

JARROTT  
PRODUCTIONS  
PRESENTS

# ADMISSIONS

BY JOSHUA HARMON



TRINITY STREET PLAYHOUSE  
SEPT 19 THRU OCT 6



## A WORD (OR TWO, OR MORE) FROM THE DIRECTOR

Joshua Harmon's *ADMISSIONS* was written well before the Operation Varsity Blues scandal broke earlier this year, although one might rightly assume that some sort of cheating, or at least bending of rules regarding college admissions, has probably been going on for quite some time. But Harmon's play is not focused on prestigious learning institutions themselves, or even a greater network of parental influence or newsworthy scandal, but rather on one particular family and their attempts to get their son into Yale. Harmon himself says that the play is not really about applying to college; he calls that the "container...to be able to ask the larger questions with which the play is trying to engage. At its core, this play is an examination of whiteness: white privilege, white power, white anxiety, white guilt, all of it."

In the play, Bill Mason, the headmaster of a New Hampshire prep school, and his wife Sherri, the admissions officer, are trying to achieve greater diversity in the student body; while their son, Charlie, begins to question both the validity the admission processes, and his own future as a "white male," satirically unravelling the "woke" liberalism he's been raised to abide by.

Harmon says: "...in real life, most people are not all good or all evil. Most of us live somewhere in between those two extremes, whether or not we like to admit we do. I wanted to try and capture an aspect of race as it pertains to white people that I'd never seen onstage before, one which presents white people who live in that grey area, and doesn't delineate between clear villains and saints. Many times in stories with white casts, the audience is not overtly asked to contemplate race, as if the story being told exists outside of that discussion. I wanted to write a play where the characters' whiteness was actually a defining factor, where we see their whiteness and contemplate it openly."

At the heart of the play is an expectation, and an examination of that expectation: the expectation that many white, upper and upper-middle class families have come to perceive as their right: a right to the best opportunities, to be able to reach their full potential, a right to a seat at the table. Are they the best? Or have they just had the best advantages?

Thank you for exploring these questions with us at this performance!

*David R. Jarrott*

## JARROTT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# ADMISSIONS

## BY JOSHUA HARMON

Starring

Rebecca Robinson

Tim Blackwood   Beth Burroughs   Jennifer Underwood

and introducing

Tucker Shepherd

Directed by **David R. Jarrott**

Admissions is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.,  
a Concord Theatricals Company

Originally produced by Lincoln Center Theater  
New York City, 2018



This project is supported in part by the Cultural Arts Division  
of the City of Austin Economic Development Department

### THE CAST

in order of appearance

Sherri Rosen-Mason  
Roberta Russert  
Ginnie Peters  
Bill Mason  
Charlie Mason

Rebecca Robinson  
Jennifer Underwood  
Beth Burroughs  
Tim Blackwood  
Tucker Shepherd

### THE SETTING

The family room of Sherri & Bill's home on the campus of Hillcrest Prep School in rural New Hampshire; also Sherri's office, in another part of the house. The play begins just before Christmas and ends shortly after Easter during the 2015-2016 academic year.

**The play runs approximately 90-minutes with no intermission. The use of cameras or recording devices of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices. For your safety and that of the performers, please keep all aisles clear.**

### THE CREATIVE TEAM

David R. Jarrott  
Michael Krauss  
Alison Lewis  
Aaron Flynn  
Craig Brock  
Carlo Lorenzo Garcia  
Morgan Brochu  
Lisa Goering  
Natalie Garcia  
Will Douglas

Director  
Scene Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Costume Designer  
Sound Designer  
Technical Director  
Production Stage Manager  
Production Manager  
Marketing Director  
House Manager

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ZRob Brown; Chef Cliff Butler; Star Maddox; Rick Roemer; St. Austin Catholic Parish; Southwestern University Theatre Department  
Street Corner Arts; ZACH Theatre.

### COMPANY BIOS

**Tim Blackwood** (Bill Mason) - Tim is very excited to be doing his first show with Jarrott Productions. Tim was last seen in Capital T Theatre's production of *The Goat*. Some of Tim's other Austin roles include: *Mary Poppins*, *Present Laughter*, *High School Musical*, and *Porgy and Bess* at Zach Scott Theatre; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Kiss Me Kate* at Austin Playhouse; *Will Rogers Follies*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Into the Woods*, and *Little Me* for Zilker Theatre Productions; *Ordinary People* with Austin Theatre for Youth. Tim has received multiple B. Iden Payne and Austin Critics Table nominations for his work in theatre over the years.

