

THE Classic Theatre

SAN ANTONIO

February 12th to March 6th

THE SEAGULL

by Anton Chekhov



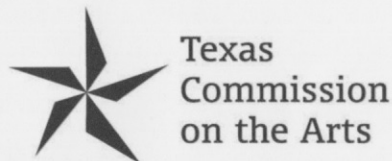
The Seagull
February 12 - March 6
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THE Classic Theatre

SAN ANTONIO

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The Classic Theatre San Antonio

Presents

The Seagull

By Anton Chekhov

Directed by Allan S. Ross

CAST

Masha Shamrayev.....	Chelsea Dyan Steele
Simon Medvedenko.....	John D. Boyd
Peter Sorin.....	Michael Duggan
Constantine Treplev.....	Michael Holley
Yakov.....	Luis Flores
Nina Mikhailovna.....	Julya Jara
Paulina Shamrayev.....	Catherine Babbitt
Dr. Yevgeny Dorn.....	Andrew Thornton
Ilya Shamrayev.....	Joe De Mott
Irina Arkadina.....	Kelly Hilliard Roush*
Boris Trigorin.....	Jonathan Pollei
Maid.....	Bekka Broyles

* This actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Manager.....	Martin Kushner
Stage Manager.....	Kaitlin Muse
Set Designer.....	Ric Slocum
Costume Designer.....	Diane Malone
Lighting Designer.....	Pedro Ramirez
Sound Designer.....	Rick Malone
Properties Master.....	Richard Solis
Board Operator.....	Scott Marker

The action takes place at the country estate of Peter Sorin.

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Production Crew

Set Construction.....	Chris Champlin
Scenic Artists.....	Chris King, Charles Moody
Scenic Assistants.....	Jacob Slocum, Jonah Slocum
Hair and Wigs.....	Ron Hammett
Photographer.....	Siggi Ragnar

Anton Chekhov-Playwright

Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was born on January 29, 1860, in Taganrog, Russia. The young Chekhov was born into a poverty-stricken family. He later spoke regretfully of his hard-worked childhood, although he was obedient and agreeable, and worked cheerfully in his father's shop.

During the mid-1880s, Chekhov practiced as a physician and began to publish serious works of fiction. His pieces appeared in the newspaper, *New Times*, and then as part of collections such as *Motley Stories* (1886). Chekhov also wrote works for the theater during this time. His earliest plays were short farces; however, he soon developed his signature style, which was a unique mix of comedy and tragedy. Plays such as *Ivanov* (1887) and *The Wood Demon* (1889) told stories about educated men of the upper class coping with debt, disease, and inevitable disappointment in life.

His audience demanded laughter above anything, and with a strong sense for the ridiculous, Chekhov asked nothing better. His stories, most often based on thoroughly tragic themes, are covered by the light and subtle satire that has earned him his reputation as a great humorist. He seemed to be constantly smiling, and his sympathy with suffering often brought his laughter nearly to tears.

This delicate individualist was at first, a subject to countless amounts of harsh criticism. A passionate adversary of all lies and oppression, he already foreshadows in these early writings, the fight against conventions, which he puts into Treplev's reply to Sorin in *The Seagull*: "Let us have new forms, or else nothing at all."

Director's Note

Passion for Art, Love and Life is a dominant theme in *The Seagull*. Each character is faced with the struggle between the existential drive for self-determination and need for acceptance. Their dreams of success blind them to the wave of turmoil that is left in their wake. Their striving and passion for their art prevents them from recognizing the love that is within their reach.

Chekhov masterfully uses the theme of misdirected love in *The Seagull* creating a fascinating interconnectedness in his characters. Character relationships are in some cases mirror images of others and represent different stages of life and love. Chekhov does not engage in value judgement but shows both the good and the bad aspects of his characters. We can sympathize with them, yet we question their actions.

Chekhov also uses symbols to enrich our understanding of the play. The seagull itself is a powerful symbol for Nina. She is drawn to the lake like a seagull, where she feels safe and loved. The lake itself is also a symbol. Even though it is never really seen, it is the ever-present background for the play. Although characters relate to it differently, the lake represents a place where each character was safe and happy. Constantine's play has its own symbolism. The lake for him is the origin of life, and his monster stands for the old theatrical form and an old worldview. His heroine is the "universal soul" that signifies his new direction in art.

Chekhov has created a play fraught with passion and with characters struggling to complete their dreams of success. We have enjoyed our struggle to bring this complex play to life. I hope you enjoy it as much as we have.

