



ICTREP

Wichita Repertory Theater

presents

THE EXPLORERS CLUB

by Nell Benjamin

August 7, 8, 14 & 16, 2026 at 7:30 PM

August 9 & 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM

The Welsbacher Theatre

Julie Longhofer
Artistic Director



Stan Longhofer
Managing Director

THE EXPLORERS CLUB

by Nell Benjamin

STAGE MANAGER
ERIN URICK

SCENIC DESIGN
JULIE & STAN LONGHOFFER

COSTUME DESIGN
CHRISTY CUNNINGHAM RAILSBACK

LIGHTING DESIGN
STAN LONGHOFFER

SOUND DESIGN
KIRK LONGHOFFER

FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER
JOSEPH URICK

MAKEUP & HAIR
RYLEE BARTHOLOMEW

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
STAN LONGHOFFER

ORIGINAL MUSIC BY
DARRON WEST

DIRECTED BY
JULIE LONGHOFFER

Originally produced on May 28, 2013 by Manhattan Theatre Club
(Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer)

THE EXPLORERS CLUB is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.
www.concordtheatricals.com

THE EXPLORERS CLUB

Cast of Characters

in order of appearance

Lucius Fretway **HUNTER BARTHOLOMEW**
A Botanist and Man of Science

Professor Cope **TOREY WILSON**
An Herpetologist

Professor Walling **JACKSON DORRIS**
A Zoologist

Professor Sloane **MATTHEW GWINNER**
An Archeo-Theologist

Phyllida Spotte-Hume **HOLLAND LEE KISER**
An Anthropologist

Lua-Ja'ah-Mueno-Wepta-Nefesmat-
Naa'ru-Sengway (a.k.a. Luigi) **JAMES EARLYWINE**
A Tribesman from NaKong

Harry Percy **NILO REYNOSO**
An Intrepid Explorer

Sir Bernard Humphries **JR HURST**
Private Secretary to Queen Victoria

Irish Assassin / Beebe **COLEMAN ADAMS**

Countess Glamorgan **HOLLAND LEE KISER**
née Andromache Spotte-Hume

Time and Place

The Explorers Club - London England, 1879

There will be a 10-minute intermission.

CAST



COLEMAN ADAMS

Irish Assassin / Beebe

Cole Adams is always glad to be at ICTRep. You may have seen him on stage as James Joyce or Fred Fredrickson, or seen his lighting design in *Sweat*. He'll be directing *Haunting of Hill House* at Wichita Community Theatre this Fall. Online, Cole is executive producer for *The Mangai Project* and a narrative designer for the *Path to Menzoberrazan* mod.



HUNTER BARTHOLOMEW

Lucius Fretway

This is Hunter's final time on a Wichita stage. You may have recently seen him in ICTRep's *Sweat*, or perhaps you got to see his award winning performance in *Dear Evan Hansen*. Outside of Kansas, Hunter has also worked in Chicago, and it was there that he originated the role of Nico in the brand new play *Hedonia*. Hunter loves God, his wife, the Seahawks, and everyone who has his back.

When not on stage, Hunter is also a screen actor. If you want to follow his film and theatre career, follow Hunter on Instagram @thehunterbarth.



JACKSON DORRIS

Professor Walling

Jackson is thrilled to be back at ICTRep! Jackson graduated from Wichita State University with his Bachelors of Fine Arts and emphasis in Musical Theatre in 2021. You may have seen him recently on the ICTRep stage in *Silent Sky* (Peter Shaw), *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B* (Moriarty/Lestrade), and *Amadeus* (Venticelli). Jackson has also performed in *Murderous Crossing* at Praire Pines (Clurot/Howard), and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Dennis/Perkins) TWICE at Roxy's. Jackson wants to thank God and his family for their constant and consistent love and support!

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OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY
PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR'S RIGHTS, AND ACTIONABLE UNDER
UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.



