

PLAYBILL®

The Chatham Community Players
Our 105th Season • 1922-2027

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

by Larissa FastHorse

*Directed by
Alysia Homminga*

SEP 18 - OCT 3, 2026

The Chatham Playhouse
23 N Passaic Ave, Chatham, NJ

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A Note From Our Director

The Thanksgiving Play was written as a challenge. Playwright Larissa FastHorse challenged herself to write a play about Indigenous issues and identity... without any Native characters in the play. She felt pressured to do this because she kept hearing that plays with Native characters were “uncastable,” or rather companies were not willing or able to put in the effort it took to find Native actors to cast in their shows. Thus, *The Thanksgiving Play* was born and in 2023 it became Broadway’s first play written by a Native American woman, that we know of.

The process of creating the world of this play has been a thrilling tightrope walk between satire verging on absurd and making conversations about whiteness, allyship, and indigenous history accessible to a broader audience. What I have always been drawn to about this piece is its ability to address uncomfortable social and political topics through satire. Comedy is a unifying force and a vehicle for reflection, understanding, and, of course, laughter.

The Thanksgiving Play is a bit of a road map of what not to do, especially for well meaning white folks who attempt to listen and learn. It can be easy to avoid hard questions, such as how current Native people feel about “The First Thanksgiving”? How do we address our relationship with Indigenous people? What needs to change in order to live in a way that we are proud of? Questions whose answers get complicated and nuanced pretty quickly.

Doing nothing is the easy, safe choice. Lean in, embrace the messy, and learn something about Indigenous culture - I guarantee you will be better off for it. If you are unsure of where to begin, here are a few suggestions:

- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *All My Relations* Podcast with Matika Wilbur & Temryss Lane
- *The Rediscovery of America: Native Peoples and the Unmaking of U.S. History* by Ned Blackhawk
- The National Museum of the American Indian near Bowling Green in Manhattan

Though *The Thanksgiving Play* is a one-act play, Larissa FastHorse intends for the second act to happen after the play is done. The “second act” encompasses the conversations, questioning, and reflections that audiences participate in because of the play’s content. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. We hope “Act Two” is inspired by your experience.

THE CHATHAM COMMUNITY PLAYERS
Proudly Presents

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY

by
Larissa FastHorse

Directed by
ALYSIA HOMMINGA

Produced by
JESSICA PHELAN
MISSY RENWICK

Stage Manager
SARAH PHARAON

Set Design
ROY PANCIROV

Costume Design
JACKIE JACOBI

Lighting Design
JACKSON GOULD

Sound Design
JOE DeVICO

Scenic Painting
JOËLLE BOCHNER

Fight Coordinator
STEVE RUSKIN

Asst. Stage Manager
JORDYN CHAIT

Wigs Designer
ALYSON PEMOULIÉ HALTER

Present Day, High School Theatre Classroom.
The Thanksgiving Play will be presented without an intermission.

Broadway Premiere Produced by Second Stage Theatre, New York, 2023
Carole Rothman, Artistic Director, Khady Kamara, Executive Director

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of THE THANKSGIVING PLAY in 2018

THE THANKSGIVING PLAY was commissioned and originally produced by Artists Repertory Theatre Damaso Rodriguez, Artistic Director Sarah Horton, Managing Director Portland, Oregon
Playwrights Horizons is dedicated to cultivating the most important American playwrights, composers, and lyricists, as well as developing and producing their bold new plays and musicals. Tim Sanford became Artistic Director in 1996 and Leslie Marcus has been Managing Director since 1993. Under their decades of leadership, Playwrights builds upon its diverse and renowned body of work, counting 400 writers among its artistic roster. In addition to its onstage work each season, Playwrights' singular commitment to nurturing American theater artists guides all of the institution's multifaceted initiatives: our acclaimed New Works Lab, a robust commissioning program, an innovative curriculum at its Theater School, and more. Robert Moss founded Playwrights in 1971 and cemented the mission that continues to guide the institution today. André Bishop served as Artistic Director from 1981-1992. Don Scardino succeeded him and served until 1996. Over its 47-year history, Playwrights has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including six Pulitzer Prizes, 13 Tony Awards, and 39 Obie Awards.

