

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

At Rogue Stage, swearing isn't against the rules. Here, we believe that language, no matter how adult, should be celebrated as humanity's most powerful creation. So strap in. Tracy Letts, the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright behind "August: Osage County," drops four letter words like the "F" key on his typewriter got stuck. As long as Letts takes on subjects such as abuse, divorce, cancer, incest, addiction, and suicide, he doesn't have time for pleasantries. And audiences wouldn't have him any other way. Neither would we. At Rogue Stage we believe that propaganda and censorship aren't art. Art should stand for something. And art should always be up for a fight. One "S" word you won't hear us use this year, however, is "slump." As in "sophomore slump." "August: Osage County" may be our second production, but there's nothing slumpy about it. Everyone, from the cast to the crew to the board to the band to our partners at The History Center of Washington County, have gone to the limit to bring you an experience at the theater you will never forget. More than anything, we hope this performance starts a conversation. And when it does, remember, swearing isn't against the rules. Check us out online at [roguestagetheater.com](http://roguestagetheater.com) and on Facebook to find out how you can join us and go Rogue!

— Graham Killeen, Director  
2-28-2019

## SPECIAL NOTE

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY premiered in June 2007 at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago, Il, Martha Lavey, Artistic Director; David Hawkanson, Executive Director.

Steppenwolf's production of AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY opened on Broadway at The Imperial Theatre on December 4, 2007. It was produced by Jeffrey Richards, Jean Doumanian, Steve Traxler, Jerry Frankel, Ostar Productions, Jennifer Manocherian, The Weinstein Company, Debra Black/Daryl Roth, Ronald and Marc Frankel/Barbara Freitag, and Rick Steiner/Staton Bell Group.

## PLACE

A large country home outside Pawhuska, Oklahoma, sixty miles northwest of Tulsa.

**-ACT ONE-**  
**Prologue**

(One lazy afternoon  
in August.)

**Scene One**  
(Days pass. Morning.  
Hot as Hell.)

**Scene Two**  
(That afternoon.)

**Scene Three**  
(Night falls.)

**Scene Four**  
(The darkness before dawn.)

**-ACT TWO-**  
**Scene One**  
(Days pass. Nearly  
supper time.)

**-ACT THREE-**  
**Scene One**  
(Twilight. A storm  
is brewing.)

**Scene Two**  
(The darkest part  
of the night.)

**Scene Three**  
(Weeks pass.  
Another morning.)

**Scene Four**  
(Later in the day.)

**Scene 5**  
(That afternoon.  
Supper time again.)

There will be two 10-minute intermissions.

## CAST

Beverly Weston.....	Peter Gibeau
Violet Weston.....	Jovon Serrano
Barbara Fordham.....	Victoria Ashley
Bill Fordham.....	Kurtis Wolf
Jean Fordham.....	Campbell Martinez
Ivy Weston.....	Jessica Pawlak
Karen Weston.....	Ellen Arndt
Charlie Aiken.....	Fred Luft
Mattie Fae Aiken.....	Kerri Rank
Little Charles Aiken.....	Brett Abel
Johnna Monevata.....	Bailey Mahnke
Steve Heidebrecht.....	Michael Baumhardt
Sheriff Deon Gilbeau.....	Mack Bates

## CREW

Director.....	Graham Killeen
Assistant Director.....	Amy Kottke
Assistant Director.....	Erika Hilsmann
Costume Director.....	Sadie Killeen
Assistant Costumers.....	Chris Dwyer and Lori Matasek
Technical Director.....	Bruce Towell
Sound Designer.....	Tom Matasek
Set Construction Crew.....	Tom Matasek, Justin Schultz, Bailey Mahnke, Ellen Arndt, Kurtis Wolf, Peter Gibeau, Brett Abel, Terry Schroeder
Digital Artist/Marketing Specialist.....	Amanda Voelzke
Lighting Designer.....	Tyler Matasek
Assistant Set Designer.....	Rich Hawthorne
Scenic Painter.....	Lisa Flynn
Homecare Nursing Consultant.....	Joseph Gallo

