

BABES WITH BLADES THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

ARE YOU AWAKE?

BABES WITH BLADES THEATRE COMPANY

Is a proud member of



BWBTC'S 2024 PROGRAMMING IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY

The City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs & Special Events
CityArts Grant

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

The Illinois Arts Council Agency General Operating Grant

The Paul M. Angell Family Foundation



GAYLORD & DOROTHY
DONNELLEY FOUNDATION



PAUL M. ANGELL
FAMILY FOUNDATION



proudly presents William Shakespeare's

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Director	Lauren Katz
Fight Director	Jillian Leff*
Scenic Designer	Marcus Klein
Lighting Designer	Laura J. Wiley
Costume Designer	Victoria Jablonski
Props Design	Persephone Lawrence
Sound Design	Hannah Foerschler
Intimacy Choreographer	Sydney René Cox
Stage Manager	Esau Andaleon
Technical Director	Line Bower*
Production Manager	Rose Hamill
Text Coach	Carrie Hardin*
Asst. Director	Kelsey Kovacevich*
Asst. Fight Director	Madison Hill*
Asst. Stage Manager	Mikayla De Guzman
Production Assistant	Payton Shearn

** Denotes BWBTC Ensemble Member*

There will be one ten minute intermission.

This production uses realistic staged violence in the telling of the story.

**PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING OF ANY KIND IS
STRICTLY PROHIBITED**

CAST

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Hermia	Cat Evans
Demetrius	Kim Fukawa*
Starveling	Jessica Goforth
Theseus / Titania	Jalyn Greene
Peter Quince.....	Morgan Manasa*
Lysander.....	Izis Mollinedo*
Egeus / Puck	Hazel Monson*
Snout	Lauren Paige*
Snug	Logan UhiwaiO'Alohamailani Rasmussen
Hippolyta / Oberon.....	Hayley Rice*
Helena	Patty Roache
Flute	Cee Scallen
Nick Bottom	Sarah Scanlon
Understudies	Christine Chang, Suzanne Glover, Jessica Goforth Mahal Gonzales-Childress, Jennifer Mohr*, Lauren Paige* Logan UhiwaiO'Alohamailani Rasmussen and Cee Scallen

* Denotes BWBTC Ensemble Member

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A funny thing happens when you sign on to direct a Shakespeare play. No matter the circumstance, there's always one question that everyone asks: "*How is this production going to be different?*"

A Midsummer Night's Dream is my favorite Shakespeare play. Like for so many, it was my first, and it's one that I have continued to return to at various points in my life. Part of why I love it so much is because every time I experience it, something new resonates depending on where I am in my personal journey.

As I revisited this play as an adult, I was struck by the relationships. This is a story about love. Everyone is just trying to be seen; however, something keeps getting in the way. Pride. Fear of commitment. Feeling silenced. Whatever it is, no one is quite getting what they want, and no one knows how to ask for it. Shakespeare leave us with the questions: *What are we willing to do to be seen, and what stands in the way? How far will we go for love, and at what cost?*

And so, we run away to the forest. “Puck’s Playground” as we have been calling it. A world in which anything is possible. Where there is a fine line between dream and nightmare, and the in-between is just chaos. All of these characters are put to the test as they come toe to toe with their deepest desires – it’s just a matter of what they do with it on the other side. Shakespeare leaves us with yet another question: *If all limitations were lifted, what would you say?*

And so, I invite you into our dreamscape. Maybe you too will remember a journey with a loved one that took a turn. Perhaps you will reflect on your deepest desires, or even have a little fun in the chaos. Maybe, like our characters, you will learn a little something along the way about how you wish to be seen, and how to find the courage to advocate for that.

But to return to the question, “*How is this production going to be different?*” I think the best I can do is throw a question back at you. For a story that can have such personal resonance to anyone who experiences it, *maybe you should tell me?*

WHO’S WHO



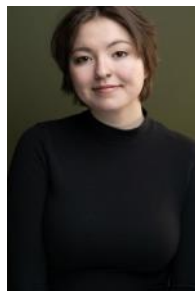
CHRISTINE CHANG (they/she; US Lysander/Flute) is incredibly excited to make their BWBTC debut! Previous Chicago credits include work with Prop Thtr and Jackalope. Christine is a graduate of University of Wisconsin-Madison where they received their BA in Theatre & Drama. They also trained at Black Box Studios and completed the ACADEMY program. In their free time, they enjoy video games, music, and indoor rock climbing. Thank you to Mimi for tolerating my 3am memorization runs.



