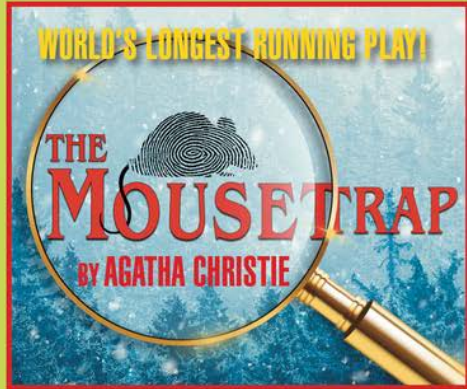


CITADEL THEATRE'S
2023/2024 SEASON



September 15 to October 15

Directed by **SCOTT WESTERMAN** Written by **AGATHA CHRISTIE**



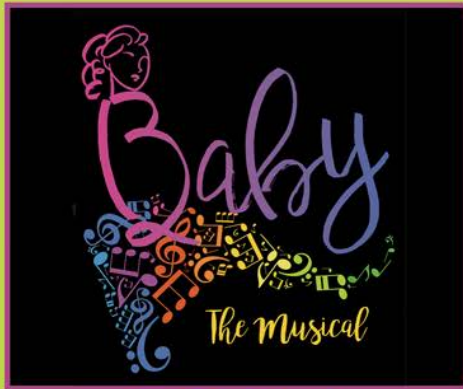
November 17 to December 17

Directed by **MATTHEW SILAR** Book by **JOE MASTEROFF**
Music by **JERRY BOCK** Lyrics by **SHELDON HARNICK**



