



EXPLORING TODAY'S TOPICS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE PAST

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

CHICAGO PREMIERE

THE 來自中國的女人
CHINESE LADY

by **Lloyd Suh**
directed by **Helen Young**

scenic designer **Arnel Sancianco, U.S.A.**
costume designer **Izumi Inaba, U.S.A.**
lighting designer **John Culbert, U.S.A. ^**
sound designers **Forrest Gregor** and **André Pluess, U.S.A. ^**
properties designer **Rowan Doe**
dialect director **Eva Breneman ^**
dramaturg **Yiwen Wu**
stage manager **Jill Yetsky***
featuring **Mi Kang*** and **Glenn Obrero***

May 13 – June 18, 2022 (previews 5/8 – 5/12)

The Chinese Lady is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Co-world premiere presented at Barrington Stage

(Julianne Boyd, Artistic Director; Branden Huldeen, Artistic Producer), Pittsfield, MA, July 2018.

Commissioned by and co-world premiere presented by Ma-Yi Theater Company (Ralph B. Peña, Artistic Director) in New York City.

Developed with support of the Roe Green Award at Cleveland Play House.

The Chinese Lady is supported in part by



Additional support provided by
The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation



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

Those designers and scenic artists identified by U.S.A. are members of United Scenic Artists, IATSE Local 829, AFL-CIO

^ TimeLine Associate Artist

CAST

Mi Kang* Afong Moy
Glenn Obrero* Atung

Understudies: Miriam Lee (*Afong Moy*) and Yuchi Chiu (*Atung*). Understudies will never substitute for a listed player unless an announcement is posted at the performance.

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

SETTING

The United States, beginning in 1834.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Associate Director **Maura Kidwell**
Production Assistant / COVID Compliance Officer **Gianni Carcagno**
Associate Costume Designer **Finnegan Chu**
Dramaturgical Display Designer **Dina Spoerl**
Assistant Lighting Designer **Mel Williams**
Assistant Dramaturgs **Alisa Boland, Wenke (Coco) Huang**
Scenic Supervisor **Jessica Kuehnau Wardell**
Charge Artist **Emmanuel Jimenez**
Costume Supervisor **Megan Pirtle**
Lighting Supervisor **Mark Brown**
Assistant Lighting Supervisor **Josiah Croegaert**
Audio Supervisor **Averi Paulsen**
Marketing Consultant **Jinghe Zhong**

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 virtual), our blog Behind the 'Line, and more. Explore all the resources available at timelinetheatre.com/chinese-lady.

VISIT THE ONLINE LOBBY EXPERIENCE FOR *THE CHINESE LADY*



Our space here at Theater Wit is limited, so we've created an expanded lobby experience for you to explore online! **Scan the QR Code at left or visit timelinetheatre.com/chinese-lady-lobby to find additional content and interactive activities**, including:

- Online versions of the materials displayed at Theater Wit, for further perusal
- An invitation to share personal reflections in response to the play and its themes
- Ways to take action to engage with and support the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community
- Plus videos, interviews, and much more!

VISIT TIMELINE'S WEBSITE FOR SELECTED RESOURCES
OFFERED WITH CHINESE TRANSLATION.

更多本剧相关的中文材料，请至剧院官网阅览。

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TimeLine Theatre is on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube at [@TimeLineTheatre](https://www.instagram.com/TimeLineTheatre). **Don't forget to tag us and use the hashtag [#TheChineseLady](https://twitter.com/TheChineseLady) and/or [#TimeLineTheatre](https://twitter.com/TimeLineTheatre).**



JOIN *THE CHINESE LADY* VIRTUAL DISCUSSIONS

Join us for these online conversations—they are FREE and open to all, but reservations are required. Visit timelinetheatre.com/chinese-lady for information and to make your reservation.

VIRTUAL POST-SHOW DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday, May 24 and Tuesday, June 14 at 7pm (via Zoom)

An informal discussion hosted by a TimeLine Company Member and featuring members of the production team and special guests.

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOLARS PANEL

Sunday, June 12 at 7pm (via Zoom)

A one-hour panel discussion featuring experts on the themes and issues of the play alongside a member of the production team in a moderated discussion.

