

an anthology play by the community

June 6-21, 2025 7:30pm Thurs-Sat | 3pm Sun \$20 General Admission

Buy tickets at theimpostorstheatre.com or use the QR code



THE ATRE
THE Crosby Theater
1311 Millivauker Ave, Chicago, It 60622

Cast

Whitney Pipes Tulsi McDaniels Kene Ifezue Rashaad A. Bond Charlie Mann Ian Mason Squeek Rangel

Crew

Production Director	Rachel Borgo*
Associate Production Director	Courtney Marie*
Stage Manager	Kevin Blair
Asst. Stage Manager/Scenic Painter	
Director	McManus*
Director	Jared Sheldon
Director	Erin Sheets
Director	Kayla Menz
Director	Ebby Offord
Choreographer	Chels Morgan
Set Designer/Technical Director	Ethan Gasbarro*
Sound Designer	River Cy Denman*
Lighting Designer	Seojung Jang
Costume Designer	Anna Rogers
Composer	Dominick Alesia*

^{*}The Impostors Theatre Co. Ensemble Members

The Plays

The 13 Times I May or May Not Have Said Hi to My Ex at His Birthday Party by Conlan Carter Directed by Courtney Marie (Asst. Rachel Borgo)

Leave Only Crumbs by Alex Fortune Directed by McManus (Asst. Jared Sheldon) Intimacy by Kayla Menz

Hole in the Wall by Jared Goudsmit Directed by Jared Sheldon (Asst. Rachel Borgo)

In the Mood by Matt Schutz Directed by Erin Sheets (Asst. Courtney Marie)

LINCOLN LINCOLN LINCOLN by Samantha Hurley Directed by Kayla Menz (Asst. McManus) Choreography by McManus and Chels Morgan

Fragments by Stephen Gerrie Directed by Rachel Borgo (Asst./Choreography by McManus)

STORYTELLERS... or a little Black joy for your Sunday by Chels Morgan Directed by Ebby Offord (Asst. Courtney Marie) Choreography by Chels Morgan

Footholds is an anthology series written by playwrights from across the Chicagoland community. Ensemble members conceived the idea in reaction to one of the most frustrating and intimidating villains an artist can face: a blank page. A blank canvas allows for infinite possibilities, but this can sometimes act as a hindrance. With no definitive starting point, it can be difficult to realize a final product.

By introducing a single, ambiguous constraint, a crack in the block of marble, we ask our writers and collaborators to start with the same limitation and branch off wherever their imaginations take them

This year's foothold:
A lamp-lit alley,
fringing the noisebefore, during, or after
the party.

Footholds Vol. 6
has a run time of
2 Hours which
includes a
15 Minute
intermission.

Dominick Alesia

Composer

Dominick is a composer/lyricist, writer, and performer in the Chicago area. As an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC), he feels so lucky to have been able to join this team under this lamppost and work on such beautiful stories. As a composer, he has scored numerous productions created by ITC, such as Pilot Island & Her Keepers, Beyond the Garden Gate, The Last Living Gun, Hertha Nova, The House of Baba Yaga, and two past iterations of the anthology play series Footholds. He was nominated for a Jeff Award for his original music in Pilot Island & His Keepers and Hertha Nova. He is also the composer, lyricist, and writer of Miranda: A War-Torn Fable and Helena & Hermia in The Enamored Odyssey-both original musicals debuted with ITC. He would like to extend a huge congratulations to the cast, crew, and production team. Enjoy the show!

Adriana Andreolas Assistant Stage Manager

Adriana is a current UIC student in her senior year, focusing in scenic painting, stage management, and set design. She is excited to get to work with The Impostors again to close out their sixth season!\

Kevin Blair

Stage Manager

Kevin (he/him) is a Chicago-based actor, writer, and casting guy. He is thrilled to be back, stage managing for The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) at The Den Theatre! ITC credits include Beyond the Garden Gate (stage manager), Footholds Vol. 4 (playwright of Marketplace Mama), and Footholds Vol. 3 (ensemble). Other stage credits include The Swan (Theatre L'Acadie), Moby Dick the Musical (Underscore Theatre), and Reason for Return (Three Brothers Theatre). His plays A Midsummer's Nightmare and Ding, Ding! HONK, HONK! have had developmental readings by Theatre L'Acadie, and his latest work HERAkles was developed in the Inc.ubator Play Cohort with Pocket Theatrics. BFA in Acting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. More about him at www.kevinblair.net. Huge thanks

to friends, family, and all who embrace the art of pretend with us!