February 16 to March 17

Written by **LAUREN GUNDERSON** Directed by **BETH WOLF**

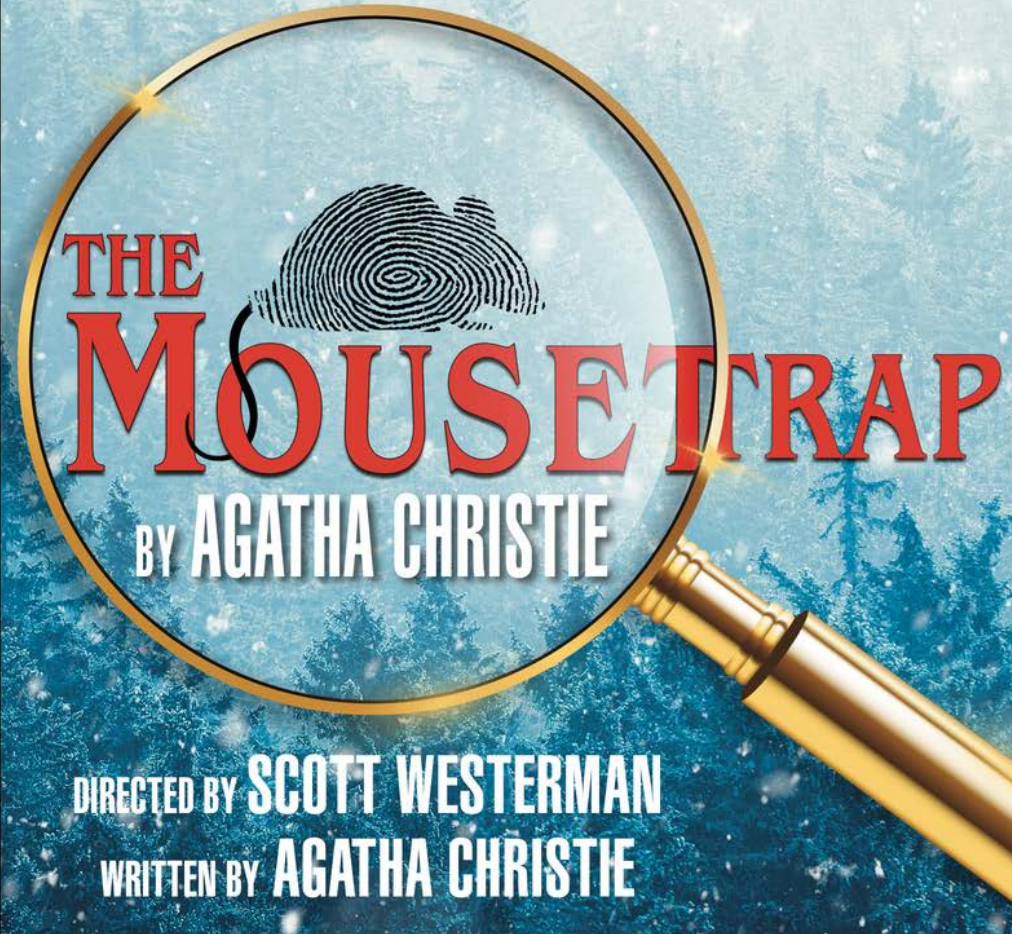


April 19 to May 19

Directed by **SCOTT SHALLENBARGER** Book by **SYBILLE PEARSON**
Music by **DAVID SHIRE** Lyrics by **RICHARD MALTBY, JR**

September 15 to October 15

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CITADEL THEATRE

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Scott Phelps, Artistic Director **Ellen Phelps, Managing Director**

PRESENTS

Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*

Directed by Scott Westerman

Running September 15 - October 15, 2023

It's the world's longest-running play!

Don't Just See It, Solve It

Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* is the longest running show, of any kind, in the world. It opened in November 1952 at The Ambassadors Theatre in London and moved to St.Martin's Theatre in March 1974 where it is still running to this day.

Synopsis: As news spreads of a murder in London, a group of seven strangers find themselves snowed in at a remote countryside guesthouse. When a police sergeant arrives, the guests discover – to their horror – that a killer is in their midst! One by one, the suspicious characters reveal their sordid pasts. Which one is the murderer? Who will be their next victim? Can you solve this world-famous mystery for yourself?

Cast

Kristie Berger* Mrs. Boyle
Jesús Barajas..... Christopher Wren
Reginald Hemphill..... Mr. Paravicini
Mary Margaret McCormack..... Mollie Ralston
William Ryder..... Major Metcalf
Jack Sharkey..... Giles Ralston
Amy Stricker..... Miss Casewell
Sean Erik Wesslund..... Detective Sergeant Trotter
Julie Bayer..... Mrs. Boyle U/S
Siah Berlatsky..... Christopher Wren U/S
James Cullinane..... Giles Ralston U/S, Detective Sergeant Trotter U/S
Martin Holt..... Major Metcalf U/S, Mr. Paravicini U/S
Jenny Hoppes..... Mollie Ralston U/S
Hadar Zusman..... Miss Casewell U/S

Production Crew

Scott Westerman..... Director
Ian Merritt..... Cinematographer
Jessica Greenhoe*..... Stage Manager
Ellen Phelps*/Scott Phelps*..... Production Managers
Catalina Niño..... Scenic Designer
Danielle Reinhardt..... Costume Designer
Brian Elston..... Lighting Designer
Petter Wahlbäck..... Sound Designer
Katie Novak..... Properties Designer
Megan Lorie..... Dialect Coach
Jason Clark..... Master Carpenter
Abby West..... Scenic Charge Artist
Alex Trinh..... Run Crew
Bruce Ackerman..... House Manager

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*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers



A Note From Our Director,

Dennis O'Neill was born on March 3, 1932. He entered into foster care with his siblings when he was twelve years old and six months later he died. An inquiry found him undernourished, well below a normal weight. He had been beaten with a stick and his back was discolored all over by lashes and bruises. Heavy blows to his chest had led to cardiac failure. The foster parents that had been entrusted with his care were summarily charged with willful ill-treatment, neglect, and manslaughter. That tragic case led to an overhaul of the foster system in Great Britain, factoring heavily in the passage of the Children Act of 1948. The protections that were instituted then remain in place to this day.

