music and book by James Valcq
lyrics and book by Fred Alley
based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

directed by Marcela Lorca and Michelle O’Neill
music directed by Peter Vitale
THE SPITFIRE GRILL

Music and Book by James Valcq  Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley
Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

CAST (in alphabetical order)

Michelle Barber* ..............................................  Hannah Ferguson
Katie Bradley* .................................................  Shelby Thorpe
Tyson Forbes* ...................................................  Visitor/Musician
Katherine Fried* ...............................................  Percy Talbott
George Keller* ...................................................  Effy Krayneck
Tom Reed ..........................................................  Caleb Thorpe
Dominic Schiro ..................................................  Joe Sutter

*APPEARING THROUGH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THIS THEATRE AND ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-Director ......................................................  Marcela Lorca
Co-Director ......................................................  Michelle O’Neill
Music Director ..................................................  Peter Vitale
Sets/Props .......................................................  Sarah Agnew
Sets/Props .......................................................  Nick Golfis
Costume Designer .............................................  Samantha Fromm Haddow
Movement .......................................................  Jim Lichtscheidl
Stage Manager ..................................................  Maya Vagle
Production Manager .........................................  Ryan Volna-Rich
Teaching Artist ...............................................  Kira Obolensky
Teaching Artist ...............................................  Marisa Tejeda
Graphic Designer ............................................  Holly Welch
Photographer ...................................................  Tom Wallace
Audio-Describer ...............................................  Laurie Pape Hadley
ASL Interpreters ...............................................  Air Rhymes Theatrical Interpreting

PERFORMANCE VENUES:
St Paul Central High School, St Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, Dellwood Gardens, Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, MSS, Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, Ramsey County Correctional Facility, Cora McCorvey Center, Northeast Contemporary Services, South High School, Jungle Theater, Black Youth Healing Arts Center, Project Success, Episcopal Homes – The Gardens, St Peter Regional Treatment Center, Federal Correctional Institute – Waseca, Federal Correctional Institute – Sandstone, MN Correctional Facility – Moose Lake, Everwood Farms

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Ramsey Correctional Facility and Interact Center for Visual and Performing Arts are sponsored by Lorraine Hart.
St Paul Conservatory for Performing Artists, Dellwood Gardens, MSS, Cora McCorvey Center, Black Youth Healing Arts Center, Episcopal Homes – The Gardens, and Minnesota Correctional Facility – Moose Lake are sponsored by anonymous donors.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
Patricia Vitale for loaning us her guitar.

TEN THOUSAND THINGS ARTIST CORE:
Sarah Agnew, Brian Bose, Aimee Bryant, Sun Mee Chomet, Cristina Florencia Castro, Tyson Forbes, H. Adam Harris, Jo Holcomb, George Keller, Elise Langer, Tracey Maloney, Kira Obolensky, Greta Oglesby, Mo Perry, T. Mychael Rambo, Kimberly Richardson, Will Sturdivant and Regina Marie Williams

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STAFF:
Marcela Lorca, Artistic Director; Stephanie Thompson, Managing Director; Amy Tang, Development & Marketing Director; Ryan Volna-Rich, Production Manager; Peter Vitale, Resident Music Director; Catherine Hennessy Wolter, Development Officer; Ashawnti Sakina Ford, Community Programs Associate; Kathy Graves and Brigette Parenteau, Communications
DIRECTOR’S NOTES:

In *The Spitfire Grill*, the arrival of a stranger disrupts the quiet and depressed town of Gilead, and compels the residents to reconnect with the beauty that exists outside their doors and in their hearts. The story reveals that fresh perspectives can have the power to bring healing to a community.

Working on this play has been a reminder that people have complicated journeys, that everyone has a past and that we are all worthy and entitled to a second chance. Thank you for joining us on this musical journey of forgiveness and second chances.

— Michelle O’Neill

**WHY DO THEATER?**

**MICHELLE BARBER**
*(Hannah Ferguson) She/Her*

“I do theatre because it’s the best way I have to communicate other people’s ideas and stories that should be heard in our world. Our beautiful, mixed-up, violent, hopeful, brave world. We need a voice, an assurance that we’re not alone in our fears and loves and adventures of survival and living our lives to the fullest. That voice can be found in theatre. And that’s why theatre should be done. And that’s why I do theatre.”

Michelle has appeared in over 65 shows at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres as well as the stages of the Guthrie, Mixed Blood, Jungle Theater Latte Da and Syracuse Stage. Michelle is the proud grandma of Henry Brindisi Darrow.

**KATIE BRADLEY**
*(Shelby Thorpe) She/Her*

“I do theatre because I love making people laugh, cry, think, escape – anything they need at the moment. It’s also important to me to continue to represent marginalized and misrepresented voices in our community, for the more we get those stories out, the less they become “othered” in society.”

Katie’s previous TTT credits are *Twelfth Night, Mlima’s Tale, A Comedy of Errors* and *The Seven*. She has also appeared onstage at the Guthrie Theater, Children’s Theatre Company, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Indiana Repertory Theatre, and Pacific Conservatory Theatre. In addition, she is a long-time artist with Theater Mu.

