

Welcome Back!

We hope that you, like our company, are feeling that we're emerging from what has been a particularly trying time, and you're ready to join in the celebration of our common humanity that this year's stories illuminate. Your presence is a gift for which we say thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.

WHY A DIGITAL PROGRAM?

By offering a digital program, we hope to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce printing costs. By using less paper, we reduce our carbon footprint and give you remote access to the program from anywhere. Also, without the space limitations of print, we look forward to adding more "bonus features"—such as extra articles and photos about each show—during the season.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE

As our community relaxes COVID-19 prevention efforts, the risk to our work at the Commonweal increases. Just one case of COVID-19 among our artists onstage or backstage could put a stop to rehearsals and performances. While public health guidelines relax, we may main-

tain stricter policies to mitigate risk and help ensure our shows perform as planned. The most up-to-date information is available on our website. Thank you for your flexibility and effort in keeping our community safe.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at the Commonweal Theatre acknowledge that we work and gather on the ancestral lands of the Dakota Nation and other Indigenous peoples. We recognize these Nations as the original caretakers of this land and acknowledge the injustices committed against them. We strive to promote healing and inclusion through storytelling, which is fundamental to our mission.

We are eager to share these meaningful and entertaining stories with you. Please stay safe and healthy. And thank you for coming to the Commonweal!

Producing Artistic Director



PROFESSIONAL•LIVE•THEATRE



The Commonweal Theatre Company is a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

208 Parkway Avenue N., P.O. Box 15 Lanesboro, Minnesota 55949 (800) 657-7025 • (507) 467-2525 Commonweal Theatre.org



MINNESOTA State Arts Board

The Company



LIZZY ANDRETTA (she/her) is in her sixth season at the Commonweal. She appeared in *Dancing Lessons* and *A Christmas Carol* last season and previously in *The Elephant Man, Putnam County Spelling Bee, Dracula: Prince of Blood, Boeing Boeing,* and *Sanders Family Christmas,* among others. Other Commonweal credits: *Root River Anthology, Headspace* and *A Driftless Christmas* as well as choreographing for several shows. Lizzy earned an M.F.A. in Acting from the East 15 Acting School in England and a B.S. from Skidmore College. Originally from New Jersey, she now lives in Lanesboro with her beloved cat, Henry.



CODY BEYER (he/his) is thrilled to be joining this lovely community and extraordinary company for his first season at Commonweal. He received his B.A. in Theatre Honors from the University of Tennessee. Cody is an actor, designer, and builder who has been working in Chicago for the past seven years. He worked mostly with Theatre-Y and Hell in a Handbag Productions, with his favorite credits being *Macbeth* and *Stories of the Body*. As most people have felt, these last few years have proved tremendously trying, but this theatre and community have something truly special that Cody can't wait to add to.



STELA BURDT (she/her) is grateful to celebrate her 23nd season with our Commonweal family. Past onstage work includes roles in *Souvenir*, *Woody Guthrie's American Song, Crimes of the Heart, Zombies from the Beyond, A Midnight Dreary, Harvey,* and *Man of La Mancha*. In addition to performing, Stela is a music director, sound designer, freelance vocalist, and the Commonweal's Patron Relations Manager. Currently, Stela is in the role of a lifetime as mom to Kieran. Love and Light, #TeamScottyForever.

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HAL CROPP (he/his) is in his 31st season, where favorite roles have been in Come Back, Ghost-Writer, Dracula: Prince of Blood, Outside Mullingar, Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure, The Drawer Boy, To Kill a Mockingbird, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Groucho, and Talley's Folly. Selected directing credits: I Love To Eat, Peter and the Starcatcher, Brand, Heartland Portrait, Measure For Measure, Peer Gynt, A Midnight Dreary, Ghosts, and Little Shop of Horrors. Hal holds a B.A. from Brown U., M.B.A. from Santa Clara U., and an M.F.A. from National Theater Conservatory. He was the Sally Irvine Award winner for Initiative, 2006.



