

## Next for Promethean Theatre Ensemble

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### ***Mrs. Warren's Profession***

By George Bernard Shaw  
Adapted by Melanie Spewock  
Directed by Michael D. Graham

February 28 — March 29, 2020  
Otherworld Theatre, 3914 N Clark St.



### ***A Town Called Progress***

By Trina Kakacek  
Directed by PTE ensemble member Anna Bahow

June — July 2020



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# BLUE STOCKINGS

BY JESSICA SWALE  
DIRECTED BY SPENSER DAVIS  
SEPTEMBER 13-OCTOBER 13



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**PROMETHEAN** THEATRE  
ENSEMBLE  
THE DEN THEATRE, 1331 N. MILWAUKEE AVENUE, CHICAGO



BOX OFFICE:  
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# Blue Stockings

By Jessica Swale

Directed by Spenser Davis

## Cast

Patrick Blashill ..... Mr. Banks  
Jamie Bragg\* ..... Elizabeth Welsh  
Elise Marie Davis ..... Carolyn  
Jared Dennis\* ..... Dr. Maudsley/Radleigh  
Martin Diaz-Valdes ..... Will Bennett  
Cameron Feagin\* ..... Miss Blake  
Anne Lentino\* ..... Miss Bott/Mrs. Lindley  
Imani Lyvette ..... Maeve/Lady  
Julia Rowley ..... Celia  
Vijay Sarathi ..... Lloyd/Billy Sullivan  
Joshua Servantez ..... Holmes/Anderson  
Kevin Sheehan\* ..... Ralph/Peck/Collins  
Heather Kae Smith\* ..... Tess  
Meghann Tabor\* ..... Minnie  
Revon Yousif ..... Edwards/Waiter  
  
John Blick ..... Mr. Banks Understudy  
Michael Brigance ..... Lloyd/Billy Sullivan Understudy

## Production Staff

Spenser Davis ..... Director  
Alexa Berkowitz\* ..... Stage Manager  
  
Angela Forshee ..... Assistant Director  
Devon Green ..... Props Designer  
Carrie Hardin ..... Dialect Coach  
Tony Ingram ..... Sound Designer  
Therese Ritchie ..... Set Designer  
Claire Sangster ..... Lighting Designer  
Rachel Sypniewski ..... Costume Designer  
Maureen Yasko ..... Fight Choreographer

\* Promethean Theatre Ensemble Member

\*\* Promethean Theatre Artistic Associate

Photography and poster design by Tom McGrath\*\*

Running time: 2 hours and 15 minutes, including a 10-minute intermission

**Please silence all cell phones.**

## With sincere thanks to our donors...

Promethean is generously supported by  
The MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture  
at the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

MacArthur  
Foundation



This program is partially supported by a  
grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Promethean Theatre Ensemble is also supported by the generous  
sponsorship of private donations. Through the efforts of these donors, we  
are able to bring you the performances in our fourteenth season.

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website at [www.prometheantheatre.org](http://www.prometheantheatre.org).**

**Claire Sangster** (Lighting Designer; she/her) Design work includes *Life on Paper*, *Octagon*, *Exit Strategy*, *The Raid*, *Lunacy!*, *Crumble*; *Lay Me Down Justin Timberlake*, *The Killing of Michael X*, *The Annual Living Newspaper Festival* (Jackalope Theatre), *Blood at the Root*, *I & You* (The Yard), *Medusa Undone*, *Corona* (Otherworld Theater), *The Adventures of Spirit Force Five* (The Factory Theater), *Time is on Our Side*, *Scary Stories to Save Your Life*, *20/20* (About Face Theater), *Raised in Captivity* (The Right Brain Project), *By the Bog of Cats*, *The Seagull*, *Time of Your Life* (Artistic Home), *Bachelorette* (Level 11 Theatre), *Thrones! A Game of Thrones Parody Musical* (The Apollo Theater), *Human Terrain* (Broken Nose Theater). She is a company member at Jackalope Theatre and holds a BA in Theater Design from Columbia College Chicago.