Rashaad A. Bond Rudy/Carey/Quentin

Rashaad (he/him) is an actor, director, and producer. He moved to Chicago from Albuquerque, New Mexico in the summer of 2019. In Albuquerque, Rashaad founded and served as the artistic director for Middle Ground Theatre Company, a company dedicated to giving opportunities to those in the community that were often neglected. He holds a BA in Theatre from the University of New Mexico. His studies allowed him to develop skills in directing, producing, acting, lighting design, and scenic carpentry. Since moving to Chicago, Rashaad has had the opportunity to work with organizations such as Black Ensemble Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, The League of Chicago Theatres, The Artistic Home, Redtwist Theater, Theatre Above the Law, Ghostlight Ensemble, Perceptions Theatre, Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, Haven Chicago, and Possibilities Theatre.

Rachel Borgo Production Director

Rachel is the executive director of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) and an alum of Valparaiso University. Most recently, she performed as Puck in ITC's Helena & Hermia in The Enamored Odyssey by Dominick Alesia. Prior to that, Rachel was the production director of Vol. 3, 4, and 5; stage manager of the Jeff Nominated Miranda: A War-Torn Fable; 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. Outside of the theatre, Rachel works full time as a ghostwriter of novels, supporting authors of varied backgrounds across a multitude of genres.

Conlan Carter

<u>Playwright</u>

Conlan, a Minnesota native, is a playwright and filmmaker in Chicago. His playwriting work includes Wyoming, MN (The Lark, Cherry Lane Theatre), Plain Brown Box (The New School), The Loon (Fresh Fruit Festival), Real (Midtown International Theatre Festival), The Fractal Pattern (Workhouse Theatre Company), Flicker (The Secret Theatre), and Nets (24 Hour Plays: Nationals). His short films have screened in festivals across the United States, including Chicago's Reeling International Film Festival. He is a graduate of The New School's MFA Playwriting program and a member of the Playwrights' Center.

River Cy Denman

Sound Designer

River returns for another iteration of Footholds after sound designing two prior volumes as a proud ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co.
Recently, he served as the sound designer for Harold Pinter's The Dumb Waiter with Point Theatre Project.
Previously, you may have seen him as an ensemble member in Footholds Vol. 3, in the role of C in ITC's Caged: An Allegory, or as the 'spro captain and milkman at Local Coffee Shop. Enjoy the sonic wonder!

Alex Fortune

Playwright

Alex is a playwright and screenwriter based in Chicago. His play Forsythian Dweller's Club won a Golden Lanyard Award at the Minnesota Fringe Festival and is in production as a feature film adaptation. Other works include the play Narrative Machine Broke as part of Footholds Vol. 4 (The Impostors Theatre Co.), the short film Waves on Concrete (Tangerine Dreams), and webseries The Wonk Residence as a staff writer.

Ethan Gasbarro

Set Designer/Technical Director

Ethan is an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co., and Footholds Vol. 6 marks his 18th production with the company since its founding. In his daily life, Ethan serves as the Production Manager at the Chicago History Museum, using his technical knowledge to aid in the telling of impactful stories about our city's history. As an independent TD/carpenter, Ethan has built children's museum exhibits across the globe as well as scenery for First Floor Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Hell in a Handbag Productions, The House Theatre, The Second City, Writers Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Porchlight Music Theatre, and Music Theatre Works, as well as Salon Des Artistes, Snakes and Lattes, the 2019 EA Sports Chicago Bears NFL Kickoff Experience, and Masterchef. Feel free to check out some of Ethan's work on his website: ethangasbarro.com.

