

# Killer Joe

by Tracy Letts



capital  theatre

## **Killer Joe**

By **Tracy Letts**

### **Cast**

Chris Smith **Joey Hood**

Sharla Smith **Katie DeBuys**

Ansel Smith **Joe Reynolds**

Dottie Smith **Melissa Recalde**

Killer Joe Cooper **Kenneth Wayne Bradley**

Director/Co-Designer **Mark Pickell**

Co-Scenic Designer **Tommy Grubbs**

Costume Designer **Cheryl Painter**

Sound Designer **Adam Hilton**

Stage Manager **Matt Wasson**

Assistant Director **Marshall Carby**

Technical Director **Billy Dragoo**

Dramaturg **Carrie Klypchak**

Running Crew **Landry Gideon,**

**Spencer Smith, Patrick Payne**

**Setting** Smith family trailer, Dallas County

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

## About the Playwright

Born in 1965, Oklahoma-native Tracy Letts has developed a prominent position as an actor-playwright in the contemporary theatre. Following in the footsteps of his father (professor-turned-actor, Dennis Letts), Letts has explored his substantial talents as an actor in theatre, film and television. And although his work is certainly very different in tone and thematic quality, one can also clearly note the influence of his mother (professor-turned-novelist of WHERE THE HEART IS, Billie Letts) on his career. Letts has received most substantial acclaim for his work as a playwright. Letts' writing has been described as visceral, suspenseful, bitingly sad, satiric, ironic, and dangerously funny. Letts' natural abilities at fluidly negotiating a multiplicity of competing tensions may most accurately explain his current position as one of professional theatre's most notable figures, given that he possesses no formal theatrical training.

After graduating from high school, Letts moved to Dallas – a brief residency before re-locating to Los Angeles and then to his long-term theatre home of Chicago. His short time in Texas significantly influenced the plot of his first major playwriting success, KILLER JOE. Written in 1991 and then first staged in a small theatre in Evanston, Illinois in 1993, the premiere of KILLER JOE was formally claimed by Chicago's renowned Steppenwolf Theatre (a group to which Letts has continued to remain an active member). KILLER JOE subsequently played at the Fringe Theater Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland and then in London, winning the Time Out Award for Best Play in 1995. The play eventually moved Off-Broadway to the SoHo Playhouse in a co-production with the 29th Street Rep in 1998. KILLER JOE has since played in fifteen different countries and been translated into twelve languages.

Beyond KILLER JOE, Letts has produced four other major plays: MAN FROM NEBRASKA (2003), BUG (2004; adapted into a film of the same name in 2007), AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY (2007), and SUPERIOR DONUTS (2008). In 1994, MAN FROM NEBRASKA became a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and with the production of AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY, Letts received the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Play, the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and the Tony Award for Best Play in 2008. Letts believes that his simultaneous work as an actor and playwright feed one another as both demand an intense commitment to "observation." However, in his 2008 acceptance speech at the Tony Awards, Letts employs his characteristically biting humor to express his true love for the craft of playwriting: "Writing is better than acting. You get to use your words, you don't have to be there eight times a week, and I can guarantee you that this moment beats the hell out of auditioning for JAG." Carrie Klypchak, Dramaturg

## Mark Pickell, Director/Designer

Mark is the founder and artistic director of Capital T Theatre Company. His directing credits include MACHINAL, RHINOCEROS, THE GOOD PERSON OF SETZUAN, THEATRE IN THE RED, ROMEO AND JULIET, IN THE WEST, MARAT/SADE, A BRIEF HISTORY OF HELEN OF TROY, LA DISPUTE (Austin Critics Table Nomination BEST COMEDY), MR. MARMALADE, HAPPY DAYS (B Iden Payne Nomination BEST COMEDY and BEST DIRECTOR), and BLACKBIRD. He most recently appeared onstage in Hyde Park Theatre's critically acclaimed THE PILLOWMAN (Michal). He is a graduate of Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas where he earned a BFA with honors in Theatre. While at Southwestern, Mark interned with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London where he worked on THE MYSTERIES and THE BECKETT SHORTS. As an actor he received an Austin Critics Table Award for his performance of Valere in LA BETE.