That case surrounding Dennis O'Neill's death is what inspired Agatha Christie to write a radio play called *Three Blind Mice* for Queen Victoria. Shortly thereafter she adapted it into a short story with the same title, and then expanded it to this full-length play, which premiered in the West End in 1952. That original production is still going strong today and has become the longest-running production in the history of Theatre. *The Mousetrap* is a protected national treasure. In England, the short story is barred from publication. There are no films or television adaptations of this play. Before every performance in the West End, someone stands before the audience and asks them not to spoil the mystery for anyone else once they leave the theatre. It was made with care and England continues to take care of it.

The themes in *The Mousetrap* resonate even now. Perhaps Agatha Christie was ahead of her time. Perhaps her work is simply timeless. I can't help but connect the blizzard in *The Mousetrap* to the increased frequency of severe weather events today. These characters are surprised by the conditions, unprepared for the cold, and trapped far from any hope of help. The play features a gay character—his sexual orientation unspoken but overt—which in 1947 was no small push of the envelope. *The Mousetrap* challenges traditional expectations of the roles that men and women can play. Several stage directions explore a fluidity in regards to gender. Characters who represent generational and cultural divisions suspect and accuse one another, their distrust amplified by prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear of the other.

Strangers represent the unknown. We like to believe that we can trust the people we know best. We like to believe that they can trust us too. But everyone is shaped by memory, and everyone contains hidden depths. There are things we can't remember or won't remember. There are lies we tell about ourselves - and to ourselves - that feel true after enough repetition. What if our loved ones are unreliable narrators? Can we even trust ourselves?

Agatha Christie, the OG of true crime, has constructed an intricate labyrinth of deception and denial, a mastery of mystery. It's worth protecting. When you find yourself on the other side of this experience and leave this Theatre, we ask that you will protect it too.

~ *Scott Westerman*

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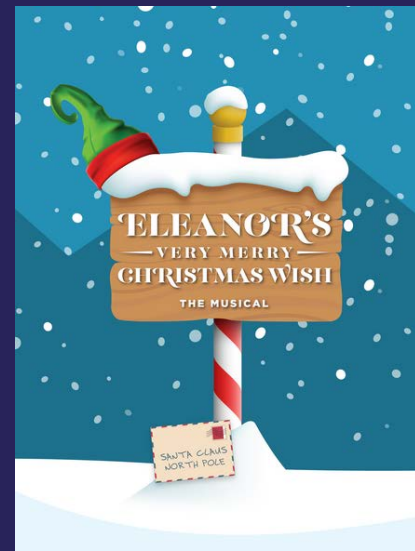
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Music & Lyrics by Kathleen Butler-Duplessis
Directed by Gregg Dennhardt

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Discover

Through our programs, our students are encouraged to explore their journey as actors as well as different aspects of the theatre. We not only encourage our students to explore as actors, but we help build confidence and life long skills that they will use throughout their lives.



