



AN ANTHOLOGY PLAY *by the* COMMUNITY

FOOTHOLDS VOL. 4

June 9-17, 2023
8pm Thurs-Sat | 3pm Sun
\$20 General Admission

Buy tickets at theimpostorstheatre.com
or use the QR code



The
DEN
THEATRE
The Upstairs Mainstage
1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622

The Plays

Anything from the Trolley?

by Toni Flowers-McElrath
directed and choreographed by Anna Roemer

Narrative Machine Broke

by Alex Fortune
directed by Caitlin McManus

Marketplace Mama

by Kevin Blair
directed by Courtney Marie

Mechanicals

by Juliet Kang Huneke
directed by Rachel Borgo

Panopticon

by Alex Dumitru
directed by Directing Ensemble

Crew

Production Director _____ Rachel Borgo*

Director _____ Courtney Marie

Director _____ Caitlin McManus

Director & Choreographer _____ Anna Roemer*

Costume Designer _____ GLITTER

**Set Designer, Technical Director,
& Props Artisan** _____ Ethan Gasbarro*

Lighting Designer _____ Mallory Swisher*

Sound Designer _____ River Cy Denman

Composer _____ Dominick Vincent Alesia*

**Stage Manager &
Fight Choreographer** _____ Toria Olivier

Cast

David Blakeman	Philip J. Macaluso
Tessa Marie Hoffman	Maria Clara Ospina
Jermaine Jenkins	Cee Scallen
Imani Lyvette	

*The Impostors Theatre Co. Ensemble Members

In its fourth installment, **Footholds** continues to intertwine *The Impostors Theatre Co.'s* unique vision with local voices.

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 Small Trolley car – coming, going, or stationed at an unanticipated stop.

***Footholds* vol. 4 has a run time of 75 minutes with no intermission**

David Blakeman

Ensemble

David Blakeman is delighted to be a performer on this trolley and for the first time with Impostors! David is a momma's boy from the burbs who often enjoys a little treat and binge watching reality television. Recent credits include *Avenue Q* (U/S Nicky/Trekkie) with Music Theater Works, *The Addams Family* (Fester) with Williams Street Rep, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Melvin P. Thorpe) with Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, and *Reefer Madness* (Ralph) with Towle Theater. As well as *Urinetown* (McQueen), *The SpongeBob Musical* (SpongeBob U/S, Jenkins), and *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (Bartley) with Surging Films & Theatrics. Big shout out to the best hound in the world, Dwayne. Represented by DDO Artists Agency. Follow @davidjblakeman

Kevin Blair

Playwright

Kevin Blair (he/him) is a Chicago based actor and creator. He was seen in *Footholds Vol. 3* last year with ITC. Other theatrical credits include *Reason for Return*, *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* (Three Brothers Theatre); *If This is the End, 70 Scenes of Halloween* (Theatre L'Acadie); *Unison*, and *Moby Dick the Musical* (Underscore Theater). He is a company member of Theatre L'Acadie, which recently did a reading of his play *A Midsummer's Nightmare*, and is a Co-Creator of "I HATE YOU, TOO" the comedy web series on Youtube. BFA in Acting from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. kevinblair.net

Rachel Borgo

Production Director

Rachel Borgo is the Executive Director of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) and an alum of Valparaiso University. Most recently, she served as the stage manager of ITC's Jeff Recommended *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*. Prior to that, Rachel served as the production director of anthology series *Footholds Vol. 3* (ITC); playwright/director of *Body of Work* (Montpelier Arts Center); playwright/stage manager of Jeff Nominated *Hertha Nova* (ITC); assistant director of *Footholds 2020: A Socially Distant Film* (ITC);

and dramaturg on various ITC productions. Rachel would like to thank her team of multihyphenates, many of whom tried on new roles for the first time with *Footholds Vol. 4*. You all kept this trolley rolling!

