



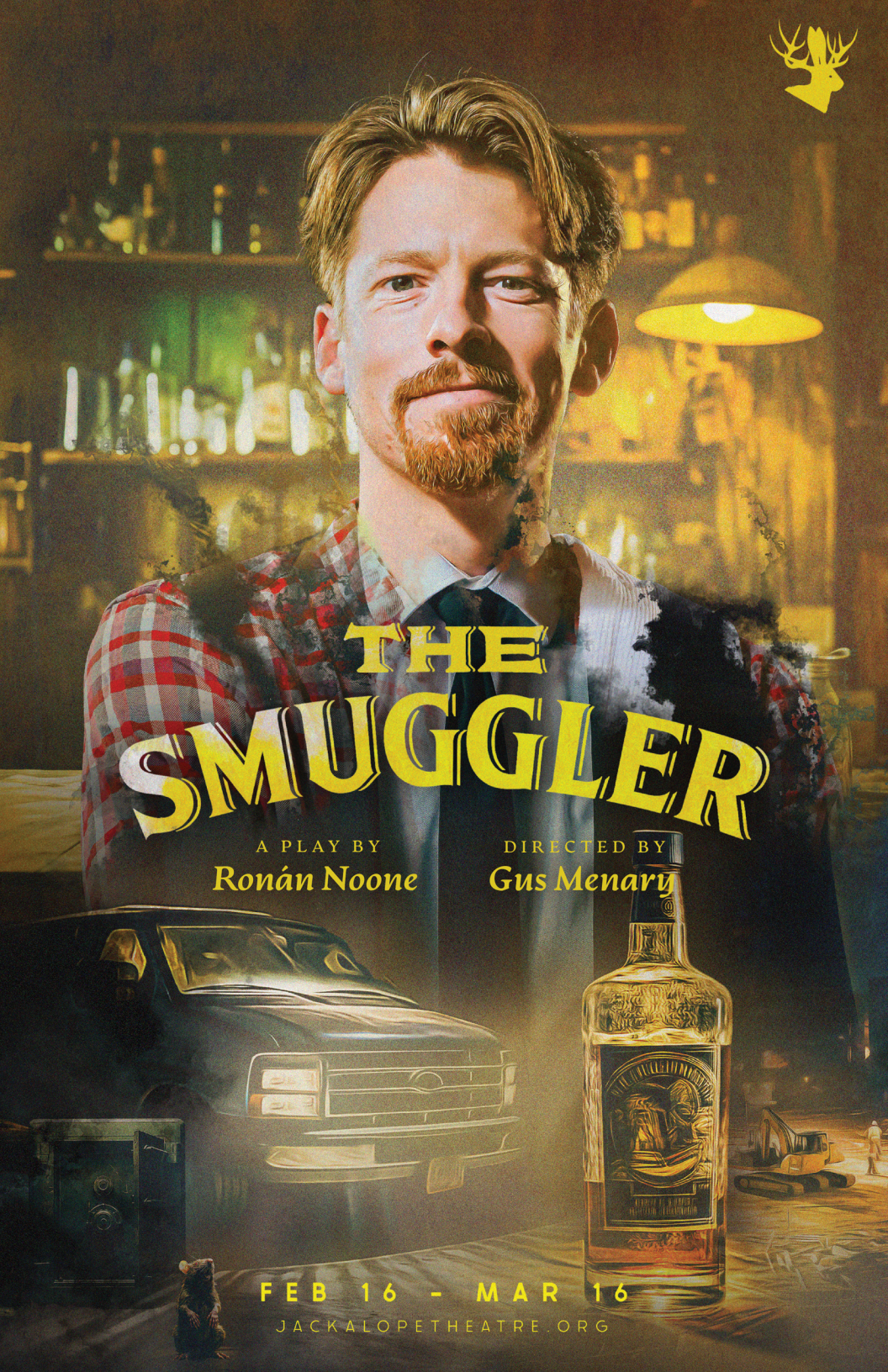
THE SMUGGLER

A PLAY BY
Ronán Noone

DIRECTED BY
Gus Menary

FEB 16 - MAR 16

JACKALOPETHEATRE.ORG



Jackalope Theatre Company expands the definition of American Identity by engaging with our communities to produce works that celebrate diverse perspectives.



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JACKALOPE THEATRE COMPANY

Venue: The Berger Park Cultural Center Coach House Theater,
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Mail: PO Box 60242, Chicago, IL, 60660

<https://www.jackalopetheatre.org>

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JACKALOPE THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS
THE MIDWEST PREMIERE OF

THE SMUGGLER

A PLAY BY DIRECTED BY
Ronán Noone Gus Menary*

In memory of Lynne S. McEvoy, who liked a good story, well told.

