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Dear Friends,

Happy 2019! The photo below was taken eight years ago when I joined Hartford Stage as the Artistic Director and started working with our Managing Director, Mike Stotts. I’d like to think that, eight years later, we don’t look much worse for wear. Thank you, Mike, for eight great years.

And thank you for joining us for The Engagement Party.

Darko Tresnjak
Artistic Director

FROM THE ARTISTIC & MANAGING DIRECTORS

Dear Friends of Hartford Stage,

Happy New Year! As we usher in 2019, this truly is a time of new beginnings for Hartford Stage, and for me. I have had the great privilege of leading Hartford Stage, alongside two extraordinary artistic directors, since 2006. My life here has been full of remarkable theatre experiences; where deep friendships have taken root with the staff, board and the extended Hartford Stage family; during which time the theatre has been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility, and the education programs have extended their reach and impact across the state. I have had the blessed opportunity to work with artists who are top of the field, especially my artistic partners Darko Tresnjak and Michael Wilson—they have both enriched my life immeasurably.

The audiences and donors of Hartford Stage are a key attraction to this organization—you are fully engaged, smart, and eager for a diverse offering of theatrical works—I know from experience that is not always the case elsewhere. As our board, Darko and I hand over the reins to new managing and artistic leadership, I hope you embrace the change that will come. For 55 years, Hartford Stage has been one of the leading theatres in the United States, and I know that will continue when Melia Bensussen becomes the theatre’s sixth artistic director, and as a new managing director comes on board as her partner.

Thank you for your encouragement and support these past thirteen years. If you are in New Jersey, stop by Paper Mill Playhouse to say hello.

Gratefully yours,

Michael Stotts
Managing Director
The Seedlings Foundation

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Proud Sponsor of Hartford Stage’s Production of

THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY

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THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY

By SAMUEL BAUM

Directed by DARKO TRESNJAK

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 3, 2019
WELCOME & ENJOY THE SHOW!

Please turn off your cell phones before the show.

Photography or video recording of any kind is prohibited without prior written permission.

Accessible seating for patrons with mobility requirements available in the front row of sections B & F.

For your eating and drinking pleasure, snacks, soda, wine, beer, and mixed drinks are available at our concessions bar on both levels.

You are welcome to bring drinks with you to your seat, but please, no drinks with ice. The servers at concessions will be happy to remove ice from your drinks if you do not finish before it is time to go into the theatre.

HARTFORD STAGE ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES
If you are using a Hartford Stage Listening Device, please remove your own personal hearing aid or make sure you turn it off if you leave it in your ear. When you remove the Hartford Stage device from your head, please make sure the volume is turned off on the device. Taking these steps will reduce the amount of static feedback from the listening system.

MAT GARAGE PARKING
There is a new automated parking system for the MAT Garage, which is adjacent to Hartford Stage. Please note the new procedure below and see the Box Office with any questions.

1. Retain the Parking Ticket you receive as you enter the MAT Garage adjacent to Hartford Stage.
2. Visit the Hartford Stage Box Office to purchase a Parking Voucher/Validation Ticket for only $6.50.
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The MAT Garage is owned and operated by the Hartford Parking Authority.

OPEN CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES
For patrons who are deaf or have hearing loss. FREE with admission.

Audio Described Performances
For patrons who are blind or have low vision. FREE with admission.

The Engagement Party  Jan. 27, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
Detroit '67  Mar. 3, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
Jeeves & Wooster  Apr. 7, 2:00 & 7:30 pm
The Flamingo Kid  May 26, 2:00 & 7:30 pm

The Engagement Party  Feb. 2, 2:00 pm
Detroit '67  Mar. 9, 2:00 pm
Jeeves & Wooster  Apr. 13, 2:00 pm
The Flamingo Kid  Jun. 1, 2:00 pm
THE CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Josh ............................................................................................................ Zach Appelman
Katherine .............................................................................................. Beth Riesgraf
Conrad ................................................................................................. Richard Bekins
Gail ......................................................................................................... Mia Dillon
Haley ....................................................................................................... Anne Troup
Kai .......................................................................................................... Brian Lee Huynh
Alan ....................................................................................................... Teddy Bergman
Johnny .................................................................................................. Brian Patrick Murphy

Setting
Early January 2007, a Park Avenue apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side

THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION.

