

NEW MOON  
THEATRE COMPANY

ONE SCHOOL,  
TOO MANY PRINCIPLES

EUREKA

DAY

WRITTEN BY  
JONATHAN SPECTOR

DIRECTED BY  
KEVIN COCHRAN

10/16/26 -

11/01/26

FRI & SAT 8PM  
SUN 2PM

THEATREWORKS AT THE SQUARE, 2085 MONROE AVE  
(901) 484-3467 • [NEWMOONTHEATRE.ORG](http://NEWMOONTHEATRE.ORG)

Season Sponsor  
Connor & Elizabeth Robinson

***Setting: Eureka Day School, Berkeley, CA.***

***Time: Fall, 2018***

***The play will be presented in one act***

## **CAST**

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Suzanne.....Kell Christie

Carina.....Dee Lisa Cothran

Eli.....Zach Faye El-Oqlah

Meiko.....Eileen Kuo

Don.....Gretchen Riem

Winter & Understudy - Meiko.....Kathy Zhou

Understudy - Don.....Jeff Kirwan

Understudy -Eli.....Franklin Koch

Understudy - Suzanne.....Kristen Vandervort

Community Parents.....Dana Bernstien, Justin Burgess,  
Kashief Crain, Al Dowling, Greg Earnest, Geoff Roberts, Jenni-  
fer “Tidbit” Edwards, Christina Hernandez, June Hurt & Jeff Box,  
Hiawaratha Jackson, Louisa Koeppel, Kayla Miller, Marya Paolillo,  
Katherine & Matilda Peckham, Chris Randolph, Adam Rensem, Liz  
Royer, Natalie Sanchez, Jen Steinmetz, Chris Sterling, Chris Tracy,  
Melissa Walker, Mary Ann Washington, and Thomas Wise

## **ARTISTIC / MANAGEMENT STAFF**

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Director.....Kevin Cochran

Stage Manager.....Emmie Rachelle

Scenic Designer.....Chris Sterling

Costume Designer.....Ashley Whitten Kopera

Lighting Designer.....Melissa Andrews

Sound Designer, Video Graphics.....Gene Elliott

Properties Designer.....Julia Hinson

Asst Director.....Kate Peckham

Charge Artist.....Patrice Nelms

Scenic Construction.....Tim Romine

Poster Design & Graphics.....Sara Moseley [@cakeslime](https://www.instagram.com/cakeslime)

# *Eureka Day*

*One School. Too many principles.*

Written By Jonathan Spector

*Eureka Day* is presented by arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals on behalf of Dramatist Play Service

[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

*Eureka Day* was originally commissioned and  
produced by Aurora Theatre Company  
(Tom Ross, Artistic Director; Julie Saltzman Kellner,  
Managing Director), Berkeley, CA



**CONCORD**  
THEATRICALS

CONCORD THEATRICALS  
250 W. 57TH STREET  
6TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10107

**About the play:** *Eureka Day* is Jonathan Spector's sharp, funny look at a community trying to do right - and discovering that doing right is not the same as agreeing on everything. Set in 2018, just before the world would relearn what "outbreak" means.

## ABOUT THE CAST

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**Kell Christie** (*Suzanne*) is a Memphis-based actor and director (MFA, University of Memphis) who teaches theatre at Houston High School and has been recognized for her directing and acting in Memphis. Onstage, she has played Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, Lisa Peretti in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at GCT, Ouisa in *Six Degrees of Separation*, Petra in *A Little Night Music* at Theatre Memphis. Directing credits include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Amadeus*, *The Revolutionists* *Lizzie* and numerous award-winning HHS Mustang Theatre productions. A New Moon board member, she is thrilled to share the stage with three new friends and her ride-or-die, Eileen Kuo.



**Dee Lisa Cothran** (*Carina*) is delighted to make her debut with the New Moon Theatre Co. Her most recent notable role was Bev Cratchett in Hattiloo Theatre's *If Scrooge Was a Brotha* during the 2025–26 season. Her performance earned her recognition as the Hattiloo's Best Supporting Actor for the 2025–26 season. With strong comedic instincts and a gift for creating distinctive, engaging characters, Cothran brings energy and authenticity to every role.