**TYSON FORBES**
*(Visitor/Musician) He/Him*

“Because it offers us a space to see and be seen. To experience presence and join in the collective imagining of storytelling. Great theater asks its audience to dive off their seat and explore the sheer abundance of the imagination which resides in us all.”

Tyson is an actor, creator and producer. He is the Co-Artistic Director of TigerLion Arts which has created and produced national tours of The Buddha Prince and Nature. Tyson has helped create numerous new works including *Super Monkey, The Dragons are Singing Tonight,* and...
Nice Fish. He has performed multiple roles at the Guthrie, Jungle and Ordway. He teaches physical theater at Circus Juventas and is the proud parent of two young lads along with his wife and artistic partner, Markell Kiefer. When he’s not performing, he is designing and building homes with Whole Builders.

KATHERINE FRIED
(Percy Talbott) She/Her

“We are all meaning-makers. Narrative and story help us make sense of the groundless spaces in life and offer us a safe place for investigation. Through theatre, we, as artists and audience members, are invited to question our values and beliefs, encounter truths, discover our belonging and interconnectedness with the world, and learn the listening language of compassion.”

Katherine’s credits include: Regional: Iphigenia at Aulis, Ten Thousand Voices (Ten Thousand Things), Assassins, Into the Woods, A Streetcar Named Desire, The Snow Queen, Once (Arden Theatre Company); Wait Until Dark, Once (The Fulton Theatre); The Parchman Hour, A Christmas Carol, King Lear (Guthrie Theater); Shakespeare in Love, Henry V (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); Montana Shakespeare in the Parks; Kansas Repertory Theatre; Bozeman Actors Theatre; WLDNNS. Readings/Workshops: The Playwrights’ Center, Mixed Blood Theatre, Jungle Theater. Training: University of Minnesota, Guthrie Theater B.F.A. Actor Training Program.

GEORGE KELLER
(Effy Krayneck) She/Her

“I do theater because it is my profession. In many ways, it’s therapeutic to study different personality types from the inside out. I like to play characters that are multi-dimensional and complicated. It’s a way of seeing a story through the lens of someone else and a lot of preparation goes into each sentence to give the audience a full view of a complete person. And... it was the only thing I was drawn to when thinking about what I was gonna do with my life.”

George is so grateful to return to TTT. Her last show with TTT was Emilia directed by Marcela Lorca. George Keller was born and raised in Minneapolis and has been a professional actor for over 30 years. She was last seen in Misery at Yellow Tree Theater as Annie Wilkes. Other theaters include: Penumbra Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Children’s Theater Company, Mixed Blood Theater, The Jungle, Huge, Pillsbury Playhouse, Theatre Novi Most and Park Square Theater.

TOM REED
(Caleb Thorpe) He/Him

“Live performance is a rare chance to share air in a spacetime that’s devoted to connection, joy, and reflection. Sometimes it even rhymes. Regardless, theater is magical and powerful and an essential force for good. Thanks for being here.”

Tom mostly grew up on a gravel road near Kent, MN (pop. 150) and his past credits other than hoeing corn include: Stones in His Pockets (Theater Latte Da); 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Artsy); Georgiana & Kitty: Christmas at Pemberley (Jungle Theater); Interstate, Autonomy, Hooded; or Being Black for Dummies, Gloria, Curious Incident, Next to Normal, Avenue Q (Mixed Blood Theater); Loch Ness!, Hairball!, Log Jam! (Open Eye Theater); Christmas of Swing (History Theatre); 18 mainstage sketch comedy productions at Brave New Workshop; and much improv at HUGE Improv Theater. TV/FILM: Lady Dynamite (Netflix), America Unearthed (History Channel) The Public Domain, Locally Grown Comedy. tombreed.com

DOMINIC SCHIRO
(Joe Sutter) He/Him

“Storytelling is the thing that brings me the most joy, and being able to share that feeling is such a blessing and a gift.”

Dominic is a passionate theathermaker and is very excited to make their TTT and professional debut. his most recent credits are Trolls and Cressida, and Stupid Fucking Bird, both at the UMN Guthrie Actor training program. Dominic would like to thank his family, friends, and company for supporting him throughout the years. Love y’all bunches.

MARCELA LORCA
(Co-Director) She/Her

“We do theater to connect with and understand each other through stories that inspire, move, delight and make us wonder. Nowadays, I can’t think of anything better than coming together, however we can, to explore and celebrate the diverse stories that ignite our imaginations.”

Marcela’s directing credits for TTT include Twelfth Night, Emilia, Iphigenia at Aulis, The Comedy of Errors, Thunder Knocking on the Door, The Winter’s Tale, Into the Woods and The Sins of Sor Juana. She has directed and choreographed work for the Minnesota Orchestra, TheaterWorks in CA, the Guthrie Theater, McCarter Theater, Children’s Theater, Milwaukee Rep, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Mixed Blood, Goodman Theater, Shakespeare Theater in DC, Latté Da and Juilliard Drama School and others. Previously, she was Director of Company Development and Movement Director for the Guthrie. Marcela is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 Zelda Fichandler Award.
MICHELLE O’NEILL  
(Con-Director) She/Her  
“I like people. I like story. I am interested in what makes us human, how we connect, love and hurt. All the complexities that makes us who we are... Theater allows us to come together and share these experience, so we know we are not alone ... so we feel connected.”

