THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE MADONES

By: Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk

July 12 - August 11, 2024

Get Your Tickets At: www.blanktheatrecompany.org

Athenaeum Center for Thought & Culture 2936 N Southport Ave, Chicago, IL 60657

BLANK THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE MAD ONES

By Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk

Based on an Idea by Zach Altman and Bree Lowdermilk

CREATIVE TEAM

Director: Wyatt Kent
Musical Director: Aaron Kaplan
Scenic Designer: Hunter Cole
Lighting Designer: James Arakas
Costume Designer: Cindy Moon
Sound Engineer: Clare Brennan
Stage Manager: Jessica Wexler

Intimacy Choreographer: Jamie Macpherson

Tech Director: Line Bower Assistant Director: Becca Holloway

Associate Music Director/Rehearsal Accompanist: Evelyn Ryan

Assistant Lighting Designer: Mary Elizabeth Adams

Producers: Dustin Rothbart*, Danny Kapinos*

Marketing Coordinator: Halli Morgan*

* Denotes Blank Theatre Company Member

Original Orchestrations by Bree Lowdermilk

Original Sound Design by Alex Hawthorn Original Electronic Music Design by Dana Hayne

New York Premiere Produced by Prospect Theater Company, New York, NY Cara Reichel, Producing Artistic Director Melissa Huber, Managing Director Originally Produced by Goodspeed Musicals Michael P. Price, Executive Producer Presented at the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Festival of New Musicals in 2016. www.namt.org

THE MAD ONES is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

www.concordtheatricals.com

THE MAD ONES CAST

Samantha Brown · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	····· Rachel Guth*
Kelly Manning	····· Karylin Veres
Beverly Brown ·····	····· Anne Sheridan Smith
Adam	·····Aidan Leake

UNDERSTUDIES:

For Samantha Brown: Anna Blanchard; For Kelly Manning: Katy Campbell, For Beverly Brown: Melissa Paris, For Adam: Joel Arreola

Understudies never substitute for the listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of appearance

Musicians:

Keyboard: Evelyn Ryan Violin: Eva Nicholson

Guitar: Michael Lockler (Paul Compton at certain performances) Harp: Ksenia Sushkevich (Jennifer Ruggieri at certain performances)

SPECIAL THANKS

Andrew Milliken, Ben Carne, Chicago Moving Company/Hamlin Park Theatre, City Lit Theater, Debbie Katz-Knowles, The Factory Theatre, Katie Capp, Kevin Zhou, Red Theater, Sachio Nang, The Saints, Troy University

This production is made possible due to the generous support of grants from these organizations





SONG LIST, THE MAD ONES

"The Girl Who Drove Away"Sam"Freedom"Sam, Kelly"My Mom is a Statistician"Sam, Beverly
"Sam Failed Her Driver's Test" Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam "Top Ten" Sam, Kelly "Simple as That" Sam, Adam "The Proposal" Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam "The Mad Ones" Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam "I Know My Girl" Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam "Miles to Go" Beverly
"Say The Word" Sam, Adam "Moving On" Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam "Go Tonight" Sam, Kelly
"Run Away With Me" ····· Adam
"Drive" Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam
"I Didn't Say Goodbye" Kelly
"Remember This" ······Sam, Kelly, Beverly, Adam

 ${\it The performance runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission}$

CAST BIOS

RACHEL GUTH (Samantha Brown) is an award winning actor who has worked at Marriott Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Music Theatre Works, Boho Theatre, Black Button Eyes, The Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, Northwestern University, the American Music Theatre Project, and Blank Theatre Company, where she is a company member. Some favorite roles include Rose in *Ghost Quartet*, Olive Ostrovsky in 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Anne in A Little Night Music, Teen Fiona in Shrek, and Ilona in She Loves Me (Jeff Nominee). Offstage, she has been featured both singing and speaking on popular podcasts, as well as in a national print campaign. Rachel is a Northwestern graduate. See more from her at rachelguth.com and @TheRachelGuth on Instagram.