Allan S. Ross

Special Thanks

Deborah Martin, San Antonio Express-News
Erin Malone
Phillip May
IDEAS UNLIMITED
Overtime Theater
Woodlawn Theatre

The costume design and set design for this production were made possible by grants from The Artist Foundation of San Antonio, funded by the Tobin Fund for the Arts.

WHO'S WHO

Catherine Babbitt (Paulina Shamrayev) is appearing in her first production with The Classic Theatre and will be returning to Classic in the fall in *The Last Flapper*, a portrayal of Zelda Fitzgerald. She was most recently seen in the premiere of John O'Neill's play, *Lucky Woman* (Vivian) at the Overtime Theatre. Some favorite San Antonio credits include *Clybourne Park* (Bev/Kathy) and *Picnic* (Mrs. Potts) at the Playhouse Cellar Theatre, *Other Desert Cities* (Polly) and *Scenes from an Execution* (Galactia) with Inception Theatre, and *Chapter Two* (Jenny) and *Sylvia* (Sylvia) at the Charlene McCombs Empire Theatre.

John D. Boyd (Simon Medvedenko) This is John's second show with the Classic Theatre of San Antonio. Last year, he appeared in *The Merchant of Venice* as Solanio and the Duke. Other credits include *Lucky Woman*, *A Life (Asleep)*, *Romeo Chang*, and *Santa the Conqueror* at the Overtime Theatre. John is also an adjunct theater instructor at Northwest Vista College and a graduate of Ohio State University's Department of Theatre.

Bekka Broyles (Maid) is an intern for The Classic Theater and this is her second time working on a production here. For Classic, she acted in *Medea* (Messenger). Locally: *Lucky Woman* (Angela) at the Overtime Theater, *Cinderella* (Step Sister) and *Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch) at the Rose Theater. She is currently taking theater as a sophomore at Communication Arts High School. She has won the "Most Outstanding Performer" for two years at UIL. She is excited to be a part of *The Seagull* and looks forward to working with The Classic Theatre in the future.

Joe De Mott (Ilya Shamrayev) has been acting in San Antonio since 1987. Classic Theatre roles: Irish Detective in *6 Degrees of Separation* and Pedant/Tailor in *Taming of The Shrew*. Roles at other theaters include: Angel Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life* at Stoli Playhouse, Felix in *My Three Angels* at Harlequin, Captain Whitaker in *A Few Good Men* at Stage Theater in Bulverde, and Constable Warren in *Our Town* at San Pedro Playhouse. Joe is the founding partner of De Mott, McChesney, Curtright and Armendariz, a 16-lawyer law firm specializing in immigration law and criminal law defense with offices in San Antonio, Houston, and Austin.

Michael Duggan (Peter Sorin) This is Mike's fifth production with The Classic Theatre, having previously been seen in *Medea* (King Creon), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Vincentio), *King Lear* (Albany), and *Six Degrees of Separation* (Larkin). Locally: *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* (Daniel), Art (Mark), and Harvey (Elwood) at Boerne Community Theatre; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Company) at The Playhouse; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Ruckly), *The Fantasticks* (Hucklebee), and *Three Penny Opera* (Company) at The Sheldon Vexler Theatre; *Hamlet* (Claudius) at St. Mary's University; and *The Secret Garden* (Ben) at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre.

WHO'S WHO continued

Luis Flores (Yakov) is the newest intern at the Classic Theatre and is delighted to be part of the cast. During his time at Thomas Jefferson High School he was seen in *The Sins Of Sor Juana*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Miss Nelson Is Missing*, *Our Leading Lady*, *Grease* and many others. He is currently attending San Antonio College as a freshman and is majoring in Drama. Luis hopes to become a professional actor, writer, and director after graduating from university.

Michael Holley (Constantine Treplev) feels extremely lucky to be making his Classic debut with such an amazing cast. Acting credits include: Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*, Thomas in *Venus in Fur*, Austin in *True West*, Bernard in *Arcadia*, and Constantine in *Big Love*. Mr. Holley earned his B.F.A in Acting from Texas State University. He was also fortunate to spend a summer studying at The Shakespeare Learning Center, in Stratford-Upon-Avon, England, the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Julya Jara (Nina Mikhailovna) has appeared in The Classic Theatre's *Ghosts* (Regine) and *Scapin* (Zerbinette), in *Water by the Spoonful* (Yaz) and *In the Next Room* (Elizabeth) at The Playhouse; in *From the Mahabharata* (Ganga, dancer) with The AtticRep; in *Stripped* (Ida) and *A Hitman's Guide to Surviving Life* (Max) at The Overtime Theatre. Training: Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from The Vakhtangov Theatre Academy (Moscow, Russia).

