



THEATER ON THE EDGE

Allan Whitehead Elaitheia Quinn

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

by Anna Ouyang Moench

APRIL 12th - MAY 18th



THEATER ON THE EDGE

A CINEMATIC THEATER EXPERIENCE



THE REALISM AND TRUTH OF FILM
THE SPONTANEITY AND ACTION OF LIVE THEATER

What is Cinematic Blackbox Theater?

Our unique *Cinematic Theater Experience* is created by blending elements from both film and theater.

Our intimate 30-seat venue allows the audience to be up close and personal with the actors. The proximity to the stage allows your eyes to become the camera, shifting focus from one moment to the next - simulating a film experience.

Couple that with our film-level detail we use to create the set, wardrobe, props, and nuance of performance, and it feels like you are watching a film live on stage!

Cinematic Blackbox Theater allows us to start with a simple black-box stage, and then add cinematic elements to enhance the environment.

We hope you enjoy your *Cinematic Theater Experience* at Theater On The Edge!

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA

By Anna Ouyang Moench

April 12 - May 18, 2025

*BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA is presented through special arrangement with
TRW PLAYS 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.trwplays.com*

Birds of North America was originally produced by the Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company (Stephen Weitz, Producing Artistic Director; Rebecca Remaly, Managing Director) after development in BETC's Generations program. It was directed by Stephen Weitz. Scenic design by Tina Anderson. Costume design by Katie Horney,. Lighting design by Katie Gruenhagen. Sound design by Jason Ducat. The dramaturg was Heather Beasley. The stage manager was Jordon Brockman.

CAST

ALLAN WHITEHEAD as JOHN

ELAITHEIA QUINN as CAITLYN

THE SETTING

Backyard of John's home.
Baltimore County, Maryland.

THE TIME

Fall 2010 and spanning several years

Birds of North America is a one-act play with no intermission.
Total run-time is approximately 1 hour 45 minutes.

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THEATER ETIQUETTE - QUICK TIPS

1) ARRIVE EARLY

Give yourself time to park, check in, and get settled.

2) BE SEATED AT LEAST 5 MINUTES BEFORE SHOWTIME

Late arrivals may need to wait for a break in the show.

3) SILENCE ALL DEVICES

No ringing, vibrating, alarms, or smartwatches.

4) NO TEXTING OR PHONE USE DURING THE SHOW

Even a glowing screen is distracting.

5) NO PHOTOS OR VIDEOS

Recording disrupts the performance and violates copyright.

6) PREPARE SNACKS BEFORE THE SHOW

Make sure your drinks and snacks are opened prior to the start of the show to minimize distracting noise.

7) REACT AND ENJOY!

Laughter, gasps, applause—it's all part of the experience. Just save conversations for after the show.

8) BE KIND TO THOSE AROUND YOU

Respect everyone's space and comfort.

THE CAST



ALLAN WHITEHEAD (John) is an ensemble member at Theater On The Edge. He is excited to be returning to the stage and thrilled to be working with Elaitheia on this beautiful show. He previously appeared on this stage as Harold in *Orphans*, as Robert in *Proof*, and most recently as Martin in Edward

Albee's *The Goat or, Who is Sylvia?* He loves this theater and is humbled to be working with such a dedicated group of artists and friends. He would like to thank the cast, crew and creative team for their tireless efforts. He would also like to thank his family, especially Maria, for their unwavering support of this later-in-life endeavor. This one's for M, D, J and their howl at the moon Grandpa.



ELAITHEIA QUINN (Caitlyn) has been a traveling actress for several years appearing in screen & stage productions, including the Netflix series *Bloodline*, OWN's *Queen Sugar*, as well as Juror #8 in *12 Angry Jurors*, Barbara in *BOOM*, and Claire in *Proof*. She is grateful for her training at Truthful

Acting Studios and would like to deeply thank her TA family for their love and everlasting support. Miss Quinn is thrilled to be a part of this production as TOTE returns and would like to give an enormous beautiful thank you to all involved and to every single patron for supporting and sharing theatre with her!

ARTISTIC & PRODUCTION



MARCO DIGEORGE (Director/Producer) is honored to return to the stage with this beautiful production and such a talented cast. In addition to serving as Artistic Director of Theater On The Edge, Marco is Co-Founder and Instructor at Truthful Acting Studios, and an Adjunct

Professor with the UCF Film Program. After a difficult season away from the theater to focus on family and support his wife, Samantha, through her battle with cancer, this return marks more than just a new show—it marks a healing journey. Marco is especially grateful to be back creating alongside his wife and their passionate theater family. We hope you enjoy the show!



