

DALEKOARTS PRESENTS

BRIGHT

TRUE STORÝ

STEVE MARTIN EDIE BRICKELL



OUR MISSION

DalekoArts (DELL-uh-koh) works with professional theatre artists to pursue impact-ful, 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 Thietje and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minhesota.

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 bo-hemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and exam-ine the world from a new point of view.

Theatre Communications Group

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

tco

sponsored by Bruzek Funeral Home **INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY PRODUCTION STAFF MUSIC, BOOK, AND STORY** STAGE MANAGER **Steve Martin &** Jenna Hyde **Edie Brickell** SCENIC DESIGNER/ CARPENTER/PAINTER **CHOREOGRAPHY BY** Robin McIntyre **Kyle Weiler** IGHTING DESIGNER **MUSIC DIRECTION BY** Mark Webb Bradley A. Beahen **COSTUME DESIGNER DIRECTED BY** Cynthia Wade Forsgren **Amanda White** SOUND/PROJECTIONS DESIGNER CAST Christy C. Johnson **ALICE MURPHY PROPS DESIGNER Ruthie Baker** Tricia Hofeld **BILLY CANE/ENSEMBLE** Jake S. Nelson **PIANO** DADDY CANE/ENSEMBLE Ryan Lee **FIDDLE MARGO CRAWFORD/ Betsy Keenan**

MUSICIANS

Bradley A. Beahen **GUITAR/MANDOLIN** Benjamin Gieseke **DRUMS** Matt Nielsen **BANJOS Nicholas White BASS Andy DeLuca SPECIAL THANKS**

Kate Beahen, Theatre Department at Normandale Community College, Bill Belkengren and Tan, Bill Stevens, the team at Adventures in Cardboard, the team at Squirrel Haus Arts, Peter Morrow, the founding DalekoArts Ensemble

ENSEMBLE Abby Holmstrom

DARYL AMES/ENSEMBLE Grant Hooyer LUCY GRANT/ENSEMBLE Amanda Mai

MAMA MURPHY/ENSEMBLE Jennifer Eckes

DADDY MURPHY/ENSEMBLE Luke Aaron Davidson

MAYOR JOSIAH DOBBS/ ENSEMBLE

Warren R. Sampson

JIMMY RAY DOBBS/ENSEMBLE

Daniel Greco

EDNA/ENSEMBLE

Nora Sonneborn STANFORD/MAX/ENSEMBLE

Dillon Baxendell

Friends,

This is it. The final production in DalekoArts' history.

I'm not sure I have the words to tell you about our gratitude, love, and joy in this one-page note. Suffice it to say, then, that I hope you feel it, and that you know how much this past decade or so has meant to us and to the artists who have graced our boards. Thank you for being a community beyond our dreams.

Now, to Bright Star. Speaking of dreams, this cast and creative team have made the past few months easy, delightful, and jam-packed with discovery. The musical is based on a true story, and it's one that's hard to believe. It has darkness, sorrow, and grief running through it like the mountain streams that run through the North Carolina towns and forests where our tale is told. It also has joy (I hear that comes in the morning), goofiness, and a very healthy dose of bluegrass music. You can't really get through a Steve Martin story without some goofiness and maybe some bluegrass music, I guess. The pit is live in this show, and I can't wait for you to hear them — they're sitting in the loft just above the stage, and playing under the direction of beloved Music Director, Bradley Beahen (you might know him as the very newest Chris Smith).

Bradley, Choreographer Kyle Weiler, and I worked closely together to design this show in the way it seemed to all of us to require...with a fluid, often dreamlike quality, full of breath and pulling tensions, sustained by ever-present nature. Kyle and I are both drawn to physical theatre, to the eloquence of bodies in space, so we've worked to make everything around the cast as spare as possible so movement can speak. The story is both expansive and intimate, and we think the North Carolina hills and trees have much to do with that. Scenic Designer Robin McIntyre, in his way, has used repurposed barn wood to craft a nod to those hills, birch trees, and rolling sky on

our little stage. Bluegrass music has a rich and nuanced history full of both sorrow and celebration, a deeply American form with deep roots in other worlds and cultures: the perfect score for such a story as this.

