

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

by Rupert Holmes

Director.....	Danny Kapinos
Assistant Director.....	Noah Watkins
Music Director.....	Aaron Kaplan
Choreographer.....	Britta Lynn Schlicht
Assistant Choreographer.....	Christopher Young
Lighting Designer.....	Liz Cooper
Costume Designer.....	Colin Bradley Meyer
Fight Choreographer.....	Tony Pellegrino
Dialect Coach.....	Jason A. Fleece
Stage Manager.....	Liza Alrutz
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Olivia Zapater-Charrette
Rehearsal Accompanist.....	Anna Wegener
Dramaturg, Dance Captain.....	Sophie Vitello
Producers.....	Dustin Rothbart and Alisée Cattebeke

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

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD

A Musical by Rupert Holmes

Original Broadway production produced by
the New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer

THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD is presented by arrangement with
TAMS-WITMARK www.tamswitmark.com

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

The Mystery of Edwin Drood runs approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes with one
intermission.

CAST

The Chairman, Mr. William Cartwright.....	Dustin Rothbart*
Edwin Drood/Miss Alice Nutting	Maisie Rose
John Jasper/Mr. Clive Padgett	Chase Heinemann
Rosa Bud/Miss Deirdre Peregrine	Phoebe Moore
Princess Puffer/Miss Angela Prysock.....	Katherine Dalin
Helena Landless/Miss Janet Conover.....	Simran Bal
Neville Landless/Mr. Victor Grinstead	Nathan Karnik
Reverend Crisparkle/Mr. Cedric Moncrieffe.....	Bob Sanders
Bazzard/Mr. Phillip Bax	Brian Warner
Durdles/Mr. Nick Cricker	Aaron Mann*
Deputy/Master Nick Cricker	Bryce Ancil
Ensemble.....	Alexandra Alontaga, Grace Bobber, Sophie Vitello

UNDERSTUDIES

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

Edwin Drood/Princess Puffer	Grace Bobber
The Chairman/Reverend Crisparkle/Durdles	Deric Anthony Gochenauer
John Jasper/Bazzard/Deputy	Brian Pember
Helena Landless.....	Alexandra Alontaga
Rosa Bud/Ensemble.....	Aurora Penepacker

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Danny Kapinos*
Assistant Director	Noah Watkins
Music Director	Aaron Kaplan
Choreographer.....	Britta Lynn Schlicht*
Assistant Choreographer.....	Christopher Young
Fight Choreographer	Tony Pellegrino
Lighting Designer.....	Liz Cooper
Costume Designer	Colin Bradley Meyer
Dialect Coach.....	Jason A. Fleece
Stage Manager	Liza Alrutz
Assistant Stage Manager	Olivia Zapater-Charrette
Rehearsal Accompanist.....	Anna Wegener
Dramaturg, Dance Captain	Sophie Vitello
Producers	Dustin Rothbart* and Alisée Cattebeke*

* Denotes Blank Theatre Company Member

ORCHESTRA

Bass: Declan Ryan

Piano: Leo Finan

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Dustin Rothbart (The Chairman, Mr. William Cartwright) is one of the founding Co-Artistic Directors of Blank Theatre Company where his credits include directing *Songs for a New World: In Concert* and onstage as "Georg" in *Spring Awakening*. This past spring, Dustin toured New England in *Little Bits of Light* with Hampstead Stage Company. His favorite acting credits include: *Camelot* (Janus Concert Series); *25th...Spelling Bee, Funny Girl* (Madkap Productions); *The History Boys* (Eclectic Full Contact Theatre); *Hair, Ragtime* (Big Noise Theatre); *Chekov's The Wedding* (Red Theatre); *Parade* (Harper Ensemble Theatre); *The Rocky Horror Show* (Underscore Theatre Company). Additionally, Dustin has acted with Lifeline Theatre, Pride Films & Plays, Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co., Brightside Theatre, Citadel Theatre, Benevolent Theatre, Lake Forest Theatre and Jedlicka Performing Arts Center. Dustin is a graduate of the acting program at Illinois State University. www.dustinrothbart.com @DustinRothbart

