

Burning Coal Theatre Presents

# STUFF HAPPENS

written by David Hare

directed by Lillian White



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Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 PM & Sundays at 2 PM

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## WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THE RATIONALE FOR THE INVASION OF IRAQ

One of the most weighty justifications for the United States' 2003 invasion of the Iraqi Republic was the pursuit of Weapons of Mass Destruction (hereafter referred to WMD) by the regime of President Saddam Hussein in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 686 & 687. The potential for the Iraqi regime to develop nuclear capability, or that it already held chemical and biological weapons, sat at the forefront of President George W. Bush's rhetoric. In his October 7, 2002 speech at the Cincinnati Museum Center, Bush noted:



President George W. Bush Gives a Speech in Cincinnati

*Tonight I want to take a few minutes to discuss a grave threat to peace, and America's determination to lead the world in confronting that threat.*

*The threat comes from Iraq. It arises directly from the Iraqi regime's own actions -- its history of aggression, and its drive toward an arsenal of terror. Eleven years ago, as a condition for ending the Persian Gulf War, the Iraqi regime was required to destroy its weapons of mass destruction, to cease all development of such weapons, and to stop all support for terrorist groups. The Iraqi regime has violated all of those obligations. It possesses and produces chemical and biological weapons. It is seeking nuclear weapons. It has given shelter and support to terrorism, and practices terror against its own people.<sup>1</sup>*

Or in his March 19, 2003 address to the nation from the Oval Office he began:

*My fellow citizens, at this hour, American and coalition forces are in the early stages of military operations to disarm Iraq, to free its people and to defend the world from grave danger.<sup>2</sup>*

In these, and in numerous other cases, President Bush couched the invasion of Iraq primarily as a mission of disarmament. A mission that sought, above all, to neutralize a growing threat of immanent attack by weapons of terrible power. So important was this mission to the Bush administration's rhetoric that, in regards to Iraq, it often overshadowed the looming spectre of the attacks on Pentagon and World Trade Center that happened September 11, 2001, as well as previously common messages about the spread of freedom and democracy that had marked the Cold War and its immediate aftermath.

1 "President Bush Outlines Iraqi Threat: Remarks by the President on Iraq at Cincinnati Museum Center." 10/7/2002, <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021007-8.html>

2 "President Bush Addresses the Nation from The Oval Office" 3/19/2003, <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030319-17.html>

That the Iraqi Republic possessed, and utilized, chemical and biological WMD at certain times in its history is an acknowledged fact. According to the CIA report "Iraq's Chemical Warfare Program," dated April 2007, most known major uses of WMD occurred from 1983-1988 as part of the Iran-Iraq War, and in 1991 against the Popular Uprising in the Najaf and Karbala areas.<sup>3</sup> These uses were documented elsewhere by the British Broadcasting Company and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute as well. Given these facts, particularly such events as the Halabjah Massacre, in which thousands of Iraqi Kurds were killed by mustard gas and nerve agent, concern over these substances seems warranted from Western authorities.



*New York Times Photograph of former nerve agent containers destroyed under CIA supervision.*

However, in the aftermath of the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War, the United Nations ordered the disarmament of Iraq and set up the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq to see to it. The Iraqi government would admit the existence of biological weapons facilities to the United Nations in 1991, claiming they were solely for defensive purposes.<sup>4</sup> Additional declarations of capacity and capability would follow in 1995, 1996, and 1997. However, these declarations would be found by inspectors to be "unverifiable" and "incomplete." It would not be until 2003 that one of Iraq's chief bio-scientists would admit to Jane Corbin of *BBC Panorama* that Iraq had developed 29,000 liters (7660 gallons) of various biotoxins, including botulinum, anthrax, and ricin and had weaponized a portion of it, giving full scale to the weapons development.<sup>5</sup> UN inspectors left Iraq in 1998.



*United Nations Weapon Inspectors in Iraq*

Former weapons expert Scott Ritter would say, in a 1998 interview with PBS Newshour that "...without effective monitoring, Iraq can in a very short period of time measure the months, reconstitute chemical biological weapons, long-range ballistic missiles to deliver these weapons,

3 Central Intelligence Agency. "General Report on Iraq's Chemical Warfare Program." 4/23/2007, [https://www.cia.gov/library/reports/general-reports-1/iraq\\_wmd\\_2004/chap5.html](https://www.cia.gov/library/reports/general-reports-1/iraq_wmd_2004/chap5.html)

4 United Nations Special Commission on Iraq. "General Chronology." 12/1/1999, <https://www.un.org/Depts/unscom/Chronology/chronologyframe.htm>

5 Jane Corbin. "Iraqi bio-scientist breaks silence." *BBC Panorama*. 2/9/2003, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/panorama/2734305.stm>

and even certain aspects of their nuclear weaponization program."<sup>6</sup> However, Ritter wrote, in an op-ed for *Arms Control Today*, that "From a WMD perspective, Iraq today is not the Iraq of 1991. What took Iraq decades to build through the expenditure of billions of dollars could not, under any rational analysis, have been reconstituted since December 1998. Iraq's nuclear enrichment infrastructure has been reduced to zero, and Iraq lacks the funding, technology, and time required to reconstitute it."<sup>7</sup> Further, Ritter points out that although Iraq was not in compliance with Security Council Resolution 687, this did not mean that the nation held such weapons, only that it could not verify their destruction or disposal. By 2002, the scientific and critical consensus was best encapsulated by a New York Times op-ed from Dr. Mahdi Obeidi. Dr. Obeidi, who had created a nuclear centrifuge for Iraq that had successfully enriched uranium, wrote that although there was knowledge in Iraq capable of creating a nuclear weapon, "most of the scientists from the nuclear program switched to working on civilian projects or in conventional-weapons production, and the idea of building a nuclear bomb became a vague dream from another era."<sup>8</sup> Later that year, Saddam Hussein invited UN weapons inspectors to return.