CAT EVANS (They/She/Him; Hermia) is a 3 time Jeff Nominee and Chicago based Actor. They received their BFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University. Notable works: *The S Paradox* (BWBTC), Tad in *5th City* (MMPACT), *Jane* (Idle Muse), *Joan and the Fire* (Trap Door), *Medea Material* (Trap Door), *The Crucible* (Edge of the Wood). www.catrinaevans.com



KIM FUKAWA (she/her; Demetrius) is a native Chicagoan and has been seen with such companies as Lifeline Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, The House Theatre, and The Gift Theatre. She is a longtime Artistic Affiliate with BWBTC, most recently appearing in *Richard III* and is excited to be back for more Shakespeare!



SUZANNE GLOVER (they/them; US Helena/Snout/Snug) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist from Madison, Alabama. They graduated from Long Island University Post with a BFA in Acting and worked with Shakespeare on the Sound before moving to Chicago, where they are now a member of @fowlplaychicago. They are thrilled to be working with BWBTC for the first time and thank family and friends for their constant support!



JESSICA GOFORTH (she/her; Starveling/Titania's Fairy/ US Demetrius) is delighted to work with BWBTC for the first time. Recent credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Strawdog Theatre), *Anne of Green Gables* (The Morton Arboretum), *Cymbeline* (Midsommer Flight), *Jeeves Intervenes* (First Folio Theatre) and *Antigone* (Redtwist Theatre). Television credits include *Chicago Fire* (NBC). Thank you to BWBTC and to Dennis for their support.



MAHAL GONZALES-CHILDRESS (they/any; US Theseus/Titania/Starveling) is ecstatic to make their BWBTC and Chicago debut! They recently graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a BFA in Acting after getting their AA in Theatre Performance from Parkland College. Recent credits include *The Good Person of Setzuan* (Wang), Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (Madeline True), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Puppeteer; U/S Seymour/Audrey II/ Urchins). In their free time, they love watching cartoons and playing the ukulele. Many thanks to their family and friends for all their love and support!



JALYN GREENE (they/she; Theseus/Titania) is thrilled to be making their BWBTC debut! Previous theatre credits include *Antigone* (Court Theatre), *No Child* (Mississippi Bend Players); *Queen of Sock Pairing*, *We are Pussy Riot* (Red Tape Theatre); *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *Breath, Boom* (Eclipse Theatre); *How to Pick a Lock* (Rhino Fest); *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Raven Theatre). Detroit born and Chicago based, they received their BFA from Michigan State University. Represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent!

Jalyngreene.com

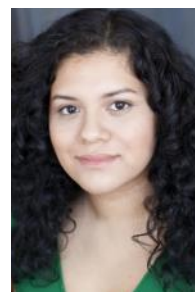


MORGAN MANASA (she/her; Peter Quince/Titania's Fairy) is a company member with BWBTC where she was last directed *The S Paradox*. Her acting credits include *After Miss Julie* (Focal Point Theatre Co.), *Best For Winter* and *Upon the Shore* (Idle Muse), *The Women of Lockerbie* (AstonRep Theatre Co.), *Henry V* (First Folio), *Spanx You Very Much* (Knife & Fork), *Vanishing Points* and *The Wonder* (Point of Contention). Morgan is also a freelance graphic designer/illustrator & helicopter cat mom. www.morganmanasa.com



JENNIFER MOHR (she/her; US Hermia/Quince) is so excited to be joining BWBTC on stage again. Previously she was a part of the cast of *The Lady Demands Satisfaction* and has designed costumes for several other BWBTC shows. Jennifer has spent the last nine years as a teaching artist and performing with various theatres in Chicago including First Folio, Birch House Immersive, Artemisia, Idle Muse, and Midsommer Flight. She is a proud ensemble member at Idle Muse Theatre Company, as well as with Laughingstock

Theatre, performing Commedia del'Arte around Chicago! Jennifer is also an enthusiastic artistic affiliate of BWBTC. So many thanks to her friends and family for their constant support.



