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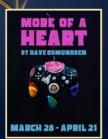
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BLUEBARN THEATRE VALUES

AT BLUEBARN, WE MAKE OUR VALUES CENTRAL TO HOW WE WORK AND CREATE TOGETHER.

THIS LIST OF VALUES IS ONGOING AND EVER CHANGING AND WILL EVOLVE AS WE DO.

We empower each other to try new mings and be confident in their choices. We crave meaningful discussions that teach us how to keep improving.

WE WILL CREATE A SAFE

SPACE FOR BOLD ARTISTIC CHOICES,

We believe there is always more toleran. We believe in challenging how we think, propelling us toward a future ennched by continuous learning & creative exploration.

We believe in change through the alts and by listening to one another.

We take Pride in well coming and Supporting our Artists Authortic selves

We endeavor to create a sale space that encourages creativity, individuality, and bold thinking.

We work to make everyone Feel welcome.



BLUEBARN THEATRE



WELCOME FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Greetings BLUEBARNers!

Welcome to the BLUEBARN Theatre and to another stellar production, one that deftly sheds light on a fascinating era in US-China relations and casts those times in the setting of something as superficially basic as a basketball game. I've been excited about "The Great Leap" since this season was announced and have no doubt this amazing play will give you much inspiration for great discussion after the show.

And we're only halfway through this spellbinding 35th season. Heaps of thanks to our sponsors, donors, and season ticket holders - it's so wonderful to watch Susan and her entire creative team live up to the standard of "creating theater worthy of it's audience," and it is only through all of your support that this wonderful organization does just that time and time again.

Enjoy! Devin

Devin Fox, Board President



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

First and foremost, thank you for having me back to BLUEBARN. Directing *The Chinese Lady* last season was truly special to me, I hope you got the chance to see the production and that it resonated with you.

Welcome to *The Great Leap* by Lauren Yee, a play that delves into the cultural, societal, and political risks associated with expressing oneself and asserting one's position. It is also a play about family, as well as a play about redemption.

When do you "run"? When do you "stand still"? Do you "wait your turn"? Or do you "take your shot"?

It is not an easy task to take a risk.

It requires a tremendous amount of bravery.

And at times, it can be dangerous.

You may even lose everything.

But yet, sometimes, it is all worth it.

Whatever your reasons are, you take the leap of faith, and you go for it.
You risk it all... for yourself, for your family, for your friends, for your country.

It means a lot to me that here in my hometown of Omaha, BLUEBARN Theatre is continuing to take risks.

I hope you will too.

Because "Every game is a second chance."

"A second chance to live your life all over again."

хo,

Wai.

SHOW SYNOPSIS

When a Chinese-American basketball player from the streets of San Francisco lands in Beijing in 1989, he is caught in the middle of a cultural and political battle on and off the court. As turmoil unfolds in Tiananmen Square, walls fall and secrets are revealed. Lauren Yee's "The Great Leap" explores the risks of speaking out and standing your ground in this fast-paced drama that will have you gripped until the final buzzer sounds.

This performance runs approximately 2 hours with one intermission.

Please silence all cell phones, smart watches, and other noise-making devices.

The Great Leap was originally developed and produced by Denver Center for the Performing Arts Theatre Company, Chris Coleman, Artistic Director.

New York Premiere Presented by Atlantic Theater Company, New York City, 2018.

"The Great Leap" was developed with the support of The Playwright's Center

Developed in the New Strands Residency, a program of the American Conservatory Theater, Carey Perloff, Artistic Director - Peter Pastreich, Executive Director

A workshop production of The Great Leap was presented by New York Stage and Film & Vassar at the Powerhouse Theater, Summer 2017.

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Would you or your company like to sponsor a BLUEBARN production? Contact Heather at 402.345.1576 x6 or hhoyt@bluebarn.org.

CAST

Jimmy Nguyen	Manford
Thomas Becker	Saul
Adam Bassing	Wen Chang
Patty Kuo	Connie

PRODUCTION CREATIVES

Director	Wai Yim
Stage Manager	Madelyn Hubbard
Scenic & Lighting Designer	Steven Williams
Costume Designer	Denise Ervin
Production Manager & Props Design	nAmy Reiner
Sound & Projection Designer	Bill Kirby
Scenic Artist	Craig Lee
Sound Board Operator	Mindy Cotner
Master Carpenter	Shane Staiger
Master Electrician	Sally Grosenbach
Art Curator, Mammel Lobby	Jared Spence



National New Play BLUEBARN Theatre is an Associate Member of the National New Play Network.

