THE LAST MATCH

WRITTEN BY ANNA ZIEGLER
CHOREOGRAPHED BY STEPH PAUL
DIRECTED BY KEIRA FROMM

Featuring Kayla Carter*, Heather Chrisler*, Ryan Hallahan* and Christopher Sheard*

Scenic Designer William Boles, USA
Costume Designer Noël Huntzinger
Lighting Designer Christine Binder, USA
Sound Designer and Composer Pornchanok Kanchanabanca, USA
Properties Master Rachel Watson
Dialect Coach Eva Breneman
Intimacy Director Kristina Fluty
Dramaturg / Artistic Producer Bobby Kennedy
General Manager / Producer Chris Greiner
Casting Director Geoff Button
Production Stage Manager Becky Pechter*
Assistant Stage Manager Natalie Cohen
Television Director Matt Hoffman

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FOUNDATION SUPPORT
The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation

Additional support for The Last Match is provided by the Director’s Society Sponsors and the Illinois Arts Council Agency, a state agency.

The Last Match was originally produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director; Sydney Beers, General Manager) at the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre/Laura Pels Theatre on October 24, 2017.

The Last Match had its world premiere at The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, California (Barry Edelstein, Artistic Director; Michael G. Murphy, Managing Director).

A workshop production of The Last Match was presented at New York Stage and Film & Vassar at Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2015.

Use of cameras, video recorders, audio recorders and/or any other type of recording device during a performance is strictly prohibited.
CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Tim ......................................................................................................................... Ryan Hallahan*
Sergei .................................................................................................................... Christopher Sheard*
Mallory .................................................................................................................... Kayla Carter*
Galina ..................................................................................................................... Heather Chrisler*

SETTING

The U.S. Open Semi-Final Match, a series of scenes that take place inside the match and memories outside of it.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ............................................................................................................... Keira Fromm, SDC
Stage Manager .................................................................................................... Becky Pechter*
Scenic Designer ................................................................................................. William Boles, USA
Costume Designer ............................................................................................... Noël Huntzinger
Lighting Designer ............................................................................................... Christine Binder, USA
Sound Designer and Composer ............................................................................. Pornchanok Kanchanabanca, USA
Choreographer ..................................................................................................... Steph Paul, SDC
Dialect Coach ...................................................................................................... Eva Breneman
Dramaturg / Artistic Producer ............................................................................ Bobby Kennedy
General Manager / Producer .............................................................................. Chris Greiner
Assistant Lighting Designer .................................................................................. Dan Friedman
Assistant Stage Manager ..................................................................................... Natalie Cohen
Scene Shop/Scenic Construction .......................................................................... Means of Production
Casting Director ..................................................................................................... Geoff Button
Technical Supervisor ........................................................................................... Adam Veness
Master Electrician ................................................................................................ Simon Robinson
Sound Engineer .................................................................................................... Amanda Hosking
Light Board Operator ........................................................................................... Raphael Grimes
Wardrobe Supervisor ........................................................................................... Jane Heuer
Dresser .................................................................................................................... Shelby Brand
Properties Master ................................................................................................ Rachel Watson
COVID-19 Safety Officer ..................................................................................... Katie Galetti
Assistant Production Manager ............................................................................ Kelly Crook

ORIGINAL 2020 PRODUCTION TEAM

Tim ......................................................................................................................... Luigi Sottile*
Understudy, Tim .................................................................................................. James Knight*
Understudy, Sergei ............................................................................................... Alejandro Tey
Understudy, Mallory ............................................................................................. Brianna Buckley
Understudy, Galina ............................................................................................... Carley Cornelius
Intimacy Director ................................................................................................... Kristina Fluty
Assistant Director ................................................................................................ Lauren Katz
Assistant Stage Manager ...................................................................................... Hai Alvarez-Millard

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SPECIAL THANKS


At Writers Theatre, we always invite our audiences to "lean forward and engage" and that’s because we want you to immerse yourself in the work on our stages — even when enjoying digital productions from home! We want you to bring your full self to this viewing experience — laugh if so moved, cry if so moved, applaud if so moved, exclaim if so moved. Your best reaction is an honest reaction. So remember, don’t sit back and relax. Do Lean Forward and Engage!