IZIS MOLLINEDO (they/them; Lysander) is a queer, gender-fluid, Latine actor from Chicago. They have also been a singer and musician for longer than they have been acting. Izis graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2014 with a BFA in Acting. Since then they have worked with Midsommer Flight, Pegasus Theatre, Strawdog Theatre Company, The Unrehearsed Shakespeare Company, The Hypocrites, and Signal Ensemble Theatre.

Izis became a company member with BWBTC in 2017. This is their fourth production with BWBTC (and third Shakespeare production with the company). With the state of the world as it is Izis would like to ask you to please remember to be gentle with yourself, be kind, and continue to stand up & fight for what's right. Fight hard, and love harder.



HAZEL MONSON (she/her; Egeus / Puck) has worked as an actor, writer, director, front of house professional, combat instructor, and administrator for such organizations as Factory Theater, The Neo-Futurists, The House Theatre, Raven Theatre, The Artistic Home, Steppenwolf Theatre, Mercy Street Theatre Company, Next Theatre, Pride Films & Plays, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The League of Chicago Theatres, Lookingglass, R&C Collective, and Spartan Theatre Company in addition to having worked as a staff writer for the podcast *PleasureTown*. When she is not onstage she enjoys baking, pretending she knows how to play DND, digging for double underhooks, hooking off the job, and being a loving mother of two (cats.)



LAUREN PAIGE (she/her; Snout/Titania's Fairy/US Hippolyta/ Oberon) is a Chicago based actor/ comedian. She received a BFA in Classical Acting from Southern Utah University. She also has spent the last ten years studying improv and comedy under a number of talented mentors/companies such as: David Razowsky, Rachael Mason, and The Second City Conservatory. Lauren is social media manager and ensemble member with BWBTC. Recent roles include *What the Weird Sisters Saw* (Idle Muse), *Jane: Abortion and the Underground* (Idle Muse), *Think Fast Jordan Chase* (Filament Theater), *Richard III* (BWBTC), and *The Tempest* (Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival). For updates on upcoming projects and open-mics she is dragging herself to in the late hours of the night please follow, @rennpaige. Thank you to Axel for all your love and support.



LOGAN UHIWAO'ALOHAMAILANI RASMUSSEN (she/her; Snug/Titania's Fairy/US Bottom) is thrilled to be returning to BWBTC for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*! She is a native Hawaiian theatre artist, and environmental educator based in Chicago. You can call her Aloha! Recent Chicago credits include *Cymbeline* (Midsommer Flight), *Richard III* (BWBTC), *Kasha of Kaimuki* (Nothing Without a Company), and *Krugozor* (Theatre Evolve). Regionally, she has worked with Great River

Shakespeare Festival and Hawaii Shakespeare Festival. She holds a BFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University, and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent, Inc. Aloha is a Public Engagement Facilitator at Shedd Aquarium where she gets to share her passion for environmental conservation through informal education. In her free time she volunteers to do habitat restoration with the Cook County Forest Preserves and binge-watching fantasy shows. IG: @logan.rasmussen



HAYLEY RICE (she/her; Hippolyta/Oberon) is thrilled to be performing on stage with her home company. Other Chicago-Area credits include *Neither Have I Wings to Fly*, *Silent Sky*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *The Rainmaker* & *The Merchant of Venice* (First Folio Theater), *Zombie Broads* (The Factory Theater), *The Women of Lockerbie* (AstonRep Theater), *Steel Magnolias* (Ignite Theater), *The Women* (Circle Theatre), *Dream of a Common Language* (Prologue Theatre Company), *The Wonder: A Woman Keeps a Secret* (Point of Contention Theatre), *The Nerdy Girl and the Intergalactic Dog* (Rascal Children's Theatre), *For Love of the Nightingale* (LiveWire Theater), and *Suddenly Last Summer* (Illinois Theatre Center). Hayley is Artistic Director of BWBTC. You can find out more about what Hayley is currently up to at HayleyRice.com.



