

HANGMEN

BY MARTIN MCDONAGH

13 AUGUST - 14 SEPTEMBER 2024

HANGMEN

CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Deborah Mulhall
Set Designer	Tom Bannerman
Lighting Designer	Timothy M Carter
Costume Designer	Helen Kohlhagen
Sound Designers	Deborah Mulhall, Mehran Mortezaei
Assistant Director	Timothy M Carter
Dialect Coach	Mark G Nagle
Original Music	Jim McCrudden

CAST (in order of appearance)

James Hennessy	Owen Hirschfeld
Prison Guard / Bill	Gerry Mullaly
Harry Wade	Nathan Farrow
The Governor / Albert Pierrepoint	Jim McCrudden
Syd Armfield	Jack Elliot Mitchell
The Doctor / Charlie	Reuben Solomon
Doris Clegg	Georgia Nicholas
Arthur	Tom Massey
Alice Wade	Sonya Kerr
Inspector Fry	Alastair Brown
Shirley Wade	Kim Clifton
Peter Mooney	Robert Snars
Cafe Waiter	Madison Gooley

PRODUCTION TEAM & CREW

Production Coordinator	Gemma Greer
Stage Manager	Owen Hirschfeld
ASM	Madison Gooley
Lighting Assistant	Matthew Ishchuk
LX/SX Operator	Ricci Costa
Set Construction/Bump-in	Tom Bannerman, Rodger Wishart
	David Marshall-Martin, Jay Murrin
	Deborah Mulhall, Matthew Ishchuk,
	Peter Gormley, Amy Brown,
	Richard Cooney, Robyn Archer
Production Photography	Bob Seary

By Arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical
On Behalf of Samuel French
A Concord Theatricals Company

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country on which we meet today, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



MARTIN MCDONAGH PLAYWRIGHT

McDonagh was born in 1970 to Irish parents in London. He spent many of his childhood summers with his family in the Connemara region on the west coast of Ireland, where his father was raised. Connemara would later serve as a setting for many of McDonagh's plays.

McDonagh left school at age 16, with plans of becoming a writer, having been inspired by his brother, who had also left school early to pursue writing. For the next few years, McDonagh wrote a series of grotesque stories, plays, and scripts. He sent some of his writing to film companies, but none of it was accepted.

After submitting the plays to numerous theatre companies, he found success with the Druid Theatre. *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, premiered in Galway in 1996 in a coproduction by Druid and the Royal Court Theatre Company. Critics heralded its idiosyncratic dialogue, dark humour, and unsentimental view of rural Ireland. The other two plays in the Leenane Trilogy, *A Skull in Connemara* and *The Lonesome West*, premiered the following year. *The Cripple of Inishmaan* also debuted in 1996, at the National Theatre in London.

In 1998, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* made its Broadway debut. It earned six Tony Award nominations, winning four. *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* premiered in 2001 in a production by the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon, England. His next play, *The Pillowman*, premiered in London in 2003 at the National Theatre. Its Broadway production in 2005 was nominated for six Tony Awards, including best play.

In 2008, he wrote and directed his first feature-length film, *In Bruges*. It earned an Academy Award nomination for best original screenplay and won a BAFTA Award for best original screenplay. McDonagh's next film, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, received seven Academy Award nominations, including for best film and best original screenplay.

In 2022, McDonagh wrote and directed *The Banshees of Inisherin*. It earned nine Academy Award nominations, including for best film, directing, and original screenplay. At the BAFTAs, the film won for best British film and original screenplay; in addition, Kerry Condon and Barry Keoghan won for best supporting actress and actor, respectively.

Hangmen received its world premiere production at the Royal Court Theatre in London in 2015, and won the 2016 Olivier Award for Best New Play. It premiered on Broadway in 2022 and earned five Tony nominations, including for best play.

Martin McDonagh on *Hangmen*: “I hoped to keep it fresh, but still have old fashioned twists and turns – that was something that I thought could be interesting...because we don't really do plays with twists and turns anymore, it seems. Everything today feels like it has to be a lecture. So, to be able to sort of shock people with a plot twist is something that I've always enjoyed trying.”

This Australian premiere of *Hangmen* is the fourth play by Martin McDonagh produced at New Theatre, following on from *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (2003), *The Pillowman* (2013) and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2018).

Helen Tonkin, New Theatre Literary Manager, 2024

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The charm of Martin McDonagh's work lies in his mastery of black comedy - an oeuvre which blends comedy and tragedy with lots of dark, dark humour. There are twists and turns that you don't see coming and lots of subtle observations on relationships and life. McDonagh's thread is always that of human despair and how the reaction to that despair drives an individual's actions. If we are honest with ourselves (and this is where our uncomfortable laughter comes from) we recognise how much what we do in life is driven by despair. And hope. Like his characters, we are all bruised by life. And these are the concepts which have driven our vision – despair and bruising.