KARYLIN VERES (Kelly Manning) is a Jeff nominated actor, singer, and dancer based in the Chicago area. She is thrilled to join Blank again after being seen as Lily Garland in their production of *On the Twentieth Century*! You may have also seen her in *The* Producers (Ens./Ulla U/S) with Music Theater Works, *Indoor Cats* (Jules) with Red Theater, and *The Wild Party* (Queenie, Jeff Nom.) with Blank Theater Company. Some other favorite roles include Peggy Sawyer in *42nd Street* and Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. She holds a BA in Theater with a concentration in Acting from Arizona State University. To see more of her work, check out her website at karylinveres.com

ANNE SHERIDAN SMITH (Beverly Brown) is delighted to be working with Blank Theatre to tell this coming-of-age story. Her most recent Chicago appearance was in Shattered Globe's production of the musical, London Road (Jeff Award, Best Musical, Mid-Size). Other appearances include the world premiere play, The Kelly Girls (Jeff Award, New Work, Factory Theater), as Miss Mona in The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (Jeff Nomination, Best Principal in a Musical, Theo Theatre), Queen Aggravain in Once Upon a Mattress (Jeff Nomination, Best Supporting in a Musical, Theo Theatre), Southern Gothic (Windy City Playhouse in association with the Goodman); Fun Home (Victory Gardens); The Drowning Girls (Jeff Nomination, Best Ensemble - Play, Signal Ensemble); Bat Boy, The Musical (Jeff Nomination, Best Supporting Actor, Griffin); Mother Courage and Her Children (Vitalist Theatre); 1776 (Jeff Award, Best Musical, Signal Ensemble); The Good Soul of Szechuan (Strawdog Theatre). Anne holds a BA in Acting from Western Illinois University and is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.

AIDAN LEAKE (Adam) is thrilled to be making his Chicago and Blank Theatre debut! He is a rising senior in the Chicago College for Performing Arts musical theatre program. He is also a proud father to his cat, Link. Previous credits include: *Wonderful Town* (CCPA), *Spring Awakening* (CCPA), and *Bright Star* (CCPA). He would like to thank Blank Theatre Company, his professors, family, friends and especially his Mom for helping him get here! IG: @aidanleake

CAST BIOS (CONTINUED)

ANNA BLANCHARD (U/S Sam) is thrilled to be making her Blank Theatre debut! Previous Chicago credits include Spring Awakening (Marriott Theatre); Godspell, Grey Gardens, Sweeney Todd (Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre); America's Best Outcast Toy (Pride Arts); 35mm: A Musical Exhibition (Art 4); Carrie: The Musical, Heathers: The Musical (Stage Door Fine Arts). She would like to thank her family, friends, Colin, and John Komasa for their endless support! www.AnnaLynnBlanchard.com, IG: @annalblanchard

KATY CAMPBELL (U/S Kelly) is excited to work with Blank Theatre for the first time! Other credits include *Die Hard 4 Your Luv, Lane Call, The Kelly Girls* (Factory Theater), *Muted.* (Red Theatre), *Valhalla: The Progeny of Loki* (The Plagiarists), *The Ballad of Lefty and Crabbe, Notes & Letters* (Underscore Theatre), *The Facts of Life: Satan's School for Girls* (Hell in a Handbag). She'd like to thank her family, her incredible boyfriend Alex, and her three-legged cat Lieutenant Dan. Katy is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent. www.katycampbellactor.com

MELISSA PARIS (U/S Beverly) is excited to be working with the team at Blank Theatre Company on The Mad Ones! Recent credits include Desiree Armfeldt in A Little Night Music (Brightside Theatre), Diana in Next to Normal (Performing Arts at Oakton), Abigail Adams in 1776 (E.D.G.E. Theatre), and MC in Join the Club (The Skokie Theatre). Other favorites include roles in Baby, The Little Foxes, 'Night Mother, Into the Woods, Company, Cabaret, The Cherry Orchard, Evita and Peggy Sawyer in 42nd Street. Thank you for supporting the arts!

JOEL ARREOLA (U/S Adam) is a Chicago-based actor, singer, and student. He is thrilled to be joining Blank Theatre Company and the cast of this wonderful production! Favorite credits include: *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble & Toby U/S, Kokandy Productions), *Shrek The Musical* (Ensemble & Donkey U/S, Music Theatre Works), and *Ride The Cyclone* (Ricky Potts, 4 Chairs Theatre). Joel is a Broadway In Chicago: IHSMTA nominee for "Best Actor". He is a current student at Columbia College Chicago and is pursuing a degree in Music. He hopes to continue pursuing and building his love for theatre and is excited to be starting in the city he grew up in!

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

WYATT KENT (Director) serves as co-Artistic Director of Red Theater. For Red, he most recently directed *Hamlet* and previously received a Non-Equity Jeff Award nomination for his direction of the premiere of Mora V. Harris' *Indoor Cats* (Winner of 2 Non-Equity Jeff Awards, including Best New Work). Directing credits include immersive and devised work (*The Wild Party, Out of Many, De/Ascending*), Shakespeare adaptations (*Romeo and Juliet et al., Macbeth, Julius Caesar*) and new play development.