Maisie Rose (Edwin Drood/Miss Alice Nutting) is delighted to join the company of *Drood*. Past credits include *Hairspray* at Skylight Music Theatre (Tracy Turnblad), *How to Succeed...* at Music Theater Works (Smitty), *Seussical* at Drury Lane Theatre, *Lysistrata Jones* with Refuge Theatre Project, *Bonnie & Clyde* with Kokandy Productions, and *Numbers Nerds* at the New York Musical Festival. Next up, she'll be appearing in Paramount Theatre's production of *Kinky Boots*. Maisie is represented by DDO Artists Agency and is a proud Northwestern graduate.

Chase Heinemann (John Jasper/Mr. Clive Padgett) is thrilled to return for his second production with Blank. A regular performer in Blank cabarets, he also

performed as Hanschen and Melchior in last season's *Spring Awakening*. Chase was named one of Porchlight Music Theatre's New Faces of Chicago Musical Theatre in the fall of 2018. Other favorite credits include Gordon in *A New Brain* (Theo Ubique) and George in *Sunday in the Park...* (CCPA). He is a graduate of the Musical Theatre program at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. www.chaseheinemann.com. DPTL.

Phoebe Moore (Rosa Bud/Miss Deirdre Peregrine) is thrilled to be working with Blank Theatre for the first time! A graduate of Northwestern University, Phoebe has worked with Steep Theatre Company, Porchlight Music Theatre, AstonRep Theatre Co., Redtwist, Emerald City, Northbrook TYA, and Lakeside Shakespeare. When Phoebe is not acting, she writes and cooks for the Chicago-based recipe blog Love & Lemons. Thanks to Danny, Alex, Mom, Dad, and the entire Drood team! www.phoebeemoore.com

Katherine Dalin (Princess Puffer/Miss Angela Prysock) has been hailed for her "exuberance" onstage, with credits ranging from musical theatre to opera to straight theatre and cabaret. Her favorite roles have included: Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins*, Maria in *Twelfth Night*, Ruth in *Pirates of Penzance*, and Zita in *Gianni Schicchi*. When not onstage, she teaches music and theatre to students of all ages. For more information on performances, visit: www.katherinedalin.com

Simran Bal (Helena Landless/Miss Janet Conover) is excited to make her Blank Theatre debut! Recent credits include the Jeff-nominated *HERLAND* at Redtwist Theatre (Natalie,) *Victory Gardens* Theatre's

commission of MIRIAM at the Colorado Festival of New Plays, and MERCHANT ON VENICE at Rasaka Theatre. She is a recent graduate of Northwestern University. Simran is also a playwright who has had her plays workshopped at Chicago Dramatists/Powerhouse Theatre, and produced at Northwestern.

Nathan Karnik (Neville Landless/Mr. Victor Grinstead) is extremely excited to be joining this cast of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, he currently studies Musical Theatre, Performance Studies and Economics at Northwestern University. Off the stage, Nathan is a member of the acapella group Purple Haze and an avid supporter of the Atlanta Falcons. Nathan is extremely grateful for the love and support of his family, friends, teachers, and mentors who have helped him grow as a person and a performer.

Bob Sanders (Reverend Crisparkle/Mr. Cedric Moncrieffe) is honored to join the great cast of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Music Theater Works: *Anything Goes*, *Into the Woods*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Metropolis PAC: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Citadel: *The Explorers Club*. Shattered Globe: *For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday* (US). MadKap: *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Funny Girl*. In New York, Bob appeared in the first professional revival after the original Broadway production of *A Little Night Music*, as well as *The Lady's Not for Burning* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Regional appearances include *Deathtrap*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Brian Warner (Bazzard/Mr. Phillip Bax) is a recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago, embarking on a life in both theatre and digital marketing. Chicago credits include: DOGFIGHT, THIS IS AMERICA (Surging Films & Theatrics); SHE LOVES ME, TINTYPES, CABARET, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING (Loyola Chicago).

