
The Impostors Theatre Co.
The Snow QUEEN
by Mallory Swisher inspired by Hans Christian Andersen
Directed and Choreographed by Stefan Roseen & Anna Roemer
NOV. 6-21, 2026
7:30PM THURS-SAT
3PM SUN
$20 GENERAL ADMISSION
BUY TICKETS AT THEIMPOSTORSTHEATRE.COM
The DEN THEATRE
The Upstairs Mainstage
1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622

Cast

The Snow Queen_____ Courtney Marie*
Gerda_____ Shannon McEldowney
Kay_____ Cee Scallen
Storyteller One (The Raven)_____ Hilary Sanzel
Storyteller Two (The Reindeer)_ Bryson David Hoff
Storyteller Three (Grandma)_____ Mary Ross
Storyteller Four (Old Woman)_____ JA Loyd
Storyteller Five (Sprite) _____ Mab De Guzman
Storyteller Six (The Robber Girl) ____ Mara Currens
Storyteller Seven (Mother) _ Eilish Morse-O'Rourke

Crew

Director, Scenic/Sound Designer_ Stefan Roseen*
Director & Choreographer _____Anna Roemer*
Playwright _____Mallory Swisher*
Stage Manager_____ Zoë Nisam
Assistant Stage Manager _____Bee Valek*
Composer_____ Dominick Alesia*
Props Designer, Puppet Asst.____ Jackie Bobbitt*
Puppet Designer, Props Asst.___ Jessica Dommer*
Costume Designer_____ Toria Olivier*
Associate Costume Designer _____Ann Kessler
Lighting Designer _____ Emma Luke
Associate Lighting Designer_____ Alex Branka
Puppet Director _____ Kimzyn Campbell
Scenic Painter _____ Rachel Borgo*
Dialect Coach _____ Ian R. Q. Slater

**The Impostors Theatre Co. Ensemble Members*

The Snow Queen has a run time of **90 minutes** with **no intermission.**

Once there was, and once there was not, a little girl and a little boy...

Best friends Gerda and Kay spend the changing seasons weaving stories and tending their beloved garden. As the flowers bloom, so do they. But when a shard of enchanted glass pierces Kay's heart, everything changes. His laughter freezes. His warmth disappears. Swept away by the enigmatic Snow Queen to her kingdom beyond the aurora, Kay is destined to remain in an endless winter... unless someone dares follow.

Fueled by unwavering love and impossible hope, Gerda embarks on a journey into the unknown. Along the way she encounters unpredictable elements, a talking raven, a band of singing robbers, whispering flowers, deceptive sweetness, and strangers who become family. With every trial she must decide not only how to save Kay but who she is becoming.

Can Gerda withstand the bitter cold and the Snow Queen's relentless desire to control the narrative? Will Kay reclaim the story that was stolen from him, or surrender himself to the silence of the ice?

A beloved folktale reimagined through a new landscape, The Snow Queen explores the people who carry our stories when we no longer can – and the courage it takes to let them go. Equal parts whimsical, haunting, joyful, and deeply human, this production warms even the coldest hearts into blooming again.

Dominick Alesia
Composer

Dominick Alesia is a composer, lyricist, writer, and an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co. As the company's resident composer, he has created original scores for several of their productions such as Hertha Nova, Pilot Island & Her Keepers, Beyond the Garden Gate, Monstrous, and Static-Head, among others. He has earned Jeff Award nominations in the Artistic Specialization category for his scores for Hertha Nova and Pilot Island. He wrote the book, music, and lyrics to Miranda: A War-Torn Fable and the four-time Jeff Award winning Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey – two musicals presented by The Impostors. Catch Dom performing as Johnny Cash in Madison Street Theater's Million Dollar Quartet, running November 5-22.

Jackie Bobbitt
Props Designer, Assistant Puppet Designer

Jackie Bobbitt is thrilled to be part of the talented design team for The Snow Queen! Previous Props and SFX credits with The Impostors Theatre Co. include Static-Head, Monstrous, Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey, Pilot Island & Her Keepers, Beyond the Garden Gate, The Last Living Gun, Miranda: A War-Torn Fable, and many more. As always, thanks to all who join us here to support the art we create – it's special and deserves to be celebrated. Enjoy the show!