SAMANTHA DIGEORGE (Art Design / Set / Wardrobe) is a founding member of Theater On The Edge and is known for her cinematic, hyper-realistic designs. Her work earned acclaim with Orlando's Best Of 2020 for *Talk Radio*, and she continues to bring an immersive, story-driven approach to every

production. In 2023, Sam was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and after a year of treatment and recovery, she returns to the theater with renewed purpose and passion. Her love for transforming and repurposing the world around her remains at the heart of her design, and she's deeply grateful to be back doing what she loves—creating meaningful art alongside her husband Marco and their incredible team.

ALLAN WHITEHEAD Executive Producer
PAYTON HUBERT Asst Director
KELLY LOUTON Asst. Prod/Stage Mgr
ALEXIA FERNANDEZ Asst. Producer
NIKKI MARROW Asst. Prod/Tech

DAVID CLARK Asst. SM
JOSCELYN RIVERA BS Manager
MARCO DIGEORGE Tech Design
CAROLINE TAVAREZ Marketing
DEEDEE STRAUSS Box Office

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

by Marco DiGeorge

As you may have already heard, the past few years have been difficult for our theater. In 2023, our Artistic Designer, Samantha DiGeorge, was diagnosed with Stage 2 Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and the theater has been dormant ever since.

The good news is—Sam's treatment went well, and she has just reached her one-year mark in remission.

When it came time to return to the theater and do what she loves, we needed the right play—something with heart, something that reflected what we do well, and something that would allow Sam to ease back in gently.

Birds of North America by Anna Ouyang Moench was brought to us during a script reading, and we immediately fell in love.

Our original plan was to present it in a traditional black box format, with minimal set design to keep things accessible for Sam. But as soon as she began exploring the world of the play, her creativity reignited—and she was ready to do more.

That spark evolved into something new: what we now call our *Cinematic BlackBox* style of production. We decided to go all in—to push our small space to its fullest storytelling potential.

This show is a love letter. It's our return to the artistic community, and I'm thrilled by what we've created together.

The themes run deep. As a father of five, I know the delicate balance of trying to share your wisdom while still letting your children become who they're meant to be.

Birds of North America speaks to something universal—regardless of age or background. It's a story about connection, and how difficult it can be, even with the ones we love most.

I hope this play takes you on a journey through your own relationships. And in the end, I hope it offers something that we all need—understanding, connection, and healing.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for joining us and sharing in our love for storytelling and our return to Theater On The Edge.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to all of our sponsors who help support our theater. It is their generous donations that allow us to continue to bring these quality productions at accessible prices to Orlando.

► **PRESENTING SPONSOR (\$1000 and above)**

Alex Jackson
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► **ARTISTIC SPONSOR (\$1-\$499)**

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success with any amount, either via online or in person. Every dollar helps, and your support goes a long way with helping us achieve our creative vision.

If you would like to talk to someone while you are here today, please inquire about sponsorships at the concessions stand or ask to speak to Samantha DiGeorge.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Thank you for your interest in supporting our theater. We depend on the monetary and in-kind support of our local business and individual sponsors. Your donations will help us in our mission to bring the art of reality, humanity, imagination, and creativity to the community.

There are many ways that individuals and organizations can play an important role in fulfilling the vision and mission of our theater. Here are a few:

► **DONATE TO THE THEATER**

Our theater is a volunteer Florida nonprofit organization which relies on financial support from our sponsors. If you enjoy our productions, please consider donating to keep our artistic venture thriving.

► **SPONSOR AN ACTOR**

Actors volunteer a tremendous amount of time and hard work for productions, and they do it for the love of the art. We offer the ability for you to sponsor an actor through our scholarship program associated with Truthful Acting Studios.

For more information, please visit our website at TheaterOnTheEdge.org or, call us at (407) 334-1843, or email us at info@TheaterOnTheEdge.org

MEET THE BIRDS

Throughout this play, you'll hear the names of many birds—some familiar, some unexpected. These birds are more than just part of the landscape; they serve as quiet witnesses, symbols, and reflections of the characters' journey.

Each bird mentioned carries its own weight — migrating, nesting, adapting, surviving — much like the people you'll meet on stage.

As you watch, listen for them. They're woven into the dialogue, the silence, and the changing seasons of life.






Tufted Titmouse

Small but mighty! The Tufted Titmouse is a charming, gray songbird with a little crest that makes it look like it's always having a great hair day. Commonly seen in Eastern North America, these birds are curious, bold, and have a whistled song that sounds like they're calling out "peter-peter-peter!"



Brown-Headed Nuthatch

 **Nature's Tool Users – The Brown-headed Nuthatch is one of the few birds in North America known to use tools! They pick up bark flakes to dig out insects, proving that even tiny birds can be ingenious problem solvers.**



Red Cardinal

The Northern Cardinal doesn't do subtle. With his bright red feathers, sharp crest, and black mask, the male cardinal is a symbol of vibrancy and presence. You'll often spot him perched proudly on a branch, as if he knows exactly how stunning he looks.

And it's not just a pretty face—cardinals are known for their rich, whistled songs that carry through winter stillness and summer breeze alike.

