

Alan Stanford* (Sir John Falstaff) Alan Stanford has been Artistic and Executive Director of PICT Classic Theatre since 2013, although he worked with the company for several years prior to that. He came to Pittsburgh from Dublin in Ireland, where he was an associate actor and director at the renowned Gate Theatre for over 30 years. He is regarded as a leading authority on the works of Wilde, as well as Shakespeare and Samuel Beckett, and has worked with famed British playwrights Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard and Christopher Hampton. His productions include works by Shaw, Arbuzov, Grahame Greene, Brecht and Shakespeare.

Heather Ankley* (Stage Management) earned her Bachelor of the Arts degree in Stage Management and Musical Theatre from Point Park University in 2000. Since graduating she has been employed by The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust at the Byham Theater as a stage technician and spent many years as a Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager with the Pittsburgh Opera. Heather is a proud member of Actors' Equity, the American Guild of Musical Artists, and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local #3. Her involvement with these organizations has allowed her to work in a variety of live entertainment mediums from musical theatre and opera to dance, comedy, and rock 'n' roll.

James DeVita (Playwright) James DeVita, a native of Long Island, NY, is an author, actor, and a theater director. Along with his novels, *A Winsome Murder*, *The Silenced*, and *Blue*, Jim has also worked extensively as a playwright. His adult plays include: *An Improbable Fiction*, *Learning to Stay*, *Christmas in Babylon*, *Gift of the Magi* (a musical adaptation), *In Acting Shakespeare*, *The Desert Queen* (the life of Gertrude Bell), *Dickens in America*, *Waiting for Vern*, *The Three Musketeers*, and a new adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Jim is also a playwright for young audiences. His work in the field has been acknowledged with The Distinguished Play Award from the AATE; The Intellectual Freedom Award, and The American Alliance of Theater and Education honored his body of work with the Charlotte B. Chorpenning Award. Jim is also a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Fiction. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and Actors Equity Association.

Sharon McCune (Associate Producer & Curator, ETC Cycle) Ms. McCune is a mainstay of Pittsburgh theater, having performed most recently in Jay Ball's World Premiere adaptation of *An Odyssey for Quantum*, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Bricolage Production Company, The REP, and Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks as Brutus in *Julius Caesar* (the first all-female cast). Regionally, Ms. McCune has worked with Barter Theater, Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati, First-Stage Milwaukee (World Premiere of Burgess Clark's adaptation of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*), Phoenix Theater (*Twelfth Night* directed by Sir John Barton), Stage One, New Harmony Theater, American Players Theater, Native Voices at the Autry, Academy for New Musical Theater, Theater Neo, and the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, where she is a co-founding company member.

Robin Walsh (Director) Robin Walsh has appeared on regional stages from Vermont to California, playing everything from a dog, in the comedy *Sylvia*, to the title role in *Hamlet*. She's a recipient of the Harry Schwab Excellence in the Arts Award as well as a Pittsburgh Foundation Creative Achievement Award. For PICT she played the title role in *Hedda Gabler* and *Regan* in *King Lear*. She is currently a professor in the Conservatory of Performing Arts at Point Park University in Pittsburgh. Robin has written several short plays for the Swan Festival and the Bricolage BUS Festival. She directed the premiere of *Mad Honey* for *UnSeam'd Shakespeare* and *La Ronde* for The Rep. She's delighted to be directing the inaugural staged reading in the Expand the Canon Series.



EXPAND CANON

2021-2022 STAGED READING CYCLE

AN IMPROBABLE FICTION

BY JAMES DEVITA

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 | 2PM & 7PM
LEVY HALL AT RODEF SHALOM
DIRECTED BY ROBIN WALSH

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON



PRESENTS

AN IMPROBABLE FICTION

BY JAMES DEVITA

DIRECTED BY ROBIN WALSH

STAGE MANAGEMENT BY HEATHER ANKLEY*

STARRING:

LAMAR K. CHESTON* OTHELLO
 CYNTHIA DALLAS..... CLEOPATRA
 CHRIS LAITTA* MISTRESS QUICKLY
 TREVOR MCQUEEN* THE MESSENGER
 CALLEE MILES* JULIET
 ALAN STANFORD* SIR JOHN FALSTAFF

COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER & SERIES CURATOR SHARON MCCUNE

CAST & CREW

Lamar K. Cheston* (Othello) Presently Lamar can be seen recurring as "Lamar Rockwell," on EPIX's "Godfather of Harlem." He is also featured in the current season of "Law and Order: Organized Crime" recurring as "Lance 'Red Bull' Flowers." His stage resume is vast, and ranges from classical theatre (Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, Comedy of Errors, Henry V, Oedipus), to regional theatre (The Music Man, Pipeline, One Night in Miami), and the NAACP Award winning Play Black Angels over Tuskegee. www.LamarKCheston.com

Cynthia Dallas (Cleopatra) A proud native of Pittsburgh and fifth generation "East Ender," Cynthia is ecstatic to be making her PICT debut with such groundbreaking staged reading series! A former collegiate and professional basketball player who found her passion for acting later in life, Cynthia is a 2019 graduate of the 2-year full time programme at the Gaiety School of Acting in Dublin, Ireland. Local theater credits include performances with The Pittsburgh CLO, Gemini Children's Theater, Prime Stage Theatre Company, and The Duquesne Red Masquers. Prior to studying abroad, she lived in Los Angeles for nearly a decade where she worked in TV, film, commercials, and stunts. She has upcoming appearances on Showtime's SHAMELESS, AppleTV's SWAGGER, and independent film TAPAWINGO. Currently, Cynthia is mounting her one-woman show, ALMOST 40 & SINGLE, which will be debuting for American audiences in February 2022. Repped by Docherty Talent Agency (PGH) and Polygon Group (LA).

Chris Laitta* (Mistress Quickly) Chris is honored to join the inaugural production of expand the Canon at PICT. Chris is a staple in the Pittsburgh theater community. Most recently she was seen this Ethel Banks in the Pittsburgh Public Theater production of Barefoot in the Park. Chris is also no stranger to performing original cabarets: she has the longest running original Cabaret and is thrilled to debut a new cabaret this December. Chris will share her journey as a musical theater performer and the unusual path that brought her to the stage on December 10 and 11th at 7:30 PM and 12th at 2 PM at the Greer Cabaret. Thanks to her mom and husband for their support. Thank you all for supporting live theater.

Trevor McQueen* (The Messenger) Trevor McQueen is a multi-disciplinary artist working in music, comedy, film and visual art. Favorite theater credits: This Ain't No Disco (Atlantic Theater Company,) Agnus Teaches Acting (The Duplex, NYC) Fiddler on the Roof (Pittsburgh CLO) and Annie Get Your Gun (Broadway). She holds a BFA from the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.

Callee Miles* (Juliet) A Pittsburgh native, Callee is simply tickled to be back in her hometown. New York credits include Amanda in David's Play at the New York Fringe Festival, Horatio in Hamlet with Hamlet Isn't Dead, and Dyanne in Million Dollar Quartet at The Argyle Theatre among others. She made her LA theatre debut earlier this year as Elmire in Tartuffe with Ghost Players Theatre Company. Other favorite credits include Les Misérables (Eponine), Gypsy (Louise), Much Ado About Nothing (Beatrice), The Drowsy Chaperone (Janet). Education: Baldwin Wallace. Love and thanks to family, friends, Dr. Watson, and always my sun and Skye. Matthew 19:26. www.callee-miles.com



*Artists appear courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the professional union of Actors & Stage Managers in the United States of America. PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING OF THIS READING IS PROHIBITED