

10 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
2015-2025



Glensheen

Book by Jeffrey Hatcher
Music & Lyrics by Chan Poling
Directed by Ron Peluso

JULY 9-27, 2025

history theatre

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Celebrating 10 Years of Glensheen at History Theatre

We are thrilled to mark the 10th anniversary of *Glensheen*—an electrifying and wickedly witty musical that has captivated Minnesota audiences since its premiere in 2015. Featuring book by Jeffrey Hatcher, music and lyrics by Chan Poling, and direction by Ron Peluso, this darkly comic retelling of the Congdon mansion murders has transformed into a beloved summer tradition—garnering a devoted fanbase, sold-out runs, and critical acclaim for its razor-sharp dialogue and evocative score.

A heartfelt thank you to the brilliant creative team and the extraordinary cast—both past and present—for bringing this remarkable production to life. Your exceptional talent captivates and inspires audiences, breathing vibrant life into this true Minnesota story.

We're also deeply grateful to YOU - our dedicated audiences and enthusiastic fans—whether you're a season ticket holder, a first-time visitor, or a returning viewer. Your support has been the lifeblood of *Glensheen* for ten years, motivating us to delve further into the mystery, humor, and heart of this beloved homegrown classic.

Cheers to a decade of unforgettable moments at *Glensheen*!

As we prepare for the new season, I welcome you to explore our excellent subscription packages, which include an incredible range of plays and musicals. For additional information, please visit historytheatre.com. Season subscriptions provide outstanding value, allowing you to reserve your preferred seats while also supporting the theater, all while immersing yourself in the next 'classic' from History Theatre.

-Karen Mueller, Managing Director

To make a donation, visit
www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate
or call the Development Office at 651-292-4326

Glensheen

Book by **JEFFREY HATCHER**
Music and Lyrics by **CHAN POLING**
Directed by **RON PELUSO**‡
Musical Direction by **DAVID LOHMAN**•
Choreography by **TINIA MOULDER***
Musical Arrangements by **ROBERT ELHAI**•

Scenic Designer
RICK POLENEK

Sound Designer
C ANDREW MAYER

Costume Designer
E. AMY HILL

Lighting Designer
BILL HEALEY

Properties Designer
KIRBY MOORE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager/Stage Manager	Lee Johnson*
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Deirdre McQuillin
Master Electrician.....	Nick Walberg
Assistant Master Electrician.....	Nick Fetting
Stage Electricians	Kate Peters, Asa Gutow, Alan Donahue
Technical Director.....	Gunther Gullickson
Associate Technical Director.....	Evan Sima
Carpenters.....	Phong Mai, Caleb Terry, Ian Iosso, Jess Hermanson
Scenic Charge.....	Erica Soukup
Costume Assistant.....	Meghan Kent
Open Captioner.....	Laura Wiebers

CONTENT WARNINGS

Dialogue Referencing Suicide

If you or your loved one is struggling, you can always talk to a counselor 24/7 by dialing the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 or texting in Minnesota to 741741.

Strobe Lighting Effects

May affect patrons who have photo sensitivities or photo-sensitive epilepsy.

WHO'S WHO

THE CAST

Marjorie..... **Jen Maren***
 Roger Caldwell, Others **Dane Stauffer***
 Elizabeth Congdon, Velma Pietila, Others **Wendy Lehr***
 The Ensemble **Ruthie Baker, Gary Briggie*,**
 **Randy Schmeling*, Sandra Struthers***

UNDERSTUDIES

Benjamin Dutcher*, Elena Glass*, Adam Qualls*, Kimberly Richardson*

THE ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Pianist **David Lohman•**
 Reeds **Matt Krueger•**
 Bass **Matt McIntyre•**
 Cello **Diane Tremaine•**
 Drums **Will Kemperman•**
 Subs **Ben Osterhouse• (Cello), Jill Schendel• (Piano),**
 **Erik Schee• (Drums)**



RUTHIE BAKER



GARY BRIGGLE*



WENDY LEHR*



JEN MAREN*



RANDY SCHMELING*



DANE STAUFFER*



SANDRA STRUTHERS*



BENJAMIN DUTCHER*
U



ELENA GLASS*
U



ADAM QUALLS*
U



KIMBERLY RICHARDSON*
U



DAVID LOHMAN•



WILL KEMPERMAN•



MATT KRUEGER•



MATT MCINTYRE•



DIANE TREMAINE•

U: Understudy



National
New Play
Network

SDC
THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL STAGE
DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY
A NATIONAL THEATRICAL ASSOCIATION

* Appearing through an agreement between History Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States
 † Member, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.
 • Member, Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians
 # Member, United Scenic Artists Local #829
 ^ Member, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

SETTING

Now and Then
Glensheen and not

This production will be performed with one 15-minute intermission

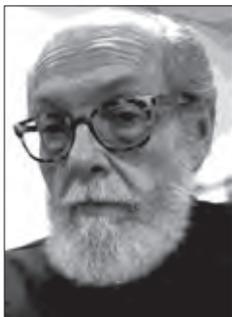
SONG LIST

ACT ONE

The Ballad of Glensheen	The Company
Let It Out	The Company
What Does A Woman Want	Marjorie
Two Little Girls	Jennifer and Marjorie
A Match Made in Hell	Marjorie and Roger
Trustee Trio	Trustees, Jennifer and Marjorie
What to Do	Marjorie and Roger
A Murdering in June	Cub Reporter and Copy Girl
The Twelve Clues of Glensheen	Cops and Company
Perfect Little Murder Plot	Roger
Femme Fatale	Marjorie and Company