Beginning in November of 2002, United Nations weapons inspectors under Dr. Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei began inspections of former WMD sites in Iraq. According to the *Thirteenth quarterly report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in accordance with paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 1284*, no activity was found with the exception of 18 undeclared chemical rockets, which were empty. These, along with some other ballistic



Dr. Hans Blix

missiles that were found to violate UN range restrictions, were destroyed under UN Supervision.<sup>9</sup> On March 7, 2003, Hans Blix would state in a presentation to the United Nations that it would not take weeks or years, but months to verify Iraqi compliance with its disarmament obligations.<sup>10</sup> Robert Gallucci and Jonathan Tucker dissented from these conclusions, pointing out that it would be impossible to truly ever know if the entire arsenal had been actually destroyed. Despite this, critical consensus was that Iraq's remaining stockpiles were effectively useless. In an interview with the Guardian, Scott Ritter pointed out that any WMD retained from previous conflicts by the Iraqi regime would have degraded. He stated that Iraqi Sarin and tabun have a shelf life of approximately five years, VX lasts a bit longer (but not much longer), and finally he said botulinum toxin and liquid anthrax last about three years.<sup>11</sup>

6 Elizabeth Farnsworth. "Interview with Scott Ritter." *PBS Newshour* 8/31/1998, [https://web.archive.org/web/20061021202822/http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle\\_east/july-dec98/ritter\\_8-31.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20061021202822/http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/middle_east/july-dec98/ritter_8-31.html)

7 Scott Ritter. "The Case of Iraq's Qualitative Disarmament." *Arms Control Today*. 6/2000. [https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2000\\_06/iraqjun](https://www.armscontrol.org/act/2000_06/iraqjun)

8 Mahdi Obeidi. "Saddam, the Bomb and Me." *The New York Times*. 9/26/2004, <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/26/opinion/saddam-the-bomb-and-me.html>

9 Hans Blix. *Thirteenth Quarterly Report of the Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission in Accordance with Paragraph 12 of Security Council Resolution 1284 (1999)*. 2003. [https://www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/new/documents/quarterly\\_reports/s-2003-580.pdf](https://www.un.org/Depts/unmovic/new/documents/quarterly_reports/s-2003-580.pdf)

10 CNN. *Transcript of Blix's U.N. Presentation*. 3/7/2003. <http://www.cnn.com/2003/US/03/07/sprj.irq.un.transcript.blix/index.html>

11 William Rivers Pitt. "Even if Iraq managed to hide these weapons, what they are now hiding is harmless goo." *The Guardian*. 9/18/2002. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2002/sep/19/iraq.features11>



Secretary of State Colin Powell holds up a sample vial

The US/UK case for invasion was, as Paul Wolfowitz stated in an interview with *Vanity Fair*, built around the existence of Iraqi WMD's, as well as its role as a state sponsor of terror.<sup>12</sup> During this period, the *New York Times* published a number of articles claiming to prove that the Iraqi government had, or was working on building, WMD. One piece of particular note was Judith Miller's piece on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002 which concerned a shipment of aluminum tubes to Iraq which could, ostensibly, be used for the enrichment of uranium to weapons grade.<sup>13</sup> These tubes,

which were later discovered to be unsuitable to use in uranium enrichment; was a central prop in the Bush regime's push for war against the Iraqi government.<sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> Miller would then write in April of 2003, as the invasion was underway, that Iraqi scientists claimed that they kept illicit arms secret until the very eve of the Anglo-American invasion.<sup>16</sup> Miller also published an article on the use of a set of trailers as a mobile biological weapons laboratory for the *New York Times*.<sup>17</sup> Much of Miller's reporting, from the aluminum tubes, mobile trailers, and yellow cake uranium, was used by the American government to build support for the Iraqi invasion in the run up to the war.

However, it is worth noting that much of this reporting, and at least some of the intelligence that came with it, was deeply flawed. A *Washington Post* article, in summing up, stated that "Iraq's Arsenal Was Only on Paper."<sup>18</sup> Andrew Gilligan appeared on the BBC to state that the UK's "September Dossier," which contained much of the intelligence justifying the UK's participation in the invasion, had been "sexed up" at the request of the government.<sup>19</sup> Further, a May 2003 Defense Intelligence Agency report would state that the trailers had nothing to do with biological



- 12 Sam Tannenhaus. "Interview with Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz." *Vanity Fair*. 5/9/2003. <https://web.archive.org/web/20060427065632/http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2003/tr20030509-depsecdef0223.html>
- 13 Judith Miller & Michael R. Gordon. "Threats and Responses: The Iraqis; U.S. Says Hussein Intensifies Quest for A-Bomb Parts." *The New York Times* 9/12/2002. <https://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/08/world/threats-responses-iraqis-us-says-hussein-intensifies-quest-for-bomb-parts.html>
- 14 David Barstow et al. "THE NUCLEAR CARD: The Aluminum Tube Story-- A Special Report.; How White House Embraced Suspect Iraq Arms Intelligence." *The New York Times*. 10/3/2004. <https://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/03/washington/us/the-nuclear-card-the-aluminum-tube-story-a-special-report-how.html>
- 15 David Albright. "Iraq's Aluminum Tubes: Separating Fact from Fiction." *Institute for Science and International Security*. 12/5/2003. <https://www.isis-online.org/publications/iraq/IraqAluminumTubes12-5-03.pdf>
- 16 Judith Miller. "AFTEREFFECTS: PROHIBITED WEAPONS; Illicit Arms Kept Till Eve of War, An Iraqi Scientist is Said to Assert." *The New York Times*. 4/21/2003. <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/21/world/aftereffects-prohibited-weapons-illicit-arms-kept-till-eve-war-iraqi-scientist.html>
- 17 Judith Miller. "AFTEREFFECTS: THE HUNT FOR EVIDENCE; Trailer is a Mobile Lab Capable of Turning Out Bioweapons, a Team Says." *The New York Times*. 5/11/2003. <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/11/world/aftereffects-hunt-for-evidence-trailer-mobile-lab-capable-turning-bioweapons.html>
- 18 Barton Gellman. "Iraq's Arsenal Was Only on Paper." *The Washington Post*. 1/7/2004. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2004/01/07/AR2005040204936.html>
- 19 BBC "Blair Battle Timeline." 2.3.2006. <https://www.pbs.org/now/politics/bbctimeline.html>

weapons.<sup>20</sup> Following the invasion, President Bush told the World Affairs Council in Charlotte, NC that:

"I fully understand that the intelligence was wrong, and I'm just as disappointed as everybody else is, but what wasn't wrong was Saddam Hussein had invaded a country, he had used weapons of mass destruction, he had the capability of making weapons of mass destruction, he was firing at our pilots. He was a state sponsor of terror. Removing Saddam Hussein was the right thing for world peace and the security of our country."<sup>21</sup>

The United States invasion of Iraq commenced on March 19, 2003, and came to occupation, unrest, and large-scale destabilization of the region. However, in the face of mounting criticism for invasion under false pretenses, President Bush remained unrepentant in his support for the war.<sup>22</sup>



<sup>20</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> Nedra Pickler. "Bus Recognizes Fears About Iraq." *The Associated Press*. 4/6/2006. <https://www.apnews.com/fad058dcde7ac294d7096cd905e1b45f>

<sup>22</sup> "Bush 'disappointed' data on prewar Iraq were wrong." *The Washington Times*. 4/6/2006. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2006/apr/6/20060406-112119-5897r/>

## INVASION & OCCUPATION OF IRAQ: OR, STUFF HAPPENS AND THE POTTERY BARN RULE

In response to the Bush Administration's orders in light of intelligence on WMDs and an expressed desire for regime change, American forces crossed the Iraqi border on 19 March, 2003. Though plans originally were for simultaneous northern and southern invasions, the Turkish government denied permission for US forces to use their airspace.<sup>23</sup> Despite such drawbacks, the invasion was successful as a purely military operation. A large nation's key cities and oil infrastructure were secured and the government effectively toppled in a period of roughly three weeks. On 1 May, 2003, President Bush landed on the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and, in front of a large banner emblazoned with "Mission Accomplished," declared major combat operations in Iraq to be over.



