

**CONGRATULATIONS TO  
HUDSON THEATRE WORKS  
2021-2022 SEASON**



**We proudly commend it's members for their  
continuous hard work and support  
of the Performing Arts**

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Richard F. Turner**

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Rosemary J. Lavagnino**

**First Ward Councilwoman  
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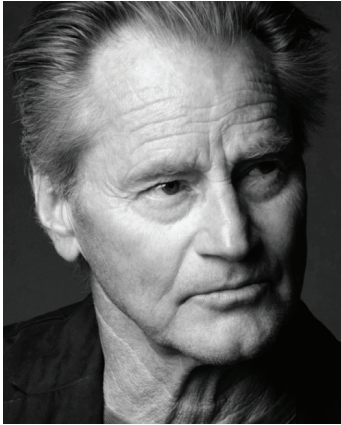
A black and white photograph of a small goat standing on a checkered floor in a room with a white door and a dark wall. The text is overlaid on the image.

**HUDSON THEATRE WORKS PRESENTS**  
**SAM SHEPARD'S**  
**CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS**  
**MAY 5-22, 2022**

**CAST:**  
**Quinn Cassavale\***  
**Kevin Cristaldi\***  
**Beatriz Esteban-Messina**  
**Michael Giorgio**  
**Tony Knotts**  
**Augusta McMahon**  
**TC Tanis**

**DIRECTED BY Frank Licato**  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER/SET DESIGN**  
**Gregory Erbach**  
**LIGHTING Tyler C. Hieb**  
**MUSIC/SOUND Donald Stark**  
**COSTUMES Ann Lowe**  
**STAGE MANAGER Dawn D'Arrigo**

HUDSON THEATRE WORKS  
 Princeton Area COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
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 NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS  
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 ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION  
 New Jersey Theatre Alliance  
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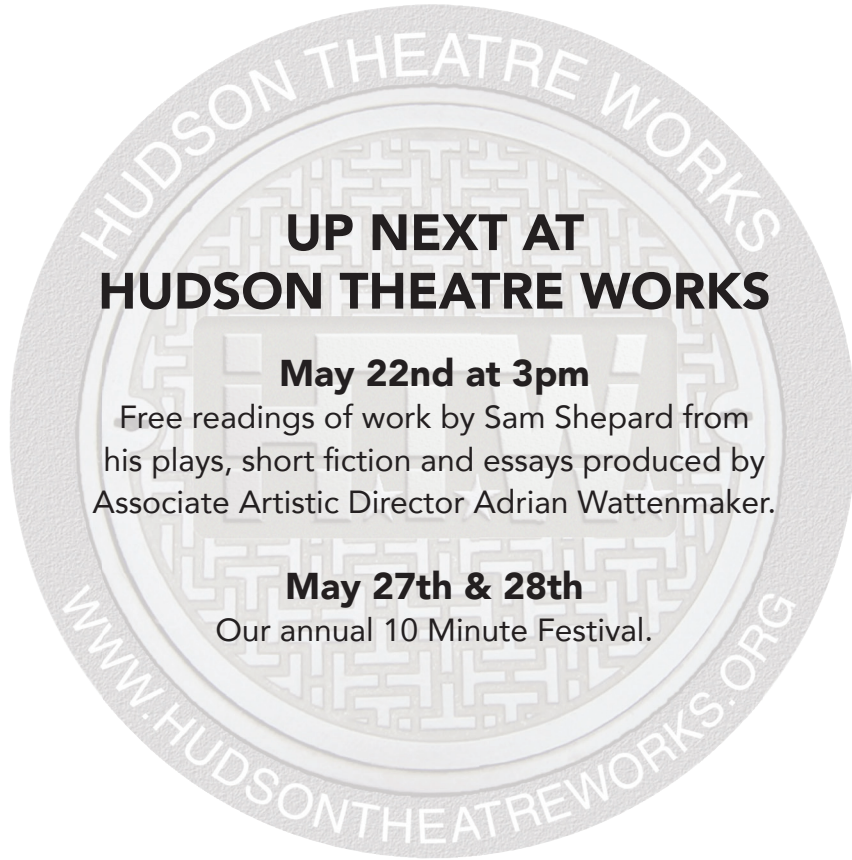
## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT SAM SHEPARD

