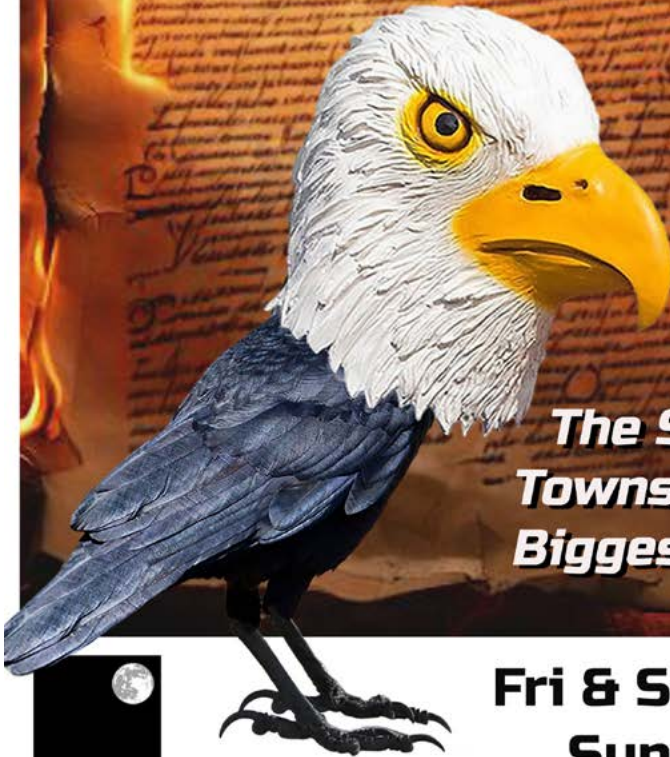


The Minutes

By Tracy Letts

Directed by Gene Elliott

Feb 7 – 23, 2025



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*Present day in the Big Cherry City Council Chambers.
The Minutes will be presented in one act.*

CAST

Mayor Superba	Dana Bernstein
Mr. Breeding	Justin Burgess
Mr. Blake	Kashief Crain
Mr. Assalone	David Hammons
Ms. Johnson	Hiawaratha Jackson
Mr. Peel	Kinon Keplinger
Mr. Hanratty	Evan Linder
Ms. Innes	Emily Peckham
Ms. Matz	Kate Peckham
Mr. Carp	John Reynolds
Mr. Oldfield	Chris Sterling
Swing	Patty Carreras
Swing	Chris Randolph

ARTISTIC / MANAGEMENT STAFF

Director.....	Gene Elliott
Stage Manager.....	Marya Paolillo
Costume Designer.....	Ashley Whitten Kopera
Lighting Designer.....	Melissa Andrews
Set Designer.....	Chris Sterling
Movement Coordinator.....	Whitney Branan
Fight Director.....	Lauren Gunn
Properties Designer.....	Julia Hinson
Sound Designer/Original Music	Steven Gary
Technical Director.....	Tim Romine
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Natalie Chamblin
Charge Artist.....	Jabria Chanel
Poster Graphics.....	Gene Elliott

The Minutes

Written by Tracy Letts

The Minutes is presented by arrangement with
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The world premiere of *The Minutes* was produced
and presented at Steppenwolf Theatre Company,
Chicago, IL; Anna D. Shapiro, Artistic Director
and David Schmitz, Executive Director

ABOUT THE CAST



Dana Bernstein (*Mayor Superba*) (she/her) is so excited to be participating in her first show with New Moon! Dana's most recent role was as Elizabeth in *Second Story Sunlight* in Emerald Theatre's 10 Minute Play Festival. Shout out to her husband, Kevin, for his enthusiastic support of her theatre habit!

Justin Burgess (*Mr. Breeding*) (he/him) is excited to be returning to New Moon with *The Minutes!* He currently teaches theatre at Millington Central Middle High School. Previous credits include Dad in *A Monster Calls* at New Moon (Ostrander Win; Best Ensemble), Mary/Mr. Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice* at GCT, and Jason in *Wit* at GCT.



