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By Kate Danley Directed by Scott Nolte

HARLEOUIN

























Join us as we transform The State Theatre into a nightclub for an exhilarating and heartrending true story about embracing uncertainty, taking a leap, and loving as if you only had 100 days to live. Creators Abigail and Shaun Bengson explore a fundamental question: how do we make the most of the time that we have?

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CAST

Trixie Fuller	Emma Brown Baker
Paul Fielding	Matt Shimkus*
Max Marshall	Nathan Rice
Gwen Gladwell	Helen Harvester
Ruby Deleoni	Angela DiMarco
Vito Deleoni	James William Clark

TIME & PLACE

1930, New York City

RUNTIME

90 minutes, with one 20 minute intermission.



Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Harlequin Productions, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Director is a Member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

DESIGN TEAM

Director	Scott Nolte*
Fight and Intimacy Director	Alyssa Kay
Scenic Design	Jeannie Beirne
Costume Design	Melanie Ransom
Wig and Hair Design	Matthew Michael
Lighting Design	Savannah Van Leuvan
Sound Design	Karl Welty
Properties Design	Gerald B. Browning

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Celeste Haugan
Master Electrician	Rob Taylor
Scenic Charge Artist	Gerald B. Browning
Asst. Stage Manager	Fields
Lightboard Operator	Percy Wait
Backstage Hand	Christian Bolduc
Wardrobe Manager	Carolyn Fry
Carpenters	Ethan Bujeaud, Ed Salerno
Properties Intern	Bonnie Reese

Special Thanks to to the volunteer costume crew for Building Madness: Vicki Steigner, Janet Spaid, Megan Garvey, Sue Medeiros and Donna Brooke

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome back to the theatre and a night of laughter with **Building Madness**, Kate Danley's new play invoking the classic elements of screwball comedy.

About now, someone is thinking "Screwball ...what?". This comedic form made its debut during the 1930s when movies provided people with escapism and fun in contrast to the grim realities of the Great Depression. If you're a film buff, think of *It Happened One Night* (Clark Gable and Claudine Colbert), *Bringing Up Baby* (Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn), *His Girl Friday* (Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell) and My *Man Friday* (William Powell and Carole Lombard). Elements of screwball comedy are found in the films of Fred Astair and Ginger Rogers too.

Screwball comedies were also a response to the Hays Code which imposed strict guidelines on how Hollywood portrayed sex, crime, drugs and religion. Screwball comedy adeptly used ludicrous scenarios, ambiguity, humor and satirical social observations to skirt censorship by the code's guardians. For parallels in the stand-up comedy world, consider the edgy work of Lenny Bruce, Dick Gregory, George Carlin, The Smothers Brothers, and Janeane Garofalo. On TV there's Saturday Night Live.

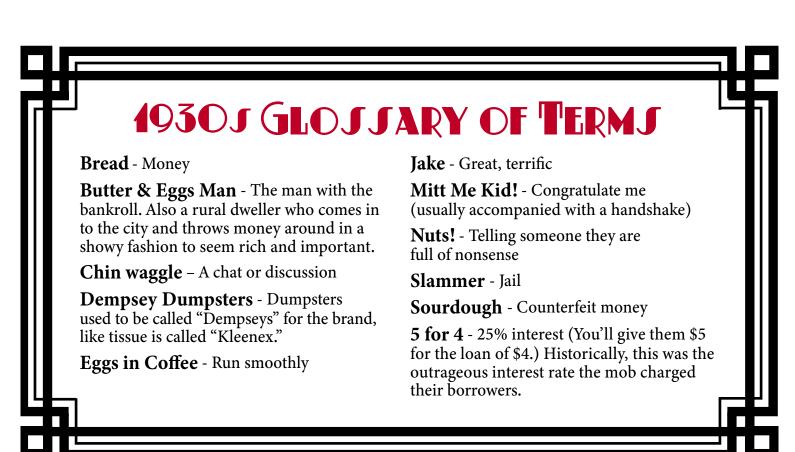
The key elements of the genre include fast-paced, witty dialogue, plot twists, sarcasm, quick physical acting, social commentary, and sight gags. Plus, there's no lack of romance and the competition between the sexes that leads to the altar! Of course all of this keeps the audience alert and on its toes as the characters zip around physically and verbally. For the actors, it's a workout!

