

## **MISSION**

TO CREATE EXCEPTIONAL, INNOVATIVE AND ADVENTUROUS THEATRE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING THAT ADVANCES THE NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITY, AND CHALLENGES AND ENTERTAINS AUDIENCES IN CHICAGO AND BEYOND.

## **VISION**

TO BE A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, INTERGENERATIONAL, AND COMMUNITY-FOCUSED LGBTQIA ARTS ORGANIZATION BY CREATING THEATRE THAT FOSTERS AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND CELEBRATION OF ALL FORMS OF SEXUAL AND GENDER EXPRESSION.

# **AFT STAFF**

### ANDREW VOLKOFF ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## BENJAMIN SPRUNGER

**DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL GIVING** 

### **ANDREW FORTMAN**

DIRECTOR OF INDIVIDUAL & MAJOR GIVING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### **ALI HOEFNAGEL**

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR** 

#### **MARGO JOY HAWK**

MARKETING COORDINATOR

#### **KIERAN KREDELL**

**EDUCATION COORDINATOR** 

### **ALANA PARVEY-ZALAS**

BOOKKEEPER

### **DAVID ROSENBERG**

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** 









# BOARD LEADERSHIP MESSAGE



I am honored to be first woman President of the About Face Theatre Board of Directors during such a stirring time in the history of our organization, our community and our nation. We surpassed a major milestone in 2016, celebrating the company's 20th anniversary in a tribute held just after the shocking tragedy at Orlando's Pulse Nightclub. That celebration strengthened the bonds of our entire About Face family and reminded us all how vital this work has been and will continue to be.

Now we grieve the disappointing 2016 election results and contemplate how to move forward. We had hoped to be celebrating the first woman President in our nation's 238 year history and to be exploring new frontiers, but now we must fight to preserve the progress we already fought so hard to achieve. In this national climate, About Face Theatre is even more determined to charge ahead in spite of a backlash against progress. Now, as ever, we count on the powerful forces of the arts to create, to heal, to understand, to transform, to humanize and empower.

We fully re-commit to our founding principle: to champion authentic representation of our community on the stage through the lens of gender identity and sexual orientation – to give voice to those who need to be heard the most and to reach out to those who need

to listen the most. This is a necessary and nuanced challenge. Our community is complex, some of us experience different layers of inequality, and people of color have shouldered a disproportionate burden in raising awareness of racial injustice. This is one of the many reasons I am especially proud of the work and leadership of About Face Youth Theatre which sets a standard that inspires our company. The Youth ensemble's 2016 world premiere production of <u>AD HOC [HOME]</u> gained praise from Albert Williams for setting a "standard for diversity in terms of race, gender, and physical type that professional stages would do well to emulate."

Artistic Director Andrew Volkoff's strong 20th Anniversary Season won us extraordinary positive recognition including four Jeff nominations. We will build on these successes with an exciting 21st season that strikes a fascinating balance between paying homage to the past while presenting timely issues. Our Board of Directors continues to expand its membership and we are introducing innovative fundraising strategies. We look forward to deepening our existing relationships, broadening our support and honing our governance skills. We feel love and support from institutions and individuals fueling us with new ideas.

I am proud to lead About Face into a new stage of maturity and growth as we produce work that resonates and raises awareness of queer youth issues. Now, more than ever, it is essential to offer artists a safe forum to create and perform roles that rarely exist, and to provide our youth with a sense of home and community and to nurture their theatrical and activism skills.

We thank you for your ongoing support of this important work.

Becky Huinker Board President

# STAFF LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Few things are as moving as a birthday or an anniversary and, this past season, we celebrated both in About Face's 20th anniversary season. As one of the few professional LGBTQ theatres left in the nation, it was a significant milestone that we honored throughout the year. We brought together friends and artists from our past, created world premiere theatre, and overshot several fundraising goals — all in all, a great year! It was a thrilling season of looking back, celebrating the present, and looking forward with anticipation to the future!