ACT TWO

Conspiracy.....	Defense Team
Yessiree Bob (Part 1)	Roger, Detective and Prosecutor
Just You & Me	Marjorie and Roger
Yessiree Bob (Part 2)	Roger, Detective and Prosecutor
Wait.....	Jurors and Marjorie
Stay With Me	Velma
Latrobe Lament.....	Roger
No Parole	Jennifer and Company
Fiction/Truth	Marjorie and Company
Elizabeth's Lyric	Elizabeth
Torch Song.....	Marjorie
The Ballad of Glensheen Redux.....	Marjorie, Jennifer, Roger and Company



Chan Poling and I wrote GLENSHEEN. Ron Peluso directed it. Rick Thompson and Karen Mueller at History Theatre produce it. And it's performed by our wonderful cast, going back many years, Jen Maren, Dane Stauffer, Wendy Lehr, Gary Briggie, Randy Schmeling, Sandra Struthers and Ruthie Baker. Not to mention our arranger, Robert Elhai, and all the musicians, understudies, crew and other company members. But GLENSHEEN doesn't belong to us anymore. Maybe it never did. That could be why it keeps coming back and finding new and return audiences. Every now and then, a show taps into something latent in a culture. It excavates a nagging question or an unexplored fascination and connects with more people than its makers ever imagined. I'm very proud of what we've all accomplished in GLENSHEEN. But the authors of its success are the people who love it. Of course, we love it too. For ten years we've been privileged to be part of the Glensheen family. I am forever in its debt.

- Jeffrey Hatcher



Welcome back, everyone! And, to you "Glensheen" newbies, thank you, you're in for a ride. Year 10. Wow. Great thanks to History Theatre for championing this show year in and year out. I am so proud of our work and this production's remarkable cast and team. This show is such a highlight for me. I want to thank my great collaborator and friend, Jeffrey especially and, of course, the venerable esquire Admiral Ron Peluso, Ret.

Enjoy!

- Chan Poling



Ten years ago, when we first began this musical adventure, we - that is, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and composer Chan Poling - met with *Star Tribune's* feature writer Peg Meier and reporter Joe Kimball. We sat on the patio at my home and talked for several hours about the case and Joe's reporting on what would be the "Crime of the Century in Minnesota." The richest woman in the state was murdered under the most bizarre set of circumstances along with her "the night nurse," Velma Pietila, who also perished in the 'robbery gone wrong.'

A musical? Some would scoff at the idea, but Chan and Jeff masterfully put together a brilliant work of art that entertains and questions a legal system that would allow Marjorie to escape conviction.

I asked only one thing of our creators, and that was that we find a way to honor and acknowledge the deaths of these innocent women. During our first public workshop reading, a young woman from Duluth stood up and declared that she was the niece of 'the night nurse' and that it seemed like all the papers referred to her as such: "the night nurse." Chan had written a beautiful and heart-wrenching song for our actor Wendy Lehr to sing as Velma, "Stay With Me." The niece was honestly touched that we considered 'her name' to be an important part of this story. They put a human face with a name, and in that moment, I knew that we were on to something.

In recent years, we have seen the importance of putting a NAME to victims of violence in print and in all forms of media. "Say their names!"

It's now been 48 years since the family tragedy and still one wonders what really happened. Perhaps someday we will know the truth. Meanwhile, let's go back in time with this incredible cast, musicians and creative team to witness this unique Minnesota story.

- Ron Peluso

THE CAST/MUSICIANS

THE CAST

RUTHIE BAKER (she/her)

Copy Girl, Docent, others

History Theatre: *I Am Betty* (originated), *Christmas of Swing* (originated), *Sisters of Swing*, *Glensheen* (originated), *The Boy Wonder* (u/s). **Theater:** Guthrie: *The Music Man*, *Pride & Prejudice*; Daleko Arts: *Bright Star*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *Violet*; Plymouth Playhouse: *Church Basement Ladies* (originated); Theatre Elision: *Ruthless*, *Melancholy Play*; Tent Theatre: 9 to 5 *the Musical*; Totem Pole Playhouse: 45 Seconds from Broadway, *Sisters of Swing*. **Other:** Realtor, Edina Realty serving the Twin Cities & beyond! **Training:** BFA Musical Theatre: UW-Stevens Point, The Jen Waldman Studio: NYC. **Upcoming:** Summer adventures with Tall English Husband and my 3 wonderful kids (age 8, 7 and 4). HUGE thanks to my husband, parents and babysitters for all the childcare so I can do what I love! Follow along @ruthieshouseandhome

GARY BRIGGLE* (he/him)

Trustee, Poodle, others

History Theatre: *Glensheen* (original cast), *Baby Case*, *Lord Gordon Gordon*, *Dirty Business*, *A Servant's Christmas*. **Theater:** Park Square Theatre: *King Lear*; Skylark Opera Theater: *Candide*, *Our Town*; Nautilus Music-Theater: *The Fantasticks*, *Winesburg Ohio*; Artistry: *Candide*; Frank Theatre: *The Visit*; Threepenny Opera: *The Cradle Will Rock*; AOT: *The Cradle Will Rock*, *The Consul*; Jungle Theatre: *Hamlet*, *Dial M For Murder*.