Assistant Director .................................................................................. Alexander Coddington
Assistant to the Playwright .................................................................... Adam Bonfanti
Assistant Scenic Designer ..................................................................... Ann Beyerdorfer
Assistant Lighting Designer .................................................................... Gifford Williams
Assistant Sound Designers ..................................................................... Phillip Peglow, Becca Stoll
Assistant Dramaturg ............................................................................. Yan Chen
Production Assistant ........................................................................... Rachel Canowitz
Supporting Production Assistant .......................................................... Nicki Berger

The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Scenic, Costume, Lighting and Sound Designers in LORT theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists Local USA-829, IATSE.

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

Artists subject to change.
Yan Chen: What was the first impetus for you to write The Engagement Party?

Samuel Baum: I was thinking about how in relationships it takes years to build trust but only seconds to destroy it. I wanted to understand how and why trust gets broken. Ultimately, the play is an exploration of secrets and lies.

YC: You created the television series Lie to Me and co-wrote the HBO film The Wizard of Lies. When did you become interested in the theme of lying and deception?

SB: Well first, as a small child—to get out of trouble. But professionally speaking, I was doing research for this play, reading up on psychological studies about lying, and I came across the work of Dr. Paul Ekman. He’s a brilliant behavioral psychologist and the world’s foremost expert on deception. His body of work sparked the idea for Lie to Me—to tell a mystery where each week a behavioral psychologist has to untangle a web of lies. I’m particularly interested in moral choices where there’s a cost not only to lying but also to telling the truth.
YC: How did you and director Darko Tresnjak become collaborators on *The Engagement Party*?

SB: We first met at the Williamstown Theater Festival twenty years ago. I was there as an actor (though I was also finishing writing my first play) and Darko was directing *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. We then reconnected many years later at a reading of the very first draft of *The Engagement Party* at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. I kept working on it through many drafts over the years, and I feel so fortunate that Darko has chosen to direct it in his final season here.

YC: What has it been like to work together with Darko?

SB: He’s really the ideal collaborator for this play. The production requires a great deal of directorial precision because the plot is quite intricate. Darko is meticulous and precise. I think all of his wonderful work in musicals makes him attuned to the emotional rhythms of the play.
YC: The play is set in 2007. How do you feel that it speaks to that time and to us now, in 2019?

SB: I’m not generally a big Kierkegaard quoter, but I agree with him that the tragedy of life is we live it moving forwards, but we can only understand it looking backwards. I think it’s helpful to take stock of how we got here. And while the play is specific to the lives of the characters in 2007, the themes and revelations are all too topical.
The work of Dr. Paul Ekman, a behavioral psychologist who specializes in lying, has influenced playwright Samuel Baum’s work. Here are some quotes from Ekman’s book *Telling Lies: Clues to Deceit in the Marketplace, Politics, and Marriage*:

“Lying is such a central characteristic of life that better understanding of it is relevant to almost all human affairs.”

“Most often lies fail because some sign of an emotion being concealed leaks. The stronger the emotions involved in the lie, and the greater the number of different emotions, the more likely it is that the lie will be betrayed by some form of behavioral leakage.”

“Sometimes one is better off misled. The host may be better off thinking the guest enjoyed himself...There is, of course, a cost for being misled even in these benevolent instances.”

“No important relationship survives if trust is totally lost.”

“We can lie or be truthful, spot deceit or miss it, be misled or know the truth. We have a choice; that is our nature.”
TERESA AVIA LIM
*Water by the Spoonful*
By Quiara Alegría Hudes
October 2011
2008-2009 Aetna New Voices Fellow,
2012 Pulitzer Prize Winner

JEFFERSON MAYS
*A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*
Book by Robert L. Freedman
Music by Steve Lutvak
Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman and Steven Lutvak
October 2012
Transferred to Broadway, Four-Time Tony Award Winner

JUBILANT SYKES
*Breath & Imagination*
By Daniel Beaty
January 2013
2007-2008 Aetna New Voices Fellow

KEVIN BACON
*Rear Window*
Adapted for the Stage by Keith Reddin
Based on the Story by Cornell Woolrich
October 2015

CHRISTY ALTMARE
*Anastasia*
Book by Terrence McNally
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
May 2016
Transferred to Broadway

MIA DILLON
*Seder*
By Sarah Gancher
October 2017
From *Water by the Spoonful* to *The Engagement Party*, here are some of the many actors who have graced our stage in new work under Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak, Managing Director Mike Stotts and Associate Artistic Director Elizabeth Williamson.

