ADMISSIONS

by Joshua Harmon

Co-Directed by Alexandra Kallis
& Payten Christopher McLeod

Nov. 13-22, 2026

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTORS

One of the goals of Rebel Phoenix Theatre Collective is to challenge perspectives, and that is exactly what drew us to want to produce Joshua Harmon's 'Admissions'. This script delicately balances humor and social commentary, primarily regarding the systemic issues with race and ethnicity in our country and the privileges certain people are afforded because of them. A play set in 2016 that premiered in 2018 finds incredible relevance almost a decade later. It manages to highlight how much conversations both have changed and stayed the same around these issues. Not only that, but it calls upon its white audience to consider their role in initiating these conversations, as no characters within this show are people of color who are utilized to have or explain the necessity of these conversations. Every character in Admissions has a unique point of view and offers observations that can be both shocking and enlightening, and our goal was to showcase the nuance and that multiple truths can be found within these perspectives. We wanted to show how—despite best efforts and intentions—not everyone is prepared to accept these truths.

What is the most effective method for change? In what ways are we willing to contribute to the causes we believe in when they come at a personal sacrifice? In what ways are we blind to our own biases when it comes to the people we care about? We hope you contemplate this and more when you leave the theatre. Most of all, we hope you enjoy the show. Thank you for supporting local community theatre.

From Ali:
As a white woman raising white children, including a 16 year old son, I immediately related to Sherri's point of view, and her desire to help her child see the world from more than one narrow vantage point. By watching her story unfold I am prompted to reframe some of my thinking, and to ask myself important questions about how I show up in the world. The desire to do what's best for your child is a powerful, primal motivator, so what do you do when that drive comes in conflict with both your life's work, and with the wishes of the child you are raising?

From Payten:
The questions this show asks and issues it addresses are ones I've not only examined myself, but also are ones I've posed to others multiple times in my life. I am afforded privileges that don't always align with my identity as a white-passing person of color, and the character I relate with most in the show is one we never hear from. That is why I felt so attached to directing this particular piece—to add what felt like a necessary perspective to the vision of the show. This show is a great example of exercising critical thinking and examining one's biases, and it's been incredibly gratifying to be afforded the opportunity to guide this production alongside Ali to try and deliver a version of the truth that will resonate with as many people as possible.

CAST

Dawn Gunderson ..... Sherri Rosen-Mason

Mitchell Glass ..... Bill Mason

Tyler Dean ..... Charlie Mason

Shari Watts ..... Roberta Russert

Andrea Hough ..... Ginnie Peters

Robin Ross-Holmes ..... U/S Roberta Russert

Michael McGraw ..... U/S Charlie Mason

Nat Coe ..... Emergency Swing Ginnie Peters

CREW

Alexandra Clark Kallis ..... Co-Director

Payten Christopher McLeod ..... Co-Director

Eden Miller ..... Stage Manager

Nat Coe ..... Intimacy Coordinator

Michael Esparza ..... Set Designer

Nat Coe and Victoria Rose ..... Props Designers

Paige Guerrero ..... Costume Designer

Meg Lumen ..... Lighting Designer

Nat Coe ..... Sound Designer

Victoria Rose ..... Nail Art Designer

Melany Tate ..... Photographer

Aurora Howard ..... Board Liaison

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About the Author - Joshua Harmon

Joshua's plays include Bad Jews, Significant Other, Admissions, Skintight, and Prayer for the French Republic. He and Sarah Silverman co-wrote the libretto for The Bedwetter based on her memoir. His plays have been produced on Broadway and the West End; off-Broadway at Roundabout Theatre Company, Lincoln Center Theater, Manhattan Theater Club and Atlantic Theater Company; across the country at Geffen Playhouse, Speakeasy, Studio Theatre, Theater Wit, About Face, Actor's Express, and The Magic, among others; and internationally in a dozen countries. He is a two-time MacDowell fellow and an Associate Artist at Roundabout. Graduate of Juilliard.

Meet the Directors



Alexandra Kallis (Co-Director) is grateful to be directing her second show with Rebel, having directed The Christians last season. Her other Rebel Phoenix credits include Set Designer, Costume Designer, and Actor, in addition to serving as Director of Operations. Ali is a Teaching Artist with Childsplay Academy and holds a BFA in Theatre from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Thank you to Nat and Payten for this opportunity. Thanks also to Payten for being a fantastic Co-Director, the cast for all your incredible work and dedication, and the production team for all your invaluable contributions.



