GREATER BOSTON
STAGE COMPANY



BLACKHOLLOW

A GOTHIC TALE OF POSSESSION

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Greater Boston Stage Company Presents the World Premiere of *Blackhollow: A Gothic Tale of Possession*



By Weylin Symes
Directed by Weylin Symes and Daniel Begin
October 23 – November 8, 2026
A Don Fulton New Works Project World Premiere

STONEHAM, MA – Greater Boston Stage Company (GBSC) continues its 27th Season with the World Premiere of *Blackhollow: A Gothic Tale of Possession*, a chilling new one-woman thriller written by GBSC Producing Artistic Director Weylin Symes and directed by Symes and Daniel Begin. Presented as part of the Don Fulton New Works Project, *Blackhollow* runs October 23 – November 8, 2026.

Just in time for Halloween, this gothic psychological thriller takes audiences inside Blackhollow, a 19th-century criminal lunatic asylum, where Nurse Lucy Cull becomes entangled in a series of radical medical experiments and the line between science and something far more sinister begins to blur.

Part *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, part *Jane Eyre*, *Blackhollow* is a haunting psychological descent that explores isolation, obsession, and the limits of what we understand. As Lucy is drawn deeper into the mysteries surrounding Blackhollow, questions of what is real, what can be trusted, and what may be lurking beyond the boundaries of science begin to close in around her.

Anna Slate makes her Greater Boston Stage Company debut as Lucy Cull and Others, taking on the challenge of bringing the inhabitants of Blackhollow to life in this one-woman thriller. Charlotte Gray serves as understudy for Lucy Cull and Others, also making her GBSC debut.

Blackhollow marks the latest original work by Symes developed for the Greater Boston Stage Company stage. During his tenure with GBSC, Symes has written or adapted several works for the company, including *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Dracula*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Lobster Girl*, and *Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes*.

“I’ve always loved the way gothic stories allow us to explore very human fears through something heightened and mysterious,” says Symes. “With *Blackhollow*, we’re playing with that tension between science and the unexplained, and with a character who is increasingly unsure whether she can trust what she’s experiencing. Developing a new work at Greater Boston Stage is always exciting because we get to discover the piece together, in the room and on the stage.”

The production also marks Begin’s GBSC Mainstage directorial debut. A proud alum of The Young Company, Begin has directed more than ten Young Company productions over the past decade and currently serves as GBSC’s Associate Director of Education and Artistic Associate.

“There’s something incredibly exciting about directing a play that has never been seen before,” says Begin. “Every day in the room is an opportunity to discover how this world works and how Anna can bring all of these characters to life. For me personally, making my Mainstage directing debut at a theatre that has been such an important part of my artistic life makes the experience even more meaningful.”

The production team includes **Weylin Symes**** (Playwright/Co-Director), **Daniel Begin+** (Co-Director), **Katy Monthei** (Scenic Designer), **Corey Whittemore** (Lighting Designer), **Deirdre Gerrard** (Costume Designer), **David Remedios^** (Sound Designer), **Emily Allinson** (Props Designer), **Lee Nishri-Howitt** (Dialect Coach), **Jonathan Santoro+** (Dramaturg), **Shauwna Dias Grillo*** (Production Stage Manager), **Kit Verweij** (Production Assistant), **Meghan Ward** (Director of Production), and **Misfit Toys Theatrical LLC.** (Scenic Builder).

Blackhollow: A Gothic Tale of Possession is sponsored by **Nick DiCiaccio and Marguerite Shepard-DiCiaccio**.

* Member of Actors’ Equity Association.
** Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC).
^ Member of IATSE/USA.
+ Young Company Alum.

Content Warning: This production contains adult themes and strong language. Recommended for mature audiences.

Performances will be held at Greater Boston Stage Company, 395 Main Street in Stoneham, MA. For tickets, visit greaterbostonstage.org or call **781-279-2200**.

Single Tickets: VIP $90 ($85 Seniors 62+); Premium $80 ($75 Seniors 62+); Students $27 with valid ID.