The first quarter of our season kicked off in style with some very special events. October saw the return of the Black & Tan Supper Club gala, which paid tribute to our 20-year history with a seductive evening of food, drink and jazz at the glamorous InterContinental Hotel. Our popular Out Front reading series took on a retrospective nature this season, leading off in November with the About Face lesbian camp favorite, <u>Pulp</u>, by former Artistic Associate Patricia Kane and playing to two sold-out evenings.



AFT Artistic Associate Philip Dawkins' <u>The Homosexuals</u> returned as December's Out Front entry in a special one-night only reading featuring the entire original cast (including AFT Artistic Associates Patrick Andrews, Scott Bradley, John Francisco, Elizabeth Ledo and Ben Sprunger) that filled the huge auditorium at the Chicago History Museum to capacity. More work from the talented Philip Dawkins hit the stage in January with the world premiere of his bittersweet new comedy, <u>Le Switch</u>, which examined a queer world faced with commitment issues in light of recent marriage equality wins. An enormous success with critics and audiences alike, it featured the work of Artistic Associates Mitchell Fain and Elizabeth Ledo in the cast. Jeff Award voters sat up and took notice as well, nominating the production in three categories: Best New Work, Best Production, and Elizabeth as Best Actress in a Supporting Role.

March saw the Chicago premiere of A. Rey Pamatmat's <u>after all the terrible things i do</u>, a moving, searing portrait of bullying and self-hatred. Set in a working, full-scale bookstore, Chelsea Warren's impressive set won AFT a fourth Jeff nomination last season. Attendees wigged out over auction items at last season's Wonka Ball held among classic cars and a fully operational beauty salon at Ravenswood Event Center. This always sensational event was again named one of the top parties in Chicago by BizBash. May ushered in our well-received production of <u>The Secretaries</u>, a satirical piece on women in the workplace and the world from the feverish minds of The Five Lesbian Brothers that combined equal parts camp comedy and slasher flick.

Gay Pride Week fittingly coincided with <u>AFT20</u>, our touching, one night only tribute to About Face's theatrical legacy. Held at the Center on Halsted, this magnificent evening of archival video and photos, scenes, songs, and stories celebrated the history of About Face from its birth to its present incarnation. We reunited artists and past supporters as well as all three artistic directors in a truly unique evening to honor AFT and all the incredible work we've done over 20 years.

We finished out our summer with About Face Youth Theatre's ensemble generated piece, <u>Ad Hoc [Home]</u>, which explored queer experiences of given family, chosen family, and how families shape our identities. <u>Ad Hoc [Home]</u> played to hundreds of people downtown at the Claudia Cassidy Theater at the beautiful Chicago Cultural Center. Closing out our season in August with a look towards the future, we presented a First DraAFT reading of Artistic Associate Paul Oakley Stovall's compelling drama <u>The Hunted</u> which put an all too human face on the torture and executions of gay men in Baghdad.

Leading this company through its 20th season has been gratifying and humbling, but reaching this milestone is a notable achievement for which one person alone cannot take credit. Thanks for its success must go chiefly to the incredible staff that keeps this organization going strong. Additional thanks go to the board who believe in the mission and values we have as a cultural institution, the artists and youth who constantly inspire us, and our numerous community partners, donors and supporters. We couldn't achieve what we have without all of you!

I'm so proud of the work we've acheived and the incredible progress we've made, both as a theatre and as a community. But as I write this, I'm aware of the need – now, more than ever – for an LGBTQIA theatre. We need About Face to light up the darkness, to tell our diverse stories, to provide community and a safe space for our young artists, and to provoke, entertain, reassure, and enlighten audiences. We will remain resilient and strong. As always, I thank you for your support and patronage and look forward to seeing you at the theatre.