WENDY LEHR* (she/her)

Elisabeth, Velma and others

History Theatre: *Eternity*, *Sisters of Peace*, *Glensheen*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol*, *The Crucible*; Jungle Theater: *A Delicate Balance*, *House of Blue Leaves*, *The Gin Game*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Heiress*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *On Golden Pond*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, plus others; Ordway: *Grey Gardens*, *Cinderella*, *The Sound of Music*; Park Square; *Mary Stuart*, *Noises Off*; Theater Latté Da: *The Full Monty*, *Our Town*, plus performances at Illusion, Pillsbury House Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, Arizona Theater Co., Children's Theater Co., and others. **Awards:** Ivey Lifetime Achievement Award, McKnight Distinguished Artist 2013.

JEN MAREN* (she/her)

Marjorie

History Theatre: *Glensheen*, *The Boy Wonder*, *Lord Gordon Gordon*, *The Rootbeer Lady* (u/s), *Nellie*, *Christmas Schooner*. **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *The Sunshine Boys*; Ordway Theatre: *Beauty and the Beast* (u/s); Gremlin Theater: *Bakersfield Mist*; Penumbra Theatre: *The Wedding Band*; *Mixed Blood*: *Love Person*; Illusion Theater: *My Antonia*; Park Square Theatre: *Rock-n-Roll*, *Panic*, *33 Variations*. **Other:** Looney Lutheran Company member; Science Live Theater member; Audible Audiobook narrator, Audio Description narrator. **Awards:** Ivey Award Best Overall Performance *Glensheen*. **Training:** St. Olaf College B.A. Theater Arts; British American Drama Academy, Oxford, England. **Upcoming:** Crooners Supper Club: *What's in a Name?* jenmaren.com IG: @jenact

RANDY SCHMELING* (he/him)

Reporter, Cop and others

History Theatre: *Glensheen*, *Dirty Business*, *The Great Society*, *Lord Gordon Gordon*. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *All Is Calm*, *Violet*, *Gypsy*; Illusion Theater: *Only One Sophie*, *A Night in Olympus*; Open Window Theater: *The World Over*; Ordway: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Damn Yankees*, *A Christmas Story*, *Annie*, *The Pirates of Penzance*. **Awards:** TC Theater Bloggers Favorite Musical Performance (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, Ordway). **Training:** BA Theater, Gustavus Adolphus College.

DANE STAUFFER* (he/him)

Roger and others

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James*, *Glensheen*, *Happy HoliDane* concerts. **Theater:** Ordway: *Dolly Parton's Christmas Carol*, *Breaking Barriers Cabaret*; Park Square Theatre: *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*; Minnesota Dance Theatre: *Nutcracker*; National Tour Ireland: *Triple Espresso*; Asolo Repertory, Geva Theatre, San Diego Rep, Bucks County Playhouse, Children's Theatre Company, Illusion Theater, Jungle Theatre. **Film:** *Marmalade*, *Oh, My Stars*, *I am Not a Serial Killer*. **Awards:** *Glensheen* Ivey Award: Overall Excellence 2016, Best Actor in a musical, Broadway World, 2016, Best Performances of the Year 2015 Star Tribune, Best Actor in a Comedy LA Stage Scene 2012 *All in the Timing*. **Training:** BFA New York University. danestauffer.com

SANDRA STRUTHERS* (she/her)

Jennifer and others

History Theatre: *Glensheen*, *The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin*, *Radio Man*. **Theater:** *Mixed Blood*, *Guthrie*, *Park Square*, *Ten Thousand Things*, *Children's Theater*, *Yellow Tree*, *Wonderlust*, *Shakespeare Theater of DC*, *Actor's Theatre of Louisville*, *American Repertory Theater*, *Alabama Shakespeare Fest*, *Virginia Stage*, etc. **Other:** Practicing therapist. **Training:** MFA: ART/Harvard.; BA: Wesleyan U; AEA.

THE ORCHESTRA

DAVID LOHMAN* (he/him)

Music Director/Piano

History Theatre: *Beyond the Rainbow*, *Christmas of Swing*, *A Servant's Christmas*, *Coco's Diary*, *Sisters of Swing*. **Theater:** Broadway Tour: *The Phantom of the Opera*; Ordway: *West Side Story*, *White Christmas*, *Anything Goes*, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Bingo*; Concert Tour: *Yesterday Once More: Music of the Carpenters*. **Training:** B.A. in Acting, MSU-Moorhead, Graduate work in choral conducting, College-Conservatory of Music.

WILL KEMPERMAN* (he/him)

Drums

History Theatre: *Christmas of Swing*, *Beyond the Rainbow*, *Glensheen*. **Theater:** Stage North: *Ain't Misbehavin'*; Hennepin Stages: *1940's Radio Hour*; Theater L'Homme Dieu: *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*. **Other:** Rochester Symphony Orchestra, Vocal Essence, Twin Cities Catholic Chorale, Riff Rangers, University of St. Thomas Festival Orchestra,



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Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

THE CAST/MUSICIANS/CREATIVE TEAM

Crescendo Choir, Percussion Instructor at University of St. Thomas and Hamline University. **Training:** MM, UW Madison; Music B.A., Macalester College

MATT KRUEGER* (he/him)

Reeds

History Theatre: *Hormel Girls, Parade*. **Theater:**

Artistry, Theater Latté Da, Theater Mu, Park Square Theater and Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

MATT MCINTYRE*

Bass

History Theatre: *Dance 'Til You Drop, Glensheen, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*. **Theater:** Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *The Music Man, Footloose, Jersey Boys*; Children's Theatre Company: *An American Tail*; Old Log Theater: *Escape to Margaritaville*. **Training:** Bachelor of Music Performance, UMN - Twin Cities.