Martin Kushner (Production Manager) served as Production Manager and Stage Manager for The Classic Theatre's *Master Class*. He also stage managed *A Streetcar Named Desire* (San Pedro Playhouse) and *Forever Plaid* and *The Underpants* (Church Theatre). He was Trinity Theatre's Coordinator of Theatre Arts for 10 years. Prior to moving to San Antonio, he performed in theaters in Birmingham and Mobile, Alabama, and Northern Virginia, as well as producing over 20 productions in Northern Virginia, winning many "Producer of the Year" awards.

Diane Malone (Costume Designer) is a founding member and co-Artistic Director of The Classic Theatre of San Antonio. For Classic, she directed *Master Class*, *Vanya & Sonia & Masha + Spike*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Method or Madness: Hamlet 2013*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Firebugs*, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *Blithe Spirit*, *All My Sons*, *Twelfth Night* and *Rancho Pancho*. She has also designed for several Classic Theatre shows, most recently costume design for *Merchant of Venice*, *Ghosts*, *Private Lives*, and *Death of a Salesman*. The former Artistic Director of San Antonio's Church Theatre, she also served as director and/or designer for theatres in Germany, Louisiana, Indiana and Washington, DC. Diane and husband Rick Malone were recently honored with the 2015 Jasmina Wellinghoff Award for Outstanding Contribution to Theatre in San Antonio at the 25th annual ATAC Awards Gala.

WHO'S WHO

Rick Malone (Sound Design) is a co-founder of The Classic Theatre of San Antonio. He has designed award-winning sound and lighting for Jump-Start Performance Co., The Firelight Players, The Sheldon Vexler Theatre, Extended Run Players, San Pedro Playhouse, Magik Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park, The Summer Company, The Renaissance Guild, Church Theatre and The Classic Theatre of San Antonio. His sound designs have been selected for display at the Prague Quadrennial Exposition of Scenography in 2003, 2007 and 2011, and for the Gallery at The World Stage Design 2005 (Toronto) and 2009 (Seoul). His sound design for Classic's *The Firebugs* was selected for exhibition at the World Stage Design 2013 in Cardiff, Wales. Rick is a proud charter member of the Theatrical Sound Designers and Composers Association.

Scott Marker (Board Operator) is a professional vocalist and has toured with national recording artist Reverend. Most recently he received two A.A.S. degrees from San Antonio College, one for Music Business and Recording Engineering, and for Radio Film and Television Broadcasting. Until July Scott was the Loud Rock Director for San Antonio's KSYM, 90.1 radio and was known as "Scott o' PPotomus," the host of KSYM's Metal Show. At The Classic Theatre, Scott was board operator for *Medea* and *The Santaland Diaries*.

Kaitlin Muse (Stage Manager) is excited to be returning to The Classic for her fourth production. She previously served as Stage Manager and/or Lighting Designer for *The Santaland Diaries*, *Medea*, and *The Merchant of Venice*. Her previous San Antonio credits include *Romeo Chang* at The Overtime Theater, *Water By The Spoonful* in The Cellar, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at The Playhouse, for which she won an ATAC for her lighting design. She earned her B.F.A. in Dance from CSULB, and currently enjoys teaching dance at Trilogy Dance Center in San Antonio.

Jonathan Pollei (Boris Trigorin) joins The Classic Theatre for the first time with this production. REGIONAL THEATRE: *Autobahn* at Water Tower Theater, *Ten Unknowns* at Mark Taper Forum; 'Tis Pity She's a Whore at Odyssey Theatre; *Indiscretions* and *All's Well That Ends Well* at Dallas Theater Center; *Othello* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Dallas Shakespeare; *The Pitchfork Disney* at Kitchen Dog Theater. FILM: *Catch Me If You Can*, *Scriptfellas*, *The Learning Curve*, and *Keats Makes Love*. TELEVISION: *Six Feet Under*, *West Wing*, and *Walker, TX Ranger*. OTHER THEATER: *Elegies for Angels*, *Punks*, and *Raging Queens* at King's Head Theatre (London). Jonathan received a post-graduate degree at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (London).

