



Jen Maren as Marjorie

Glensheen

book by **Jeffrey Hatcher**
music and lyrics by **Chan Poling**
directed by **Ron Peluso**
Choreography by **Tinia Moulder**
June 20-July 14, 2024

history theatre

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PRESENTS

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WELCOME



RICHARD D. THOMPSON

Thank you for being here and supporting theatre, I invite you to return for our upcoming exciting new season. Building upon History Theatre's important legacy of creating new and existing work, we seek to continue telling well-known and untold stories while amplifying unheard voices and welcoming everyone to the audience.

Richard D. Thompson
Artistic Director



KAREN MUELLER

Welcome to Glensheen! It's both our greeting to you tonight and the final line of Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling's "wickedly entertaining" musical. We are thrilled to bring it back for the eighth time, not including a tour to four venues across the state! More than 75,000 individuals have attended *Glensheen* at least once, with many returning several times. We are excited to work with this fantastic group of performers again, many of whom are original cast members.

I hope you've been able to join us this past season which was filled with highly acclaimed performances from both critics and audiences alike. Please consider getting a subscription package to see the outstanding lineup of plays and musicals starting in September. For a more detailed information for the 2024-2025 season, please visit our website at historytheatre.com. You won't want to miss out!

Season tickets provide a great value as they guarantee your favorite seats and support the theater all while you experience innovative new work that is sure to entertain, engage, and inform. You may be surprised to learn that, in a non-profit theater like ours, the price of your ticket supports only 65% of the expenses associated with producing a play. To make ticket costs affordable for everyone, especially students who could be taking a history class and seeing theatre for the first time, we depend on donations from individuals like you. Please consider making a gift to History Theatre. Any amount will be truly appreciated and will support theatre for all.

Thank you, and please enjoy the show.

Karen Mueller
Managing Director

**To make a donation, visit
www.HistoryTheatre.com/donate
or call the Box Office at 651-292-4323.**

Glensheen

Book by
JEFFREY HATCHER
Music and Lyrics by
CHAN POLING

Directed by **RON PELUSO**‡
Musical Direction by **DAVID LOHMAN**•
Choreography by **TINIA MOULDER***
Musical Arrangements by **ROBERT ELHAI**•

THE CAST

Marjorie Jen Maren*
Roger Caldwell, Others Dane Stauffer*
Elisabeth Congdon, Velma Pietila, Others Wendy Lehr*
The Ensemble Ruthie Baker, Gary Briggles*,
. Randy Schmeling*, Sandra Struthers*
Understudies. Julia Ennen, Tinia Moulder*, Adam Qualls*, Evan Tyler Wilson*



Ruthie Baker



Gary Briggles*



Wendy Lehr*



Jen Maren*



Randy Schmeling*



Dane Stauffer*



Sandra Struthers*

THE ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Pianist David Lohman•
Cello Diane Tremaine•
Bass Greg Hippen•
Reeds Ryan Golden•
Drums Will Kemperman•



**National
New Play
Network**



* Appearing through an agreement between History Theatre, Theater Mu, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

‡ Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, Inc.

• Member of Twin Cities Musicians Union Local 30-73, American Federation of Musicians

Member of United Scenic Artists Local #829

TIME / PLACE

Now and then / Glensheen and not

SONG LIST

ACT ONE

THE BALLAD OF GLENSHEEN	The Company
LET IT OUT.....	The Company
WHAT DOES A WOMAN WANT	Marjorie
TWO LITTLE GIRLS	Jennifer & Marjorie
A MATCH MADE IN HELL	Marjorie & Roger
TRUSTEE TRIO	Trustees, Jennifer & Marjorie
WHAT TO DO	Marjorie & Roger
A MURDERING IN JUNE	Cub Reporter & Copy Girl
THE TWELVE CLUES OF GLENSHEEN.....	Cops & Company
PERFECT LITTLE MURDER PLOT	Roger
FEMME FATALE	Marjorie & Company

ACT TWO

CONSPIRACY.....	Defense Team
YESSIREE BOB (PART 1)	Roger, Detective & Prosecutor
JUST YOU & ME.....	Marjorie & Roger
YESSIREE BOB (PART 2)	Roger, Detective & Prosecutor
WAIT	Jurors & Marjorie
STAY WITH ME	Velma
LATROBE LAMENT	Roger
NO PAROLE	Jennifer & Company
FICTION/TRUTH.....	Marjorie & Company
ELISABETH'S LYRIC	Elisabeth
TORCH SONG	Marjorie
THE BALLAD OF GLENSHEEN REDUX	Marjorie, Jennifer, Roger & Company

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Playwright	Jeffrey Hatcher
Composer/Lyricist.....	Chan Poling
Director	Ron Peluso†
Choreographer	Tinia Moulder
Music Director.....	David Lohman•
Music Arranger.....	Robert Elhai•
Scenic Designer.....	Rick Polenek
Properties Designer.....	Kirby Moore
Costume Designer	E. Amy Hill#
Lighting Designer.....	Bill Healey
Sound Designer.....	C Andrew Mayer#
Stage Manager	Lee Johnson*
Assistant Stage Manager	Deirdre McQuillin

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Electricians	Shannon Elliot, Nick Fetting, Asa Gutow, Kurt Jung
Assistant Master Electrician	Nick Fetting
Lead Carpenter	Evan Sima
Carpenters	Brian Hesser, Ian Iosso, Shawn Bollinger, Tobias Gilbert
Scenic Artist	Angelique Powers, Dee Skogen, Erica Soukup
Costume Assistant.....	Meghan Kent