**MIKHAIL BARYSHNIKOV**  
*Man in a Case*  
Adapted and Directed by Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar/Big Dance Theater  
February 2013

**PRISCILLA LOPEZ**  
*Somewhere*  
By Matthew Lopez  
April 2014  
2012-2013 Aetna New Voices Fellow

**LUKE MACFARLANE**  
*Reverberation*  
By Matthew Lopez  
February 2015  
2012-2013 Aetna New Voices Fellow

**SHARON WASHINGTON**  
*Feeding the Dragon*  
Written and Performed by Sharon Washington  
January 2018  
Co-Production with Primary Stages

**EVAN ZES**  
*Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express*  
Adapted for the Stage by Ken Ludwig  
February 2018  
Co-Production with McCarter Theatre Center

**SLOANE WOLFE**  
*Make Believe*  
By Bess Wohl  
September 2018  
Hartford Stage Commission
ZACH APPELMAN
JOSH
Hartford Stage  Hamlet. Broadway  War Horse. Off-Broadway  A Midsummer Night’s Dream (with Julie Taymor at TFANA); Troilus & Cressida (The Public Theatre).  Regional  Credits include: Henry V (Folger Theatre); Arms & The Man (The Old Globe); Romeo & Juliet (Chicago Shakespeare Theater).  Film  Kill Your Darlings, Like Father.  Television  Sleepy Hollow, The Passage, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Homeland, Blue Bloods, Bull, Law & Order: SVU, Chicago PD, Black Box, Beauty & The Beast.  Education  MFA Yale School of Drama, BFA UC Santa Barbara.  Awards  CT Critics Circle Award (Outstanding Leading Actor in a Play for Hamlet at Hartford Stage).

RICHARD BEKINS
CONRAD
Hartford Stage  Hedda Gabler (1988). Broadway  Happy New Year; Love! Valour! Compassion!; Tartuffe. Off-Broadway  Too Much Sun, Somewhere Fun (Vineyard Theatre); The Maddening Truth, The Normal Heart (Public Theatre); among others.  Regional  Credits include: Other Desert Cities (Alley Theatre); Glengarry Glen Ross (Actors Theatre Of Louisville); A Number (Wilma Theatre); A Question of Mercy (Long Wharf Theatre/London’s Bush Theatre/Dir. Doug Hughes), Heartbreak House (Huntington Theatre/Dir. Darko Tresnjak).  Film  Upcoming: Vampire vs. The Bronx, You’re Not Alone, Unintended. Other credits include: Limitless, Young Adult, Julie & Julia, Flight 93.  Television  Upcoming: Central Park 5. Other credits include: The Sinner, Mr. Robot, Designated Survivor, Madoff, Younger, The Path, Madam Secretary, The Blacklist, Elementary, Boardwalk Empire, Daredevil, Person of Interest, The Good Wife, and of course, Law & Order.

TEDDY BERGMAN
ALAN
Hartford Stage  Debut. Theatre  Drama Desk nominated director, producer and actor. As Artistic Director of Woodshed Collective, he has co-conceived and directed many productions including the critically acclaimed Empire Travel Agency and the hit musical KPOP (2018 Winner of the Lortel Award for Outstanding New Musical). As an actor, credits include: the Tony Award-winning play Peter and The Starcatcher (original Broadway cast), Philip Goes Forth (The Mint), Sex Lives of Our Parents (Second Stage), Peter and the Starcatcher (NYTW), Hell House (St. Ann’s), and regionally at Bay Street, Williamstown, Huntington and La Jolla.  Film  Credits include Wolves, Listen Up Philip, Fading Gigolo, Hairbrained, Julie and Julia and more.  Television  Credits include Good Girls Revolt, The Affair, Law and Order: SVU and more.  Education  Graduate of Vassar College with honors in Philosophy and the Vernon Vable Prize for overall excellence in Philosophy.

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THE COMPANY

BRIAN LEE HUYNH

KAI

Hartford Stage Debut. Broadway War Horse. Off-Broadway A Clockwork Orange (New World Stages); The Light Years (Playwrights Horizons). Regional Vietgone (Denver Center); The 39 Steps (Triad Stage); Fault (TheaterSquared); Auctioning the Ainsleys, A Single Shard (People’s Light & Theatre); How Water Behaves (Capital Repertory Co.). Film The Witches of Oz. Television Instinct, Gotham, Madam Secretary, Elementary. Education BFA, Ithaca College; MFA, Old Globe/USD.

