

MAINSTAGE SEASON 2016-17

AS YOU LIKE IT

OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 5

SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

DIRECTED BY WENDI WEBER

ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 10

STUDIO 404

BOOK AND LYRICS BY LYNN AHRENS

MUSIC BY STEPHEN FLAHERTY

DIRECTED BY ASHTON BYRUM

PEER GYNT

FEBRUARY 8-18

STUDIO 404

WRITTEN BY HENRIK IBSEN

DIRECTED BY JEFF GINSBERG

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

MARCH 8-18

SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE

BOOK AND LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN

DIRECTED BY DAVID WOOLLEY

FEFU AND HER FRIENDS

APRIL 19-29

STUDIO 404

WRITTEN BY MARIA IRENE FORNES

DIRECTED BY BRIAN SHAW

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

colum.edu/theatre

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
THEATRE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

Peer Gynt

BY HENRIK IBSEN

DIRECTED BY JEFF GINSBERG

FEBRUARY 8-18, 2017



Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

PEER GYNT

FEBRUARY 8–18, 2017

STUDIO 404

PLAYWRIGHT HENRIK IBSEN

DIRECTOR JEFF GINSBERG

SCENIC DESIGN KEVIN ROLFS

COSTUME DESIGN FRANCES MAGGIO

LIGHTING DESIGN HEATHER GILBERT

MAKEUP DESIGN GLENESE HAND

SOUND DESIGN ROB VIGNISSON

COMPOSERS ROB VIGNISSON

MATT PORTER

MOVEMENT RACHEL BUNTING

STAGE MANAGER MJ DOUGHERTY

CAST

DYLAN BARLOWE

WILL BRUCE

ERIKA CALDWELL

TIM CAMPANARO

JORDAN CORNWELL

ALEX FORTUNE

LUCIA FRISANCHO

TAYLOR GRIFFITH

TAYLOR IMEL

JAKE JOHNSON

ISABEL KARP

SELENA LASLEY

ADDISON LEWIS

ANDREW LOWE

DANIELA MARTINEZ

BRANDON NELSON

DECLAN O'CONNOR

SEAN PHINNEY

ZOE SAVRANSKY

BRANDON JAMES STONE

LOGAN SUTHERLAND

ABBY THOMPSON

DYLAN TODD

EMMA YOUNGER

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

BY JEFF GINSBERG

“A classic is a classic not because it conforms to certain structural rules, or fits certain definitions (of which its author had quite probably never heard). It is a classic because of an eternal and irrepressible freshness.”

–Ezra Pound

Never have I read a more vital, raucous version of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* than the Colin Teevan adaptation that you'll be seeing at this performance. It is immediate; it is obscene as well as gorgeously poetic, even sentimental. It is fantastic and expressionistic yet also has scenes of intimacy and heartfelt emotional realism. This version has helped me see more clearly and understand the roots of Peer's need to be “Emperor of the World;” the longing and passion and fever to get out of the tiny rural town that has scapegoated and dissed him from early childhood, that has blasted him since he was a boy with the ugly moniker that distorts his surname into arguably the foulest word in the English language. That drives him to make something of himself out of will and vengeance. And what a creation that is—this liar, this fabulist, and scoundrel and bad boy in his twenties transforms himself into the quintessential global operator, opportunist and black marketer in his fifties. Through all his adventures, he spends the last sections of his *livsreise* (life's journey in Norwegian) seeking answers and trying to understand the cost of always going around and never through his problems and challenges.

This version was written in 2008 for production at the National Theatre of Scotland. My idea was to set it in one of the small towns on the Wisconsin/Illinois border that still has a large population whose roots are in Norway. A place where the landscape seems to me like the farming community along the Gjendin Ridge in Scandinavia, where Peer fantasizes and dreams, and from where, at the time of his mother's death, he finally bolts. Where the family farm, which he purposely neglects, is nestled. A land of huge roughhewn wooden trolls standing outside of diners and gas stations. The kitsch of Norwegian gingerbread architecture that is at once stultifying and precious.

