PRIMARY STAGES
AT 59E59 THEATERS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ERIN DALEY

FOUNDER
CASEY CHILDS

PRESENTS

LAOWANG

A CHINATOWN KING LEAR

BY

ALEX LIN

DIRECTED BY

JOSHUA KAHAN BRODY

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PRIMARY STAGES
AT 59E59 THEATERS

"How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is / To have a thankless child!"
– ***King Lear***, Act I, Scene 4

It is remarkable that in 2025, a story written hundreds of years ago and rooted in legends from millennia before can still strike so close to home. That is the power of theater: its ability to transcend time, language, and culture, to bridge centuries and continents, and to reveal in the lives of others the contours of our own.

Shakespeare knew this well. In ***King Lear***, he drew not only from history and folklore but also from the politics and questions of his own time, shaping the tale of an aging ruler undone by family conflict, power, and loss. In ***Laowang: A Chinatown King Lear***, Alex Lin takes up the mantle and reframes this timeless story through the lens of Chinatown today. Alex guides us into a world at once familiar and rarely illuminated. Within it, the echoes of ***Lear*** resound: power, loyalty, family dynamics, aging, and madness. Yet layered into them are the pressing realities of our moment, including immigration, dementia, and the slow press of gentrification.

The same questions, however, remain as piercing as ever:
What do we leave behind? What is our legacy? What, in the end, is the sum of a life?

These questions endure because they belong to all of us. Theater makes them immediate, transforming distant histories and unexpected worlds into mirrors of our own humanity. That is why we gather together in this darkened space, sitting shoulder to shoulder with strangers, to see the world in a new light and recognize ourselves within it.

At Primary Stages, we believe in the power of new stories to keep theater alive and urgent. With this season's world premieres of Alex Lin's ***Laowang: A Chinatown King Lear*** and Libby Carr's ***CALF SCRAMBLE***, we are proud to bring not only two extraordinary plays into the world, but also to celebrate the professional debuts of two bold new voices. We like to think of this as the ground floor of something big, and we are so glad you're here with us as we continue our journey of inspiring, supporting, producing, and sharing the art of playwriting.

Enjoy the show!