He has also worked in varying capacities with TimeLine Theatre Company, Porchlight Music Theatre, and Victory Gardens Theater. Much love goes to his friends, family, and mentors for their endless support.

Aaron Mann (Durdles/Mr. Nick Cricker) is one of the founders and managing director for Blank Theatre Company. Some of his favorite credits include *Slide* (Chicago Music Theater Festival), *Oliver!* (Citadel Theatre), "Sir Robin" in *Spamalot*, "Mr. Mushnik" in *Little Shop of Horrors* (WTC). Additionally, he's 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 his BFA in Theatre Studies.

Bryce Ancil (Deputy/Master Nick Cricker) is excited to be back with Blank Theatre Company after playing Otto (U/s Moritz) in their sold out inaugural production of *Spring Awakening*. Other favorite credits include *Into the Woods* (Jack), *Legally Blonde* (Warner), and *Allegro* (Jennie). He is a former attendee of Columbia College Chicago where he studied musical theatre. Big and sincere thanks to most of my biological family, all of my chosen family, and Collin. IG: @bruce.ancil

Alexandra Alontaga (Ensemble; Helena Understudy) is guilty—shamelessly—of performing her first show with Blank Theatre Company. Previous credits include *Columbinus* (Random Acts Chicago), *Sweeney Todd* (Munroe Park Theatre Guild), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (MPTG), and *Odd Couple, female version* (Oil Lamp Theater). She is also the company manager of Random Acts Chicago and works extensively with MPTG as an assistant director/production manager. Alex is grateful to her friends and family for their endless support and positivity. Enjoy the show!!!

Grace Bobber (Ensemble; Drood/Puffer Understudy) recently graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in theater and music. Select Chicago understudy credits include *Pinkalicious* (Marriott Theatre), *My Wonderful Birthday Suit!* (Chicago Children's Theatre), and *All That He Was* (Pride Films & Plays). Up next: *Knuffle Bunny* (Northbrook Theatre). Endless thanks and love to my family. Stay connected with me at gracebobber.com!

Sophie Vitello (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Blank Theatre Company debut! Past credits include *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center), and *Dear Brutus* (Eclectic Full Contact Theatre). Vitello is also a writer for chicagotheatrereview.com, and she graduated from Columbia College Chicago. Much love and gratitude to friends, family, coffee, and the entire team of DROOD.

Deric Anthony Gochenauer (Chairman/Crisparkle/Durdles Understudy) is a positively energetic person who has been fortunate to collaborate with many theatres up and down the east coast as well as Chicagoland. Favorite past credits include: *It's a Wonderful Life* (Metropolis), *Urinetown* (Theatre Nebula), *A Chorus Line* (Highland Park Players), *She Loves Me* (Williams Street Rep), *Noah: The Musical* (Sight and Sound Theatre), and the national tour of *Tony 'N' Tina's Wedding*. Deric is an active member of the Jeff Awards, having just produced the 51st Annual Jeff Awards Ceremony this past October.

Brian Pember (John Jasper/Bazzard/Deputy Understudy) comes from the city of Scranton, PA. He recently graduated from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ with a Bachelor of the Arts in Music where he studied with Charles Walker. He is very excited to revisit Drood as well as work with the wonderful team at Blank Theatre Company for the first time!

Recently, he joined Chicago Opera Theater for the Chicago premieres of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Heggie's *Moby Dick*. He also performed with Transgressive-Theater Opera in their productions of *Trial by Jury*, *Masque at Kenilworth*, and *Le Comte Ory*. Brian has also been a member of the Princeton Festival Opera Chorus and has performed in their productions of *Peter Grimes*, *Fidelio*, and *Nixon in China*. In February 2020, you can see him at Edge Theatre again in the Chicago Musical Theater Festival's production of *Olivia Popp's Double Vision*.

