

The Beautiful People

Playwright - William Saroyan

Director - Steven Wilson

Stage Manager - Colton Perry

Owen Webster - Caleb Britton

Harmony Blueblossom - Janelle Buchanan**

Agnes Webster - Mackenzie Dunn

Jonah Webster - David Jarrott

William Prim - David Toro

Dan Hillboy - Rommel Sulit

Father Hogan - Dotun Ayobade

Harold Webster - Jacob Schnitzer

Steven - Drea Olivares

Scenic Designer - William Anderson

Costume Designer - Hope Bennett

Lighting Designer - Rachel Atkinson

Sound Designer - Simon Ghezzi

Production Manager - James Ogden

Assistant Stage Managers - Drea Nicole and Joe Heike

Assistant Direction - Amanda Kolekar

Wardrobe Assistant - Malorie Dragna

Graphic Designer - Kevin Ong

House Management Team - Scott Blackshire, Rachel Gilbert, and Megan Nevels

The Director's Note:

Welcome. *The Beautiful People* is the culmination of my graduate work in Directing here at the University of Texas at Austin.

This play could not have been realized without the generosity of Brant Pope and the UT Department of Theatre and Dance, along with all of my family, friends and colleagues who contributed to *The Beautiful People* Kickstarter campaign. Your contributions have allowed me to bring this play to life. Thank you.

I want to thank my graduate and undergraduate colleagues and our talented Austin professionals for tagging along on this journey with me. I truly could not have done it without your relentless creativity and energetic spirit. Thank you to my incredibly patient and unbelievably supportive wife, Erin Barlow. And thank you, audience, for coming tonight to spend your time with *The Beautiful People*.

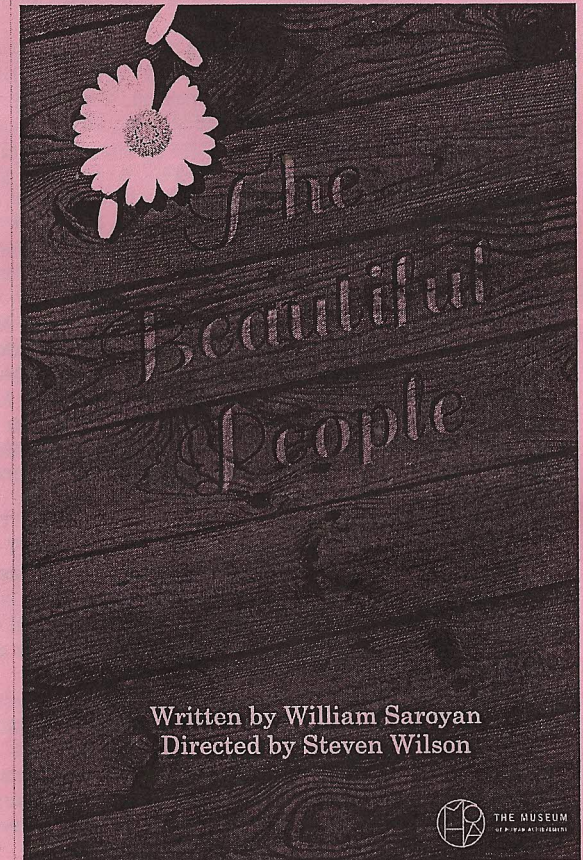
** - these Actors are appearing courtesy of Actors' Equity Association.

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Blake and Carrie Barlow, Michael and Mary Lee Poremba, John Poremba, the Rebora Family, the Neilan Family, the Armstrong Family, Denise Martel, The Huseman Family, Kelly Wilson, Kevin and Aman Gennuso, Gary and Jane Chandler, Bevan and Evie Houston, Mark and Allison Chandler, Debra Barlow, The Ryan Family, Bill and Joyce Wilson, Jeremy Shadrick, Alison Bennett, Harvey Guion, The Spradling Family, Gus Ewing, Gabriel Jason Dean, The Hardigan Family, Blair Blackman, Kate Cordaro, tthehe Meo Family, Sarah Coleman, Eva Suter, The Ernsteen Family, Sarah Saltwick, Michelle Dahlenburg, Jess Hutchinson, Jamie Gump, Amy Guenther, Zbigniew Ziggy Malecki, Scott Kanoff, No Name Players, Jeff McCrum, Jen Trehar, Emma Peterson, Beau and Sara Pace Johnson, Jennifer Grace and Tom Bateman, Darren Focareta, Josh Weinstein, Mark Keister, Jeremy & Aileen Latcham, Brad & Linda Dennison, The Turner Family, Roger and Autumn Ross, Megan Wildebour, Larry Grimm and Susan Bowen, Robert Greer and Jeanine Cassidy-Greer, Robert Faires and Barbara Chisholm-Faires, Jennifer Sampson and John Roberts, Kim Rullo, Ryan Dolan, Susan Klingman, Lily Wolff, Irene White, Mark Vanasse, Will Kern, Todd Betker, Chrissy Shackelford, Yao Chen, Christin Davis, Kevin Crook, Alex Gunn, Ryan Arrowsmith, Eric Leonard, Rachel Gilbert, Joshua Kessler, Shirley Tannenbaum, Glenn Proud, Jack Tamburri, Brittney Sweeney, Ken Gargaro, Liz Beckham, Gianine DeFrancesco, Kurt Ehrmann, The McLane Family, Shanon Weaver, Jean Dennison, Kari Barnes, Rhoda Montgomery, Ricardo Vila-Roger, Tim Truax, Martin Rodriguez, Sean Graney, Jason and Leena Matthews, Ryan Bollettino, and Amanda and Eron Zehavi.

