



presents

Witch

by Jen Silverman

MARCH 15 – APRIL 7, 2024

Directed by Angie Flynn-McIver

Starring

Daniel Henry	Arusi Santi*
Anthony Johnson	Gabrielle Story
Philip Kershaw*	Callan White*

Production Stage Manager

Amelia Driscoll*

Scenic Design Julie K. Ross	Sound Design Bailey Gafeney
Lighting Design CJ Barnwell	Choreographer Carrie Day
Costume Design Victoria Depew	Fight Choreographer Bill Muñoz
Props Design Sylvia J. Pierce	

“WITCH” was commissioned by Writers Theatre through the Literary Development Initiative, with the generous support of David and Mary Winton Green, and the World Premiere was presented at Writers Theatre in Glencoe, IL; Michael Halberstam, Artistic Director, Kathryn M. Lipuma, Executive Director.

“Witch” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Elizabeth Sawyer Callan White*

Scratch Arusi Santi*

Cuddy Banks Daniel Henry

Frank Thorney Anthony Johnson

Sir Arthur Banks Philip Kershaw*

Winnifred Gabrielle Story

TIME

Then-ish. But equally of our moment.

SETTING

The Village of Edmonton: a semi-rural small town lost in the country

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Jen Silverman is a New York-based playwright, novelist and screenwriter. Jen's plays include *Spain*; *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties*; *The Moors*; *The Roommate*; *Witch* and *Highway Patrol*. They have been produced off-Broadway, regionally across the US, and internationally in Australia, the UK, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Spain. Jen is the author of the debut novel *We Play Ourselves* and the story collection *The Island Dwellers*; Jen's next novel is forthcoming from Random House in 2024. Jen wrote *The Miranda Obsession* as a narrative podcast for Audible, starring Rachel Brosnahan. Jen is a three-time MacDowell Fellow and a member of New Dramatists. Honors include the Yale Drama Series Award and fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim. Jen also writes for TV and film.

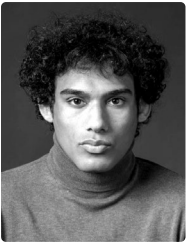
Cast *(In Alphabetical Order)*

Daniel Henry (*Cuddy Banks*)



is a local Asheville actor, and eagerly joins NC Stage for his debut alongside an exceptional cast. Armed with a BA in Theatre Arts from Mars Hill University and further training at the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, Daniel returned to Asheville in 2017, immersing himself in diverse theatre and film ventures across the Southeast. Notable roles include Colin in Different Strokes PAC's *Blood At The Root* and Tybalt in American Myth Center's *The Ballad of Romeo and Juliet*, alongside memorable film appearances in *Hickory Dickory Dock* and *Lovestruck*. Grateful for unwavering support, Daniel extends heartfelt thanks to his partner, agents, family, and friends. With enthusiasm and dedication, he continues to embrace the art of storytelling, anticipating many more captivating performances ahead.

Anthony Johnson (*Frank Thorney*)



is thrilled to be making his NC Stage debut! Anthony is grateful for the opportunity to join this production and its phenomenal cast and crew. His acting career is relatively new and it's impressive to see how quickly he's gained succession in such an extensive art like theater. This is his second play, having first been a part of the spectacular run of *Pippin* (Lewis) at ACT in downtown Asheville. With no formal education for arts and two years experience of strictly screen acting, to be able to work with NC Stage in this production feels not only like a testament to his hard work but also a dream come true!

Philip Kershaw (*Sir Arthur Banks*)*



is a multi-disciplinary artist who graduated from the University of Houston MFA Acting program after earning his undergraduate degrees at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is incredibly honored to be back at North Carolina Stage Company after appearing in *Be Here Now* last season and *A Case for the Existence of God* earlier this season. He has worked on regional productions for Peterborough Players, ZACH Theatre, Theatre Under the Stars, Rec Room Arts, Lean Ensemble Theater, the Houston Shakespeare Festival, A.D. Players, Adventure Theatre MTC, The Wheel Theatre Company, Unity Theatre, Dirt Dogs Theatre Co., The Ensemble Theatre, Penobscot Theatre Company, and Round House Theatre.

