



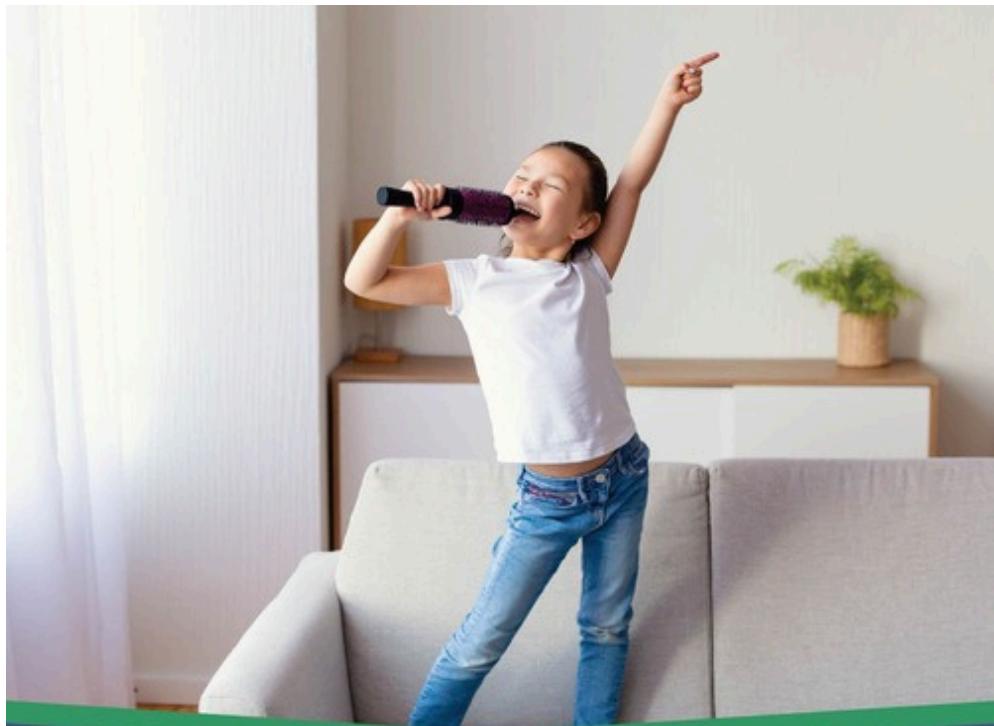
The central image is a close-up photograph of typewriter keys. The keys are dark and have various letters and symbols on them. Overlaid on this image is the word 'MISERY' in a large, white, distressed, serif font. The letters have a slightly grainy, weathered appearance.

by William Goldman

Based on the novel by Stephen King

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MISERY

by **William Goldman**

Based on the novel by Stephen King

Original Broadway production produced by Warner Bros.
Theatre Ventures in association with Castle Rock
Entertainment, Liz Glotzer, Mark Kaufman, Martin Shafer,
Raymond Wu

World Premiere produced at Bucks County Playhouse, New
Hope, PA (Jed Bernstein, Producing Director)

"MISERY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)"

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Production Team

Karla Morner Fishburn Director
Joiya Fishburn Assistant Director / Dramaturg
Katelyn Wilson Stage Manager
Eric Ranke Assistant Stage Manager
Kendall Kotcher Fight Director
Hunter Watson Set Designer
Katie Asher Costume Designer
Alex Warren Props Lead
Bill Fishburn Lighting Designer
Tanner Presswood Sound Designer

Special Thanks

Coreene Kreiser
Paul Stebleton from Landmark Books

Cast Biographies



Elon Cameron *she/they* (Annie Wilkes) Occupation: Mostly retired Acupuncturist. Previously at OTP: *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (Cecile)
Elon Cameron portrays Annie with a nod to Stephen King's inspiration—his addiction to cocaine. A storyteller for three decades (Word, Minneapolis Fringe; Here:Say), Elon is mostly retired from acupuncture and now works primarily as a coach, helping people create the lives they want. Elon teaches coaching, studies metaphysics, and enjoys collaborating with the great mystery. Currently focused on writing, Elon is thrilled to return to the OTP stage. This marks a sweet homecoming to the theater. Stage credits include *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (1991), *Dykes and the City* (Bailiwick, 2001). Screen credits include *The Undergrad* (2003) and *Work in Progress* (2020). A number one groover on life (thank you, Lynda Barry), forever practicing art and craft as devotion, Elon is grateful to everyone; cast, crew, and all who make OTP what it is.



