

NEW
MOON THEATRE
PRESENTS



THE **SQUIRRELS**

A Play by
Robert Askins

Directed by
Kevin Cochran

THIS PLAY IS INTENDED FOR
MATURE SQUIRRELS ONLY
VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED



**NEW
MOON**
Theatre Co.

Feb. 16 - March 3, 2024

Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00, Sundays at 2:00

TheatreWorks @ The Square • 2085 Monroe Ave.

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Thank you, Dorothy!*

The Squirrels will be presented in one act.

Warning: This production contains adult situations and violent acts that may be offensive to some individuals.

Not suitable for young children.

CAST

Rodentia.....	Lena Wallace Black
Chordata.....	Jamie Boller-Raup
Sciurus.....	Jimbo Lattimore
Carolinensis.....	Benny McCluskey
Sciuridae/The Scientist.....	Ryan Scott
Mammalia.....	Jen Wood-Bowien
Squirrel Army (US Rodentia).....	Robbie Comans
Squirrel Army (US Carolinensis).....	Mimi Herren
Squirrel Army (US Chordata).....	Rose James
Squirrel Army (US Sciurus).....	Kate Peckham
Squirrel Army (US Sciuridae).....	Chris Randolph
Squirrel Army (US Mammalia).....	Amy Rush

ARTISTIC / MANAGEMENT STAFF

Director.....	James Kevin Cochran
Asst. Director.....	Jeff Kirwan
Stage Manager.....	Mac Reece
Costume Designer.....	Ashley Whitten Kopera
Lighting Designer.....	Melissa Andrews
Set Designer.....	Chris Sterling
Props.....	Laurie Boller
Sound Designer.....	Gene Elliott
Original Music.....	Kathy Zhou
Fight Choreographer.....	Austin Wall
Intimacy Coordinator.....	Austin Michael Russell
Fight/Intimacy Captain.....	Kate Peckham
Sound Technician.....	Marianne Orendorff
Poster Graphics.....	Andrew Chandler

The Squirrels

By Robert Askins

Developed at The Lark, New York City
The world premiere of THE SQUIRRELS
Produced in 2018 by La Jolla Playhouse
(Christopher Ashley, Artistic Director;
Debby Buchholz, Managing Director),
La Jolla, California

Produced by special arrangement with
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440 Park Ave. South, 11th Floor
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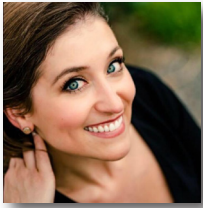


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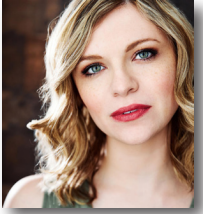
Texting or viewing texts on is not allowed during performance.

No photography or recording devices allowed of ANY kind.

ABOUT THE CAST



Lena Wallace Black (*Rodentia*) is an Ostrander award winning actress and her tail is twitching with excitement to be in another New Moon show after 2018's *Eurydice*. Post pandemic credits include *Blithe Spirit*, *The Play that Goes Wrong*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *The Secret Garden* at Theatre Memphis and *Don't Hydroplane* with POTS at the Works. Lena takes great offense to the bird jokes in this play and dedicates her performance to her feathered friends Mardi, Mushroom, and Zucchini. Love to the Mascara Mob and her husband who gets offended when he isn't mentioned in program bios.



Jamie Boller-Raup (*Chordata*) is delighted to be back onstage, after a brief hibernation, with such a nutty cast and crew! A few of her favorite onstage credits include Olivia in *Twelfth Night* (National Players: Tour 70), Abigail in *The Crucible* (National Players: Tour 70), Viola in *Shakespeare in Love* (Playhouse on the Square), Betty 2 in *Collective Rage* (FEMMEmphis) and Mash in *Stupid Fucking Bird* (Circuit Playhouse). Jamie has directed two productions for New Moon, Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* and Bess Wohl's *Small Mouth Sounds*.

This past fall, she had the delight of directing Neil Simon's *Fools* for the Rhodes Theatre Guild at Rhodes College. You can catch her onstage next in New Moon's production of *A Monster Calls* this spring. Much love to Hugh and her family.



Robbie Comans (*Squirrel Army/Understudy Rodentia*) is a speech therapist for Shelby County Schools. During the year that she's joined the Memphis theatre scene, she's had roles as Ms. Carter in *It's a Wonderful Life* (BPAC), Head Ni Knight in *Spamalot* (GCT), nun ensemble in *Sister Act* (Theatre Memphis), and Poole in *A Christmas Carol* (Theatre Memphis). She is so thrilled to be a part of her first production at New Moon!