BIOGRAPHIES



MI KANG (*Afong Moy*) is so excited to make her TimeLine Theatre debut in *THE CHINESE LADY*. She will be graduating with her MFA in Acting from Northwestern University in 2022. Select school credits include *PEERLESS*, *CRY IT OUT*, and *HEDDA GABLER*. Mi

was previously based in Seattle, where select credits include *JOHN* (ArtsWest Playhouse), *THE JOURNAL OF BEN UCHIDA* (Seattle Children's Theatre), *JANE EYRE* and *A TALE FOR TIME BEING* (Book-It Repertory Theatre), and *THE GREAT INCONVENIENCE* (Annex Theatre).



GLENN OBRERO (*Atung*) is thrilled to make his TimeLine debut! Select theatre credits include *THE GREAT LEAP* (Steppenwolf and Asolo Repertory), *20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA* (Looking-glass), *SCIENTIFIC METHOD* (Rivendell), and *IN TO AMER-*

ICA (Griffin). Television credits include *CHICAGO FIRE* (NBC) and *NEXT* (FOX). Glenn is a graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in Acting and is represented by Gray Talent Group. Endless love and gratitude to his family and friends. IG: @glennlaces



MIRIAM LEE (*Afong Moy U/S*) is so excited to make her TimeLine Theatre debut. She can be seen on *CHICAGO MED*, *CHICAGO FIRE*, *CHICAGO PD*, and *EMPIRE*. She was on the cover of the *Chicago Tribune's* "Hot New Faces" list back in 2015 and played Nora in *A*

DOLLS HOUSE (Definition). Since then, she graduated law school and is now working as a public interest lawyer representing indigent juveniles at Cabrini Green Legal Aid. She is thrilled to be back in the theatre and hopes to continue to combine her two passions of public interest law and acting.



YUCHI CHIU (*Atung U/S*) is excited to make his TimeLine debut! Chicago credits include *DRIVE-IN TO THE END OF THE WORLD* (Sideshow), *EXERCISE YOUR DEMONS* (Victory Gardens), *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE* (American Blues), *HOW WE NAVIGATE SPACE* (Strawdog),

THE MISCELLANY (The Passage Theatre), and *BAKED! THE MUSICAL* (Underscore). Film credits include *BJ'S MOBILE GIFT SHOP* (Sundance Film Festival). Yuchi is a graduate of and teacher at Black Box Acting Studio and is proudly represented by DDO Artists Agency.

LLOYD SUH (*Playwright*) is the author of *THE CHINESE LADY*, *CHARLES FRANCIS CHAN JR.'S EXOTIC ORIENTAL MURDER MYSTERY*, *AMERICAN HWANGAP*, *JESUS IN INDIA*, *THE WONG KIDS IN THE SECRET OF THE SPACE CHUPACABRA GO!*, *FRANKLINLAND*, *GREAT WALL STORY*, and more, produced with Ma-Yi, Magic, EST, NAATCO, La Mama, Children's Theatre Company, Guthrie with Mu, and others, including internationally at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and with PCPA in Seoul, Korea. He has received the Horton Foote Prize, the Herb Alpert Award in the Arts, the Helen Merrill Award, the Lilah Kan Red Socks Award, and is a current Guggenheim Fellow. He served from 2005-10 as Artistic Director of Second Generation and Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writers Lab, and from 2011-2020 as Director of Artistic Programs at The Lark. He was elected in 2016 to the Dramatists Guild Council.

HELEN YOUNG (*Director*) returns to TimeLine, where she previously directed *SETTING THE STAGE: THE CHINESE LADY*, the 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*. Chicago credits include *WILD BOAR* and lead director for *NEW CHINA FESTIVAL* (Silk Road Rising), *AMERICAN HWANGAP* (Jeff Recommended) and *TINY DYNAMITE* (Halcyon/A-Squared), and *TEA* (Jeff Recommended; Prologue Theatre). Other directing credits include work with Chicago Dramatists, Remy Bumpo, Our Perspectives, Artemisia, Artistic Home, and New York's Miranda Theatre at the Cherry Lane. Helen is also an actor (SAG/AFTRA) and serves on the boards of Token Theatre and Chicago Dramatists.