Payten Christopher McLeod (Co-Director) welcomes you to the Rebel Phoenix Theatre's production of Admissions! Having grown up at Childsplay in Tempe, Payten has furthered his education and garnered performance experience across Arizona, with this being his directorial debut! Starting his professional career in 2018, Payten prides himself on his dedication to his craft, his work-ethic, and his hunger to become the best artist possible. In addition to being a co-director for this show, Payten also serves as a founder and Assistant Artistic Director to Rebel Phoenix Theatre Collective. Prior directing credits include Assistant Directing for both Into the Woods Jr. at Limelight Youth Theatre and for Lost Girl with Rebel Phoenix Theatre. Thanks go out to Ali, Nat, and Eden, as well as to the cast and the design team for their hard work and support. Also thanks of course to his friends and family for their continuous support—especially his mom. He hopes you enjoy!
@payten_mcleod



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SPECIAL THANKS

Rebel Phoenix Theatre Collective extends our deepest gratitude to the individuals and organizations whose generosity, guidance, and support helped bring "**Admissions**" to life:

Felicia Penza

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DL Gourmeet Kitchen

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Ballet Theatre of Phoenix

Ian Parsons

Liam Powell

All Hearts Cooperative

Victoria Rose and Missfit Nails

Elias Matthews

Cheryl Briley

Liam Powell

Gracie Esparza

Melany Tate

Andrea Hough

Dawn Gunderson

Robin Ross

Shari Watts

Michael Casolary

Raina Burchett

James Piccini.

To our extraordinary cast, crew, and Board of Rebel Phoenix Theatre Collective:
Thank you for your heart, talent, and unwavering commitment.
And to everyone who offered time, encouragement, resources, or steady belief in this production:
We see you, we appreciate you, and we are grateful beyond words.

FIFTH WALL PLAY HOUSE

BY PATRICK MARBER

CLOSER

DIRECTED BY
FELICIA PENZA

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CAST ANNOUNCEMENT



ANTOINETTE STALLINGS
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CJ MASCARELLI
AS LARRY



BRETT ETZEL
AS DAN



MELODY KNUDSON
AS ANNA

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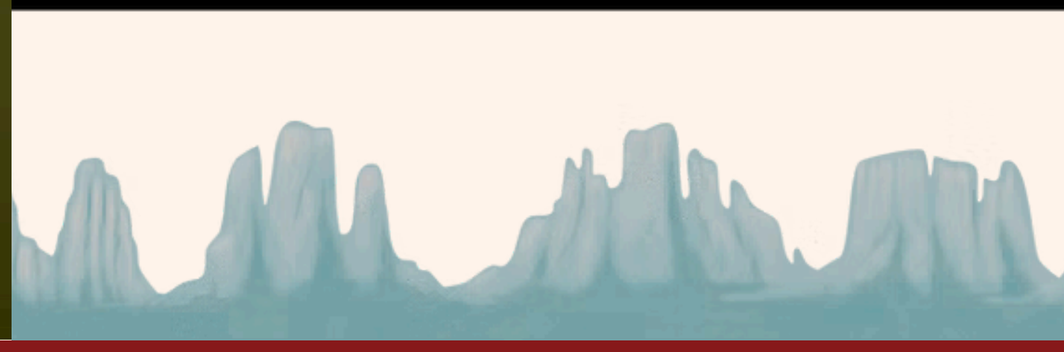

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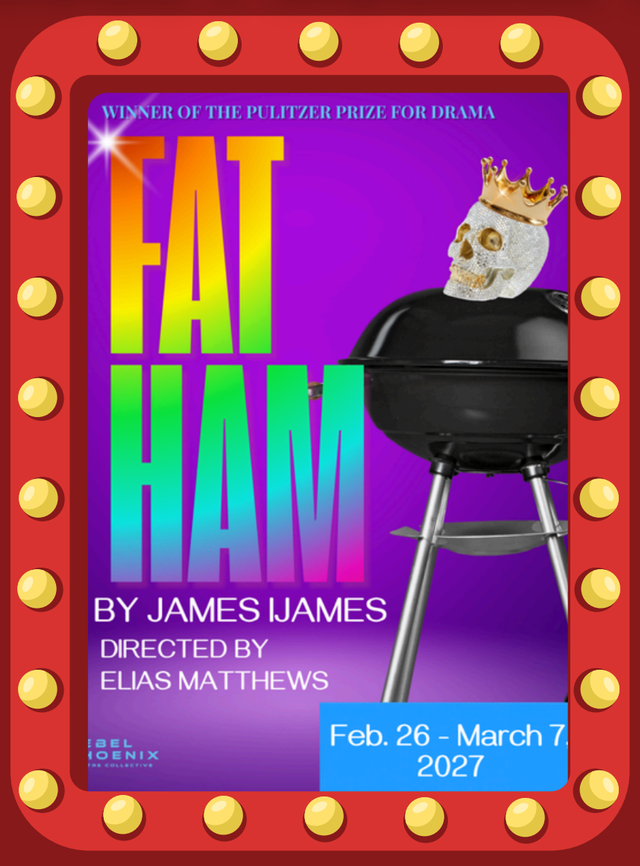

