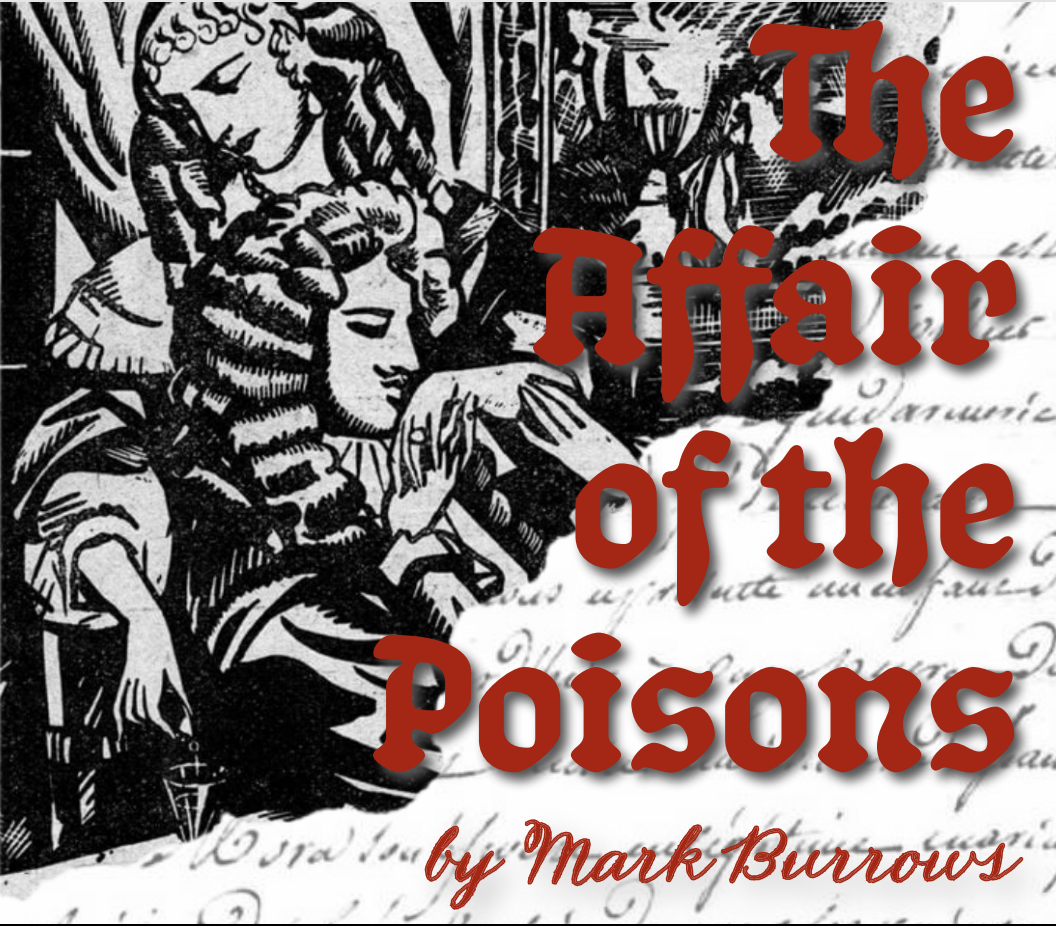




The Affair of the Poisons

by Mark Burrows

August 28-30

*Edge of the Wood Theatre
6736 North Loleta Avenue, Chicago*



John Chambers*
Jeanann Power*
Janet Rourke*
present

The Affair of the Poisons

a new musical

by Mark Burrows*

Director

Claire Yearman

Music Director

Aaron Zimmerman

Stage Manager

Martin Mahoney*

Illinois
ARTS
Council

The Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood is supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

The entirety of the action of the play takes place
in a workroom in the Bibliothèque Arsenal, Paris in 1848-9;

Within those confines roam the ghosts of the past —
specifically, those of the latter half of the seventeenth century.