ERIN DALEY
Artistic Director, Primary Stages

PRIMARY STAGES
AT 59E59 THEATERS
PRESENTS

LAOWANG

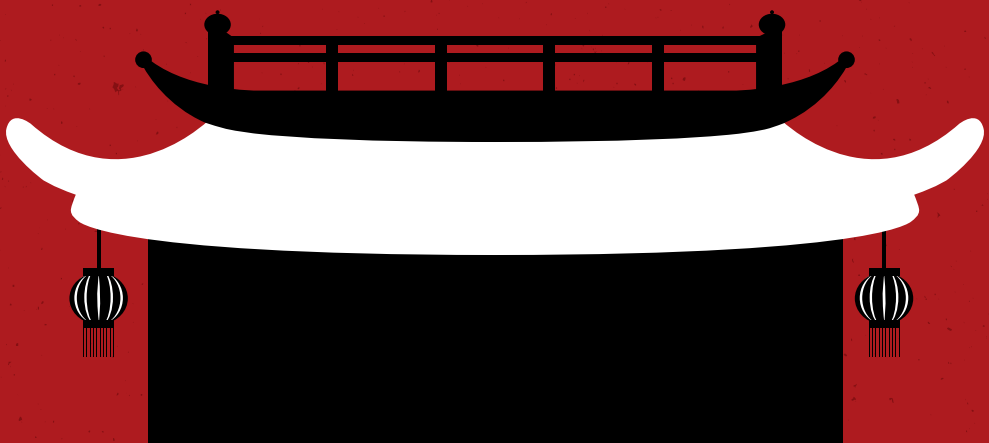
A CHINATOWN KING LEAR

BY

ALEX LIN

DIRECTED BY

JOSHUA KAHAN BRODY



LAOWANG

A CHINATOWN KING LEAR

BY

ALEX LIN

DIRECTED BY

JOSHUA KAHAN BRODY

CAST

Amy Choy and others ..... CINDY CHEUNG

A-Poh ..... WAI CHING HO

Lai-Fa Choy and others ..... AMY KEUM

Steven Choy and others ..... JON NORMAN SCHNEIDER

Wesley Chiu and others ..... DAISUKE TSUJI

Production Stage Manager ..... NIKKI LINT

Assistant Stage Manager ..... SAMMY LANDAU

Scenic Design ..... WILSON CHIN

Costume Design ..... TINA McCARTNEY

Lighting Design ..... REZA BEHJAT

Original Music and Sound Design ..... NICHOLAS DRASHNER

Props Supervisor ..... THOMAS JENKELEIT

Intimacy Direction ..... PRATHER REHM

Dialect and Cantonese Translation Consultant ..... WAI CHING HO

Production Manager ..... WILL DUTY

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PRODUCTION

Associate Scenic Designer ..... LILY TOMASIC
Associate Costume Designer ..... HANJIE CHOW
Associate Lighting Designer ..... ARI KIM
Associate Sound Designer ..... IRIS CHIU
Assistant Director ..... DES'REE BROWN
Production Electricians ..... JOHN ANSELMO, DAN MULLINS
Lighting Programmer ..... BEV FREMIN
Production Audio ..... FIVE OHM PRODUCTIONS
Wardrobe Supervisor ..... SOPHIE MILLAR
Deck Crew ..... JOE GALAN
Board Operator ..... NINA TENDY

Setting: Manhattan Chinatown, summer
Run Time: 90 minutes with no intermission

Laowang was originally developed by Two River Theater
(Justin Waldman, Artistic Director; Nora DeVeau-Rosen, Managing Director).

Laowang received support from the New York Theatre Workshop annual summer residency at Dartmouth College.

Laowang was developed as part of the Liff Lab, a new play development program at Primary Stages.

Lead support for this Primary Stages production is provided by the Garfield Family Fund in memory of Johanna Garfield and The Andrew Leynse Legacy Project at Primary Stages.

Major season support provided by the The Howard Gilman Foundation, the A.R Gurney Playwrights Fund, The SHS Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

ALEX LIN
(Playwright)



Alex Lin is just a girl from Jersey. Lin's plays have been seen and developed at Roundabout, Second Stage Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, Manhattan Theatre Club, Primary Stages, Rattlestick, the O'Neill, New Harmony, Two River, South Coast Repertory, Fault Line, Ojai, Cape Cod Theatre Project, Playwrights Realm, Central Square Theater, and Theater Mu. She has been a guest lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University, Rutgers University, and Union College. As an actor, Lin has appeared at NYTW (***I've Got a Sinking Feeling...***), the Actors Theatre of Louisville (***The Wolves***), New Victory (***In the Land of Mauve and Gold***), Fault Line (***Ăn Chơi)***, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (***Julius Caesar***, ***The Cherry Tortured***), Ma-Yi (***The House of Billy Paul***), Commonwealth Shakespeare (***Henry VI Part III***, ***Richard III***), Amphibian Stage, Ojai, Rattlestick, and Cape Cod Theatre Project (***barren***). Lin is a recipient of the Elizabeth George Foundation Commission, Manhattan Theatre Club Sloan Initiative, and the Working Theater inaugural playwright residency. Lin is a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize finalist, Stavis Award winner, two-time Kennedy Center Paul Stephen Lim Award winner, Weissberger Award nominee, BMI Bookwriting Fellow, Rattlestick Van Lier Fellow, and Colt Coeur Resident Artist. Juilliard.

@hemeiling

JOSHUA KAHAN BRODY
(Director)



Joshua Kahan Brody's directing work includes the world premieres of ***Where the Mountain Meets the Sea*** (Humana Festival, Manhattan Theatre Club), ***King of the Yees*** (Goodman Theatre, Center Theater Group, and San Francisco Playhouse), ***The Last Tiger in Haiti*** (La Jolla Playhouse and Berkeley Rep), and ***Fourteen Flights*** (Award for Excellence in Directing, NY Fringe). He has developed work all over the country, including at Colorado New Play Summit, New Dramatists, NYTW, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Playwrights Horizons, Perry-Mansfield, and SPACE on Ryder Farm. He is a Princess Grace Award winner and received his MFA from UC - San Diego and his BA from Yale University. He is the co-founder of THE TRIP and the Artistic Director of Playing on Air (www.playingonair.org). Josh lives in Brooklyn with his wife, dramaturg Sarah Lunnie, their three children, and their dog.