Ibsen wrote the play in Rome when he was 34. He had left Norway with some of his personal history that he weaves into *Peer Gynt*: an alcoholic father who squanders the family fortune, an illegitimate child when he was 17, a theatre community in which he tries to find acceptance and

success. He slammed the door on Bergen and traveled to the southern climes of Italy, and there he wrote his two great plays in verse, *Brand* and *Peer Gynt*.

I hope that the sheer energy of the play, its irrepressible freshness, the breadth of its themes and characters, provoke you, the community, to ask questions and to contemplate my proposal that this play, written in 1867, has insight into the challenges of living in the present. Asbjorn Aarseth remarks in his essay *The Gyntian Self* that “it might be possible to argue that Ibsen, in this poem, is presenting a version of the modern self in its lack of stability, its multiple role-playing.”

After traveling the planet, reinventing himself again and again through sheer determination to “eat the world whole” and only serve his gargantuan appetite (or true lack of self-esteem), Peer finally finds calm and redemption near the end of his *livsreise* back in the farm community that he slammed the door on 30 years before. Like many folk in late middle age (like me), he yearns to go home again with wakened eyes. The sentiment, and I hope that it is earned, is that Ibsen has allowed his scoundrel-hero a moment of rest, a moment of deep understanding, a morsel of a happy ending just before the end.

SETTING

ACT I 1987 Stoughton, Wisconsin. Summer to winter.

ACT II 2017 West Africa. Egypt. Stoughton, Wisconsin.
Winter to summer.

There will be one intermission between Acts I and II.

THE COMPANY

DYLAN BARLOWE (*Older Peer Gynt*) is a senior Acting major from Saint Petersburg, Florida. Barlowe spent the fall 2016 semester studying abroad at Rose Bruford College in England, which he highly recommends to every Acting student. His previous Columbia College Chicago roles include Richard Loeb in *Never the Sinner*, Jared in *Body Awareness*, and The Resident in *Death and The King's Horseman*. Dylan plans to further his passion by studying theatre in graduate school.

WILL BRUCE (*Boy 2/Troll/Bro 3/Ape and others*) is a junior Acting major from Arlington Heights, Illinois. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Violence and Son* (Rick), *Salomé* (Narraboth), *This Is the Rill Speaking* (Willy/Ellis/Earl), *Dog Sees God* (Van), *It Goes On* (George) and *Pomegranate* (Hades).

ERIKA CALDWELL (*Interviewer/Girl 4 and others*) is a sophomore BFA Acting student from Nashville, Tennessee. She was most recently seen in Anton Chekov's *Three Sisters* directed by Sabina Dzelilovic, and Marie Irene Fornés' *Mud* directed by Amber Treadway, both in the Columbia College Chicago Theatre Department. Erika will be studying abroad in London next year, and intends to pursue an MFA in Acting upon graduation.

TIM CAMPANARO (*Boy 3/Troll/Bro 3/Ape and others*) is a junior Acting major who enjoys living in the city and eating more pizza than he likes to admit. This performance is his Columbia College Chicago debut. He was very involved in theatre at Daytona State, where he transferred from last year.

JORDAN CORNWELL (*Boy 5/Big Boy/Wall/ Bro 5 and others*) was born in Charleston, Illinois, where his first role in middle school was as a rugged, handsome lumberjack. He has been type-casted as such ever since. Jordan is in his junior year at Columbia College Chicago.

ALEX FORTUNE (*Buttonman/Musician/The Passenger*) is a senior Musical Theatre and Playwriting student. He most recently appeared on stage at Columbia College Chicago as Joe in *The Long Goodbye* by Tennessee Williams. Other Columbia productions include *Stop/Kiss*,

The Hermit's Mecca and *The Road Not Taken*. Alex is the winner of the 2016 Fresh Play Prize for his play *The Lilliput Plan*. His 10-minute play *Zen of Swampus* was featured in the 24 Hour Fest in 2015. His play *Baltimore & Ohio & Ephyra* received a Musical Theater workshop.