DIANE TREMAINE* (she/her)

Cello

History Theatre: *Glensheen, Fireball*. **Theater:**

Guthrie: *Into the Woods, West Side Story, Secret Fall of Constance Wild, Caroline or Change, A Christmas Carol, 1776, Sunday in the Park With George, Pirates of Penzance*; Theater Latté Da: *Into the Woods, Putnam County Spelling Bee, Parade, Passion*; Illusion Theatre: *My Antoinette*; Park Square Theatre: *Into the Woods*; Theater Mu: *A Little Night Music, Chanhassen Dinner Theatre: Newsies, I Do I Do, Oklahoma!*; Ordway: *Secret Garden, The King and I, Sound of Music, Fiddler on the Roof, My Fair Lady*; Orpheum: *Miss Saigon, Evita*. **Training:** B.M. in cello performance, studying with János Starker, Indiana University.

THE UNDERSTUDIES

BENJAMIN DUTCHER* (he/him)

Understudy

History Theatre: *Secret Warriors*. **Theater:** Theater Latté Da: *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914, Johnny Skeekey, La Bohème, Assassins, Ragtime, Sweeney Todd, Master Class, NEXT Festival*; Artistry Theater: *Godspell, She Loves Me*; Asolo Repertory Theatre: *All is Calm, Ragtime, Sweeney Todd*; Frank Theatre: *Ironbound*; Six Points Theater: *Promise of America*; Trademark Theater: *The Boy and Robinhood*. **Opera:** South Dakota Symphony Orchestra: *Giants in the Earth*; Opera Columbus: *The Threepenny Opera, La Traviata*; Skylark Opera: *Eugene Onegin*; Mill City Summer Opera: *Carmen*; Minnesota Opera: *The Manchurian Candidate*. **Training:** B.M. Vocal Performance, UMN. **Other:** Private voice instructor at St. Paul Central High School, and loves being a dad.

ELENA GLASS* (she/her)

Understudy

History Theatre: *Whoa, Nellie!, Beyond the Rainbow, Christmas of Swing, Runestone!* **Theater:** Ordway: *Mamma Mia!, Annie, The Sound of Music, Broadway Songbook: Comden & Green*; Artistry: *Godspell, Nautilus Music Theatre: Stations of the Heart*; Old Log Theatre: *Lend Me a Tenor*; Theatre Elision: *Ruthless, Remembering Pins & Needles*; Yellow Tree Theatre: *One Man, Two Guvnors*. **Other:** Hive

Collaborative and Lush Lounge & Theatre: *Loudly, Clearly, Beautifully* (Elena's one-woman show); certified intimacy coordinator. **Training:** B.M., NYU. **Upcoming:** Forst Inn: *Loudly, Clearly, Beautifully*; History Theatre: *Rollicking! Winter Carnival* (Intimacy Coordinator). elenaglass.com; IG: @eglass789.

ADAM QUALLS* (he/him)

Understudy

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James, Glensheen, Lord Gordon Gordon*. **Theater:** Children's Theatre Company: *The Grinch, Shrek the Musical, Jackie & Me*; Theater Latté Da: *Peter & the Starcatcher, Cabaret*; Park Square Theatre: *Great Expectations, Oliver Twist*; Ordway Center: *Annie*; Artistry: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Into the Woods*; Jacques Brel *Is Alive & Well & Living in Paris*.

KIMBERLY RICHARDSON* (she/her)

Understudy

History Theatre: *Stewardess!, Capital Crimes*. **Theater:** Guthrie: *Midsummer Night's Dream*; Ten Thousand Things: *The Hatmaker's Wife, Dirt Sticks, My Fair Lady, As You Like It, Othello*; Open Eye Theatre: *The Red Shoes, To the Moon, My Life as a Fairytale*; Illusion Theatre: *A Play by Barb and Carl*; Children's Theatre Company: *Cinderella*; Sod House Theater: *The Hoopla Train*; Jungle Theater: *Noises Off*; Live Action Set: *Please Don't Blow Up Mr. Boban*. **Film:** E.G. Bailey's *New Neighbors* (Sundance Film Festival). **Awards:** Sage Award for Dance Performance; McKnight Theater Artist Fellowship. **Training:** B.F.A., Modern Dance, The University of Utah. **Upcoming:** Ten Thousand Things: *Two Gents*; Children's Theatre: *Go, Dog, Go*

THE CREATIVE TEAM

JEFFREY HATCHER (he/him)

Playwright

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James, Glensheen* (Ivey Award), *All the Way with LBJ, A Piece of the Rope, Tyrone and Ralph* (Ivey Award), *Lord Gordon Gordon* (with Chan Poling). **Theater:** Jeffrey's plays have been produced in hundreds of theaters in the U.S. and around the world, including Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theaters. **TV/Film:** Screenplays for *Stage Beauty, Casanova, The Duchess, Mr. Holmes, The Good Liar*. Television work includes episodes of *Columbo, The Mentalist*. **Grants/Awards:** NEA, TCG, Lila Wallace Fund, Rosenthal New Play Prize, Frankel Award, Charles MacArthur Fellowship Award, McKnight Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Barrymore Award Best New Play, Ivey Life Achievement Award. He is a member and/or alumnus of The Playwrights' Center, the Dramatists Guild, the WGA, and New Dramatists.