NNPN is an alliance of professional theatres across the country that are evolving and exploring the frontiers of the American theatre. **BLUEBARN** has long been Omaha's home for professional contemporary theatre, bringing diverse perspectives, new voices, and provocative work to our community. The **National New Play Network** has become the most powerful, growing force in new play development, production, and promotion in the nation.

BLUEBARN is committed to seeking out collaborative relationships with other NNPN member theatres, producing and supporting the work of the most dynamic emerging voices in contemporary playwriting, and promoting local artists on a platform with national reach.

To support New Play Development at the **BLUEBARN**, contact Susan at **sclement@bluebarn.org**. To learn more about **NNPN** and its programs, visit **NNPN.org**.

CAST BIOS



Thomas Becker - he/him - Saul

Thomas has performed with The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC, and the California Shakespeare Theatre. His recent roles at Omaha's BLUEBARN Theatre include: Lear in King Lear, Teach in American Buffalo, Carmichael in A Behanding in Spokane, and Jekyll in Jekyll and Hyde. He performed as Krapp in Brigit St Brigit's production of Krapp's Last Tape, Richard Harkin in The Seafarer, and Malvolio in Twelfth Night. At the Omaha Community Playhouse he was Stan in Sweat, Atticus in To Kill a Mockingbird and Juror number Eight in 12 Angry Men. His awardwinning audio book narrations for Commuter's Library include The Humor of Mark Twain and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.



Adam Bassing - he/him - Wen Chang

Adam is thrilled to be back at the BLUEBARN, where he was last seen in *The Emperor and the Fool* as part of the Big Damn Door Festival. Most recently, he was a part of Brigit St Brigit's annual *Holiday Lites* at the Benson Theatre. Other credits include *Fireside Tales* and *God on Trial* (BSB), *Eurydice* (Creighton University), *The Last Supper* (SNAP!), and *Murder on the Orient Express* (OCP). He also had a supporting role in a recent local short film, *Daylight Savings*. He received his BA in English from UNO and his PharmD from UNMC.



Patty Kuo - she/her - Connie

Patty Kuo is thrilled to be making her professional acting debut with BLUEBARN. Previous credits include Masha/ensemble in *Young Frankenstein* (Nebraska Communities Playhouse) and ensemble in *Something Rotten!* (Lincoln Community Playhouse). Patty received acting training from University of Nebraska-Lincoln and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Outside of theatre, Patty is a professor at UNL, where she teaches and conducts research on family and child development.



Jimmy Nguyen - he/him - Manford

Jimmy is a Vietnamese-American actor and has worked at various theatre institutions across the country including The Kennedy Center in D.C., Hope Repertory Theatre in MI, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and a world premiere of a new Asian-American musical called *Gold Mountain* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Recently, he took over the roles as the immediate replacement for Demetrius in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and Benvolio in *Romeo & Juliet* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival this past August. His identity as an Asian-American guides his practice and how he approaches his craft. As a kid, he saw Asian-Americans in the media repeatedly portrayed as bullied nerds, gas station clerks, laundromat workers, cab drivers, etc. He decided he wanted to change that narrative. Through his work, he continues to challenge what it means to be an Asian-American actor. **website:** jimmynguyenactor.com

CREATIVE BIOS



Wai Yim - he/they - Director

Wai Yim is an actor, director, choreographer, playwright, and the Managing Director of Chicago's Token Theatre. He directed *The Chinese* Lady at BLUEBARN last season. You may have also seen him digitally onstage in A Very Die Hard Christmas. His semi-autobiographical play, The Emperor and The Fool (Chronicles of the House of Yim) was workshopped at BLUEBARN and won OEAA's Best New Script. Wai recently performed in A Christmas Carol at The Goodman Theatre. He was also in Mary Zimmerman's The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci (Goodman Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Old Globe). Chicago credits: King of the Yees, Postnation, The King of Hell's Palace, and Mary Zimmerman's The White Snake (Goodman Theatre); Chimerica (TimeLine Theatre); ZAC EFRON (Token Theatre). Regional credits: The White Snake (The Old Globe, McCarter Theatre, Wuzhen Theatre Festival in China); The Oldest Boy (Unicorn Theatre); Nomad Motel (Horizon Theatre Company). Film: North of the 10, Fatal Influence: Like, Follow, Survive. TV: Work in Progress, Power Book IV: Force, neXt, Chicago PD, The Chi, Patriot. Social medias: @whyyim



