

★ ★ CHICAGO PREMIERE ★ ★

# SPILL

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY  
LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI

**Timeline**  
Theatre Company

PERFORMING AT

**STAGE** (773)

**BACKSTORY** YOUR GUIDE TO TIMELINE PRODUCTIONS



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Stage 773 for *Spill* by Leigh Fondakowski. Once again, TimeLine has expanded beyond our home on Wellington Avenue so that we can reach a broader audience and present more dynamic plays like this in our season.

Like many of you, I can vividly recall following the story of the explosion on board the BP-owned Deepwater Horizon oil rig in 2010 and the subsequent weeks seeing millions of barrels of oil ooze into the gulf. Riveted and sickened, I couldn't stop watching the coverage on TV or reading about its impact. And then, like so many tragedies, it was eclipsed by other news and gradually receded from consciousness.

It wasn't until I read Leigh's play that I recognized how much of the story was never heard and how disheartening it was that I—and much of the world—had moved on from the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history.

As Leigh has done throughout her career, working as the head writer on the groundbreaking play *The Laramie Project* and also as the writer and director of the riveting *The People's Temple*, she went directly to the source to interview those closest to the tragedy. Conducting hundreds of hours of interviews, along with Reeva Wortel, she spoke to the fishermen,

politicians, scientific experts, clean-up workers, and perhaps most strikingly, family members of the 11 men who lost their lives yet who were rarely part of the news.

Working with her other collaborators, Reeva, Sarah Lambert and Kelli Simpkins, Leigh has crafted a dramatic collage, presenting what is largely absent from our news sources and, too often, largely absent from the theatre—varied points of view, acknowledging that there truly are no easy answers.

When I first read *Spill*, I presumed that it would be a stinging rant against BP and the ills of offshore drilling. I immediately discovered a much more complicated, heart-wrenching and provocative web of stories. *Spill* not only exposed differing perspectives, but also turned the issue back onto us, examining all of our dependence on oil. It's in everything we do and touch and use—the transportation we take, the products we consume, the smart phones we can't seem to live without, even the laptop on which I write this note.

As Midwesterners, it's a tad too easy to watch this story unfolding in Louisiana at a remove, perhaps questioning the drilling that pervades that community. But the robust oil industry exists to feed an insatiable need that stems from every corner of this country, even the most liberal, tree-hugging bastions of deeply blue states.

*Spill* not only brings us face-to-face with those who lost the most, but it reminds us that we all have a role in the continually expanding big business of oil. And there is no easy path back.

TimeLine is grateful to Kelli Simpkins for first introducing us to this play and to Leigh for partnering with us over the last year to further develop and bring to life a story so vibrant, compelling and utterly necessary. And we express our deep gratitude to all who shared their stories.

Thank you for joining us for *Spill*.

Best,

***Spill* is a dramatic collage, presenting varied points of view and acknowledging that there truly are no easy answers**

## THE CASUALTIES

DEEPWATER HORIZON: APRIL 20, 2010



On April 20, 2010 a major blowout occurred on the Deepwater Horizon, an oil platform owned by BP and operated by Transocean in the Gulf of Mexico that was drilling at the Macondo well site. Eleven men were killed immediately. They are often forgotten in the aftermath of the oil spill that subsequently occurred—the worst spill in U.S. history. These men are:

**Jason Anderson**, 35, was a toolpusher, akin to a foreman who oversaw workers and the details of drilling and finishing wells, and had worked on oil rigs since 1995 in a variety of jobs. He had shared concerns about the safety procedures on the drilling platform with his father. He was the father of a daughter, Lacy, 5, and a son, Ryver, 1. His wife, Shelley, said Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday. Anderson began preparing a will in February 2010 and kept it in a spiral notebook. It sank with the rig. Jason would have been promoted to senior toolpusher and moved to another rig, Discovery Spirit, on April 21, the day after the blast.

**Aaron Dale Burkeen**, 37, was a crane operator on the Deepwater Horizon for 10 years. His death came on his wedding anniversary and four days before his birthday. He was survived by his wife, Rhonda; daughter, Aryn; and son, Timothy.

