



EXPLORING TODAY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PAST

artistic director **PJ Powers** | executive director **Mica Cole**

What the Constitution Means to Me

by **Heidi Schreck**
directed by **Helen Young**

scenic designer **Jessica Kuehnau Wardell**

costume designer **Megan E. Pirtle**

lighting designer **Maggie Fullilove-Nugent**

properties designer **Amy Peter**

sound designer **Forrest Gregor**

dramaturg **Maren Robinson+**

stage manager **Miranda Anderson***

featuring **Beth Lacke***, **Raymond Fox***,
Sophie Ackerman, and **Makalah Simpson**

May 18 – July 2, 2023 (previews 5/10 – 5/17)

Original Broadway Production Produced by

Diana DiMenna, Aaron Glick, Matt Ross, Madeleine Foster Bersin, Myla Lerner, Jon Bierman, Jenna Segal, Catherine Markowitz, Jana Shea, Maley-Stolbun-Sussman, Rebecca Gold, Jose Antonio Vargas, Level Forward, Cornice Productions, Lassen Wyse Balsam, Nederlander Productions, Kate Lear

What the Constitution Means to Me was commissioned by True Love Productions.

This production originated as part of Summerworks in June and July 2017,
produced by Clubbed Thumb in partnership with True Love Productions.

West Coast premiere produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA. (Tony Taccone, Artistic Director; Susan Medak, Managing Director.)

What the Constitution Means to Me had its Off-Broadway premiere in New York City at New York Theatre Workshop
(Jim Nicola, Artistic Director; Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director, 2018)



* Member of Actors'
Equity Association, the
union of professional actors
and stage managers

+ TimeLine Company Member

CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Beth Lacke*	Heidi
Raymond Fox*	Legionnaire
Sophie Ackerman	Debater (<i>alternating performances</i>)
Makalah Simpson	Debater (<i>alternating performances</i>)

UNDERSTUDIES: Mike Jimerson (*Legionnaire*) and Maura Kidwell (*Heidi*).

Understudies will never substitute for a listed player unless an announcement is posted at the performance.

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SETTING

TIME: 1989 / Present Day

PLACE: The American Legion Hall in Wenatchee, Washington.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Associate Director	Emily Marso
Dramaturgical Display Designer	Dina Spoerl
Production Assistant / Young Performer Supervisor.....	Emma Schoenfelner
Stage Manager Sub	Casie Morell*
Vocal and Text Coach	Kathy Logelin
Associate Lighting Designer	Josiah Croegaert
Associate Dramaturgs	Joanna Grisinger, Kate Masur
Assistant Scenic Designer	José Alexander
Assistant Costume Designer / Costumer Supervisor	Lucy Elkin
Assistant Sound Designer	Emily Hayman
Scenic Supervisor	Emmanuel Jimenez
Scenic Charge Artists	José Alexander, Jessica Kuehnau Wardell
Lighting Supervisor.....	Mark Brown
Audio Supervisor	Averi Paulsen
Wardrobe Run Crew	Maurilio Rodriguez
COVID Compliance Officer	Katie Bevil

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Thank you to our cast and crew who shared the family photos that hang in our Legion Hall. They are the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and elders who fought for the hope that their children might see a better world. Their seemingly small, but hugely brave actions are what allow us to tell you this story today.

PLEASE NOTE

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings (including photographs) of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law.

RESOURCES



If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence:
Call 800-799-SAFE (7233)
Text START to 88788
thehotline.org

CONVERSATION

TimeLine Theatre is dedicated to exploring today's social and political issues through the lens of the past. We share information and provide inspiration for conversation through this *Backstory* program book, the interactive lobby experience (with elements available in person at the theatre as well as online), discussion events (in-person and sometimes virtual), our blog Behind the 'Line, and more. Explore all the resources available at timelinetheatre.com/what-the-constitution-means.