CHAN POLING (he/him)

Composer, Lyricist

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James, Glensheen, Lord Gordon Gordon*. **Theater:** *de la Jeune Lune: 1779: The French Revolution, The Nightingale, Cyrano, Children of Paradise*; Illusion Theatre: *A Night in Olympus*; Guthrie Theater: *Heaven*. **Other:** Founding member, The Suburbs and The New Standards. **Author:** *Jack & the Ghost*, and forthcoming book, *The*

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Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Moons. Awards: The Ivey for Glensheen (also voted "Best of the Decade," *Star Tribune*), The Sage Award for Music for Heaven, an Emmy and a Cine Golden Eagle for his documentary film scores. The Suburbs were voted as one of the "Greatest Minnesota Musical Entities of the 20th Century" by the *Star Tribune*, and the MN Music Awards bestowed Chan with their lifetime "POP" (Perpetually Outstanding Performer) Award. chanpolingmusic.com

RON PELUSO† (he/him)

Director

Artistic Director of History Theatre, 1995-2022. During that time, he commissioned 100 playwrights and composers and produced and directed more than 90 original works, including the "Best Play of the Decade" by *Star Tribune* and Ivey Award-winning *Glensheen* by Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling. *Sisters of Swing* and *Beyond the Rainbow* have been seen in over 30 regional theaters. He also commissioned and directed Jeffrey Hatcher's Ivey Award-winning *Tyrone & Ralph* and the critically-acclaimed *A Piece of the Rope*. He has also commissioned and directed *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story* by Bob Beverage and Craig Wright's version of *Main Street*, *Watermelon Hill* by Lily Baber Coyle, *Orphan Train* by Patty Lynch and Charlie Maguire, and *Dirty Business* by Laurie Flanigan Hegge. He produced and directed *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story* for History Theatre five times. He also directed *A Couple of Blaguards* by Frank McCourt, *These Shining Lives* by Melanie Marnich, and *Sister Kenny's Children and Peace Crimes* by Dorie Baizely. He has directed almost 200 professional shows, including ones at Florida Stage, Riverside Theatre, Pennsylvania Opera Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, and Minnesota Opera. For eight seasons, he was the Artistic Director of The Minnesota Festival Theatre. Over the last few years, Ron has been teaching Real Stories for the Stage at the University of Minnesota and will teach this class again this fall for adults at ModernWell. Last fall he directed *Anastasia* at Concordia University and will return this fall to direct *Shrek: The Musical*. Ron has an MFA from the University of Minnesota in Directing.

TINIA MOULDER* (she/her)

Choreographer

History Theatre: Choreographer: *A Servant's Christmas*, *Dirty Business*, *20 Days to Find A Wife*. Actor: *Sweet Land*, *the Musical*, *Let Heaven and Nature Sing*, *Hormel Girls*, *The Gangster Musical* and many more. **Other:** (choreographer/director) Leap of Faith Productions, Sidekick Theatre, Concordia University, Anoka Ramsey Community College, and numerous area schools. (actor) Chanhassen Theatres, Guthrie, Ordway Center, CTC, Old Log, Mixed Blood, Sidekick, and Six Points Theater. **Awards:** Achievement in Choreography ARCC, *Las Hermanas Padilla* Region 5 Kennedy Center Festival. **Training:** BFA Musical Theater, Point Park University.

ROBERT ELHAL- (he/him)

Arranger

History Theatre: *Dirty Business*, *Glensheen*, *Sweet Land*, *the musical*, *Lord Gordon Gordon*, *The Defeat of Jesse James*, *Blended* 和 *The Kim Loo Sisters*, *Whoa, Nellie!* *The Outlaw King of the Wild Middle West*. Composed scores for Nautilus Music Theater, Theater Latté Da, Jungle Theater, Fortune's Fool Theater. Arranged/orchestrated operas, musicals, and concert works

performed around the world. Orchestrated over 200 film, TV and game scores. Tony and Drama Desk nominee for *The Lion King*. **Training:** BA Carleton College, MM Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, DMA Yale University School of Music. robertelhai.com

BILL HEALEY (he/him)

Lighting Designer

History Theatre: *Glensheen*. **Theater:** The Jungle Theater, Open Eye Figure Theater, Walking Shadow Theater Co, The Minnesota Opera Company, UMN-TAD, The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

Awards: Emmy Award in 2003, tpt production, SPCO - Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. **Other:** Since 2010, Lighting Supervisor for Dept. of Theatre Arts and Dance at UMN. He creates opportunities for young theater designers and technicians, much as those who welcomed, fostered, and shepherded his generation into this wonderful theater community. He would be wandering lost in the wilderness without his guides; Julie, Maxwell and Stella.

E. AMY HILL (she/her)

Costume Designer

History Theatre: *A Servant's Christmas*, *Glensheen*, *Dirty Business*, *Beyond the Rainbow*, *All the Way*, *The Great Society*, *Watermelon Hill*, *Radio Man*, *Baby Case*, *Capitol Crimes*, *Tales Along the Minnesota Trail*. **Theater:** Walking Shadow Theatre Company, Artistry, Sabes JCC, Britta Peterson, Dance. **Other:** Resident Costume Designer for Concerto Dance by Jolene Konkel. Heartfelt gratitude to Ron Peluso for enabling her to collaborate with him and countless artists in poignant storytelling.

