

PLAYWRIGHTS LOCAL PRESENTS

# THE PANTHER DANCER



A new play by Logan Cutler Smith  
Directed by Jimmie Woody

May 11 - 26, 2018  
Creative Space at Waterloo Arts



# THE PANTHER DANCER

Written by Logan Cutler Smith  
Directed by Jimmie Woody

## CAST

Andrea Belser -- Actor 3  
Robert Branch -- Actor 5  
Corin B. Self -- Actor 1  
Kim Simbeck -- Actor 2  
Anthony Velez -- Actor 4

## CREATIVE TEAM

Stephanie Bahnij -- Stage Manager/Board Operator  
Chelby Benson -- Set Designer  
Inda Blatch-Geib -- Costume Designer  
Wes Calkin -- Lighting Designer  
Tyler Collins -- Social Media Coordinator/Front-of-house Coordinator  
Drake Crowind -- Projection Designer  
Susan Dicken -- Production Manager/House Manager  
Tom Hayes -- Carpenter  
Jocelyn Laracuenta -- Assistant Director/Backstage Coordinator  
David Todd -- Dramaturg  
Brianna Williams -- Sound Designer

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## NOTES

The run time is approximately 1:40 with one fifteen-minute intermission.

Video/audio recording of this performance by any means is prohibited.

*The Panther Dancer* was previously developed in Playwrights Local's 2017 Play Lab (directed by Tyson Douglas Rand) and presented in the 2016 NEOMFA Playwrights Festival at convergence-continuum (directed by Clyde Simon).

## ORIGINAL MUSIC

"Ben" and "Ben Reprise": Arrangement and programming by Chris Gillooly.  
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## SPECIAL THANKS

Waterloo Arts; Near West Theatre; Stephanie, Jocelyn, and the rest of the creative team; and all of our patrons and supporters, including the following organizations:



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## THE COMPANY

**Stephanie Bahnij (Stage Manager/Board Operator)** is ecstatic to make her return to Cleveland Theatre after a brief hiatus in ND, where she managed an antique furniture restoration shop. Past credits include SM for Convergence-Continuum; run crew and follow spot for Cleveland Play House; and SM, lights, and props for the Tri-C Theatre Departments. She thanks Jocelyn, the real MVP, and Jimmie, her wonder twin.

**Andrea Belser (Actor 3)** is a performing and teaching artist with a Bachelor of Arts in Theater Studies from Wright State University. She teaches dance and acting to students of all ages with companies such as Playhouse Square, Cleveland Play House, and Karamu House. You may have seen her in *Sundiata* (Talespinners Children's Theatre), *I Call My Brothers* (Cleveland Public Theatre), or *Music Man* (Shore Cultural Center). She has also worked as choreographer for Near West Theatre, Fine Arts Association, and Talespinners Children's Theatre. Andrea's awards include 2008 Best Actress in Cleveland.

**Chelby Benson (Set Designer)** is a Visual Arts Teacher at Woodridge High School in Peninsula, where she also serves as the director for the theater program. Recent productions include *David & Lisa* and *School of Rock*. Chelby is a volunteer at Weathervane Playhouse and designed props for *Red* and sets for *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Talking With*. As an actress she was seen at Weathervane and Western Reserve Playhouse. She is a board member at Cuyahoga Valley Arts Center in Cuyahoga Falls.

**Inda Blatch-Geib (Costume Designer):** Inda's work as a costume and production designer for over 1,000 theatrical, commercial, and film releases has spanned thirty years and crossed four continents. Ms. Blatch-Geib's set styling, costume, and puppet designs include the Broadway special production of *Kris Kringle The Musical*. Her production design work takes an interior design twist with a new club owned by Machine Gun Kelly opening soon. Additional collaborations with MGK include set design for his European Tour, Wolstein Arena Show, and EST Fest. Inda is the resident designer for multiple companies including Cleveland Public Theatre and Karamu House.

**Robert Branch (Actor 5)** is happy to be returning to Playwrights Local. His first show was a staged reading of Logan Smith's *Of Straw Dogs*. He then played Simcha in Les Hunter's *To the Orchard*, directed by Dale Heinen. Last summer, he helped bring David Todd's *Things as They Are*, directed by Anjanette Hall, to life. He is now assaying more characters in this one piece than all of those put together. Hold on tight. It's a wild ride.