Michelle first performed with TTT in *The Fisherman’s Wife*. She worked on Broadway and in New York theater after graduating from the Juilliard School of Drama and has performed in more than 25 productions with the Guthrie. She is passionate about working with young actors and enjoys teaching and directing with the U of M Guthrie BFA Theater Program.

PETER VITALE  
(Music Director) He/Him  
“I do theater because it reminds me how important it is to listen. And, cast parties.”

Over the past 25+ years Peter has worked on more than 50 TTT productions. He has appeared on other local stages including the Guthrie, Jungle Theater, Frank Theater, Park Square Theater, Minnesota Jewish Theater Company and the Ordway.

SARAH AGNEW  
(Sets & Props Designer) She/Her  
“I like to make something new in collaboration with others and see what happens with an audience.”

Sarah is a theater director, actor, educator and creator. Now she is a producer of kid’s television at Children’s MN. Sarah was last seen with TTT in the title role in *Scapin*.

NICK GOLFIS  
(Sets & Props Designer) He/Him  
“The collaboration process with artists of different backgrounds helps create work that no one could make themselves. The challenge of designing and creating inventive objects and solving tricky transitions helps to define a world. Ultimately, my hope is that the piece transports the audience somewhere outside of their day to day, somewhere unexpected.”

Nick is a multidisciplinary artist/designer based in Minneapolis, MN. He builds props, designs sets, produces exhibitions and performances in both galleries and arenas. His fine art has been shown in Minnesota, New York, Missouri, and Montana. THEATER: Producer/

SAMANTHA FROMM HADDOW  
(Costume Designer) She/Her  
“Theatre allows me to be completely immersed in another’s story and experience their journey through a lens different from my own. Theatre builds empathy. As a costume designer, I love exploring how the clothing a character wears can shape how the audience perceives them. Clothes tell a story all their own.”

Samantha is costume designer, milliner, and textile artist whose work has been seen on various stages throughout the Twin Cities. Previous costume designs include *Raisin in the Sun* (Guthrie Theater), *Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Artistry), *Toil and Trouble*, *Misery*, *In the Next Room*, and *Skeleton Crew* (Yellow Tree Theatre), *Korean Drama Addict’s Guide*, TOT, and *You for Me for You* (Theater Mu), *Into the Woods* (Theater Latté Da), *Don Giovanni* and *The Tragedy of Carmen* (Skylark Opera), *The Gondoliers* and *Odyssey* (MN Opera’s Project Opera), and multiple productions with Stages Theater Company and Lyric Arts of Anoka.

JIM LICHTSCHEIDL  
(Movement) He/Him  
“I do theater for that moment of complete unity during the performance; when the play and the audience become one—whether it be a laugh or a gasp or a few seconds of pin-drop quiet. No matter what our own personal story is, this moment is humbling. It is the genesis of common ground between strangers.”

Jim has worked with TTT in several different ways: as a performer in eleven productions including *Little Shop Of Horrors* and *Stones In His Pockets*, as a choreographer for seven productions including *The Music Man* and *My Fair Lady*, as an artist core member, and as director/collaborator for the production *Huh?* which toured to non-English speaking audiences. Jim’s other credits include the Jungle Theater, Pillsbury House Theater, Harold Pinter Theater in London’s West End, St. Ann’s Warehouse, and several other local and regional theaters. Jim is a 2019 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow at the Playwright’s Center.
MAYA VAGLE
(Stage Manager) She/Her

“Theater fosters crucial communities where people can celebrate and find joy. It is a profound blessing.”

Maya is thrilled to be working on *Spitfire Grill* this Spring. She would like to thank the production crew, artistic staff, and cast for their work throughout this process. She hopes you enjoy the show!

RYAN VOLNA-RICH
(Production Manager) He/Him

“Theatre is more than just a story, it’s an experience. You experience the sorrow, the laughter, the joy all together with your fellow audience members, you empathize as a group. I think our world could use more empathy, more group stories.”

Throughout his career, Ryan has made an effort to highlight and support the work of others. He is excited to bring this passion and his skills to work at Ten Thousand Things, helping to support the world-class story tellers as they captivate audiences.

ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION

(“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers.

Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions.

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OUR 2024 – 2025 SEASON

**Helen**
by Euripides  
directed by Marcela Lorca  
music by JD Steele  
**OCTOBER 3 – NOVEMBER 10**

**This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing**
by Finegan Kruckemeyer  
directed by Markell Kiefer  
**FEBRUARY 4 – MARCH 16**

**Violet**
music by Jeanine Tesori  
book and lyrics by Brian Crawley  
directed by Kelli Foster Warder  
music directed by Sanford Moore  
**APRIL 24 – JUNE 1**

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Because theater is richer when EVERYONE is in the audience.