*US Tanks Entering Baghdad*



*US Solider at the Fall of Baghdad*

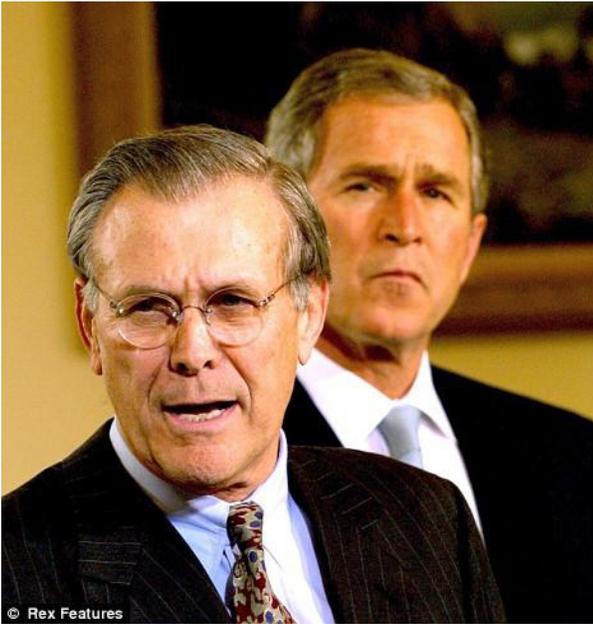
What came after, however, was an object lesson in the "Pottery Barn Rule," of "You break it, You own it." According to journalist Bob Woodward, this rule was initially cited by Secretary of State Colin Powel in warnings to President Bush during the summer of 2002. "You are going to be the proud owner of 25 million people," he told the president. "You will own all their hopes, aspirations, and problems. You'll own it all."<sup>24</sup> With the breaking of the Iraqi system, American authorities assumed responsibility for the the functionality of another nation.



*George W. Bush arrives on the USS Abraham Lincoln*

<sup>23</sup> Mike Tucker & Charles Faddis. *Operation Hotel California: The Clandestine War inside Iraq*. 2008. The Lyons Press.

<sup>24</sup> Bob Woodward. *Plan of Attack: The Definitive Account of the Decision to Invade Iraq*. 2004. Simon & Schuster.



© Rex Features  
Donald Rumsfeld & George W. Bush

In the aftermath of the invasion, US Army Chief of Staff- General Eric Shinseki noted that "several hundred thousand" troops would be needed to ensure order in Iraq.<sup>25</sup> The troop numbers required were estimated to be something in the neighborhood of between two and three times the number of troops required for the invasion, and an order of magnitude beyond those who were slated to remain after the initial combat operations.<sup>26</sup> Faced with insufficient manpower, the invading forces were unable to maintain the basics of law and order in Iraq at the time. So despite the outpouring of gratitude to the invaders, there was also a spike in crime and unrest throughout the country.<sup>27</sup> Various government ministries, along with palaces, the national museum, and other public institutions, including military bases,

were looted. When faced with the results of his invasion plans, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said simply, "Stuff happens."<sup>28</sup> Pentagon reports estimated that over a half-million tons of munitions were looted, providing a major source of armament for the Iraqi insurgency. Further, countless cultural treasures came up missing, to the tune of over a half-million pieces as well. Roughly five-thousand have been recovered, according to a report by the University of Chicago.<sup>29</sup>

Civilian authority in Iraq was vested in a structure known as the Coalition Provisional Authority, headed by L. Paul Bremer. This structure vested itself with governing authority citing both UN Mandate (Security Council Resolution 1483) and the laws of war. The first major step for this group was the issuing of a series of orders calling for the restructuring of Iraqi society. The first, *Coalition Provisional Authority Order 1: De-Ba'athification of Iraqi Society*, was patterned after the de-Nazification of post World War II Germany. It sought to bar affiliated of Saddam Hussein's Ba'ath party from retaining high office or other positions of authority.<sup>30</sup>



L. Paul Bremer with dignitaries

This had the effect of creating ideological tribunals, and also of barring many of the most experienced civil servants from their positions, interfering with the continued operation of social

25 Dave Moniz. "'Ex-Army Boss: Pentagon Won't Admit Reality in Iraq.'" *USA TODAY*, 6/2/2003 .

26 Brian Knowlton. "Top U.S. general resists calls for pullout from Iraq". *International Herald Tribune*. 11/15/2006.

27 R. Collier. "Baghdad closer to collapse." *San Francisco Chronicle*. 4/9/2003.

28 Donald Rumsfeld & Richard Myers. "DoD News Briefing." *US Department of Defense*. 4/11/2003.  
<http://archive.defense.gov/Transcripts/Transcript.aspx?TranscriptID=2367>

29 William. Harms. "Archaeologists review loss of valuable artifacts one year after looting". *The University of Chicago Chronicle*. 4/15/2004.

30 Coalition Provisional Authority. *Coalition Provisional Authority Order 1: De-Ba'athification of Iraqi Society*.  
[http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/20030516\\_CPAORD\\_1\\_De-Ba\\_athification\\_of\\_Iraqi\\_Society\\_.pdf](http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/20030516_CPAORD_1_De-Ba_athification_of_Iraqi_Society_.pdf)



Anti-DeBa'athification Protests



Insurgents Strike near Ramadi

unemployment, civil unrest, and poor security.<sup>33</sup> However, Garner was quickly replaced with Bremmer, and the de-Ba'athification process begun. This process, and the collateral damage it created coupled with the resulting difficulty in responding to crises, was considered by many to be a catastrophic piece of decision making that set the stage for much of the difficulty to follow, including the structure of the insurgency and the rise of ISIS.<sup>34</sup>

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was captured in December of 2003, hiding on a farm near Tikrit, his boyhood home. The capture, bearing the code name Operation Red Dawn, involved nearly 300 personnel and was nearly unsuccessful. While waiting for helicopters to come for extrication, a soldier kicked aside a piece of flooring, exposing the hole Saddam Hussein had been hiding in.<sup>35</sup> Reaction to the capture, both in Iraq and around the world, was largely mixed. Though some governments, including those of Egypt and Iran, expressed positive views of the event, the United Nations called for fact finding and elements of the Palestinian authority felt it to be a mistake. Even the reaction among Iraqis was mixed, ranging from excitement and celebration to retaliatory attacks in the wake of the capture. Hussein's trial, commencing in October 2005, centered around the specific charges of killing 148 Shia Muslims from Dujail in the wake of a failed assassination attempt in July of 1982. The trial was accompanied by protests in and around Tikrit, and the

31 " US Blunders in Iraq" *Intelligence and National Security* 25.1. 2/2010.

