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BRENDAN RAGAN &  
SUMMER WALLACE**

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"Intelligent dialogue and carefully etched characters... *Birds of North America* is the work of a very talented young playwright."  
-Westword



# BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

By Anna Ouyang Moench

January 6 - February 12, 2023

[www.urbanitetheatre.com/birdsofnorthamerica](http://www.urbanitetheatre.com/birdsofnorthamerica)

941-321-1397

\$39 Regular, \$25 Under 40, \$5 Student

1487 2nd Street, Sarasota FL 34236

# Administrative Team

Co-Artistic Director

Brendan Ragan

Co-Artistic Director

Summer Wallace

Director of Advancement

Travis Ray

Communications Manager

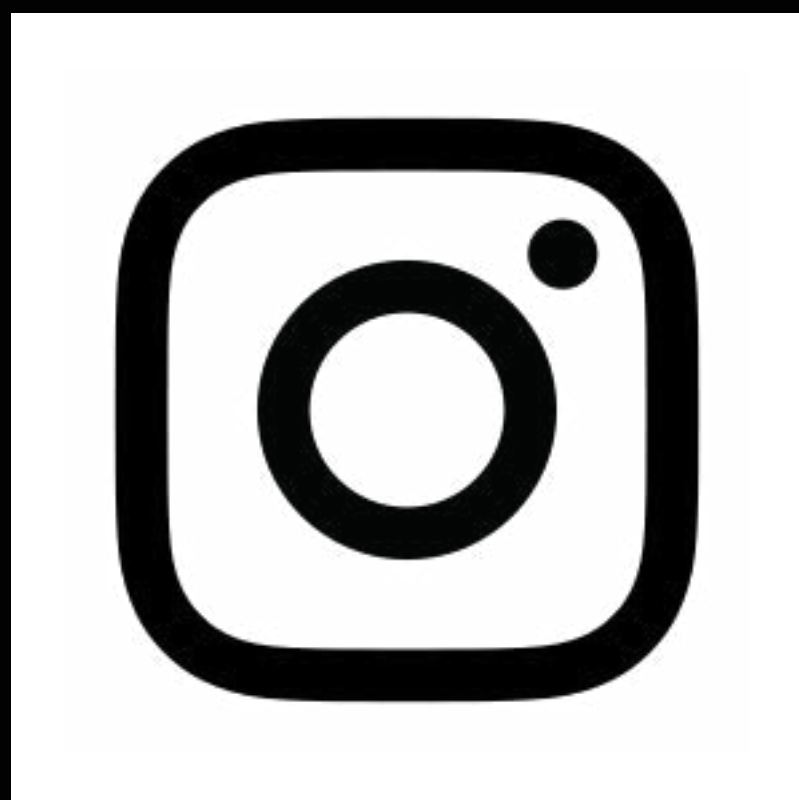
Laura Chambers

Patron Services Manager

Candice Rodriguez

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*Birds of North America* was developed with the assistance from Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado, Stephen Weitz, Producing Ensemble Director



# Cast

Caitlyn

Dekyi Rongé

John

Stephen Spencer\*

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association



## Creative Team

Playwright

Anna Ouyang Moench

Director/Co-Artistic Director

Summer Wallace

Co-Artistic Director

Brendan Ragan

Production Stage Manager &

Props Designer

Tori Heikenfeld

Technical Supervisor &

Lighting Designer

Alex Pinchin

Scenic Designer

Frank Chavez



## Creative Team

Sound Designer

Rew Tippin

Master Carpenter

Eugene Alcorn

Costume Designer

Alison Gensmer

Scenic Artist

Richard Cannon

Assistant Stage Manager

Fiona Coffey

Covid Compliance Officer

Laura Chambers



# Summer Dawn Wallace

## Director/Co-Artistic Director

Summer Wallace is an award-winning actor, director, producer and teaching artist. Directing credits at Urbanite include the regional premieres of *Scorch*, *Northside Hollow* (Winner 2018 Handy Award for Best Direction of a Play), *Dry Land*, *Sam & Lizzie* (reading), and *Athena*. She is the producing director for Urbanite's Modern Works Festivals. Regional credits include: Asolo Repertory Theatre, Mad Cow Theatre, Dog Day's Theatre, 1st Stage, Vashon Repertory Theatre, Cumberland County Playhouse, Stage Door Theatre, Lagniappe Theatre, Theatre Lab, Players Theatre, FSU/ Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, New College of Florida and the list goes on. Summer is also Producing Director of Two Chicks Production. She is a proud member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA. [summerdawnwallace.com](http://summerdawnwallace.com)

