

Dog & Pony Theatre Company presents

Auctioning the Ainsleys

By Laura Schellhardt

Directed by Dan Stermer

November 12th – December 18th 2010

The Building Stage

Chicago, IL

CAST:



Faith Noelle Hurley (Annalee) Faith is ecstatic to be a part of the Dog & Pony Family for many years now. She was last seen on stage in Dog & Pony's Jeff recommended production of *God's Ear*. Before that, she also starred in D&P's productions of *APE*, and the Jeff nominated production of *Mr. Marmalade*. Other theater credits include several roles for Illinois Shakespeare Festival, among them, Queen Anne in *The Three Musketeers*, Kate in *Taming of the Shrew*, and Viola in *Twelfth Night*. Other Regional credits include: *Transference* at The Mercury, Catherine Huffman in the award winning production of *Death by Darkness* at the International Mystery Writer's Festival, Thyona in *Big*

Love, Caroline Bramble in *Enchanted April*, and Meg in *Crimes of the Heart* at Heritage Repertory Theatre. Faith holds a degree from Illinois State University, and a M.F.A. from the University of Virginia.



Kate Kisner (Alice) Kate is honored to be given the chance to become part of the anxious Ainsleys with Dog & Pony Theatre. "t was a joy to explore this complicated family with such a talented and enthusiastic group of people. She has appeared recently as Aunt May in *Italian-American Reconciliation* at Buffalo Theatre and as Sally Talley in *The Fifth of July* at Oak Park Festival Theatre.

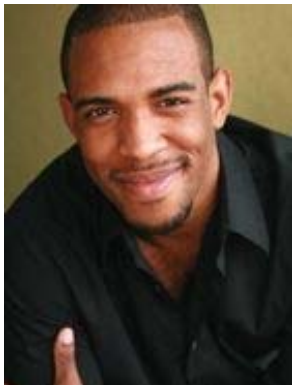


Teeny Lamothe (Amelia) Teeny, originally from Littleton, Colorado, is elated to be part of this Dog & Pony adventure. Other D&P collaborations include Daisy Vivian in *As Told by the Vivian Girls*, Lanie in *God's Ear*, and one of the shadow twins in *The Twins Would Like to Say*. She is also an active participant in the Ruff Play Reading Series, most likely because she's great at reading out loud. Other acting credits include Hayley in the *Pitchfork Disney* and Myrrha/Therapist in *Metamorphoses*. She'd

like to thank, most especially, Dan and Aaron, the wonderful cast, and her occasionally insane, but consistently lovely family.



Matthew Sherbach (Aiden) Matthew returns to Dog & Pony after appearing in *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler* (Non Equity Jeff Nomination for Best Supporting Actor). Past Chicago credits include *Red Noses* with Strawdog Theatre Company, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Short Shakespeare! A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, *Life in the Country* and *The Misanthrope* with Greasy Joan and Company, *The Taming of the Shrew* with Theo Ubique, and *Half Magic* with Lifeline



Austin Talley (Arthur) Austin is elated to be working with Dog & Pony theatre for the first time. His Chicago credits include Dennis Davis in the world premiere of *Closure* at Viaduct Theatre, *Spin* at Theater Wit, *Ten Square* at Pegasus Players and MPAACT; and *She Calls Up the Sun* at MPAACT. He is a graduate of The Theatre School of Depaul University 07.



Rebekah Ward-Hays (Avery) Rebekah is thrilled with her first experience telling stories with the folks at Dog + Pony. She was recently seen as Maggie in *Red Herring* at Noble Fool Theatre, Hope in HOUSE Theatre's *Wilson Wants It All*, (Jeff Citation Best New Work, and Lemon in BackStage Theatre Company's *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (Jeff Nomination, Principal Actress). Other work with BSTC (with whom she is an ensemble member) includes *The Memory of Water*, *Waiting for Lefty* (Jeff Nominations, Best Supporting Actress and Ensemble), and Sabina in *The Skin of Our Teeth* (Jeff Citation, Principal Actress). Additional theatre credits include *The Goodman*, *Steppenwolf*, *Court*, *Remy Bumpo*, *Northlight*, the side project, and *Collaboraction*. www.rebekahwardhays.com

