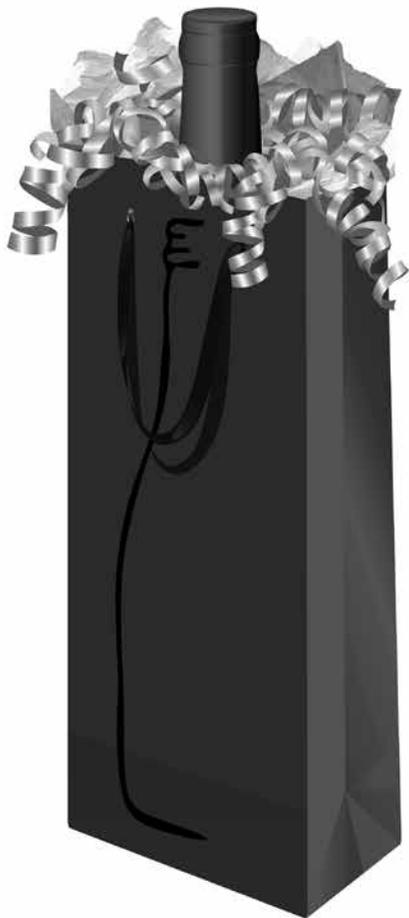


WORLD PREMIERE

The Open Hand



by **ROB CAISLEY**



March 30 - April 17, 2016
clarencebrowntheatre.com



Coming Soon...



Rodgers and Hammerstein's
SOUTH PACIFIC

Music by Richard Rodgers
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

APRIL 20 - MAY 8
CBT Mainstage

From the haunting “Bali Ha’i” to the exquisite “Some Enchanted Evening,” this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic features some of the most beautiful music ever composed for the theatre. The Pulitzer Prize and 10-time Tony Award winner is set on a tropical island during World War II and tells the romantic tale of how the happiness of two couples is threatened by the realities of war and prejudice.

Directed by **Terry Silver-Alford**



Schaad
companies

Mainstage Series



ROTARY CLUB OF KNOXVILLE





presents

World Premiere

The Open Hand

By **ROB CAISLEY**

Directed by **CALVIN MacLEAN**★

Scenic and Projection Design
Nevena Prodanovic

Costume Design
Marianne Custer♦

Lighting Design
Tannis Kapell

Sound Design
Rick Peeples

Stage Manager
Alex Ross

Producing Artistic Director
Calvin MacLean

Managing Director
David B. Byrd



Additional support provided by:

Jennifer Banner • Debbie & Jeff Chapman • Townes Lavidge Osborn

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.



★ The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.



♦ The Designers in LORT Theatres are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE.

E01-1035-007-16

Robert Caisley

ROBERT CAISLEY is Professor of Theatre and Head of Dramatic Writing at the University of Idaho. His plays have been performed across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom and translated into Italian and French. In the past 18 months, his most recently published play *Lucky Me* has been produced at such theatres as New Jersey Repertory Theatre, Curious Theatre in Denver, Riverside Theatre in Iowa City, 6th Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa, CA, Oregon Contemporary Theatre, The Modern Theatre in Spokane and Star Hall in Northamptonshire in the U.K. His last play *Happy*, first presented at the National New Play Network Annual Showcase of New Plays at InterACT Theatre in Philadelphia, was a 2012 Finalist for both the prestigious Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's New Play Conference and the Woodward/Newman Award for Drama at Bloomington Playwrights Project, and was selected for a National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere in the 2012/2013 season at New Theatre (Miami, FL), Montana Repertory Theatre (Missoula, MT), 6th Street Playhouse (Santa Rosa, CA), New Jersey Repertory and Redtwist Theatre (Chicago, IL) where it was named by *Chicago* magazine as one of



the "Nine Best Comedies" of the season. *Happy* was later nominated for a 2014 Bay Area Critics Circle Award for Best Original Script and won the 2014 SOTA Award for Best Play in Northern California, and the 2014 BroadwayWorld New Jersey Theatre Award for Best New Work. Caisley is a 2015-2016 Fellow in the Performing Arts from the Idaho Commission on the

Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, and received the University of Idaho's 2015 Excellence in Creativity Award. He is currently at work on two new plays: *& Juliet* which has been optioned by the New Jersey Repertory Company, and *A Masterpiece of Comic ... Timing!* currently in production at B Street Theatre in Sacramento.

the Cast

Lindsay Nance* Allison
Steve Sherman* Jack, *her fiancé*
Melissa David* Freya, *her friend*
Kyle Maxwell* Todd, *Freya's husband*
Rick Peoples* David Nathan Bright

Setting

The city
The present

This production has one 15-minute intermission.
Contains adult themes and uses strong language.