Musical Numbers

Act One

There Are Stories

Think Happily

A Woman Might Do Well Here

Your Most Christian Majesty

Marie-Madeliene's Lament

Inheritance Powders

Always Athénaïs

When Forever Ends and Trio

First Poisoning

Second and Third Poisonings

Die A Little Better

Act I Finale

François

D'Aubrey, Marie-Madeliene,
and St. Croix

Athénaïs

D'Aubrey and Louvois

Marie-Madeliene

La Voisin

Louis

Louise, Athénaïs, and Louis

Marie-Madeliene and

D'Aubrey

Marie-Madeliene and her
brothers

La Voisin

Ensemble

Act Two

Song of Friendship

La Fontanges

La Fontanges Reprise

The Interrogations

I Would Not Bow

Wanting More

Finale Ultimo

Louvois

La Fontanges and the
male ensemble

La Fontanges

Louvois, La Vigoreaux, La
Bosse, and Olympia

La Voisin

Athénaïs and Nanelle

Ensemble

Cast of Characters

Bill Chamberlain*	Intendant, D'Aubrey, and Perrin
Karyn Louise Doerfler	Olympia
Sarah Donofrio	Louise, a serving girl, and La Vigoreaux
Zach Gibson	Louvois
Brock Hayden	Brother, Olympia's Courtier, a guard, a workman, and a judge
Meaghan Hurley	Nanelle, La Fontanges, and La Bosse
Gerry Kelel	Louis, Court President
Aimee Kleiman	La Voisin
Mary Margaret McCormack	Marie-Madeliene, and a palace guard
Peter Moeller	François, St. Croix, and a courtier
Logan Van Lerberghe	Brother, a courtier, Priest, a workman, and a judge
Molly Will*	Athénaïs

*denotes Member of Resident Ensemble

You're the most important part!



For any work of theatre to be complete, it needs an audience; that's why we're presenting this partially staged version of "The Affair of the Poisons," and we need your help! Please scan the code to the left to take the online audience survey — your opinions really do help shape the piece! Or, if you prefer, there will also be paper surveys in the lobby after the show. Please help us get better!

Cast Profiles



Bill Chamberlain* (Intendant, D'Aubrey, Perrin): Bill is excited to be working on this new musical. Previous credits include: Crowbar(Bill) with Artistic Home, Inherit the Wind (Reverend Brown) with Edge of the Wood Theater, Buried Child (Dodge) with Albright Community Theater, Three Sisters (Chebutykin) with Sandbox Collective, and The Man Who Came to Dinner (Sheridan Whiteside) with Saint Sebastian Players. Bill would like to thank his patient and supportive husband, Howard.



Karyn Louise Doerfler (Olympia): Karyn is an accomplished actor with nearly 10 years of experience on Chicago-area stages. Some of her recent credits and favorite roles include Claire Ganz in Rumors (Galaxy Theater Company), Countess Lily in Anastasia (Natural Talent Productions), Chelsea in On Golden Pond (MadKap Productions), Sister Mary Hubert in Nunsense (Saint Sebastian Players), Rebecca Heminges in The Book of Will (SSP), Elizabeth Benning in Young Frankenstein (Devonshire Playhouse), Elizabeth Proctor in The Crucible (Devonshire), Karen Andre in Night of January 16th (Kirk Players), Truvy in Steel Magnolias (Galaxy), and Tanya in Mamma Mia! (Golden Ticket Productions). Follow Karyn (and her dog Mabel!) on Instagram @keldymae.



Sarah Donofrio (Louise, La Vigoreaux): Sarah is a Chicago based actor whose past regional credits include Much Ado About Nothing (South Dakota Shakespeare Festival), Fiddler on the Roof (Music Theater Works), Miss Nelson is Missing! (Roxy Regional Theatre) and Cecile, or the School for Fathers (Boulevard Theatre). Sarah graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre & Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. A big thank you and lots of love to her family and friends for all their support. Website: SarahDonofrio.org.