PRODUCTION STAFF

Jenn BeVard (Production Manager) Jenn is thrilled to be working with Dog & Pony. She recently completed her MFA in Directing from The Theatre School at DePaul University where her directing credits included *The Conduct of Life* by Maria Irene Fornes, *Waiting for Lefty* by Clifford Odets, *Ghosts* by Henrik Ibsen, *The Lover* by Harold Pinter, *The Pillowman* by Martin McDonagh, and *The Four Twins* by Copi. She has collaborated with Lucky Plush, and is a company member of The Agency. She is currently working with Dexter Bullard on the *DIALOGUES* at Links Hall. Jenn will be directing a remount of *The Four Twins* with The Agency in 2011. Prior to moving to Chicago, Jenn lived in the California Bay Area where she taught and directed Shakespeare at San Quentin State Penitentiary and studied theater and dance at Santa Clara University.

John Blick (Producer) John produced Dog & Pony's *Dead Letter Office* at the DCA Theatre and *The Twins Would Like to Say* at Steppenwolf Theatre. He's been a company member since appearing in 2008's *As Told by the Vivian Girls* (After Dark Award, Best Ensemble). As an actor he's worked with Signal Ensemble Theatre (*1776* – Jeff Award Best Musical, *Six Degrees of Separation*, *The Real Inspector Hound*), The Plagiarists (*The One About the Green Detective*), Open Eye (*Solid Gold Cadillac*), and Hubris (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*). Other theatres include Northlight, Collaboraction, Bailiwick, and Halcyon. John is Managing Director of Dog & Pony Theatre.

Alex Hugh Brown (Understudy) Alex is ecstatic to be working with Dog & Pony for the first time. Recent credits include *Red Herring* at Noble Fool Theatricals, *Sketchbook X* at Collaboraction, and *subUrbia* at The Nine. Alex graduated from the Theatre and Film programs at Northwestern University, and has studied at Second City, Two Pence Shakespeare, and iO (formerly

improvOlympic). Favorite educational credits include *The Illusion*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Burn This*, and *The Exonerated*. Thanks to family, friends, teachers, and everyone involved with the show!

Stephanie Chavara (Understudy) Stephanie is thrilled to be working with Dog & Pony. She is currently also performing with Adventure Stage in *And A Child Shall Lead*. She attained her BFA from NYU and her MFA from The Theatre School at DePaul.

Jean E. Compton (Assistant Stage Manager) Jean is so excited to join the team for her first Dog & Pony production. She is a first year BFA Stage Management student at The Theatre School at DePaul University, where she just stage-managed *Blood Pudding*, written and directed by Sharon Bridgforth. Other favorite credits include *Incorruptible*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Magic Flute* at Carroll Community College, as well as *Anon(ymous)* at Northwestern University's National High School Institute, where she first met Dan Stermer and Laura Schellhardt in 2009. Jean is so grateful to everyone who helps her keep doing what she loves.

Devon de Mayo (Dramaturg) Devon is thrilled to be dramaturging *Ainsleys* (a play she has adored since draft 1)! Most recently, Devon co-devised and directed *The Twins Would Like To Say* for Dog & Pony at Steppenwolf Theatre. Other directing and devising credit: *As Told by the Vivian Girls* for Dog & Pony (After Dark Award for Best Adaptation & Orgie Award for Outstanding Production). Directing: *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *Clouds* (Dog & Pony), *Constriction* (Collaboraction); *2nd Story*(Serendipity); *Crumble (Lay Me Down Justin Timberlake)* (Finborough Theatre, London); *Wild Nights with Emily*, *A Matter of Life & Death*, *pool (no water)*, *Nights at the Circus*, *The World Over* (NHSI); *52* (Canal Café, London); *The Awards* and *Ohio, Impromptu* (Studio 7, London); *The Dance-Along Nutcracker* (Chicago Cultural Center); *Laba Laba* (Bali, Indonesia) and *The Woolgatherer* (Hill Theatre). Devon is one of the founders and Co-Artistic Director of Dog & Pony Theatre Company. Devon received her MFA in Theatre Directing from Middlesex University in London. She did further studies at the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts (GITIS) in Moscow and the Indonesian Institute for the Arts in Bali.