LUCÍA FRISANCHO (*Mountain Girl 3 and others*) is a second year Acting major from Chicago. Previous Columbia College Chicago credits include *Salomé* directed by Jordan Pokorney, *Land of the Free* directed by Nathan Clifford and *What Rhymes with America* directed by Nicholas Ware. This is her first Mainstage show.

TAYLOR GRIFFITH (*Solveig*) is a freshman Acting with International Performance Study major from Lincoln, Nebraska. This is her first show at Columbia College Chicago. Some of her favorite previous performances are *Grapes of Wrath*, *The Tempest*, and *The Spectre Bridegroom* (Lincoln Southeast High School/Lincoln).

TAYLOR IMEL (*Girl 1, Mountain Girl 1 and others*) is a junior Acting major from Roanoke, Indiana. Columbia College Chicago production credits include Irina in *Three Sisters* and Amy in *Bridal Dance*. Taylor interned at Redmoon Theatre Company in the fall of 2015, featuring in their spectacle Halloween shows *Boneshaker* and *Skelebration*.

JACOB JOHNSON (*Peer at 20*) is a sophomore Acting major from Nashville, Tennessee. A few of his Columbia College Chicago credits include *The Long Goodbye* (Bill) directed by Michael Moynihan, *Tigers Be Still* (Zack) directed by Sean Marburger and *Love Song* (Bean) directed by Rich Cinfio.

ISABEL KARP (*Kari*) is a freshman Acting major from Madison, Wisconsin. She played the role of Duchess Senior earlier this year in the Columbia College Chicago mainstage production of *As You Like It*. Some favorite performance credits include Interlochen Arts Academy's *Amadeus* (Venticello), The Young Shakespeare Player's *King Lear* (King Lear) and *Richard II* (Richard II). Isabel stage managed Ducdame Ensemble's repertory season this summer in Santa Fe, New Mexico and studied at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London last year.

SELENA LASLEY (*Helga*) is a sophomore Acting major and Dance minor from Maryland. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include mainstage *Death and the Kings Horseman* directed by Sonita Surratt and John Hildreth.

ADDISON LEWIS (*Ase*) is a senior Acting major from Edmond, Oklahoma. Her recent Columbia College Chicago credits include *As You Like It* directed by Wendi Weber, *Love and Information* directed by

John Green, *Inconsolable* directed by Michelle Locke, and the student web-series *After Class* directed by Alex Poling and Darren Bui.

ANDREW LOWE (*Mad's Father and others*) is a senior Acting major from Indianapolis. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Salomé* (Herod), and *This Is the Rill Speaking* (multiple roles), also directed by Jordan Pokorney.

DANIELA MARTINEZ (*Musician/interviewer's crew and others*) is a sophomore Musical Theatre BFA student from Orlando, Florida. Her favorite performance credits include the mainstage production of *As You Like It* (Celia) directed by Wendi Weber.

BRANDON NELSON (*Best Man/Boy 4/Bro 4/Troll and others*) is a junior Acting major from the Rockford, Illinois area. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *As You Like It* (Phebe), *The Baltimore Waltz* (Carl) and *Love and Information*. Over the summer, he performed in an original work entitled *Interview with Freddie Mercury* (Duncan) at Mary-Arrchie Theatre's Abbie Fest.

DECLAN O'CONNOR (*Mads Moen*) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Lake Zurich, Illinois. Declan appeared in Columbia College Chicago's mainstage production of *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare earlier this semester. This is his second Columbia production.

SEAN PHINNEY (*Boy1/Musician/Troll/Bro 1/Ape and others*) is a freshman at Columbia College Chicago. He has taken acting seriously since his sophomore year of high school when he appeared in a touring production of *Akeelah and The Bee* with Children's Theater Company. He also enjoys rapping and spoken word.