VISIT THE ONLINE LOBBY FOR *WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME*



To supplement the lobby experience available at our theatre on Wellington Avenue, we've created additional resources for you to explore online! Scan the QR Code at left or visit timelinetheatre.com/constitution-lobby to find additional content, including:

- Online versions of some of the materials displayed in the lobby, for further perusal
- Further reading and activities related to the play's topics and themes
- Plus photos, videos, and much more!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TimeLine Theatre is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube at @TimeLineTheatre. Don't forget to tag us and use the hashtag #ConstitutionTL and/or #TimeLineTheatre.





BETH LACKE (*Heidi*) is thrilled to be returning to TimeLine in such a timely and important play sharing Heidi's incredible story with Chicago audiences. A graduate with a BFA in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University, some of her previous theatrical credits

include *FROST/NIXON* and *AWAKE AND SING!* at TimeLine, *DOMESTICATED* at Steppenwolf, *GOD OF CARNAGE* at Goodman, as well as winning a Jeff Citation for her performance in *THE LIFE AND TIMES OF TULSA LOVECHILD: A ROAD TRIP* with Collaboration. Her most recent television and film credits include *NIGHT SKY* opposite Sissy Spacek for Amazon Prime, *CHRISTMAS AGAIN* and *HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL: THE MUSICAL: THE SERIES* for Disney+ and *GUESS WHO DIED* for Norman Lear/NBC. A special thank you goes to her Jerry Orbach: her dad, Chuck Lacke, who among other things, helped prepare her for this contest.



RAYMOND FOX (*Legionnaire*) happily returns to TimeLine where he previously appeared in *BLOOD AND GIFTS*. Raymond is a Lookingglass Theatre Ensemble Member, where he's acted in numerous productions since 1989. He performed most recently

in *THIS HAPPENED ONCE AT THE ROMANCE DEPOT OFF THE I-87 IN WESTCHESTER* (Goodman/New Stages). Additional Chicago credits include *Remy Bumppo*, *The House*, *Court*, and *First Folio*. Off-Broadway/Broadway credits include *METAMORPHOSES* (Second Stage, Circle in the Square). Regional credits include Seattle Repertory, Guthrie Theater, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory, Arena Stage, Arden Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Hartford Stage, American Repertory, Indiana Repertory, Alliance Theatre, Meadow Brook, Mark Taper Forum, McCarter Theatre, Kansas City Repertory, and Canada's Stratford Festival.



SOPHIE ACKERMAN (*Debater*) is thrilled to return to the TimeLine stage, where she debuted as Young Queen Elizabeth in *THE AUDIENCE* when she was nine years old. She is now a freshman at Lane Tech High School, where her favorite subjects are Math and Human

Geography. Theatre credits include *THE MUSIC MAN* (Goodman), *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* (Drury Lane), *THE KING AND I* (Lyric Opera), and *The Lookingglass Young Ensemble*. She is a SAG/AFTRA member, and can be seen in *SATURDAYS* (Disney+) and *SOUTH SIDE*, fittingly, as "drama kid" (HBOMax). She thanks TimeLine, Stewart Talent, her parents, Isabel, Grandma, Tonto, Bachan, Papa and her aunts and uncles for their support!



MAKALAH SIMPSON (*Debater*) returns to TimeLine, where they have spent four summers as part of the TimeLine South Ensemble, creating and performing in devised pieces *FULMINATION*, *FLOWERS GROW ON TREES*, and *RECIDIVISM*. A 2023 graduate of Thornton

Fractional South High School, Makalah is an aspiring veterinarian with a passion for healing and art, and has also traveled to various states to speak out against systematic oppression, participating and speaking at conventions like NCTE and AERA. They would like to thank their mother for her unwavering support, Guadalupe and Steve Ramirez for their unwavering love, and all of their friends for their unwavering laughs!



MIKE JIMERSON (*Legionnaire U/S*) is delighted to return to TimeLine, where he understudied *TROUBLE IN MIND* and *OSLO*. A long-time Chicago improviser, his other stage credits include *IMPROVISED SHAKESPEARE* (formerly at iO Chicago) and *THEE TRINITY*

(Polemic Theater). His television credits include *CHICAGO MED* (NBC), *CHICAGO FIRE* (NBC), *FARGO* (FX), and *NEXT* (FOX), and he can be seen in the upcoming feature film *TWAIN: CANCELLED* (Kernel Productions). Mike is represented by Gray Talent Group.



