

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Production photos available for
Paranormal Activity

An original story based on the terrifying film franchise—now live on stage
An unforgettable experience just in time for Halloween
Now playing through November 2 at Chicago Shakespeare Theater



Chicago—October 10, 2025—[Chicago Shakespeare Theater](#) (CST) presents [Paranormal Activity](#), an original story based on Paramount Pictures' terrifying film franchise—now live on stage. This North American premiere from celebrated Chicago playwright **Levi Holloway** (Broadway's *Grey House*) and Punchdrunk's **Felix Barrett** (*Sleep No More*) features illusions by Tony Award winner **Chris Fisher** (*Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*). James and Lou move from Chicago to London to escape the past...but they soon discover that places aren't haunted, people are. The production runs **through November 2 in The Yard**, featuring performances by **Cher Álvarez**, **Patrick Heusinger**, **Shannon Cochran**, **Kate Fry**, and **Sophie Kaegi**. Following the run at Chicago Shakespeare, the North American premiere production runs at **Center Theatre Group** in Los Angeles (November 13-December 7), **Shakespeare Theatre Company** in Washington, D.C. (January 28-February 7), and **American Conservatory Theater** in San Francisco (February 19-March 15).

Levi Holloway shared, "Writing *Paranormal Activity* for the stage, collaborating with Felix Barrett in London—working to create an actual nightmare—has been a dream. We strived to create something impossible, mixing the familiar with the uncanny, heart with horror. Chicago audiences have a nose for honesty on stage and little patience for anything else. They'll find it here, right alongside all the mischief we've made to trouble their sleep."

"It is such an exciting proposition to be bringing together two masters of their craft in Chicago's Levi Holloway and the pioneering founder of Punchdrunk, Felix Barrett, to give audiences a truly unforgettable Halloween experience in the theatre," said CST Artistic Director **Edward Hall**. "If you're looking for the ultimate Halloween night out then look no further. Cinema gives us manufactured paranormal activity but it is in the theater that you genuinely won't believe what your eyes are seeing..."

Levi Holloway is an ensemble member of A Red Orchid Theatre company, which has debuted his plays *Grey House* (which went on to an acclaimed Broadway run) and *Turret*, starring Michael Shannon. He has performed as an actor with Lookingglass Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre. Holloway is the co-founder of the Neverbird Project, a youth based deaf and hard of hearing theatre company, and specializes in working with deaf children and creating theater for deaf people. He was an elementary school teacher in Chicago in the deaf department at Bell Elementary for over a decade and teaches playwrighting at Silk Road Rising Theatre Company.

Felix Barrett is the founder and artistic director of Punchdrunk, conceiving and directing such groundbreaking theatrical productions as *Sleep No More* (a reimagining of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*), *The Burnt City*, and *Viola's Room*. Barrett directed last year's critically acclaimed production of *Paranormal Activity* at Leeds Playhouse in the UK, which will open on the West End this winter.

The creative team for *Paranormal Activity* includes **Fly Davis** (Scenic & Costume Designer), **Anna Watson** (Lighting Designer), **Gareth Fry** (Sound Designer), **Luke Halls** (Video & Projections Designer), **Chris Fisher** (Illusions Designer), **Bob Mason** (Casting), **Travis A. Knight** (Assistant Director), **Camille Etchart** (UK Associate Scenic Designer), **Frank McCollugh** (US Associate Scenic Designer), **Abby May** (US Associate Lighting Designer), **Will Pickens** (US Associate Sound Designer), **Lianne Arnold** (US Associate Video & Projections Designer), **Skylar Fox** (Associate Illusions Designer), **Daniel Weissglass** (Assistant Illusions Designer), **Melanie J. Lisby** (Production Stage Manager), **Julie Jachym** (Assistant Stage Manager), and **Emma W. Lipson** (Production Assistant).

[continued]

PERFORMANCE LISTING

- Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. (*plus a 1:00 p.m. matinee on October 22*)
- Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Fridays at 7:00 p.m. (*performances at 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on Halloween, October 31*)
- Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (*no matinee October 11*)
- Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

More information at chicagoshakes.com/paranormalactivity or on social media at [@chicagoshakes](https://twitter.com/chicagoshakes).

