

**Greater Boston Stage Company
proudly presents...**



September 16 - October 2, 2022

Directed by Lisa Rafferty

PRESS KIT

Contact

Bryan Miner

Manager of PR and Sales

bryan@greaterbostonstage.org

GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY
PROUDLY PRESENTS...



Photo by Nile Scott Studios

Greater Boston Stage Company is pleased to present ***Popcorn Falls*** directed by Lisa Rafferty. Written by James Hindman. Starring Christopher Chew* and Sarah Elizabeth Bedard*. **Performances run September 16 – October 2, 2022.**

Welcome to *Popcorn Falls*, a town whose only claim to fame – their namesake waterfall – has dried up. Their last chance to avoid bankruptcy is to put on a play in a week. One big problem: no playhouse. Another problem: no play. In this feel-good comedy, follow two actors as they hilariously play over twenty townsfolk trying to prove that art can save the world.

Returning to the Stoneham stage is GBSC favorite, Christopher Chew. Chew was most recently seen in Greater Boston Stage Company's Elliot Norton Award winning production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. A production that garnered rave reviews and took home the coveted award for Outstanding Musical Production of 2022.

Sarah Elizabeth Bedard is no stranger to the GBSC stage. A professor of Theatre at Bridgewater State University, Bedard is often called upon to direct for The Young

Company right here in Stoneham. She'll be responsible for introducing audiences to a wide variety of characters residing in Popcorn Falls. Props and costumes will play a crucial role in inspiring this array of townsfolk. "It's fun to just watch each other change and shift into these different humans. You feel like you know something about a person just by the way they sit in a chair, or by the way they wear a certain hat or scarf" says Bedard.

But why should folks see this production? As Chew puts it, "everybody always needs a laugh. This evening is designed to be fun and silly. In a good way, this show is about other people's problems. Forget your own and come watch these people try to save their town!"

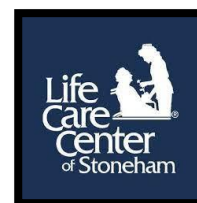
New York critics unanimously praised this production as "laugh out loud comic genius," "wacky, fun filled, absurd," and "a perfect tonic to restore faith in humanity." Come experience Hindman's love letter to theatre for yourself.

The cast of **Popcorn Falls** includes **Christopher Chew*** and **Sarah Elizabeth Bedard***. Directed by **Lisa Rafferty**. Stage managed by **Shauwna Dias Grillo***. Assistant stage managed by **Emily Fitzgerald**, Scenic Design by **Kristin Loeffler**, Lighting Design by **Elmer Martinez**, Costume Design by **Deirdre Gerrard**, Sound Design by **Caroline Eng+**, Properties Design by **Sarajane Mullins**, Scenic Charge by **Kate Bell** and Set Construction by **New England Scenic**. Production Manager is **Casey Leone Blackbird**.

Single Tickets: \$64-69 Adults; \$59-64 Seniors; \$25 Digital; \$25 Students (with valid ID). For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at Greater Boston Stage Company at (781) 279-2200, or visit <https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/shows-tickets/mainstage/popcorn-falls/>

Health and Safety: We are committed to keeping Greater Boston Stage Company a safe and welcoming space for everyone. Masks are required for all visitors. For more information, please visit <https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/plan-your-visit/health-safety/>

Popcorn Falls is sponsored by Stoneham Ford, Life Care Center of Stoneham and Bear Hill Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center



DIRECTOR BIO

Lisa Rafferty (Director) (she/her) Playwright, director and producer Lisa Rafferty creates documentary plays which celebrate heroic women and men and writes comedies about motherhood seen worldwide. Recently, the premiere of *ONWARD - Votes for Women*, at Boston Public Library. Currently developing *MOMologues the Musical* for a Mother's Day premiere in May 2023. Proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the Stage Directors and Choreographers. www.birchtreeproductions.com