Which brings us to our play, **Building Madness** by Kate Danley. Set in New York City, May 1930, at the office of TF Architects. True to form, there's a comedic balancing act of optimism and desperation with a generous portion of loopy ideas and pratfalls. As their repartee and planning take hilarious twists and turns, mobsters and maybe-lovers compete for the future of the firm. Oh yes, and there's romance.

Screwball comedies were an escape and a release in their prime years of the early 1930s through the early 1940s. The genre was widely embraced by the public because, in addition to the comedy and romance, <u>it was inherently optimistic</u>. Impending doom was deflected (somehow!) and the bickering couples fell in love, of course they do! So tonight we leave our troubles outside the theatre long enough to be reminded by **Building Madness** that resilience can be funny and hope will be restored ...even as we giggle.

We all hope you have a great time with us today and leave encouraged.

Director Scott Nolte





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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



Kate Danley

Kate Danley is a Maryland Distinguished Scholar in the Arts and thirty-year veteran of stage and screen with 300+ credits. She got her writing chops in Hollywood in the sketch, improv, and stand-up scene. Her workplace farce, *Working for Crumbs*, was a semi-finalist in both the O'Neill and the Moss Hart & Kitty Carlisle New Play Initiative, and will be having its Off-West End debut in London this April. *Building Madness* won the prestigious Panowski Playwriting Award; *Power* won the Renegade Theatre Festival; and her adaptation of Agatha Christie's very first Hercule Poirot book, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, just had its world premiere at the oldest theatre in Minneapolis, Theatre in the Round.

Kate graduated from Towson University with a BS in Theatre and she trained at RADA, The Groundlings, Theatricum Botanicum, Impro (Shakespearian improv), and the Acme Comedy Theater, as well as the Arvon in radio writing. As a novelist, she spent five weeks on the USA TODAY bestseller list and has been honored with the Garcia Award for Best Fiction Book of the Year (*The Woodcutter*, 47North), McDougall Previews Award for Best Fantasy Book of the Year (*Queen Mab*), and her series *Maggie MacKay: Magical Tracker* is optioned for television. She trained in on-camera puppetry with Michael Earl (Mr. Snuffleupagus) and lost on Hollywood Squares. www.katedanley.com



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BUILDING MADNESS CAST



Emma Brown Baker (she/her) - Trixie Fuller

Emma is truly delighted to be in her first play at Harlequin (and in Seattle)! She is an artist and therapist passionate about healing and storytelling. Emma holds a Bachelor's of Music Performance and a (soon to be) Master's in Counseling Psychology. She last performed as Miranda in *The Tempest* at Wheaton's Shakespeare in the Park, and is grateful for

the chance to play again after a long break. Buckets of gratitude are owed to friends, partners in crime and family who have loved her all the way to the theater and back.



Matt Shimkus* (he/him) - Paul Fielding

Matt is thrilled to return to Harlequin for *Building Madness*. Prior Harlequin credits include *A Doll's House* and *Time Stands Still*. Matt has performed with Seattle Shakespeare Company (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Seattle Repertory Theatre (*Twelfth Night*), Intiman Theatre (*Abe Lincoln in Illinois*), The Village Theatre (*WATT?!?*),

Taproot Theatre (*In the Book of*) and Wooden O (*Twelfth Night*). Matt has appeared on television in NBC's *GRIMM*. Matt's work can also be seen online in the web series *The Gamers: The Shadow Menace*, and as a motion capture and voice performer for 343 industries' *HALO* series of video games. Matt holds a BFA in Theatre from Pacific Lutheran University and an MFA in Theatre from The Chicago College of Performing Arts. Love and thanks to Emilie, Robin, and Regina.