Tom Kramer (Paul Sheldon) Previously at OTP: *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Chris Bean)
Misery marks Tom's second appearance on the OTP stage. He previously was involved in the OTP production of *The Play that Goes Wrong*, in the spring of 2024; although he has been advised by his attorney to make clear that none of it was his fault. Prior to his extended hiatus from live theatre, Tom appeared in numerous productions at Beloit College (Beloit, WI), the Belfry Theatre (William's Bay, WI), the Sunshine Dinner Playhouse (Champaign, IL), as well as appearing in radio and television commercials not memorable enough to be included here. Tom can also be heard in several productions with Jabberwocky Audio Theatre (www.jabberaudio.com). When not exploring the continent by unicycle, Tom and his wife, Mandy, are caretakers to at least 2 dogs (number subject to change at any time), three cats and an undisclosed number of chickens.



Chase A. Mead *he/him* (Buster) Occupation: Machinist. OTP Debut!
This marks the first show Chase has been a part of with Old Town Playhouse. In his free time, Chase enjoys video games among other seated activities. He dedicates this show to his wonderful girlfriend Cassidy, without whom he surely would not make it far.

A Note from the Director...

Since 2020 and the pandemic, mental health has come to the forefront in discussions. Isolation challenged how we see the world and remote interactions via echo chambers of social media became the new normal. Even after social distancing recommendations were discontinued, the effects on mental health continue to be felt every day.

Misery has become a way to explore how social isolation and being left in a world of only our own thoughts can destabilize our mental health. Annie Wilkes is a vivid and chilling illustration of how easy it is to lose the ability to empathize with others and completely lose control when we are left alone. She is terrifying because we can see our devolved selves in her. She is unpredictable and unhinged in all the worst ways with the person she cares most for in the world. Her mental health is extremely frayed at best and nonexistent at its worst. Annie is an example of an unstable mind being allowed and encouraged to devalue another human's very existence for her own benefit.

Recent events have also reflected the importance mental health should have in our society. Every day there is a new story of horror about how one person can upend an individual's / family's / community's world in an instant. One moment of desperation is all it takes to recognize that taking care of one's mental health should be as prioritized as taking care of one's physical health.

Recently, the world lost one of our best storytellers and his wife to an act of violence caused by addiction and the mental instability that goes hand-in-hand with it. He also happened to direct the iconic movie *Misery* starring Kathy Bates and James Caan. A production of *Misery* written by the same man who wrote the screenplay with Stephen King feels unfortunately appropriately timed. And so I'd like to dedicate the production to the pursuit of mental health and the memory of Rob R-E-I- "no N" - E-R.

**- Karla Morner Fishburn
Director**

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post-show survey.**



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donation here.**



Creative Team Biographies

Karla Morner Fishburn *she/her* (Director) is proud to be directing her third show at OTP, following *The Christmas Schooner* (2023) and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (2023). Karla is a Utilization Review Nurse by day, and theatre volunteer extraordinaire by night with involvement in multiple areas of Old Town Playhouse. She would like to thank all her amazing supporters for getting her through a rough year. She'd also like to thank her crew and cast for being a dream to work with and especially her kids (Joiya and JR) for being so helpful and encouraging. "You both make me so proud every day!"

Katelyn Wilson *she/her* (Stage Manager) has enjoyed working behind the scenes this season on simultaneous productions, most recently assistant directing the Young Company production of *The Hobbit* in January. In addition to her job as a Special Events Coordinator, being on stage and serving in roles backstage, Katelyn is also a member of the OTP Artistic Committee. Her perpetual long days are not possible without the support of her fiancé Andy and laundry-list of friends that help keep her smiling and caffeinated! *Evil laughing from the booth*

Eric Ranke *he/him* (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Learning & Development Specialist, who also contributes in many ways to OTP. Eric is so grateful to all of his number one fans for supporting him both on stage and off. When he's not working backstage or performing, he serves as Co-Tech Chair for Stage Management and as a member of the Artistic Committee. He thanks Katelyn for bringing him along on this journey, and the entire production team for making this experience delightfully un-oogie.