Enjoy the show!

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A SPECIAL SALUTE TO SPONSORS OF THE LAST MATCH

Writers Theatre would like to acknowledge the following individuals who supported the original cancelled production of The Last Match and thank them for their continued support:

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WRITERS THEATRE SALUTES ComEd
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Writers Theatre is thrilled to have support from ComEd as Corporate Education Sponsor for the 2020/21 Season. ComEd is a longtime supporter of the arts in Chicagoland, and Writers Theatre is honored to partner with a company that acknowledges the power of theatre education, as it emphasizes collaboration, cultivates self-expression, encourages imaginative inquiry and promotes civic responsibility and social justice. The 2020/21 Season marks ComEd’s sixth season as part of our family of supporters, and Writers Theatre is extremely grateful to once again have ComEd’s partnership.
Kayla Carter (Mallory) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously appeared in *Smart People*. Chicago credits include *Roe, How to Catch Creation* (Goodman), *Mansfield Park* (Northlight) and work with the Shakespeare Project of Chicago. Regional credits: *River City* (NNPN World Premiere, Actor’s Theatre of Charlotte, Phoenix Theatre Indianapolis), the World Premiere of *The Patron Saint of Losing Sleep and Passing Strange* (Actors Theatre of Charlotte). Film/TV: *Knives and Skin* (dir. Jennifer Reeder), *Chicago Med* (NBC) and APB (Fox). She is a graduate of University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Instagram: @kaylacrater.

Heather Chrisler (Galina) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Heather Chrisler has recently been seen in Chicago in *Howards End* (Remy Bumppo), *Twilight Bowl* (Goodman Theatre, Jeff Nomination—Best Ensemble, Chris Jones Top Ten Performances of 2019 Honorable Mention), *Mies Julie* (Victory Gardens, Chris Jones Top Ten Performances of 2018), *Small Mouth Sounds* (A Red Orchid, Jeff Nomination—Best Ensemble), *Machinal* (Greenhouse, Jeff Nomination—Best Performer, Chris Jones Top Ten Performances of 2017) and *good friday* (Oracle Productions, Jeff Nomination Ensemble). Chrisler is an Artistic Associate at First Folio Theatre where she has been seen in *Mary’s Wedding*, *Captain Blood* and *The Madness of Edgar Allan Poe*. Regionally she has been seen at The Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Door Shakespeare, Riverside Theatre and Portland Center Stage. Television credits include *Chicago PD*. (NBC). Chrisler holds an MFA from Ohio University, and she is represented by DDO Chicago.

Ryan Hallahan (Tim) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in *Witch, The Real Thing*, and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Select theatre credits include *Pass Over, Straight White Men* (Steppenwolf), *A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Pericles, Cyrano de Bergerac* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Posh* (Steep Theatre; Jeff Award Winner, Best Ensemble), *The Body of an American* (Stage Left; Jeff Award Nominee, Actor in a Principal Role) and *Octagon* (Jackalope Theatre), as well as work with The Goodman, Definition Theatre and Broken Nose. Film and television credits include *Pass Over* (Amazon Studios, dir. Spike Lee), *Working Man, Chicago Med* and *Chicago Fire* (NBC). He is the author of three full length plays: *Off The 77, The Grand Opening of the Chino Valley Death House* and *Anna Lee*. He is represented in Chicago by Actors Talent Group, and currently resides in Los Angeles with his beautiful girlfriend and their insane dog.

Christopher Sheard (Sergei) returns to Writers Theatre where he previously appeared in *Arcadia*. Chicago credits include *The Winters Tale, A Christmas Carol* (Goodman Theatre), *Nell Gwynn, Short Shakes! A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Short Shakes! Macbeth, Short Shakes! Romeo and Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *An Octoroon, A Doll’s House* (Definition Theatre Company, where he is an Ensemble Member), *Puff: Believe it or Not* (Remy Bumppo), *The Columnist* (American Blues Theater), *Spill* (TimeLine Theatre Company), Steppenwolf Theatre and Windy City Playhouse. Regionally, he has performed with Third Avenue Playhouse, Great River Shakespeare Festival and four seasons...
with American Players Theatre, where some favorite roles include Romeo, Konstantin and Loud Stone. TV/Film credits include Blame it on Toby (Fox on a Hill Productions). Chris is represented by Grossman and Jack Talent. He received his MFA from The University of Illinois and his B.A. from Florida State.