BRIAN PATRICK MURPHY

JOHNNY


BETH RIESGRAF

KATHERINE

Hartford Stage Debut. Television Best known for starring as Parker in TNT’s award-winning drama Leverage opposite Academy Award winner Timothy Hutton, Gina Bellman and Aldis Hodge; and in USA’s Complications starring opposite Jason O’Mara, Jessica Szohr. Other notable TV credits include Dr. Maeve Donovan on Criminal Minds, SEAL Team, The Mentalist, My Name Is Earl, Without a Trace, NCIS, Killer Women, Perception, The Librarians, How I Met Your Mother. Film Last seen in In Search of Fellini opposite Maria Bello and Ksenia Solo. Previous credits include starring opposite Rory Culkin, Martin Starr and Jack Kesy in Shut In from the executive producer of Paranormal Activity and Insidious. Co-produced and starred opposite Giovanni Ribisi in the silent independent film The White Door, the feature film Alvin and the Chipmunks and the independent films Nobody and Let’s Be Civil Kenneth. Directed, wrote and starred in the award-winning short film A Standard Story which was featured in Italian Vogue. Upcoming The John Asher directed feature I Hate Kids with Titus Burgess and Tom Everett Scott.

ANNE TROUP

HALEY

Hartford Stage Debut. Off-Broadway Ivanov (Classic Stage Company). Regional Mother of the Maid (Shakespeare and Co.); Minor Character (Sharon Playhouse); Lungs (The Kitchen Theatre); Oliver Twist (A Noise Within). Film Run, Others. Television Bull, Rise, Happy, Blindspot. Education NYU (MFA); Brown (BA).
SAMUEL BAUM
PLAYWRIGHT
Samuel Baum is a playwright, screenwriter and producer. As a screenwriter, Baum was nominated for a Writers Guild of America Award for the Emmy-nominated HBO film *The Wizard of Lies*, starring Robert DeNiro. Previously, Baum created and executive produced the Fox television drama *Lie To Me*, which ran for three seasons. He also co-created and executive produced the ABC series *The Evidence*, as well as television pilots for HBO, Amazon and CBS. Originally from New York, Baum is a graduate of Harvard College.

DARKO TRESNJAK
DIRECTOR | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Darko Tresnjak is the fifth Artistic Director of the 55-year-old Hartford Stage. He received the 2014 Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his direction of *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, starring Jefferson Mays. He received an Obie Award in 2015 for his direction of *The Killer* at TFANA, starring Michael Shannon. His production of *Anastasia*, which premiered at Hartford Stage in 2016, is currently on Broadway at the Broadhurst Theatre, and opened in Spain, Germany and began a national tour in the fall of 2018. In September 2018, his production of *Samson et Dalila*, starring Elīna Garanča and Roberto Alagna, opened the Metropolitan Opera’s 2018-2019 season. He has received four Connecticut Critics Circle Awards for his Hartford Stage productions of *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, *Hamlet*, *Anastasia* and *The Comedy of Errors* (set design). Other productions at Hartford Stage include *A Lesson from Aloes; A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Heartbreak House; Rear Window* starring Kevin Bacon; *Hamlet; Private Lives; Kiss Me, Kate; Macbeth; La Dispute; Twelfth Night; The Tempest; and Bell; Book & Candle.* From 2004 to 2009, he was the Artistic Director of The Old Globe Shakespeare Festival, where he received five San Diego Critics Circle Awards, four for his direction of *Pericles, The Winter’s Tale, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Cyrano de Bergerac*, starring Patrick Page, and one for Excellence in Artistic Direction. Favorite productions include *The Ghosts of Versailles* with Patti LuPone and Patricia Racette, *Macbeth* with Plácido Domingo at LA Opera and *The Merchant of Venice* with F. Murray Abraham at Theatre for a New Audience and the Royal Shakespeare Company Complete Works Festival. He has also directed productions at Williamstown Theatre Festival, Huntington Theatre Company, Long Wharf Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Westport Country Playhouse, Vineyard Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Stratford Shakespeare Festival and The Public Theater.