HISTORY THEATRE STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Richard D. Thompson
New Works & Producing Associate	Laura Leffler
Production Manager.....	Lee Johnson*
Technical Director.....	Gunther Gullickson
Master Electrician.....	Nick Walberg
MANAGING DIRECTOR	Karen Mueller
Administrative & Marketing Manager.....	Ashton Schneider
Education Manager.....	Paul de Cordova
Development Director.....	Rob Thomas
Development Assistant.....	Molly Johnson
Grant Writer.....	Jessica Huang
Audience Development Director.....	Chari Hall
Group Sales Manager and Volunteer Coordinator	Craig Cerrato
Audience Services Coordinator.....	Daniel Evans
Front of House	Lu Chen, Monique Franson, Janet Hall, Anne Hammel, Erica Rabito, Brigit Van Gemergen, Rhu VanVactor-Lee
Marketing Director.....	Erica Skarohlid
Marketing Consultant.....	In-Fin Tuan



THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS

Dialogue Referencing Suicide

If you or your loved one is struggling, you can always talk to a counselor 24/7 by dialing the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255 or texting in Minnesota to 741741.

Strobe Lighting Effects

May affect patrons who have photo sensitivities or photo-sensitive epilepsy.

Theatrical Fog/Haze

Theatrical Fog/Haze is water-based.

FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT



JEFFREY HATCHER

Chan Poling and I wrote GLENSHEEN. Ron Peluso directed it. Rick Thompson and Karen Mueller at History Theatre produce it. And it's performed by our wonderful cast, going back many years, Jen Maren, Dane Stauffer, Wendy Lehr, Gary Briggie, Randy Schmeling, Sandra Struthers and Ruthie Baker. Not to mention our arranger, Robert Elhai, and all the musicians, understudies, crew and other company members. But GLENSHEEN doesn't belong to us anymore. Maybe it never did. That could be why it keeps coming back and finding new and return audiences. Every now and then, a show taps into something latent in a culture. It excavates a nagging question or an unexplored fascination and connects with more people than its makers ever imagined. I'm very proud of what we've all accomplished in GLENSHEEN. But the authors of its success are the people who love it. Of course, we love it too. For nine years we've been privileged to be part of the Glensheen family. I am forever in its debt.

FROM THE COMPOSER / LYRICIST



CHAN POLING

Welcome back, everyone! And, to you "Glensheen" newbies, thank you, you're in for a ride. Year 8. Wow. Great thanks to History Theatre for championing this show year in and year out. I am so proud of our work and this production's remarkable cast and team. This show is such a highlight for me. I want to thank my great collaborator and friend, Jeffrey especially an, of course, the venerable esquire Admiral Ron Peluso, Ret. Enjoy!

FROM THE DIRECTOR



RON PELUSO

Nine years ago, when we first began this musical adventure, we - that is, playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and composer Chan Poling - met with *Star Tribune's* feature writer Peg Meier and reporter Joe Kimball. We sat on the patio at my home and talked for several hours about the case and Joe's reporting on what would be the "Crime of the Century in Minnesota." The richest woman in the state was murdered under the most bizarre set of circumstances along with her "the night nurse," Velma Pietila, who also perished in the 'robbery gone wrong.'

A musical? Some would scoff at the idea, but Chan and Jeff masterfully put together a brilliant work of art that entertains and questions a legal system that would allow Marjorie to escape conviction.

I asked only one thing of our creators, and that was that we find a way to honor and acknowledge the deaths of these innocent women. During our first public workshop reading, a young woman from Duluth stood up and declared that she was the niece of 'the night nurse' and that it seemed like all the papers referred to her as such: "the night nurse." Chan had written a beautiful and heart-wrenching song for our actor Wendy Lehr to sing as Velma, "Stay With Me." The niece was honestly touched that we considered 'her name' to be an important part of this story. They put a human face with a name, and in that moment, I knew that we were on to something.

In recent years, we have seen the importance of putting a NAME to victims of violence in print and in all forms of media. "Say their names!"

It's now been 47 years since the family tragedy and still one wonders what really happened. Perhaps someday we will know the truth. Meanwhile, let's go back in time with this incredible cast, musicians and creative team to witness this unique Minnesota story.