MAURA KIDWELL (*Heidi U/S*) is pleased to be back at TimeLine after working as associate director for THE CHINESE LADY. Chicago theatre credits include ROE (Goodman), BUG and DOWN-STATE (Steppenwolf), THE NEW SINCERITY (Theatre

Wit), and ALIAS GRACE (Rivendell). TV and film credits include SOUTH SIDE (HBO Max), SIRENS (USA), CHICAGO MED and CHICAGO FIRE (NBC), and Cursive frontman Tim Kasher's directorial debut, NO RESOLUTION. Maura is represented by Gray Talent Group and Artists First. Visit maurakidwell.com.

HEIDI SCHRECK (*Playwright*) is a writer and performer living in Brooklyn. Her play WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist and won the Obie Award and New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play in 2019. She also received two Tony Award nominations for Best Play and Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in a Play, and received the 2019 Benjamin Hadley Danks Award from the Academy of Arts and Letters. A filmed version of WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME, starring Schreck, premiered in 2020 exclusively on Amazon Prime Video, and was nominated for a Critics Choice Award, a PGA Award, and a DGA Award. Her other work includes GRAND COURSE, which debuted at Playwrights Horizons and Steppenwolf in 2014-15 and was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and her first play BACKWARDS INTO CHINA, produced by Printer's Devil at the Theater Off Jackson in 1997. Screenwriting credits include I LOVE DICK, BILLIONS, NURSE JACKIE, DISPATCHES FROM ELSEWHERE, and projects in development with Plan B, Amazon, and Imagine Television. Schreck has also taught playwriting and screenwriting at New York University, Columbia, and Kenyon College, and is the recipient of three Obie Awards, a Drama Desk, the Horton Foote Playwriting Award, and a Theatre World Award.

HELEN YOUNG (*Director*) returns to TimeLine, where she previously directed THE CHINESE LADY, the virtual program SETTING THE STAGE: THE CHINESE LADY, and TimePieces readings of THE CHINESE LADY and THE PAPER DREAMS OF HARRY CHIN, and served as Associate Director of THE AUDIENCE and Assistant Dramaturg of CHIMERICA. Recent credits include THE GREAT LEAP (Farmers Alley); WILD BOAR and lead director for NEW CHINA

FESTIVAL (Silk Road Rising); AMERICAN HWANGAP and TINY DYNAMITE (A-Squared/Halcyon) and TEA (Prologue). Other selected credits include work with Remy Bumppo, Artistic Home, Playground-Chicago, and Miranda Theatre in New York. Helen is also an actor (SAG/AFTRA). Love and thanks to James for our constant meanderings into stories and storytelling.

JESSICA KUEHNAU WARDELL (*Scenic Designer*) is a scenic and costume designer, teacher, and artist based in Chicago. Returning to TimeLine, Jessica has been scenic charge artist for the past two seasons and is beyond excited to be designing this season's final production. Recent Chicago credits include Jeff-nominated PULLED PUNCHES (MPAACT), NOISES OFF (Windy City Playhouse); END GAME (Hypocrites); LELA & COMPANY (Stee), and THE AFRICAN COMPANY PRESENTS RICHARD III (Oak Park Shakespeare Fest). Regionally, Jessica has designed immersive theatrical cocktail experiences across the country with Fever Originals, and her scenic design for the new TYA production JABARI DREAMS OF FREEDOM (First Woman Theatre) concluded its regional tour at The New Victory Theatre on 42nd Street in New York. Jessica holds an MFA in stage design from Northwestern University and is currently teaching and mentoring young theatre designers at The University of Chicago. Visit jesskdesign.com.

