

BLUEBARN | 32 | Season of the Unknown

eason 32 marks a profound shift in perspective. This year we give focus to building on BLUEBARN's transformative programming and services, seeding the fires that will light our way for years to come.

A different kind of season awaits us.

A different kind of membership awaits you...

In these extraordinary times, we invite you to become caretakers of BLUEBARN's mission. We invite you to provoke thought, emotion, action, and change in our community. Your BLUEBARN membership is a commitment, not to a certain number of productions or nights of theatre, but to the BLUEBARN's essential work on and off the stage, our values, our art, and our artists.

Incomparable theatre and incandescent storytelling remain at the core of our work. For these wild times, we have imagined adventurous new ways to bring the power of story back into all our lives. We have also dreamed up better ways to harness your BLUEBARN membership to extend the reach of our art and sustain the lives of artists.

BLUEBARN is proud to announce a host of programs and programming that we hope will ignite and inspire you. We must acknowledge as we do so the very real uncertainty of the coming year. Our season accepts disruptions and adaptations to shifting circumstances as givens.

The mission stands. The work continues. Join us in lighting the fires that will guide us through this Season of the Unknown and into the future.

With gratitude,

Susan Clement-Toberer Producing Artistic Director

"The future is in disorder.
A door like this has cracked open five or six times since we got up on our hind legs. It is the best possible time to be alive, when almost everything you thought you knew was wrong."

— Tom Stoppard, Arcadia

BLUEBARN THEATRE



TRUBLU MEMBERSHIP SEASON HAPPENINGS:

- Holiday Hootenanny | Music, song, dance, story. For the longest nights, the warmest of fires... and joy to us all! | Dec 17th-20th
- Marjorie Prime | The great pause began March 17th. Our set still stands ready on our stage. We'll premiere as soon as it's safe.
- Digital Access* | Live-streamed shows. Virtual Tours. Special events. The best seats in the house. Your own.
- Radical Hospitality | Arts access is a human right. BLUEBARN will offer pay-what-you-wish attendance for those facing economic barriers.
- Artists Fund | BLUEBARN is the only professional contemporary theatre in Omaha committed to a living wage for all its artists.
- Out of the Blue | A new path. Education. Touring. On the road. Online. Only from the BLUEBARN
- A Chorus Line | The music. The mirror.
 The magic. We're cast. We're committed.
 The show will go on. This summer.

*some rights pending

Bonfire Series* | Six Extraordinary
 Works of Theatre. Dozens of
 Extraordinary Artists.
 The Shape of Things to Come.

- All That Fall | Samuel Beckett
 An auditory masterpiece unlike anything you've never seen.

 Blindfolds optional.
- Before After | Knapman & Price
 What if you had a second chance
 to get it right the first time? A new musical.
- Buffalo Women | Beaufield Berry Juneteenth. Newfound freedom. New lives.

A Black cowgirl musical comedy.

- Escaped Alone | Caryl Churchill
 One of the most revered living playwrights.
 A most deranged tea party.
- For Black Trans Girls...* | Lady Dane Figueroa Edidi A choreopoem. A fantasia. Love and justice for a new generation.
- R3³ | Sarah Brown after Shakespeare

Three actors. One monster. What would you sacrifice to overcome tyranny?

Anti-Racist Ethos | BLUEBARN owns that systemic racism is real and must be fought against wherever and however it shows up-in our community, in our theatre, in ourselves.



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BLUEBARN THEATRE

"I maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder."

— G.K. CHESTERTON

DECEMBER 2020

You Beautiful People,

2020 is coming to a close. This has been a year of trials and uncertainty. So many have lost so much. No one has emerged unscathed. Our lives have been upended, all of them. And though there is a great deal of hope to come in the new year, the pandemic is far from over and will have a lasting impact in so many ways.

'The unknown' has taken on many layers of meaning here at the BLUEBARN. It was chosen as the theme of our 32nd season long before the pandemic hit. Now it has a depth we never imagined. We started this year with a kind of naiveté about how it would unfold. Our assumptions were wrong. The knowns became unknowns. We now know in a visceral way that we absolutely can't know what tomorrow will bring. The unknown has always been a defining feature of our lives, and we're all just getting to know it a little better.