River Cy Denman

Sound Designer

River Cy Denman is a familiar friend to the Impostors, having taken the stage in *Caged: An Allegory* and *Footholds Vol. 3*. This time around, he's trying his hand behind the scenes with sound design. It's been a tremendous amount of fun and he's incredibly grateful to this team for allowing him this opportunity. All aboard for the sonic wonder, ding ding clang clang toot toot.

Alex Dumitru

Playwright

Alex Dumitru is a writer living and working in the Midwest. His short play *Panopticon* is his first produced work with the ITC. Taking inspiration from such classic TV series as *The Outer Limits* and *The Twilight Zone*, he hopes you enjoy his piece in this wonderful ensemble. He has published several short stories in varied collections. Working in science-fiction, horror, and fantasy, Alex is hoping to create more works in the Chicago theater scene. He is currently hard at work writing and producing a horror audio-drama anthology podcast. He lives in Valparaiso, Indiana with his friends, partners, and dog.

Toni Flowers-McElrath

Playwright

Toni Flowers-McElrath (he/him) is a multi-medium figural artist, dancer, and writer- BFA degree in Dance and BA in Language, Cultures Context from University of Minnesota, an MA in Literature and Publishing and certificate in Art History. Toni applies the intrigue of the visual and physical arts into his Comp. Lit PhD research towards, affect theory, the theodicy, assemblage, disidentification, performativity. He is often writing and exploring the relationship between the body and its capacities to make meaning and to subvert meaning to better understand the extent to

BIOGRAPHIES

which the break in the linguistic contract creates other worlds and modes of expressions and the affect this has on our ways of being and subjectivities.

Alex Fortune

Playwright

Alex Fortune is a playwright/screenwriter/musician and an alum of Columbia College Chicago. A few notable works include the recent short film *Waves on Concrete* (prod. by Tangerine Dreams), and a Golden Lanyard Award-winning run of his play *Forsythian Dweller's Club* at the Minnesota Fringe Festival. Additionally, as a musician, Alex has made far too many albums with the groups *Fortune Friedman Hemberger Krimstein & Smith* (FFHKS) and *De Kochunterz*.

Ethan P. Gasbarro

Set Designer, Technical Director, & Props Artisan

Ethan is extremely proud of *Footholds Vol. 4* and couldn't be more thrilled to work with such thoughtful and talented artists. During the day, Ethan serves as the Lead Preparator at the Chicago History Museum, where he recently opened his first exhibit - *Back Home: Polish Chicago*. By night, he serves as the Technical Director for Northeastern Illinois University. As an independent TD/Carpenter, Ethan has built 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, Writer's 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. His credits for The Impostors include *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*, in addition to each volume of *Footholds*. ethangasbarro.com

Glitter

Costume Designer

GLITTER is a Chicago based drag queen, costume designer, and queer nightlife staple. Her work as a costume designer has been seen in various clubs/bars around the city like Roscoe's, Hydrate, Charles, Splash, Fantasy, Berlin, and so many more. She holds a B.A. in theatre from Transylvania University. Thank you ITC for letting me jump on this trolley ride with you! Instagram: [_throwsomeglitteronit_](#)

Tessa Marie Hoffman

Ensemble

Tessa Marie Hoffman is a queer performer, vocalist, musician, actor, and educator local to Chicago, Illinois. With a master's degree in vocal performance and pedagogy, Tessa has spent the last ten+ years working as a teaching artist for several reputable schools and theatre companies' (Porchlight Music Theatre, School of Rock, Chicago High School of Performing Arts, etc.), while also maintaining her private voice studio, *VOCAL VOLITION*, for industry professionals. Most recently, Tessa music directed *Little Shop of Horrors* (ChiARTS), *Matilda Jr* (Lyceé Français), and will be directing *My Mama's Era* (Dream Real Theatre) this fall. Recent acting credits include Lydia in the feature film *BACHELORS*. Tessa is also a member of the RPG-13 improv ensemble. She wants to thank the incredible cast and crew of *Footholds Vol. 4* for helping make her Chicago theatre debut such a joyful experience.