**Donald Clark**, 49, was an assistant driller who spent a decade with Transocean. He was scheduled to transfer to Discovery Spirit on April 21. He was survived by his wife, Sheila, and four children: James, Krystal, Donald Jr. and Tandra. He and Jason had helped bring the Deepwater Horizon from shipyard in South Korea in 2001.

**Eleven men were killed on the Deepwater Horizon; they are often forgotten in the aftermath of the oil spill that subsequently occurred.**

**Stephen Ray Curtis**, 40, was an assistant driller on the Deepwater Horizon. He was survived by his wife, Nancy; his daughter, Kala; and his son, Treavor. His mother Sissy Curtis spoke of the special bond between Stephen and Treavor, and that they enjoyed hunting, fishing, baseball and watching NASCAR. Stephen also would have transferred to Discovery Spirit the day after the explosion.

**Gordon Jones**, 28, was a mud engineer on the Deepwater Horizon. He was selected to work on the Deepwater Horizon after working on smaller offshore rigs. He arrived on the rig the day before the explosion. He died three days before his sixth wedding anniversary.



and 10 minutes after talking to his pregnant wife, Michelle. Their son, Maxwell, was born three weeks later. He also was survived by another son, Stafford. His sister, Kathleen Goodlife, described him in a victim impact statement as “extremely funny with an obnoxiously contagious laugh. He had a way to make anyone feel welcome no matter their background. He was a really outstanding guy.”

**Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27,** was a derrickhand aboard the Deepwater Horizon. He was survived by his wife, Courtney, and two daughters, Kalyee and Maddison. His daughter Kaylee’s third birthday was three days before the explosion. His daughter Maddison was just three months old. His wife wrote, “We were waiting for her daddy to come home to have her birthday party.” Just days before his last hitch on the Deepwater Horizon, Wyatt made Courtney promise to remarry, “if something happened to him.” He wanted his daughters to have a Daddy.

**Karl Kleppinger, Jr., 38,** was a floorhand who had worked with Transocean for 10 years. Kleppinger was an Army veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He was survived by his wife, Tracy, and his son, Aaron.

**Keith Blair Manuel, 56,** was a senior drilling fluids specialist. He had worked as a mud engineer since 1979. Manuel was newly wed and was survived by his wife and three grown daughters. One daughter, Jessica, wrote, “My dad was not only the best father ever, but after being in my 30s, was a man that I called friend.”

**Dewey A. Revette, 48,** was chief driller on the Deepwater Horizon. He was scheduled to leave the rig on April 21 to transfer to Discovery Spirit. Revette had been married to his wife, Sherri, for 26 years. He was survived by two daughters, Andrea and Alicia. He was described as a family man, fisherman and deer hunter. He had recently walked his eldest daughter, Andrea, down the aisle at her wedding.

**Shane Roshto, 22,** the youngest of the 11 men killed, was a floorhand who had joined Transocean in 2006. He was set to leave the rig on April 21. He was survived by his wife, Natalie, and his son, Blaine. He had his wedding date and son’s birthday written on the inside of his hard hat, to get him through tough times.

**Adam Weise, 24,** was a floorhand on the Deepwater Horizon. Weise drove 10 hours to Louisiana every three weeks to work on the rig. A high school football star, he spent off time hunting and fishing. He was scheduled to leave the rig on April 21. Adam was described by his mother Arlene as a practical joker with lots of friends.

To read biographies of other people featured in the play, visit [timelinetheatre.com/spill/resources](http://timelinetheatre.com/spill/resources).

*Pictured from left, starting previous page: Jason Anderson with Ryver; Aaron Dale Burkeen with Timothy and Erin; Donald Clark; Stephen Ray Curtis; Gordon Jones; Roy Wyatt Kemp; Karl Kleppinger; Keith Blair Manuel; Dewey A. Revette; Shane Roshto; Adam Weise.*

## THE SETTING

### ERODING COASTLINE AND LIVELIHOODS ON LOUISIANA’S GULF COAST



*A view of Louisiana wetlands. (Photo by Reeve Wortel)*

## The Louisiana coast has a complicated ecosystem.

Even before Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill, it was already dealing with erosion of shoreline and wetlands—since the 1900s, Louisiana has lost about 2,300 square miles of wetlands to the ocean.

