



EXPLORING TODAY THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PAST

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

the american vicarious'

DEBATE

BALDWIN vs. BUCKLEY

adapted and directed by **Christopher McElroen**

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

the
american
vicarious

THE
THEATRE
SCHOOL
AT DePaul University

costume designers **Sally Dolemba, USA** and **Zach Grasee**
dramaturgs **Maren Robinson+**, **Ashly DeMay**, **Katherine Shuert**, and **Omari Sloan**
stage manager **Katrina Herrmann***

featuring **Teagle F. Bougere*** and **Eric T. Miller***,
with **Jack Baust**, **Quintin Craig**, **Alex Perez**, and **Aspen Tyson**

January 31 - March 2, 2025 (previews 1/29 & 1/30)

Debate: Baldwin vs. Buckley was originally produced by the american vicarious at BRIC in Brooklyn, NY in 2020. The UK premiere was co-produced by Stone Nest in London in 2023.



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



Those artists identified by USA are members of United Scenic Artists, Local 829 of the IATSE, the union representing scenic, costume, lighting, sound, and projections designers in Live Performance.

+ TimeLine Company Member

CAST

Teagle F. Bougere*	James Baldwin
Eric T. Miller*	William F. Buckley Jr.
Jack Baust	Mr. Jeremy Burford (<i>alternating performances</i>)
Quintin Craig	Mr. Jeremy Burford (<i>alternating performances</i>)
Alex Perez	Mr. David Heycock (<i>alternating performances</i>)
Aspen Tyson	Mr. David Heycock (<i>alternating performances</i>)

UNDERSTUDIES: Kevin Aoussou (*Baldwin*) and Joseff Stevenson (*Buckley*). Understudies will never substitute for a listed player unless an announcement is posted at the performance.

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SETTING

Today at DePaul University's Cortelyou Commons, Chicago.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager	Bruno Diaz Miranda
Wardrobe Supervisor	Edward Ambrose
Wardrobe Run Crew	Zach Grasee, Kim de Paula (<i>swing</i>)
Discussion Facilitators	Jared Bellot[^], Megan E. Geigner[^]
Lobby Display Graphic Designer	Dina Spoerl

[^] TimeLine Associate Artist

the american vicarious

Artistic Director	Christopher McElroen
Producing Director	Erica Laird
Marketing Manager	Robyn Sunderland
Development Consultant	Morgan Lindsey Tachco
Board of Directors	Michael Goodin, Andy Cmiel, Joan Magoolghan, Genia Wright, and Christopher McElroen

The Theatre School at DePaul University

Dean	Martine Kei Green-Rogers
Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Initiatives and Academic Innovation	Damon Kiely
Production Manager	Martin Alcocer-Garcia
Director of Marketing and Public Relations	Kristin Morris

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.

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/explore-debate.

VISIT THE ONLINE LOBBY FOR *DEBATE: BALDWIN VS. BUCKLEY*



To supplement the lobby experience available at the theatre, we've got additional resources for you to explore online! Scan the QR Code or visit timelinetheatre.com/debate-lobby to find additional content:

- Multi-media resources and further reading related to the topics, themes and events portrayed in the play
- Online versions of some of the materials displayed in the lobby, for further perusal
- Photos, videos, and much more!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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



FOR ANYONE AGE 18 TO 35

MyLine is TimeLine's low-price ticket program. It's free to join and gets you exclusive access to \$20* tickets for all TimeLine shows!

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* inclusive of all fees

BIOGRAPHIES



TEAGLE F. BOUGERE (*James Baldwin*) Broadway appearances include *THE TEMPEST* (Caliban) with Patrick Stewart; *A RAISIN IN THE SUN* (Asagai) with Phylicia Rashad; and *THE CRUCIBLE*. Selected television and film: *LAW AND ORDER SVU*, a.d.a. Phillip Baptiste (recurring);