32 Coalition Provisional Authority. *Coalition Provisional Authority Order 2: Dissolution of Entities*.

[http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/20030823\\_CPAORD\\_2\\_Dissolution\\_of\\_Entities\\_with\\_Annex\\_A.pdf](http://www.iraqcoalition.org/regulations/20030823_CPAORD_2_Dissolution_of_Entities_with_Annex_A.pdf)

33 Michael Gordon. "Fateful Choice on Iraq Army Bypassed Debate". *The New York Times*. 3/17/2008.

34 Richard Norton-Taylor. "Violence blamed on US decision to disband Iraq Army". *The Guardian*. 4/7/2004

35 Leigh Neville. *Special Forces in the War on Terror (General Military)*. Osprey Publishing. 2005

tribunal was forced to close the proceeding when the defendants began arguing the political merits of the trial.<sup>36</sup> The trial would continue, through stops and starts, until a verdict was delivered on November 5, 2006, over a year later. Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death by hanging. His appeal was rejected on December 26 that same year, and the sentence carried out four days later. According to the Associated Press, Hussein encouraged Iraqis to unite across sectarian lines and to not take revenge on the United States.<sup>37</sup> The trial, much like the capture, was viewed with mixed reactions by the international



*Saddam Hussein discovered outside of Tikrit*

community. Amnesty International issued a statement regarding the trial as having serious flaws in regards to political independence and impartiality.<sup>38</sup> The Iraqi government, on the other hand, posited that the trial was fair, and that respect for the rule of law constrained them from any further statements to that regard.<sup>39</sup> Journalist Mohamad Bazi, writing for *The Nation* put forth that the execution of Saddam Hussein was carried out in such a sectarian way that it only deepened the insurgent issues begun during the invasion and the program of de-Ba'athification.<sup>40</sup>

The Coalition Authority transferred limited sovereignty to an Iraqi government in June of 2004, which undertook the trial of Saddam Hussein as its first act. However, elections would be delayed due to fighting and unrest until January of 2005. Though the election was plagued with boycotts and security issues, it marked the official end of the United States occupation. US troops departed in 2010, six years later.



*Iraqi voters with inked fingers*

36 Fox News. "Judge Closes Trial During Saddam Testimony." 3/15/2006. <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2006/03/15/judge-closes-trial-during-saddam-testimony.html>

37 "Saddam urges Iraqis not to take revenge on US". Associated Press. 5 November 2006.

38 Amnesty International. *Iraq: Amnesty International deplors death sentences in Saddam Hussein trial*. 11/5/2006

39 "Saddam sentence: Reaction in quotes". BBC News. 11/5/2006.

40 Mohamad Bazzi. "How Saddam Hussein's Execution Contributed to the Rise of Sectarianism in the Middle East". *The Nation* 1/15/16.

## CONDENSED TIMELINE OF THE IRAQ WAR

The following timeline attempts to place the events surrounding the play within an order and wider context. More detailed timelines can be had from organizations such as the United Nations and British Broadcasting Company.

- 1979 Saddam Hussein becomes Iraqi President
- 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War
- 1990 Iraq Invaded Kuwait
- 1991 Iraq subjected to sanctions as part of ceasefire negotiations.
- 1995 Saddam Hussein wind referendum for another 7 years of presidency
- 1997 Tony Blair elected UK Prime Minister
- 2001



- January George W. Bush elected US President
- February US & UK carry out bombing raid to disable Iraq's air defenses
- September September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks in the United States. Two planes strike the World Trade Center, one strikes the Pentagon. One crashes into a PA field.
- October 2001 Operation Enduring Freedom: US Invades Afghanistan in attempt to overthrow Taliban government, suspected of harboring 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden.



- 2002
  - September President Bush warns world leaders at the UN to stand aside as the United States confronts Iraq.
  - November President Bush signs Patriot Act into law. UN weapons inspectors return to Iraq.
- 2003
  - February Largest anti-war protest of all time takes place in 600 cities worldwide.
  - March US and UK begin bombing Baghdad, Hans Blix states more time is needed to verify Iraq's compliance with disarmament.
  - April US forces take control of Baghdad
  - May Bush declares "Mission Accomplished"
  - July Attacks on US forces continue. Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday & Qusay, are killed.



- September Report reveals Bush approved overall Iraqi strategy long before attempt to receive mandate for war.
- October Osama Bin Laden congratulates his followers.
- December US Soldiers capture Saddam Hussein.
- 2004
  - January American leadership of Iraq survey group reveal no WMD have been discovered in Iraq.
  - April/May Iraq's first human rights minister reports US military abusing Iraqi prisoners. Photographs of abuse at Abu Ghraib emerge.
  - June Power transferred to interim Iraqi government under Iyad Allawi.
  - July Bipartisan 9/11 Commission releases report that there was no operational link between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda.
- 2005
  - January Iraqi parliament elects Kurdish leader, Jala Talabani.
  - December Iraqis vote for the first time since US Invasion.
- 2006 UN reports indicate that more than 100 civilians a day are killed in Iraq
- 2007 US forces hand over control of Basra province to Iraqi forces
- 2008
  - September US forces hand over control of Anbar province to Iraqi forces
  - November Barack Obama elected US President
- 2010 Last US Combat brigade leaves Iraq
- 2011
  - November Osama Bin Laden killed by US forces
  - December US Completes pull-out of troops



Osama Bin Laden



US Troops Abuse Iraqi Prisoners



Bremer signs over sovereignty to interim government.

## CHARACTER BIOS

### AMERICAN

George W. Bush: 43rd President of the United States (2001-2009); believed that Iraq was part of an “axis of evil” allied with terrorists and posed “a grave and growing danger” to U.S. interests through possession of WMD; urged the U.N. to join the U.S. in the fight against terrorism.

Laura Bush: First Lady, wife of President Bush; advocate for health and well being of women, education, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Dick Cheney: 46th Vice-President (2001-2009); alleged there were links between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda.

Colin Powell: 65th Secretary of State (2001-2005); retired four-star General in U.S. army, believed that “war should be the politics of last resort”.

Condoleezza Rice: National Security Advisor (2001-2005); believed that there was a regime in Iraq that abused the U.N. Security Council resolutions and that under Saddam Hussein they were concealing Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Donald Rumsfeld: 21st Secretary of Defence (2001-2006); encouraged Bush to fight the war on Iraq as a pre-emptive measure before 9/11.