Rachel Borgo
Scenic Painter,

Rachel (she/her) is the executive director of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) and a multi-hyphenate theatremaker. Most recently, Rachel served as the director of Stephanie Lewis' Monstrous (ITC, 2025) and ITC's anthology series Footholds for the last five volumes. Her recent performance credits include the role of Puck in both Schoolhouse Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream (2026) and Dominick Alesia's award-winning Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey (ITC, 2025). Prior to that, she wrote, stage managed, and received several award nominations for Hertha Nova (ITC, 2022), an adaptation of Harry Blamires' novel New Town. Beyond directing, performing, and writing, Rachel has served as dramaturg and scenic painter on various ITC productions. Outside of the theatre, Rachel works as a ghostwriter, editor, and book coach, supporting authors of varied backgrounds across a multitude of genres.

Alex Branka
Associate Lighting Designer

Alex (he/him) is a Chicago-based lighting designer, programmer, and technician who recently got his Bachelor's in Theatre from Northwestern. Recent lighting design credits include Static-Head and Monstrous (The Impostors); Red Light Winter (Ego Death Theatre Collective); Frindle (Griffin Theatre); and A Wrinkle in Time (Loyola Academy, Wilmette). Aside from design, Alex also works as a programmer, crew member, and electrician for Writers Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare, Maine State Music Theatre, American Blues Theatre, and more. This is his third time bringing new work to life with The Impostors, and he's grateful for the kindness and the drive his collaborators show on each and every project.

Kimzyn Campbell
Puppet Director

A multi-hyphenate creative in Chicago, Kimzyn Campbell loves to connect the dots between artists and audiences with their work. Kimzyn's background in circus and theater has taught them that curiosity, playfulness, and physicality are as essential as risk-taking in work and life. They strive to defy productivity culture by creating work that builds exploration and adventure into every process and insists on our shared validity and connection through the medium of puppetry. Kimzyn enjoys writing for puppets, fabricating puppets, performing with puppets, and even directing puppets. They've performed with Puppet Queers, Shoestring Puppets, Nasty, Brutish and Short, Pookie Puppets, Seabeast Puppet Company, Stop Motion Plant and the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival. They are a frequent zookeeper at the Puppet Zoo and a founding member of two puppetry collectives, Flora & Fauna, and Felt Like It Puppets. Kimzyn was a playwright in Transcribe 2025 and a cohort with Theatre

L'Acadie's Inc.Ubator for their play Ubermarionettes, which was featured at the Alice Gerstenberg Festival in 2026 after a residency at the Puppet Studio. In 2026, they attended the O'Neill for the National Puppetry Conference.

Mara Currens

Storyteller 6:
The Robber Girl & Others

Mara (she/her) is a Chicago-based and Minnesota-raised actor and vocalist. She received her BFA in Acting from Millikin University and is represented by Stewart Talent Chicago. Recent credits include Footholds Vol. 7 (Ensemble, The Impostors Theatre Co.), Angels of Lemnos (Marcy, Clark Week Productions), Enemy of the People (Petra, Saint Sebastian's Players), Company (Amy, Ashland Theatre Co.), and Ocean on Fire (Alice, Eye of Jupiter Theatre/Minnesota Fringe Festival). Upcoming: Touch of Funk Cabaret at Dorothy Downstairs on December 8th (Instagram: touch.of.funk). In addition to playing pretend, Mara loves to win her Survivor fantasy league (three-peat), make fancy coffee, and speed-run crossword puzzles. Instagram: @maracurrens

Mab De Guzman

Storyteller 5:
The Sprite & Others

Mab (she/they/siya) is thrilled to return to The Impostors once more to bring the wonderful writing of Mallory Swisher to life! As a graduate of Loyola University Chicago, previous credits include Beyond The Garden Gate (The Impostors Theatre Co.), KASHA OF KAIMUKI (NWaC), and Attempts on Her Life (TUTA Theatre). She is currently an ensemble member of Strawdog Theatre Company. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support.

Jessica Dommer

Puppet Designer,
Assistant Props Designer

Jessica Dommer has spent years collecting a rather unusual set of skills, moving between prop master, special FX artist, and mixed-media fabricator. Now, for The Snow Queen, she's adding puppet designer to that ever-growing list! While her previous adventures in puppetry have included creating a giant wolf face for Beyond the Garden Gate, she figured it was time to put her years of fabrication experience, creative problem-solving, and love of making the impossible possible to a new challenge. Jessica received her BA in Technical Theater from Columbia College Chicago in 2012. She is also one half of a dynamic two-person design team alongside Jackie Bobbitt, and wouldn't have it any other way! Her previous work with The Impostors includes Static-Head, Monstrous, Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey, Pilot Island & Her Keepers, Beyond the Garden Gate, and The Last Living Gun.