Cast Profiles



Zach Gibson (Louvois): Zach (he/him) is excited to bring this new work to life! Favorite past roles: The D'Ysquith Family (A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder; 2023 Lou Award Winner - Best Performer Lead Role), Barrett (Titanic the Musical), & Peter Shaw (Silent Sky) [Wheaton Drama]; Arbiter (Chess in Concert) [BrightSide Theatre]; Quasimodo (Hunchback of Notre Dame) [NTP]; & Woodsman (Red & The Wolf, 2025 Premiere) [Songbird Theatre]. Follow next projects at zachgib.weebly.com. Many thanks to Mark & team for the opportunity!



Brock Hayden (Brother, Olympia's Courtier, Guard, Workman, Judge): Brock (he/him) is ecstatic to be returning to Edge of the Wood, where he was most recently seen as Watch/Ensemble and Claudio (u/s) in Much Ado About Nothing, and to lend his voice to this new work. Previous musical credits include Wizard of Oz (Big Noise Theatre), The Addams Family (Uptown MT Highland Park), Young Frankenstein, and Clue: the Musical (Theatre 7). In addition to Acting, Brock also works as a Shakespeare Text Coach, Costumer, Props Artisan, and Director in the Chicagoland Area. For booking inquiries, reach out at brock.hayden.actor@gmail.com



Meaghan Hurley (Nanelle, Serving Girl, La Fontanges, La Bosse): Meaghan is happy to again join Mark Burrows on one of his exciting new works - she previously played Zuleika in the staged reading of his original musical The Earl and the American Girl. Other favorite past roles include Lady of the Lake in Spamalot, Mrs. Lovett in Sweeney Todd, and Lilli Vanessi in Kiss Me, Kate. Meaghan has also worked as a vocalist with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, local bands and vocal groups, and as a cantor for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Cast Profiles



Gerald Kelel (Louis, Court President): Gerald is thrilled to be involved with the premiere of this exciting new work. He recently starred as Buddy in the Sondheim musical *Follies* at Rising Stars Theater and the titular role in *Jekyll & Hyde* at North Riverside Players. He has been involved with many local theater groups over the year, but this is his first foray with *Edge of the Woods*. He previously appeared in a staged concert of one of the composer's other works, *Zuleika the Great*. Other past roles include Jinx in *Forever Plaid*, Harold Hill in *Music Man*, Count Carl Magnus in *A Little Night Music*, and Gary Lejeune in *Noises Off*.



Aimee Kleiman (La Voisin): Aimee loves being a part of new work and is excited to help put *"The Affair of the Poisons"* on its feet after having been a part of the original vocal recordings. Most recently Aimee was seen at the Factory Theater playing Lizzie Le Prince in the world premiere of *"The Curious Circumstances of Louis Le Prince."* Other roles include Abby in *"Conversations About an Empty Suit"* (Three Brothers Theater), Jane Tate in *"It Runs in the Family"* (Citadel Theatre), Lee Green in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (MadKap Productions), Edith Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Improv Playhouse), Rosse in *MacBeth* (Invictus Theatre), Bakers Wife in *"Into the Woods"* (Deerfield Family Theater), and Fiona Maclaren in *"Brigadoon"* (CenterStage). Thank you, Mark, for this amazing opportunity. Thank you Benji, Jonah, Elliott and Orly, for your neverending love and support.

Cast Profiles



Mary Margaret McCormack (Marie-Madelienne, Palace Guard): Mary Margaret is delighted back at Edge of the Wood since she may or may not have been a Murderer in Drood. Mary has collaborated with Mark on new projects since 2020 making recordings out of her closet. Recent credits include: Lizzie in *Pride & Prejudice* (Parker Players), Charlotte in *Charlotte's Web* (YPT), Mollie in *The Mousetrap* (Citadel), Sally Bowles in *I Am A Camera* (Porchlight), Pearl in the World Premiere of *Night of the Hunter* (City Lit), Mary Hatch in *It's a Wonderful Life* (Oil Lamp), Nellie in *Playboy of the Western World* (City Lit). Mary is a classically trained soprano and studied theatre at Millikin University with a focus in vocal performance. She deeply thanks her family and friends for their love, support, and generosity. www.mccormackmarym.com



Peter Moeller (François, St. Croix, Courtier): Peter is ecstatic to join the cast of *The Affair of the Poisons*! Recent credits include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Righteous Brother), *Red and the Wolf* (Narrator), *The Wedding Singer* (Ensemble), and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Ensemble). When not acting on stage, Peter enjoys acting like he's going to finish all of the crochet projects he has lined up.