FAT HAM

by James Ijames
Directed by Elias Matthews
Asst. Directed by Felicia Penza
Feb. 26- March 7, 2027

CAST BIOS



Dawn Gunderson ~ Sherri Rosen-Mason

Dawn Gunderson is honored to play the role of Sherri with a group of artists so incredibly talented. Their support has meant the world to her. Playing Sherri is quite different from her roles this past summer as Bessie the Cow and Henrietta the Hen in a traveling children's production in ND/MN where Dawn spends her summers acting, directing, teaching, and reconnecting with family. Last season, Dawn was in Rebel's production of The Christians as a choir member and Elder Jane U/S. At Mesa Encore Theatre last year, Dawn was Mother Superior in Sister Act and Miss Prism in The Importance of Being Earnest. Some favorite credits: Dotty Otley (Noises Off); Chris (Calendar Girls); Grandmama (The Addams Family); Mama Murphy (Bright Star); Margaret (9 to 5); Clairee Belcher (Steel Magnolias). Next up, Dawn will be playing Miss Potter and a pirate in Zao Theatre's musical, Finding Neverland, opening March 19, 2027.

Mitchell Glass ~ Bill Mason



Mitchell Glass is an actor and theatre director whose stage credits include Blithe Spirit (Charles), A Midsummer Night's…(Oberon) Richard II (Richard II), Next Fall (Brandon), The Producers (Carmen Ghia), Rabbit Hole (Howie), and Beauty and the Beast (Le Fou).l He holds an MFA in Theatre Directing from East 15 Acting School in London and a BA in Theatre Arts Education from Brigham Young University.
Love to my tribe!



Tyler Dean ~ Charlie Mason

Tyler Dean is an Actor/Director from Chicago, Illinois. Graduating from Northern Arizona University for theatre and film in '24 Tyler took a hiatus from theatre with Admissions as his return to stage. His past roles include as Prince Charming in "Cinderella", Tony in "You Cant Take it with You", and Reverend John Hale in "The Crucible". What he is most known for, though, is never shutting up!

Andrea Hough ~ Ginnie Peters



Andrea (she/her) is honored to be making her Rebel Phoenix Theatre Collective debut. She believes theater should do more than entertain—it should challenge the status quo, spark conversations, make people a little uncomfortable, and occasionally piss them off (in the best possible way). That's why Rebel Phoenix's mission resonates so deeply with her.
A familiar face on stages across the Phoenix Valley, Andrea has a particular soft spot for playing strong, complicated women: the outspoken ones, the messy ones, the ones who aren't always likable but are never boring. Recent credits include Mrs. Bradman in Blithe Spirit, Teresa in The Memory of Water, Holly in Next Fall, and Aunt Debra in Kimberly Akimbo (Zoni nominee). Other favorite roles include Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing, Siobhan in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, and Nurse Ratched in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.
Offstage, Andrea is a passionate activist and advocate for marginalized communities. She's a firm believer that art is political, kindness is badass, and playing nice is highly overrated when there's something worth fighting for.



Shari Watts ~ Roberta Russert

Shari is thrilled to appear in her first production with Rebel Theatre Company along with this talented cast of fellow artists. Some of her favorite and recent roles have been Kimberly (Kimberly Akimbo-Zoni) Chaos Theatre, Mother (Shrines) Ronin Theatre , Grace (Grace and Glory) Black Theatre Troupe , Harriet (Potus) Stray Cat Theatre. She gives many thanks to all the team at Rebel for this experience and to you the audience for supporting live theatre.

Robin Ross-Holmes ~ U/S Roberta



Robin is beyond THRILLED to be part of the Rebel family and cannot thank Ali, Payten and Nat enough for including her in this incredible cast. She would also like to give a very special thank you to Shari for sharing Roberta with her and to the ENTIRE cast for all of their love and support. Other roles Robin has enjoyed have been Delores in Five Tellers Dancing in The Rain, Caroline Hubbard in Murder on the Orient Express, and Sarah in Children of a Lesser God.
Love to my actor son, Logan Holmes, "it's mom's turn now!"



Michael McGraw ~ U/S Charlie

Michael is thrilled to be a part of Admissions. He has been doing theatre for over a decade now, and is happy to understudy for the first time. Michael has worked with Rebel Phoenix on a previous show as Curly (Lost Girl). His other works include Mystery of the Blue Train (Derek Kettering) and Cocoanuts (Bob) at Fountain Hills Theatre, and Almost, Maine (Dave). He hopes you enjoy the show!