A play like this must be a team effort and I am deeply grateful to the absolute commitment and love given by the creatives and cast to this project. Rehearsals have been places and times of laughter and camaraderie as we all embraced our inner gremlins and let them out to play.

As with all McDonagh's work, we shouldn't laugh. But it is hard not to.

Deborah Mulhall, 2024



DEBORAH MULHALL DIRECTOR & CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Deborah started as an actress, appearing in *Taming of the Shrew* (Little Theatre), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Ars Viva) and *Arms and the Man*. She moved on to directing and then writing for stage. Deborah has studied at NIDA and La MaMa International, written nine full length plays and directed over twenty. She is represented and published by Australian Plays Transform. Her play *Cry, Wolf* ran off-Broadway for eight weeks and has been, like *Gentlemen Inc*, optioned for film. *Breathless*, a war play, was a finalist in the Silver Gull Play Award 2019. Other works have been translated and performed overseas including the triptych *The Kiss*, three short plays for the LGBTQIA+ community and currently touring in Ecuador. Deborah was a founding member of the Parramatta Theatre Company, one-time President of the Illawarra Council for the Performing Arts, a life member of Workshop Theatre and has been Education Officer for New Theatre.

For New Theatre: Director, *Britannia Waves the Rules*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Pygmalion* and *The Lovely Bones*, and costume designer on *The Ballad of Maria Marten*. Other directing credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Genesian Theatre Co) and *The Pond* (Flight Path).



TOM BANNERMAN SET DESIGNER

Tom is a Sydney-based set-designer. His body-of-work is considerable, with *Ink* being his 291st production and his eightieth set-design for New Theatre.

His most recent New Theatre productions are *Ink*, *The Ballad of Maria Marten*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Chimerica*, *The Spook*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Pygmalion*, *My Night with Reg*, *The Elements of an Offence*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The HIV Monologues*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Marat/Sade*, *That Eye/The Sky*, *The Ritz*, *When the Rain Stops Falling*, *Dying for It* and *Jerusalem*.

For other theatres: *Isolde and Tristan* (Sport For Jove at Old Fitz Theatre), *Stories from the Violins of Hope* (Bondi Pavilion), *The Wasps*, *Just Macbeth!* and *Tales of the Wild Bush* (NSW Public Schools Drama Co, The Studio, NIDA), *A Day at the Beach*, *House on Fire* (South Sydney

High School), *Wild Thing* (NSW tour and Flight Path Theatre), *Love from a Stranger* and *Sherlock Holmes & the Death on Thor Bridge* (Genesian Theatre), *The Real Inspector Hound*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Twelve Angry Men* and *Amadeus* (Saint Aloysius' College), *Eight Gigabytes of Pornography* and *Mark Colvin's Kidney* (Drill Hall Mullumbimby), *Things I know to be True*, *Endgame* and *Charley's Aunt* (Civic Playhouse, Newcastle)



TIMOTHY M CARTER LIGHTING DESIGNER / ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Timothy has over twenty years' experience in professional and community theatre production. He has completed a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music Composition), Master of Creative Arts (Theatre Production) and Master of Creative Arts Research (Theatre Production). Tim has worked in management for a number of arts organisations including Opera Australia, and continues to lecture internationally on Arts Management and Theatre Production since 2016.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Tim has been involved nationally and internationally with 750+ productions, projects and events which include opera, operetta, musical, concert, drama, pantomime, ballet, dance, cabaret, circus, commedia dell'arte, son et lumière, devised theatre, conferences and industry events. Tim is an

active composer in his spare time, and recently completed writing his first three-act ballet, and is now embarking on a new ballet for the Vietnam National Opera and Ballet.



HELEN KOHLHAGEN COSTUME DESIGNER

Helen is a Sydney-based designer with many years of experience.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other recent credits include: *Farndale Avenue Housing Estate - Murder Mystery* (Lane Cove Theatre Company), *Blithe Spirit* (Pymble Players), *Hotel Sorrento*, *What Santa Does the Other Days of the Year* and *Four Flat Whites in Italy* (Genesian Theatre Co).

Helen has recently returned from Vietnam where she was part of a team providing creative and practical expertise to the Hanoi University's theatre students production of *All My Sons*.