Nathan Rice (he/him)

- Max Marshall

Nathan Rice is delighted to be returning to the stage at Harlequin. He has very much enjoyed his previous roles here, including White Chorus Man in *Sovereignty*, Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* (2021), Lou Cohn in *The 1940s Radio Hour*, and Milt in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. He has been active in other area theaters as well, as

The Player in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* at Lakewood Playhouse. Also busy in local film, Nathan can be seen in *The Gamers: The Shadow Menace* from Dead Gentlemen Productions, and the *JourneyQuest* series from Zombie Orpheus Entertainment. In his free time, Nathan enjoys kayaking and hiking, being a couch potato, extreme nerding, and spending time with his brilliant and beautiful fiancee Hannah.



Helen Harvester (she/her)

- Gwen Gladwell

Helen has performed in 13 previous roles at Harlequin over the past 12 seasons, including Hedda Gabler in *Hedda Gabler*, Maggie the Cat in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and most recently Belinda Blair in *Noises Off*. Regionally, she has also performed with Centerstage, Taproot Theatre, Book-It, and BPA. A former Fulbright scholar, she holds

a BA in Drama from Vassar College, an MA from the Boris Shchukin State Theatre Institute in Moscow, Russia, and is currently the Marketing and Communications Director for Harlequin.



Angela DiMarco (she/her) - *Ruby Deleoni*

Angela has been acting on stage and screen for over 35 years. You may have seen her on stage at Harlequin in *August: Osage County*, directed by Aaron Lamb, or at the Village Theatre (*The Importance* of Being Earnest, The Foreigner, Crimes of the Heart), SPT (Christmastown), Seattle Rep (Boeing Boeing), ReAct (Closer, Angels in

America), or Book-It Repertory (*Mrs. Caliban*). When not performing, Angela and her husband teach at Mighty Tripod Acting Studio, helping actors empower their art. Up next, Angela will be flying to Tuscany, Italy to dive into the leading role, in the TV Pilot, <u>A Broad Abroad</u>. All her love to her support team, David, her Moms, Grandma and Bruno the Magnificent.



James William Clark (he/him) -Vito Deleoni

James was born and raised right here in Olympia. He started acting in college at Central Washington University where he discovered the joy of performing. Eager to become a "professional" actor, he moved to Los Angeles where he studied improv at UCB and the Groundlings. After a few years there, he moved back to Wash-

ington where he had a run of good fortune and appeared in several commercial spots for TacoTime, Halls Cough Drops, Oculus, Microsoft, and many others. Right now he lives and works at a small farm while pursuing acting full time.







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Scott Nolte* (he/him) - Director

Scott has been directing in the Seattle area since 1976 and recently stepped aside from his role as cofounder and Producing Artistic Director of Taproot Theatre Company after 45 years at the helm. Over the course of those years he directed over 200 mainstage and touring productions for TTC ranging from The Odyssey to Godspell, and Around the World in 80 Days to The Whipping Man. Most recently he directed Babette's Feast and The Spitfire Grill for Taproot, and Kim's Convenience for Tacoma Arts Live. Scott has been an adjunct professor at the Eduardo Turral Cultural Association (Leon, Spain) and Seattle Pacific University's School of Fine and Performing Arts. Scott is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers. The Noltes, Scott and his wife, actor/teacher Pamela Nolte, are both second-generation Seattleites and have two adult children. This is his first time directing with Harlequin.