MEGAN E. PIRTLE (*Costume Designer*) is excited to return to TimeLine, having previously worked as the Associate Costume Designer on CAMPAIGNS, INC., and as the Costume Supervisor on THE CHINESE LADY. Megan has also designed wigs and hair for CAMPAIGNS, INC. (co-design with Katie Cordts), TROUBLE IN MIND, RELENTLESS, and RUTHERFORD AND SON. Selected costume design credits include MUSAS (Water People Theater at Steppenwolf), NIGHT RUNNER, MRS. PHU'S CLEANSING JUICES, and NATIVE SON (DePaul). She received a BFA degree in Costume Design and Costume Technology from The Theatre School at DePaul University and is a licensed cosmetologist in Illinois. Visit meganpirtledesign.com.

MAGGIE FULLILOVE-NUGENT (*Lighting Designer*) has been working with Chicago theatres for two decades and is thrilled to be lighting the stage at TimeLine again, where she previously designed TOO HEAVY FOR YOUR POCKET. Other design credits include THE THREEPENNY OPERA, GODSPELL, and CABARET (Theo Ubique); THE MAGIC PLAY (Goodman); RENT, SUNSET BOULEVARD, and

BURNING BLUEBEARD (Porchlight); ENDGAME, SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR, and THE THREEPENNY OPERA (The Hypocrites); BURNING BLUEBEARD (The Ruffians); and ROUSTABOUT, FAKE LAKE, WILDCATS, and 44 PLAYS FOR 44 PRESIDENTS (Neo-Futurists). Maggie is currently a leader of the Chicago Green Theatre Alliance. She is dedicated to moving the Chicago Theatre Community toward safer, more sustainable, and equitable practices, while lighting them beautifully. She would like to thank her supportive friends and family, and especially Josiah, the best lighting partner in town.

AMY PETER (*Properties Designer*) returns to TimeLine, having previously designed props for OSLO, CARDBOARD PIANO, THE AUDIENCE, and THE PRICE. She spends most of her time as the Props Supervisor at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Past credits include WHEN HARRY MET REHAB and TILIKUM (Sideshow). Before her time at DePaul, she was the Props Director at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Triad Stage (Greensboro N.C.), and an assistant at The Dallas Theater Center and The Skylight Music Theatre (Milwaukee, Wis). She has her BFA degree in Technical Theatre from The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Professional Theatre Training Program.

FORREST GREGOR (*Sound Designer*) is excited to be returning to TimeLine, where he previously co-designed CAMPAIGNS, INC. and THE CHINESE LADY. Recent design credits include ANDY WARHOL IN IRAN (Northlight); TIGER STYLE! (Writers); and INDECENT, EURYDICE, PEERLESS, and BAJO LAS ESTRELLAS (DePaul). Other credits include SANCTUARIES: A NEW JAZZ CHAMBER OPERA (Associate designer/A2) at Third Angle New Music in Portland, Ore, where he is also an assistant audio engineer at Open Field Recording. Forrest is currently finishing a BFA in Sound Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University, where he will be graduating in June. Visit forrestgregor.com.

MAREN ROBINSON (*Dramaturg*) is Resident Dramaturg and a Company Member at TimeLine where she has been dramaturg for 33 productions. Favorite TimeLine projects include CAMPAIGNS, INC., IN THE NEXT ROOM OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY, A DISAPPEARING NUMBER, THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS, THE HOW AND THE WHY, THE NORMAL HEART, MY KIND OF TOWN, TO MASTER THE ART, IN DARFUR, THE HISTORY BOYS, and COPENHAGEN. Maren was an artistic intern at Steppenwolf and has worked

with Court, Eclipse, Strawdog, Caffeine, Camenae and Lifeline theaters. She holds a master's degree in Humanities from the University of Chicago. She is a lecturer at The Theatre School at DePaul University, Associate Director of the Master of Arts Program in Humanities at the University of Chicago, and the Chicago Metro VP of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas.

