

The Dream of the Burning Boy

by David West Read



CLARENCE
BROWN
THEATRE
at the University of Tennessee

*East Tennessee's
Professional Regional Theatre*

MARCH 28 - APRIL 15, 2018

clarencebrowntheatre.com

David West Read



David West Read is currently a writer and executive producer of the TV comedy series *Schitt's Creek* (CBC/POP/Netflix). His plays include: *The Performers* (Longacre Theatre on Broadway; Broadway.com Audience Choice nominee for Best New Play), *The Dream of the Burning Boy* (O'Neill Theater Conference, Roundabout Underground; Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award nomination for New American Play, Drama League Award nomination for Distinguished Production of a Play), *The Great Pretender* (Old Globe New Voices Festival, TheatreWorks Silicon Valley; Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for Best Original Script, Theatre Bay Area Award nomination for Outstanding World Premiere), *Afterlove* (Chautauqua Theater Company New Play Workshop), *Happy Face* (South Coast Rep Pacific Playwrights Festival) and *The Dark Pines* (Cape Cod Theatre Project). David is a graduate of the Lila Acheson Wallace Playwrights Program at The Juilliard School and the MFA program at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where he has also taught in the Department of Dramatic Writing. He is a native of Toronto, Canada, and lives in Los Angeles. ■

From the Director

The Dream Of The Burning Boy asks all the questions we ask ourselves,
particularly in the face of sudden tragedy.

The big question, always, is "why?"

Why did it happen?

What could I have done?

What should I have done?

In the face of devastating loss, we re-examine our life choices.

I wanted to do the right thing.

I made a mistake.

How can we move on?

As the people in this play inch their way towards resolution, we understand
that we must learn from the pain, incorporate it, and move on with our lives.

- **Carol Mayo Jenkins**



Please take a moment to fill out a brief survey about
your experiences at *The Dream of a Burning Boy*.
Your feedback helps us better know our audiences,
offer more programming and increases funding
opportunities for the CBT. Thank you in advance!



*East Tennessee's
Professional Regional Theatre*

presents

The Dream of the Burning Boy

by David West Read

Directed by **Carol Mayo Jenkins**

Scenic Designer
Jelena Andzic

Costume Designer
Kate Cannon

Lighting Designer
Alice Trent

Sound Designer
Andrew Wright

Original Music
Marc Giguere

Dramaturg
Gina M. Di Salvo

Stage Manager
Delaynie Rizer

Producing Artistic Director
Calvin MacLean

Managing Director
Tom Cervone

Development of THE DREAM OF THE BURNING BOY was supported by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center during a residency at the National Playwrights Conference of 2010 (Preston Shiteway, Executive Director; Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director).

World Premiere produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director; Harold Wolpert, Managing Director; Julia C. Levy, Executive Director) as part of Roundabout Underground at the Harold and Mariam Steinberg Center for Theatre on March 23, 2011.



The Dream of the Burning Boy

A young person dies suddenly. This is the unimaginable at the center of *The Dream of the Burning Boy* by David West Read. Of course, it's stupid to say that this is unimaginable, because the play imagines a school, a town, and a loss so raw and real that it could be our own. Nonetheless, we normally prefer to call a situation like this *unimaginable* because it's too painful to admit that we can, in fact, imagine it.

In the play, a school community is forced to re-imagine everything. Mr. Larry Morrow, the respected English teacher, cleaves to the great books. He teaches Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the definitive work of the late medieval Christian imagination. The allegorical poem about the soul's journey to God follows Dante through his vision of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. Dante, if you remember from your own school days, doesn't get through this first and final journey alone. He has the virtuous pagan Virgil to guide him out of Hell. After this lesson, Mr. Morrow plans to move onto *Hamlet* in order to continue to teach his students about the universal truths of Western literature.