Logan Van Lerberghe (Brother, Courtier, Priest, Workman, Judge): Logan (he/they) is a Chicago-based actor and teacher with a Bachelor's in Theatre Teacher Education from Illinois State University. He is ecstatic to have a hand in presenting this new piece of theatre. Credits include *Next to Normal* (Scene Five Productions), *Spring Awakening*, *Next to Normal* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (point2point productions), *New Line* (Theo Ubique), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oak Park Festival Theater) and the *Trans Scribe Festival* (performed at Steppenwolf). He also works as a teaching artist with Skyline Children's Theater. Logan thanks his family, friends, and teachers for their never ending support.

@kylo_gan

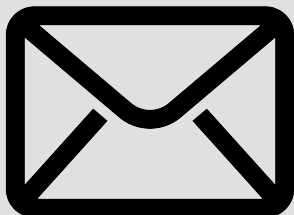
Cast Profiles



Molly Will* (Athénaïs): Molly is thrilled to return to Edge of the Wood to work on this new project. She holds a BFA in Musical Theater from Millikin University and has since truly enjoyed finding a theatre home here at Edge. Her favorite roles include: Jane Bennet (PRIDE AND PREJUDICE), Rose (MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS), and Irene Livingston (LIGHT UP THE SKY). Molly would like to thank her parents for their endless support, as well as the whole Edge team for welcoming her back!

Want to follow the show's next steps?

If you enjoyed tonight's performance, and you'd like to follow its progress, please consider following us on Instagram or signing up for the mailing list. We'd love for you to join us on the path from script to full production!



or visit

www.markwritessongs.com

Artistic Team



Claire Yearman (Director): Claire Yearman (She/Her) - is an actor, director, fight director, SAFD Certified Teacher, and intimacy choreographer. She is excited to be working with Mark again. Especially to help develop this new musical that he has created. Some of the local theatres she's worked at include: Oak Park Festival Theatre, Williams Street Repertory, Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Chicago Dramatists, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Aston Rep, Parker Players, Songbird Theatre, Oil Lamp Theatre, Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble, Wheaton Drama, and Music on Stage.



Aaron Zimmerman (Music Director): Aaron is a pianist, music director, and writer centered in the western suburbs of Chicago. Recent music direction credits include Ragtime (Metropolis PAC), Disaster (BNT), Freaky Friday (BNT), Titanic (WDI), Ruthless (Citadel). His writing has appeared in various publications, including Metaphorisis Magazine and Story Hack. He is the composer and lyricist for the musicals Red and the Wolf, Heist?, and Prometheus and the Firestone.
AaronZimmermanMusic.com



Martin Mahoney* (Stage Manager): Martin is grateful for the opportunity to serve as the stage manager for this exciting, new musical. As a Resident Artist at Edge of the Wood Theatre since its inception in 2013, Martin has been the stage manager for The Belle of Amherst, Pride and Prejudice, The Book of Will, and Light Up The Sky. He has appeared onstage as an actor in numerous Edge productions, notably as Demetrius in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Captain Brice in Arcadia, Medvedenko in The Seagull, and as Durdles in The Mystery of Edwin Drood.

Artistic Team



Mark Burrows* (Author): Mark studied music at Elmhurst College, and was a member of the Theatre Building Chicago's Musical Theatre Workshop. Past projects include "Love Affairs and Wedding Bells" (2015 Fullerton Playwright Festival winner), and "The Earl and the American Girl." He is an award-winning costume designer, an ensemble member of the Resident Theatre at Edge of the Wood in Chicago, and is the Marketing Chair for Music On Stage in Palatine, where he lives with his husband Jim and their beagle/problem-child Paddy. markwritessongs.com

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by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Stacey Lind*

November 6-22

Present Laughter

by Noel Coward

Directed by Sean Hargadon

April 2-18, 2027

tickets and more at:

www.edgeofthewood.com/resident-theatre