

# I Ought to Be in Pictures

by Neil  
Simon



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# 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.

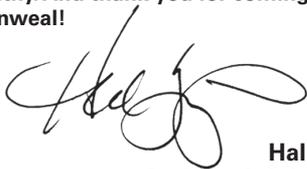
## COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE

We welcome and encourage the use of masks in our theatre. The Commonwealth, alongside its Board of Directors, will adjust protocols as conditions shift, particularly in terms of the CDC Community Level Guidelines for Fillmore County, Minnesota. The most up-to-date information is shared on our website. Thank you for your flexibility and effort in keeping our community safe.

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We at the Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth!



Hal Cropp  
Producing Artistic Director

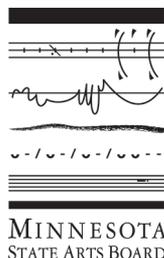


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The Commonwealth Theatre Company is a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group. Funding is provided in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and by private funders.

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# THE COMPANY



**LIZZY ANDRETTA** 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.



**STELA BURDT** is grateful to celebrate her 23rd 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.



**HAL CROPP** 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*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Groucho*, and *Talley's Folly*. Selected directing credits include *I Love To Eat*, *Headspace Theatre*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Brand*, *Heartland Portrait*, *The Wild Duck*, *Measure For Measure*, *Peer Gynt*, *A Midnight Dreary*, *Enchanted April*, *Ghosts*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Hal holds a B.A. from Brown University, M.B.A. from Santa Clara University, and an M.F.A. from National Theater Conservatory. He was the Sally Irvine Award winner for Initiative, 2006.



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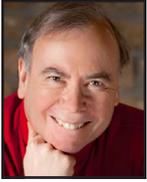


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**ELIZABETH DUNN** is in her eighth season with the Commonweal. Favorite credits include *Boeing Boeing*, *On the Verge*, *Scotland Road*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Dracula: Prince of Blood*. She has traveled in multiple tours 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** 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** 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 include *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** 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, performing and designing 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** 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.

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**RACHEL KUHNLE** 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** 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** 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.

**JODI RUSHING** 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** started at the Commonweal as an apprentice 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 Minnesota 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 Festival, and AR Shakespeare Theatre. Tim holds an M.F.A. from the University of Houston and is also an audiobook narrator.



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**ADRIENNE SWEENEY** 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 had the great fortune to play 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** 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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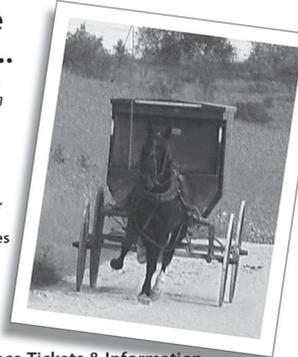
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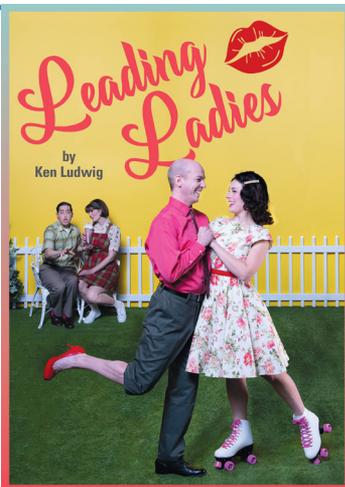
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April 1-10, 2022

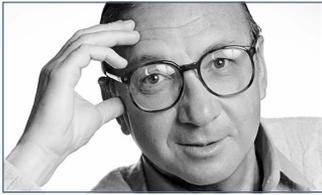


April 16, 2022



April 29-May 15, 2022

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



**Marvin Neil Simon** (1927-2018) was an American playwright, screenwriter, and author. He wrote more than 30 plays and nearly the same number of movie screenplays, mostly film adaptations of his plays. He has received more combined Oscar and Tony Award nominations than any other writer. Simon grew up in New York City during the Great Depression. He enjoyed watching early movie comedians like Charlie Chaplin. After graduating from high school and serving a few years in the Army Air Force Reserve, he began writing comedy scripts for

radio programs and popular early television shows, including Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows* where, in 1950, he worked alongside other young writers including Carl Reiner, Mel Brooks, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, and Selma Diamond.

His first produced play was *Come Blow Your Horn* (1961). It took him three years to complete and ran for 678 performances on Broadway. It was followed by two more successes: *Barefoot in the Park* (1963) and *The Odd Couple* (1965). He won a Tony Award for the latter. It made him a national celebrity and "the hottest new playwright on Broadway." From the 1960s to the 1980s, he wrote for stage and screen, including adaptations of his own plays. His style ranged from farce to romantic comedy to more serious dramatic comedy. Overall, he garnered 17 Tony nominations and won three awards. In 1966, he had four successful productions running on Broadway at the same time, and in 1983 he became the only living playwright to have a New York theatre, the Neil Simon Theatre, named in his honor.



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# I Ought to Be in Pictures

by Neil Simon

Director	Adrienne Sweeney
Stage Manager	Kelsey Heathcote
Scenic Designer	Justin Hooper
Lighting Designer	Thomas White
Costume Designer	Jaclyn June Johnson
Sound Designer	Josiah Laubenstein
Dialect Coach	Hal Cropp
Props Designers	Brandt Roberts, Elizabeth Dunn

## CAST

Steffy	Betti Battocletti
Libby	Grace Cummings
Herb	Jeremy van Meter

## Setting

Los Angeles, 1979.

Runtime is approximately 2½ hours, with one 15-minute intermission.