**Kenneth Wayne Bradley, Killer Joe Cooper**

Kenneth has worked as an actor in the Austin area since 1991. Kenneth is a core company member of Hyde Park Theatre where his more recent roles include Ariel in THE PILLOWMAN (which earned him a Austin Critics Table Award Best Supporting Actor), Ham in HAM, Carl in GLORY OF LIVING and Lance in SOMETHING SOMEONE SOMEPLACE ELSE. Recently, he was Gould in the Austin Playhouse production of SPEED THE PLOW, Ervin in a Chick and A Dude's BRASS RING, Cassius in the Austin Shakespeare Festival's version of JULIUS CAESAR and participated in the '09 Austin Scriptworks Out Of Ink Festival (Time Steps) where he was seen in HARROWING by Kathy Catmull and COWBOY FANTASIA by Sarah Saltwick. In February of this year, Kenneth played Abner in the premier of a one-man show which he wrote called WICKER CHAIRS, directed by Ellie McBride. A Screen Actor's Guild member, Ken has appeared the feature films *Stop Loss*, *Holy Hell*, *Living The Life*, *No Pain No Gain*, *Hope Floats*, *Little Boy Blue*, *The Burden*, *Making Change*, *Two Mothers For Zachary*, (an ABC Movie Of The Week), *Junior*, *Martha*, *Room* (which ran at both the Sundance and the Cannes film Festivals), and *Last Lullaby* which will premier in Louisiana later this year. Kenneth has been seen on television as Gary Powers the Alabama Recruiter in two episodes of *Friday Night Lights*. He has also starred in episodes of *Prison Break*, *Walker Texas Ranger*, and *America's Most Wanted*. Kenneth has a degree in Fine Arts from Sam Houston State University and studied acting under Yale University Professor Jim Miller. This is Kenneth's first collaboration with Capital T.

**Katie DeBuys, Sharla Smith**

Katie is a native of Santa Fe, New Mexico and a graduate of Northwestern University currently working toward an MFA in acting at UT. Last summer, Katie appeared at the Texas Shakespeare Festival as Olivia in TWELFTH NIGHT and Portia in JULIUS CAESAR. Most recently at UT, Katie played Titania in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM and Aglaya in THE IDIOT. Some of her favorite past roles include: "Gwendolen" in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, "Cleopatra" in ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA, "Helga" in KATZELMACHER, "Claire Gurney" in THE RULING CLASS, and "The Stepdughter" in SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR. She recently received an Austin Critics Table Nomination for Best Supporting Actor for her role in THE IDIOT. This is her first collaboration with Capital T.

**Joey Hood, Chris Smith**

Joey was most recently seen in HPT's production of BOMBS IN YOUR MOUTH for which he was received an Austin Critics Table Nomination for Best Actor in a Leading Role. A company member of Rude Mechs and Hyde Park Theatre, Joey has been seen in productions including HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ASSASSINATED? THE WATER PRINCIPLE, THE GLORY OF LIVING (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Actor) TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992 (Austin Critics Table Nomination Best Supporting Actor) THE METAMORPHOSIS (B Iden Payne Nomination Best Actor) BLUR (B Iden Payne Nomination Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy), FISH (B Iden Payne Nomination) and STADIUM DEVILDARE. Joey is originally from South Mississippi and has been trading Austin stages since 1997. This is his first appearance with Capital T Theatre.