JAMES EARLYWINE

Luigi

ICTRep: *Travesties*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Old Man & The Old Moon*. Other credits: *The Tempest*, *Echoes of the Sea*, *Tecumseh!* (Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre), *Macbeth*, *Misery* (Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre), *Holy Chicken Sandwich*, *Clybourne Park* (Millikin University), *Twelfth Night* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Stupid F##king Bird* (Wichita State University), *Light Up*

The Sky (Wichita Community Theatre). Alternate credits: *The Nightmare Story* (Director-Pipe Dreams Studio Theatre), *Sleuth* (Asst. Director-ICTRep), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Asst. Director-Empty Space Theatre). James would like to thank Julie Longhofer, Leslie Coats, and his parents for their amazing support. Education: BFA Acting, Music Minor, Millikin University. Instagram: @James_earlywine



MATTHEW GWINNER

Professor Sloane

Matthew, from Tulsa, OK, is a 2024 WSU graduate, with his BFA in Theatre Performance. As an ICTRep veteran, you may have seen him in *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Travesties*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Old Man and the Old Moon*, or *Sleuth!* Other appearances around Wichita include *Light up the Sky* at Wichita Community Theatre and *Peter and the Starcatcher* at

WSU. Matthew currently resides in Tulsa, where he continues to perform.

JANE

Jane

While this is Jane's first show with ICTRep, she is no stranger to drama, having participated in multiple entertainment revues alongside her relatives and colleagues at The Cage Space. Jane humbly dedicates this performance to their memory.



JR HURST

Sir Bernard Humphries

JR returns happily to ICTRep after appearing in last year's *Amadeus* and directing *The Past, A Present Yet to Come*. Since then he has appeared in Roxy's latest edition of *The Golden Girls*, directed the thriller *Wait Until Dark* for Prairie Pines, and reprised the role of Ben Franklin in 1776 for the eighth (?) time, this time for Wichita Grand Opera. JR loves theatre, classic movies, cats and his beautiful spouse, Diane.



A special note of thanks to Kristin Martin and all of the team at the **Museum of World Treasures** for allowing us to take publicity photos amidst their fantastic collection.

Thanks also to Lonny McCurdy with **McCurdy Real Estate & Auction** for helping us find the amazing artifacts that turn our humble set into ***The Explorer's Club!***



McCurdy
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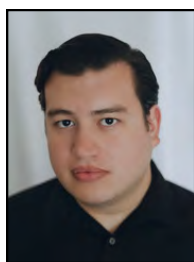


HOLLAND LEE KISER

Phyllida Spotte-Hume / Countess Glamorgan

Holland always loves being on the ICTRep stage! Patrons may remember her from *Boeing, Boeing* (Gretchen), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen), *Travesties* (Gwendolen), *Amadeus* (Venticelli), and *Silent Sky* (Margaret). Holland also regularly appears on stages around town, including Wichita Community Theatre, Cowtown's Empire House, Kechi Playhouse, and Wichita

Shakespeare Company, on whose board she also sits. She would like to thank Julie for Phyllida; the cast and crew for the laughs; you for supporting local arts; and Justin, Rowan, and her family for everything else.



NILO REYNOSO

Harry Percy

Nilo is honored to return to ICTRep. Most recently, he appeared at Prairie Pines Playhouse. His additional credits include *1776*, *West Side Story*, and *All Is Calm* with Wichita Grand Opera; Tiny Tom in *Urinetown* and Magaldi in *Evita* at Roxy's; and Oscar in *Sweat* with ICTRep. Nilo extends his heartfelt gratitude to ICTRep, his family and friends, and especially to his wife, Valerie,

for her unwavering love, encouragement, and support, and to Daisy for the extra joy.

ROSIE

Rosie

Rosie hails from Watford where her family still resides. Training and education here in London at The Esssplorerss Club. Special thanks to her namesake ("Rosie") and copious thanks to Professor Cope for all he does.



TOREY WILSON

Professor Cope

Torey is excited to be back performing with ICTRep! Torey has been seen in *A Jukebox for the Algonquin* and *Sweat*. You may have also seen him in shows at Roxy's and the Forum Theatre Company, where he has also served as assistant director. Torey would love to thank first and foremost God for giving him the passion and abilities to perform, his fiancé Keeley Jean, and Julie & Stan for continuing to believe in him and helping grow his theatre skills.

And lastly to you all for supporting local theatre! Enjoy the show!

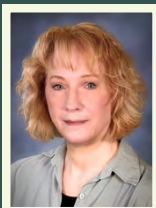
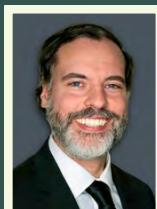
Next at ICTRep

October 2-11

Gaslight

Bella and Jack's seemingly perfect marriage has become something sinister. Why is the attic door locked, whose footsteps wander the halls at night, and is that gaslight flickering... or not?

