



# Beyond the Garden Gate

**Beyond the Garden Gate**

written by: **Mallory Swisher**

directed by: **Stefan Roseen**

**April 12-27, 2024**  
7:30pm Thurs-Sat | 3pm Sun  
**\$20 General Admission**

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*The*  
**DEN**  
THEATRE  
The Crosby Theater  
1331 N Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, IL 60622

## Cast

**Katherine "Kat"** \_\_\_\_\_ Maria Clara Ospina  
**Maeve** \_\_\_\_\_ Eliana Deckner-Glick  
**Grandmother** \_\_\_\_\_ Hilary Sanzel  
**The Watcher** \_\_\_\_\_ Jasmine Robertson  
**The Morrigan** \_\_\_\_\_ Jaclyn Jensen\*  
**Fey** \_\_\_\_\_ Sam Martin  
**Fey** \_\_\_\_\_ Mikayla De Guzman  
**Fey** \_\_\_\_\_ Antonio Cruz  
**Fey** \_\_\_\_\_ Whitney Ann Bates  
**The Musician/Fey** \_\_\_\_\_ Annika Andersson

## Crew

**Director** \_\_\_\_\_ Stefan Roseen\*  
**Playwright** \_\_\_\_\_ Mallory Swisher\*  
**Choreographer** \_\_\_\_\_ Anna Roemer\*  
**Set Designer/ Technical Director** \_\_\_\_\_ Ethan Gasbarro\*  
**Fight Director** \_\_\_\_\_ Tim McCarthy  
**Composer** \_\_\_\_\_ Dominick Vincent Alesia\*  
**Costume Designer** \_\_\_\_\_ Toria Olivier\*  
**Lighting Designer** \_\_\_\_\_ Baylee Speer  
**Props Designer/SFX Designer** \_\_\_\_\_ Jackie Bobbitt  
**Props Designer/SFX Designer** \_\_\_\_\_ Jessica Miller\*  
**Intimacy Director** \_\_\_\_\_ Erin Sheets  
**Puppet Designer** \_\_\_\_\_ Elyse Estes  
**Stage Manager** \_\_\_\_\_ Kevin Blair

*\*The Impostors Theatre Co. Ensemble Members*

*"The liminal spaces are where all magic whispers and warps."*

*Two sisters come of age listening to the simultaneously comforting and unsettling fairytales their grandmother tells them. Now adults, the sisters are living through Grandma's stories once again – this time in a very unexpected and real way.*

*When Maeve moves in with their grandmother, ostensibly to care for her ailing health, her younger sister Kat learns that Maeve has become entrenched in solving the mystery at the heart of the stories they always took for fantasy. As Grandma's health continues to deteriorate, Maeve becomes convinced that defeating the curse echoed throughout the fairytale will restore her Grandma's vitality.*

*Venturing into the world hidden beneath the garden at the edges of their backyard, Kat will follow her sister down the rabbit hole to the depths of the darkest fairytale. There, they face the darkness encroaching and the darkness within.*



**Please scan the QR  
Code to access the full  
program for *Beyond  
the Garden Gate*.**

***Beyond the Garden Gate*  
has a run time of  
95 minutes with  
no intermission.**

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## BIOGRAPHIES

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### *Dominick Alesia*

#### Composer

Dominick Alesia is a composer/lyricist, writer, and performer in the Chicago area, as well as an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). As a composer, he has scored numerous productions created by ITC, such as *The Last Living Gun*, *Hertha Nova*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, and two different iterations of the anthology play series *Footholds*. He was nominated for a Jeff Award for his original music in *Hertha Nova*. He is also the composer, lyricist, and writer of *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*—a new musical that was performed by ITC in 2023. His next musical is currently in early development stages. He would like to extend a huge congratulations to the cast and crew, and everyone who helped get this wicked new tale up on its crow's feet!

### *Annika Andersson*

#### The Musician

Annika Andersson is a proud Michigan-native and Musical Theatre alumni from Oakland University. Her favorite past performances include *Into the Woods* (Baker's Wife/Violin, Thunder Bay Theatre), *Cabaret* (Texas, Metropolis Performing Arts Center), *Jersey Boys* (Lorraine, Great Plains Theatre), *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change* (Understudy, Oil Lamp Theatre), and *The Trial of Mira Vance*—her original play that has had a handful of readings over the years. She is extremely grateful to The Impostors, the cast, her friends, her family, and anyone who supports the arts. [www.annikaanderssonartist.com](http://www.annikaanderssonartist.com)

### *Whitney Ann Bates*

#### Fey

Whitney Ann Bates is an actor and aerialist from Tennessee. Their most recent credits include *Guinevere U/S* in *The Last Queen of Camelot* (Idle Muse Theatre Co) and *Ludella* in *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* (The Impostors Theatre Co). Whit has an MFA in Acting from Regent University and is represented by The Rock Talent Agency. Enjoy the show!