ALEXANDER DODGE
SCENIC DESIGN
Hartford Stage *A Midsummer Night’s Dream; Anastasia; Rear Window; Kiss Me, Kate; Private Lives; A Song at Twilight; Twelfth Night; A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder; The Tempest; Bell, Book & Candle; Zerline’s Tale. Broadway* *Anastasia; A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder* (Tony, Drama Desk & Outer Critics Nominations), *Present Laughter* (Tony Nomination), *Old Acquaintance, Butley, Hedda Gabler*. Off-Broadway *Larry Clarke* (Vineyard); *The Liar* (CSC); *Ripcord* (MTC); *Lips Together, Teeth Apart, Modern Terrorism, All New People, Trust, The Water’s Edge* (Second Stage); *Rapture Blister Burn, Maple and Vine* (Playwright’s Horizons); *The Understudy* (Roundabout); *Measure for Pleasure* (Public Theatre). London West End *All New People. Tours Disney’s The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Germany and Japan). Opera *Samson et Dalila* (Met Opera); *Ghosts of Versailles* (LA Opera); *Dinner at Eight* (Minnesota Opera); *An American Tragedy* (Glimmerglass); *Il Tritico* (Deutsche Oper Berlin); *Lohengrin* (Budapest). Other Awards *Lucille Lortel, 3 Connecticut Critics Circle, 3 Craig Noel, 2 Elliot Norton, 3 IRNE* and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards. Training *Yale School of Drama.*
JOSHUA PEARSON
COSTUME DESIGN
Hartford Stage A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Private Lives, La Dispute, Regional Eurydice (Williamstown Theatre Festival). Associate Design A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night (Oregon Shakespeare Festival); Titus Andronicus (Stratford Festival); Limelight (La Jolla Playhouse). Assistant Styling/Wardrobe Adidas, Adidas Tennis, Converse, St. Lucia, AARP, Bud Light, History Channel’s Investigating History. Education University of Oregon. Professional Positions Co-owner/designer of BOSIE New York, former Costume Shop Manager and Assistant Costume Shop Manager (Williamstown Theatre Festival).

MATTHEW RICHARDS
LIGHTING DESIGN
Hartford Stage A Lesson from Aloes; Heartbreak House; The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey; The Comedy of Errors; Romeo & Juliet; Reverberation; Hamlet; Macbeth; La Dispute; Twelfth Night; Bell, Book & Candle. Broadway Ann. Off-Broadway Is God Is at Soho Rep; Theatre For A New Audience, Lincoln Center, MCC, Play Company, Playwright Horizons, Rattlestick, Second Stage. Opera Macbeth for LA Opera. Regional Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Baltimore Center Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Dallas Theater Center, Ford’s Theatre, The Goodman, The Guthrie, The Huntington, La Jolla Playhouse, Long Wharf, The Old Globe, Shakespeare Theatre, TheaterWorks Hartford, Westport Playhouse, Williamstown, Yale Repertory Theatre. Education University of Massachusetts and The Yale School of Drama. matthewrichardsdesign.com

JANE SHAW
SOUND DESIGN
Hartford Stage A Lesson from Aloes; The Comedy of Errors and Hamlet (Connecticut Critics Circle Awards); Seder, Heartbreak House, Romeo & Juliet, Rear Window, An Opening in Time, Macbeth, La Dispute, Breath & Imagination. Off-Broadway The Killer (dir. Darko Tresnjak, Theatre for a New Audience); Dead are My People (Noor); Actually (MTC); I Was Most Alive with You (Playwrights Horizons); Days to Come (The Mint); Women’s Project, Rattlestick, New York Theater Workshop, Theatre for a New Audience. Off-Off-Broadway Repertorio Español, Page 73. International Touring Merce Cunningham, Big Dance Theater, Susan Marshall Dance Company. Regional The Wanderers (The Old Globe); Sweat (Cleveland Play House); A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Triad Stage); Jane Eyre (Cincinnati Playhouse, Milwaukee Rep); The Closet (Williamstown Theatre Festival); Mark Taper Forum, Arena Stage, Capital Rep, Denver Theater Center, Asolo Rep, Northern Stage, Two River Theater. Education Yale School of Drama, Harvard College. Awards Henry, Premios ACE, Drama Desk, Bessie; nominations for two Lortels, Henry Hewes and an Eliot Norton; Meet the Composer, NEA/TCG Career Development Program.

GREG WEBSTER
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER
Hartford Stage Henry V, Murder on the Orient Express, Seder, Heartbreak House, Cloud 9, The Comedy of Errors, The Piano Lesson, Queens for a Year. Theatre Greg Webster has worked as an actor, director, and choreographer of movement and stage violence from Broadway to the West End as well as regional theatres throughout the United States. He is the founding Artistic Director of the Split Knuckle Theatre Company, which creates new works and has performed in 22 countries to date. Regional Credits include Trinity Rep, Yale Rep, Long Wharf Theatre and Shakespeare and Company. Teaching He is an Associate Professor and Head of Movement/Master of Arms at the professional actor-training program at University of Connecticut. Education/Training Graduate of the the London International School for Performing Arts; M.F.A. in acting from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is an accomplished Martial Artist and is a former Golden Gloves boxer.
ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON  
DRAMATURG | ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hartford Stage  

