

DIVE



BY John Henry Roberts
DIRECTED BY Maura Kidwell

Fritzy's Tavern

July 11 – August 1, 2026

**You found the first doorway into The Dark Room District.
You walked through it. Well done.**

**When the performance begins, you are a fly on the wall of
a dive bar called Champions. It's 2010.**

While the performance is in progress, please remember you are a fly, and do what you need to do to avoid being swatted:

- **Stay where you are.**
- **Don't touch anyone.**
- **Don't buzz.** (i.e. no talking, turn off your cell phones)

Use the bathroom before the show starts, at intermission, or both! The bar's bathrooms will be in the world of the play, so if you try to go in there while the performance is in progress, it could get awkward. Please be shameless about getting your turn, we can hold the start time of either act a few minutes if you need, we can't halt the action of the play to get you in there.

Those same rules also apply to the bar. **Pre-show, intermission, and post-show, the bar will be fully functional and available to you.** During the show, you are a fly, and no one will serve you.

It is an act of faith to walk through any doorway, and we are honored that you've put your faith in us. Enjoy the show.

The DARK ROOM District

DIVE



WRITTEN BY
John Henry Roberts

DIRECTED BY
Maura Kidwell

STAGE MANAGER

Ruby Vallejo

SOUND DESIGN

Filip Petersen

LIGHTING DESIGN

Emily Blanquera

**COSTUME DESIGN
CONSULTANT**

Aly Greaves

**PROPS,
ASSISTANT STAGE
MANAGER**

Ellen Adalaide

FEATURING

John Henry Roberts

Josh Odor

Philip C. Matthews

Dame Grant

Jamie Ewing

Giovanni Wubbena

Caroline Kidwell

Anna Joy Yee

Harrison Dachel

Richard Baiker

Michaela Petro

Eileen Vorbach

Moiria Begale

Mickey Dolan

Kenzie Ariana

Celine

UNDERSTUDIES

Abu Ansari

Daniel Vaughn
Manasia

Elijah Cox

PRODUCERS

Michaela Petro
John Henry Roberts
Maura Kidwell

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Michaela Petro

John Henry Roberts

PLAYWRIGHT, PRODUCER, CULLY

JHR is beyond grateful for the trust and enthusiasm folks in this room have offered this project. All of you. Two of his other plays premiered in Chicago: *The Sweeter Option* (Strawdog), and *True Dreams of Annie Arbor* (The Neo-Futurists). Acting credits include: *Trial in the Delta* (Collaboraction), *Neverwhere*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Hunger* (Lifeline), *The Little Flower of East Orange* (Eclipse), *The Hammer Trinity* (The House), *Old Times* and *Aristocrats* (Strawdog), the film *Widows* and two episodes of *Chicago Med*. Representation: DDO Chicago.



Maura Kidwell

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Maura is a Chicago-based director and filmmaker. Recent credits include award-winning short films *Killer Set* and *The Prize* (writer/director), and *The Chinese Lady* (Timeline, Associate Director to Helen Young). She has also acted on many Chicago stages including Goodman, Steppenwolf, Theater Wit, and Rivendell, and can next be seen in Theater Wit's Chicago premiere of *Adolescent Salvation*. She is represented by Gray Talent and Artists First. She thanks you from the bottom of her heart for supporting live theatre.



Michaela Petro

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, CYGNET

Michaela is thrilled you're here tonight. She's spent stage time with The New Theatre Project, Steep Theatre, Lifeline Theater, Writers Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, Wildclaw Theatre, Mary-Arrchie Theatre and will be sharing time next summer with American Blues Theater in the world premiere of *The Conquered*. Check her out in the award-winning short film *Thanks For The Ride, Aileen* on YouTube. She is (aptly) represented by Big Mouth Talent. www.macpetro.com



Ruby Vallejo

STAGE MANAGER, u/s IRISI

Ruby is a multi-faceted creative based right here in Chicago, IL. Interested in all aspects of theatre and the creative process, she acts, stage manages, produces, and collaborates in any way she can to make art happen. Favorite forms of expression?: clowning, free dance, long walks, important conversations, etc.... Art by and for the community has the power to change the worlds within us all. Power to the people and peace to this planet!



Emily Blanquera

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Emily is a farmer with Evanston Grows. As she can, she also directs and designs for theater and dance. She was happy to design the lights/scenery for The New Theatre Project's factory floor productions of *Uncle Vanya* and *Far Away*, and most recently directed *The Shape of Bones*. She hopes you like the show.