C ANDREW MAYER (he/him)

Sound Designer

History Theatre: Over 80 shows including *I Am Betty*, *The Defeat of Jesse James*, *Not For Sale*, *Not in our Neighborhood!*, *Gloria: A Life*, *Dirty Business*, *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story*, *All the Way*, *Watermelon Hill*, *Glensheen*, *Hiding in the Open*, *Tyrone and Ralph*, *A Piece of the Rope*, *Hmong! The CIA Secret Army*. **Theater:** Jungle Theater, Pillsbury House, Theater Latté Da, Illusion, Six Points, Lyric Opera Kansas City, Opera Colorado, Everyman (Baltimore), ACT (San Francisco), many others. **Awards:** McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow, Audelco Award for Carlyle Brown's *Pure Confidence*. **Other:** Producing Director, Acadia Repertory Theatre, Mount Desert Island, Maine.

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES, PAGERS & DIGITAL NOISEMAKERS.

NO CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES
are permitted in the theatre.

Thank you!

THE CREATIVE TEAM

KIRBY MOORE (he/him)

Props Designer

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story, Coco's Diary, Courting Harry, Lombardi, Christmas of Swing.* **Other:** 40+ years of stage, film, and commercial production in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles. He's grateful to Circa 21' Dinner Playhouse in Rock Island Ill., and Children's Theatre Company for their design internship programs which helped him get his start in the professional arts.

RICK POLENEK (he/him)

Scenic Designer

History Theatre: *Behind the Sun, A Servants' Christmas, Not for Sale, Not in Our Neighborhood, The Great Society, Dance 'Til You Drop, All the Way, Teen Idol, The Incredible Season of Ronnie Rabinovitz, Working Boys Band, God Girl, This Side of Paradise, Coco's Diary.* **Theater:** Ordway Center, Park Square Theatre, Artistry, Theater Latté Da, Six Points Theater, Stage North, Dark and Stormy. **Other:** Normandale College Theatre faculty retired, Sesame Street Live!, MN History Center, Science Museum of MN. **Training:** MFA, U of MN. **Upcoming:** *The Seagull*; Carleton College visiting artist.

LEE JOHNSON* (he/him)

Stage Manager

History Theatre: *The Root Beer Lady, I Am Betty, Glensheen, A Unique Assignment, The Defeat of Jesse*

James, Buddy; The Buddy Holly Story, Parks. **Theater:** Artistry Theater: 20+ productions including *The Bridges of Madison County, A New Brain, Victor/Victoria, She Loves Me, Legally Blonde, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*; The Duluth Playhouse: *Annie*; Lyric Opera of the North: *Hansel & Gretel*. Other local credits: Theater Latté Da, Park Square Theater, Mu Performing Arts, Flying Foot Forum, EMK, Twin Cities Horror Festival, MN Fringe Festival, others. Production Stage Manager, Artistry Theater (2017-20). **Training:** B.A. Theatre Arts, UMN-Twin Cities.

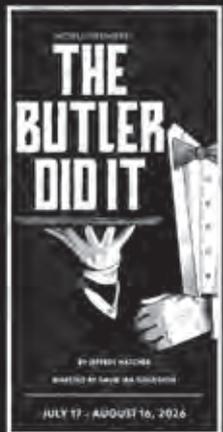
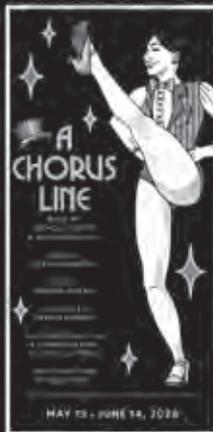
DEIRDRE MCQUILLIN (they/them)

Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: *Glensheen (2015-2024), The Debutante's Ball, River Road Boogie, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (2015), Orphan Train, Sweet Land, Dance 'Til You Drop, Neighbors, A Servant's Christmas.* Scenic Carpentry: *Sisters of Peace, Dirty Business, Gloria, Beyond the Rainbow, Superman Becomes Lois Lane, Not for Sale, Not in Our Neighborhood, Christmas of Swing.* **Theater:** Carpenter: Old Log, Dixie Swim Club, Once Upon a Mattress; Stagehand: Guthrie, Two Degrees, Hot Funky Butt Jazz. **Other:** Live events with IATSE Local 13, stagehand and lighting design Varsity Theater, Fillmore Minneapolis; cabinetmaker. **Awards:** Honors Performance Series, Carnegie Hall, 2013, 2022. **Training:** Vocal Performance, Songwriting, McNally Smith College of Music; Diploma in Cabinetmaking, Saint Paul College.

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Duluth woman, nurse slain

By Peg Hester and Joe Kimball
Staff Writers

Elisabeth Congdon, 83 years old and one of Minnesota's richest people, was found slain in a bed of her Duluth mansion early Monday morning, a pillow smothering her face.

Her nurse, Velma Pietila, also was killed in the three-room bedroom. She had been beaten over the head with an 8-inch brass candlestick and died in a pool of blood in a stairway landing.

Duluth police said last night they had no suspects in the case, which has all the elements of the opening chapters in an Agatha Christie mystery.



