

# ?INTERROBANG

THEATRE PROJECT

Co-Artistic Directors  
Georgette Verdin and James Yost

present

# GRACE

By  
Craig Wright

Directed by  
Georgette Verdin

MAKE-UP DESIGN

Jeremiah Barr

SET DESIGN

Pauline Oleksy

DIALECT COACH

Lindsay Bartlett

SOUND DESIGN

Erik Siegling

PROPERTY DESIGN

Melanie Hatch

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Brian Sprague

COSTUME DESIGN

Noël Huntzinger

LIGHTING DESIGN

Richie Vavrina

STAGE MANAGER

Melanie Kulas

VIOLENCE DIRECTION

Claire Yearman

---

MARKETING MANAGER

Nancy Payne

PRESS RELATIONS

David Rosenberg



The Athenaeum Theatre - Studio 2  
2936 N. Southport Ave. | Chicago, IL 60657

# RARE

ITP is thrilled to present GRACE as the third show in our 8th season. Craig Wright's brilliant examination of fractured faith hasn't been seen on a Chicago stage since 2006. Balancing the minutiae of human relationships with the cosmic quandaries that have baffled the ages, Craig Wright masterfully captures the battle between science and religion, between reason and wonder, between our best moments and our worst in this rarity of the modern American canon.

# RELEVANT

The timeless struggles presented in GRACE never go out of style, and are only heightened as we dive deeper into these strange times. Why do we believe what we believe? What happens to faith in the midst of everything going wrong? Why is it so hard to truly listen to someone who doesn't share our beliefs? We know you'll find these explorations thought-provoking and resonant as we continue to ask our season question: What is Truth?

# RAW

Dark humor, shocking twists, and in-your-face theatricality are hallmarks of Craig Wright's work, and why ITP continues to relish the opportunity to produce such thoughtful dramas. We trust that you, our loyal audience, will appreciate this wonderful, weird, and profound play, and we invite you to continue the conversation even after the curtain falls.

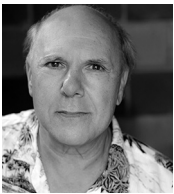
## Cast

Sara .....	Laura Berner Taylor
Steve .....	Joe Lino
Sam .....	Evan Linder
Karl .....	Walter Brody

TIME - 2004, over the course of 3 months

PLACE - Sunshine, Florida

### THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION



**WALTER BRODY (Karl)** Walter's first role in professional theatre was in MR. ROBERTS at Putman County Playhouse, 1957, age 13. Roles in Chicago include MR. DONOVAN, LUCK OF THE IRISH, (Next, R.I.P.); GRAMP, THE PETRIFIED FOREST (Strawdog); ANDY LOVERS (City Lit); NONNO, NIGHT OF THE IGUANA (The Artistic Home).



**EVAN LINDER (Sam)** is the founding co-artistic director of The New Colony. Recent roles include Doug in THE ANTELOPE PARTY (Theatre Wit), Stuart in the original production and extended remount of AT THE TABLE (Broken Nose Theatre, Jeff Awards for Best Ensemble and Best Play) and Jim in the original run and remount of his play BYHALIA, MISSISSIPPI at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theatre (The New Colony & Definition Theatre Company, Jeff Award for Best New Work).



**JOE LINO (Steve)** is making his Interrobang debut. He has worked with Chicago companies such as Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf, Drury Lane, Victory Gardens Theatre, Teatro Vista, The New Colony, Agency Theatre Collective and The Cuckoo's Theater Project. Regionally he has worked with Actors Theatre of Louisville debuting shows in the Humana Festival and has worked Off Broadway with BAM. He is a proud alumni of Ball State University and is represented by Gray Talent.



**LAURA BERNER TAYLOR (Sara)** is a proud ensemble member of Interrobang, where she was in RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS and STILL. Recent credits include BOY (u/s TimeLine), DETROIT (TheatreSquared – Fayetteville, AR), THIS (u/s Windy City Playhouse), VICES AND VIRTUES (Profiles), URBAN LOVE STORY (Black Ensemble Theatre), and A LIFE OF GALILEO (ETOPiA at Northwestern). Television credits include CHICAGO MED and CHICAGO JUSTICE (NBC). She has a BFA in Acting from Santa Fe University of Art and Design and is represented by Big Mouth Talent.



**BRYNNE BARNARD** (Assistant Director & u/s Sara) is thrilled to be a part of Interrobang Theatre Project. She has acted, text coached, dramaturged and assistant directed throughout Chicago since moving here after her graduation from Illinois State University. She is also blessed to be a frequent artistic contributor to the Shakespeare Project of Chicago, an Equity non-profit theatre of which she has been a part the last seven years. She's also a kick-ass aunt and cat mom, which is just as important, because she believes that if you don't live life well outside of your art, your art can't say much.