**Rachel Sypniewski** (Costume Designer; she/her) is grateful to be designing with Promethean again! Previously *designing Mad Beat Hip & Gone*, *Madwoman of Challiot*, *The Lark*, *The Lion in Winter* and *Tiger at the Gates*. Other companies she has worked with include Goodman, Black Button Eyes, Jackalope, The New Colony, Emerald City, Lifeline, Haven, 16th Street Theater, Griffin, CityLit, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, Strawdog, The Factory, Red Tape, Redtwist, and Trap Door. She also has designed at Wheaton College, North Central College, St. Patrick's High School, Indiana University Northwest, and the Chicago Academy for the Arts. Rachel is an Artistic Associate with 16th Street Theater, the Factory, Trap Door and Griffin. She is a six-time nominee of the Non-Equity Jeff Award in Costume Design, receiving one. More info at [www.rachelsyp.com](http://www.rachelsyp.com)

**Maureen Yasko** (Fight Choreographer; she/her) is a Chicago based actor, and Fight & Intimacy Director. She is thrilled to be working with Promethean for the first time! Recent projects include *Fight/Intimacy for The Tempest* (Midsommer Flight) and *Fights for Women of 4G* (Babes with Blades). Other Chicago companies she's choreographed for include Cor Theatre, L'il Buds, Mary-Arrchie, The Factory Theater, The Chicago Vocal Arts Consortium, and The Conspirators. She's also choreographed out in the suburbs at Citadel Theatre, Aurora University, and for The Schaumburg Nutcracker. Maureen is an Advanced Actor Combatant with the SAFD, holds a BA in Theatre, music minor from AASU in Savannah, GA, and is a Certified Yoga Instructor.

## Special Thanks

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Columbia College Chicago, Sally Forshee, Jackalope Theatre, Slick Jorgensen

## A Note from the Director

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Picture this. Four young women step onto the campus of Cambridge and are told that they might be the first female students in history (!) to graduate from the esteemed institution. Imagine the fire that lights in their bellies... the renewed intensity with which they tackle their coursework... and the unbelievable pressure they begin to feel.

When my father passed away at age thirty (the age I turned the week before opening), my mother raised my sister and I alone, all while holding down a job *and* obtaining her Master's Degree. Suffice to say, I have an affinity for badass women who don't allow society and their circumstances to shove them into a corner.

Reading this play for the first time, I wondered: What's it like to be paving the path for generations to come but without the hindsight of actually knowing it yet? What if we double- and triple-cast the male actors as students and faculty, to illustrate how sexism can cycle from one generation to next? And how do our heroes defeat those who claim to be working in their best interests, "saving" their feminine feelings from the stresses of schooling?

I'm thrilled to tell this story with this incredible team and my dear friends at Promethean, a company whose productions — while often set in the past — always have a foot planted in the present.

Thank you for joining us tonight. Welcome to Girton.

— Spenser Davis, Director

## About the Playwright

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Jessica Swale is an Olivier award winning writer and director. She trained at Central School of Speech and Drama and Exeter University.

As playwright, Jessica's first play *Blue Stockings* (Shakespeare's Globe) won her an Evening Standard Most Promising Playwright nomination and is now on the GCSE drama syllabus. *Nell Gwynn* transferred from the Globe to the West End starring Gemma Arterton, and won the Olivier for Best New Comedy. Jessica is currently writing the screenplay for *Working Title*, alongside the *Horrible Histories* movie and an original feature, *Summerland*, also starring Arterton, which will be Jessica's directorial debut, supported by the BFI. Learn more at [www.jessicaswale.co.uk](http://www.jessicaswale.co.uk).

## Cast Biographies

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**Patrick Blashill** (Mr. Banks; he/his) is an ensemble member with Lifeline Theater, performing in roughly 30 plays over the last 25 years and is thrilled to get a chance to work at Promethean. Patrick was most recently seen as Leonato in *Much Ado about Nothing* in the park this summer and has worked with a number of other Chicago companies over the years. Onscreen Patrick has appeared in *Chicago PD* and *Empire* and is represented by Gray Talent.

**Jamie Bragg** (Elizabeth Welsh; she/her) is honored to collaborate once again in her artistic home. Chicago credits include *Baby with the Bathwater* (Eclipse Theatre); *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* (Oscar Wilde, Promethean Theatre Ensemble); *BLISS (or, Emily Post is Dead)* (Clementine, Promethean Theatre Ensemble); and *The Mother* (Oracle Productions). She thanks Spenser for the opportunity, and Boren, Henry and Doris for their support.

