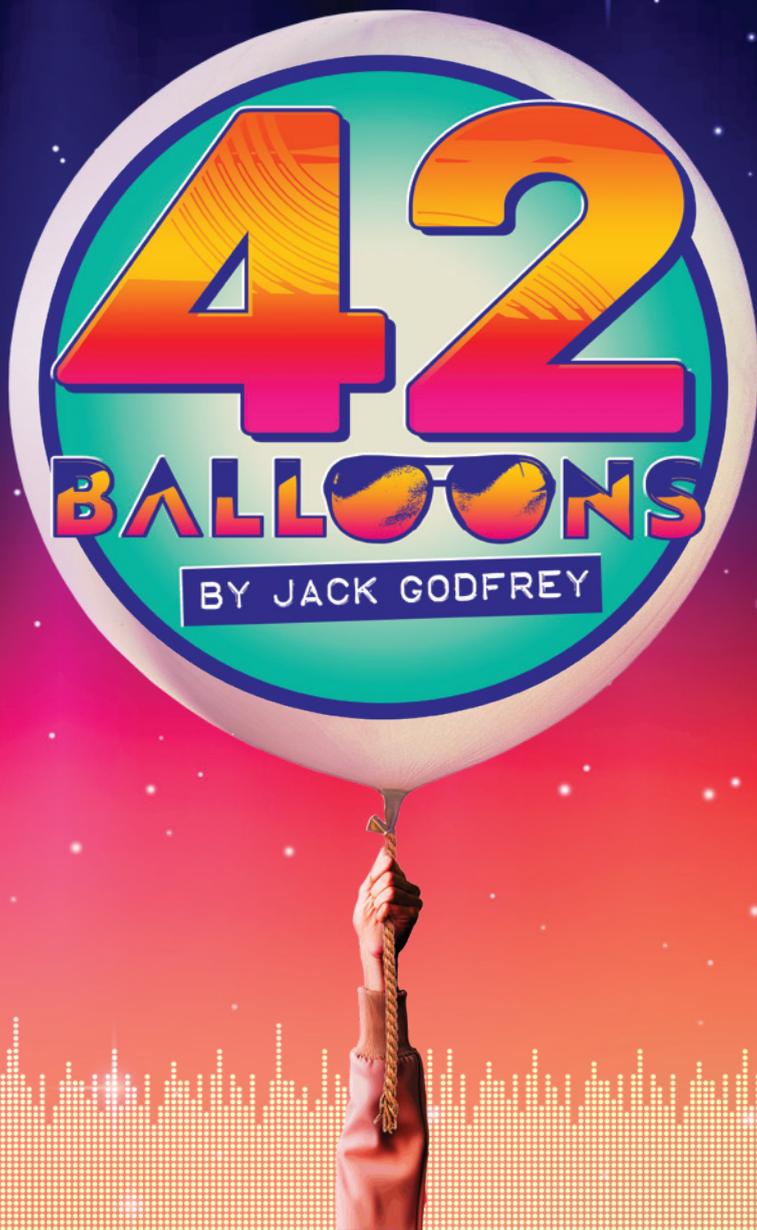


CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER





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# Welcome



Welcome to CST and the North American premiere of this very special musical, *42 Balloons*. Jack Godfrey's uplifting story brings our first official season to a close and what better way to look to the future than with this story of determination, courage, and the pursuit of dreams.

Thank you for choosing to attend live theater! If this is your first time at CST, we are thrilled to welcome you and hope this is just the beginning of your experiences here. The range of work this coming season has much for you to explore and we hope to see you over and over again.

We also want to thank those of you who continue to make CST your home for theater. You have been an important part of what makes CST a vibrant, engaging community and we hope you have enjoyed this season of stories on our stages—whether it was the recent rock 'n' roll experience of *Sunny Afternoon* or the inspirational take on *Hamlet* created by Peru's Teatro La Plaza and their mesmerizing company of actors with Down syndrome. The synthesis of contemporary work with Shakespeare was no better expressed than when this *Hamlet* company, who were using The Kinks' song "I'm Not Like Everybody Else" in their finale, joined the *Sunny Afternoon* company onstage to sing the song together. It was a special moment that reminded us of our determination to bring you extraordinary theatrical experiences that live long in the memory.

We encourage you to join us for our new season which begins in July with many "see it first" productions including a world premiere play about Billie Jean King, a high-flying circus from Ethiopia, and Richard Maltby and André De Shields reimagining *Ain't Misbehavin'* for today. We will welcome world-class theatermakers to create new productions of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and the return to CST of Chicago legends the Q Brothers Collective and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Our commitment to making Shakespeare a relevant and immediate experience playing alongside exceptional new emerging talent is no better expressed than in *42 Balloons*. Its creator Jack Godfrey is an artist who was inspired by a quintessentially American story to make what has to be one of the most joyful and thought-provoking evenings you could hope to have. We have teamed up again with the producing team who brought you *SIX*, still currently playing on Broadway and all over the world, to give you another evening of original magic. We hope that *42 Balloons* has a long and happy life in the USA and beyond—and that you will always remember its beginnings here at CST.

Thank you again for choosing live theater and for giving us the opportunity of giving you an evening of joy.

**Edward Hall**  
Artistic Director  
*Carl and Marilynn Thoma Chair*

**Kimberly Motes**  
Executive Director



## **ELEVATE THE MAGIC** of live theater for students & teachers at Chicago Shakespeare

Theater inspires, uplifts, and brings people together. It is a shared human experience that is transformative & irreplaceable. And we believe theater is for **everyone**.



**MAKE A GIFT TODAY**



Shared humanity & unforgettable stories—**THIS is Chicago Shakespeare**

# CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

## MISSION

To create vivid, entertaining theatrical experiences that invigorate and engage people of all ages and identities by illuminating the complexity, ambiguity, and wonder of our world. Shared humanity and unforgettable stories—now THIS is Chicago Shakespeare.

