

bitter. sweet.

# AMOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN

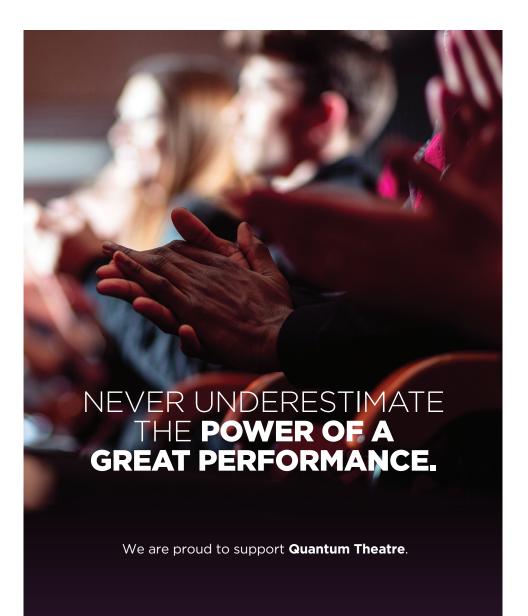
By Eugene O'Neill

Directed by J. Cody Spellman

August 2-25, 2024

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#### Quantum Theatre

Prosents

# A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN

By Eugene O'Neill Directed By J. Cody Spellman

#### CAST

in order of appearance

Melessie Clark\* ....... Josie Hogan
Jordan Drake ...... Mike Hogan
Wali Jamal\* ..... Phil Hogan
Brett Mack\* ..... James Tyrone, Jr.
Allen Law\* ..... T. Steadman Harder

Scenic Design: Stephanie Mayer-Staley Lighting Design: C. Todd Brown Composition & Sound Design: Ryan McMasters Costume Design: Damian E. Dominguez

The work of the design and production artists is supported by the Philip Chosky Design and Production Fund. Philip Chosky Private Foundation Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

Stage Manager: Cory F. Goddard\*
Assistant Stage Manager: Nathan Walter
Intimacy & Fight Director: José Pérez IV
Assistant Scenic Designer, Props Artisan & Scenic Painter: Emily Landis
Technical Director: Cubbie McCrory
Technical Specialist: Anthony Del Grosso
Lighting Assistant: Madeline Miller
Wig Design: Tenel Dorsey, Dreamz Hair Salon
House Manager: Hazy J
Assistant House Manager: Jess Nicole Morse
Technical Director Intern: Burke Rhodes

Production Manager: Melissa Lubina
Production Crew: Piper Clement, Thomas Feather, Hailey Garza,
Cameron Knox, Phil Madore, Zev Woscoff, Nate Zema

\*Appearing through an agreement between Quantum Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

"A Moon for the Misbegotten" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

RUN TIME: 2 HOURS, INCLUDING A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION



Moon for the Misbegotten is a director's dream, a play that not only resonates with our innate capacity to choose life and love, but also sparks contemplation and discussion about the challenges we face and the resilience we show. This perpetual struggle, a thread woven into the fabric of all our lives, makes it a timeless masterpiece, captivating audiences across generations.

I am drawn to the ghost of O'Neill - his memory and condition while writing this piece. A Moon for the Misbegotten is his second play that involves the character of James Tyrone Jr., a character based on his actual brother and the demons his brother battled in his short life. It is almost as if O'Neill is trying to evoke spirits to come before him, to help him understand where his brother was coming from at the end of his days, as O'Neill himself faced sudden tragedy in the loss of his father, mother, and ultimately his brother. The memories O'Neill must have played in his head while writing - the good ones and the tormented ones, longing to understand his brother and say everything unsaid, hoping to complete their unfinished business.

I've been struck by O'Neill's early life, before he made it as a playwright and had adventures working on a ship sailing across the ocean and think that experience influenced all his work regardless of the setting. What if we viewed A Moon for the Misbegotten as a story about a great ocean — filled with beauty, power, and violence? A storm is always around the corner, yes, but a clear night sky and moon are also there somewhere, just waiting to come out, allowing us to bask in their truthfulness; feel their judgment and grace as the waves crash and push us forward. And through that examination, our understanding of who we are and who we are not can come to light, inviting us to forgive and accept ourselves, and rest — floating along with the waves. This idea feels relevant to this country today — and I wonder what would happen if we collectively fought to accept that we are worthy of life and live it, no matter the storms that come.