Juliet Kang Huneke

Playwright

Juliet Kang Huneke is a playwright and performer who is passionate about theatre that is larger than life. Juliet graduated from Northwestern University in 2022. Most recently, she was awarded the ReImagine: New Plays in TYA grant to develop her new play for young audiences, *HANNAH AND HALMONI SAVE THE WORLD!*. Other writing credits include: *CENTERVILLE NEW JERSEY HAS A PROBLEM WITH TROUT* (main-stage, Vertigo Productions), *HOME FOR THE SUMMER* (workshop, American Music Theatre Project), and *THE WILD* (workshop, Jewish Theatre Ensemble). When

BIOGRAPHIES

she's not acting or writing, Juliet teaches silly theatre classes at Chicago Children's Theatre. <https://www.julietkanghuneke.com/>

Jermaine Jenkins

Ensemble

Jermaine Jenkins is excited to be working with The Impostor's Theatre Company for his first professional theatre production. A rising sophomore, Jermaine currently attends the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University where he is pursuing a BFA in Acting. He would like to extend a special thank you to his professors for continuing to guide him throughout his artistic journey. He'd also like to send love to his friends both in Chicago and back home in Florida.

Imani Lyvette

Ensemble

Imani Lyvette is a graduate of Bradley University with a Bachelors in Theatre Performance and a Minor in Marketing. Imani Lyvette had her first professional acting audition with *Broken Nose*, and was casted as an understudy in the play *Plainclothes*. This sparked Imani Lyvette's acting career with further casting with *Broken Nose Theatre* in *Bechdel Fest 7*, *Blue Stockings* and *Take the Rubbish out Sasha*, with The Promethean Theatre. Imani has also performed with City Lit—*Thirteen Days*. Imani is intrigued by the power theatre has when providing entertainment, discovery, topics of discussion and challenging everyday ideals and social situations.

Philip J. Macaluso

Ensemble

Philip J. Macaluso is thrilled to be a part of this year's *Footholds!* While he's spent most of his life in New York's Hudson Valley where he earned his Drama degree from Vassar College in 2019, Chicago has been Philip's home since 2021. He's recently appeared at Oil Lamp Theater (*Failure: A Love Story*, *Never the Bridesmaid*), Citadel Theatre (*Airness*, *It Runs in the Family*), and The Edge Off Broadway (*Valhalla*). He also performs and writes comedy in the Chicago area including with

the ComedySportz team *A Bunch of Friggin' Cats*. Philip is proudly represented by Talent X Alexander.

Courtney Marie

Director

Courtney Marie is an artist, dreamer, and sometimes paralegal from right here in Chicago. Courtney spends her days working in finance and her evenings on or behind someone's stage. Recent Chicago credits include performing in Ghostlight Ensemble's *Make/Believe 2022*, directing in ITC's *Footholds Vol. 3*, and performing in Invictus Theatre Company's *Ruined*, for which Courtney recently received her first Jeff Award Nomination. During the school year, Courtney volunteers as assistant coach of the nationally ranked University of Illinois at Chicago's Mock Trial team. Love always to Courtney's incredible husband Jonas and amazing friends and family for the support.

Caitlin McManus

Director

Caitlin McManus is thrilled to be working with The Impostors again after directing the world premiere of *The Devil Taketh for Footholds Vol. 3*. A theatre artist and bodyworker, McManus choreographs and dances with the drag/burlesque ensemble The Maison de Rêve, serves as the dance captain at *Cabaret ZaZou*, and participates as a member of the Hotel Arts Collective. Big thanks and big love to the *Footholds* community!

Toria Olivier

Stage Manager & Fight Choreographer

Toria Olivier (they/she) joins The Impostors Theatre Company for the third time - this time as their stage manager. They were last seen onstage with the Impostors as Mother/Prophetess/Postwoman/Mrs. Severhead in *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* and Dr. Fisher in *Hertha Nova*. Some of her favorite previous roles include Horatio (*Hamlet*, Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation), Sancho Panza (*Man of La Mancha*, Mad-Kap Productions), and Daenerys/Kelly (*Thrones! The Musical Parody*). They are excited to be a part of this

BIOGRAPHIES

grand experiment, and so proud of this trolley crew.