The traditions of Mr. Morrow's literary canon are countered by his colleague's pile of twentieth-century psychology and counseling resources. Although Steve's books do touch on universal archetypes, they diverge from classical criticism and give us a new language to make sense of ourselves, our thoughts, our fears, and our subliminal wishes. Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams*, a foundational text

of modern psychology, aims to decipher the meaning of our unconscious imaginations. In Freud's formulation, *Hamlet* is not a tragedy about the problem of existence, but a play that helps us understand psycho-sexual development. There was *Oedipus Rex* before Freud, but no Oedipus complex. The central concepts of Dante and Freud overlap, but they are worlds apart in how they imagine death and desire.

In an after-school meeting, Mr. Morrow's favorite student reveals to us how he sees his own life through the most ridiculous of essay titles. Only a young person has the capacity to imagine himself as the central figure of the present so much so that he can turn the role of Virgil in Dante's *Inferno* into a comical celebration of the self. How the young man sees things, how he *imagines* his own life, is through an exciting series of firsts, even if they come with or cause conflict. Somewhere between Dante's vision of the afterlife and Freud's examination of the dreamlife, this play asks us to contemplate the firsts. That is, the universal firsts of being a young person and growing up, whether they have already happened, are yet to come, or never do: breaking up, experimenting, becoming a parent, falling in love, meeting a best friend. Friends, teachers, and family wrestle with the most excruciating of firsts as they also recall and experience others. One of these firsts is finally imagined only when the protagonist is lead out of Hell by Freud.

— **Gina M. Di Salvo**, *Dramaturg*

The Cast

Larry Morrow – **Terry Weber***

Dane – **Ben Terpstra**

Steve – **Mark Jennings**

Chelsea – **Chauncey Whitlock**

Kyle – **Brady Moldrup**

Rachel – **Alyssa Miller**

Andrea – **Katie Cunningham***

This production will not have an intermission.



*The actors appear through the courtesy of **Actors' Equity Association**, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Lab Theatre Productions

Welcome to an exciting evening of theatre. This production is part of the Clarence Brown Theatre's commitment to training. Our Lab Theatre productions are an important part of our dual mission. The production you are about to see is helping to prepare the students in our Master of Fine Arts and undergraduate programs to take their place as theatre artists. We hope you enjoy the play, and also enjoy the experience of witnessing the next generation of theatre professionals emerge. Look around you, for this production, this performance, might be one you remember when...

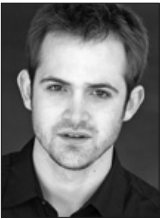
The Actors



KATIE CUNNINGHAM

(Andrea) is honored to return to Clarence Brown Theatre as an Artist-in-Residence this season. *The Dream of the Burning Boy* marks her sixth production over four

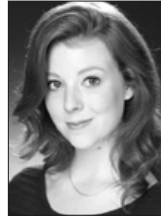
seasons, having previously appeared in *Alabama Story*, *Outside Mullingar*, *The 39 Steps*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, and *Noises Off*. Katie has performed at a host of regional theaters throughout the country and in NYC with TACT/The Actors' Company Theatre; NY International Fringe Festival; American Place Theatre; The Night Shift (co-founder); and Drunken Shakespeare (co-founder). Teaching: McCarter Theatre Center; Florida State University. Training: B.A., UNC Chapel Hill; M.F.A. Acting, FSU/Asolo Conservatory; the Gaiety School (National Theatre School of Ireland). Proud union member (AEA & SAG-AFTRA). AHFOL to Patrick.



MARK JENNINGS

(Steve) is a University of Tennessee graduate. As a local actor, he has appeared in productions at Clarence Brown Theatre, Oak Ridge Playhouse, The WordPlayers, Encore Theatre Company,

Foothills Community Players, and with the Tennessee Stage Company. He has self-produced Knoxville's first downtown dinner theatre with a sold-out production of *Barefoot in the Park*. Mark is an original member of Full Disclosure Comedy, a Knoxville long form improv comedy troupe. When not on stage, Mark is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. Favorite past roles include Spike (*Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike*), Stephen Bellamy (*Farragut North*) and Daniel Kaffee (*A Few Good Men*). Thanks to Amanda and his friends and family for their support and his God for being much bigger than he is.