ELIZABETH DUNN (she/her) is in her eighth season with the Commonweal. Favorite credits include *Boeing Boeing*, *On the Verge*, *Scotland Road*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Dracula: Prince of Blood*. She has traveled in multiple tours with Prairie Fire Children's Theatre and lived in Chicago for a stint, where she studied improvisation at iO (formerly ImprovOlympic). Originally hailing from Georgia, Elizabeth is a 2010 graduate of Valdosta State University where she earned her B.F.A. in Theatre Arts.

KELSEY HEATHCOTE (she/her) serves on the Commonweal's production team as the Technical Director and Assistant Production Manager. Since completing her apprenticeship in 2018, her work here has been seen onstage in several shows, including *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Bakersfield Mist*. In 2020, Kelsey designed the set, sound, and lighting for *Fully Committed* and was one of two audio engineers for *A Drifless Christmas*. She looks forward to many new and exciting challenges as we reopen our doors this year!



DAVID HENNESSEY (he/his) serves on the development team and has played in more than 50 shows over 23 years, including *A Christmas Carol* last season. Other favorites: *Headspace Theatre, Holmes and Watson, It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play, The Drawer Boy,* and *The Rainmaker.* He designed costumes for *Ice Maidens* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, oversees our audio descriptions for the visually impaired, and has led our COVID mitigation team since 2020. Other acting credits: In Heart Theatre, Park Square Theatre, Jungle Theatre, and American Players Theatre. He lives in Preston with Linda, his favorite scene partner for 49 years.



JACLYN JUNE JOHNSON (she/they) joined the Commonweal at the start of 2020. An arts administrator, actor, director, playwright, costume designer, and teaching artist, Jaclyn has credits across the country, working with companies such as St. Croix Festival Theatre, Children's Theatre Madison, Creede Repertory, Riverside Shakespeare Festival, Riverside Theatre, Chicago's UTG Improv Theatre. Jaclyn received her B.A. from Cornell College. She wishes to thank: her family, friends, spouse, and their cats for their encouragement and love; and you for your support of the arts and specifically to the uniquely healing community of theatre.

RIVKA KELLY (she/her) joined the Commonweal family in 2020 as the Production Stage Manager. Rivka hails from California but has spent the last decade as a traveling stage manager, mostly around the Midwest. Selected stage management experience includes shows with American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Skylight Theatre, and Two Crows Theatre. Rivka received her B.A. from the University of Vermont. She's grateful for this welcoming community and her amazing family's support.



RACHEL KUHNLE (she/her) returned to the Commonweal in 2018, seven years after completing her acting apprenticeship in which she performed in *Metamorphoses* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She was last seen on stage as June in *Sanders Family Christmas*,

and directed last year's *Dancing Lessons*. Rachel



completed her M.F.A. in acting at the University of South Carolina in 2017. She loves her cats, her baby, and is grateful to her husband, Josiah, for being awesome.



JOSIAH LAUBENSTEIN (he/his) joined the Commonweal late in 2018. He is the resident videographer and most recently appeared in Dancing Lessons. Before moving here, Josiah worked at Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, WI, as Marketing Director, and acted in nine productions over two years. Prior to that, Josiah lived in Columbia. SC. where he earned his M.F.A. in acting from the University of South Carolina. Josiah is a proud member of Glassbox Theatre Group, a co-founder of Highway Walkers Media Company, and is happily married to Rachel Kuhnle. He is besotted with their first child. Franny.



BRANDT ROBERTS (he/his) is in his ninth season at the Commonweal. Favorite roles include Robert in *Boeing Boeing*, John Merrick in *The Elephant Man*, Mr. Coffee in On the Verge, Ragnar Brovik in The Master Builder, and Fancourt Babberley in Charley's Aunt. Cherished regional credits include Measure for Measure and Henry IV Part I at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. Brandt's original one-person show, The Art of the Entertainer, has been performed in several states and was adapted into an online presentation in 2020. Roberts holds a M.F.A. in Performing Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design.



Laurie Roberts (she/her) is excited to join the Commonweal this season. Before moving to Lanesboro, Laurie worked with A Red Orchid Theatre, Hell in a Handbag, Facility Theatre, Theatre Y, and Red Tape Theatre in Chicago. Before then, she performed in Cincinnati at Know Theater and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Some of her favorite work has been devised and performed internationally in Pontlevoy, France, and at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Laurie has also worked as an acting teacher, movement director, and choreographer. She earned her M.F.A. in Acting at the U. of South Carolina. Love to Duke Orsino.