Bryson David Hoff

Storyteller 2:
The Reindeer & Others

Bryson is a Chicago-based, multi-disciplinary theatre artist who is excited to be making his Impostors debut in The Snow Queen. He was last seen onstage in Prick with Proboscis Theatre Company and had the opportunity to showcase his work as vocal coach for Midsommer Flight's production of As You Like It this past summer. In addition to his work in Chicago, Bryson is a founding company member of Scrap Paper Shakespeare of Raleigh, NC and appeared in their productions of Arabella, Arms and the Man, As You Like It, and Julius Caesar. They also produced his playwriting debut this past spring with his adaptation of The Wind in the Willows. Bryson is a member of the Voice and Speech Trainer's Association and a proud graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University's MFA Acting program. Professional website: brysondavidhoff.com

Ethan Gasbarro

Master Carpenter

Ethan Gasbarro is an ensemble member and resident set designer of The Impostors Theatre Co. 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.

Ann Kessler

Associate Costume Designer

Ann is a Professor Emerita of Theatre at Valparaiso University where she dedicated 28 years to teaching, department leadership, and costume design. Over her career in theatre, Ann designed more than 150 productions covering theatre, musical theatre, opera, and dance. Demonstrating a lifelong devotion to varied passions, Ann expanded her professional horizons to pursue veterinary medical training at Purdue University, receiving her license as a Registered Veterinary Technician in 2024. Ann currently works as a RVT at a 24/7 veterinary clinic in Hobart, Indiana. When not working, Ann enjoys yoga, gardening, hiking with her two dogs, and the occasional costume design project.

JA Loyd

Storyteller 4: The Old Woman & Others

JA Loyd is theater creative in Chicago! She recently moved here from Oklahoma and performed in Monstrous (The Owl/Ocypete) with The Impostors, Everybody (Usher/God) with Couchpenny Ensemble, and the choir of Uniting Voices Chicago for the 25th Anniversary of The Fellowship of the Ring in Concert. They do additional dramaturgy and stage management work. Follow her journey on instagram @j_a_loyd. Thank you to The Impostors for everything.

Emma Luke

Lighting Designer

Emma (she/they) is a Chicago-based lighting designer who is thrilled to be a part of this production. This is her fourth time working with The Impostors, with previous shows including Pilot Island & Her Keepers (2024), The Last Living Gun (2023), and 2024's Footholds Vol. 5. Originally from Santa Cruz, CA, she graduated from UCLA's school of Theatre, Film, and Television before relocating to the beautiful city of Chicago. Her other design work includes a UCLA production of Everybody (2021) and Blank Theatre's Promises, Promises (2023). Outside of her theatre work, you might find her roller skating throughout the city, screaming at wrestlers at the Logan Square Auditorium, or clacking away in her video editing cave.

Courtney Marie

The Snow Queen

Courtney Marie is an actor, director, and reality TV addict from right here in the greatest city on Earth – Chicago. Courtney proudly serves as the operations director for The Impostors Theatre Co. Most recently, she performed as Dr. Eliza Babbage in ITC's Static-Head after having the privilege to direct for Footholds Vol. 3 through Vol. 7. Courtney is proud to serve on the board of ITC and to be an ensemble member of both ITC and the Chicago Reader's Best Storefront Theatre Company of 2025, Ghostlight Ensemble Theatre! When not on or behind the stage, Courtney works as a corporate contracts manager and paralegal and is passionate about her role as a volunteer coach for UIC's Mock Trial Team. Courtney is inspired by her community of fellow theatermakers and her incredible friends.

Shannon McEldowney

Gerda

Shannon (she/her) is giddy to return to The Impostors Theatre Co. after playing Hermia in ITC's award-winning production of Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey. Other recent credits include Damn Yankees (Theo Ubique), [title of show] (PrideArts), Almost Heaven (TATC), and Mamma Mia (Drury Lane). Shannon sang lead vocals on The British Invasion national tour and on Dirty Dancing in Concert, both the national and North American tours. She is represented by Big Mouth Talent. Love to Mom, Dad, and Comic Sans. www.shannonmceldowney.com