Sam Shepard (Playwright) (Nov. 5, 1943 – July 27, 2017) had his first New York plays, *Cowboys* and *The Rock Garden*, produced by Theatre Genesis in 1963. For several seasons, he worked with Off-Off-Broadway theatre groups including La MaMa and Caffe Cino. Eleven of his plays have won Obie Awards including *Chicago* and *Icarus's Mother* (1965); *Red Cross* and *La Turista* (1966); *Forensic and the Navigators*, and *Melodrama Play* (1967); *The Tooth Of Crime* (1972); *Action* (1974); and *Curse of the Starving Class* (1976). Shepard was awarded a Pulitzer Prize as well as an Obie Award for his play *Buried Child* (1979). *Fool For Love* (1982) received the Obie for Best Play as well as for Direction. *A Lie of the Mind* (1985) won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award in 1986 and the 1986 Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Play. A revived *Buried Child* under the direction of Gary Sinise opened on Broadway in April 1996 and was nominated for a Tony Award. *Kicking a Dead Horse* (2007) and *Ages of the Moon* (2009) both received their world premieres at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. *Kicking a Dead Horse* transferred to The Public Theater in New York and to the Almeida Theatre in London, and *Ages of the Moon* received its US premiere at Atlantic Theater Company in 2010. Shepard's latest play, *Heartless*, premiered in 2012 at Signature. Shepard wrote the screenplays for "Zabriskie Point"; Wim Wenders' "Paris, Texas"; and Robert Altman's "Fool for Love", a film version of his play of the same title. As writer/director, he filmed "Far North" and "Silent Tongue" in 1988 and 1992 respectively. As an actor he has appeared in the films "Days of Heaven", "Resurrection", "Raggedy Man", "The Right Stuff", "Frances", "Country", "Fool for Love", "Crimes of the Heart", "Baby Boom", "Steel Magnolias", "Bright Angel", "Defenseless", "Voyager", "Thunderheart", "The Pelican Brief", "Safe Passage", "Hamlet" and, most recently, "Don't Come Knocking", also co-written with Wim Wenders. In 1986, Shepard was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1992, he received the Gold Medal for Drama from the Academy, and in 1994, he was inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame.

# Celebrating the arts, supporting our community

UBS is proud to sponsor  
Hudson Theatre Works.





## UP NEXT AT HUDSON THEATRE WORKS

**May 22nd at 3pm**

Free readings of work by Sam Shepard from his plays, short fiction and essays produced by Associate Artistic Director Adrian Wattenmaker.

**May 27th & 28th**

Our annual 10 Minute Festival.

### THE COMPANY

Adrian Wattenmaker, Beatriz Esteban-Messina, Bess Miller, Cassandra Giovine, Cathy Gale, Chase Newhart, Chuck Wagner, Cynthia Granville, Dawn D'Arrigo, Debbie Bernstein, Donald Stark, Dorian DeMichele, Frank Licato, Geoff Burt, Gloria Lamoureux, Gregory Erbach, James Georgiades, Jeffrey Leshansky, Joanne Hoersch, Kevin Cristaldi, Luigi Jannuzzi, Meredyth Kenney, Michael Bias, Michael Gardiner, Perry Guzzi, Quinn Cassavale, Rachel Matuszewicz, Ryan Natalino, Sara Parcesepe, Scott Cagney, Steve Perlmutter, Sue-Ellen Mandell, TC Tanis, Todd Hilsee, Valerie Stack Dodge, Vincent Sagona, Zach Weed, Nick Hardin, Derek Murphy, Tony Knotts, Mandy Evans, Irene Rivera, and Augusta McMahon.

## Hudson Theatre Works Presents

# CURSE OF THE STARVING CLASS

MAY 5-22, 2022

Setting: *The Tate Family Home—Somewhere Out West*  
Time: 1978 or the Present

### CAST (In Order of Appearance)

Ella - Quin Cassavale\*

Wesley - Tony Knotts

Emma - Augusta McMahon

Taylor - TC Tanis

Weston - Kevin Cristaldi\*

Ellis - Michael Giorgio

Malcolm - Beatriz Esteban-Messina

Emerson - TC Tanis

Slater - Michael Giorgio

Director - Frank Licato

Set Design/Managing Producer - Gregory Erbach

Lighting - Tyler C. Hieb

Costumes - Ann Lowe

Original Music & Sound - Donald Stark

Props - Beatriz Esteban-Messina

Stage Manager - Dawn D'Arrigo

*"Curse Of The Starving Class is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. New York"*