# Brendan Ragan

## Co-Artistic Director

Brendan Ragan is a theatermaker with 20 years of experience in professional theater. At Urbanite Theatre, Brendan has developed and implemented the company's artistic and administrative visions since inception in 2014, curating seasonal planning, leading casting efforts, guiding creative teams, and serving as a cultural ambassador in the Sarasota community. Brendan is deeply grateful to be able to tell thrilling, important stories in a community that so highly regards the performing arts. Select Urbanite highlights include: *Sender*, *The Smuggler*, *Lungs*, *The Drowning Girls*, *Safe House*, *The Burdens* and *Incognito*. Love to Z.

[www.brendanragan.com](http://www.brendanragan.com)



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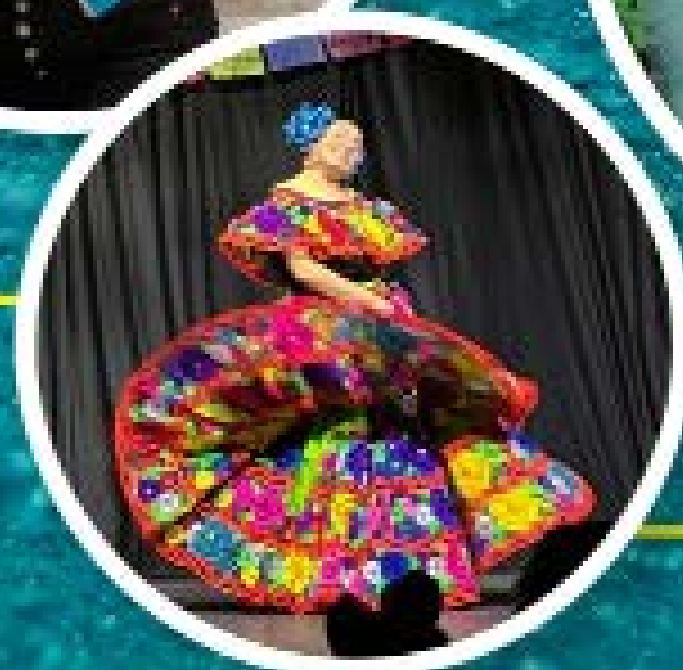
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# Travis Ray

## Director of Advancement

Travis Ray earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Performance from Alabama State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Management/Arts Administration from the University of Alabama. Travis has worked for the Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts, the King Tut Exhibit, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Tyler Perry Studios and Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Travis is a member of Actors' Equity Association, Theatre Communications Group, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He recently taught Acting 1 at New College of Florida and he owns a handcrafted bow tie and accessories brand called Dapper Bowtique.

# Laura Chambers

## Communications Manager

Laura Chambers is thrilled to be joining the Urbanite Theatre for her first season as the new Communications Manager. Originally from Sarasota, FL, she spent the last several years living in New York City where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Arts Management and Marketing from The New School. Upon returning to Sarasota, she worked as the Marketing Coordinator for Sarasota Contemporary Dance (SCD) during their 16th & 17th Seasons. Additionally, Laura is a choreographer/ freelance movement artist and recently presented her original choreography for SCD's In-Studio Performance *In the Round* (May 2022) and SCD's production of *Voices-Rising Choreographers* at the Cook Theatre (October 2022).

# Candice Rodriguez

## Patron Services Manager

Candice Rodriguez is the Patron Services Manager at Urbanite Theatre. Specializing in hospitality management, she uses that experience to create a personalized experience for all. After relocating from New York to Sarasota, Candice decided to continue working within the arts and culture community. Throughout her career, she has worked at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Historic Spanish Point, local non-profits and as a dance fitness instructor. When she's not at the theatre, Candice loves spending time outdoors or with her dog.