Eilish Morse-O'Rourke

Storyteller Seven:
Mother & Others

Eilish (she/her) is delighted to be making her Impostors Theatre Co. debut with The Snow Queen! Most recently, she was seen in The Wizard of Oz at Big Noise Theatre. Other credits include: Dames At Sea (Citadel Theatre), the U.S. premiere of London Road (Shattered Globe Theatre), The Confession (Blue Gate Theatre), and Kennywood Amusement Park's Summer's On. This summer she had the incredible opportunity to be a part of the Vuori x Chase Infiniti ad campaign as a dancer with choreographer Sean Bankhead. She is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago with a BFA in Musical Theatre Performance. She sends all her love to her friends and family for their support! IG: @eilishmorseorourke

Zoë Nisam

Stage Manager

Zoë (she/her) is thrilled to be making her Impostors debut as the stage manager for The Snow Queen! She is a multi-disciplinary theatre artist and received her BFA in Theatre Studies from The Theatre School at DePaul University in June of this year. She is an ensemble member with Sub Rosa Theatre Collective and her next projects include directing The Tenants by Zeyy Fawaz for the #WeWomen Festival with Artemisia Theatre. Zoë also works at Chicago's historic Music Box Theatre as a box office attendant, concessionaire, and future bartender. She is passionate about experimental theatre, anti-capitalist art, and cooking. Instagram: @zoe.nisam

Toria Olivier

Costume Designer

Toria (they/she) is delighted to bring their love of costumes and crafting to The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) once more. This is their fourth show costuming for ITC, the most recent being Static-Head and the Jeff Award winning Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey. Toria is also an actor and performer bringing ghosts and gorgons to life with The Impostors. A huge thank you to Ann Kessler and Tee Broussard – I literally could not have done this without you. toriaolivier.carrd.co

Stefan Roseen

Director, Sound
Designer, & Scenic Designer

Stefan is a Chicago-based director, designer, and playwright. Since its founding in 2016, Stefan has served as the artistic director of The Impostors Theatre Company (ITC). He most recently directed ITC's Static-Head and the critically acclaimed, Jeff Award winning Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey, earning him the award for direction in the short run category. Additional directing credits include Pilot Island & Her Keepers, Beyond the Garden Gate, The Last Living Gun, Miranda: A War-Torn Fable, Windwalkers, Hertha Nova, Summer & Smoke, Tippy: Stories from the River, Caged: An Allegory, The Wood, Art, and The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan. His direction of the short play The Altercation in the Underworld won "Best Of" at the MadKap Productions Short Play Festival. Stefan has been Jeff Nominated for his direction of Helena & Hermia and Hertha Nova, as well as his artistic specialization of sound design for Pilot Island & Her Keepers. All three productions were also nominated for Best Production (Short Run), which Helena & Hermia recently won. By day, Stefan is an educator teaching Performance Art and Fine Art. Recent design credits include sound design for Rising Water and Big Time Toppers (Theatre L'Acadie), as well as scenic design for 7 Minutes to Live, Eurydice, A Doll's House, 25/25, Occidental Express, the Jeff Recommended They, and the Jeff Nominated The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui (Trap Door Theatre).

Anna Roemer

Director & Choreographer

Anna is a Chicago-based choreographer, director, actor, and teaching artist. She is an ensemble member and the resident choreographer for The Impostors Theatre Co., as well as the co-founder and artistic director of Schoolhouse Shakespeare Company. Recent credits include choreography for the Jeff Award winning Helena and Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey, Monstrous, and Miranda: A War Torn Fable (ITC); as well as Sweeney Todd (Big Noise Theatre) and 35 Millimeter: A Musical Exhibition (Three Brothers Theatre Co.). She also acts as resident choreographer for the youth performing arts compa-

ny Music House Inc., where she has choreographed and/or directed over 40 productions. Anna is passionate about creating spaces where stories can be told freely and joyfully, and she is so excited to share one of her favorite fairytales with audiences through The Snow Queen!

Mary Ross

Storyteller 3:
Grandma & Others

Mary is thrilled to work with the creative team (and she means creative!) at The Impostors Theatre Co. She graduated from Northwestern University (1973) and worked with theaters including Actors Theatre of Louisville, Steppenwolf, Facets Performance Ensemble, Pary Productions (Kay Strange in Towards Zero), Reverie Theatre (Madam Ranevskaya in The Cherry Orchard), Stockyards Theatre (Henry IV in Henry IV) and Candid Theater (Rosse in Macbeth). Recently, Mary played Dr. Gall, engineer of the first robots in City Lit's adaptation of R.U.R. – first performed in 1921! In between, Mary became one of the highest ranked sommeliers in the U.S. and the first woman to receive the Wine Spectator's "Grand Award of Excellence." Her "Good Wine" column appears monthly in the Daily Herald.