QUEEN AMERICA (series regular) with Catherine Zeta-Jones; *THE BLACKLIST*; *BULL*; *THE MIST*; *THE PATH*; *COSBY*; *THE BIG C*; *THE JOB*; *A GIFTED MAN*; *CONVICTION*; *WHAT THE DEAF MAN HEARD*; *A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM*; *THE PELICAN BRIEF*; *TWO WEEKS NOTICE*; *THE IMPOSTERS*. Off-Broadway: *THE NEW ENGLANDERS* at Manhattan Theater Club; *IS GOD IS* at Soho Rep; *A LAST DANCE FOR SYBIL* by Ossie Davis, starring Ruby Dee, and *CORIOLANUS* at The New York Shakespeare Festival. *CORIOLANUS* was Mr. Bougere's 13th appearance with The NYSF Public Theater. Past turns at the festival include Plato in *SOCRATES* and Eros in *ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA*, directed by and starring Vanessa Redgrave. Regionally, Mr. Bougere created the title role in the world premiere stage adaptation of Ralph Ellison's *INVISIBLE MAN*. The production played at Court Theatre in Chicago; Studio Theater in Washington, D.C., and Boston's Huntington Theater. At The Pittsburgh Public Theater, he played The Poet in the one man *AN ILIAD*.



ERIC T. MILLER (*William F. Buckley Jr.*) is making his TimeLine debut. Theater credits include *MOPE* (Ensemble Studio Theatre), *ROGERANDTOM (HERE)*, *SWEET STORM (LAByrinth)*, *(A)LOFT MODULATION* (the american vicarious), *AWAKE AND SING!* and

RPCORD (Huntington Theatre), *WINK* (TerraNova), *LUFT GANGSTER* (Sheen Center), *SAFE HOME* (Royal Family Productions), *BETRAYED* (Culture Project) as well as work at the Syracuse Stage, Bard Summerscape, New York Stage and Film, Rattlestick, PS 122, Workshop, and the Flea. Film and television credits include *MARE OF EASTTOWN*, *SEPARATION*, *JULES*, *FBI: MOST WANTED*, *HALSTON*, *THE GOOD FIGHT*, *BLUE BLOODS*, *CHICAGO P.D.*, *BLACKLIST*, *PERSON OF INTEREST*, *ELEMENTARY*, *THE UNUSUALS*, *KINGS*, *LAW & ORDER*, *SHAME*, *REACHING HOME*, *THE WAITING ROOM*, *HOME*, *TOM'S DILEMMA*, *ADFFIRM*, *REDEMPTION IN CHERRY SPRINGS*, *JOSIE & JACK*, and the Oscar-nominated film *NYAD*. Visit erictroymler.com.



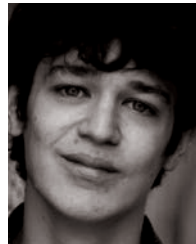
JACK BAUST (*Mr. Jeremy Burford*) is making his TimeLine debut. Originally from coastal Virginia, he is a senior in the BFA Acting program at The Theatre School at DePaul University and is so excited to be a member of this cast! Notable Theatre School credits include Oberon in *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* and Sergei in *THE LAST MATCH*. Instagram: @jackbaust

Instagram: @jackbaust



QUINTIN CRAIG (*Mr. Jeremy Burford*) is thrilled to be making his TimeLine debut. Quintin is set to graduate from The Theatre School at DePaul University with a BFA degree in Acting later this spring. Theatre School credits include *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*,

LYSISTRATA, and *REMOTE*. Film/web credits include *BE MINE*, *MIME*. He would like to thank the teachers, friends, and family who have supported him along his artistic journey. Instagram: @quintincraig_



ALEX PEREZ (*Mr. David Heycock*) is making his TimeLine debut. Originally from West Orange, New Jersey, Alex is a fourth year BFA Acting student at The Theatre School at DePaul University. His recent Theatre School credits include *AH, WILDERNESS*; *GLENGARRY*

GLEN ROSS; and *THE MOLE HILL STORIES*. He wants to thank everyone that has made this opportunity possible and to all the family and friends that have supported him along the way.



