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THEATRE COMPANY



# Birthday Candles



From IMPROVACADIA, who brought you A KICK IN YOUR DICKENS



# A KICK IN YOUR DERRY'ere

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Fall brings short days and long nights, but what lurks in the dark?...  
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A Kick in your Derry'ere comes to the Bangor Opera House October 17th to the 20th. Using tropes and themes from your favorite King stories along with audience suggestions, ImprovAcadia conjures up an original improvised horror musical!

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*with Rich Kimball*

*Downtown salutes Penobscot Theatre Company in this 51st season of bringing top quality productions to the people of Eastern, Central, and Northern Maine. The arts are the lifeblood of a thriving community and the work of PTC has been a key component in the revitalization of Downtown Bangor.*

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

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## **OUR 51st SEASON**

### **Birthday Candles**

Sept 19 - Oct 6

### **A Christmas Carol**

Nov 29 - Dec 22

### **Dial M for Murder**

Jan 30 - Feb 23

### **Matinicus: A Lighthouse Play**

Mar 20 - Apr 6

### **Mother Russia**

May 1 - 18

### **The Rocky Horror Show**

Jun 12 - Jul 13



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Artistic Director **Jonathan Berry**  
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The Stage Door Bar Manager **Frank Bachman**

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Sound Design **Neil E Graham**  
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Props Supervisor **Thomas Demers**  
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## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge Penobscot Theatre Company's presence on the unceded ancestral lands of the Penobscot people. The land from which we benefit continues to be a place of foremost importance to the Penobscot Nation and all descendants of the Wabanaki Confederacy. We recognize that the Wabanaki people continue to seek resolution on issues concerning water, territorial rights, and threats to sacred sites.

The Penobscots have inhabited Maine and the surrounding areas for over 11,000 years. Their ancestral territory included many rivers that flow into the Gulf of Maine, including all the watersheds from the Machias River in the east to Cape Ann in Massachusetts. The Penobscot Nation is one of the oldest, continuously operating governments in the world.

The Penobscot Nation is part of the Wabanaki Confederacy, which also includes the Passamaquoddy, Micmac and Maliseet.

PTC resolves to be an anti-racist institution. We are proud to be members of the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition and are committed to living our values by promoting the history and cultures of the Wabanaki Peoples and sustaining an ongoing relationship which supports the art, resources, and values of indigenous peoples and tribes.

## Audience Services

### Box Office Hours

- Tuesday – Friday: 12:00pm – 5:00pm
- Box Office is open three hours before show time on performance Saturdays & Sundays and through intermission at all performances.

### Restrooms

- Two all-gender welcoming restrooms are located downstairs from the lobby level.
- One single-stall restroom can be found off our 1st floor lobby
- One single-stall restroom located in The Stage Door

*If you have any suggestions for how to improve your experience: [HouseManager@penobscottheatre.org](mailto:HouseManager@penobscottheatre.org)*

### Accessibility

- Hearing Loop system available for patrons with T-Coil hearing aids, earbuds, or PTC headset. See Box Office for more info or [www.PenobscotTheatre.org/loop](http://www.PenobscotTheatre.org/loop)
- Large print playbills available. Please ask an usher.
- Accessible seating is available.
- Accessible bathroom is located in the lobby.

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# A Letter from Jonathan Berry, Artistic Director

Hello -

I'm so very excited to welcome you all to the start of our 51st Season!

I'll always think of September as a beginning. It may be reflective of all that time I spent in school, but as the night air cools and the leaves start to change and the daily rhythms of young people return to classes and the regimen of learning, I have the feeling of having turned a page and there's a blank one in front of me, ready to capture the current moment.

It's always an exhilarating time at the theater, where all of our planning and dreaming starts to come to fruition as directors and designers share their visions, actors begin to show up for rehearsals, and our staff falls back into the reliable rhythm of producing art.

