



:: Lucia Colombi, Founder :: Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director ::

The River

by Jez Butterworth



FEB 17 - MAR 5

Ensemble Theatre :: **2022-2023** Season ::
Performing Arts Center-Notre Dame College
4545 College Rd. South Euclid, OH 44121

216.321.2930

www.ensembletheatreole.org

A Message from the Artistic Director/Director

Dear Friends,

What a journey the last few years have been. Navigating a pandemic and a move from a space we inhabited for almost a decade. We are so thankful for our new partners at Notre Dame College. We are so excited to become a part of the Performing Arts Family here in South Euclid! Both my mother and I graduated from Regina (now part of the college). How wonderful it is to return to where alot of this journey began for me! My office is in my old highschool, and what an honor to help young artists as they navigate the beginings of a journey I started here so many years ago.

Thank you for joining us for the third production in our new home at Notre Dame College. As we continue to settle here, we are happy to see so many familiar faces, of supporters who have been with us for many of the years along the way, some since the very first show! We are also happy to discover so many new faces and new members of our now expanded "local" community of supporters in "the land"! We are part of a rich theatre arts "ensemble" and arts community in Northeast Ohio and are excited for what this next chapter holds!

THE RIVER is a very unique study of the ever elusive adventure and sometimes "sisyphian" struggle that is love, loss, and personal reflection. A shorter piece but with so much packed into this little cabin on a cliff. A true cliff hanger. These are some of the best kind of stories to tell. What an adventure... Enjoy the show!

Celeste Cosentino, Executive Artistic Director

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:: **Lucia Colombi**, Founder :: **Celeste Cosentino**, Executive Artistic Director ::
Presents

THE RIVER

By **Jez Butterworth**

Director :: Ian Wolfgang Hinz
Costume Design :: Jill Kenderes
Prod. Stage Manager: Brittany Bizub
Props/Scenic Painting :: Becca Moseley
Set & Lighting Design :: Ian Hinz
Sound :: Becca Moseley & Celeste Cosentino

:: **The Cast** ::

Dan Zalevsky as The Man
Becca Moseley as The Woman
Laura Rauh as The Other Woman
Laurel Hoffman as Another Woman
Marisa Graybill U/S for Another Woman (Performing 2/18)

Setting: The Cabin on the cliffs, above the river.
Run Time: Approximately 80minutes. **There will be NO Intermission**

Please Note:

This production contains **strong language** and **themes**.

Please also note:

The fresh fish used for our production of **The River** is being donated to the **Lake Metroparks Kevin P. Clinton Wildlife Center** for use in their Animal Ambassador wildlife diets, including Apollo the Bald Eagle and Sassy the Grey Fox!

“**THE RIVER**” is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books’.

THE RIVER recieved it’s North American Premiere at the Circle in the Square Theatre, New York on November 16, 2014.

Who's who in the Cast:



Dan Zalevsky (he/him) (The Man) is thrilled to be returning to the Ensemble Theatre stage in "The River". He was previously seen in Ensemble's production of "Clybourne Park" as Karl/Steve. Dan has a BA in Theatre from the University of Northern Colorado. New York credits: Vital Theatre's "The Tempest" (Trinculo), Emerging Artists Theatre's "The Gay Naked Play" (Dan), founding member/writer/performer with the award-winning sketch comedy group, Fearsome (Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre and the People's Improv Theatre, NYC). Cleveland theatre credits: Mercury Theatre's "Clue" (Professor Plum) as well as their reading of "Lost in Yonkers" (Uncle Louie), Heights Youth Theatre's alumni production of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (Boris). Dan would like to thank his amazing wife, Claudia for her support and strength. This would not be possible without her. Thanks to Liam, Claire and Hank for their energy, humor and love.



Rebecca Moseley (she/her) (The Woman) is excited to be opening another show at Ensemble's new home, Notre Dame College! In addition to serving as Ensemble's General Manager, she has been the Resident Production Stage Manager for many Ensemble shows- but she is no stranger to the stage. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as a chorus leader/puppeteer in "Around the World in 80 Days", Pea in "Jerusalem", the Childlike Empress/company in "The Never Ending Story", Princess Rhyme in "The Phantom Tollbooth", and as Daisy Buchanan in "The Great Gatsby". Other favorite credits not at Ensemble include Rosalind (As You Like It) Fabiana Cunningham (The Last Days of Judas Iscariot) Dorine (Tartuffe) Becca (Rabbit Hole) Maggie (A Chorus Line), and Ophelia (The Horatio Project.). She thanks Ian and Celeste for nurturing a theatre that provides a constant supply of great scripts and people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.