**TERRY GALLAGHER** (u/s Karl) is pleased to be part of this production. Prior to moving to Chicago, Terry studied at the Center of Contemporary Art in St. Louis. In Chicago, he has trained at Victory Gardens Theater, The Acting Studio and Black Box Studio. Terry would like to thank his family, friends and Interrobang Theatre Project.



**AARON SPENCER** (u/s Steve & Sam) has performed with Interrobang Theatre before in *KATRINA: MOTHER IN LAW OF 'EM ALL*. He can regularly be seen performing in VS with The Drinking and Writing Theatre. He also performs children's theatre all around the city in schools and libraries with Caton Enterprises. He is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Creative Team



**CRAIG WRIGHT** (Playwright) is an American playwright, television producer and writer. He was a staff writer for the television series *SIX FEET UNDER* and *LOST*, and creator of *DIRTY SEXY MONEY* and *GREENLEAF*. He also was the screenwriter for the 2014 movie *MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN*. Wright is known primarily for his plays: *GRACE*, *MISTAKES WERE MADE*, *THE PAVILION*, *RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS*, *MAIN STREET*. At 21, he received a Jerome Fellowship, and in 2009 he was awarded the Horton Foote Excellence in American Playwriting Award from Baylor University. He is a member of the Chicago-based A Red Orchid Theatre ensemble.



**GEORGETTE VERDIN** (Director/Co-Artistic Director) has been working with ITP since 2014 and has served as Co-Artistic Director since 2015. She is also a freelance director, theater and speech educator and arts integration specialist. She was the founding theater teacher at Polaris Charter Academy, an Expeditionary Learning School in West Humboldt Park, where she taught full-time for 8 years. For Interrobang, Georgette directed Season Six's *KATRINA: MOTHER-IN-LAW OF 'EM ALL* and Jeff Recommended *RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS*, as well as last season's production of the 2013

Yale Drama Series Winner *STILL* by Jen Silverman. Other recent credits include Jeff Recommended *TIME STANDS STILL* (AstonRep), a staged reading of *LAUNCH DAY* by Michael J. Higgins (Chicago Dramatists) and Tennessee Williams' *TALK TO ME LIKE THE RAIN AND LET ME LISTEN* as part of AstonRep's *FOUR BY TENN* festival. She is currently assistant directing *20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEAS* at Lookingglass Theatre Company. Georgette holds a Bachelor of Arts in theatre performance from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA and a Master in Directing from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.



**JAMES YOST (Co-Artistic Director)** is a Joseph Jefferson Award nominated director and the co-artistic director of Interrobang Theatre Project. He previously served as the producing artistic director for BareBones Theatre Group, a company he co-founded in 1998. Selected credits include: MR. MARMALADE, PSYCHO BEACH PARTY, DEBBIE DOES DALLAS: THE MUSICAL, SKYLIGHT, THE GRADUATE, THE PLAY ABOUT THE BABY, A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, DRIFT, BASH: LATTER-DAY PLAYS, SQUIRRELS, THE WIZARD OF OZ, LEND ME A TENOR, ORSON'S

SHADOW, GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS, THE PITCHFORK DISNEY and NOISES OFF. Regional: Shattered Globe: TRUE WEST; The Gift Theater: TEN. ITP credits include ORANGE FLOWER WATER (Jeff nomination for Best Supporting Actor, Joseph Wiens), IBSEN IS DEAD, THE NORTH POOL (Jeff nominated for best production and best director), the critically acclaimed REALLY REALLY (named one of the best shows of 2015 by the Chicago Tribune), FALLING (Justin Tsatsa and Amy Johnson won Jeff awards for their roles) and the Chicago premiere of Lee Blessings play FOR THE LOYAL. Yost teaches theatre and film.

**JEREMIAH BARR (Make-up Designer)** is thrilled to be joining the Grace team and Interrobang Theatre. A jack of all trades Jeremiah has worked with many great companies throughout the Chicagoland area, including AstonRep, Promethean Theater Ensemble, Congo Square, Black Button Eyes, just to name a few. Much love to his amazing wife Sam.