Kendall Kotcher (Fight Director) *she/her* (Fight Director) holds a BFA in Acting from Michigan State University and has been acting/teaching professionally since 2016! She's an advanced actor combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and is certified in eight disciplines: unarmed, rapier & dagger, single sword, broadsword, broadsword and shield, knife, quarterstaff, and firearms—with a recommended (A+ pass) in 5 of them! Kendall is a Marketing Manager by trade and has most recently been seen on the OTP stage in *The Rocky Horror Show* (Riff Raff), *The Addams Family* (Pugsley), *Waitress* (Director), and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Wardrobe).

Production Team

Set Construction/Painting: Kerr Anderson, Jeff Kroeger, Colin Bohash, Collier Case, Bob Coltman, John Herbst, Charles Schmitt, Jill Beauchamp, Barbara Disborough, Judy Heffron, Lauri Mannion, Annie Moeser, Janet Stone, Michelle Zastwany

Props / Set Dressing: Terri Heffron, Corenne Kreiser, Jason Kreiser

Sound: Jules Putnam

Lighting Team: Colleen Hill-Rakunas, Allison Goldsmith

Backstage Crew: Mindy Cotner Loomis, Josiah Starr, Nan Worthington, Terri Heffron, Corenne Kreiser

Projections: Sam Whalen, Tanner Presswood, Nik Van Wagner



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Dear Friends and Supporters,

For 65 years, Old Town Playhouse has grown along with the Traverse region. Today, **vibrant** and **robust** describe our programming facets that span different formats of education and dramatic entertainment. We are excited about all that our **65th anniversary season** encompasses – more MainStage shows, the return of Studio Theatre to our newly renovated Mary Schmuckal Theatre, Aged To Perfection on-site and off-site performances and several special performances at off-site locations. There is truly something for everyone this season.

Our Young Company educational arm also offers **learning** and **fun** for all ages from five to eighteen. In addition to the on-stage opportunities, there are tech classes and workshops. Young people find their passion, make friends and develop life skills such as teamwork, planning and creative thinking.

OTP strives to be the best it can be. This starts with a base of core values that guide our efforts: Creativity, Quality, Variety, Inclusiveness, Integrity and Viability. We enrich our region. We welcome everyone. We connect the community. We nurture transformation.

The arts are not a luxury but rather they are an essential part of thriving economies and communities. The breadth of impact ranges from individuals to communities at large.

Theatre is a team sport – and our team of volunteers, both on stage and backstage, as well as donors and sponsors, are what fuel our success. **Thank you** for supporting the Playhouse and making wonderful theatre possible in our community.

We are grateful to our **hundreds of volunteers** that do the work and give passionately of their time. And we are thankful to our donors and sponsors who fund the programming. OTP couldn't be the outstanding place that it is without them!

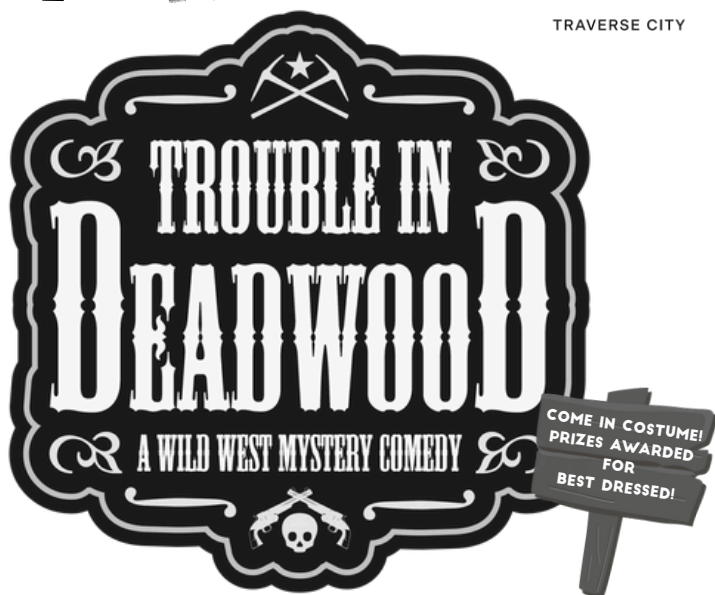
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Deb Jackson

Deb Jackson
Executive Director





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