Laura Rauh (she/her) (The Other Woman) is thrilled to be returning to the Ensemble stage after performing Mariya/Mrs. Petrovna in their previous production of "Describe the Night" and, almost a decade ago, in "All This Intimacy". She has also played in many wonderful Cleveland and Chicago stage and screen productions, including "King Henry VIII", "The Maids", "No Exit", "Independence" & "Miracle on 34th Street". Studies include Second City, Cleveland Play House, Steppenwolf Theatre, and a BFA from Ohio University. She is very grateful to Ensemble Theatre and her wonderful husband and family for support.



Laurel Hoffman (she/her) (Another Woman) is thrilled to be returning to the Ensemble stage. Some notable past productions include "Constellations", "Rapture Blister Burn", "Self-Defense: or the death of some salesmen", "Freakshow", "Proof", "Antebellum", and "Red Light Winter". A huge thank you to Geoff and the Hoffmaniacs, Noah & Ezra, for their love and support. And lastly, thank you to Celeste and Ian giving me a reason to return to the stage.



Marisa Graybill (U/S Another Woman) is a sophomore Theatre Entrepreneurship major at Notre Dame College, and is excited to be a part of this show! Marissa has been involved in theatre since junior high school, and recently was a part of "NDC's New Play Festival". Special thanks to my parents for always supporting me as I pursue my performance goals and to Celeste for giving me the opportunity to be here! *(Performance on 2/18)

Meet The Playwright



Jez Butterworth was born in London in 1969. His plays include “Mojo” (1995), “The Night Heron” (2002), “The Winterling” (2006), “Parlour Song” (2008), “Jerusalem” (2009), “The River” (2012), and “The Ferryman” (2017). His plays have won two Olivier Awards, three Evening Standard Awards, Four Writer’s Guild Awards and Three Critics Circle Awards. In 2007 he was given the E.M. Forster Award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His screenwriting credits include Fair Game, Get on Up (2014), Edge of Tomorrow (2014), Black Mass (2015), and Spectre (2015).

Director’s Note

Jez Butterworth has written a twisting turning poem in “The River”. An existentialist tale of love and fishing, guts and all. It is my hope that you will allow “The River” to wash over you, that it might in some small way allow you to reflect on your life, and to dream about the life you think you lead.

As a metaphor fly fishing sets the table for this feast of the mind. A river ever-changing reminds us that we can never be in this exact place in time and space again. All we have is the present. No matter what has come or will come, there is always the heartbeat of the present. Our task, perhaps, in our own tales of our own river is to love the living. The mystery at the heart of “The River” exists in the murder of moments that we are not present for, only to be replaced by a longing for something that never was.

The pandemic changed the world. Collectively we find ourselves in this moment. It is a place much different from the world of February 2020. We sit and try to force it back, pretending, play acting as if we can just go back and start again. But of course we can never go back. Ultimately, the beauty and power of this play is like a river with an ever changing surface.

It has been an absolute joy to work with this cast and crew. “The River” is my first show back as a director at Ensemble since 2019. This show has reminded me how hard this work can be, but how rewarding and magical it can be to collaborate with wonderful humans and talented artists. A very special thank you to them and to the Notre Dame College community that has embraced Ensemble as an institution with open arms. Enjoy “The River”...

-Ian Wolfgang Hinz, Feb. 2023

Special Thanks To:

Notre Dame College Performing Arts Department, Aaron Elersich, Becca Moseley, Sam Landgraf, The City of South Euclid, The Ebony Bobcat Network, Tom Moore, Martin Cosentino, Ian Hinz, Austin Hinz, August Scarpelli, The Board of Ensemble Theatre, & Kyle Huff.

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Ensemble's critically acclaimed 2013 production of
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These levels indicate giving (2020 through 2022) as of August 2022.

Please note there may be names omitted as we attempt to keep as up to date a list as possible.

Please let us know if you do not see a name that should be listed.