This idea of life's enduring cycle is one that is at the forefront of Noah Haidle's exquisitely lyrical, beautifully humane *Birthday Candles*. We follow one woman's journey through life - beginning on her 17th birthday and then jumping moment to moment, year to year, until we find her on her 104th birthday. Along the way, we hear her initial plans to live an extraordinary life, and then we watch as those plans are overtaken by the relationships she forms, the family she builds, and the quotidian responsibilities of daily life.

What she discovers is that the things that we cherish are less our accomplishments and more our connections - the relationships we forge, the people we hold dear. As the play progresses, Ernestine (our primary character) is baking her birthday cake. A simple recipe handed down for generations - butter, sugar, flour - the simplest of ingredients. What's created from that, of course, is something so much more than the sum of its parts. It's a metaphor, sure, but it's also undeniably true.

There's an Allen Saunders quote, that goes "Life is what happens to us while we are making other plans" - It later ended up in John Lennon's heartfelt tribute to his first born "Beautiful Boy." The quote and the song, and hopefully this play stand as a reminder of where the real richness of life lies. It's in the day to day engagements, the relationships, the moments of connection. In a particularly divisive national moment, that's ultimately what I hope that theater can do and what PTC can offer: An opportunity to come together and find community.

Thank you for being here -



**Jonathan Berry**

Artistic Director | Penobscot Theatre Company

## **Our Mission**

The mission of Penobscot Theatre Company is to produce high-quality, professional theatre works and programs that inspire the imagination and cultivate a lifelong passion for the theatrical art form in the heart of Maine and beyond.

## **Our Work**

PTC's primary work involves a full season of professional, subscription series, & add-on productions, handcrafted stagings of plays and musicals, new and classic. In addition, our diverse educational programming serves thousands of Maine youths through school-based workshops, student matinees, and summer and after-school programs.

## **Our History**

The company has its roots in the Acadia Repertory Theatre, founded in Bangor in 1973 by George Vafiadis and Lou Collier. Acadia Rep presented 97 productions in Bangor before Penobscot Theatre Company was incorporated in 1983. Acadia Rep still operates on Mount Desert Island as a separate entity, while Penobscot Theatre Company is the nation's Northeastern-most year-round professional theatre in Northern Maine. Over its long history, the company has earned a national reputation for quality and innovation as its offerings have expanded and audiences have grown.

## **Our Partners**

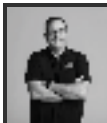
Even with solid attendance, the company's income from subscriptions, ticket sales, and program registration comprises only 40% of our total operating budget. As a non-profit charity, we rely on support from private foundations, local businesses and individuals like you, who recognize the importance of theatre to a vibrant culture and robust economy. The generosity of our community-based partners makes our work possible, and we operate always with a strong spirit of collaboration. Help solidify the theatre's place in the heart of Maine, and please consider a gift today.



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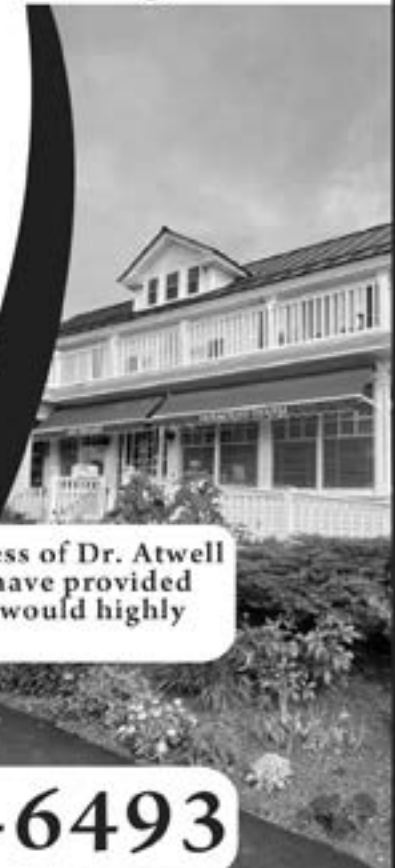
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## Open after the Show

The Penobscot Theatre Company production of

# Birthday Candles

by Noah Haidle

"Birthday Candles" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

*Originally Produced on Broadway in 2022 by Roundabout Theatre Company  
Birthday Candles was originally commissioned and produced by Detroit Public Theatre,  
Detroit MI*