**Zach Faye El-Oqlah** (*Eli*) is thrilled to make his New Moon Theatre debut after a years-long hiatus from the stage. Some favorite credits include: *Macbeth* (Macduff), *Oliver* (Bill Sykes), *The Arabian Nights* (Harun Al-Rashid), and *The Little Prince* (The Aviator). Zach holds a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance from the University of Memphis and wants to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work. Endless love and thanks to his girls Magda and Ayah for their support.



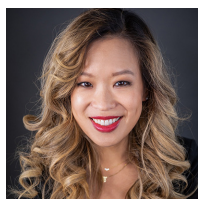
**Jeff Kirwan** (*Understudy for Don*) is an area actor and director, appearing on (and lurking behind) stages across the region since 2017, when he appeared as Tilden in New Moon's production of *Buried Child*. His other New Moon credits include *Eurydice* (Her Father), *Othello* (Brabantio), *Quills* (Dr. Royer-Collard), Assistant Director on *Quills* and *Shockheaded Peter*, and Director on *A Particle of Dread* and *Art*. He is beyond honored to be supporting this incredibly talented cast. Jeff would like to thank Kelly and Bri for the boundless love and support they provide every day.



**Franklin Koch** (*Understudy for Eli*) is thrilled to support this fantastic cast! He was last seen in *The Thanksgiving Play* and *Macbeth* at Theatre Memphis. He has appeared with New Moon in *Twelfth Night* and *Shockheaded Peter*. In real life, Franklin is a speech language pathologist working with teenagers and young adults in the Memphis Shelby County Schools and obediently heading the whims of his two charming and attractive cats.

## ABOUT THE CAST

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**Eileen Kuo** (*Meiko*) is a musician, actor, director, and music director who has been active in the Memphis theatre community since 2010. Her directing credits include *Through the Looking Screen* (Quark) and *Hundred Days* (GCT), and favorite acting credits include Marcus in *Murder for Two* (Quark), W in *Lungs* (Quark) and Amy in *Motherhood the Musical* (GCT). As a music director, Eileen's recent productions include *Jagged Little Pill* and *Punk Rock Girl* (Playhouse). As a frequent collaborator with New Moon, Eileen composed original music for *Particle of Dread*, and was recognized for her music direction of the rock musical, *Lizzie*. She is thrilled to join this talented troupe and finally share the stage with BFF Kell Christie. "All my love to Mike."



**Gretchen Riem** (*Don*) is a lifelong theater lover, and is thrilled to make their New Moon debut in *Eureka Day*! As a teacher at Crosstown High, they have enjoyed directing productions such as *Into the Woods* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. While teaching in California, they adored bringing Shakespeare to life in student productions of *Macbeth*, *The Tempest*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. You may have recently seen Gretchen as Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar* at GCT. Coming up next Spring, they will be a part of *The Odd Couple* (Female Edition) at Theatre Memphis. Gretchen is excited to play Don in this hilariously awkward and timely play. "Thank you for supporting live theater!"



**Kristen Vandervort** (*Understudy for Suzanne*) is pleased to be working with such a wonderful cast and crew. She was last seen as Susie Monohan in *Wit* at GCT. Other credits include Lt. Cmdr. Joanne Galloway in *A Few Good Men* at Theatre Memphis and Laura Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* at GCT. She sends love and gratitude to her family and friends for their continued support.



**Kathy Zhou** (*Winter & Understudy for Meiko*) is thrilled to be making her Memphis stage debut in this production. Kathy was the sound designer for various local productions: *Antigone* (Ger-mantown Community Theatre), *Squirrels* (New Moon Theatre), and *Fools* (Rhodes Theatre Guild). Outside of Memphis theater, Kathy is an independent folk-pop pianist and singer-songwriter who regularly performs within and outside of Memphis. She recently completed an independently-booked 5-city tour spanning Chicago, New York City, Upstate New York, Montréal and Toronto (Canada).