The Thanksgiving Play is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

September 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, October 2, 3, 2026

THE CHATHAM PLAYHOUSE
23 North Passaic Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey

Cast Members

Logan Gabi Wagner Mann
Jaxton Andrew Froehlich
Alicia Giuliana Sammarro
Caden Alan Ellis

Production Team

Directed by Alysia Homminga
Co-Producer Jessica Phelan
Co-Producer Missy Renwick
Stage Manager Sarah Pharaon
Asst. Stage Manager Jordyn Chait
Set Design Roy Pancirov
Lighting Design Jackson Gould
Sound Design Joe DeVico
Costume Design Jackie Jacobi
Scenic Painting Joëlle Bochner
Fight Coordinator Steve Ruskin
Wig Designer Alyson Pemoulié Halter

Special Thanks

Alan Van Antwerp, Eileen Cadorette, Leslie Ellis, Sophie Hill, Hailey Sanfilippo,
Sammy Sanfilippo, The Stanley Center, St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Chatham United Methodist Church

Thanksgiving Pageant Performers

Jack Ennis, Samantha Iacovitti, Anthony Bacolo,
Abigail Bacolo, Kait MaCauley, Emma Rolon

BIOS



Alan Ellis

Caden

Alan is happy to be back on the Chatham Playhouse stage. Past CCP roles include *Sideways* (Brad, et al), *Inspecting Carol* (Larry Vauxhall), and *Time Stands Still* (Richard Ehrlich). As always, much love and thanks to Leslie who continues to inspire me both onstage and off.



Andrew Froehlich

Jaxton

Andrew is excited to be back on stage at Chatham. Recent credits include *Sideways* (Miles) here at CCP, *The Minutes* (Mr. Breeding) at Summit Playhouse, and staged readings of *Ghosts* (Oswald) and *Waiting for Lefty* (Miller) at Westfield Community Players. Much love to his wife, Christina, and his two kids, Anna and Chelsea, for their love and support.



Gabi Wagner Mann

Logan

Gabi is happy to be back at CCP. Other CCP credits include *Lifespan of a Fact*, *Jersey Voices '23* (actor & writer), *The Flick* (director) & *Stage Kiss* (director). She lived in LA for 20 years and did lots of TV, film and theatre there, has a BA in Theatre (Smith), an MFA in Play/Screenwriting (PPU). She enjoys her family, yoga, writing, poker, sleeping & dreaming.
[@gabiwagnermann](#)



Giuliana Sammarro

Alicia

Giuliana is thrilled to be onstage with Chatham Players! NJ credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Studio), *Sense and Sensibility* (Summit), and *The Polar Express Train Ride* (Whippany). Offstage, she coaches at [solidcore] and teaches at Gateway to the Arts. Huge thanks to her husband, Mike, for always cheering her on, and to cast & production for this wonderful experience!

BIOS



Alysia Homminga

Directed by

Alysia Homminga is a Brooklyn based stage and intimacy director whose work seeks to challenge assumptions about the legacies and histories we are taught. She currently works at Expand the Canon and has trained with The Juilliard School, Theatrical Intimacy Education, and Tectonic Theater Project. BA: Kalamazoo College. SDC Associate Member. Thanks for a wonderful Chatham debut!



Jessica Phelan

Co-Producer

Jessica has previously produced *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Jersey Voices* since 2019. Behind the scenes, she worked on props for last season's *The Drowsy Chaperone* and is the current theater president. Previous CCP onstage credits include *Home, I'm Darling* (Fran), *World Builders* (Whitney), *Grand Horizons* (Jess), and *Play On!* (Aggie).



Missy Renwick

Co-Producer

Missy Renwick is an actor, writer, and director working in NJ. Select acting credits: Eliza in *My Fair Lady* (Summit) Agnes in *Agnes of God* (Summit), Cinderella in *Into the Woods* (Chester), Portia in *Something Rotten* (PIP), Carla in *Nine* (CCP). Thank you for supporting your local community theater and she hopes you enjoy the show!



Jackie Jacobi

Costume Design

Jackie Jacobi is excited to return behind the scenes at CCP! Jackie has worked as an actor, director, costumer, and stage manager for productions throughout New York City and New Jersey. By day, she is a high school English teacher, and the author of a young adult novel. Thanks to JP and SP for their friendship and support.

BIOS



Jackson Gould

Lighting Design

Jackson is delighted to be back at CCP after designing for the past two years of *Jersey Voices*! Recent credits include World Premieres of *The Smoker* and *Best Line Wins* at the Contemporary American Theater Festival (Asst. Lighting Designer) and *Broadway is Trans* (PA, BTLK). He is pursuing his BFA in Drama in the Production & Design Studio at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.