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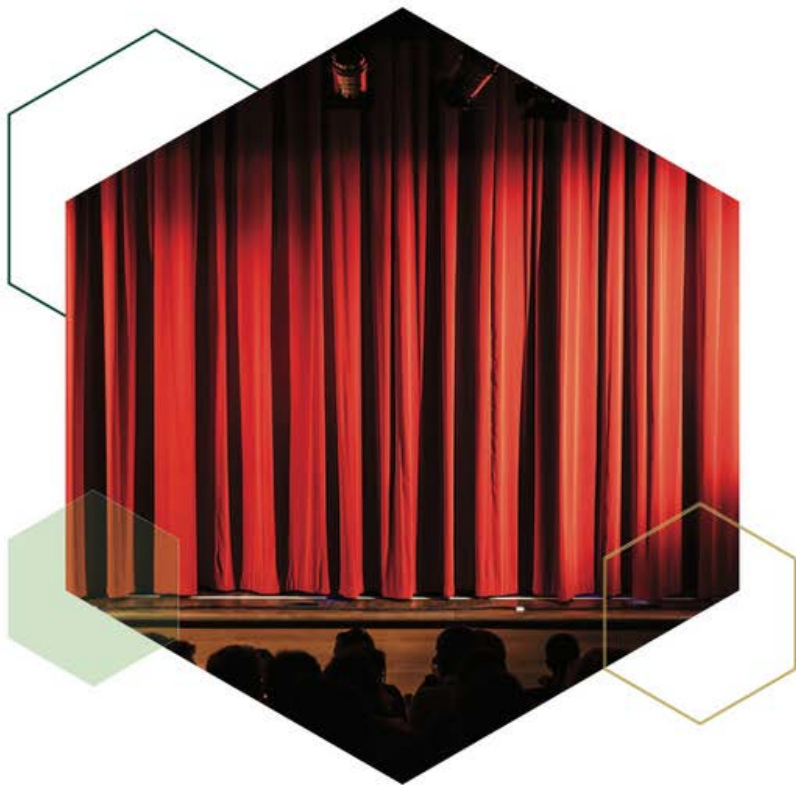
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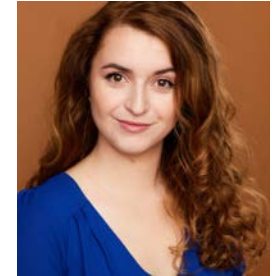
Kristie Berger*
Mrs. Boyle



Jesús Barajas
Christopher Wren



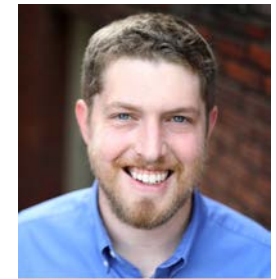
Reginald Hemphill
Mr. Paravicini



Mary Margaret McCormack
Mollie Ralston



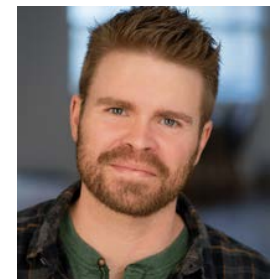
William Ryder
Major Metcalf



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Giles Ralston



Amy Stricker
Miss Casewell



Sean Erik Wesslund
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Agatha Christie (Playwright)

Outsold only by the Bible and Shakespeare, Agatha Christie is the best-selling novelist of all time. She is best known for her 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, as well as the world's longest-running play – *The Mousetrap*. Her books have sold over a billion copies in the English language and a billion in translation.

Kristie Berger* (Mrs. Boyle)

Kristie is thrilled to return to Citadel after playing Diane in *The Birds*, directed by the marvelous Scott Phelps. Regional theater credits include Barbara Fordham in *August: Osage County* and Frankie in *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (DayTone Award of Excellence, Guest Actor) at The Human Race Theatre in Dayton; the long-running national tour of *The Odd Couple: Female Version* starring Barbara Eden; *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Bus Stop*, and *Resident Alien* at Nebraska Repertory Theatre. Chicago area credits include Jeanette in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* at Illinois Theatre Center; *The Vagina Monologues*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, and *The Odd Couple: Female Version* at the Apollo Theater. Other theaters she has worked with include The Goodman, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, Equity Library Theater, City Lit, Lifeline, Strawdog, Mary-Arrchie, Touchstone, Center Theater, and Absolute. She also works in TV, voice-overs, commercials, films, and industrials. She is a company member of Ubiquitous Players and has participated in countless staged readings, many productions, a myriad of classes, and numerous table reads at Chicago Dramatists. Kristie is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

Jesús Barajas (Christopher Wren)

Jesús (he/they) is grateful and excited for their Citadel debut! Chicago theatre: *Measure for Measure* (Forest Park Theatre). Regional theatre: *Fun Home*, *Frog and Toad*, *The Producers* (Farmers Alley Theatre); *Forever Plaid* (New River Valley Regional Theatre); *Junie B. Jones, the Musical* (Timber Lake Playhouse). Special thanks to the folks at the Citadel, Dwandra, loved ones, and all of the artists in Chicago capturing the beauty of the human experience.