ZOE SAVRANSKY (*Ingrid/Woman in Green/Anitra*) is a sophomore BFA Acting major from Cleveland. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Salomé*, *This is the Rill Speaking* and *Doctor Faustus*.

BRANDON JAMES STONE (*Aslak, The Thin Man*) is pursuing a BFA at Columbia College Chicago, and first mainstage. Brandon is pursuing a BFA in Acting with an International Study, and is a Feldenkrais teaching assistant. His previous roles include Theo in *Sequence*, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* and Marius in *Les Miserables*. He has appeared in collaborations with the Williams Street Repertory in Crystal Lake, Illinois. This is Brandon's third show at Columbia and his first mainstage.

LOGAN VAN SUTHERLAND (*Priest/Solveig's Father and others*) is a sophomore Acting major from Evanston, Illinois. Most recently at Columbia College Chicago he performed in *Salomé*, directed by Jordan Pokorney. He started acting at the Mudlark Theatre Company in Evanston as a child, and never once looked back.

ABBY THOMPSON (*Girl 2/Mountain Girl 2*) is currently a freshman Acting major from Milwaukee. Her favorite credits include Patty in *Charlie Brown's Christmas* (First Stage/Milwaukee), Ensemble/Martha u/s in *A Christmas Carol* (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), Chris in *Milwaukee Heroes* (African American Children's Theatre), Simon in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Milwaukee High School of the Arts) and most recently, Natasha in *Three Sisters* directed by Abhi Shrestha at Columbia College Chicago.

DYLAN TODD (*King Bastard/Ingrid's Father*) is a senior Acting major from Madison, Wisconsin. Previous Columbia College Chicago performance roles include Adam in *As You Like It*, Hank in *What Rhymes With America*, Feldzeig in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Andrew Carnes in *Oklahoma!*. This is Dylan's seventh production at Columbia, and his fourth mainstage production.

EMMA YOUNGER (*Girl 5/Stewardess and others*) is a freshman from Portland, Oregon pursuing a BFA in Acting. This is her first Columbia College Chicago mainstage production. Emma appeared in *The Frogs* (Remix), a Directing 4 Project earlier this semester. Her high school performance credits include *Proof* (Catherine), *Coraline* (Coraline) and *Our Town* (Emily Webb).

JEFF GINSBERG (Director) is an actor, director, educator and the coordinator of the Theatre Department's Acting program at Columbia College Chicago. As co-artistic director of the National Jewish Theater, he supervised, directed or acted in over 20 classics, as well as Chicago and world premieres. He was also co-artistic director of the Immediate Theater Company where he directed Joseph Jefferson-recognized productions of *Seduced*, *Two Small Bodies*, *Apocalyptic Butterflies* and *Ragged Dick*. Jeff has taught at The School at Steppenwolf, Northwestern University's Cherub Program, The Actor's Center, and Center Theater's Training Program. Jeff has directed over 30 productions of classic and contemporary work at Columbia. Jeff received a Presidential Scholar in the Arts Teaching Award and has twice been nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award from Columbia College Chicago. He recently trained with the Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield, Massachusetts; at the London International School of Performing Arts in London, with Paola Coletto in Italy, and Ruth Zaporah in Montreal. He is a graduate of Boston University's

School of the Arts and the Yale School of Drama.

KEVIN ROLFS (Scenic Designer) is a senior Theatre Design major from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Previous Columbia College Chicago productions include *Love and Information* by Caryl Churchill and directed by John Green, Nicky Silver's *The Altruists* directed by Nathan Clifford, and *The Comfort Play* written and directed by Jarek Pastor. Kevin was the scenic painter on *Rutherford's Travels* for Pegasus Theater.

FRANCES MAGGIO (Costume Designer) is a professional costume designer and the coordinator of the costume design program at Columbia College Chicago. Her designs have been seen in Chicago and regionally.