ASPEN TYSON (*Mr. David Heycock*) is making their TimeLine debut. Previous credits include *A NIGHT'S DREAM* and *TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA* (Shakespeare in Saint Anthony Park, St. Paul, Minn.). Theatre School credits include *HOTEL CASSIOPEIA*, *THE ANTIPODES*,

and ROSENCRANTZ & GULDENSTERN ARE DEAD. They are currently studying to receive a BFA degree in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University, and live in Chicago with their two cats Simon and Garfunkel.



KEVIN AOUSSOU (*James Baldwin U/S*) is making his TimeLine debut. Chicago credits include JAJA'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING and HENRY V (Chicago Shakespeare), INANIMATE (Theater Wit), MOBY DICK (Lookingglass), and ROUTES (Remy Bumppo). Regional

credits include work with Berkeley Repertory, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Theater at Monmouth, The Hedge-row Theatre, The Rogue Tucson, Cardinal Stage, and Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Kevin received an MFA degree in Acting from Northwestern University and a BA degree in Theatre Performance from Winthrop University. Instagram: @ayokeyv247 & @TheLocalcabco



JOSEPH STEVENSON (*William F. Buckley Jr. U/S*) is excited to make his TimeLine Theatre debut and to collaborate with this incredible team on such an important project. Joseph received an MFA degree in Acting from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

Stage credits include John Merrick in THE ELEPHANT MAN (AVC Theatre, Lancaster, Calif.), Doc Gibbs in OUR TOWN and Angelo in MEASURE FOR MEASURE (The Theatre School), Eddie in FOOL FOR LOVE (San Francisco State University), SENDER (A Red Orchid), and TRAVESTIES (Remy Bumppo). Television credits include CHICAGO P.D., CHICAGO MED, and BOSTON PUBLIC.

CHRISTOPHER MCELROEN (*Adapter and Director*) is the Founding Artistic Director of the American Vicarious. Previously, he co-founded the Classical Theatre of Harlem, where from 1999 to 2009, he oversaw 41 productions yielding 18 AUDELCO Awards, 6 OBIE Awards, 2 Lucille Lortel Awards, and a Drama Desk Award. Christopher's recent projects include DEBATE: BALDWIN VS BUCKLEY (2022) and STATIC APNEA (2020), which were both listed as "Highbrow and Brilliant" in *New York Magazine's* Approval Matrix, and *Broadway World* said "the American vicarious is on my list of must see theatre companies." In collaboration with six-time Grammy Award nominee Gerald Clayton,

Christopher developed and directed PIEDMONT BLUES: A SEARCH FOR SALVATION, which was presented at Harlem Stage in June 2022. Christopher received a 2013 Helen Hayes Award for his direction of the world premiere stage adaptation of Ralph Ellison's iconic novel INVISIBLE MAN. Christopher had the honor of directing 51ST (DREAM) STATE, the final work of poet, musician, and activist Sekou Sundiata, which premiered at BAM's Next Wave Festival. Alongside visual artist Paul Chan, actor Wendell Pierce, and Creative Time, Christopher co-produced and directed WAITING FOR GODOT in New Orleans, a year-long community development through the arts initiative in post-Katrina New Orleans. The archives from the production were acquired into the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA).

SALLY DOLEMBO (*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to be working with TimeLine again, where she last designed CAMPAIGNS, INC. Sally is a Chicago-based costume designer and Head of Costume Design at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Chicago-area design credits include work with The Second City, Lyric, Marriott, Lookingglass, Steppenwolf, Court, Paramount, Porchlight, Northlight, Steep, The Gift, and The Hypocrites. Regional credits include work with The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio, Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Kentucky Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, and Milwaukee Repertory. Sally was a 2007 Fulbright Scholar to Italy, where she researched and worked at Tirelli Costumi in Rome. Sally received her MFA degree in Stage Design from Northwestern University and is a member of Local USA 829. Visit sallydolemba.com.

ZACH GRASEE (*Costume Designer*) is originally from Wisconsin. Currently he is attending The Theatre School at DePaul University pursuing a BFA degree in Costume Design. Theatre School credits include ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL (Co-Costume Designer), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Assistant Costume Designer), THE SEAGULL (Assistant Costume Designer), and IS GOD IS (Wardrobe Supervisor). Instagram: @graseedesigns

MAREN ROBINSON (*Dramaturg*) is Resident Dramaturg and a Company Member at TimeLine, where she has been dramaturg for 36 productions. Favorite TimeLine projects include WHAT THE CONSTITUTION MEANS TO ME; CAMPAIGNS, INC.; IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY; A DISAPPEARING NUMBER; THE APPLE FAMILY PLAYS; 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.