## VISION

We deliver excellent, powerful, life-changing theater that challenges our preconceptions of everything. We are an open and inspiring destination to meet, talk, and share experience through community and live performance that is available to everyone. We build a better future with those who watch, work, create, and participate.

## ABOUT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

CST is a leading international theater company and the nation's largest year-round theater dedicated to the works of Shakespeare. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Edward Hall and Executive Director Kimberly Motes, the Regional Tony Award recipient engages nearly a quarter of a million people through more than 12 productions each year. With Shakespeare at the heart of the artistic work, CST also produces compelling stories from fresh artistic voices of today. CST annually serves more students and teachers than any theater in the city, and brings free performances to community spaces across Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. CST's three venues include: 700-seat The Yard; the 500-seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater; and the 200-seat Carl and Marilyn Thoma Upstairs Studio. For nearly four decades, CST has distinguished itself with a spirit of innovation, dynamism, and ambitious vision.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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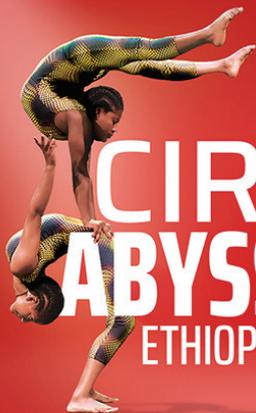
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WIVES OF  
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**CHICAGO  
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THEATER**

# CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

**EDWARD HALL**  
Artistic Director  
*Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair*

**KIMBERLY MOTES**  
Executive Director

by special arrangement with  
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in association with **DEBBIE HICKS, SAM LEVY, KLIVE ENTERTAINMENT CORP., KENNY WAX,**  
and **THE LOWRY**  
present

# 42 BALLOONS

By **JACK GODFREY**

Orchestrator &  
Musical Supervisor  
**JOE BEIGHTON**

Choreographer  
**ALEXZANDRA  
SARMIENTO**

Scenic Designer  
**MILLA CLARKE**

Costume Designer  
**NATALIE PRYCE**

Video Designer &  
Content Creation  
**ANDRZEJ GOULDING**

Lighting Designer  
**BRUNO POET**

Sound Designer  
**PAUL GATEHOUSE**

Music Director  
**PATRICK B.  
PHILLIPS**

New York Casting  
**THE TELSEY OFFICE**  
**PATRICK GOODWIN CSA**

Chicago Casting  
**BOB MASON**

Original UK Casting  
**PEARSON CASTING**

Production Stage Manager  
**JINNI PIKE**

Director & Dramaturg **ELLIE COOTE**

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*42 BALLOONS* BALLOON PARTNER **Luft Balloon**

If we can help accommodate you during your visit, please speak with our House Manager. For your safety, we ask that you keep aisles and doorways clear. We request that you refrain from taking photography or capturing any other video or audio recordings of the production.

*42 Balloons* was first performed at The Lowry, Salford on April 18, 2024.

## CAST

Air Traffic Controller/Ensemble  
Ensemble  
Ensemble  
Ensemble  
Carol Van Deusen  
Margaret Van Deusen  
Ensemble  
The Kid/Ensemble  
Larry Walters  
David Letterman/Ensemble  
Ensemble  
Ron Richland

DANIEL ASSETTA\*  
KAILIN BROWN\*  
DEVIN CORTEZ\*  
CAMERON ANIKA HILL\*  
EVELYN HOSKINS\*  
LISA HOWARD\*  
JOSH HOON LEE\*  
MINJU MICHELLE LEE\*  
CHARLIE MCCULLAGH\*  
AUSTIN NELSON JR.\*  
MORGAN SCHOENECKER  
AKRON WATSON\*

Understudies never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance: **Daniel Assetta\*** for *Larry Walters*; **Julia Bain\*** standby for *Carol Van Deusen*; **Kailin Brown\*** for *The Kid/Ensemble*; **Cameron Anika Hill\*** for *Carol Van Deusen, Margaret Van Deusen*; **Lacey Jack** for *Ensemble*; **Josh Hoon Lee\*** for *David Letterman/Ensemble*; **Joshua Messmore** for *Ensemble*; **Austin Nelson Jr.\*** for *Ron Richland*; **Luke Nowakowski** standby for *Larry Walters*.

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

Production Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager  
Production Assistant

JINNI PIKE\*  
EMMA FRANKLIN\*  
TUESDAY THACKER

## ADDITIONAL CREDITS

Associate Director  
Associate Choreographer  
Assistant Music Director  
Music Assistant  
Dialect Coach  
Intimacy Director  
Associate Scenic Designer  
Associate Sound Designer US  
Associate Sound Designer UK  
Associate Lighting Designer  
Digital Music Programmer  
Production Video  
Video & Projections Programmer  
Lightboard Programmer  
Dance Captain  
Music Technology  
US Synthesizer Technician  
  
US Keyboard Tech  
Video System Designer  
Scenic Drawing

BILLIE AKEN-TYERS  
CAMDEN GONZALES  
KAILEY ROCKWELL  
CAMERON MIYA  
KATE DEVORE  
CHELS MORGAN  
TONY DIBERNARDO  
JOSEPH HAGGERTY  
CHARLIE SMITH  
BRENDEN MARBLE  
RANDY COHEN  
CHELSEA ZALIKOWSKI  
DAN TRENCHARD  
BRAD GRAY  
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## BAND

Keyboard Conductor  
Keyboard  
Guitar  
Guitar  
Percussion  
Bass  
Musicians Contractor

## SONG LIST

### SIDE ONE: UP

Prologue  
Larry's Interview  
Big Balloon  
Interlude One  
Up in the Air  
No No No  
Carol's Soliloquy  
Somebody's Story  
1982  
Interlude Two  
Do You Wanna Know  
Fifteen Thousand Dollars  
Interlude Three  
Something As Crazy As This  
Countdown  
Bang  
End of Side One