Patty Carreras (*Swing*) (she/her) is a seasoned actor from Fredonia, New York who specializes in puppetry, clown, comedy, storytelling and mime. She was recently seen as Philostrate in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* at Theater Memphis and as Mrs. Crow in their *A Christmas Carol* matinee. Other credits include Quark Theater *Escaped Alone*, Mrs. J in *Shockheaded Peter* ensemble puppeteer. While living in Mississippi, she was active with the Kudzu players and was recently seen as the MC for Hernando's *Dickens of a Christmas*.

Kashief Crain (*Mr. Blake*) (he/him) is thankful for being cast in *The Minutes*. Previous credits include: Igor in *Young Frankenstein The Musical*, Caterpillar in *Alice in Wonderland The Musical*, and Asagai in *A Raisin in the Sun*. "Hope everyone enjoys the show!"



David Hammons (*Mr. Assalone*) (he/him) is ecstatic about working with Gene and New moon again. He was last seen with them in *Pillowman* (Katurian) and *Art* (Serge). Most recently he was in *Ink* (Larry Lamb) at Circuit Playhouse. He would like to thank his family for their love and continuous support.

Hiawaratha Jackson (*Ms. Johnson*) (she/her) is honored to be in a Gene Elliott production. She was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois and moved here a little over 10 years ago. Hiawaratha has been in several productions, won an Ostrander award and has been nominated for countless other awards. She can't wait for you to see this wonderful production with this amazing casting and crew. After the show, come and say hi but until then, sit back, relax and enjoy the show!



ABOUT THE CAST



Kinon Keplinger (*Mr. Peel*) (he/him) is eager to share this exploration of the interesting and mysterious world of Big Cherry with this remarkable cast and crew. He has been hooked on this play ever since Tracy Letts (playing Mayor Superba) made eye contact with him when he saw the show on Broadway in 2022. Kinon has enjoyed playing roles in controversial shows in the past, such as Scott in *American Son* at Theatre Memphis (2022), Lenny in *Victory Blues* at POTS at the Works (2017). Most recently you might have seen Kinon perform as Giles Ralston in *The Mousetrap* and Donny Kirshner in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* both at Theatre Memphis (2024). Kinon was honored to make his Broadway Debut last year as Townsperson in *Enemy of the People* at Circle in the Square Theatre, NYC. Special thanks to Gene Elliot for the privilege of working with him again and for the chance to contribute to the enigmatic allure of *The Minutes*.

Evan Linder (*Mr. Hanratty*) (he/him) is an actor and playwright and is very excited to be back in Memphis performing with New Moon. Previous shows include *Torch Song* (Playhouse on the Square), *At the Table* (Broken Nose Theater), *Grace* (Interrobang Theatre) and *Byahalia, Mississippi* (The New Colony).



Emily Peckham (*Ms. Innes*) (she/her) is really glad to be back at New Moon. Her last show here was *Buried Child*. This is her first show since before the plague, and it's exciting to be working again! She is especially glad to share the stage with Kate Peckham, who is her sunshine. "Thanks and love to my best boys, Jim and Nicholas. I am blessed to have them both. Thank you all for supporting live theatre!"

Kate Peckham (*Ms. Matz*) (she/her) is so excited to be performing with New Moon once again! She was last seen at GCT in *The Smell of the Kill*. Other New Moon credits include a squirrel in *The Squirrels*, Sally in *Reefer Madness: The Musical*, the Moose in *Evil Dead: The Musical*, and ensemble in *Shockheaded Peter*. "Much love and thanks to mom, dad, and Christopher for their unending support!"