MEHRAN MORTEZAEI CO-SOUND DESIGNER

Mehran started his theatre journey in high school, then continued it academically to get Masters in Theatre and Performing Arts. He has worked on more than 150 productions as a writer, director, designer, stage manager, and actor in Iran, NSW, Qld, and Denmark.

For New Theatre: Lighting Designer, Sydney Fringe Festival (2018 and 2019), *Off the Record*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Beautiful Thing*, *Removalists*, *Neighbourhood Watch*, *Pygmalion*, *My Night With Reg*, *Broadway Bound*, *Australia Day*, *Enron*.

Other credits: Sound/Lighting Designer, *The Unpleasant State of Being* (Lighthouse Theatre), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Zenith Theatre), *Act of Faith* (King Street Theatre), *Educating Rita*, *The Big Meal* (Depot Theatre), Lighting Designer, *Dorian Grey Naked* (Limelight), Balmain Sinfonia (Italian Forum), Australian Chamber Orchestra, and *Persuasion* (Genesian Theatre Co)

for which he won Broadway Australia awards for Best Lighting Design and Best Sound Design.

Mehran is Technical Manager at New Theatre.

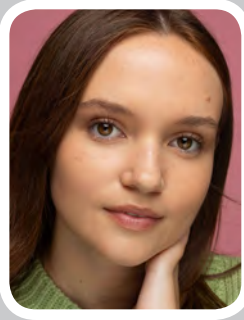


ALASTAIR BROWN INSPECTOR FRY

Alastair graduated from the Flinders University Drama Centre in 2003 and stepped away from acting almost immediately thereafter. Displaying a contrarian mindset that has defined him to this day, he decided to become a writer instead.

For New Theatre: Debut.

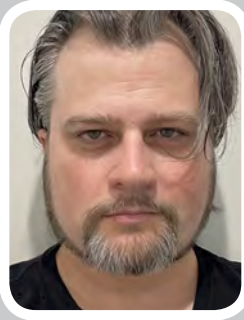
Alastair's written work includes novels, short stories, comic-book and movie reviews, screenplays, as well as sundry other media. His stage play *Next to Godliness* was the winner of the 2023 Silver Gull Play Award, and he hopes to have it staged next year to rapturous applause. *Hangman* marks his return to the stage after a hiatus of over 15 years.



KIM CLIFTON SHIRLEY WADE

Kim is a 2022 graduate of the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) and was granted the Patricia Kennedy Award for outstanding achievement in performance. For New Theatre: Debut.

Other credits include: *First Love is the Revolution*, *The Wolves*, *The Seagull* and *Love and Information* (VCA). Kim made her professional debut in *The Turn of the Screw* (Tooth and Sinew/ Seymour Centre) in 2023, and most recently appeared in *Grain in the Blood* (Virginia Plain/ KXT).



NATHAN FARROW HARRY WADE

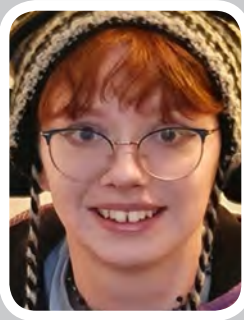
Nathan was born into a community theatre family and has been acting for over thirty five years, both in community and professional productions. He has a masters degree in screenwriting from the London Film School. His adaptation of *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* was performed at Genesian Theatre in 2016.

For New Theatre: Debut.

Other acting credits include: *Love Letters*, *Look Look* and *Boeing Boeing* (Guild Theatre), *The Addams Family* (MMTC), *The Mousetrap* (Hunters Hill), *Beauty And The Beast*, *Snoopy: The Musical!* and *Assassins* (MMS), *9 to 5* (CTG), *Of Thee I Sing* and *Kiss Me Kate* (Squabbalagic), and as actor and director, *The Good Doctor* and *Art* (Woodstock). Screen acting credits include: *Aware* (AFTRS), *Chicken Or Duck* (Ogilvy), *Jump Rabbit Soup* (Sam Bob Mohammed), *Waltz*

With Sarah Lund and *The Picture In The House* (which he also directed) and *Return To Ravenswood* (MEP).

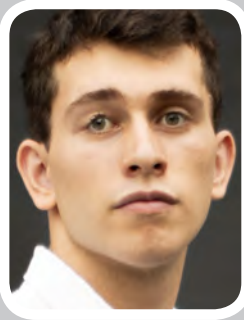
Theatre directing credits include: *Moist*, *Tupperware George* and *Ambrosia* (Grumpy Mandrake), *An Inspector Calls* (Guild Theatre). He directed the films *Is There Anybody Watching?* and *Bernadinos*.



