



PILOT ISLAND & Her Keepers

Written by Kayla Belec

Directed by Stefan Roseen

Nov. 8-23, 2024

7:30pm Thurs-Sat | 3pm Sun

\$20 General Admission

Buy tickets at theimpostorstheatre.com
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The
DEN
THEATRE
The Crosby Theater
1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622

Cast

Narrator One (Christine) _____ Keaton Stewart*
Narrator Two (Emmanuel) _____ Riles Holiday
Narrator Three (Rohn) _____ Ian Rigg
Narrator Four (Mary Louise) _____ Toria Olivier*
Narrator Five (Pederson) _____ Raúl Alonso
Narrator Six (Gale) _____ Zoë Bishop
Narrator Seven (Boyce) _____ Andrew Shipman

Crew

Director _____ Stefan Roseen*
Playwright _____ Kayla Belec*
Assistant Director _____ Anna Sciaccotta*
Choreographer _____ Anna Roemer*
Costume Designers _____ B Valek* & Kayla Belec*
Set Designer, Technical Director _____ Ethan Gasbarro*
Lighting Designer _____ Emma Luke
Intimacy Director _____ Erin Sheets
Composer _____ Dominick Alesia*
Props/SFX Designer _____ Jessica Miller*
Props/SFX Designer _____ Jackie Bobbitt*
Fight Director _____ Tim McCarthy*
Dialect Coach _____ Ian R.Q. Slater
Stage Manager _____ Jimena Ramirez

**The Impostors Theatre Co. Ensemble Members*

Pilot Island & Her Keepers has
a run time of **1 Hour and**
45 Minutes with one
15 Minute intermission.

Deep in the heart of the Great Lakes, where Lake Michigan waters intersect with Green Bay, a lighthouse stands watch over the narrow, treacherous passage known to those in her reach as Porte des Morts, or Death's Door. Hailed as a haven by some and posed as a prison by others, Pilot Island hosts a number of faithful and reluctant keepers alike. As the only checkpoint standing between a ship's safe passage and an unknown alternative, the island and its light play a vital role in the lives of both the passersby beholden to its reaches, and its inhabitants—saviors to those whose brush with death is close and indelible.

Where once carefully crafted routines guided by human hands give way to automated processes, there lives an impression. Each soul Pilot Island hosts treads a deeper footpath and leaves behind a new story to haunt her shores—a young pair of immigrants with no lighthouse keeping experience and the mercurial second assistant burrowing under their skins; a beloved pet becoming an unlikely martyr; a Keeper who saved enough lives to create a legacy, and more.

In a kaleidoscope of new, imaginative storytelling colliding with factual records of life on Pilot Island between the 1880s-1910s, Pilot Island & Her Keepers holds a beveled pane of glass over the meeting of fact & fiction—where memory passes down to legacy, and history transforms into lore.

BIOGRAPHIES

Dominick Vincent Alesja

Composer

Dominick is a composer/lyricist, writer, and performer in the Chicago area, as well as an ensemble member with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). He feels so lucky to have been able to sail with this team and work on such a beautiful story. As a composer, he has scored numerous ITC productions, such as *The Last Living Gun*, *Hertha Nova*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, and three different iterations of the anthology series *Footholds*. He was nominated for a Jeff Award for his original music in *Hertha Nova*. He is also the composer, lyricist, and writer of *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*—a new musical that was performed by ITC earlier this year. His next musical, *Helena & Hermia* in *The Enamored Odyssey*, will be produced in the spring of 2025 by ITC. He would like to extend a huge congratulations to the cast, crew, and production team for raising these sails. Enjoy the show!

Raúl Alonso

Narrator Five

Raúl is thrilled to be working for the first time with The Impostors Theatre Company. Selected Chicago work includes: *Facility Theatre's Right Now* (Ben, u.s.); *Destinos 2023 – The Chicago Latino Theater Alliance's Peter Malmö* (Janssen/Ronny); and *St. Patrick's Summer Theatre's The 39 Steps* (Richard Hannay). Selected Minnesota works include: *DalekoArts' Native Gardens* (Pablo); *Theatre Pro Rata's By the Bog of Cats* (Carthage); *Lyric Arts' It's a Wonderful Life* (George Bailey) and *The Mousetrap* (Paravicini); *Wayward Theatre's A Christmas Carol* (Marley); *Theatre Coup d'Etat's Julius Caesar* (Brutus); *Frey Theatre's Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo); *Zephyr Theatre's Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio) and *As You Like It* (Silvius); and *Northfield Arts Guild Theatre's The Lion in Winter* (Geoffrey). See him in *Blank Theatre Company's A Bright Room Called Day* (Vealtninc Husz) this December.