Aurora Penepacker (Rosa Bud/Ensemble Understudy) is thrilled to be working with Blank Theatre for the first time! Born and raised in Chicago, she is a senior BFA student at the Chicago College of Performing Arts of Roosevelt University. Aurora's favorite credits include *West Side Story* (Maria) at the Encore Theatre Company, as well as *The Pirates of Penzance* (Mabel) and *The Venetian Twins* (Beatrice) at CCPA. She most recently appeared in the company of the Elgin Shakespeare Project in partnership with Janus Theatre. Up next, you can catch her as Luisa in the *Fantasticks* at Citadel Theatre in February 2020! Rory would like to give her thanks to Aaron Kaplan and Rebecca Schorsch, to her amazing friends and family, and to her Mama and Papa for their unwavering love and support. aurorapenepacker.com

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Danny Kapinos (Director) is a Chicago-based director, music director, and accompanist. He directed Blank Theatre Company's inaugural production of *Spring Awakening* last year. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, where directing credits include *My Fair Lady* and *Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy*. Credits as an assistant director include *The King's Speech* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), *Becky Shaw* (Windy City Playhouse) and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Filamcent Theatre). He is a member of the SDCF Observership Class of 2019-2020 and is an SDC Associate Member. Danny will serve as music director on Blank Theatre Company's production of *Nine* this spring.

Aaron Kaplan (Music Director) is thrilled to be working with Blank! Aaron has music directed/conducted over 65 productions, the majority of them with full orchestra. Favorites include *West Side Story*, *On the Town*, *Les Misérables*, *Chess*, *The Producers*, *Of Thee I Sing*, *Memphis* and *Sweeney Todd*. Aaron is the Artistic Director for the JAM Orchestra, on the faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago, and is the Assistant Orchestra Director at Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High School. He earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Donald Schleicher, as well as his bachelor's degree in music education and cello performance, studying with Brandon Vamos of the Pacifica Quartet. Special thanks to Dustin, Danny, Britta, Liza, this wonderful cast, Anna, Declan, and Leo for their great music, and the whole BTC team!

Noah Watkins (Assistant Director) is a recent graduate of Northwestern, where he received a BS in Theatre (an irony not lost on his parents). He spent the last two summers interning with The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in directing as a part of their Summer Professional Training Program. More recently, he worked with mentors and teachers Stephen Schellhardt

(*A Gentlemen's Guide to Love & Murder*), Bill Brown (*Company*), Jessica Thebus (*Toy Theatre Festival at Northwestern University*) and David Bell. He is so thankful to be working with Danny and Blank Theatre Co!

Britta Lynn Schlicht (Choreographer) Britta Lynn Schlicht is a Chicago-based choreographer and arts educator. As Resident Choreographer and Casting Associate, Britta is thrilled to be back with Blank Theatre for a second year in a row. Her work was most recently seen in Blank Theatre's premiere production of *Spring Awakening*. Previous choreographic credentials include *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Gypsy*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Nevermore*, *The Glass Menagerie* (Jedlicka Performing Arts Center); *RENT* (Middleton Players Theatre); *BEERS* (Prop Thtr); *A Christmas Carol* and *13* (Improv Playhouse). Assistant credentials include *Cabaret* (Cowardly Scarecrow Productions) and *These Violent Delights* (Kite and Key Theatre). In addition to her work in Chicago theatre, Britta is a proud Chicago Public Schools arts educator at Andrew Jackson Language Academy (Drama and Dance teacher). Please be sure to check out her work in Blank's upcoming production of *Nine* this spring.

Christopher Young (Assistant Choreographer) is excited to return to Blank after assisting on *Spring Awakening*. Choreography credits include: *Cabaret* (Cowardly Scarecrow Theatre), *These Violent Delights* (Kite & Key Theatre), *Sessical!* (Windy City Music Theatre), *Evil Dead the Musical* (ast. choreographer, Black Button Eyes), *Bite* (Pride Films & Plays), *The Civility of Albert Cashier* (ast. choreographer, Permevo Productions). Performance credits include: *It's Only a Play* (Pride Films & Plays), *The Church of Modern Love* (Reddyk + Krupp), *Perfect Arrangement* (Pride Films & Plays), *Funny Girl* (MadKap), *Miracle!* (Hell in a Handbag!), and *Musical of the Living Dead* (CSTC). Thanks to Ms. Britta for letting me join on this adventure!