West End  
The Inheritance.  
Broadway  
A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder (Tony Award for Best Musical), Anastasia.  
Regional  
Touch(ed), In, Find and Sign (Pioneer Theatre Company); M. Proust (Steppenwolf); Mefistofele (Théâtre de la Jeune Lune).  
Directing  
Henry V, Cloud 9, Seder (Hartford Stage); The Life and Death of Piero Paolo Pasolini (Act French Festival, Abingdon); The Floating World (HERE); Rare Bird (Babcock Theatre); Owners (Alter); The Second Amendment Club (AMS).  
Translation  
La Dispute (Hartford Stage).  
Education  
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Directing and Comparative Literature, Bennington College; Master's in European Literature, Oxford University; trained at the École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq.  
Awards  
NEA Fellowship in Literary Translation.

LAURA STANCZYK, CSA  
CASTING

Hartford Stage  
Henry V, Make Believe, A Lesson from Aloes, Seder, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Having Our Say.  
Broadway  
Off-Broadway  
Poison (Origin Theatre Company); Fetch Clay Make Man (NYTW); A Thick Description Of Harry Smith (P73), The Cripple of Inishmaan (Atlantic Theater Company), Me Myself & I (Playwrights Horizons); Brother Sister Plays (Public Theatre); Flight (DR2 Theatre); The Glorious Ones (Lincoln Center); Tryst (Promenade Theatre).  
Regional  
Royal George, Drury Lane Theatre, Signature Theatre, McCarter Theatre, Miami New Drama, Shakespeare Theatre of DC, among others.  
Education/Training  
NYU Tisch School of The Arts.  
Awards  
Nominated six times for Artios Awards for Excellence in Casting, and won for the Broadway Revival of Follies.

ROBYN M. ZALEWSKI  
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

Hartford Stage  
Regional  
Shakespeare Theatre Company (Taming of the Shrew; Kiss Me, Kate; A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Free For All); Man of La Mancha; Henry IV—Parts 1 & 2, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum); Saint Michael’s Playhouse, New London Barn Playhouse; Hangar Theatre; Northern Stage, Elm Shakespeare.  
Education  
Saint Michael’s College.  
Other  
Many thanks to my family, friends & loving husband for your love & support!

WHITNEY M. KEETER  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Hartford Stage  
Debut.  
National Tour  
The Play that Goes Wrong (First National Tour); Something Rotten (First National Tour).  
Off-Broadway  
Trick or Treat.  
Regional  
A Midsummer Night’s Dream, South Pacific (Triad Stage); Orwell in America, Pygmalion, Measure for Measure, Into the Woods, A Christmas Carol, The Hound of the Baskervilles (Northern Stage); Shrek the Musical, Don’t Dress for Dinner, Brigadoon, Gypsy, Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Forever Plaid, Spamalot, A Little Night Music, Singing in the Rain, Les Miserables, Hair, Oklahoma (New London Barn Playhouse); Macbeth, God of Carnage, A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); Pump Boys and Dinettes; Red, White, and Tuna (Heritage Theater Festival).
Mike Stotts is in his thirteenth season as Managing Director of Hartford Stage. Recent accomplishments include leading the multi-year, expansion and renovation of the Stage’s theatre facility. With Darko Tresnjak, he recently produced the world premieres of *Rear Window*, and the new musical, *Anastasia*, by Terrence McNally, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty. *Anastasia*, which enjoyed a sell-out run at Hartford Stage, opened on Broadway in April, 2017. In 2012, the new musical *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* received its world premiere at Hartford Stage. It subsequently moved to Broadway and won the 2014 Tony Award for Best Musical. Other notable shows include *Man in a Case* starring Mikhail Baryshnikov, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Water by the Spoonful* by Quiara Alegria Hudes.