CAST BIOS

Sarah Elizabeth Bedard* (Company) (she/her) is thrilled to be joining the *Popcorn Falls* team at Greater Boston Stage Company. New York credits include One Year Lease Theatre Company, The Workshop Theatre, Classics on the the Rocks and Mettawee River Theatre. New England credits include *The Wolves*, *Barbeque*, (Lyric Stage Company), *Significant Other* (SpeakEasy Stage), *The Agitators*, *Measure of Normalcy* (Gloucester Stage Company), *Intimate Exchanges*, *Midvale High School 50th Reunion* (Nora Theatre Company), *Shockheaded Peter* (Company One), *Phèdre* (Actors' Shakespeare Project), *A Christmas Carol* (Berkshire Theatre Festival), *DibbleDance* (Shakespeare and Company), *Three* (Boston Public Works), *Arcadia* and *Translations* (Bad Habit Productions). Sarah frequently directs at The Young Company at Greater Boston Stage Company and is a professor of Theatre at Bridgewater State University, where she also directs. She earned an M.F.A. in Acting from Brandeis University and is a proud member of Actors Equity Association. SarahElizabethBedard.com

Christopher Chew* (Company) (he/him) most recently starred in Greater Boston Stage Company's Elliot Norton Award-winning production of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*. Other GBSC credits include *Onegin*, *Jonah and the Whale*, *A Secret Garden*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Pete n Keeley*, *The Girl in the Frame* and *Lizzie Borden*. In addition to performing, Chris served as the original Director of Education helping to establish the highly successful Young Company here in Stoneham. Other favorite credits include Joe Josephson in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Huntington Theater Co.), The Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol* (Hanover Theater), Bud in *Bridges of Madison County* (SpeakEasy Stage), Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* (Lyric Stage Co.), Sweeney in *Sweeney Todd* (Lyric Stage Co.) and Shrek in *Shrek! the Musical* (Wheelock Family Theater), Dan in *Next to Normal* (SpeakEasy Stage), Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* (Lyric Stage Co.), Fredrik in *A Little Night Music* (Lyric Stage Co.), and George in *Sunday in the Park with George* (Lyric Stage Co.). He graduated from Carnegie Mellon University (BFA in Drama) and Northeastern University (Ed.D in Educational Leadership).

Production Stage Manager.....Shauwna Dias Grillo*
Assistant Stage Manager.....Emily Fitzgerald
Scenic Designer.....Kristen Loeffler
Costume Designer.....Deirdre Gerrard
Lighting Designer.....Elmer Martinez

Sound Designer.....Caroline Eng+
Properties Designer.....Sarajane Mullins
Scenic Charge.....Kate Bell
Set Construction.....New England Scenic
Production Manager.....Casey Leone Blackbird

**Member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.*

+The Young Company at Greater Boston Stage Company alum

PROMOTIONAL IMAGES – Download at <https://www.greaterbostonstage.org/press-kit/>

Featured Photography by: Nile Scott Studios

PERFORMANCES

Wednesdays: Sept. 21 and 28 at 2pm

Thursdays: Sept. 22 and 29 at 7:30pm

Fridays: Sept. 16, 23 and 30 at 8pm

Saturdays: Sept. 17, 24 and Oct. 1 at 3pm and 8pm

Sundays: Sept. 18, 25 and Oct. 2 at 2pm

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY

We bring vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. Within this setting, we uniquely foster the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to our company of current and former students. Now in its 23rd Season of live theatre in Stoneham, MA, Greater Boston Stage Company produces five Mainstage shows, presents a series of Special Events, and runs year-round classes, lessons, and fully staged productions through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: (781) 279-2200; boxoffice@greaterbostonstage.org

Box Office Hours: Tuesdays – Fridays, noon to 4pm

Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180

Website: greaterbostonstage.org

Flagship Season Sponsors: Mass Cultural Council, Salem Five Charitable Foundation, and StonehamBank

**Scan the QR code below with your smartphone to
access the electronic press kit.**