Mimi Herren (*Squirrel Army/Understudy Carolinensis*) has done backstage work at various theatres including *Pipeline*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Between Riverside and Crazy* at Hattiloo, *Evil Dead*, *Reefer Madness*, and *Misery* with New Moon. Their acting work includes Scout Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Mary Warren in Germantown Community Theatre's production of *The Crucible*. They're also a member of Absent Friends, Memphis's Rocky Horror Picture Show shadow cast. In May of this year they will be in New Moon's Production of *A*

Monster Calls.



Rose James (*Squirrel Army/Understudy Chordata*) is so excited to work with New Moon Theatre! She graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre. Her credits include: *Raisin in the Sun* as Beneatha at Hattiloo Theatre, *School Girls or; The African Mean Girls Play* as Paulina at Hattiloo, *Macbeth* as King Duncan and Lady Macduffe at Tennessee Shakespeare Company and Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* at Tennessee Shakespeare Company.

ABOUT THE CAST



Jimbo Lattimore (*Sciurus*) is grateful for this opportunity to make his New Moon premiere. After taking off 30+ years from acting, Jimbo returned to the stage in 2017. Most recently seen at POTS in *Wizard of Oz* as the title character. He has received Ostrander nominations for his portrayals of: The Interlocutor - *The Scottsboro Boys* (POTS), Banjo in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (TM), and VP Doug Panch in *The 25th Annual Putnam Co. Spelling Bee* (TM). Other favorite roles include: Teddy Brewster - *Arsenic & Old Lace* (TM); Ben Franklin - *1776* (TM); and, Charlie Baker - *The Foreigner* (Harrell). All the love in the world to his wife, Susan, and to his son, Jay, for getting him back on stage again. www.jimbolattimore.com



Benny McCluskey (*Carolinensis*) (they/them/theirs) is so excited to be a part of this nutty show!. Some of their previous credits include *Private Lives* (Elyot), *RJZ* (Tybalt) both at the University of Memphis. They have performed some children's theatre in *Treasure Island*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Upcycled Cinderella* with Bright Star Touring Theatre. They would like to thank the cast and the director for all the enriching and hilarious work this play en-TAILED. They would also like to thank their friends, family, and cat for all the support. You can find them on Insta as [bennymccluskey0](https://www.instagram.com/bennymccluskey0)



Kate Peckham (*Squirrel Army*, *Understudy Sciurus*, *Fight/Intimacy Captain*) is excited to get squirrely once again with New Moon! Kate is no stranger to the stage, having grown up in the Memphis theatre community. She was last seen as Sally in New Moon's *Reefer Madness*. Kate's other New Moon credits include *Evil Dead The Musical* and *Shockheaded Peter*. Kate has also worked with Lost In Found Productions, as the Magical Unicorn in *Rites of Spring* and a ghostly tour guide in *The Parting*, and with FemmeMemphis and Lone Tree Live as Dr. James Barry in *Pants*. "Thanks to Mom, Dad, Christopher, Matilda, and Sampson for their unending support. Now, turn off your phone and go nuts!"

New Moon Theatre's '23-24 Season

Oct. 20 - Nov. 5, 2023 *Reefer Madness the Musical*
Book by Kevin Murphy & Dan Studney, Directed by Ann Marie Hall

February 16 - March 3, 2024 *The Squirrels*
by Robert Asking, Directed by Kevin Cochran

May 3 - 19, 2024 *A Monster Calls*
by Patrick Ness, Directed by Aliza Moran

For more info please visit
www.NewMoonTheatre.org

ABOUT THE CAST



Chris Randolph (*Squirrel Army/Understudy Sciuridae/The Scientist*) is excited to unleash his inner squirrel and could ask for no finer company to do it properly. Last seen onstage as the Goatman in New Moon's *Reefer Madness: The Musical*, and you've probably also seen him running tech for many other New Moon shows and more. Thank you so much for all the support and love, and I guess ya'll were right: I'm NUTS!



Amy Rush (*Squirrel Army / Understudy Mammalia*) is an actor, puppeteer and improviser. Her wife's doctoral program moved them to Memphis from Prague in 2020 and she quickly found an artistic home with New Moon in its production of the puppetry cult classic *Shockheaded Peter* and later that season as Marie in *Art*. She's now a proud board member of the theater. Other Memphis credits: Theatre Memphis' *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Ostrander for Best Supporting Actress), New Moon's *Small Mouth Sounds* and Germantown Community Theatre's *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*. Amy earned an M.A. in Puppet Arts at Univ. of Connecticut. She was a resident puppeteer at the Center for Puppetry Arts and studied improv at Dad's Garage in Atlanta, performed in many puppet projects while living in New York, and performed in plays and improv groups while living in Prague. Next up: *POTUS* at The Circuit Playhouse.