PATTY ROACHE (they/them; Helena) is an interdisciplinary theater and dance artist hailing from Detroit, MI. They were most recently seen in Chicago as Chiron/Ensemble in *The Lightning Thief Musical* (Skokie Theater) and Queen Margaret in *Richard III* (BWBTC). They are a company member and resident choreographer with the interactive dance spectacle *Queer Dance Freakout* as well as the librettist and original director for *D[x]n Pasquale: A New LGBTQ+ Opera*. IG: @patty_roache



CEE SCALLEN (they/them; Flute/Titania's Fairy/US Puck) is honored to make their BWBTC debut! They are a theatre artist, arts educator, and Black Cat Theatre co-founder. They have a decade of performance experience and theatrical training from the Guthrie Theater, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, the National Theatre Institute, and Moscow Art Theatre. As a passionate arts educator, Cee teaches with Stages Chicago and Imagination Theater. They yearn to make inclusive, innovative, and intentional theatre that strives to make a social impact. Cee is proud to be represented by Talent X

Alexander. Much love and thanks to their friends, teachers, chosen family, and Cori, who have supported them and made them the artist they are today!
www.cscallen.com



SARAH SCANLON (she/her; Nick Bottom) is thrilled to back with BWBTC after last being seen in, *The Last Daughter of Oedipus*. A multi-disciplinary artist, her most recent acting role was in Shakespeare's *As you Like It* (Jaques) with the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. Other acting credits of note include NDSF, the New York Fringe Fest, A.R.T., Lifeline Theatre, Akvavit, Factory Theater and *The Conspirators*. Sarah holds an M.F.A. in Acting from the Moscow Art Theatre School (A.R.T./Harvard Affiliated) and is a certified Intimacy Director whose work has been seen at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Paramount Theatre, Drury Lane, Kokandy Productions, and Milwaukee Rep, among others. She has also intimacy coordinated for *The Chi*, *Emperor of Ocean Park*, *Shining Girls*, *Fargo*, *Chicago Fire*, *Somebody Somewhere*, and others. Find her at sarahscanlon.com or on instagram @sarapodisrex

PRODUCTION TEAM

ESAU ANDALEON (he/him; Stage Manager) is excited to be working with BWBTC again! Esau is a proud Filipino-American stage manager, stagehand, voice actor, writer, and game master. Stage Management credits include *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Richard III* (BWBTC). Scenic construction credits include *Humperdinck's Hänsel und Gretel* (Bienen School of Music) and *A Mid-Course Correction & Interplay* (On the Spot). Esau is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago with a BA in Technical Theater. Thanks to my family, friends, and BWBTC.

LINE BOWER (they/them; Technical Director) is a Chicago-based technical director, carpenter, and scenic painter. They received their BA in Theatre Technology & Design and Stage Combat from Columbia College Chicago. Above all else, they are a proud ensemble member of BWBTC! Favorite TD credits include: *Port of Entry* (Albany Park Theatre Project), *That Must Be the Entrance to Heaven* (Visión Latino), *The S Paradox* (BWBTC), and *Jane: Abortion and the Underground* (Idle Muse). Additionally, they've been a regular carpenter at Northlight Theatre since 2022. You can catch them at carpentry overhire calls throughout the city, or carrying loose pieces of lumber on the CTA.

SYDNEY RENÉ COX (she/her; Intimacy Director) is thrilled to make her BWBTC debut! Previous Intimacy credits in Chicago include work with Oil Lamp, Remy Bumpo, The Once and Future Festival, and Rejected Sequel Theater. Regional Intimacy credits includes ART4. Film Intimacy credits include work with DePaul University graduate and undergraduate programs, GhostBat Productions, and various independent projects. Sydney is also an actor, with previous Chicago credits spanning work with Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Interrobang Theatre Project, and Chicago Dramatists. In her free time, Sydney loves learning to play tennis and write articles for Chicago-based media outlet, The Everygirl. She is proudly represented by Actors Talent Group.

MIKAYLA DE GUZMAN (she/her; Assistant Stage Manager) is an actor, stage manager, and playwright. As a graduate of Loyola University Chicago, previous credits include *Coming of Stars*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Polaroid Stories*, *SOMEWHERE*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. She has since worked on *Beyond The Garden Gate* (The Impostors Theatre Co.), *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (Three Crows), *BECHDEL FEST 9* (Broken Nose Theatre), *Pocket Playfest* (Pocket Theatre VR), *THE KASHA OF KAIMUKI* (NwAc), *Hershel & The Hanukkah Goblins* (Strawdog Theatre Co.), and *Attempts on Her Life* (TUTA Theatre). Her free time consists of baking, traveling, bubble tea, and naps. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.