Sincerely,

Andrew Volkoff Artistic Director

# ABOUT FACE BOARD & ARTISTS\*

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ROB ABERNATHY** CARMELO BARBARO **EMILY BERGSTROM** DEREK BLIN **ERIK BURNS** GRETA L. FERKEL EM HALL **BECKY HUINKER KYLA NORTON** PAIGE PEAVLER **ED POTOCEK** ANTHONY PRIORE CHARLES RHEE GEOFF D. ROBINSON ANTHONY RUTH BETSY SYLVESTER STEPHEN TUBBS **HEATHER VICKERY** DAN WEISBERG

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PATRICK ANDREWS
WILLIAM BOLES
SCOTT BRADLEY
PRECIOUS DAVIS
PHILIP DAWKINS
SCOTT DUFF
MITCHELL FAIN
SCOTT FERGUSON
JOHN FRANCISCO
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SARAH GUBBINS
ERIC HOFF
DAVID HYMAN
BOB KUHN
ELIZABETH LEDO
KELLI SIMPKINS
ARTURO SORIA
BENJAMIN SPRUNGER
DANIEL STERMER
PAUL OAKLEY STOVALL
MIEKA VAN DERPLOEG
ALEX WEISMAN

# ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES AMERITI

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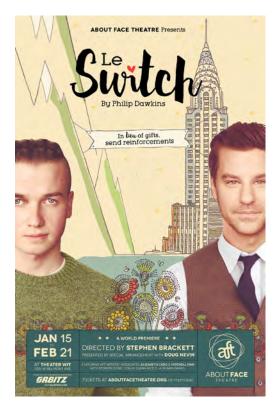
### YOUTH TASK FORCE

ELLIOTT HOBAUGH BEX EHRMANN KYLA NORTON ISIS MENDOZA



# 2015/16 ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING

# MAINSTAGE SHOWS



### **LE SWITCH**

**WRITTEN BY PHILIP DAWKINS DIRECTED BY STEPHEN BRACKETT** 



"Emotionally charged... Le Switch is another significant play from one of Chicago Theatre's brightest talents." - Chris Jones, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Le Switch will put a smile on your face and warm your heart - perfect fare for a Chicago winter."

- Kris Vire, TIME OUT CHICAGO

**SPACE: Theater Wit** ATTENDANCE: 2,381

Marriage equality reaches the U.S., and throws commitment-shy librarian David for a loop. When his best friend's bachelor party takes him to Montreal, he is unexpectedly swept off his feet by Benoît, a charming young florist. Together with his non-traditional family and new beau, David must redefine his ideas of l'amour, commitment, le marriage, and what it means to be queer in this new world.



## **AFTER ALL THE TERRIBLE** THINGS I DO

**WRITTEN** BY A. REY PAMATMAT **DIRECTED BY ANDREW VOLKOFF** 



"Andrew Volkoff's handsome production has much to recommend it, especially in the nuanced give-andtake between Sphar and Tejero."

- Kerry Reid, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

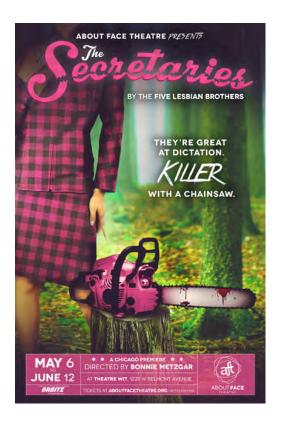
"A smart and keenly acted About Face Theatre production."

- Kris Vire, TIME OUT CHICAGO

SPACE: Theater Wit ATTENDANCE: 1.155

Returning to his Midwestern hometown after college, Daniel, a young, gay writer, takes a job at the local bookstore he knew as a child. After he and Linda, the Filipina bookstore owner, began working together, they discover they share a connection that goes much deeper than a love of literature.

# 20**15/16 ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING**MAINSTAGE SHOWS



## THE SECRETARIES

**WRITTEN** BY THE FIVE LESBIAN BROTHERS **DIRECTED** BY BONNIE METZGAR



"A sexy pulp parody... a show with a radical soul and plenty of smarts... The Secretaries is a mashup of Twin Peaks and Portlandia... hilarious!"

- Chris Jones, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"This cast goes from one end of the comedic spectrum to the other at the drop of a flannel cap." - Kevin Greene, NEWCITY CHICAGO

SPACE: Theater Wit ATTENDANCE: 1,167

Patty Johnson lands the job of her dreams at the Cooney Lumber Mill in Big Bone, Oregon. But it's a comic nightmare when she discovers - amidst Slim Fast shakes, celibacy pacts, and hotel rendezvous that her secretarial pool are chainsaw wielding lumberjack killers! Equal parts horror, humor, and satire, THE SECRETARIES is *Twin Peaks* meets *The Stepford Wives* in this smart, campy comedy from the inventive minds of The Five Lesbian Brothers.