Reginald Hemphill (Mr. Paravicini)

Reginald is a Chicago based actor excited to work with Citadel Theatre on *The Mousetrap* as Paravicini. His recent credits include *House Musical* (Johnny) (Campsong Productions), *Muffed* (Company Leader) (Three Brothers), *Twelfth Night* (Sir Toby Belch) (Midsommer Flight), *The HOA* (Patrick) (Factory Theatre), *Summer and Smoke* (Archie Kramer) (Violet Sky Productions), and *N* (Deshaun) (GLP Productions). Reginald is currently represented by Actors Talent Group.

Mary Margaret McCormack (Mollie Ralston)

Mary Margaret is excited to don her British dialect for her Citadel debut as Mollie! Recent credits include: Sally Bowles in *I Am A Camera* (Porchlight Music Theatre), Mary Hatch in *It's a Wonderful Life* (Oil Lamp), Nellie in *Playboy of the Western World* (City Lit), Hope Langdon in *Something's Afoot* (Madkap), Portia in *Something Rotten!* (Theater Nebula), Belle in *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis). Mary received a BA in theatre from Millikin University with a focus in vocal performance. Mary can also be seen singing at Catholic Churches around the Chicago Area. She deeply thanks her family for their love, support, and generosity. www.mccormackmarym.com

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William Ryder (Major Metcalf)

William Ryder is an actor, voice and speech teacher (Patsy Rodenburg Associate), and executive coach based in Chicago. Theatre credits: *A Play About David Mamet Writing a Play About Harvey Weinstein* (The Davids), *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* (Julius Caesar), *The Cherry Orchard* (Simeonov-Pishchik), *The Winter's Tale* (Archimedes, Dion), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Mitch), *Oedipus Rex* (w/Al Pacino), *The Love of Three Oranges* (King of Hearts). Television: *All My Children*, *One Life to Live*, *Guiding Light*, *Tough Crowd w/Colin Quinn*. Film: *Visions of Sugarplums*, *Terror Firmer*, *Knuckleball*. He has taught Shakespeare and theatre craft to the incarcerated at the Illinois Youth Center and Cook County Jail. He is a CPA and Treasurer, Voice and Speech Trainers Association. MFA, Shakespeare Theatre Company Academy for Classical Acting at The George Washington University. BBA, University of Notre Dame. He is represented by: actors talent group, inc. (theatrical/film) and Shirley Hamilton, Inc. (print).

Jack Sharkey (Giles Ralston)

Jack Sharkey is excited to be part of Citadel's *Mousetrap*. A graduate of Mary Baldwin University's Shakespeare and Performance MFA program, Jack's Chicagoland credits include Idle Muse's *Last Queen of Camelot* and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, DreamLogic Theaterwork's *Hamlet and Titus*, and Roundhouse Productions *Three Halos and Predator: The Musical*. Jack would like to thank his Stage-Widow for her incredible support and encouragement.

Amy Stricker (Miss Casewell)

Amy is thrilled to return to Citadel Theatre where she was last seen in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile!* A Chicago-based actress and voice artist, she spends much of her time in the closet recording voiceovers and in the kitchen working on her soon-to-be home dessert business! Chicago theatre credits include: Refuge Theatre's Jeff Award-winning *High Fidelity*; *HAIR*, *Ragtime*, *Footloose*, *Company*, and *Reefer Madness*. TV and Film credits include: *Chicago P.D.*, *The Big Lie*, *RAGE*, *The Coleman Show*, *Inferior Decorating*, *Utopia*, *Eaters of the Dead*, *40 Weeks*, and *The Sleigh* and the award-winning *Yellow Polka Dot*: both of which are currently making their way through the festival circuit! Amy is a graduate of CCPA at Roosevelt University and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Stay up to date with her current projects at www.itsamystriker.com. IG @itsamystriker. Thank you for supporting the arts!