THE CAST

RUTHIE BAKER (she/her)*Copy Girl, Docent, others***History Theatre:** *I Am Betty, Christmas of Swing (originated), Sisters of Swing, Glensheen (originated).***Theater:** Guthrie: *The Music Man, Pride & Prejudice.* Daleko Arts: *Bright Star.* Yellow Tree Theatre: *Violet.* Plymouth Playhouse: *Church Basement Ladies (originated)* Theatre Elision: *Ruthless, Melancholy Play.* Tent Theatre: *9 to 5 the Musical.* Totem Pole Playhouse: *45 Seconds from Broadway, Sisters of Swing.* **Other:** Realtor, Edina Realty serving the Twin Cities & beyond! **Training:** BFA Musical Theatre : UW-Stevens Point. The Jen Waldman Studio: NYC. **Upcoming:** Summer adventures with Tall English Husband and my 3 small kids (age 7,6 and 3). HUGE thanks to my husband, parents and babysitters for all the childcare so I can do what I love! Follow along @ruthieshouseandhome**GARY BRIGGLE* (he/him)***Trustee, Poodle, others***History Theatre:** *A Servants' Christmas, Glensheen, Lord Gordon Gordon, Dirty Business.* **Theater:** Over 45 years of professional experience in regional theatre and opera nationwide. Local credits include work at The Ordway, Park Square Theatre, Jungle Theatre, Frank Theatre, CTC, Nautilus Music-Theatre, Artistry, AOT, St. Croix Valley Opera. Previous interim Artistic Director of Skylark Opera Theatre. Current Executive Director of Raison d'Être Opera. **Upcoming:** *Silver Fox* for The Schubert Club (director).**WENDY LEHR* (she/her)***Elisabeth, Velma and others***History Theatre:** *Eternity, Sisters of Peace, Glensheen.* **Theater:** Arizona Theater Co., Children's Theater Co, Guthrie Theater: *A Christmas Carol, The Crucible.* Jungle Theater: *A Delicate Balance, House of Blue Leaves, The Gin Game, Blithe Spirit, The Heiress, Driving Miss Daisy, On Golden Pond, Two Gentlemen of Verona,* plus others. Ordway; *Grey Gardens, Cinderella, The Sound of Music.* Park Square; *Mary Stuart, Noises Off.* Theater Latte Da; *The Full Monty, Our Town,* plus performances at Illusion, Pillsbury House Theater, Theatre de la Jeune Lune and others. **Awards:** Ivey Lifetime Achievement Award, McKnight Distinguished Artist 2013.**JEN MAREN* (she/her)***Marjorie***History Theatre:** *Glensheen, The Boy Wonder, Lord Gordon Gordon, A Christmas Schooner, Nellie.* **Theater:** Guthrie Theater: *The Sunshine Boys.* Gremlin Theater: *Bakersfield Mist.* Penumbra Theatre: *The Wedding Band.* Mixed Blood: *Love Person.* Illusion Theater: *My Antonia.* Park Square Theatre: *Rock-n-Roll, Panic, 33 Variations.* Children's Theater Company: *Jackie and Me.* NorShor Theatre: *Don't Dress for Dinner.* **Other:** Founding member of Theatre Unmasked. Looney Lutheran Company Member. Science Live Theater Member. Audible Audiobook Narrator. **Training:** St. Olaf College B.A. Theater Arts; British American Drama Academy. **Awards:** Ivey Award for Overall Excellence: *Glensheen.* **Upcoming:** Keep up with Jen: jenmaren.com and IG: @jenact**RANDY SCHMELING* (he/him)***Reporter, Cop and others***History Theatre:** *Glensheen, Dirty Business, The Great Society, Lord Gordon Gordon.* **Theater:** Theater Latte Da: *All Is Calm, Violet, Gypsy;* Illusion Theater: *Only One Sophie, A Night in Olympus;* Open Window Theater: *The World Over;* Ordway: *Jesus Christ Superstar, Damn Yankees, A Christmas Story, Annie, The Pirates of Penzance.* **Awards:** TC Theater Bloggers Favorite Musical Performance (Jesus Christ Superstar, Ordway). **Training:** BA Theater, Gustavus Adolphus College.**DANE STAUFFER* (he/him)***Roger and others***History Theatre:** *The Defeat of Jesse James, Glensheen, Happy Holiday concerts.* **Theater:** Ordway: *Dolly Parton's Christmas Carol, Breaking Barriers Cabaret.* Park Square Theatre: *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol.* Minnesota Dance Theatre: *Nutcracker, National Tour Ireland: Triple Espresso.* Asolo Repertory, Geva Theatre, San Diego Rep, Bucks County Playhouse, Children's Theatre Company, Illusion Theatre, Jungle Theatre. **Film:** *Marmalade, Oh, My Stars, I am Not a Serial Killer.* **Awards:** *Glensheen* Ivey Award: Overall Excellence 2016, Best Actor in a musical, Broadway World, 2016, Best Performances of the Year 2015 *Star Tribune.* Best actor in a comedy LA Stage Scene 2012 All in the timing. **Training:** BFA New York University. Info: danestauffer.com**SANDRA STRUTHERS* (she/her)***Jennifer and others***History Theatre:** *Glensheen, The Paper Dreams of Harry Chin, Radio Man.* **Theater:** Mixed Blood, Guthrie, Park Square, Ten Thousand Things, Children's Theater, Yellow Tree, Wonderlust, Shakespeare Theatre of DC, Actor's Theatre of Louisville, American Repertory Theater, Alabama Shakespeare Fest, Virginia Stage, etc. **Other:** Practicing therapist. **Training:** MFA: ART/Harvard. BA: Wesleyan U. AEA.

THE ORCHESTRA

**RYAN GOLDEN• (he/him)***Reeds***History Theatre:** *Glensheen, Beyond the Rainbow.* **Theater:** Theater Latte Da: *La Boheme, Man of La Mancha, Into the Woods.* Chanhassen Dinner Theaters: *Holiday Inn, Music Man, Jersey Boys.* Artistry: *Pajama Game, Guys and Dolls,**Hairspray, Les Misérables, Candide, Music Man, On the Town, Gypsy, Cabaret, 42nd St, City of Angels, King and I, Into the Woods, Little Shop of Horrors, Sweet Charity, The Drowsy Chaperone, Carousel, Oklahoma, Phantom, Fiddler on the Roof, Kiss Me Kate, Singing in the Rain, Secret Garden, The Baker's Wife, Follies, She Loves Me, Sound of Music.* Old Log Theater: *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.* Theater Mu: *A Little Night Music.* Children's Theater Company: *The Grinch who Stole Christmas.* **Other:** Founding member of the Pavia Wind Quintet. Substitute Clarinet Duluth-Superior Symphony. **Training:** MM University of Minnesota, BM DePaul University.