\*courtesy of Actors Equity



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## WHO'S WHO

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### *CURSE of the STARVING CLASS*

**QUINN CASSAVALE\*** (Ella) has numerous theater, television and on-camera national commercial credits, and was last seen as Madeleine in *The Clearing* at 59E59 Theater, directed by Pamela Moller Kareman. Her teaching resume includes over 7 years as an instructor of Meisner Technique at the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts. Quinn also has over 15 years experience in theater management, and served as the General Manager at The Schoolhouse Theater in Northern Westchester, which The *NY Times* called, "Westchester's sole claim to consistent, professional theater." She is a founding member of the theater company, Theater 808, and has co-produced numerous shows, including Elaine Del Valle's *Brownsville Bred* at 59E59 Theater, *Biography* at Theater 3 at The Mint, and *Francis Meets Francis* at Symphony Space. Quinn is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA, and ACTORS' EQUITY.

**KEVIN CRISTALDI\*** (Weston) is pleased to work with HTW, where his credits include *Macbeth*, Michael Puzzo's *Uncle Vanya*, *Scenes From a Jersey Life* and *Bash*. NY credits include *A Peregrine Falls* (Loading Dock), *(A) loft Modulation* (American Vicarious), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Masterworks), *A Dish for the Gods* (The Lion), *Message to Michael* (Rattlestick)

and *The Dirty Talk* (Center Stage). Regional credits include *The West End* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Cincinnati Playhouse), *When I Come to Die* (Kansas City Rep), *An Actor's Carol* (Cape May Stage), *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Schoolhouse Theater), *The Exonerated* (Florida Studio), *The Miser* (Hartford Stage), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Two River), and *Hamlet* (Arden Theatre, Philadelphia). TV: *The Blacklist*, *Medium*, *Numbers*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Gilmore Girls*, and *Criminal Minds*.

**BEATRIZ ESTEBAN-MESSINA** (Sgt Malcolm) returns to HTW where she appeared in *Uncle Vanya*, and *My True Love Said to Me*. Her 70+ directorial credits include *Almost Maine*, *Amadeus*, *33 Variations*, *Hot L Baltimore*, *Triangle Factory Fire Project*, *'night Mother*, and over 30 musicals. She will direct *Miracle on 34th St* at Montclair Studio Playhouse in December. Beatriz is a 4-time NJACT Perry Award nominee and winner in 2018! Thanks to Frank, Dawn, and this wonderful cast for a great experience.

**MICHAEL GIORGIO** (Ellis/Slater) Select NY Theater: *Sign in the Six O'Clock Sky* (The Strong Man) Theater for the New City (written by Oscar nominee Arnold Schulman), *Polikushka* (Polikushka) Gallery Players; *Czestochowa Musical Chairs* (Jewish Father) Gene Frankel Theater;

(winner of the Winter 2013 Strawberry One-Act Festival) by Chip Bolcik. Favorite shows include: *One Way Ticket to Hell* (World Premiere), *My Italy Story*, *Fat Pig*, *The Advocate*, and *Guest Artist* at 12 Miles West Theatre Company. She has also worked at The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey, Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre, and Alliance Theatre. Congrats cast and crew for creating an amazing show and thank you to friends and family for their support.

**Sarah M. Clarehart** (Poster Design) a veteran graphic designer and photographer with decades of experience, has worked with HTW creating show graphics and programs for many shows including: *A Steady Rain*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Caretaker*, *The Body of an American*, *Bunnies*, *Elliot & Me*, *The Eugene O'Neill Festival*, and *Curse of the Starving Class*.  
[www.sarahclarehart.com](http://www.sarahclarehart.com).

**Special Thanks:** Forge members, Gio Ahmad, Zachary and Gina Licato, and the Township of Weehawken, the township council and Mayor Richard Turner

## HUDSON THEATRE WORKS

Hudson Theatre Works boasts a growing and adventurous community genuinely hungry for challenging performance. We honor and advance that appetite by choosing material that is aesthetically diverse and rooted in authenticity. From highly theatrical world premieres to distilled reimaginings of modern classics, our plays inspire reflection, spark discussion, and get the blood pumping. Our low-price tickets prices make it possible for everyone to experience first rate live performance on a regular basis. Our PlayWorks readings of new plays engages both the playwright and the audience in the creation of a new work and our in house group, The Forge, is a creative playground for writers, actors and directors to develop fresh work and perfect their craft. Our children's theatre has sold out audiences asking for more. We are proud that the critics refer to us as "A Theatre On The Edge!" Please visit us at [www.hudsontheatreworks.org](http://www.hudsontheatreworks.org).