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The Beautiful People Company:

William Anderson (Set Designer) is a 3rd Year M.F.A. Scenic Design Candidate. He comes to Austin by way of Chicago where he worked as a scenic and properties designer. His work has been seen at Lookingglass Theatre Company, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Profiles Theater, The Court, The House Theater Of Chicago, Red Tape and Florence International Theatre Company. At UT Austin, he designed the set for *The Cataract*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Colossal*. He is currently designing the set for UT's spring production of *In the Heights*.

Dotun Ayobade (Father Hogan) is a PhD student in the Performance at Public Practice program of the Department of Theatre and Dance at The University of Texas. He completed his BA and MA degrees in theatre in Nigeria, majoring in choreography and playwriting. After graduating, Ayobade began a theatre group, Courtyard 25, with colleagues at the University of Ilorin, performing in high schools across Lagos, Nigeria. Prior to arriving in the US, he worked as artistic director and directing instructor at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, University of Lagos.

Hope Bennett (Costume Designer) is a third-year M.F.A. candidate in Costume Design. Recent credits include *The Edge of Peace*, *Bacha Bazi*, the Butler School of Music's opera *New York Stories*, the Rude Mechs' *Stop Hitting Yourself*, and directing for *Spotlight on Opera*. Up next: Katie Bender's *The Fault* in December, Sibyl Kempson's *River of Gruel* for the Fusebox Festival in March, and the Butler's *La bohème* in April.

Caleb Britton (Owen) was most recently seen as "Tracy" in *70 Secrets of Marmalade Kittens* as part of UT New Theatre (UTNT) and "Joey" in *Suspicious Dinner* as part of the Cohen New Works Festival. After graduating in May with a B.A. in Theatre & Dance as well as a B.A. in English, he intends to move to Chicago to make some more theatre as a director, writer, and performer.

Janelle Buchanan (Harmony Blueblossom) is a veteran actress with dozens of stage roles from Harold Pinter to Tennessee Williams to her credit, as well as film, commercial and print work. The recipient of numerous B. Iden Payne and Critics' Table nominations and awards in Austin, she was most recently seen in Zach Theatre's *Dividing the Estate*, Austin Shakespeare's *An Ideal Husband* and in *Dream of Perfect Sleep* during 2013's UTNT new works festival. Buchanan was a co-founder of Big State Productions, whose long running hit, *In The West*, was performed for five years in virtually every theatre in Austin, across Texas, and at the Kennedy Center.

Malorie Dragna (Wardrobe Assistant) is a senior undergraduate at The University of Texas working toward a BA in costume technology. She is delighted to be

wardrobe assistant on her third show with Director Steven Wilson. Past productions with Wilson include *Kill Floor* and *The Balcony Play*. Most recently, she has worked as a stitcher on UT's production of *Our Country's Good* and Wardrobe Coordinator for UT's Musical Theatre Ambassadors. Currently she is working as Special Effects Makeup Artist for independent feature-length film, *Blackout*.

Mackenzie Dunn (Agnes) is a junior at The University of Texas. She has studied theatre at Interlochen Arts Academy and Carnegie Mellon's Pre-College Acting Program. Most recently, she performed in UT's New Theatre Festival's *70 Secrets of Marmalade Kittens* as "Quinn" and "Hibbins" in *The Scarlet Letter*. In addition to being a theatre major, Mackenzie studies art direction in the creative sequence as an advertising major at UT.

Joe Heike (Assistant Stage Manager) Heike is a second year student at U.T. studying for his B.A. in theatre with a focus in Stage Management. Heike stage managed several productions at U.T. including *ICU* for Frontera Fest, *Kill Floor*, and *Dream of Perfect Sleep* for U.T. New Theatre Festival. He is thrilled to be working on Steven's thesis and wishes him luck on his future productions.