*Producing Artistic Directors: Courtney Burkett, Sarah Clare Corporandy and Sarah Winkler*

*Developed as part of Chautauqua Theater Company's New Play Workshop series, 2017,  
underwritten by the Roe Green Foundation*

**September 19 - October 6, 2024**

Scenic Design  
**Jess Ploszaj**

Costume Design  
**Alexis Foster**

Lighting Design  
**Tony Gerow**

Sound Design  
**Neil E. Graham**

Props Design  
**Thomas Demers**

Intimacy Director  
**Angela Bonacasa**

Production Stage Management  
**Jazlynne Williams\***

Directed by  
**Kathryn Markey<sup>^</sup>**



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**Production Photos by Bill Kuykendall**



*\*Appearing through an  
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The Director is a Member of the  
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*<sup>^</sup>The Director is a member of the Stage  
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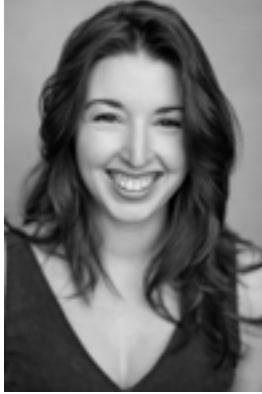
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# THE CAST



AJ Mooney



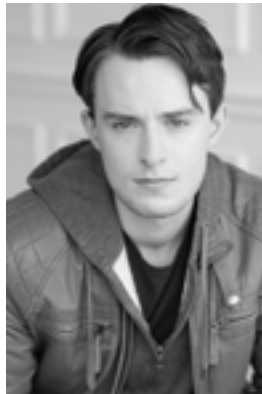
Stephanie Colavito\*



Aimee Gerow



Ben Layman



Daniel Skinner



Daniel Robert Sullivan\*

## Cast

Ernestine.....	AJ Mooney
Joan/Alex/Beth.....	Stephanie Colavito*
Alice/Madeline/Ernie.....	Aimee Gerow
Kenneth.....	Ben Layman
Billy/John.....	Daniel Skinner
Matt/William.....	Daniel Robert Sullivan*

## Crew

Assistant Stage Manager.....	Juliana Morgado Brito
Scenic Charge.....	Gwen Elise Higgins
Sound Engineer.....	Neil E. Graham
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	Caitlyn Collins
House Electrician.....	Tony Gerow
Run Crew.....	Terri Moulin

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*\*Indicates a member of Actor's Equity Association*



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**Stephanie Colavito\*** (*Joan/Alex/Beth*) is thrilled to be returning to PTC for their 51st Season! Raised in Maine and currently based out of NYC, Stephanie holds an MFA in Acting from SCAD, and a BFA in Musical Theatre from the Boston Conservatory. Select regional credits include: CRIMES OF THE HEART (PTC), ONCE (Savannah Rep), PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (PTC), MAMMA MIA! (PTC), and NATASHA, PIERRE, AND THE GREAT COMET OF 1812 (SCAD GradLab). (She/Her)

**Aimee Gerow** (*Alice/Madeline/Ernie*) was seen most recently in PTC's MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY (Quincy/ Lisa) and True North's THE MOORS (Emilie Vandergaard). She's been in numerous productions in the Bangor and NYC area, including QUEEN (Ariel Spiegel), EURYDICE (Eurydice), MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Beatrice), RED VALLEY (Beth Foster), THE ELEPHANT MAN (Mrs. Kendal), and TIGERS BE STILL (Grace Wickman). She's also served as dialect coach, choreographer, and director for local high schools and theatres. She's a proud graduate of Ithaca College and the American Academy for Dramatic Arts. (She/Her)

**Ben Layman** (*Kenneth*) is a Bangor resident, Maine native and a PTC company member for 16 seasons. In that time, Ben has served as the Box Office manager, teaching artist, and Director of Education for DA. He is the current Front of House Manager. Ben has also travelled the state of Maine with PTC's Shakespeare in the Schools program. As an actor, Ben has been seen in many PTC productions, recently as Gerard in DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST and as Mr. Mushnik in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. (He/Him)