BIOGRAPHIES



GREG HIPPEN •

Bass

History Theatre: *Glensheen*.

Theater: Theater Latte Da: *Man of La Mancha, Five Points, Twelve Angry Men, We Shall Someday, Next To Normal*. Minnesota Opera: Principal Bass 1986-1995; *A Prairie Home Companion*:

1992-2000; Orpheum Theater: Pit orchestra beginning in 1979; Ordway Theater: Pit orchestra. **Training:** Indiana University School of Music, 1974.



WILL KEMPERMAN • (he/him)

Drums

History Theatre: *Christmas of Swing, Beyond the Rainbow, Glensheen*.

Theater: Stage North: *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Hennepin Stages: 1940's *Radio Hour*. Theater L'Homme Dieu: *Godspell, Little Shop of Horrors*. **Other:** Rochester Symphony Orchestra,

National Lutheran Choir, Vocal Essence, University of St. Thomas Festival Orchestra, Riff Rangers, Pipe Dreams; Percussion instructor at University of St. Thomas and Hamline University. **Training:** Masters of Music, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Music B.A., Macalester College



DAVID LOHMAN • (he/him)

Music Director/Piano

History Theatre: *Beyond the Rainbow, Christmas of Swing, A Servants' Christmas, Coco's Diary, Sisters of Swing*. **Theater:** Broadway Tour: *The Phantom of the Opera*. Ordway: *West Side Story, White Christmas, Anything Goes, You're a*

Good Man, Charlie Brown, Bingo. Concert Tour: *Yesterday Once More*: Music of the Carpenters. **Training:** B.A. in Acting, Minnesota State University Moorhead, Graduate work in choral conducting, College-Conservatory of Music.



DIANE TREMAINE • (she/her)

Cello

History Theatre: *Fireball, Glensheen*.

Theater: Guthrie Theater (numerous shows most recently *Into the Woods*); Theater Latte Da, The Illusion Theater, Theater Mu. **Other:** Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, Vocalessence, Minnesota Sinfonia

(Principal Cello), *A Prairie Home Companion* (featured musician). **Upcoming:** Featured on the Artist Series at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis this Summer. Diane is thrilled to be joining the amazing cast, orchestra, and crew of *Glensheen* this summer!

THE UNDERSTUDIES



JULIA ENNEN (she/her)

History Theatre: *A Servants' Christmas, Christmas of Swing*.

Theater: NYC: *Ciao Bambino, Singing with my Demons*. Artistry Theatre: *Some Enchanted Evening*. Theatre Elision: *First Lady Suite*. Lakeshore

Players Theatre: *Singin' in the Rain*. Stages Theatre Company: *Tuck Everlasting (TYA)*; OBMT: *Spelling Bee*. Chameleon Theatre Circle: *Side Show, Catch Me If You Can*. NYU: *The King and I*. University of Minnesota: *Carmen, Don Giovanni, A Midsummer Night's Dream*. **Training:** MM & Adv Cert from NYU, BA from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. **Upcoming:** *Over the River at Sidekick Theatre*. *Endless thanks to Ron, my family, Matt, and dear friends for their unwavering love. For Ted. www.juliaennen.com.*



TINIA MOULDER* (she/her)

Understudy and Choreographer

History Theatre: As Choreographer:

A Servant's Christmas, Dirty Business, 20 Days to Find A Wife. As Actor: *Sweet Land, Let Heaven and Nature Sing, Hormel Girls, The Gangster Musical Theater* and many more. **Other:** (choreography) Sidekick Theatre,

Concordia University, Anoka Ramsey Community College, and numerous area schools. (Actor) Sidekick Theatre, Chanhassen Theatres, Guthrie, Ordway Center, Old Log, Mixed Blood, and Six Points Theater. **Awards:** Achievement in Choreography ARCC's production of "The Boyfriend" Region 5 Kennedy Center Festival. **Training:** BFA Musical Theater from Point Park University.



ADAM QUALLS* (he/him)

History Theatre: *The Defeat of*

Jesse James, Runestone!, Lord Gordon Gordon, Glensheen. **Theater:** Children's Theatre Company: *The Grinch, Shrek the Musical, Alice in Wonderland, Jackie & Me*. Theater Latte Da: *Stones in His Pockets, Peter and the Starcatcher, Cabaret*. The

Ordway: *Annie*. Park Square Theatre: *Great Expectations, Oliver Twist*. New Epic Theater: *The Normal Heart, Doubt*. **Awards:** Best Supporting Actor, *Lavender Magazine (The Normal Heart)*. **Training:** BFA Acting, Millikin University. **Upcoming:** *Another trip to Whoville in The Grinch*, CTC.



EVAN TYLER WILSON* (he/they)

History Theatre: *The Boy Wonder*.