WHO'S WHO continued

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Pedro Ramirez (Lighting Designer) is the Facilities Manager/Theatre Manager at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in San Antonio. He received his M.F.A. in Lighting Design at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His B.F.A. in Fine Art/Photography is from the University of Texas, San Antonio. Pedro served as a Theatre Consultant in Sound, Lighting, and Stagecraft for the Edgewood ISD Theatre of Performing Arts. His lighting design credits include work at Our Lady of the Lake University, the University of Arizona, Department of Theatre, the University of Texas, Austin, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana, Illinois. He has numerous credits as scenic designer and photographer.

Allan S. Ross (Director) is a founder and Co-Artistic Director of The Classic Theatre. For The Classic Theatre: Director and designer of *The Glass Menagerie*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Importance of Being Earnest and Proof*; designer for *Uncle Vanya*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Hedda Gabler*. Acting roles for The Classic Theatre: Professor Serebryakov in *Uncle Vanya*, Joe Keller in *All My Sons*, Dr. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*, King Henry II in *The Lion In Winter*, King Lear in *King Lear*, Gardner Church in *Painting Churches*, Maj. Petkoff in *Arms and the Man*, and Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Ross has been honored by ATAC with 20+ Globe Awards including their highest award, the Jasmina Wellinghoff Award. He was also honored by SATCO as a San Antonio Living Legend.

Kelly Hilliard Roush (Irina Arkadina) holds an M.F.A. in Professional Actor Training from Louisiana State University. She has worked regionally in California, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas, and the Chicago area. Favorite roles include Catherine in *Proof*, Don Juan/Shanghai Lily in *Don Juan*, Beatrice in *Much Ado about Nothing*, Anne Bronte in *The Bronte Project*, Anne Boleyn in *The VI Wives of Henry VIII*, and Katherine Wright in *Disturbed by the Wind*. Favorite plays directed include *These Shining Lives*, *Trojan Women*, *The Clean House*, and *Lend me a Tenor*. In addition to performing and directing, she has worked as a producer, writer, collaborator and educator. Most recently, she was Assistant Professor of Theatre at Aurora University.

Ric Slocum (Set Designer) was a member of the Dallas Theatre Center Company, The Repertory Theatre of America Touring Company and Artistic Director of the 24th Street Experiment. He is Professor Emeritus of Drama at Our Lady of the Lake University where he served as chair of the drama department, Director of Fine Arts and Dean of Arts and Science. He has had several of his plays produced and published. Having retired from teaching he is focusing on visual art. He and his wife Pam Slocum have opened Barking Dog Studios where they create and showcase their paintings and other visual projects. Last year he designed the set for The Classic Theatre Production of *Ghosts*.

WHO'S WHO continued

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Richard Solis (Properties Master) is proud to return to The Classic Theatre, having previously served as Properties Master for *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Merchant of Venice* as well as acting in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Other Theater positions include Main Street Theater, Houston (Prop master/Artist in residence/actor), various NEA tours, Houston Shakespeare Festival and Children's Theatre Festival (Prop Master), InterActive Theatre (Company Member, Prop Master), Dallas Children's Theater (Company Member), San Antonio Symphony, and San Antonio Opera (Prop Master). Richard is a Founding Company Member and continues to work at Magik Children's Theater (San Antonio).

Chelsea Dyan Steele (Masha Shamrayev) was previously seen in past Classic shows as Kate in *She Stoops to Conquer* and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. She received an Irene Ryan Nomination from the American College Theatre as well as a Globe from Alamo Theatre Arts Council for her role as Rosalind in *As You Like It*. Ms. Steele co-founded Inception Theatre in 2009. Ms. Steele received a scholarship to study in London in 2004 and New York in 2005. She has an MBA from University of Phoenix and a BA in Theatre from UIW.

Andrew Thornton (Dr. Yevgeny Dorn) first worked on Chekhov's *The Seagull* in 1990, when he played Constantine at the North Carolina School of the Arts, directed by Yuri Belov. That production went on to be part of a cultural exchange program with the Moscow Art Theatre School/Studio, which led to Andrew's living in Moscow for almost a year. Years later, as a teacher at Churchill High School, he made an original translation of *The Seagull* and directed it, with a group of outstanding student actors. And now he is delighted and grateful to have yet another experience with this beautiful and multi-layered play. Andy's work can be seen at the Playhouse, Overtime, Trinity University, and of course, The Classic Theatre San Antonio.

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Richard Slocum

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Diane Malone

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