NEW MOON  
THEATRE COMPANY

# PHASES

A STAGED READING SERIES

NEW MOON  
THEATRE COMPANY

## SERIES 2 - FALL 2026

ALL ADMISSION IS PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN

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By Zoe Senese-Grossberg  
Directed by Jari Head  
NOVEMBER 4, 2026

### THE MOST SPECTACULARLY LAMENTABLE TRIAL OF MIZ MARTHA WASHINGTON

By James Ijames  
Directed by Lymonte Thomas  
NOVEMBER 18, 2026

### LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE

By Jane Chambers  
Directed by Max Robinson  
DECEMBER 2, 2026

### THE DEATH OF ALAN CAMPBELL: A WILDE AFFAIR

A New Play  
by Savannah S. Miller  
Directed by Hunter Steele  
DECEMBER 9, 2026

### MARY BENNET'S LIVING

A New Play  
by Emily Draffen  
Directed by Christina Hernandez  
DECEMBER 16, 2026

Join us later this fall as we present plays that haven't been produced locally in the last decade, if ever. Featuring 2 premieres from local writers and perhaps get a first look at a future New Moon production!

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NEW MOON  
THEATRE COMPANY

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We hope you enjoy the show!

## ABOUT THE CREW

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**Melissa Andrews** (*Lighting Designer*) (she/her) is excited to start the new year with New Moon! Her recent credits include *The Wedding Singer* at Bartlett Performing Arts Center, *Junie B. Jones: The Musical* and *Tuna Christmas* at Circuit Playhouse, and *The Drowning Girls* for New Moon Theatre Company. Melissa is also a member of New Moon's board and the McCoy Theatre Coordinator at Rhodes College.



**Gene Elliott** (*Sound Designer, Video Graphics*) has designed the sound for many productions for New Moon such as *Collective Rage*, *Killer Joe*, *Orpheus Descending*, *Buried Child*, *Bug*, *'Night Mother*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, 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 in *King Lear*, for which he also 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.



**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 been Dramaturg for *The Revolutionists*, designed props for *The Minutes*, *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.lonetreelive.com](http://www.lonetreelive.com)



**Ashley Whitten Kopera** (*Costume Designer*) is a freelance costumer/performer who has designed for several theatres around town, most recently focusing on New Moon, BPACC 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. This past season, Ashley designed *The Drowning Girls* for New Moon, *Into the Woods* at Christian Brothers High School, and appeared as Sister Hubert in *Nunsense* at GCT, as well as the Rose Seller in *Oliver* at BPACC. Ashley returned to her Irish roots, playing Mrs. Paroo in Theatre Memphis' season opener, *The Music Man*.

# ABOUT THE CREW



**Patrice J. Nelms** (*Charge Artist*) last worked with New Moon as set designer for *Collective Rage*. After earning a BFA in Theatre Design & Technology from the Dobbins Conservatory of Theatre & Dance at Southeast Missouri State University in 2019. Favorite past designs include *As You Like It: A Musical* at UMemphis, & the world premiere of *Trivøya Gold* at Buck's Rock Creative & Performing Arts Camp. Patrice enjoys kiting, fiber arts, sculpture, & spending time with their husband, Jonathan, & their cat-sized dog, Legend.



**Sara Moseley** (*Poster Graphic Artist*) is honored and grateful to contribute something to this awesome institution. Responsible for the last two posters, *The Revolutionists* and *Collective Rage*, she returns to add a touch of childlike ephemera and humor to communicate the tone of *Eureka Day*. She is currently getting down to business on the next poster, stay tuned for *Men on Boats!* [@cakeslime](#)

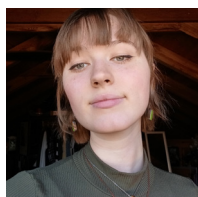


**Kate Peckham** (*Asst Director*) is excited to be on the other side of the stage! She was most recently seen onstage as Petunia in *Clown Bar* (LoneTree Live) (Ostrander Award Nominee). Other favorite roles include Bessie in *The Drowning Girls* (New Moon Theatre) and Deedra in *Always a Bridesmaid* (Theatre Memphis). In real life, Kate plays a Paralegal and teaches theatre to members of our neurodivergent community through A Stage For All Theatre Initiative at Germantown Community Theatre. “Big thanks to Kevin for this opportunity; and mom, dad, Christopher, and Matilda for always supporting my love of playing dress-up!”