HANNAH FOERSCHLER (she/her; Sound Design) is a Chicago-based sound designer and musician. She holds an MA in Sound Arts & Industries from Northwestern University and a BA in Music from Kenyon College, and she apprenticed with the Purple Rose Theatre Company during their 2015-2016 season. Hannah is currently the Audio Manager for Theater & Performance Studies at the University of Chicago and a proud member of the Theatrical Sound Designers & Composers Association. Selected sound design credits: *Plaid As Hell*, *Women of 4G* (BWBTC); *The Kelly Girls* (The Factory Theater, Jeff nomination); *Man of the People* (Stage Left Theatre); 13th Annual Living Newspaper Festival (Jackalope Theatre Company); *Slow Food* (Third Avenue PlayWorks, Sturgeon Bay, WI); *The Tasters*, *Laura And The Sea* (Rivendell Theatre Ensemble).

ROSE HAMILL (she/her; Production Manager) is a freelance production manager who has worked with multiple Chicago storefront theatres; The New Colony, The Factory Theater, Wildclaw Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, and Firebrand Theatre among them. From 2018-2022 she served as the Managing Director of Broken Nose Theatre, where she has either stage or production managed their productions of *At the Table*, *Plainclothes*, *Girl in the Red Corner*,

& *After the Blast* among others. Rose is excited to be back again with BWBTC after serving as PM for *The S Paradox* earlier this year. She holds a B.A. in Technical Theatre from Columbia College Chicago, with minors as a Teaching Artist and in Arts Administration and completed a Philanthropy and Nonprofit Organization Management certificate from Northwestern University in 2023.

CARRIE HARDIN (she/her; Text Coach) is pleased to be back with BWBTC after last working on *The Duchess of Malfi*. Other BWBTC credits include *Richard III*, *Henry V*, *The Good Fight*, and *The Lady Demands Satisfaction*. You might have also seen her previous work with Kokandy, First Folio, Lifeline Theatre, Pegasus, CityLit, Idle Muse, (the dearly departed) Prologue Theatre Co, and Loyola University Chicago, where she also sometimes teaches. Many thanks to the entire cast & crew and to her family, for putting up with her near-constant quiet mumbling in different voices.

MADISON HILL (they/them; Assistant Fight Choreographer) is excited to be working on a show with BWBTC again! They are a proud Artistic Affiliate with BWBTC, some of their work includes: *Richard III* as Ratcliffe/York, the Fight Choreographer for *R*ch Bitch* in the Fighting Words Festival, and they are on the EDIA Committee. Their most recent project outside of BWBTC was the intimacy & fight designer for *Henry 1V Part 1* with Starling Shakespeare Company. Madison is thankful for their partners, chosen family, and their sweet little black void of a cat.

VICTORIA JABLONSKI (she/her; Costume Design) is exciting to be stepping back into the world of Willie Shakes after starting her career as the Wardrobe Manager at the American Shakespeare Center. Recent design credits include *Stabbed in the Heart*, *Die Hard 4 Your Luv* (The Factory Theater), *Sleeping with Beauty*, *Jack off the Beanstalk* (Pride Arts), *Drowsy Chaperon*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Urinetown*, *Wedding Singer* (Surging Films and Theatrics). When not making sure actors are fully clothed, she is a recently sworn in Family Law Attorney. As always, thank you to her friends, family, and the world's worst costume assistants, her cats.

LAUREN KATZ (she/her; Director) is a director, educator and arts administrator. Favorite directing credits include: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Women of 4G* (BWBTC), *The Prom* (Highland Park Players), *Mary's Wedding* (Oil Lamp Theatre), *Tick Tick Boom* and *A Grand Night for Singing* (Dunes Summer Theatre), *Grease* and *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Beverly Theatre Guild), *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* (Strawdog Theatre), and *This is a Chair* (Haven Theatre). Other collaborations include: About Face Theatre, Firebrand Theatre Company, Goodman Theatre, Theater Wit, Steppenwolf Theatre

Company, Victory Gardens Theatre, Redtwist Theatre, Writers Theatre, and Windy City Playhouse. Lauren served as the 2016/2017 Artistic Apprentice at Steppenwolf Theatre Company, and as a 2018/2019 Directors Inclusion Fellow at Victory Gardens Theatre. As a teaching artist, Lauren works with Steppenwolf Theatre Company and Lookingglass Theatre Company.