Theater: Guthrie Theater: *Into the Woods*; Theater Latte Da: *Assassins, All is Calm, Sweeney Todd, Five Points, C*; Chanhassen Dinner Theatres: *Footloose, Music Man, Grease*. **Training:** BM in Musical Theatre, Arizona State University. evantylerswilson.com.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

JEFFREY HATCHER (he/him)

Playwright

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James, Glensheen (Ivey Award), All the Way with LBJ, A Piece of the Rope, Tyrone and Ralph (Ivey Award), Lord Gordon Gordon (with Chan Poling)*. **Theater:** Jeffrey's plays have been produced in hundreds of theaters in the U.S. and around the world, including Broadway, Off-Broadway and regional theaters. **TV/Film:** Screenplays for *Stage Beauty, Casanova, The Duchess, Mr. Holmes, The Good*

Liar. Television work includes episodes of *Columbo* and *The Mentalist*. **Grants/Awards:** NEA, TCG, Lila Wallace Fund, Rosenthal New Play Prize, Frankel Award, Charles MacArthur Fellowship Award, McKnight Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Barrymore Award Best New Play, Ivey Life Achievement Award. He is a member and/or alumnus of The Playwrights' Center, the Dramatists Guild, the WGA, and New Dramatists.

CHAN POLING (he/him)

Composer and Lyricist

History Theatre: *The Defeat Of Jesse James, Glensheen, Lord Gordon Gordon*. **Theater:** Theatre de la Jeune Lune: *1779: The French Revolution, The Nightingale, Cyrano, Children of Paradise*. **Illusion Theater:** *A Night in Olympus*. **Guthrie Theater:** *Heaven*. **Other:** Founding member The Suburbs and The New Standards. **Author:** *Jack & the Ghost*, and forthcoming book, *The Moons*. **Awards:** The Ivey for *Glensheen* (also voted "Best of the Decade" *Star Tribune*), The Sage Award for Music for *Heaven*, an Emmy and a Cine Golden Eagle for his documentary film scores. The Suburbs were voted as one of the "Greatest Minnesota Musical Entities of the 20th Century" by the *Star Tribune*, and the MN Music Awards bestowed Chan with their lifetime "POP" (Perpetually Outstanding Performer) Award. chanpolingmusic.com

RON PELUSO† (he/him)

Director

Artistic Director of History Theatre, 1995-2022. During that time, he commissioned 100 playwrights and composers and produced and directed more than 90 original works, including the "Best Play of the Decade" by *Star Tribune* and Ivey Award-winning *Glensheen* by Jeffrey Hatcher and Chan Poling. *Sisters of Swing* and *Beyond the Rainbow* have been seen in over 30 regional theaters. He also commissioned and directed Jeffrey Hatcher's Ivey Award-winning *Tyrone & Ralph* and the critically-acclaimed *A Piece of the Rope*. He has also commissioned and directed *Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story* by Bob Beverage and Craig Wright's version of *Main Street, Watermelon Hill* by Lily Baber Coyle, *Orphan Train* by Patty Lynch and Charlie Maguire, and *Dirty Business* by Laurie Flanigan Hegge. He produced and directed *Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story* for HT five times. He also directed *A Couple of Blaguards* by Frank McCourt, *These Shining Lives* by Melanie Marnich, and *Sister Kenny's Children and Peace Crimes* by Dorie Baizely. He has directed almost 200 professional shows, including ones at Florida Stage, Riverside Theatre, Pennsylvania Opera Theater, Mixed Blood Theatre, and Minnesota Opera. For eight seasons, he was the Artistic Director of The Minnesota Festival Theatre. This fall, he will teach a course "Real Stories for the Stage" at the Guthrie Theater and the University of Minnesota. Ron has an MFA from the University of Minnesota in Directing.

ROBERT ELHALI (he/him)

Arranger

History Theatre: *Blended Harmony, The Defeat of Jesse James, Dirty Business* (composer), *Lord Gordon Gordon, Sweet Land, the Musical, Glensheen*. **Theater:** Jungle Theater, Fortune's Fool Theater, Nautilus Music

**PLEASE TURN OFF
CELL PHONES, PAGERS &
DIGITAL NOISEMAKERS.**

NO CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES
are permitted in the theatre.
Thank you!

Theater, Theater Latté Da, *The Lion King* (Broadway production), Asolo Rep, An Opera Theater. **Other:** Orchestrator on 200 movies, + tv shows, concerts, even the Olympics! **Awards:** Ivor Novello, Grammy for *The Lion King*, also nominated for Drama Critics and Tony Awards. **Training:** Carleton College BA, Yale School of Music DMA. **Upcoming:** Fortune's Fool Theater: *Cold Planet Warm Heart*, Theater Latté Da: *Johnny Skeekey*, History Theatre: *Whoa Nellie*.

BILL HEALEY (he/him)

Lighting Designer

History Theatre: *Glensheen*. **Theater:** The Jungle Theater, Open Eye Figure Theater, Walking Shadow Theater Co, The Minnesota Opera Company, UMN-TAD, The Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. **Awards:** Emmy Award in 2003, tpt production, SPCO - Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. **Other:** Since 2010, Lighting Supervisor for Dept. of Theatre Arts and Dance at UMN. He creates opportunities for young theater designers and technicians, much as those who welcomed, fostered, and shepherded his generation into this wonderful theater community. He would be wandering lost in the wilderness without his guides; Julie, Maxwell & Stella.

E. AMY HILL (she/her)

Costume Designer

History Theatre: *A Servants' Christmas, Glensheen, Dirty Business, Beyond the Rainbow, All the Way, The Great Society, Watermelon Hill, Radio Man, Baby Case, Capitol Crimes, Tales Along the Minnesota Trail*. **Theater:** Walking Shadow Theatre Company, Artistry, Sabes JCC, Britta Peterson, Dance. **Other:** Resident Costume Designer for *Concerto Dance* by Jolene Konkel. Heartfelt gratitude to Ron Peluso for enabling her to collaborate with him and countless artists in poignant storytelling.

