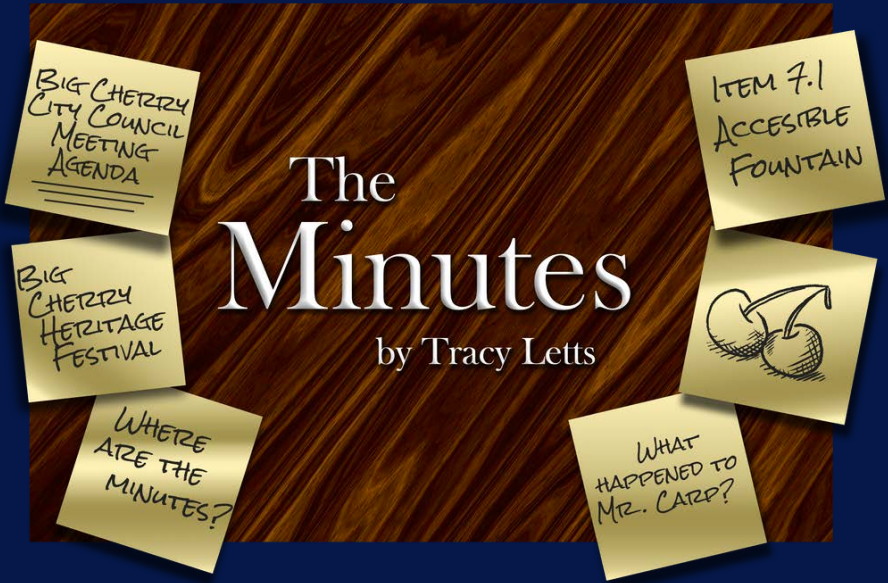




November 14 -22, 2025

Access
online program



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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.

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Cast

Mr. Peel	Christoph Clark
Mayor Superba	Ed Ronco
Ms. Johnson	Brighton Shea
Mr. Blake	Anthony Morgan
Mr. Breeding	Tom Czarny
Mr. Hanratty	Eric Ranke
Mr. Assalone	Steve Ford
Ms. Innes	Joelle Lynn (Mabey) Lankford
Ms. Matz	Stephanie Johnston
Mr. Oldfield	Jan Dalton
Mr. Carp	Eric Fegan



Christoph
Clark



Tom
Czarny



Jan
Dalton



Eric
Fegan



Steve
Ford



Stephanie
Johnston



Joelle Lynn
(Mabey) Lankford



Anthony
Morgan



Eric
Ranke



Ed
Ronco



Brighton
Shea

Special Thanks

Deb Jackson
Chuck and Annie Moeser
Melissa May
Bill Fishburn
Oliver Kohl
Conchetta Aronowitz



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A Note from the Director...

"I'm so excited to see a play that deals with politics!" said no one ever... except Aristotle. We are living in a time when more and more people are saying, "I don't like talking about politics," which is weird considering everything from our quality of life to what we purchase is political. So of course a play about politics is the perfect theatrical choice for Old Town Playhouse to be presenting to the community, and I couldn't agree more.

I am so excited to be a part of this presentation of Tracy Letts' *The Minutes*. The dialogue is sharp and funny, and the story is more relevant today than it was eight years ago when it premiered in Chicago at the Steppenwolf Theatre. From day one, everyone involved with this production understood what Tracy Letts was saying. We all have different and varying political beliefs, but we all understood what Tracy was writing about, and wanted to help tell this story.

Theatre is a conversation the playwright has with an audience, that's interpreted by a director, and performed by a cast. (No wonder miscommunication is so rampant in theatre companies.) But these conversations about politics are important to have, miscommunications and all. By coming to this performance you are showing that you are willing to listen to someone else's thoughts, ideas, opinions and beliefs, something we as a society have a hard time doing right now. But by being here now, you are telling everyone that you want to be a part of the conversation that Tracy Letts is starting.