George Tenet: Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for the U.S. (1997-2004); provided the first intelligence on Iraqi weapons for the Bush administration before 9/11.

Paul Wolfowitz: Deputy Secretary of Defence (2001-2005); reported to Rumsfeld and supported pre-emptive measures on terrorism and the war on terror.

Paul O’Neill: 72nd Secretary of the Treasury (2001-2002); was fired for his public disagreement with the Administration.

Michael Gerson: speechwriter for President Bush (2001-2006); responsible for the “axis of evil” quote among other phrases used in relation to the Iraq war. Of note, Canadian David Frum, also a speechwriter for Bush, had initially suggested “axis of hatred”.

Mark Dayton: Democratic Senator (Minnesota 2000-2006); voted against the authorization for the war on Iraq.

Dan Bartlett: Deputy to the Counselor to President Bush (2001-2003); White House Communications Director (2002-2005); supportive of the President.

John Negroponte: permanent representative to the United Nations (2001-2004); Ambassador to Iraq (2004-2005), wanted the inspection process to have a chance before rushing into war.

John McCain: Republican Senator (2000-2008); strongly pro-military and believed that the U.S. would be seen as liberators by the Iraqi people.

Jessica Stern: policy consultant on terrorism; wrote op-eds about al-Qaeda and warned U.S. of the increasing strength of terrorist groups.

David Kay: Special Advisor for Strategy regarding Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs; stated at the time that Iraq stood in violation of international orders to rid itself of WMD but later resigned (2004) claiming that this was not true.

Ari Fleischer: White House Press Secretary (2001-2003); was with Bush at the time of 9/11 attack; coined the phrase "homicidebombers".

## **BRITISH**

Tony Blair: Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1997-2007); saw the invasion of Iraq as a humane intervention to save an oppressed people; tried to strike a 2nd U.N. resolution.

Jack Straw: Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (2001-2006); intelligence given to him confirmed Iraq had had no responsibility for 9/11 attacks and no significant links to Osama bin Laden or al-Qaeda; advised further investigation was needed on WMD for war to be lawful.

David Manning: British Ambassador to the U.S. (2003-2007); believed to have driven British foreign policy post 9/11.

Jonathan Powell: Downing Street Chief of Staff (1995-2007); believed that the British government should have talks with al-Qaeda.

Alastair Campbell: Director of Communications and Strategy (2000-2003); believed strongly in the need for Britain's policies to be consistent with the U.S.; accused of altering dossiers making a case for war.

Richard Dearlove: Chief of Secret Intelligence Service (1999-2004); believed that the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy to justify war.

Philip Bassett: head of Strategic Communications Unit; helped create, with Campbell, the dossier that claimed that Hussein could prepare and fire WMD in under 45 minutes.

Trevor McDonald: host of current affairs program, Tonight with Trevor McDonald (1999-2009); interviewed both Blair and Bush on Iraq.

Alan Simpson: Member of Parliament for Nottingham South (1992-2010); created a “Labour Against the War” group which opposed the Iraq war.

Geoff Hoon: Secretary of State for Defence (1999-2005); felt that he would support the war after being advised by Attorney General of its legality but still supported diplomatic proceedings as first option.

Robin Cook: Leader of the House of Commons, Lord President of the Council (2001-2003); protested the invasion of Iraq and resigned in 2003.

## **FRENCH**

Jacques Chirac: 22nd President of France (1995-2007); believed that going to war with Iraq was a grave enough decision to veto any war resolution, believing it would jeopardize any future peaceful resolutions.

Dominique de Villepin: Minister of Foreign Affairs (2002-2004); strongly backed U.N. Resolution 1441 in speech to U.N.

Maurice Gourdault-Montagne: Senior Diplomatic Advisor (2002-2007); supported Chirac’s view on proceeding with caution.

Jean-David Levitte: French Ambassador to the U.S. (2002-2007); believed there was always more room for more inspections and force was a last resort, supporting his President.

Gérard Errera: French Ambassador to the U.K. (2002-2007); strongly supported the U.N. route to keep the Security Council at the core of the decision-making process.

## **IRAQI**

Saddam Hussein: 5th President of Iraq (1979-2003); Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of Iraq (1979-2003); Prime Minister of Iraq (1994-2003); believed that the Americans and their allies were against Muslims and Arabs with premeditated intentions.

General Hassan Muhammad Amin: spokesman and head of Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate (chief for Iraq nuclear programming); insisted that there were never any WMD in Iraq and that submitting a list as per the UNMVIC would be futile.

## **OTHER**

Hans Blix: 1st Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, Swedish (2000-2003); accused the US and British governments of dramatizing the threat of weapons of mass destruction in order to strengthen the case for the invasion of Iraq.

Kofi Annan: 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ghanaian (1997-2006); called on the U.S. and U.K. not to invade Iraq without the support of the U.N. believing the invasion was in violation of the U.N. Charter.

Igor Ivanov: Foreign Minister of Russia (1998-2004); supported Russia's belief in strengthening the role of the U.N. in the international anti-terrorist efforts based on international law and the U.N. Charter.

Sergei Lavrov: Russian Ambassador to the United Nations (1994-2004); concerned about the deteriorating situation in Iraq, was quoted as saying, "We are positive that starting a dialogue to promote national reconciliation and peace is the most important thing at the moment."

Mohammed El Baradei: Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Egyptian (1997-2009); maintained that Iraq's nuclear program had not restarted before the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Ricardo Lagos: 33rd President of Chile (2000-2006); welcomed the idea of setting benchmarks for Iraqi disarmament, however believed that the deadline for Iraqi disarmament in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 was too early.

Yo-Yo Ma: Cellist, French and American; awarded title of Peace Ambassador by U.N. Secretary-General in January 2006.

## COMPANY BIOS

**Michael Babbitt.** For Burning Coal Theatre: Romeo & Juliet (2000), The Normal Heart (2018). Michael holds an MFA from the Professional Actor Training Program with Playmaker's Repertory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Based in Hillsborough, NC and primarily 'seen' behind the camera, Michael has directed and acted for both stage and film throughout the midwest and southeast US.