Kayla Belec

Playwright

Kayla is a founding ensemble member and archivist for The Impostors Theatre Co. In addition to her work behind the scenes and crafting company copy, she

is the playwright of *Tippy: Stories from the River*, an original script *The Impostors* brought to life in 2019. Other *Impostors* productions Kayla worked on include *Footholds Vol. 5* (2024, Director), *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* (2023, Costume Designer), *Hertha Nova: A Radio Reading* (2021, Marie), *Footholds Vol. 2* (2020, Production Assistant), *The House of Baba Yaga: A Radio Reading* (2020, Director), and *Caged: An Allegory Staged Reading* (2017, Moderator). Kayla has written multiple plays, short stories, award-winning essays, and articles. She is drawn to stories that reveal fantastical truths in ordinary settings and circumstances, and she is elated to collaborate with artists equally devoted to exploring those concepts in *Pilot Island & Her Keepers*.

Zoë Bishop

Narrator Six

Zoë Bishop is a professional actor, dancer, and singer. She's a proud Afro-Latina who recently graduated from Columbia College Chicago. This is her first time working with The Impostors, and she's immensely proud of the work they've done together. Most recently, she worked on a film entitled "The Nest" by Madeline Doherty. Zoë is incredibly excited to share this amazing story with you all and hopes you enjoy the show. Remember, during these dark times, it's important to find the little things that bring you joy—it's always darkest before dawn. Feel free to follow Zoë on Instagram @zoe.d.bishop.

Jackie Bobbitt

Props/SFX

Jackie is thrilled to be part of the design team for *Pilot Island & Her Keepers*! Jackie has grown up going to Door County on family vacations, so being a part of this production has felt so close to home. Previous Props and SFX credits include *Beyond the Garden Gate*, *The Last Living Gun*, *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*, *Windwalkers*, and *The House of Baba Yaga* with The Impostors Theatre Co.; as well as numerous Moraine Valley Community College shows including *Carrie: The Musical*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Mr. Burns*, and many more. Enjoy your trip to *Pilot Island*!

BIOGRAPHIES

Rachel Borgo

Executive Director

Rachel is the executive director of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) and an alum of Valparaiso University with degrees in Theatre, Creative Writing, and Humanities. Most recently, she served as the production director of ITC's anthology series Footholds Vol. 5, in which she collaborated with a team of five other directors. Prior to that, Rachel was the production director of Footholds Vol. 4; stage manager of the Jeff Nominated *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*; production director of Footholds Vol. 3; playwright and stage manager of Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova*; assistant director of *Footholds 2020: A Socially Distant Film*; as well as a performer, dramaturg, and build crew member on various ITC productions. In 2022, Rachel completed a commission to write and direct the immersive play *Body of Work* at Montpelier Arts Center in the DC area. Outside of the theatre, Rachel works full time as a ghostwriter and book coach of novels, supporting authors of varied backgrounds across a multitude of genres.

Ethan Gasbarro

Set Designer/Technical Director

Ethan is sincerely delighted to sail into Season 6 with another Kayla Belec penned play. When he's not designing sets as an ensemble member with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC), Ethan serves as the Production Supervisor at the Chicago History Museum, where he oversees the fabrication and maintenance of the exhibits. As an independent TD/freelance carpenter, Ethan has built all sorts of scenery around Chicagoland, including theatre sets, escape rooms, restaurant interiors (*Snakes and Lattes*), artist studios (*Salon Des Artistes*), and experiences (2019 EA Sports Chicago Bears NFL Kickoff Experience). He has also contributed to museum exhibits at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Staten Island Children's Museum, Children's Museum of Richmond, and Magic City Discovery Center, in addition to film scenery for *MasterChef*. His credits for ITC include *Beyond the Garden Gate*, *The Last Living Gun*, *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable (First Soldier)*, *Windwalkers*, *Hertha Nova*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Summer & Smoke*, *Tippy: Stories from the River*, *Caged: An Allegory*,

and *The Wood*, as well as each volume of *Footholds*. He'd like to thank Rachel Borgo—he couldn't do this without her. ethangasbarro.com

Riles August Holiday

Narrator Two

Riles is delighted to be performing with The Impostors in *Pilot Island & Her Keepers*. He recently moved to Chicago from Northwest Arkansas where he performed with Arkansas Shakespeare in *The Tempest (Stephano)* and *Much Ado About Nothing (Don John)*, as well as with TheatreSquared in *The Interrogator (Hans)* and *A Edward Tulane (Man)*, also performing as the male swing in their productions of *A Christmas Carol*, *Dial M For Murder*, and *My Father's War*. Some of his favorite productions and roles include *Macbeth (Macbeth)* with Distant Drama; *The Seagull (Treplev)* with Evergreen Theatre Collective; *Hand To God (Pastor Greg)* and *Romeo and Juliet (Mercutio)* with Oconaluftee Little Symphony; *The Christians (Associate Pastor)* and *Twelfth Night (Sir Andrew Aguecheek)* with First Pres Theatre; and *Isaac's Eye (Isaac)* with Little Corner Theatre Company. Riles is a former Army Infantry NCO and has his MFA in Acting from the University of Arkansas.