I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
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## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR



The father-daughter relationship has always tugged at me. My parents separated when I was 2½, after which my dad and I had what could be called a “Sunday Relationship.” As these were the days before co-parenting, nesting, and joint custody, my dad would pick me up after Mass, head to my grandparents’ house for family dinner, and return me before dark. Over the years, my father’s mental and physical health declined dramatically and our visits became fewer and farther between. He’d fall off the grid for months at a time and eventually our relationship evaporated. In my mid-twenties I realized his health could not hold out forever, and I decided to visit him when I was home for the Christmas holiday. He passed away December 2nd. I never got that chance.

*I Ought to Be in Pictures* offers the opportunity to reflect on the relationships in our lives—the successful and the failed—and encourages us to consider the possibility of second chances. It reminds us of the power of courage. And it does so through the uniquely humorous yet heartwarming words of one of America’s greatest playwrights. I hope you enjoy your time with Libby, Herb, and Steffy as much as I did. This one is in memory of my dad, Francis J. Sweeney.

—Adrienne Sweeney

## ALSO FEATURING



**Betti Battocletti** (Steffi) has performed at the Commonweal in roles that include Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*, Vera in *Sanders Family Christmas*, Mary in *On the Verge*, Virginia in *The Clean House*, Rona in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*. Other favorite credits include *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The World Goes Round* and *Urinetown* at The Jungle Theater in Mpls; *42nd Street*, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, and as Cassie in *A Chorus Line* at Artistry. She is also a lyricist, playwright, choreographer and owns Bodiology Pilates in Minnetonka, MN.

**Justin Hooper** (Scenic Designer) holds a B.A. in Theatre from Augsburg College, where he minored in English and Dramaturgy. He began his professional career as a stage manager for Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, NY. He survived two seasons but succumbed to homesickness, returning 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 an audio-visual technician for AVEX. He has designed scenery (and occasionally 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.

**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 U. of Northern Iowa. Thomas is a founding member of Sissy's Circus, 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.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Festival Theatre: Kim Murphy; Terry Neneman, Cami Fuller, Jody Slominski, Stacey Schultz, Desiree Borth-Ferrie, Elizabeth Biel; St. Mary's University: Anastasia Goodwin.

# 2022 Awaits You

## *I Ought to Be in Pictures*

by Neil Simon | APR-JUL

## *Leading Ladies*

by Ken Ludwig | MAY-AUG

## *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*

by Rupert Holmes | JUL-OCT

## *Good People*

by David Lindsay-Abaire | SEP-NOV

## *Alice in Winter Wonderland*

by Janet Allard & Michael Bigelow Dixon | NOV-DEC



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# 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** is overflowing with gratitude for the opportunity to work with and learn from such a fantastic family of artists. She is honored to be a part of Commonweal Theatre's Apprenticeship class and hopes you enjoy the show! Maria earned her A.A. in Commercial Photography from Madison College (WI) and her Acting Certificate from The Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. She is currently on hiatus from studying Theatre Arts and Communication Studies at the U/MN Twin Cities, with plans to resume post-apprenticeship. Credits include Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family Musical*, Kendra in *The Gulf*, Asst. Stage Manager for *Romeo and Juliet*, and U/S Marnie for *Lewiston/Clarkston*. When not on stage, Maria can be found sipping tea and cuddling her cat, Knives Meow, in a sunny corner of the apartment, a fantasy novel close by. She sends love, hugs, and pinky promises to all her friends and family. instagram: @mariashe\_



**GRACE CUMMINGS** has been acting and performing for almost a decade. She started in Monroe, LA, at Strauss Youth Academy for the Arts. Then she moved to Natchitoches to join Northwestern State U's Theatre & Dance program, and to participate in the LA Scholars' College. Her philosophy as an artist is simple: art is about connection. No matter if she is writing, acting, singing, or painting, she aims to use her art to connect with those around her. Her one goal onstage is to tell a story that will not only 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 was also able to debut two original roles, one written by the award-winning Del Shores, in *In Memoriam of Lena* as Julia, and one written by herself, in *Emilia* as Emilia Bassano. This Louisiana girl is excited to be joining Commonweal as an apprentice while getting to make new friendships and explore Minnesota!

**SARA HUESER** 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** 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** 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 initially 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** 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.

# HALF THE SKY

**Saturday, May 7 @ 7:30**

**Christ United Methodist Church, Rochester**

According to a Chinese aphorism, "women hold up half the sky." We are all blessed when our community and our world work to unleash everyone's full potential.

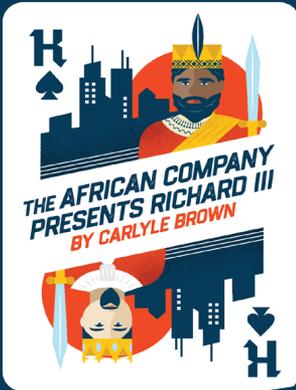
Rochester Mayor Kim Norton will be our special guest along with a representative from the Jeremiah Program. The concert will feature music by women composers as we celebrate women in our community.



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## 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 Commonwealth, 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.commonwealththeatre.org](http://www.commonwealththeatre.org)

### Planned Giving



*"By including Commonwealth 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

Please consider remembering the Commonwealth Theatre in your planned giving. Visit our website at <https://commonwealththeatre.org/support/planned-giving/> for more information.



**Any** contribution you make to our lobby donation jar is deeply appreciated!

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Here are all ongoing MDC pledges and all memorials made from **January 1, 2021, to February 15, 2022**. Due to space limitations, we cannot list all our donors here. Please find them on our website, [www.CommonwealTheatre.org](http://www.CommonwealTheatre.org). For information on all our individual donor programs, contact **Jeremy van Meter: 507-467-2905 ext.211, [jeremyvm@commonwealththeatre.org](mailto:jeremyvm@commonwealththeatre.org)**

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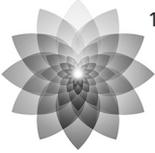
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