Amanda Koleckar (Assistant Director) has acted, directed, and media designed for theater since her high school years in Houston. Koleckar is working towards getting her undergraduate degrees in Theatre & Dance and Radio/Television/Film from UT and plans to graduate in May after attending the UT in Los Angeles program this spring. Koleckar has worked with Steven Wilson the past year, assistant directing alongside him for *The Balcony Play* at the ZACH Theater and *[ICU]* as a part of the Frontera Fest.

David R. Jarrott (Jonah Webster) is thrilled to be working with Steven Wilson and this amazing cast and crew. David most recently appeared in Zach Theatre's *Harvey*. In December he will appear for the 3rd consecutive year in Penfold Theatre's production of "It's a Wonderful Life—The Radio Play." He holds a B.A. in theatre from Southwest Texas State College and an M.A. in Radio-TV-Film from U.T. After nearly 4 decades in radio, David was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2011. His first novel, *Blood Moon*, will soon be available on Kindle.

Drea Nicole Olivares (Assistant Stage Manager) is a second year student in the Theatre and Dance department. She is from El Paso, Texas, where she began stage managing during her junior year of high school. Most recently, Olivares was an assistant stage manager for the UTNT production of *70 Secrets of Marmalade Kittens* as well as UT's production of *Scarlet Letter*. This past spring, Olivares stage managed for the 2013 Cohen New Works Festival production of *The Farewell*, and *The Stonewater Rapture* (Round About Players).

Colton Perry (Stage Manager) has been involved in theatre since high school in Houston. Perry served as Assistant Stage Manager for *Scarlet Letter* (UT), *Beauty is the Best Priest* (ACC), Stage Manager for *We Are StarStuff* (UT) as

"Stage Manager", and Co-Stage Manager for *Dream of Perfect Sleep* (UT). In the spring, Perry will be Stage Manager for *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (UT). Perry will graduate from UT in May of 2015 with a BFA in Theatre Studies and a BA in Theatre and Dance with a Business Foundations Certificate.

David Radamés Toro (William Prim) continues his studies in opera directing, combining his experiences as a pedagogue, singer and actor. After completing a degree in voice performance from The University of Colorado, Toro attended Ohio State University, where he completed studies in Vocal Pedagogy, Voice Performance and stage movement. Toro has taught stage movement and physical theatre with Druid City Opera, directed opera scenes for Emerald City Opera, and arranged and directed music for the University of Texas Department of Theatre. Previous productions include Darek Hagen's *New York Studies*, numerous Opera Scenes programs, and Phillip Glass's *Les enfants terribles*.

Jacob Schnitzer (Harold) is a student hornist and composer from North Texas. Currently a Music Education student at the UT in the Austin Butler School of Music, Schnitzer studies Horn with Patrick Hughes. Schnitzer enjoys playing in many styles, and has performed with the UT Wind Ensemble, UT Symphony Orchestra, UT Symphony Band, Longhorn Band, and the LHB Jazz Ensemble. Schnitzer resides in Austin with no wife, kids, or cats.

Rommel Sulit (Dan Hilboy) has performed for the stage, film and TV. Recent film credits include *Sacrifice* (JuntoFilms) and Bradley Jackson's *Intramural*. Theatrical credits include "Coach" in Andrew Hinderaker's *Colossal* (UT Cohen New Works Festival) and "Warwick" in *Rose Rage* (Hidden Room Theatre). He has received Austin Critics' Table and B. Iden Payne nominations for his work in Austin theatre. Sulit trained at the School at Steppenwolf and is a co-founder of Street Corner Arts for whom he will play "Carlton Berg" in their production of Jason Wells' *The North Plan* at Hyde Park Theatre in December.

Steven Wilson (Director) is a director, actor and educator. He is a proud native of Pittsburgh, PA, where he earned his BFA in Acting from Point Park University. Wilson is currently pursuing his MFA in Directing at The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to graduate school, Wilson lived in Chicago for fifteen years and worked with many great organizations including A Red Orchid Theatre, where he is an Artistic Associate. Wilson is also a proud company member of The Hypocrites, and he has performed in over a dozen Hypocrites' productions. During his time in Chicago, Steven directed the world premiere of Craig Wright's original adaptation of Homer's *The Iliad* and the Chicago premiere of Mat Smart's *The 13th of Paris*. In Austin, Steven has directed at The Zach Theatre, The University of Texas and Hyde Park Theatre's annual *FronteraFest*.