MIRANDA ANDERSON (*Stage Manager*) is happy to be back with TimeLine, where her recent credits include TROUBLE IN MIND, CAMPAIGNS, INC., RELENTLESS, and KILL MOVE PARADISE, for this incredible show. Other recent Chicago production stage manager credits include ONCE and ATHENA at Writers Theatre. From 2012 to 2018, she toured with The Hypocrites' Gilbert and Sullivan productions to regional theaters including Olney Theatre Company, Pasadena Playhouse, Skirball Center at NYU, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, and American Repertory Theatre in Boston. Miranda is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

EMILY MARSO (*Associate Director*) returns to TimeLine, having previously performed in BOY and the TimePieces play reading THE PAPER DREAMS OF HARRY CHIN. Primarily an actor, narrator, and motion-capture performer, her other side of the table credits include work as the Assistant Director for THE SOUND OF MUSIC and Artistic Associate for THE WIZARD OF OZ (Marriott). For all the things she's doing when not grappling with the Constitution, visit emilymarso.com and @missmarso on Instagram.

DINA SPOERL (*Dramaturgical Display Designer*) returns to TimeLine, where her recent credits include BOULEVARD OF BOLD DREAMS. TROUBLE IN MIND, CAMPAIGNS, INC., THE CHINESE LADY, RELENTLESS, KILL MOVE PARADISE, TOO HEAVY FOR YOUR POCKET, CARDBOARD PIANO, A SHAYNA MAIDEL, TO CATCH A FISH, THE AUDIENCE, PARADISE BLUE, and A DISAPPEARING NUMBER, among many others. She has almost 20 years of graphic design and exhibit design experience. Past and current clients include the American Library Association, The National Museum of Natural History, The Newberry Library, Nextbook, National Building Museum, Children's Home & Aid, and Indiana State Museum. She is currently Exhibits Team Leader at Naper Settlement. She sends love and immense gratitude to Mark, Jack, and Zoe.

EMMA SCHOENFELNER (*Production Assistant / Young Performer Supervisor*) is happy to return to the production side of TimeLine, having previously worked on RUTHERFORD AND SON. Recent Chicago credits include 1919, SEAGULL, BUG, I AM NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER, and DANCE NATION (Dresser, Steppenwolf). Continuing in her long tradition of working for multiple TimeLine departments at once, Emma is also TimeLine's Marketing and Communications Assistant.

PJ POWERS (*Artistic Director*) was a co-founder of TimeLine in 1997 and became Artistic Director in 1999. Since then, he has overseen the production of more than 80 plays, including 12 world premieres and more than 38 Chicago premieres. During his tenure, TimeLine has garnered 60 Jeff Awards, including 11 for Outstanding Production, as well as awards for excellence in arts management, including the 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. PJ was instrumental in establishing TimeLine's home on Wellington Avenue in 1999; expanding the company's programming to include productions in numerous other venues, including the Broadway Playhouse; creating the TimePieces play reading series and First Draft Festival of new work; launching the Living History Education Program in Chicago Public Schools under the direction of TimeLine co-founder Juliet Hart; and planning for TimeLine's new home in Uptown. As an actor, he has appeared in 18 productions at TimeLine, including THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS: THAT HOPEY CHANGEY THING, THE FRONT PAGE, THE FARNSWORTH INVENTION, FIORELLO!, and HAUPTMANN. He also has appeared at Writers, Northlight, and Shattered Globe, among others. A graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University, PJ has served on the Board of Directors for the League of Chicago Theatres, was awarded the Meier Achievement Award for mid-career artists, and received a Goldman Sachs Senior Fellowship at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. He directed the one-night-only Chicago premiere of J.T. Rogers' ONE GIANT LEAP: THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING at the Broadway Playhouse.