## AD HOC [HOME]

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY THE
ABOUT FACE YOUTH THEATRE ENSEMBLE
DIRECTED BY ALI HOEFNAGEL AND
KIERAN KREDELL

#### CHICAGO READER RECOMMENDED

- "... their unaffected honesty is engaging, illuminating, and inspiring."
- Albert Williams, CHICAGO READER

"This 13 member ensemble, equally comfortable while simultaneously vulnerable, discussed such personal material, reflecting upon their individual journeys and LGBTQ experiences."

- T2ONLINE.COM

SPACE: Claudia Cassidy Theater at The Chicago Cultural Center

ATTENDANCE: 512

A devised play from the Critically acclaimed About Face Youth Theatre Ensemble, Ad Hoc [Home] explores queer experiences of given family, chosen family, and the family members we collect and lose along the way. Through storytelling, video, and movement, AFYT investigates the questions of who we are at our core and how families shape our identities.

# 20**15/16 ARTISTIC PROGRAMMING**ADDITIONAL



## **PULP**

WRITTEN BY PATRICIA KANE DIRECTED BY: JESSICA THEBUS

SPACE: STAGE 773 ATTENDANCE: 142

# THE HOMOSEXUALS

WRITTEN BY: PHILIP DAWKINS
DIRECTED BY BONNIE METZGAR

SPACE: CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

ATTENDANCE: 277

THE 2015/2016 OUT FRONT SERIES FOCUSED ON RETROSPECTIVE AFT PLAYS THAT WERE PAST HITS.



FIRST DRAAFT SHOWCASES NEW WORK IN DEVELOPMENT BY AFT'S GROUP OF 22 TALENTED ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES (THE "AA" IN DRAAFT)

SPACE: THEATER WIT ATTENDNACE: 55

# HUNTEID

WRITTEN BY

AFT ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE PAUL OAKLEY STOVALL AND
THE NEW COLONY'S EVAN LINDER
DIRECTED BY

KRISSY VANDERWALKER

# 2015/16 EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH



About Face Youth Theatre is an identity-affirming theatre activism program. LGBTQIA youth and their allies ages 14-23 explore and expand the boxes we use to define our intricate intersections of race, nationality, gender, and sexuality.

The Education Outreach Program at About Face Theatre provides touring performances and workshops to schools as an entertaining, compelling, and necessary approach to starting dialogue about bullying, diversity, and intersecting identities.



AVERAGE AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

53

% OF PARTICIPANTS THAT IDENTIFY AS POC

% OF PARTICIPANTS THAT IDENTIFY
AS TRANSGENDER / GENDER NON-CONFORMING

16 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS REACHED IN FY16

NUMBER OF CPS SCHOOLS REACHED IN FY16

34 NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES IN FY16

NUMBER OF STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS REACHED IN FY16

13 NUMBER OF CPS PERFORMANCES IN FY16

# 2015/16 EVENTS



# BLACK & TAN SUPPER CLUB OCTOBER 2015

ATTENDEES: 130

**FUNDS RAISED: \$70,000** 



# **WONKA BALL**APRIL 2016

ATTENDEES: 400

**FUNDS RAISED: \$75,000** 



# AFT 20: A CELEBRATION JUNE 2016

ATTENDEES: 153

**FUNDS RAISED: \$10,022** 

# **2015/16 FINANCIALS**

## **BALANCE SHEET**

\* FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31ST, 2016, PRE-AUDIT RESULTS