## BAND

Band Director/Acoustic Rhythm Guitar/Vocals.....	Bette T (VonGunten)
Bass/Vocals.....	Bill Drimel
Electric/Lead Guitar.....	Charlie Collins
Percussion.....	Ethan Frounfelker

## ROGUE STAGE BOARD



**Erika Hilsmann**  
(Producer and Assistant Director): Erika has been an avid theater fan since elementary school, but didn't get very involved with the theatre

community until high school. Since then she has been very active within the local theater scene, both on and off stage, having worked on shows with many different groups including Hartford Union High School's theater department, Hartford Players, Musical Masquers, Falls Patio Players,

and now, Rogue Stage Theater. When not working on theater projects, Erika can be found working as a shift supervisor at Starbucks. She would like to thank her family, friends, and coworkers for their endless support.



**Graham Killeen**  
(Producer and Director): Graham is a locally and nationally award-winning writer/director/producer. He has acted in more than 100 plays and musicals,

taught film and theater at schools including Badger Middle School in West Bend and The Milwaukee High School of the Arts, lectured at The Milwaukee Art Museum and Milwaukee Area Technical College, and covered entertainment for The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His most recent theater credits include directing Waukesha Civic Theatre's "Funny Money," acting in the world premiere of "Autonomy" at Acacia Theatre, directing the Wisconsin touring production of "Freud's Last Session," directing West Bend Children's Theatre's "James and the Giant Peach," and producing and directing "Spring Awakening," Rogue Stage Theater's first production, which won The Footlights Award for Outstanding Musical.



**Sadie Killeen**  
(Producer and Costume Director): Sadie has been designing and creating costumes for stage, screen, and her offspring since 2002. Most recently,

she costumed "James and the Giant Peach" in West Bend and Rogue Stage's premiere show "Spring Awakening." She is delighted to be part of "August: Osage County" along with director husband, Graham, again this year. When not working on theater, she is a jeweler by day and a mom by night to 3-year-old Galloway and 5-month-old Saga Rose.



**Amy Kottke** (Producer and Assistant Director): Amy has been involved in theatre for over 20 years. From playing Laura Ingalls Wilder in a middle school production of "Little House

On The Prairie" to producing and assistant directing last year's production of "Spring Awakening," she has loved every single minute. She wants to thank the cast and crew for being so wonderful to work with, her friends and family for always encouraging her to follow her passion, Erika for the steady supply of caffeine, and Graham for always letting her tag along on these amazing adventures. She couldn't feel more blessed to be a part of Rogue Stage Theater. Thanks for reading this and enjoy the show!



**Marshall Mauney**  
(Producer): Marshall is a 30+ year veteran of musical performance. Marshall studied guitar and vocal at Lenoir-Rhyne University, and toured and recorded

with several 80s rock bands, as well as worked as a studio backing musician and for-hire composer. In later years he settled into musical theatre having performed both as an instrumentalist and stage performer with groups including Spotlight Productions, Greendale Community Theater, West Allis Players, and Rogue Stage Theater. As a founding member of Rogue Stage, Marshall was musical director for last year's performance of "Spring Awakening" and continues to serve on the board.



**Bruce L. Towell** (Producer, Technical Director, and Set Designer): Bruce has been involved with live theatre and film production since 1992. He has worked on over 100 plays and musical

productions and two films. He has been Technical Director for UWM-WC's Theatre on the Hill, UW Oshkosh-Fond du Lac's Prairie

Theatre, Musical Masquers, Hartford Players, Kettle Moraine Players, Waukesha Civic Theatre, Gateway Community Theatre, and Kewaskum Theatre Company. He is currently involved with the day-to-day management of the theatre at Kewaskum High School. Bruce has been known to act, sing, and dance on and off stage. As a 30-year veteran

of the theatre, "My favorite part of theatre is watching the students I work with and teach grow and develop their own talents and craft whether it is on stage or behind the scenes." Lighting and set design and other disciplines of our craft, have given him a truly rich and unique outlook on life. "Some of the best people I know call theatre home."

## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Brett Abel** (Little Charles Aiken): Brett was very involved in theater during his four years at Germantown High School. "August: Osage County" is his second production outside of high school theater. Last year he played the role of Peter van Daan in the Falls Patio Players production of "The Diary of Anne Frank."



**Ellen Arndt** (Karen Weston): Ellen is honored to be a part of another Rogue Stage Theater production, where she was last seen in "Spring Awakening" as Thea! Ellen is so excited to now explore Karen in "August: Osage County." Most recently Ellen was a lead soloist in "Candy Cane Tales and Holiday Carols" this Christmas season with WCT, and before that as a featured dancer in "Evita" with WAP. As always she would like to thank God, Jacob (her love), the directors, staff and crew, Jessica (her other love—especially for reminding her to write this in the first place), her Uncle Patrick, and of course her fellow castmates!!



**Victoria Ashley** (Barbara Fordham): Victoria is stoked to be welcomed into the Rogue Stage Theater family and couldn't be happier (and yet, overwhelmed) for this adventure with "August: Osage County." Victoria spent the last decade in New York City where she worked professionally as an actor, voiceover artist, fitness educator, choreographer, and director. She recently found her way back to her hometown of Milwaukee where she shares incredible memories of working as an actor with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, First Stage Milwaukee, and Sunset Playhouse. Favorite roles include: Baker's Wife in "Into the Woods," Homeless Woman in "A New Brain," Louise in "The Underpants," and Pam in "The Full Monty." A proud graduate of the Webster Conservatory of Theatre Arts, Victoria would love to dedicate this performance to the memory of her father, beloved music educator and supporter of the arts, Mr. Jack Watson.



**Mack Bates** (Sheriff Deon Gilbeau): At the ripe age of 12, Mack Bates announced that he wanted to be "the black Peter Jennings." This followed his earlier desire to be both an astronaut and a cowboy. He's sat through "Space Camp," more times than he cares to share, and thanks

to his tenure as a boy scout, has lassoed a steer or two. Journalism indeed beckoned, and Mack has written extensively for both Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and Milwaukee Magazine, among other publications. A graduate of the Milwaukee High School of the Arts, "August: Osage County" marks his onstage acting debut in a local theatre production, having previously voiced a role created specifically for the Waukesha Civic Theatre's 2015 production of "Funny Money," directed by Graham Killeen.



**Michael Baumhardt**

(Steve Heidebrecht): Michael is excited to be involved in his first production with Rogue Stage! He has previously been seen in several

productions at Ripon College, where he graduated last May. Michael also serves as the Lighting Director for the Hartford Players. When he is not working on theatre productions, Michael is pursuing a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at Cardinal Stritch University. Enjoy the show!



**Peter Gibeau** (Beverly Weston): Peter is a former president of Musical Masquers and has played roles in numerous productions with various theatre companies in the area. Most recently he played Windsor in "Do Not Go Gentle" (KMP), Reuben Ludlow in "In the Time of Old Age" (for which he won KMP's 2018 Best Actor in a Major Role award), Slim in "Of Mice & Men" (7th Row Center), the title role in "Dracula" (Masquers and Theater RED), Herbert's father in "Spamalot" (which he co-directed for Masquers), Lazar Wolf in "Fiddler" (Spotlight and Hartford Players), Tevye in "Fiddler" (Musical Masquers), ghosts of Marley, Christmas Present and Christmas Future in four productions of "A Christmas Carol," and many others. Peter is Professor of Music at UWM-WC, director of the Moraine Chorus,

and principal bass player with the Kettle Moraine Symphony. His house is solar powered.



**Fred Luft** (Charlie Aiken): Fred, who would rather be playing his guitar and singin'"Red River Valley" as Old Charlie, has been in many musicals with Musical Masquers dating

back to his first leading role as Tony in "The Boyfriend" in 1970. Since retiring from 41 years of teaching, he has become a grandfather twice, begun teaching cello lessons, and has been learning many favorite old songs of the 1960's and playing them at open mic. As an eclectic musician, you might also hear him singing songs from 1860's. These days he prefers smaller roles and singing in musicals. Recently, in "Spamalot," Fred played five different characters including a singing dancing dead body in the "Not Yet Dead Fred" scene. He was a musician/song leader in "Christmas Carol" for three years, and last year, in his first non-musical, he played the Rev. Dr. Harper and Mr. Witherspoon in "Arsenic and Old Lace." Fred appreciates all the talented young actors in the show. Special thanks to Graham and the behind the scenes support people who worked so hard to make this show a wonderful experience.



