

# THE OTHER PLACE

by Sharr White



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# THE OTHER PLACE

by Sharr White

Directed by  
David Ceccarini

**Scenic Design**  
Ron Weirick

**Lighting Design**  
Aaron Sherkow

**Costume Design**  
Elsa Hiltner

**Properties Design**  
Heidi Salter &  
Shannon Sloan-Spice

**Video Design**  
William Cusick

**Sound Design**  
David Ceccarini

**Stage Manager**  
Veronica Zahn\*

\*Member of Actors' Equity  
Association

**February 2 – 26, 2017**

**THE OTHER PLACE is sponsored by Gordana & Milan Racic, Bader Philanthropies, Inc. and Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.**

Next Act Theatre's 2016-17 Season is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



THE OTHER PLACE was originally developed in association with Matt Olin, and originally produced by MCC Theatre (Robert Lupone, Bernard Telsey, William Cantler, Artistic Directors; Blake West, Executive Director) in association with Marc Platt.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

**Next Act Theatre | 255 S. Water Street | Milwaukee, WI 53204**



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**June 1, 2017**

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**Bravo, Next Act!**

## THE CAST



<i>Juliana Smithton</i> .....	Deborah Staples*
<i>Ian Smithton</i> .....	Todd Denning*
<i>Laurel, Dr. Teller</i> .....	Cristina Panfilio*
<i>Richard, Bobby</i> .....	Di'Monte Henning



\*member of Actors' Equity Association

**TIME:**  
Present

This play is performed with no intermission.

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Opening Night Reception Sponsor



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES – DAVID CECSARINI

Over twenty years ago when our beloved Managing Director Charles and I were busy re-building Next Act, we engaged a young ad firm to brainstorm on the new season's brochure. The Cedarburg duo was eager to pitch in and, after some lively discussion, submitted their ideas for the campaign. The brochure's cover would contain photos of four historical-political figures they identified as liars. Side-stepping the quibble as to how they applied the mendacity label to these four, the overall concept was clear: the ad guys' perception of the nature of theatre was... lying.

We told them they needn't develop the concept further.

This past month I was reminded, yet again, of what it's like to spend many hours in a rehearsal room with smart, passionate and committed artists, in pursuit of the truth. Beginning with text intact, each actor reads and re-reads, dissects, questions, compares notes, tests ideas, risks failure, builds confidence, works with and supports their fellows, and relentlessly pursues the author's truth in the deepest of human terms. Nothing is taken at face value, until, after examining the many possible alternatives, that's all that remains. It's a simple process; it's not magic. It is the essential process in creating theatre. And it is exhilarating.

This play is about the pursuit of truth, and its consequences. We will always have need for such plays, until the time we're ready to give up the chase. I hope I can't ever imagine such a time.

**SHARR WHITE (Playwright)**

Sharr White's plays have been developed or produced at theatres across the country, including MCC Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Marin Theatre Company, Lincoln Center Theater's Directors Lab, Key West Theatre Festival, and more. He has been honored with a Dr. Henry and Lillian Nesburn Award as part of the Julie Harris Award in Playwriting (THE ESCAPE VELOCITY OF SAVAGES); a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship (SIX YEARS); and the 2009 Skye Cooper New American Play Prize (SUNLIGHT). THE OTHER PLACE received the 2010 Playwrights First Award, the 2011 Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation's Theatre Visions Fund Award, and was an Outer Critics Circle award nominee for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Play.



**TODD DENNING (Ian Smithton)**

Todd is thrilled to be making his first appearance with Next Act Theatre. He lives and works in Milwaukee

as an actor, director, teacher and fight choreographer. Recent credits include Santa Claus in RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER at First Stage; and Fluellen in HENRY V, and Porthos in THE THREE MUSKETEERS with the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Other regional acting credits include South Coast Rep, Illinois Shakespeare, Tennessee Rep, Georgia Shakespeare, Willamette Rep, PCPA Theaterfest, Optimist Theatre, In Tandem and Milwaukee Shakespeare. Todd is an adjunct faculty member at Marquette University. He holds an MFA in Acting from the University of California-Irvine.



**DI'MONTE HENNING (Richard, Bobby)**

Di'Monte is excited to work on THE OTHER PLACE. A native of Milwaukee,

Di'Monte serves as Executive Director for performing arts organization Lights! Camera! Soul! His theater credits include JITNEY (Youngblood), TO THE PROMISED LAND (Cliff), DREAMGIRLS (Tru-Tone), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Puck), THE SUITCASE DREAMS (Groom), HAIRSPRAY (Seaweed), BURYING THE BONES (James), and HAIR (Tribe). Television credits include CHICAGO PD, Cellcom, and Harley-Davidson. He has also studied theatre at UW-Milwaukee and is a recent Acting Resident of The Rep's EPR program. Love to his family and friends. *"Be the change you wish to see in the world."* - Mahatma Gandhi



**CRISTINA PANFILIO (Laurel, Dr. Teller)**

This is Cristina's first production with Next Act. She could not be happier to return to Milwaukee after enjoying

a very special run of THE FOREIGNER with Milwaukee Rep. She holds a BFA From the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, makes her home in Chicago, and can be found working regionally with theaters such as Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Northlight Theatre, American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Renaissance Theaterworks, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival and Riverside Theater.