Ryan Scott (*Sciuridae/The Scientist*) a part time actor and full time nutcase, Ryan was lured from his cave dwelling in the wilds of rural Mississippi by the manipulations of the too-handsome-for-his-own-good James Kevin Cochran. A six-time Ostrander nominee, recognizable to Memphis audiences from his work in *The Pillowman*, *Matilda: The Musical*, *Quills*, *Shockheaded Peter*, and others, Ryan is currently a two-time National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship recipient, most recently awarded for his work as an interpreter of the music and lyrics of Mississippi legend, Bobbie Gentry. He frequently moonlights as a guest-frontman for several outfits in the upper midwest as well as here in the midsouth. He publishes his writings under the pen-name "what's the point of having a pen name if I tell you my pen-name."



Jen Wood-Bowien (*Mammalia*) is thrilled to be back onstage again with New Moon and at Theatreworks. Some of her favorite roles include *Shockheaded Peter* (ens.) with New Moon and *The Turn of the Screw* (Governess) at CBU. Jen directed several shows with here with Playwrights' Forum, ETC, and Lone Tree Live (24 Hour Plays). In her real life, Jen is the theatre department at THE Central High School. Favorites there include *Xanadu*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *RENT*, *Metamorphoses*, *CLUE*, and *The Laramie Project* (for the Memphis Fringe). "Thanks to James and Kieran for everything they do so I can do this."

Mark Your Calendars For Our Next Production!

May 3 - 19, 2024

A MONSTER CALLS



based on the novel by
PATRICK NESS

from an original idea by
SIOBHAN DOWD

directed by
ALIZA MORAN

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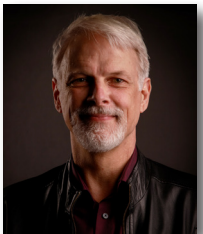
ABOUT THE CREW



Melissa Andrews (*Lighting Designer*) 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.



Laurie Boller (*Props*) is excited to be back working with New Moon Theatre! Most recently, Laurie designed props for *Misery* (Ostrander nominated), *Quills*, *Pillowman* (Ostrander nominated), *Small Mouth Sounds* and *Eurydice*. Laurie's stage managing credits at Theatre Memphis include, *Rasheeda Speaking; Judy, Just For You;* and her previous Assistant Stage Manager credits (also at Theatre Memphis) include, *The Man Who Came To Dinner, August Osage County, 39 Steps, The Submission, As You Like It, And The Royal Family*. Many thanks to her family: Greg, Rae, Gabe & Zoe and Jamie & Hugh for their constant love and support.



Gene Elliott (*Sound Design*) has designed the sound for many productions for New Moon such as *Reefer Madness, Misery, Evil Dead, Killer Joe, Orpheus Descending, Buried Child,* and *The Maids*. Gene last appeared on stage in our production of *The Moors* playing The Mastiff, and 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.



Jeff Kirwan (*Asst. Director*) is deeply honored to be surrounded by this incredibly talented and dedicated cast and crew. Jeff is a familiar face around New Moon Theatre Company. His previous productions include Assistant Director on *Quills* and *Shockheaded Peter*, and Director on *Art*. Jeff would like to thank Kevin Cochran for his guidance, patience, and boundless creativity. And special thanks to his wife, Kelly and his daughter, Bri for giving him the space and support to do this crazy thing he loves.



Ashley Whitten Kopera (*Costume Designer*) is a freelance costume designer who has designed for many other theatres around the Mid-South, including Circuit Playhouse, Theatre Memphis, Voices of the South and Desoto Family Theatre, as well as several area schools. She received her BA in Theatre and Art from Mercer University, and studied Costume Design at the University of Memphis. Ashley designed costumes for several productions for New Moon including

Reefer Madness, Evil Dead, Quills, and Agnes of God, the latter of which earned her an Ostrander nomination. www.etsy.com/people/foureyedgirl



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ABOUT THE CREW



Mac Reece (*Stage Manager*) is honored to be welcomed into the New Moon Theatre Company! In the past, they have worked with Evergreen Theatre Company as the stage manager for *Drag Queens on Trial* and the audio visual technician for *Cabaret Noel '23*. They also work with the long standing Absent Friends production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and is deeply grateful for the guidance and assistance of Mystie Watson and Kevin Cochran. During the fall, they also serve as the special effects makeup team and actor management with Wicked Ways Haunted House. Love to their parents and supportive partner through their squirrel shenanigans. "Shut up Carl."



