

# CITADEL THEATRE



# MISERY

WRITTEN BY **WILLIAM GOLDMAN** DIRECTED BY **SCOTT WESTERMAN**

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY **STEPHEN KING**

FEATURING THE TALENTS OF **ELLEN & SCOTT PHELPS**

**SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 12, 2025**

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**Scott Phelps**  
*Artistic Director*

**CITADEL**  
THEATRE

**Ellen Phelps**  
*Managing Director*

*A live professional theatre located in Lake Forest, IL*

PRESENTS

# *Misery*

WRITTEN BY **William Goldman**

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY **Stephen King**

William Goldman's stage adaptation of *Misery* originally premiered at the Bucks County Playhouse in 2012. A new version officially opened at the Broadhurst Theatre in 2015, starring Bruce Willis as Paul Sheldon, Laurie Metcalf as Annie Wilkes and Leon Addison Brown as Buster. Metcalf was nominated for Best Actress in a Play at the 70<sup>th</sup> Tony Awards for her performance as Annie.

Romance novelist Paul Sheldon is rescued from a car crash by his obsessed fan, Annie Wilkes, and held captive after she discovers he killed off her favorite character. Forced to rewrite his novel under her watch, Paul finds himself trapped in a nail-biting cat-and-mouse game that will have you at the edge of your seat.

SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 12, 2025 | CITADEL THEATRE

DIRECTED BY **Scott Westerman**

# Dedicated to Richard Wilde—

Dick was with us from our inaugural season. I remember having a very pleasant conversation with him after *Of Mice and Men*. He was so encouraging and complimentary—I knew right away that he was a true lover of live theatre and believed in what we were trying to accomplish in Lake Forest.

Later, Dick joined us on annual pilgrimage to Louisville, KY for the Humana Festival to scout new plays. He often brought me programs from shows he had seen, and we'd travel to downtown Chicago together for opening nights. He was a regular at Citadel productions, often bringing family and friends along with him. Dick never missed a season.

I miss you dearly, my friend.  
Rest in peace.

— Scott Phelps

# Cast

Ellen Phelps.....	Annie Wilkes
Scott Phelps.....	Paul Sheldon
Jonathan Cortez.....	Buster
Elizabeth Bushell.....	U/S Annie Wilkes
Jason Clark.....	U/S Paul Sheldon and Buster

# Production Crew

Scott Westerman.....	Director
Bobby Lee.....	Stage Manager
Ellen Phelps/Scott Phelps.....	Production Managers
Bob Knuth.....	Scenic Designer
Danielle Reinhardt.....	Costume Designer
Jodi Williams.....	Lighting Designer
Petter Wahlbäck.....	Sound Designer
Patrick McGuire.....	Properties Designer
Mitchell Pollitt.....	Technical Director
David Blixt.....	Violence and Intimacy Director
Shawn Killackey.....	Scenic Charge
Cyle Williamson.....	Makeup Designer
Alex Trinh.....	Stage Crew
Natalie Barowsky.....	Assistant Stage Crew
Caitlin Trudeau.....	House Manager

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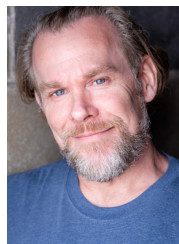
## A Note From Our Director,

Ever binge-watched a series on Netflix or Hulu? Ever listen to an album on repeat? Ever read a page-turner? Stephen King wanted his readers to have a hard time putting his books down. I direct productions that I hope will stay with you and make you come back for more. Artists want the fruits of our labor to be consumed with passion, zeal, fervor, dare I say, *obsession*. Every artist covets a captive audience. *Misery* explores what happens when an artist is held captive by his audience.

There's the old idiom about a tree falling in a forest. If art is not consumed or patronized, is it art? It certainly isn't commerce, and if there's no commerce it gets harder and harder to keep making the art. There are compromises to be made when arts institutions, organizations, and museums rely on funders to keep their doors open. Theatre companies cancel seasons when they can't sell enough tickets so they better select programming that will get butts in their seats *or else*. Actors take roles they don't want to play because the roles they do want to play don't pay. Most Artists have at some point in their career experienced pressure to negotiate control over their work if they want to keep doing it.

