

The VORTEX
presents the
National New Play Network
Rolling World Premier of

Heartland

by Gabriel Jason Dean
Directed by Rudy Ramirez

January 17 - February 9, 2019

ASL-interpreted Saturday January 26th

Free to deaf and hard of hearing audiences

Live Streaming on howlround.com/tv Thursday, January 31

Industry night Wednesday, February 6th

Scenic Design

Ann Marie Gordon

Lighting Design

Patrick Anthony

Costume Design

Delena Bradley

Sound Design

David DeMaris

Prop Design

Helen Parish

Assistant Director/Dramaturg

Laura J. Khalil

Stage Manager

Tamara L. Farley

Assistant Stage Manager/Sound Operator

Vikki Schwarz

Assistant Stage Manager/Light Board Operator

Mae Davis

Dari Language Coach

Hasti Ahmadi

Afghanistan Cultural Consultant

Humaira Ghilzai

Poster Design

Melissa Vogt

Photography

Errich Petersen

Videography

Jose Lozano/Magic Spoon Productions

ASL Interpreters

Monica Kurtz and Tim Ervin

Program Design

Krystle Kelley

Producing Artistic Director

Bonnie Cullum

Cast

Harold
Nazrullah
Getee

Lowell Bartholomee
Kareem Badr
Kacey Samiee

Heartland is performed without intermission.

Scenic Construction by Chris Hejl, Tom Lucenti,
Kevin Squires, Ann Marie Gordon, Alex Cogburn

Scenic Painting by Ann Marie Gordon,
Megan Kemp

Lighting Assistant: Emily Scott

Special Thanks: Griffin School, Sahar Ali, Carla
Petlevich, The South Asia Institute at the University of
Texas at Austin, Hanna Huang, The Asian American
Resource Center, Refugee Services Austin, The Afghan
Friends Network, National New Play Network, Melinda
Parr, Austin Halal,
Pistachio Delights

Heartland was first produced as a **National New
Play Network Rolling World Premiere** by **Geva
Theatre Center**, Rochester, NY, **New Repertory
Theatre**, Watertown, MA, **The VORTEX**,
Austin, TX, and **InterAct Theatre Company**,
Center City, PA.

Heartland is funded and supported in part by Bloomberg
Philanthropies, National New Play Network (NNPN)
Rolling World Premiere, VORTEX Repertory Company,
and by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin
Economic Development Department.

Join the National Watch Party live-streaming on
Thursday, January 31 at 8pm CST.

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About The Playwright

Gabriel Jason Dean is proud to be returning to his Austin home at The VORTEX. His award-winning and critically-acclaimed plays include *In Bloom*, (Kennedy Center Paula Vogel Award, Laurents/Hatcher Award Finalist, Princess Grace Award Runner-Up); *Qualities of Starlight* (Broadway Blacklist, Kesselring Nomination, Essential Theatre New Play Prize, B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Comedy & Best Original Script); *Terminus* (James Tait Black Prize Finalist, B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Drama & Best Original Script, Austin Critic's Table Award Best Production) *Heartland* (National New Play Network Rolling World Premiere, InterAct 20/20 Commission), *The Transition of Doodle Pequeño* (American Alliance for Theatre & Education Distinguished Play Award, Kennedy Center TYA Award, New England Theatre Conference Aurand Harris Award); and others. He has written book and lyrics for the musicals *Mario & The Comet* and *Our New Town*. His plays have been produced or developed throughout at places such as New York Theatre Workshop, Manhattan Theatre Club, McCarter Theatre, Araca Group, The Lark, The Flea, The Civilians, Oregon Shakespeare, The Kennedy Center, The Amoralists, Geva Theatre Center, PlayPenn, Ineract, The Playwrights' Center, Davenport Theatrical, Stage Left, Theatre [502], Aurora Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Dallas Children's Theatre, People's Light and Theatre, Dad's Garage Theatre, Actor's Express, Horizon Theatre, Source Festival, Essential Theatre, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Gabriel received the Hodder Fellowship from Princeton University, Dramatist's Guild Fellowship, and the Sallie B. Goodman/McCarter Theatre Fellowship. He was recently a finalist for the Humanitas Award for New TV writers. His scripts are published through Samuel French, Dramatic Publishing and Playscripts. He is on faculty for Spalding University's Brief-Residency MFA Program, is a Visiting Writer in Residence at Muhlenberg College, an alum of The Civilians R&D Group, an Affiliated Writer at The Playwrights' Center, an Associate Artist with Monk Parrots and a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop. Current commissions with Geva Theatre and The Amoralists. MFA: UT-Austin Michener Center for Writers. He grew up in Chatsworth, GA, a mill town in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. He currently lives in Brooklyn, NY.

gabrieljasondean.com

BIOS

Patrick Anthony (Lighting Design) is a freelance lighting designer, a master electrician, and a VORTEX company member. He holds a B.A. in Theatre from Loyola University, New Orleans. VORTEX credits include *Performance Park*, *A Perfect Robot*, *Ballot Eats The Bullet*, *Emma When You Need Her*, *Changelings*, *Sing Muse*, and *Qualities of Starlight*. He received B. Iden Payne awards for Outstanding Lighting Design for VORTEX's *Terminus* and Shrewd Production's *Big Love*. In addition to his freelance career, Patrick teaches stagecraft at Southwestern University's Sarofim School of Fine Arts.