This erosion is due to a number of historical factors, among them the great Mississippi River flood of 1927, water diversion programs that altered the flow of river silt, coastal development, and invading saltwater that killed marsh grasses and trees. Additionally, oil company explorations carved wells, channels and canals into the wetlands, which further destroyed their fragile ecosystems.

Scientists have confirmed that the BP oil spill accelerated land loss in the Gulf Coast. The spill brought oil that covered fragile grasses and coastal plants. When grasses die, their roots no longer hang on to soil, accelerating the coastal erosion of wetlands. And this loss further exacerbated the effects of hurricanes, because wetlands act as a natural buffer absorbing much of a hurricane’s water and force. With less land between homes and the ocean, the impact of hurricanes is greater.

In addition to these environmental losses, the Gulf States experienced a severe loss to their economies and to the livelihoods of the people who live there. Many people were employed by the oil industry and were impacted by the drilling moratorium. Those involved in fishing could not fish because of the oil slicks and risk of contamination. Tourism suffered as beaches were covered in oil. Five year later, these industries have been slow to recover.

## THE TIMELINE:

### THE DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLOSION, OIL SPILL, AND AFTERMATH

**April 20, 2010** A blowout leading to two explosions on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, 52 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana, kills 11 workers. Operator Transocean, under contract for BP, says it had no warning of trouble ahead of the blast. The rig had been drilling in about 5,000 ft. of water, pushing the boundaries of deep water drilling technology.

**April 22, 2010** The Deepwater Horizon, worth \$600 million, sinks to the bottom of the Gulf after burning for 36 hours, raising concerns of a catastrophic oil spill.

**April 25, 2010** BP sends undersea robots to the wellhead in an unsuccessful effort to activate the blowout preventer and stem the flow of oil.

**April 27, 2010** The U.S. government announces a federal investigation, to be led by the Coast Guard and the Minerals Management Service.

**April 29, 2010** The U.S. Coast Guard sets fire to patches of spilled oil in an effort to prevent the slick from reaching the Louisiana coastal wetlands. President Barack Obama pledges “every single available resource,” to help in the response effort.

**May 2, 2010** Obama makes his first trip to the Gulf Coast and says BP is responsible for the leak and for paying for the clean up.

**May 11, 2010** At a series of congressional hearings, BP, Transocean and Halliburton, the three companies involved in the Deepwater Horizon drilling operations, blame each other for the disaster. Obama calls their finger pointing a “ridiculous spectacle.”

**May 16, 2010** BP engineers successfully insert a tube in the pipe from



## The average American consumes 22 barrels of crude oil per year in the form of gasoline, heating oil, and other petroleum-based products.

On January 28, 1969, Union Oil's platform in the Santa Barbara Channel blew out and spilled an estimated 80,000 to 100,000 barrels of crude oil. Oil fouled beaches and killed wildlife, and there was a public outcry.

Just under a year later on December 30, 1970, a Shell Oil Platform in Bay Marchand off the coast of Louisiana exploded and caught fire. Four rig workers were killed and 37 were injured. An oil slick more than 20 miles wide formed as Shell struggled to stop the flow. The spill lasted for 137 days and at the time was the worst oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Oil wells have always been at risk for spills and environmental disasters. In recent years, the world has pushed into even more complicated and dangerous forms of oil exploration



**"The obligation to develop our natural resources carries with it the duty to protect our human resources. This country can no longer afford to squander valuable time before developing answers to pollution and oil slicks from wells, tankers, or any other source."**

— President Richard Nixon, Statement on Coastal Oil Pollution at Santa Barbara, California, February 11, 1969

such as fracking and deep-water oil wells. These high-risk drilling ventures have led to larger and more dangerous accidents. Yet the national memory of these disasters seems to wane quickly and promised safety reforms never seem sufficient for ever-expanding oil-drilling technology.