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ARNEL SANCIANCO (*Scenic Designer*) returns to TimeLine, where he previously designed MASTER CLASS and BOY. He is an award winning set designer and currently a professor of scenic design at Arizona State University. Credits include A DOLL'S HOUSE (Writers), NINA SIMONE: FOUR WOMEN (Arizona Theatre Company), ACOUSTIC ROOSTER'S BARNYARD BOOGIE (Kennedy Center), PHOTOGRAPH 51 and THE BELLE OF AMHERST (Court), THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT (Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), THE COLOR PURPLE (Drury Lane Theatre), TWELFTH NIGHT (American Players Theatre), PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER (La Jolla Playhouse), LOTTERY DAY (Goodman), LANDLADIES, INTO THE BREECHES (Northlight), THE NERD and THE ALL NIGHT STRUT (Milwaukee Rep), and I AM NOT YOUR PERFECT MEXICAN DAUGHTER, WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT, and THE CRUCIBLE (Steppenwolf).

IZUMI INABA (*Costume Designer*) is thrilled to be back at TimeLine Theatre, where she previously designed KILL MOVE PARADISE (Best Costume Design, Black Theatre Alliance Award). Recent credits include FAHRENHEIT 451 (Indiana Repertory), SOLARIS (Griffin), PASSAGE (Remy Bumppo), THE ROYALE (Kansas City Repertory), AN AMERICAN DREAM (Kentucky Opera), and THE KING AND I (Drury Lane). United Scenic Artists Local USA 829.

JOHN CULBERT (*Lighting Designer*) returns to TimeLine, where he is an Associate Artist and previously designed CHIMERICA, JUNO, and THE FARNSWORTH INVENTION. He was a faculty member and dean of The Theatre School at DePaul University for many years, the alma mater of TimeLine's six founding Company Members. Other Chicago credits include OTHELLO, THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH, THE HARD PROBLEM, INVISIBLE MAN, CAROLINE OR CHANGE, and CAROUSEL (Court), WHITE GUY ON THE BUS and A CIVIL WAR CHRISTMAS (Northlight), TWELFTH NIGHT and ARCADIA (Writers), REGINA (Lyric Opera of Chicago), ARGONAUTIKA (Lookingglass), and HAVING OUR SAY and TWO TRAINS RUNNING (Goodman). Regional credits include productions with Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Long Wharf Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, McCarter Theatre, and Shakespeare Theatre Company. International credits include productions with Singapore Repertory and Opera National du Rhin. Other projects include the lighting design for the Chicago Park District's Buckingham Fountain.

FORREST GREGOR (*Sound Designer*) is from Portland, Oregon, and is very excited to be making his

TimeLine debut! His previous design credits include PEERLESS, V.I.P., BARBECUE, GOD OF CARNAGE, LOVE AND INFORMATION, and MARISOL at DePaul University. This past summer, Forrest was the associate sound designer and A2 for SANCTUARIES: A JAZZ CHAMBER OPERA produced by Third Angle New Music in Portland, where he is also an assistant audio engineer at Open Field Recording. Forrest is currently pursuing a BFA in Sound Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University, where he is finishing up his third year. Visit forrestgregor.com.

ANDRÉ PLUSS (*Sound Designer*) is an Associate Artist at TimeLine, where his credits include OSLO, SPILL and CHIMERICA. Broadway credits include THE MINUTES (Cort/Studio 54), 33 VARIATIONS (Eugene O'Neill Theatre), I AM MY OWN WIFE (Lyceum Theatre), and METAMORPHOSES (Circle in the Square). Off-Broadway credits include THE CLEAN HOUSE (Lincoln Center) and MILK LIKE SUGAR and BFE (Playwrights Horizons). Regional credits include multiple productions with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Center Theatre Group, Yale Repertory, Arena Stage, Goodman, Steppenwolf, Chicago Shakespeare, Court, Berkeley Repertory, Williamstown Theatre Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, The Huntington, and South Coast Repertory. He's received multiple Joseph Jefferson Awards, an Ovation Award, Drama Critics Circle Award, Barrymore Award, Helen Hayes Award, and Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel nominations for composition and design. André is an ensemble member of Lookingglass Theatre Company.

ROWAN DOE (*Properties Designer*) is thrilled to make their debut at TimeLine Theatre. Recent credits include props design for PASSAGE (Remy Bumppo), ONCE UPON A MATTRESS (Theo Ubique), SPAY (Rivendell), props assistant for WHEN HARRY MET REHAB (Greenhouse Theatre), and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre). Technical direction credits include TRAGEDY OF KING CHRISTOPHE (The House) and THE BLUEST EYE (Chicago International Puppet Theatre Festival).

