

THE  BARON'S MEN

Tales *of*  
Darkness

OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2

AT THE CURTAIN THEATRE  
7400 Coldwater Canyon Drive, Austin, Texas 78730

*This show runs approximately 1h 45m with one 15-minute intermission.*

# Cast

*In order of appearance*

**Justine** Aleena Azhar

**The Hooded Figure** Liegh Toland

Macbeth by William Shakespeare -  
Act 1, Scene 3 and Act 4, Scene 2

**First Witch** Eva McQuade

**Second Witch** Leanna Holmquist

**Third Witch** Rylee Ross

**Norse Witch** Lindsay M. Palinsky

The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus by  
Christopher Marlowe - Scene 6

**Faustus** Jennifer Fielding

**Lucifer** Olaf K. Heins

**Pride** Renee Osborn

**Covetousness** Edwin Wise

**Wrath** Chris Casey

**Envy** Jared Walls

**Gluttony** Julio Mella

**Sloth** Aaron Niemuth

**Lechery** Rylee Ross

Henry VI, part 1 by William Shakespeare -  
Act 5, Scene 3

**Joan de Pucelle** Renee Osborn

**York** Eva McQuade

**Fiend 1** Julio Mella

**Fiend 2** Leanna Holmquist

## Cast continued...

### The Creatures

**The Banshee** Lindsay M. Palinsky

**Her victim** Jared Walls

**The Sea Hag** Shannon Gibson

**Her victim** Olaf K. Heins

### Richard III by William Shakespeare - Act 5, Scene 3

**Richard III** Julio Mella

**Ghost of Edward** Eva McQuade

**Ghost of Henry** Edwin Wise

**Ghost of Clarence** Jennifer Fielding

**Ghost of Anne** Rylee Ross

**Ghost of Buckingham** Aaron Niemuth

### The Changeling by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley - Act 5, Scene 3

**Alsemero** Jared Walls

**Beatrice** Leanna Holmquist

### A Yorkshire Tragedy by Thomas Middleton - Scene 5

**Husband** Chris Casey

**Son** Olaf K. Heins

**Maid** Leanna Holmquist

**Wife** Jennifer Fielding

## Cast continued...

### Titus Andronicus by William Shakespeare - Act 5, Scenes 2 and 3

**Tamora** Rylee Ross  
**Demetrius** Lindsay M. Palinsky  
**Chiron** Jared Walls  
**Titus** Julio Mella  
**Publius** Edwin Wise  
**Caius** Aaron Niemuth  
**Maximus** Leanna Holmquist  
**Valentine** Chris Casey  
**Lavinia** Shannon Gibson  
**Saturninus** Renee Osborn  
**Lucius** Jennifer Fielding

## Crew

**Director, Producer** Jacquelyn Lies  
**Co-Director, Costume Designer** Renee Osborn  
**Stage Manager, Set & Props Designer** Laura Trezise  
**Playwright** Pablo Muñoz-Evers  
**Violence Coordinator, Foley Artist** Michael Osborn  
**Lighting Designer** Jimmie Bragdon  
**Bloodwork** Edwin Wise  
**Choreographer (Banshee, Sea Hag)** Lindsay M. Palinsky  
**Social Media Manager** Shannon Gibson  
**Box Office** Hector Rae Fox, Mikey Pratt

# Director's Note

I have always loved Halloween: the decorating, the tradition of carving pumpkins and then baking the seeds, and of course the occasional scary movie to celebrate. When I heard that TBM had once done a spooky show called *Medieval Macabre*, I was all aglow with wonder. Fast forward to 2020, when many theaters, including TBM, turned to live Zoom or other pre-recorded online performances. Inspired by *Medieval Macabre*, Laura Trezise, Liegh Toland, and I created a video montage for a Halloween celebration using some scenes from Shakespeare, Marlow, and Middleton, as well as ancient folklore. We hosted a live watch party on Halloween night, and it was so much fun! We couldn't help but wonder – could this ever happen on stage? In 2023, Renee Osborn and I approached Pablo Muñoz-Evers to see if he would be interested in writing a story to bind together some of the scenes we had used online in 2020. Lucky for us, he was!

From the beginning, we knew we wanted to do something that didn't have as long of a rehearsal process and run of a full-length play. We wanted to allow some of our old and new friends who can't always commit to a full-length show to still play and have fun. The rehearsal process was so much fun, and getting to see fellow actors laugh and explore some dark stuff was great. (The first rehearsal with water-filled squibs was memorable, to say the least.)