MADISON GOOLEY CAFE WAITER / ASM

Madison has a Certificate 3 in Live Entertainment and Technical services, and they have completed over 50 hours of short volunteer work for various theatres and productions, including at Belco Arts, Mosman Art Gallery and Mosman High School. This production marks their first ASM position since leaving school.

For New Theatre: Debut.



OWEN HIRSCHFELD JAMES HENNESSEY / STAGE MANAGER

Owen's love of theatre was sparked and thrived in high school where he participated in the school's productions both onstage and backstage. He graduated from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts in 2022, achieving a band 6 in Drama and Entertainment Industry for the HSC and receiving a VET Excellence Award for Entertainment. He has participated in a variety of theatre workshops over the past years, including the STC's Young Wharfies program in 2021.

For New Theatre: production secondment, *Animal Farm*; set and prop construction, *1984! The Musical!* (co-production); ASM & LX/SX operator, *Twelfth Night (Heads or Tails)*; (co-produced with Virginia Plain); and ASM, *The Lovely Bones*.

For other theatre companies: stage manager, *A Passage to India* and assistant director, *Strangers on a Train* (Genesian Theatre); stage manager, *Love According to the Clash* (Chippen St Theatre).

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SONYA KERR ALICE WADE

Sonya is a graduate of The Flinders University Drama Centre in South Australia. She has worked extensively in Melbourne and Sydney, appearing in both stage and screen roles, and as a voiceover artist and intimacy director. She is also an historian with a particular interest in women's history in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

For New Theatre: actor/intimacy director, *Homos, or Everyone in America*; actor, *August: Osage County*, *The Angry Brigade*, *Next Lesson Dinkum Assorted*; intimacy director, *Banging Denmark*, *The Ballad of Maria Marten*.

Other credits include: *The Government Inspector* (Fingerless Theatre), *The Sweet Science of Bruising* and *In Their Footsteps* (Theatre Travels), *Silenced* (Vox Theatre), *Seed Bomb*, *Shut Up and Drive*, *A Quiet Night in Rangoon* and *One Way Mirror* (subtlenuance), *As You Like It*

and *Macbeth* (SheShakespeare), *The Auxiliary* and *Macbeth* (Phrankly Theatre - Melbourne). Sonya has appeared in several short films including *Vector*, which she also co-produced. She was the host and co-creator of the online review show, *Kapow! Comics, Cartoons and Collectables*. She has been intimacy director on *Much Ado* (Attractive, Not Model Attractive/Flight Path Theatre), *Ninety* (Actors Pulse Theatre), and the short film *Cherry Pie* (UTS).



TOM MASSEY ARTHUR

Tom trained at the Australian Academy of Dramatic Arts in the late 90's and at Atlantic Acting School in NYC in 2012, and currently continues his training at AMAW Sydney. He has worked in all aspects of theatre both on and off stage for many years.

For New Theatre: stage manager, *Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them*.

Other theatre credits include: the Australian premiere of Parsley's adaptation of *Brideshead Revisted* (RGP); *Three Sisters* and *Persuasion* (Genesian Theatre Co). As a stage manager, Tom has worked with a number of independent companies including subtlenuance, Sure Foot, Eclective, Pacific Opera, Flight Path. For Genesian Theatre, he has directed eight productions including a highly successful *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* which toured to the Theatre Royal Hobart, and most recently, *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2023.

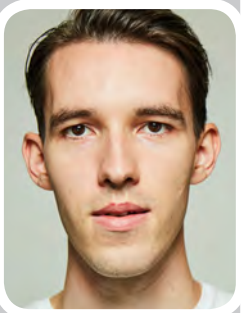


JIM MCCRUDDEN GOVERNOR / ALBERT PIERREPOINT / ORIGINAL MUSIC

This is Jim's sixth time performing at the New Theatre, having first performed here in 1997.

For New Theatre: *Don's Party*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Translations*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Marat/Sade*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*.

Jim has performed extensively at the Zenith Theatre, Chatswood, and in Shakespeare by the Sea at Balmoral. Jim appeared as the enigmatic Doctor in bAKEHOUSE Theatre's immersive production of *Visiting Hours* at KXT. This production marks Jim's third Martin McDonagh play, having played 'Billy' in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and 'Donny' in *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*.



JACK ELLIOT MITCHELL SYD ARMFIELD

Jack trained at the Stella Adler Studio in New York and has an MA in English Literature from Sydney University.

For New Theatre: *The Spook, Ink*.

Other credits include: *Mourning Overnight* (Edinburgh Fringe and Hen & Chickens, London), *The Government Inspector* (Fingerless Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Attractive, Not Model Attractive/Flight Path Theatre), *Indebted to Chance* and *The Recruiting Officer* (Old Red Lion, London) and *Peer Gynt* (Endangered Productions).