C ANDREW MAYER# (he/him)

Sound Designer

History Theatre: Over 80 shows including *I Am Betty, The Defeat of Jesse James, Not For Sale, Not in our Neighborhood!*, *Gloria: A Life, Dirty Business, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, All the Way, Watermelon Hill, Glensheen, Hiding in the Open, Tyrone and Ralph, A Piece of the Rope, Hmong! The CIA Secret Army*. **Theater:** Jungle Theater, Pillsbury House, Theater Latté Da, Illusion, Six Points, Lyric Opera Kansas City, Opera Colorado, Everyman (Baltimore), ACT (San Francisco), many others. **Awards:** McKnight Theatre Artist Fellow,

BIOGRAPHIES

Audelco Award for Carlyle Brown's Pure Confidence.

Other: Producing Director, Acadia Repertory Theatre, Mount Desert Island, Maine.

KIRBY MOORE (he/him)

Props Designer

History Theatre: *The Defeat of Jesse James, Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story, Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story, Coco's Diary, Courting Harry, Lombardi and Christmas of Swing.* **Other:** 40+ years of stage, film, and commercial production in Minneapolis, Chicago, and Los Angeles. He's grateful to Circa 21' Dinner Playhouse, in Rock Island Ill., and Children's Theatre Company for their design internship programs which gave him his start in the professional arts.

LEE JOHNSON (he/him)

Stage Manager

History Theatre: *A Unique Assignment, I Am Betty, Glensheen, The Defeat of Jesse James, Buddy; The Buddy Holly Story, Parks.* **Theater:** Artistry Theatre: 20+ productions *The Bridges of Madison County, A New Brain, Victor/Victoria, She Loves Me, Legally Blonde, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; The Duluth Playhouse: Annie; Lyric Opera of the North: Hansel & Gretel.* **Other local credits:** Theater Latté Da, Park Square Theater, Mu Performing Arts, Flying Foot Forum, EMK, Twin Cities Horror Festival, MN Fringe Festival, others. Production Stage Manager, Artistry Theatre (2017-20). **Training:** B.A. in Theatre Arts, U of MN, Twin Cities.

DEIRDRE MCQUILLIN (they/them)

Assistant Stage Manager

History Theatre: *Glensheen (2015-23), The Debutante's Ball, River Road Boogie, Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story (2015), Orphan Train, Sweet Land, Dance 'Til You Drop, Neighbors, A Servants' Christmas.* Scenic Carpentry - *Sisters of Peace, Dirty Buisness, Gloria, Beyond the Rainbow, Superman Becomes Lois Lane, Not for Sale, Not in Our Neighborhood, Christmas of Swing.* **Theater:** Carpenter at Old Log, *Dixie Swim Club, Once Upon a Mattress;* Stagehand at Guthrie, *Two Degrees, Hot Funky Butt Jazz.* **Other:** Various live events with IATSE Local 13, stagehand and lighting design Varsity Theater and Fillmore Minneapolis; freelance cabinetmaker. **Awards:** Honors Performance Series, Carnegie Hall, 2013, 2022 **Training:** Vocal Performance and Songwriting, McNally Smith College of Music; Diploma in Cabinetmaking, Saint Paul College.

RICK POLENEK (he/him)

Scenic Designer

History Theatre: *A Servants' Christmas, Not For Sale, Not in Our Neighborhood, The Great Society, Dance 'Til You Drop, All the Way, Teen Idol, The Incredible Season of Ronnie Rabinovitz, Working Boys Band, God Girl, This Side of Paradise, Coco's Diary.* **Theatre:** Ordway Center, Park Square Theatre, Artistry, Theater Latte Da, Six Points Theater, Stage North, Dark and Stormy. **Other:** Normandale College Theatre faculty retired, *Sesame Street Live!*, MN History Center, Science Museum of MN, numerous regional exhibition designs. **Training:** MFA, U of MN.

BEHIND THE SUN

I AM BETTY

THE ROOT BEER LADY

SECRET WARRIORS

WHOA NELLIE

OUTLAW KING OF THE WILD MIDDLE WEST



**2024-25
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Duluth woman, nurse slain

By Peg Meier and Joe Kimball
Staff Writers

Elisabeth Congdon, 83 years old and one of Minnesota's richest people, was found slain in a bed of her Duluth mansion early Monday morning, a pillow smothering her face.

Her nurse, Velma Pietila, also was killed in the 39-room house. She had been beaten over the head with an 8-inch brass candlestick and died in a pool of blood on a stairway landing.

Duluth police said last night they had no suspects in the case, which has all the elements of the opening chapters in an Agatha Christie mystery.



Elisabeth Congdon

Inspector Ernie Grams said the motive apparently was robbery. "An empty jewelry box was on the floor of the bedroom and the room was ransacked," he said.

A car stolen from the estate was found yesterday at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Authorities were concentrating their investigation on the North Shore of Lake Superior and at the airport during the day yesterday. But by evening they admitted they were back to combing the house and car for clues.

The bodies of the two women were found at 7 a.m. yesterday by a nurse who was to relieve Mrs. Pietila of nursing duties. Miss Congdon had suffered a stroke about 8 years ago and had around-the-clock nursing help. Paralyzed on one side, she was confined to a

wheelchair.