In 2010, with Artistic Director Michael Wilson, he produced Horton Foote’s *The Orphans’ Home Cycle* which enjoyed a celebrated run in Hartford and subsequently at the Signature Theatre in New York where it won the Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle awards, among others. In 2013, he spearheaded the acquisition of the Hartford Children’s Theatre and the integration of its programs into the Hartford Stage Studio program. During his three-year tenure as Managing Director at Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, he produced a significant number of new plays including works by Paula Vogel, Craig Lucas, James Lapine and Julia Cho. Prior to Long Wharf he served as Managing Director of George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and for nine years he served in the same capacity at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison, New Jersey, where he successfully initiated and managed the capital campaign to build the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theatre which opened in 1998. He currently serves on the board of Billings Forge Community Works, and is a Corporator of Hartford Hospital, Hartford Public Library, and the iQuilt Partnership. He was a co-founder and President of the Connecticut Arts Alliance, a statewide arts advocacy organization, and continues to serve on that board. Mr. Stotts is originally from Calgary, Alberta.
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Mfoniso Udofia
Aetna New Voices Fellow
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THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY 25
ABOUT HARTFORD STAGE

AETNA NEW VOICES FELLOW 2018: MFONISO UDOFIA

The Aetna New Voices Fellowship provides an opportunity for innovative playwrights of diversity and color to develop new work and become engaged in the Greater Hartford community. The program includes the commissioning of a new play, along with developmental readings and workshops, and working with Hartford Stage’s Education department to mentor teen artists. The 2018 Fellow is Mfoniso Udofia.

Mfoniso, a first-generation Nigerian-American storyteller and educator, attended Wellesley College and obtained her MFA in Acting from the American Conservatory Theater. During her stay in the Bay, she co-pioneered a youth initiative, The Nia Project, providing artistic outlets for youth residing in Bayview Huntspoint. She is the recipient of the 2017 Helen Merrill Playwright Award and the 2017-2018 McKnight National Residency and Commission at The Playwrights’ Center in Minneapolis. Mfoniso’s plays have been developed at and/or presented/produced by The New York Theatre Workshop, The Playwrights Realm, The Magic Theatre, Dr. Barbara Ann Teer’s National Black Theatre, Hedgebrook, Sundance Theatre Lab, NNPN, Space on Ryder Farm, NNPN New Play Showcase, Makehouse, Soul Productions, terraNOVA, 173, The New Black Fest, Rising Circle’s INKTank, At Hand Theatre Company, The Standard Collective, American Slavery Project, Liberation Theatre Company, and more. For the last several years, she has been crafting the Ufot Cycle, a planned series of nine plays looking at the history of Nigerian immigration in America through the eyes of one family. These interrelated plays include Sojourners, runboyrun, and Her Portmanteau, which was developed in 2015 at the National Black Theatre. Her commission for Hartford Stage will be part of this cycle.

PAST AETNA NEW VOICES FELLOWS

Past fellows include Matthew Lopez, whose two-part play The Inheritance is currently playing in London’s West End; Kaneza Schaal, whose Jack & just completed a national tour, and Quiara Alegría Hudes, who won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Water by the Spoonful.

Aetna has been the sole funder of this remarkable program since 2004. Aetna’s mission is to build a healthier world—one person, one community at a time. Their team of nearly 50,000 employees is committed to providing access to affordable, high-quality health care, and making the health care experience simpler and more responsive.

The Aetna New Voices Fellowship is made possible by aetna®
SHORT TAKES: NEWS FROM HARTFORD STAGE

A LOOK AT OUR LOBBY
“Alexander Dodge: Designing Worlds Onstage” takes a look at the designer’s stunning and innovative sets at Hartford Stage, including *Twelfth Night, Private Lives, Rear Window, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Anastasia*.

THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY RECEIVES EDGERTON FOUNDATION NEW PLAY AWARD
The Engagement Party received a prestigious 2018 Edgerton Foundation New Play Award. These awards provide funds for extended rehearsal time for world premieres that the Foundation deems to be of special merit. Only theatres with a strong and consistent track record of producing new work are invited to apply. The Hartford Stage world premieres of Sarah Gancher’s *Seder*, Quiara Alegría Hudes’ Pulitzer Prize-winner *Water by the Spoonful* and Daniel Beaty’s *Breath & Imagination* are all past recipients.

MEET THE MAKERS: JADE KING CARROLL, DIRECTOR OF DETROIT ’67
Hartford Stage and The Goodwin Hotel will kick off the new Meet the Makers series with Jade King Carroll, Director of *Detroit ’67* on Monday, February 4. Jade King Carroll returns to Hartford Stage after staging critically-acclaimed productions of *Having Our Say* and August Wilson’s *The Piano Lesson*. Enjoy cocktails and sample delicious food from Porrón and Piña while engaging in intimate discussions with the artists behind the productions. For more information on Meet the Makers or to purchase tickets, contact Jennifer Levine at 860-520-7241.