ALYSSA MILLER

(Rachel) is thrilled to be ending her undergraduate career as Rachel in *The Dream of the Burning Boy*. She is a senior Theatre major graduating this May. Some of her favorite past

credits include: *Top Girls* (Nell), *A Christmas Carol* (Martha Cratchit), *South Pacific* (Nurse/Nun), *Stand (p)Up* (herself), and *Bare a Pop Opera* (Dianne). You might also recognize her from local improv troupes Involuntary Sports Party (campus) and Full Disclosure (Knoxville). She would like to thank her mom, her dog Monty, Mitch, Ellen, the cast and crew, Dunkin Donuts, Josh, and most of all Carol Mayo Jenkins who has supported her endlessly in class and in the theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show.



BRADY MOLDRUP

(Kyle) is a junior at UT studying Theatre and English. Hailing from the great city of Knoxville, Brady is a big Sunspire fan. You may have seen him in *South Pacific* (CBT),

Big River (Wordplayers), *The Unusual Tale of Mary & Joseph's Baby* (River & Rail), or with the BOSS dance company here at UT. He likes to play games, build things, rap, climb trees, and organize. He much prefers warm weather and likes to travel to Texas. He has love for his family: Dad, Mom, Kylie & Tim, Kelsey & Tom, Cooper, Colby, Kahler Ann, and Kiki.

The Actors



BEN TERPSTRA

(Dane) is as thrilled to be a part of *The Dream of the Burning Boy* as he is to share it with you today! He is a senior Theatre major and will be graduating in May—to his relief, surprise, and mild

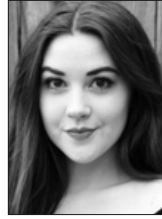
dismay. You may have seen him before as Billy in *The Idiot Box* with All Campus Theatre, or on the CBT stage as Lt. Buzz Adams in *South Pacific*, Christmas Future in *A Christmas Carol* ('16 and '17), or Orderly #2 in *Three Sisters*. Ben is extremely grateful for the opportunities he's had at UT and couldn't possibly say thank you enough: to Carol for this opportunity; to his fellow cast and crew for making this show a wonderful experience; to his teachers and classmates for everything they've taught him; and to Dan, Peggy, and Gracie for their constant patience, wisdom, and support. He hopes you enjoy the show!



TERRY WEBER

(Larry Morrow) is a Professor of Theatre at UT and he volunteers as Artistic Director of The WordPlayers. Terry's acting career has taken him to theatres in New York,

Seattle, Milwaukee, Louisville, Chicago, Kansas City, Montgomery, Knoxville, Toronto, Orlando, Charleston, Asheville, Cincinnati, and Avignon (France). Recent roles at the Clarence Brown Theatre: Mrs. Bumbrake/Teacher in *Peter and the Starcatcher*; Sir Jealous Traffick in *The Busy Body*, Rev. Parris in *The Crucible*, Marcus in *Titus Andronicus*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Captain Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, and Gus Belmont in *CTRL+ALT+DELETE*. In 2015, Terry played Hopley Stewart in *Mad River Rising* at Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, and in 2011, he played C.S. Lewis in The WordPlayers' production of *Shadowlands*. Favorite roles: Husband to Jeni and Dad to Jesse, Luke, and Joel.



CHAUNCEY WHITLOCK

(Chelsea), a native of Cleveland, TN, is a senior at UT majoring in Theatre with a minor in English. She is thrilled to be continuing her work in the Clarence Brown Theatre. Past credits with

Clarence Brown are Patient Griselda and Win in *Top Girls* and others include *My Fair Lady* and *Big River* with Lee University, Nurse Willie in *The Curious Savage* with StageWorks of Cleveland, and Rose in *The Secret Garden* and Snow Queen in *The Nutcracker* with Tennessee Youth Ballet. She would like to thank her family and friends for their support and love and Jake for constant inspiration. She would also like to thank Carol for always believing in her and giving her the opportunity to be a part of this incredible team.