MICA COLE (*Executive Director*) was named TimeLine's Executive Director in April 2022. A Chicago native raised on the South Side, she has worked as an arts administrator and changemaker for nearly two decades. Most recently, she has been a national consultant providing executive coaching and strategic planning for cultural institutions working to embrace an antiracist leadership paradigm. Mica is a consultant with artEquity, a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training, and resources for individuals and organizations working at the intersection of art and activism. She co-led its BIPOC Surviving Predominantly White Institutions Series and the BIPOC Leadership Circle—both aimed at providing resources and mentorship to leaders of color. Prior to her work as an organizational consultant, Mica served eight seasons as the Repertory Producer at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. As a senior leader at OSF, she played a key role in guiding the company's equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, many of which now serve as foundational organizational models for institutions around the world. Mica has produced more than 80 shows, including a dozen transfers and national co-productions of new plays with theatres such as American Repertory, Seattle Repertory, South Coast Rep, Arena Stage, Portland Center Stage, and Berkeley Repertory. She worked in Chicago as the Executive Director of Free Street Theater and as the Director of Education and Engagement at Writers Theatre. Mica served on the advisory committee for the Latinx Theatre Commons and is a founding member of the Black Theatre Commons. She is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Carpenters	Robert Barnett, Henry Bender, Silvana Bolec, Kayne Bowling, Raphael Daniels-Devost, Kieran O'Connor, Quinn Tsan
Painter	Rose Johnson, Eva Nyman
Electricians	Quinn Chisenhall, Josiah Croegaert
Audio Crew	Florence Borowski, Emily Hayman
Tech Week Apprentice	Devin Payne

SPECIAL THANKS

THIS PRODUCTION OWES SPECIAL THANKS to numerous individuals and organizations for their time, talents and support, including Chabad of East Lakeview, The 4529 Prop Shop, ACLU, Albany Park Theatre Project (Trina McGee), Aria Music Designs, LLC (Stephanie Farina & Ray Nardelli), Berkeley Rep (Jill Green), The Chicago Green Theatre Alliance, Conscious Costume, Exposition Carpet and Flooring (Dena Isaacson, Oscar Arellano-Diaz, Eduardo De La Cruz, Pancho Madrigal, Constantino Gasca, & Chris Corwin), Rich Klinger, Eileen LaCario, Nico Long and the American Public Policy Special Emphasis team of Wauwatosa West High School, The Lyric Opera of Chicago (Mike Smallwood & Maria DeFabo Akin), Molly Maid, Maximum Company (Carl Flanigan & Eva Price), Northlight Theatre (Emily Kneer, Colleen Schuldeis, Matt Super, & Kirstin Johnson), and The Theatre School at DePaul University (Amy Peter).

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

TimeLine is working to make our productions accessible to all patrons. A few of the services we offer are listed below; we invite you to visit timelinetheatre.com/accessibility for a complete listing and more information.



Assistive Listening Devices

Ask the Box Office and provide an ID to check out an RF assistive listening device.



Accessible Seating

If you require accessible seating, please let us know when you place your reservation how we may assist in fitting your needs.



Open Captioning

Open captioning is a text display of words and sounds heard during an event. The display is positioned in such a way that it is open for anyone to see in a particular seating area. It is a service you may choose to use or ignore during the performance.

Open Captioned performances are scheduled for:

- Friday, June 16 at 8pm
- Saturday, June 17 at 4pm

Audio Description



A live narrator gives verbal descriptions of actions, costumes, scenery, and other visual elements via a handheld device delivered to patrons upon request before the show.

The Audio Described performance is scheduled for Thursday, June 22 at 7:30pm

If you have feedback or suggestions regarding accessibility, please contact Audience Services Manager Kellyn Henthorn at kellyn@timelinetheatre.com.

WHAT IF YOU ONLY HEARD A MONOLOGUE
NOT A DIALOGUE?

WHAT IF THE ACTORS SAID
EVERY OTHER WORD ...
... **OR SKIPPED EVERY OTHER LINE?**

WHAT IF THE PLAY WAS **FORCED**
TO END HALFWAY THROUGH?

THERE WOULD BE NO CHANCE
TO COMPLETE THE STORY.
NO CHANCE TO MAKE HISTORY.

Your ticket purchase is only half the story. TimeLine Theatre—like our peers in Chicago's vibrant community of not-for-profit theatres—depends upon the support of patrons like you to thrive.

Ticket sales cover about 45% of our total income during the season. Donations are vital to ensuring TimeLine's continued success. Without the generosity of our dedicated supporters, we would not exist!

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

Donate online today:

TIMELINETHEATRE.COM/DONATE

Consider a recurring gift for continuing impact!

*TimeLine Theatre Company is a 501 (c)(3) Not-for-Profit organization.
Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

OUR MISSION

TimeLine Theatre Company presents stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues. Our collaborative organization produces provocative theatre and educational programs that engage, entertain and enlighten.