You won't know who to believe in this stylish thriller. And you'll finally learn why we call it "gaslighting"! Newly adapted by Steven Dietz from the 1938 classic by Patrick Hamilton.



with Karen
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Jacob Steward,
Linda McDonald,
Diane Tinker
Hurst, and
Chelsie Penner
Directed by
James Earlywine

Can't wait 'til the next show!? Reserve your tickets for **Gaslight** using the promocode "ExploreMore" by **Sept. 1** to get **10% off your purchase!**

And mark your calendars for the rest of our '26-'27 Season.



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CREATIVES



NELL BENJAMIN

Playwright

Nell Benjamin co-wrote the score to *Legally Blonde, The Musical* with composer Laurence O'Keefe, for which they received Tony Award nominations, Drama Desk nominations, and the Olivier Award for Best Musical. Her play *The Explorers Club* was a commercial and critical hit for Manhattan Theatre Club and received an Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, as well as an

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant. Nell's disturbingly free adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*, called *Pirates! (Or Gilbert and Sullivan Plunder'd)* ran at the Goodspeed Opera House, the Paper Mill Playhouse, the Huntington Theater, and the St. Louis MUNY. She is currently working on an adaptation of the movie *Dave* with Thomas Meehan and Tom Kitt, *Gotta Dance* with Bob Martin, Chad Beguelin and Matt Sklar, and *Mean Girls* with Jeff Richmond and Tina Fey. Nell's work for television includes the last and weirdest season of *Unhappily Ever After*, Animal Planet's *Whoa! Sunday with Mo Rocca*, and the new *Electric Company*. Nell received the 2003 Kleban Foundation Award for lyrics and a 2003 Jonathan Larson Foundation Grant.



CHRISTY CUNNINGHAM RAILSBACK

Costume Design

Christy is excited to be designing at ICTRep for her first time! She has worked in many Wichita area theatres, receiving 10 Mary Jane Teall awards for her costume designs, in addition to working wardrobe for IASTE 190 touring shows and concerts, as well as some films.

Christy just retired from Newman University after 24 years of teaching Costume Design, Make-up Design, and costuming most of their music and theatre productions. Retirement does not mean she will be relaxing: since May, she has worked on *Medea* at Wichita Community Theatre, *The Book of Will* for Guild Hall Players, *Noir Comedy* at Kechi Playhouse, and now *The Explorers Club*. Life continues to be an adventure!



Assistive listening for this performance is available through an Auracast™ feed. Look for the "ICTRep" feed in your Auracast™ compatible device.



ERIN URICK

Stage Manager

Erin is grateful to be returning to ICTRep with this hilarious show. Erin previously stage managed *Boeing, Boeing* with ICTRep and *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical* with Music Theatre Wichita. Mrs. Urick received her MFA in Stage Management from the University of Idaho.



KIRK LONGHOFER

Sound Design

Kirk is a theatrical sound designer, editor, producer and live engineer who has been playing with sounds and sound systems since the age of 12. His theatrical designs are heard in dozens of academic, community, and professional theaters all over the U.S. every year.

Favorite recent work includes *The Play that Goes Wrong* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*

(The White Theatre KC), *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Amadeus* (ICT Rep), *Wait Until Dark* (Maples Repertory), and *Lend Me a Soprano* (Bell Road Barn).



RYLEE BARTHOLOMEW (*Makeup & Hair*)

Rylee is a recent graduate of Wichita State University, having studied marketing and photography. She spent most of her life performing, but in more recent years has been directing and choreographing alongside her mom at Triple Threat Theater. Outside of the theatre, Rylee lives in creativity and creates at any given moment whether it be photography, sewing, printmaking, and many other hobbies in between. Rylee would like to thank ICTRep for

allowing her to work alongside her husband, Hunter one last time before moving.



Step into a world of wonder at the **Museum of World Treasures**, where you'll meet Ivan the T. rex, explore ancient Egyptian burial rituals, and stand inches from real artifacts from World War II. Located in the heart of Old Town Wichita, Kansas, our family-friendly museum offers three floors of hands-on exhibits, fascinating stories, and rare treasures from across time and around the globe. Whether you're planning a fun family activity or seeking new things to do in Wichita, your adventure starts here.



www.worldtreasures.org

SPECIAL THANKS

Kristin Martin and team at the Museum of World Treasures
Josh Kirkhart and Rod Ott for the exotic taxidermy on display

JR Hurst for the African mask

James Earlywine, Matthew Gwinner & Jill Herbert
Lonny McCurdy & Big Al at Davis Moore Auto Group
José Reynoso

Thumper Johnson & Thumper Audio
Cheyla Clawson, Stacy Salters & WSU School of Performing Arts

ICTRep gratefully acknowledges the City of Wichita
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MANAGEMENT TEAM



DR. JULIE LONGHOFER, Artistic Director

Director, Scenic Design

Julie earned her MA/PhD in dramatic literature & theater history from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1995. For almost 40 years, she has served as stage director, costume designer, actor, and dramaturg (literary analyst). Julie has taught hundreds of teenagers and college students how to be stronger theater artists.