PATRICK B. PHILLIPS^  
KAILEY ROCKWELL^  
JONATHAN MILLER^  
CHRIS FORTE^  
DAN LEALI^  
SACHIO NANG^  
HEATHER BOEHM^

### SIDE TWO: DOWN

42 Balloons And A Lawn Chair  
The Flight  
The Kid and The Chair  
What Dreams Can Do  
Interlude Four  
Lawn Chair Larry  
Letterman  
Something As Crazy As This Reprise  
Interlude Five  
Before It All Falls Down  
Happily Ever After  
Helium  
Somebody's Story Reprise  
Larry's Interview Reprise  
Up And Away  
Interlude Six  
Epilogue

## PROFILES



### DANIEL ASSETTA

(*Air Traffic Controller* \Ensemble) CHICAGO  
SHAKESPEARE: Debut.  
BROADWAY: & *Juliet*.  
OFF BROADWAY: *The*

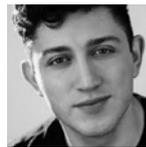
*Light in the Piazza* (NY City Center Encores). INTERNATIONAL: Tony in *West Side Story* (Sydney Opera House/International Tour); Samuel Seabury in *Hamilton* (Sydney Lyric Theatre, Original Australian Cast); The Rum Tum Tugger in *Cats* (Australia/New Zealand National Tour); *The Book of Mormon* (Princess Theatre, Original Australian Cast); *Wicked* (20th Anniversary Australian Tour). REGIONAL: *West Side Story* (The Mundy); *A Chorus Line* (Eternity Playhouse); *Funny Girl*, *Follies*, *Curtains* (Arts Centre Melbourne). CABARET: *Siblingship*. AWARDS: Rob Guest Endowment Award; Playbill Future Prospect Award. @dassetta



### KAILIN BROWN

(*Ensemble*) CHICAGO  
SHAKESPEARE: Debut.  
OFF BROADWAY: *Little House on the Ferry* (The Duplex). TOUR:

Velma Kelly in *Chicago*. DANCE: Dancer in *A Twink and A Redhead: Live*, numerous music videos directed by Michael McCrary starring Chloe Tucker Caine, Suzie Toot, Nick Gaga, Plasma. EDUCATION: BFA in musical theatre, minor in commercial dance, Pace University. they/them @kailinbrown



### DEVIN CORTEZ

(*Ensemble*) CHICAGO  
SHAKESPEARE: Debut.  
OFF BROADWAY: *Empire*, *Americano!* (New World Stages).

NEW YORK: *Maria Friedman*, *Legacy* (Hudson Theater Broadway); *Pippin* (Symphony Space). REGIONAL:

*Blaster's Handbook* (La Jolla Playhouse); *West Side Story*, *Beauty and the Beast* (The Muny); *Evita* (Bucks County Playhouse); *Hair* (Two River Theater); *On Your Feet* (Moonlight Stage); *Title of Show* (Playhouse Stage); *Havana* (NCL). **INTERNATIONAL:** *Cabaret* (Edinburgh Fringe). **FILM:** *I Love You, Man* (Dreamworks). **TELEVISION:** *Skyrunners* (Disney); *Cougartown* (ABC); *Chuck, Law and Order SVU* (NBC). **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theater, Emerson College. @devin.cortez



**CAMERON ANIKA HILL** (*Ensemble*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Bernstein's Mass* (The Ravinia Festival). **BROADWAY:**

*Elf: The Musical* (2024 Revival), *Dear Evan Hansen*. **TOUR:** Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* directed by Daniel Fish, *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*. **REGIONAL:** The Muny, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Theatre Aspen, Music Theater Wichita, Weston Theater Company, Westchester Broadway Theater, Gretna Theater. **TELEVISION:** *WeCrashed* (Apple TV+); *Getting Curious with Johnathan Van Ness* (Netflix); *Bernstein's Mass: Great Performances* (PBS). **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theater, University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music.



**EVELYN HOSKINS** (*Carol Van Deusen*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** Wendy Darling in *Peter Pan* (Broadway in Chicago,

threesixty°). **OFF BROADWAY:** *Hero's Welcome* (59E59). **INTERNATIONAL:** Dawn in *Waitress* (West End/UK Tour); Thea in *Spring Awakening* (West End). Carrie in *Carrie, Mayfly* (Off-West End); Louise in *Gypsy* (Mill at Sonning); *42 Balloons* (The Lowry); *Assassins* (Watermill/Nottingham Playhouse); *Cruel Intentions* (Edinburgh); *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Royal and Dringate); *This Is My Family* (Sheffield Crucible/UK Tour); Martha in *The Secret Garden*

(Birmingham Rep). **TELEVISION:** *A Confession*, *The Sound of Music Live* (ITV); *Casualty*, *Holby City*, *Doctors* (BBC); *Misfits* (E4); *Kerry* (NBC). **CONCERTS:** *Something Rotten* (Theatre Royal Drury Lane); *The Hired Man* (Cadogan Hall); *Christmas with the Stars* (Royal Albert Hall). **WORKSHOPS:** *Bonnie & Clyde* (The Other Palace); *Microwave*, *The Light Princess* (National Theatre Studios); *The Wind Singer* (RSC); *The Famous Five* (The Old Vic).



**JOSH HOON LEE** (*Ensemble*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **REGIONAL:** *Rent*, *Waitress* (The Muny); *The Karate Kid*

(Stages St. Louis); *A Christmas Carol* (The Rep STL). **TELEVISION:** *And Just Like That* (HBO Max); *Your Friends and Neighbors* (Apple TV). **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theatre, The Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.