Jared Goudsmit

<u>Playwright</u>

Jared is a Chicago-based playwright, actor, and cofounder of local theatre group No Dogs in the Kitchen Productions. His short comedy Derailed is published by Samuel French. Recent full-length works include Young Vermin, Merry Mutiny!, and Camp Stormy Seas (co-written with composer Merrick Schnider). Recent roles include Gottlieb Biedermann in The Firebugs with No Dogs in the Kitchen and Clarence Odbody in It's a Wonderful Life with the Athenaeum Center. When he's not in rehearsal, you can find him editing crossword puzzles for Apple News and USA Today. He thanks his three roommates—Grace, Aidan, and Jacob—for their enormous help in bringing this story to life. He also thanks you for coming out to see the show!

Samantha Hurley

<u>Playwright</u>

Samantha (she/her) is a Maine-raised, Chicago-based comedy writer and playwright. Her debut play I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire premiered off-Broadway at Nancy Manocherian's the cell theatre to critical acclaim and a sold out run. The play had its international debut in London at the Southwark Playhouse, where it was dubbed "the star of this wild summer season." I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire is published by Concord Theatricals and was one of The Drama Book Shops' Top 5 Titles for 2024. Hurley and her work have been featured in Teen Vogue, Interview, and Pleaser Magazine. Hurley's original sketches have been performed at the Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre, Brooklyn Comedy Collective, and Character's Welcome. Her new play RE(VULVA) is currently being developed by Avalanche Theatre. samhurleywrites.com

Kene Iferue
Joel/Luke/Tim/Deylin

Kene is an actor hailing from the south suburbs of the Chicagoland area. Some of his past credits include Clyde Goddard in The Curious Case of Agatha Christie, Tom Robinson in To Kill a Mockingbird, and Baptista Minola in The Taming of the Shrew. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, where he received a BA in theatre, and he continues his acting studies with Zak Barnett Studios. He is beyond thrilled to be making his debut with The Impostors Theatre Co. and thanks his friends, fellow cast members, and family for their support.

Seojung Jang
Lighting Designer

Seojung (she/her) is a lighting designer who skill-fully blends creativity with technical precision across plays, musicals, operas, and dance. Originally from South Korea, she earned her MFA in Lighting Design from Northwestern University in 2024, where she contributed to productions such as The Tempest, The Aliens, Working: A Musical, The Revolutionists, Me Jane, and MuLan. Her recent projects include Gorgeous, 13 Suits, and The Love Object. In 2025, Seojung received the USITT YDMT Barbizon Lighting

Company Jonathan Resnick Lighting Design Award and Opera America's Robert L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Prize.

Charlie Mann

Fennis/Jensen/Ted

Charlie is an actor, singer, composer, and music teacher. Originally from South Texas, he's now happy to call Chicago home. He spends his days teaching K-5 general music in Evanston, and his off-time doing... this! Recent Chicagoland credits include Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady, Kokandy's Sweeney Todd, Uptown Music Theater's Les Miserables, and Blank Theatre's On the Twentieth Century. Love to Charlie's wonderful spouse Toria for their constant support. We should all grieve for the victims of the genocide in Palestine.

Courtney Marie

Associate Production Director

Courtney (she/her) is an artist, dreamer, and sometimes office worker from right here in the greatest city on earth. She is thrilled to be returning to Footholds in a larger capacity (and with her best friend, Ebby O.) after directing for Vol. 3, 4, and 5! Courtney is a proud ensemble member of both The Impostors Theatre Co. and Ghostlight Ensemble Theatre. When not on or behind the stage, Courtney works at the University of Illinois Chicago as an administrator in the Political Science department and as an assistant coach to the nationally ranked Mock Trial team. Love always to Courtney's incredible husband Jonas and amazing friends and family for the support. Keep up with her latest escapades on IG at @courtneymarie.jpg.