Why are these dangers tolerated and even encouraged? Perhaps because so far, the world runs on petroleum. Developed and developing regions demand more oil to run cars, electricity and electronics. In particular, the United States has long been one of the largest consumers of oil. The average American consumes 22 barrels of crude oil per year in the form of gasoline, heating oil, and other petroleum-based products.

Our relationship to petroleum is not just tied to cars and gasoline. Petroleum is still the primary source of energy that heats our homes and powers our lights. Petroleum products are in everything from soaps and cosmetics, to laptops and phones, to clothes and shoes, to toothbrushes and medicines. There is no way for modern Americans to avoid coming into contact with petroleum products over and over on a daily basis.

*Pictured at left: A graphic showing the structure of a semi-submersible platform (like the Deepwater Horizon). It shows how, buoyed by large pontoons, these rigs are anchored or use their own engines to stay in position above the well they are drilling, located far below on the sea floor. (Graphic adapted from "Report to the President: National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling")*

## THE INTERVIEW

WRITER AND DIRECTOR LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI



Leigh Fondakowski

**Writer/director Leigh Fondakowski (LF) shares reflections on the play and the process of creating it with Artistic Director PJ Powers (PJP).**

*This is an edited version. To read the extensive complete interview, visit [timelinetheatre.com/spill/resources.htm](http://timelinetheatre.com/spill/resources.htm).*

**(PJP)** What first drew you to this story?

**(LF)** Having done three major works about tragic events, I was hoping to turn my artistic attention toward other subjects and new processes. Once I visited the Gulf though, I was incredibly moved by the plight of the people living there. They are living in an already fragile ecosystem, and then BP hit. It was almost exactly five years after Katrina. One interviewee remarked that it was like getting stabbed in the same wound twice. I knew that there was an important American play here and I had to follow that hunch.

**(PJP)** Being there, how did things differ from what you had been seeing in the news?

**(LF)** The thing that is most striking is the juxtaposition between oil and nature. Southern Louisiana is one of the most beautiful natural environments on earth. Then, you turn a corner and all you see is oil rigs and production platforms and refineries. For the people there, the co-existence of industry with this natural beauty is just part of their way of life. But this idea that oil and nature can live side by side began to have cracks in it.

**(PJP)** What's your process for interviews?

**(LF)** It's strongly based on hunches. I literally go with my gut instinct—what and whose stories do I feel drawn to—and I proceed from there. You can start with a handful of interviews and then the tributaries from those are quite far reaching.

**(PJP)** What surprised you or took your research in new directions?

which most oil is leaking and begin to recover about 2,000 barrels per day.

**May 18, 2010** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration nearly doubles the no-fishing zone in waters affected by the spill. The area is 45,728 square miles, nearly 19% of the U.S. Gulf Waters.

**May 19, 2010** Crude oil washes ashore in Louisiana.

**May 22, 2010** Obama announces a bi-partisan commission to investigate the causes of the spill and make future recommendations for preventing spills.

**May 26, 2010** BP prepares to plug the leaking well with heavy drilling mud, a procedure called a "top kill." BP also attempts to clog the blowout preventer with shredded tires and golf balls, a procedure called a "junk shot." They will declare the "top kill" a failure three days later.

**May 27, 2010** BP becomes the worst oil spill in U.S. history, exceeding the Exxon Valdez spill. Obama halts all deep-water drilling in the Gulf and announces a six-month moratorium on new permits for deep-water drilling.

**May 28, 2010** Obama visits the Gulf Coast again and declares "the buck stops with me."

**June 3, 2010** BP places a cap, called the "lower marine riser package," atop the leaking wellhead.

**June 4, 2010** Obama takes a third trip to the region.

**June 8, 2010** The U.S. government says underwater oil plumes have travelled as far as 40 miles. Obama says on the *Today* show that he is trying to find out "whose ass to kick."