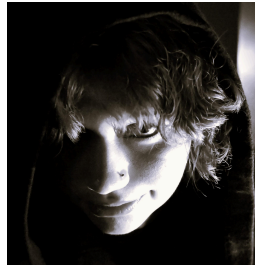
I also knew I wanted blood, Foley (non amplified sound effects), lots of colored lights, and a set that looked like an abandoned castle in the forest. Edwin Wise, Michael Osborn, Jimmie Bragdon, and Laura Trezise have all offered their expertise in these respective areas, and the show wouldn't be the same without them.

So, there's the back story of how this little show was born. I invite you to sit back and just enjoy the experience of a dark night with The Baron's Men out at the magical Curtain Theater.

*Jacquelyn Lies, Director*

# Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

**Aleena Azhar**  
(Justine)



Aleena (they/them) is a student currently studying Psychology & Acting. Some favorite past roles include Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Snow White in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Helga in *Cabaret*, and most recently Peter in TBM's *Romeo & Juliet* ('24). While not on stage, Aleena busies themselves doing makeup and photos for various artistic endeavors all over Austin. They'd like to thank everyone in TBM for another wonderful show experience, Jacquelyn for being an incredible director & guide through the process, their family, and their roommate/best friend, Zosia for endless support on and off stage.

## **Jimmie Bragdon**

(Lighting Designer)

Jimmie (he/him) has been acting on stage with TBM since 2009 playing captains, fools, nobles, ghosts, holy men and even Lucifer himself! Off stage he's worked with props, sets, producing, and lighting design for the troupe. He is also a regular actor at Scare for a Cure and a GameMaster at Quest Night, and produces a weekly livestream for a local game company.

**Chris Casey**  
(Wrath/  
Husband/  
Valentine)



This is Chris (he/him). As you witness the murders, please keep in mind that the last role he played was Nurse in *Romeo & Juliet* ('24).

**Jennifer Fielding**  
(Faustus/  
Ghost of  
Clarence/Wife/  
Lucius)



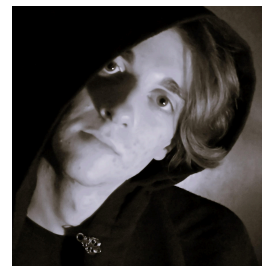
Jennifer (she/her) is overjoyed to participate in this fundraising production. This out-of-the-box creation questions the challenges of life and accepting death. She has enjoyed being cast in some of the most challenging roles she has ever faced, including a gender-bending female Dr. Faustus and the Wife in *The Yorkshire Tragedy*.

**Shannon Gibson**  
(Sea Hag/  
Lavinia/  
Lady in Black)



Shannon (she/her) has been acting and dancing since she was 11 years old. Recently at TBM: *King Lear* (Oswald), *Romeo and Juliet* ('24) (Juliet), *The Comedy of Errors* ('22) (Dromio of Syracuse), and *Macbeth* (Lady M). Recently outside of TBM: Georgetown Palace Theatre's *Cats* (Rumpleteazer). Thanks to Jax for letting her have a role with no lines to memorize.

**Olaf K. Heins**  
(Lucifer/Sea  
Hag Victim/Son)



Olaf (he/him) grew up performing with Austin Educational Theatre, and now he cherishes the opportunity to work with as talented a community as TBM. Some highlights of his acting career have been *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Clue*, *See How They Run*, and *The Three Musketeers*.

## **Leanna Holmquist**

(2nd Witch/  
Fiend 2/  
Beatrice/Maid/  
Maximus)



Leanna's (she/her) acting is focused on Shakespeare and other classical works. She has appeared in *Richard II*, *Richard III*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedie* among others. Leanna also directed *Measure for Measure* for TBM in April 2015. Leanna is thrilled to be playing alongside some of her favorite Shakespearean players in *Tales of Darkness*.

## **Jacquelyn Lies**

(Director)



Jacquelyn (she/her) is no stranger to TBM. You might have seen her onstage in past performances as: Goneril, Feste, Gertrude, Bottom, Ariel, Jane (*Dead of Winter*) Cecilia, and Gluttony. She has served on the board and as a co-artistic director in the past. She also directed past TBM shows *Love's Labour's Lost* and *Macbeth*. She is excited to be back in the director's seat for *Tales of Darkness*. Thank you to this wonderful cast/crew for making rehearsals so much fun and all of their hard work. A huge thank you to Oz for creating the Foley that has helped make this show come to life. Thank you, Pablo, for all of your creative brain and the scripts you create. And finally thank you Renee for being the calm and voice of reason. Happy Halloween!

## **Eva McQuade**

(1st Witch/York/  
Ghost of  
Edward)



Eva (she/her) is excited to be back on the stage of *The Curtain*, working with TBM. Eva has appeared in recent productions including: *The Library* (Different Stages); *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (TexArts); *The Mad Ones* (ACC Drama); *A Christmas Carol* and *Miracle on 34th St* (Penfold Theatre Co); *Annie Jump* and the *Library of Heaven* (Vortex, received a B. Iden Payne Award nomination); *good friday* (New Manifest Theatre Company / Vortex); *MÁS CARA* (Vortex / Teatro Vivo, received a BIP nomination); *Lady Macbeth & Her Pal Megan* (a solo show with Shrewd Productions, BIP award recipient); and many others. Eva is the host for the New Manifest Theatre Podcast, and you might also find Eva and her comadre, Tía Chancla, hurling chanclas at ne'er-do-wells. Amor y gracias to friends y familia for so much support.