Ian Mason

Charlie/Jesse/Doug

lan is an actor and movement artist originally hailing from North Carolina but loving their life here in Chicago. Recent credits include Sean in Spell from the Sea as a part of the Paragon Playfest, an ensemble role in Jump Scares Vol. 1 with Bump in the Night Theatre, and Eclipse in Antistrophe to an Andro-Sapphic Tragedy at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. This is lan's first performance with The Impostors Theatre Co., and it has been a pleasure. Website: ianmmason.com or @en__mason

Kayla Menz

Director

Kayla is a multidisciplinary theatre artist who primarily focuses on directing and intimacy directing these days. They are excited by new work and the workshop process surrounding bringing a new script to life. Recent directing credits include MUFFED (3Bros), Lavinia Andronicus is YOUR Spin Instructor (Meat Machine), The Trick of Threes (INCubator), and multiple staged readings at The Understudy. They will be directing MUFFED and The Sporting Life later this year at The Factory Theater. Regional Assistant Directing credits include Dobama Theatre and Capital Stage Company. They are a graduate of Cleveland State University and the directing apprenticeship program at Capital Stage in Sacramento. Special thanks to Josh for your support! Connect with Kayla on Instagram @kaylabanana797 or at kaylamenz. com.

Tulzi McDaniels Marge/Dillon/Aaliyah

Tulsi is a Chicago-based actor and performer working predominantly in theatre and film. After having completed an interdisciplinary program at Columbia College Chicago, Tulsi has continued her theatrical studies with improv and playwriting at Chicago's Neo-Futurists Theatre and Second City, receiving special training under Jerod Haynes and Marti Lyons of Remy Bumppo. Her recent performances include Red Theatre's production of Hamlet and Christopher Chen's Passage.

Caitlin McManus

Director

McManus (she/her) is a theatre artist, bodyworker, and girl. An ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC), this season marks her fourth volume of Footholds. Previous ITC credits include directing Lost & Found, Narrative Machine Broke, and The Devil Taketh, as well as choreographing Something, Something Blue. Other Chicago credits include assistant directing Her Majesty's Will (Lifeline Theatre) and good friday (Oracle Theatre), as well as serving as dance captain at Teatro ZinZanni and Cabaret ZaZou. Immense thanks to the entire Footholds team and to The Impostors for creating this space.

Chels Morgan

Playwright/Choreographer

Chels is a Black and Dominican playwright, director, social justice theatermaker and educator with a passion for curating inclusive and representative spaces in the arts. Chels also works as an accomplished intimacy and fight director, an AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator, adjunct professor at The Theater School at DePaul University, and the Director of Accessibility and Inclusion at the Intimacy Professionals Education Collective (IPEC). Selected recent Chicago credits include: 42 Balloons, Billie Jean (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre); She Who Dared (Chicago Opera Theatre); Into the Woods (Kokandy Productions-Jeff Award Recipient), Seven Guitars (CityLit Theatre-Jeff Award Recipient); cultural sensitivity director on Kid Prince and Pablo (Lifeline Theatre Company). Chels has worked in theatre and educational spaces across the country including New York Theater Workshop (Off-Broadway), Old Globe Theatre (LORT), Bucks County Playhouse, WACO Theater Center, University of Michigan, Carnegie Mellon, and Temple University, among others.

Ebby Offord

Director

Ebby (she/they) is a theatre artist from Chicago's South Side. Ebby received her BA in Drama from WashU. Since returning home to Chicago, Ebby has been fortunate enough to direct and act across the city. Previous selected credits: Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Midsommer Flight); Evil Perfect (Bramble Theatre Company); ABORT: The Mission, Millennial Church (Director–Bramble Theatre Company Festival of Unfinished Works). Ebby is excited to be working with The Impostors for the first time and to be doing so with her best friend! To my family and friends: thank you, I love you!

Whitney Pipes

Slate Girl/Izzy/Simone/Taiye

Whitney Pipes is an actress from Chicago. She is extremely excited to be a part of this fun production. Her recent theatre credits include: Harriet Tubman and the Underground (Greatworks Theatre), Almost Maine (point2productions), Panther Women (Perceptions Theatre), and Sunday Evening (Rose Valley Theatre).