But sometimes the stars align. Sometimes an artist makes something that is fulfilling, invigorating, and cathartic for themselves and for their audience. Sometimes it sparks a symbiotic passion, zeal, and fervor. It can be heaven when the obsession is mutual. As we see in this play, it can be hell when it's not.

Scott Westerman  
Director





**Ellen Phelps**  
Annie Wilkes



**Scott Phelps**  
Paul Sheldon



**Jonathan Cortez**  
Buster



**Elizabeth Bushell**  
U/S Annie Wilkes



**Jason Clark**  
U/S Paul Sheldon and Buster

### **Ellen Phelps (Annie Wilkes)**

Co-Founder, Managing Director, Director, and Actor at Citadel Theatre. Ellen is so happy to be coming back as another Annie from her last performance *A Jukebox for the Algonquin*. Other past productions at Citadel Theatre include *The Christians*, *It Runs In The Family*, *Annie*, *The Roommate*, *Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike*, *Elemeno Pea*, *'Til The Fat Lady Sings*, *Prisoner of 2nd Avenue*, *Something's Afoot*, *Sirens*, *Other Desert Cities*, and *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. Other theatre credits include *Company*, *Rumors*, *The Boy Friend*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Ellen is thrilled to be part of this production and so happy to be on stage with her husband Scott. She says that Citadel and her life with Scott have been an amazing ride.

### **Scott Phelps (Paul Sheldon)**

Scott is now in his 23rd year as the Artistic Director of Citadel, the North Shore theatre he co-founded in 2002 with his friend and lifelong companion, Ellen. Over the past 2.3 decades, he has acted in and directed dozens of Citadel productions, continuing to bring his passion and vision to the stage year after year. In 2023, Scott took on the leading role of Pastor Paul in *The Christians*. His career has also taken him to New York City and his home state of California, where he has both acted and directed. He trained as an actor at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, CA, pursued a BFA at the University of Utah, and completed an apprenticeship with the renowned Actors Theatre of Louisville. In addition to his theatre work, Scott spent 18 years with a promotional company while raising his three daughters and son in Lake Forest. Now entering a new chapter of life, he has embraced his latest role as “Beepa” to his growing crew of grandchildren (seven and counting). While he’s not entirely convinced he’s old enough for the part, he’s enjoying the challenge.

### **Jonathan Cortez (Buster)**

“A shining element...” Jonathan is excited to join the stage for his first production with Citadel Theatre. Jonathan is a University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign alumnus, who studied Vocal Performance under Jerold Siena. Alongside this show, Jonathan is currently music directing *Beautiful: the Carole King Musical* and *Hadestown*. Jonathan keeps busy with his involvement in Second City, Chicago Fringe Opera’s premiere improv group OP\*ERRATIC, previewing works with South Shore Opera, and vocal directing musicals in the Chicagoland area. Other credits include Tom Collins in *RENT*, Curtis in *Sister Act*, Leporello in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, and Fasolt in Wagner’s *Das Rheingold*. He also sings with Consonance - Chicago Choral Artists and the Chicago Gay Men’s Chorus. @thejonathancortez

### **Elizabeth Bushell (Annie Wilkes Understudy)**

Elizabeth is thrilled to return to Citadel where she most recently performed as Joan in *Dames at Sea*, Sylvia in *The Cottage* and Eleanor in *Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish*. Elizabeth is a Lake Forest-based actor / performer / producer and independent finance & strategy consultant. Recent theatre credits include the new musical, *Red and the Wolf* (Songbird Theatre); Gabby / Bobbi in *City of Angels* (JPAC) and Beverly in *The Mad Ones* (Towle Theatre). Elizabeth serves as Executive Producer of The Beautiful City Project, a charitable theatre organization, with production credits including *Camp Rock The Musical*, *We Will Rock You* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. So much gratitude to Ellen and Scott, this wonderful team, and her loving husband, Joe!

### **Jason Clark (Paul Sheldon/Buster Understudy)**

Jason is delighted to be working back at Citadel Theatre albeit in a different capacity. Jason worked for many productions in the position of master carpenter, now he is working as an actor. He earned a BA in Theatre from Barat College in Lake Forest with an acting and directing emphasis. He served as the artistic director of Bowen Park Theatre Company for 11 years and was a founding member of the Theatre of the Mindless, a radio show reproduction group. The most recent production Jason was involved in was PM&L's production of the Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime where he played ED. Before that Jason played George in Of Mice and Men at Bowen Park Theatre. Jason truly hopes that you enjoy the show.