From the moment in 1997 that six founders each pitched \$50 to launch this company, TimeLine has worked to become one of Chicago's leading cultural institutions by creating theatre that is more than just a few hours in a seat. Our team of Company Members works collaboratively to present riveting stories that link our past, present, and future—exploring today's social and political issues through the lens of the past and inspiring ourselves to re-imagine tomorrow.



Pat Tiedemann (from left), PJ Powers, and Juliet Hart in TimeLine's inaugural production *SUMMIT CONFERENCE*, 1998.

And the TimeLine experience extends well beyond the stage, encompassing meticulously researched and interactive lobby experiences, opportunities to discuss the show with artists, ways to take action on whatever the art inspires, and more.

It is a mission unique in Chicago, and beyond.

Now celebrating our 26th season, TimeLine has presented 85 productions, including 12 world premieres and 39 Chicago premieres.

Our work has been recognized in Chicago and beyond: TimeLine received the prestigious 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions and has been named "Company of the Year" in *The Wall Street Journal* (2010), one of the American Theatre Wing's top 10 emerging professional theatre companies nationwide (2011) and *Chicago* magazine's "Best Theatre" in the city (2011). And we have been honored with 60 Jeff Awards, including an award for Outstanding Production 11 times.



Ayanna Bria Bakari (left) and Jaye Ladymore in the world premiere of Tyla Abercrombie's *RELENTLESS*, 2022.

We work to match artistic excellence with sophisticated business management, and these efforts also have been recognized. TimeLine was the first arts organization to receive the Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence of a small company, and we have received the Association for Strategic Planning's Richard Goodman Strategic Planning Award in the Non-Profit category.

For more about TimeLine's history and programs, please visit timelinetheatre.com

TimeLine Theatre is a member of the League of Chicago Theatres, Chicago Cultural Alliance, Choose Chicago, the Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce, Uptown Chamber of Commerce, Lakeview's Belmont Theater District, the Chicago Green Theatre Alliance, and Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

LIVING HISTORY PROGRAM



Living History students in the lobby at a matinee performance of CARDBOARD PIANO, 2019.

Learning and discovery have always been central to TimeLine's mission, driven by our belief that live performance can connect people and illuminate ideas.

Founded in 2006, TimeLine's Living History Education Program brings that mission to Chicago Public Schools, working with students on creative exercises related to historically inspired stories on TimeLine's stage and beyond.

Living History is an arts integration residency that features curriculum designed to teach theatre skills while fostering the capacity to think creatively, to make connections, and to provide new ways of understanding history and the world around us. Over six to 13 sessions, students explore connections between history, art, and their own lives, developing critical thinking and communication skills.

**"It made me feel that I was part of that moment in history.
As if I was experiencing it firsthand. It made me understand it better."**

During Living History residencies, TimeLine teaching artists and classroom teachers collaborate on lesson plans that illuminate the themes of the play and their connection to each classroom curriculum. Students work on several scenes from a TimeLine production and are provided with a study guide. They experience visits from the production's actors and dramaturg and attend a student matinee and post-show discussion with the cast.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Living History revised its play- and field trip-centered residencies to respond to the unique needs of students and teachers who are living through history and looking for ways to express their experiences. The need for partnership, collaboration, and creative problem-solving is more important than ever, and Living History has provided virtual and real-time opportunities to use theater-based exercises to amplify student voices, challenges, hopes, and dreams.

Since its inception, more than 9,000 students have actively explored history through Living History. TimeLine currently partners with nine schools to present the program.

TIMELINE SOUTH



Tiffany Fulson (right) with a TimeLine South ensemble member in 2019.

TimeLine South—a unique arts program that provides teens a safe space for self-expression, creativity, and ensemble building on the south side of Chicago—just celebrated its 5th anniversary, last year in partnership with the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts. Offered free of charge for six weeks during the summer, TimeLine South promotes leadership in the arts and introduces teens to the idea that theatre can also be a vehicle for social justice. For information about applying to be part of the 2023 TimeLine South ensemble, visit timelinetheatre.com/timeline-south.

