

BLANK THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

BLACKBIRD

by David Harrower

Director
Elyse Dolan

Stage Manager
Jackie Bowes

Fight & Intimacy Designer
Zack Payne

Lighting Designer
Liz Cooper

Costume Designer
Jos N. Banks

Scenic Designer
Jeremy Hollis

Props Designer
Aaron Mann

Producers
Dustin Rothbart and Danny Kapinos

***Blackbird* runs approximately 80 minutes with no intermission.**

Blank Theatre Company is a 501©3 Not for Profit Company

BLACKBIRD was first commissioned and presented by the Edinburgh International Festival at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, in August 2005 and was subsequently presented at the Albery Theatre in the West End by Michael Edwards and Carole Winter for MJE Productions, opening on February 13, 2006.

BLACKBIRD was originally produced in the United States by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer, on March 15, 2007

***The use of flash photography and audio or video recording is strictly prohibited.
Please remember to silence or turn off your cellular phones and other devices.***

CAST

Una Betsy Bowman
Ray Jim Poole

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

For Una Alisha Fabbri

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Elyse Dolan
Lighting Designer Liz Cooper
Costume Designer Jos N. Banks
Scenic Designer Jeremy Hollis
Fight & Intimacy Designer Zack Payne
Props Designer Aaron Mann*
Stage Manager & Asst. Director Jackie Bowes
Producer Dustin Rothbart* and Danny Kapinos*

* Denotes Blank Theatre Company Member

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Betsy Bowman (Una) is grateful for the opportunity to tell Una's story with Blank Theatre. Most recently she starred in the world premiere of *The Condition of Femme* with Circle Theatre. She's currently working on a podcast with a friend entitled "Stereotyped" - where they discuss how women have been written in cinema over the years and ask how we can do better. She's grateful for the love and support of her life partner - Aaron, es tevi milu. She's represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

Jim Poole (Ray) is an ensemble member of Steep Theatre where he performed in *Linda*, *Birdland*, and *Hint* - all in 2018. More of his favorite productions on Steep's stage are *Earthquakes In London*, *The Knowledge*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *Dealer's Choice* and *The Hothouse*. Recently seen as Leonato in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Sir Toby Belch in *12th Night* in Shakespeare in the Park, other Chicago stage appearances include Victory Gardens,

Strawdog, Route 66, Sideshow, Akvavit, Theatre Wit, 16th Street, and the Annoyance. At the Key West Fringe Theatre, Jim played Orson Welles in Orson's Shadow. Jim has leading roles in the short films, *Priest to Priest*, *Death Did You Part*, and *Nicki* which will begin screening at film festivals this spring. A voice actor for a few animated series, Jim is also an accomplished film & video director behind the camera.

Alisha Fabbri (u/s Una) couldn't be prouder working with Blank Theatre Company as the understudy for Una. Favorite credits include: *Holding the Man*, *Barney the Elf* (Pride Films and Plays) *Love's Labours Lost* (Invictus Theatre Company), *Music Man*, *Noises Off* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), *Future Echoes* (Wildclaw Theatre), *Oliver!* (Citadel Theatre), and *At Mr. Kelly's* (Three Cat Productions). She would like to thank her friends, family, and her dog Lucy for their love, support, and occasional face licks. Follow her adventures on Instagram @leachafab

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Elyse Dolan (Director) is thrilled to be working with Blank Theatre Company for the first time! Elyse is the Associate Producer at American Blues Theater, where she is also an Ensemble member. Her directing work has been seen across Chicago at The New Colony (where she

is also the Director of Education), Broken Nose Theatre, Prop Thtr, Commission Theatre, Babes with Blades, 20% Theatre Company, Pride Films & Plays, and more. She has also served as Assistant Director on *Six Corners* (dir. Gary Griffin) and on *Little Shop of Horrors* (dir. Jonathan Berry)

at American Blues Theater; and on productions at Raven Theatre, The New Colony, Oracle Theatre, 16th Street Theater, and Redtwist Theatre. Elyse holds a B.A. from Denison University.

