Setting

December 21, 1992

Chicago, IL

The show will run approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

Please silence your cell phone.
Author’s Note

I would like to dedicate this production of *Hellcab* to Carolyn Moore.

I met Carolyn in the City of Angels back in the late 90s. LA is an entity that revels in the creation of failure, and it was like that for me in spades when I went there because I failed big and I failed hard. Carolyn was kindness for me in that city of darkness. A shimmering light. How could I not love her?

Did I love her? Yes. Was I in love with her? Well, I never got that chance.

I was in Singapore when Carolyn died. This was in 2001. Her death was one of those unfathomable moments in life that is inexplicable in its cruelty. I’m a Christian, and I believe in God with all my heart but I will never understand why we are fated like we are, and why the adage “Only the good die young” is true and tragically proven time and time again. Carolyn was looking forward to starting her school year teaching second graders and then she was stricken with cervical cancer and then everything, everything, she’d ever hoped for and worked for was gone. Why this sweet soul was taken from us will forever be a mystery to me, a mystery as quiet as the soft earth that holds her still heart.

And that devastates me. All these years later.

But Carolyn should not be defined by her illness. She was a woman of great warmth, generosity, openness, and beauty.

After all this time, I don’t want to grieve, yet I do. I miss you, Carolyn. For what it’s worth, this one’s for you. I will always remember you, and I desperately wish I could have been there for you in the end.

Will Kern

Seoul, South Korea
The Agency Theater Collective is a non-profit theater company whose mission is to produce new and under-produced plays in Chicago. Since 2011, we have produced seven world premieres, including the acclaimed *I Wish To Apologize To The People of Illinois* and the Jeff nominated *Truth in Context*. The Agency creates immersive, interactive theatrical experiences, inviting the audience to embrace their collective agency in the process. We hold these principles sacred: revelation, paradox, humor, mischief, and collaboration. The Agency is greater than the sum of its parts. We are The Agency and so are you.

**COMPANY**

**Artistic Director**  
Andrew Gallant

**Managing Director**  
Sommer Austin

**Company Manager**  
Tim Touhy

**Literary Manager**  
Brian D. Foster

**Board Member**  
Kevin Wlekinski

**Company Members**

Billy Baraw  
Ellie Humphrys  
Kate Jacobsen  
Cody Lucas  
Huck Poe  
Sara Faye Richmond  
Jack Schultz  
Ethan Walles

**Artistic Associates**

Ryan Brankin  
Patrick Burch  
Amanda Raquel Martinez  
Janet Magnuson  
Greg Seidler

**Emeritus Members**

David Falk  
Cecilia Falter  
Ernie Gonzalez  
Lisa Konoplisky  
Melanie Lewis  
Molly O’Grady  
Brittany Steiger
HELLCAB
25th Anniversary Production
by Will Kern
 Directed by Sommer Austin†

Assistant Director..........................................................Alex Molnar
Assistant Director..........................................................Cordie Nelson
Production Manager......................................................Cait Manning
Stage Manager.............................................................Colleen Schuldeis
Assistant Stage Manager................................................Alex Meyer
Lighting Designer..........................................................Ellie Humphrys†
Scenic Designer.............................................................Elyse Balogh
Costume Designer.........................................................Hailey Rakowiecki
Sound Designer.............................................................Connor Ciesil
Properties Designer.......................................................Shea Messinger
Fight and Intimacy Director..............................................Jamie Macpherson

† denotes Agency Company Member
Cast

Cab Driver.................................................................Rusty Schwimmer *
Young Black Man/Shalita’s Boyfriend..............................George Elzey Jr.
Pakistani Man/Good-Looking Man/Blind Guy................Harsh J. Gagoomal
Lawyer/Pregnant Woman................................................Gabielle Gulledge
Al/Steve/Obnoxious #1..................................................Sean Higgins
Looker/Drunk.............................................................Kate Jacobsen†
Religious Woman/Receptionist.......................................Diana Lee
Cab Driver..................................................................Molly Lyons **
Sister #1/Distraught Woman..........................................Manuela Rentea
Good-Looking Woman/Shalita/Scary...............................Delysa Richards
Stoned Girl/Accordion Player.........................................Sara Faye Richmond†
X-Hat/Father-To-Be/Architect.........................................Reginald Robinson
Crack Head/Obnoxious #2................................................Jack Schultz†
Homer/Southside Guy/Bystander.....................................Tim Touhy†
Religious Man/Intense Man............................................Ethan Walles†
Shopper/ Sister #2/Southside Girl.....................................Marie Weigle
Dispatcher (voice)..........................................................Teresa Champion

Understudies

Looker/Shalita/Drunk....................................................Teresa Champion
Crack Head/Steve/Southside Guy/Obnoxious #1.............Mark Mocarski
Stoner Girl/Sister #1/Southside Girl...............................Hannah Tarr
X-Hat/Young Black Man/Shalita’s Boyfriend....................PJ Walker
Sister #2/Receptionist....................................................Anna Yee