♥ Fun Fact: Both males and females sing—unusual for songbirds—and they often call back and forth to one another in duet.



American Redstarts

These birds are high-energy insect hunters, using their tails like flags to flush out prey from leaves. And when they dart through the trees in short bursts, it's like watching embers flicker in motion.

Fun fact: Redstarts are one of the few warblers that actually fan and flick their tails as a hunting strategy—so they're not just stylish, they're smart.



American Tree Sparrow

Often overlooked among the flurry of sparrows, the American Tree Sparrow holds its own with subtle grace.

That rusty cap and dark chest spot are its quiet signature—a little flash of warmth against frozen branches.

Despite its name, it's more of a shrub and grassland bird, thriving in open, wintry spaces. These sparrows breed far in the Arctic tundra and visit the U.S. in colder months, like guests from the north who bring calm with them.

Fun fact: They're known for their gentle, musical call—a soft, tinkling note that almost sounds like wind through dry grass.



Woodpecker

This bird doesn't just tap trees—it chisels into them, leaving behind massive rectangular holes as it hunts for carpenter ants and beetle larvae. Those cavities later become homes for owls, bats, and other birds, making the Pileated Woodpecker a keystone of the woodland community.

🪵 Fun Fact: You can often spot them by their work—big, fresh wood chips on the ground beneath a decaying tree.



Mourning Dove

Named for its mournful, echoing call, this bird often symbolizes peace, love, and remembrance. You'll spot them perched on wires or waddling around the ground in pairs, always with a gentle presence.

🌿 **Fun Fact:** Mourning Doves can eat up to 20% of their body weight in seeds each day —and they often mate for life.



Blue Grosbeak

A small songbird with a big presence. With rich indigo feathers, chestnut wingbars, and a thick silver beak, this bird is like a jewel tucked into tall grass or a hedgerow.

They're secretive by nature, preferring the edges of fields and brushy areas—but when you do catch sight of one, it feels like a hidden treasure revealed.

● Fun Fact: Blue Grosbeaks migrate from Central America and the southern U.S. each year to breed, making their seasonal visits feel like a rare gift.



Baltimore Oriole

The Baltimore Oriole doesn't whisper. It flares.

With blazing orange plumage that rivals any sunset or street sign, this bird is a burst of color against the calm.

Watch closely: he flits with precision, his tail swaying like a painter's brush, adding motion to melody. And when he sings? It's a rich, whistling tune that makes you look up—even if you didn't know you were supposed to.

● Fun fact: Baltimore Orioles love fruit and nectar—hang half an orange or a bit of jelly out, and you might earn a visit.



Chipping Sparrow

The Chipping Sparrow may be tiny, but it's full of personality. You'll often spot them flitting around open woodlands or suburban yards, delivering their rapid-fire trill—a dry, buzzing song that gives this sparrow its name.

In spring and summer, that bright chestnut cap and sleek black eye stripe make them easy to recognize. But in winter, they molt into a subtler, streakier look—like nature's way of blending into the background.



Cowbird

Plain and unassuming in color, the female Brown-headed Cowbird isn't trying to stand out—but her behavior definitely does. She's a brood parasite, meaning she lays her eggs in other birds' nests, leaving the parenting to unsuspecting foster species like warblers or sparrows.

It's a survival strategy that's both fascinating and controversial—and one that's evolved over thousands of years. Some birds have adapted to recognize and reject cowbird eggs. Others unknowingly raise them, often at the expense of their own young.

Fun fact: A single female cowbird may lay up to 40 eggs in one season, all in different nests.



Scarlet Tanager

🔥 It's not every day you catch a Scarlet Tanager this clearly. Usually tucked away high in the treetops, this red-and-black beauty prefers to stay hidden in dappled leaves.

But sometimes, you get lucky—and the forest offers up one of its brightest treasures in full view.

🌟 Fun Fact: Their striking plumage is only for breeding season—in the fall, males trade their fiery red for a more subdued yellow-green.



Red-Tailed Hawk

With piercing eyes and a quiet command, the Red-tailed Hawk watches the world unfold below her. She doesn't rush—she reads the wind, waits for the right moment, and acts with purpose.

She's not just a bird of prey—she's a sentinel. A presence. A reminder that clarity comes when you rise above the noise and focus.

Fun fact: Red-tailed Hawks have some of the most iconic calls in all of birdkind—so iconic, in fact, they're often dubbed over other birds (and even eagles) in movies.



Snowy Owl

These striking white owls are native to the Arctic tundra and are built to thrive in extreme cold. Unlike many owls, the Snowy Owl hunts during the day, scanning open landscapes for lemmings and other small prey. Their thick feathers cover even their feet, offering full-body insulation against frigid temperatures.

🦉 Fun Fact: Snowy Owls can travel thousands of miles in the winter and have been spotted as far south as Florida!



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