With our Season of the Unknown finally underway at the BLUEBARN, I wanted to reach out to express my gratitude for you all. We haven't been able to gather and celebrate in the ways we're used to. Theatre has also been missing, of course, and like all of you, the resident creatives at the BLUEBARN and our extended family of artists have been grieving that and other losses. This has been an awful year. But there's that older meaning to the word

awful... 'full of awe, inspiring wonder and reverence'.

You've given us a great gift this year. You've given us the strength to persevere through these crazy times. You've called, e-mailed, sent notes. You've checked in. You gifted us the unused value of last season's membership. Without being asked, you gave more. You donated early, some of you more than once, you made sure we weathered the storm. You let us know in no uncertain terms, that theatre matters, that artists are essential. You've ensured that our artists will survive and thrive, and we are in awe of all of you.

BLUEBARN is made of artists. Artist founded. Artist driven. Artist focused. The BLUEBARN's Artists Fund will support countless working artists and essential art this season and for many, many years to come...because of you. We have unshakeable faith in this, as you have shown your faith in us. We know this. You are the known in this **Season of the Unknown**.

With peace, health, love, and joy to you, and always, gratitude...

Susan Clement-Toberer Producing Artistic Director

YOUR YEAR-END GIFT WILL DIRECTLY SUPPORT THE ARTISTS' FUND. THANK YOU!



- BLUEBARN is proud to continue our 13th year in partnership with Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging(ENOA) this holiday season. This year, you can become an elf for the elderly by fulfilling holiday gift needs for seniors in the region.
- Ornament as a thank you. Help us reach our goal of \$7,000 by the end of the year.
- Click on the Giving HeARTS banner on **bluebarn.org** or visit ENOA's **ShareOmaha.org** page to give. (use Donation Code: BLUEBARN to help us track our progress).

In this year of 'the Covid', seniors need our support now more than ever. **Thank you.**

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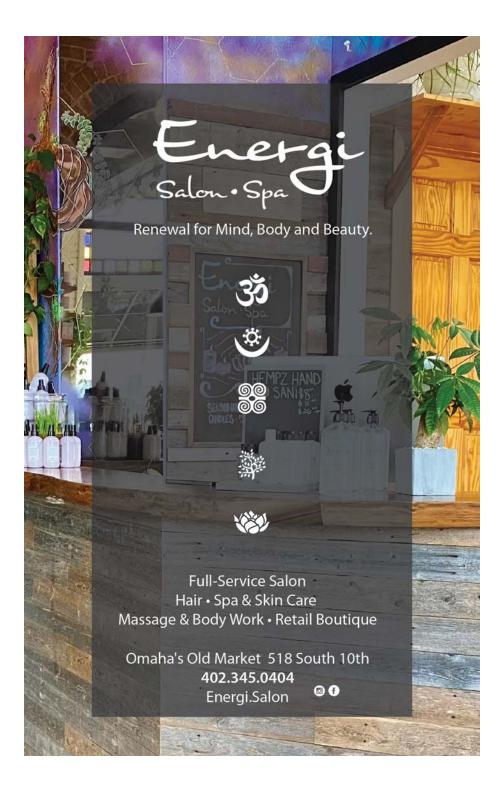




Virtual Programming Sponsor:



THANK YOU!



CAST

Dennis Collins

Dennis has appeared in bits of stuff, in many places, but is thrilled to be with the Blue Barn. It's an honor.



Jon Van Horn-Hickerson

Jon is thrilled to be making his debut with Bluebarn for this very special holiday show! Jon was most recently seen in "Mamma Mia" with PART Theatre (OEAA nomination) as well as



"World Goes Round," Ring of Fire - The Johnny Cash Story," and "Christmas My Way - Sinatra" with *PART. Omaha Playhouse* audiences may remember Jon as Potiphar in "Joseph...Dreamcoat" and Nathan in "Guys and Dolls", and he was slated to appear there in "Bright Star" this past spring prior to it getting cancelled due to Covid-19.

Jon earned his BFA in Theatre from Roosevelt University in Chicago and spent many years performing professionally there. Chicagoland credits include "Promises, Promises" and "Sweeney Todd" (Porchlight Music Theatre), "The Fantasticks" (Metropolis Performing Arts), "Mikado 2.005" (Noble Fool), "Once Upon A Mattress" (Emerald City), "Great American Trailer Park Musical" (Kokandy Productions), and a season with Wagon Wheel Theatre in Indiana including "A Funny Thing... Forum," "Annie," "Inherit the Wind," "Phantom!", and "Christmas Carol". Jon can also be seen as the Park Ranger in the TV commercial for South Dakota Lottery and was recently a featured singer on "Quarantine Tonight" for NCN.