Anna Ziegler (Playwright) Anna Ziegler’s play Photograph 51, produced on the West End starring Nicole Kidman and directed by Michael Grandage, won London’s 2016 WhatsOnStage award for Best New Play. It has been produced around the country and the world, most recently in Hamburg, Rome, and Stockholm. Her play The Last Match premiered at The Old Globe Theatre and was nominated for the 2016 San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Outstanding New Play award. Boy, which premiered Off-Broadway in a Keen Company/Ensemble Studio Theatre co-production, was nominated for the 2016 Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award. A Delicate Ship was produced at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the Playwrights Realm and was a New York Times and Time Out Critic’s Pick. Anna holds commissions from Second Stage Theatre, The Geffen Playhouse and Seattle Rep. Oberon Books has published a collection of her work entitled Anna Ziegler: Plays One. She holds a B.A. from Yale and an MFA from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts.

Keira Fromm (Director) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Keira is a Jeff Award-nominated director, as well as a casting director and teacher based in Chicago. Favorite recent directing credits: Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley by Lauren Gunderson (TheatreSquared), the Chicago premieres of Dada Woof Papa Hot by Peter Parnell, Bull in a China Shop by Bryna Turner, Significant Other by Joshua Harmon, Bright Half Life by Tanya Barfield, and A Kid Like Jake by Daniel Pearle (all at About Face Theatre), the U.S. premiere of hang by debbie tucker green (Remy Bumppo), A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of New York City by Halley Feiffer (Route 66 Theatre Company), The Columnist by David Auburn (American Blues Theater), How the World Began by Catherine Treischmann (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble), Luce by J.C. Lee (Next Theatre), Charles Ives Take Me Home by Jessica Dickey (Strawdog), The How and the Why by Sarah Treem (TimeLine Theatre), Broadword by Marco Ramirez (Gift Theatre), Fallow by Kenneth Lin (Steep Theatre) and Lobby Hero by Kenneth Lonergan (Redtwist Theatre.) Keira is an Artistic Associate with About Face Theatre. She received her MFA from DePaul University, BFA from Boston University, is an alumna of Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, and a proud member of SDC, the professional director’s union. Keira is also a frequent guest director at DePaul, as well as Roosevelt University.

Steph Paul (Choreographer) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Steph Paul is a Haitian-American Choreographer, Director, Performer and Educator. Chicago credits include: Learning Curve (Albany Park Theater Project, Third Rail Projects), Ofrenda, Feast, Home/Land (Albany Park Theater Project), How to Defend Yourself (Victory Gardens Theater), Mansfield Park (Northlight Theatre), Romeo and Juliet, Short Shakes! Romeo and Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Last Stop on Market Street (Chicago Children’s Theatre), The Royale (American Theater Company - Jeff Award Nomination, Artistic Specialization). Regional: Shakespeare Theatre Company, Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Studio Theatre, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and City Theatre Company. International: National Theatre of Scotland and Royal Opera House Muscat. Awards: Helen Hayes - Outstanding Choreography in a Play (The Wolves, Studio Theatre) and St. Louis Theater Circle Award Nomination—Outstanding Choreographer (The Royale, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis). Steph is
a Resident Director of Albany Park Theater Project and an Artistic Associate of Chicago Dance Crash. She is a proud member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society and Serena Williams' biggest fan. www.steph paul.com.


