# **DalekoArts**

# MIDDLETOWN

WILL ENO DIRECTED BY ANNE M. B)

FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 11 Fridays & Saturdays @ 7:30pm



SUNDAYS @ 2:00PM For TIX: 952-314-9077 or VISIT DALEKOARTS.COM





DalekoArts (DELL-uh-koh), an ensemble theatre company, works with professional artists to pursue impactful, live performance in our community of New Prague, Minnesota and the surrounding region.

#### **OUR VISION**

Our purpose is to decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota by increasing engagement and opportunity in New Prague and the surrounding area. It is our dream that New Prague will be a known destination for quality performing arts and arts education.

### OUR STORY

DalekoArts was founded in 2012 by theatre artists Ben Thietie and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota.

New Prague was chosen as the company's home due to the community's extraordinary interest in theatre, the regional growth and development it has experienced in the last decade, its relative proximity to the Twin Cities, and its close ties to the founders.

"Daleko" — a Czech word meaning "far away" reflects New Prague's strong bohemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view.



DalekoArts is a proud member of the Network of Ensemble Theaters, a national coalition of ensemble theatre companies and artists.



DalekoArts is a member of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

### **ARTISTIC** DIRECTOR'S note

Will Eno finished writing Middletown in 2010; it premiered at the Vineyard Theatre off-Broadway that fall, and then opened at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago the next year.

The team at DalekoArts hasn't tried this kind of play before. Some might say it falls into an "absurdist" genre — a play that uses disjointed text and relationships to highlight the meaning (or meaninglessness) in being human. I don't think Middletown lands there, exactly. Yes, you'll see exchanges between people today that seem to be disconnected or ridiculous. But Eno wrote a play with a huge heart. It's a script that uses honest, plain language to talk about huge human ideas and questions.

There is not, as we've discovered in rehearsal. any lying in Middletown. People tell the truth. They say what comes to mind, or what they mean. They are working to communicate their inner life — their worries, fears, anticipation, sorrow — without irony. They want to be heard and understood, and to find connection. In the opening moment, you'll hear the Public Speaker describe life as "...this activity, this festivity, this hope, this dream dreamt with open eyes..." There appears to be joy and anticipation here.

In some respects, this play is hard to describe (stop us in the lobby after the shoe and tell us if you agree). I asked the cast what themes and concepts stood out to them in the writing. Does this play seem like it might pick up where Our Town leaves off? Do you talk about characters in the play, or ideas? One cast member said, "[What comes to mind is] the balance of life and death, breath, memorial, the unknown, trees, and cairns, the sounds of words that may or may not carry meaning, seeing others as they are without judgment, acceptance, curiosity." (You may be thinking to yourself, "So where are the huge human ideas?!") Another actor said, "[It's about] need. Searching for something, and not knowing you already have it."

Eno says, in more than one interview about Middletown, that he set out to write a play with one birth and one death in it. In doing so, he wrote a hopeful play. A play about being alive. It's a play about what happens between birth and death — the place in the middle. Eno suggests that there may be more to being a human than we can understand as we go through the experience of living a life. As the Doctor says in Act II: "One other thing is: you never know. So be forgiving, of yourself, of him, of nature, everything."

Enjoy the show, and thanks for being part of our "Middletown".