A chauffeur and a gardener live on the 7½-acre estate but sleep in servants' quarters in separate buildings, police said. A cook was in the mansion Sunday night; she slept in a different wing from Miss Congdon and Mrs. Pietila. The cook, Prudence Renquist, said she heard no unusual noises during the night. She told police, however, that her peedoo started barking at about 3 a.m.

A 7-foot-high fence made of brick and metal surrounds the estate. Two gates were kept padlocked.

Police theorized that the assailant or assailants broke into the house through a rear window in the basement, which they found broken. Mrs. Pietila apparently heard noises and went to investigate. Her bedroom was across the hall from Miss Congdon's. She was hit at least once, and very hard, with the candlestick, police said, and fell down six steps to a landing. She climbed onto or was placed on a windowsill on the landing, where she was found.

Blood, apparently Mrs. Pietila's, was found on Miss Congdon's pillow. Police said blood apparently had gotten on the killer, who had then rubbed against the pillow.

Mrs. Pietila had been a regular nurse for Miss Congdon until May, when she retired at age 65. Her husband said she was asked to work Sunday night to fill in for a nurse who wanted the night off.

Loren Pietila, her husband, was notified of the slayings and got to the mansion about 8 a.m. He discovered that his wife's car, a 1976 white and tan Ford Granada, was missing. Later in the morning police from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport called

Congdon continued on page 4A

THE CRIME

JUNE 27, 1977

Sometime past midnight, in the early morning hours of June 27, 1977, an intruder entered the Glensheen mansion on Duluth's London Road, climbed the staircase to the second floor and murdered two women: Elisabeth Congdon, 83 years old, and her nurse, Velma Pietila, age 63.

Initially, Duluth police assumed the murders were the result of a robbery gone wrong. Miss Congdon's bedroom had been ransacked and jewelry was missing. Mrs. Pietila's car had been taken and was found hours later at Minneapolis St. Paul Airport. Police suspicions would soon change as they began to investigate certain members of the Congdon family, particularly

Elisabeth's adopted daughter Marjorie and her husband Roger Caldwell.

Within days, physical evidence collected at the scene and elsewhere convinced investigators to make an arrest. For the next ten years, the State of Minnesota would be roiled by headlines, revelations, reversals, convictions, acquittals, courtroom theatrics, financial maneuvers, confessions, arson, and suicide.

On the following pages is a timeline of the events as they unfolded.

SPOILER ALERT.

Do not read until after the curtain has come down on *Glensheen*. If you choose to read this timeline before or during the intermission... well, we warned you.

July 14, 1932

Jacqueline Barnes is born in Tarboro, N.C.

October 1932

Elisabeth Congdon adopts Jacqueline, renames her Marjorie.

1935

Elisabeth adopts a second baby girl, renames her Jennifer.

1947-1950

Marjorie attends Dana Hall prep school in Massachusetts. Her letters home indicate she has trouble handling money.

Summer 1949

Marjorie is sent to the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, KS due to compulsive lying and irresponsibility with money. She is diagnosed a sociopath.

1951-1970

Marjorie marries Richard LeRoy. They have seven children. Marjorie's money problems escalate. After 20 years, Marjorie's husband ends the marriage.

May 23, 1974

Marjorie coerces Elisabeth into co-signing a \$345,000 loan from Marquette National Bank of Minneapolis.

November 3, 1974

Elisabeth Congdon becomes mysteriously ill after a visit from Marjorie during which Marjorie fed Elisabeth homemade marmalade. The family decides not to investigate the incident.

May 12, 1975

Marjorie is suspected of setting fire to her home in Marine On St Croix.

March 20, 1976

Marjorie marries Roger Caldwell. They reside in Colorado.

December 1976 & May 1977

Marjorie writes bad checks to multiple people to purchase horses and other items.

May 1977

Roger travels to Duluth on May 24 to meet with Congdon trustees to request \$750,000. The request is denied.

June 1977

Marjorie and Roger pass over \$100,000 worth of bad checks in Colorado.

June 24, 1977

Marjorie has a handwritten will notarized. The document promises Roger \$2.5 million of Marjorie's inheritance upon the death of Elisabeth Congdon.

June 27, 1977

Elisabeth Congdon and her night nurse Velma Pietila are found dead at Glensheen. Jewelry has been stolen, as well as Pietila's car.

Maintenance personnel at Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport find Pietila's car keys in a



Elisabeth Congdon

trash can outside the terminal. Later a parking stub is found in the same trash can. The ticket is stamped 6:35 a.m.

June 29, 1977

Duluth detectives interview Marjorie and Roger. Roger has a swollen hand and a cut on his upper lip. The funeral for Velma Peitila takes place.





Marjorie Caldwell during trial

June 30, 1977

Funeral for Elisabeth Congdon. Duluth police search the Duluth Radisson hotel room occupied by Marjorie and Roger and find a receipt dated June 27, 1977 from a gift shop at Minneapolis St. Paul Airport. The next day, the police learn that someone fitting Roger's description purchased a garment bag from that shop.

July 2, 1977

A Radisson Hotel envelope addressed to Roger Caldwell and postmarked "June 27, 1977 Duluth" is discovered at the residence of Roger and Marjorie. In it is a 1,700 year old Byzantine coin determined to have been taken from a memorabilia case in Elisabeth Congdon's bedroom.

July 5, 1977

Roger is taken by ambulance to Methodist Hospital after he loses consciousness shortly after eating breakfast with Marjorie.