**Beth Burroughs** (Ginnie Peters) - Beth is tremendously excited to be performing with Jarrott Productions! Beth has appeared in numerous productions in the greater Austin area over the past 2 decades, most recently in *Don't Dress for Dinner* with the Georgetown Palace Playhouse, *The Magic Fire* with Different Stages and *If I Forget* with Southwest Theatre Productions. Beth received a Broadway World Austin Award for best actress in a comedy for *Drinking Habits* (Georgetown Palace Playhouse). Beth is from upstate NY and went to Virginia Tech and SUNY Albany. She lives in Georgetown with her husband Johnny and their 2 cats.

**Rebecca Robinson** (Sherri Rosen-Mason) - Rebecca last appeared onstage in Edward Albee's *The Goat or Who is Sylvia* produced by Capital T Theatre, reprising her role from the Different Stages production in 2007, which garnered her a B. Iden Payne Best Actress award. Prior to that, she appeared in Will Eno's two-person *Wakey, Wakey* in Austin and Houston, with Ken Webster, artistic director of Hyde Park Theatre. She is a longtime veteran of the Central Texas stage, and honored to be working in her inaugural performance with Jarrott Productions.

**Tucker Shepherd** (Charlie Mason) - Tucker is brand new to the professional theatre scene and is ecstatic to debut with Jarrott Productions. Everything he knows from high school theatre is truly put to the test with this production. Tucker is currently a student at Austin Community College with an eventual transfer to Texas State as a business major. Past roles include Alan Raleigh in *God of Carnage*, Arvide Abernathy in *Guys and Dolls*, and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

**Jennifer Underwood** (Roberta Russert) - Jennie was last seen as Maddalena in *The Magic Fire*. There have been many roles and many plays: Eller Freeman in *Terminus*; Rose in *Qualities of Starlight*; Ann Kron in *Well*; Mrs. Seizmagraff in *Betty's Summer Vacation*; The Duchess in *The Casket of Passing Fancy*; and Mag in *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, to name a few. This is Jennifer's first role with Jarrott Productions and she is thrilled to be working with David and this extraordinary cast and crew.

**David R. Jarrott** (Producer/Director) - David most recently appeared on this stage in *The Children*. Last season he directed another Joshua Harmon play, *Significant Other*. As Artistic Director for this company, he is extremely proud of all of the amazing artists he has been honored to work with, and looks forward to this exciting 5<sup>th</sup> season. In a previous lifetime, David was the #1-rated morning radio personality for several top stations in Texas and was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in 2011.

**Michael Krauss** (Scene Designer) - Michael is a graduate of the MFA in Scenic Design program from the University of Texas where his credits include *The Pillowman*, *Refugia* (UT/The Moving Company), *Enter a Woman*, *Pretty Enough*; and *Three Decembers/At the Statue of Venus* (Butler Opera Center). Since graduation, his work has included *Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi* (UT/BOC), *Charlotte's Web*, *JJ's Arcade*, *Greater Tuna*, *Tuna Christmas* (ZACH), and *Seminar, Significant Other, For Peter Pan...* (Jarrott Productions). TV/Film: *The Long Road Home* (NatGeo), *Fear the Walking Dead* (AMC).



## JARROTT PRODUCTIONS 2019-2020 SEASON SUPPORTERS

**Alison Lewis** (Lighting Designer) - Alison is a freelance lighting designer based in Austin. Previous work includes *The Children* with Jarrott Productions, *Xanadu* with TexArts, and *Well* as a guest designer at Austin Community College. Her website is [Alisonlewislighting.com](http://Alisonlewislighting.com).

**Aaron Flynn** (Costume Designer) - Aaron has been designing for the Austin theater community since 2015. A graduate of RISD, his original focus on illustration has expanded into costume, props, and installation. His costumes for The Hidden Room's *The Rover* won a 2019 Critic's Table Award, and his work on Rude Mechs' *Not Every Mountain* and Frank Wo/Men's *Rub A Duck* have also been well received this year. After *Admissions*, find him back with the Rudes in November for *Fixing The Last Henry*.

**Craig Brock** (Sound Designer) - Craig has been with Jarrott Productions since day one and has created memorable work on all ten productions to date. Craig has worked as a recording engineer and music producer since 1989 and is the resident sound designer at ZACH Theatre. At ZACH he has created memorable designs for such productions as this fall's new adaptation of *Dracula*, as well as *Matilda*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Disney's Beauty & The Beast*, *In the Heights*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Who's Tommy*, and countless others.