**Matthew Baldiga** – Burning Coal Debut; Regional: You Never Can Tell, Othello (California Shakespeare Theatre); Ah Wilderness!, A Christmas Carol (American Conservatory Theatre); Our Town, Intimate Apparel, Henry V (Chautauqua Theatre Company); Hamlet, All's Well That Ends Well (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); A Christmas Carol (Actors Theatre of Louisville); 3:59am, BRINK! (33rd Humana Festival); Cyrano de Bergerac (PlayMakers Repertory Company). New York: Einstein and Mileva (Crosshatch Theatre Company); Pratfalls (GroundUP Productions); This Lady's Not for Burning (Parenthesis); Twelfth Night (Fiasco Theatre). ACT-MFA: The Long Goodbye, The Cherry Orchard, Crazy for the Country, I Am My Own Wife, Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, The Big Meal, The Rocky Horror Show. Training: MFA – American Conservatory Theatre, Acting Apprentice Program – Actors Theatre of Louisville, BA – University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Benaiah Barnes:** (Actor) Stuff Happens is Benaiah's first production with Burning Coal. He has studied acting and theatre history at North Carolina State University. Benaiah is new to the theatre community in Raleigh and surrounding areas and may be recognized for his roles in the world premier ensemble production of Mike Wiley's Blood Done Sign My Name in which he portrayed Ben Chavis as well as Sister Act in which he played the role of "Sweaty" Eddie Souther. He is looking forward to expanding his reach in the Raleigh theatre community, taking on more acting roles in the future, and also has aspirations of directing his own written works.

**Rebecca Bossen** (Dialect Coach) is a Durham-based voice coach, playwright, and performer. Dialect coaching credits include: Miss Holmes, The Syringa Tree, I Capture the Castle, Drood, Pygmalion, Sweeney Todd (Creede Repertory Theatre); The Royale, Heisenberg, Skylight, Blue Sky, The Heretic, Ruined, Good (Burning Coal Theatre); Parade, Titanic (Elon University); One Man Two Guvnors (Raleigh Little Theater); Skin in Flames (Stage Left Theatre); Escanaba in Love (Circle Theatre); and the film The Game of Their Lives. She has taught voice classes at Northwestern University and at Act One Studios in Chicago. She holds theatre degrees from Duke University and Northwestern University, as well as an Advanced Certificate in Voice Studies from London's Central School of Speech and Drama. She is delighted to be returning to Burning Coal! [www.rebeccabossen.com](http://www.rebeccabossen.com)

**Justin Z. Cole** (Actor, David Manning) For Burning Coal Theatre's Production of 'Stuff Happens': Actor Credits for television include: TNT's Good Behavior, Investigation Discovery's Homicide Hunter. Film Credits include: Redemptions Price, Notes of Coffee, Blood of the Mummy, Nora Prologue, Haunting Past, A Deadly Affair To Remember. Justin is currently signed to the tv/film, print, and promotions divisions at Marilyn's Agency in Greensboro and has appeared in numerous commercials and television shows. Justin is currently based in Raleigh and has worked all over the southeast including North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia. He has recently gotten back into live theatre with roles in the Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre as well as this production of 'Stuff Happens.' Justin has studied in both improv and stand up comedy at the former DSI Comedy School in Chapel Hill as well as music and acting lessons at Encore Music and Arts.

**Fred Corlett:** Fred received the BFA and MFA degrees in Dramatic Art from UNC Chapel Hill. He spent 3 years in the NC Visiting Artist Program, and one residency in the NC Artist in the Schools Program. He stage managed the outdoor drama UNTO THESE HILLS from 1978 through 1981 on the Cherokee Reservation. He worked on 10 Equity Showcase productions in New York City from 1983 through 1986. He has performed in dozens of productions with the Raleigh Little Theatre, Theatre in the Park, and Bare Theatre. He has acted in productions at Peace, Meredith, and NC State University. Fred has been a member of the artistic company at Burning Coal for the last 10 seasons, performing in 17 productions, and touring with 8 of them. Most recently he has appeared in WRITTEN ON THE HEART, DARKSIDE, and the tours of ROMEO AND JULIET and PETER PAN AND WENDY. He directed 3 one-act plays for KidsWrite, and provided tech support for 2 off-site productions (BLUE SKY, 3 MAN TEMPEST).

**Danielle D'Angelo** (assistant stage manager) For Burning Coal Theatre: assistant director The Weir. Danielle is an intern with Burning Coal during this show season. She graduated in 2018 from Croatan High School where she acted in plays and musicals.

**Thomas Goldsmith** (Paul Wolfowitz) Performer/composer "Light in August," "As I Lay Dying," "Fair and Tender Ladies," "The Christmas Letters." A musician since the 1970s and a print journalist since the 1980s, North Carolina native Goldsmith makes his Burning Coal debut in "Stuff Happens." He has primarily worked in theater as a composer and performer of roots-music adaptations of novels by William Faulkner and North Carolina author Lee Smith. "As I Lay Dying," performed along with co-composers David Olney, Karren Pell and Tom House, debuted at the Oxford Festival for the Book and was also presented at the Faulkner Conference in Oxford, the 100th Anniversary Celebration for Faulkner in New Albany, Miss., and in subsequent shows at theaters and conferences in Alabama, Tennessee and Indiana. "Fair and Tender Ladies," composed with House and Pell, was commissioned by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival and has been produced many times, including extensive ASF versions and a 10-year revival at the Montgomery theater, as well as an ASF tour and several stagings in smaller Appalachian-area houses.

**Andy Hayworth** (Stage Manager) works all over the Triangle as a director, stage manager, and sporadically as an actor. Stage manager for Burning Coal: Henry V and King Charles III. For Honest Pint: King Lear. For South Stream: Blackbird. Andy also recently directed Fool for Love for McQueen & Co.

**E. D. Intemann** (Scenery and Lighting Designer) For Burning Coal, Scenery and Lighting: The Normal Heart, Heisenberg, The Heretic, Good, Brigadoon, and Much Ado About Nothing, and Sunday in the Park with George. Lighting: Asylum, Romeo and Juliet, St. Nicholas, Crowns, Blue, The Love Song of J. Robert Oppenheimer, and Way to Heaven. Other lighting design credits off-Broadway at 59E59, Danspace at St. Marks and La MaMa in NYC, Kitchen Theatre and Cherry Arts in Ithaca, NY, Eastman School in Rochester, NY, Charlotte Repertory Theatre and Flat Rock Playhouse in NC. International designs for Confrontations Festival in Poland and GarajIstanbul in Turkey. Currently resident lighting designer Senior Lecturer at Cornell University, previously Associate Professor at University of South Carolina.

**Danielle James** (props) A native Delawarean, metalsmith, neon artist and maker. She moved to North Carolina in 2011 and received her MFA from the metals design program at East Carolina University. She is currently a neon apprentice at Glas neon studio in Raleigh, NC and exhibits her work internationally. With a deep love for the theater, Danielle has worked on set design, costumes and props for many theatrical performances across the U.S. Returning to Burning Coal after working props for King Charles III, she is happy to be back in this awesome black box theater.