#### A NOTE FROM FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

t's given me great pleasure to enable Cody Spellman in directing a dream play of his. He enabled me in turn, to right a wrong: the fact that I've not had an O'Neill play in Quantum's history, despite O'Neill being as great a force driving me to the theatre as Shakespeare. Maybe I was intimidated? I remember adoring Strange Interlude, before age 20, and being sure I'd never live to see a production (I did, at London's National Theatre in 2013, it was magnificent!) Abby in Desire Under the Elms is a role I wish I'd played in my youth. Mourning Becomes Electra—O'Neill gives one courage to address the Greeks, showing us their timeless themes and consummate understanding of human nature in the lives all around him. As I said to my French husband, O'Neill gave America a theatrical voice. There could not have been a Williams or a Miller or a Kushner if there hadn't been an O'Neill, sounding nothing like the great British theater we all love. I'm so proud to offer this, and of Cody and all the artists on and offstage.

— Karla Boos

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#### **BIOGRAPHIES**



Karla Boos (Artistic Director) founded Quantum Theatre in 1990 and continues to enjoy exploring the language of theater in Pittsburgh. She often directs for the company (Chimerica) and sometimes performs (The Cherry Orchard). Quantum Theatre has produced many of her original texts, like Chatterton (adapted from Peter Ackroyd), All the Names (adapted from José Saramago), and her libretto for

The Winter's Tale, created as a Baroque pastiche opera. Quantum Theatre's work has been featured in national publications, frequently earns distinction in local publications, and has toured internationally. Boos has won awards locally, including the Carol R. Brown Award and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Creative Achievement Award. She is a member of the National Theatre Conference and the International Women's Forum and served as Guest Curator for the 2018 Pittsburgh International Festival of Firsts of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust.



J. Cody Spellman (Director) is a director for theatre and film. He has directed and production-managed theatre, special events, and film throughout the country for over a decade and served as the Artistic Director for Throughline Theatre Company from 2022-24. Notable directing credits include Uncle Vanya, A View from the Bridge (Throughline Theatre Company), The Miseducation of 55th Street (The Revival Comedy

Theater), Kaitlin (The Frontier Theatre), Burn (Mercy Street Theatre Company), Public Parts, Bury The Ratchet (The Second City), #MATTER (Jackalope Theatre Company), The Blue Room (Stage 773), Waiting for Grimace (The Neapolitans Theatre Company), The Pillowman, The Glory of Living (Columbia College Chicago), Deathtrap (Little Lake Theatre), Everybody (Theatre Factory). His latest film, The Circle Children, is currently on the festival circuit and will be shown in Pittsburgh later this year. Cody holds a B.A. in Theatre Directing from Columbia College Chicago. For more information, visit jcodyspellman.com and follow jcspells on Instagram.



#### CAST



Melessie Clark (Josie Hogan) is thrilled to be returning to Quantum Theatre. A Pittsburgh native and graduate of Point Park University with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre, she was most recently seen in the new musical, The Preacher's Wife with music by Titus Burgess at Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, GA and made her Off-Broadway debut in A Sign of the Times at New World Stages in New York City. Melessie's other

credits include PCLO's Once on This Island (Mama Euralie), Into the Woods (Lucinda), Grease (Jan), Rock of Ages (Waitress #1), The Wedding Singer (Crystal/Tina Turner), The Color Purple and Gypsy (Ensemble), Pittsburgh Public Theater's School Girls; Or, the African Mean Girls Play (Eloise), Little Shop of Horrors (Ronnette) and Two Trains Running (Risa), Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre Company's Dulcy (Dulcy) and Ubuntu Holiday (Shariffa), Quantum Theatre's The Current War (Marguerite Westinghouse), Kinetic Theatre's An Octoroon (Minnie) and New Horizon Theater's The Old Settler. Melessie was named the 2022 BroadwayWorld Best Supporting Performer in a Musical and Best Supporting Performer in a Play. Some of her commercial and voiceover work include T-Mobile, PA Lottery, Hershey Park and Sheetz. She can be seen in Archive 81 on Netflix, Anything's Possible, directed by Billy Porter and Final Decision on Amazon Prime and the short film We Are Nowhere, directed by Cody Spellman. A lifetime member of her Greensburg-Jeanette NAACP, Melessie serves her community as a teaching artist with hopes to equip young people with tools to be successful. Instagram: @melessieclark



Jordan Drake (Mike Hogan) is a performer/artist living in Pittsburgh. He graduated from IUP with a degree in Musical Theatre and a minor in Studio Art. He's been in a few different productions including The Wedding Singer with Clinton Area Showboat Theatre; Riverfront Theatre Company's Assassins, and Pittsburgh CLO's Gallery of Heroes (2024). He's so exciting to be working on this beautiful piece with Quantum Theatre! Hope you enjoy!