**Carlo Lorenzo Garcia** (Technical Director) - Carlo served as Producing Director for Chicago's Mary-Arrchie Theatre from 2008-2016 and directed the highly acclaimed *Red Light Winter* (4 Jeff Award Nominations & 1 Jeff Award Win), *Our Bad Magnet* (2 Jeff Award Nominations), and *American Buffalo* (1 Jeff Award Nomination). Most recently, he directed *The Children* for Jarrott Productions and will be directing for Street Corner Arts in December. Actor credits include *Junk*, *Pocatello* (Street Corner Arts); *The Madres* (Shrewd Productions); *El Nogalar*, *Song For The Disappeared*, *Solid Sand Below* (Goodman Theatre); *Coast Of Chicago* (Lookingglass Theatre). [www.carlogarcia.com](http://www.carlogarcia.com)

**Morgan Brochu** (Production Stage Manager) - Morgan is a recent graduate of St. Edward's University with a B.A. in Theatre Management. Past Stage Management Credits include *The Children* (Jarrott Productions), *The Three Musketeers*, *Men on Boats*, and *Romeo and Juliet* (Mary Moody Northen Theatre). Morgan is thrilled to continue her work with Jarrott Productions.

**Lisa Goering** (Production Manager) - Lisa has been the Production Manager for Jarrott Productions since the beginning, and is happy to be a continuing member of the company. Lisa also works as a stage manager for many Austin theaters. In addition, she has traveled regionally to work in costume shops, including several summers for the Shakespeare Festival at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. Lisa has been the Production Manager for Jarrott Productions since the beginning, and is happy to be a continuing member of the team. Lisa also works as a stage manager for many Austin theaters. In addition, she has traveled regionally to work in costume shops, including several summers for the Shakespeare Festival at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego.

**Natalie Garcia** (Marketing Director) - Natalie is a proud company member of Jarrott Productions. She is also an actor who you may have recently seen as Lise in Different Stages' *The Magic Fire* and Jarrott Productions' *Significant Other* (Vanessa). You can catch her next as Fefu in Filigree Theatre's production of *Fefu and Her Friends*, opening in October. Thank you for supporting live theatre in Austin, TX!

**Will Douglas (House/Box Office Manager)** - Will is excited to be working with Jarrott Productions again, this time behind the scenes. He is usually found on stage and was most recently seen in Ground Floor Theatre's *Dex and Abby*. Last year, Will played the role of Jordan in Jarrott Productions' *Significant Other*. He also frequently works with Different Stages. He would like to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support.

**Member (\$1-\$99):** Allan Baker; Kaitlyn Hartnagel; James Holm; David Kroll; Vicki McKain; Carol Petty.

**Donor (\$100-\$249):** Jack Applewhite; Brady Coleman; William Garner; Scott Gilmore; Jan & Al Grab; Michael Harkins; Cathy Jones; Laura King; Craig Kuglen; Lou & Bill Lasher; Kimberly Sidey; Charlotte Sullivan; Judy Talley; Robert Tolaro; Susan Branch Towne.

**Supporter (\$250-\$499):** Annette Carlozzi & Dan Bullock; Barbara Putrino; Madeline Rogers; Ted Siff.

**Sponsor (\$500-\$999):** Karen Jambon & Jennie Underwood; Betsy & Joe Zullo.

**Underwriter (\$1,000-\$2,499):** Linda Ball & Forrest Preece; Rob Brown; Denise Hodgson; Elise & David Jarrott; Gayla & Mark Kiester; Russell Morrison.

**Producer (\$2,500+):** The Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department; The Koonce Family Foundation.

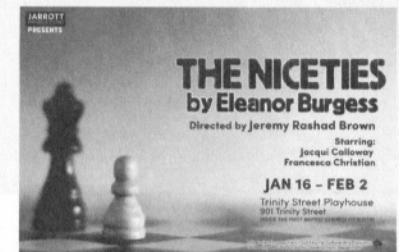
**Executive Producer (\$5,000+):** Carolyn & Marc Seriff.

### MISSION STATEMENT & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jarrott Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to present theatre that inspires thought and conversation, illuminates the human condition and lifts the spirit.

Denise Hodgson – David R. Jarrott – Mark Kiester – Russell Morrison

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JARROTT PRODUCTIONS! AN  
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RACE, HISTORY, PRIVILEGE  
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE!



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