

FIREBRAND THEATRE

Presents

Queen of the Mist

Words and Music by
Michael John LaChiusa

Orchestrations by
Michael Starobin

Direction by Elizabeth Margolius

Music Direction by Charlotte Rivard-Hoster

QUEEN OF THE MIST is presented through
special arrangement with R & H Theatricals: www.rnh.com

The World Premiere of QUEEN OF THE MIST Developed and
Produced by Transport Group Theatre Company, New York City
Jack Cummings III, Artistic Director, Lori Fineman, Executive Director

Firebrand Theatre's 2018–19 season sponsor:

Michael and Mona Heath of the HeathFund

PERFORMERS

Anna Edson Taylor.....	Barbara E. Robertson *
Frank Russell.....	Max J. Cervantes
Jane and others.....	Neala Barron
Carrie Nation and others.....	Liz Chidester +
Young soldier and others.....	Hannah Starr
New manager and others.....	Liz Bollar (May 25–June 12)
New manager and others.....	Brianna Buckley (June 13–July 6)
Barker and others.....	Maryam Abdi

UNDERSTUDIES

Anna Edson Taylor.....	Neala Barron
Frank Russell.....	Steven Romero Schaeffer
Jane and others.....	Adelina Feldman-Schultz +
New Manager/Barker and others.....	Liz Bollar
Carrie Nation/ Young Soldier and others.....	Carli Meixner

MUSICIANS

Keyboard/Conductor.....	Charlotte Rivard-Hoster
Reeds (Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet, Soprano Sax, Bass Clarinet).....	Emily Beisel
Violin.....	Elena Spiegel
Cello.....	Kelsee Vandervall
Bass.....	Sara Neilson

PRODUCTION & STAFF

Producing Artistic Director.....	Harmony France+
Production Manager.....	Rose Hamill
Associate Producer.....	Jon Martinez +
Direction and Movement Direction.....	Elizabeth Margolius **
Music Direction.....	Charlotte Rivard-Hoster
Associate Director.....	Daren Leonard
Additional Choreo.....	Jon Martinez +
Additional Vocal Arrangements.....	Andra Velis Simon +
Scenic Designer.....	Lauren Nichols
Technical Director.....	Abbie Reed
Set Painter.....	Eleanor Kahn
Sound Designer.....	Carl Wahlstrom
Sound Engineer.....	Giselle Castro
Lighting Designer.....	Cat Wilson ***
Asst. Lighting Designer.....	Lindsey Lasiewicz
Master Electrician.....	Blake Cordell
Costume Designer.....	Brenda Winstead ***
Props Designer.....	Wendy Huber
Electronic Music Designer.....	Ethan Deppe
Stage Manager.....	J C Widman

PRODUCTION & STAFF CONT.

Rehearsal Asst. Stage Manager Martina Scofano
Production Asst. Stage Manager Gabby Owens
PR Agency David Rosenberg Public Relations
Social Media Amanda Horvath+
Company Manager Jon Martinez+
Graphic Designer Eric Martin+
Front page photo Rob Riddle of Ghost Light Headshots

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage Managers.

** The director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national and theatrical labor union.

*** Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829, a labor union and professional association of Designers, Artists and Craftspeople.

+ Company member of Firebrand Theatre

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Maryam Abdi (Barker and others) is honored to work with such a talented cast and crew on her first project with Firebrand Theatre! She is an actor, writer, educator and yoga

instructor from Seattle. Abdi has worked and lived abroad in Paris, Avignon, Mysore, Warsaw, Tehran, and Cameroon, Africa, where she practiced "Theatre for Development" as a Fulbright Scholar. Recent credits include: Pioneer Theatre (UT), Alais in *Lion in Winter*; Trap Door Theatre, Jane Fonda in *Childhood Beauty*, *Into the Empty Sky* (Jeff Award-Nominated), and *Monsieur d'Eon is a Woman* (Jeff Award-Nominated); Windy City Performs, *Wicked Witch in the Wizard of Oz*; Red Tape Theatre, Nanna in *Round Heads and Pointed Heads* (Jeff Award-Nominated); Remy Bumpo Theatre U/S in *Frankenstein*; Abdi is also an ensemble member with Red Tape Theatre, Trap Door Theatre, and Great Works Theatre. Abdi is an alumnus of the University of Evansville, where she double majored in Theatre and French. She is proudly represented by DDO Artist's Agency.



