein*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Wolves*, *East of Eden* (NextStop Theatre Company); *She Kills Monsters* (Maryland Entertainment Group); *Assassins*, *Dracula* (Cumberland Theatre); *West Side Story* (SM), *Neswies*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (ASM, Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre). Education—BFA Theatre Design and Production, Shenandoah University.

-THE PRODUCTION TEAM-

LORRAINE RESSEGGER-SLONE (Intimacy Coordinator, she/her)

1st Stage: *The Last Match, The Rainmaker, How the Light Gets In, The Phlebotomist, Secret Things, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Baltimore Center Stage: *The Garden, How to Catch Creation*; Round House Theatre: *Spring Awakening*; Woolly Mammoth: *Describe the Night, BLKS, Botticelli in the Fire, Oedipus el Rey, Mr. Burns, a Post-Electric Play*; Shakespeare Theatre Company: *Much Ado About Nothing, Our Town, The Silent Woman*. Taffety Punk: *Pramkicker*. Taffety Punk Riot Grrrls: *Romeo and Juliet, Titus Andronicus*. Academy for Classical Acting: *Tis a Pity She's a Whore*, Theatre at Monmouth Summer Repertory 2022. Education—MFA: Virginia Commonwealth University.


DEIDRA LAWAN STARNES (Associate Artistic Director) is a theatre educator, performer, and director throughout the DMV. Her 1st Stage acting credits include *Mlima's Tale, Wanda's Way, The Mamalogues, The Member of the Wedding*, and *The Good Counselor*. Other regional credits include *The Hula Hoopin' Queen, The Amen Corner, Amadeus, Milk Like Sugar, The Gospel Of Loving-Kindness, Julius Caesar, Invisible Man* (Helen Hayes Award Most Outstanding Ensemble), *Intimate Apparel* (Helen Hayes Award), *A Raisin In The Sun, I Have Before Me A Remarkable Document...., Two Trains Running, Spunk, Twelve Days Of Christmas, Charlotte's Web, Passing Strange, In The Red And Brown Water, Radio Golf, King Lear, Doubt*, and *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf*, Directed By Ntozake Shange. Film Credits Include *Chasing Refuge, Nocturnal Agony*, and *Ladder 49*. Directing Credits Include *The Rainmaker* (Helen Hayes Nomination For Most Outstanding Production), *A Civil War Christmas, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Helen Hayes Nomination For Most Outstanding Production) (1st Stage); *'Night Mother* (Anacostia Playhouse); *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow Is Enuf* (Theater Alliance); *Street Life* and *The Name Game* (DC Theatre Festival); *Soul Collector* (Port City Playhouse); *Once On This Island, Jr.* and *101 Dalmatians* (The Theatre Lab Summer Musical Camp For Tweens). She Holds a BA in Theatre from the University of Maryland, an MFA in Drama from the University of Connecticut, and an MA in Producing Film, TV, and Video from American University. She is currently an Adjunct Professor at Bowie State University.




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Sunday, October 8
1st STAGE ■ 4pm



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A SPECIAL THANK YOU
TO THE PRODUCER OF
The Chosen
EILEEN MANDELL



I saw the first show at 1st Stage in October 2008. It was a tough year. My husband, Steve, died in April of that year. I'd been asked to join the Board of the theatre in his place, and I did so happily. I've always been a theatre lover! Over the years the talent of the actors, directors, designers of set, sound, lighting, costume and more, and of our little staff, which has grown into a magnificent, larger, group of humans, has amazed and delighted me.

The playwrights who craft words into characters, dialogue and stories that intrigue and thrill us as we sit in a dark space together deserve special appreciation for understanding how to make magic. *The Chosen*, a densely written book, has been lovingly adapted, by Aaron Posner and its original author, the late Chaim Potok. Hearing it read at 1st rehearsal a few weeks ago was a thrill. I can't wait to see what our team does with this beautiful material.

For the last 15 years, I've watched this gem of a theatre, get better and better. I look forward to the '23-'24 season with great anticipation and wonder. I know 1st Stage will continue to create amazing work, as it has in the past, because we are sitting together here, supporting great art, in this intimate and comfortable space.

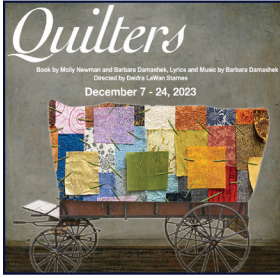
I know that Steve, a TOTAL Tysons booster, would be so proud of the accomplishments and the miles we've travelled to bring this great art so far.

BECOME A PRODUCER

Producerships give 1st Stage the foundation to take risks and offer the necessary resources to a production's creative team to realize their vision. It is a vital partnership that provides the opportunity to elevate the work to a higher level, bringing in the most talented artists and designers to create world-class theatre right here in Tysons.