**MINJU MICHELLE LEE** (*The Kid/Ensemble*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **REGIONAL:** *Newsies* (The REV)

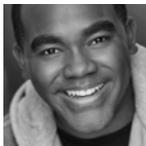
*42nd Street* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina). **EDUCATIONAL:** Mark in *Rent*, *The Great Comet of 1812*, *Family Album* (Penn State). **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theater, Penn State University. @minjumichellelee



**CHARLIE MCCULLAGH** (*Larry Walters*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **INTERNATIONAL:** Larry Walters in *42 Balloons*

(The Lowry); Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (50th Anniversary UK Tour); *Bonnie & Clyde* (West End/Arts Theatre/Garrick Theatre); *Doctor Zhivago—In Concert* (London Palladium); *The Necklace in Concert* (The Lyric Theatre); *Annie*, *Get Your Gun* (Lavender Theatre); *The 39 Steps* (English Theatre of Hamburg); *Elegies for Angels, Punks & Raging Queens* (The Union Theatre). **RECORDING:**

*42 Balloons* (Studio Cast Recording); *Bonnie & Clyde* (Original West End Cast). **TELEVISION:** Young Alderman in *Prime Target* (Apple TV+). **EDUCATION:** The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. **AWARDS:** Ian Fleming Award. @CharlieMcC1259



**AUSTIN NELSON JR.**  
(*David Letterman* /*Ensemble*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.  
**CHICAGO:** *Beautiful: The Carole King*

*Musical, The Little Mermaid, Ain't Misbehavin', Guys and Dolls, Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, Shrek the Musical* (Drury Lane Theatre); *1776, Seussical the Musical* (Marriott Theatre); *Dreamgirls* (Paramount Theatre); *Sister Act* (Mercury Theater Chicago); *Godspell* (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre); *New Faces Sing Broadway 1947* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *Bachelor: The Unauthorized Parody Musical* (Apollo Theater Chicago). **REGIONAL:** *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical, Elf the Musical* (First Stage Theatre). **TELEVISION:** *Dark Matter* (AppleTV+). @austinnelsonjr



**MORGAN SCHOENECKER**  
(*Ensemble/Dance Captain*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:**  
Debut. **CHICAGO:**  
*Legally Blonde*

(Music Theater Works); *Mary Poppins, Cinderella, Xanadu* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre); *On the Twentieth Century* (Blank Theatre Company); *Adrenaline* (Six Flags Great America). **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theater, Columbia College Chicago. @morgan.schoenecker



**LISA HOWARD**  
(*Margaret Van Deusen*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.  
**BROADWAY:** starring roles in the original

Broadway casts of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, It Shoulda Been You* opposite Tyne Daly, *Escape to Margaritaville: The Jimmy Buffet Musical*, in addition to *Priscilla Queen*

*of the Desert, 9 to 5: The Musical, South Pacific.* **TOUR:** Madame Morrible in the National Tour of *Wicked*. **OFF BROADWAY:** *Titanique The Musical*  
**FILM:** *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part II.* **TELEVISION:** *Law and Order* (NBC); *The Gilded Age* (HBO); *The Good Fight* (Paramount+); *Madam Secretary* (CBS); *Power* (STARZ); and performing Jenny's Blues on *The 59th Annual Tony Awards* (CBS). Howard is managed by The Rosenzweig Group, and represented by CGF Talent.



**AKRON WATSON** (*Ron Richland*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.  
**CHICAGO:** Aaron Burr in *Hamilton* (CIBC Theatre). **BROADWAY:**

*The Color Purple* Revival (Tony, Grammy, and Daytime Emmy Award winning), *The Play That Goes Wrong*. **OFF BROADWAY:** *The Fortress of Solitude* (The Public Theater); *A Sign of The Times* (York Theater); *Black No More* (Signature Theatre). **REGIONAL:** Ogunqit Playhouse, Alliance Theater, The Kennedy Center, Papermill Playhouse, Dallas Theatre Center, St. Louis Rep. **FILM:** *Spilt Milk, Seasons of Gray, Miss Juneteenth.* **TELEVISION:** *Empire, American Idol* (Fox); *Chicago Med* (NBC). **VOICEOVER:** *One Piece: Heart of Gold* (Netflix); *Borderlands Pre-sequel & Borderlands 4* (Gearbox); *The Walking Dead: Survival Instinct* (Activision). **AWARDS:** Audelco Awards Nominee for Best Actor in A Musical, BTVA - Best Male Vocal Performance in an Anime Television Series nominee.



**JULIA BAIN**  
(*Standby for Carol Van Deusen*) **CHICAGO**  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.  
**OFF BROADWAY:** *Teeth* (Playwrights Horizons,

New World Stages). **TOUR:** *Waitress*. **REGIONAL:** *Into The Woods, How To Build A Bomb, The Marvelous Wonderettes, Sylvia, All Shook Up.* **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theatre, Ithaca College. @juliabain

**LACEY JACK**

(*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *Pippin, The Producers* (Music Theatre

Works). **REGIONAL:** Music Theatre Wichita, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Village Theatre. **EDUCATION:** BFA in musical theatre dance concentration, Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. @laceymayjack

**JOSHUA MESSMORE**

(*Understudy*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **CHICAGO:** *White Christmas*

(Marriott Theatre). **REGIONAL:** *Frozen, Cats, 42nd Street*, others (Music Theatre Wichita); *Mary Poppins, West Side Story, Newsies*, (North Carolina Theatre). **EDUCATION:** BS in theatre and legal studies, Northwestern University. @joshuamessmore

**LUKE NOWAKOWSKI**

(*Standby for Larry Walters*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *The Lord of the Rings: A Musical Tale, To*

*Be* (streaming). **CHICAGO:** *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, The Sound Of Music, Fun Home* (Paramount Theater); Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes* (Porchlight Music Theater); *Children of Eden* (Cadillac Palace); *Brigadoon* (Music Theater Works); *Jesus Christ Superstar, Bright Lights, Big City* (Beautiful City Project); *Cinderella* (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre). **EDUCATION:** BA in music performance, Elmhurst University. **AWARDS:** Finalist in National Musical Theater Competition in NYC. @\_lukenowakowski\_

**JACK GODFREY** (*Writer*) **CHICAGO**

**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **PROJECTS:** *Babies* (The Other Palace, London, 2024); *Hot Mess* (Edinburgh Fringe, 2025). **EDUCATION:** BA in theology, Durham University;