Emma Luke

Lighting Designer

Emma is a Chicago-based lighting designer who is thrilled to have been a part of this production. This is her third time working with The Impostors, the first being last year's *The Last Living Gun* and their previous season's finale *Footholds Vol. 5*. Originally from Santa Cruz, CA, she graduated from UCLA's school of Theatre, Film, and Television before relocating to Chicago. Her other design work includes a UCLA production of *Everybody (2021)* and *Blank Theatre's Promises, Promises (2023)*. She also assisted on Oak Park Festival Theatre's *Seagulls (2023)*. Outside of her theatre work, you might find her hunting through book stores, power-walking around Logan Square, or roller skating in the city. She hopes you thoroughly enjoy this tale, and all the history and spirits that live within it.

Tim McCarthy

Fight Choreographer

Tim is honored to work again with The Impostors! His previous productions include Footholds Vol. 5, Beyond the Garden Gate, The Last Living Gun, Barefoot in the Park, The Zoo Story, Little Women, The Taming of the Shrew, Harvey, Waiting for Lefty, No Exit, A Midsummer Night's Dream, King Lear, and Macbeth. He would like to thank the cast for all their hard work and focus, as well as his partner in greatness for all her love and support.

Jessica Miller

Props/SFX

Jessica is so excited to be back for another Impostors show! She has a special set of skills that allows her to pivot from prop master to blood designer to SFX artist. Jessica received her BA in Technical Theater in 2012 at Columbia College Chicago. She is part of a two person prop team (Jackie Bobbitt) and wouldn't have it any other way! Her previous work includes Carrie: The Musical, The Lightning Thief, The Last Living Gun, Mr. Burns, Urinetown, Windwalkers, The House of Baba Yaga, Eurydice, Heathers, Evil Dead: The Musical, Hand to God, and A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Toria Olivier

Narrator 4

Toria is an ensemble member with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). They moved to Chicago from Cajun country in 2015 to pursue their passion for storytelling, and ITC has provided a loving home for them to explore that passion for the last few years. Past Chicago credits: Blood Brothers (Theo Ubique), Thrones! The Musical Parody (Apollo Theatre), Man of La Mancha (MadKap Prods), Hertha Nova (ITC), and Miranda: A War-Torn Fable (ITC). A huge thank you to this incredible cast for supporting them in this special and beautiful show. Still more thanks to their husband Charlie for, y'know, everything, to ProMo for the gift of Viewpoints, and to their angels for the gift of perseverance.

Jimena Ramirez

Stage Manager

Jimena is so excited to be working with The Impostors Theatre Co. on Pilot Island & Her Keepers as the stage manager. Jimena is a third year Design, Production, Technology student at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Her focuses include both stage management and scenic design. This is her first show as a stage manager since high school, and she is beyond grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the amazing cast and production team. She's a company member at Theatre L'Acadie where she has assistant stage managed two productions, including The Swan and Things That Are Round. She's also worked on Yerma and Urinetown as an ASM at UIC. They'd like to thank the whole team for giving her a space to learn how to be a better stage manager. Also special thanks to her professors for being so lenient with due dates during this process.

Ian Rigg

Narrator Three

Ian is a Jeff-nominated actor most recently seen as Count Dracula in Dracula, THE AMAZING KARNAK in Ride the Cyclone, Frank Abagnale Sr. in Catch Me If You Can, The Narrator in The Rocky Horror Show, and Dr. Barnes in Waiting For Lefty. For friends, for family, for love, for loss, for light. For Anna, always. ianrigg.weebly.com

Anna Roemer

Choreographer

Anna is an ensemble member and resident choreographer for The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). She is so excited to have gotten to create movement for this beautiful story! Choreography credits include 35 Millimeter (Three Brothers Theatre); Beyond the Garden Gate, The Last Living Gun, Miranda: A War Torn Fable, Footholds Vol. 4 and 5 (ITC); Mamma Mia (Drury Lane, asst.); and Emma (Chicago Shakespeare Theater, asst.). She is also the resident choreographer for Music House Inc. where she has choreographed for over 15 productions including Cats, Shout!, Freaky Friday, Footloose, Newsies, Shrek, and Xanadu. Special shout out to her husband who created the gorgeous music she got to make movement to.