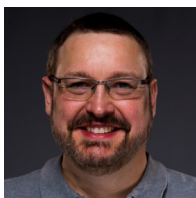
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## ABOUT THE CREW

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**Emmie Rachelle** (*Stage Manager*) (they/them) is happy to return as a stage manager for New Moon! Previous experience includes *Jubilee* at Hattiloo Theatre, “*sex/work*” with Playhouse on the Square, and *Collective Rage* with New Moon. Besides Stage Management, Emmie has performed in shows such as *Our Town* (The Stage Manager); *Much Ado About Nothing* (Benedick); and *Constellations* (Marianne), along with dabbling in directing and playwriting. Outside of theatre, Emmie enjoys crocheting, cooking for loved ones, and reading horror, mystery, and fantasy novels. Special thanks to Lymonte’ Thomas, Hunter Burton, Elijah Davidson, Gabriel “Gabby” Rogers, and Dylan Porter for their wonderful friendship and support!



**Tim Romine** (*TD/Set Construction*) (he/him) 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.



**Chris Sterling** (*Set Designer*) has designed the sets for *The Drowning Girls*, *The Minutes*, *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.

### **New Moon Theatre Company Board of Directors**

Melissa Andrews, Kevin Cochran,  
Kell Christie, Gene Elliott,  
Jeff Kirwan, Chris Sterling

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

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**Kevin Cochran** (*Director*) is a Memphis-based director, producer, and actor who serves on the Board of Directors for New Moon Theatre Company and as the director of our Phases Staged Reading Series. *Eureka Day* is the fifth production he has directed for New Moon, following *Killer Joe*, *The Pillowman*, *Shockheaded Peter* (Ostrander Nominations for Overall Production, Direction of a Musical, and 11 others), and *The Squirrels*. Other

select directing credits include Nick Dear's *Frankenstein*, *Wit*, and Kate Hamill's *Pride & Prejudice* at GCT, *To Kill a Mockingbird* at Theatre Memphis, and independent productions of *Far Away* and *Cock*. Select acting credits include 'Art' (Yvan), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Ly-sander/Peter Quince), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Slender), *The Normal Heart* (Bruce Niles), *As You Like It* (Touchstone), and *The Physicists* (Ernst Ernesti – Ostrander Award for Supporting Actor in a Drama). His work is dedicated to friends and family, both here and departed, with the most recent being his grandmothers, Joan Farino (1940 – 2026) and Margaret Yopp (1945-2026).



**Jonathan Spector** (Author) is a Tony Award-winning playwright based in Oakland, California, whose work has been produced on and off-Broadway, regionally and internationally. His plays include *Eureka Day* (2025 Best Revival: Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Drama League Award & Dorian Award); *This Much I Know* (Edgerton Award, Glickman Award, BATCC Award); *Birth-right*; *Best Available*; *Siesta Key*; and *Good. Better.*

*Best. Bested.* Jonathan's work has been produced with Manhattan Theatre Club, the Old Vic/Sonia Friedman Productions, Pasadena Playhouse, Hampstead Theatre, Miami New Drama, Colt Coeur, Theater J, Syracuse Stage, Asolo Rep, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre and Mosaic Theater, among others. He has been a MacDowell Fellow, Playwrights Foundation Resident Playwright, TheatreWorks Core Writer, Playwrights Center Core Writer, SPACE on Ryder Farm Resident and PlayPenn Haas Fellow. Jonathan is currently under commission with Manhattan Theatre Club, Roundabout Theatre Company and La Jolla Playhouse.

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**Madeline's Christmas  
DEC 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**



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

Bill Short, Memphis Brooks  
Museum of Art, Aaron James,  
Michael Jurkovic/POTS, University  
of Memphis Department of Theatre  
and Dance, All The Wonderful  
Eureka Day "Parents", The Ginger's  
Bread Co., Rhodes College, Playhouse  
on the Square, Theatre Memphis,  
Germantown Community Theatre.

Theatreworks would like to thank  
the following arts organizations that  
offer assistance through grants and  
arts programs.

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