**June 10, 2010** A government panel increases the estimate of oil flowing into the Gulf to 25,000 to 30,000 barrels per day—more than 1 million



**(LF)** We thought we were going to be interviewing people impacted by the oil spill: clean-up workers, fishermen, politicians, religious leaders, and every-day citizens. We quickly discovered that a HUGE part of this story centered around the rig workers and their families. We also discovered how technically advanced deep water drilling was. Deep water drilling is often compared to space travel. I had no idea how dangerous it was.

**(PJP)** How do you shape hundreds of hours of interviews into a play?

**(LF)** Typically within a two-hour interview I know almost instantly if there is what I call "usable text," or text that feels theatrical or interesting or compelling. Certain moments stand out and they become "pillars" or "tent poles" for the construction of the play. I try to allow the material to speak to me about what the story is, rather than imposing a narrative on it. I think of myself as a listener first and then my task as an artist is to convey what I have found and discovered.

**(PJP)** *Spill* premiered in Louisiana in 2014 with many of those most affected by the tragedy in the audience. What was that like?

**(LF)** It is always a profound experience, and it is a privilege. My goal as an artist is to create something beautiful—art—from a tragic event. I hope to create a space for contemplation about the event beyond the tragedy. I have found that art does actually have this capacity—this healing power. It was a cathartic experience for most of them.

**(PJP)** How do you think the issues of the play will resonate with our Midwestern audience?

**(LF)** It is a story that could happen to any of us. No, most of us don't work

**"Noticing that oil is precious and acting accordingly would change a lot—just shifting our thought to the fact that it's not a cheap resource, but a precious one."**

on an offshore drill rig or fish for oysters, but there is not a person living who hasn't gone through a trauma or an unexpected change in their lives that has changed them forever.

**(PJP)** Each actor takes on numerous roles. What does it take to build such an ensemble?

**(LF)** This ensemble has been a joy. You have to get very lucky when you're building an ensemble from scratch. There is something mysterious about it. This group encourages one another, they believe in one another, they are willing to take risks. Each one is better because the others are there.

**(PJP)** This play offers no easy answers about oil drilling and its impact. What are your hopes for how people respond to *Spill*?

**(LF)** For me, *Spill* is as much about the fragility of human life, about love and about loss, as it is about oil. It's a play about human lives and how life changes as a result of an event like this.

Yes, *Spill* does point to larger themes for where we are as a society in terms of fossil fuels. We know that nature and our current oil-based economy are on a collision course. Most of us feel powerless to do anything about it, even if we deeply care.

Try going a day without petroleum products. You literally cannot do it. Our lives are inextricably linked with this industry and so is our economy. When the people of the Gulf say oil is a "way of life," they are right. But it is a way of life for all of us, too.

One of our characters says, "We're all in the same boat now," and truly we are. Whether you live in Wyoming or Louisiana or New York City, we all need water to survive and air to breathe, we need our land to not wash away under our feet, the eco-systems of the world need all of the species we are killing off, and we need them, too. If we are going to start talking about an issue like climate change in a real way, standing on two sides of the issue isn't going to get us to the solutions our future needs.

We really have our work cut out for us as a society, and my question is: Are we going to rise to the occasion?

gallons—or the equivalent of the Exxon Valdez spill every 8-10 days.

**June 14, 2010** Obama makes a fourth trip to the Gulf.

**June 15, 2010** Obama addresses the nation from the Oval Office, vowing, "We will make BP pay for the damage their company has caused."

**June 16, 2010** BP announces it will place \$20 billion in a fund to compensate victims of the oil spill and will set aside \$100 million to pay lost wages to oil-rig workers.

**June 17, 2010** BP chief executive Tony Hayward receives a tongue-lashing at a hearing in the U.S. Congress. Henry Waxman, chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, says BP's "complacency" before the explosion was "astonishing."

**June 22, 2010** A federal judge blocks the Obama administration's six-month moratorium on deep-water oil drilling, saying the ban cannot be justified. The administration quickly issues another moratorium with revised terms.

**July 5, 2010** BP says the oil spill response has cost the company \$3.2 billion, including costs of containing the spill and cleaning up the oil, and the cost of drilling relief wells and paying about half of the 95,000 claims it has received following the rig explosion.