If we have to move through a final production for DalekoArts, we're good with it being this one. I want you to know that every artist involved is a DA artist, and we will never forget their stewarding Daleko through its final moments. Thank you for being here in these moments, too. The first song you'll hear today, right out of the gate, is "If You Knew My Story" — Ben and I hope you will carry these stories with you, and that you will always support local theatres and artists in telling their stories, too. That was our dream from the beginning, and we think you're just the people to make it happen.

With such gratitude and love, Amanda, Ben, and the Bright Star team

ps. There's an important name you didn't see in the playbill: our dear friend Kate Beahen, who was an original member of the cast. Kate had to leave the show for health reasons, and we have carried her spirit with us throughout the process. We love you, Kate. Heal fast and come back to work with all of us soon...

RUTHIE BAKER

Alice Murphy

Ruthie is tickled pink to be playing her dream role at DalekoArts. Guthrie: The Music Man, Pride & Prejudice (2002); Ordway: Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol: Yellow Tree Theatre: Violet: History Theatre: Christmas of Swing, Sisters of Swing, Glensheen: Tent Theatre: 9 to 5 the musical. She originated the role of the Docent/Copy Girl in Glensheen and can be heard on the Original Cast Album. When not onstage she can be found helping people buy and sell houses! Favorite roles are Wifev to James & Mama to her three darling children: Luke (6), Adam (4) and Grace (1) and new puppy, Frosting. Huge thanks to my mom & dad for all the love & support. www. ruthiehouseandhome.com @ruthieshouseandhome

JAKE S. NELSON

Billy Cane/Ensemble

Jake is elated to be making his DalekoArts debut and feels immensely honored to be a part of their final show. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth with a BFA in Musical Theatre. Recently, he has performed at the Old Log Theatre in their productions of Once Upon a Mattress and

Escape to Margaritaville. A few of his favorite previous credits include Peter (Bare: A Pop Opera), Doody (Grease), and Jack (Into the Woods) in Duluth. Jake is incredibly grateful to be working with this phenomenal group of artists. He would like to thank his friends. family, and everyone who has come to support this beautiful show! Instagram: @jakenelson99 / www. iakeSnelson.com

RYAN LEE

Daddy Cane/Ensemble

Ryan is absolutely overjoyed to be back with DalekoArts for his sixth show! Previous productions with DA include Holiday Show! the holiday show, Peter & the Starcatcher, Godspell, She Loves Me, and The Rink. Alongside performing around the Twin Cities. Ryan works as a Realtor, teaming up with folks all over the Metro with their home buying and selling adventures. Thanks for being here and enjoy this beautiful show!

ABBY HOLMSTROM

Margo Crawford/ Ensemble

Abby is back on the DalekoArts stage!!! She was last seen in White Christmas as Judy Haynes and is honored to be in

DA's final show. You mav have seen her in **Endometriosis the Musical** as Jane at the Minnesota fringe festival / most recently in a full length read through of the show at Theatre in the Round, The Little Mermaid at Lakeshore Players (Ariel), Title of Show at Lyric Arts (performed/us Heidi). The Wolves at Normandale Community College (#11), and 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee at Off Broadway Musical Theater (Marcy Park). She can't wait for you to enjoy the iourney of this show and the magic that this cast brings! DalekoArts has been an escape and I hope it is for you too.

GRANT HOOYER

Daryl Ames/Ensemble

Grant is making his second appearance on the Daleko stage after last year's fantastic production of Once. He is celebrating 10 years in the Twin Cities since moving from his hometown of Sioux Falls, SD, and couldn't be happier to celebrate this milestone with DalekoArts and New Prague. Grant has performed with Lyric Arts, Seasons Dinner Theatre, Open Window Theatre, Theatre Pro Rata, Theatre in the Round, and Artistry, among other MN and SD companies.