JODI RUSHING (they/their) is in their fourth season at the Commonweal. Their favorite credits include An Iliad (Wealhouse), On The Verge, I Love To Eat, and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abgd.)(Rvsd.). Before their tech apprenticeship with the Commonweal in 2019, they stage managed for Doniphan Dance Project in Tupelo, MS, and served as the conference manager for the 2019 ACDA South Conference, Jodi holds a B.A. in Theatre and Film from the U. of Mississippi,



TIM SAILER (he/his) apprenticed at the Commonweal in 2009 and is now in his fifth season with the company. He appeared in A Christmas Carol, The Rainmaker, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, and An Enemy of the People. Other MN work includes performances at Park Square Theatre, Theatre L'Homme Dieu, and the Orchard Theater Collective. He spent five years with the American Shakespeare Center (Staunton, VA), where he played more than 50 roles in 35 plays, Other regional work: UT Shakespeare Festival, TX Shakespeare Festival, Houston Shakespeare



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Festival, and AR Shakespeare Theatre. Tim holds an M.F.A. from the University of Houston and is also an audiobook narrator.



ADRIENNE SWEENEY (she/her) is grateful to be in her 22nd season with the Commonweal, serving as the Assoc. Art. Dir. and Dir. of External Relations in addition to artistic roles. From Philadelphia, she holds an M.F.A. in acting from the U/AZ. A commercial voice talent, she can be heard regionally on radio and TV. Favorite shows here include last season's *A Christmas Carol*, in which she played Scrooge. Other favorites: *Silent Sky* (director), *Boeing Boeing, Steel Magnolias, Outside Mullingar*, and *Sylvia*. Adrienne believes that the act of sitting together in the dark sharing stories can help bring light to the world, something we all crave now more than ever. She looks forward to sharing time and space with you.



JEREMY VAN METER (he/his) is enjoying his eleventh season in residence at the Commonweal. Favorite credits here include C.K. Dexter Haven in *The Philadelphia Story*, Anthony Reilly in *Outside Mullingar* and the title role in *Dracula: Prince of Blood* by Scott Dixon. His professional career began at The Barter Theatre in Virginia, and he has appeared regionally at Riverside Theatre, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and Great River Shakespeare Festival. Jeremy holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the U. of Iowa and makes his home in Lanesboro with his lovely and extremely talented wife, Catherine Glynn.

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About the **P**laywright



David Lindsay-Abaire (b. 1969) is a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, screenwriter, lyricist and librettist. His play *Good People* premiered on Broadway, was awarded the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best Play, The Horton Foote Prize, The Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, and two Tony nominations. His previous play *Rabbit Hole* received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, five Tony nominations, and the Spirit of America Award.

David also wrote the book and lyrics for *Shrek The Musical* (Jeanine Tesori, composer), which was nominated for eight Tonys, four Oliviers, a Grammy, and earned David the Ed Kleban Award as America's most promising musical theatre lyricist. David's other plays include *Ripcord*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World*, and *A Devil Inside*, among others. In

addition to his work in theatre, David's screen credits include his film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole*, Dreamworks' *Rise of the Guardians*, and *The Family Fang*, starring Nicole Kidman, Christopher Walken, and Jason Bateman. He is also, along with Marsha Norman, co-chair of the Playwriting Program at the Juilliard School.

Commonweal Board of Directors

Alan Bailey, David Boen, Dan Christianson, Laura Gentry, Chris Hanson, Wendy Mattison, Ken Mogren, Sarah Peterson, José Rivas, Joan Ruen.

Please, No Food or Drink in the Theatre. Thank You!