Noël Huntzinger (Costume Designer) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Noël is a Chicago based freelance designer. She is a Sideshow artistic associate and a resident artist at Filament Theatre. Favorite theatre design projects include The Goodman Theatre, Chicago Lyric Opera Unlimited, Boise Contemporary Theatre, Filament Theatre, About Face Theatre, Pride Arts Theatre, Interrobang Theatre Ensemble, A-Squared, Muse of Fire, Shattered Globe Theatre, Interrobang Theatre and Collective Theatre Ensemble. Noël is a design advisor at The DePaul Theatre School. In addition to theatre, she has designed pieces for choreographers such as Ginny Sykes, Wendy Clineard, the George Balanchine Trust and the Antony Tudor Trust. Film design credits include Olympia and Cliff. Noël is a graduate of Oklahoma University. For more, visit noelhuntzinger.com.

Christine Binder (Lighting Design) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously designed *Parade, Hedda Gabler and The Letters*. Ms. Binder is a Chicago-based designer and has designed lighting for Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Victory Gardens Theater, Court Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Her opera designs include work with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Opera Theater, San Francisco Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, New York City Opera, Seiji Ozawa Music Festival (Matsumoto, Japan), Grand Genève Opera, Theatre an der Wien and Houston Grand Opera. Recent designs include *Mother of the Maid* and *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Northlight Theatre), *The Agitators* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival) and *Her Honor Jane Byrne* (Lookingglass Theatre Company). She is the Head of Lighting Design at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Pornchanok Kanchanabanca (Sound Designer and Composer) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Pornchanok (Nok) Kanchanabanca is a Thai artist, sound designer, musician and composer. Recent productions include *Skylight* (McCarter Theater), *Cymbeline* (Yale Rep), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), *As You Like It* (OSF), *Be Here Now* (Cincinnati Playhouse) and *Frontières sans Frontières* (The Bushwick Starr). Nok has worked with theatre companies across the United States including Lincoln Center, Rattlestick, Geva Theatre and Milwaukee Repertory Theater, among many others. She has also collaborated with performing groups and theatre companies in Thailand including B-Floor Theatre, Babymime, Crescent Moon and Democrazy Theatre Studio since 2008. Nok graduated from the Yale School of Drama and is a member of the Theatrical
**THE LAST MATCH PROFILES**

Sound Designers and Composers
Associate (TSDCA) and of USA Local 829. www.wishnok-music.com

Eva Breneman (Dialect Coach) returns to Writers Theatre where she was previously the dialect coach for The Importance of Being Earnest, Arcadia, Yellow Moon, Sweet Charity, The Caretaker, Heartbreak House, Do The Hustle, Travels with My Aunt, The Maids, The Puppetmaster of Lodz and Bach at Leipzig. Chicago credits include The Doppelganger, The Compass, The Herd, Tribes, Good People, The March, The Brother/Sister Plays (Steppenwolf Theatre Company), The Adventures of Augie March, Photograph 51, The Belle of Amherst, The Hard Problem, One Man Two Guvnors, M Butterfly, Angels in America (Court Theatre), Nell Gwynn, Mary Stuart, Red Velvet, Shakespeare in Love, King Charles, Sense and Sensibility, Julius Caesar, Elizabeth Rex, The Madness of King George (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), Twilight Bowl, The Lady in Denmark, A Christmas Carol, Objects in the Mirror, The Little Foxes (Goodman Theatre), Plantation!, Hard Times, Blood Wedding, Death Tax, Bengali Tiger in the Baghdad Zoo, The Great Fire, Ethan Frome, The Old Curiosity Shop, Hillbilly Antigone (Lookingglass Theatre Company), Mansfield Park, By the Water, You Can’t Take it With You, Lost in Yonkers, Outside Mullingar, The Whipping Man, Season’s Greeting, A Life (Northlight Theatre), Cardboard Piano, Master Class, In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play, A Disappearing Number, Chimerica, Danny Casolari Died for You, Inana, 33 Variations, Juno, Blood and Gifts, In Darfur, To Master The Art, The History Boys, Fiorello and This Happy Breed (TimeLine Theatre Company) and The Light in the Piazza (Theo Ubique Theatre, Joseph Jefferson Award). Regional credits include five seasons at American Players Theatre, Things I Know to be True, Miss Bennet, or a Christmas at Pemberly, Always Patsy Cline, The Who and the What (Milwaukee Rep), R and J: A Theatre Lila Invention (Theatre Lila), The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane (People’s Light Company, Philadelphia), Love’s Labour’s Lost (Actor’s Theatre of Louisville) and Around the World in 80 Days (Centerstage Baltimore and Kansas City Repertory Theatre). National Tours: The Woman in Black, Fun Home, Motown and Mamma Mia. Television: Empire, The Chicago Code (Fox), Betrayal (ABC) and The Beast (A&E). Breneman is an Associate Artist at TimeLine Theatre Company. dialectdiner.com