AMANDA MAI

Lucy Grant/Ensemble

Amanda is delighted to be returning to the DalekoArts stage for such a beautiful show with these truly amazing artists! You may remember her as Holly Winterbottom from Holiday Show! the Holiday Show. Other past credits include Once Upon a Mattress, Escape to Margaritaville, The Emperor's New Clothes (Old Log Theatre), Legally Blonde the Musical. Guys and Dolls (Lyric Arts), Love Comics, High Fidelity (Minneapolis Musical Theatre), The Little Mermaid, Proof, Footloose, Seussical, and Xanadu (Highland Summer Theatre). She would like to thank her husband Doni and their dog Cece for being the most loving and supportive little family anyone could hope for. If vou'd like to see what Amanda is up to, you can follow her @amandamai95 on Instagram. Enjoy the show!

JENNIFER ECKES

Mama Murphy/ Ensemble

Jennifer (she/her) is happily making her DalekoArts debut, and is so grateful to directors Amanda White & Bradley Beahen and this wonderful

cast, crew & band! Some pre-pandemic theater credits include: Artistry: Footloose, Music Man, in the Park with George; Ordway: Pirates of Penzance, A Christmas Story, Sound of Music, Into the Woods; Skylark Opera Theatre: On the Town. Tragedy of Carmen, Desert Plymouth Playhouse: Christmas My Way, Pop 34th Street (2 nat'l tours); productions including world premieres of Edward Tulane, The Shining, and The Grapes of Wrath. A versatile vocalist, Eckes has also found many opportunities singing in Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. (You can find son, and sends her love and gratitude to them for supporting live theatre! their support.

LUKE AARON DAVIDSON

Daddy Murphy/ Ensemble

Luke has the unique experience of having his first show ever with DalekoArts also be his

last. He feels honored to be part of DA's closing chapter. Some of Luke's previous acting credits Secret Garden, Sunday include Bob Cratchit in Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story with Wayward Theatre Company, Canadian Ranger Monty in Hair Ball! The Bigfoot Musical Adventure with Open Eye Theatre, Guffin Song; Troupe America/ the grumpy dwarf in Snow White & Rose Red with Sidekick Theatre, Up Musical, Miracle on Inspector Carter/Chris in The Play That Goes Wrong Minnesota Opera: over 30 with Old Log Theatre, and many others. In addition to theatre. Luke also has worked in film and is currently a regular cast member in the children's web series, Comics Café, with Eagle Brook Church. jazz/pop concerts, musical Luke holds a BFA in revues and cabaret Musical Theatre from shows throughout the Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY. Learn more about Luke and his work on his website out more by following her (lukeaarondavidson. on Instagram/Facebook!) com) and follow him She lives in St. Paul with on social media (IG: @ her husband and their lukeaarondavidson) Thank vou for coming out and

WARREN R. **SAMPSON**

Mayor Josiah Dobbs/ *Ensemble*

Warren is happy to be back on stage in New Prague after appearing as General Waverly in White Christmas, Warren

is active as an actor and musician, and occasionally composes for stage and film. Many thanks to the faculty at University of dedicated folks of Daleko for all they have done to give life to their dreams of creating memorable thank Amanda and Bradlev theatre.

DANIEL GRECO

Jimmy Ray Dobbs/ Ensemble

Not known as one to arrive at a party a moment too early, Daniel is relieved and grateful to have made it onto Daleko's stage for this heartbreaking™ and beautiful celebration of story, music, and love with the dreamiest cast and team imaginable. Daniel has been lucky enough to play make-believe with some wonderful Minnesota companies including Nautilus, Yellow Tree, MN Opera, MMT, Theater Elision, Bucket Brigade, and Latte Da (Five Points, All Is Calm). He performs extensively as a baritone soloist and is currently working on recording his first album of original songs, most of which live in the messy crosshairs of queer identity and Christian faith. When he's not performing or nuzzling his fuzzy better half, Daniel can be found teaching other performers to sing out of their faces

more sustainably and effectively at his Mpls studio. Daniel is also on St. Thomas and Lutheran Summer Music. On a personal note: I can't enough for seeing me as Jimmy Ray. I've never even been considered for a role like this before, and it's already changing how I see myself. I'm so grateful. danielgrecomusic.com

NORA SONNEBORN

Edna/Ensemble

Nora is so thrilled to be stepping on the stage at The Prague for the last time. You may have seen her at DalekoArts in Once or Holiday Show! the holiday show, or elsewhere around town, like in the hit Minnesota Fringe show Endometriosis: The Musical! She'd like to thank every member of the Bright Star team for coming together to make some magic, and each and every member of the DA community for sticking around until the very end. Shine on!