### **Melissa Recalde, Dottie Smith**

Melissa is entering her 3rd and final year as a company member of the M.F.A. Acting program at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University, double majoring in both Theatre and English. Her favorite roles at SFA include "Li'l Bit" in HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE, "Nan/Lina" in THREE DAYS OF RAIN, "Grace" in STATES OF GRACE and "Jeanie" in HAIR: THE AMERICAN TRIBAL LOVE-ROCK MUSICAL. In Austin, she has most recently been seen as "Helena" in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, "Hannah" and "Eva" in Capital T's US premiere of THE BIRD and THE BEE, "Varya" in the world premier of Dostoevski's THE IDIOT, and the David Mark Cohen New Works Festival's THE SEVEN. She can be seen next as "Elizabeth" in PRIDE AND PREJUDICE at UT this fall. This marks her second collaboration with Capital T Theatre Company.

### **Joe Reynolds, Ansel Smith**

Killer Joe marks Joe's first appearance on an Austin stage and his first collaboration with Capital T. Joe has acted regionally at Yale Rep, (THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH and THE BEAUX STRATEGEM), Utah Shakespeare Festival, (HENRY IV, COMEDY OF ERRORS and THE WINTERS TALE) and The St. Louis MUNY Theatre in 1776. A recent transplant from Los Angeles he was seen there in in TEXMAS at Theatre Three, ABSOLUTION at The Court Theatre, U.S.A. at The Met Theatre, HAPLET: PRINCE OF BROOKLYN (co-author) at The Globe Playhouse and many others. On television he appeared on *Frasier*, *Medium*, *Deep Space Nine* and *State of Grace*. He won best actor at the Chicago ALT Film Festival in the indie film *Dead Dogs*. He holds a BA from the University of Texas at Austin and an MFA in acting from Yale University. He is the proud owner of the M BAR in Hollywood, California and SABA BLUE WATER CAFE on 4th Street here in Austin.

### **Billy Drago, Technical Director**

Billy has served as the theatre director at Austin High School for the past 13 years and is currently the chair of the fine arts department. Billy has directed and produced over 77 plays and has designed sets for over 50. He holds a BFA in theatre from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in theatre from the University of London, England. He has volunteered his time and talents on every Capital T production thus far. His production of OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS won the 5A State UIL One-Act Play Contest this past May.

### **Marshall Carby, Assistant Director**

Just completed his first year of study toward a MFA in Directing at University Of New Orleans. He received his BA in Theatre from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi in May 2008. At UNO he recently directed a production of INDIFFERENT BLUE, the 2008 Tennessee Williams Festival One-Act Playwriting winner. Marshall has been involved in several productions. His favorites include MOLIERE IN LOVE, BLOODY POETRY and SHAKESPEARE'S R&J.

### **Travis Dean, Fight Choreographer**

Travis has been doing fight choreography for several years. His fights have been seen in MACBETH, TIS A PITY SHE'S A WHORE, KING LEAR, EDMOND, TITUS ANDRONICUS, RICHARD III, MY FAVORITE YEAR and perhaps a few others that have slipped his memory as time descends upon him. He hopes you enjoy this production that he is honored to be a part of, and gives his utmost thanks to the cast of Killer Joe, for their patience, and extremely hard work. He especially wants to thank his wife of thirty years, Melanie, for her support and patience and for all those occasions when she was the "other person" as he planned out his sequences.

### **Tommy Grubbs, Co-Scenic Designer**

Tommy teaches theatre at Stephen F. Austin High School. His recent production of OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS was named the 5A UIL One-Act Play State Champion. His costume and scenic design credits include the world premiere of WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY: THE MUSICAL, UNEXPECTED TENDERNESS, THE DANCE LESSON, SIX DEGREES OF SEPERATION, AND THE RAIN CAME TO MAYFIELD, INTO THE WOODS, and URINETOWN. He is a graduate of Stephen F Austin State University with a degree in Art.