MARCUS KLEIN (he/him; Scenic Design) is a Chicago-based scenic designer and scenic artist. He's a graduate of Columbia College Chicago, where he received a BA in Theatre Design and Technology with a focus in Scenic Design. His recent work includes designs for Babes With Blades Theatre Company, Strawdog Theatre Company, UAC Theatre, Ovation Academy, and MVCC, as well as paint work for Steppenwolf, A Red Orchid Theatre, American Blues Theater, Young People's Theatre of Chicago, and BRAVO Performing Arts. He's thrilled to be working with BWBTC again!

KELSEY KOVACEVICH (she/her; Assistant Director) is a director, choreographer, and arts administrator. Kelsey has a B.A. in Acting/Directing from Iowa State University and has been based in Chicago for many years. She's worked with the BWBTC as Managing Director since 2018 and is thrilled to continuing supporting the great work of this company.

PERSEPHONE LAWRENCE (she/they; Properties Designer) is excited to make her design debut at BWBTC. Selected Chicago credits include *Pro-Am* (First Floor Theater); *Native Gardens* (William Street Repertory); *Georgiana & Kitty Christmas at Pemberley*, *The Garbologists*, *Dear Jack Dear Louise* (Northlight Theatre); *Stew, Rasheeda Speaking* (Shattered Globe Theatre); *I Banquo, I Cinna the Poet* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); and *Emma* (Lifeline Theatre). Regionally, they've worked at Paramount Theatre Aurora, Court Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre amongst others. Persephone studied technical theater at the University of Northern Colorado followed by an apprenticeship in the Steppenwolf Professional Leadership Program 2017/2018 season, and is currently a proud member of the Society for Properties Managers.

JILLIAN LEFF (she/her; Fight Choreographer) is BWBTC Ensemble Member who is excited to be working for Babes as a Fight Choreographer for the first time! With BWBTC, she's previously appeared onstage in *Richard III*, *Women of 4G* and *The Good Fight* , and wrote *The S Paradox*, which had its world premiere earlier this season. You can find her around the city working as an actor, playwright, fight choreographer, or some combination of the three. She has choreographed for The Factory Theater (*Die Hard 4 Your Luv*), Filament Theatre (*Think Fast, Jordan Chase!*), The New Coordinates (*Scapegoat*), as

well as a number of independent films and web series, and is an Advanced Actor Combatant with The Society of American Fight Directors. Find her on the internet @jilleff. All the love and thanks to Theresa.

PAYTON SHEARN (she/they; Production Assistant) is a stage manager and arts administrator based in Chicago. She is so excited to be working with BWBTC once again! Previous Chicago credits include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Midsommer Flight), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Young People's Theater), *Passing Strange* (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre), *Dory Fantasmagory* (Young People's Theater), *When The Sun Melts Away* (Token Theatre), *Me...Jane* (Wirtz Center). Payton is a proud graduate of Northwestern University, where she studied Theater Management and Gender & Sexuality Studies. She loves making theater for young audiences, theater that explores the intersection of art and activism, and theater that combines the two. As always, all the love and thanks to their parents, brother, and chosen family.

LAURA J.WILEY (she/her; Lighting Design) is a Lighting and Video Designer working primarily with theatre and dance. She is the resident Projection and Lighting Designer for Idle Muse Theatre Company, with whom she has worked with since 2011.



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- COMPANY HEADSHOTS
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**BWBTC IS ONE OF LESS THAN 15%
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dedicated to representing marginalized voices through storytelling, (*and the only one who uses stage combat as a consistent storytelling tool.*)

WANT TO SUPPORT WHAT WE DO?

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DID YOU KNOW

**You can also support BWBTC
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A majority of our funders want to know about our audiences, so take a quick second before the show, during intermission or after and let us know about yourself.