**DEBORAH STAPLES (Juliana Smithton)**

Deborah is thrilled to be back at Next Act Theatre where she appeared with the moms

in MOTHERHOOD OUT LOUD, as Ms. Kelly in TEN QUESTIONS, and directed WELCOME HOME, JENNY SUTTER. Deborah spent last summer playing Hamlet in HAMLET and Olivia in TWELFTH NIGHT at Illinois Shakespeare, where she had previously played Cleopatra (ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA) and Queen Elizabeth (ELIZABETH REX). She has been in over 65 productions at The Milwaukee Rep where she is an Associate Artist, most recently appearing in A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Deborah is a voiceover artist, the mother of two fabulous girls and proud wife to the ever-amazing David Cecsarini. Next up: GREAT EXPECTATIONS at Chamber Theatre.  
*DeborahStaples.com*



**DAVID CECSARINI**  
**(Director/Sound Designer)**

The 2016-17 season marks David's 38th year as a theatre professional, having debuted with the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis as a journeyman actor in 1978. He has proudly served as Producing Artistic Director for Milwaukee's Next Act Theatre going on 25 years. David's first directing assignment was the musical PERSONALS, for Theatre Tesseract, in 1989. He has since directed many Next Act productions; favorites include THE PAVILION, THE REAL THING, RED HERRING, SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME, THE DRESSER, ROOM SERVICE, SIDE MAN and TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992. While directing, he usually doubles as Sound Designer; he has created sound effects and scores for over 100

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professional productions. Favorites include LAST OF THE BOYS, MICROCRISIS, THE VOICE OF THE PRAIRIE, THE DRESSER, MARY'S WEDDING and THE BRIDGE AT MO DUC. David celebrates this production as his first opportunity to direct a play which features his lovely and talented life partner, Deborah Staples. *"She wears the acting pants in our family."*

#### **VERONICA ZAHN (Stage Manager)**

This is Veronica's first show with Next Act and also her debut as an Equity Stage Manager. Select credits include SM: HAIRSPRAY (CUW), QUORUM (Theatre Gigante), JEKYLL & HYDE (Memorial Opera House); ASM: COMPLETE WORKS... (ABRIDGED) (Chamber Theatre), SPOOKLEY (First Stage); Little Theatre in Sullivan, IL; SM Mentor: CUW, Martin Luther High School, Milwaukee Youth Theatre; Director: CHARLOTTE'S WEB (CUW). She has her BA in Theatre Arts from Bethel College and MFA in Stage Management from Wayne State University. Ever grateful to her faithful support system, especially JC and her betrothed, Matt. [www.veronicazahn.com](http://www.veronicazahn.com)

#### **RON WEIRICK (Scenic Designer)**

Ron has been constructing Next Act's scenery for all of the last 27 seasons. He has occasionally pitched in with set design ideas, most notably the productions of TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992 and IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE LIVE RADIO SHOW.

#### **AARON SHERKOW (Lighting Designer)**

Aaron Sherkow received his MFA from Boston University in 2011, but has enjoyed his return to Wisconsin. He works as Technical Director and Lecturer at Lawrence University. Recent shows with Next Act include THE TAMING, TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992, and BACK OF THE THROAT. His work has also contributed to WHO WOULD BE KING? with Liars & Believers, JULIUS CAESAR and MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM with

Door Shakespeare, ROMEO ET JULIETTE with the Boston Opera Institute and ROAD TO MECCA with Boston Center for American Performance.

#### **ELSA HILTNER (Costume Designer)**

Elsa is honored to return to Next Act Theatre after designing for TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992, HERESY, PERFECT MENDACITY, GRACE and ONE TIME. Elsa is based in Chicago and has designed for many theaters including Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Signal Ensemble Theatre, Collaboraction, Eclipse Theater, LifeLine Theatre, Silk Road Rising, American Blues Theater, Walkabout Theatre, The Right Brain Project, Teatro Vista, and First Folio Theatre, among others. Other notable regional credits include SecondStory Repertory (Redmond), Balagan Theatre (Seattle), and Book-It Repertory Theatre (Seattle). Elsa is a Company Member of Collaboraction and an Artistic Associate of First Folio Theatre. For more information about her designs please visit [www.elsahiltner.com](http://www.elsahiltner.com).