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Director Assistant Director Rehearsal Stage Manager Performance Stage Manager Assistant Stage Managers Scenic Designer Lighting Designer Costume Designer Sound Designer Props Designers Intimacy Coordinator & Dialect Coach Megan K. Pence Maria Cina Rivka Kelly Jodi Rushing Sara Hueser, Tanner Sabol Justin Hooper Thomas White Jason Resler Daniel Stock Lizzy Andretta, Cody Beyer Rachel Kuhnle

CAST

Margaret	Jaclyn June Johnson
Stevie	Alex Schlesinger
Dottie	Tinne Rosenmeier
Jean	Stela Burdt
Mike	Jeremy van Meter
Kate	Erika Degraff

Setting

South Boston's Lower End and Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 2012.

Runtime is approximately two hours, plus one 15-minute intermission.

GOOD PEOPLE was originally commissioned by the Manhattan Theatre Club (Lynn Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer) with funds provided by Bank of America, and received its world premiere there on February 8, 2011.

Food & drinks are not permitted in the theatre.

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Also Featuring



Erika DeGraff (Kate) hails from Chicago where she began her acting career. In 2018, Erika made her New York theatre debut; she has since appeared at the historic Thirteenth Street Repertory Theatre and American Theatre of Actors, among many others. In 2022, in Sacramento, CA, she played Mrs. Mueller in *Doubt*. Erika can be seen on Comedy Central's *Addiction Busters*, Disney+: *Pixar in Real Life*, and numerous other shows on BET and CBS in lead and supporting roles. She trained at The Stella Adler Studio in New York, and continues to take film/TV intensives at The Stella Adler Art of Acting in Los Angeles.

Justin Hooper (Scenic Designer) holds a B.A. in Theatre from Augsburg College. He began his professional career as a stage manager for Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, NY. He returned to Minneapolis to become a scenic artist for the Guthrie. Later, he took side-gigs as History Theater's technical director, Pioneer Place's production manager, and AV technician for AVEX. He has designed scenery and lighting for myriad Twin Cities companies and has branched into the world of interior design—his portfolio includes two restaurants, a liquor store, and a brew pub. He is currently the technical director for Concordia University's Theatre Department in St. Paul.

Megan K. Pence (Director) began as a Commonweal Directing Apprentice in 2011 and ended her tenure in the resident ensemble as the Director of Administration in 2018. Favorite directing projects at the Commonweal include *The Clean House, The Elephant Man,* and *An Iliad* (for the inaugural Wealhouse season). You may also remember her as Henrietta Leavitt in *Silent Sky*, or from *Woody Guthrie's American Song*. Megan earned her M.F.A. in Directing from Florida State University. Thrilled to return to Minnesota, she serves as the Managing Director of Lakeshore Players Theatre, and is on the Board of Directors for Girl Friday Productions.

Jason Resler (Costume Designer) has designed eight productions with the Commonweal, most recently *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and *A Christmas Carol* (2016). Jason's other designs include seven seasons with *The Medora Musical* in Medora, North Dakota as well as productions with Trollwood Performing Arts, Phoenix Theatre, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Hope Summer Repertory, Park Square Theatre, History Theatre, Illusion Theater, Cortland Repertory, and Citadel Theatre Company. Jason is Associate Professor of Costume Design at Indiana University South Bend. www.jasonleeresler.com



Tinne Rosenmeier (*T/N-ne*) (Dottie) is excited to join Commonweal Theater! Minnesota performances include Park Square Theater, Pangea World Theater, Savage Umbrella, Wildwood Theater, Classical Actors Ensemble, Cromulent Shakespeare, Freshwater Theater, and Theater 55. Tinne toured nationally for TheaterworksUSA, performed off-off Broadway, and enjoyed three seasons in summer stock in Maine. Trained at the National Shakespeare Conservatory, she holds a B.A., Carleton College, and M.A., New York University. A retired drama/ dance teacher, she lives in Saint Paul with her family and backyard chickens.

Daniel Stock (Sound Designer) is a former carnival worker who got kicked out of college twice. The son of an itinerant sailor and a raging summer thunderstorm, he enjoys spending time with stray cats. While Daniel prefers coniferous trees, he recognizes that deciduous trees are more poetic and therefore, perhaps, more trustworthy. Daniel has recently taken to collecting pencils and is an ardent practitioner of the Irish Goodbye.