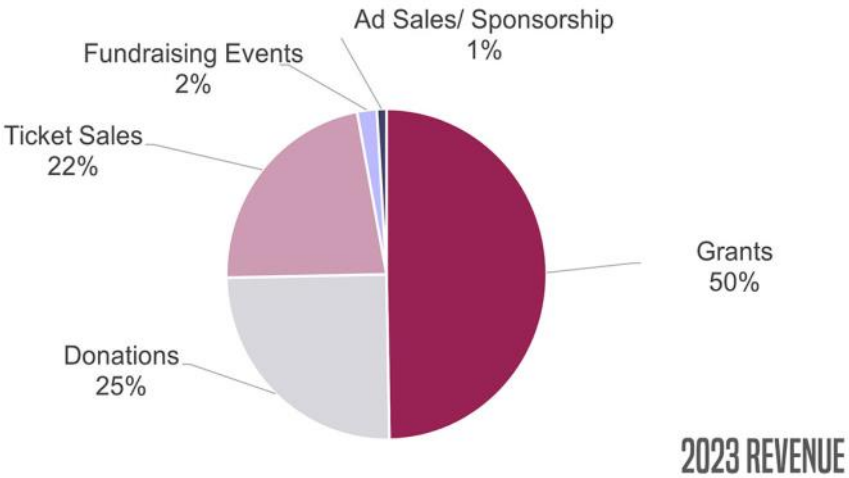
(Don't worry, its anonymous!)



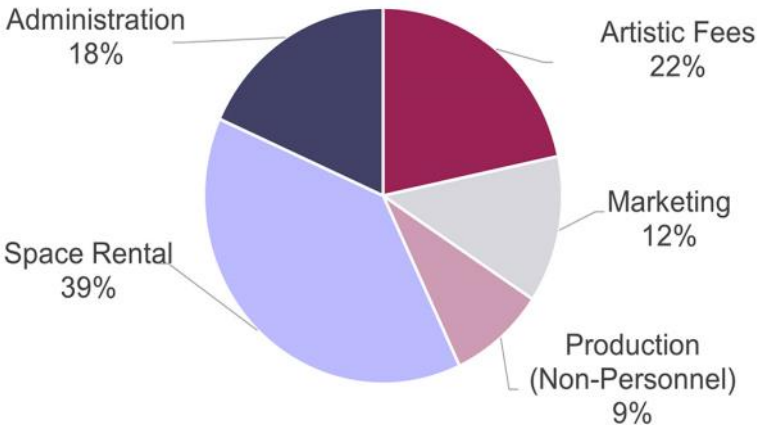
DID YOU KNOW

BWBTC believes in Financial Transparency.

You see the graphs below on our website as well as learn more about the company, our productions and our ensemble!



2023 EXPENSES



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Babes With Blades Theatre Company produces theatre in venues located on the traditional homelands of the Council of the Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations. Many other tribes such as the Miami, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Sac, and Fox also called this area home. This region that we now commonly refer to as “The Chicagoland Area”, has long been a center for Indigenous people to gather, trade, and maintain kinship ties. Today, one of the largest urban Native American communities in the United States resides in Chicago. Members of this community continue to contribute to the life of this city and to celebrate their heritage, practice traditions, and care for the land and waterways. If you are originally from outside of Chicago, you can discover who's traditional homelands you inhabited by going to [Whose.Land](#).

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

David Rice, Sky Leaton for the Ass Head and
R&D Choreography

BABES WITH BLADES

THEATRE COMPANY

ENSEMBLE

Kristen Alesia	Line Bower
Alison Dornheggen	Kim Fukawa
Carrie Hardin	Madison Hill
Kelsey Kovacevich	Jillian Leff
Morgan Manasa	Stephanie Mattos
Jennifer L. Mickelson	Jennifer Mohr
Izis Mollinedo	Hazel Monson
Lauren Paige	Hayley Rice
Thomas Russell	Megan Schemmel
Kathrynne Wolf	Maureen Yasko
Ashley Yates	

BOARD

Lata Balagangadharan	Rose Hamill
Kelsey Kovacevich	Catherine Mellers
James Piche	Hayley Rice



Babes With Blades Theatre Company uses stage combat to tell stories that elevate the voices of underrepresented communities and dismantle the patriarchy. Through performance, script development, training and outreach, our ensemble creates theatre that explores the wide range of the human experience, and cultivates broader perspectives in the arts community and in society as a whole.

BabesWithBlades.org