

CHESTER  
THEATRE  
COMPANY

**REQUEST FOR COVERAGE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 9, 2022

**Contact:** Angela Combest  
angela@chestertheatre.org  
(413) 354-7770

## **Chester Theatre Company Announces Casting for its 33rd Season The Return to Town Hall Theatre Includes Audience Favorites and New Faces**

After two seasons away, Chester Theatre Company (CTC), under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director **Daniel Elihu Kramer**, is thrilled to return to the Town Hall Theatre, its beloved home in Chester, MA.

“As wonderful as it was to bring three beautiful productions to the tent at Hancock Shaker Village last summer, we are embracing our return to the Town Hall Theatre as a homecoming,” said Kramer. “This feels especially true because the inaugural production of the season, *Pride@Prejudice*, is a fresh staging of my play first produced here in 2011. And it marks the first time I am directing it myself.”

“Chester Theatre Company has long told diverse stories as a means of exploring our shared humanity,” continued **Kramer**. “This season we have done the work to make sure that the diversity seen on our stage is also reflected backstage, in our design teams, and in our cohort of interns. We are also working to share our productions with a broader community of theatregoers. We have an incredible group of artists joining us this season, including many actors, directors and designers who have worked with us in the past. And there are many new folks we can’t wait to introduce to our audiences.”

### **The Season:**

#### ***Pride@Prejudice***

Written and Directed by Daniel Elihu Kramer

June 23 – July 3

The Jane Austen classic reimagined with bloggers, chat rooms, Austen enthusiasts, and even Jane, herself! A hilarious and moving homage to the beloved novel, with thirty characters portrayed by five versatile, diverse actors.

**Producing Artistic Director Kramer** directs his work for the first time. Actors **Candace Barrett Birk** (*Tiny Beautiful Things*), **Luke Hofmaier** (*Now Circa Then*), and **Marielle Young** (*Mary's Wedding, The Night Alive*) all return to Chester Theatre Company, while **Claire Fort** and **Brian Patterson** make their debuts on the Town Hall Stage.



*L to R: Marielle Young, Brian Patterson, Claire Fort, Candace Barrett Birk, and Luke Hofmaier*

The design team for *Pride@Prejudice* consists of **Lara Dubin** CTC's Resident Lighting Designer, **Juliana von Haubrich**, who designed the scenery for all three shows last summer now returns to create the world of Jane Austen, **Christina Beam** designing costumes, and **Alexander Sovronsky** composing and designing sound. **Leslie Sears**, stage manager for the entire 2021 season, returns to manage the 2022 inaugural production.

### ***Birds of North America***

Written by Anna Ouyang Moench

July 7 – 17

Binoculars. Birds. A Baltimore backyard. Over the course of a decade, a father and daughter navigate the changes in the climate and in their relationship as the world around them shifts in ways both towering and minute.



*L to R: Micheline Wu, Alex Keegan and Christopher Patrick Mullen*

Director **Alex Keegan** (Roundabout, Rattlestick, Lincoln Center, Williamstown) makes her CTC directing debut. **Christopher Patrick Mullen** (People's Light, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, Vineyard Playhouse), last seen in 2004's *The Pavilion*, will be co-starring with **Micheline Wu** (Lyric Stage Company, Speakeasy Stage Company), making her first appearance in Chester.

**Lara Dubin** will design lights. Resident Sound Designer **Tom Shread** returns to create the aural world of the play. Scenery will be designed by **Ed Check**, costumes will be designed by **Anna Sorrentino**, and **Meaghan Lydon** returns to stage manage.