Ellen Adalaide

PROPS, ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Ellen is beyond grateful for the opportunity to work alongside this incredible crew! She is a Chicago and Nashville-based theatre artist. She is a Company Member with Ebb & Flow Theater Co. and Sandbox Theatre Collective. Recent Credits : *Mrs. Claus* (Chicago Kids Company), *Destination Wedding* (Fat Theatre Ensemble/Danz Theatre Ensemble), *Time is a Popped Bubble* (Peacock Productions), and *Three Sisters* (Sandbox Theatre Collective). She loves meeting new friends so feel free to say hi after the show!



Josh Odor

HUGH

Josh is pleased to be at the bar with friends. Most recently he was dying in a bathtub at Northeastern Illinois University in Silk Road Rising's co-pro of Yussef El Guindi's new work *Full-On Cleopatra*, and getting a Jeff for not being a great father in Cameron Raasdall-Munro's *Gangsta Baby* at Open Space Arts. This fall you can see him at City Lit in *Shane*.



Philip C. Matthews

KENNETH, u/s HUGH

Philip is a professional stage, screen and voice over actor based in Chicago, Illinois. He has appeared on screen in shows like *In An Instant* (ABC) *Greatest Prison Escapes* (History Channel) and the film adaptation of *An Iliad* directed by Emily Penick. His onstage work includes performances at Redtwist Theatre, Cincinnati Fringe Festival, The Old Log Theater and Tantrum Theater. He is an ensemble member of Redtwist Theatre, and is represented by Stavins Talent.



Dame Grant

OMER

Dame recently performed as an understudy with Promethean Theater in *Antigone*. Other understudy credits include *Kid Prince and Pablo* (Lifeline Theatre) and *Botticelli In The Fire* (First Floor Theater). Dame has appeared on season 14 of *Chicago Fire* and can be seen regularly on the Onion News Network. He has also appeared in both national and local television commercials and has toured as a stand-up comic. Dame is a graduate of The Academy at Black Box Acting Studio and also of The Second City Conservatory program. He holds a B.A. in Theater from Beloit College.



Jamie Ewing

SLUG

Jamie is the co-founder of Elsinore. Their next show, *A Body of Water*, runs at the Greenhouse Theater Center November 5 – 22. TV/film credits: *They Know*, *Lucky*, *Ballard*, *Law & Order*, *Chicago P.D.* Horns & halos lifted to the whole Dive crew with a tip of the cap to Robyn Coffin. "This one goes out to The Ones I Love...two-legged or four!"



Instagram: @slightoffhand,
@elsinoreensemble

Giovanni Wubbena

PAL

Giovanni is an actor in film, theatre, and voiceover known for his recent portrayal of George Gibbs in The GhostLight Theatre's production of *Our Town*. Now a recent Columbia College Chicago graduate, he has come a long way since playing Captain Hook in Junior productions of *Peter Pan* back home in Jackson, Missouri.



Caroline Kidwell

DEEDEE

Caroline is very excited to be working on this inventive new script with her favorite director. Previous acting credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Vinegar Tom* (Red Theater), *Cry It Out* (Oil Lamp), and *Murder Rewrote* (Hell in a Handbag). Enjoy the show and tip your bartender.



Anna Joy Yee

IRISI

Anna is an actor, writer, and longtime ensemble member with Yellow Rose Theatre, where she has helped create and perform immersive comedy productions. Theatre credits include *No Such Thing* (Rivendell Theatre) and *Right to Be Forgotten* (Raven Theatre). Television credits include *Chicago Fire* and *Chicago P.D.* (NBC), *Easy* (Netflix), and various national commercials. Born in Amman, Jordan, Anna is thrilled to help bring Irisi to life in *DIVE*. On nights off, she enjoys exploring Chicago's restaurant scene with her husband, Josh, and their dog, Gracie.



Harrison Dachel

TRAV, u/s KENNETH

Harrison is making his professional theater debut in *DIVE*! Collegiate credits include *Fabulation* (dir. Aaron Reese Boseman), *True West*, *Doubt*, and multiple original works. He has appeared in short films such as *After Party*, *Nuclear*, and *Ratz*. Harrison is a recent Columbia College Chicago BFA grad, and has studied at HB Studio in New York. You can see what he's up to @Harrisonadach on instagram.



Richard Baiker

EARL

Richard is fresh off his role as Judge Curtis Swango in Collaboraction Theater's Emmy Award-winning presentation of *Trial in the Delta: the Murder of Emmitt Till*. Rick is proud to be appearing as Earl in the Dark Room District's offering of *DIVE*. Rick's acting career began with various community theater companies on the south side of Chicago and surrounding suburbs as well as television appearances. Rick would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew of *DIVE* for the opportunity to work in this challenging and moving play.