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*This program is made possible by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the Department of State, and administered by the Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Thomas A. DeGise, Hudson County Executive & the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners.*



*Gravity-A Test* (Robert) Kraine; *Myth* (Agrestos) Horace Mann Theater; *Slumming It* (James “Biff” Ellison) Dixon Place. Regional; *The View Upstairs* (Buddy) Progressive Theater; *More Fun Than Bowling* (Mr. Dyson) 12 Miles West; *Darkness to Light* (Schindler) 12 Miles West; *The Normal Heart* (Ned Weeks) George Street 99; *America For Sale* (Blaze/God) PEP. FILM: *3 Dollars* (Eddie) Phat Cat Films; *The Divine Instrument* (Ben) ReelRegal Prods.; *Pocket Full of Sunshine* (Diner Owner) (Project FX 2018 winner) King Mountain Prods. TV/WEBISODE: *Ghosts of Fort Greene* (Eddie) The Arthouse. Many voiceovers for radio/tv commercials, audiobooks, animation, web narration/tutorials, historic exhibits, celebrity impersonations. BFA – New York University

**TONY KNOTTS** (Wesley) Past credits include Regional: *Desire Under the Elms* (Eben), *Almost Maine* (Jimmy), *The Body of an American* (Dan O’Brien), *Master Harold and The Boys* (Hally), *Tranquil* (Aaron), *Of Mice and Men* (Curley), *Tilt the Unlit Candle* (Brenden), *Enchanted Arms* (Charles). NYC Theatre: *Den of Thieves* (Sal), *Really, Really* (Johnson), *Claire Went to France* (Johnathon), *Night Blooming Jasmine* (Ibrahim/Gabe). Film/TV: *The Renovation* (Joe), *Rolling* (Ben), *SciFi’s School Spirits* (College Student), *The Bar* (Rob), *La Traviatta* (Craig), *The Renovation*, directed by Brian O’Neill, premiered at Lincoln Center and won The Merit Award

and The Big Eddy Film Festival. Tony is always excited for an opportunity to work with Hudson Theatre Works and with such familiar faces. He knows the work done here is truly just as challenging as it is rewarding and is looking forward to the task that lies ahead!

**AUGUSTA MCMAHON** (Emma) graduated from The Brearley School in New York City this past June and will be starting at Bennington College in the fall. She spent her free time at Brearley acting in the fall and spring and doing tech in the winter. She played Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and Duke Orsino in *Twelfth Night*. Other acting credits include *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Technical credits include *Desire Under the Elms*, *Hughie*, *Almost Maine*, *Elliot & Me*, *Bunnies*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Les Misérables*. After working on her first Hudson Theatre Works production, *Bunnies*, as an intern, she has continued to work with HTW as Assistant Stage Manager. And now, she is super excited for her acting debut here! Many, many thanks to Frank Licato and Dawn D’Arrigo.

**TC TANIS** (Taylor/Emerson) is happy to be back onstage with Hudson Theatre Works, where he has written and performed pieces for its *Ten Minute Play Festivals*, playing Carl in *Non Sequitur* and Vic in



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*Getting Strange*. He has performed previously in numerous stage roles, including Sandy in *A Touch of Spring*, Andy in *Love Letters*, Marc in *Art*, Willie in *Happy Days*, Norman in *Table Manners*, and Lyons in *Please Go On*, which he wrote and which was accepted to the American Globe Theatre play festival in New York. Tanis has written several plays and has written and performed in his one man show *Next to Nothing*, as well as much standup comedy in East Coast clubs and theaters. He teaches acting and has written humor pieces for the *New York Times* and other publications.