www.joshuakahanbrody.com

CINDY CHEUNG
(Amy Choy and others)



Recent theater: ***Bus Stop*** (CSC/Transport Group NAATCO), ***The Antiquities*** (Playwrights Horizons Vineyard/Goodman), ***Coach Coach*** (Clubbed Thumb), ***Merry Me*** (NYTW), ***Catch As Catch Can*** (Playwrights Horizons), ***Golden Shield*** (MTC). Select TV/Film: *Dying For Sex, The Sinner, The Flight Attendant, Awkwafina.* Upcoming: *American Classic, Weekend Warriors, The Dinner Plan.* Walter and Eddie, be home soon.

WAI CHING HO
(A-Poh)



Wai Ching Ho most recently played the title role of ***Pearl's Beauty Salon*** by Stefani Kuo at DGSD at Yale. Her numerous NY stage credits include ***Snow in Midsummer*** (Classic Stage Company), ***Endlings*** (New York Theatre Workshop), and ***Henry VI*** (NAATCO). Regionally, she has worked with A.R.T., Steppenwolf, Long Wharf, Denver Center, the Goodman Theatre, and the Lookingglass Theatre. Her film credits include *Hustlers* and *The Sorcerer's Apprentice.* She voiced the character of Grandma in *Turning Red,* a 2023 Oscar-nominated animated film. Her television credits include *New Amsterdam, Awkwafina is Nora from Queens,* and all four series of *Law & Order.* She appeared in numerous episodes as Madame Gao in Marvel's *Daredevil, Iron Fist,* and *The Defenders.*

AMY KEUM
(Lai-Fa Choy and others)



Amy Keum is thrilled to make her Primary Stages debut! Broadway: ***KPOP*** (Circle in the Square). Off Broadway/ Regional: ***Vanities*** (The York Theatre Company), ***Hello Kitty Must Die*** (Edinburgh Fringe Festival), ***Lizzie*** (Playhouse Square), ***Mamma Mia*** (Idaho Shakespeare Festival), ***Be More Chill*** (Playhouse Square). TV/film: *Honor Society* (Paramount+), *The Kill Room* (Shout Studios), *Death Name* (Tubi/FOX), *Elsbeth* (CBS), *72 Hours* (Netflix), *Evil* (CBS).

@amymkeum

JON NORMAN SCHNEIDER
(Steven Choy and others)



Jon Norman Schneider most recently appeared in ***Eurydice*** at Signature. Select NY credits include ***Poor Yella Rednecks*** (MTC), ***The Coast Starlight*** (LCT), ***Catch as Catch Can*** (Playwrights Horizons), among others. Regional: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alley, Alliance, Goodman, Huntington, Long Wharf, Magic, McCarter, Milwaukee Rep, Mosaic, Northern Stage, Old Globe, and South Coast Rep. Film/TV: *Bitter Melon, Manila is Full of Men Named Boy, The Normals, Goosebumps, Evil, Jessica Jones, Veep,* and *Law & Order: Criminal Intent.*

DAISUKE TSUJI
(Wesley Chiu and others)



Daisuke Tsuji is grateful and proud to make his Primary Stages (and Off Broadway) debut with ***Laowang***. He has worked on Broadway with ***Life of Pi***, at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival for 6 seasons, Cirque du Soleil, and was last seen onstage with ***Cambodian Rock Band*** at the East West Players. TV: *The Rip* (on Netflix starting in January), *The Night Agent, Invasion*, and *The Man in the High Castle*. Video games: Jin Sakai in *Ghost of Tsushima* and Scorpion in *Mortal Kombat 1*. For Michiko, Hiro, Yasu, Diana, and Jane.

www.trademarktalent.com/daisuketsuji

@DiceK2G

WILSON CHIN
(Scenic Designer)

Broadway: ***Cost of Living***, ***Pass Over*** (Drama Desk, Lortel, Henry Hewes Award nominations), ***Next Fall***. Off Broadway: ***Sumo*** (Ma-Yi/Public), ***All Nighter*** (MCC), ***Nina*** (Theaterlab), ***The Animal Kingdom*** (Connelly), ***The Thanksgiving Play*** (Playwrights Horizons), ***Jonah*** (Roundabout), ***Annie*** (Madison Square Garden). Opera: ***Turandot*** (Washington National Opera), ***Lucia di Lammermoor*** (Chicago Lyric Opera).