Alyssa Kay (she/her) - Fight and Intimacy Director

Alyssa has worked with Harlequin Productions many times over the past seven years as both an actor and choreographer. Recent stage combat and intimacy choreography credits for Harlequin include *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville, Fun Home, This Flat Earth, Sovereignty, Murder for Two, The Highest Tide, Man of La Mancha* and *Blackbird*, as well as shows at Seattle Rep, Book-It Repertory, Wooden O, Off-Road Shakespeare, InD Theatre, and elsewhere. Alyssa is also a freelance teaching artist, Advanced Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and co-founder of the PNW Theatrical Intimacy collective. Much love to her husband Fox and baby Wilder. www.alyssakay.net

Jeannie Beirne (she/her) - Resident Scenic Designer

Jeannie has worked with Harlequin since 2014 and is delighted to be returning this season. Past favorites: Fun Home, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, 2021 Fall Repertory Season including A Christmas Carol, Noises Off, Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol, Man of La Mancha, A Doll's House, August: Osage County, Little Shop of Horrors, Hedda Gabler, and First Date. Jeannie has also enjoyed working with The Olympia Family Theatre, Saint Martin's University and South Puget Sound Community College. In Missouri, she has designed Urinetown and The Music Man with Missouri Western State University, and The Drowsy Chaperone, She Loves Me and Damn Yankees for Tent Theater. In Arizona, Jeannie designed Mama and Jack Carew and the world premiere of Suocera by Hal Corley at the Theatre Artists Studio and Big Love with Kim Weild at Arizona State University. Jeannie holds an MFA in performance design from Arizona State University and a BA in set design from Western Washington University.



The Director is a Member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

Melanie Ransom (she/her) - Costume Design

This is Melanie's fifth season doing costumes with Harlequin, and her first show to be the lead costume designer. *Building Madness* goes to the top of her list for favorite costumes, but she also loved the costumes in *The Women, Noises Off, Tenderly, Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill, Sovereignty, Hedwig and the Angry Inch* and *Fun Home.* She has also worked on costumes with the Spokane Theater Ensemble, South Puget Sound Community College, Centralia College, Creative Theatre Experience, and Tumwater High School. She holds a BFA in Theater from Ohio University and an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University. When she's not dreaming up costumes for future shows, Melanie hosts an interview talk show called *After Church with Melanie Ransom* with the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Matthew Michael (he/him) - Wig and Hair Design

Matthew has slowly been entering the world of hair design for theatrical productions. Having been a hairstylist for 15 years, he found that his passion for hair translated well to the stage. He recently finished designing a few pieces for Evergreen Playhouse's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. He has done design work on *Beauty and the Beast*, *Steel Magnolias, Next to Normal, Rebel Without a Cause*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Evita, Scrooge*, and *White Christmas*. Matthew is slated to direct *Tuck Everlasting* at the Evergreen Playhouse in May, where he will also be designing the hair for that production. He is excited for this opportunity to work on *Building Madness* with Harlequin and looks forward to future endeavors with the company.

Savannah Van Leuvan (she/her) - Lighting Design

Savannah is excited to be designing her first show here at Harlequin! Savannah has designed theater and dance around the United States, previously residing in Los Angeles before making the move up to Washington State. Some of her favorite designs include *Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, Urinetown, Living Out, I'm Still Here, Little Women,* and *The Nutcracker.* Savannah graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a BA in Theater with a focus in Lighting Design. She has worked with the Charles Stewart Howard Community Playhouse, Contessi Ballet, Debatable Productions, the Camarillo Skyway Playhouse, Cornish College of the Arts, among others. She proudly serves on the Board of Trustees for Imaginarium Theatre Company in NYC. Thank you to her family and friends that have tirelessly supported her in her work.

Karl Welty (he/him) - Sound Design

Karl is a veteran of the Harlequin stage dating back to a time when dinosaurs roamed the planet and shows were performed in the Black Box at the Washington Center. He was right in the thick of it through the State theatre remodel. While he takes time off from theatre it always seems to be the performance medium he misses the most. It's the amazing boomerang gig, and he would ultimately have it no other way.