CAST BIOS

Arusi Santi (*Scratch*)*



NC Stage: Debut. Regional: *Real Women Have Curves*, A.R.T; *A Christmas Carol*, The Guthrie Theater; *Somewhere Over the Border*, City Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Geva Theatre; *Blood Knot*, Flat Rock Playhouse; *On Your Feet!* Aurora Theatre; *Ironbound*, B Street Theatre, Moxie Theatre; *Once* (San Diego Theatre Critics Circle Award), *Chaps*, Lamb's Players Theatre; *Moon Over Buffalo*, North Coast Rep; *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Liar*, Creede Repertory Theatre; *Clandestino*, Mixed Blood Theatre. UK: *Much Ado About Nothing*, Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Mexico: *La Alondra*, Teatro UNAM. TV: *Naomi*, *El hotel de los secretos*, *A que no me dejas*, *Hasta que te conocí*. Training: University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program. www.arusisanti.com IG: @arusi.santi

Gabrielle Story (*Winnifred*)



is an actor from Dallas, GA. She graduated from Columbus State University with Honors and received her BFA in Theatre Performance. You may know her from *Antigone* (Chorus/Tiresias) at NC Stage, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Lady Bracknell), and *Pippin* (Ensemble) at CSU or *Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type* (Hen A) at the Springer Opera House. She also portrayed Mary Touvestre in the *Lift Every Voice: Black History Tour* in Columbus, GA. She is grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank everyone involved with this process for giving her the platform to speak her mind and her family (given and found) for their unmoving support. She wants everyone to know, "You are worthy of love and your voice deserves to be heard. Don't let anyone take that away from you." Enjoy the show!

Callan White (*Elizabeth Sawyer*)*



was last seen at NC Stage in *The Roommate*. Audiences have seen her in *Other Desert Cities*, *Souvenir*, *Annapurna*, *Stalking the Bogeyman*, The Jeeves plays, and *Angels in America*. Immediate Theatre Project Productions include *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Silent Sky*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Her last production with SART was *The Lyons*. Callan has played major roles in regional theatres nationally, including Berkeley Rep, A.C.T., Long Wharf Theatre, Ensemble Studio Theatre and the Kennedy Center. She played the Mother in Nicholas Spark's film, *The Choice* among others. Television guest starring roles: *Star Trek*, *Crossing Jordan*, *Strong Medicine*, *The Practice*, *JAG*, *Murphy Brown*, *LA Law*, and *The Profiler*. She starred on ABC's *Loving* as Ann Alden. She is also a director. Callan is a Theatre Professor at Western Carolina University.

Production Bios

Angie Flynn-McIver (Director) is the co-founder of NC Stage, where she has directed many plays including *Frost/Nixon*, *Angels in America*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and the Jeeves series. Angie holds a degree in Theatre from Smith College and a Master's in Organizational Development and Leadership from Fielding Graduate University. Angie is the president of Ignite CSP, a coaching firm that trains people in presentation skills, public speaking, and intentional communication. Her book, *Before You Say Anything: How to Have Better Conversations, Love Public Speaking, and Finally Know What to Do with Your Hands*, was published in October 2021.

Amelia Driscoll* (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be back at NC Stage working on another fantastic show. In 2012, she graduated from UNC Wilmington with a degree in Creative Writing and a minor in Theatre. Since then, she has worked as a stage manager or assistant stage manager in theatres across North Carolina, South Carolina, and California. She wants to thank the cast, crew, production team, and NC Stage staff for making this a wonderful experience as well as her friends and family for their continued support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Julie K. Ross (Scenic Design) is a Florida State University grad that is based out of Asheville, NC. When she's not chasing her toddler, Jacob, around, Julie continues to paint and design in every capacity she can find. Julie is thrilled to be working with the NC Stage team again. Past NC Stage productions include: *Incident at our Lady of Perpetual Help*, *Jeeves Intervenes*, and *Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike*. When she's not designing sets for the theater, she stays busy painting amusement parks, commercial murals and signage and residential faux finishes. You've probably seen her work at Dollywood (Wildwood Grove), Bass Pro Shops or the new Melting Pot Social. Most recently she painted the new Big Bear Mountain that opened this spring at Dollywood. You can see more examples of her work at www.juliekross.com.