Moira Mangiameli

Moira is a familiar face to area theatergoers, appearing in numerous plays and musicals over the years. Most recently, Moira performed the title role in *Mother Courage* with Nebraska Repertory Theatre, as well as the roles of Antonia in *Much Ado About Nothing* and Queen Elinor in *King John* for Nebraska Shakespeare. Although Moira appeared in several shows at the BLUEBARN's former location, including Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*, Stevie in *The Goat (Omaha Entertainment Arts Award: Best Actress)* and The Writer in *Cruelties*, she is thrilled to be making her debut on the new BLUEBARN stage with this production. Moira is the former Theatre Program Chair at lowa Western



Community College in Council Bluffs, IA, and served as Director of Education for Nebraska Shakespeare and the Ocala Civic Theatre in Ocala, FL. She currently works as an Adjunct Professor for the University of Nebraska at Omaha Theatre department.

CAST

Mark T Nelson

Mark, 66, guitar & piano, is of pure Swedish descent which means he's prone to sitting and grumbling if he's not playing music or doing art, etc... Born on the muddy banks of the Mississippi, Mark migrated west over the next major river to Omaha some 42 years ago and just never left. He currently performs occasionally with the Linoma Mashers, Shastaz' Blastaz, and is also happy to be part of this upbeat 'hootenanny' ensemble!





Tiffany White-Welchen

Tiffany is thrilled to be back at the Blue Barn. Her last performance at the Blue Barn was in 2007 for the Blue Barn Music Festival with Hal France. Tiffany has performed in the Omaha area for many years and was inducted into the 2019 Hall of Fame for her role as Tina Turner in Beehive. Tiffany's very first production was Jesus Christ Superstar at in high school Duchesne Academy. Since, she has performed in many other productions with one of her most memorable as "Billy Holiday" in Emerson's Bar and Grill. Other roles include "Dorothy" in Wiz, "Cindy Lou" in The Marvelous Wonderettes, "Muzzy" in Thoroughly Modern Millie and roles

in Smokey Joe's Café, Aint' Misbehavin and The World Goes Round. In addition, Tiffany was also a featured artist in the 2009 Aksarben Coronation and on a national level, played the role of "Calypso" in the CBS Saturday morning cartoon "Horseland."

On a personal note, Tiffany works in the behavioral health care industry as licensed mental health practitioner and received her Bachelor's degree in fine arts from Drake University and Master's degree in human services from Bellevue University. She is happily married to Tony and is the mother of two and most recently added a son-in-law into her family.

Wai Yim

Wai Yim is an Actor, Director, Choreographer, a proud member of Actors' Equity and SAG-AFTRA. Originally from Hong Kong, immigrated to Omaha, NE and started his acting career there. He now resides in Chicago and splits his time between both cities. He's the Artistic Director of aetherplough, a performance art company in Omaha. He's also the Director of Development for Token Theatre in Chicago. He's toured nationally with The White Snake directed by Mary Zimmerman. In Chicago, he's worked with: The Goodman Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater, and Silk Road Rising. He was last seen as Otto Frank



in The Diary of Anne Frank at the Rose Theatre in Omaha, NE.TV credits: Chicago PD (NBC), neXt (Fox), Patriot (Amazon) and The Chi (Showtime). He recently shot an indie movie: Fatal Influence. Social Media: @whyyim. YouTube channel: On The Cusp Tarot.

CAST



Melanie Walters

This is Melanie's second production with the BLUEBARN Theatre, having served as choreographer for the 2017 production of *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*. Her work has been seen in productions such as *Shrek*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Spamalot*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Legally Blonde*, *Altar Boyz*, *Evil Dead*, *The Producers*, and *Sister Act*. As a performer, Melanie has appeared on numerous stages around the Omaha metro. Favorite roles include Eva Peron (*Evita*), Aida (*Aida*), Velma Kelly (*Chicago*), Lucy Harris (*Jekyll and Hyde*), Mary Magdalene (*Jesus Christ Superstar*), Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*), The Narrator (*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*), and the Lady of the

Lake (Spamalot). She was thrilled to receive both the 2015 Theatre Arts Guild Award and Omaha Entertainment Awards for Outstanding Choreography and Best Actress in a Musical role for her work in Spamalot, as well as the 2016 TAG Outstanding Choreography award for her work on The Producers. By day, Melanie serves as Community Engagement Manager for the Omaha Conservatory of Music and the String Sprouts program. Melanie is also looks forward to both playing the character of Cassie and choreographing A Chorus Line at the Bluebarn!