ASSETS	FY15	FY16*
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	\$47,948	\$87,037.46
RECEIVABLES	\$92,570	\$55,729.78
PREPAID EXPENSES SECURITY DEPOSITS	\$5,331 \$46,447	\$4,118.13 \$40.455.04
FIXED ASSETS (NET)	\$16,147 \$54,351	\$19,155.94 \$48,365.69
TIXED AGGETG (NET)	<b>40-1,001</b>	<b>Q-10,000.0</b> 7
TOTAL ASSETS	\$216,347	\$214,407.00
LIABILITIES		
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$22,635	<b>\$7,295.08</b>
LOANS PAYABLE	\$111,407	\$96,065.21
DEFERRED INCOME	\$63,000	\$74,264.00
ACCRUED EXPENSES	\$7,361	\$1,566.21
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$204,403	\$179,190.50
EQUITY		
RETAINED EARNINGS	\$-	\$11,913.60
NET INCOME	\$11,944	\$23,272.90
TOTAL EQUITY	\$11,944	\$23,272.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$216,347	\$214,407.00

# **2015/16 FINANCIALS**

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

\* FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31ST, 2016. PRE-AUDIT RESULTS

REVENUE AND SUPPORT	FY15	FY16*
BOX OFFICE CONTRIBUTIONS EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM SPECIAL EVENTS GRANTS RENTAL REVENUE IN-KIND REVENUE OTHER REVENUE NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	\$77,301 \$260,596 \$15,596 \$54,147 \$283,471 \$27,954 \$5,741 \$3,243 \$0.0	\$81,291 \$261,698 \$18,525 \$75,839 \$294,443 \$28,691 \$13,100 \$5,000 \$0.0
TOTAL	\$728,050	\$778,588
EXPENSES		
PROGRAM SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL FUNDRAISING TOTAL	\$410,748 \$161,988 \$111,144 \$683,880	\$458,433 \$175,626 \$131,082 \$765,141
CHANGE IN NET OPERATING ASSETS	\$44,170	\$13,447

# 2015/16 DONORS

About Face Theatre relies on individual, corporate, foundation, and government contributions from our community to support our mission to create exceptional and innovative theatre. Without this support, we would not be able to develop exciting new work in collaboration with the finest emerging and established artists in the nation nor would we be able to provide exceptional educational programming to LGBTQIA youth and their allies. Below is a list of our individual supporters who donated from September 1st, 2015 through August 31st, 2016.

We work diligently to keep our donor lists accurate and up-to-date. Please bring any unintentional errors, additions, or corrections to the attention of Ben Sprunger at ben@aboutfacetheatre.org.

Eileen Dordek and Chris Landgraff

### \$10,000+

Paul Boskind Michael Leppen John Sanders and Jason Held Nan Schaffer and Karen Dixon Denis Weil

### \$5.000-\$9.999

**Rob Abernathy and Peter Vamvakas** Carmelo Barbaro and Alexander Boni-Saenz **Emily Bergstrom and Geoff Robinson** Derek Blin Erik Burns and Benjamin Sprunger Jeffery Daniel and Michael Koran Greta L. Ferkel Ted Grady and Ross Slotten Em Hall Miriam Hoover Becky Huinker Amy Hutchison **Drew and Anne Kent Jeffrey Lewis** Billy Lullo and Guto Borth Robert McCamant Bill Michel and Mark Botelho Paige and Steve Peavler Anthony Priore and Eric Schieber Charles Rhee **Anthony Ruth** Chris Schmidt and Diego Rocha Betsy Sylvester and Lawrence Mollo Stephen Tubbs Heather Vickery and Bernadette Smith Daniel Weisberg and

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Bernard D. Santarsiero
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Paul Semper and Eric Medina
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Roland and Christine Veit
Kent Watkins and Joe Linhart
Joan and Dane Wells
Laurie Wilson
Roger Wykes
Todd Young and John Dally

### \$100-\$499

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Blaine Eisner
Bixby Elliot
Xavier Esters
Janet Ferguson
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Mark Fesenmyer and Scott Saporiti

Brent Fisher and Jim Rinnert

Mary Beth Fisher and Roche Schulfer

Erin Fleming Brenikki Floyd Claude A. Foreit James Frazier Daniell Frett and

Jacqueline Kurcz-Frett

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Mary Morten Chelsey Mortenson

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Cindy Weigel Mac Wellman Patti Wetzel

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Raymond Wohl Gerardo Garcia

Wayland Wong Brian Yocum Leslie Young David Zinn Michael Ziri

#### \$1-\$99

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