Neala Barron (Jane and others, Anna Edson Taylor u.s.) is thrilled to make her Firebrand debut with this fantastic team! She has worked in Chicago and regionally with

Porchlight Music Theatre (*Merrily We Roll Along*; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*), Boho Theatre (*110 In The Shade*—Jeff Award Nomination, Principle Performer in a Musical; *Marie Christine*), Griffin Theatre Company (*Ragtime*; *Titanic*), The Hypocrites (*Adding Machine*), Chicago Shakespeare Theater (*Tug of War: Civil Strife*), Kokandy Productions (*Assassins*; *The Full Monty*), Circle Theatre (*Triassic Park*; *First Lady Suite*), Brown Paper Box Co. (*Now. Here. This*; [title of show]; *A New Brain*), The Inconvenience, Raven Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, and more. She holds a BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.



Liz Bollar (New Manager and others u.s.) is thrilled to be working with Firebrand Theatre for the first time. She was recently nominated for a Jeff Award for her performance in

Refuge Theatre Project's *The Last Session*.

Other Chicago theatre credits include *Hair* (American Theatre Company), *Reefer Madness* (Circle Theatre), *Les Mis* (Little Theatre on the Square) and more. She has been honing her understudy skills at Porchlight Music Theatre, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Artemsia Theatre and others. Many thanks to Firebrand for creating this special space and producing this unique piece.



Brianna Buckley (New Manager and others) is thrilled to be working with Firebrand. She stems from Michigan and received her BFA-Acting from Michigan State University. Some recent credits include the starring role in *Othello* (Babes with Blades), *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (Emerald City), *Crumbs From The Table of Joy* (Raven Theatre), *The Light Fantastic* (Jackalope Theatre) and *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* (First Floor Theatre). She was acclaimed in the Tribune as one of the 2018: 10 New Hottest Faces in Chicago. Represented by Gray Talent.



Max J. Cervantes (Frank Russell) is thrilled to be making his Firebrand Theatre debut alongside this incredibly strong and loving cast. Off-Broadway: *The Christians* (Playwright Horizons). Recently seen in the Chicago premiere of *Hands on a Hard Body* as Chris Alvaro (Refuge Theatre Project), Max has performed with Porchlight Music Theatre, Blank Theatre Company, The Jedlicka, Feinstein's/ 54 Below, Joe's Pub at the Public Theatre, Dixon Place Theatre and more. Last seen at the Den Theatre as Robbie Jones in *The Church of Modern Love*, starring Firebrand's Artistic Director, Harmony France. Max received training from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, New Studio on Broadway. Thanks to Jean, Fidel, Amanda, James, George, Jeremiah, and the rest of his family for all of their love and support.



Liz Chidester (Carrie Nation and others) is beyond honored to work with Firebrand Theatre again as a Firebrand Company Member! Chicago theatre credits: *LIZZIE* (Firebrand Theatre), *BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY* (American Blues Theatre, Best Mid-Sized Musical and Best Ensemble—Equity Jeff Awards 2018), *FREDERICK* (Chicago Children's Theatre), *HIGH FIDELITY* (Refuge Theatre Project, Best Musical—Non-Equity Jeff Awards 2017) *TABLE TOP TRAGEDIES* (Cabinet of Curiosity), *BIG RIVER* and *PUMP BOYS AND THE DINETTES* (Theatre at the Center), *RING OF FIRE* (Mercury Theater Chicago), and *STUPID F**ING BIRD* (Sideshow Theatre Company). Her original albums with her band LIZ AND THE LOVELIES include *My Way/Your Way* (2018—Single), *Progress into Simplicity* (2017—Best Roots EP, Independent Music Awards 2018), *Otter Hill EP* (2015), and *People Pumping Pedals* (2014—NewSong Songwriter Competition Finalist 2014). She is a proud union teaching artist of the Old Town School of Folk Music, and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Inc. www.lizandtheloveliest.com/acting



Adeline Feldman-Schultz (Jane and others u.s.) is elated to be working alongside her friends and family in her Firebrand debut! She is a company member and ALTA Award nominated Casting Director of Firebrand Theatre. Adeline is a co-founder and now Director of the Chicago Theatre Access Auditions (www.ctaauditions.com). Chicago Credits: Teatro Vista, RhinoFest, Jackalope Living Newspaper Festival, Emerald City Theatre, The Other Theatre Company/Chicago Dramatists, Pride Films and Plays, and Erasing the Distance. VO: Ora on WBEZ's *PleasureTown*. Regional Credits: *Maples Repertory Theatre*, *Old Creamery Theatre*, *Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre*, *Bower Street Theatre*. She is proudly represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.