### **William Goldman (Playwright)**

William Goldman was a legendary American screenwriter, novelist, and playwright celebrated for his sharp dialogue, genre versatility, and storytelling brilliance. Born in Highland Park, Illinois, Goldman began his career as a novelist in the 1950s before transitioning to screenwriting in the mid-1960s. He won two Academy Awards: one for BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID (1969) and another for ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN (1976), cementing his reputation in Hollywood. His novel THE PRINCESS BRIDE (1973), which he also adapted for film in 1987, became a cult classic, blending fantasy, romance, and satire. Beyond film, Goldman authored over 20 novels and several influential nonfiction works, including ADVENTURES IN THE SCREEN TRADE, where he famously declared, "Nobody knows anything" about Hollywood. His career spanned decades, influencing generations of writers with his wit, candor, and craftsmanship. His stage plays include BLOOD, SWEAT AND STANLEY POOLE (1961), co-written with his brother James Goldman; A FAMILY AFFAIR (1962), a musical co-written with James Goldman and composer John Kander; and MISERY (2012).

### **Scott Westerman (Director)**

Scott Westerman is excited to direct his fifth Citadel Theatre production. Previous Citadel shows are *A Jukebox For The Algonquin*, *The Christians*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Sex With Strangers*. Scott has directed stage productions for The Artistic Home, Gwydion Theatre Company, City Lit Theatre, Chimera Theatre Company, Beyond This Point, Barter Theatre, Stage Left Theatre, The Smithsonian Institution, American Theatre Company, and Reverie Theatre Company. Scott is the founding Artistic Director of Go To Productions, a 501©3 nonprofit which develops projects that explore the nexus between live theatre and film. He created and directed the web series *Hamlet & Ophelia* which won Best Picture at the New York Film Awards, Best Web Series at the LA Film Awards, and Best Mobile Series at the 2022 New Media Film Festival. Scott is a member of the Screen Actors Guild, an ensemble member with The Artistic Home, represented by Gray Talent Group. He has an MFA from The Shakespeare Theatre Academy. As an actor, Scott has worked with Steppenwolf, Writers Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Lookingglass, Northlight, The Shakespeare Theatre Company and Ford's Theatre in DC, Everyman Theatre in Baltimore, the Warehouse Theatre in South Carolina, and the Barter Theatre in Virginia to name a few. On Camera credits include *Chicago Fire*, *Machine Gun Preacher*, *Heist 88*, and *Prison Break*. ScottWesterman.org

### **Bobby Lee (Stage Manager)**

Bobby Lee is a North Shore native and is excited to bring some *Misery* to Lake Forest. He was last seen as Stage Manager for *Rock of Ages* at Metropolis. Having been the Stage Manager in previous years for Citadel musicals for Young Audiences, he's grateful to be back with this production. He is also a Production Coordinator and Stagehand for the Hemmens Cultural Center in beautiful Elgin, IL. Love to Dad, Mom, SY and JY.

### **Bob Knuth (Scenic Designer)**

After 16 years as Creative Director and resident scenic designer for The Second City (Chicago, Toronto, Hollywood, and the Kennedy Center), Bob Knuth has recently transitioned to freelance work and higher education. He is proud to be directing, designing, and teaching at Lake Forest College. Recent scenic design credits include *Dames at Sea* (Citadel Theatre), *Hairspray* (Uptown Music Theater of Highland Park), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Music Theater Works), and several productions at Mercury Theater Chicago, including *Young Frankenstein* (JEFF Award nomination), *CLUE* (JEFF Award nomination), *Jersey Boys*, *Rock of Ages*, and *The Addams Family*. A 17-time Chicago JEFF Award nominee, Bob has received two awards for Outstanding Scenic Design with Circle Theatre. More about Bob at [www.bobknuth.com](http://www.bobknuth.com).