BIOGRAPHIES

Stefan Roseen

Director

Stefan is a Chicago director, playwright, and designer who serves as the artistic director of The Impostors Theatre Company (ITC). Stefan most recently directed for ITC on the critically acclaimed *Beyond The Garden Gate* and *The Last Living Gun*. Additional directing credits include: ITC's Jeff Nominated *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*, *Windwalkers*; the Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova*; *The House of Baba Yaga*; *Summer & Smoke*; *Tippy: Stories from the River*; *Footholds (2020 & 2019)*; *Caged: An Allegory*; *The Wood*; as well as *The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan*; *Art*; and *The Altercation in the Underworld*—Winner "Best Of" for MadKap Productions Short Play Festival. Stefan has been Jeff Nominated for Best Director for his work on *Hertha Nova* and has earned a nomination for "Best Stage Director" by the Chicago Reader every year since 2019. By day, Stefan is an educator teaching young minds about Performance Art and Fine Art. Stefan's more recent theatrical designs include sets for *7 Minutes to Live*, *Eurydice*, *A Doll's House*, and more; including *25/25*, *Occidental Express*, the Jeff Recommended *They*, and the Jeff Nominated *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*—all for Trap Door Theatre.

Anna Sciacotta

Assistant Director

Anna is a Chicago actor, theatre artist, and teacher. Anna most recently acted in *Footholds Vol. 5* (various roles), *The House of Baba Yaga (Ursula)*, and *Summer & Smoke (Nellie)*—all with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). Anna is a proud Chicago Public School teacher and serves as a proud ensemble member of ITC. She is thrilled to have stepped into a directorial role in this production and wants to thank her family, friends, and artistic collaborators for all of their love and support.

Erin Sheets

Intimacy Director

Erin is a director, intimacy director, and an all-things-theatre fangirl from New Orleans. Here in Chicago, Erin has worked with Trap Door Theatre, Redtwist Theatre, Big Noise Theatre, Facility Theatre, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Possibilities Theatre, Theatre L'Acadie (where she is also co-artistic director), and of course, The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). Previous ITC collaborations include *Beyond the Garden Gate* and *Footholds Vol. 5* (Intimacy Director). Other notable projects include *Right Now* (Intimacy Director, Facility, 2023 Non-Equity Jeff Award - Best Ensemble), *Motherhouse* (Assistant Director, Rivendell, 2022 Equity Jeff Award - Best New Work), and the world premiere of *Bottle Fly* (Intimacy Director, Redtwist). As a director, Erin has been honored to lead recent productions such as *Grey Gardens: The Musical* (Big Noise, 2023 Lou Award Nomination - Best Production) and the world premiere of *Today Tonight Soon* by Melanie Coffey (Theatre L'Acadie). Learn more about her work at erinesheets.com!

Andrew Shipman

Narrator 7

Andrew is making his second appearance in an Impostors Theatre Co. production after appearing in *Footholds Vol. 5* earlier this year. He is coming off his directorial debut for Gwydion Theatre Company's production of *This is Our Youth* and co-produces the comedy team *Mr. Sandwich*, which you can find in the booth near the bathroom at the IHOP in Wrigleyville. Andrew wants to thank The Impostors for once again stretching him as an actor, his wife and dearest friends for their endless support, and you for supporting local theatre!

Ian R. Q. Slater

Dialect Coach

Ian (they/she) is a Chicago actor, dialect coach, and musician, who now splits her time between Chicago and Albuquerque, NM. They hold a BFA in acting from the Chicago College of Performing Arts and serve as Company Manager for Lakeside Shakespeare Theatre in the summer months. Ian has previously worked with The Impostors on Windwalkers, Hertha Nova, and Summer & Smoke. Outside of theatrical work, you can find Ian wherever you get your podcasts and audiobooks. www.ianrqlater.com

Keaton Stewart

Narrator One

Keaton is a Chicago-based actor and artist. She earned her degree in Theatre, graduating cum laude from Valparaiso University in 2015. In 2023, Keaton received a Jeff Nomination for Best Actor in a Principal Role for her performance in Hertha Nova as Eve Knight. Keaton returns to the stage after ending a six-year career working as an On Camera Event Host for Feld Entertainment's Monster Jam. Keaton serves as a founding ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co. Within the company, she has fulfilled the role of creative developer, hair and makeup designer, and costume designer.

B Valek

Costume Designer

B (they/them) is a Chicago-based artist. Pilot Island & Her Keepers is B's first foray into costume design, and it's been such a joy. Performance credits: The Last Living Gun and Miranda: A War-Torn Fable, both with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). Stage management credits: The Brightest Thing in the World and Laced with About Face Theatre; as well as Windwalkers, The House of Baba Yaga, Tippy: Stories from the River, and The Wood with ITC. B is a proud ensemble member with The Impostors and serves as the Audience Services Director. Thank you for supporting live theatre.

SEASON SIX DONORS

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**We will not tolerate racism, homophobia, transphobia,
xenophobia, misogyny, or any form of bigotry that
endangers the security of our accomplices.**