The themes and ideas Tracy Letts brings up in *The Minutes* are important for us to consider and discuss with others, because this story is about community and what kind of society we want to live in. What you take from tonight's story is what you'll take into our community. So as you watch tonight's production I encourage you to take something for yourself and take something to share with your community. Thank you for your support of the arts and community theatre.

Enjoy the show!
Aaron Wineman, Director



Production Team

Aaron Wineman Director
Sam Whalen Stage Manager
Chuck Moeser Producer
Bree Pedersen Costumes
Wendy Roberts Props
Chelsea Kaye Lighting Designer
Bekah Wineman Sound Designer



**Please take our
post-show survey.**

Cast Biographies

Christoph Clark (Mr. Peel) Occupation: Data Visualization Engineer. OTP Debut!

Christoph is returning to the stage after a 25-year hiatus from acting. His time in between has been filled with building software, exploring the world, feeding his passions for math and science, and raising a family.

Tom Czarny (Mr. Breeding) Occupation: Retired Educator. Previously at OTP: *Marjorie Prime* (Jon), *The Father* (Father), *Waiting for Godot* (Pozzo), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Beast)

Tom has appeared in more than twenty Old Town Playhouse productions since 1989, plus a few movies here and there. "Working with this marvelous cast and crew to bring Tracy Letts' essential play to life is a joy that time cannot wither nor custom stale..." For 24 of the 36 years he has been involved at OTP, it has been Tom's honor to dedicate his efforts to his wonderful daughter, Camille.

Jan Dalton (Mr. Oldfield) Occupation: Retired. Previously at OTP: *Circle Mirror Transformation* (James), *Indecent* (Otto), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Richard), *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror #4)

Jan is excited to be back in the OTP building working with new actors who know nothing of his 30 years of Northern Michigan Theatre. He and his beautiful wife still live in lovely Leelanau County, but only when they're not traveling. "Cheers!"

Eric Fegan he/him (Mr. Carp) Occupation: Musician. Previously at OTP: *The Addams Family* (Vocal/Music Director), *The Wedding Singer* (Vocal/Music Director); *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Beast)

Eric is a local piano accompanist and singer with a background in musical theatre. Since returning to his hometown, he has found a new home at OTP. He is very excited to be doing his first straight play after many years of musicals. When not performing, Eric is usually with his wife, Julia, and their dogs - and often deep in a forest somewhere. The Fegan house is eager to soon bring their not-yet-fully-cooked little one into the Playhouse family!

Steve Ford he/him (Mr. Assalone) Occupation: High School Teacher. Previously at OTP: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Ensemble), *Waitress* (Earl), *Something Rotten* (Brother Jeremiah), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Mr. Krabs)

Steve is a high school math teacher, a loving husband, and the best stepdad in the universe. Outside of theater, he enjoys video games, reading, lifting weights and spending time with his cats Katy and Bonnie. He adores the Old Town Playhouse, is eternally thankful for its impact on his life, and hopes you feel the same way too. Steve would like to thank Claire and Archie for just about everything.

Stephanie Johnston (Ms. Matz) Occupation: Program Manager, Munson Family Medicine Residency. *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Assistant Stage Manager), *Lend Me A Soprano* (Bellhop), *The Wedding Singer* (Angie), *Something Rotten!* (Ensemble)

Inspired to audition by having served on a local school board, a church council, and now OTP's Board of Trustees, Stephanie is thrilled to be on stage with this talented cast, and hopes to create something audiences will remember. By day, she wrangles schedules and supports physicians at Munson's family medicine residency; and on weekends, she's out adventuring with her husband, Eric. Stephanie's theater journey began at age six at Grand Rapids Civic Theater. Since joining OTP in 2022 (after having starred in the role of 'super involved Mom' for those K-12 years), she's taken the stage in four productions and lent a hand behind the scenes in several more.