**AJ Mooney** (*Ernestine*) has been a company member with over 20 years of performing at PTC. She teaches tap and acting via private coaching. She taught theatre at Umaine for 15 years. She currently teaches tap at Umaine. She co-created the movement and theatre program "ArtsnKids" which has been successfully running for 20 years. PTC Credits: TRAPPED!, DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, MISERY, MATILDA, THE GRADUATE, AUGUST:OSAGE COUNTY and THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL. (She/Her)

**Daniel Skinner** (*Billy/John*) is an actor, improviser, and stage combatant based out of New York City, and is honored to be returning to Penobscot Theatre Company for their 51st Season after previously appearing as Jake in CLARKSTON in 2022. Credits include: HAMLET (Hamlet), HORN IN THE WEST (Jack Stuart), ARCADIA (Valentine), MOMENT (Fin). Unending gratitude and love to Catherine, Margaret, Donal, Cameron, Isla, his friends, Gobi, and Karoo. BFA in Acting, Elon University, Class of 2020. (He/Him)

**Daniel Robert Sullivan\*** (*Matt/William*) spent the past four years in the National Tour of DEAR EVAN HANSEN. Previously, he performed 1000+ times as Tommy DeVito in JERSEY BOYS with the Las Vegas, Toronto, & International companies, and in the National Tour of MOTOWN THE MUSICAL. Regional: Kansas City Rep, Arvada Center, Arizona Theatre Company, O'Neill Theatre Center, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Gloucester Stage, and many others. Author of award-winning play, PROSPECT HIGH: BROOKLYN. Author of three books: BRAVING THE BRONX RIVER, A LIBERAL'S JOURNEY THROUGH CONSERVATIVE AMERICA, and BECOMING A JERSEY BOY. Daniel holds a dual MFA in Acting & Directing from UMKC. @DanielRobertSullivan (He/Him)

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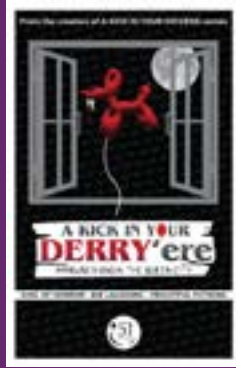
# 2024 51st SEASON 2025



Sept 19 - Oct 6, 2024



All Season Long



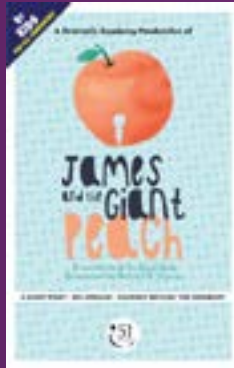
Oct 17 - 20



Oct 26, 2024



All Season Long



Nov 8 - 10, 2024



All Season Long



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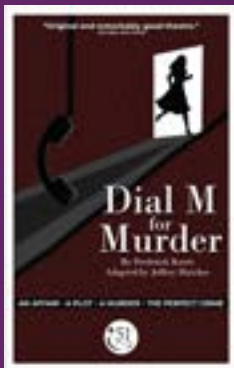
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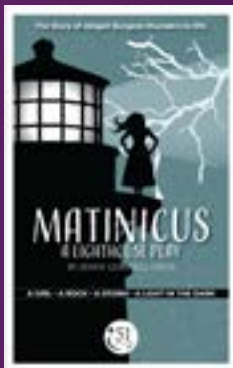
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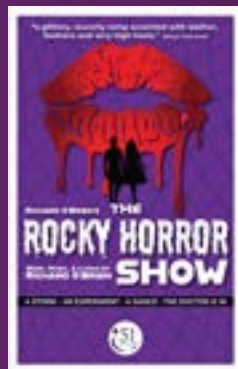
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**Kathryn Markey** (Director) is the Artistic Director at OPERA HOUSE ARTS in Stonington where she recently directed CYRANO and the world premiere of SALVAGE. Co-creator of the PLAYS FOR US series, author/performer of THE TRUE STORY OF JUDITH (National Women's Theatre Conference) and in the Woman Playwrights Initiative at the Ivoryton Playhouse. Credits: Pitt Stages, Cherry Lane Theatre, Emerging Artists, New London Barn, Axelrod PAC, Mason Street Warehouse, The Depot Theatre, Ocean State Theatre, White Plains PAC, Cortland Rep, Saint Michael's Playhouse. Resident director of IN YOUR FACE NEW YORK and co-creator of the satirical country band "The Chalks." KathrynMarkey.com (She/Her)