**July 7, 2010** Oil from the spill reaches Texas; it has now affected all five U.S. Gulf Coast states.

**July 12, 2010** BP installs a "capping stack," a tighter containment cap, hoping to temporarily stop the flow of oil until relief wells are complete.

**July 15, 2010** With the new cap in place, BP says it has temporarily stopped the leak, but that it is not a permanent fix as relief wells are still weeks from completion. Obama hails "a positive sign."

**July 21, 2010** 2,381 oiled birds (1,047 of which are dead), 184 oiled turtles (17 of which are dead, and four oiled dolphins (three of which are dead) wash ashore.

**July 23, 2010** Tropical Storm Bonnie forces a four-day halt in recovery efforts. BP prepares for a "static kill"—pumping heavy mud into the top of the well through the new cap to push down the oil. The procedure is to be followed by a cement cap intended to permanently seal the well.

**July 27, 2010** BP announces that 53-year-old Hayward will step down on October 1. He will receive \$1.6 million in compensation and be recommended for the company's Russian operations. American Bob Dudley replaces him. BP reports a quarterly loss of \$17 billion.

**August 2, 2010** Responding to concerns that dispersant used after the spill may have been more widely used than the government ordered, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says in a study that the dispersant is no more toxic than oil alone.

**August 3, 2010** The U.S. government says the oil spill is officially the biggest leak ever, with 4.9 million barrels of oil leaked before the well was capped. Scientists say only one-fifth of the leaking oil—around 800,000 barrels—was captured during clean-up.

**August 4, 2010** The U.S. government says three-quarters of the oil spilled in the Gulf has been cleaned up or broken down by natural forces. Meanwhile, BP reports "encouraging" progress with the "static kill" operation to plug the well with mud and seal it with cement.

**August 9, 2010** BP announces that its total costs have reached \$6.1 billion. The total includes the spill response, containment, relief well drilling, and cementing of the damaged well. It also includes grants to Gulf States and \$319 million paid out in compensation to some of those affected.

**August 16, 2010** The U.S. announces that future applications for deep water offshore drilling will require an environmental assessment, ending a practice that allowed BP's Deepwater Horizon rig to drill with little scrutiny.

**August 19, 2010** A study published in a leading scientific journal confirms the presence of a toxic chemical residue one kilometer below the surface of the Gulf, but says it amounts to just 0.1% of the total amount spilled.

**September 3, 2010** Cost of the spill has risen to \$8 billion.

**September 8, 2010** In its own 193-page internal report into the spill, BP accepts some blame for the explosion and resulting leak, but also blames companies such as Transocean and Halliburton, which also worked on the well.

**September 17, 2010** BP pumps cement to seal the damaged well now that oil has been intercepted by a relief well.

**September 19, 2010** The ruptured well is finally sealed and "effectively dead," says the top U.S. federal official overseeing the disaster, Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen.

**January 11, 2011** The National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling releases their full report stating that the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig launched the worst oil spill in U.S. history, 210 million gallons.

**September 14, 2011** The final federal report is issued on the spill. It names BP, Transocean and Halliburton as sharing responsibility for the explosion that caused the spill.

**January 26, 2012** A federal judge in New Orleans rules that Transocean is not liable for compensatory damages sought by third parties.

**January 31, 2012** A federal judge in New Orleans rules that Halliburton is not liable for some compensatory damages sought by third parties.

**April 18, 2012** Court documents are filed revealing the March 2, 2012 settlement BP

reached with attorneys representing thousands of businesses and individuals affected by the spill. A federal judge must give preliminary approval of the pact, which BP estimates will total about \$7.8 billion.

**April 24, 2012** The first criminal charges are filed in connection with the oil spill. Kurt Mix, a former engineer for BP, is charged with destroying 200-plus text messages about the oil spill, including one concluding that the undersea gusher was far worse than reported at the time.

**November 15, 2012** Attorney General Eric Holder announces that BP will plead guilty to manslaughter charges related to the rig explosion and will pay \$4.5 billion in government penalties. Separate from the corporate manslaughter charges, a federal grand jury returns an indictment charging Robert Kaluza and Don Vidrine, the BP supervisors on board the Deepwater Horizon on the day of the explosion, with 23 criminal counts.

