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# RED MASK PLAYERS

★ present ★

# RABBIT HOLE

by

David Lindsay-Abaire

April 6-8

&

April 13-15, 2018

Kathryn Randolph Theater

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RED MASK



PLAYERS

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# RABBIT HOLE

by

## David Lindsay-Abaire

Produced by special arrangement with  
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE

*RABBIT HOLE* was commissioned by South Coast Repertory  
(Martin Benson, Artistic Director;  
David Emmes, Producing Artistic Director)  
In Costa Mesa, CA

Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club,  
Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director;  
Barry Grove, Executive Producer,  
at the Biltmore Theatre on January 12, 2006

**PLACE**

Larchmont, New York

**TIME**

The present

There will be one 15 minute intermission between acts.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

“I have known death, and too well.”

I spoke those words at my late wife’s funeral, at the beginning of a piece I read for my children. In the prior four years I had lost my mother, brother, and father and I thought I had something I could say to my children about death.

I am still unsure if I was a help.

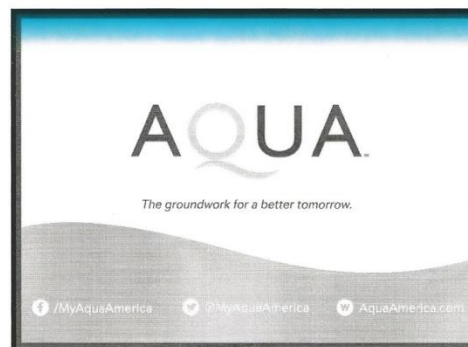
When I saw that Red Mask had chosen *Rabbit Hole* as the closing play of this season, I was thrilled. I thought, and still think, it was a bold choice for Red Mask. I thought I might put in to direct, because again I thought perhaps I had something I could say. I thought perhaps I had a unique perspective on helping the actors find their characters, and that I could stay out of the way of this nuanced, layered, Pulitzer winning material.

I am still unsure.

If I have done my job, though, I am certain this show has something to say to you. Its theme is universal and drawn stark and bare as our cast deals with a tragedy we don’t get to see.

“We all owe a death”, Stephen King says. We all also must face it, and there find our own mortality. We deal with death, each in our own way. As Becca and her family hopefully finally figure out, that’s perfectly ok.

*Paul Strain*  
Director



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The dictionary describes grief as a deep sorrow, especially caused by someone's death. *Rabbit Hole* in a way allows us to watch the process of grief that a mother and father go through after losing their child. The family we watch onstage may help us understand our own sense of grief surrounding a tragic or sorrowful event that we are facing in our own lives. *Rabbit Hole* is a show not only about people's lives but also about our life, how we can go spiraling down the rabbit hole out of control, just as Alice once did on her way to Wonderland, because of a tragic event that halts us from moving forward and living as we once had.

I have never lost a child as Becca and Howie have, and cannot begin to imagine the strength that it takes to pull oneself back into reality after such a loss. The journey that they take as they try to find each other, and the normality of life again, is an inspirational one. Although hard to watch at times, we find ourselves sucked in. They may make you laugh, or cry, want to scream, or just reflect on the events that are causing you such grief. I hope that this show inspires you and helps you find a sense of peace at the end.

I hope that this show, and many more at Red Mask, inspire you and help you reflect on the losses that you have endured, and that maybe for one moment the actors on the stage can give you some solace from those moments.

As J.M. Barrie, author of *Peter Pan* once wrote, "Never say goodbye, because goodbye means going away and going away means forgetting." This is not goodbye to those we have lost, just part of the journey that leads us back to them.

*Amanda Coutant,  
President*



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BIOGRAPHIES



**Amanda Coutant (Producer)** Amanda has been involved in community theater since she was a young child. She has been active with Red Mask Players, DLO Musical Theater, and Lincoln Park Theater Company as an actor, director, and various other positions within productions. Amanda has also been able to share the stage with her seven-year-old son Tayte, and she would like to thank him for keeping life interesting. She loves you to the moon and back!