Duluth and Bloomington police obtain a search warrant for their hotel room. They find a garment bag and a blue plastic pantyhose container filled with jewelry; including items identified as taken from Elisabeth's bedroom. Marjorie states that they are duplicates she had made for herself. Police arrest Roger.



Attorney John DeSanto

February 7, 1978

Roger Caldwell enters a plea of not guilty.

May - July 8, 1978

Roger Caldwell's trial begins. State's Attorney John DeSanto calls 103 witnesses. Ron Meshbesher calls 6. The jury returns a verdict

of guilty of two counts of murder in the first degree.

July 10, 1978

Roger is sentenced to two consecutive life terms at Stillwater State prison.

August 18, 1978

Marjorie is indicted on two counts of aiding and abetting murder in the first degree and two counts of conspiracy to commit murder.

April 26 - July 13, 1979

Testimony is presented in Marjorie's trial. DeSanto calls 112 witnesses. Ron Meshbesher calls 55.

July 21, 1979

Jury returns a verdict of not guilty.



August 16, 1979

Five of Marjorie's seven children commence a civil lawsuit seeking to disinherit Marjorie on grounds that a "preponderance of evidence" will indicate that Marjorie is involved in the murder of Elisabeth Congdon.

March 26, 1980

Marjorie visits her friend Helen Hagen at her Twin Birch Nursing Home. Helen had attended Marjorie's trial. Marjorie hand feeds Helen. Helen goes into a coma the next day, and dies a few days later.

August 7, 1981

Marjorie commits bigamy by marrying Helen's husband Wally in North Dakota, without divorcing Roger.

August 6, 1982

The Minnesota Supreme Court overturns Roger Caldwell's convictions on two counts of murder in the first degree.

September 15, 1982

Fire destroys Marjorie and Wally's home in Mound, Minnesota. Four months later, Marjorie is arrested for arson.

July 1, 1983

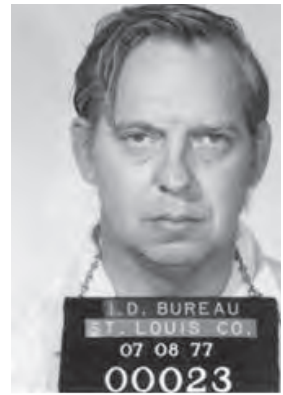
Marjorie and her five children reach a settlement in the lawsuit.

July 5, 1983

Roger Caldwell pleads guilty to two counts of second-degree murder. He makes a confession and is released.



Marjorie Caldwell



Roger Caldwell

January 13, 1984

Marjorie is found guilty of arson. She is sentenced to 21 months in prison in Shakopee, MN.

October 19, 1986

Marjorie is released from prison. She and Wally move to Ajo, Arizona.

May 18, 1988

Roger Caldwell commits suicide in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

March 24 – October 30, 1992

Marjorie is arrested on arson charges in Ajo. She is convicted and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. The judge allows her one day to put her affairs in order. The next morning, Wally is found dead. Marjorie is arrested and charged with murder. Charges are dropped when it is determined Wally died of a drug overdose and could have been a suicide.

January 5, 2004

Marjorie is released from prison. She moves to Tucson, Arizona.

March 1, 2007

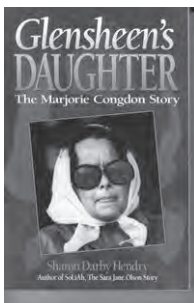
Roger Sammis, a gentleman Marjorie has befriended, dies and is cremated in Tucson. Marjorie has obtained power of attorney over his accounts. Marjorie deposits an \$11,181.04 check that Sammis received.

March 22, 2007

Marjorie is arrested and charged with forgery, theft, tampering with a computer and fraudulent scheme and artifice, but as there is no body or physical evidence, they cannot charge her in the death of Roger Sammis.

March 4, 2009

Marjorie is sentenced to three years of intensive probation.



Special Thanks

Sharon Darby Hendry, Peg Meier, Joe Kimball and John DeSanto for their contributions to tonight's storytelling.

University of Minnesota Department of Theater Arts and Dance

Guthrie Theater

Kim Meshbesh

FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



PAUL DE CORDOVA

Thanks for taking a little slice of your summer and spending it with us (and Marjorie) at History Theatre. Whether you're here for the first time or you're a repeat offender, we're delighted to welcome you for this hilarious musical powerhouse. And as long as we've got your ear, how about we catch you up on what's been going on in the Education Department?

Summer is a slower time for us, a time to look back on what we've accomplished in the past year and to get excited for the year to come. As you may know, all of our programs focus on helping people tell the stories that make up their personal history and then sharing them with others. No matter who we are working with, we see our classes encourage reflection and build connection: two commodities that often feel in short supply in our fast moving, digital world.

This past year we worked with longstanding partners like Vail Communities and Minnesota Independence College and Community, as well as schools like AGAPE, Avalon, and Humboldt High School. In each case we invite our students (no matter their age) to think about their lives as a slice of history, as an important component of their larger communities. And we like to remind them that if they don't tell their story, someone else might tell it for them. We all deserve to be the authors of our own lives, and stories are a powerful vehicle for sharing them.

The year ahead promises to be filled with more great partnerships and a deepening of the work we do. If you ever find yourself curious about it all, please feel free to email me at pdecordova@historytheatre.com.

Thanks again for joining us tonight and enjoy the show!

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