The Artists



CAROL MAYO JENKINS

(Director) was born and raised in Knoxville, attended Salem Academy and Vanderbilt. She trained for the theatre in London, spent 4 years with the American Conservatory Theatre in San

Francisco, made her Broadway debut as Natasha in William Ball's production of *The Three Sisters*. In New York, she did a number of Broadway and Off-Broadway plays including *Oedipus Rex*, with John Cullum, *First Monday In October* with Henry Fonda and Jane Alexander, and *The Suicide*, with Derek Jacobi. She also played leading roles in regional theatres across the country. Moving to Los Angeles, she spent five years on the award-winning television series, *Fame*. She continued to work in film and television, while, again, playing great theatre roles in Cleveland, Denver, Seattle, San Diego and several plays in San Jose, including *By the Bog of Cats*, with Holly Hunter. Edward Albee cast her as Martha in his production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?*, which toured the US, Lithuania, and Russia. In 2001, she chose to return to Knoxville, joining the faculty of the Theatre Department at UT. She last appeared in *Outside Mullingar* and has directed *Stop/Kiss* and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* for the Clarence Brown Theatre.

JELENA ANDZIC

(Scenic Designer), is a second-year MFA Scenic Design candidate. This is her third design with the Clarence Brown Theatre. Her past professional experience includes a production of *Dear Yelena* (Belgrade Drama Theatre, Belgrade, Serbia) and many collaborations with FIST (Festival of International Theatre) both in Serbia and Romania. She has been honored with three awards – Second place in the scenic design competition at the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) for *Top Girls*, the ULUPUDS (The Association of Artists and Designers in Serbia) award for her final undergraduate projects (Theatre, Film and TV Design) as well as an award (Milenko Serban) for Best Final Project in the field of Scenic Design.

KATE CANNON

(Costume Designer) is a senior Theatre major at the University of Tennessee, and will be graduating in May. Her focus has been in Costume Design, and she has previously worked with the All Campus Theatre group by designing the costumes for *Waiting for Godot* and *Disassembly*. She is grateful for this opportunity to work with such a talented design team and cast, and offers special thanks to Marianne Custer, Melissa Caldwell-Weddig, and the entire costume shop for helping her along the way.

ALICE TRENT

(Lighting Designer) is a second-year MFA Lighting Design candidate. She designed the lighting for *Three Sisters* this season and *This Is Our Youth* last year. Regionally, she's worked as a designer in Cincinnati, OH, Asheville, NC and Bay View, MI. She's worked as an assistant lighting designer at Cleveland Play House and the Cincinnati Playhouse. She would like to thank her family for all their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

The Artists

ANDREW WRIGHT

(Sound Designer) is a graduating senior at the University of Tennessee majoring in Communication Studies and minoring in Theatre. Most recently, he is credited as assistant sound designer and mixer for Clarence Brown Theatre's production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Additional theatrical credits include sound design for *Landscape of the Body*, *Madea, Farenheit 451*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Visit*, *The Misanthrope*, *The Metamorphosis*, and *Dr. Faustus*, as well as an upcoming production of *Jane Eyre* at the Bijou Theatre in Knoxville. Andrew is thrilled to be working with CBT again, and wishes to express gratitude for all he has learned under the tutelage of resident sound designers, Mike Ponder and Joe Payne.

MARC GIGUERE

(Original Music) is a junior Music Composition major at UT. He plans on pursuing a career composing music for stage and screen. In the last year, Marc has contributed music to two feature films, a live stage play, an experimental art gallery, an award-winning historical documentary, and a handful of independent short films. His compositions have been featured in films appearing in the Tromadance Film Festival, The Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival, NYC-Fringe Fest, The Bucharest Independent Film Festival, The Los Angeles Film Festival and more.

GINA M. DI SALVO

(Dramaturg) is Assistant Professor of Theatre at UT, where she teaches theatre history and dramaturgy. As an Artistic Associate of Sideshow Theatre Company in Chicago, she served as dramaturg for *Caught*, *The Burden of Not Having a Tail*, *The Ugly One*, and *Theories of the Sun*. Other Chicago-area credits include *Mine* (The Gift), *The Petrified Forest* (Strawdog Theatre Company), and *Dangerous Beauty* (The American Musical Theatre Project/Northwestern University). Thanks to Carol for this particular opportunity, and to Jeffrey for everything else.