Lowell Bartholomee (Harold) is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts where he studied filmmaking and acting. He was most recently seen in Hyde Park's *The Antipodes* and En Route's *Some Humans Were Harmed...* He is usually only seen and heard through his video and/or sound designs for Capital T, Hyde Park, Scriptworks, and several other companies. This is his first time on The VORTEX stage since VORTEX's *Macbeth* and Different Stages' *Fruits and Vegetables*, both a very long time ago.

Kareem Badr (Nazrullah) is thrilled to be making his VORTEX debut in *Heartland*. Recent credits include The Actor in *The Woman In Black*, and Brigham Young in *For Time and Eternity*. He is a co-owner of The Hideout Theatre, and performs and teaches internationally with his improv troupe PGraph.

Delena Bradley (Costume Design) is a second year M.F.A. candidate at UT focusing in costume design. She joins the Austin Theatre community from Chicago, where she spent five years working and freelance designing costumes and scenery for theatre and film. Most recently, Delena has done production and costume design for *Addict Named Hal* (short film by Alice Stanley), designed costumes for *The Tempest* (UT Austin), *She Kills Monsters* (VORTEX Summer Youth Theatre). She received her bachelor's degree in Theatre Technology and Design from Ball State University (Muncie, Indiana) in 2012.

Bonnie Cullum (Producing Artistic Director) has created and presented nearly 300 innovative productions for The VORTEX and was inducted into the Austin Arts Hall of Fame. Her artistic work includes musicals, operas, plays, ritual theatre, and performance art for which she has received more than 100 awards. Cullum excels in directing experimental productions that combine music, acting, and dance. She earned an MFA in Directing (University of Texas) and a BA in Theatre (University of Kansas). Cullum has directed more than 60 world premieres as well as dozens of published works. Honored three times as Austin's Best Director by the Austin Chronicle, Cullum has been nominated for dozens of outstanding directing awards and received B. Iden Payne Awards for Best Director for *Troades: The Legend of the Women of Troy*, *Moby Dick*, and *Despair's Book of Dreams and the Sometimes Radio*.

BIOS

Mae Davis (Assistant Stage Manager) recently moved to Austin from Jacksonville, Florida where she got her BA in Philosophy and BS in Mathematics from Jacksonville University. Her recent credits include *Pontypool*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *All Shook Up*. This is her first production at The VORTEX. When she is not doing theatre you can find her spinning fire or teaching mathematics.

David DeMaris (Sound Design) is a sound designer and composer. He won a 2016 B. Iden Payne award for his work on *Terminus*. Other recent productions include *Performance Park (VORTEX)*, *Qualities of Starlight (VORTEX)*, *For Fear The Glass May Shatter (VORTEX)*, *Hold Me Well* (Shrewd), and *Dracula* (Different Stages). He's recently moved into interactive spacial soundscapes for immersive room-scale installations with Future TBD Collective. In the last year he was spotted around town on keyboards with Swerve Left, Mongoose, and in various free jazz/improv settings.

Tamara L Farley has served as Stage Manager for dozens of Ethos and VORTEX shows including *Performance Park*, *Vampyress*, *Privacy Settings*, *Persephone*, *Terminus*, *Changelings*, *SPIRIT*, *For Fear The Glass May Shatter*, *Stars and Barmen*, *EARTH*, *WATER*, *Sarah Silver Hands*, *LEAR*, *AIR*, *Oceana*, *Troades*, and all of the *Hip Hop Theatre Explosions*. She also performed in *Sleeping Beauty* and *FIRE*. In 2012 she won The VORTEX Fire and Brimstone Award for Most Valuable Player.

Ann Marie Gordon (Scenic Design) has a BFA in Painting from the University of Texas and has been the resident scenic designer for The VORTEX since 1997. She received B. Iden Payne Awards for Outstanding Scenic Design for The VORTEX's *Performance Park*, *Terminus*, *A Perfect Robot*, *Qualities of Starlight*, *Sarah Silver Hands*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *St. Enid and the Black Hand*, *The Deluge*, and *Despair's Book of Dreams and the Sometimes Radio*, the first woman to ever receive 7 Payne Awards for Scenic Design!