**Wes Calkin (Lighting Designer):** This is Wes's first production with Playwrights Local. Wes is a frequent collaborator with Cleveland Public Theatre; work includes lighting for *American Dreams* and *The Art of Longing* and lighting/scenery for *Mr. Burns*. Wes was the Lighting Director at Shawnee Summer Theatre in Bloomfield, IN, and the Resident Lighting Designer at Wayside Theatre in Middletown, VA. He holds an M.F.A. from the University of Cincinnati CCM and is a Theatre Design Specialist for DLR Group.

**Tyler Collins (Social Media/Front-of-house)** is a Cleveland-based actor, director, and soon-to-be graduate of Baldwin Wallace University. He has acted with Great Lakes Theater Festival in productions such as *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, and *Twelfth Night*. As part of Shakespeare by the Falls' inaugural season, he portrayed Mercutio/Paris/Sampson in *Romeo and Juliet*. Upcoming, he can be seen as Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Drake Crowind (Projection Designer)** is an independent film-maker and visual effects artist from Collinwood. He currently works as an educator and tech consultant for production in digital media around the Greater Cleveland area. In this production, he

combines digital video, visual effects, and projection to help tell the story on stage.

**Susan Dicken (Production/House Manager)**, relatively new to the Cleveland theatre scene, is excited to be a part of her first Playwrights Local production. This past year she served as the General and Company Management Apprentice at Cleveland Play House. Previously she worked at Near West Theatre developing programming that coincided with their new ADA-compliant building. Susan holds a B. A. from Wilmington College and is currently working on her master's in Arts Administration at the University of Akron.

**Tom Hayes (Carpenter)** is an award-winning playwright whose work has been staged at Convergence-Continuum, the Manhattan Project - Cleveland Lab, and Playwrights Local.

**Jocelyn Laracuente (Assistant Director/Backstage Coordinator)**: This is Jocelyn's first production with Playwrights Local. She has also directed *The Magical Lamp* of Aladdin at Geauga Lyric Theatre Guild and enjoys acting when her schedule allows it. She has enjoyed the experience and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Corin B. Self (Actor 1)**, a native of Cleveland, Ohio is happy to be a part of yet another Playwrights Local Production. After studying Theatre at Morgan State University, he has worked on numerous projects for film, stage and radio. His last performances include *Objectively/Reasonable* and *Sister Act: The Musical*.

**Kim Simbeck (Actor 2)** is so excited to perform in her first piece with Playwrights Local! A proud graduate of Cleveland School of the Arts and Cleveland State University, Kim has enjoyed being onstage and backstage for many different shows. When not working, she can be found treating her car like a Broadway stage, telling horrible puns, and taking online quizzes to determine exactly what Schuyler sister she is. Kim thanks Jimmie, Stephanie, Jocelyn, Logan, and David, the amazing cast, and you the audience!

**Logan Cutler Smith (Playwright)** is a theatre artist and educator. Before earning an MFA in Creative Writing at Cleveland State University, Logan studied Theatre and Sculpture at Marlboro College. His credits include *Of Straw Dogs* at Playwrights Local and *How To Fuck Like a Flower* at Convergence-Continuum. He is currently developing a solo-performance, a "departure" from Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*.

**David Todd (Dramaturg)** is a playwright and the artistic director of Playwrights Local.

**Anthony Velez (Actor 4)** better known as "Tony Fresh," has been entertaining for over 15 years as a performer, actor, and dance instructor for the Cleveland Cavaliers' Scream Team, Carnival Cruise Lines' Fun Force, and *So You Think You Can Dance*. Other projects include *CrimeStoppers*, *Fathers and Daughters*, and a national Nike commercial. Tony is the owner of ShowPeace Entertainment, LLC, offering DJ & photobooth services.

**Brianna Williams (Sound Designer)** received her Associate degree in Recording Arts and Technology from Cuyahoga Community College. She discovered her love for theatre at Shaker Heights High School, where she had the opportunity to hold a range of technical roles. She has performed in *For Colored Girls...*, directed by Jimmie Woody, and was also a member of the Know Abuse acting troupe.

**Jimmie Woody (Director)**: Jimmie's recent credits include *To Kill A Mockingbird* and *Clybourne Park* (Weathervane Playhouse); *The America Play* (U. of Akron); *The Split Show*, *How Blood Go*, and *The Bomb* (Convergence-Continuum); *The Glass Menagerie* and *For Colored Girls...* (Cuyahoga Community College); and *365 Days/365 Plays* (Cleveland Public Theatre). Jimmie received his MFA in acting from Columbia University. He is a 2012 Creative Workforce Fellow and a Resident Teaching Artist at the Center for Art-Inspired Learning, as well as an acting professor at Cuyahoga Community College.