Hilary Sanzel

Storyteller 1:
The Raven & Others

Hilary Sanzel is honored to be working with all the incredible artists who have brought this production of The Snow Queen to life, most notably Donut the Raven. She previously appeared on The Impostors' stage in Beyond the Garden Gate as Grandmother. Some other Chicago credits include shows at Redtwist Theatre, The Factory Theater, Hell in a Handbag Productions, Otherworld Theatre Company, and Midnight Summit Ensemble. Hilary has a BA in Theatre Arts from SUNY New Paltz and is a graduate of The Second City Conservatory. In addition to being an actor, she is also a multi-sport Special Olympics coach. When not acting or coaching, you can find Hilary walking her dog Millie – or saying "hi" to your dog. Or cat. Or really any animal. Hilary would like to dedicate her performance to the memory of a treasured jewel, her mother.

Cee Scallen

Kay

Cee Scallen (they/them) is a proudly sapphic theatre artist, arts educator, and Black Cat Theatre co-founder. Cee's artistic passions lie in centering queer stories, art as activism and education as art, and making theatre more accessible to all artists. They are thrilled to be back, embracing the art of pretend with The Impostors! Chicagoland area credits include Backyard Theatre Co, The Impostors, Theatre for Hope and Healing, Babes with Blades, Big Noise Theatre, and Black Cat Theatre. All their love to Cori, their cats, and the chosen family who has supported them in their artistic and mental health journeys.

Ian R. B. Slater

Dialect Coach

Ian (she/they) is an actor, director, dialect coach, and musician. She has previously worked with The Impostors on Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey, Pilot Island & Her Keepers, Windwalkers, Hertha Nova, and Summer & Smoke. Outside of theatrical work, you can find Ian wherever you get your podcasts and audiobooks (www.ianrqslater.com) or supporting small businesses through her LLC (www.slatersupport.com).

Mallory Swisher

Playwright

Mallory is one of the founding ensemble members of The Impostors Theatre Co. She is a playwright (The Wood, Beyond the Garden Gate), actor, voice actor, and lighting designer. 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), and Assassins (Crown Point Theater). She was voted First Runner-Up for "Best Theater Designer of 2023" by The Chicago Reader. Lighting design credits include: Footholds Vol.4, 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 every other Tuesday on Roll 4 Your Life: a D&D podcast, available on your preferred podcasting platform!

Bee Valek

Assistant Stage Manager

Bee (they/them) is a Chicago-based artist. Stage management credits include Static-Head, Helena & Hermia in the Enamored Odyssey, Tippy: Stories from the River (The Impostors Theatre Co.); The Brightest Thing in the World and Laced (About Face Theatre). Performance credits include The Last Living Gun and Miranda: A War-Torn Fable (The Impostors Theatre Co). Bee is a proud ensemble member of The Impostors. Thank you for being here and for supporting live theatre!

The Impostors give special thanks to

Martin and Alex Alcocer for generously funding the stipends for this season's stage managers.

Ethan Gasbarro for donating all scenic materials in honor of his late father and fellow carpenter, Daniel Gasbarro.

Sarah Fabian and Stage Center Theatre at Northeastern Illinois University for loaning scenic materials and props.

Martin Alcocer and The Theatre School at DePaul University for loaning scenic materials and props.

The Impostors Theatre Co. stages stories at the crossroads of retrospect and innovation, where the fantastic collides with the everyday. In order to better our discourse, our relationships, and ourselves, The Impostors aim to inspire an urgency for the arts by embracing the art of pretend.

In our eighth season of storytelling, The Impostors endeavor to share stories that weave directly throughout our objective to excite among youth a passion for the arts and to inspire alike the wide-eyed and world-weary. In a rerendering of a fairytale classic, our characters will chart course through the wintery landscape of **The Snow Queen** by Mallory Swisher, exploring and excavating its garden of lost things. In the spring, Dominick Alesia's brand new musical **A Portrait of Doctor Gachet** will unspool the inner lives of those closest to the once unsung artistic genius, Vincent Van Gogh. And – in the fashion of perennial plants – our traditional anthology **Footholds** will return with an appreciative nod to other avenues of creating and sharing art.

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.

The Impostors Theatre Co. is a 501(c)3 non-profit arts service organization. For more information about The Impostors Theatre Co. and donating to our mission, we invite you to visit theimpostorstheatre.com. Follow ITC on facebook.com/theimpostorstheatre and on instagram.com/impostorstheatre.