Bobby Kennedy (Dramaturg / Artistic Producer) is the Director of New Work & Dramaturgy at Writers Theatre. In addition to his dramaturgy work at WT, his credits also include the world premieres of Give It All Back (SideShow Theatre Company), Body and Blood (The Gift Theatre), Ibsen is Dead (Interrobang Theatre Project) and The Peacock (Jackalope Theatre Company), as well as the Midwest premiere of The Luck of the Irish (Next Theatre Company). Kennedy co-founded The Spontaneous Theater Project in Boston and has also worked with Huntington Theatre Company and New Repertory Theatre. He is an alumnus of Boston University.

Rebecca Pechter (Stage Manager) returns to Writers Theatre where she previously stage managed A Doll’s House, Next to Normal, August Wilson’s Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, Smart People, Quixote: On the Conquest of Self, The Mystery of Love & Sex, East Texas Hot Links, Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody, The Dance of Death, Yellow Moon, The Letters, The Blonde, the Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead, The Caretaker, The Detective’s Wife, Travels with My Aunt, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Old Settler, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, A Minister’s Wife, Old Glory and Picnic. Previous credits include Death Tax (Lookingglass Theatre Company) and stage management apprentice for The
Crucible, Good Boys and True, Carter's Way and Superior Donuts (Steppenwolf Theatre Company). She is a proud member of Actors’ Equity Association. Love to A, C & G.

Natalie Cohen (Assistant Stage Manager) makes her Writers Theatre debut. Recent credits include Luna (Filament Theatre), Spotlight Reading Series (Court Theatre), Always...Patsy Cline and Driving Miss Daisy (New Harmony Theatre). Natalie is a graduate of Truman State University.

Michael Halberstam (Artistic Director) is the co-founder of Writers Theatre. He has directed over thirty-five productions for the company, including Not About Heroes (starring Nicholas Pennell), Private Lives, Look Back In Anger, Candida, The Father, Crime and Punishment, Benefactors, The Seagull, The Duchess of Malfi, Othello, The Savannah Disputation, the world premiere musical A Minister's Wife, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, She Loves Me, The Real Thing, Hamlet, Sweet Charity, Days Like Today, Isaac's Eye, Arcadia, Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf: A Parody (which he co-directed with Stuart Carden), Julius Caesar (which he co-adapted and directed with Scott Parkinson), The Importance of Being Earnest, and Twelfth Night. Elsewhere he directed The Gamester (Northlight Theatre), A Man for All Seasons (Peninsula Players Theatre), Hamlet (Illinois Shakespeare Festival), Candida (Jean Cocteau Repertory in New York), Ten Little Indians (Drury Lane Theatre), a highly acclaimed revival of Crime and Punishment, which Writers Theatre produced Off-Broadway at 59E59 Theaters in New York City, Enchanted April and State of the Union (Milwaukee Repertory Theater). In 2011 he directed A Minister's Wife at Lincoln Center Theater, and also directed the west coast premiere at San Jose Repertory Theatre in 2013. His forays into opera have included The Rape of Lucretia (Chicago Opera Theater), Francesca da Rimini featuring the Chicago Symphony Orchestra conducted by Christoph Eschenbach and Le Freyshutz, a Berlioz adaptation of the Weber opera conducted by Christoph Eschenbach in its North American Premiere (Ravinia Festival). He spent two and a half years teaching Shakespeare at The Theatre School at DePaul University and has received awards for excellence in theater management and artistic achievement from The Chicago Drama League, The Arts & Business Council, Chicago Lawyers for the Creative Arts and The Chicago Associates of the Stratford Festival. He also received the 2010 Zelda Fichandler Award, the 2013 Artistic Achievement Award from the League of Chicago Theatres, was named Chicago Tribune’s 2013 "Chicagoan of the Year" for Theater; received the 2016 Award of Honor for Outstanding Contributions to the Field from the Illinois Theatre Association; a special award for 2016 from the Joseph Jefferson Award Committee for outstanding theatrical accomplishments and contributions to Chicagoland theatre for the past 25 years; and a distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois. He currently serves on the board of the Arts Club of Chicago.