AARON KAPLAN (Musical Director) enjoys a multifaceted musical career as a conductor, Jeff-nominated musical director, cellist, music educator, and arranger. He earned a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign under the tutelage of Donald Schleicher, as well as his bachelor's degree in cello performance and bachelor's degree in music education with high honors also from the University of Illinois. Aaron is the artistic director/conductor of the JAM Orchestra, a Chicago-based ensemble dedicated to performing a diverse repertoire of classical, Broadway, swing, and film music, and also conducts for the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestras and the Music Institute of Chicago. A dedicated teacher, Aaron is an orchestra director at Glenbrook North and Glenbrook South High Schools. A passionate advocate of the American musical theatre, Aaron has been the music director/conductor for over 90 productions (the majority with complete orchestration) including West Side Story, On the Town, Sweeney Todd, Les Misérables, RENT, Chess, Guys & Dolls, Fiddler on the Roof, and The Producers. His work with Blank has been recognized with 2 Jeff nominations for Music Direction: The Wild Party (2022) and Promises, Promises (2023). Upcoming projects include Les Misérables (Uptown Music Theatre of HP), and Cinderella (Metropolis Performing Arts Centre). IG: @askcello. Special thanks to Wyatt, Jessica, Evelyn, the wonderful cast and the fantastic orchestra. Thank you for supporting live theater, live music, and the arts in the community!

HUNTER COLE (Scenic Designer) is a freelance scenic designer living in Pilsen. They're exceptionally grateful for the opportunity to work with the fabulous artists in this show. Previous design work includes *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Oil Lamp Theater), *Silent Sky* (ECC), and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* (Three Brothers Theatre). They couldn't do this without the support of their fiancé, Paige Baumann. Love to Justin and Makayla.

JAMES ARAKAS (Lighting Designer) is the Assistant Professor of Lighting Design and Technology at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. He received a BA in Theatre from Wofford College and an MFA in Performance Design: Lighting from Arizona State University. This is his second time designing in Chicago, the first being *Caveman Play* with Red Theater in 2023. He would like to thank his friends for their efforts at keeping him employed.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS (CONTINUED)

CINDY MOON (Costume Designer) is happy to return to Blank Theatre Company after previously designing *On the Twentieth Century, Promises, Promises, Merrily We Roll Along* and *She Loves Me*, the latter of which earned her a Jeff Award nomination. She is a Chicagobased freelance costume designer, originally from the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. Her recent Chicago area design work includes *Les Miserables* (Uptown Music Theatre); *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Young People's Theatre); *A Little Night Music, The ThreePenny Opera* (Theo Ubique, Jeff Award nomination); *Airness* (Citadel Theatre); *School of Rock* (Associate Designer to Izumi Inaba, Paramount Aurora). Regional designs include *Hello, Dolly!* (Ohio Light Opera); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Tuacahn). She has also had the pleasure of holding multiple positions at Steppenwolf Theatre including Costume Lead for *Purpose* and *Little Bear Ridge Road*. Education: MFA in Costume Design and Technology, Virginia Tech. More of her work can be seen at www.cindymooncostu.me

CLARE BRENNAN (Sound Engineer) is a Chicago-based theater maker and co-Artistic Director of Red Theater. Design credits include *Penelope* (Sound) and *Those of European Descent* (Sound/Projections) for RhinoFest and *Non-Player Character* (Projections) for Red Theater. Directing credits include Caryl Churchill's *Vinegar Tom* and the Chicago premiere of Savannah Reich's *Caveman Play* for Red Theater; *Agnes of God* (Jeff Nominated; Redtwist Theatre), Anthony Neilson's *Stitching* (BlackLight Theatre; Dublin, Ireland), *Home of Love* (Wall to Wall Theatre Festival; Ann Arbor, MI), and *Othello* (The University of Michigan). Past production credits include *Indoor Cats* (Winner of 2 Non-Equity Jeff Awards), *You Are Happy*, and *Isle of Sugar* for Red Theater, *Bicycle Thieves* for Littlebrain Theatre, and many an apartment show. Elsewhere in Chicago, she has worked with Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Shattered Globe, Links Hall, The Den, Prop Thtr, Theatre Evolve, and NON:op. Clare holds a B.A. in Drama and English from the University of Michigan. www.clarebrennancreative.com

JESSICA WEXLER (Stage Manager) is a Chicago-based Stage Manager. She graduated in 2023 from the University of Miami Florida where she obtained her BFA in Theatre with a focus in stage management, and just recently completed a season-long apprenticeship with the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. Some of her favorite credits include *Cabaret* (SM), *The Three* Musketeers (SM), *Run Bambi Run* (SM Resident), *A Christmas Carol* (Young Performer SM), and *What the Constitution Means to Me* (ASM). She is thrilled to be stage managing her first show with Blank Theatre and would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her.