DILLON BAXENDELL

Stanford/Max/ Ensemble

Dillon shines with excitement as he returns to DalekoArts! Previous DA credits include: White Christmas (Mike Nulty/

Ensemble), Once (Stage Manager), Ada and the Engine (Lord Lovelace) and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Stage Manager). As a stage manager, Dillon has worked at Theatre at Normandale (By the Way, Meet Vera Stark; Men On Boats: The Wolves; for students throughout Picnic), Artistry (Legally California. Blonde), and Lyric Arts (Legally Blonde; God of Carnage; Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook). Recent performance credits outside of DA include Seussical, Jr. (Mr. Mayor) at Lakeshore Players; Bright Star (Max) at Lyric Arts, and [title of show] (Hunter) at Theatre at Normandale. Dillon extends heartfelt thanks to Amanda and Ben for creating a beautiful, inclusive, and enriching experience for him and other artists at DA throughout the years. He feels truly honored to have been part of this gem in rural Minnesota, a truly special experience.

JENNA HYDE

Stage Manager

Jenna is thrilled to be working on Bright Star with this incredible team! She has stage managed a variety of musicals in the last decade, including Les Miserables (Sioux Empire Community Theatre), She Loves Me (Black Hills

Playhouse and Lyric Arts), South Pacific (Augustana College), and Something Rotten (Lyric Arts). Jenna also stage managed two school tours; A Midsummer Night's Dream in South Dakota high schools, and Walk In Our Shoes, a show discussing mental health

ROBIN MCINTYRE

Scenic Designer/ Carpenter/Painter

Robin graduated with a BFA and an MFA in Theatre Design and Stage Technology from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since 1991 Robin has designed for a variety of local theatres including Lakeshore Players, Mounds View Community Theatre, Park Square Theatre, The History Theatre, Flying Foot Forum, Collide Dance Theatre, The Phipps Center for the Arts, and Cedar Summerstock in Osage. Iowa. For 10 seasons Robin created hundreds of sets for both main stage musicals and Black Box theatre productions at Bloomington Civic Theatre and Art Center. He is currently freelance designing in the Twin Cities and working with The University of Northwestern in St. Paul. Benilde St. Margaret and

Lakeville North High been thrilled to work with DalekoArts in New Prague for the last 4 years.

MARK WEBB Lighting Designer

Mark is a theatre producer and freelance lighting designer working in the Twin Cities. Some of his work has been seen around town at Theatre in the Round. Starting Gate Productions, St. Croix Festival Theatre, Black Sun Productions, Way To Go Turbo Productions, and Workhouse Theatre Company, where he has designed every show, including the Ivey Award winning 'Night Mother. Mark stepped onto the stage in 1974 and has worn every theatrical hat since. He has an educational background in Finance and I.T., and is now retired from the workforce (more time for theatre!).

CYNTHIA WADE **FORSGREN**

Costume Designer

With a background in education, art, and historical clothing design & construction, Cindy has been designing & costuming shows for over 25 years including 15+ years with Artistry (Bloomington Civic The Music Man; Lakeshore

Theatre) as designer for School theatres, and has the Black Box Theatre, and assisting with productions in the Schneider Theater. Her Joseph's coat for Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat for Mounds View Community Theater was a finalist in the Fine Arts Competition at the Minnesota State Fair. Cindy was nominated for a SAGE Award for Dance for Design for Alice in Wonderland with Flying Foot Forum for the Orpheum Flint Hills Children's Theatre Festival. She has been doing design work for University of Northwestern. Eden Prairie Players, and is very happy to return to DalekoArts for Bright Star.