@wilsonchindesign

TINA McCARTNEY
(Costume Designer)

Tina McCartney is a Trinidadian American costume designer and stylist working regionally, on Broadway, and in TV and film. Theatrical: ***Romy & Michele: The Musical*** (Stage 42), ***Joy*** (Laura Pels Theatre), ***Empire*** (New World Stages), ***That Parenting Musical*** (Theatre Row), ***Las Borinqueñas*** (EST), ***Summer Stock*** (Goodspeed), ***The Griswolds' Broadway Vacation*** (Seattle 5th Avenue Theatre).

www.tinamccartney.com

REZA BEHJAT
(Lighting Designer)

Obie-winning lighting designer and theater artist based in New York. Broadway: ***English***. Off Broadway: Atlantic, BAM, Signature, Public, New Group, MCC, Playwrights Horizons, Audible, Page 73, Flea, Redbull, Ars Nova, etc. Regional: Guthrie, Steppenwolf, Berkeley Rep, Old Globe, Milwaukee Rep, Seattle Rep, etc. Awards: Obie Award in Design category for ***English*** and ***Wish You Were Here*** (2022), Knight of Illumination Award for ***Nina Simone: Four Women*** (2019). Nominated for Drama Desk, Henry Hewes, Jeff Awards, etc.

NICHOLAS DRASHNER
(Original Music and Sound Designer)

Selected credits: ***Every Brilliant Thing*** (Cleveland Play House, The Public Theatre), ***Egress*** (Cleveland Play House), ***The Last Tiger in Haiti*** (La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre), ***Beijing Spring*** (East West Players), ***Kingdom City*** (La Jolla Playhouse). He currently serves as associate professor of Sound Design at Case Western Reserve University.

www.drashner.com

THOMAS JENKELEIT
(Props Supervisor) (they/he)

Thomas Jenkeleit is a prop and scenic designer from Queens, New York. Off Broadway: ***SUMO*** (The Public/Ma-Yi), ***Galas*** (Little Island), ***The Fires***, ***Give Me Carmelita Tropicana!*** (Soho Rep), ***QUINCE*** (Domino

Park), ***Bus Stop*** (Classic Stage/Transport Group/NAATCO), ***Franklinland***, ***Have You Met Jane Goodall...?*** (EST), ***The Wind & The Rain*** (Vineyard Theater/En Garde).

www.jenkeleit.com

PRATHER REHM

(Intimacy Direction)

Prather Rehm is a NYC based actor, intimacy choreographer, movement coach, and a Senior Lucid Body teacher. Recent intimacy credits include ***The Honey Trap*** (currently at Irish Rep) and movement coaching for Derry Girls' Saoirse-Monica Jackson at the world premiere of ***Irishtown***. Prather teaches movement and choreographs intimacy at The New School, Marymount Manhattan College, the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and The Lucid Body Institute.

NIKKI LINT

(Production Stage Manager)

Primary Stages: ***Yes, I Can Say That!*** (PSM), ***The Light and the Dark*** (PSM sub). Broadway: ***School of Rock*** (SM sub), ***King Kong*** (SM sub). Tour: ***Cabaret*** (ASM), ***The Band's Visit*** (SM). Off Broadway/regional: Red Bull Theater, Ogunquit Playhouse, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Second City Theatricals, Gateway Playhouse, American Girl Theater, among others.

SAMMY LANDAU

(Assistant Stage Manager; they/them)

Broadway: ***Water for Elephants*** (sub-ASM), ***Sunset Blvd*** (PA). Off Broadway: ***The Merchant of Venice***, ***Waiting for Godot***, ***Orpheus Descending***, ***Des Moines*** (TFANA); ***Two Sisters Find a Box of Lesbian Erotica in the Woods*** (Rattlestick & New Georges Theater), ***Mary Gets Hers*** (The Playwright's Realm), ***Sleep No More*** (PunchdrunkNYC), ***Seven Deadly Sins*** (Tectonic Theater Project).