**Jazlyne Williams**\* (Production Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be making her PTC debut! Prior to arriving in Maine, she traveled around the country & Canada while stage managing regionally & on tour. REGIONAL: Gateway Playhouse (NY), Arvada Center (CO), The Premiere Playhouse (SD), Interlochen Center for the Arts (MI) TOURS: A Bridgerton Experience, The Stranger Things Experience. Many thanks and much love to her mama & dad for not only inspiring her, but for celebrating and supporting her throughout all the good & bad. Make a wish, blow out the Birthday Candles, and enjoy! jazlynnewilliams.com (she/her)

**Jess Ploszaj** (Scenic Design) is the Production Manager of PTC. She is thrilled to be designing again for the PTC stage. PTC scenic design credits: DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, MATT & BEN, and lots of DA productions (Thanks Nellie!). She thanks Mike DiMauro for his continued support. (She/Her)

**Alexis Foster** (Costume Design) has designed the international opera premiers of FOX AND THE POMEGRANATE, IN A MIRROR, DARKLY and A LETTER TO EAST 11TH STREET, and was honored to work with Heather Henson on her touring production of MUPPET MOVIE SINGALONG. Other credits include National Dance Institute, Premiere Stages and St Michael's Playhouse. Alexis additionally serves as the costume director at the University of Maine Orono. (She/Her)

**Tony Gerow** (Lighting Design) is the Technical Director for Husson University's iEX Center & Extended Reality program. A Bangor native, Tony's career includes touring with The Young Americans. He then toured with Feld Entertainment as Head Electrician on DISNEY ON ICE and the international stunt show MARVEL UNIVERSE LIVE. Waterville Opera House Credits: MISS HOLMES, A FOX ON THE FAIRWAY, CALENDAR GIRLS, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, & ALMOST, MAINE. PTC credits: WHO'S HOLIDAY(Sound), HOCKEY MOM(Projections), CLARKSTON(Lighting), GODSPELL(Lighting), NEWSIES (Lighting), THE HOBBIT (Scenic/Lighting), and THE LIGHTING THIEF (Scenic/Lighting). Tony is grateful for the endless love & support of his wife Kacie, daughters Roslyn & Magnolia, and dog Bucky. (He/Him)

**Neil E Graham** (Sound Design/Engineer) brings a lifetime of performing arts experience to PTC. Neil is a musician, actor, production engineer, singer, voice-over artist, and host of the nationally syndicated radio show "The Dark Side of the Tune". Favorite PTC Credits: DUCK HUNTER SHOOT'S ANGEL, OLIVER!, GHOST POSTCARDS FROM MAINE, MAYTAG VIRGIN, HOCKEY MOM, 9 TO 5, THE MUSICAL, BECOMING DR. RUTH, CLARKSTON, MARY POPPINS, & DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST. Like any great soundscape, you'll miss it if it's gone. (He/Him)

**Thomas Demers** (*Prop Design*) has been a props designer for DA since Summer 2023 and he is very excited to make his mainstage prop designer debut! (He/They)

**Angela Bonacasa** (*Intimacy Director*) is a fight/intimacy director, actor, director, educator, and serves as PTC's Resident Fight/Intimacy Director. Previous PTC credits: DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, IRONBOUND, QUEEN, TRAPPED!, CLARKSTON, PETER PAN, and MAURITIUS, among others. PTC Acting Credits: MARY POPPINS (Bird Woman) and A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Christmas Past, Ensemble). She's the Artistic Director of Orono-based True North Theatre, where she has directed: THE ODD COUPLE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, HOUSE OF YES, and THE LION IN WINTER. (She/Her)

