

DIGITAL
PROGRAM

TRAP DOOR THEATRE is
proud to present...



Written by Laura Ruohonen

Opening Oct 28, 2021 at 8pm

Translated by David Hackston

Directed by Michael Mejia

TRAP DOOR THEATRE HISTORY

Founded in 1990, Trap Door began as a nomadic troupe, thrilling the European theaters of Stockholm, Berlin, Zakopane and Paris with our grassroots, avant-garde expressionism. It was on these stages that our trademark style of myth, ritual, and revolution first crystallized. In March of 1994, Trap Door came home to the United States, bringing with us the exotic sensibilities we had developed on our low-budget tours. Now in our 28th season, we continue our ground-breaking work. We offer our deepest thanks to you, our audience, for joining us on this remarkable journey.

We offer our deepest thanks to you, our audience, for joining us on this remarkable journey. "No other theater can consistently suspend reality to create overwhelming and oftentimes otherworldly atmosphere, usually before the action or dialogue even begins, like Trap Door Theatre. To say that they are the foremost purveyors of avant-garde theater in Chicago is to under-state this portal to alternate realms. Hidden down a narrow walkway, next to a bar, behind a restaurant, on a side street in Bucktown is a black trap door that opens into the extremes of theatrical imagination." - Venus Zarris, *Chicago Stage Review*.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We recognize that Trap Door Theatre sits on Native land. Chicago is the original homelands of the Council of Three Fires: which includes the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi nations. There are many other tribes, such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Fox, and the Illinois Confederacy of the Peoria and Kaskaskia nations, that have all called this area home as well. In 1830 Congress forcibly stripped these tribes of their land through the passing of the Indian Removal Act; this led to significant relocation, poverty, and starvation. This land is still to this day an incredible gathering site for more than a dozen tribal nations; the state of Illinois is the home to over 100,000 tribal members.

By making this statement, we at Trap Door recognize the United States exists as a result of colonialism. We also recognize that we, as an organization, still profit off the resources of this land. We hope you will join us in learning more;

Please visit <https://nativegov.org/> to learn more about how we can stand in solidarity with indigenous communities.

BEATA PILCH ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Beata founded Chicago's Trap Door Theatre in 1994 and still presides as its Artistic Director. Originally from Chicago, she holds a BFA in Acting from the United States International University in San Diego and a MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, CA. She had the honor to graduate as a magna cum laude from both universities and was later awarded the Prestigious Alumni award from CalArts. She has directed and performed in over 80 Trap Door productions and has toured abroad annually with the company to France, Romania, Hungary, Poland and was the first US theatre company ever to perform in the Republic of Moldova. In 2015, Beata created a sister company, Trap Door International, which produces out of Barcelona, Spain.



MISSION STATEMENT

Trap Door Theatre is committed to seeking out challenging and obscure works. Whether a forgotten European classic, an international project rarely seen in the United States, or an untarnished piece of American literature, Trap Door seeks diverse voices and presents them through innovative expression. We mix established and imaginative techniques to illustrate the absurdities of living in today's society.

Visit our site for more information:
<https://trapdoortheatre.com/>

SUPPORT TRAP DOOR THEATRE!

As we prepare for our future, we ask for your support. Your donations directly affect the development of productions at Trap Door and allow us to compensate our artists.

Here's How:
Donate at
www.trapdoortheatre.com
or
paypal.me/TrapDoorTheatre
or make your check payable to Trap Door Productions and send to: Trap Door Theatre / 1655 W Cortland / Chicago IL 60622.

All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated!

CREW

COSTUME DESIGNER:

Rachel Sypniewski

LIGHTING DESIGNER:

Richard Norwood

SET DESIGNER:

Michael Griggs

ASSOCIATE SET DESIGNER:

Minghan Ma

SOUND DESIGNER:

Deon Custard

MAKE-UP DESIGNER:

Zsofia Otvos

VIDEO EDITOR:

Michael Mejia

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Michał Janicki

STAGE MANAGER:

Anna Kłos

CAST

Maureen Azzun
Neema Lahon
David Lovejoy
Gavin Rhys
Faiz Siddique
Carl Wisniewski

SPECIAL THANKS:

DENNIS BISTO, MIGUEL LONG, DAVID LOVEJOY, FAELN NAUGHTON, DANNY ROCKETT, KEITH SURNEY, BOB WILSON, CARL WISNIEWSKI

THIS SHOW FEATURES A STROBE LIGHT EFFECT AND LASTS APPROXIMATELY 1,20 H, WITH NO INTERMISSION.