RESIDENT CREATIVES

Susan Clement-Toberer (Producing Artistic Director) Susan has served as BLUEBARN's Producing Artistic Director since 2002. She has directed numerous productions at the BLUEBARN, beginning with The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me in 1993 and most recently Indecent, Act of God, and Circle Mirror Transformation, The City in the City in the City and Every Brilliant Thing. Awards include TAG Award – Best Director: Our Town (2015), Spring Awakening (2012), Three Tall Women (2011), The Goat or Who is Sylvia (2009), A Piece of my Heart (2003); Best Drama: Indecent (2019), The Christians (2016), 33 Variations (2014), Bug (2012), Rabbit Hole (2010), The Dresser (2006); OEA Awards – Best Director: Our Town (2015), 39 Steps (2013), Spring Awakening (2012), Seascape (2008); Best Play - Our Town (2015), Red (2013), The Pillowman (2006). Other recent award-winning shows include The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui and Silent Sky. As director of the BLUEBARN, Susan alongside Shannon Walenta (Managing Director at the time) spearheaded the capital campaign that enabled the BLUEBARN to build its own stand-alone theater, and saw the dream fulfilled when BLUEBARN moved into its new home at 10th and Pacific in 2015. Susan holds a BFA in Theatre/Film from the State University of New York at Purchase Conservatory.

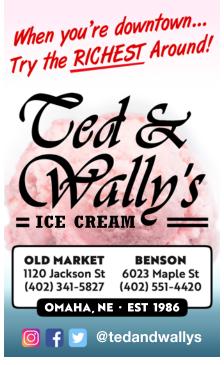
Barry Carman (Dramaturg) Barry's affiliation with the BLUEBARN began in 2002, as production dramaturg for *Arcadia*. He has since served as dramaturg for a host of BLUEBARN productions, counting *The Pillowman*, *The Christians*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, Hir*, and *Venus in Furs* among his favorites. In 2004, he co-founded BLUEBARN'S Witching Hour, a collaborative ensemble for which he wrote, performed and directed for five years. In 2009, Barry joined Out of Hand Theater in Atlanta where he conceived and directed *The SHOW!*, and developed *Without Which Nothing*. In 2017, he joined the BLUEBARN staff as Resident Dramaturg and Director of Engagement. He

directed BLUEBARN's production of *I and You, Natural Shocks* and *The Trump Card* for BLUEBARN'S Out of the Blue Series, and *8 Songs for a Mad King* for the Omaha Under the Radar Festival. He was most recently onstage in the BLUEBARN's production of *The Woodsman*. He holds a B.A. in Theatre Studies from Emory University.

Amy Reiner (Director of Production and Propmaster) Amy Reiner joined the BLUEBARN in 2012 as Production Manager and Properties Master. Amy previously worked for 12 years as Properties Master at The Omaha Community Playhouse. Prior to that, she freelanced in Los Angeles in the fields of film and television. She holds a BFA in technical theatre with an emphasis on Scenic and Lighting Design from The University of Nebraska Lincoln.

Bill Kirby (Sound/Projection Designer and Technical Director) Bill Kirby recently joined the BLUEBARN staff as the Resident Creative and Technical Director, after working as a freelance designer for the past two season. Previous BLUEBARN designs include *Venus in Fur, The City in the City in the City* (OEAA nomination for Outstanding Sound Design), *An Act of God*, and *Indecent*. Before relocating to Omaha in 2017, Bill spent 10 years as the resident sound designer and head sound engineer at Princeton University's McCarter Theatre Center. Bill's favorite McCarter productions include sound designing the original workshop production of Danai Gurira's *Eclipsed* and serving as the production sound engineer for the world premier of Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, which would go on to win the 2013 Tony Award for best play. Bill is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and is an adjunct faculty member at Midland University.





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