ASHLY DEMAY (*Dramaturg*) is a Dramaturgy student at The Theatre School at DePaul University. This is her first show as a dramaturg with both DePaul and TimeLine. She received an AA degree in Technical Theatre from Carroll Community College in Westminster, Md. where she was a dramaturg on A DOLL'S HOUSE. She also interned with Redtwist for THE NORMAL HEART and had a summer internship with Burning Coal Theatre in Raleigh, N.C.

KATHERINE SHUERT (*Dramaturg*) is from Lombard, Ill. and is currently pursuing a BFA degree in Dramaturgy and Dramatic Criticism at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Her dramaturgy credits at The Theatre School include THE MOLE STORIES and GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS. Katherine is also the managing editor of *The Grappler*, the dramaturgy journal at The Theatre School. Professional credits include GHOSTS (Literary Advisor) with Gwydion Theatre Company.

OMARI SLOAN (*Dramaturg*) is excited to be part of the dramaturgy team on his first professional production with TimeLine. He is currently a senior at The Theatre School at DePaul University and obtaining his BFA degree in Dramaturgy and Criticism. He would like to thank TimeLine and DePaul for an incredible experience!

KATRINA HERRMANN (*Stage Manager*) returns to TimeLine where she previously worked on FALSETTOS (produced in partnership with Court Theatre), JUNO, and CAMPAIGNS, INC. Other Chicago credits include THE LION IN WINTER and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE (Court); TWELFTH NIGHT, THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, AS YOU LIKE IT (Chicago Shakespeare); LUCY & CHARLIE'S HONEYMOON, THE STEADFAST TIN SOLDIER (Lookingglass). Regional credits include DIANA: THE MUSICAL, QUEENS (La Jolla Playhouse), THE GARDEN, TWISTED MELODIES (Baltimore Center Stage). Katrina received a BFA degree in Stage Management from The Theatre School at DePaul University and an MBA degree from Adams State University. Katrina is a proud AEA member and serves on the board of the Stage Managers' Association.

BRUNO DIAZ MIRANDA (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is a Stage Manager & Live Entertainment Technician who enjoys being a part of fast-paced, ever-changing environments. Favorite credits include work with companies such as the Old Globe Theatre (SM Apprentice, San Diego), LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN at Teatro Pérez Galdós, and three seasons as the Assistant Stage Manager for DePaul Opera. This past holiday season, he served as the Production Coordinator for the 18th Season of Christmas at DePaul. Aside from stage management, he has an interest for Scenic Automation and Lighting Design. He was a part of the USITT Training Ground program in Las Vegas with Cirque du Soleil & TAIT in 2024. Bruno will be graduating from The Theatre School in June with a BFA degree in Stage Management.

EDWARD AMBROSE (*Wardrobe Supervisor*) is thrilled to be making their TimeLine debut. They are a current student at The Theatre School at DePaul University, majoring in Costume Technology and Communication Studies. Additional credits include HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER (Costume Designer), and THE ROYALE (Wardrobe Supervisor).

PJ POWERS (*Artistic Director, TimeLine Theatre*) 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 13 world premieres and more than 40 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 19 productions at TimeLine, including THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT, 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. 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. He is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University,

MICA COLE (*Executive Director, TimeLine Theatre*) 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.