### **Danielle Reinhardt (Costume Designer)**

Danielle Reinhardt is excited to collaborate once again with the Citadel Theatre, having previously designed costumes for *A Jukebox for The Algonquin*, *I and You*, *Dames at Sea*, *Baby*, *She Loves Me*, and *The Mousetrap*. Other recent credits include *Hairspray* (James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts), *Me...Jane* (Deerfield Family Theater), *Fairly Grimm Tales*, *The Summer's Tale*, *Pandora's Box* (Mudlark Theater) as well as *You Can't Take It With You* and *That Day in Tucson* (Elgin Community College Arts Center). Danielle holds an MFA in Costume Design from Northern Illinois University. She would like to thank her family for their continued support.

### **Jodi Williams (Lighting Designer)**

Jodi is thrilled to return for her fourth production at Citadel Theatre, this time diving into the thrilling world of 'Misery.' Known mostly for her work in other genres, Jodi's excited to stretch her creative muscles on something suspenseful and a bit chilling. Working with a new director and the ever-welcoming Citadel team, she finds this theater to be a hub of creativity and innovation. It's good to be back!

### **Petter Wahlbäck (Sound Designer)**

Petter Wahlbäck is an award-winning Swedish composer, sound designer, singer/songwriter working out of Chicago. Petter's main areas of focus are music for media and performing arts. This is Petter's second show at the Citadel Theatre where he last did music and sound design for *The Mousetrap*. Other theater sound and music credits include *Angels in America*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Macbeth* (Jeff Award Nominated), *Network*, *Three Sisters*, *Topdog/Underdog*, *The Crucible*, *Julius Caesar* (Invictus), *Glassheart*, *House of Ideas*, *The Night of the Hunter*, *Innocence of Seduction*, *The Mark of Kane* (CityLit) *Hedda Gabler*, *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, *Witch*, *Dying for It* (Jeff Award Nominated), *The Pavillion* (Jeff Award Nominated), *Eurydice*, *Requiem for a Heavyweight* (Jeff Award Winner), *By the Bog of Cats*, *Ada and the Engine*, and *Vanya on the Plains*, at the Artistic Home, *Four Quartets* (Athenaeum), and many others.

### **Patrick McGuire (Properties Designer)**

Patrick (he/they/any) is a Jeff Award nominated designer whose recent credits include the Chicago premiere of *Titanique* at Broadway Playhouse (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Fun Home* (PMT), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Haven Chicago), *Million Dollar Quartet* (Metropolis PAC), *Anything Goes* (Porchlight Music Theatre), *Xanadu* (Skylight Music Theatre), *Silent Sky* (Citadel Theatre), and *The SpongeBob Musical* (Kokandy Productions). Patrick has done freelance work for companies including; Florentine Opera, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Music Theater Works, and Gallaudet University, as well as design/fabrication work in puppetry, historical millinery, props, and costume crafts. MA (theatre directing), CCPA at Roosevelt University; MM, Boston University; BME, Illinois State. [www.patrickmcguirearts.com](http://www.patrickmcguirearts.com)

### **Mitchell Pollitt (Technical Director)**

Mitchell Pollitt is a Chicago-based creator of theatre and film. His theatrical work can be seen across the Chicago storefront and underground scenes while his work in film has been featured in festivals both local and international.

### **David Blixt (Violence and Intimacy Director)**

A Chicago-based fight director, David Blixt is proud to be working at Citadel for the first time. An ensemble member of The Artistic Home and resident Stage Combat Instructor at the Chicago High School for the Arts, he has designed violence for numerous productions across the city, including *Athena* at Writers Theatre (winner of the Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for Fight Direction), *The Brother/Sister Plays* at Steppenwolf, *Dial M For Murder*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *The Da Vinci Code* at Drury Lane, and *Catch Me If You Can* at The Marriott. His work has been seen at The Irish Theatre of Chicago, Lifeline, Rivendell, and The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, DC. A four-time Jeff nominee, David's recent credits include intimacy direction for *Hedda Gabler* and *By The Way*, *Meet Vera Stark*, and fight choreography for the films *Yellow Eyes* and *Nobody Fucking Leaves*. David is the resident Fight Director and Artistic Associate at the Michigan Shakespeare Festival, where he has choreographed over 40 productions since 2000. He's thrilled to be collaborating once again with his friend Scott.

### **Scott & Ellen Phelps (Production Managers)**

Scott & Ellen Phelps are the founders of Citadel Theatre. Scott Phelps is the Artistic Director of the company, while Ellen Phelps serves as the Managing Director. Citadel Theatre, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization & one of Chicagoland's premier live theatres, is in its 23rd season.