Cari Meixner (Carrie Nation, Young Solider and others u.s.) is making her Firebrand debut with Queen of the Mist. Chicago credits include *1776* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Spring Awakening* (Blank Theatre Company), and *The View UpStairs* (Circle Theatre). Regional credits include *Fun Home* (CATCO) and *The Flick* (Weathervane Playhouse). She earned a BFA in musical theatre from Kent State University. In addition to performance, Cari is also a science educator at the Adler Planetarium. As always, for Ren.



Barbara E Robertson (Anna Edson Taylor) has performed on many of Chicago's stages, toured the country in the First National Tour of *Angels in America I & II*, as well as companies of *Wicked*, and has received two dozen awards and nominations for performing. This past summer she played at Peninsula Players in the premier of Sean Grennan's *Now and Then*, as well as *Miss Holmes*; (directed by Elizabeth Margolius) and *Drowsy Chaperone*; (with Musical Director Valerie Maze). This year she performed in The Goodman's *A Christmas Carol* and played Anne Marie in Steppenwolf's production of Lucas Hnath's *A Doll's House, Part 2*. Barbara can be seen in Robert Altman's *The Company*; David Lynch's *The Straight Story*, and

upcoming projects: *The T*; *Freelancer's Anonymous*; and *Working Man*.



Steven Romero Schaeffer (Frank Russell u.s.) is overjoyed to be working at Firebrand theatre for the first time! Steven has had the pleasure of working with Chicago-area theatres such as the Marriott Theatre, Theatre at the Center, the Hypocrites, the House Theatre, Theo Ubique, Metropolis Center for the Arts and the Griffin Theatre. He is a proud graduate from the University of South Dakota and represented by Gray Talent Group.



Hannah Starr (Young Solider and others) is a performer and writer originally from Eau Claire, WI. Hannah was a cast member of The Second City's etc revue, *Gaslight District*, and was nominated for a Jeff Award for their work as "Medium Alison" in *Fun Home* at Victory Gardens Theater. Other credits include Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, The Annoyance, iO, Quest Theatre Ensemble, and No Stakes Theater Project. Hannah's solo show, *BOOMBOX*, had a sold-out run at the Minnesota Fringe Festival and has been remounted in Chicago for The Second City and Brown Paper Box Co. Hannah is represented by Paonessa Talent. For hot content, follow @heyohannahstarr

PRODUCTION & ARTISTIC TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Giselle Castro (Sound Engineer) Giselle is a freelance engineer based in Chicago and is grateful to be returning to Firebrand. Earning her AAS in Recording Arts from Tribeca Flashpoint, she is also a mixer, producer, and composer. Credits include *Church of Modern Love* (Haven), *Caroline, or Change* (Firebrand), *The Full Monty*, *The Bridges of Madison County* (Theo Ubique). She thanks her mentors Yuri,

Hudson, and Comiskey. Para sus padres, Elia y José, les manda todo su amor. gisellechicago.com

Blake Cordell (Master Electrician) Blake Cordell has been working as an electrician in the city for over a year now and is excited to be working on his first Firebrand production! He's worked as a master electrician with

several theatres around town such as Haven, Interrobang, Pride, and Adventure Stage, and has designed at several others including Brown Paper Bag, Artemisia, Redtwist, Comrades, and Actor's Gymnasium. For more information on Blake, please visit Blakecordell.com

Rose Hamill (Production Manager) Rose Hamill is a freelance stage and production manager who has worked with multiple Chicago storefront theatres. She serves as the Managing Director of Broken Nose Theatre, where she has either stage or production managed their productions of *A Phase*, *At the Table*, *Kingdom*, *The Opportunities of Extinction*, *Plainclothes* and *Girl in the Red Corner*. Rose has also worked with The New Colony (*PUNK*), Babes with Blades Theatre Company (*The Good Fight*), and The Factory Theater (*The Adventures of Spirit Force Five*) among others. This is her first production with Firebrand Theatre and she's thrilled to be here. Rose is a member of the United States Institute of Technical Theater and the Stage Managers' Association. Rose holds a Bachelors of Arts degree in Technical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago, with minors as a Teaching Artist and in Arts Administration.

Wendy Huber (Props Design) Wendy is a freelance prop designer in Chicago, credits include *Anna Karenina* (The Joffrey Ballet); *All Childish Things*, *Women in Jeopardy* (First Folio Theater); *Salvage*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *39 Steps*, *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*, and *Almost Maine* (Peninsula Players Theater of Door County, WI); and three seasons with Children's Theatre of Madison. Wendy is a proud graduate of UW-Green Bay with a BA in Technical Theatre and Design. www.awendydesign.com

Daren Leonard (Associate Director) Darren served as the Associate Artistic Director of the Chicago Directors Lab from 2008–2016. During that period he spent five years as the Artistic Director of Healthworks Theatre, an educational theatre company committed to working with communities to address critical health and social issues for teens. Throughout his tenure he helped

create three new productions, *View Finders*, *20 Topics* and *You Gonna Eat That*, while maintaining their current repertoire of touring productions. Previously Daren has worked with Circle Theatre, Bailiwick Chicago, Not Waiting Productions, Chicago Folks Operetta, Genesis Theatrical Productions, Six Flags Entertainment Corporation, Ozark Actors Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Northeastern State University of Oklahoma. Many of Daren's projects include working as an Associate Director alongside Elizabeth Margolius for the past 10 years. Daren is a proud graduate of Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre Arts directing program and The French Pastry School.