Squeek Rangel Dennis/Rose/Ronnie/Ezra

Squeek, when not a pigeon, overworked server, drunk Abe Lincoln impersonator, or memory attendant, is an improviser, voice actor, and sketch comedian. You may have seen her in an improv show, on a Second City stage, and maybe even in a commercial or two. Above all Squeek loves to play with humor and heart. She thanks her mom for that initial instinct, The Impostors Theatre Co. for the current opportunity, and the audience for the sustainability of it all. It's an honor to perform alongside talented peers in worthwhile spaces.

Anna Rogers

Costume Designer

Anna Korcz Rogers is a costume and makeup designer based in Chicago. Regional design credits include Edge of the Woods Theater, Rough House Theater, Jon Hancock Productions and The Factory Theater. Wardrobe credits include Drury Lane Theater and Musical Theater Works. When not running around a theater, Anna works with pre-k aged children and in weddings. You may also recognize her as the burlesque performer Eris Astra. She credits all of her success to her amazing and supportive spouses, Jake and Spencer, and to her four feline children.

Stefan Roseen Artistic Director

Stefan is a Chicago director, designer, and playwright who serves as the artistic director of The Impostors Theatre Company (ITC). Stefan most recently directed for ITC on Jeff Nominated Helena & Hermia in The Enamored OdyPilot Island & Her Keepers. Additional directing credits include: ITC's Beyond The Garden Gate, The Last Living Gun, the 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 is a two-time Jeff Nominated artist for Best Director (Hertha Nova) and Best Sound Designer (Pilot Island). Both productions received nominations for Best Stage Production. By day, Stefan is an educator teaching young minds about Performance Art and Fine Art.

Matt Schutz

<u>Playwright</u>

Matt is a playwright and actor currently based in Chicago. His play .PDF Preferred was included in PlayGround-Chicago's Best of Chicago production. His play With the Weight of her Fate on her Shoulders was a winner of the New South Young Playwrights Contest. It was also workshopped at the Horizon Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia and earned him a finalist slot for the Dramatist's Guild Young Playwright Award. He has developed plays with the University of Iowa, Intrinsic Theatre, Pride Arts, and Inkwell Theater. He is thrilled to return to Footholds, where he acted in Vol. 5 as the "purple" actor.

Erin Sheets

Director

Erin is thrilled to be working with her friends at The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) once again. Erin is a director, producer, movement/intimacy director, and co-artistic director of Chicago's Theatre L'Acadie. As a director, recent projects have included Deserted (Artemisia Theatre), Grey Gardens (Big Noise), and The Swan (Theatre L'Acadie). Past ITC credits include Helena & Hermia in The Enamored Odyssey, Pilot Island & Her Keepers, and Beyond The Garden Gate (Intimacy Director). Other notable projects: Motherhouse (Rivendell, Asst. Director), Right Now (Facility, Intimacy Director), The Delivery (Trap Door, Intimacy Director), Today Tonight Soon (Theatre L'Acadie, Director), Endgame (Facility, Asst. Director), A Monster Tragedy (Meat Machine, Movement Director), Bottle Fly, and Titus Andronicus (Redtwist Theatre, Intimacy Director). Learn more about what's up next at erinesheets.com.

Jared Sheldon

Director

Jared (he/him) is a director, producer, actor, and all around theatre artist who has made Chicago his home since 2017. Recent directing credits include Hope Springs Internal by Eleanor Evans-Wickberg and When She Went to Mantua by Natalie Welber at Black Cat Theatre, The Creators by Alexander Attea at Three Brothers Theatre, and A Midsummer Night's Dream at Big Noise Theatre. He is also directing Quinlyn Can Paint by Zach Barr with Black Cat Theatre, which premieres in August. When he is not directing he enjoys dungeon mastering for his DND group, playing recreational volleyball, and trying to force his cats to love him against their will. Jared would like to thank Rachel and The Impostors for creating one of the most positive collaborative spaces he has ever been in!

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The Impostors Theatre Company is devoted to fostering a safe, accepting, and inclusive environment for every artist, collaborator, and audience member. Our mission to inspire an urgency for the arts through the power of theatre extends to people of all backgrounds, race, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientation, ages, and religions.

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