- AMANDA WHITE, Artistic Director



by WILL ENO directed by ANNE M. BYRD

#### (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

PUBLIC SPEAKER/GREG/MAN Ben Thietje\*

MRS. SWANSON Amanda White\*

JOHN DODGE Sean W. Byrd

MECHANIC Joe Swanson

LIBRARIAN/AUNT Kirby Bennett

FEMALE TOURIST/FEMALE DOCTOR/ COP RADIO/ATTENDANT Audrey Johnson

MALE TOURIST/MALE DOCTOR/

GROUND CONTROL Patrick Kozicky\*

TOUR GUIDE/WOMAN/ATTENDANT #2/

INTERCOM/RADIO HOST

SWEETHEART

FREELANCER/JANITOR/LANDSCAPER Mike Swan

Hannah Joyce-Hoven

Jillian Jacobson

STAGE MANAGER Samson Perry

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Vincent Hannam

SCENIC DESIGNER Sydney Achler LIGHTING DESIGNER Phillip Uttech

COSTUME DESIGNER Jenna Rose Graupmann

SOUND DESIGNER Peter Morrow

PROPS DESIGNER Sarah Salisbury

TECH DIRECTOR/CARPENTER Trevor Muller-Hegel

ORIGINAL SCORE FOR MIDDLETOWN Peter Morrow

#### **BEN THIETJE** (public speaker/greg/man)

Ben has been working as a professional theatre artist and educator in the Twin Cities for the past fifteen years. He teaches and directs theatre at New Prague High School, and holds a degree in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University, Mankato. In addition to being a Daleko founding Artistic Director, he's appeared in the company's productions of *The* Odd Couple, Forever Plaid, Almost, Maine, Rancho Mirage, Little Shop of Horrors, Love Letters, Urinetown, Stones in His Pockets, and The Rink, in addition to serving as director for the DA holiday productions.

#### TOM KARKI (cop)

Tom is absolutely tickled to return for his sixth season at DalekoArts. On the DA stage, he has performed in The Odd Couple (Roy), Forever Plaid (Smudge), Rancho Mirage (Charlie), Little Shop of Horrors (voice of Audrey II), Urinetown (Officer Lockstock), and The Rink (Lino/ Papa Antonelli). A graduate of the University of MN-Duluth, he has performed numerous theater and opera roles across the country. Tom would like to thank his friends and family for their constant love and support; especially his wife, Chris and his awesome son, Deven!

#### **AMANDA WHITE (mrs. swanson)**

Amanda is honored to join this company of Middletown. You might have seen her on the DalekoArts stage as "Amanda" in *The Complete* Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), "Angel" in The Rink, "The Stage Manager" in Our Town, "Dorothy Holiday" in the Main Street Holiday series, "Tracy Lord" in The Philadelphia Story, "Pam Caldwell" in Rancho Mirage, "Catherine" in Proof, or "Miranda" in Adventures in Mating. She's also directed work on several DA stages: Our Town, Little Shop of Horrors, Barefoot in the Park, and The Odd Couple. In addition to being a founding Artistic Director at DalekoArts, Amanda is a member of the theatre performance faculty at Normandale Community College. She is a graduate of Columbia University's Program in Arts Administration, MSU Mankato's MFA in Theatre Performance, Truman State University's Theatre Arts program, and the School at Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

#### SEAN W. BYRD (john dodge)

Sean is excited to return to DalekoArts for season six, having recently directed Stones in His Pockets for season five and appearing in season one's production of *Almost, Maine*. He has also been seen on stage with a variety of other Twin Cities theatre companies since 1999. Most proudly, in 2012, he appeared in Walking Shadow Theatre Company's production of Compleat Female Stage Beauty, which won the Ivey Award for Production Excellence. Sean is a full-time faculty member and director in the Department of Theatre at Normandale College in Bloomington, MN. Thanks for supporting live theatre in New Prague! Love to A, T, H and H. For more info: seanwbyrd.com.

#### **JOE SWANSON** (mechanic)

Joe is excited to make his Daleko debut in Middletown! He received his BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Central Florida in 2003. Previous theatre credits include Doubt with Artistry, Phoenix with Anchor Theatre Collective, Turn Signals with Freshwater Theatre, Birth of Venus with 20% Theatre Company, among others. Thanks to his wife for her support, and to DalekoArts for this opportunity.

#### **KIRBY BENNETT** (librarian/aunt)

Kirby Bennett is delighted to be making her debut at DalekoArts. She has been seen regionally at numerous theaters including Frank Theatre, Old Log Theatre, Jungle Theater, Park Square Theatre, Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Commonweal Theatre Company, History Theatre, and many others. Representative work includes Park Square: The Diary of Anne Frank, The Left Hand Singing, The Triumph of Love, Noises Off!, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, The Women; Jungle Theater: Noises Off!, Blithe Spirit; Frank Theatre: Good Person of Setzuan, Love and Information; Commonweal Theatre: Sylvia; History Theatre: Peace Crimes. Kirby is the Artistic Director of Girl Friday Productions, for which she produced and performed in their acclaimed productions of *Idiot's Delight*, *The* Matchmaker, Camino Real, Street Scene, The Skin of Our Teeth, Our Town, and An Empty Plate in the Café du Grand Boeuf.