* 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...

From the Director

The production of *The Open Hand* you are about to see is a World Premiere. The CBT commissioned playwright Robert Caisley in 2014 to work with the students in UT's MFA programs in a new and exciting addition to our joint artistic/educational mission. Working with a playwright on a new play has always been enjoyable for me and it has always been my ambition for CBT to produce and develop new plays. The presence of an MFA program in Acting provides a rare opportunity: to commission a playwright to work with our students over an extended period of time on the development of a new play written expressly for them. Several years ago, Rob and I met with the students in their first year of study to discuss ideas, run some improvisations on potential scenes, and research issues associated with a play on the theme of generosity. That was all there was at first: the topic, some improvisations, and some research. Rob took away this material and a familiarity with the talents of our first-year acting students back to his home in Idaho to write a draft of this new play. I worked with him over the next six months, reading scenes, discussing possible events, and suggesting certain casting possibilities. When he returned to UT's campus in the MFA students' second year of study, we read the draft, discussed our responses with Rob,



who then worked up new drafts of scenes for us to read and discuss. Finally, by last summer (2015), a production draft was submitted to the CBT for me to begin work with the designers – also students in the MFA program in Design. The rehearsal period has provided new opportunities for revision and exploration.

We now present this extended process before an audience, and these students will have enjoyed the experience of designing the first production, of being the original cast, and of finding much of themselves in the characters, action, and stage environment of a new play.

An exciting time for us. We hope you enjoy it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin MacLean".



Won't you please
help us
by recycling your
playbill at the end
of the performance?

Simply leave in your
seat as you leave.

STAY *Connected*



foursquare

CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE



@CLARENCEBROWN

clarencetheatre.com



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

the Actors



MELISSA DAVID

(Freya) This is Melissa's last show with the CBT as part of her MFA in Acting with UTK. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support through the last three years. She would like to

thank Jed Diamond for believing in her and the other staff members for their guidance. Originating this part was a dream come true. She was recently seen as "Bart Simpson" in *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play*, "Lucy Brown" in *The Threepenny Opera*, as "Peaseblossom" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Alice", "Fred's Wife" in *A Christmas Carol*, "Audrey Williams" in *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, "Maureen" in *Rent* and "Alice" in *Closer*. She received her Bachelor's from California State University, Fullerton.



KYLE MAXWELL

(Todd, Freya's husband) Kyle is a third year MFA Acting candidate born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts. CBT credits include: "Lennie Small" in *Of Mice and Men*, "Jemie Campbell/John Arcscott" in

Our Country's Good, "The Ghost of Christmas Present/Old Joe/Carlisle the Merchant" in *A Christmas Carol*, "The Bartender" in *The Threepenny Opera*, "Puck" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and "Chiron" in *Titus Andronicus*. He is a two-time nominee for the KCACTF Irene Ryan Award and a proud member of Actors' Equity. He would like to thank his parents Brenda and Tim, sister Kayla, girlfriend Rachel, and his classmates for their support, the CBT for the opportunity, and Jed for the faith to take a chance on him. It has been an honor to work and grow here for three years. Thank You.



LINDSAY NANCE

(Allison) Originally from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Lindsay is excited to be a third year MFA Acting candidate. Past CBT credits: "Lavinia" in *Titus Andronicus*, "Christmas Past" in *A Christmas Carol*

(2015), "Hermia" in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Belle" in *A Christmas Carol* (2014), "Kate Keller" in *The Miracle Worker* and "Cynthia" in *WRENS*. Other selected credits include, *Romeo and Juliet*, GoShakes Theatre; *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, *Ismene*, New World Arts; *Night and Day/Ease the Squeeze*, Bridgework Theatre (Goshen, IN); *BOY*, Circle Theatre; *The Home Project*, About Face Theatre; *Jack Goes Boating*, Thunder & Lightning Ensemble; *Legion*, WildClaw Theatre (Chicago). Film credits include: *Halfway Home*, *Expiation*, *The Midnight Show*, *Decktechs and Creepers*. Lindsay received her BA in theatre from Goshen College.



RODERICK PEEPLES

(David Nathan Bright) calls Chicago home, and last appeared as "Peachum" in *The Threepenny Opera*. Previously at CBT he was in *Amadeus*, and played the title role in *The Life of Galileo*. In Chicago: Many

roles at Chicago Shakespeare, Goodman, Steppenwolf, Remy Bumppo, Victory Gardens, Famous Door, Court, and Next theatres. A Joseph Jefferson Award for *Dealers Choice* (Roadworks), and a Joseph Jefferson Citation for *Orphans* (CT20 Ensemble). Regional: Utah Shakespeare Festival, Syracuse Stage, Madison Repertory, and Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Film: Robert Altman's *The Company*, *Road to Perdition*, *Novocaine*, *The Hudsucker Proxy*. TV: *Prison Break*, *ER*, *Early Edition*, and the *Untouchables* series (syndicated).