BUILDING MADNESS

DESIGN TEAM (Continued)

Gerald B. Browning (he/him)

- Properties Design and Scenic Charge Artist Gerald has served as Properties Designer for fifteen shows at Harlequin and recently designed for A Christmas Carol, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, and Murder for Two, to name a few. He is also the Scenic Charge Artist and has painted all of Harlequin's sets for the last year. At Harlequin, Gerald has appeared in Until the Flood, The Highest Tide, Love and Information, The 1940's Radio Hour, and The Love List. Local and regional acting credits: Seattle Shakespeare Company, Taproot Theatre, SecondStory Rep, Seattle Musical Theatre, Theater at Monmouth (ME), Seaside Repertory Theatre (FL), DC's Keegan Theatre (Helen Hayes Award nomination), the Smithsonian, and Kennedy Center. Gerald is also a director, scenic designer, dialect coach, and writer. He's written national commercials and videos for commercial clients, been the recipient of a multi-year playwriting grant, and has two screenplays in development with a two time Academy Award-nominated producer. He holds a Master's Degree (Directing) from the Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Celeste Haugan (she/her) - Stage Manager

Building Madness marks Celeste's fifth production with Harlequin, having served as Stage Manager for A Christmas Carol (2022), Assistant Stage Manager for Fun Home, Stage Manager for Sovereignty, a COVID Safety Manager, and a Soundboard Operator. She wears many hats, enjoying performing, set building, running tech, and even serving on a board of directors. A veteran Stage Manager, some of her favorite shows she's managed include Seussical Jr (TOAD), Play On, and Steel Magnolias (Evergreen Playhouse). She would like to give thanks to Danielle, who introduced her to this world of Stage Managing.

Fields (they/he) - Assistant Stage Manager

Fields is a multimedia production specialist and is happy to lend their hand to Harlequin for another dance. They hail from Texas and have been haunting their local theaters since age 4. They've told stories on stage, film, broadcast TV, online content, and over the radio waves. This duck is honored to cut in on another Harlequin lindyhop!

Christian Bolduc (he/him) - Backstage Hand

Chris is a Pacific Northwest native and South Sound based theatre artist. Recently, he portrayed Gus Trenor in Terry Shaw's original musical *House of Mirth*. Other recent roles include Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, Roy/Mark/Pete/ Bobby Jeremy in *Fun Home*, standby Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, all with Harlequin Productions, and Jeff in [*title of show*] (SPSCC Theatre Collective).

Perseus (Percy) Wait (he/they) - *Lightboard Operator* Percy is a part-time theatre technician and actor. He has previously worked with Harlequin Productions as a spotlight operator for *A Christmas Carol*, and worked at the Capitol Theatre for traveling productions (*Hairspray, Jersey Boys, Spongebob The Musical*) on the wardrobe, carpentry, and electrical team. He also designed costumes for and acted in *Reese Sigman Is Lying Completely Still*, an original musical produced at Central Washington University, where Percy studied Anthropology and Museum Studies. They are excited to be working on *Building Madness*.



Cameras & Recording Devices

The use of cameras (with or without flash) or other recording devices is prohibited.

Concessions

Food is not permitted in the seating area. Water and beverages in plastic or paper cups are allowed. Please unwrap cough drops prior to the start of the performance.

Silence Your Cell Phone

In consideration of those around you, please silence all electronic devices and refrain from text messaging or utilizing your devices during the performance.

Assisted Listening Devices

Patrons with hearing disabilities may see the House Manager prior to the performance to obtain an enhanced hearing device.

Special Seating Needs

If you have a wheelchair, walker, or other special seating needs, please advise the Box Office in advance so we may accommodate you comfortably.

Friends & Family

If you have a friend or family member in the cast with whom you wish to visit, please wait in the lobby following the performance where your person will find you. Notes, flowers, gifts and messages may be sent backstage through the House Manager.

Children & Youth

Please help us avoid disruptions that may affect others' enjoyment and the actors' performance. Disruptive children should be escorted to the lobby. No babes in arms, please. Some productions may not be appropriate for younger children, though discretion is left to the parent. Please call the Box Office with any questions concerning a play's content.