#### **AUDREY JOHNSON**

#### (female tourist/female doctor/ cop radio/attendant)

Audrey Johnson is beyond grateful to be telling this beautiful story in her debut show with DalekoArts. Twin Cities credits include Silent Sky and Urinetown with Lyric Arts and Persuasion with Aethem Theatre Company. Training: BFA Musical Theatre - Webster Conservatory, MA Musical Theatre - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Thank you times infinity to my family and friends who have been there to support me always. Especially to Andrew and Cado. And may we all go out into the world and truly see each other as often as we can. LOVE.

#### PATRICK KOZICKY

#### (male tourist/male doctor/ground control)

Patrick is delighted to be working with DalekoArts again. He has performed with DA in A Chris Smith Carol, Adventures in Mating, Another Main Street Holiday, Our Town, Main Street Holiday, The Philadelphia Story, and The *Odd Couple.* He directed their production of Rancho Mirage. Previously, he has performed with the Children's Theatre Company, Walking Shadow Theatre Company, Park Square Theatre, Theatre Unbound, The Mechanical Division, Theatre in the Round Players, Youth Performance Company, and The New Theatre Group. Patrick would like to thank DalekoArts for inviting him into their family. He also thanks you for buying a ticket and supporting local art. Last but not least, he thanks Dan for making the best stir fry ever. See Dan for recipe.

#### **HANNAH JOYCE-HOVEN**

#### (tour guide/woman/attendant #2/ intercom/radio host)

Hannah is thrilled to be performing again with DalekoArts after a few season hiatus. Her first production with DalekoArts was Rancho Mirage (Diane). When she isn't performing, Hannah is supporting playwrights and the development of new plays through her work at the Playwrights' Center. She is also currently producing the annual playwright honoree tribute for the William Inge Theatre Festival. In her downtime, she loves to sneak away to her favorite yoga studio. Hannah is the proud mother of two fierce and spirited daughters. She wants to thank her big-hearted husband, Matt, for making all of this possible.

#### **JILLIAN JACOBSON** (sweetheart)

This is Jillian's second production with DalekoArts (Our Town). In the past, she has worked with River Valley Theatre Company, Artistry, Chesterton Academy, Children's Theatre Company, Theatre Pro Rata, Holy Trinity Theatre Circle, Cerulean River Productions, MACMH, Guthrie Theater, Girl Friday Productions, Sabes Jewish Theater, Mixed Precipitation, The Catalysts/MN Fringe, and Chameleon Theatre Circle. She dances with the Wild Rose Cloggers and is a senior at Chesterton Academy. She'd like to give a special thanks to God, mom, dad, siblings, Amanda, Joshua, and David!

#### **MIKE SWAN** (freelancer/janitor/landscaper)

Mike is thrilled to return to DalekoArts for Middletown, having previously appeared in Our Town and The Shape of Things. Other credits include *Idiot's Delight* with Girl Friday Productions, Wit (2017 Ivey Award for Emotional Impact), and All My Sons with Artistry, The Awakening with Savage Umbrella, The Drawer Boy with Theatre in the Round, and two seasons with the Commonweal Theatre Company. In addition to acting, Mike is a tour manager for The National Theatre for Children, likes riding his bike, and petting your dog. Up next, Mike will be appearing in the area premiere of My Barking Dog with Market Garden Theatre.

#### **ANNE M. BYRD (director)**

Anne is delighted to return to DalekoArts after having directed Almost, Maine and Wait Until Dark, and appearing in Our Town. Additional directing credits around the Twin Cities include productions for the Old Log Theatre, the Minnesota Jewish Theatre, Lyric Arts, and Yellow Tree Theatre, including the Ivey Award-recognized The 39 Steps. Anne is also a faculty member in the Department of Theatre at Normandale Community College, where she was recently named as an Outstanding Educator for the state of Minnesota.

#### **SAMSON PERRY** (stage manager)

Samson is making his DalekoArts debut with Middletown. He currently travels around the Twin Cities theatre scene as a stage manager, director, and playwright. His recent credits include stage managing Superior Donuts, and Plaid Tidings (Lyric Arts), The Good Boy and the Kid (Sheep Theater), and We are the Levinsons

(Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company). He also directs and works with students at Elk River High School each winter, and attempts to fill in the down time with his writing.