Rod Hunting (Graphic Design) Rod is the sole graphic designer for Dog & Pony Theatre. His talents have been spread far and wide. Rod Hunting likes old cameras, riding skateboards, eating calzones, King Cobra Malt Liquor, red Polaroids, fixed gear bikes, listening to the same song over and over again, back flips into pools, Tetris, snow peas, the sound of a manual car backing up and the smell of fresh cut wood. www.rodhunting.com

Annalee Johnson (Co-Scenic and Co-Props Designer) Annalee is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with Dog and Pony on this production, in which her name is said too often. A recent graduate of the UIUC's Scenic Design program, she is thrilled to see her degree working to her benefit. Thanks go to all those who have believed in her.

Marta Juaniza (PR/Marketing Director) Marta Juaniza handles media relations for Dog & Pony and was part of the ensemble in *As Told by the Vivian Girls* and *Watering Hole*. It's not a weave.

Aaron Morris (Assistant Director) Aaron is thrilled to be working with Dog & Pony. Having recently returned to America after spending the year in Asia, he is beyond happy to have landed in such an artistically and theatrically rich community. Past theatrical experiences include work with The Kitchen Theatre, Hangar Theatre, Underground Theatre, Theatre Seoul, and many others. When not working on theatrical endeavors, Aaron is a special needs aid in the third grade and a lover of good food, good friends, and travel. Thanks for coming out to the show and supporting Dog & Pony!

Kevin O'Donnell (sound design) Kevin is pleased to be working with Dog & Pony for the first time. A member of the House Theatre, an Associate with The Hypocrites, he has also worked at Steppenwolf, Northlight, Lookingglass, ATC, Chicago Shakespeare, TimeLine, Redmoon, and the Building Stage here in Chicago. He's received 6 Jeff Awards (16 nominations in all); and 2 consecutive "Outstanding Season" After Dark Awards. Nationally, his work has been at St. Anne's Warehouse, 59E59, DTW, and the Cherry Lane (NYC), ACT (San Francisco), and The Stages Rep (Houston), amongst others.

Danny Osburn (Lighting Assistant) Danny is a senior Theatre major at Northwestern. This is his first professional ALD experience. Previously, he has assisted the lighting designer for the NU Theatre and Interpretation Center's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and has designed the lights for eleven student productions. He served this summer as the electrician intern for Marin Theatre Company in his native California. Currently, he serves as design technical director on WAVE Productions, one of NU's student theater boards. He is grateful to Aaron Weissman and to Dog and Pony for this exciting opportunity.

Tracy Otwell (Scenic and Props Designer) Tracy is thrilled to be collaborating on her first production with Dog & Pony. She designed and built puppets for *Anung's First Christmas* for Vitalist Theater. She designed scenery for Ka-tet Theatre's recent production of *In the Jungle of Cities* and for Redmoon Theater's *Boneyard Prayer*, where she also created miniature scenery and objects for *Once Upon A Time*, and *From Nothing*. She was the scenic designer for Chicago Children's Theater's *Red Kite*, *Blue Moon* and *Go, Dog Go*. Other scenic design credits include *Dustbowl Gothic* at the Building Stage, *Hope Springs Infernal* at The House Theater of Chicago, the Jeff nominated *Desire Under the Elms* for the Hypocrites, and Collaboraction's *Heroes and Villains*. She designed props and puppets for the House Theater's *The Sparrow* and *The Boy Detective Fails*. She created the original work *Purity Tank* with Sandra Burns at St. Anne's Warehouse Labapalooza Puppet Festival in 2005 in Brooklyn NY.. Tracy has an MFA in Scenic Design and Puppetry from CalArts. She is a teacher at SAIC as well as numerous Chicago Public Schools where she teaches art and drama.

Whitney Powell (Stage Manager) Whitney is thrilled to be working with Dog & Pony Theater on such an amazing production! Whitney is a graduate of Dordt College, where she was one of two theater majors in her graduating class. Previous productions include stage managing *Savage in Limbo* at Village Players Theater; and *Enchanted April*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Proof*, *The*

Winter's Tale, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Dordt College in positions ranging from stage manager to lighting designer. Special thanks to AJ, KP, GP, AS, TS, ZV