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Thank you, Dorothy!*

ABOUT THE CAST



Chris Randolph (*Swing*) (he/him) is no stranger to New Moon Shows, Chris is honored and proud to be a part of this wonderful cast. Last seen on stage with Emerald Theatre as Geoffrey Chaucer, previous New Moon credits include Carl in *The Squirrels* and Goatman in *Reefer Madness*. “Love live live theater! Special thanks to Kate for believing in me!”

John Reynolds (*Mr. Carp*) (he/him) is happy to be back at New Moon Theatre under the direction of Gene Elliot and in the care of Marya Paolillo for our 4th show in a row! “Thanks to Jenn and Lily for letting me out of the doghouse again.” Recent roles include the Cop in *Nut Remix* (New Ballet Ensemble), Egeus in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Theatre Memphis) and the Monster in *A Monster Calls* (New Moon).



Chris Sterling (*Mr. Oldfield/Set Designer*) (he/him) has designed the sets for *Lizzie 2024*, *The Squirrels*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, *Misery*, *Shockheaded Peter*, *Pillowman*, *Lizzie*, *Killer Joe*, *Haint* (Ostrander winner for Best Set Design), *Bug* and *The Rainmaker*. He has been seen on several local stages over the years, and for NM he appeared in our production of *The Rainmaker*. He has also appeared in *Secret Garden*, *Newsies* and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Theatre Memphis; *The Hollow* and *The Mousetrap* at GCT.



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Coming up next at New Moon Theatre

A PARTICLE of DREAD (Oedipus Variations)



By Sam Shepard
Directed by Jeff Kirwan

May 23 - June 8, 2025

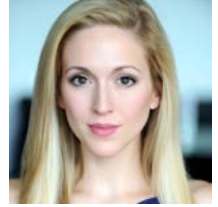
A Particle of Dread Synopsis: As a young man, Oedipus is told by a seer that he will grow up to kill his own father and marry his mother. He flees from home to avoid this terrible fate, but there is no escape—the dreadful prophecy finally catches up with him. Celebrated playwright Sam Shepard reimagines this Ancient Greek tale as a modern thriller.

ABOUT THE CREW



Melissa Andrews (*Lighting Designer*) (she/her) is a higher Ed administrator by day, a freelance lighting designer and stage manager by night, a very part-time graduate student in data science, and the McCoy Theatre Coordinator at Rhodes College. She is patiently supported in her endeavors by her loving husband and a menagerie of rescued pets.

Whitney Branan (*Movement Coordinator*) (she/her) Born in Memphis, Whitney lived in New York for thirteen years where she was the resident tap-coach for the Broadway show *Billy Elliot* and two of its national tours. The day after graduating from Wagner College in NYC, she started work as the personal/executive assistant to Charles Strouse (composer of *Annie*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Applause!*). Whitney has worked across the country (Bally's Casino in Las Vegas) and across the ocean (three "Pick of the Fringe" Award-winning trips to the International Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland). A favorite director/choreographer credit is crafting four musical productions aboard the American Queen, the largest luxury paddle boat in the world. In 2022, she was awarded the Otis Smith Legacy Dance Award at the Ostranders and the Mitzi Award for Artistic Excellence at the B.B. Awards. Whitney has received multiple Ostrander, Allie, BroadwayWorld, and NY Innovative Theatre awards and nominations for her work. Proud Member of SAG-AFTRA, AEA, and SDC unions. whitney-branan.com insta: [whitneyfbranan](https://www.instagram.com/whitneyfbranan)



Natalie Chamblin (*Assistant Stage Manager*) (she/her) is grateful to be back for another New Moon production after having previously assistant stage managed *A Monster Calls*. Other ASM credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Sister Act* at Theatre Memphis. Natalie has had a blast working with this fantastic cast and production team! A big thank you and much love to Clayton for all the early-bird dinners and guys nights with the dogs during the rehearsal process.