Wali Jamal (*Phil Hogan*) is a native Pittsburgher, born and raised in the city's South Side. He started his stage career in the late 80's, doing stand-up comedy in local nightclubs before finding his way to theater in the late 90's. Since then, he has performed with nearly every known theater company in Da Burgh and has come to be known as one of the hardest working actors in the region. He has just returned to

Pittsburgh after performing as Jaques in Shakespeare's As You Like It with the 23rd annual St. Louis Shakespeare Festival. Wali was named the 2018 Pittsburgh Post Gazette Performer of the Year for his performance in August Wilson's one man play, How I Learned What I Learned. He is celebrated as the first and only actor in the world to have performed that one man play in addition to all ten plays in August Wilson's Century Cycle.



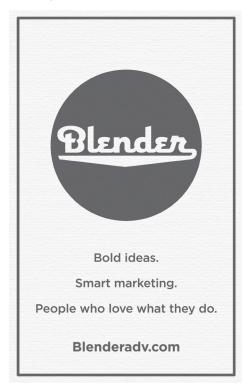
Allen Law (T. Steadman Harder) is proud to be working with Quantum Theatre for the first time. Recently he appeared as Johnny Cash in Pittsburgh Musical Theater's production of Million Dollar Quartet. Locally he has performed with Pittsburgh Public Theater as part of their PlayTime Live series in The Slush as Snowman and City Theatre's Young Playwright's Festival. Other favorites include Ray Dolenz, Proposals (Flat

Rock Playhouse), Mozart, Amadeus (NC Stage), George Bailey, Live from WVL: It's a Wonderful Life (Immediate Theatre Project), Paris/Tybalt/Nurse, Romeo and Juliet (Mountain Art Theatre). Allen is a worker/owner with Pin Up Posters Courier Collective which helped distribute promotional materials for this production. He leads Ghost tours in Downtown Pittsburgh with Walk the Burgh.



Brett Mack (James Tyrone, Jr.) is excited to return this summer to Quantum with Moon for the Misbegotten. He could be seen as Horatio in last year's production of Hamlet. Brett also appeared in the off-broadway production of The Originalist, in 2019. He has been an actor and educator for over 20 years, working all over the country. Some previous regional credits include; The Great Society and Hamlet at the Asolo Rep, The Glass

Menagerie at Bridge Street Theater, The Tempest and Leveling Up at the Hippodrome, Julius Caesar and Twelfth Night at Orlando Shakespeare Theater, as well as Mezzulah 1946 and The Muckle Man with the Pittsburgh City Theatre. Brett would like to thank his family for their constant love and support.





#### ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION TEAM



C. Todd Brown (Lighting Designer) has designed the lighting for many Quantum Theatre productions, including The Devil Is A Lie, The Cherry Orchard, The Gun Show (Can we talk about this?), Chatterton, Red Hills, Collaborators, The Winter's Tale, Brahman/i, TAMARA, Pantagleize, Mnemonic, The Golden Dragon, The Electric Baby, Maria de Buenos Aires, Indian Ink, Kafka's Chimp, Dog Face, The Voluptuous Tango, The Collected Works of Billy the Kid, The Task, The Current War, and

An Odyssey. His lighting has also been seen locally at The Pittsburgh Playhouse, City Theatre Company, and West Virginia Public Theatre. Other design work includes productions at La Jolla Playhouse, Contemporary American Theatre Company, Lamb's Players Theatre, and Virginia Ballet Theatre. Todd is an associate professor of lighting in the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.



Anthony Del Grosso (Technical Specialist) is a Maryland born audio engineer and musician. After moving to Pittsburgh to attend Duquesne University, he graduated from the Mary Pappert School of Music with a B.S. in Music Technology. While in attendance at Duquesne, he served as Sound Chair for the university's theatre company, The Red Masquers, where he acted as sound designer and sound mixer for many

productions. In the following years, he developed a background in event and festival production, providing sound reinforcement and stage management for local Pittsburgh festivals such as *Three Rivers Arts Festival*, *Picklesburgh*, and *Highmark First Night*. During this period, Anthony freelanced on his first Quantum productions, *Chimerica* (2021) and *Plano* (2022), eventually joining the production team as full time staff in 2023 to provide audio, video, and lighting support.



