



Montana Short Cuts: Altered State

Seven short plays on a theme



Directed by **Steve Palmer, Rebecca Ryland,
Chantal Marie, Bruce Hall, Donna Davis, and
Larry Bauer**

Stage Manager: **Mary Gegenhuber**
HAT Tech: **Pamela Mencher, Brian Walker, Claire Jose**
Box Office: **Ross Peter Nelson, Mackenzie Jones, Deb
Schaaf, Linda Piccolo, Barry & Vicki Stambaugh**
Media and design: **Ross Peter Nelson**

November 4-13, 2022
Helena Avenue Theatre, 1319 Helena Ave. Helena

Sponsored by:



The Last Chance New Play Fest is produced by the Experimental Theatre Cooperative (ETC) and presented in collaboration with Helena Avenue Theatre. ETC is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

MT Short Cuts: Altered State

Act 1

Bobby and Dale and the Mystery of the Old Red Barn by Bruce Hall
Directed by Bruce Hall
Bobby - Robert Gregori
Dale - Bruce Hall

Pantomime by Barry Stambaugh
Directed by Steve Palmer
Father/Husband - Steve Palmer
Mother/Wife - Jackie Laverdiere
Son - Mark O'Neill

Tango with Torment by Lily Hoelscher
Directed by Larry Bauer
Umbra - Rian Miller
Torment - Larry Bauer
Muse - Savannah Smith

Beautiful Day by Rebecca Ryland
Directed by Rebecca Ryland
Girl on Bench - Letisia Bibeiro
Happy Guy - Brian Massman
Social Worker - Maryann Costello
Influencer - Shea Conley

Act 2

Somewhere Before Act 5 by Steve Palmer
Directed by Steve Palmer
Lear - Brian Massman
Fool - Tony West

Fanny the Fox by Chantal Marie
Directed by Chantal Marie
Esther Norris - Donna Davis
Dr. Whitley - Jackie Laverdiere
Britney - Shea Conley

Sweet Dreams by Ross Peter Nelson
Directed by Donna Davis
Alice - Kelly Clavin-Keim
Becca - Rian Miller
Casey - Brandon Keim

We would also like to acknowledge Great Falls playwright Leigh Ann Ruggiero, whose play *Alterity* was originally selected for the Fest but could not be successfully cast.

Cast and Crew



Larry Bauer (actor, director) - Larry makes his home in East Helena, MT with an amazing dog, chickens and a corn snake. He brings numerous acting, directing, poetry, music, and technical-theatre credits to the table. When not involved in one or all of the above, you'll find him in the mountains or on the water and he tries to capture these natural gifts in his art.



Kelly Clavin-Keim (actor) - Kelly is a veteran of the Helena stage in a variety of roles including acting, directing, props, and stage managing and she is a co-founder of Raven's Feather Productions. She holds a BA in Theatre and in Education and a Masters in Mental Health Counseling. She has performed with Grandstreet, Carroll College, HTC, & the LCNPF.



Shea Conley (actor) - Shea became interested in the performing arts in high school, where she served as a member of the Color Guard in the state champion marching band. Shea studied at the Art Institute of Seattle. She recently moved to Helena from Colorado. Shea is the owner and proprietor of DearPotato.org, where she specializes in vegan and gluten-free bakes.



Maryann Costello (actor) - Maryann is excited to be back on stage after a ten-year hiatus and happy to be working with this wonderful cast and crew in this beautiful space. Previous acting credits include roles in *The Vagina Monologues* and *The Women* in addition to roles both on stage and off for productions at the Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago.



Donna Davis (actor, director) - Quondam attorney and philosophy professor, Donna is an award-winning poet and actor. She is happily retired, i.e., now in control of her schedule and getting enough sleep. She is returning to the Fest for the second straight year and is glad to be back on stage with such a great theatre family!



Mary Gegenhuber (stage manager) - Mary is originally from Milwaukee, but moved to Montana in 1976. She performed in her first play at age 12 but fell in love with production work and was a stage manager by age 16. Mary sang in choirs and with Sweet Adelines; she performed in *Titanic* and *Annie Get Your Gun* for GrandStreet where she's a props designer.



Robert Gregori (actor) - Robert is a Montana native who has performed in various venues in the Helena and Great Falls area from Grand Street Theater to The Great Falls Symphony production of the opera *Poia*. He is pleased to work with Bruce, a long-time friend, and is thankful to his wife, Victoria, for the encouragement to hit the stage after a 13 year hiatus.