**Dogbotic** (Music, Sound and Video Design) is a creative audio studio based in Berkeley, California. A project by composer and tinkerer Kirk Pearson, Dogbotic has written musical scores, designed sonic technology, and built audiovisual experiences for the New Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, Greenpeace, Nike, Ford, and TEDx, and have received accolades from Cannes, Cleveland Film Festival, London Animation Festival and many others. In 2017, Pearson became a recipient of the infamous Thomas J. Watson Fellowship and traveled the world to compose pieces for experimental instruments. He holds degrees in composition and film from Oberlin College and Conservatory. [dogbotic.com](http://dogbotic.com)

**Rob Jenkins** (Dick Cheney) For Burning Coal: Good (Maurice), Jude The Obscure, Hair, The Prisoner's Dilemma (Nikolai); for Raleigh Little Theatre: House of Blue Leaves (Artie), A Streetcar Named Desire (Mitch), Arsenic and Old Lace (Teddy), Urinetown (Officer Lockstock), Don't Dress for Dinner (Bernard); for Theatre in the Park: It's Only a Play (Jimmy). Rob received a BS in Theatre Education and studied Meisner Technique at East Carolina University, and has a Master's Degree in Education from Lesley University. Rob has been teaching theatre to the good children of Wake County for 25 years.

**Byron Jennings** is excited to be returning to Burning Coal. Previous credits include Coalhouse in Justice Theatre Project's "Ragtime," Christian in Burning Coal's "Ruined," Lopakhin in Little Green Pig's "Cherry Orchard" Othello in Bare Theatre's "Othello," Williamson in Deep Dish Theater's "Glen Garry Glenross," various characters in Theatre in the Park's production of "Almost Maine," and Bruce in Burning Coal's "The Normal Heart." He would like to thank the supporters of local theater, without whom none of this is possible, as well as his family and friends for always supporting his passion.

**Eric S. Kildow** (Dramaturg/Study Guides) is Assistant Professor of Theatre at Kent State University in Ohio and works as a freelance dramaturg & director. As an artistic associate of the London-based Loitering With Intent Theatre, he presented the devised work TurnRight/TurnLeft: A Manual for the End of the World at the Fleet Street Theatre in Hamburg, Germany. He is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society, Literary Managers & Dramaturgs of the Americas, the Lincoln Center Theatre Director's Lab and the Burning Coal Company of Artists. For Burning Coal: Man of La Mancha, Brigadoon, As You Like It, Shining City, Good, Ruined, The Heretic, (Three Man)Tempest, The Jesus Fund, The Diary of Anne Frank, Fayetteville Street, Outrunning Bullets, ASYLUM, The Wiz, Blue Sky, Spoonface Steinberg, Oakwood 2016, Skylight, Written on the Heart, Heisenberg, The Royale, Darkside, Peter Pan & Wendy, The Normal Heart, and King Charles III. <http://www.eskildow.com>

**Shawn Morgenlander.** Burning Coal Theatre: Peter Pan and Wendy (Wendy). Snap Pea: The Banquet/Macbeth (Malcolm). American Myth Center: The Ballad of R+J (Romeo). Shawn studied theatre and Spanish at Northwestern University. She performed throughout Chicago, toured with the National Players and the Adirondack Shakespeare Company, and now resides in her home state of NC. Life is But a Dream, her original translation and adaptation of Calderón's La vida es sueño, premiered with Spicy Witch Productions in NYC in April.

**Brook North** (Donald Rumsfeld) For Burning Coal: The Iron Curtain Trilogy. Brook is the co-founder and Artistic Director of South Stream Productions which has produced six critically acclaimed shows (Blackbird, Hughie, Time Stands Still, The Caretaker, Seascape, Copenhagen). Their seventh show, This Doesn't End Well, will have its world premiere on January 4 at Sonorous Road Theatre in Raleigh. He also performs as an actor throughout the triangle including with CFRT, Justice Theatre Project, NCSU Theatrefest, Bare Theatre, Theatre in the Park, RLT, Cary Players, Koka Booth, Forest Moon, and Mebane Acting Co. Find out more about him and his company at [www.southstreamproductions.blogspot.com](http://www.southstreamproductions.blogspot.com).

**Jim O'Brien** just finished 1776 at Temple Theatre in Sanford as McKean. Other credits include Judson Theatre: Twelve Angry Men, Bartlett Theater: The Seagull, Honest Pint: Hamlet, Cary Players: Plaza Suite, Raleigh Little Theatre: Perfect Arrangement and Much Ado About Nothing, Bare Theatre: MacBeth, Theatre in the Park: Equivocation...The Elephant Man and A Christmas Carol.

**Julie Oliver:** (George Tenet) For Burning Coal Theatre: The Normal Heart, Peter Pan & Wendy, The Iron Curtain Trilogy (also The Cockpit Theatre, London), The Heretic, Good, Brigadoon. For Aggregate Theatre: Children's Theatre Series. For Seed Art Share: Well Fed, Well Said. Also, Maccountant, (Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern); Mr. Burns (Manbites Dog Theater, Oh What A Lovely War, Eurydice, 10 by 10 in the Triangle, 2009, 10 and 15 (ArtsCenter Stage); Seascape (South Stream Productions); The Cripple of Inishmaan, Superior Donuts (Deep Dish Theatre) Julie has taught band in the public schools since 1981 and is a member of Burning Coal Theatre's artistic company.

**Greg Osbeck** (Stage Scenery/ Properties Construction/ Master Carpenter/ Technical Direction) For Burning Coal: King Charles III. For SAS Institute: Stage Scenery for Temujin and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea; NC Museum of Natural Sciences: Brimley Ball; Miss North Carolina Pageant: Set Design and Construction, Technical Direction; Office of the President of the United States of America: Set Construction at Camp Lejeune; Raleigh Little Theater: Godspell; International Focus: International Festival of Raleigh Site Coordinator; and Dickens Pen and Ink: Dickens Festival Site Coordinator (Education) Ringling School of Art and Design, Majored in Sculpture. Courses in painting, printmaking, figure drawing, color theory. Self-taught scenic artist, welder, faux finisher.

**Alyssa Petrone** (ASM) is excited to work with this amazing group. You can see her on stage and off at various theatre companies around the triangle. Prior technical theatre credits include Oliver! (JTP), Emilie (Second stage Series), Time Stands Still (South Stream), Spamalot (RLT). She would like to thank her Thursday Night friends.

**Meredith Riggan** (Scenic Artist). Meredith is a North Carolina based artist and is excited to be returning to Burning Coal Theatre Company for the production of Stuff Happens. She has previously painted for Burning Coal in the productions of King Charles III, Normal Heart, Peter Pan and Wendy, Darkside, The Royal, Heizenberg , Written on the Heart, Skylight, SPOONFACE STEINBERG, The Wiz, and Good. After receiving her Bachelor's Degree in Scenic Art from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Meredith has worked as the Scenic Charge Artist at several theatres around North Carolina including Half Pint Theatre, Sweet Tea Shakespeare, Triad Stage, City Arts-Greensboro Children's Theatre, The Winston Salem Theatre Alliance, ECU Loessin Playhouse, along with several freelance jobs such as repairing sculptures for the Greensboro Children's Library and painting custom pet portraits through her business, Riggan Originals.