Steven Williams - he/him - Scenic & Lighting Designer

In his 28th year at the University of Nebraska Omaha, Mr. Williams is Chair and Head of Design and Production for UNO Theatre. He is a freelance scenic, lighting, and graphic designer who has designed over 150 productions with such notable companies as the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival, Omaha Community Playhouse, BLUEBARN Theatre, The Rose Theatre, Theatre Aspen, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Indiana University, Brown County Playhouse, and Mcleod Summer Playhouse. Since 1998, he has designed scenery for Thorn Productions, which produces *The Thorn*, one of the largest touring church productions in the country. This production has been seen live by nearly 1 million people and televised to over 20 million households. He most recently served as production designer and production consultant for an international film release of *The Thorn*. Steven has designed numerous productions for the BLUEBARN including scenery and lighting for *King Lear* and *Indecent*.



Denise Ervin - she/her - Costume Designer

Denise is a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, CA. She has been designing and creating costumes and custom clothing for over 35 years. Denise has extensive experience in designing for live theatre, film and dance. As head designer for the Omaha Playhouse, she was responsible for overseeing the design and production of 5-8 shows per season. While living in Los Angeles, Denise worked as a senior designer and developer for AGRON Inc, an accessories licensee of ADIDAS while also maintaining a freelance design business. Among her credits, she was commissioned to design Marilyn Quayle's gown for the 1989 Inaugural Ball, selected as Official Couturier for the AK-SAR-BEN Coronation and Ball in 1992, 2019, 21,22 . She was awarded the Bob Mackie scholarship at FIDM in 1988.

website: dervin8.wixsite.com/denise-ervin-designs

CREATIVE BIOS

Madelyn Hubbard - she/her - Stage Manager

Madelyn is an arts manager and theatre professional in Omaha, Nebraska, where she was born and raised. Madelyn truly loves the arts. Being a part of the process from the first design meeting to taking down the last piece at strike is what drives her every day to become a better professional. @lilmisshubbard

Craig Lee - he/him - Scenic Artist

Mr. Lee has lived in the Midtown area of Omaha since 1985. His work has appeared on virtually every local live theatre stage since then, as well as in movies, television, and publications. He has worked with the finest designers in the area on countless shows and has painted indoor and outdoor murals all over Omaha. At his studio he has completed commissioned paintings, drawings, and production designs. He has taught scenic painting and worked with students on many university productions. He has proudly supported and collaborated with BLUEBARN Theatre for much of its existence and is extremely fortunate to call the talented, passionate professionals who work here some of his very best friends.

Mindy Cotner - Sound Board Operator

Mindy has been involved in Omaha-area theater since age 11, first appearing onstage as Lullaby League #2 in a production of *The Wizard of Oz*. After earning a B.F.A from the University of Nebraska Omaha Writer's Workshop, she came to roost in technical theater and discovered the joys of working on the "dark side." Favorite productions in her 18 seasons with BLUEBARN include *The 39 Steps, Spring Awakening, and Every Brilliant Thing*. She has also worked on several productions with the Ollie Webb Center's Art of Imagination, appearing onstage as the Banshee and Selkie Queen in *Fear Liath*, and running follow spot for *The White Gander* and *Morozko*.



"Tank Man" temporarily stops the advance of several Chinese tanks on June 5, 1989, in Beijing.
This photograph was taken by **Jeff Widener** of the Associated Press.

RESIDENT CREATIVE BIOS

Susan Clement - She/Her - 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. OEAA Awards – Best Director: *Red Summer* (2020), *Indecent* (2019) *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (2018), *Our Town* (2015), *39 Steps* (2013), *Spring Awakening* (2012), *Seascape* (2008); Best Play - *Our Town* (2015), *Red* (2013), *The Pillowman* (2006). 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 standalone theater, and saw the dream fulfilled when BLUEBARN moved into its new home at 10th and Pacific in 2015. Susan holds a B.F.A in Theatre/Film from the State University of New York at Purchase Conservatory.

Amy Reiner - She/Her - Director of Production & Props Designer

Amy joined the BLUEBARN in 2012 as Production Manager and Properties Master. Amy went to college at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received a B.F.A in technical theatre with an emphasis on Scenic and Lighting Design. After leaving Lincoln, she spent three years freelancing in Los Angeles in the fields of film and television. Returning to her hometown of Omaha in 2000, she worked as Properties Master for 12 years at The Omaha Community Playhouse where some of her favorite shows were *Violet, The Battle of Shallowford* and *The Fantasticks*. Some of Amy's favorite BLUEBARN shows include *Red, American Buffalo, the 39 Steps, and A Very Die Hard Christmas!*. In her free time Amy enjoys volunteering at a few places including HETRA, a Gretna based equine therapy program. She especially loves her fur children Ethel, Norman, Pearl and Rose, as well as her goldfish Elmer Fudd and Sylvester.