GERRY MULLALY GUARD / BILL

Originally from Townsville in Far North Queensland, Gerry moved to Sydney to complete a Bachelor of Performing Arts at ACA, graduating in 2022.

For New Theatre: *Banging Denmark*, *The Front Page, Ink*.

Credits from ACA include: *Don's Party*, *A Doll's House*, *Hurlyburly*, *Speaking in Tongues* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

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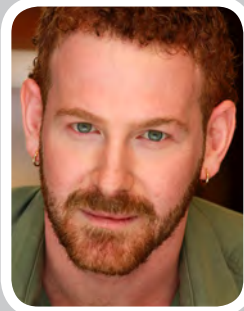


GEORGIA NICHOLAS DORIS CLEGG

Born in Sydney, Georgia graduated in 2023 from Actors' Centre Australia with a Bachelor of Performing Arts (Stage & Screen). In 2017, she completed a Diploma of Screen & Media (Acting) at New York Film Academy, Sydney. In between travelling the globe to off-the-beaten-path destinations, she continued to study acting part-time at Sydney Actors Collective, training under Socratis Otto.

For New Theatre: *The Front Page*.

Other credits include: The lead female role in the independent feature film *Love and Love Only* and the guest role of Zara Leonard on *Home & Away*.

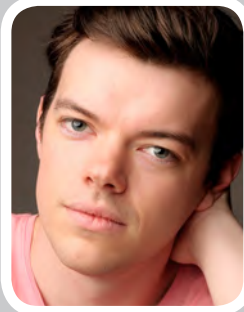


REUBEN SOLOMON DOCTOR / CHARLIE

Reuben graduated from Actors Centre Australia's Bachelor program in 2023. Before commencing his training at ACA, Reuben spent several years living in Central Australia working in youth work and community development.

For New Theatre: *Homos, or Everyone in America, The Front Page*.

Other credits include: *Hedda Gabler, Twelfth Night, The Boys, 12 Angry Men* and *The Libertine* (ACA).

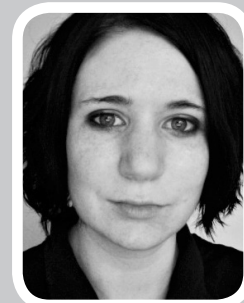


ROBERT SNARS MOONEY

Robert is an actor from the Hills District, performing on stage with the Castle Hill Players since 2009, appearing in numerous productions. He has always dreamed of being a Shakespearean style of actor, and in 2020 he got his wish when the theatre he was performing in at the time was closed because of the plague.

For New Theatre: *Pygmalion*.

Other theatre credits include: *The Cripple of Inishmann* (Pavilion Theatre); *Romeo and Juliet, The Servant of Two Masters, Jekyll and Hyde, Boeing Boeing* (Castle Hill Players).



RICCI COSTA LX/SX OPERATOR

Ricci trained at NIDA.

For New Theatre: LX/SX operator, *The Front Page, Loot, Jumpers for Goalposts, Broadway Bound*; SX operator, *Chimerica, The Spook, Glengarry Glen Ross, Picnic at Hanging Rock, Neighbourhood Watch, My Night With Reg, Next Lesson, The Elements of an Offence, Stupid Fucking Bird*; LX operator, *Little Miss Sunshine, The Grapes of Wrath*; SM, *Collaborators, The Clean House*; SM/SX operator, *Birdland*; SM/cast, *Marat/Sade*; ASM/cast *The Ritz*; ASM/props, *Dinkum Assorted*.

Other credits: Assistant Costume/Set Designer, *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Pericles* (NIDA)..

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WIFE
BY SAMUEL ADAMSON

8 OCT - 2 NOV



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STAFF

**THEATRE MANAGER &
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR**
Gemma Greer

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Alice Livingstone

TECHNICAL MANAGER
Mehran Mortezaei

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGERS
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Marica Fumanti
Harlee Timms

PLAY ASSESSORS

John Keightley (Coordinator)
Annie Bilton
Michael Briggs
Doug Cairns
Susan Jordan
Sahn Millington
Rayma Watkinson
Raymond Patman (Administrator)

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Louise Fischer

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Margaret Thanos

LITERARY MANAGER
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Dr David Marshall-Martin JP

SECRETARY (EX-OFFICIO)
Gemma Greer

EMERITUS THEATRE CAT
'Mouse'

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Petersham Bowliing Club
New Theatre Management Committee, staff and volunteers.

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