Elizabeth Margolius (Direction and Movement Direction) Elizabeth is a Chicago and upstate New York based stage and movement director. Her credits include: *The Scarlet Ibis* for Chicago Opera Theater, *Miss Holmes* for Peninsula Players, *Machinal* for Greenhouse Theater (Movement Director–Jeff nomination), *The Bridges of Madison County* for Peninsula Players, *Uncle Philip's Coat* for Greenhouse Theater, *Haymarket: The Anarchist's Songbook* for Underscore Theatre, *L'Occasione Fa Il Ladro* and *Twelfth Night* for DePaul Opera Theatre, *The Girl in the Train*, *The Land of Smiles*, and *The Cousin from Nowhere* for Chicago Folks Operetta, *Goldstar*, *Ohio* for American Theater Company, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* for Chicago Shakespeare Theater (Assistant Director), *The Last Cyclist* for Genesis Theatrical Productions, *Opus 1861* for City Lit Theater (Jeff nomination–Best Adaptation), *Violet* for Bailiwick Chicago (Jeff nomination–Best Director of a Musical), and *Bernarda Alba* and *Songs for a New World* for Bohemian Theatre Ensemble. Elizabeth is an alumna of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab, a recipient of a full directorial scholarship for the Wesley Balk Opera-Music Theater Institute, a finalist for the Charles Abbott Fellowship and the Co-Founder/Artistic Director Emeritus of DirectorsLabChicago. Elizabeth is a proud member of the American Guild of Musical Artists and the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Jon Martinez (Additional Choreography/ Company Manager/Assoc. Producer) is a company member with Firebrand theatre and last worked on *LIZZIE* as the movement director. Directing/Choreography credits include: *Be More Chill* (Playhouse Square Cleveland); *Scottsboro Boys* (Beck Center Cleveland); *The Buddy Holly Story* (American Blues); *The View Upstairs* (Circle Theater); *In The Heights* (Civic Theatre); *On A Clear Day...* (Porchlight Music Theater); *It's Only a Play*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Joseph Jefferson Award nomination) (Pride Films & Plays); *Rock of Ages* (Timberlake Playhouse); *Tonya & Nancy The Rock Opera* (Chicago Premiere) (Underscore); *3C* (Red Orchid); *We're Gonna Die* (Haven Theater/Steppenwolf). Jon also directed the Theater On The Lake remount of *Bailiwick Chicago's* Jeff award winning production of *Murder Ballad*. He also has served as assistant/associate on *Xanadu* (American Theater Company); *Carrie*, *Murder Ballad* (Bailiwick Chicago). Instagram: Jonnytaco91

Lauren M. Nichols (Scenic Design)
A Chicago native, Lauren is a freelance designer who also works full time as a studio assistant building scale models. Last year she worked with Firebrand designing *Caroline, or Change*. Other recent design credits include *Bright Star* (BoHo Theatre), *The Scientific Method* (Rivendell), *Follies* (Harper College), *Ghosts* (Redtwist), and *Pinkalicious* (Northbrook). Upcoming projects include *Big Fish* (Boho), *American Idiot* (Harper), and *The Cat in the Hat* (Northbrook). MFA Northwestern. Laurenangeldesigns.com

Abigail Reed (Technical Director) is a Technical Director and Scenic Designer in the Chicagoland Area. She is excited to return as Technical Director for Firebrand Theatre. Abigail attended Oberlin College ('15) with a degree in Visual Arts, concentration in Scenic Design and a Minor in Philosophy. Abigail is the Broadway Series Draftsperson for the Paramount 2019 season. Recent design credits include *Oceanica* (Mobile Room Escape) *Supervillians* (Mobile Room Escape) *A New Brain* (Theo Ubique) *Altar Boyz* (Theo Ubique) *The Ben Hecht Show* (Grippio Stage

Co.) *Pippin* (Desert Foothills Theater, Arizona) *Little Shop of Horrors* (Desert Foothills Theater) and *Home Before Dark* (Ruckus Theater).