Thomas White (Lighting Designer) Working again with his Commonweal family, Thomas is incredibly grateful that the Commonweal supported him through COVID and 2020. His day job involves daily deliveries of 900 gallons of milk from Hansen's Dairy to happy people. In his spare time, he consults on technical matters for local and regional theater. Originally from Ames, Iowa, Thomas was the resident lighting designer for the Oster Regent Theatre in Cedar Falls while earning a B.A. in technical theater from the University of Northern Iowa. Thomas is a founding member of Sissy's Sircus, a burlesque troupe that pushes the boundaries of gender identity and sexuality through drag, dance, and theatre. His professional experience also includes work with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and the Telluride Film Festival. It's great to be back in Lanesboro.

Notes from the Director



In the grand scheme of things, the 10 years since 2012 (when this play is set) is nothing. But how the world worked in 2012 (three presidents & 23 Marvel movies ago), is vastly different. And yet, this show still feels so very *now.*

The characters in *Good People* live so on-the-edge that one tiny thing can tip them into complete ruin. They're forced to grapple with the idea of "what makes a good person" while constantly dealing with the downward pressure of survival mode. Yet if fate, luck, or the "right" choice goes their way for once, everything could change for the better.

If. What if ...? If only...

I leave you with an excerpt from **"Nothing's a Gift" by Wisława Szymborska** (translated by Stanislaw Baranczak and Clare Cavanaugh):

Nothing's a gift, it's all on loan. I'm drowning in debts up to my ears. I'll have to pay for myself with my self, give up my life for my life.

. . .

I move about the planet in a crush of other debtors. Some are saddled with the burden of paying off their wings. Others must, willy-nilly, account for every leaf.

Every tissue in us lies on the debit side. Not a tentacle or tendril is for keeps. The inventory, infinitely detailed, implies we'll be left not just empty-handed but handless too.

I can't remember where, when, and why I let someone open this account in my name.

We call the protest against this the soul. And it's the only item not included on the list.

-Megan K. Pence

SPECIAL THANKS

Jungle Theatre, Theatre in the Round Players, Lakeshore Players Theatre, Indiana University South Bend Department of Theatre.



APPRENTICE CLASS OF 2023

Happily, Commonweal has resumed our Apprenticeship Program this year. This 10-12-month, fully immersive, live-work program affords unique opportunities for young theatre professionals to study the craft & business of making live theatre. Learn more on our **website**.



MARIA CINA (she/they) earned her A.A. in Commercial Photography from Madison College (WI) and her Acting Certificate from The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. Currently on hiatus from studying Theatre Arts and Communication Studies at the U/MN Twin Cities, she plans to resume post-apprenticeship. Credits: Morticia in *The Addams Family Musical*, Kendra in *The Gulf*, Asst. Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet*. When not on stage, Maria can be found sipping tea and cuddling her cat, a fantasy novel close by. She sends love, hugs, and pinky promises to all her friends and family. instagram: @mariashe_



GRACE CUMMINGS (she/her) has been acting and performing for almost a decade. She started in Monroe, LA, at Strauss Youth Academy for the Arts. She moved to Natchitoches to join Northwestern State U's Theatre & Dance program, and to participate in the LA Scholars' College. Her one goal onstage is to tell a story that will connect her with her audience, but also with herself. Some roles include Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*, Olivia in *Twelfth Night*, Prospero in *The Tempest*, and Deb in *Ordinary Days*. She debuted two roles: Julia in *In Memoriam of Lena*, written by Del Shores, and Emilia Bassano in *Emilia*, written by herself.

SARA HUESER (she/her) serves as the technical Apprentice for the 2023 season. Favorite credits include *The Wild Party, My Way,* and *The Other Place.* She has spent many seasons in Savannah, GA, and Greenville, SC, working on shows. Originally from Pennsylvania, Sara holds a bachelor's in Computer Engineering and a B.F.A. in Dramatic Writing from Savannah College of Art and Design.