Joe DeVico

Sound Design

Joe is the resident sound designer here at CCP. An award-winning designer, Joe has created original music and designs for multiple theater companies in both NY and NJ. Joe has also worked in the music departments for multiple Broadway shows including *Come Fly Away*, *Baby It's You*, *Honeymoon In Vegas* and *An American in Paris* and recently finished recording *The Nutty Professor* cast recording set to be released this year.



Alyson Pemoulié Halter

Wig Designer

Alyson has been involved in NJ theater for 25 years, both on and off stage. So far this year she has designed wigs for 9 shows, including *Drowsy Chaperone* here at Chatham! Alyson has appeared at Chatham in *Tuck Everlasting*, *JV B-Sides* and *Under the Velvet Elvis*, and directed *Sexpo 2091* for *Jersey Voices* and *Eleemosynary* for Sundays at 7. She'll be taking a small break from wigs to direct *The Other Place*, opening in February! @wigsbyph



Sarah Pharaon

Stage Manager

This is Sarah's fourth time stage managing. She produces our Black Box Series, chairs our Outreach program and has appeared in *August: Osage County*, *Angels in America*, *Bug*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Crimes of the Heart* and was Perry-nominated for her roles in *Time Stands Still*, *The Humans*, and *Jersey Voices 2025*. For Rami, who will love the humor of TTP and makes sure I keep mine.

BIOS



Jordyn Chait

Asst. Stage Manager

Jordyn is thrilled to be working on her first Chatham production and to be a part of this production team for *The Thanksgiving Play*. Previous productions include *Psycho Beach Party* at InterACT and *My Fair Lady* at Summit Playhouse. She would like to thank Sarah for being the best teammate throughout this process, as well as all of her friends and family for their support.



Steve Ruskin

Fight Coordinator

It's nice to do a comedic fight scene. Thanks to Larry Fine. Recently Steve did fight choreography for *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really* (Chester), *Of Mice And Men* (Montville), *Tape, Any Night* (Chatham) and *Shawshank Redemption* (Somerset). He teaches Tai Chi & Wing Chun Kung-Fu.

AUDITION NOTICE

November 4, 5 @ 7:00pm

**The Other
Place**

by Shaun White

FEB 5-14

*Directed by
Alyson Demoulié Halter*

2026-2027 VOLUNTEER COUNCIL

We offer a fun and welcoming environment! Whether you're a seasoned theater pro or just looking to lend a hand, there's a place for you behind the scenes or in the spotlight! Visit ChathamPlayers.org/Volunteer.

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The Chatham Community Players have been entertaining residents of Morris County and the surrounding area since 1922. We continue to be a vital cultural component of the Chatham community, Morris County, and the surrounding area. Find more about our shows at ChathamPlayers.org/Past-Seasons.