DELAYNIE RIZER

(Stage Manager) is a junior at UT, where she is working towards a BA in Theatre and is double minoring in English and Women's Studies. She is an AEA candidate for stage management and is hoping to pursue a career working on shows that speaks to what she believes in. Delaynie spent this past summer in Washington D.C. as an intern at Studio Theatre and was a production assistant on their summer musical *Wig Out!* Clarence Brown Theatre credits as an Assistant Stage Manager (ASM): *A Lesson Before Dying*, *The Crucible*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Top Girls*, *Three Sisters*, and *Alabama Story*. Other credits: *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas* (SM) at The WordPlayers; *Aladdin Jr.* (SM) and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (ASM) at Nashville Children's Theatre. Much love and thanks to her parents. For Sophie Scholl.

CALVIN MacLEAN

(Producing Artistic Director) is in his twelfth year as Theatre Department Head and CBT Company Producing Artistic Director. CBT productions he has directed include: *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Life of Galileo*, *The Secret Rapture*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* (with Dale Dickey), *Amadeus* (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra), *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Sweeney Todd* (with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra and Dale Dickey), *Our Country's Good*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *The Open Hand* and last season's *The Crucible*. Cal was the Artistic Director of the Illinois Shakespeare Festival for eleven seasons. Professionally active in Chicago, his productions – mostly at the Famous Door Theatre – earned several Joseph Jefferson Awards for Outstanding Production and Direction. Most notable was Joshua Sobol's *Ghetto*, a production that ran for seven months and honored with four Jeff Awards including for Outstanding Direction of a Play. Cal is the Past President of the University/Resident Theatre Association and a member of the National Theatre Conference. He and his wife Rebecca are the proud parents of Sam and Rachael.

The Artists

TOM CERVONE

(Managing Director) is pleased and honored to be back at the theatre following a five-year hiatus, during which he served as Executive Director for both Dogwood Arts and the Historic Tennessee Theatre Foundation. Prior to that, Tom spent 23 years at the Clarence Brown Theatre, 17 of which as managing director (1995-2012). Throughout that time, he was very active within the UTK community, serving as Exempt Staff Council chair for many years, LGBT Commission co-chair, Diversity Council member, and participated in many other organizations/initiatives. He was the 2010 recipient of the Chancellor's Citation for Outstanding Service to the University. Tom served on the Arts and Cultural Alliance of Greater Knoxville board for several years, and currently serves on the advisory boards of the College of Business at Maryville College, the WordPlayers, and the River and Rail Theatre Company. Most recently, he was appointed to the Foundation Board of West Liberty University, his alma mater. He is a proud and longtime member of the Actors' Equity Association. Tom holds his undergraduate degree in Speech and English Education with an emphasis in Theatre from West Liberty University in West Virginia and a Master of Fine Arts and an MBA from UT. He is a graduate of and was selected as the Class Representative of the Leadership Knoxville class of 2011. Recently, he was inducted into his undergraduate alma mater's Class of 2015 Wall of Honor.



The University of Tennessee, Knoxville is one of just 12 universities nationwide with its own professional LORT theatre. The Clarence Brown Theatre Company is a LORT D company and is fully integrated into the Department of Theatre's academic curriculum. Four of the six mainstage productions are produced on the LORT contract, allowing students the opportunity to work with seasoned professionals.

Founded in 1974 with Sir Anthony Quayle as Artistic Director, the Clarence Brown Theatre Company is one of the older companies in the LORT system. It has a distinguished history of hosting artists of national stature including Mary Martin, John Cullum, Zoe Caldwell, Carol Mayo Jenkins, David Keith, Dale Dickey, and Teresa Williams among others.

All Department of Theatre faculty have dual appointments with the professional company in their area of expertise. MFA Performance students may join the Clarence Brown Theatre Company in their third year of study. MFA Design students have the opportunity to work on LORT productions throughout their graduate training.