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# Anna Ouyang Moench

## Playwright

Anna Ouyang Moench is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays have been produced at the Geffen Playhouse, the Playwrights Realm, East West Players, InterAct Theater, and many other theaters across the country and around the world. Anna is a 2020 Steinberg Award winner and the recipient of a Gerbode Special Award in the Arts. She was commissioned by the National Asian American Theatre Company for a work titled *Out of Time* which premiered in 2022. In television and film, Anna has worked with Netflix, Apple TV+, HBO, UCP, eOne, PictureStart, and Universal. Anna lives in Los Angeles with her family.



# Stephen Spencer

John

Stephen Spencer makes his living as a character actor in Chicago and Regional Theatre, receiving critical acclaim for his performances in such plays as *Five Presidents*, *Blackbird*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Blizzard '67*, and *The Quality of Life*. Onscreen, he's best known for portraying Dr. David Harvard on *FARGO* (S4). He played Tommy Davoni in *EMPIRE*, Emil Wanatka in *PUBLIC ENEMIES*, and Dr. Tom Mayfield in *CHICAGO MED*. He is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago, appearing in over 30 plays of the Canon. As an Artistic Associate at Chicago Dramatists, he's helped to develop and workshop new plays for over 30 years. Steve received his MFA from the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and is happy to be back in Sarasota. He is a proud member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA.

# Dekyi Rongé

## Caitlyn

Dekyi Rongé is delighted to join Urbanite Theatre this season. Theatre: *Wife of a Salesman* (Writers Theatre), *Birds of North America* (Third Avenue Playworks), *The Tempest*, *A Christmas Carol* (A Noise Within), *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Pacific Repertory Theater), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Kingsmen Shakespeare Company), *Macbeth* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), *Swimmers*, *Richard III*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Mrs. Phu's Cleansing Juices*, *The House of Bernarda Alba*, *Satyagraha: Gandhi/ King* (The Theatre School at DePaul) *The Stinky Cheese Man*, *Into America* (Griffin Theatre Company), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Citadel Theatre). Television: CHICAGO MED, SHINING GIRLS. Education: The Theatre School at DePaul (MFA), UC Berkeley (BA). Dekyi is represented by Gray Talent Group.

# Tori Heikenfeld

## Production Stage Manager & Props Designer

Tori Heikenfeld is thrilled to be on the Urbanite team for her second season, after stage managing *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen*, *The Smuggler*, *A Skeptic and a Bruja* and *Athena* last season. Recent Stage Management credits include *My Lord What a Night* at Florida Studio Theatre, as well as productions with Arden Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Baltimore Center Stage, Theatre Aspen, and Portland Stage Company. She holds a BA in Theatre Production/Design and Public Relations from Susquehanna University. Favorite credits include *Bridges of Madison County* and *A Small Fire*. Many thanks to Kevin, Chloe and the family for their unwavering love and support.

# Alex Pinchin

## Technical Supervisor & Lighting Designer

Alex Pinchin is continuing his work with Urbanite Theatre in his 2nd year with the company as a member of the staff, now as Technical Supervisor. Alex is a Sarasota native, having graduated from Booker High School's Technical Theatre program before going on to earn his Bachelor of Arts in Digital Arts and Sciences with a minor in Light Design from the University of Florida. He has been working in theatre for over 15 years and can also be found designing for the Asolo Conservatory. His most recent works include *Guys and Dolls* at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (Projection Design) and *Athena* here at Urbanite (Light Design).