## **Julio Mella**

(Gluttony/  
Fiend 1/  
Richard III/  
Titus)



Julio (he/him) has been with TBM since its production of *The Alchemist*. He has also worked with other companies in Austin such as The Velvet Rut, The Wondrous Strange Players, and Teatro Vivo. He continues to be grateful for the privilege of working with such wonderful artists. "I hope you enjoy the show!"

**Pablo Muñoz-Evers**  
(Playwright)

Pablo Muñoz-Evers (he/him) is a Colombian-born playwright and actor. Some of his other plays include *Dreams* (B. Iden Payne Award-nominated, selected and produced as part of ScriptWorks' Out of Ink 2023) and *There's No Sand on the Moon* (selected for Jarrott Production's Opening Act Initiative 2024, finalist for Boise Contemporary Theater's 2024 BIPOC Festival). As an actor, Pablo's most recent roles with The Baron's Men include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* ('24) and Hamlet in *Hamlet*. He has also recently acted in productions with Austin Shakespeare, Walking Shadow Shakespeare Project, and others. Enormous thanks to Jackie and Renee, as well as to his early readers and feedbackers of this play, including Stephanie and Melanie. Pablo is also a high school English teacher, he loves magical realism and anything dreamy and weird, and he strives to be, like his dog, Lulo, a very good boy. You can check out some of his plays on [newplayexchange.org](http://newplayexchange.org). Instagram: @pamunev.

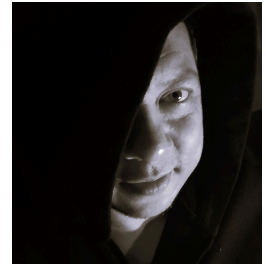


**Aaron Niemuth**  
(Sloth/Ghost of Buckingham/  
Caius)

Aaron (he/him) has been with TBM since their first full-length production of *Much Ado About Nothing* in 2002. In the years since, he has done \*nearly\* everything in the troupe since - acting, writing, directing, producing, stage managing and serving on the Board of Directors. Aaron is looking forward to the TBM *Tales of Darkness* fundraiser because it's an opportunity to explore his dark side. Ok, his darkER side, like hey better jump on the chance to nudge that pointer closer towards the unfathomable soulless void at the end of the journey, you know? The innocent villagers ain't gonna terrorize

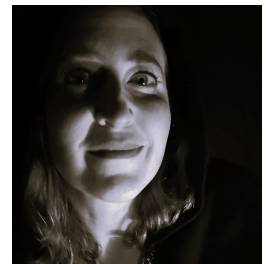
themselves, am I right?? *Tales of Darkness* is also an opportunity for Aaron to spread chaos and walk that razor-thin line between madness and evil – and not just his everyday work-from-home mundane kind of evil, because... ho-hum yawn. Bwahahahaha #nohugs

**Michael Osborn**  
(Foley  
Artist/Violence  
Coordinator)



Mike "Oz" Osborn (he/him) has been a part of The Baron's Men for over twelve years, and has literally done it all. From acting, producing, directing, stage managing, running the box office, and being on the Board of Directors, Mike is now super thrilled to add some atmosphere and background to *Tales of Darkness*! He hopes you enjoy the show, and wants you to tell everyone you know about Austin's Best Kept Secret That We Don't Want To Be A Secret!

**Renee Osborn**  
(Co-Director,  
Costume  
Designer,  
Pride/Joan/  
Saturninus)

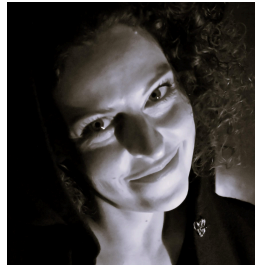


Renee (she/her) has had so much fun creating an array of dark characters for your viewing pleasure! Other past roles with TBM have included *Love's Labour's Lost* (Maria), *The Tempest* ('21) (Trincullo), *A Comedy of Errors* ('22) (Dromio of Ephesus), and *Twelfth Night* ('23) (Viola/Cesario). Having fully joined the troupe in 2015, she has tried to help out wherever and whenever she can, and has served as Treasurer on the Board of Directors since 2018.