#### **VINCENT HANNAM** (assistant director)

Vincent is thrilled to be a part of DalekoArts for a third season! While the past two years saw him onstage in Snowed Inn and Wait Until Dark, he has enjoyed the chance to swap hats and sit behind the table as Assistant Director. Other directing credits in Minnesota include work with The National Theatre for Children, the Commonweal Theatre Company, and the Lanesboro Community Theater, where he co-directed Almost, Maine with Tod Petersen. Outside of the bold north, he taught high school drama in his hometown of Kissimmee, Florida for a year and directed those kiddos in Holes and The Voice of the Turtle. He holds a BFA in Theater from the University of Central Florida.

#### **SYDNEY ACHLER (scenic designer)**

Syd is thrilled to be back in New Prague, Minnesota (Our Town, Stones in His Pockets, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), A Chris Smith Carol). She is an ensemble member with (re)discover theatre and resident scenic designer for DalekoArts' 2017/18 season. Other recent designs: Big Love, Apple Valley HS; Hamtown Races, Planet Ant Theatre; Pluto was a Planet, Illinois Wesleyan University; Tarzan, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Crane River Theater. She received her BFA from Illinois Wesleyan University. sydneyachler.wix.com/scenicdesign

#### **PHILLIP UTTECH** (lighting designer)

Phillip is a freelance designer & technician with an MFA in Lighting Design from Western Illinois University. After having a blast helping raise money for a new roundabout, Phillip is excited to be back for another lighting design with DalekoArts! He has also had lighting designs with Animal Engine, the Minnesota Vikings Halftime Show, and a Super Bowl event with Showcore.

#### JENNA ROSE GRAUPMANN

(costume designer)

Jenna Rose Graupmann is thrilled to be working with DalekoArts for the first time! Her costumes have also graced the stages of Theatre in the Round, 20% Theatre Company, Sheep Theater, Chameleon Theatre Circle, Segue Productions, and The Sabes Jewish Community Center. When she's not designing for the theatre, Jenna works as a political digital organizer and tailor. You can check out her repertoire of creative endeavors at jennarosedesign.com.

#### **PETER MORROW** (sound designer)

Peter Morrow has been working as a composer and sound designer for the last eleven years. He moved to the Twin Cities from Dublin, Ireland in August 2012. Since moving here, he has worked with many companies, theaters, and artists, including New Native Theatre, Placebase, Artistry, Interact, Theatre Latte Da, Pillsbury House, Pangea World Theatre, zAmya, Hiponymous, Threads, Ifrah Mansour, The Playwright Centre, and Macalester College. In Dublin, he worked primarily with the company Brokentalkers, devising new works that have toured extensively. Peter is delighted to be back in New Prague for his ninth Daleko show. Some upcoming shows include the Solo Emerging Artists Celebration at the Guthrie Theater, and Baskerville at Park Square. He is also working on a solo album and an album with his band Bella Yaga.

#### SARAH SALISBURY (props designer)

Sarah is overjoyed to be back for her fourth show with Daleko. Past credits include Stones in His Pockets, The Rink, and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged). Sarah also props for Illusion Theater, amongst other companies in the Twin Cities. Sarah is also a stage manager for such companies as Jagged Moves, Rhythmically Speaking, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, and Alternative Motion Project, as well as a freelance production manager and technician.

#### TREVOR MULLER-HEGEL

(tech director/carpenter)

Trevor has been building theatre sets for the past ten years, and has officially opened his own shop in NE Minneapolis called TMH Scenery! His goal is to help small theatres share in some of the advantages that larger theatres have such as stock scenery and material recycling. This is Trevor's sixth production with DalekoArts.

# DalekoArts

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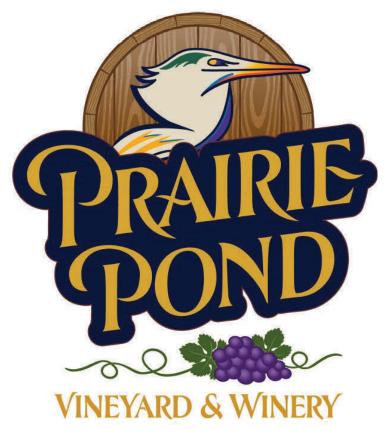
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