EVA BRENNEMAN (*Dialect Director*) is a TimeLine Associate Artist who has worked on more than 30 TimeLine productions, including RUTHERFORD AND SON; OSLO; CARDBOARD PIANO; MASTER CLASS; IN THE NEXT ROOM, OR THE VIBRATOR PLAY; and A DISAPPEARING NUMBER. Chicago credits include THE ADVENTURES OF AUGIE MARCH (Court), TWILIGHT BOWL

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(Goodman), NELL GWYNN (Chicago Shakespeare), THE DOPPELGÄNGER (Steppenwolf), MANSFIELD PARK (Northlight), and PLANTATION! (Lookingglass). Regional credits include five seasons at American Players Theatre, THINGS I KNOW TO BE TRUE (Milwaukee Rep), LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST (Actor's Theatre of Louisville), and AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS (Baltimore Center Stage/Kansas City Repertory). National Tours include WOMAN IN BLACK and MAMMA MIA!

YIWEN WU (*Dramaturg*) is a dramaturg and scholar. She is currently a PhD student at the University of Chicago, in the joint program between Theater & Performance Studies and East Asian Languages & Civilizations. Yiwon finds her passion in translations and adaptations of classical works on modern stages. Since the pandemic, she has lent her dramaturgical skills to various puppet shows, stop motion animations, and new play development. She is thrilled to work on this timely and important production at TimeLine Theatre.

JILL YETSKY (*Stage Manager*) is making her TimeLine debut. Credits with Reduced Shakespeare include THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) (US & Asia), BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORKS OF GOD (ABRIDGED), and COMPLETELY HOLLYWOOD (ABRIDGED) (Chicago/Tour). Chicago credits include THE FOUR C NOTES (Frankie Valli/Four Seasons Tribute Band), Steven Strafford's METHTACULAR! (About Face and Steppenwolf LookOut Series), BREAKING THE SHAKESPEARE CODE (Hey Jonte), and WORKING (ASM; Broadway In Chicago). Other credits include I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE (Chicago/San Francisco) and TRUMBO: RED, WHITE AND BLACKLISTED (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble).

MAURA KIDWELL (*Associate Director*) is a Chicago director, playwright and audition coach. She is currently in post-production for her first short film, KILLER SET. For more than a decade, Maura held the roles of director, performer, and casting director for Erasing the Distance, a documentary theatre company committed to disarming the stigma of mental illness. She co-wrote and produced the documentary play BREATHE WITH ME, which premiered at SPARKFest 2017. Her play OVER THE MOON was produced as part of DocFest in September 2018. As an actress, Maura has enjoyed roles on many Chicago stages, including Steppenwolf, Goodman, Rivendell, and Court. Visit maurakidwell.com.

FINNEGAN CHU (*Associate Costume Designer*) is a costume designer and multimedia theatre artist from Fishers, Ind. She has made Chicago her home while attending The Theatre School at DePaul University, which she will be graduating from this June. They are happy to be back with TimeLine after working on this year's Step into Time Gala! Theatre School credits include costume design for PEERLESS and MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. Other credits include assistant costume design on A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and wardrobe on HAMLET (Indianapolis Shakespeare). Finnegan also prides themselves on being a queer artist of color, implementing that perspective into her work, and serving to empower the voices she supports.

DINA SPOERL (*Dramaturgical Display Designer*) returns to TimeLine for THE CHINESE LADY, where her recent credits include 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, Daughters of the American Revolution, The National Museum of Natural History, The Newberry Library, FINRA, 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.

GIANNI CARCAGNO (*Production Assistant, COVID Compliance Officer*) is excited to make her TimeLine debut with THE CHINESE LADY. Chicago credits include BLUES IN THE NIGHT, PUMP BOYS & DINETTES, NUNSENSE (Porchlight), LA CAGE AUX FOLLES and MAMMA MIA (Music Theater Works), MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN (Lookingglass), and POLAROID STORIES and THE BOYS AND THE NUNS (Loyola University Chicago). Gianni has a BA in Theatre and Sociology from Loyola University Chicago.

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 11 world premieres and more than 38 Chicago premieres. During his tenure, TimeLine has garnered 58 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 also has

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been 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, as well as 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 Chicago premiere of J.T. Rogers' ONE GIANT LEAP: THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING in a one-night event at the Broadway Playhouse.

MICA COLE (*Executive Director*) was named TimeLine's new 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.