#### PRODUCTION:

**FRANK LICATO** (Director) is the recipient of the 2018 Tanne Foundation Award for continued artistic excellence. Tanne Foundation awards recognize outstanding achievement and are an expression of gratitude to artists for their passion and commitment to their work. Besides directing all of Hudson Theatre Works productions, most recently *The O'Neill Festival*, some of his other credits include: Off-Broadway: *Spirits of Exit Eleven*, *Lamppost Reunion*, *Centennial Casting*, *Requiem For a Heavyweight* (Best Director, Off-Broadway Review), *Seduced*, *Sounds of a Better World Concert* and the *Sexual Harassment Plays*. Off-Off Broadway: *3 Men* (Award winner at the NY Solo Festival), *Asylum*, *The Balcony*, *Tannhauser*, *Golden*

*Boy, Rocket to the Moon*, *Fever* (NY Fringe Festival, Audience Choice Award), *White Noise*, *La Compagnie*, *Columbus in the Age of Gold*, *The Nest*, *Action*, *The Tempest*, *Deep Dish*. Regional: *Grapes of Wrath* (Chatham Playhouse - Perry Award, Director, Best Production), *Best Man*, *The Late Christopher Bean*, *Good People* (Summit Playhouse), *Imagining Madoff*, *Enigma Variations*, *Ashes to Ashes*, *Afterplay* (Garage Theater), *Talk Radio*, *A View From the Bridge*, *Noises Off*, *The Shape of Things* (Kennedy Center Finalist), Neil Labute's *I Love This Game* (World Premiere), *Fat Pig*, *My Italy Story* (12 Miles West), *The Engagement* (Los Angeles), *American Buffalo* (Athens, Greece). He is a member of the Playwrights/Directors Unit at the Actors Studio and Applause Award winner - NJ Theatre Alliance.

**GREGORY ERBACH** (Production Manager/Set Design) With Sam Shepard, he was technical director of the world premiere of *States of Shock*. Mr. Shepard's response to the Gulf war, as well as *The War in Heaven*, with Joe Chaiken, both at the American Place theatre, and later he contributed to the installation of another world premiere, *Simpatico*, at the Public. On stage at HTW, he was Lennie Smalls in *Of Mice And Men*, Pockey in *Uncle Vanya*, Paul Watson in *Body of an American* and Joey in *A Steady Rain*, which was selected by the *Star Ledger* as one

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of the top 10 NJ theatre productions of 2016. Co-Founder and Producing Director of Hudson Theatre Works, He has produced every production since HTW's inception. Currently the Assistant Electrical Construction Boss at the Metropolitan Opera House, he has been an actor, stage manager, producer, carpenter, electrician and technical director for hundreds of productions at venues such as the American Place Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Weston Playhouse, The American Jewish Theatre, The John Houseman and The Equity Library Theatre. He was the technical director for John Leguizamo's first two Broadway Video productions *Mambo Mouth* and *Spic-O-Rama* for HBO.

**TYLER C. HIEB** (Lighting Designer) is a recent alum from the University of Louisville where he earned his BFA in Theatre Technology with a focus in Lighting Design and Electrics. He currently resides in New Haven, CT and most recently worked for The David Geffen School of Drama. He would like to thank his partner Christina for all the love and support and Josh Hemmo for this opportunity!

**DONALD STARK** (Sound Designer / Composer) composes for film, stage, musicals, TV, and podcasts. Recently, Donald composed the music for two musicals, including Joanne Hoersch's *Starring Elizabeth*. Last two seasons, Donald designed

sound, and directed and composed music, for several Hudson Theatre Works productions, including *Hamlet*, *Body of an American*, *Caretaker*, *Uncle Vanya*, and... *that Scottish play*. Donald has also served as sound designer for productions mounted by Jersey City Theater Center, United Solo, NY Fringe Festival, Luna Stage, Garage Theatre Group, Theater Project's Think Fast competition, NJ Theatre Alliance's Stages Festival, and Rosendale Theater. Donald is an ASCAP member. <http://donaldstark.com>.

**ANN LOWE** (Costumes) is a founding member of Hudson Theatre Works and has costumes most of their shows including *Of Mice and Men*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Jackson is Gone*, *Macbeth*, *Bunnies*, *Desire Under the Elms*, and *Hughie*. She is happy to be back with this amazing production team and is full of admiration for the talents and dedication of the cast. Thanks, as always, to Matt for his support.

**DAWN D'ARRIGO** (Stage Manager) has been a Professional Stage Manager for over 20 years. Recent credits include *Hughie*, *Desire Under the Elms*, *Elliot & Me*, *Bunnies*, *Hamlet*, *The Body of An American*, *The Caretaker*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Macbeth*, *Bash* and *Of Mice and Men* with Hudson Theatre Works; *My Dead Wife* at United Solofest; *American Idiot* and *Rent* with NJSDA's Encore Theatre; *The Field Trip* (DUAF 2017), *Ferry Limbo* (DUAF 2016), and *The Blizzard*