Bruce Hall (playwright, actor, director) - has written, composed, and directed for Broadway, Off-Broadway, and regional theaters around the country. He was Artistic Director of The Virginia City Players and founded the Brewery Follies. He wrote and directed several Murder Mystery musicals for the Bozeman-based Vigilante Theatre Company.



Lily Hoelscher (playwright) - Lily is a student at Carroll College pursuing her undergraduate degrees in Theatre and Spanish. Originally from Oregon, she acted in community theatre productions for several years before coming to Helena, where she continues to be active both onstage and behind the scenes as actor, writer, and musician



Brandon Keim (actor) - Brandon has recently returned to Helena after spending a number of years in Bozeman, where he grew a great fondness for hiking and photographing beautiful trails. Brandon has developed his character building skills over the course of many D&D campaigns and will occasionally spend entire days speaking in random accents.



Jackie Laverdiere (actor) - Jackie is a Montana native from the Highline. She moved to Helena while attending Carroll College and never went back. She says "Theatre saved me in college and continues to do so." She retired from working for the state and spends her time with her husband and family and hopes you enjoy the Short Cuts.



Chantal Marie (playwright, director) - Chantal Marie has written, directed, and produced commercials, short films, and a web series for children. Chantal's favorite genre is comedy and her black & white, 35mm short film, *Kartenspieler*, toured the festival circuit and aired on Public Television in San Diego and San Francisco.



Brian Massman (actor) - Brian has enjoyed a long career as an actor, director, playwright, videographer, film editor, and video projection designer as well as lecturing on these fields in the college classroom. He is a native Montanan who has returned to the Big Sky and has been recently seen performing for Grandstreet Theatre, MPN, and the LCNPF.



Rian Miller (actor) - Rian has performed with the LCNPF for several years. She has performed in shows such as *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Legally Blonde*, and *The Addams Family*. Rian performed for many years as a singer before she found her love of acting. She thanks her husband and children for giving her the chance to fulfill her creative passion!



Ross Peter Nelson (playwright) - Ross has authored several plays, award-winning short fiction, and two books on computer technology. His plays have been performed across the US and on three continents. He is a Dramatists Guild member, taught playwrighting at the University of New Orleans, and is a co-founder of Raven's Feather Productions.



Mark O'Neill (actor) - Mark O'Neill has worked in production for the Discovery Channel and History on television. He also writes novels, focusing on mysteries and thrillers. He retired after 20 years as an intelligence officer in the Army Reserve, and after deployments to Honduras, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He last appeared in the old time variety oleo at the HAT.



Steve Palmer (playwright, actor, director) - Steve is an actor, playwright, and ceramic artist. He has a degree in Art and Theatre from MSU. His works have been produced in Montana and Washington, and he has appeared as an actor in productions by Grand Street and HTC. Steve's one-man comedy, *Boxed*, appeared recently in the United Solo Fest in NYC.



Letisia Ribeiro (actor) - Letisia's most recent stage credit was playing the title character in *The Rainbow Fish* in 2nd grade. She is a freshman at Helena High School, and is currently venturing far from her home in Norway, fearlessly exploring her Montana/American roots.



Rebecca Ryland (playwright, director) - Rebecca holds an MFA in Theatre and founded ETC, which produces the Last Chance New Play Fest. After moving to the Helena area in 2010, she directed at Grandstreet and Carroll College. A member of the Dramatists Guild, Rebecca's work has been performed throughout the U.S. and Canada.



Savannah Smith (actor) - Savannah is thrilled to make her LCNPF debut! You may have seen her this summer as the sassy Cindy Lou in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at Grandstreet Theatre. Other favorite roles include Sophie in *Mamma Mia* and Jane in *Tarzan*. She would like to thank Larry and Rian for being the coolest and Mary G. for all of the chocolate!



Barry Stambaugh (playwright) - Barry moved to Helena in 2014 from Austin, Texas with his partner Vicki, who's from Butte. Barry has acted in several Grandstreet plays, and in the Fest, including Ross Peter Nelson's *Colter's Hell*. *Pantomime* is Barry's 7th produced Short Cut. Big thanks and hugs to Vicki!



Tony West (actor) - Tony was born in Sparks, NV and moved here in 2016. Tony has been in several productions including *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Tonight in Samarkand*. This is Tony's 4th year in the Fest. When not on stage, Tony enjoys spending time with their daughter, rollerskating, reading, and playing video games.

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Special thanks to Marga Lincoln, Marie Bourgeois, Mark Runkle, the Helena IR, Lively Times, the Carroll College Theatre Department, Grandstreet Theatre, the HAT, and all who support live theatre in Helena.