**Cole Train** (Assistant "Painter"). Cole Train has been "assisting" his Scenic Artist mom in several theatres since he was 7 weeks old. He has no formal training in Scenic Art, but will retrieve a paint brush occasionally. He is great at supervising projects, looking cute, and tries to leave a paw print on every set. Cole Train is a 10/10 good boy.

**George Russing** (Assistant Stage Manager) is pleased to be returning to Burning Coal Theater. Last year he completed both the UNCSA Drama Intensive and the Summer Performing Arts with Juilliard, thus solidifying his passion for the theatre. When not working behind the scenes, George appeared on stage most recently in *Patience*, *Into the Woods, Jr.*, *Oliver*, *The Member of the Wedding*, *Beanstalk! the Musical!*, *Peter Pan* and *Wendy: The Tour*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Bloom*.

**Darius Shafa** - A student at NC State and an amateur actor. He's worked with NC State's Theatrefest, Cape Fear Regional Theatre, and other theatres in the area over the past few years. He's especially fond of Oscar Wilde and his contemporaries. This is his first show with Burning Coal.

**Kahei Shum McRae**(Ketti) (costumer) is delighted to design her second production here at Burning Coal Theatre Company. Originally from Hong Kong, Kahei is the Visiting Artist at United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County. She received her BA in Theatre from UW-Madison, her BFA in Production Design and MFA in Costume Design from UNC-School of the Arts. Some of her favorite recent credits include the world premier of *GRACE FOR PRESIDENT* with Children's Theatre of Charlotte, *CABARET* with Davidson College, award nominated *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES* with Theatre Charlotte, and *INTO THE WOODS* with UNC School of the Arts. Her costume design work has also been seen at UNC Charlotte, The Barter Players, Peppercorn Children's Theatre, CPCC Summer Theatre, Wake Forest University and Arts Center of Coastal Carolina. Kahei is active in the world of academic teaching and filmmaking as well. Special thanks to UNCSA, United Arts Council, her parents and her husband.

**Patrick Spain** (AD/ASM) After receiving a BFA in Acting at Regent University in May, Patrick is elated to return to his native territory to work for the first time with Burning Coal. Acting credits include *Freaky Friday* (Virginia Musical Theatre), *See Rock City* (Zeider's Dream Theatre), *The Wedding Singer* (Generic Theatre) and *Hot Mess eXpress* (Virginia Fringe). Follow on Twitter @patchspain if you're fine with pineapple on pizza.

**Michelle Wells** is a native of Raleigh, NC, and holds a BA in Theatre from Meredith College and an MA in Theatre Education from Emerson College in Boston. She has performed, trained, and taught in Boston, New York, London and Raleigh and is the CEO and founder of Sonorous Road Theatre and Film Studio. See [MichelleMurrayWells.com](http://MichelleMurrayWells.com) for more information.

**Tyanna West** (Condoleeza Rice) is elated to be back at Burning Coal! She was last seen as Deloris Van Cartier in Raleigh Little Theatre's *Sister Act!* Tyanna holds a BA in Vocal Performance from NCCU. Her favorite theatre credits include *Adaperle* in Burning Coal's *The Wiz*, and *Charlaine* in NRACT's *Aint Misbehavin'!* Ty would like to thank her family, and the *Stuff Happens* cast & crew. For updates: [www.tyannawest.com](http://www.tyannawest.com)

**Lillian White** (Director) For Burning Coal Theatre: Director: Peter Pan and Wendy. Assistant Director: Darkside, Written on the Heart. ASM: Skylight. Lillian holds a BA in Cultural Performance Studies from Oberlin College, and has studied/assisted at Double Edge Theatre, the Dell 'Arte International School of Physical Theatre, the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and St. Ann's Warehouse. Based in New York, she frequently travels South to develop new works through the mobile theatre lab Juncture. She has staged performances in a prison, historical schoolhouse, the attic of a 19th century military home, and other unlikely spaces, and enjoys the unique collaborations that develop through work in diverse spaces and the communities around them. Upcoming: & LIGHT & LIGHT & LIGHT (Dixon Place), and more at [www.lillianwootenwhite.com](http://www.lillianwootenwhite.com).

## NC STATE EDUCATION STANDARDS

The state of North Carolina values the skills and competencies of Arts education due to their applicability to other disciplines. These productions are designed to give your students exposure to the competencies and specific standards listed below.

This production and the related study materials will provide students with specific knowledge and skills to address the following Standard Course of Study Competencies and Objectives in the Theatre Arts.

- **COMPETENCY GOAL 1:** The learner will write based on personal experience and heritage, imagination, literature, and history.
  - Grades 3-5
    - 1.02: Recognize the beginning, middle, and end of a story
    - 1.03: Infer lessons from multicultural stories, fairy tales, tall tales, legends, and myths.
    - 1.06: Refine reading comprehension by using verbal and non-verbal communication.
  - Grades 6-8
    - 1.01: Recognize and explain unique characteristics of the dramatic script such as dramatic structure and dialogue.
    - 1.04: Produce written, verbal, and visual responses to written and/or performed dramatic material.
    - 1.05: Identify themes and plots from multicultural literature.
  - Grades 9-12
    - 1.03: Compare and contrast play structure in relation to other forms of literature.
- **COMPETENCY GOAL 7:** The learner will analyze, critique, and construct meaning from informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions.
  - Grades 3-5
    - 7.01: Build skills to critique self and others in a respectful and constructive manner.
    - 7.03: Convey personal reactions to various texts.
    - 7.05: Communicate emotions and thoughts evoked by performance.
    - 7.07: Suggest alternative characters, settings, or events after viewing or participating in a performance.
  - Grades 6-8
    - 7.01: Recognize and practice audience etiquette.
    - 7.03: Develop verbal, visual and written responses to works of informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions from various cultures.
    - 7.04: Express meaning perceived from informal and formal theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions.
  - Grades 9-12
    - 7.02: Develop and relate a world view of theatre in society.

- COMPETENCY GOAL 8: The learner will understand context by analyzing the role of theatre, film, television, and electronic media in the past and present.
  - Grades 3-5
    - 8.04: Experience live or recorded performance
    - 8.05: Discuss the similarities and differences between live and recorded theatrical events.

*Stuff Happens* is also designed to address the following Core Curriculum Anchor Standards in Language Arts Literacy and Social Studies.

- Reading Anchor 4: Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
- Reading Anchor 6: Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.
- Writing Anchor 2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Writing Anchor 7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.