Jackie Bowes (Stage Manager/Assistant Director) is thrilled to have worked on this challenging, moving play. Many thanks to Blank Theatre, Elyse, and the entire team for their bold, generous work. Credits & resume at jackie-bowes.com.

Liz Cooper (Lighting Designer) is happy to be working with Blank Theatre Company. Some of her lighting design credits include *Evil Dead*, *Nightmares and Nightcaps*, *Nevermore*, *Shockheaded Peter* (Black Button Eyes), *Prometheus Bound*, *London Assurance*, *The Sundial*, *Bloodhound Law*, *Father Ruffian* and *Peyton Place* (City Lit), *Bard Fiction* (Commedia Beauregard), *Marisol*, *Winter's Tale*, *A Study in Scarlet* and *Henry V* (Promethean).

Jos N. Banks (Costume Designer) is a Chicago-based Actor/Singer, Costume Designer, Creative Director & Teaching Artist. National Tours: *INTL: Kinky Boots* (Lola), *Hair* (Hud), *The Color Purple* (Harpo). Regional Work: Drury Lane Oak Brook, Paramount Theatre, About Face Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Raven Theatre, Boho Theatre, Black Ensemble Theatre, Theo Ubique, Royal George and Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Film: Fox 20th Centuries "The Chicago Code" & Rise Against' music video "Make It Stop" (Lead). Jos has also interned with the incomparable Micheal Kors at Teen Vogue Magazine, in NYC & deemed WINNER of StageScene LA's "Scenie" Award for "Break Out Performance in a Touring Production" as Lola in *Kinky Boots*. Nominated Best Costume Designer for the 2012 & 2016 BTAA (Black Theater Alliance Awards). Jos would like to thank God, his family, friends and PC for their unconditional love and support. Be FEARLESS. Proverbs 3:5. Proudly represented by: Paonessa Talent Agency

Jeremy Hollis (Scenic Designer) a Chicago-based theater designer and production manager. He is incredibly excited to work with Blank on this project. Recent credits include *Gypsy* and *Merrily We Roll Along* (Weathervane Playhouse), *Snowgirls* (Hell in a Handbag), *The Mousetrap* and *Boeing Boeing* (Metropolis), *Man of La Mancha* (MadKap), *Fuddy Meers* (Eclectic), and *Fuente Ovejuna* (City Lit). Upcoming: *Holmes and Watson*. He is a company member with Brown Paper Box Co., with whom he most recently designed *Little Women*. Much love to the company, the Wignall lab and Jason Heyward. jeremyhollisdesign.com

Zack Payne (Intimacy Designer, Violence Designer) This is Zachariah's second production

with Blank Theatre. Favorite credits include *Spring Awakening* (Blank), *Twelfth Night*, or *What You Will* (Writer's Theatre), *Cabaret* (Paramount Theatre), *In the Next Room...Or the Vibrator Play* (Timeline Theatre), *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Theatre Wit), *The Burials* (Steppenwolf for Young Audiences), and others. He is a certified Advanced Actor Combatant with Fight Directors Canada, and he is certified in Mental Health First Aid. His passions lay with telling stories that will leave an audience moved and changed—focused on character intent and artistic storytelling.

Dustin Rothbart (Producer, Co-Artistic Director) is one of the founding co-Artistic Directors of Blank Theatre Company. For Blank, Dustin directed *Songs for a New World: In Concert* and appeared as Georg in *Spring Awakening*. His favorite acting credits include *The 25th...Spelling Bee*, *Funny Girl* (Madkap Productions), *The History Boys* (Eclectic Full Contact Theatre), *Chekov's The Wedding* (Red Theatre), *Lester's Dreadful Sweaters* (Lifeline Theatre), *Oliver!* (Citadel Theatre), *Hair*, *Ragtime* (Big Noise Theatre), *Parade* (Harper Ensemble Theatre) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Underscore Theatre). Dustin is a graduate of the acting program at Illinois State University. www.dustinrothbart.com

Danny Kapinos (Producer, Co-Artistic Director) is a Chicago-based director, music director, and accompanist. He is proud to be a co-founder of Blank Theatre Company, where he directed Blank's inaugural production of *Spring Awakening* last fall. He is a recent graduate of Northwestern University, where directing credits include productions of *My Fair Lady* and Tony Kushner's *Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy* and credits as a music director include *The Secret Garden*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, *Songs for a New World*, and *Elephant & Piggie's We Are In a Play*. He also works as an accompanist for Northwestern's musical theatre certificate program.