**Juliana Morgado Brito** (*Asst. Stage Manager*) is an emerging theater director & designer. She recently graduated from Brown University and worked on 20 student productions as an undergrad, exploring all areas of theater production, from design to management and direction. As a senior, she acted as co-president of the Brown Theatre Collective and directed a production of LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. Recently she was the Costume Designer for DA's production of NEWSIES. She's excited to be a part of this production. (She/Her)

**Noah Haidle** (*Playwright*) is an award-winning playwright whose work has been seen on six continents. For the 2017-2018 season, he was the writer-in-residence at the National Theater of Mannheim, Germany, a position first held by Friedrich Schiller in 1785. A graduate of Princeton and Juilliard, Noah lives with his perfect wife Kelsey, their heaven-sent son Butch, a dog, a bunny, and a blue lobster named Suzanne.

**Jonathan Berry** (*Artistic Director*) is the Artistic Director of PTC, where his directing credits include MR. BURNS..., DIRTY DEEDS DOWNEAST, and IRONBOUND. Previously from Chicago, he was an artistic producer at Steppenwolf, where his directing credits include: THE CHILDREN, YOU GOT OLDER, CONSTELLATIONS, & THE CRUCIBLE. Other work includes: Steep Theatre (Company Member): PARIS, RED REX, THE KNOWLEDGE, FESTEN, MOMENT, and THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO Ui. Griffin (Company Member): THE HARVEST, BALM IN GILEAD, GOLDEN BOY, SPRING AWAKENING, PUNK ROCK, COMPANY, & PICNIC. Roundabout Theater: SUICIDE, INCORPORATED. Gift Theatre: the world premieres of DIRTY and SUICIDE, INCORPORATED. Goodman Theatre: THE SOLID SAND BELOW & THE WORLD OF EXTREME HAPPINESS for New Stages. Assistant Director Broadway productions of OF MICE AND MEN & THIS IS OUR YOUTH. He taught classes at UIC, Columbia College, Northwestern & was instrumental in leading the ensemble training program, The School at Steppenwolf. (He/Him)

**Jen Shepard** (*Executive Director*) has been an actor with PTC since 2015 and the Executive Director since 2021. She is the proud co-owner of ImprovAcadia formerly of Bar Harbor and now Bangor. A graduate of The University of Iowa and iO and the Annoyance in Chicago. Fav roles at PTC: Suzette in DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER, Le Fou in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST & Dr. Ruth in BECOMING DR. RUTH. (She/Her)

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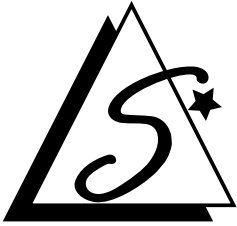
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**Bequest:**

- Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA
- Transfer of Stock
- Beneficiary Designation

We are a registered 501(c)(3) and can provide you with documentation for our records. Donations over \$100 annually will be listed in our printed playbills.