**Elise Marie Davis** (Carolyn; she/her) is very excited to be working with Promethean for the first time! Elise is the Artistic Director of Broken Nose Theatre, where she has received two Joseph Jefferson awards for Best Ensemble (*Plainclothes* and *At The Table*, which also won Best Production - Play). She will have her mainstage directorial debut with PEG in a co-production between BNT and The New Colony later this fall. Elise is also a proud ensemble member of The Factory Theater, and is represented by Big Mouth Talent Agency. As always, much love to Spenser.

**Jared Dennis** (Dr. Maudsley/Radleigh; he/him) holds an M.F.A. from the Theatre School at DePaul and a certificate from The National Theatre Studio, London. Past performances include: *Henry V*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Tiger at the Gates*, *Bronte* (Promethean Ensemble) *Antigone*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Hamlet* (First Folio) *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard II*, and *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), and *The Voyage Inheritance* (Remy Bumpo). Jared is proud to be a member of Promethean.

**Martin Diaz-Valdes** (Will Bennett; he/his) Previous Chicago credits include: *The Crowd You're In With* (AstonRep); *Melancholy Play* (Organic); *Arms and the Man*, and *Forty-Two Stories* (City Lit); *Earthquakes in London* (Steep); *Love's Labours Lost*, and *Othello* (Invictus Theatre); *Firefly Love* (Something Marvelous). He graduated with his M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University, and has also studied in Russia at the Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT). He received his B.A. in Theatre Arts at the University of Oregon. Born of Chilean parents, Martin is a proud first gen.

## Promethean Theatre Ensemble

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**Promethean's ensemble collaborates to create theatre that fuses simplicity of design with intelligent, passionate storytelling.**

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Tony Fiorentino ..... Director  
Jared Dennis ..... Ensemble Liaison to the Board

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Jeremiah Barr ..... Production Coordinator/Ensemble  
Alexa Berkowitz ..... Executive Director/Ensemble  
Megan DeLay..... Special Events/Ensemble  
Jared Dennis ..... Co-Director of Outreach /Ensemble  
Cameron Feagin..... Casting Director/Ensemble  
Nicole Hand ..... Associate Artistic Director /Ensemble  
Anne Lentino..... Casting Associate/Ensemble  
Heather Kae Smith..... Co-Director of Outreach /Ensemble  
Meghann Tabor..... Special Events/Ensemble  
  
Anna Bahow ..... Ensemble  
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Elaine Carlson..... Ensemble  
Brian J. Hurst..... Ensemble  
Brendan Hutt ..... Ensemble  
Xavier Lagunas ..... Ensemble  
Kevin Sheehan..... Ensemble  
John Walski..... Forever in our hearts

### ***Artistic Associates***

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Kaci Antkiewicz, Carrie Campana, Catherine Gillespie, Nick Lake, John Arthur Lewis, Tom McGrath, Tom Murphy, Brian Parry, Ed Rutherford, Rachel Watson, and Alice Wu

**Angela Forshee** (Assistant Director; she/her) is a Chicago-based director and is excited to be working with Promethean for the first time. She has worked with several companies, including Broken Nose Theatre, The New Colony, Walkabout, Interrobang, and Raven Theatre. Angela most recently directed The Puppet Play by Christina Renee Jones as part of Uncharted Festival with The New Colony. She is an alumna of Ball State University, where she got her Bachelor of Science in Directing, and could have gotten a BA if she had just taken the foreign language credit like her mother told her.

**Devon Green** (Props Designer; she/her) is thrilled to be working on such an incredible piece. She is a graduate of Columbia College Chicago and is an Artistic Associate with Broken Nose Theatre. She has propped other productions such as *At The Table* with Broken Nose Theatre, *The Snare* with Jackalope Theatre, and *The Feast* with Red Theatre.

**Carrie Hardin** (Dialect Coach; she/her) is a Chicago-based actor and vocal coach. You may have heard her coaching efforts around town with the likes of Babes with Blades, Lifeline, The Greenhouse, Pegasus Players, CityLit, ETA Arts Center, Red Twist, Bower Ensemble, Loyola University, and the dearly departed Prologue Theatre, of which she was a founding member. She also teaches privately. Many thanks to all involved, and to her family for putting up with her near-constant quiet mumbling in different voices.