Elisabeth Congdon

Inspector Ernie Grams said the motive apparently was robbery. "An empty jewelry box was on the floor of the bedroom and the room was ransacked," he said.

A car stolen from the estate was found yesterday at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Authorities were concentrating their investigation on the North Shore of Lake Superior and at the airport during the day yesterday, but by evening they admitted they were back to combing the house and car for clues.

The bodies of the two women were found at 7 a.m. yesterday by a nurse who was to relieve Mrs. Pietila of nursing duties. Miss Congdon had suffered a stroke about 4 years ago and had around-the-clock nursing help. Paralyzed on one side, she was confined to a

wheelchair.

A chauffeur and a gardener live on the 7 1/2-acre estate but sleep in separate quarters in separate buildings, police said. A cook was on the mansion Sunday night; she stayed in a different wing from Miss Congdon and Mrs. Pietila. The cook, Prudence Rasmussen, said she heard no unusual noises during the night. She said police, however, that her pocket started bulging at about 3 a.m.

A 7-foot-high fence made of brick and stone surrounds the estate. Two gates were found padlocked.

Police theorized that the assailant or assailants broke into the house through a window in the basement, which they found broken. Mrs. Pietila apparently heard noises and went to investigate. Her body was found across the hall from Miss Congdon's. She was hit at least once, and very hard, with the candlestick, police said, and fell down the steps to a landing. She climbed onto or was placed on a window-seat on the landing, where she was found.

Blood, apparently Mrs. Pietila's, was found on Miss Congdon's pillow. Police said blood apparently had gotten on the killer, who had then rubbed against the pillow.

Mrs. Pietila had been a regular nurse for Miss Congdon until May, when she retired at age 63. Her husband said she was asked to work Sunday night to fill in for a nurse who wanted the night off.

Lynn Pietila, her husband, was notified of the slaying and got to the mansion about 8 a.m. He discovered that his wife's car, a 1974 White and tan Ford Granada, was missing. Later in the morning police from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport called

Congdon continued on page 4A.



THE CRIME

JUNE 27, 1977

Sometime past midnight, in the early morning hours of June 27, 1977, an intruder entered the Glensheen mansion on Duluth's London Road, climbed the staircase to the second floor and murdered two women: Elisabeth Congdon, 83 years old, and her nurse, Velma Pietila, age 63.

Initially, Duluth police assumed the murders were the result of a robbery gone wrong. Miss Congdon's bedroom had been ransacked and jewelry was missing. Mrs. Pietila's car had been taken and was found hours later at Minneapolis St. Paul Airport. Police suspicions would soon change as they began to investigate certain members of the Congdon family, particularly Elisabeth's adopted daughter Marjorie and her husband Roger Caldwell.

Within days, physical evidence collected at the scene and elsewhere convinced investigators to make an arrest. For the next ten years, the State of Minnesota would be roiled by headlines, revelations, reversals, convictions, acquittals, courtroom theatrics, financial maneuvers, confessions, arson, and suicide.

On the following pages is a timeline of the events as they unfolded.

SPOILER ALERT.

Do not read until after the curtain has come down on *Glensheen*. If you choose to read this timeline before or during the intermission... well, we warned you.

July 14, 1932

Jacqueline Barnes is born in Tarboro, N.C.

October 1932

Elisabeth Congdon adopts Jacqueline, renames her Marjorie.

1935

Elisabeth adopts a second baby girl, renames her Jennifer.

1947-1950

Marjorie attends Dana Hall prep school in Massachusetts. Her letters home indicate she has trouble handling money.

Summer 1949

Marjorie is sent to the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, KS due to compulsive lying and irresponsibility with money. She is diagnosed a sociopath.

1951-1970

Marjorie marries Richard LeRoy. They have seven children. Marjorie's money problems escalate. After 20 years, Marjorie's husband ends the marriage.

May 23, 1974

Marjorie coerces Elisabeth into co-signing a \$345,000 loan from Marquette National Bank of Minneapolis.

November 3, 1974

Elisabeth Congdon becomes mysteriously ill after a visit from Marjorie during which Marjorie fed Elisabeth homemade marmalade. The family decides not to investigate the incident.

May 12, 1975

Marjorie is suspected of setting fire to her home in Marine On St Croix.

March 20, 1976

Marjorie marries Roger Caldwell. They reside in Colorado.

December 1976 & May 1977

Marjorie writes bad checks to multiple people to purchase horses and other items.

May 1977

Roger travels to Duluth on May 24 to meet with Congdon trustees to request \$750,000. The request is denied.

June 1977

Marjorie and Roger pass over \$100,000 worth of bad checks in Colorado.

June 24, 1977

Marjorie has a handwritten will notarized. The document promises Roger \$2.5 million of Marjorie's inheritance upon the death of Elisabeth Congdon.

June 27, 1977

Elisabeth Congdon and her night nurse Velma Pietila are found dead at Glensheen. Jewelry has been stolen, as well as Pietila's car.

Maintenance personnel at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport find Pietila's car



Elisabeth Congdon

keys in a trash can outside the terminal. Later a parking stub is found in the same trash can. The ticket is stamped 6:35 a.m.

June 29, 1977

Duluth detectives interview Marjorie and Roger. Roger has a swollen hand and a cut on his upper lip. The funeral for Velma Pietila takes place.