LAURA RUOHONEN

Writer

Laura creates her own special world in her plays, whether depicting a seventeenth-century court or a modern apartment block. Ruohonen's texts are both poetic and down-to-earth, combining humour and tragedy into an organic whole. In her plays, people are inextricably bound to their environment, and an individual's inner and outer life reflect one another, sometimes getting blended in the process.

Ruohonen writes on many levels, and her works can be interpreted in many different ways. At the heart of her works lies a strong ethical core. From 2008 to 2013 Laura Ruohonen was the Professor in Drama of the Theatre Academy Helsinki. Her play "Queen C" has been translated into more than seven languages, won several prizes and been staged in five continents in cutting-edge theaters. After receiving accolades abroad, the play was then staged in Finland. Laura Ruohonen is a playwright in residence at the Finnish National theatre, with a new play and a poetry book coming up in 2022.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"This production holds a special place in my heart as it is a story about the powerful Queen Christina of Sweden who in the early 1600s sought out change and difference from her own vantage point. She was determined to rule differently, to be different and understood what risk that held. As she ruled, she noticed the inequalities towards her based on her own gender. As seen as unattractive by many, it caused several blocks in her road to success even though she was fit for the role. This idea leads her down the path to challenge the stance of women's place in power as it relates to men and the world in which they knew. Flash forward to today, we still see these inequalities ever present in our day to day lives. We use gender as an immediate bias to dictate someone else's worth and ideas. Laura Ruohonen's script provides a solid base to bring the conversation of gender, social norms and the treatment of female identifying persons to the forefront. We are guided through the journey of Christina and her internal and external struggles to prove she is worthy. I ask those watching to enjoy the experience, take note of these themes and allow yourself to walk away with a little change in how we treat and identify each other. Most importantly allow ourselves to grow and provide room for diverse voices, even if it is sometimes difficult."



MICHAEL MEJIA

Director

Michael is extremely excited to be making their main stage directing debut with Trap Door Theatre! Michael studied acting and music performance at Indiana University before coming to Chicago. Michael is the Company Manager for Trap Door Theatre, where they are also a proud ensemble member. Trap Door Director credits: "ALAS" and "Decomposed Theatre" Episode 3. Actor credits: "The White Plague", "Love and Information", "The Killer", "The Old Woman Broods", "Monsieur Deon is a Woman" (Trap Door Theatre); "Proxy" (Underscore Theatre); "Kingdom" (Broken Nose Theatre); "Little Shop of Horrors" (Stoughton Village Players); "Hair" (Harper Ensemble Theatre). Michael is also a musician who plays guitar, piano and writes. Michael would like to thank Trap Door Theatre and this amazing cast for allowing them to take this beautiful journey. For more info visit: www.mejiah.com

CAST



MAUREEN AZZUN

Maureen Azzun is new to the Chicago theatre community and is excited to be in her debut performance at Trap Door Theatre. Recent credits include *First Date on the Brain* (Drawing Cats Productions); *The Gap*; *Men on Boats*; *Seven* (The Helmerich School of Drama at the University of Oklahoma). Film credits include *That Night*: Maureen holds a BFA in a Theatre and a BS in Psychology from the University of Oklahoma.



NEEMA LAHON

Neema is an actor and director. Originally from London, she has been living in Barcelona since 2015; puppeteering and storytelling for Catalonia's biggest Theatre in Education company, IPA Productions. Whilst in Spain, she has worked with The Actors Space, Trap Door Chicago, Escapade Theatre and Thrive Musical Theatre. In London, Neema is an experimental Youth Theatre Director and Drama TA. She is also a member of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain where she trained with director Ned Bennett, and was an original cast member for the production of *Victoria's Knickers*: In 2019 she started her own theatre company HURT Theatre, where she takes minor female characters in male driven plays and turns them into protagonists with their own narratives. She is captivated by the playwright Matei Visniec and is beyond grateful to be able to perform with Trap Door from across the globe.