Damian E. Dominguez (Costume Designer) is a Mexican American costume designer and stylist based out of Pittsburgh, PA. Past design credits include The Winter's Tale, ~ [Almost Equal To], Cinderella (Pittsburgh Playhouse), The Perfect Mate, Tick Tick...Boom (CLO Cabaret) Somewhere Over The Border, American Fast (City Theater), Fiddler on the Roof (Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra), Rapunzel (Byham Theatre), I am A

Dreamer..., Macbeth, Cendrillon, La donna del lago (Resonance Works), The Cherry Orchard (Quantum Theatre), and The Lavender Terrace (New Hazlett/KST). Damian was the associate costume designer for Great Comet (Pittsburgh CLO) and A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem (Pittsburgh Public). He was one of the five selected artists for Flowers Meet Fashion: Inspired by Billy Porter at the Phipps Conservatory. In April, he won the Kennedy Center Arts College Theater Festival award for Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design for his work on  $\approx$  [Almost Equal To]. Upcoming projects include Steel Pier (Pittsburgh Playhouse), The Little Prince (Resonance Works), and Birthday Candles (City Theater). Damian holds an M.F.A. in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University. See more of his work at www.damianedominguez.com or IG: damianedominguez



Cory F. Goddard (Production Stage Manager) Cory has worked in the Pittsburgh theatre community for the past 20 years. They have made theatre with Quantum Theatre, PICT Classic Theatre, Bricolage Production Company, Kinetic Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, The REP, Kelly Strayhorn Theatre, Texture Ballet, and The Colonial Theatre (RI). When not making theatre they can usually be found listening

to records or tending to their (too many) plants. Cory is a George M. Donaldson Thespian and a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College.



Emily Landis (Assistant Scenic Designer, Properties Artisan & Scenic Painter) is a graduate of Point Park University with a BFA in Theatre Production: Design. This is Emily's third production with Quantum Theatre, as they served as Scenic Painter and Properties Designer for The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk and Assistant Scenic Designer, Scenic Painter, and Properties Artisan for Scenes from an Execution last season. Other select credits include

Properties Manager for Dance Nation (Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse), Scenic Designer for Everybody and Picasso at the Lapin Agile (Point Park University's Pittsburgh Playhouse), Assistant Scenic Designer for A Man of No Importance, Grand Hotel, and Merrily We Roll Along (Front Porch Theatricals), and Carpenter for 42nd Street, Bridges of Madison County, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Shenandoah Summer Music Theatre). When not in theatres, Emily works at Construction Junction promoting sustainability and building material reuse.



Melissa Lubina (Production Manager) is happy to manage her first show with Quantum Theatre. She is a recent MFA graduate from the Stage and Production Management program at Carnegie Mellon University where she now works as the facilities assistant in the School of Drama. Her Production Management experience includes A Doll's House, You on the Moors Now, and Babel at CMU, as well as a production

of Legally Blonde: The Musical at Cal Poly Pomona. She's worked as a stage manager for East West Players and Southern California Shakespeare Festival in Los Angeles. She would like to thank Cody Spellman and Karla Boos for giving her this opportunity.



James "Cubbie" McCrory (Technical Director) is thrilled to cultivate and collaborate on unique and adventurous theater here in his hometown of Pittsburgh. A native of Washington County, Cubbie is a Point Park University alumnus where he completed undergraduate work in Technical Theater. Cubbie spent a decade on the road as a technician with national tours. He worked with Big League Productions, NETworks, and

Prather Entertainment Group on shows such as Memphis, Fiddler on the Roof, Blast, All Shook Up, Wedding Singer, and 42nd Street, and was the Production Manager on the 10th anniversary tour of Footloose. After 10 years of traveling, he went back to school to complete an MFA in Production Design and Technology from Ohio University.