FEATURING

TIM FINNEGAN
*Andrew Burden Swanson**

PRODUCTION TEAM

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SCENIC & PROPS DESIGN

*Ryan Emens**

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Isaac J. Pineda

SOUND DESIGN

Michael Huey

DIALECT COACH

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GRAPHIC ART

Jake Friend Design

PRODUCTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Maisonet Photography

PLAYBILL DESIGN

Michelle Maurer

**denotes Jackalope Theatre Company Member*

PLAYWRIGHT

RONÁN NOONE

REFLECTS ON INSPIRATION
FOR *THE SMUGGLER*

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I started out as a novice journalist in Ireland, but I was told I was “deconstructive.” I’m not sure what that meant but I’m guessing I didn’t follow the formula. They complained that I chose to concentrate on the wrong protagonist. Or the wrong event. Or I got “cute” and creative with the structure of the feature.

God knows, maybe I was rhyming back then too.

Nevertheless, I learned the craft and it became the silver lining that turned me into a storyteller. And one day in the early 2000’s, I was painting with a young Brazilian woman on Martha’s Vineyard. She said she had something to tell me. She had heard that I had worked as a journalist for a time. And through a translator she told

me about her journey crossing the border into America using a “Coyote,” people smugglers.

She said she was kept in a cheap motel for thirty days after crossing. She told me about the fear she experienced while being surrounded by so many fellow migrants, mainly men. And eventually she was flown from Houston to TF Green in Rhode Island and driven to the Vineyard.

But during her story, the image that struck me most was when she described the time she crossed the river at night into a field on the American side. She said the Coyote pushed her to the ground, told her to lay flat and close her eyes. Later, when she asked him why she had to close her eyes, he said when Customs and Border control survey the field they use flashlights and if your eyes are open the light reflects off them and that’s how they get you.

I think the fact she was told she was safer with her eyes closed has become a metaphor for this story, and an illustration of how we deal with immigration issues in America.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ANDREW BURDEN SWANSON*, he/him (*Tim Finnegan*) is a founding member of Jackalope, and most recently served as interim executive director. Past Jackalope acting credits include *The Last Duck* (Jeff Award nomination), *Rich And Famous*, *Prowess*, *The Light Fantastic* and he was recently seen on stage in Jackalope's 13th Annual Living Newspaper Festival. A graduate of The School at Steppenwolf his other Chicago acting credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Writers' Theatre), *Port* (Griffin Theatre) and *Waiting for Lefty* (American Blues). Jackalope writing credits include *The Last Exodus of American Men*, *Moonshiner*, *Under Construction*, *The Casuals* and *Lunacy*. He is also the founder of Edgewater Castle Football Club, a non-profit semi-pro soccer club.

RONÁN NOONE, he/him (*Playwright*) believes in playing with a myriad of elements to find the right way to tell a good story; a necessary story that tells us who we are, where we have been and where we are going. He believes in stories that resonate beyond the theatre's door and

that add ideas to the national conversation. He believes in the playwright as a thinker traveling in the direction of their fear. His play *The Smuggler* won the Best Playwright award at the 1st Irish Festival of New York in January of 2019. *The Second Girl* (Thirst) was the inaugural winner of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Excellence in Playwriting Award (2015) and an Edgerton Award winner in 2014. Additional plays include *The Atheist*, *Brendan*, *Scenes from an Adultery*, *The Lepers of Baile Baiste*, *The Blowin of Baile Gall*, *The Gigolo of Baile Breag* (*The Baile Trilogy*), *The Compass Rose*, *Little Black Dress* and *A Small Death*.

GUS MENARY*, he/him (*Director*) most recently directed David Greig's adaptation of Stanislaw Lem's *Solaris* at Book-It Repertory Theatre in Seattle, where he served as Artistic Director. While there, he oversaw the pivot to audio plays during the COVID shutdown and produced world-premiere audio adaptations of authors such as Octavia E. Butler, N.K. Jemisin, and Oscar Wilde. As part of Book-It's return to the stage, he produced world-premiere

stage adaptations of Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter* and Agatha Christie's *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, as well as many other modern adaptations. As director, he led the productions of Julian Glover's *Beowulf* and Bilal Dardai's world-premiere adaptation of Jamyang Norbu's *The Mandala of Sherlock Holmes*. Previously, he served as the Artistic Director of Jackalope Theatre. Under his leadership, Jackalope produced world-premieres by Ike Holter (*Prowess* and *The Light Fantastic*), Lloyd Suh (*Franklinland*), Idris Goodwin (*The Raid*), and Calamity West (*In the Canyon, Rolling*), among many other national and regional premieres. On stage, he directed Aaron Loeb's *Ideation*, Kenneth Lin's *Life On Paper*, Shawn Reddy's *My Name is Mudd*, Andrew Swanson's *Lunacy!* and *Moonshiner*, and Ike Holter's *The Light Fantastic* and *Exit Strategy*.