Maria Clara Ospina

Ensemble

Maria Clara Ospina is originally from Medellin, Colombia and a recent college graduate of North Central College. She is excited to be in working with Impostors Theatre for the first time in such a fun show! Maria Clara is in love with exploring theatre and all of its genres. Some of her other Chicago credits include *ROMEO + JULIET* (Chicago Shakespeare), *CARMELA FULL OF WISHES* (Chicago Children's Theatre & Seattle Children's Theatre), *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* (CCT), *HAMLET* (Invictus Theater), *REMOTE* (BoHo Theater), *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?* (Invictus Theatre), *WELLESLEY GIRL* (Compass Theatre), *TRUE STORY OF THE 3 LITTLE PIGS* (ABS Productions). Love you all!

Anna Roemer

Director & Choreographer

Anna Roemer is an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Company (ITC), where she recently choreographed and originated the role of Felix in *Miranda: A War Torn Fable*, with previous company roles including Tiff in *Windwalkers* and Spirit in *The House of Baba Yaga*. She has worked as an assistant choreographer at Drury Lane Oakbrook (*Mamma Mia!*) and Chicago Shakespeare Theater (*Emma*), and she is currently the resident choreographer for both ITC and Music House Inc. Past productions include *Footloose*, *Newsies*, *Xanadu*, *Shout*, and *Freaky Friday*. Directing credits include *Annie* and *Shrek Jr*. It is such a joy to work with these artists and this team; thank you to Toni for creating a beautiful concept for us to put movement to and to Dominick for your brilliant music!

Cee Scallan

Ensemble

Cee Scallan (they/them) is a theatre artist, arts educator, and dedicated cat parent. They have a decade of performance experience and theatrical training from Guthrie Theater, Carleton College, San Francis-

co Shakespeare Festival, National Theatre Institute, Moscow Art Theatre, and Shattered Globe. Recent credits include Lysander in Big Noise Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. As a passionate arts educator, Cee teaches with Imagination Theater, Buddha Belly Kids Yoga, and Stages Chicago. They yearn to make inclusive, innovative, and intentional theatre that strives to make a social impact. Cee sends gratitude to their queer community, chosen family, and cats for supporting them in all their theatrical shenanigans! They are proud to be represented by Talent X Alexander. www.cscallen.com / @c.p.scallen on IG

Mallory Swisher

Lighting Designer

Mallory Swisher is one of the founding ensemble members of The Impostors Theatre Company. She is a playwright, actor, and designer. She is proud to have penned *The Wood*, which premiered with The Impostors in October 2018. Recent acting credits include: *Mary Poppins* (Memorial Opera House), *A Staged Reading of Tippy: Stories from the River* (The Impostors), *The Altercation in the Underworld* ("Best of the Fest" at the Annual Madcap Production Short Play Festival), *South Pacific* (The LaPorte Symphony Orchestra), and *Assassins* (Crown Point Theater). Lighting design credits include: *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*, *Footholds Vol. 3*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Summer & Smoke*, *Tippy: Stories from the River*, *Footholds Vol. 1*, *Caged: An Allegory*, and *The Wood*, all for The Impostors. Mallory has studied at the iO Theater and received her degree from Valparaiso University. Catch her voicing Poppy on *Roll 4 Your Life*, a D&D podcast. New episodes are available every Monday on your preferred podcasting platform!

LIMINAL SPACES

A soirée to usher in a new chapter
Friday, August 4 | The Edge Off Broadway

Special thanks to
Stage Center Theatre
at Northeastern
Illinois University

FOLLOW US ONLINE

@impostortheatre
theimpostortheatre.com

Want to see more stories told like *Footholds vol. 4*?
Make a tax-deductible donation at
theimpostortheatre.com/support.html