### *Kevin Blair*

#### Stage Manager

Kevin is a Chicago actor and theatre maker. Recent Impostors Theatre Co. credits include *Footholds Vol. 3* (Ensemble) and *Footholds Vol. 4* (Playwright, Marketplace Mama). Kevin is a company member of Theatre L'Acadie. He has a passion for developing new works with the "In Bloom" series at L'Acadie, as well as casting many of their projects. Kevin's writing can be found on New Play Exchange and in the comedy web series "I Hate You Too" on Youtube. BFA in Acting from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For more info on projects, visit [www.kevinblair.net](http://www.kevinblair.net). Thanks to family and friends for your continued support!

### *Jackie Bobbitt*

#### Special Effects/Props Designer

Jackie Bobbitt is thrilled to be part of the design team for *Beyond the Garden Gate*! Jackie has been doing theatre since 2003 and has always loved the community and creativity that theatre inspires. Previous Props/SFX credits include *The Last Living Gun*, *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable*, *Windwalkers*, and *The House of Baba Yaga* with The Impostors Theatre Co., as well as numerous Moraine Valley Community College shows including *The Lightning Thief*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Mr. Burns*, *Glassheart*, *Urinetown*, *Twelfth Night*, and many more. Congrats to the amazing cast and crew of BTGG—this is one for the books!

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## BIOGRAPHIES

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### *Antonio Cruz*

#### Fey

Antonio Cruz (Fey) is a Chicago actor and playwright who is beyond excited to be making his Impostors debut! Antonio recently graduated from Millikin University with a double degree in Theater and Human Services. Some recent credits include Uncle Billy/Ernie/Peter/Foley Artist and several others in It's A Wonderful Life (Kilbourn Park Playhouse), Gaston in Beauty and the Beast (Theater-on-the-Hill), swing/George in Stop Kiss (Pipe Dreams Studio), Don Alfonso in Così Fan Tutte (Millikin University), and Craig McDermott in American Psycho (Pipe Dreams Studio). This July, you can find him in his understudy run as Kevin in Theatre L'Acadie's The Swan. Antonio also recently wrote and directed the original musical The Path at Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre with lyrics and music by Indigo Egger and Priscilla Sabourin. You can find Antonio on Instagram @antonio\_rf\_cruz or his website at antonio-cruz.com. Enjoy the show!

### *Mikayla De Guzman*

#### Fey

Mikayla De Guzman a Chicago actor, playwright, and stage manager. As a recent graduate of Loyola University Chicago, she has had previous performance credits in The Wolves, All's Well That Ends Well, Polaroid Stories, SOMEWHERE, Pride and Prejudice, Broken Nose Theatre's BECHDEL FEST 9, and NWaC's THE KASHA OF KAIMUKI. In her free time, she enjoys sculpting, pilates, traveling, and taking naps. She would like to thank her friends, family, and The Impostors for all their love and encouragement.

### *Eliana Deckner-Glick*

#### Maeve

Eliana Deckner-Glick is a Georgia Peach raised in Marietta, where she discovered her love for the arts thanks to her loving family. She began her acting training at the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts and then earned her BFA in Acting at The Theatre School at DePaul University in 2023. Some of her favorite credits include The Seagull (Masha), Barbecue (Barbara), and Indecent (Chana). Eliana is drawn to demanding roles that push her body, voice, and imagination to new places. She'd like to thank her family for being her biggest fans, and her incomparable educators and agents. Eliana is represented by Grossman and Jack and 10MGMT. Insta: @e.d.g.\_\_\_\_

### *Elyse Estes*

#### Puppet Designer

Elyse Estes is a Chicago-based puppet and scenic designer. She has previously worked with The Impostors Theatre Co. on The Wood and Windwalkers as their puppet designer and on The House of Baba Yaga as their scenic designer. She is super excited to be bringing creatures to life with The Impostors once again. When not in the theatre, Elyse can be found making brooms, dabbling in woodworking, and browsing information about obscure cryptids.