**LINDSAY BARTLETT (Dialect Coach)** is thrilled to be coaching with Interrobang Theatre again having most recently been a coach for FOXFINDER and previously TERMINUS, PITCHFORK DISNEY, and OWNERS. She has been coaching throughout Chicagoland for over 10 years. Some of her productions have included PRISCILLA: QUEEN OF THE DESERT (Pride Films & Plays), THE BOTTLE TREE (Stage Left), DANCING AT LUGHNASA (Wheaton College), A PERFECT GANESH (Eclipse Theatre), FOG ISLAND (Filament Theatre), and MISS MARX: OR THE INVOLUNTARY SIDE OF LIVING (Strawdog Theatre), HISTORY BOYS (TimeLine Theatre), among many others Lindsay is very proud to be the Artistic Director of 20% Theatre which strives to set the stage for women in theatre.

**MELANIE KULAS (Stage Manager)** is excited to be working with Interrobang Theatre Project! In Chicago, Melanie has worked as a stage manager with AstonRep, Circle Theatre, Pride Films & Plays, and Strawdog, to name a few. She also serves as an Artistic Associate with The Comrades, and has stage managed with them for multiple productions. Each spring, Melanie travels to her alma mater to stage manage the UW Varsity Band Spring Concert in Madison, WI. Melanie would like to thank her friends and family, especially her partner, Joe, for all of their support.

**MELANIE HATCH (Property Designer)** is a properties designer from Chicago. She is excited to be joining Interrobang for the first time. New to the world of prop design, she has been designing and fabricating props for the likes of Windy City Performs as well as independent films. Most recently freelancing for Full Spectrum Features.

**NOËL HUNTZINGER (Costume Designer)** has been designing plays for Interrobang since 2013. She is an artistic associate at Sideshow Theatre Company and a Resident Artist with Filament Theatre. Favorite design credits include: Goodman Theatre: New Stages Festival '16 and '17, PAMPLONA, and THE WOLVES; Lyric Opera Unlimited: THE SCORPION'S STING; Bosie Contemporary Theatre: STORM IN THE BARN. Learn more at [noelhuntzinger.com](http://noelhuntzinger.com)

**PAULINE OLEKSY** (Scenic Designer) is a scenic and properties designer from Illinois. She has recently earned her Masters of Fine Arts in stage design from Northern Illinois University and works designing and detailing exhibits and trades shows. Pauline currently resides in Chicago where she is pursuing opportunities in scenic design for theater and corporate stages, properties design and scenic painting.

**ERIK SIEGLING** (Sound Design) is excited to be joining Interrobang for the first time. Previously in Seattle, he designed for Seattle Shakespeare Company's production of Julius Caesar and in Chicago, he recently made a lot of artsy noise at Oakton Community College's premier of POWERLESS GODS. An accomplished actor as well, Erik has guest starred on the TV show Z Nation, has performed in theatres across the country, and has a B.A. degree in Theatre from Principia College. He would like to thank the lively and skilled team at Interrobang for making him feel so welcome in this awesome, new city and can't wait for all your minds to get blown.

**BRIAN SPRAGUE** (Technical Director) is a Chicago based Freelance Theatre Artist. Having received his Masters of Fine Arts in Acting from Northern Illinois University and his Bachelors of the Arts in Theatre from University of Kentucky, he has performed and studied internationally at the Adana State Theatre in Adana, Turkey and the Moscow Art Theatre School. Technical Directing credits include: BIRDLAND, INVISIBLE HAND and EARTHQUAKES IN LONDON (Steep Theatre), A DICKENS CAROL, MACBETH and FAIR MAID OF THE WEST (Oak Park Festival Theatre), AKEELAH AND THE BEE (Adventure Stage), JB (City Lit Theatre), TWELFTH NIGHT (Notre Dame Shakespeare), THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH, GIVE IT ALL BACK and TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION (Sideshow Theatre), THE SOURCE (Route 66), University of Kentucky's Summer Children's Theatre, and multiple shows for Actors Guild of Lexington.

**MAX SPITZ** (House Manager) is a proud member of the recent Northwestern Class of 2016, where he graduated with a BA in Theatre, where he dipped his feet in acting, directing, and set design. Since graduating he has been a part of 2nd Story as their Communications Coordinator and is so grateful for the family they've created. Thank you to ITP for welcoming me onto your team!

**RICHIE VAVRINA** (Lighting Designer) travels the country doing theatrical and corporate shows. He loves coming home to work on engaging theatre. His most recent credits in the Chicago area include Firebrand Theatre's LIZZIE, Circle Theatre's CONDITION OF FEMME and Elgin Community College's SHE KILLS MONSTERS. He'll probably go get a beer with you if you ask.