THE TELSEY OFFICE

(Casting)

With offices in both New York and Los Angeles, The Telsey Office casts for theater, film, television, and commercials. The Telsey Office is dedicated to creating safe, equitable, and anti-racist spaces through collaboration, artistry, heart, accountability, and advocacy. Please visit our website for our credits.

www.thetelseyoffice.com

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Primary Stages is proud to be the Resident Off Broadway Theater Company at 59E59 Theaters.



Amerikin by Chisa Hutchinson
Photo: Justin Swader





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To learn more about making a planned gift to Primary Stages, please contact Erica Raven-Scorza, Director of Development, at eraven@primarystages.org or 212.840.9705 x214.



ANNE L. BERNSTEIN

Anne L. Bernstein had a life-long passion for the theater. She was a constant and generous supporter, and Primary Stages was one of her favorite companies. Anne was always ready to jump in with help or ideas. Nothing was too small or too large; she would gladly contribute whatever was needed, from food to finance. Anne was always happy to listen and to brainstorm; her many and varied contributions were greatly valued by her friends at Primary Stages.



JOHANNA GARFIELD

Johanna Rosengarten Garfield (1930-2021) was a long-time supporter of Primary Stages and many other arts and music programs throughout New York City. She was also an author who published two books and many articles on a range of subjects. Theater and literature were her passions, and we are thrilled that her family has established a production support fund at Primary Stages in her name.



A.R. GURNEY

A.R. Gurney wrote over 50 plays, including Primary Stages' productions of ***The Fourth Wall***, ***Buffalo Gal***, ***Strictly Academic***, ***Indian Blood***, ***Black Tie***, and ***Final Follies***. Gurney was a great supporter of Primary Stages and other Off-Broadway and Off-Off-Broadway organizations. Prior to his passing, A.R. Gurney established a fund to support new work by American playwrights in the New York City area.



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PRIMARY STAGES



Amerikin by Chisa Hutchinson



Dig by Theresa Rebeck



The Light and The Dark by Kate Hamill

Primary Stages operates on the strongly held belief that the future of American theater relies on nurturing playwrights and giving them the artistic support needed to create new work. Since our founding in 1984, we have produced more than 150 new plays. Our productions and artists have received critical acclaim, including numerous Tony, Obie, Lortel, Off Broadway Alliance, AUDELCO, Outer Critics' Circle, Drama League, and Drama Desk awards and nominations. Primary Stages supports playwrights and develops new works through commissions, workshops, readings, and our education and engagement programs: **the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group**, **Marvin and Anne Einhorn School of Performing Arts (ESPA)**, **Creative Access Grants**, **the Echoes Writers Group**, **the Liff Lab**, our **Free Student Matinee Program**, and the **Primary Stages Off Broadway Oral History Project**. Through these programs, Primary Stages advocates for our artists, helping them make important—and often transformative—connections within the theater community.

This year, we're thrilled to return to the theater for plays where the traditional and rebellious collide with ***Laowang: A Chinatown King Lear*** by Alex Lin and ***CALF SCRAMBLE*** by Libby Carr. Alex and Libby are exciting new voices writing about legacy, transformation, and the complicated space in between – representing exactly the kind of groundbreaking theater Primary Stages exists to make.

Together, we are building the future of American theater, one play at a time.

Learn more at **www.primarystages.org**

ERIN DALEY

(Artistic Director)

Erin Daley first joined Primary Stages in 2016, rising to her current role in 2024. Previously she was Company Manager at The Flea, where she worked on ***The Mysteries*** (featuring the work of over 50 playwrights), ***Wolf in the River*** by Adam Rapp, ***the place we built*** by Sarah Gancher, and many others. Prior to New York, she was an Allen Lee Hughes Producing Fellow at Arena Stage, and cut her teeth in film/commercial production at La Banda Films. She is a proud graduate of Skidmore College and a Massachusetts native.

CASEY CHILDS

(Founder)

Casey Childs founded Primary Stages in 1984 and has directed many productions for the company. He served as the Artistic Program Director for the New Dramatists from 1981-1985 and was the recipient of the Carnegie Mellon Commitment to New Playwrights Award, as well as two Emmy Awards and many nominations for his extensive work in television. He is a past Vice President of the Directors' Guild of America and a past trustee of The National Association of Television Arts and Sciences. Casey has a BFA in acting and an MFA in directing from Carnegie Mellon University.