THE AMERICAN VICARIOUS is a New York City-based nonprofit producing company committed to generating creative content that crosses disciplinary boundaries and reflects on America's ideals, realities, and that which unites and divides its people. Since the founding of the company in 2018, they have produced a wide variety of critically-acclaimed, interdisciplinary works of art, including premiering DEBATE: BALDWIN VS. BUCKLEY in New York City (2020, 2022); London, Cambridge and Bristol (2023); The University of Tennessee Chattanooga (2023); two world premiere plays, SHOOTING CELEBRITIES (2022) and (A)LOFT MODULATION—A PLAY WITH JAZZ (2019); the mixed-media jazz concert PIEDMONT BLUES: A SEARCH

FOR SALVATION (2020-22); two performance installations, NEGATIVE LIBERTY / POSITIVE LIBERTY (2021) and STATIC APNEA (2020, NYTimes Critics Pick); and the documentary film, FAR FROM THE NILE (2022, Best Non-Fiction Film Award, Cairo Film Festival). Next up: FIGHT FOR AMERICA! a live, immersive, and participatory art installation that explores the gamification of American politics by placing you in the events of January 6th. Visit theamericanvicarious.org.

ERICA LAIRD (*Producing Director, the american vicarious*) joined the american vicarious following several years as General Manager of The Flea Theater, and seven years as Managing Director with The Builders Association where she oversaw all the company's operations and produced the development, premieres and touring of HOUSE / DIVIDED, SONTAG: REBORN, and ELEMENTS OF OZ. Previously she was Marketing and Residency Manager at the Cutler Majestic Theater in Boston (now ArtsEmerson), and Senior Associate at NYC international booking agency Micocci Productions, where she booked tours for companies including STREB, Big Dance Theater, SITI Company and Mabou Mines. Erica provides general management and/or financial services to various non-profit organizations including The Flea Theater, Space on Ryder Farm, Target Margin Theater and Caborca, and is a member of the Board of Directors for The Builders Association.

THE THEATRE SCHOOL AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY was founded in 1925 as the Goodman School of Drama, and is one of the nation's oldest conservatory training institutions. With more than 15 undergraduate degree programs across three departments (design/technology, performance, and theatre studies), and two master's degrees offered in acting and arts leadership, students combine rigorous coursework with continuous production practice to hone their skills. This hands-on approach develops students with practical problem-solving experience, not just in theatre, but in a variety of artistic and business pursuits. 100% of students receive a scholarship to help support artists from a variety of backgrounds and to encourage quality and accessible education to all. Visit theatre.depaul.edu.

MARTINE KEI GREEN-ROGERS (*Dean, The Theatre School at DePaul University*) is an esteemed dramaturg and higher education leader who joined The Theatre School in July 2022. Martine has served as interim dean of the Division of Liberal Arts at the University of North Carolina School for the Arts. She also is the immediate

past president of the Literary Managers and Dramaturgs of the Americas and the current President-Elect of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE). A director and writer, Martine has a long history in the theatre. She has held several positions in dramaturgy, literary management, writing, directing and creative storytelling in the professional theatre and entertainment industries, including at TimeLine, Court, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Martine earned her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Theatre and Drama at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DAMON KIELY (*Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Initiatives and Academic Innovation, The Theatre School*

at DePaul University) is a professional director and writer, and full-time professor of directing and acting at The Theatre School. Select Chicago directing credits include BOY, WEEKEND, and the TimePieces reading of IN THE GROVE OF FORGETTING (TimeLine); HANK WILLIAMS: LOST HIGHWAY (American Blues); MIRACLE (Royal George). Select regional credits include MY FATHER'S WAR (TheatreSquared) and IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY (Gamm Theatre). Damon is the author of *How to Read a Play: Script Analysis for Directors*, *How to Rehearse a Play: a Practical Guide for Directors*, and *Play Directing: The Basics*, and his world premiere adaptations of THIEVES LIKE US and THE REVEL were produced by the House Theatre of Chicago.

SPECIAL THANKS

THIS PRODUCTION OWES SPECIAL THANKS to Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum; The Chicago Green Theatre Alliance; Quinn Chisenhall; Josiah Croegaert; Cultural Access Collaborative; Lucy Elkin, Emmanuel Jimenez, Jeff Quest; Amy Peter; Alex Rhyan; and Christine Binder, Emily DeBold, Stephanie Farina, Kemper Florin, Christine D. Freeburg, Alex Goodman, Michelle Lopez-Rios, Carlos Murillo, and Rachel Shteir (The Theatre School at DePaul University).