### *Ethan Gasbarro*

#### Set Designer/TD

Ethan Gasbarro is an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co. He is sincerely delighted to bring another Roseen-directed show to life. Ethan serves as the Lead Preparator at the Chicago History Museum, where he builds and maintains the exhibits. As an independent TD/Freelance Carpenter, Ethan has built all sorts of things around Chicagoland, including theatre sets, escape rooms, restaurant interiors (Snakes and Lattes), artist studios (Salon Des Artistes), and experiences (2019 EA Sports Chicago Bears NFL Kickoff Experience). Additionally, he has built film sets (MasterChef) and museum exhibits (Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Staten Island Children's Museum, Children's Museum of Richmond). His performance credits for The Impostors

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## BIOGRAPHIES

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include *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* (First Soldier), and his production credits include *The Last Living Gun*, *Windwalkers*, *Hertha Nova*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Summer & Smoke*, *Tippy: Stories from the River*, *Caged: An Allegory*, and *The Wood*, in addition to each volume of *Footholds*. He'd like to thank NEIU for their continued partnership with ITC. He'd also like to thank Rachel—he couldn't do this without her. [ethangasbarro.com](http://ethangasbarro.com)

### *Jaclyn Jensen* The Morrigan

Jaclyn Jensen is originally from Sandy, UT and received her BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Central Missouri. She is an ensemble member of The Impostors Theatre Co., previously appearing in their productions of *Footholds* (2019) and *The House of Baba Yaga*. You can catch her as Selena (Mom) in Season 1 of *Super Adam*—currently releasing episodes on YouTube. When not acting, Jaclyn pursues her passions for standup paddleboarding, all things horror, and support for young women affected by breast and gynecological cancers.

### *Sam Martin* Fey

Sam is thrilled to be returning to The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) to work with this extremely talented team! Notable Chicago credits include Eli in *When All This is Over* (Glass Apple Theatre), Second Soldier in *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* (ITC), Jack U/S in *Jack Off The Beanstalk* (Pride Arts), multiple roles in *Dracula* (Glass Apple Theatre), and Ensemble in *Anything Goes* (Metropolis Performing Arts Center). Sam is a proud graduate of CCPA at Roosevelt University where he earned his BFA in Musical Theater. On top of acting, Sam is an avid songwriter and big nerd with a passion for video games, DnD, and anime.

### *Tim McCarthy* Fight Choreographer

Tim McCarthy is honored to work again with The Impostors and provide his stage combat experience for *Beyond the Garden Gate*. His previous productions include *The Last Living Gun*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Zoo Story*, *Little Women*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Harvey*, *Waiting for Lefty*, *No Exit*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear*, and *Macbeth*. He would like to thank the cast for all their hard work and focus, as well as his partner in greatness for all her love and support.

### *Jessica Miller* Special Effects/Props Designer

Jessica Miller is so excited to be back for another Impostors show! She has a special set of skills that allows her to pivot from prop master to blood designer to SFX artist. Jessica received her BA in Technical Theater in 2012 at Columbia College Chicago. Her previous work includes *The Lightning Thief*, *The Last Living Gun*, *Mr. Burns*, *Urinetown*, *Windwalkers*, *The House of Baba Yaga*, *Eurydice*, *Heathers*, *Evil Dead the Musical*, *Hand to God*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

### *Toria Olivier* Costume Designer

Toria is an actor and singer in Chicago. They are incredibly grateful that working with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) has offered them the opportunity to branch out into other aspects of theatre production. Previous ITC productions include Jeff-nominated *Hertha Nova* (Dr. Fisher), *Miranda: A War-Torn Fable* (Mother/Prophetess/Postwoman/Mrs. Severhead), and *Footholds Vol. 4* (Stage Manager). Toria is incredibly proud of this cast and crew for pulling off an ambitious and demanding show with joy and determination, and they appreciate the love and support they have received.



## *Maria Clara Ospina*

### *Katherine "Kat"*

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Maria Clara Ospina (Kat) is an actress/painter born in Medellin, Colombia. She now resides in Chicago where she continues to cultivate her purpose in life—to CREATE! Over the past three years, she has been a part of over 14 productions all around the city, ranging in a wide variety of theatrical styles. She is excited to be a part of Beyond the Garden Gate, a show that unites her passion for drama, puppets, and ensemble work. Since 2022, Maria Clara is proud to be a part of Chicago Children's Theatre team as an artistic community engagement associate. In the past year, Maria Clara has once again fallen in love with her passion for painting. She is working towards her first gallery opening later this year. Ig: @mariaclaraospina\_

## *Jasmine "Jaz" Robertson*

### *The Watcher*

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Jasmine "Jaz" Robertson is a multi-hyphenate artist from Memphis, TN. In her three years as a Chicago local, she has been seen onstage in various productions such as Regression, Ruined, The Revolutionists, Failure: A Love Story, Notes & Letters, Shipwrecked! An Entertainment, as well as other workshops and independent productions in and around the city. She is also an aspiring (and current) playwright/lyricist, an inaugural ensemble member with Oil Lamp Theater, an alumnus of The American Theatre Wing's SpringboardNYC program, and a very passionate dog mom. Jaz is absolutely elated to make her debut with The Impostors Theatre Co. and The Den Theatre. She sends a special thanks to Mallory for writing and sharing this dark masterpiece and to YOU specifically for supporting live theatre! She hopes you will enjoy watching the story as much as she enjoys performing it (which is a whoooooo lot).