Austin Michael Russell (*Intimacy Coordinator*) (he/him) is a theatre artist born and raised in Memphis, TN, who is so thrilled to see Intimacy Coordination come to his hometown. Trained by Theatrical Intimacy Education as a choreographer, Austin is passionate about the storytelling of human connection, and what it means to be close to another. Theatre is a difficult profession, and one that challenges us to do difficult things (like make Squirrels kiss) -- and he hopes his (and his peers work) make for a safe AND impactful story. He would like to thank Kevin for the opportunity to bring this work to the limelight, and New Moon for being a voice of change in the theatre community.



Chris Sterling (*Scenic Designer*) has designed the sets for *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.



Kathy Zhou (*Original Music*) is thrilled to be composing original music for *The Squirrels*. She just wrapped up composing for *Fools* at Rhodes College. She is a local Indie-pop pianist, singer-songwriter, and bandleader. She performs regularly in and around Memphis, and writes and records with several other Memphis musicians. Her music video for her single, "Strange Child," was in the 2023 Indie Memphis Film Festival. She is looking forward to releasing new music and touring in the coming year. She lives in Memphis with her partner Zach and their two cats. www.kathyzhoumusic.com

New Moon Theatre Company Board of Directors

Melissa Andrews, James Kevin Cochran, Kell Christie, Gene Elliott,
Jeff Kirwan, Amy Rush,
Chris Sterling, Mystie Watson

Special Thanks to Everyone Who Gave Us Amazing Assistance! We Couldn't Have Done It Without You!

Tim Romine, Julia Hinson, Andrew Glenn, Rhodes College, Playhouse on the Square, Theatre Memphis, Germantown Community Theatre

ABOUT THE CREW

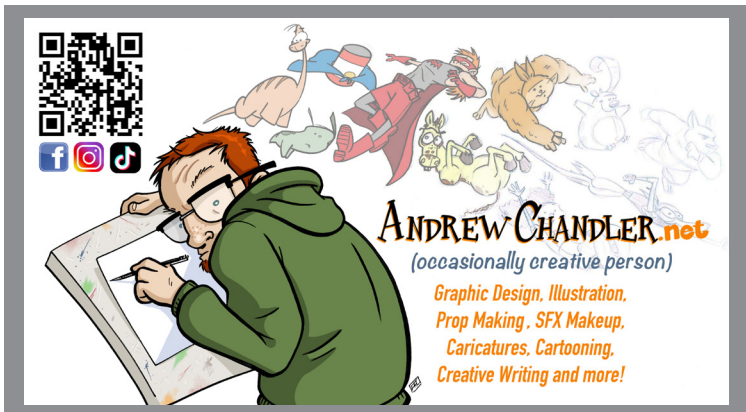


Austin Wall (*Fight Choreographer*) is a recent University of Memphis BFA Theatre major with a concentration in Performance. Previous choreography includes GCT's production of *Dracula: The Bloody Truth*, Theatre Memphis' production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Guys and Dolls*, and University of Memphis' *Murder Ballad*. Previous acting credits at the University of Memphis include *Electra* (Aegisthus), *Pippin* (Lewis), *A Bright Room Called Day* (Husz), *RJ&Z* (Mercutio), *Women of Lockerbie* (Bill Livingston), *Trouble in Mind* (Bill O'Wray), and *Gone With the Wind* (Routers Reporter). Regional acting credits include *Guys and Dolls* (Theatre Memphis), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Bartlett Performing Arts Center). He would like to thank Kevin Cochran and Gene Elliot for the opportunity to work with New Moon on this squirrely production! SQUIRREL ARMY! [@austin_brick_wall](https://www.instagram.com/austin_brick_wall) (he/him)

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



James Kevin Cochran (*Director*) (he/him) is excited to return to direct his fourth production for New Moon, where he also serves on the Board of Directors! He received his BFA in Theatre from the University of Memphis. He has had the opportunity to work around the country with Harrisburg Shakespeare Company, Popcorn Hat Players Children's Theatre, and Hampstead Stage Company, as well as the Orpheum Theatre Group, Theatre Memphis, and Germantown Community Theatre. Some favorite directing credits include *Shockheaded Peter* (Ostrander Nominee for Direction), *Pride & Prejudice*, *Wit*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Far Away*, *The Pillowman*, and *Killer Joe*. Some favorite acting credits include *Art*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Normal Heart*, and *The Physicists* (Ostrander Award for Supporting Actor). His work is dedicated to his friends and family, both here and departed. www.jkevincochran.com



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