**January 3, 2013** The Justice Department announces that Transocean Deepwater Inc. has agreed to plead guilty to a violation of the Clean Water Act and pay \$1.4 billion in fines.

**February 25, 2013** The trial to determine how much BP owes in civil damages under the Clean Water Act begins.

**September 19, 2013** In federal court in New Orleans, Halliburton pleads guilty to destroying test results that investigators had sought as

evidence. The company is given the maximum fine of \$200,000 on the charge.

**September 30, 2013** The second phase of the civil trial begins. This part focuses on how much oil was spilled and if BP was negligent because of its lack of preparedness.

**December 18, 2013** Mix is convicted of destroying evidence.

**September 4, 2014** A federal judge in Louisiana finds that BP was "grossly negligent" in the run-up to the 2010 disaster, which could quadruple the penalties it would have to pay under the Clean Water Act to more than \$18 billion. Fellow Deepwater Horizon partners Transocean and Halliburton, are found to be "negligent."

**April 17, 2015** As of this date, no one has served time in connection with the spill.

**October 6, 2015** BP agrees to pay \$20.8 billion to settle all civil claims arising from the spill. \$5.5 billion is tagged for federal Clean Water Act penalties, \$8.1 billion for natural resource damages, \$600 million for other claims, and \$700 million for claims that may yet arise. BP estimates the cost of the disaster at \$54.6 billion, but others estimate the cost may be closer to \$70 billion.

**February 2016** BP employees Don Vidrine and Bob Kaluza will stand trial for 11 counts of involuntary manslaughter for the deaths of the 11 workers killed on the Deepwater Horizon.

## BACKSTAGE

CELEBRATING TIMELINE'S HISTORY MAKERS

On September 28, we were thrilled to welcome TimeLine's most generous donors to the History Makers Celebration. The event, held at The Casino, featured an artistic conversation between Artistic Director PJ Powers and legendary actor Mike Nussbaum. We are so grateful to have opportunities like this to gather with our passionate donors to thank them for their support. To learn more about the benefits of being a TimeLine donor, please visit [timelinetheatre.com/donate](http://timelinetheatre.com/donate).



Pictured from left: Special guest Mike Nussbaum and Artistic Director PJ Powers; Kathie Romies, Company Member and Director of Marketing and Communications Lara Goetsch, and Janice Feinberg; and General Manager Dan McArdle, David Hiller, Darcy Evon and Board President John Sirek.

**SAVE THE DATE!** TimeLine's biggest party and fundraiser of the year, Step Into Time, will take place on Friday, March 18, 2016 at the Ritz Carlton. We would love to see you there!

Learn more at [timelinetheatre.com/step\\_into\\_time](http://timelinetheatre.com/step_into_time).

## BACKSTORY: THE CREDITS

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### Our Mission:

TimeLine Theatre presents stories inspired by history that connect with today's social and political issues.

Our collaborative artistic team produces provocative theatre and educational programs that engage, entertain and enlighten.

## WHAT IS THE FLEXPASS?

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Now on sale: Premium, Anytime, Weekday and Preview FlexPasses available in 4-Admission, 3-Admission and 2-Admission packages. Pay as little as \$40 and up to just \$204 to see all that our 19th season has to offer!

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– Chicago Sun-Times

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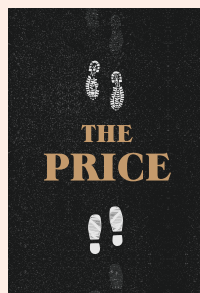
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### CHICAGO PREMIERE

by DOMINIQUE MORISSEAU  
directed by RON OJ PARSON

**January 12 – April 10, 2016**

This powerful and timely drama from one of the country's most exciting playwrights—already a hit in New York and London—is about family, survival and the nature of liberation.

**“NOT ONLY DYNAMIC, IT’S DYNAMITE”**

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### CHICAGO PREMIERE

by LUCY KIRKWOOD  
directed by NICK BOWLING

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