CHRISTY C. JOHNSON

Sound/Projections Designer

Christy is a freelance Sound Designer, Singer, and Actress living in Minneapolis, MN. She is also a board member of Minneapolis Musical Theatre. Representative Theatre (as Sound Designer): Theatre in the Round: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. The Drawer Boy; Park Square: Dot, The Agitators; 20% Theatre: Waafrika 123; Lyric Arts: Mousetrap (as Actor) Guthrie Theater: Burial at Thebes; Eat Street Players:

Players: Big River, The community and the Twin on a Hardbody; History Theatre: Not For Sale; involved. Theatre Pro Rata: 46 First Ladies: Nimbus Theatre: Count Up To Christmas: Morris Park Plavers: Ragtime. Training/ Education: B.A. Theatre Arts. Southwest Minnesota State, University; M.B.A. University of St Thomas

TRICIA HOFELD Props Designer

Tricia has made a career in theatre with the majority being with Troupe America and Church Basement Ladies. She was the Production Manager for both Troupe and StageWest Entertainment (The Medora Musical) and their national tours. Recently she worked for Theater Latté Da and has worked with various other theaters around the cities including Mixed Blood, Flower Shop Project, and her favorite, The Mechanical Division (Cannibal! The Musical!). Tricia graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato with a BS in Theater Production. She would like to thank DalekoArts for their work and the art they were his friends and family for able to bring into the their unending courage

Mystery of Edwin Drood. Cities area. Thank you Mary Poppins; Minnesota to Ben and Amanda for Opera: Flight; Minneapolis their trust and leadership. Musical Theatre: Hands I hope the future holds great things for everyone

BRADLEY A. BEAHEN Music Director/Piano

Bradley is thrilled to be back at Daleko, having last been seen on stage in Chris Smith's White Chrismith, as well as music director for last season's production of Once. As a music director/conductor. he's worked at Lyric Arts: Plaid Tidings, Winter Wonderettes, [title of showl: Chanhassen Dinner Theatre: Mamma Mia: Normandale Community College: [title of show]; Old Log Theatre: Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder: Latte Da: Pansy Craze, and Lakeshore Players: Company. As a performer, he's been seen Off-Broadway, locally at the Ordway, Chanhassen, and the History Theatre, as well as a lovely handful of regional theaters throughout the country. Bradley resides in a plantfilled oasis (2 bedroom apt) in Minneapolis, with his overtly supportive and talented visual artist boyfriend Mark. He'd love to thank Mark, as well as

and support. bradlevbeahen.com

BETSY KEENAN

Fiddle

Betsy is honored to be back at DalekoArts after having an unforgettable experience last season playing in the pit orchestra for "Once". Outside of music life, Betsy spends most of her time being a devoted mom to her busy son Lochlan and working in healthcare data sciences. She would like to extend heartfelt thank yous to Bobby, to her dearest friend Bradley. and to DalekoArts for the incredible opportunity to make beautiful music and memories she'll cherish for a lifetime.

BENJAMIN GIESEKE

Guitar/Mandolin

Mandolinist, guitarist, and composer, Benjamin is thrilled to be joining the pit orchestra for this production! Benjamin's past experiences include playing with the Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra and appearances in other productions of Bright Star. Beniamin has released three albums under his own name and has recently ioined the bluegrass band Timbre Junction. By day, he works as a naturalist with Camp Fire MN and

www. woodworking, exploring the outdoors.

MATT NIELSEN

Drums Matt is thrilled to be joining

so many old friends to tell this amazing story! A percussionist for 30 years, Matt found his true calling as a pit dwelling theatre artist in middle school and never looked back. Favorite performances include The SpongeBob Musical at Eagan Summer Theatre (Conductor/ Keyboard/Kazoo), Joseph... Dreamcoat at Artistry (Percussion), and Chicago at Cretin-Derham Hall (Drums). Matt is most often found teaching percussion for Lakeville School District, leading the Lakeville North Pep Band, or as a regular drummer for the Musical Mondays cabaret series. Matt is grateful to his 4 kids and Melissa, his own Bright Star, for letting him continue to do what he loves!