**CLAIRE YEARMAN** (Fight Choreographer) is an ITP company member, an actor, fight choreographer, and a certified teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors. She has an MFA in Acting from Western Illinois University. Some of the theatres she's had the pleasure to work with are: Interrobang Theatre Project, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Williams Street Rep, Red Tape Theatre, Piccolo Theatre, AstonRep, 20% Theatre, and Metropolis Performing Arts. Her fight choreography received a Jeff nomination for Red Tape Theatre's THE LOVE OF THE NIGHTINGALE.

## Staff

Co-Artistic Director	Georgette Verdin
Co-Artistic Director	James Yost
Artistic Producer	Elana Elyce
Marketing Manager	Nancy Payne
Graphic Designer	Zoë Verdin
Design Associate	Christopher Aaron Knarr
Marketing Associate	Matthew Nerber
Casting Coordinator	Sarah Gise

## Ensemble Members

James Yost • Georgette Verdin • Salar Ardebili • Brynne Barnard • Laura Berner Taylor  
Elana Elyce • Shawn Galligan • Sarah Gise • Noël Huntzinger (artistic assoc.)  
Christopher Aaron Knarr • Matthew Nerber • Claire Yearman • Zoë Verdin

## Board of Advisors

Joe Hartness	President	Constance Etter	Jessica Vann
Sandra Smycz	Secretary	Georgette Verdin	James Yost
John Capaul	Treasurer	Elizabeth Verzo	

ITP's 8th Season is supported in part by generous grants and sponsorships from

The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation  
The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation  
The Swedish American Museum  
The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation



Interrobang Theatre Project is a non-profit organization that depends on donor support

**Make a tax-deductible donation**



---

### Interrobang Theatre Project

5315 N. Clark St. #142 | Chicago, IL 60640

Box Office: (773) 935-6875 | [interrobangtheatreproject.org](http://interrobangtheatreproject.org)

## Season Donors

Anonymous  
Karin Abercrombie &  
The Swedish American Museum  
Michael Anderson & Mona lehl  
James Baird & Wendy Stock  
Rosie Banks  
Troy Baresel & Joe Hartness  
John Brix & Bette Rosenstein  
Larry Bundschu  
John Capaul  
Tom & Holly Carr  
Robert Cerda  
Carol & John Clavadetscher  
Christina Colon & Teresa Barrett  
Betsy DiPrima & Martin Weigert  
Wanda Dole  
Elana Elyce  
Constance Etter  
Maureen Fagan  
Lynn & Peter Fogarty  
Susan Foster  
Rob Frankel  
Eric Gibson  
Malik Gillani  
Gregg Gillman  
Patty Gise  
Margaret Heineman  
Michael Higgins  
Amy Johnson  
Ruth Johnston  
Susan Knight McCoy  
Kris Kostinen & Denise Wiler  
Eric Landshoot & Sandra Smycz  
Rebecca & Max Lawson  
Linda Leadbitter & Chuin Kuo  
Diane MacDonald  
Regina Masland  
Cathy & Adin McCann  
Nancy McDaniel  
Jim McDonough  
Bonnie McGrath  
Jason & Kate McLenaghan  
Carol Miller  
Fran Moeckler & Charles Licht  
Margo Morris & Stan Tamkin  
Patti Morrow  
Christy Nunes  
Jack Olin  
Elizabeth Payne  
John & Dawn Palmer  
Jerry Proffit  
Jim Putnam  
Tim Rhoze  
David Rosenberg  
Faye Ryan  
Vic Sayegh  
Dr. Scott & Marybeth Johnson  
Sharon Seeder  
Kate Sheehy  
Doug Emde & Joyce Simon  
Ruth Smerling  
Alison Snowden  
Aaron Spencer  
Elizabeth Stare  
Jacob Stohler  
Elizabeth Sylvester  
Hall & Cindy Taylor  
Brandon & Susan Tessers  
Sherzod Tokamov  
Jessica Vann  
Georgette & Zoë Verdin  
Elizabeth Verzo  
Catherine Warden  
Joseph Wiens  
Kevin Wood  
James Yost  
Christine Zrinsky



## Special Thanks

Allan Chambers, Jeff DeLong, Beth Bullock, Elizabeth Ellis & Athenaeum Theatre,  
Karin Abercrombie & The Swedish American Museum, North Shore Baptist Church,  
Loyola Academy, Ed Anderson, Larry Bundschu, John Capaul, Constance Etter,  
Joe Hartness & Troy Baresel, Cathy McCann, Margo Morris & Stan Tamkin,  
Sandra Smycz, Jessica Vann and Elizabeth Verzo.