Laura Schellhardt (Playwright) Laura has had her plays produced in more than a dozen cities nationally. Original works include *Air Guitar High*, *Auctioning the Ainsleys*, *The Apothecary's Daughter*, *How To Remove Blood From A Carpet*, *The K Of D* (Jeff Award Nominee), *Courting Vampires*, *Shapeshifter*, *Inheritance*, and *Je Ne Sais Quoi*. Adaptations include *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, *The Outfit* (Jeff Award Nominee), and *Creole Folktales*. She is also the author of [Screenwriting for Dummies](#). Laura is a recipient of the TCG National Playwriting Residency, the Jerome Fellowship, the New Play Award from ACT in Seattle, and a Dramatist Guild Playwriting Fellowship. *Auctioning the Ainsleys* received its world premiere at TheatreWorks in Palo Alto this summer after workshops at Naked Angels Theatre, Northlight Theatre and Steppenwolf. *The K Of D* premiered at Woolly Mammoth Theatre after workshops at Trinity Rep, ACT in Seattle, and The Kennedy Center. It received its Chicago premiere in 2009 and will be part of the 2010-11 season at Seattle Repertory Company. Laura holds degrees in theatre and English from Northwestern and an MFA in playwriting from Brown University where she studied under Paula Vogel. She currently teaches playwriting at Northwestern University.

Kay Schmitt (Understudy) Kay most recently appeared in City Lit's *Lovers*, by Brian Friel; other productions were TUTA's *It's Almost The End of The World*, Greasy Joan's *House of Bernarda Alba*, Hypocrites' *True West*, 20% Theatre's *'night Mother*, Brown Couch Theatre's *Twilight of The Golds*, Side Project's *The Sum of Her Parts*, and understudied for Northlight's *Better Late*. Other favorite roles where she didn't play the Mother: Her ladyship, in *The Dresser*, Beverly in *Shadow Box*, and Emma in *Betrayal*, and MANY years ago, Ophelia, in college. She also performed a one-woman show about the artist Mary Cassatt for 7 years.

Dan Stermer (Director) Dan makes his directorial debut with Dog & Pony this fall. He is a director, choreographer and performer and has co-directed *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, assistant directed *God's Ear*, and served as disco choreographer for *The Twins Would Like to Say* for Dog & Pony. Dan is also an artistic associate with About Face Theatre where he has written, directed, and choreographed *Oklahomo! For the Holidays*. As a performer, Dan dances with DoubleDJ and will be seen this fall as part of About Face Theatre's XYZ Festival. Dan teaches at the National High School Institute Theatre Arts program at Northwestern University (Cherubs) and has directed productions of *The Devil and Billy Markham*, *Autobiography of Red*, and *We'll Be Better Later*. Dan also teaches for the Northlight Theatre Academy where he has directed productions of *The Giver*, *Night of the Living Dead*, and co-directed *Suessical!*

Catherine Tantillo (Costume Designer) Catherine is thrilled to be working with Dog & Pony again where she has designed costumes for *Osama the Hero*, *Mr. Marmalade*, *Ape*, *As Told By The Vivian Girls*, *The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler*, *The Twins Would Like to Say* and *Dead Letter Office*. Catherine has also worked with Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, the side project, Steppenwolf Theatre, Ally Cat Productions, Chicago Children's Theatre, About Face Theatre, and Chicago Opera Theatre. She is currently the staff costume design assistant at

Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Catherine would like to send her love and thanks to her family and friends for all their continued love and support!

Krissy Vanderwarker (Co-Artistic Director) Krissy is a founder and the Co-Artistic Director of Dog & Pony Theatre Co.. For Dog & Pony, she has directed: *God's Ear, As Told by the Vivian Girls, Mr. Marmalade, Ape, Osama the Hero, Crumble (Lay Me Down, Justin Timberlake)* and *As Much As You Can*. Other credits include: *Bethany* (First Look Festival/Steppenwolf) *CLEAR* (About Face's XYZ Festival, Joe's Pub), *What Once We Felt* (About Face) and *As Much As You Can* (Hendel Productions West at LA's Celebration Theater). She holds a BA in Religion and Art History from Northwestern University, and is in the process of procuring her MFA in Directing at The Theatre School of DePaul University. Upcoming project: *As Fat As You Can* by Justin D.M. Palmer at Next Theatre in March.

Aaron Weissman (Lighting Designer) Aaron is a freelance designer and playwright in Chicago, and a company member of Dog & Pony. In addition to his work on recent D&P shows *Dead Letter Office* and *The Twins Would Like to Say*, Aaron's designs have been seen for 500 Clown, About Face Theatre, The Side Project, The Building Stage, Chicago Dell'Arte, Steep Theater Company, and Filament Theatre Ensemble.