MA in musical theatre, Goldsmiths University. **AWARDS:** The Stage (UK) Debut Award 2024 for Best New Composer, Lyricist, or Bookwriter for *42 Balloons*. @jjgodfrey

**ELLIE COOTE** (*Director and Dramaturg*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **INTERNATIONAL:** *42 Balloons* (Lowry Theatre, The Stage Debut Awards nomination for Best Director); *The Way Way Deep* (Underbelly, Edinburgh Fringe/Fringe World, Theatre and Performance Award—Overall Winner); *Mario: A Super Musical* (The Cockpit/Union Theatre), as co-director: *The Limit, Catch Me* (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama), as associate director: *Greek* (Arcola Theatre); *Lock & Key* (The Vaults); *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* (The Other Palace), as assistant director: *Wasted* (Southwark Playhouse). **WORKSHOP CREDITS:** *Rust* (Leeds Conservatoire); *My So-Called Haunting* (University of Chichester); *Train On Fire* (MT Fest, The Other Palace); *Busk* (Dare Festival, Shoreditch Town Hall); *Little Sausage* (Drayton Arms Theatre). **DRAMATURGY:** *Red Book* (Seven Dials Playhouse). **UPCOMING,** as director and bookwriter: *Hot Mess* (Pleasance, Edinburgh Fringe). **EDUCATION:** BA in english, University of Cambridge. Coote is the co-founder of Chalk Musical Theatre Dramaturgy.

**JOE BEIGHTON** (*Orchestrator and Musical Supervisor*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *SIX*. **BROADWAY:** *SIX* (Lena Horne Theatre). **INTERNATIONAL:** *SIX* (West End, UK Tours); *42 Balloons* (The Lowry/Vaudeville Theatre); *Why Am I So Single* (Garrick Theatre); *babies* (The Other Palace, Lyric Theatre). **EDUCATION:** BA in music, University of Cambridge; PGDip in music direction, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts. **AWARDS:** Joseph Jefferson Award for Music Direction (*SIX*); Grammy Award Nomination for Musical Theatre Album (*SIX: The Musical—Live on Opening Night*); Olivier Award Nomination (*SIX*).

## ALEXZANDRA SARMIENTO

(Choreographer)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.

**INTERNATIONAL:** *Scissorhandz* (Southwark Playhouse Elephant); *Aladdin* (Lyric Hammersmith); *House of Cleopatra* (Edinburgh Fringe); *The Children's Inquiry*, for LUNG Theatre (Southwark Playhouse Elephant); *Babies* (The Other Palace); *42 Balloons* (The Lowry); *Bronco Billy* (Charing Cross Theatre); *Woodhill*, for LUNG Theatre (Shoreditch Town Hall, The North Wall, Summerhall at the Edinburgh Fringe); *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* (Southwark Playhouse); *Brief Encounter* (New Wolsey/UK Tour); *42 Balloons* (The Vaudeville); *But I'm A Cheerleader* (The Turbine), *The Red & The Black* (Tokyo Metropolitan Theater, Umeda Arts Theater).

**EDUCATION:** Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music and Art & Performing Arts.

## CAMDEN GONZALES

(Associate Choreographer)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.

**REGIONAL:** Director of *How The World Began* (Westport Country Playhouse, Script in hand Series); Associate Choreographer for *Sing Street* (Huntington Theatre Company); Choreographer for *Peter and the Starcatcher* (White Heron Theater). Assistant Director of *A Sherlock Carol* (New World Stages); Choreographer of *Forget Me Not* (Manhattan School of Music). **INTERNATIONAL:** *Sing Street* (Lyric Hammersmith Theatre). Gonzalez is the Associate Choreographer for *Moulin Rouge the Musical* working with companies all over the world including London, Germany, and Australia.

## MILLA CLARKE (Scenic Designer)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut.

**UK:** *The Fifth Step* (Soho Place); *Otherland* (Almeida); *42 Balloons* (The Lowry); *Mates in Chelsea*, *Inside Bitch*, *Bad Roads*, *B Human Animals* (Royal Court); *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (The Royal Exchange); *Samuel Takes a Break* (The Yard Theatre); *Boodycandy*, *A Small Place* (Gate Theatre); *Shooting*

*Hedda Gabler* (Rose Theatre); *Red Ellen* (Northern Stage), *Ivy Tiller: Vicar's Daughter*, *Squirrel Killer*, *O, Island!* (Mischief Festival for Royal Shakespeare Company); *Isla* (Theatr Clwyd); *La Traviata* (Nevill Holt); *La boheme* (ENO: Drive & Live); *Yolk and Aliens* (Brighton Festival); *Curious* (Soho Theatre); *Mr. Burns, Gone Too Far* (Guildhall); *There Are No Beginnings* (Leeds Playhouse); *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (National Youth Theatre); *Europe, You Got Older* (LAMDA); *Beginners* (Unicorn Theatre); *Elephant* (Birmingham Rep); *Outside*, *Out of Water* (Orange Tree Theatre); *The Tide Whisperer* (National Theatre Wales). **EDUCATION:** Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. **AWARDS:** Linbury Prize for Stage Design, Lord Williams Prize for Design, The Prince of Wales Design Scholarship.

## NATALIE PRYCE (Costume Designer)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:**

Debut. **INTERNATIONAL:** *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Macbeth*, *Playing Shakespeare with Deutsche Bank: Romeo & Juliet* (Globe Theatre); *Othello* (Riverside Studios); *The Architect* (Greenwich + Docklands International Festival); *August in England* (Bush Theatre); *Quadrophenia* (Sadler's Wells Theatre); *Black Shadows* (Ballier Black UK Tour); *Kyoto* (Royal Shakespeare Company/Soho Place West End); *42 Balloons* (The Lowry); *Vanya* (Duke of Yorks Theatre/Richmond Theatre); *Newsies* (Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre); *Hamlet* (Bristol Old Vic); *Black Sun* (Ballet Black Double Bill/UK Tour); *A Number* (Old Vic); *White Noise* (Bridge Theatre); *Is God Is* (Royal Court Theatre); *Anna X* (Harold Pinter Theatre). **FILM:** Costume Trainee for *My Name is Leon* (BBC1). **EDUCATION:** BA honors in theatre design, Wimbledon College of Arts **AWARDS:** Black British Theatre Award for Costume Design Recognition 2020, Best Revival Olivier Award Winner 2024 for *Vanya*.