**Tony Ingram** (Sound Designer; he/him) A freelance Sound Designer, Tony has worked with companies in the Chicagoland area, including Signal Ensemble Theatre (his artistic home for over a decade), Lifeline Theatre, Factory Theatre, The Right Brain Project, Chicago Public Schools, and Shattered Globe Theatre. Daily, you can find him at the Shedd Aquarium helping dolphins get their emails. Love to Stephanie, Kyle, Shaun, and Jill.

**Therese Ritchie** (Set Designer; she/her) Pepperell, MA; currently working towards her MFA at Northern Illinois University; she was recently nominated for The Ed Burbridge Award and has received the 2018 John Murbach Prize for Collaboration in Design. Recent credits include: Scenic Design for *Now or Later* (Intrinsic Theatre), *Annie KIDS* (Wilmette Children's Theatre), *Girl in the Red Corner* (Broken Nose Theatre), *The Truth About Santa* (Intrinsic Theatre), *No Child* (Definition Theatre), and *Wild Party* (Columbia College Chicago).

**Cameron Feagin** (Miss Blake; she/her) is a proud ensemble member of Promethean, where she played Carson in *Gross Indecency; The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, Hannah in *Arcadia*, Hermione in *The Winter's Tale* and The Player in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Most recently she played Kent in *King Lear* at Redtwist. She has also worked with Victory Gardens, Lifeline, Chicago Dramatists, Timeline, Boho, and City Lit.

**Anne Lentino** (Miss Bott/Mrs. Lindley; she/her) is a founding member of PTE, recently moving from Outreach Director into the casting department. Most recently with Promethean, she understudied Clementine in *Bliss (Or Emily Post is Dead!)* and played Emily in *Brontë*. She has also performed in productions and readings with 20% Theatre, Midsommer Flight, City Lit, Griffin Theater, and Bohemian Theatre Ensemble. Many thanks to Spenser for this delightful opportunity, to Chris for keeping me sane, and to Grace and AJ for helping me hone my mom skills enough to play Miss Bott.

**Imani Lyvette** (Maeve/Lady; she/her) is a recent graduate of Bradley University with a Bachelors in Theatre Performance and a Minor in Marketing. She was recently involved in *Death of a Salesman* and *Love/Sick*, with the Munroe Park Theatre Guild and performed as an understudy in *Plainclothes* with Broken Nose Theatre. This is Imani's first performance with Promethean and she would like to thank them for giving her this opportunity. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their support, and you, the audience, for attending the show.

**Julia Rowley** (Celia; she/her) is grateful to debut at Promethean in *Blue Stockings*. Past theater credits: *May The Road Rise Up* and *Poe*. Currently, Julia is a sketch writer with Pigs Upstairs Productions, produces *Fly On The Wall*, and improvises with *Same Time Next Door*. She is represented by NV Talent. Julia thanks Spenser for his passion and exacting metaphors; and the cast and crew for their intimidating talent. She thanks her family for reminding her to look up, because we're in the middle-of-nowhere-Michigan to see these meteors, dang it.

**Vijay Sarathi** (Lloyd/Billy Sullivan; he/him) Vijay proudly debuts with Promethean. On stage he was recently seen in *Nothing Without a Company's New Play Festival*. His most notable film appearance was the lead in *The American Dream* (2018 Chicago South Asian & 2019 San Antonio Film Festivals). After training at Gately-Poole Acting Studio, he's been grateful for the opportunities and support from family, friends and agents at Hayes Talent. Vijay's also an avid tennis player and coach. Keep up with him: [www.vijaysarathi.com](http://www.vijaysarathi.com) or Instagram @vijaysarathi\_

**Joshua Servantez** (Holmes/Anderson; he/him) Joshua is very happy to return to Promethean Theatre where he was last seen in their production *The Liar*. Previous Chicago credits include, *I Saw My Neighbor on the Train and I Didn't Even Smile* (Redtwist Theatre) *The History Boys* (Eclectic Full Contact Theatre) *The Adventures of Spirit Force Five* (The Factory Theater) *Nightmares and Nightcaps* (Black Button Eyes Productions). Thanks to family and friends for their constant love and support!