STEVE SHERMAN

(Jack, *Allison's fiancé*)

Steve Sherman is thrilled to be performing in an original play at the CBT; his first in the Lab and his 11th and final show at the Clarence Brown Theatre as an MFA candidate. CBT credits

include: *Titus Andronicus* "Demetrius", *Of Mice and Men* "George", *A Midsummer Night's Dream* "Lysander", *4000 Miles* "Leo", *Monty Python's Spamalot* "Patsy", *The Whipping Man* "Caleb", *Our Country's Good* "Major Ross"/"Ketch Freeman", *A Christmas Carol*, *The Threepenny Opera* and *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*. Steve feels blessed to have been part of this incredible MFA training program. He thanks God, his wife Hana, his supportive family and friends, Jed and the entire MFA acting faculty, his six incredible classmates, and to Rob, Cal, and the cast and crew of *The Open Hand*. www.stevemsherman.com

PRODUCTION *Crew*

MANAGEMENT

Assistant Director

Sara Oldford

Assistant Stage Manager

Caleb Cooper

COSTUMES

Wardrobe Supervisor

Amber Williams

Wardrobe Crew

Lane Litton

Julia Stark

SCENERY

Deck Crew

Danielle Pressley

Zach O'Brien

PROPS

Props Master

Sarah Gaboda

Props Special Crafts

Morgan Mosher

LIGHTING

Assistant Lighting Designer

Stephen Downey

Light Board Operator/
Production Electrician

Kelli Cool

SOUND

Assistant Sound Designer

David M. Greenberg

Sound Board Operator/
Projections Operator

Sydney Steele

the Artists



CALVIN MacLEAN

(Director) Cal is the 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*, and *The Threepenny Opera*. Previously Head of Directing at Illinois State University, Cal was also 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 prestigious Joseph Jefferson Awards for Outstanding Production and Outstanding Direction. Most notable was Joshua Sobol's *Ghetto*, a production that ran for seven months and honored with four Jeff Awards including the Michael Maggio Award 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.

NEVENA PRODANOVIC

(Scenic and Projection Designer) Nevena is happy to have the opportunity to be a part of the design team of *The Open Hand* World Premiere production. This is her third production with the CBT including last season's production of *A Shayna Maidel* and this season's opening show, *The 39 Steps*. Her professional credits include theatre, film and TV, some of them being: Scenic Designer for Bulgakov's *Purple Island* (Krusevac Theatre, Serbia) and Assistant Art Director for a feature film *November Man*. Nevena graduated from Belgrade Academy of Applied Arts with a major in Scenic and Production Design. She's currently in her second year of MFA Scenic Design studies here at UT.

MARIANNE CUSTER

(Costume Designer) Ms. Custer is the head of the MFA design program and resident designer for the Clarence Brown Theatre for more than 35 years. Her design credits include Broadway, regional theatre, the Municipal Theatre of Istanbul, and the National Theatres of Germany and Hungary. Her students have won numerous major awards in recognition of their design excellence. Her former students are working in regional theaters, regional opera companies, in New York, in film, and at universities across the country. Professor Custer has received numerous grants and traveled extensively researching costume designers in Central and Eastern Europe. The University of Tennessee has recognized her with a Thomas Jefferson Award for her research and creative accomplishments, and the James R. and Nell W. Cunningham Outstanding Teaching Award. She has won the Triangle Award for Costume Design in North Carolina, the Helen Hayes Award for Costume Design in Washington D.C. and the Knoxville Coalition Award for Costume Design.

TANNIS KAPELL

(Lighting Designer) A second year Lighting Design MFA candidate at The University of Tennessee, Tannis Kapell's previous work this year at the CBT includes: *Of Mice and Men* with Paul Barnes, *I Am My Own Wife* with John Sipes, and Associate Lighting Designer for *Titus Andronicus*. His first design at the CBT was last season's production of *A Shayna Maidel*. Previous work in the area includes *Annapurna* at NC Stage Company in Asheville, NC and several shows with Go! Contemporary Dance at the CBT and downtown.

RODERICK PEEPLES

(Sound Designer) designed sound and composed music for live theatre and dance for nearly three decades - including many shows with director and friend Calvin MacLean in Chicago and elsewhere. Then, about ten years ago, he set aside his sound design career to concentrate on acting. He is grateful for this opportunity to blow out the cobwebs and scrape the rust off his sound design toolbox, whilst making an audacious attempt to act at the same time.