SAVE THE DATE FOR “THE BEACH BALL!”
Hartford Stage will hold its annual fundraising gala on Saturday, April 6. We’ll be traveling back in time to the summer of 1963 for The Beach Ball, the swankiest soiree of the season, inspired by our upcoming world premiere musical *The Flamingo Kid*. Last year’s event sold out! Don’t miss your chance, and register early! To purchase tickets or become a corporate sponsor, visit hartfordstage.org/gala today.

COMING NEXT: DETROIT ’67
Dominique Morisseau’s powerful *Detroit ’67* unfolds during an explosive moment in U.S. history—the race riots that tore the city of Detroit apart. The story centers on Chelle and her brother Lank, who make ends meet by turning their basement into an after-hours party. When a mysterious woman makes her way into their lives, the siblings clash over much more than family business. *Detroit ’67*, a co-production with McCarter Theatre Center, will perform February 14 through March 10.
Now in our 55th year, Hartford Stage is under the leadership of Artistic Director Darko Tresnjak and Managing Director Michael Stotts. One of the nation’s leading resident theatres, Hartford Stage is known for producing innovative revivals of classics and provocative new plays and musicals, including 73 world and American premieres, as well as offering a distinguished education program, which reaches more than 21,000 students annually.

Since Tresnjak’s appointment in 2011, the theatre has presented the world premieres of the new musical Anastasia by Terrence McNally, Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens—currently on Broadway; A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder on Broadway, winner of four 2014 Tony Awards, including Best Musical and Best Direction of a Musical by Tresnjak; Rear Window with Kevin Bacon; Quiara Alegría Hudes’ Water by the Spoonful, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama; Breath & Imagination by Daniel Beaty; Big Dance Theatre’s Man in a Case with Mikhail Baryshnikov; Reverberation by Matthew Lopez; Seder by Sarah Gancher; Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express, adapted for the stage by Ken Ludwig; The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton, adapted for the stage by Douglas McGrath; and Make Believe by Bess Wohl.

Hartford Stage has earned many of the nation’s most prestigious awards, including the 1989 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. Other national honors include Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, OBIE, and New York Critics Circle awards. Hartford Stage has produced nationally renowned titles, including the New York transfers of Enchanted April; The Orphans’ Home Cycle; Resurrection (later retitled Through the Night); The Carpetbagger’s Children; and Tea at Five.

The leading provider of theatre education programs in Connecticut, Hartford Stage’s offerings include student matinees, in-school theatre residencies, teen performance opportunities, theatre classes for students (ages 3-18) and adults, after school programs and professional development courses.
The Hartt School/Hartford Stage Partnership in Training

Now in its fifteenth year, The Hartt School/Hartford Stage Partnership in Training offers a unique alliance of an undergraduate acting conservatory program and a respected professional theatre—one of only two such collaborations in the country. This partnership helps ensure that acting students at the Hartt School receive rigorous training and bring their skills, imagination and intellect to the demands of a professional theatre setting. Hartford Stage staff and guest artists lead classes and workshops and faculty and students appear in Hartford Stage productions. Hartt students have been seen in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *A Christmas Carol, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Noises Off!, To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Brand:NEW Festival of New Work, *Antony & Cleopatra*, *Snow Falling on Cedars, The Crucible, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Anastasia, The Comedy of Errors, The Age of Innocence* and *Henry V*.

The University of Massachusetts Graduate Internships at Hartford Stage

Linking one of the most respected graduate programs in theatre with the Tony Award winning Hartford Stage, the University of Massachusetts Graduate Internships give Master of Fine Arts students in design, directing and dramaturgy the opportunity to work alongside the country’s most exciting artists. The Graduate Internships provide a valuable professional testing ground for students and are a natural complement to the practical, hands-on approach of UMass’ graduate program. In turn, Hartford Stage is enriched by the participation of the next generation of theatre artists. UMass students have worked on *Boeing-Boeing, Zerline’s Tale, Gee’s Bend, Motherhood Out Loud, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Snow Falling on Cedars, The 39 Steps, Macbeth, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, and Hedda Gabler*.

Capital Community College

This season will mark the eighth season of the One Play Program—a partnership between Hartford Stage and Capital Community College, designed to give the entire college community the opportunity to come together around one play each semester. In addition to offering discounted tickets for students and faculty, the program also brings members of each production’s creative team to the College to interact with students. Last season, 625 Capital students saw a performance at Hartford Stage, many reporting it was their first time at the theatre. This season’s One Play productions are *Henry V* and *Detroit ’67*. During the 2017-2018 academic year, in partnership with Hartford Stage and other Hartford theatre companies, Capital began to offer a new associate’s degree in theatre.
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