**ANDRZEJ GOULDING** (*Video Designer & Content Creator*) **CHICAGO**

**SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **BROADWAY:** *Groundhog Day*, &*Juliet, Life Of Pi*. **OFF BROADWAY:** *People, Places And Things*, *Man To Man*, *The Machine*, *Burn*. **REGIONAL:** Ogunquit Theatre, Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera, Philadelphia Opera, Minnesota Opera, Maltz-Jupiter Theatre. **INTERNATIONAL:** *Starlight Express*, *Just For One Day*, *Message In A Bottle*, *The Time Traveller's Wife*, *Sylvia*, *The Drifters Girl*. **EDUCATION:** BA in theatre design at Central Saint Martins in London. **AWARDS:** Tony Award, Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Olivier Award, 2x Whatsonstage Awards, Broadway World Award, UK Theatre Award. Goulding also works as a set designer with upcoming productions of *Indigo*, *Footballer's Wives* and *Lost Atoms*.

**BRUNO POET** (*Lighting Designer*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **BROADWAY:** *Bad Cinderella* (West End), *Miss Saigon*, *TINA: The Tina Turner Musical* (West End, International Tour, Tony Award nominated). **WEST END:** *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Macbeth*, *Waiting For Godot*, *Miss Saigon* (European, US, Australia tours), *Uncle Vanya* (Olivier Award nominated), *From Here to Eternity*. **UK:** *Richard II*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Julius Caesar* (Bridge Theatre); *The Seagull* (Barbican); *Frankenstein*, *London Road*, *Light Shining In Buckinghamshire*, *The Witches* (National Theatre); *42 Balloons* (The Lowry); *The Convert* (Young Vic). **OPERA:** *The Hours* (Metropolitan Opera); *Amadeus* (Royal Danish Opera); *Salome* (Houston Grand Opera); *Don Giovanni* (Royal Opera House/LA Opera/Houston Opera); *Akhnaten* (English National Opera/LA Opera/Metropolitan Opera); *Oklahoma!* (Grange Park Opera); *Alcina* (Glyndebourne). **MUSIC:** *Alicia Keys: Keys To The Summer* (US Arena tour); *Pet Shop Boys Dreamworld* (world tour); *Sigur Rós* (all world tours since 2012); *UAE National Days* (49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd); *Gary Barlow: A Different Stage*

(West End/UK tour); *Björk Cornucopia*, *Billie Eilish Live* (Steve Jobs Theatre). **AWARDS:** Three Knights of Illumination Awards, Olivier Award for Best Lighting Design for *Frankenstein*.

**PAUL GATEHOUSE** (*Sound Designer*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *SIX*. **SOUND DESIGN:** *Amélie* (Werk7 Theatre, Munich); *Billionaire Boy* (Nuffield Theatres, Southampton); *SIX* (Arts Theatre/National Tour); *Mary Poppins* (Zurich/Dubai, Asian premiere in Japan). **ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGN:** *Hamilton* (Victoria Palace Theatre); *Half A Sixpence* (Noel Coward Theatre); *Les Misérables* (London 25th Anniversary/International Tour/Madrid/Manilla/US Tour); *The Phantom of the Opera* (London/Broadway/Las Vegas/25th Anniversary/ Hamburg/ Paris); *Evita* (US National Tour); *Miss Saigon* (Tokyo/Netherlands); *Betty Blue Eyes* (Novello Theatre); *The Wizard of Oz*, *Sister Act*, *The Sound of Music* (The London Palladium); *Love Never Dies*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Adelphi Theatre); *Phantom: The Las Vegas Spectacular* (Las Vegas); *The Woman in White* (Broadway); *Starlight Express* (Tour). **RECORDINGS:** Mel Brooks' *Young Frankenstein*—Original London Cast Recording (Producer/Mixer); *Disney's Newsies* Theatrical and DVD Release (Mixer); *Miss Saigon: The Definitive Live Recording Theatrical*, DVD, and CD Release (Recording Engineer/Mixer).

**PATRICK B. PHILLIPS** (*Music Director/ Conductor*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:**

Debut. **CHICAGO:** *The Devil Wears Prada* (James M. Nederlander Theater). **BROADWAY:** *Pirates! The Penzance Musical* (2025 Revival), & *Juliet, The Wiz* (2024 Revival), *Suffs*, *Back to the Future*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Jagged Little Pill*. **REGIONAL:** Paper Mill Playhouse, Olney Theater Center, Goodspeed Opera House. **TELEVISION:** *Only Murders in the Building*, *Welcome to Wrexham* (Hulu). **EDUCATION:** BA in music, Rutgers University. @patrickthepianist

**BILLIE AKEN-TYERS** (*Associate Director*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** Debut. **OFF BROADWAY:** Resident Director, *Titanique* (Lucille Lortel winning Best Musical 2022); *Your Alice* (BAM/Edinburgh Fringe/The Arcola Theatre London); *Laura Benanti: Nobody Cares* (Audible Theatre/Edfringe); *Death Drop* (New World Stages). **REGIONAL:** *Native Gardens* (Westport Country Playhouse); *Moonfaker* (New Musicals Lab); *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Shenandoah Music Theatre); *3 Hams* (EdFringe); *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Scranton Shakespeare Festival) *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Strafford Shakespeare Festival); *Lysistrata Jones* (Ophelia Theatre); Tour Director for *Ragtag Theatre Company's Rapunzel* (Barrington Stage/Red House Arts); *Titanique* (CAA/Mirvish Productions). **WRITING:** *Your Alice* (BAM); *Next Round* (Gala Theatre UK/Theatre Lab/Scranton Fringe); *We Carry On* - A series of radio plays. [www.billieakentyers.com](http://www.billieakentyers.com) @billieakentyers.