THE AMERICAN VICARIOUS OWES SPECIAL THANKS to Tom Klingenstein, Elivia Bovenzi, Adam J Thompson, Adrian Cameron, Jaymes Jorsling, Spencer Hamp, Charlie O'Rourke, Tom Kiteley, Christopher Wareham and the entire TimeLine Theatre & The Theatre School at DePaul University staff - mahalos!

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.



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 for *Debate: Baldwin vs. Buckley* are scheduled:

- Friday, February 21 at 7:30pm
- Saturday, February 22 at 4pm



Accessible Seating

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



Audio Description

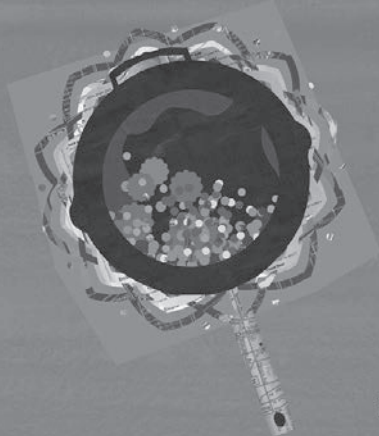
A live narrator gives verbal descriptions of actions, costumes, scenery, and other visual elements via a handheld device delivered to patrons upon request before the show.

The Audio Described performance for *Debate: Baldwin vs. Buckley* is scheduled on Saturday, March 1 at 4pm

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

Timeline
Theatre Company

2024-2025
RIVETING STORIES THAT LINK PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE



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BY MADHURI SHEKAR
DIRECTED BY CHAY YEW

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Rich with culinary tradition and dramatic twists, *Dhaba on Devon Avenue* centers on Dhaba Canteen, an institution on Chicago's Devon Avenue since the '60s, serving up delicious Sindhi food with the power to transport diners back to the halcyon days of undivided India. But times are changing. With the bank threatening foreclosure and Chef Neeraj's health in decline, the restaurant may soon be cooking up its last meal—unless sous chef Rita can convince her father to let her take over the kitchen.

JUN 19 – JUL 27, 2025

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ABOUT TIMELINE

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 in \$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 28th season, TimeLine has presented 94 productions, including 14 world premieres and 43 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—celebrated its 7th anniversary in 2024, and two years 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.

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, 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.

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
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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
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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

2017 - 2018 Collective

Tyla Abercumbie | Will Allan | Maureen Gallagher | Calamity West

2020 - 2021 Collective

Dolores Díaz | Kristin Idaszak | Osiris Khepera | David Rhee

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CREATING A NEW CULTURAL ASSET FOR CHICAGO, IN UPTOWN.

TimeLine is laying the foundation for our next era. After more than 25 years of adapting within rented facilities, we're establishing a 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 open in 2026, featuring:

- 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

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 Rosie Schultz, Director of Donor Engagement, at rosie@timelinetheatre.com or 773.281.8463 x126.

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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TimeLine is grateful for every contribution received. We regret that due to space limitations we are unable to list donors of up to \$99. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and know that every gift makes a difference!

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TimeLine Theatre Company is a recipient of the prestigious
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We are honored to recognize the leadership sponsors who contributed to TimeLine's annual Step Into Time benefit, which took place on March 16, 2024. TimeLine is also grateful to those who purchased tickets, auction prizes, and raffle tickets to support Step Into Time. We regret that due to space limitations, we are unable to list everyone who contributed. Please accept our heartfelt thanks and know that your participation made a difference!

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YOUR SUPPORT TODAY HELPS MAKE HISTORY TOMORROW!



TimeLine Theatre Company is Chicago's only theatre with a mission to present stories inspired by history that explore the issues that affect us today. We believe that live performance

intimately connects us by sparking dialogue and reflection in pursuit of a better tomorrow.

At the center of this mission is you.

Charitable contributions are the lifeblood of nonprofit theatres like TimeLine. With ticket sales covering only a portion of our annual income, donations from our community are vital to sustaining the work we do.

Your donation to TimeLine enables us to:

- Create impactful, high quality artistic experiences
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