Bill Kirby - He/Him - Technical Director, Sound & Projection Designer

Bill joined the BLUEBARN staff as the Resident Creative and Technical Director in 2019, after working as a freelance designer for the two previous seasons. Favorite BLUEBARN productions include *Venus in Fur, Wakey, Wakey, Indecent* (OEA Award for Outstanding Sound Design), and *Red Summer* (OEA Award). 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 premiere of Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, which would go on to win the 2013 Tony Award for best play. Kirby has worked nationally and internationally, including productions at the New York Fringe Festival, LA's Kirk Douglas Theatre, the Wuzhen Grand Theatre in China, and the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Bill is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. web: kirbysound.live



BLUEBARN Staff

Susan Clement

Producing Artistic Director

Erika Sieff

Managing Director

Amy Reiner

Director of Production & Properties Master

Heather Hoyt

Director of Development and Marketing

Bill Kirby

Resident Creative & Technical Director

Sydney Readman

Front of House / Box Office Manager & Community Connector

Madelyn Hubbard

Resident Stage Manager

Francisco Franco

Production Assistant / Rentals Manager

Jimmy Nguyen

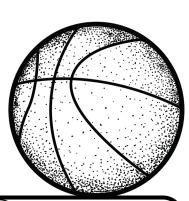
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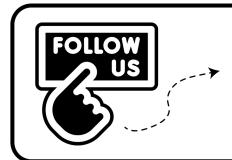
Bookkeeper

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Michael Walenta



Susan Clement (ex-officio)





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Al Marcault
Omaha Community Playhouse
Creighton Costume Department

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The BLUEBARN Theatre stands in honor of the first inhabitants and our ancestors. We acknowledge the land on which The BLUEBARN stands — the unceded territory of the Umonhon ('um AHhah") and ochethi Sakoiwic. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory. We honor the generations of stewards, and we pay our respects to the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land.

Visit native-land.ca to discover the native land on which you reside or currently find yourself.

ANTI-RACISM | ANTI-OPPRESSION ETHOS

BLUEBARN Theatre owns that systemic racism is real, always at play, and intersects with multiple systems of oppression and that all must be fought against wherever and however they show up - in our community, in our theater, in ourselves.

ANTI-HARASSMENT & INCLUSION

BLUEBARN Theatre is committed to fostering a culture of civility, dignity, and respect as a right and responsibility of all who walk through its doors. Employees, guest artists, volunteers, and patrons are entitled to and responsible for maintaining an environment of mutual trust - free from intimidation, exploitation, harassment, and discrimination. Offensive, abusive, or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct will not be tolerated. Adhering to this standard is vital to the BLUEBARN's mission.

DIVERSE AUDIENCE PRACTICES PRINCIPLE

Hospitality has always been one of BLUEBARN's core values. Welcoming you to this space is our great joy. You are invited to bring your full self to the experience. Audible reactions and responses are absolutely welcome. For some people, this is church, for some a meditative space, for others an escape, and we invite you to respect the ways that others engage in the experience based on their individual or cultural practices. By gathering at the BLUEBARN, you have committed to a shared experience in community with others, free from etiquette shaming, microaggressions, and entitled behavior.

ACCESS

BLUEBARN Theatre is committed to ensuring that our boundary-breaking theatre is accessible to everyone. We are committed to easing cost barriers for young professionals and students. We are committed to providing low-cost, last-minute opportunities for anyone to see a show. We are committed to recognizing those who give the most in service to our community.

BLUCrew - Young Patron Development Program

Anyone 35 or under is eligible. Members receive discount pricing for most Sunday and Thursday shows throughout the season with no upfront cost. Contact Sydney at sreadman@bluebarn.org to join BLUCrew.

35 l

Rush Tickets

Every unsold seat. Every show. \$20. Available only at the box office, 45 minutes before curtain. If we're not sold out, you have a new way in.



Nebraska Educators, Healthcare Workers, and Military Personnel

\$4 off all tickets. All the time.



Radical Hospitality

Sometimes you need a break. It doesn't matter why. For pay-what-you-wish tickets to any show, contact Sydney at **sreadman@bluebarn.org**.



Assisted Listening Devices

These are available at the box office for mainstage productions. BLUEBARN also utilizes Listen Everywhere, a smartphone application that allows you to stream audio directly to your own headphones and Bluetooth-compatible hearing aids. See our box office staff for assistance or scan the QR code provided.