Late Seating

Latecomers will be seated in the Gallery at the back of the house, which provides a good vantage point with a minimum of disturbance. An usher will direct you to your seat at an appropriate break or at intermission. If you leave the house during the performance and return, please watch from the Gallery until an usher can direct you to your seat.

IN THE GALLERY

BRETT CARLSON META-TINATIONS 2023

In Meta-tinations 2023, Brett Carlson, a metal artist, continues his meticulous exploration of hand-cut tin, piecing together strips of metal reclaimed from diverse sources to create new images. The Metatinations series "presents visual images and messages utilizing recycled decorative containers in a collage-style format". By using recycled decorative tins, brads, and wood, this represents a rebirth of iconic images into new concepts and visuals.

Each piece is composed of abstract shapes sheared from recycled metal, hammered together with approximately 250 brads "used to give a more contemporary style," and mounted onto a plywood board. Recognizable and disparate images from cookie tins and random images float through the newly created figurative work, spurring free association. In Amada Knox Recycled, prim Victorian roses cover the face of the Seattle woman accused, acquitted, and then convicted of a lurid sex murder overseas, then overturned - suggesting how the media manipulated the defendant's image.

In A Day in the Life, a rendering of the cover of the Beatles' Abbey Road album is superimposed with snippets from French Impressionists paintings, in a time -traveling continuum of psychedelia. Lennon on the Cross, a modern-day interpretation of a crucifixion. The Three Trees is a reference to Pulitzer Prize winner The Overstory novel about trees and people who understand them.

It's my genuine pleasure to display my work here at the State Theater during the performance of Harlequin's *Building Madness*.

https://brettcarlson.wixsite.com/tin-art



Harlequin seeks to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.

HARLEQUIN

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United Way Worldwide

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA)

Washington State Combined Fund Drive

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Information

Thank you for your support!

DONATIONS KEEP THEATRE ALIVE IN THURSTON COUNTY!

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GIVE:

Mail us a check or donate on our website Monthly Sustaining Member starting at \$10/month Special Tax-Free IRA Giving: Qualified Charitable Distribution Create your Legacy with a Legacy Gift to Harlequin Productions (EIN: 91-1478538) Gifts of Stock (Broker: TD Ameritrade; Harlequin Account: #42<u>3678630; DTC: 0188)</u>

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP

Have you considered a sustaining monthly donation? It is a no-hassle way to make a huge impact. Monthly donations give Harlequin financial planning power with reliable monthly forecasting.

Join our 100+ sustaining member group!

Find out more and sign up online at harlequinproductions.org/membership-in-2023

LEGACY CIRCLE

Leaving a gift to Harlequin in your will ensures our security to carry out our mission to create lasting impacts that benefit our community.

Already have Harlequin in your plans? Be sure to let us know because Legacy Circle members automatically receive our highest level of member benefits!

For more information contact Brennan Tucker brennan@harlequinproductions.org 360-705-3250

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JOIN US AND RECIEVE MEMBER BENEFITS

Member benefits have changed!

Include a tax-deductible donation with your subscription and help Harlequin create Real. Live. Theatre. for years to come. As a thank you, you'll receive the exciting benefits below. In addition, become a Monthly Sustaining Member and receive 25% off of concessions for the year. For full benefit descriptions, please visit: harlequinproductions.org/membership-in-2023

	Partner \$10/mo. or \$100/yr	Investor \$25/mo. or \$300/yr	Benefactor From \$1,000	Artists' Circle From \$2,500	Producers' Circle From \$5,000
Member pricing at concessions	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Name in program and on website	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Invite for two to a technical dress rehearsal		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Invite for two to attend an artistic director's brunch			\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Invite for two to a special donor party				\checkmark	\checkmark
Invite for two to the stage manager's experience					\checkmark
Complimentary tickets to the 2023 Gala					✓

Artistic Director's Circle From \$10,000 Artistic Director's Circle benefits are highly personalized. If you are interested in giving at this level, please contact Corey McDaniel at: corey@harlequinproductions.org

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