#### **HEIDI SALTER (Properties Co-Designer)**

Heidi Salter is delighted to return as Props Designer and is thankful to David for the opportunities this experience has brought. Heidi also works as a freelance Director and is the founder of Imagination Theatre of Germantown. Thank you to Next Act for being a voice in the community and for telling this important story.

#### **SHANNON SLOAN-SPICE, Ph.D (Properties Co-Designer)**

Shannon Sloan-Spice is pleased to be returning to Next Act Theatre as Props Master with her great partner-in-crime, Heidi Salter for their third season! Shannon is best known as a theatre educator and directs many spring musicals around Greater Milwaukee. She was head-master and Lead Teacher at First Stage this summer. In 2015, she directed In Tandem's first summer arts conservatory program. She splits her time

between Milwaukee and Chicago and teaches World Mythologies at Oakton Community College, IL, where she is part of the new Environmental Studies Concentration.



**ANNE LEHMER  
(Development Director)**

Part of the Next Act Theatre team since January of 2016, Anne brings over a decade of nonprofit management and fundraising experience to her role. Growing up in a family that frequented galleries, museums and performances of all kinds, Anne's passion for the arts is well-fueled by the variety available in Milwaukee. Away from the office, Anne keeps busy with upholstery classes at MATC and fixing up the historic east side home she shares with her wife, dog and cat.



**REBECCA MODER  
(Marketing Director)**

Becky is celebrating her fifth season with Next Act. She has been working in the Arts Marketing profession for over eight years now, and looks forward to many more. When not promoting Next Act, Becky assists in the management and marketing of her husband's film and photo business, Moder Media LLC.



**MICHAEL VAN DRESER (Technical Director)**

This is Mike's tenth season with Next Act Theatre and the fifth year as Technical Director. Mike was previously the resident Master Electrician and Light Board Operator for Next Act. Over the last eight seasons, Mike has worked as Lighting Designer for NEXT ACTORS SUMMER THEATRE FOR TEENS, PANIC EXPRESS, THE ENCOUNTER, FAITH HEALER, WINTER TALES, PAUL ROBESON IN CONCERT, VALUE OF NAMES, BIG BOYS, ONE TIME, A KODACHROME CHRISTMAS, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE LIVE RADIO SHOW (Next Act Theatre), WHEN THE CURTAIN FALLS, and KISS ME KATE (Greendale High School). Mike has had the good fortune of working with and learning from renowned Lighting Designers Jason Fassel and Andrew Meyers and knows their guidance and continuing education will help make him successful. Mike looks forward to many more productive years with Next Act Theatre and any new opportunities that may come his way.



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Ticket Office Staff.....	Libby Amato, Lyndsey Kuhlmann, Sophia Pajewski, Abby Stein, Ericka Wade



\*Member of Actors' Equity Association

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES** – Food is not permitted in the theatre, but drinks may be taken in.

**ENTERING AND EXITING THE THEATRE SPACE** – Please use walkways to access the seating areas and refrain from crossing over the stage.

**CANCELLATION POLICY** – Next Act does not cancel or reschedule performances due to inclement weather or sporting events, nor do we offer refunds.

**LATECOMER POLICY** – Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate time in the performance. This may be at the intermission. Seating may not be permitted 30 minutes after the start of a performance. If you are running late, please call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765.

**LISTENING AUGMENTATION DEVICES** – Please ask the House Manager on duty for assistance.

**LOST PROPERTY** – Items left at the theatre are kept in Lost & Found for 30 days. Call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765 if you have lost an item.

**TICKET EXCHANGES** – Subscribers may exchange their tickets, without fee, up to 48 hours prior to the performance (price adjustments may apply). Single ticket buyers may exchange their tickets for a fee of \$5 per ticket up to 48 hours prior. Exchanges are based strictly on availability. Patrons are strongly urged to request exchanges well in advance.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – To avoid disturbing the performance, NO cameras or recording devices of any kind are allowed in the theatre. Please turn off all electronic equipment including pagers and cell phones.

**EMERGENCY CALLS** – In case of emergency, messages may be left with the House Manager by calling 414-278-0765. If possible, please indicate the seat location of the person to be reached.

**SMOKING** – The Next Act Theatre facility is a smoke-free environment.

**STUDENT AND SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS** – Seniors and students receive a \$5 discount per ticket on advance sales. Students may also purchase half-price rush tickets with a valid student I.D. one half-hour prior to curtain, based on availability. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.

**GROUP DISCOUNTS** – Groups of 10 or more receive a discount of 20%. To book groups, contact Becky at 414-278-7780. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.

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Karen Estrada

Chiké Johnson

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