Laura J. Khalil (Assistant Director/Dramaturg) is a performer/writer/dramaturg who studied theatre and dance at Yale University. She is relatively new to behind the scenes work, having directed her first show, *Collection*, in 2017. Her dramaturgy credits include Generic Ensemble Company's productions of *The Mikado: Reclaimed* (B. Iden Payne Nominee for Best Original Script) and *Scheherazade*.

BIOS

Helen Parish (Prop Design) is a VORTEX company member where she has worked with the Summer Youth Theatre program and many, many amazing shows including *Sleeping Beauty*, *Vampyress*, *Sarah Silverhands*, *Changelings*, *Qualities of Starlight*, and *Terminus*. Her hobbies include kayaking, traveling, and apparently cooking for Gabe's plays.

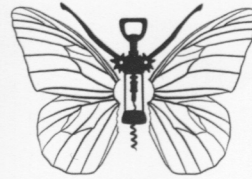
Rudy Ramirez (Director) is an Associate Artistic Director of The VORTEX and has worked with numerous theatre organizations in Austin and around the country. He has received six B. Iden Payne Awards for direction and was named Best Director in Austin in the 2017 Austin Chronicle Reader's Poll. He has been working with Gabriel Jason Dean for more than 5 years now, and is thrilled to be working with Gabe and The VORTEX on this, his 20th anniversary as a director.

Vikki Schwarz (Assistant Stage Manager) is a VORTEX company member, has worked numerous shows including *Spirit*, *Wild Horses*, *Performance Park*, *Atlantis*, and *Persephone*. Usually found in the sound/light booth, sometimes you may find her at the piano playing for *The Mutcracker* and other events. She also works with Diverse Space Dance Theatre and Austin Children's Theatre as a resident composer and with kidsActing as an accompanist. Other work includes original music for FronteraFest shows, two cantatas *The True Light* and *Lonesome Valley* (with Tyler Mabry), and published choral works through Hal Leonard/Shawnee Press and Fred Bock Music.

Kacey Samiee (Getee) has been acting professionally for 30 years in both stage and film productions. For the last 20 years she has been practicing and teaching improv and musical improv and has performed nationally at various festivals and conventions. When it comes to acting, she's had several wonderful teachers and is currently dedicating her time to writing and producing her own film. She has done more than her fair share of yoga, occasionally will refer to herself as a runner, loves short dresses and high heels, is learning the magical art of fire spinning, is frequently found upside down in a handstand instead of right side up on her feet, goes to Burning Man every year, dances tango, knits awkward scarves, and often thinks about practicing meditation regularly. If she's not acting or doing any of that other stuff, she's working in the lighting industry for architecture and entertainment. She has traveled nationally and internationally to super cool projects and with super famous bands to fix their lighting systems. Kacey is so excited and grateful to have the opportunity to work on this production and perform at The VORTEX. It's been a gorgeous project with incredibly talented people. The night sky is entirely filled with all her lucky stars, and she has been counting them.

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THE BUTTERFLY BAR

VORTEX Mission

We conjure and navigate the storm of imagination with urgent, unashamed art that dares to dream the world in which we want to live. This magic emanates from our cultural harbor, embraces diverse communities, breaks down barriers, and opens channels for vital exchange.

About The VORTEX

- ❖ Incorporated 1988
- ❖ Artist-owned and operated year-round Cultural Arts Harbor
- ❖ Revered around the world as a haven for alternative performance
- ❖ Local and national leaders in creating and presenting world premieres, cutting-edge plays, ritual theatre, musical theatre, and opera
- ❖ Lighthouse workshops develop artists and new work
- ❖ Gender-Inclusive and Multicultural casting
- ❖ Generating discourse about the issues of our time
- ❖ Strong, dedicated artistic ensemble
- ❖ Hundreds of Awards and nominations for excellence
- ❖ Tuition-free Summer Youth Theatre since 1991
- ❖ ADA-Accessible Facility
- ❖ ASL-Interpreted Performances
- ❖ The Butterfly Bar - Cocktails, Beer, and Wine
- ❖ Beautiful, breezy Garden and Deck for productions and events
- ❖ Butterfly Garden certified by The North American Butterfly Association
- ❖ The VORTEX composts all organic waste!
- ❖ The VORTEX has always recycled!
- ❖ Platinum Member of Austin Green Business Leaders
- ❖ Part of the City of Austin's Zero Waste Initiative
- ❖ Member of the Network of Ensemble Theatres, Theatre Communications Group, and Austin Creative Alliance
- ❖ Recipient of 7 NEA Grants since 2010
- ❖ Founding Member of Manor Road Merchant's Association