Ryan McMasters (Sound Design and Composition) is a music maker in Pittsburgh whose work focuses on accessibility for audiences and performers. As a composer known for his "sparkling, textural organicism" (I Care If You Listen), recent and notable pieces include an evening length operatic setting of Sea Garden by H.D., an audience-as-performers work for cell phones based on firefly interactions, and new concert works

for soprano Anna Elder, the multidisciplinary band SpacePants, and legendary percussionist Jan Williams. Ryan has been in residency or collaborated with many Pittsburgh institutions, including the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the Pittsburgh Glass Center, and most recently, a pair of commissions for The Society Preserve the Millvale Murals of Maxo Vanka. A frequent collaborator for theater and dance, Ryan's work has recently supported productions by the Verdon-Fosse Legacy, BC/EFA, Hiawatha Project, and Kamraton. In addition to composition and sound design, Ryan is an in-demand performer and session musician, most notably as a member of Bombici, an electro-acoustic Balkan band. He is married to violinist and educator Kathleen Andrews, and they are both teaching and learning about music from their daughter, Lizzy.



Madeline Miller (Lighting Assistant) is so grateful to be a part of A Moon for the Misbegotten. She is a designer, assistant, and theater maker based in Pittsburgh pursuing a BFA in Lighting Design and Environmental and Sustainability Studies at Carnegie Mellon University.



José Pérez IV (Fight & Intimacy Director) is the Resident Fight & Intimacy Director of Pittsburgh Public Theater. Recent credits at Pittsburgh Public (The Coffin Maker, A Midsummer Night's Dream in Harlem, Robin Hood, Billy Strayhorn: Something to Live For, A Christmas Story), Actors Theatre of Louisville (Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy), Cleveland Play House (Mary Shelley's Frankenstein), Vermont Stages (Breakfalls). Recent productions of his

plays: Louisville Hivemind Artist Collective (To Battle: a fight play), Kelly Strayhorn Theater (Or Forever Hold Your Peace), Saginaw Valley State University (Very Berry Dead, Semifinalist 46th Bay Area Playwrights Festival). His work has been seen at New York City venues including Times Square Arts Center, HERE Arts Center, Joe's Pub, The Ohio Theater, and Theater for the New City. BFA Drama NYU Tisch Experimental Theatre Wing, MFA Performance Pedagogy University of Pittsburgh. Artistic Director of Big Storm Performance Company. JosePerezIV.com

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Stephanie Mayer-Staley (Set Designer) is an Idea Artist whose work ranges from scenic and lighting design to installation, land art, painting, photography and stone masonry. Originally from Germany, her art often reflects the desire for cross-cultural understanding. Mrs. Mayer-Staley's work has been produced, displayed and honored in the USA as well as in Germany. Recent local Theatrical Designs include what did

you think you just heard me say with CorningWorks Dance Company and The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk with Quantum Theatre.



Alex Ungerman (Incoming Director of Production) is a Producer/ Director with a history of leading innovative theatre companies, including: Grassroots Shakespeare Co. (Co-Founder), Sackerson (Co-Founder), Birmingham Children's Theatre (Assoc. Artistic Director). In addition to his extensive directing (39 credits) and producing experience (50 credits), Alex is an actor and educator who loves sharing his passion on

stage and in the classroom. He is married to Dr. Elisa Bushman — an accomplished specialist at West Penn Hospital, and in their spare time they enjoy biking around Pittsburgh with their 4 children in 2 cargo bikes.



Nathan Walter (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to be returning to Quantum Theatre for this production of A Moon for the Misbegotten. He attended Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania, where he received his B.A. in Philosophy, English, and Communications. Since graduating he has continued to work in the Pittsburgh theater community, focusing his career on stage management. Theaters in the area he has worked for are

Throughline Theatre Company (*Uncle Vanya*) of which he is a company member, Quantum Theatre (*The Flying Lovers of Vitebsk*), Little Lake Theatre Company (*Escape to Margaritaville*), and Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center (*Titanic*). He has recently debuted his directing talents with Throughline Theatre and their *Living Newspaper Festival*. When not stage managing or directing, he works at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center as a Scenic Carpenter.



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#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Quantum Theatre acknowledges that our productions take place in Dionde:gâ, the Seneca language name for the Pittsburgh region.

We work and create art on the unceded, ancestral lands of many Indigenous peoples including the Seneca Nation members of the Haudenosaunee (hoe-dee-no-SHOW-nee) Confederacy, the Lenape (or Delaware), the Shawnee, and the earlier Adena, Hopewell, Monongahela and others. We are mindful that our work here is possible because the land and lives of people native to this place were stolen.

Through this acknowledgment, we invite you to join us in paying respect to the elders both past and present. We encourage you to visit the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center to learn more and support their work: http://www.cotraic.org/

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