DAVID LOVEJOY

David is an ensemble member at Trap Door Theatre, and also the Marketing Director and Associate Managing Director. At Trap Door, ze has appeared in *Monsieur d'Eon is a Woman*; *'Old Woman Broods'*; *Childhood Beauty*; *The White Plague*; *Decomposed Theatre*; *And Away We Stared*; and *The Killer*. Other stage credits include *Labyrinth* (Broken Nose Theatre), *King Lear* (Redtwist Theatre), and *Lessons* (Passage Theatre). Ze received a BA from UChicago in Absurdist Theatre, and is a graduate of the School at Steppenwolf and the Academy at Black Box. When David is not acting, ze spends hir time as a Dungeon Master for a thrilling Dungeons and Dragons campaign!



CAST



GAVIN RHYS

Gavin is thrilled to be working at Trap Door Theatre for the second time. Other Chicago credits include Reality Theatre (Trap Door Theatre). Gavin is a Teacher at Black Box Acting and graduated from the ACADEMY at Black Box Acting in 2019. He holds a BA in Musical Theatre from Plymouth State University. Gavin is represented by 10MGMT. He is eternally grateful for his family and friends.



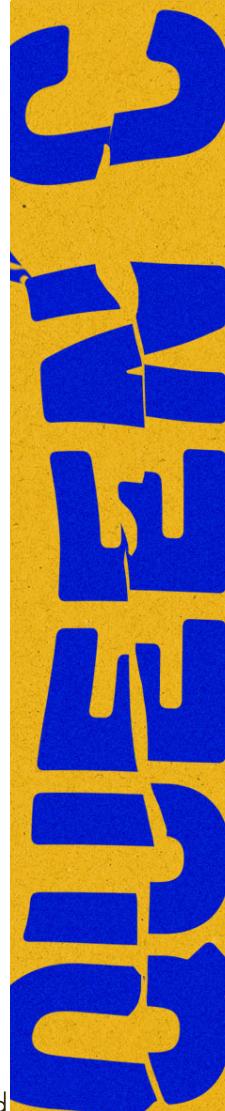
FAIZ SIDDIQUE

Faiz is an actor based in Chicago. This is his first production with Trap Door, and he is beyond grateful to work with such a talented and brilliant group of artists. Recently he was seen understudying as Matt Friedman for Oil lamp's production of *Tally's Folly*; playing Dexter for Dragonfly Theatre company's virtual premier of *Hard Candy*; as well as Josh in Theatre L'Acadie's reading of *Come when I call*. Looking ahead, Faiz can be seen playing Honey Wiggins in City Lot's world premiere of *The Virginian*. Faiz is excited to attend BADA's Midsummer in Oxford program in the summer of 2022.



CARL WISNIEWSKI

Carl is a proud Trap Door Company member. He earned his B.A. in Theatre at Columbia College Chicago and his M.A. in Communication/Media/Theatre at Northeastern Illinois University. Past Trap credits include: *Love and Information*; *The Old Woman Broods*; *They*; *Phaedra*; *Cookie Play*; *Blood On A Cats Neck*; *The Balcony*; *Minna*; *The Fourth Sister*; *The Gardens of Earthly Delight*; *The Crazy Locomotive*; *Katzelmacher*; *NaNa*; *Quills*; and *The Shoemakers*. Outside of the Trap Door, Carl performed at Angel Island, Oracle, Prop, Red & Chopin Theater(s). Film credits include Soft Cage Film's *Yellow*; *Grafitto & Pilgrim* and studio Bema's *The Woman Behind the Wall*. Carl is a college public speaking and communication instructor.



COSTUME DESIGNER

Rachel Sypniewski

Rachel M. Sypniewski (Costume Design) loves having an artistic home at Trap Door. Other companies she has worked with include Music Theater Works, Porchlight, Goodman, Oak Park Festival Theater, Broken Nose, Black Button Eyes, Jackalope, The New Colony, Emerald City, Lifeline, Haven, Griffin, CityLit, Chopin, Promethean, Strawdog, Vitalist, Rasaka, the Factory, Red Tape and Redtwist. She is a seven-time Non-equity Jeff nominee, having been awarded one for "La Bete" at Trap Door.

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Richard Norwood

Lighting designer Richard Norwood has been a part of the Trap Door community for 27 years. Originally from Pittsburgh, he received his BFA in lighting design and stage technology from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana.