DAN MCARDLE (*Interim Managing Director*) joined TimeLine as the company's first General Manager in 2014. Prior to TimeLine, he spent three seasons as Managing Director of The Neo-Futurists, producing more than 750 public events, overseeing numerous production extensions, expanding local touring efforts, and initiating new ticketing policies to stimulate financial security. Dan holds an MFA in Arts Leadership from DePaul University, where he combined coursework with a full-time fellowship at Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He recently concluded a six-year term serving on the Board of Directors for the League of Chicago Theatres, including three years as Treasurer. In Chicago, he also has held positions at Lookingglass Theatre, Theatre Seven of Chicago, and Goodman Theatre.

ELIZABETH K. AUMAN (*Director of New Home Development*) joined TimeLine Theatre as Managing Director in October 2007 and during her tenure oversaw a tripling of TimeLine's budget; the largest capital improvements in the company's history; extended runs of multiple shows; the expansion of TimeLine's programming to additional venues, most recently RELENTLESS at the Goodman and OSLO at the Broadway Playhouse; and multiple awards for excellence in arts management, including the 2016 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. She is now focused on managing TimeLine's project to develop our new home in Uptown. Prior to TimeLine, Elizabeth spent 15 years at Victory Gardens Theater, the last 12 as general manager. During that time, she helped guide Victory Gardens through major transitions and accomplishments, including budget growth from \$1.2 million to \$3 million, an \$11.8 million capital campaign, receiving the Tony Award for Regional Theatre in 2001, and the move to the Biograph Theater. She also has held administrative positions at Chicago Shakespeare and DePaul University's Blackstone Theatre (now the Merle Reskin Theatre). She has a BFA degree in Theater from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington and was the recipient of Eclipse Theatre's 2010 Corona Award.

CREW & SPECIAL THANKS

Carpenters	Zachary Karner, Kieran O'Connor, Mara Ishihara Zinky
Painters	José Alexander, Shannon Evans
Crafter	Elizabeth Flauto
Crafts Assistant	Katie Utterback
Draper	Alice Broughton
First Hand / Stitcher	Skye Geerts
Electricians	Hannah Bolstad, Quinn Chisenhall, Maxwell Halperin
Audio Crew	Ethan Korvnee

THIS PRODUCTION OWES SPECIAL THANKS to numerous individuals & organizations for their time, talents & support, including Chabad of East Lakeview, The 4529 Prop Shop, Albany Park Theatre Project (Trina McGee), Athenaeum Theatre (Michael Gobel & Michael Stults), The Chicago Green Theatre Alliance, Goodman Theatre (Gina Patterson), David Li, Feng Liang, Lijuan Luo, The Lyric Opera of Chicago (Mike Smallwood), Milwaukee Rep (Jared Clarkin & Jim Guy), Northlight Theatre (Emily Kneer, Colleen Schuldeis & Matt Super), North-West Drapery Service, Inc. (Matt Schoeff), Steppenwolf Theatre (J.R. Lederle), Strawdog Theatre (Paul Cook), and The Theatre School at DePaul University (Amy Peter, Camille Peotter).

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

TimeLine is working to make our productions accessible to all patrons. The following are only a few of the services available; we invite you to visit timelinetheatre.com/accessibility for a complete list of offerings.



Assistive Listening Devices

TimeLine offers RF assistive listening devices for those who request them. Ask the Box Office and provide an ID to check out a listening device.



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.

Open captioning is a service primarily provided for people with hearing disabilities who use assistive listening devices, hearing aids, cochlear implants, sign language, and lip reading. It is a service you may choose to use or ignore during the performance.

Upcoming Open Captioned performances are:

- *The Chinese Lady* — Friday, June 10 at 8pm
- *The Chinese Lady* — Saturday, June 11 at 4pm



Audio Description

Audio description allows patrons who are blind or low vision to access the visual experience of our performances. 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.

Upcoming Audio Described performances are:

- *The Chinese Lady* — Friday, June 17 at 8pm

If you would like to suggest services that you believe would make our theatre more accessible, please contact Audience Services Manager Kellyn Henthorn at kellyn@timelinetheatre.com.

YOUR ROLE

**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.*

ABOUT TIMELINE

OUR MISSION

TimeLine Theatre Company 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.

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.

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary Season, TimeLine has presented 82 productions, including 11 world premieres and 38 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 58 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-Axelsson 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 8,400 students have actively explored history through Living History. TimeLine currently partners with nine schools to present the program.