JOHN B. NICOL (he/him) is incredibly excited to be returning to the theatre scene as an acting apprentice with the Commonweal. Born and raised in community theatres around Northeastern IA, he went on to receive his B.S. in Theatre Arts from MN State Mankato. While there he had the opportunity to play some fun roles including Matt Friedman in *Talley's Folly*, and Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. In regional theatres, he had fun playing Willard Hewitt in *Footloose* at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Free to the People Theatre.



TANNER SABOL (he/him) is thrilled to join the Commonweal Theatre for the first time! Growing up in Sioux Falls, SD, and graduating with a B.F.A. in musical theatre from the U. of North Dakota, he began acting in high school, being a part of the Oral Interpretation team all four years. Since then, he has played roles such as Felix in *The Odd Couple*, Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd*, Richard Hannay in *The 39 Steps*, and was also a performer in the American College Theatre Festival's 2020 Cabaret. He hopes to find another home away from home at the CTC!



ALEX SCHLESINGER (they/them) is ecstatic to be making their professional acting debut on the Commonweal Theatre's stage. Alex graduated from Luther College in 2021 with a B.A. in Theatre, and they are delighted to join the Commonweal's apprentice class this year. Favorite roles include Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Florizell in *The Winter's Tale*, and Amos Hart in *Chicago*. Alex would like to thank their mentor, professor, and good friend Jeff Dintaman for his years of support and sharing of knowledge that got Alex to where they are today.

Glossary



WALPOLE – A Massachusetts Correctional Institution. Cedar Junction, formerly known as MCI-Walpole, is a maximum security prison under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. It was

opened in 1956 to replace Charlestown State Prison, the oldest prison in the nation at that time.

"THE BOWERY BOYS" — A group of fictional New York City characters, portrayed by a company of New York actors, who were the subject of feature films released by Monogram Pictures and its successor Allied Artists Pictures Corporation from 1946 through 1958. LACE-CURTAIN IRISH — A person of Irish descent who, because of family money, is accepted into WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) society; tends to act, speak, and dress like a member of the upper-class WASP establishment.

"That lace-curtain Irish doctor wouldn't last a minute in Southie."



WHITEY BULGER — James Joseph "Whitey" Bulger Jr. was an American organized crime boss who led the Winter Hill Gang in the Winter Hill neighborhood of Somerville, Massachusetts, a city directly northwest of Boston.



HUMBOLDT FOG — a goat milk cheese made in Arcata, California, within Humboldt County. It is named for the local ocean fog which rolls in from Humboldt Bay. It is an uncooked pressed cheese made from pasteurized goat's milk.

JORDAN MARSH — was an American department store chain that was headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts and operated throughout New England. It was founded by Eben Dyer Jordan and Benjamin L. Marsh in 1841. The brand was retired and most stores were converted into the New York City-based Macy's in 1996.

Further Reading

SOUTH BOSTON — Settled by the Puritans in 1635, from the 1820s on, the Irish were the neighborhood's dominant immigrant group. The Irish population grew rapidly again after the Great Fire of 1872 swept through Boston's Fort Hill neighborhood, driving some of the city's poorest immigrant residents into South Boston. The long tenure of the Irish in South Boston gave its residents a particularly strong sense of place and a fierce determination to protect their turf from newcomers, especially African Americans. It was this defensive localism. combined with resentments of political decisions made by liberal suburban elites that helped make Southie the epicenter of the desegregation and busing crisis of the 1970s. FURTHER READING FROM GLOBALBOSTON, BC. EDU





Forced Busing — also called "desegregation busing," was the practice of transporting students to schools within or outside their local school districts as a means of rectifying racial segregation. Although American schools were technically desegregated in 1954 by the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision handed down in Brown v. Board of Education (1954), in practice they remained largely segregated owing to trends in housing and neighbourhood segregation. Busing came to be the main remedy by which the courts sought to end racial segregation in the U.S. schools, but the protests against it became particularly violent in Boston, with the Boston Globe reporting, "the violent start of busing would widely be seen as the worst moment in the city's history." FURTHER READING FROM HISTORY.COM

Welcome to South Boston Massachusetts

South Boston in the year 2012 is the setting for *Good People*. South Boston is home to 8 neighborhoods. Once part of low-income and working-class Irish families but is now home to college students and young professionals looking for cheaper rent. Key locations are indicated on the map.