RACHEL BUNTING (Movement) is artistic director of The Humans, founded in 2002. The work of The Humans uses dance, image, object, voice and mask. At Canal Chapter, a NYC residency in 2007, she made "Let's kill our sadness," a work canopied by wool "clouds" and accented with huge, snapping scissors. In 2008, she created "who I am (who I am not)," a piece that explored "twindom" through use of a chime curtain and images of owls, all in sonata form. This was conceived at Atlantic Center for the Arts and shown at "The A.W.A.R.D. Show!" and at Links Hall in a self-produced evening. In 2011, as an awarded Chicago Dancemakers Forum Lab Artist, she created "Paper Shoes," an episodic evening that showcased a chorus of "horses." In 2013, she created "my my gray sky," a piece for 13 performers spanning ages seven to 70. This multi-dimensional work was shown at many venues, including the Museum of Contemporary Art and in the 2014 season of The Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago. For the last year or two, she has been devising strategies for dark fruits, deer and disco as a way to explore her father's death.

GRANT SABIN (Props Master) A native of rural Illinois, Grant blends his rural roots with urban art. A recipient of the 2015 Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award, Grant is known throughout Chicago for his keen eye for capturing atmospheric detail and his ability to design "impressively executed sets" on a storefront-theater budget. His designs have been seen at Northlight, Victory Garden, Steppenwolf, Next, The Royal George and Theater Witt in Chicago; and Overture Center (Madison, Wisconsin) and Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center (Cedar Falls, Iowa), American Blues, ATC, The House, The Hypocrites, Christina Isabelle Dance, The Seldoms Dance and A Red Orchid. He was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson award for his designs of American Blues Theater's *Yankee Tavern*, A Red Orchid's production of *The Sea Horse* and Dog & Pony's production of *Mr.*

Marmalade. Grant was recently named one of the Top 50 Players in Chicago Theater by *New City* magazine. Grant is currently a part-time faculty member at Columbia College Chicago.

MJ DOUGHERTY (Production Stage Manager) from Peoria, Illinois, is starting her fourth and final semester studying stage management at Columbia College Chicago. She transferred to Columbia from Illinois Central College in fall 2015. Some of her recent stage management credits include Assistant Stage Manager on *Death and the King's Horseman* directed by John Hildreth and Sonita Surratt, and *Doctor Faustus* directed by Cece Adams; and Stage Manager on *Fight Quest* directed by Moira Begale with Otherworld Theatre Company.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO THEATRE DEPARTMENT

INTERIM CHAIR OF THE DANCE AND THEATRE DEPARTMENTS

PETER CARPENTER, BA, MFA, PHD

PRODUCTION STAFF

MAINSTAGE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR JOHN GREEN

DIRECTOR OF THEATER FACILITIES MARY BADGER

VOCAL COACH KENDRA THULIN

SCENIC DESIGN ADVISOR JACKIE PENROD

STAGE MANAGER ADVISOR NYKOL DEDREU

MUSIC DIRECTOR ADVISOR ANDRA VELIS SIMON

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LIGHTING TECH SUPERVISOR MARC CHEVALIER

MASTER CARPENTER MICK THOMASSON

COSTUME DESIGN ADVISOR FRANCES MAGGIO

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER PATTI ROEDER

COSTUME SHOP FOREMAN TOM KEIFFER

MAKEUP ADVISOR GLENESE HAND

PROPERTY MASTER GRANT SABIN

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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR MICHAEL MADDUX

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JORDAN POKORNEYN

COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANTS ASAMANTHA LISKA

HERE PERKOWITZ

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS SOPHIE GODDARD

SPENCER FRITZ

COMING UP NEXT

Little Shop of Horrors

MARCH 8–18

SHELDON PATINKIN THEATRE



COMING UP

Fetu and Her Friends

APRIL 19–29

STUDIO 404