Eileen Vorbach

FILENE

Eileen is an actor, director, and teacher. Recently, she appeared as Madame Kabanchook in *The White Plague 2035* for Trap Door Eastern Provinces Series and, *Tell Me What You Remember* at Erasing the Distance. She received a Jeff Citation/Performance as Jean in *Skirmishes* and Ensemble in *Top Girls*. Film credits: *Love Meet Hope* with Ed Asner, *Beverly and Roger*, and *Dumplings*. Eileen happily taught Meisner Technique at Actors' Center, Act One, and privately for 35 years.



Moira Begale

VIVIAN

Moira is a Chicago-based producer, fighter, and actor who loves bringing stories to life on stage, on screen, and behind the scenes. You might've seen her in *Chicago P.D.*, *The 4400* or in national commercials for Weather Tech and Friendly's. She's also performed with Chicago's favorite theaters, including Factory, Red Orchid and Jackalope. She can't wait to bring the world of *DIVE* to Chicago and thanks to the amazing cast and crew for bringing such joy to creating theater! #Shitakemushrooms



Mickey Dolan

WESLEY

Mickey is excited for you to dive into the world of *DIVE*. He graduated from New Mexico School for the Arts and continued his studies at CalArts. Most recently, he was on stage with Collaboraction's *Trial in the Delta: The Murder of Emmett Till*. He is represented by Gray Talent Group. TV: *Monster: The Ed Gein Story* (Netflix), *Daybreak* (Netflix), *Dark Winds* (AMC), *Roswell, NM* (The CW), *Get Shorty* (EPIX). Film: *The Harder They Fall* (Netflix), *Sicario: Day of the Soldado*, *River*, *Death of a Brewer*, *The Driftless*, *Chin Up*, *My Dear*.



Kenzie Ariana

KENZIE, u/s **DEEDEE**

Kenzie is originally from St. Louis but now lives in Chicago after graduating from Columbia College. Kenzie wants to live in a world where art and love come first. Some of her favorite performances include *Feathers and Teeth* (Chris), *I And You* (Caroline), *Anne of Green Gables* (Anne), and *Spring Awakening* (U/S Thea). She sure does hope you enjoy this wild ride of a show and continue supporting local creatives!



Celine

RACHEL

Celine is a Chicago actor and theatre-maker. They have graduated from Columbia College Chicago with an Acting BFA and are excited to begin their career in Chicago. They have performed in various productions at their college, including *Witch*, *Orlando*, and *Feathers and Teeth*. They are also branching out into Lighting Design and have recently designed the play *Hornets* as well as *God Save The Queen*. Celine is super excited to be a part of *DIVE* and hopes you enjoy the show!



Elijah Cox

u/s PAL, TRAV, WESLEY

Elijah (he/him) is an actor, writer, and educator originally from Michigan. Chicago theatre credits include *The Pilon* (Red Theatre, u/s), *Ionéu* (Athenaeum Center), *Valhalla* (The Plagiarists) and *Zürich* (Steep, u/s), among others. Elijah is a company member with Playmakers Laboratory.



Daniel Vaughn Manasia

u/s SLUG, EARL

Daniel (he/him) is very excited to be working with Dark Room District on their inaugural production of *DIVE*. Previous collaborations include: Shattered Globe Theatre, Redtwist Theatre, First Floor Theater, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Pride Arts and Films, Young Peoples Theatre of Chicago, Oil Lamp Theater, The Factory Theater, and Strawdog Theatre. Film and TV credits include *Chicago Fire*, *Justified*, *City Primeval*, *We Imagine Islands*, *Serenity*, *Otherwise a Woman*, *Fatal Witness* and *City of Vultures*.



Abu Ansari

u/s OMER

Abu is a Chicago- & London-based performer and facilitator with 20 years' experience onstage and in performance-based social change work. He holds an MA in Applied Theatre, and co-founded Mango Riot Theatre in the UK, whose inaugural program invited young people to examine colonial history through interactive theatre. His current project, *The Other L Word*, gathers adults to share experiences of loneliness through performance and community. He is excited to (potentially) return to the stage in this magnificent beast of a play!



“Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.”

—Anne Lamott

While we were toiling in the dark, these organizations and people lit matches, pointed flashlights, or built bonfires:

- **Karen King & the whole Fritzy's Family**
- **The Independent Project Initiative**
- **The Davis Theater**
- **Kay Martinovich**
- **Dave Doherty**
- **The NIU School of Theatre & Dance**
- **Justine C. Turner-Smith**
- **George Cederquist**
- **Spencer Huffman**
- **Alex Grelle**
- **Jonny Stax**
- **Lifeline Theatre**
- **Moira Begale**
- **[producingbody]**
- **Chad Lepak**
- **all of our generous donors on GoFundMe**
- **the talented friends who helped workshop the script**

The DARK ROOM District



DOOR 001