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**BOB MASON** (*CST Artistic Associate /Casting Director*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** 150+ productions over 24 years, including 35 Shakespeare plays and nine Sondheim musicals. **CHICAGO:** *Bounce*, *Light in the Piazza* (Goodman Theatre); **REGIONAL:** *SIX* (CST, American Repertory Theater-Artios Award, Ordway Center, The Citadel); *Ride the Cyclone* (CST, Fifth Avenue Theatre/ACT, Alliance Theatre); **OFF BROADWAY:** *Ride the Cyclone* (MCC); *Rose Rage: Henry VI, Parts 1, 2 and 3*, directed by Artistic Director Edward Hall (The Duke

on 42nd Street); *Marionette Macbeth* (New Victory); **BROADWAY:** *SIX, The Notebook*; **INTERNATIONAL:** *The Lord of the Rings: A Musical Tale* (Auckland, NZ); *Pacific Overtures* (Donmar Warehouse-Olivier Award); *Henry IV, Parts One and Two* (RSC). Prior to casting, Mason enjoyed a career as a Jeff Award-winning actor and singer and has been a visiting educator at Northwestern University and multiple college programs across the country.

**PEARSON CASTING CDG, CSA, CDA**

(*UK Casting*) An award-winning Casting House based in London and New York. Recent notable UK & US theatre casting includes Olivier Award-winning *Operation Mincemeat* (Fortune Theatre London /Golden Theatre New York), Olivier Award-winning *Titanique* (Criterion Theatre/Lido 2 Paris), Olivier Award-nominated *SIX* (Vaudeville Theatre /UK & International Tours), Olivier Award-nominated *Bluey's Big Play* (UK Tour), and the Olivier Award-nominated revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Starlight Express* (Troubadour Wembley Park), as well as *Pretty Woman* (US Tour), and *CLUE* (US AEA Tour).

**JINNI PIKE** (*Production Stage Manager*)

**CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *Judgment Day*, *Measure for Measure*, *It Came From Outer Space*, *The King's Speech*, *SIX*, *Schiller's Mary Stuart*, *Ride the Cyclone*. **CHICAGO:** *Frozen Waitress*, *Billy Elliot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*, *Sweat, Kinky Boots*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Producers*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Once*, *Elf the Musical*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Hairspray*, *The Who's Tommy* (Paramount Theatre); *Nightwatch* (Goodman Theatre); *Bakersfield Mist*, *Danny Casolaro Died for You*, *The How and the Why*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Wasteland* (TimeLine Theatre Company); *Hillary and Clinton* (Victory Gardens Theatre). **REGIONAL:** Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, Unicorn Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre.

**EMMA FRANKLIN** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) **CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE:** *I Banquo, I Cinna*, Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. **CHICAGO:** *Waitress, The Full Monty, A Streetcar Named Desire* (Paramount Theatre); *The Steadfast Tin Soldier, A Christmas Pantomime* (Lookingglass Theatre Company). **REGIONAL:** *It's A Wonderful Life* (Capital City Theatre); *Ever in the Glades* (Kennedy Center Family Theater); *Dolly Parton's Smokey Mountain Christmas Carol* (Red Tail Productions). **TOUR:** *Disney's Winnie the Pooh* (Rockefeller Productions). **EDUCATION:** BS in theatre management, Northwestern University.

**EDWARD HALL** (*Artistic Director, Carl and Marilynn Thoma Chair*) Acclaimed director Edward Hall joined CST in October 2023, directing *Richard III* starring Tony nominee and Paralympian Katy Sullivan. In the 2024/25 season, he is directing *Henry V, Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Sunny Afternoon*. He previously directed the *Rose Rage trilogy* (2003) which transferred to New York. He was the founding Artistic Director of the multi-award-winning Propeller Shakespeare, touring globally for over twenty years. He led the UK's Hampstead Theatre for nearly a decade, transforming it into one of the nation's most successful theaters for new work development with 100+ world premieres. He has served as an Associate Director at the National Theatre and Old Vic. His extensive film and television credits include *The Heist Before Christmas, Blithe Spirit* starring Dame Judi Dench, multiple HBO and BBC series, and the *Downton Abbey* season 4 finale. He is a member of The Arts Club of Chicago and the Economic Club of Chicago.

**KIMBERLY MOTES** (*Executive Director*) Esteemed arts leader Kimberly Motes joined CST in October 2023, bringing 25+ years of senior leadership experience within the performing

arts and higher education. Motes served as Managing Director of the Tony-winning Children's Theatre Company (CTC). During her seven-year tenure, CTC produced 46 plays/musicals including 15 commissioned works and six co-productions/transfers. Previous roles include Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement at the University of St. Thomas, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at the College of Saint Benedict, Managing Director at Theater Latté Da, and Executive Director at the Cowles Center for Dance and the Performing Arts. She spent 13 years in Washington, D.C., where she was Director of Development at Arena Stage and led adult arts education programming and a ballet training program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Her career began at The Washington Ballet. She is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, The Chicago Network, and the Chicago Club.

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# **FOLLOW THE MUSICAL'S FLIGHT!**

**@42BALLOONS**



## BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kevin McCollum, Andy Barnes and Wendy Barnes, and Sonia Friedman Productions are thrilled to present the North American premiere of Jack Godfrey's *42 Balloons* with Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Kevin, Andy and Wendy return to collaborate with CST after launching the North American Production of their multi-award-winning musical *SIX* here in 2019.

**ALCHEMATION** Kevin McCollum's current credits include *SIX* (Broadway & US Tour); *Oh, Mary!* (Broadway); *The Devil Wears Prada* (West End); *Just For One Day* (West End), and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Off Broadway).

**GLOBAL MUSICALS** Andy and Wendy Barnes' current credits include *SIX* (Worldwide); *The Traitors Live Experience* (West End); *The Choir of Man* (West End), and *Wish List* (in development).