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Sean Erik Wesslund (Detective Sergeant Trotter)

Sean Erik Wesslund is excited to be making his Citadel Theatre debut in *The Mousetrap*. Sean is a proud graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University (M.F.A) and Northwestern University (B.A.). He sends special thanks to his wife Laura and their two young daughters for their support in his first post-pandemic foray into live theatre. Sean is proud to be represented by the truly wonderful agents at Grossman and Jack Talent.

Donations 9/01/2022 - 9/01/2023

Julie Bayer (Mrs. Boyle U/S)

Julie is glad to return to Citadel Theatre. She understudied Sister/Mother in *It Runs in the Family* last season and gave two performances during the run. Her credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Paramount Theatre); *Drood* (Fox Valley Repertory); *Persuasion* (Chamber Opera Chicago: UK, Chicago, NYC tours); *Dial M for Murder, A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis PAC); *Promises, Promises, Noises Off, The Dinner Party* (Brightside Theatre), and The Lyric Opera Chorus.

Siah Berlatsky (Christopher Wren U/S)

Siah Berlatsky is an award-winning actor and author in Chicago. Her first play, *Malapert Love*, won the 2022 Jeff Award for Best New Work, after its premier at The Den Theatre, produced by the Artistic Home. Her acting work includes collaboration with Crew of Patches, Lookingglass Theater, Cabinet of Curiosity, Citadel Theater, and more.

James Cullinane (Giles Ralston U/S, Detective Sergeant Trotter U/S)

James Cullinane is a Chicago-based actor, fight-choreographer, and improviser who is excited to make his Citadel debut with *The Mousetrap!* He loves new, devised work and has just finished the premiere of *Hamlet 50/50*, a new twist on the classic tragedy, as well as a four-week run of *Coached Ensembles*, an improvised performance at Chicago's The Second City. He is a physical performer and creative problem-solver at heart. Anything that gets the blood pumping and the brain racing is right up his alley. Recent credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Paris), *Across the Sands* (Moses), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Guildenstern), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Francis Flute), *CYRANO* (Valvert), *Heathers* (Kurt's Dad), and more. You can learn more about him at jamescullinane.com, or on all social media @jaymowis - (@thisgoodlyframe for his photography).

Martin Holt (Major Metcalf U/S, Mr. Paravicini U/S)

Martin is a Chicago based actor and graduate of UIUC - he is thrilled to be working with The Citadel Theatre on this classic ensemble play. Recent Chicago stage credits include *Dying for It* (Yelpidy U/S), *Eurydice* (Father U/S), *Requiem for a Heavyweight* (Perelli U/S) and *How I Learned to Drive* (Peck U/S). Martin would like to thank the folks at the Citadel for this opportunity, his family for their support and of course Tanya for her continued patience and encouragement.

Jenny Hoppes (Mollie Ralston U/S)

Jenny is ecstatic to be entering the suspenseful world of Agatha Christie with this production of *The Mousetrap!* She was recently part of Milwaukee Repertory Theater's EPR program, where she played Ursula/The Sexton in *Much Ado About Nothing* and understudied the role of Vanessa in *The Nativity Variations*. She graduated from Point Park University (BFA in Acting), and loves cats, physical fitness, and trash television. Notable theatrical credits: Point Park University's *Everybody* (Death), *Stagestruck* (Ellen Terry), Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks and Cleveland Shakespeare Festival. Thanks to family, and friends for their undying support. Enormous gratitude to Citadel Theatre for this opportunity. (Jennyhoppes.com)

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Bridget Dalton
Thomas Digan

Hadar Zusman (Miss Casewell U/S)

Hadar graduated with a Bachelor of Theatre and Dance Education from Seminar Hakibutsim College in Tel Aviv, Israel. In Israel she is most known for being the Lead Actress of the play, *The Man Who Knew How to Fly* as well as Sharon in the Israeli Comedy Central Film *Seret Efes*. In the US, she has recently graduated from the Second City Conservatory program in Chicago, Illinois. Hadar is looking forward to star as Nadia in the upcoming feature *'Where Sweet Dreams Die'* and she is extremely excited to be a new member of the Citadel Theatre Family.