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DIRECTED BY
CAITLIN SULLIVAN

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* Includes gifts made to the 2025 Primary Stages Gala.

The list reflects contributions received as of October 1, 2025. We apologize for any omissions or errors. Due to space limitations, we are unable to list all contributors. Primary Stages wishes to thank all of our generous donors.

CURATOR'S NOTE

We are happy to welcome back our Resident Off Broadway Theater Company, Primary Stages, who consistently delights with their unerring focus on the art of playwriting. In recent seasons, Primary Stages has brought audiences two highly acclaimed productions - ***Amerikin*** and ***The Light and the Dark*** - and now returns with Alex Lin's ***Laowang***, which hits the mark once more! Earlier this year, Alex became the first playwright to benefit from Primary Stages' inaugural Liff Lab: a new play development initiative in honor of legendary theater agent Samuel "Biff" Liff! Biff lived and breathed theater, always knew the right words of encouragement, and loved his work. If Biff were still here, he'd be in the front row cheering Alex and Primary Stages on.



Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

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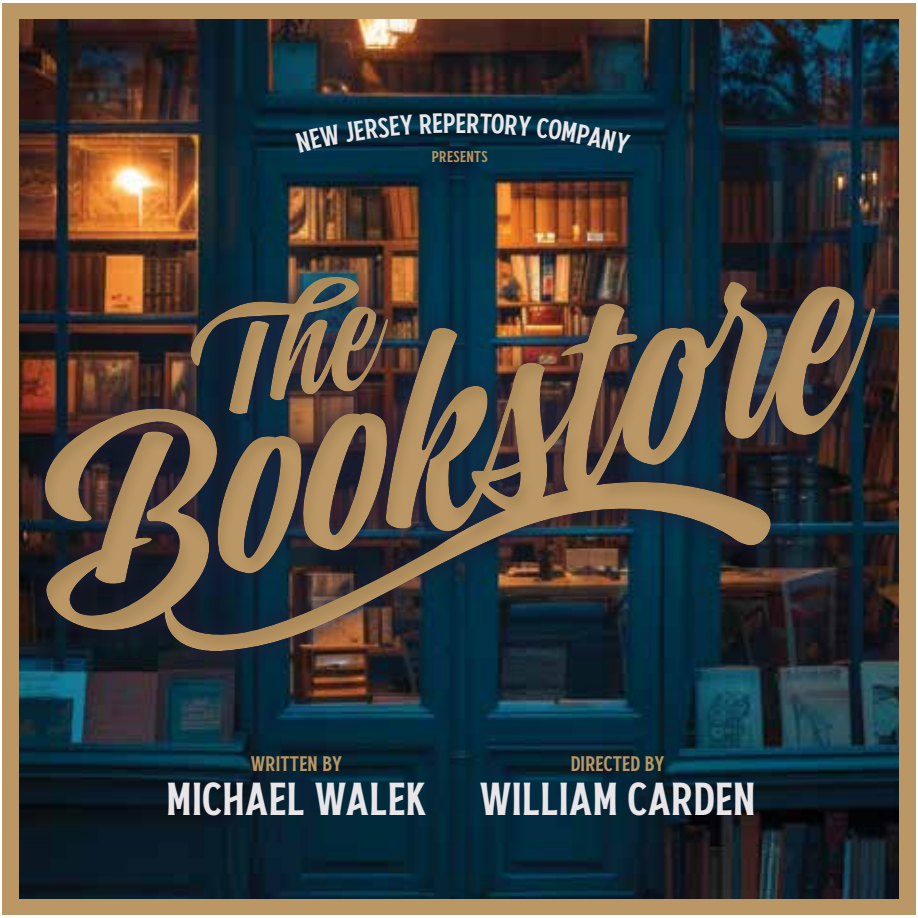
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OUR MISSION

59E59 Theaters was established by the Elysabeth Kleinhans Theatrical Foundation in 2004 to grant professional space and expertise to non-profit theater companies premiering their work in New York City. Under the leadership of Val Day, Artistic Director, and Brian Beirne, Managing Director, 59E59 Theaters presents a year-round curated program of Off Broadway plays and musicals that are nurtured and supported by providing performance spaces and equipment as well as production, ticketing, FOH, marketing, and press support. These theater companies receive 80% or more of the ticket revenue and pay no weekly rent to 59E59.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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