**Interested in what it means to be a 1st Stage producer?
Contact Heidi Fortune Picker for details at heidifortune@1stStage.org**

2023-2024 SEASON



Quilters, December 7 to 24, 2023

Book by Molly Newman and Barbara Damashek with lyrics and music by Barbara Damashek.
Directed by Deidra LaWan Starnes.

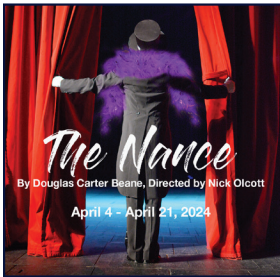
Set on the American frontier, this moving musical tells the story of a group of women who come together to create a quilt that reflects their shared history, struggles, and triumphs. The story blends a series of interrelated scenes into a rich mosaic which captures the sweep and beauty, the terror and joy, the harsh challenge and abiding rewards of frontier life. With soaring harmonies, touching monologues, and stunning choreography, *Quilters* is a musical experience unlike any other. "*Quilters* is a show pieced together with love and stitched with pride...a thing of beauty, comfort and joy." - *New York Post*



Shutter Sisters, February 1 to 18, 2024

By Mansa Ra.
Directed by Eric Ruffin.

This sweet and funny tale explores the parallel lives of two women. A white woman named Michael struggles with strained family relationships at her adopted mother's funeral, while a Black woman named Mykal navigates a challenge of her own: becoming an empty nester. A surrealist journey through womanhood, identity, and what it means to belong. "*Shutter Sisters* is a very enjoyable and empathetic look at how connections between mothers, daughters, friends, and even strangers impact the story of your life." - *Broadway World*



The Nance, April 4 to 21, 2024

By Douglas Carter Beane.
Directed by Nick Olcott.

This witty, Tony Award-Nominated play, filled with music, dance, and comedy sketches, introduces us to Chauncey Miles, a gay burlesque performer at the Irving Place Theater. *The Nance* recreates the naughty, raucous world of burlesque's heyday and tells the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. At a time when it was easy to play gay and dangerous to be gay, Chauncey's uproarious antics on the stage stand out in marked contrast to his offstage life. A "funny but bittersweet portrait of a vanished era". - *The Chicago Tribune*



Postcards from Ihatov, June 6 to 23, 2024

Created and directed by Natsu Onoda Power.
WORLD PREMIERE

Adapted from the works of Kenji Miyazawa including the classic "Night on the Galactic Railroad." This spellbinding tale of friendship, self-discovery, and the transcendent power of imagination takes audiences on a cosmic journey through the stars. This world premiere production of visual theater is bursting with imagination and spectacle that the whole family can enjoy.

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FLEX PASS 4 Passes = \$100 8 Passes = \$200 16 Passes = \$400 32 Passes = \$800	✓	✓			✓	✓	
SUSTAINER (monthly membership) Sustainer = \$20/month Super = \$50/month Sensational = \$70/month Stunning = \$120/month	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
COMPANY MEMBER expires one year from date of purchase	✓	✓	✓		✓		
YES PASS Free subscription for Fairfax County High School Students that extends one year past graduation	✓		✓				

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IN THE GALLERY

CASEY WAIT MENAGERIE



"Forever" -acrylic on cradled board

Casey Wait is an abstract and figurative media artist from Falls Church, VA. Her backgrounds, created with bold brushstrokes, vibrant colors, and intriguing textures, are intended to blur the boundaries between reality and abstraction, challenging our perceptions and inviting us to connect to the emotion of the subject. She is thrilled to bring her work to 1st Stage. "Menagerie" is a celebration of the animal world - real and imagined. You can find Casey's work at www.caseywaitart.com Instagram at @caseywaitart.

Gallery Curator: Deborah Conn, deborahconn@verizon.net



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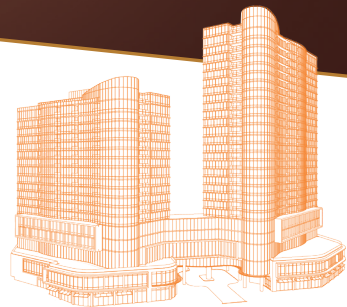
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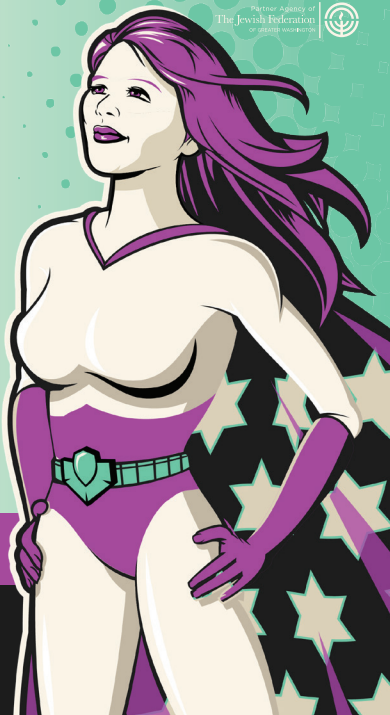
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