CJ Barnwell (Lighting Design) designs lighting and visual media for theatre and live events around the country. Starting with *All is Calm* in December 2015, CJ has designed lighting and visual media for a number of shows at NC Stage including *Jeeves Intervenes (both times!)*, *Brave New World*, *Grounded*, and *Curvy Widow*. Regionally, CJ has designed a number of shows including *West Side Story*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *9 to 5*, and *South Pacific* at Flat Rock Playhouse in Flat Rock, NC; and most recently *Steel Magnolias*, *Ring of Fire*, and *Lady Day* at Emerson's Bar and Grill for North Carolina Theatre in Raleigh, NC. Other recent designs include projections for *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*, and *Mountaintop at TheatreSquared* in Fayetteville, AK; and *How I Learned What I Learned* by August Wilson at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. See his other current and upcoming designs at www.cjLights.com.

PRODUCTION BIOS

Victoria Depew (*Costume Design*) is excited to return to NC Stage for *Witch*. Recent NC Stage credits include *Jeeves Saves The Day*, *A Doll's House Part 2*, and *Jeeves at Sea*. Other credits include *Smoke on the Mountain* for A.D. Players (Houston, TX) *Twelfth Night*, *Othello*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Macbeth* for the American Shakespeare Center (Staunton, VA); *Oliver*, *Clue*, *Peter Pan* and *Deathtrap* for Oak Ridge Playhouse (Oak Ridge, TN); *Alcina* for KU Opera (Lawrence, KS); *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Clue*, *Heathers*, *Spring Awakening* and *Cabaret* for Western Carolina University (Cullowhee, NC); *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and *Tom Sawyer* for Missouri Summer Repertory Theatre (Columbia, MO); and *La Traviata*, *La Boheme*, and *Hansel and Gretel* for the Bronx Opera (Bronx, NY). Victoria is the Director of the School of Stage and Screen at Western Carolina University where she teaches Costume Design and Construction. She received her MFA in Costume and Scenic Design from Rutgers University.

Sylvia J. Pierce (*Props Artist*) is a life-long theatre enthusiast playing one of Ole King Cole's fiddlers at age 4. She pursued technical theatre in grad school, deciding she'd rather be a techie than a conceptual designer. Starting out professionally in Cambridge MA in 1978, she worked her way South, through New York City, Atlanta and all over the US and abroad for the next two decades. Along the way she built and managed shows for theatre and broadcast television events, joined IATSE Local #4, built lots of sets, owned two companies, went on the road, and finally moved slightly north to Asheville. Finding that the mountains felt like home, she finally gave up her nomadic lifestyle and settled down. Now, she works and builds for local theatre companies and is enjoying this phase of her career.

Bailey Gafaney (*Sound Design*) is an Atlanta based sound designer and audio mixer, and is excited to be back designing for the second time in Asheville! Her previous sound design credits include *Fela! The Musical* with Lambert Smith Media (Atlanta, Georgia), *Rooted* at Horizon Theatre Company (Atlanta, GA), and *The Revolutionists* with Immediate Theatre Company on the NC stage. Special thanks to her mother Sheila for watching Babette and Algal the Bard on Youtube for the amazing Medieval covers.

Carrie Day (*Choreographer*) holds a BFA in Modern Dance Composition from the University of the Arts, and an MA in Dance & Movement Education from the University of Central Lancashire. She is a classically trained dancer in modern and ballet, and has performed professionally in Philadelphia and New York City. She is also Production Manager at NC Stage, and dabbles in all things relating to back stage and production. Carrie is very grateful for this opportunity to work on *Witch* and collaborate with Angie and Daniel. Thank you to Catherine, whose willingness to help with projects overflows her mom's heart with joy.

PRODUCTION BIOS

Bill Muñoz (*Fight Choreographer*) Choreographing for the stage or conducting workshops, Bill's work has been seen at Emory and Henry University, UNC-Asheville, The Warehouse Theatre, Warren Wilson College, Asheville Christian Academy, Asheville Arts Center, Blue Ridge Community College, North Henderson High School, Woodmont High School, Mill Town Players, 11 productions at South Carolina Children's Theatre, and 23 productions at Flat Rock Playhouse. Past productions at NC Stage: *Romeo and Juliet*, *As You Like It*, *Matt and Ben*, *Jeeves in Bloom* and *MacBeth*.

Production Crew

Production Manager Carrie Day

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Carpentry Assistant Rafael Hernandez

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Run Crew Carrie Day and Emily Robinson

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