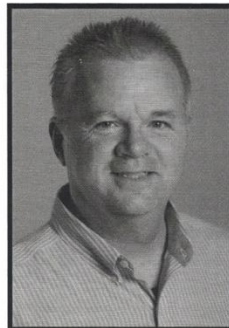
**Nancy Henderson (Nat)** Nancy has been involved in all aspects of local community theater for over 30 years. She was last seen onstage at the Beef House Dinner Theater as Carrie in *The Trip to Bountiful*. Other favorite roles include Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Mother in *Ragtime*, Anna in *The King & I*, and Sandra in *Big Fish*. Nancy is currently serving on the Red Mask Board and is a past President of the DLO Musical Theater Board. She is honored to be part of this very special production and sends thanks to her husband, Lon, for shuttling her to rehearsals after her knee surgery.



**Nancy Keener (Stage Manager)** Nancy is excited to be back at the Kathryn Randolph Theater. She has been on the Red Mask stage in *To Kill A Mockingbird* and appeared with DLO Musical Theater in *Sweeny Todd*, *A Little Night Music* and *Oliver*. Nancy thanks Paul for the opportunity to work on this powerful show with this amazing cast.



**Jeff Romig (Howie)** Jeff is a physician assistant working for the VA. He also retired from the U.S. Army after 31 years of service. Jeff is involved in the local arts of Danville and enjoys acting in various theatrical productions. Jeff is married to Karen, who is a teacher at Hoopston Jr. High and have a daughter, Karis, who is a student at Illinois State University, majoring in business.



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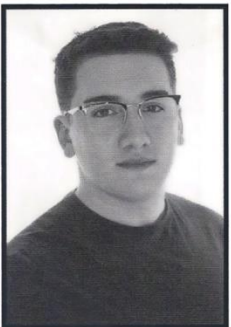


## BIOGRAPHIES



**Paul Strain (Director)** Paul has been active in the performing arts for over 30 years as a performer, instructor, clinician, technical guy, occasional judge and constant fan. He has participated onstage and behind the scenes for DLO Musical Theater, DSO, Sunshine II, Red Mask Players, and the Fischer Theater. You may have last seen him as King Triton in *The Little Mermaid* for DLO. He would like to thank the Red Mask board for having the faith to give a first-time director the reins for a serious turn like *Rabbit Hole*, and hopes the show resonates with you in a memorable way.

**Leslie VanCamp (Becca)** Leslie is the mother of two awesome boys, Silas and Benjamin. She's an assistant at an in-home daycare, studies Early Childhood at DACC, and serves on the Red Mask board. Leslie was most recently seen in the Red Mask Christmas show and Gregory's Academy of the Arts, *A Christmas Carol*. She also appeared in two shows last season for Red Mask. She's honored to be in this amazing show and thanks the casting committee for giving her this opportunity. Leslie thanks her family and friends for their support and encouragement, especially her mom, Betty. She also thanks everyone who supports the local arts and hopes you all enjoy the show!



**Carsen White (Jason)** Carsen is 17 years old and attends Bismarck-Henning High School. He has been in several productions at Red Mask, including *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, and *The Ghost of Canterville Hall*. Carsen also performed in DLO Musical Theater's *Oliver*. Carsen would like to thank everyone, including his friends and family, who have supported him. He sends a special thanks to his mom for giving him gas money to make driving to practice a little more fun.



**Jenna Wilson (Izzy)** Jenna Wilson (Grites) is the director of the Westville High School drama club, where she also teaches English. Her most recent role was Barbara Fordham in *August: Osage County* in 2016. Jenna is thrilled to work with Red Mask in *Rabbit Hole* and to be back on the stage where she spent her childhood. She would like to thank her loving family and husband, Adam, for their support.

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RED MASK



PLAYERS

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Director ..... Paul Strain  
 Assistant to the Director ..... Lisa Richter  
 Stage Manager ..... Nancy Keener  
 Producer ..... Amanda Coutant  
 Set Design ..... Paul Strain  
 Set Construction ..... Gail Garner, Dave Techtow & Bob Hous  
 Lighting Design ..... Paul Strain  
 Lighting Technician ..... Joel Ferren  
 Sound Design ..... Paul Strain  
 Sound Technician ..... Jamey Coutant  
 Props ..... Cast & Crew  
 Costumes ..... Cast & Crew  
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 Voice of Danny ..... Silas VanCamp  
 Voice of Taz ..... Mia Strain

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