SET DESIGNER

Michael Griggs

Resident set designer J. Michael Griggs has worked as a scene designer, technical director, and educator for an absurd number of years. Michael has designed "Phedre", "Monsieur D'eon is a Woman", "The Locketeer", "The Old Woman Broods", and "The White Plague" for Trap Door. He has taught at Harvard University, The University of Maryland, Carleton College, and University of Illinois.

SOUND DESIGNER

Deon Custard

After completing BA's in English and Theatre (Directing) at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, Custard graduated in the spring of 2021 and began PhD study at Northwestern University. In addition to his work as a PhD student, Deon is a freelance director, lighting & sound designer, dramaturg, and teaching artist who has worked with Steppenwolf, the Goodman, and Underscore Theatre Company, among others.

MAKE-UP DESIGNER

Zsófia Ötvös

Resident makeup artist Zsófia Ötvös joined Trap Door in 2015. Originally from Budapest, Hungary, she received a BA in art and theater from North Central College. About her style, she says, "I am an artist portraying characters that highlight their hearts and souls. My makeup design and my figurative paintings are both inspired from this sentiment with a strong favor to satire."

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Michał Janicki

Michał Janicki joined Trap Door in 2016. Originally from Białystok, he graduated and teaches at University of Illinois at Chicago as well as Columbia College. About his journey to Trap Door, he says, "My brother introduced me to Trap Door Theatre while I was a student. We saw The Shoemakers two decades ago, and my world has never been the same since."

STAGE MANAGER

Anna Klos

Stage manager Anna Klos has been a member of the Trap Door since 2017. Originally from Portland, Oregon, she received a Bachelor of Theater Arts from the University of Oregon. With Trap Door, she is doing the exact work she moved to Chicago to do.

"DIRECTOR MICHAEL MEJIA HAS MADE TRAP DOOR'S COMPACT STAGE INTO A VISUAL FEAST."

- Jacob Davis, *Around the Town Chicago*

ARTISTIC

STAFF

Like the show?

DONATE TO THE
ACTORS!

ANY MONEY DONATED TO
OUR VENMO WILL BE
PAID DIRECTLY TO THE
CAST OF QUEEN C.
VENMO HANDLE:
@TRAP-DOOR

PAUL M. ANGELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY



GAYLORD AND
DOROTHY DONNELLEY
FOUNDATION



DRIEHAUS
FOUNDATION

JOHN R. HALLIGAN
CHARITABLE FUND

THE
REVA & DAVID LOGAN
FOUNDATION

2020/21 DONORS

Thank you to last
years donors!

Muse

\$25,000+

The Reva and David Logan Foundation

Director

\$15,000+

Illinois Business Interruption Grant, The
Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Paul M
Angell Family Foundation

Star

\$5000+

City of Chicago Performing Arts Venue
Relief Grant, The Gaylord and Dorothy
Donnelley Foundation, William Hunt, The
Illinois Arts Council, John Kulczycki, Dan
Noel

Set Designer

\$2500+

Rick Gillies, The John R Halligan Charitable
Fund, The Rothman Family Foundation

Ensemble Member

\$1000+

Anonymous

Box Office Attendant

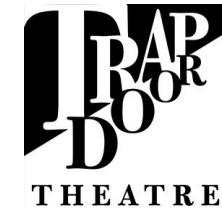
\$101-\$999

Imad Bahrani, Nancy Bishop, Joseph and
Dianne Damico, David Edelberg, Belton
Fleisher, Lois and James Hobart, Warren
Mueller, Marilyn Robbins, Amy Speek, In
Memory of Jesse Dornan

Production Assistant

\$1-\$100 and In Kind

Krystyna Cygielska, Dorcas Joslin, Scott
Dray, Kelsey Freese, Kyle Green, Ekaterina
Khazin, Ziggy Malecki, Mary K Martinovich,
Nancy Nagel, John Pinkus, Elizabeth Ress,
Alyssa Robbins, Norm Sloan, Keith Surney,
D. Gray Vogelmann



For more info visit:

<https://trapdoortheatre.com/>

Tickets available:

<https://trapdoor.ticketleap.com/queen-c/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/TrapDoorTheatre/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/trapdoorthtr/>

Contact details:

Email: boxofficetrapdoor@gmail.com
Phone: (+1) 773-384-0494