A A Chorus Line ('95-'96) A Christmas Carol ('88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '99, '01, '03, '05, '08, '10, '12, '14, '16, '18, '20, '22, '24) A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum ('90-'91) A Little Night Music ('00-'01) A Man For All Seasons ('78-'79) A Midsummer Night's Dream ('32) A Midsummer Night's Dream ('96-'97) A Streetcar Named Desire ('70, '98) A Thousand Clowns ('77-'78) A View From the Bridge ('06-'07) A Welcome Stranger ('41-'42) Adam and Eva ('34-'35) Affairs of State ('53-'54) Ah, Wilderness! ('07-'08) All My Sons ('00-'01) Amadeus ('95-'96) Amahl and the Night Visitors ('06-'07) Angel Street ('47-'48) Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches ('13-'14) Anne of the Thousand Days ('13-'14) Annie ('84-'85) Annie Get Your Gun ('82-'83) Any Night ('25-'26) Anything Goes ('71-'72) Applause ('80-'81) Arsenic and Old Lace ('44-'45) August: Osage County ('15-'16)	 Distinguished Gathering ('40-'41) Don't Drink the Water ('69-'70) Dracula ('81-'82) E Enchanted April ('04-'05) F Fat Pig ('23-'24) Fiddler on the Roof ('73, '96) Finian's Rainbow ('54-'55) For Love or Money ('49-'50) Forty Carats ('73-'74) G Gentlemen Prefer Blondes ('66-'67) George M! ('79-'80) Girl Crazy ('58-'59) Glengarry Glen Ross ('10-'11) Godspell ('11-'12) Goodbye May Fancy ('51-'52) Grand Horizons ('23-'24) Greece ('17-'18) Gruesome Playground Injuries ('22-'23) Guys and Dolls ('60, '87) Gypsy ('78-'79) H Harvey ('59, '89) Hay Fever ('33-'34) Hello, Dolly! ('75-'76) Her Master's Voice ('39-'40) Home, I'm Darling ('24-'25) How I Learned to Drive ('03-'04)	 Night Watch ('95-'96) NINE ('23-'24) No Sex Please, We're British ('82-'83) Nurse Jane ('14-'15) O Of Mice and Men ('97-'98) Oklahoma! ('14-'15) Oliver! ('81, '09) On Golden Pond ('90-'91) One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest ('99-'00) Other Desert Cities ('18-'19) Our Town ('93-'94) Outward Bound ('41-'42) P Pajama Game ('15-'16) Penny Wise ('44-'45) Peter Pan ('85-'86) Petticoat Fever ('45, '60) Picnic ('66-'67) Pippin ('82, '05) Play On! 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('15-'16) Spatter Pattern ('14-'15) Stage Kiss ('25-'26) Steel Magnolias ('17-'18) Sugar ('75-'76) Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street ('97-'98) Sylvia ('97-'98) T Take Her She's Mine ('63-'64) Talk Radio ('16-'17) Tape ('24-'25) Ten Little Indians ('49-'50) That Championship Season ('94-'95) The 39 Steps ('12-'13) The Bad Man ('32) The Beauty Queen of Leenane ('23-'24) The Butler Didn't Do It ('46-'47) The Caine Mutiny Court Martial ('63-'64) The Chocolate Soldier ('50-'51) The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) ('99-'00) The Corn Is Green ('54-'55) The Crucible ('94-'95) The Curse of an Aching Heart ('88-'89)	 The Desk Set ('58-'59) The Desperate Hours ('01-'02) The Diary of Anne Frank ('90-'91) The Dover Road ('27) The Dresser ('84-'85) The Drowsy Chaperone ('25-'26) The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds ('91-'92) The Fantasticks ('73, '92, '12) The Firefly ('53-'54) The Flick ('22-'23) The First Mrs. Fraser ('36-'37) The Forty-Niners ('48-'49) The Foreigner ('92-'93) The Forty-Niners ('48-'49) The Front Page ('71-'72) The Ghost Train ('42-'43) The Glass Menagerie ('55, '88) The Graduate ('09-'10) The Grapes of Wrath ('11-'12) The Happy Time ('54-'55) The Humans ('19-'20) The Importance of Being Earnest ('18-'19) The Impossible Years ('10-'11) The King and I ('71-'72) The Knack ('74-'75) The Lifespan of a Fact ('22-'23) The Lion in Winter ('87, '15) The Little Foxes ('45-'46) The Madwoman of Chailot ('74-'75) The Maker of Dreams & In The Zone ('23) The Male Animal ('62-'63) The Man Who Came To Dinner ('52, '76) The Miracle Worker ('89-'90) The Moon Is Down ('65-'66) The Mousetrap ('80-'81) The Music Man ('76-'77) The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 ('91-'92) The Normal Heart ('14-'15) The Odd Couple ('62-'66) The Owl and the Pussycat ('88-'89) The Philadelphia Story ('55-'56) The Pillowman ('09-'10) The Pirates of Penzance ('83-'84) The Prisoner of Second Ave. ('75-'76) The Pursuit of Happiness ('48-'49) The Royal Family ('79-'80) The Secret Garden ('98-'99) The Solid Gold Cadillac ('57-'58) The Sound of Music ('72-'73) The Spitfire Grill ('03-'04) The Taming of the Shrew ('12-'13) The Teahouse of the August Moon ('61-'62) The Three Musketeers ('14-'15) The Torch Bearers ('36-'37) The Unsinkable Molly Brown ('79-'80) The Valiant ('34-'35) Things I Know To Be True ('25-'26) Third Best Sport ('60-'61) Three One-Act Plays ('22, '25) Time Out for Ginger ('56-'57) Time Stands Still ('21-'22) To Kill A Mockingbird ('03-'04) Tuck Everlasting ('19, '21)
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A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Philip Wm. McKinley
and Suzanne Buhner

Directed by Rick Joyce

*Adapted from the
letters and writings of
Charles Dickens*

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