**Kevin Sheehan** (Ralph/Peck/Collins; he/him) Kevin is glad to be speaking in a British accent again with PTE, where he previously appeared in the original and remount productions of *Gross Indecency: the Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. Favorite Chicago credits include productions with Strawdog, Piccolo, and Circle Theatre. Kevin is a proud member of Promethean Theatre Ensemble; he sends his love to everyone who helped this year.

**Heather Kae Smith** (Tess; she/her) is delighted to be back onstage as a Promethean Theatre Ensemble member. Other Promethean credits include *Gross Indecency*, *Arcadia*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Tiger at the Gates*, and more. Heather has also performed with Redtwist, Lifeline, The Public House, Black Lives Black Words, the side project, Oracle Productions and others. She holds BAs in Performing Arts and Music from Iowa State University, and has trained at Black Box, Vagabond and Green Room in Chicago. Heather is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

**Meghann Tabor** (Minnie; she/her) Meghann loves tidying up after this exceptional group of talented people. Since making Chicago her home over a decade ago, she has worked with many excellent storefront companies, including: Bailiwick, Oracle, MidTangent Productions, The Chicago Mammals, Halcyon Theatre and Urban Theater Company. With Promethean, she's served as assistant director, understudy and actor. Most recently, she played Thomasina in *Arcadia*. By day, Meghann teaches in a 3-6 classroom as well as Kindergarten Drama at Ronald Knox Montessori School.

**Revon Yousif** (Edwards/Waiter; he/him) Born in Detroit, Revon moved to Chicago in 2017. While it was his training at Michigan Actors Studio that landed him a role on FOX's *Empire* and a Best Performance award for the short film *Amnesia*, it wasn't until his training at Black Box Acting here in Chicago that Yousif felt like he began to hone his craft as an artist. Revon is represented commercially and theatrically by BMG Talent.

**John Blick** (Mr. Banks Understudy; he/him) This is John's first production with Promethean. Other companies include Dog & Pony (company member), Signal Ensemble, Redtwist, City Lit, Strawdog, Jackalope, Northlight, Metropolis, etc. His commercial credits include Dick's Sporting Goods and Sprint. Ten years ago his theatre career was spliced with one in neighborhood economic development to form a hybrid, which seems to have a stable root system. He is currently planted in Uptown.

**Michael Brigance** (Lloyd/Billy Sullivan Understudy; he/him) is thrilled to be working with Promethean again, after appearing in last season's *Arcadia* as Augustus/Gus Coverly. Previous roles include Solomon u/s (*Speech & Debate*), Billy (*Tribes*), Christopher (*The Curious Incident...*), among others. Michael is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma's School of Drama.

## Production Staff Biographies

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**Spenser Davis** (Director; he/him) is the Director of Programming for Broken Nose Theatre and an ensemble member with The Factory. Directorial credits include *At The Table* (Jeff Awards for Best Director, Production, and Ensemble; Chicago Tribune's "Best of 2017"), *Plainclothes* (Jeff Award for Best Ensemble; codirector), *From White Plains, A Phase*, and numerous editions of *Bechdel Fest* (Broken Nose); *May the Road Rise Up and Adventures of Spirit Force Five* (The Factory); *Bachelorette* (Level 11); *Extraordinary* (Otherworld); assistant directing *Pilgrim's Progress* and *3C* (A Red Orchid) and *The Divine Sister* (Hell in a Handbag); as well as work with Route 66, American Blues, Strawdog, First Floor and others. His second play *Plainclothes* was the 2019 recipient of the American Theatre Critics Association's M. Elizabeth Osborn Award and a finalist for the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award. His first, *Merge*, about the rise and fall of Atari, has been adapted into a television pilot. He's also a series director/writer for *SQUID*, a short-form comedy series on Amazon Prime. He occasionally works around town as an actor.

**Alexa Berkowitz** (Stage Manager; she/her) has worked with a number of theatre companies in Chicago including City Lit Theater, Promethean Theatre Ensemble, Linchpin Theatre, Strawdog Theatre Company, The Factory Theater, and Black Button Eyes Productions. She graduated from the University at Buffalo, SUNY with a B.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Theatre (specializing in technical theatre). Alexa is the Executive Director with Promethean Theatre Ensemble. She is excited to be working with her Promethean family on this production.