### **Shawn Killackey (Scenic Charge)**

Killackey works mostly with acrylic paints on either canvas or framed board. His subjects have ranged from people's profiles to animal portraits to city structures. He considers himself more of a realist painter. Killackey's artwork has been displayed in different galleries and museums around northern Illinois, in several art festivals around the area and has helped bring art culture to different villages through murals including the "Luke's Mural" in downtown Mundelein. To view Killackey's artwork go to Shawn Killackey Creations on facebook and Instagram.

### **Cyle Williamson (Makeup Designer)**

Cyle Williamson is a special effects makeup artist based in Chicago, Illinois, with over a decade of experience in the film and television industry. Credits include *Chicago Med*, *The Chi*, *The Exorcist* (series), and *Lovecraft Country* to name a few.

### **Alex Trinh (Stage Crew)**

Alex Trinh is ecstatic to be back at Citadel for another show. He graduated from Tribeca Flashpoint Chicago with an AFA in Audio Engineering. His recent theatre credits include *Side by Side by Sondheim* (Oil Lamp), *Tom and Eliza* (TUTA), *Frog and Toad* (Metropolis), *The Marvelous Wonderettes* (Oil Lamp), *A Jukebox for The Algonquin* (Citadel), *Carrie* (CCPA). Alex's recent film credits include *Power Off*, *Play On* (Adobe Stock and GKoh Films), *Awesome Intelligence* (Samsung and GKoh Films), and *Delivery Fee* (Lipsitz Films). IG: alex.mf.t



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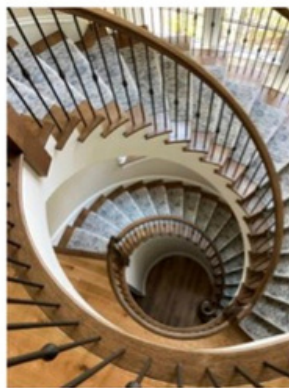
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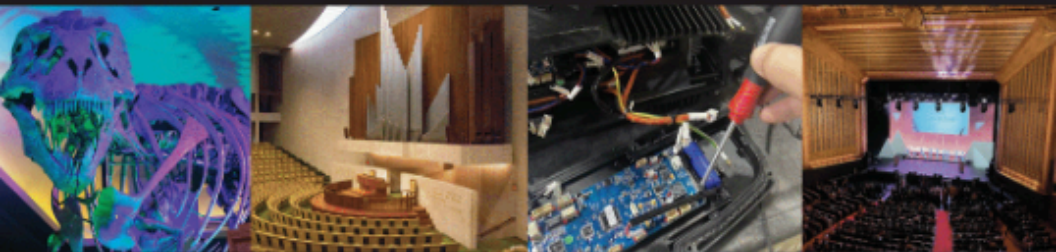
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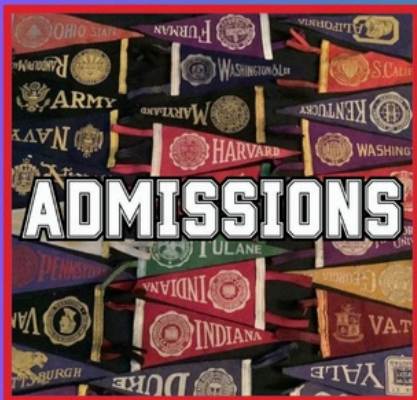
**September 12 TO October 12**

Written by William Goldman Directed by Scott Westerman



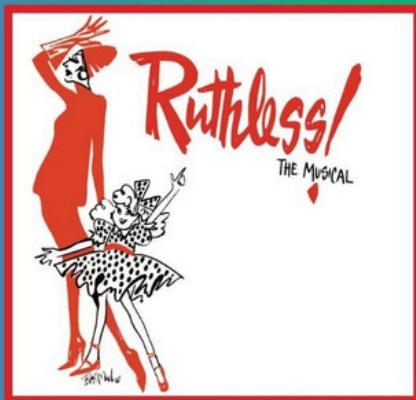
**November 14 TO December 14**

Written by Tom Dudzick Directed by Scott Shallenbarger



**February 13 TO March 15**

Written by Joshua Harmon Directed by Beth Wolf



**April 17 TO May 17**

Written by Joel Paley Directed by Christina Ramirez

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