Scott Westerman (Director)

Scott Westerman directed Citadel's 2022 production of *The Christians* by Lucas Hnath and their 2018 production of *Sex With Strangers* by Laura Eason. He is the founding Artistic Director of Go To Productions, a 501(c)3 nonprofit which develops projects that explore the nexus between live theatre and film. He created and directed the web series *Hamlet & Ophelia* which won Best Picture at the New York Film Awards, Best Web Series at the LA Film Awards, and Best Mobile Series at the 2022 New Media Film Festival. He has directed stage productions for The Artistic Home, ChiArts, City Lit, Chimera, Beyond This Point, Barter Theatre, Stage Left, The Smithsonian Institution, and Reverie Theatre Company. Scott is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, an ensemble member with The Artistic Home, represented by Gray Talent Group, and a teaching artist with Lookingglass and Writers Theatre. He has an MFA from The Shakespeare Theatre Academy. As an actor, Scott has worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lookingglass, Northlight, The Shakespeare Theatre and Ford's Theatre in DC, Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, the Warehouse Theatre in South Carolina, and the Barter Theatre in Virginia to name a few. On Camera credits include *Machine Gun Preacher*, *Prison Break*, and *Heist 88* which will premiere in 2023. More about Scott can be perused at www.ScottWesterman.org.

Ian Merritt (Cinematographer)

Ian is an artist and an educator who brings 20+ years of commercial photography, videography, and design knowledge to the set of the Mousetrapp. Ian has spent his career ideating and creating visual content in a number of fun and esoteric ways. He teaches photography at the Evanston Art Center and he helps run Go To Productions, a 501(c)3 nonprofit production company that works to put underrepresented people in front of and behind the camera.

Jessica Greenhoe* (Stage Manager)

Jessica Greenhoe (She/Her) is a Stage Manager based out of southern Wisconsin. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continued love and support throughout the years. She would also like to thank Scott and Ellen Phelps for having her back for her fifth production with Citadel Theatre. And lastly, she would like to thank Scott Westerman for trusting her, again, with his brilliant, bold show. Previous credits include: *Airmess* (Citadel Theatre), *The Christians* (Citadel Theatre), *It Runs in the Family* (Citadel Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Citadel Theatre), and *Sister Act: The Musical* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center).

Donations (continued)

Scott & Ellen Phelps* (Production Managers)

Scott & Ellen Phelps are the founders of Citadel Theatre. Scott Phelps is the Artistic Director of the company, while Ellen Phelps serves as the Managing Director. Citadel Theatre, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization & one of Chicagoland's premier live theatres, is in its 22nd season.

Catalina Niño (Scenic Designer)

Catalina Niño is proud to be making her debut with Citadel Theatre Co. Catalina grew up in Bogotá, Colombia. She studied in France, then relocated to the Bay Area where she received her MFA in Set Design before moving to the Chicago Area. Recent design credits include: *Dot and The Kangaroo* with Bravo Performing Arts in Oak Park. *St. Sebastian* with Refracted Theatre Co. in Chicago and *Water By The Spoonful* with San Francisco Playhouse in San Francisco, CA. Other design credits include *Fiddler On The Roof* (The Berkeley Playhouse, Berkeley, CA.), *In A Word* (San Francisco Playhouse, San Francisco, CA.), and *The Emperor Jones* (New City Company at the Cyclone Warehouse, San Francisco, CA).