YELLOW is the Lower End Neighborhood, home to Margie and her Daughter Joyce. GREEN is Dorchester, where Mike grew up. RED is The Gillette Manufacturing Park.

Margie's apartment is located on Tudor Street. As of 2022, Tudor Street as been renovated and is ho to young families. S

Tudor Street as been renovated and is home to young families. Some older homes still stand, just as the families that continue to live there.

The Old Harbor Court Yard, as locals may have named it. The Basketball Court at Veteran Park sits on the corner of Dorchester street and is the possible exact location of Mike's fight as a teenager.

Gillette Manufacturing Park is still in operation today and employs many residents of South Boston.

The Old Harbor Housing is where Mike grew up.



The 22 acre public housing complex for low income families was renamed Mary Ellen McCormack Development. It still stands today and houses over 1,000 families.

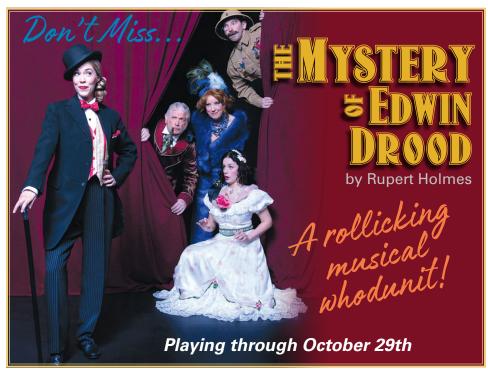
5 South Boston High School was located in the center of the South Boston neighborhoods. Closed in 2003, the school was renovated and renamed Excel High School.

Registre 2

Far from the Old Harbor Projects, Mike now resides in **Chestnut Hill**. A small mostly affluent neighborhood of the small town of Newton. The suburb is just six miles from downtown Boston where his office is located.

Using the train, Chestnut Hill is about 45 minutes away. In *Good People*, Margie takes two trains with a connection to get to Mike's house.





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the Commonweal has been inspiring hearts, minds and souls. It would be easy to believe that these marvelous stories have come about because of the hundreds of

talented artists who have called the Commonweal home.

Easy, but far from the truth. The real heroes who make up this company are you, our audience and loyal supporters.

But your tickets only cover half of what it costs to create live, professional theater. For us to continue bringing theater magic to you and future generations, please consider a gift in support of our mission "to enrich the common good."



Here's How You Can Help: MDC

"When the MDC was initiated, we immediately joined. This level of giving helps ensure a solid financial base for the organization to meet their annual expenses while planning for the future. We encourage you to join us in supporting the Commonweal, so we all can continue to enjoy the wonderful productions we have come to treasure."

–Jon & Mary Hart

The heart of our giving programs, the **MDC** consists of individuals and households who make a non-binding, 10-year commitment of support. For a schedule of amounts and benefits, please see any staff member or visit the "donate" page on our website: **www.commonwealtheatre.org**

Planned Giving



"By including Commonweal in our estate plan, we feel good knowing that we'll be helping to ensure that this gem will be here for future generations."

> —Ken & Sally Mogren, Winona, MN

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There are myriad ways that you can play a starring role in supporting one of our mainstage shows, or even the entire season! Through these partnerships, we can maintain a high standard of artistic excellence while providing greater access to all. Sponsorship comes with its rewards. To learn about sponsorship or underwriting opportunities, including recognition and benefits, contact **Hal Cropp** at hal@commonwealtheatre.org, or **(507) 467-2905 X203** or visit: www.commonwealtheatre.org/donate/

Please consider remembering the Commonweal Theatre in your planned giving. Visit our website at

https://commonwealtheatre.org/ support/planned-giving/ for more information.

DONORS THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE COMMONWEAL DREAM A REALITY

MDC pledges and all memorials made from Jan. 1, 2021, to Feb. 15, 2022. Due to space limitations, we cannot list all our donors here. Please find them on our website, www.CommonwealTheatre.org. For information on all our individual donor programs, contact Jeremy van Meter: 507-467-2905 ext.211, jeremyvm@commonwealtheatre.org

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