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

TIMELINE SOUTH

In 2018, Living History launched 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. Offered free of charge for six weeks during the summer, TimeLine South promotes leadership in the arts and teaches teens 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, 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.

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 Abercrombie | Will Allan | Nick Bowling | Janet Ulrich Brooks
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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
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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 Abercrombie | Will Allan | Maureen Gallagher | Calamity West

2020 - 2021 Collective

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IT'S TIME: THE CAMPAIGN FOR TIMELINE'S NEW HOME



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 the first home of our very own in Uptown at 5035 N. Broadway, creating a new cultural asset for Chicago. 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—anticipated to open in 2024—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
- Dedicated space for education and community programming
- Expanded social spaces, including a bar and café open day and night
- Office and production space for our staff and artists
- Plus opportunities for future expansion, and much more!

We hope you'll 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, with private philanthropy making up 60% of the \$35 million project cost. **If you'd like more information about how you can help support this special campaign, please contact Chelsea Smith, Director of Major Gifts, at chelsea@timelinetheatre.com or 773.281.8463 x16.**

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

IT'S TIME: THE CAMPAIGN FOR TIMELINE'S NEW HOME

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 committed to helping all our patrons understand the full impact of their support. All non-profit organizations are products of and for the communities they serve. Without the support of our dedicated community we would not exist. We pledge to do all we can to make sure that every dollar we receive is invested wisely. To do this, it is crucial for us to focus on what makes TimeLine unique—our mission to produce plays that explore today through the lens of the past and spark conversation with you, our audience, about the times we live in. We want TimeLine to be a place that encourages thought, emotion, and discourse, and that can only happen with your involvement.

STEP INTO TIME GALA

We are honored to recognize the following sponsors, table and ticket buyers, and auction prize purchasers who contributed to TimeLine's annual Step Into Time benefit, which took place on March 11, 2022. TimeLine is also grateful to those who purchased 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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Please contact Leah Taylor at 773.281.8463 x18 with any questions or concerns.***

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At Theater Wit

We are a theater company within a building, within a community, within a world.

As a production company, Theater Wit's mission is to be the premier "smart art" theater in Chicago by producing humorous, challenging, and intelligent plays that speak with a contemporary theatrical voice.

As an institution, Theater Wit seeks to be the hub of the Chicago neighborhood theater scene. In our three spaces, we bring together Chicago's best storefront theater companies. Here you will find a smorgasbord of excellent productions, see the work of a parade of talented artists, and mingle with audiences from all over Chicago.

In the Middle of a Community

Everyone here: folks in the audience... the person who handed you this program... somewhere on or off the stage there are actors... if you look up in the corner you might get a glimpse of the stage manager in the booth... We're all in this room for the same reason: to be a part of this shared experience. No matter who they are or where they come from; no matter if they are complete strangers or familiar faces; no matter how different the age, the race, or the walk of life; after this performance, you will have something in common. So, strike up a conversation in the lobby, introduce yourself to someone new. Meet our staff, shake hands with an actor, get a drink from our bar. We're all in this together.

Part of the Chicago Scene

Theater is part of the Chicago experience. Each year, over 200 theaters present thousands of shows to Chicago's loyal and enthusiastic theater-going audience. Chicago's theater community is recognized around the world for its talent, its innovation and its power to entertain and enlighten. If Tony awards were sports championships, our artists would beat out the combined efforts of Michael Jordan, Bobby Hull, Jim McMahon, Jermaine Dye, and the entire Chicago Cubs roster going back 100 years. This stage is a Chicago stage, contributing to the vibrant artistic life of our city and the economic development of our neighborhood. Very few cities on the planet offer the theatrical richness and diversity of Chicago. But you get to share in it.

Because you are here.

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ABOUT THEATER WIT



**ANY TIME
ANY SHOW
AS OFTEN AS YOU LIKE**

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10 tickets for \$275

- See anything in the building at a dramatically reduced price.
- See 10 shows, go on 5 dates, or just bring your 9 closest friends with you to one show.
- After ordering, you get a card in the mail within a week with your Flexpass code which can be used online, over the phone or at the box office

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\$35/month

- See any play in our building, any time, as often as you like for one flat monthly fee.
- Reserve a ticket for any production in our facility. Do it in advance or just drop by on impulse.
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- Attend as many different shows as you want each month. Come once, twice or five times a week at no additional charge.
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