NICHOLAS WHITE

Banios

Originally from Tampa, Florida, Nick is a multi-instrumentalist. composer, and music theorist. He plays Horn, Guitar, Banjo, and Mandolin, and has been a regular in Twin Cities enjoys birdwatching, theatre, performing at

venues such as the Guthrie. Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Old Log Theatre, Artistry, Lyric Arts, Yellow Tree, and others. He has been heard on national tours including the First National Tour of The Marvelous Wonderettes with Springer Theatricals. Nick is also an orchestral and chamber musician. and is a founding member of the Minnesota Horn Quartet. As a composer, his music has been performed at a variety of venues across the globe including Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Edvard Munch Museum in Oslo. and the St. Petersburg Conservatory of Music in Russia. His work is published through Murphy Music Press, KolyaMusic, and Lyon & Healy. He studied composition at the New England Conservatory and St. Petersburg Conservatory, and holds Masters degrees in Horn Performance (MM) and Music Theory (MA) from the University of Minnesota. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Music Theory also at UMN. Outside of music, Nick is an obsessive baseball fan, and a supporter of the Tampa Bay Rays. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Serena, his daughter, Cecilia, and his cat, Vicky. More at: nicholasiwhite. com

ANDY DELUCA Bass

Andy is thrilled to be making his DalekoArts debut in the pit of Bright Star! Andy has worked with local theaters including Old Log, Off-Broadway Community Theatre, 4 Community Theatre, and Artistry as both an instrumentalist and conductor. When he's not playing the clarinet or bass, you can find him directing the band and orchestra programs at Monticello High School. Andy is thankful for his friends, family, and especially his fiancé Maureen for their support of his music and artistic projects!

KYLE WEILER choreographer

Kyle is delighted and grateful to be working with DalekoArts on this gem of a show! Kyle is a choreographer, director, performer and has recently moved back to the Twin Cities. Select performance credits: Hamilton on Broadway and across the U.S. (Universal swing/dance captain,) international tour of West Side Story (Diesel, Riff u/s, Dance Cap,) Damn Yankees (Ordway.) Directing: Company (Ashland Productions.) assistant director for the

world opera The Life and Death(s) of Alan Turing with Chicago Opera Theatre. Choreography: Theatre Latte Da, Artistry, Honors, Theatre Aspen, Kvle holds a BFA from The Juilliard School. @ Kvle Weil

AMANDA WHITE Director

Amanda (she/her) is honored to helm this final show in DalekoArts' history; what a true gift this past decade has been. In addition to being a founding Artistic Director, Amanda has been privileged in DA's history to direct White Christmas, Once, Ada & the Engine, Peter & the Starcatcher, Godspell, Our Town, Little Shop of Horrors, Barefoot in the Park, and The Odd Couple. She has also joined the companies of Holiday Show: The Holiday Show, the Main Street Holiday series, Ghost Tour, Middletown, The Rink. The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), Adventures in Mating, Love Letters, The Philadelphia Story, Rancho Mirage, and Proof. Amanda recently completed her

sixth year as a proud

member of the Theatre Department Faculty at Normandale Community College. In recent years, she has served on the NYC Jazz Choreography Major Gifts and Strategy Inc, Collide Dance Theatre, teams at Lincoln Center The Great Theatre, for the Performing Arts. Juilliard's Choreographic as Associate Artistic Director for the William Children's Theatre Co. Inde Center for the Arts, and as Managing Director at Mixed Blood Theatre. Amanda is a graduate of Columbia University's MA 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 in Chicago. This final moment is for Judith, Dennis, and Alecia, to whom Amanda owes everything, and who have been there from the verv start.

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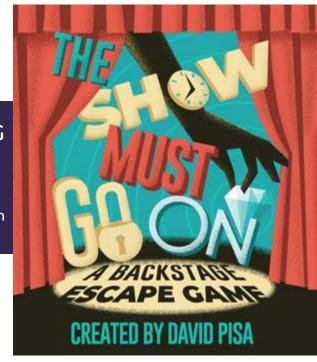
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visit www.dalekoarts.com for more info







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