**SONIA FRIEDMAN PRODUCTIONS (SFP)** SFP's current credits include *The Book of Mormon* (West End, UK & International Tour); *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (West End, Broadway, & International Tour); *Stranger Things: The First Shadow* (West End & Broadway) and *Stereophonic* (West End).

**DEBBIE HICKS** Debbie Hicks' current credits include *Backstairs* and *Unheard Voices* (Hampton Court Palace) and *Emma* (in development). Previous credits include *Ages of the Moon* and *The Permanent Way* (Off-West End) and *Good Girl* (West End).

**SAM LEVY** Sam Levy's current credits include *SIX* (Broadway and US Tour). Previous credits include *Why Am I So Single?* (West End); *Come From Away* (Worldwide); and *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story* (London, New York).

## FOR ALCHEMATION

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LUCAS MCMAHON  
JACK EIDSON  
JOHN BAN  
EVAN SHALAT  
BREANNE JACKSON  
LYNDSAY BORKO

## FOR THEATER MATTERS

JOHN GENDRON  
ASHLEY BERMAN  
ANNIE VAN NOSTRAND  
BELLA CORDOVA

## FOR GLOBAL MUSICALS

ANDY BARNES  
WENDY BARNES  
DEBBIE HICKS  
JOSH BIRD  
LEWIS RODEN

## FOR SONIA FRIEDMAN PRODUCTIONS

SONIA FRIEDMAN  
DIANE BENJAMIN  
THOMAS SWAYNE  
CHARLOTTE TOOKE  
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Special thanks to Broadway Licensing Group, Ryan Funnell, MI Workshops, Jo Smedley, Matt Eames, Steve Cowton, and all those involved at The Lowry, Salford in 2024 and the showcase at the Vaudeville Theatre in 2022.

# Larry's Flight: The Devil's in the Details

By Hannah Sands

On July 2, 1982, Larry Walters explained “a man can’t just sit around.” He had just flown 16,000 feet above Los Angeles, California—in a lawn chair. What was the cause of such extraordinary restlessness? From childhood, Larry cultivated an obsession with flight, be it balloons at Disney World, in a military surplus store, or experimenting with helium for school science projects.

As an adult, this obsession formed into a plan to fly at approximately 7,000

feet above Los Angeles, on Inspiration 1—his homemade aircraft. And like all nail-biting feats, the devil (and delight) resides in the details...

Inspiration 1 took the form of a sturdy lawn chair, water jugs, an

altimeter, and 42 weather balloons (or maybe 43\*). Larry’s preparations also included equipping himself with a parachute, life jacket, radio, compass, camera, BB gun, two liters of Coca-Cola, a six pack of Miller Lite beer, sandwiches, and an extra pair of sunglasses. His intention was to fly north to the Mojave Desert, where he would descend by shooting a number of balloons with his BB gun.

Executing this plan was difficult.

The collection of materials and equipment totaled \$15,000 (roughly equivalent of \$49,709 in 2025). Carol, Larry’s girlfriend of 10 years, had to find a way to cover these costs. During this flight itself, Larry not only took off earlier than planned due to a rope snapping, but he drifted south towards the Pacific Ocean, and more than doubled his intended height!

What makes a man want to fly in a lawn chair? What makes a woman buy 42 weather balloons?

And to top it all off, how the heck did Larry Walters get himself back down?!

“a man  
can’t  
just sit  
around”



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*\*Larry often said he had 43 balloons in the rig, but most reports mentioned just 42.*

## A NOTE FROM JACK GODFREY, WRITER

**42 Balloons is, at its heart, a show about dreams.**

About chasing them, about helping others to achieve them, and about what happens when they come true. For me, it really has been a dream come true to bring our show to Chicago Shakespeare Theater this summer.

As a Brit who grew up almost 4,000 miles away in the city of Oxford, England, it is a humongous honor to have the opportunity to share the story of Larry Walters and Carol Van Deusen in the country where it actually happened. *42 Balloons* is, in many ways, a love letter to American art and culture in all its forms, and for me that love began when I spent a year studying at Boston College eleven years ago. It has been extremely special to return to the US and to be welcomed so warmly and enthusiastically by everyone at CST within our wonderful company.

There are so many people I must thank: namely every actor, musician, and creative who has helped us to workshop and develop *42 Balloons* up to this point, as well as every supporter of the show, champion of new musical theater, family member and friend who has been there for us in some way over the years. Your feedback, advice, and support in all its forms has been truly invaluable.

And I'm especially grateful to Chicago Shakespeare Theater and to our producers Andy, Wendy, Kevin, Sonia, Sam and Debbie, for leading us, believing in us and giving us this incredible opportunity. This experience is truly something for which I will be grateful for the rest of my life.

I hope you enjoy the show!

—Jack

## HOW HIGH DID LARRY FLY?

**16,000 ft**

Larry reached this height before he started to descend

**14,494 ft**

Peak of Mount Whitney, California  
—the highest mountain in the continental U.S.

**13,500 ft**

Maximum flying altitude of a Cessna plane

**8,000 ft**

Scarcity of oxygen can cause altitude sickness at this level

**7,000 ft**

Larry's original dream was to fly at this height over Los Angeles

**6,500 ft**

Cumulus and stratus cloud layer

**2,717 ft**

Height of tallest building in the world: the Burj Khalifa in Dubai

**1,451 ft**

Height of the Willis (a.k.a. Sears) Tower, Chicago

**100 ft**

Larry planned to carry out his final preparations here, but the rope snapped and he lost his glasses.

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*Carl and Marilyn Thoma Chair*

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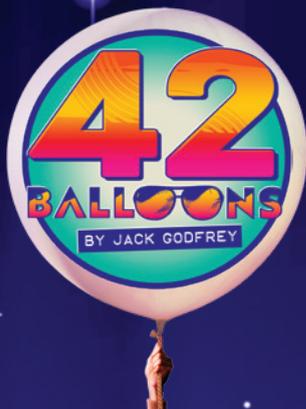
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