AMAL MAZEN SALEM, she/her (*Stage Manager*) is so excited for her Stage Managing debut with *The Smuggler* and Jackalope Theatre! Previously, she Production Managed for Jackalope Theatre's LNF14 and A Red Orchid Theatre. She graduated from Northwestern University after studying Theater Performance and Management. When she isn't on stage, you can still find her at the theater as the

People Operations Assistant at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, freelance theater maker, or actor. Otherwise, you can go on a shopping adventure with her for books or paint supplies. Amal is thrilled that you've joined to hear Tim share his wild tale!

RYAN EMENS*, he/him (*Scenic & Props Design*) is a Chicago based scenic designer, and proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. He holds an MFA in scenic design from Yale School of Drama as well as a BFA from University of Central Florida. Designs include work with: The Goodman Theatre, Timeline Theatre, Jackalope Theatre (Company Member), Imagine U at Northwestern University, Yale Repertory Theatre, The Gift Theatre, Saint Sebastian Players, Underscore Theatre, Prologue Theatre, Black Button Eyes Productions, Project 891, Thin Ice Theatre, Coriolis Theatre, and Orlando Repertory Theatre. He currently teaches Scenographic Drafting at DePaul University and previously taught Drafting for Theatre at University of Illinois at Chicago.

CLAIRE SANGSTER*, she/her (*Lighting Design*) Design work includes *Life on Paper*, *Octagon*, *The Raid*, *Lunacy!*, *Crumble*; *Lay Me Down Justin Timberlake*, *Exit Strategy*, *The Killing of Michael X*, *The Annual Living*

Newspaper Festival (Jackalope Theatre), *Anna in the Tropics* (Remy Bumppo Theatre) *The Secretaries* (First Floor Theater) *The Fox Sisters, A Day in the Life* (Lookingglass Youth Ensemble), She is a company member at Jackalope Theatre and holds a BA in Theater Design from Columbia College Chicago. She works at University of Chicago as the Manager of Mandel Hall.

ISAAC J. PINEDA, he/him (*Costume Design*) is a costume designer/stitcher hailing from Southern California and a Columbia college alumni. Some favorite credits include; *Marie Antoinette and the Magical Negroes* (The Story Theatre), *The Secretaries* (First Floor Theatre), *Hamlet* (Invictus Theatre), *The Things I could never tell Steven* (PrideArts) *Waiting for Godot* (Victory Gardens), *A Man of No Importance, Orlando*, (Columbia College Chicago). Check out his work at www.isaacjapineda.com

MICHAEL HUEY, he/him (*Sound Design*) has composed music and designed sound for over 60 theatrical productions across the Chicago area and abroad. He has a long running history with Sideshow Theatre Company, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Adventure Stage, Filament Theatre, Bros

do Prose, Steppenwolf, and many more. Michael is also active in composing scores for film, television, and has been nominated twice by the Joseph Jefferson Awards. Music and more at officialmichaelhuey.com

SAMMI GRANT, she/her (*Dialect Coach*) returns to Jackalope where she previously coached *Franklinland, 1980 or Why I'm Voting for John Anderson*, and *Ideation*. Other Chicago Theatres she has worked with include: Goodman Theatre, Timeline Theatre, Lyric Opera, Drury Lane, Writers Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre, Remy Bumppo, and many more. Her film/TV credits include: *Rescued by Ruby* (Netflix), *Patriot* (Amazon Prime), *The Exorcist* (Fox). Sammi is an Adjunct Professor of Performance at The Theatre School at DePaul University.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jackalope Theatre Company recognizes that Berger Park Cultural Center, Broadway Armory Park, and all of the spaces we have historically created in, sit on native land. This is the traditional homelands of the Council of Three Fires, including the Peoria, Bodwéwadmí (Potawatomi), Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk), and Kiikapoi (Kickapoo). They are the original stewards of this land. We pay our respects to these stewards - past and present.

We acknowledge that while colonialism and the forcible removal of Native Nations is ongoing, so too is the gathering, healing, livelihood and persistence of Native people. This land continues to be a site of gathering and healing for more than a dozen other Tribal Nations and remains home to over 100,000 tribal members in the state of Illinois.

It is our goal that by acknowledging the origins of the land upon which we live and create, that we can be in honest, healthy collaboration with the vast community of Indigenous peoples and artists who have called this land home since time immemorial.

We are always learning and evolving, which means that our Land Acknowledgment will, too. We encourage you to learn more about the land upon which you live and its original stewards by visiting: <https://native-land.ca/>.

SPECIAL THANKS

Big Works Industries
Parks Supervisors Michael Floyd and Bertino Smith

PLEASE NOTE

The video and audio recording of this show is strictly prohibited. You may take photos of the stage before or after the show, but not when actors are present. If you post these photos online or elsewhere, please credit the production's designers.

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