In 2023, Julie took on the role of Artistic Director for Wichita Repertory Theater (ICTRep). Her vision is for a regional theater company which (1) finds the best comedies, serious plays and thrillers of literary merit, (2) uses regional talent to produce the highest quality plays in terms of acting and production values, and (3) connects deeply with Wichita audience members from all walks of life.

This is her philosophical approach in all she does:

- Live theater is a love letter from ***The Playwright*** to ***The Actors*** for ***The Audience***.
- Live theater should be a cohesive and thought-provoking experience for its community.
- “*Dramatically Good*” is more than just a tagline for us. Our creative teams are doing their best work while challenging themselves to a new level of artistic excellence so that our audiences are emotionally moved in a memorable way.



STAN LONGHOFER, Managing Director

Lighting & Scenic Design, Technical Direction

As Managing Director, Stan oversees all of ICTRep's business operations. He is also the company's resident technical director and frequent lighting and scenic designer. Recent scenic design work includes *Sweat*, *A Jukebox for the Algonquin*, *Witness for the Prosecution* (ICTRep), and *Lend Me a Soprano* (WCT). Favorite past lighting designs include *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Ms.*

Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B, *Travesties* (ICTRep), *Light Up the Sky* (WCT), and *The Cover of Life* (Guild Hall).



ICTRep: *Dramatically Good!*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

There is no people group in human history which has a monopoly on empire-building or colonialism. From the most ancient dynasties (**Egypt**) to the most populous (**Qing dynasty of China**), from the most famous (**Rome**) to the most infamous (**Belgians in the Congo** tied with **Spanish in the Americas**), all the continents on earth feel the echoes of an empire – *if you assume that The Galactic Empire led by Palantine and Vader can stand in for the woefully embarrassing lack of empire in Antarctica.*

The British Empire was the largest empire in global history in terms of land area. **To morally evaluate its "good" or "bad" is a complex task.** Did Great Britain have military, administrative and economic control over territory in which other humans lived? Yes. Did they misuse this power? Of course. Did they also provide a conduit (albeit imperfectly) for trade, economic aid, education, and the rule of law? In fact, they did. For about 180 years Great Britain participated in the Atlantic slave trade; but starting around 1780 - a century before our play is set - British citizens campaigned alongside abolitionists from all over the globe to legally put an end to Britain's involvement in the buying and selling of human beings, ending the practice in 1807. To me, that is a nation correcting its own mistakes.

The Empire no longer exists, except as The Commonwealth of Nations, a fairly stable economic association of 56 nation states most of which are former colonies of the British Empire. Like Nell Benjamin, I am a lover of Great Britain and Ireland. I adore Benjamin's skill with words; her writing is reliably honest and true, incredibly smart, and crammed with wit and wisdom. **The best satire is shrewd and incisive but balanced by equal parts of sheer pleasure and artistry.** I hope we have done justice to the play's social commentary on misogyny, cultural appropriation and exploitation, and general snobbishness while still enjoying a rip-roaring evening of ridiculous shenanigans.

SUPPORT ICTREP

Ticket sales cover only 38 percent of ICTRep's expenses. As a result, the memorable theatrical experiences we create wouldn't be possible without the support of generous individuals, corporations, foundations, and governmental arts programs. Thanks for helping us hire actors and creatives, create costumes and scenery, rent light/sound equipment and interesting venues, and bring Wichitans together for great theater!



*Scan to read our 2025
year-end report.*

Giving between May 2025 and August 2026

Diamond (\$5,000+)

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ICTRep (Wichita Repertory Theater) is a semi-professional company that produces comedies, dramas, and thrillers. Our productions provide challenging roles and design opportunities for young actors and creatives to hone their crafts. In addition, we bring Wichita audiences together to enjoy high-quality, vibrant theatrical experiences that provide more than simply an evening's entertainment. We want our audiences to continue to reflect on and be moved by the plays we produce, long after the "curtain falls."

ICTRep: Dramatically Good!

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