### **Adam Hilton, Sound Designer**

Prior to his arrival in Austin, Adam studied in the Sound Recording Technology program at Southwest Texas State University and in the BFA acting program at the same university's Department of Theatre and Dance. Since moving to Austin in 2005, Adam has designed sound and composed music for several productions. His work includes sound design and music for the five-play cycle The Love Sonatas, which debuted at the Rollins Theatre in the Long Center in 2008. Past productions include AUTOBAHN, SEARCHING..., INTERMISSION( which he received a B. Iden Payne nomination for Outstanding Original Score) as well as Capital T's US Premiere of THE BIRD AND THE BEE. Most recently he designed sound for FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT at SVT. In addition to theatrical work, he regularly performs with, writes for, and records several local bands and artists, including The Pelicks, The French Cuffs, Boonesboro, Terp 2 It, and Ms. Tree, among many others.

### **Carrie Lee Klypchak, Dramaturg**

Carrie is a core company member and the Literary Manager of Capital T Theatre. She also serves as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Texas A&M University – Commerce. Carrie received her professional acting training in New York City, and holds a Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University and MA and BFA degrees from Southwest Texas State University. Carrie is an active teaching artist, director and actor, most recently appearing as Ellie in Capital T's production of KAWAISOO. As a performance scholar, her research interests focus on alternative theatre practices. Carrie's book, SALIENT NEGOTIATIONS: DEVISING AND SURVIVING AS ALTERNATIVE THEATRE ARTISTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY, was published by VDM Publishing House in March of 2009.

### **Cheryl Painter, Costume Designer**

Cheryl earned her BFA in Theatre from Southwest Texas State University. She has been the theatre director at Pflugerville High School for the past seven years where she has directed and costumed over twenty productions. She recently designed costumes for Capital T's MR. MARMA-LADE, HAPPY DAYS, and I GOOGLE MYSELF. Cheryl is very excited to return to costume for Capital T Theatre.

### **Matt Wasson, Stage Manager**

Matt is currently pursuing a BFA in Theatre Studies at UT. Previous acting roles include "King Herod" in Jesus Christ Superstar, "Cliff Bradshaw" in Cabaret, and Hamlet. He also appeared in Capital T Theatre's US Premiere of THE BIRD AND THE BEE. Directing credits include Shel Silverstein's One Tennis Shoe, and Georg Buchner's Woyzeck. Matt served as AD for HBMG's KUKA at the Long Center in 2008.

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Artistic Director **Mark Pickell**  
Marketing Director **Kaulen Taylor**  
Literary Manager **Carrie Lee Klypchak**  
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Capital T Theatre is a sponsored project of Austin Circle of Theatres

# Upcoming Capital T Projects

## I ♥ Wal-Mart

an original play

An original play that examines the place that Wal-Mart occupies in each person's heart. Many love to hate the mega-big-box retailer, but many love the store and its economies of convenience. The show is being launched just in time to celebrate Northcross Mall's conversion into an "upscale" two story Pantheon of 24-hour consumerism. :(

Comprised from the writings of over a dozen playwrights across the US including formal local favorite Jim Fritzier (of Nebraska now) it is guaranteed to spark a conversation or two.

Hyde Park Theatre

August 6th - 29th 2009

## Sick

by ZAYD DOHRN

SICK is an uproarious look at a family of germ-o-phobes who have severe allergies to everything from Cheez-Whiz and cleaning supplies to city air. As prisoners inside their vacuum-sealed home and garbed in non-allergic clothing they live each day in terror that a stray mold spore or chemical will sneak in. When Dad brings home one of his graduate students, the family's fear crescendos -- with chaotic, comedic consequences.

*"...a young Edward Albee, daring to write humor that hints at danger inside American families"* Dallas Observer

Hyde Park Theatre

November 5th-21st 2009

## New Directions Series

The New Directions series offers a young director with no professional credits the opportunity to direct a full length play, and introduces a fresh new voice to Austin theatre. The show will be fully produced by Capital T, and the director will have the opportunity to develop a piece of theatre that both reflects and contributes to the diversity of the Austin/Central Texas arts scene.

For more information about the New Directions Series, please visit our website at [www.capitalT.org](http://www.capitalT.org)

Fronterafest 2010 - Long Fringe

January and February 2010

# [www.capitalT.org](http://www.capitalT.org)