CAST & DIRECTOR BIOS

ANNA SLATE* she/her (Lucy Cull and Others) is overjoyed to be making her Greater Boston Stage Company debut! Recent theatre credits include: *Charlotte's Web* (Wheelock Family Theatre); *Leopoldstadt* (Huntington & Shakespeare Theatre Companies); *Cold War Choir Practice*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *By the Queen* (Trinity Repertory); *Mary Poppins* (New London Barn Playhouse); *Indecent*; *Natasha, Pierre, & The Great Comet of 1812* (Wilbury Theatre Group); *Romeo & Juliet* (Lanes Coven Theater Co.); *Handle with Care* (North Carolina Stage Company); *A Little Night Music*, *The Fantasticks* (Four Seasons Theatre). Favorite opera credits: *Xerxes* (Berkeley West Edge Opera), *Dido and Aeneas* (Heartbeat Opera), *Alcina* (OperaRox). Anna additionally writes and performs her own experimental work and teaches music & theater to teeny tiny tots! www.annaslate.com

CHARLOTTE GRAY she/her (Understudy for Lucy Cull and Others) A recent transplant from Colorado, Charlotte is very excited to be on the stage for the first time in Massachusetts. Recent credits include ensemble & Violet understudy in *Violet* at the Aurora Fox Theater in Aurora, CO, Daisy Jones in *Crazy: The Patsy Cline Tribute* in Pueblo, CO, and Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet* in Centennial, CO. Up next, you'll find her playing Nina in the East Coast premiere of *Seagulls* by Beth Hyland at Wilbury Theatre Group in Providence. She is endlessly grateful to her parents, brother, friends, and two doghters for supporting her in all of her endeavors. She hopes you enjoy the show.

WEYLIN SYMES** he/him (Producing Artistic Director, Co-Director and Playwright) Weylin was extensively involved in the renovation of Greater Boston Stage's building in 1999 and 2025, and over the past 25 years he has overseen the growth of the Theatre into one a leading regional performing arts institution. After serving as the Theatre's first Artistic Associate, Weylin assumed the role of Artistic Director in 2003 and was named as Producing Artistic Director in 2007. In his time at GBSC, he has directed over 25 productions for the Mainstage and written or adapted several pieces for performance on GBSC's stage, including *The Old Man and the Sea, Dracula, It's a Wonderful Life, Lobster Girl* and *Last Night at Bowl-Mor Lanes*. Some favorite directing projects at GBSC include: *Clue, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow,* Richard Nelson's *Apple Family Plays, Seminar, Distant Music, I Capture the Castle, Buddy Cop 2, Gaslight, Strangers on a Train, Marathon, A Prayer for Owen Meany, The Violet Hour, The Dazzle,* and *The Girl in the Frame*. Prior to coming to Greater Boston Stage Company, he directed several productions in the Boston area, including Henrik Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* and *We Bombed in New Haven* by Joseph Heller, and spent a year training law enforcement personnel through role-playing exercises in Albuquerque, NM. Weylin graduated from New York University and studied at the Experimental Theatre Wing of the Tisch School of the Arts.

DANIEL BEGIN+ he/him (Associate Director of Education, Artistic Associate, and Co-Director) is a director, educator, arts administrator, and proud alum of Greater Boston Stage Company's Young Company! He is thrilled to make his GBSC directorial mainstage debut alongside Artistic Director Weylin Symes, after having directed more

than ten Young Company productions over the past decade. Daniel currently serves as GBSC's Associate Director of Education and Artistic Associate. His professional work has also taken him to the American Repertory Theater, The Huntington, and Trinity Repertory Company in artistic, educational, and administrative roles over the past 10 years, cultivating a career that bridges professional theatre-making with dynamic arts education. Favorite directing credits include *The Old Man and the Old Moon* (Rogers Center for the Arts) and *The Addams Family: School Edition* (GBSC Young Company). Additional Associate Directing credits include *La Tempestad* (Trinity Rep), *Flora & Ulysses* and *Charlotte's Web* (Wheelock Family Theatre), *Jack and the Giant*, and *Dames at Sea* (GBSC). Daniel holds a B.A. from Emerson College and an M.Ed. from Merrimack College. His guiding belief: good theater makes good people.

ABOUT GREATER BOSTON STAGE COMPANY

Greater Boston Stage Company brings vibrant professional theatre and dramatic education beyond the boundaries of Boston, featuring world and regional premieres alongside fresh interpretations of familiar work. GBSC uniquely fosters the artists of tomorrow by providing ongoing performance and employment opportunities to its company of current and former students. The professional not-for-profit regional theatre produces six mainstage shows each year and provides year-round training and performance opportunities through The Young Company for students in grades 1–12.

Box Office: 781-279-2200
Box Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, noon to 4 PM
Location: 395 Main Street, Stoneham, MA 02180
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Facebook: Greater Boston Stage Company
Instagram: @gbstageco

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