Kathryn M. Lipuma (Executive Director) has served as the Executive Director of Writers Theatre since March 2007 where she is responsible for overseeing all management, administration and operations for the company. Most recently, she led the planning and construction of WT’s new state-of-the-art theater complex, designed by internationally renowned architect and MacArthur Fellow and “Genius” grant recipient Jeanne Gang of Studio Gang Architects, which opened in February 2016. Prior to Writers, Lipuma spent nine seasons as Executive Director at the Tony Award-winning Signature Theatre Company in New York. At Signature, she produced award-winning revivals of Horton Foote’s The Trip to Bountiful, August
Wilson’s _Seven Guitars_ and Lanford Wilson’s _Burn This_ and worked with such acclaimed writers as Edward Albee, Lee Blessing, Horton Foote, Maria Irene Fornés, John Guare, Bill Irwin, Romulus Linney, Paula Vogel, August Wilson and Lanford Wilson. During her tenure, the organization enjoyed consistent growth and recognition as well as the launch of Signature Theatre Company’s successful $15 Ticket Program. Prior to her time at Signature, she spent six years with Chicago’s Goodman Theatre. Lipuma is the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre and is a board member and the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the League of Chicago Theatres, an alliance representing more than 200 Chicago-area theater companies and producers. She is a member of The Economic Club of Chicago and The Chicago Network, an organization of 400 leading women of Chicago business, professional, cultural, nonprofit and educational communities and serves as an Advisory Council Member for The Actors Fund. She is also the co-creator of DoNorth, an umbrella organization joining four cultural neighbors—Chicago Botanic Garden, Kohl Children’s Museum, Ravinia Festival and Writers Theatre—to attract new audiences to the cultural, environmental and community activities of the North Shore. She is a graduate of The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.
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WT Education reaches 11,500 students a year throughout Chicagoland. Our programs include *Write On!*, a customizable artist-in-residence program that pairs teaching artists with schools and community organizations to explore performance and text with a focus on encouraging young people to find their creative voices; *The Novel Series*, a cutting-edge theatre and literary arts curriculum designed to allow students to explore literature and the art of bringing text to life; *The MLK Project: The Fight for Civil Rights*, a touring performance written by Yolanda Androzzo that chronicles a student’s journey as she learns about the Civil Rights Movement; a student matinee series; *ACTIVATE*, a wrap-around in-school residency in conjunction with matinees, designed to deepen students’ experience with plays on our stages; and the WT Youth Council, an artistic leadership advisory board for motivated, passionate high school students interested in hands-on, in-depth exposure to arts administration.

Our audience engagement programming includes: *Sunday Spotlight*, featuring an expert in a field relating to the themes or setting of our productions; *From Page to Stage*, a public collaboration between Writers Theatre and select North Shore libraries and community partners that explores the literary and theatrical themes of our stage productions; *The Making of…* series that provides access to the process behind crafting our productions; *Pre-Show Conversation: Up Close*, pre-show discussion designed to provide context for the production; and *Post-Show Conversation: The Word and The Artist*, a facilitated post-show discussion of the play. All of these events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit writerstheatre.org/events.