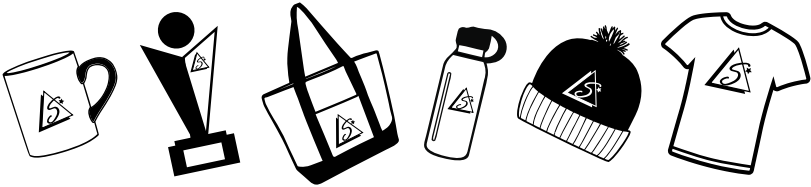
**For More Info Email  
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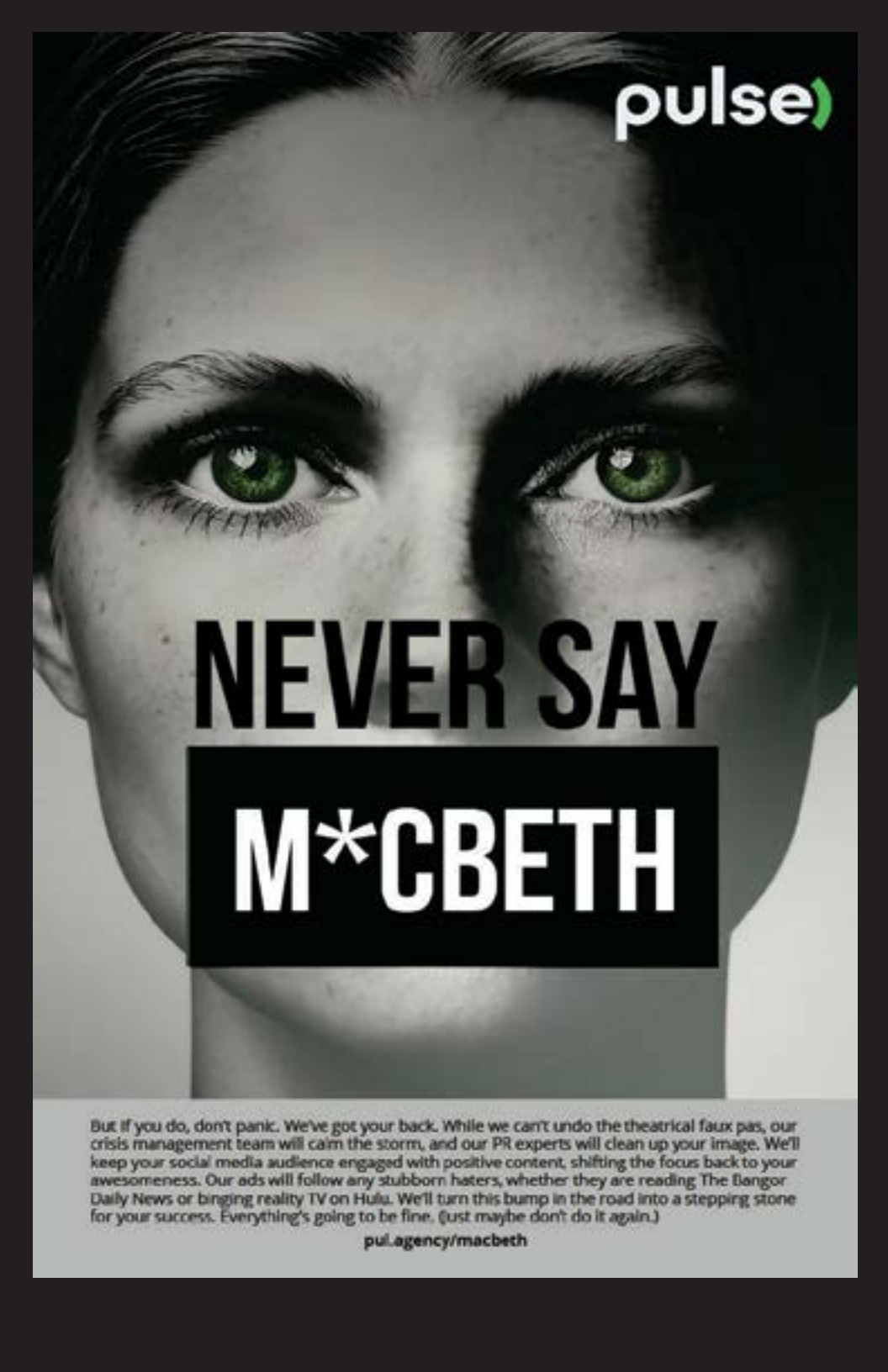
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pulse

**NEVER SAY**

**M\*CBETH**

But if you do, don't panic. We've got your back. While we can't undo the theatrical faux pas, our crisis management team will calm the storm, and our PR experts will clean up your image. We'll keep your social media audience engaged with positive content, shifting the focus back to your awesomeness. Our ads will follow any stubborn haters, whether they are reading The Bangor Daily News or bingeing reality TV on Hulu. We'll turn this bump in the road into a stepping stone for your success. Everything's going to be fine. (Just maybe don't do it again.)

[pul.agency/macbeth](http://pul.agency/macbeth)