# Frank Chavez

## Scenic Designer

Frank is happy to return to Urbanite. Past designs include *The Smuggler* and *The Thanksgiving Play* (scenery), *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (costume design). He recently received Theatre Tampa Bay (TTB) awards for *12 Angry Men* (scenery) at Stagemworks Theatre and the 2022 Creative Loafing Best of the Bay Scenic Designer. Some local credits include *Perfect Arrangement*, *Glass Menagerie* (costume design) Freefall Theatre; *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Joe Turner's Come & Gone*, *Tartuffe* (costume design), *Good People*, *Hamlet*, (scenic design) at American Stage; *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*, *Sylvia*, *Anna in the Tropics* (scenic & costume design) at Stagemworks Theatre; *King Lear* (Scenic & costume) at Tampa Rep. Frank has also designed for Norwegian Cruise Lines and numerous off-Broadway and regional theatres. He has been a frequent guest artist at the University of Northern Colorado, and is currently Resident Costume Designer of the University of Tampa.

[www.FrankChavezDesigns.com](http://www.FrankChavezDesigns.com)

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**March 23, '23, 7:30pm: *Celebration*  
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# Rew Tippin

## Sound Designer

Rew Tippin is fluttering into 2023 just having designed *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol* for Theatre at Monmouth in Maine after a summer spent designing their shows *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Amphitryon*, *Antony & Cleopatra*, and *Eurydice*. Having alighted back in Florida, he is delighted to stretch his wings for Urbanite again! Some past Urbanite Credits include *Reborning*, *Thanksgiving Play*, *Bo-Nita*, and *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen*. Locally he has worked with Stageworks, Asolo Rep, The Studio Tierra Del Sol, the FSU/Asolo Conservatory and the Banyan Theater. Credits from around the country include the Oakland Ballet, Gretna Theatre and Beau Jest Moving Theatre. He is always proud to be a part of this vibrant flock of Urbanite artists. Thank you, Summer and Brendan!

# Eugene Alcorn

## Master Carpenter

Gene Alcorn served as master carpenter for the last two seasons at Urbanite Theatre. Credits include *In a Word*, *The Niceties*, *Thanksgiving Play*, *Sender*, *The Feast*, *Safe House*, *At the Wake of a Dead Drag Queen*, *The Smuggler* and *Athena*. Gene is also a performing Magician and builds magic for other magicians all over the world. His skills are somewhat unique yet combined are an asset to Urbanite Theatre.



# Alison Gensmer

## Costume Designer

Alison Gensmer is delighted to be working with Urbanite Theatre again. Recent costume design credits include *The Odd Couple* (American Stage), *Athena*, *Safe House* and *The Feast* (Urbanite Theatre). Alison previously served as the Assistant Costume Designer at Feld Entertainment Inc. where she worked on *Disney on Ice*, *Sesame Street Live*, and *Jurassic World Live Tour*. Alison received her BFA in Theatre Production from the University of Florida. She returned to UF to complete the College of the Arts' Post-Baccalaureate Ceramics program, focusing on anomalous animal sculpture. A Sarasota native, Alison is pleased to be contributing to the arts scene she grew up in. Alison would like to thank her family for their support and the Urbanites for all their hard work!

# Richard Cannon

## Scenic Artist

Since his arrival in Sarasota in 1981, Rick has designed lights and sets for the Urbanite Theatre, Players of Sarasota, FST, Golden Apple, Anna Marie Players, Manatee Players, American Stage, Feld Entertainment, Asolo Theatre, Westcoast Black Theater Troupe, and Banyan Theatre. He designed and produced more than 70 plays during his 18 years with the FSU/Asolo Conservatory. Other work includes several operas with the Triangle Opera Company in Durham, NC. While there, he had the honor of designing the world premiere of Robert Ward's *Roman Fever*. In New York City he designed and produced two plays Off-Off Broadway and assisted several Broadway designers including John Lee Beatty. Rick holds degrees from DePauw University and North Carolina School of the Arts

# Fiona Coffey

## Assistant Stage Manager

Fiona Coffey is a junior BFA technical theater student at Florida Atlantic University studying props and scenic artistry. She is currently the secretary and resident stage manager for the Black Undergraduate Theater Collective. Some of her favorite past technical credits include: *RENT*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Richard III* and *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind*. Fiona is beyond excited to have the opportunity to work with the Urbanite theater and is thankful for this learning experience.

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Photo by Sorana Augustine

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