Aaron Mann (Props Designer, Managing Director) is an Ohioan who has traveled quite a few places before ending up in what he feels to be his true home, Chicago. He is thrilled to have helped in building what Blank Theatre Company is and will become. Some of his favorite credits include *Slide* (Chicago Music theater Festival), *Oliver!* (Citadel Theatre), and "Mr. Mushnik" in *Little Shop of Horrors* (WTC). Additionally, he has also done multiple national recordings for Music Theatre International (MTI) in New York including *Sweeney Todd*, *The Sound of Plaid*, and *Miss Saigon*. Aaron is a graduate from Nebraska Wesleyan University with a BFA in Theatre Studies.

BLANK THEATRE COMPANY ARTISTIC STAFF

Dustin Rothbart, Co-Artistic Director
Aaron Mann, Managing Director
Nick McKenzie, Marketing Director
Britta Schlicht, Company Member

Danny Kapinos, Co-Artistic Director
Jackie McCollough, Development Director
Claire Latourette, Company Member
Alisée Cattebeke, Artistic Associate

DONATE TO BLANK

Two years ago, Blank Theatre Company was started with not much more than hopes, dreams, and a vision. Since then, we have cultivated a following, a community, and a brand. Most importantly, we have inspired others to support us in our cause. Without the generous contributions from our donors, Blank Theatre Company would not be here today, producing our very first show. We would like to graciously thank you all of our amazing contributors, who have believed in us and supported us over the past year.

We rely on the support of individuals to grow and sustain this company. If you enjoyed the show today, we ask that you please consider making a contribution to Blank Theatre Company today. We are a registered 501c3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. You can donate directly on our website, blanktheatrecompany.org, or you can make a contribution pledge on the sign-up sheet in the lobby after the show.

If you have any questions about Blank Theatre Company and our fundraising efforts, please contact our Director of Development, Jackie McCollough, by emailing her at jackie.mccollo@gmail.com.

\$25-\$49

Dawn Anis
Susan Bieda
Ryan Brewster
Jane W. Ellison
Laura Gagliano
Elizabeth Lahey
Cathy and Scott Pfister
Martina Scofano
Britta Schlicht
Linda Schmidt
Rebecca Verner
Anna and Mark Videka

\$50-\$99

Levi Ellis
Michelle Feldman
Margaret Gubala-Hagopian
Skip Harsch
Ingrid Henderlight
Stan and Marian Kaderbek
Julie Koerner
Scott Masa
Sherie Mascola
John McIlwain
Willy Medina
Lauren Miller
David Narter

Julie Newman
Karen Peterson
Diane Till
Mark Yacullo

\$100-\$249

Thomas Bearrows
John Borta
Jeff Brown
Veta Caplan
Merrill Essex and Rich Meliska
Mike and Joanne Glatz
James Gould
John and Tina Kapinos
Lucy and Tom

Latourette

Lisa Moser
Diane Paulini
Jeffrey Rosencrans
Ken Rubenstein
Lori Schneider
Kathy Steele
Michael Weaver
Deborah Wood
Richard Yaconis
Anthony Zumpano

\$250

Lisa Savegnano
Michael Weaver

POP QUIZ

ARE YOU...

*an extrovert?
good at connecting with others?
genuine and honest?
a good communicator?*

DO YOU...

*smile and laugh easily?
love the arts?
wish for a job with benefits?
wish for a job with flexibility?*

Did you or would someone you know answer yes to all of these questions? Footlights is growing and is seeking additional **Sales Executives**.

To apply, please contact our Director of Sales at mthiele@footlights.com.



For more information & job opportunities visit:

FOOTLIGHTS.COM