## *Anna Roemer*

### *Choreographer*

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Anna Roemer is an ensemble member with The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC) and is so excited to return as choreographer for Beyond the Garden Gate! Choreography credits include The Last Living Gun, Miranda: A War Torn Fable, Footholds Vol. 4 (ITC); Mamma Mia (Drury Lane, asst.); Emma (Chicago Shakespeare Theater, asst.) She is currently the resident choreographer at Music House Inc., where she has choreographed for over 13 productions including Shout!, Freaky Friday, Footloose, Newsies, Shrek, and Xanadu. Some of her favorite productions performing onstage include Miranda (Felix), Windwalkers (Tiff), and The House of Baba Yaga (Spirit) with ITC; Mamma Mia (Ensemble/Swing) with Drury Lane; and The Polar Express (Steward) with Rail Events.

## *Stefan Roseen*

### *Director*

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Stefan Roseen is a Chicago director, playwright, and designer who serves as the artistic director of The Impostors Theatre Co. (ITC). Stefan most recently directed for ITC on the critically acclaimed The Last Living Gun. Additional directing credits include: ITC's Jeff Nominated Miranda: A War-Torn Fable; Windwalkers; the Jeff Nominated Hertha Nova; The House of Baba Yaga; Summer & Smoke; Tippy: Stories from the River; Footholds (2020 & 2019); Caged: An Allegory; The Wood; as well as The Terrible Tragedy of Peter Pan; Art; and The Altercation in the Underworld—Winner "Best Of" for MadKap Productions Short Play Festival. Stefan has been Jeff Nominated for Best Director for his work on Hertha Nova, and he has earned a nomination for "Best Stage Director" by the Chicago Reader every year since 2019. Stefan's more recent theatrical designs include sets for 25/25, Occidental Express, the Jeff Recommended They, and the Jeff Nominated The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui—all for Trap Door Theatre.

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## BIOGRAPHIES

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### *Hilary Sanzel*

#### Grandma

Hilary Sanzel is beyond excited to be working with The Impostors Theatre Co. for the first time. She earned a B.A. in Theatre Arts from SUNY New Paltz and is a graduate of The Second City Conservatory. Although she's had the pleasure of appearing in a variety of productions with companies like Otherworld Theatre, The Factory Theater, Hell in a Handbag, and Midnight Summit Ensemble, her favorite role is as mommy to her special animals.

### *Baylee Speer*

#### Lighting Designer

This is Baylee's (he/she/they) first show with The Impostors and is thrilled to light this work! They are from St. Charles, MO and have grown very fond of Chicago. They are currently working as the Lighting Manager at Teatro ZinZanni. Some of his favorite credits include Master Electrician for Dream King at Teatro Vista, Light Board Operator and Substitute at Cabaret Zazou and Teatro ZinZanni, and Lighting Designer for Proof giving them a KCACTF Certificate of Merit.

### *Erin Sheets*

#### Intimacy Director

Erin Sheets is an all-things-theatre maker and director, full of gratitude to be working with her friends at The Impostors for the first time. She is the co-Artistic Director of Chicago's Theatre L'Acadie, where she most recently directed the World Premiere of Today Tonight Soon, a site-specific play performed on the water's edge at Loyola Beach. Other Intimacy Directing projects have included Right Now (Facility Theatre) and The Delivery (Trap Door Theatre). When not making theatre, Erin likes to complain about not making enough theatre. Catch her next directing project this summer with Theatre L'Acadie—The Swan by Elizabeth Egloff. Make the Squarespace fee feel worth it and learn more at [erinsheets.com](http://erinsheets.com)!

### *Mallory Swisher*

#### Playwright

Mallory Swisher is one of the founding ensemble members of The Impostors Theatre Co. She is a playwright (The Wood), actor, voice actor, and designer. Acting credits include: Mary Poppins (Memorial Opera House), A Staged Reading of Tippy: Stories from the River (The Impostors), The Altercation in the Underworld ("Best of the Fest" at the Annual Madcap Production Short Play Festival), and Assassins (Crown Point Theater). Recently, she was voted First Runner-Up for "Best Theater Designer of 2023" by The Chicago Reader. Lighting design credits include: Footholds Vol. 4, Miranda: A War-Torn Fable, Footholds Vol. 3, The House of Baba Yaga, Summer & Smoke, Tippy: Stories from the River, Footholds Vol. 1, Caged: An Allegory, and The Wood, all for The Impostors. Mallory has studied at the iO Theater and received her degree from Valparaiso University. Catch her every Monday on Roll 4 Your Life, a D&D podcast, available on your preferred podcasting platform!

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