Jabria Chanel (*Charge Artist*) is a self-taught set designer, a freelance scenic artist based in Memphis, Tennessee, and the charge artist for the production of *The Minutes*. Jabria is currently enrolled at Southwest TN Community College, obtaining an A.F.A. degree in Theatre Scenic Design while interning at Theatre Memphis under the guidance and mentorship of scenic designer Jack Netzel-Yates. Jabria would love to thank New Moon Theatre, Gene Elliott, Chris Sterling, and the entire production team for trusting her to execute their vision for this fantastic production!



ABOUT THE CREW



Steven Gary (*Sound Designer*) (he/him) has designed and operated sound around town for 20+ years, for many theaters, high schools and churches. Two of his favorites to work on at Theatre Works are *Love Apples* (many years ago) and *12th Night*. Steven loves the quirky and experimental nature of this theatre and the audiences it reaches. He loves his wife Kell, his daughter Annabelle, and his dog Rosie, and the cat - well, he just tolerates that one.

Lauren Gunn (*Fight Choreographer*) (she/her) is a senior resident actor and teaching-artist with Tennessee Shakespeare Company where she teaches in classrooms around Memphis, juvenile detention centers, as well as the local VA. She is an associate instructor with Dueling Arts International and has had the privilege of working as a fight director and stage combat instructor throughout Tennessee, Mississippi, and Illinois. Regional performance credits include: *TSC: A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*. Theatre Memphis: *You Can't Take It With You*. Southern Arena Theatre: *Boeing Boeing*, *I Hate Hamlet*. New Stage Theatre: *Crimes of the Heart*, *Constellations*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*.



Julia Hinson (*Props Designer*) (she/her) is a theatre artist with extensive experience as a director, actor, and educator. She holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from the East 15 Acting School at the University of Essex and has worked on productions both locally and internationally. Julia is thrilled to be working with New Moon Theatre Company again, having previously designed props for *Reefer Madness* and performed in *Small Mouth Sounds* and *Shockheaded Peter*. She is the Executive Director and Founder of LoneTree Live, a resident company at TheatreWorks. www.lonetreealive.com

Marya Paolillo (*Stage Manager*) (she/her) is delighted to be stage managing once again with New Moon as she last stage managed *A Monster Calls* with NM. She has also stage managed for Theatre Memphis, Germantown Community Theatre, The Harrell Performing Arts Theatre, Theatre Oxford, and Lost in Found Production Company. Marya would like to thank her family & friends for always supporting her and her love of the arts.



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ABOUT THE CREW



Tim Romine (*TD/Set Construction*) (he/his) is a MacGyver type of a genius when working on design ideas! He has worked with New Moon several times. For *Evil Dead the Musical* he was instrumental in developing the blood delivery devices. Tim appeared in *Quills* playing Lunatic Bouchon, and with *Buried Child* he did Prop design. He also works with Absent Friends doing Prop design and fabrication.

Ashley Whitten-Kopera (*Costume Designer*) (she/her) is a freelance costumer who has designed for many New Moon productions over the years. Most recently for New Moon, she costumed *A Monster Calls*, *The Squirrels*, as well as *Reefer Madness*, *Evil Dead the Musical*, and *Agnes of God*. Ashley also has designed for many other theatres and schools in the area, including Germantown Community Theatre, Theatre Memphis, Harrell Theatre, and Christian Brothers High School. She received her BA in Theatre and Art from Mercer University, and studied Costume Design at the University of Memphis.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Gene Elliott (*Director*) (he/him) has directed many productions for New Moon including *Quills*, *Buried Child*, *Frankenstein*, *Bug*, *Night Mother*, *Some Things you Need to Know Before the World Ends*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, and *The Maids*. He has also appeared onstage at several theatres in Memphis. For New Moon Theatre he has appeared as the Mastiff in *The Moors*, J.D. in *The Rainmaker*, in *King Lear* he played *Cornwall* for which he won an Ostrander Award in Sound Design, and *Trip to Bountiful*. Gene serves as the Artistic Director of New Moon Theatre and serves on the executive board of Theatreworks.

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