Carl Wahlstrom (Sound Design) Carl is ecstatic to be making his Firebrand debut designing *Queen of the Mist*. Carl grew up in Bangor, Maine and got his start working in theater at Penobscot Theatre Company. He works full time as the resident sound designer and audio engineer at Mercury Theater Chicago and is also currently sound designing a production of *Below the Belt*, at Redtwist Theatre. Some of Carl's favorite Chicago design credits include the Venus Cabaret's productions of *Pippin*, and *Company*, as well as Mercury Theater Chicago's productions of *I Left My Heart*, *Hair*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*.

JC Widman (Stage Manager) JC is thrilled to be back with Firebrand, after stage managing *9 to 5* and *Caroline, or Change*. Also this year she stage managed Jackalope's *Dutch Masters*, Cabinet of Curiosity's *Tabletop Tragedies* as a part of the International Puppet Festival, and two podcasts with Make Believe Associations. JC has also worked with Stage Left, Circle Theater, BoHo, Neo-Futurist, Refuge Theater, Chicago Children's Theater, Underscore Theatre, Hell In A Handbag, The Hypocrites, The Ruffians, Kokandy Productions and the Apollo Theater. She is thankful for support of her family and friends, especially her father.

Cat Wilson (Lighting Designer) is proud to be working with Firebrand again. Previously she designed *Caroline, or Change*. Chicago credits include work with Goodman Theatre, 16th Street Theater (artistic associate), Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, University of Illinois Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet Academy, Chicago Children's Theatre, Irish Theatre of Chicago, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, and many others. Regional credits include work with Li Chiao-Ping Dance Company, Point Park University, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre. She received an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University, and soon will start as the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at Point Park University. Proud member of USA 829. CatWilsonDesigns.com

PRODUCTION & ARTISTIC TEAM BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Brenda Winstead (Costume Design) Brenda Winstead's Chicago area design credits include *Dames at Sea* and *Nice Work if You Can Get It* at Theatre at the Center where she has designed over 50 shows. She has also designed at Chicago Opera Theater, Light Opera Works, Stage Left Theatre, Shattered Globe, Chicago Folks Operetta, and Theatre

Seven. Regional design credits include Peninsula Players, Forestburgh Playhouse, Connecticut Repertory Theatre, Black Hills Playhouse and Sierra Repertory Theatre. Brenda is an ensemble member with Stage Left Theatre and has an MFA from the University of Connecticut.

SPECIAL THANKS

Michael John LaChiusa, Andra Velis Simon, John Champion, Victoria Deiorio, Ben Kaye, Saoirse Lee, David Cromer, Josh Prisching, Mercury Theater, Writers Theater, Lookingglass Theatre

SEASON SPONSORS

Mona and Michael Heath are avid fans and supporters of Chicago theatre, especially in intimate storefront spaces. They have worked with a number of Chicago theatre companies as production sponsors, season sponsors, and co-producers. Mona and Michael were production sponsors for both *Lizzie* and *9 to 5* in Firebrand's inaugural season, and are pleased to serve as season sponsors for Firebrand's second season. Other notable projects include the Heath Main Stage at the Den Theatre and the Chicago Cultural Accessibility Consortium's Accessible Equipment Loan Program. In 2017 the Heaths received the annual Tribute Award from the League of Chicago Theatres. For more information, see www.heathfund.org.

TRANSPORT GROUP

Founded in 2001, **Transport Group** is a Drama Desk, Outer Critics, and OBIE Award-winning not-for-profit, off-Broadway theatre company that stages new works and re-imagines revivals by American writers. In 2011, in celebration of their tenth anniversary, Transport Group launched a 10-year cycle of works entitled "The 20th Century Project." Each year for the next 10 years, Transport Group will produce a play or musical that examines some aspect of the American experience particular to each decade. Michael John LaChiusa's world premiere musical, *Queen of the Mist*, was the first production in this cycle and explores the first decade of the 20th century, 1900–1910.

ABOUT FIREBRAND

Firebrand Theatre is a musical theatre company committed to employing and empowering women by expanding their opportunities on and off the stage. Firebrand is a 501(c)(3) Equity theatre. Company members: Artistic Director: Harmony France, Advisory Board: Lili-Anne Brown, Enjoy Gavino, Kate Garassino, Amber Mak, Danni Smith, Company Members: Kasey Alfonso, Becca Brown, Sydney Charles, Liz Chidester, Adelina Feldman-Schultz, Tyler Franklin, Amanda Horvath, Eric Martin, Jon Martinez, Natalie O'hea, Amelia Jo Parish and Andra Velis Simon.

www.firebrandtheatre.org