Cast Biographies

Joelle Lynn (Mabey) Lankford *she/her* (Ms. Innes) Occupation: Visitor Information Specialist. Previously at OTP: *Radium Girls* (Harriet Roeder), *Marjorie Prime* (Tess), *Elf: The Musical* (Office Co-Worker/Ensemble), *Calendar Girls* (Brenda)

Joelle returns to the Old Town Playhouse stage with gratitude, grit, and a life stitched together by story. By day, she designs events and excursions that welcome and delight; in the off-script hours, she's chasing meaning, memory, and a little stage magic. This performance is for her boys—Zach, Aaron, and Micah—whose courage, creativity, and love light the path, and for Noah, whose quiet rhythm still pulses in her heart. Endless love to Scott, who holds it all together every time she says, “I can’t—I have rehearsal.” Joelle believes in the power of shared stories to heal, connect, and celebrate—and she’s honored to share this one with you.

Anthony Morgan (Mr. Blake) Occupation: Crisis Peer Support Specialist. OTP Debut!

Anthony is thrilled to be making his stage debut in *The Minutes*. Anthony moved from Chicago 33 years ago and has built a life here. He enjoys biking, cooking, and spending time with his family – and now – rehearsing for his first production as an actor! He’s grateful to the cast and crew for such a welcoming first theatre experience.

Eric Ranke *he/him* (Mr. Hanratty) Occupation: Education Specialist. Previously at OTP: *The Addams Family* (Uncle Fester), *Waitress* (Stage Manager), *The Wedding Singer* (Stage Crew), *Disney’s Beauty & the Beast* (Lumiere)

Eric is so grateful to have found his place at Old Town Playhouse. Whether performing on stage, working backstage, or serving on the Artistic Committee, theatre continues to bring him such joy and lasting friendships. He would like to thank Aaron and the production team for the chance to be part of *The Minutes*. This show is so powerful and important, and he hasn’t stopped thinking about it since he first read it last year. He would also like to thank his castmates for making this such an enjoyable experience and looks forward to many more shows at Old Town Playhouse.

Ed Ronco (Mayor Superba) Occupation: Journalist. Previously at OTP: *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder* (The D’Ysquith Family), *The Addams Family* (Producer), *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth/Maurice), *Something Rotten!* (Robin)

It’s hard to overstate how grateful Ed Ronco is for the Old Town Playhouse, and he certainly won’t accomplish it here. But know that he’s thankful for the opportunity to act, for the friends he’s found here at OTP, and for a loving partner (David) who always encourages Ed to chase his love for theater. A firm believer in the power of storytelling, Ed hopes you enjoy the story told tonight.

Brighton Shea (Ms. Johnson) Occupation: Student, Arizona State University. Previously at OTP: *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* (Ensemble/Ms. Evangeline Barley), *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Carol) Brighton is thrilled to be in her second season at OTP! She is currently studying Organizational Leadership and Product Management; however, her heart has always lived on the stage. Some of her roles prior to being involved at OTP include Sunday in the Park with George (Louise), and a short play titled *Stuck with Lemons* (Jill). She is very grateful for the compassionate, cheerful OTP community and for the opportunity to bring the role of Ms. Johnson to life.

Creative Team Biographies

Aaron Wineman *he/him* (Director) is a graduate of Central Michigan University, where he majored in Theatre and Interpretation. He currently serves as the Studio Theatre Production Manager and Facilities Caretaker for Old Town Playhouse. Aaron has also served in the capacity of Director, Make-up Designer, Young Company Director, and Actor at OTP. When not at the Playhouse, Aaron spends a lot of his free time composing music, writing, and playing bass guitar. Aaron would like to thank his friends and family for their unwavering love and support.

Sam Whalen (Assistant Director / Stage Manager) Working for Hagerty in the Training and Development (Canada and United States) Department during the day allows Sam to offer her talents to OTP by night. She has been on stage in productions of *Radium Girls*, *Marian: The True Tale of Robinhood*, and *Cry It Out* and has served as choreographer for last season's highly successful *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*. The love of theater since an early age led to Sam attending Alma College for theater and dance. That love has continued on from there with several different community theaters since graduating.



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A portrait of Leanne Chouinard, a woman with short, styled white hair and blue eyes, wearing a light-colored top and pearl earrings. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. A name tag is visible on her chest.

Leanne Chouinard
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