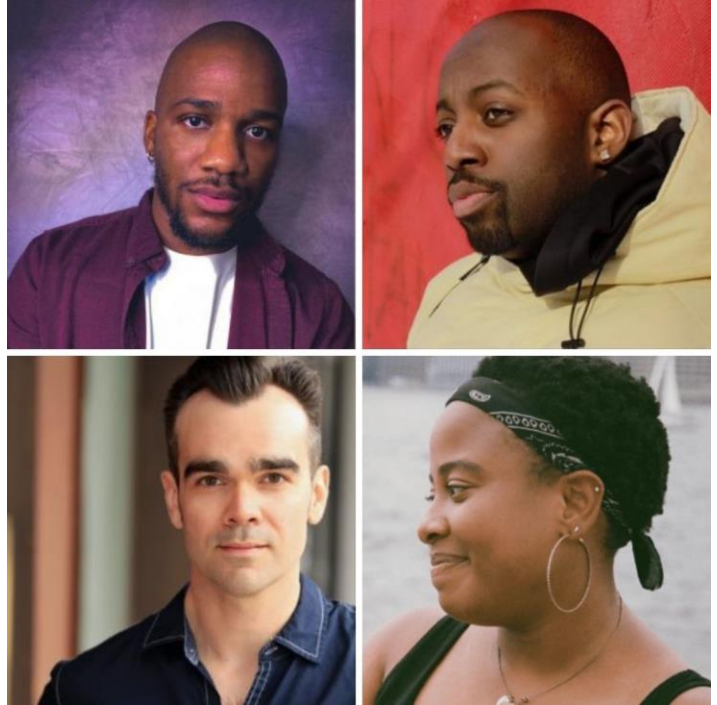
### ***Pass Over***

Written by Antoinette Nwandu

July 28 – August 7

Moses and Kitch want off their Chicago Street corner. The Promised Land awaits—if only they can pass over. This remarkable play that reopened Broadway in 2021 addresses the history of oppression facing Black men in America.

**Christina Franklin** (CTC's *The Niceties*, Associate on Broadway's *For Colored Girls...*) returns to direct. **Austin Sasser** (Western Reserve Playhouse, Karamu House) and **Kayodè Soyemi** (Actors Theatre of Louisville, Yale Cabaret, Dallas Theater Center) make their CTC debuts alongside **James Barry** (*Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Title and Deed*, *The Aliens*, and more). **Nadir Bey** (scenery) and **Madeleine Hebert** (lighting) make their CTC design debuts. **James McNamara** returns to design sound. **Chevonne Baylor** will stage manage the production, her first with CTC.



*Clockwise from upper left: Kayodè Soyemi, Austin Sasser, Christina Franklin and James Barry*

### ***To the Moon and Back***

Written by Darcy Parker Bruce

August 8 – 18

A daughter and father with history as murky as the dark side of the moon. Ace alternately maps craters searching for...something, and tries to outrun the shadows of the past she shares with her dad, Major, who spends his days watching gameshows from his lawn chair on the moon in this specially commissioned production, making its premiere.

**Keira Naughton** (*Curve of Departure*, *Title and Deed*) returns to direct. **Raye Birk** (*Curve of Departure*), **Tara Franklin** (*Tiny Beautiful Things*, *On the Exhale*, and more), and **Pauli Pontrelli** (*I and You*, *The Aliens*, *Curve of Departure*) star.

**Lara Dubin** is slated to design lights, **Travis George** (*Mary's Wedding, On the Exhale*, others) returns to design scenery, **Charles Schoonmaker** designs costumes, and **Nathan Leigh** designs sound. Stage Manager **Kevin Jinghong Zhu** makes his Chester debut.

All performances of the four productions named above will take place in the intimate setting of Chester's Historic Town Hall, 15 Middlefield Road, Chester, MA. Individual ticket prices are \$52.50. Chester and Middlefield residents, members of the military and their families, ConnectorCare enrollees, and those holding EBT/SNAP cards may purchase discounted tickets by calling the box office. Student Rush \$10 tickets are available day of show. Single tickets and season subscriptions may be purchased online at [chestertheatre.org](http://chestertheatre.org), or by phone at 413.354.7771. Special rates for groups of ten or more are available.

CTC will be requiring proof of full vaccination and masking for entry. See the website for details.

#### **About Chester Theatre Company**

Founded by a former Artistic Director of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, Vincent Dowling, Chester Theatre Company is an award-winning professional theatre company known for presenting high quality, contemporary productions with top-notch actors, directors, and designers from across the country since 1990.

For further information, please call CTC at 413.354.7770, or visit [www.chestertheatre.org](http://www.chestertheatre.org).

###



*Clockwise from upper left: Tara Franklin, Pauli Pontrelli, Kevin Jinghong Zhu and Raye Birk*