Danielle Reinhardt (Costume Designer)

Danielle Reinhardt earned her MFA from Northern Illinois University this past spring. During her time at NIU, Reinhardt created costume designs for *The Children's Hour*, *Melancholy Play*, *The Conference of the Birds*, *Edward II*, *Polaroid Stories* and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. Prior to NIU, she designed the costumes for Stage Coach Players' performance of *The Little Mermaid* (Egyptian Theatre) as well as the independent film *The White Horse is Dead*. She is excited and thankful for the opportunity to work with the Citadel Theatre. Her motto is to never stop learning and never stop dreaming.

Brian Elston (Lighting Designer)

Brian is excited to be designing his first show at Citadel. Chicago Area Designs include: *A Distinct Society* (Writers Theatre); *Elephant and Piggy: We're In a Play!*, *Princess and the Pea* (Marriott Theatre); *Seussical the Musical* (Drury Lane); *Corduroy*; *Knuffle Bunny*; *Magic Treehouse*; *The Wiz* (Emerald CityTheatre). Regional Credits include *The Sound of Music*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Hair*; *Stupid F***ing Bird*; (Parallel 45 Inc) *Crazy for You*; *Failure: A Love Story*; *Les Miserables* (Interlochen Center for the Arts) BrianElstonLighting.com

Petter Wahlbäck (Sound Designer)

Petter Wahlbäck is an award-winning Swedish composer and sound designer working out of Chicago. Petter's main areas of focus are music for media and performing arts. Theater sound and music credits include *The Mark of Kane* (CityLit) *The Crucible*, *Julius Caesar* (Invictus) *Summer and Smoke* (VioletSky), *Dying for It*, *The Pavillion* (Jeff Award Nominated), *Eurydice*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight* (Jeff Award Winner), *By the Bog of Cats*, *Ada and the Engine*, and *Vanya on the Plains*, at the Artistic Home where he is an artistic associate, and many others.

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Katie Novak (Properties Designer)

Katie Novak is excited to be working her first production with the Citadel Theatre! Katie is a recent graduate of Illinois State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in Theatre Production Design & Technology, and has worked on more than 11 productions for the School of Theatre and Dance during her time as an undergrad. Katie has also worked at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for their last three seasons as a carpenter and the Prop Shop Manager in 2023. Other recent credits include Lead Props Artisan for *Men on Boats* (ISU), Assistant Scenic Designer for *Hansel and Gretel* (ISU), and Assistant Scenic Designer for *Bonnie & Clyde* (ISU). She would like to dedicate her work to her family, friends, and mentors for all their support and inspiration. Instagram @ktnovakdesign

Megan Lorie (Dialect Coach)

Megan Lorie is a recent graduate of Northwestern University with a double-major in theatre and linguistics. She is a dialect coach and actor based in Chicago. Megan is thrilled to be working with the Citadel Theatre and this talented team. She thanks her family and friends (and everyone else who listens to her passionate linguistics rants).

Jason Clark (Master Carpenter)

Jason is excited to be working with Citadel Theatre once again, especially on *The Mousetrap*. It is a show that is near and dear to his heart. The vision of the show is unlike anything he has ever seen. Jason would like to thank everyone involved in show for a wonderful experience. Sit back and enjoy, you are in for a wild ride.

Abby West (Scenic Charge Artist)

Abby West (she/her) is a Chicago-based scenic artist and designer, originally hailing from Nashville, TN. She holds a BFA in Scene Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Alex Trinh (Run Crew)

Alex Trinh returns to Citadel Theatre after his debut last year on *Little Shop of Horrors* and *The Christians*. He has also worked on the show *Personality: The Lloyd Price Musical* at Studebaker Theatre in Chicago this past summer. He has also done sound design work for Aguirre Moreno Productions and plans on authoring an audio book in the near future.

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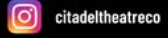
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