**Bailey Mahnke**

(Johnna Monevata): Bailey is so excited to be making her Rogue Stage Theater debut as Johnna. She is thrilled to be working alongside her

talented cast and crew members that have been working so hard on this production. You may have seen Bailey recently in shows like "Newsies" (Spotlight Productions) or "Guys & Dolls" (Hartford Players). When Bailey is not involved in shows you can find her curled up with a good book. She hopes that you enjoy the show and remember this message "...our souls will walk the Earth looking for where we belong"



**Campbell Martinez**

(Jean Fordham): Campbell is a 17-year-old homeschooled junior. She is involved in many aspects of theatre and performance, including interning at First Stage and as president of the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's Teen Council. She also takes dance lessons at Danceworks and plays guitar and ukulele. She was in Milwaukee Ballet's "Nutcracker" (2009-2011), Sunset Playhouse's acting troupe, Waukesha Civic Theatre's "Dynamite Comedy" (two years in a row) and "Father Knows Best," and was part of First Stage's Advanced Musical Theater Troupe.



**Jessica Pawlak**

(Ivy Weston): Jessica is pumped to be working on her first show with Rogue Stage Theater. A recent graduate of Cardinal Stritch

University, recent favorite credits include: "The Sound of Music," "The Burials" (Chloe), "The Mousetrap" (Christopher), "Godspell," "Little Shop of Horrors," "Stop Kiss," and "Gypsy." She would like to thank the talented cast and crew for their hard work, her family and friends for their support, and God for her success now and in the future. @jessicapawlak



**Kerri Rank** (Mattie Fae Aiken): Kerri is originally from Sheboygan and currently resides in Cedarburg with her husband and two children. After taking a

decade (or a bit more) away from the stage, Kerri is pleased to again pursue her passion for the performing arts. Last year, she played Truvy in KMP's production of "Steel Magnolias," a "bucket list" role. While in

Sheboygan, she was involved with numerous theater groups and spent 12 summers with the John Michael Kohler Arts Center Summer Theater, which gave her the opportunity to work with, and learn from, actors and directors from all over the country. Recent directorial pursuits have been "The Vagina Monologues" and Mad Yarn's 24 Hour Play Festival (both in Sheboygan), and "Mary Poppins Jr." at Webster Middle School in Cedarburg. Heartfelt thanks to her husband Chuck and her children Claire and Julian.



**Jovon Serrano**

(Violet Weston): Jovon is excited to make her Rogue Stage Theater debut with this production. She has been involved with many

community theatres in her 27 years of experience: Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa, Brookfield Players, Musical Masquers, The Hartford Players, and The Kettle Moraine Playhouse. Some of her favorite roles include Agnes in "The Shadow Box," Adelaide in "Guys & Dolls," and Nancy in "Oliver!" Welcome to the show, and thank you for patronizing dramatic theatrical productions in Washington County. She would like to share a special thank you to her family and castmates for helping her prepare for this role.



**Kurtis Wolf**

(Bill Fordham): Kurtis is very excited and proud to be in another show with Rogue Stage Theater. You may remember him in last year's show,

"Spring Awakening." He's glad to work with this talented cast and to have made new friends. He hopes you enjoy "August: Osage County."





**Charlie Collins** (Electric/ Lead Guitar): Charlie's musical journey has taken him around the world playing on cruise ships, touring Broadway musicals ("The Lion King,"

"All Shook Up," "Sweet Charity," and more), regional Top-40s and jazz bands, local musical theater, and more. He's ever so thankful for all the opportunities to meet and perform with amazing musicians, actors, and other entertainers every step of the way, and "August: Osage County" is no exception. Charlie lives with his wife and dog in Bayview.