COMPANY MEMBERS

Producing Artistic Director: Calvin MacLean

Managing Director: Tom Cervone

Terry Silver-Alford
David Brian Alley
Bill Black
Kate Buckley
Marianne Custer
Jed Diamond
Gina Di Salvo
Carol Mayo Jenkins
Abigail Langham
Patrick Lanczki
Joe Payne
Christopher Pickart
Mike Ponder
Casey Sams
John Sipes
Terry Weber
Kenton Yeager
Katy Wolfe



*East Tennessee's
Professional Regional Theatre*

STAY *Connected*



Leave a review of your theatre-going
experience on Trip Advisor!



foursquare

CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE



@CLARENCEBROWNTHEATRE



@CLARENCEBROWN

clarencebrowntheatre.com

Production Crew

MANAGEMENT

Assistant Director

Keegan Tucker

Stage Management Assistant

Megan McCarty

COSTUMES

Wardrobe Supervisor

Elizabeth Aaron

Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor

Wilner Vega

Wardrobe Crew

Joshua Lemons

Madeline Lewis

SCENERY

Deck Crew

Katie Cousins

Justin Crawford

Anaika Lobo

LIGHTING

Production Electrician/

Light Board Operator

Katherine Brown

SOUND

Sound Board Operator

Sarah Rosenblum

SPECIAL THANKS

The Webb School of Knoxville

Catherine Dowhos-O'Gorman

Charlotte Smith

LEADERSHIP

Producing Artistic Director -

Calvin MacLean

Managing Director -

Tom Cervone

ADMINISTRATION

Marketing & Communications Director -

Robin Conklin

Business Manager - **Stephanie Wall**

General Manager - **Shelly Payne**

Administrative Specialist -

Charlotte Holland

Accounting Specialist - **Jill Baker**

External Relations & Community

Development Manager -

Amanda Middleton

Grants & Research Associate -

Hana Sherman

Graphic Designer -

Julie Anna Summers

IT Specialist - **Mark Spurlock**

Archival Photographer - **Brynn Yeager**

PATRON SERVICES

Patron Services Manager - **Sarah Burton**

Assistant Patron Services Manager -

Morgan Moody

Lead House Manager - **David Ratliff**

Patron Service Associates - **Callie Bacon,**

Kelci Beavers, Rachel Britt, Katy Free,

Ben Pratt, Danielle Pressley,

Ethan Roeder, Meg Sutherland,

Eric Thompson and Lauren Whiteman

OUTREACH/EDUCATION

Season for Youth, Tours, Workshops -

David Brian Alley

Summer Acting Workshops, Talk Backs -

Terry Silver-Alford

PRODUCTION

Production Manager - **Susan L. McMillan**

Production Stage Manager - **Patrick Lanczki**

Assistant to Production Manager/

Rentals Coordinator - **Ian Paul Messersmith**

COSTUMES

Costume Shop Manager - **Melissa Caldwell-Weddig**

Cutter/Draper - **Kyle Andrew Schellinger**

Costumers - **Elizabeth Aaron** and **Amber Williams**

Costume Assistants - **Emily Helton,**

Jordan Hubbard and **Erin Reed**

ELECTRICS

Electrics Shop Manager - **Travis Gaboda**

Master Electrician - **Jon Mohrman**

Lighting Assistants - **Lisa Bernard, Bailee Boisclair,**

Curtis Bower, Sara Oldford, Alice Trent

and **Jordan Vera**

SCENERY

Technical Director - **Don Conard**

Assistant Technical Director - **Jason Fogarty**

Master Carpenter - **Jerry D. Winkle**

Senior Carpenter - **Wes Smith**

Carpenter - **Will Lambert**

Carpenter Assistants - **Lauren Coyne** and **Marah Yaun**

Charge Scenic Artist - **Jillie Eves**

Scenic Artist - **Katie Moseley**

Scenic Painter - **Jelena Andzic**

PROPERTIES

Prop Shop Supervisor - **Christy Fogarty**

Lead Properties Artisan - **Sarah Gaboda**

Props Master - **Kathryn Nabors**

Props Assistants - **Alisa Harvey, Becca Johnson,**

Kathryn Nabors and **Kat Wright**

SOUND

Resident Sound Designer and

Sound Shop Supervisor - **Mike Ponder**