Marjorie Caldwell during trial

June 30, 1977

Funeral for Elisabeth Congdon. Duluth police search the Duluth Radisson hotel room occupied by Marjorie and Roger and find a receipt dated June 27, 1977 from a gift shop at Minneapolis St. Paul Airport. The next day, the police learn that someone fitting Roger's description purchased a garment bag from that shop.

July 2, 1977

A Radisson Hotel envelope addressed to Roger Caldwell and postmarked "June 27, 1977 Duluth" is discovered at the residence of Roger and Marjorie. In it is a 1,700 year old Byzantine coin determined to have been taken from a memorabilia case in Elisabeth Congdon's bedroom.

July 5, 1977

Roger is taken by ambulance to Methodist Hospital after he loses consciousness shortly after eating breakfast with Marjorie.

Duluth and Bloomington police obtain a search warrant for their hotel room. They find a garment bag and a blue plastic pantyhose container filled with jewelry; including items identified as taken from Elisabeth's bedroom. Marjorie states that they are duplicates she had



Attorney John DeSanto

made for herself. Police arrest Roger.

February 7, 1978

Roger Caldwell enters a plea of not guilty.

May - July 8, 1978

Roger Caldwell's trial begins. State's Attorney John DeSanto calls 103 witnesses. Ron

Meshbesh calls 6. The jury returns a verdict of guilty of two counts of murder in the first degree.

July 10, 1978

Roger is sentenced to two consecutive life terms at Stillwater State prison.

August 18, 1978

Marjorie is indicted on two counts of aiding and abetting murder in the first degree and two counts of conspiracy to commit murder.

April 26 - July 13, 1979

Testimony is presented in Marjorie's trial. DeSanto calls 112 witnesses. Ron Meshbesh calls 55.

July 21, 1979

Jury returns a verdict of not guilty.



August 16, 1979

Five of Marjorie's seven children commence a civil lawsuit seeking to disinherit Marjorie on grounds that a "preponderance of evidence" will indicate that Marjorie is involved in the murder of Elisabeth Congdon.

March 26, 1980

Marjorie visits her friend Helen Hagen at her Twin Birch Nursing Home. Helen had attended Marjorie's trial. Marjorie hand feeds Helen. Helen goes into a coma the next day, and dies a few days later.

August 7, 1981

Marjorie commits bigamy by marrying Helen's husband Wally in North Dakota, without divorcing Roger.

August 6, 1982

The Minnesota Supreme Court overturns Roger Caldwell's convictions on two counts of murder in the first degree.

September 15, 1982

Fire destroys Marjorie and Wally's home in Mound, Minnesota. Four months later, Marjorie is arrested for arson.

July 1, 1983

Marjorie and her five children reach a settlement in the lawsuit.

July 5, 1983

Roger Caldwell pleads guilty to two counts of second-degree murder. He makes a confession and is released.



Marjorie Caldwell



Roger Caldwell

January 13, 1984

Marjorie is found guilty of arson. She is sentenced to 21 months in prison in Shakopee, MN.

October 19, 1986

Marjorie is released from prison. She and Wally move to Ajo, Arizona.

May 18, 1988

Roger Caldwell commits suicide in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

March 24 - October 30, 1992

Marjorie is arrested on arson charges in Ajo. She is convicted and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. The judge allows her one day to put her affairs in order. The next morning, Wally is found dead. Marjorie is arrested and charged with murder. Charges are dropped when it is determined Wally died of a drug overdose and could have been a suicide.

January 5, 2004

Marjorie is released from prison. She moves to Tucson, Arizona.

March 1, 2007

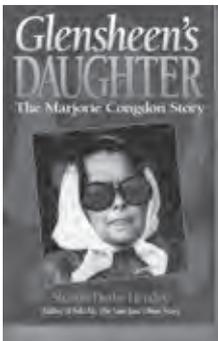
Roger Sammis, a gentleman Marjorie has befriended, dies and is cremated in Tucson. Marjorie has obtained power of attorney over his accounts. Marjorie deposits an \$11,181.04 check that Sammis received.

March 22, 2007

Marjorie is arrested and charged with forgery, theft, tampering with a computer and fraudulent scheme and artifice, but as there is no body or physical evidence, they cannot charge her in the death of Roger Sammis.

March 4, 2009

Marjorie is sentenced to three years of intensive probation.



Special Thanks

Sharon Darby Hendry, Peg Meier, Joe Kimball and John DeSanto for their contributions to tonight's storytelling.

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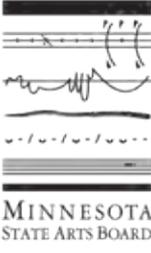
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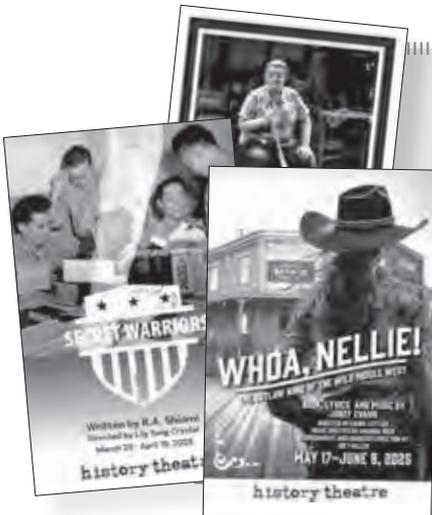
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