An **American Sign Language** interpreted performance is offered for *The Great Leap* on **Friday**, **February 9**.

An **Audio Description Service** is provided through Outlook Nebraska upon request. Audio-described performances fall on the 3rd Thursday of each run when requested.

Sensory Kits are available at the box office and the lobby is always available as a respite from the performance environment. Sensory Kits provided by **Autism Action Partnership**.

To request these or additional accommodations, or for more information, Please call **(402) 345-1576** or email Sydney at **sreadman@bluebarn.org**.

Afterwords: Post Show Talkback w/ Cast and Creatives

Friday, February 2nd | on stage, immediately following our 7:30 pm show

Immerse yourself deeper into the world of *The Great Leap* by participating in an enriching talkback session with our talented cast and crew! This experience offers a rare opportunity to connect with the individuals responsible for bringing the play to life, gain unique insights into the creative process and character development, and provide a behind-the-scenes glimpse that enhances your appreciation for the artistry and dedication involved in crafting *The Great Leap!*



Saro Cider / BLUEBARN Theatre

Basketball Themed Trivia Night

Wednesday, February 7th | 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Location: Saro Cider | 1012 S 10th St, Omaha, NE 68108

Join BLUEBARN for a night of hoops and brainpower at our Basketball Trivia Night at SARO Cider! Score big with slam-dunk answers, compete for MVP status, and dribble through an evening of spirited competition! So, lace up, bring your A-game, and let the trivia madness begin!

1st Place team: two single tickets for *The Great Leap* & one \$50 gift card to SARO Cider **2nd Place team:** \$20 gift card to SARO Cider



Afterwords: Discussion with Playwright Lauren Yee

watch for details coming soon!

In a lively and insightful conversation, acclaimed playwright Lauren Yee engages in a dynamic exchange with the cast and creatives behind *The Great Leap*. Watch as they share their perspectives and ideas as the chat becomes a vibrant exploration of artistic vision, cultural resonance, and the transformative power of storytelling in a world of theatre.



Omaha Performing Arts "Voices AMPLIFIED!" Pre-Show Dragon Dance and Talkback

Thursday, February 8th | 6:30 pm; Lobby open at 6:00 pm

In partnership with O-PA's Voices AMPLIFIED! Series, we will be hosting a Dragon Dance followed by a talkback with AAPI voices in the artistic community.

Partnership with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Sunday, February 18th | Table with presented information

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Discover the intersection of theatrical arts and lifelong learning as we showcase the collaborative initiatives between these two organizations. Come down and immerse yourself in an enriching experience, gaining insights into BLUEBARN's dynamic productions and OLLI's commitment to lifelong education.

ART IN THE BLUE CURTED BY JARD SPACE A MOMENT IN TIME A MOMENT IN TIME A MOMENT IN TIME THE Great Leap Art Show

The "A Moment in Time" exhibit is on display to the public, 45 minutes prior to the show, M-F during Box Office Hours, 10 am-4 pm.

"A Moment in Time" Art Exhibit

BLUEBARN Mammel Lobby Curated by: Jared Spence Featured Artists

Richard Chung | Eduardo Gardea | Lew Lunbeck Jared Spence | Howard Thiel | Anthony T Peña

The exhibition focuses on the dynamic nature of human movement and the lasting impact it creates. The artwork narrates the collective power of people in driving change, illustrating how their strides resonate across the fabric of time.

All art proceeds go directly to participating artists.

Pre-Show Art Chats with Curator, Jared Spence

February 11th with Anthony T Peña | 1:30 pm, before the 2:00 pm show February 17th with Lew Lunbeck | 7:00 pm, before the 7:30 pm show Please join us for two pre-show conversations with Jared and the "A Moment in Time" artists.

BLUEBARN Theatre Season Contributors

July 1, 2022 - January 10, 2024

INSTITUTIONAL GIVING

\$25,000+

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Great Plains Theatre Commons

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Amy Haddad and Steve Martin Carter and Vernie Jones

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BLUEBARN Theatre Season Contributors

July 1, 2022 - January 10, 2024

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Groundbreakers (\$100-\$499)

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At BLUEBARN we believe that artists should be honored for their work not only with applause but with a paycheck. We believe that every theatre artist deserves to be paid fairly for their work, and we are committed to providing payment to every actor or artist working in our theatre. To honor this commitment, BLUEBARN established The Artists' fund in 2009, to support the creative spirits who help continue and propel the life of the BLUEBARN.

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