**Bill Drimel** (Bass/Vocals): Bill has been involved in many musical endeavors over the years. These days he can mostly be seen playing upright bass and bass guitar in the pit for

various community theater and high school groups in the Milwaukee area. He thanks his wife Trish for her continuing support over the years, and Miss Molly the Wonder Dog for staying up to greet him when he comes home from shows and rehearsals. It is an honor and privilege to work with all of the talented actors in this show. Thank YOU for supporting Rogue Stage, YOUR community theater.



**Ethan Frounfelker** (Percussion): After recently performing on stage in a number of musicals for community theaters in the West Bend area, Ethan is excited to

return to his roots by helping to provide instrumental support for "August: Osage County." He comes to the Rogue Band with almost 40 years of experience playing percussion in a wide variety of live music styles and settings. Even so, this is Ethan's

instrumental debut in West Bend! He is actively building his network of musicians in the area and is seeking band members for a synthwave project. If you are curious about what he is up to, then please do not hesitate to make contact.

**Tom Matasek** (Sound Designer): Tom's audio engineering days started in Canada in the early 80's with many shows, numerous touring acts, then in Wisconsin at the Riverside Theater. There are a lot of memories and a 60 Hz hum leftover from those days. Now Tom is the Technical Auditorium Director of the Slinger Performing Arts Center and Technical Director of the school's shows along with teaching students all of the artistic technologies. He is also the Primary Audio Engineer for the Falls Patio Players, providing knowledge and guidance to the tech kids of the Menomonee Falls School District. When not doing all of that stuff, he gets to do stuff like this show. Tom would like to thank Rogue Stage Theater for the opportunity to design sound and work with fine people on this show. Enjoy the show.

**Tyler J. Matasek** (Lighting Designer): Tyler is thrilled to be a part of his first Rogue Stage production, "August: Osage County." Tyler has been a part of many musicals and shows around Southeastern Wisconsin, mainly as a tech advisor for Slinger High School's productions of "Hello Dolly" and "The Wizard of Oz," and Horicon High School's 2018 production of "Into the Woods" and 2019 production of "The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood." He also made tech contributions to Hartford Players' productions of "Shrek," "Beauty and the Beast," and "The Little Mermaid." Outside of theatrical technology, Tyler is pursuing a career as a high school educator, having a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education-Life Sciences, and is currently employed as a substitute teacher in the southeastern Wisconsin area. Please enjoy the show!

## ROGUE BAND AND CREW CONT.



**Amanda Voelzke**  
(Digital Artist/Marketing Specialist): This is Amanda's tenth theatrical production in the past four years. Past credits include

"Spring Awakening" (Mrs. Bessell) with Rogue Stage Theater, "The Sloth" (Nurse Burns) with Spotlight Productions, "Kiss Me Kate" (Chorus) with Jim & I Productions, and "Oliver!" (Mrs. Bedwin) with Musical Masquers.



**Bette T (VonGunten)**  
(Band Director/Acoustic Rhythm Guitar /Vocals): Bette says that it's an honor to have performed with several local theaters, most recently in the hilarious

production "Comicality" for the Hartford Players. Other theater groups include KM Playhouse, Musical Masquers, Spotlight Productions, Marais Players, and now, Rogue Stage Theater. As an active member of the band Scotch & Soda, performing with a group is nothing new. In fact, Bette has performed since childhood. But a "background band" for the theater is a new kind of performing, one she is greatly enjoying! The entire "Rogue Band" feels it will enhance the overall experience of "August: Osage County."

## SPECIAL THANKS

Slinger High School PAC  
UW-Oshkosh Fond du Lac Campus, Prairie Theatre  
Musical Masquers  
Hartford Players  
BLT Lights and Sound  
Proline Entertainment (Aaron and Lyn Zimmerman)  
Pointer Marketing, Inc. (John Sancomb)  
Laura Mitchell Consulting, LLC  
Boys and Girls Club of Washington County  
Sarah Ramaker Schueler  
Barbara Hilsmann, Gina Slade, Ray Borden, Kathryn Flynn



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