PRODUCTION STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

Liz Cooper (Lighting Designer) is happy to be working with Blank Theatre again. Some of her recent lighting design credits include *Drag Seed* (Hell in a Handbag), *Ghost Quartet*, *Evil Dead*, *Nightmares and Nightcaps*, and *Nevermore* (Black Button Eyes), *Blackbird* (Blank Theatre Company), *Prometheus Bound*, *London Assurance* (City Lit), *Marisol* (Promethean). She is a resident lighting designer at City Lit.

Colin Bradley Meyer (Costume Designer) Recent graduate from Drake University, Colin is a newcomer to the Chicago Theatre scene. Having acted as a resident designer for Thunder Bay Theater and Weathervane Playhouse, Colin has also designed for companies such as: The Conspirators, Adventure Stage Chicago, Festival 56, Timberlake Playhouse, Oil Lamp Theater, and many others! Thank You to everyone who has made this show possible, and for the company for being such amazing people to work with! You can learn more about Colin and their work at colinbradleymeyer.com!

Jason A. Fleece (Dialect Coach) is thrilled to be working with Blank for the first time. As a dialect coach, Jason worked most recently for Jackalope Theatre, where he coached *In the Canyon*. Jason is also a director, and will next be directing *Clause 42* for the 33rd Annual Young Playwrights

Festival at Pegasus Theatre Chicago.

Liza Alrutz (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of The Mystery of Edwin Drood, her first production with Blank Theatre Company. Originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Liza now calls Chicago home after recently graduating from Northwestern. When she is not in rehearsals, she is teaching after school classes in District 65 with Mudlark Theater, or serving as Production Chair for Northwestern's Annual Commencement ceremony. Thank you to my siblings, Danny, and our sweet Drood family!

Sophie Vitello (Dramaturg, Dance Captain) — Please see cast bio.

Dustin Rothbart (Producer, Co-Artistic Director) — Please see cast bio.

Alisée Cattebeke (Producer) is an Artistic Associate at Blank Theatre Company, where she was previously the Assistant Stage Manager on *Spring Awakening*. She is currently a senior at Columbia College Chicago, majoring in Live and Performing Arts Management. Originally from Belgium, she now calls Chicago her home. Previous theatre administration experience in development and marketing includes Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Chicago Opera Theater, and The Cuckoo's Theater Project.

BLANK THEATRE COMPANY STAFF

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

Danny Kapinos, Co-Artistic Director
Andra Beatty, Development Director
Claire Latourette, Company Member
Alisée Cattebeke, Artistic Associate

SPECIAL THANKS

Haley Bolithon, John B. Boss, Larry Trice, Michael Lasswell & CCPA, Mike Weaver, Pastor Fred & Unity Lutheran Church, Patty Halajian, The Edge Theatre.

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, Andra Beatty, by emailing her at andrabelle8@gmail.com.

\$400+

Lisa Savegnago
Mike Weaver

\$250-\$399

Thomas Bearrows

\$100-\$249

John Mann
Richard Yaconis

\$50-\$99

Pamela Anderson
Veta Caplan
Julie Koerner
Lisa Moser
Carol Paulini
Yasmina Salah
Lori Schneider
Alexander Strzelecki

\$25-\$49

Nick Falco
Marian Kaderbeck
Ken Rubenstein

Blank Theatre Company
Presents

NINE

Book by
Arthur Kopit

Music and Lyrics by
Maury Yeston

Adapted from
the Italian by
Mario Fratti


THEATRE COMPANY

March 28-April 26, 2020

Stage 773

1225 W Belmont

Chicago IL 60657

(773) 327-5252

blanktheatrecompany.org



Based on the classic film
8½ by Federico Fellini,
Nine tells the story of a
visionary film director
and the frustrations of
the many women in
his life. Maury Yeston's
seductive score will
transport audiences to
Italy in the 1960s.