Paranormal Activity

Based on Paramount Pictures' *Paranormal Activity* films

Written by **Levi Holloway**

Directed by **Felix Barrett**

Restaged by **Levi Holloway**

James and Lou move from Chicago to London to escape the past...but they soon discover that places aren't haunted, people are. An original story set in the world of the terrifying *Paranormal Activity* film franchise, this thrilling new play from celebrated Chicago playwright Levi Holloway (Broadway's *Grey House*) and Punchdrunk's Felix Barrett (*Sleep No More*) with illusions by Tony Award-winner Chris Fisher (*Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, *Harry Potter & The Cursed Child*) will haunt you long after you get home. Experience the horror of this North American premiere produced by Chicago Shakespeare before it hits LA, San Francisco, and DC later this season. Can you even believe your eyes?

The full North American premiere engagement includes:

- **Chicago Shakespeare Theater** in Chicago (October 8-November 2, 2025)
- **Center Theatre Group** in Los Angeles (November 13-December 7, 2025)
- **Shakespeare Theatre Company** in Washington, D.C. (January 28-February 7, 2026)
- **American Conservatory Theater** in San Francisco (February 19-March 15, 2026)

Creative Team

Levi Holloway - Playwright, Restaging

Felix Barrett - Director

Fly Davis - Scenic & Costume Designer

Anna Watson - Lighting Designer

Gareth Fry - Sound Designer

Luke Halls - Video & Projections Designer

Chris Fisher - Illusions Designer

Bob Mason - Casting

Travis A. Knight - Assistant Director

Camille Etchart - UK Associate Scenic Designer

Frank McCollough - US Associate Scenic Designer

Abby May - US Associate Lighting Designer

Will Pickens - US Associate Sound Designer

Lianne Arnold - US Associate Video & Projections Designer

Skylar Fox - Associate Illusions Designer

Daniel Weissglass - Assistant Illusions Designer

Melanie J. Lisby - Production Stage Manager

Julie Jachym - Assistant Stage Manager

Emma W. Lipson - Production Assistant

Cast

Cher Álvarez - Lou

Shannon Cochran - Carolanne

Kate Fry - Mrs. Cotgrave

Patrick Heusinger - James

Sophie Kaegi - Ensemble

Caron Buinis - Understudy

Caroline Hendricks - Understudy

Michael Holding - Understudy

Hannah Goodman - Understudy

Chicago Shakespeare presents *Paranormal Activity* by arrangement with **Paramount Pictures** and **Melting Pot**, in co-production with **Center Theatre Group**, **American Conservatory Theater**, and **Shakespeare Theatre Company**. Based on the *Paranormal Activity* films, first written and directed by **Oren Peli** and brought to the screen by **Blumhouse** and **Solana Films**. TM & © 2025 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.

CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER (CST)

CST is a leading international theater company and the nation's largest year-round theater dedicated to the works of Shakespeare. Under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Edward Hall and Executive Director Kimberly Motes, the Regional Tony Award recipient is committed to creating vivid, entertaining theatrical experiences that invigorate and engage people of all ages and identities by illuminating the complexity, ambiguity, and wonder of our world. Each year, nearly a quarter of a million people experience CST's artistry through more than 12 productions. With Shakespeare at the heart of the artistic work, CST also produces compelling, contemporary stories from fresh voices of today. CST brings the world to Chicago and sends Chicago out into the world as Chicago's foremost presenter of international theater, and consistent producer of North American and world premieres. Serving more students and teachers than any theater in the city, CST annually welcomes more than 20,000 students to performances and programs like Chicago Shakespeare SLAM, alongside professional development opportunities for teachers. CST activates its campus with three venues: 700-seat The Yard; the 500-seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater; and the 200-seat Carl and Marilyn Thoma Upstairs Studio. Free programs like Shakes in the City bring performances to parks and community spaces across Chicago's 77 neighborhoods. Shared humanity and unforgettable stories—now THIS is Chicago Shakespeare.

chicagoshakes.com