Major supporters of Living History include Crown Family Philanthropies, Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation, Lloyd A. Fry Foundation, John and Jessica Fullerton, Robert and Eleanor Meyers, Stanley and Vivian Nitzberg, Polk Bros. Foundation, Walder Foundation, and multiple anonymous contributors, as well as the donors to TimeLine's Annual Fund and Step Into Time gala. The growth of TimeLine South was supported over multiple years by Anita Samen and David Follmer in memory of their son, Daniel Samen Follmer. TimeLine South is currently sponsored by Walder Foundation, with additional support by the National Endowment for the Arts, in addition to the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

COMPANY MEMBERS



Company Members are the artistic leaders of TimeLine Theatre Company, working collaboratively together to shape the artistic vision and choose the programming for the organization.

Tyla Abercumbie | Will Allan | Nick Bowling | Janet Ulrich Brooks
Behzad Dabu | Charles Andrew Gardner | Lara Goetsch
Juliet Hart | Anish Jethmalani | Mildred Marie Langford | Mechelle Moe
David Parkes | Ron OJ Parson | PJ Powers | Maren Robinson

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

TimeLine's Associate Artists have made enormous contributions to the work on TimeLine's stage, and they also have been leaders off stage, making the company a better place to work and serving as ambassadors in the community. The group plays an important role in shaping TimeLine's artistic growth.

Jared Bellot | Brian Sidney Bembridge | Eva Breneman | William Brown | Aaron Carter
Andrew Carter | Louis Contey | Charles Cooper | John Culbert | Mikhail Fiksel
Megan Geigner | Dennis William Grimes | Terry Hamilton | Andrew Hansen
Jerod Haynes | Josephine Kearns | Kymberly Mellen | Danica Monroe | Mike Nussbaum
Keith Parham | Andre Pluess | Collette Pollard | Mark Richard | Chris Rickett
Kimberly Senior | Demetrios Troy | Mike Tutaj | Ann Wakefield | Alex Weisman

PLAYWRIGHTS COLLECTIVE

TimeLine has an ongoing commitment to developing the work of established as well as emerging playwrights. The Playwrights Collective, founded under the leadership of Ben Thiem, offers a supportive environment over multiple years for a group of Chicago-based playwrights to develop new plays that are inspired by history and explore the social and political events of today.

2013 - 2016 (Inaugural) Collective

Alice Austen | John Conroy | Emily Dendinger
Frances Limoncelli | Susan McLaughlin Karp | Brett Neveu

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CREATING A NEW CULTURAL ASSET FOR CHICAGO, IN UPTOWN.

TimeLine is laying the foundation for our next era. After 25 years of adapting within rented facilities, we're establishing a purposefully built theatrical hub in Chicago's vibrant Uptown neighborhood. Far more than just a theatre, this inviting and accessible facility will be a welcoming gathering space for entertainment, education, and community engagement.

Joining other venerable performance venues in the historic Uptown Entertainment District, TimeLine's new home will feature:

- An intimate and flexible 250-seat black box theatre that can be reimagined for every show
- Exhibit galleries that enhance the production experience
- A dedicated Education and Engagement room for student and community programming
- Expanded social spaces, including a bar and café open day and night
- Office, rehearsal, and production space for staff and artists
- Plus opportunities for future expansion, and much more!

Join us in taking this bold step together toward a new home, where everyone is welcomed and where great artistry collides with topics relevant to today's social and political issues.

**"It's Time to create a space to grow and innovate
... a space where past and present intersect and where collaboration
and togetherness will lead us to a better future."**

— Artistic Director PJ Powers

**IT'S
TIME**

MAKE HISTORY WITH US

This once-in-a-lifetime project is a private and public funding partnership. For more information about how you can support this special campaign, please contact Chelsea Smith, Director of Major Gifts, at chelsea@timelinetheatre.com or 773.281.8463 x116.

Explore more about this thrilling project—including interior and exterior design renderings—online at timelinetheatre.com/its-time.

TimeLine is grateful for the support and confidence shown by the investors in the campaign for our new home.

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