JAMIE MACPHERSON (Intimacy Choreographer) is a Chicago intimacy and fight director. She has been an invited artist at Macalester College, Augsburg College, and the Lawrence Art Center. Recent credits include: *Hamlet* (Red Theater), *Fun Home* (University of Chicago), *Marian: the True Tale of Robin Hood* (Patriot Theatre Company), and *Treasure Island* (Mudlark Theater). Her work has been published in Youth Theater Journal, Howlround, and The Fight Master. Jamie holds an MFA in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University, and is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors. Check out more about her work at jamiemacpherson.com.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS (CONTINUED)

LINE BOWER (Tech Director) is a Chicago-based technical director, carpenter, and scenic painter. They received their BA in Theatre Technology & Design and Stage Combat from Columbia College Chicago. Above all else, they are a proud ensemble member of Babes With Blades Theatre Company! Favorite TD credits include: *Port of Entry* (Albany Park Theatre Project), *That Must Be the Entrance to Heaven* (Visión Latino), *The S Paradox* (BWBTC), and *Jane: Abortion and the Underground* (Idle Muse). You can catch them on carpentry overhire calls throughout the city, or carrying loose pieces of lumber on the CTA.

BECCA HOLLOWAY (Assistant Director) is a director, casting director, and producer. A proud company member of Factory Theater and Red Theater, she also casts for both companies. Producer/Curator of the monthly Readings at Red series. Recent directing credits include: *Wise Guys, Die Hard 4 Your Luv*, and the upcoming *The Curious Circumstances of Louis LePrince* (Factory Theater), *Muted*. (Red Theater), and the upcoming *Disaster: The Musical* (Big Noise Theatre). Much love to MM and CWW.

EVELYN RYAN (Associate Music Director/Pianist) is excited to be returning to Blank Theatre Company, where she made her professional debut five years ago! Previous credits include *Sondheim Tribute Revue* and *Assassins* (Theo Ubique), *Nunsense* (Up & Coming), and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Blank). Evelyn has a degree in Music Composition from DePaul University and works as an arranger and orchestrator around Chicago. You can also find her playing for cabarets and open mics at Davenport's. She has a second, secret degree in Sustainable Urban Development. Thank you for coming to the show!

DUSTIN ROTHBART (Co-Artistic Director) is one of the Co-Founding Artistic Directors of Blank Theatre Company. For Blank, Dustin has appeared on stage as Owen O'Malley in On the Twentieth Century, Charley Kringas in Merrily We Roll Along, Burrs in The Wild Party (Jeff Nomination – Best Ensemble), The Chairman in The Mystery of Edwin Drood and Georg in Spring Awakening. Chicago: Les Misérables (Uptown Music Theatre), Bright Lights Big City (The Beautiful City Project), Rosenberg (Open Space Arts), Camelot (Janus Concert Series); Anyone Can Whistle, 25th...Spelling Bee, Funny Girl (Madkap Productions); The History Boys (Eclectic Theatre); Lester's Dreadful Sweaters (Lifeline Theatre); The Little Mermaid, Man of La Mancha (JPAC) Oliver! (Citadel Theatre) The Wedding (Red Theater); Hair, Ragtime (Big Noise Theatre); Cabaret (Brightside Theatre); The Rocky Horror Show (Underscore Theatre Company); Electra (Mary-Arrchie Theatre Co). Regional: Little Bits of Light (Hampstead Stage Company); A Year with Frog and Toad (Canterbury Summer Theatre). Dustin is a graduate of the acting program at Illinois State University. IG: DustinRothbart www.DustinRothbart.com

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS (CONTINUED)

DANNY KAPINOS (Co-Artistic Director) serves as co-Artistic Director of Blank Theatre Company, where he has directed *On the Twentieth Century, Promises, Promises; Merrily We Roll Along; She Loves Me* (Jeff nomination - Best Director); *The Mystery of Edwin Drood;* and *Spring Awakening*. Credits as an assistant director include *Pearl's Rollin' With the Blues* (Writers Theatre, dir. Ron O.J. Parson), *The King's Speech* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, dir. Michael Wilson), *Becky Shaw* (Windy City Playhouse, dir. Scott Weinstein), and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (Filament Theatre, dir. Katy Walsh). Danny holds a B.A. in Theatre from Northwestern University and is an SDC Associate Member.