Email celeste@ensemble-theatre.org or call 216-321-2930

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Meet the Crew :

Ian Wolfgang Hinz (he/him) (Director, Lighting & Set Design) is a graduate of Ohio University. Ian has worked professionally as a producer, award winning director, Light, Set, & Projection designer, director of operations and theater educator for over twenty years in Ohio and New York. He is co-founder of the Ensemble Stage-Wrights' workshop, two-time winner of the Cleveland Critics' Circle Best Director Award ("The Iceman Cometh" & "Godspell") and served as Artistic Director and Operations Manager for the City of Cleveland Heights' historic Cain Park Amphitheater. He has worked in operations for The Ohio State University Jerome Schottenstein Center and the Cleveland State University Department of Music as a stage production specialist. He has produced off-off-broadway at the Gene Frankel Theater and worked in business development in the tech startup industry in New York City. He is currently the Executive Director for Raise the Roof for the Arts, in charge of program creation and scheduling and major capital renovations to The Historic Sidney Theatre in Sidney, OH. Some of his favorite directing credits at Ensemble (of which there are many) include "The Iceman Cometh", "Jerusalem", "The Great Gatsby", "Anna Christie", and "The Hairy Ape".

Brittany Bizub (she/her) (Production Stage Manager) is so excited to make her debut here at Ensemble Theatre! Brittany had the pleasure to stage manage at Western Reserve Playhouse for "WIT", "John and Jen", and "Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike". Other shows Brittany may have been seen in are "Exit the Body" at East Cleveland Theater, Gail in "Almost Maine" at Bay Theater and Bertha in "The Dining Room" at Bay Village Theater. When not on or backstage Brittany can be seen in the crowd laughing a bit too loud. Brittany would like to thank her husband Chris for all of his love and support Love you BIZ!!

Jill Janos (she/her)(Costume Design) is happy to return to Ensemble Theatre after previously designing "Clybourne Park", "Intimate Apparel" and "Kindertransport". She has been performing on stages in Northeast Ohio for seventeen years and is grateful for that journey leading to the costuming world. Her work has been seen at theatres around the area including Blank Canvas Theatre, Broadview Heights Spotlights, French Creek Theatre and Clague Playhouse. Thank you to Joe, Anthony and Samantha.

Celeste Cosentino (she/her) (Executive Artistic Director/Sound) has served as an artistic associate and operations manager or in some "role" for Ensemble Theatre since she could walk. She has served in one capacity or another for many local Cleveland theater's her entire life, having worked with The Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, Clague Play House, Karamu, Cain Park, Bang & Clatter, Willoughby Fine Arts and Weathervane Playhouse. She is a graduate of the Ohio University School of Theatre and returned to Cleveland in 2008, after living and working in New York City. Some of her favorite acting credits are Marena in "Anna in the Tropics", Alice in "Closer", Desdemona in "Othello", and Kayleen in "Gruesome Playground Injuries". Favorite directing credits include "The Gospel According to James", "Death of a Salesman", "Lower Ninth", "Animals out of Paper", "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo", "The North Pool" and most recently both parts of Tony Kushner's epic "Angels in America" and Lorraine Hansberry's american classic "A Raisin in the Sun". Celeste also worked for the Cleveland Museum of Art in their groundbreaking ARLENS technology gallery for almost a decade. She now serves as Director of Theatre Studies for Notre Dame College. Celeste is the daughter of Ensemble Founder, Lucia Colombi and returned home to support her mother's mission by providing a fresh perspective as the next Artistic Director. She was raised by Ensemble Theatre and has a special dedication to its continuation for many years to come.

Becca Moseley (she/her) (General Manager/Props/Sound) is excited to be opening another show at Ensemble's new home, Notre Dame College! In addition to serving as Ensemble's General Manager, she has served as the Resident Production Stage Manager/Assistant stage manager for many Ensemble shows, including both parts of 'Angels in America', 'A Raisin in the Sun', 'The Penelopiad', 'Intimate Apparel', 'The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail', 'Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo', 'The Iceman Cometh', 'Knock Me A Kiss', 'Anna Christie', 'Thurgood', 'Death of a Salesman', and many more. She co-directed Run, 'Kingsbury, Run' and Assistant Directed 'East of Eden'. She was onstage in past seasons at Ensemble as a chorus leader/puppeteer in 'Around the World in 80 Days', Pea in 'Jerusalem', the Childlike Empress/company in 'The Never Ending Story', 'The Phantom Tollbooth' (Princess Rhyme/Ensemble,) and as Daisy Buchanan in 'The Great Gatsby'. Other favorite credits not at Ensemble include Rosalind (As You Like It), Fabiana Cunningham (The Last Days of Judas Iscariot,) Dorine (Tartuffe,) Maggie (A Chorus Line), and Ophelia (The Horatio Project.) She thanks Ian and Celeste for building and nurturing a theatre that provides a constant supply of great scripts and people to bring them to life, her family for their love and support, and her husband Kyle for always believing in the magic.

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