ALEX ROSS

(Stage Manager) A senior this year at the University of Tennessee, Alex Ross is so excited to be working on *The Open Hand* with this incredible cast and crew. This is Alex's first show as a stage manager. Alex previously worked at the Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, North Carolina this summer as an Assistant Stage Manager (ASM). He has also worked on many productions in his years here at the Clarence Brown Theatre. Some of his past productions at the CBT include; ASM *The Threepenny Opera*, ASM *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Assistant Sound Designer and Sound Board Op for *A Christmas Carol* (2014), ASM *4000 Miles*, and ASM *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*.

DAVID BRYANT BYRD

(Managing Director) Prior to joining the Clarence Brown Theatre in 2013, David held management positions at Westport Country Playhouse, American Dance Festival at Duke University, Triad Stage (General Manager), Yale Repertory Theater (Associate Managing Director), the Dwight/Edgewood Project (Managing Director), and the Guthrie Theater. He also assisted the producing team at Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS in New York, NY. David received an MFA degree in Theater Management from Yale School of Drama and a BA degree in Drama from UNC-Greensboro in his native North Carolina. Appointed to the Chancellor's Commission for LGBT People and the College of Arts & Sciences' Diversity Committee, David also serves on the McClung Museum Academic Programs Advisory Board, the UT Knoxville Diversity Metrics Task Force and has been a grant panelist for the Tennessee Arts Commission and United Way of Greater Knoxville. David has adjudicated numerous theatre productions for young artists and has made community engagement in the arts and diversity and inclusion among his greatest goals. He is a 2015 graduate of Introduction Knoxville and a 2016 Knoxville Business Journal 40 Under Forty Honoree.

LEADERSHIP

Producing Artistic Director - **Calvin MacLean**
Managing Director - **David Bryant Byrd**

ADMINISTRATION

Marketing & Communications Director -
Robin Conklin

Business Manager - **Sharon Ward**
General Management Associate -
Shelly Payne

Administrative Specialist -
Charlotte Holland

Accounting Specialist - **Jill Baker**
External Relations Associate -
Amanda Middleton

Grants & Research Associate -
Hana Sherman

Graphic Designer -
Julie Anna Summers

IT Specialist - **Mark Spurlock**

PATRON SERVICES

Patron Services Manager -
Sarah Burton

Assistant Patron Services Manager -
Megan Webb

Lead House Manager - **David Ratliff**

Patron Service Associates - **Katie Baker,**
Craig Cartwright, Kate Heminway,
McKinley Merritt, Danielle Pressley,
Preston Raymer, Jess Ruddy,
Scott Serro, Becca Willett

Archival Photographer - **Brynn Yeager**

OUTREACH/EDUCATION

SFY, Tours, Workshops -
David Brian Alley

Summer Acting Workshops, Talk Backs -
Terry Silver-Alford

PRODUCTION

Production Manager - **Susan L. McMillan**
Assistant to Production Manager/
Rentals Coordinator - **Ian Paul Messersmith**
Production Assistant - **Caleb Cook**

COSTUMES

Costume Shop Manager -
Melissa Caldwell-Weddig
Cutter/Draper - **Kyle Andrew Schellinger**
Costumers - **Elizabeth Aaron, Amber Williams**
Costume Assistants - **Victor Bercher,**
Carolyn Leisure, Cathy McIntyre, Ivy Rhodes
Amanda J.V. Roberts, Olivia Trees
Wig Design - **Rob Pickens**

ELECTRICS

Electrics Shop Manager - **Travis Gaboda**
Master Electrician - **Jon Mohrman**
Lighting Assistants - **Lisa Bernard,**
Maranda DeBusk, Tannis Kapell,
Sara Oldford, Christine Osborne

SCENERY

Technical Director - **Don Conard**
Assistant Technical Director - **Jason Fogarty**
Master Carpenter - **Jerry D. Winkle**
Carpenters - **Wes Smith,**
Hannah Abair, Marty Cooke, Robert Hash,
Brady Moldrup, Tyrel Prentiss
Scenic Charge Artist - **Jillie Eves**
Scenic Painters - **Kim Hymer, Clarice Phillips,**
Henry Wilkinson

PROPERTIES

Prop Shop Supervisor - **Christy Fogarty**
Lead Properties Artisan - **Sarah Gaboda**
Props Assistants - **Nevena Prodanovic, Kat Wright**

SOUND

Resident Sound Designer and
House Sound Engineer - **Mike Ponder**