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WRITERS THEATRE MISSION STATEMENT

Writers Theatre was founded to explore productions in which the word on the page and the artists that bring the word to life hold primary importance. Central to this mission are three important core values: valuing text, both classic and contemporary, as the fundamental source of inspiration; creating deliberately intimate performances where audiences are face-to-face with powerful stories; and honoring the time and commitment of our artists by remaining at the forefront of industry compensation. With a reputation for consistent artistic excellence, innovative educational programming and strong ties to our community, Writers Theatre has built an award-winning repertoire and today, serves as a vital and highly-regarded company in the Chicago theatre community.

WRITERS THEATRE HISTORY

In 1992, Writers Theatre was founded in order to create an environment where the written word and the nurturing of artists were the foundation of all productions. We opened our first venue that year in the anteroom of a newly opened bookstore in Glencoe on the North Shore of Chicago. The limited space available gave way to a new aesthetic that has been a company hallmark ever since—intimacy.

Under the artistic leadership of Founding Artistic Director Michael Halberstam, who continues in that role to this day, WT became a welcome addition to the already vibrant Chicago arts community. The Theatre quickly garnered significant critical acclaim and established a reputation as a home for world-class art and artists, opening a second performance space in 2003. Our inviting 108-seat Tudor Court space continued the company’s trademark level of intimacy while allowing for a new scale of production and affording the opportunity to expand audiences, programming and educational outreach.

Acclaimed by The Wall Street Journal as “America’s number one theatre company” in 2016, Writers has offered more than 100 productions, including 27 world premieres. We have garnered numerous awards and accolades, including 133 Joseph Jefferson Award nominations and 26 Awards, as well as multiple citations of Artistic Director Michael Halberstam for excellence and contributions to the field, including The 2010 Zelda Fichandler Award and the 2013 “Chicagoan of the Year in Theater” Award from the Chicago Tribune. In 2007, Writers debuted nationally with a New York premiere of Crime and Punishment, followed in 2011 by a Lincoln Center Theater production of A Minister’s Wife—the musical adaptation of George Bernard Shaw’s Candida, conceived and directed by Halberstam.

In February 2016, Writers Theatre opened a new, state-of-the-art facility. This established the company’s first permanent home in a new theatre center in downtown Glencoe, designed by the award-winning, internationally renowned Studio Gang Architects, led by Founder and Design Principal Jeanne Gang, FAIA, in collaboration with Theatre Consultant Auerbach Pollock Friedlander. The new facility has allowed the Theatre to continue to grow to accommodate its audience, while maintaining its trademark intimacy. The new facility resonates with and complements the Theatre’s neighboring Glencoe community, adding tremendous value to Chicagoland and helping to establish the North Shore as a premier cultural destination.
The Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe shares the space at the theatre center holding meetings, luncheons, book clubs, bridge and other events at the building.

- The Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe, a 501(c)(3) organization, was incorporated on April 18, 1872. The WLC owns the land on which the WT theatre center sits and has provided use of the land to WT without charge.
- WLC is the third oldest woman’s club in Illinois for philanthropic, educational and social endeavors. The WLC book collection was donated to Glencoe to form the nucleus of the original library for Glencoe. WLC’s first building was used as a library until the current Glencoe Public Library was built.
- WLC members meet regularly to pursue the Club’s philanthropic, intellectual and social activities. For a full list of WLC activities and a current calendar, check wlcglencoe.com.
- Club members also staff the North Shore Exchange (an upscale consignment shop). This 501(c)(3) shop is a charitable arm of WLC and is located at 372 Hazel Avenue in Glencoe, 847-835-0026.

Membership in the Woman’s Library Club of Glencoe is open to all women interested in furthering the club’s goals. The current membership consists of over 120 women living in 10 area suburbs. If you are interested in becoming a member, pick up an application in the Writers Theatre lobby, email wlcglencoe@gmail.com or visit the website at wlcglencoe.com.
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The Artists Council is a select group of our most devoted supporters, whose extraordinary annual contributions sustain the Theatre and enable it to realize ambitious artistic and institutional goals. Members of the Artists Council are granted unparalleled access to the creative process as well as the unique opportunity to forge a personal connection with our art. We gratefully acknowledge our Writers Theatre Artists Council members who made commitments in the period between November 1, 2019 and February 1, 2021.

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