## Lindsay M. Palinsky

(Choreographer/  
Norse Witch/  
Banshee/  
Demetrius/Lady  
in Black)



Lindsay (she/her) joined TBM in 2011 and she has been active ever since, including 7 years as a Board member and 3 as Co-Artistic Director. Some favorite roles: Juliet (*Romeo & Juliet* ('14)), Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Lucifer (*Doctor Faustus*), Porter (*Macbeth*), Helena (*Midsummer* ('21)), and Olivia (*Twelfth Night* ('23)) with TBM; Brodysseus in *The Brojan War* at FronteraFest 2019, Imogen (*Cymbeline*) with the Walking Shadow Shakespeare Project, and Suzanne (*Twilight of the Golds*) with City Theatre. Lindsay has served many roles backstage including directing *Lysistrata*, *The Tempest* ('21), *Romeo & Juliet* ('24), and *King Lear*, as well as costume designing *Comedy of Errors* ('22), *Hamlet*, *The Winter's Tale*, and *Twelfth Night* ('23). Vivat Triumviratus, thanks to the Gurls and Jax, and so much love to Josh.

## Rylee Ross

(3rd Witch/  
Lechery/  
Ghost of Anne/  
Tamora)



In her seventh production with TBM, Rylee (she/her) is returning as Third Witch, Lechery, Ghost of Queen Anne, and Tamora in this season's Halloween fundraiser special, *Tales of Darkness*. Previously seen as Sampson in *Romeo and Juliet* ('24), Fabian in *Twelfth Night* ('23), and Clown in *The Winter's Tale*. Happily working before and behind The Curtain she can be found noise making and pressing buttons whenever and wherever necessary. When not volunteering at the curtain she can be found being used as a cat bed and scratching post by 5 viciously loving housecats.

## Laura Trezise

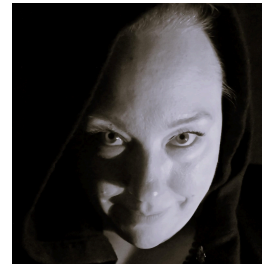
(Stage  
Manager, Set &  
Props Designer)



Laura (she/her) has been with TBM for roughly 20 years. She has done everything from stagehand to writing/directing, and everything in-between (much to the chagrin of her husband, Drew). She penned and directed *A Tale of Robyn Hoode* (2014) and *The Dead of Winter* (2017) with her partner in crime, Aaron Niemuth. Currently, she is one of the three Co-Artistic Directors and is primarily responsible for Set Designs/Props and logistics. She loves listening to the audience and being a part of a group that brings so much magic to life on such a wonderful stage.

## Liegh Toland

(Hooded  
Figure)



Liegh (she/her) has been involved with theater for most of her life and has been with TBM for over 15 years now. She is a jack of all trades, helping out where needed. In addition to acting in shows, Liegh has done lighting design, producing, singing, costume design, and directing. Notable roles include Maria (*Twelfth Night* ('11)), *Lysistrata* (*Lysistrata*), Tamora (*Medieval Macabre II*), Ursula (*Much Ado About Nothing*), Martha (*The Dead of Winter*), Gentlewoman (*Macbeth*) and Miranda (*The Tempest* ('09)). She believes wholeheartedly that theater is a balm for the soul and can save the world. When not treading the boards, Liegh teaches 8th grade Science.

## Jared Walls

(Envy/  
Banshee Victim/  
Alsemero/  
Chiron)



Jared (he/him) recently returned to TBM after taking some time off to get married and have a kid. He has been seen in *Romeo and Juliet* ('24), *Henry V*, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Dead of Winter*, and *Macbeth*.

## Edwin Wise

(Bloodwork,  
Covetousness/  
Ghost of Henry/  
Publius)



Edwin (he/him) has been dabbling in theater both on-stage and off for over a decade. You may have seen him in such productions as *A Midsummer Night's Dream* ('21), *Bits O' the Bard*, *The Dead of Winter*, *A Tale of Robyn Hoode*, and *Romeo and Juliet* ('14). He is also involved with independent horror film and stage productions making props, prosthetics, and doing blood work with his own line of stage blood, Wise Blood.

*Join us next year!*



# Thank you to our 2024 Resident Artists

Andy Bond	Robert Deike	Todd Jeffrey	Julio Mella	Audrey Renkenberger
Jimmie Bragdon	Kendall Duffina	Josh Kavanaugh	Pablo Muñoz-Evers	Rylee Ross
Chris Casey	Jennifer Fielding	Zach Lenton	Aaron Niemuth	Gene Storie
Stephanie Crugnola	Annelise Friend	Jacquelyn Lies	Rae Odom	Jared Walls
	Mac Gibson		Michael Pratt	

## Business Board

Dawn Allee-Hemphill  
Shannon Gibson  
Renee Osborn  
Liegh Toland

## Co-Artistic Directors

Michael Osborn  
Lindsay M. Palinsky  
Laura Trezise

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