KAIT KERRIGAN (Author) is an award-winning lyricist, bookwriter, and playwright. Off -Broadway: THE MAD ONES (fka THE UNAUTHORIZED AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SAMANTHA BROWN), HENRY & MUDGE, with composer Bree Lowdermilk. She has written book and lyrics for the immersive house party THE BAD YEARS, REPUBLIC, UNBOUND, IRENA; and lyrics for ROSIE REVERE, ENGINEER & FRIENDS, and EARTHRISE. Her plays include FATHER/DAUGHTER, DISASTER RELIEF, IMAGINARY LOVE, and TRANSIT. Her work has been developed by La Jolla, Kennedy Center, Theatreworks/Silicon Valley, Primary Stages, Goodspeed, and others. Awards: Kleban, Larson, Theatre Hall of Fame Most Promising Lyricist. Alumna of Dramatists Guild Fellowship, Page 73's I-73, BMI Musical Theatre Writing Workshop, and Barnard College.

BREE LOWDERMILK (Author) is a queer, gender non-conforming writer and composer. Their musicals include *The Bad Years*, *Henry & Mudge*, *The Mad Ones* (fka The Unauthorized Autobiography of Samantha Brown), *Republic*, *Rosie Revere Engineer & Friends* and the albums *Our First Mistake* and *Kerrigan-Lowdermilk Live*. Awards: Jonathan Larson, Alan Menken, Richard Rodgers, Dramatists Guild Fellowship. www.kerrigan-lowdermilk.com

BLANK THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION HISTORY

2024:

On the Twentieth Century

Book and Lyrics by Betty Comden & Adolph Green, Music by Cy Coleman

The Mad Ones

By Kait Kerrigan and Bree Lowdermilk

A Bright Room Called Day

By Tony Kushner

2023:

What You Call a Dream: a Blank Cabaret

Merrily We Roll Along

Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by George Furth

Promises, Promises

Book by Neil Simon, Music by Burt Bacharach, Lyrics by Hal David

2021-2022:

Blank Sings: The Maury Yeston Songbook

LOVE [BLANK]S TOO: A Valentine's Day Cabaret

She Loves Me

Music by Jerry Bock, Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, Book by Joe Masteroff

The Wild Party

Book, Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

2019-2020:

The CaBOOret

The Mystery of Edwin Drood

Book, Music and Lyrics by Rupert Holmes

LOVE [BLANK]S: A Valentine's Day Cabaret

Nine - Cancelled due to Covid 19

Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston, Book by Arthur Kopit

BLANK THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION HISTORY (CONTINUED)

2018-2019:

Spring Awakening

Music and Lyrics by Duncan Sheik, Book by Steven Sater

New Year, New You: a Cabaret

Blackhird

By David Harrower

The Next Page: a Cabaret

2017-2018:

The First Page: a Cabaret

Blank's Sondheim Birthday Party

Songs for a New World: In Concert

Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

Board Of Directors
Mike Weaver, President
Josh Ticho

Dustin Rothbart
Danny Kapinos

Blank Theatre Company Staff
Dustin Rothbart, Co-Artistic Director
Danny Kapinos, Co-Artistic Director
Halli Morgan, Marketing Coordinator
Rachel Guth, Company Member
Larry Trice, Company Member

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Please consider making a donation to insure we can keep bringing you the high quality work you have come to expect from Blank Theatre Company.

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A Bright Room Called

Day

By Tony Kushner

Directed by Danny Kapinos, Blank's Co-Artistic Director

Set against the backdrop of 1930's Germany, this gripping drama follows a group of artists and activists as they navigate the rise of fascism and the erosion of democracy. As their personal lives intertwine with the political upheaval of the time, they must confront the unfortunate parallels to our contemporary world. Kushner's always-poignant exploration of power, resistance, and the human spirit resonates more than ever in today's turbulent times, offering both a haunting reflection on history and a powerful call to action.

December 6th, 2024 - January 5th, 2025

Greenhouse Theatre Center 2257 N Lincoln Ave Chicago, IL 60614

A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC

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