*The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
** select performances  † denotes Agency Company Member
Will Kern’s (Playwright) writing credits, in addition to Hellcab, include Kid Sister and Mothers and Tigers: True Stories of Korean Women. As a screenwriter, Kern wrote the film adaptation of Hellcab, the award-winning short films Pain Chain and Lost in Rome. His travel writing and essays have been published in numerous magazines and newspapers around the world. His first novel Ballet for Guys is built around Billy Jim Hauck, a political conservative and self-described “fat ass with brown teeth and a scraggly Yosemite Sam mustache.”

Sommer Austin (Director) is a founding member and Managing Director of The Agency Theater Collective. For The Agency, she has directed Chagrin Falls by Mia McCullough and co-directed the world premiere of Nautilina by Brian Foster. Assistant directing credits include Good for Otto (The Gift Theatre) and The Flick (Steppenwolf Theatre), directing credits include short plays for ArciTEXT (The Arc Theatre) and TEN (The Gift Theatre), and executive director of The Tritonysia Play Festival at Triton College, where she serves as Artistic Director of Triton Theatre. Sommer is an adjunct theatre faculty member at Triton College, The Theatre School at DePaul University, and is a co-founder and instructor at Green Shirt Studio, a storefront acting studio at Clark and Montrose. Special thanks to Dexter, Will, Andrew, Rusty, Molly, the lovely ensemble, understudies & crew, and her fellow Agents. This one’s for you, Mark.

Rusty Schwimmer (Cab Driver) is thrilled to be back in her hometown of Chicago where the weather is perfect, the sausages are plentiful and the Cubs win. Schwimmer is best known for her roles in the feature films A Little Princess, Twister, EdTV, The Perfect Storm, Runaway Jury and North Country. She has also enjoyed working on the television series Louie, The Guardian, Gilmore Girls, Picket Fences and Six Feet Under. On stage, Schwimmer was last seen in Los Angeles at the Mark Taper Forum in their production of House of Blue Leaves and in Chicago in Race at Lookingglass Theatre. Upcoming Film projects include Blood Stripe and Wild Honey.
George Ellzey Jr. (Young Black Man / Shalita’s Boyfriend) is honored to be working with The Agency and this incredible cast and crew. Credits: *Wait, I’m a Racist?* (Rogue Shark Pictures), *Off the Rails* (Artigianale Films). BFA - English & Theater, Bowdoin College. Currently a student at Green Shirt Studio. George is expanding the narrative of minorities in film through his screenwriting and his production company, ROME Production Group. Look for their new web series, *SHOWCASE* coming soon! George thanks God, his family, friends and all those who have invested in him. www.romeproductiongroup.com

Harsh J. Gagoomal (Pakistani Man / Good-Looking Man / Blind Guy) is uber excited to be sharing this ride with you! Hailing from Boston, Harsh has recently made Chicago his home. He was most recently seen in Red Theater Chicago’s *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* and loitering in the snack aisle at *Aldi’s*. Much love and gratitude to the amazing cast and crew! Harsh is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent. He does not know how to drive :(  

Gabrielle Gulledge (Lawyer / Pregnant Woman) is ecstatic to take this ride with the cast and crew of *Hellcab*. She is new to the Chicago theatre scene but not the city, having escaped life as an accountant in the south and resettled here in her hometown. Previous productions include *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* with Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, *Nauseously Optimistic* at Second City and *Not This White Woman* with Arc Theatre Company. She’d like to thank her family and friends for their love and support, including her mom (Hi Mommie!!) and cat, Sasha. She looks forward to seeing what is in store next!

Sean Higgins (Al / Steve / Obnoxious Guy #1) is happy to be sharing the stage with his colleagues in each scene and appreciates the entire cast for their great work! Thank You to Sommer, The Agency, and the entire production staff for making this experience a wonderful one. This is Sean’s third production with The Agency, having played The Reporter in *I Wish to Apologize to the People of Illinois* and a lawyer named Kevin in *At The Center*. Sean wishes audience members the happiest of holidays, and reminds you: don’t forget to tip your driver.
Kate Jacobsen (Looker / Drunk) has appeared on stage in Out of Tune Confessional, The Spirit of ’76, Daddy’s Little Question Mark, and various film projects. Kate has written and performed stories at No Shame Theatre and written for three 24-hour play festivals with The Agency, where she has been a company member since 2013. Kate has been assisting The Agency in costume for the last few years, as well as The Mammals, Oracle Theater, and Triton College. Kate was also on the costume team for 9 TV episodes of The Exorcist in the Fall of 2016 and has lent a hand to Cirque Shanghai, the Civic Opera, Voice of the Vespers, Shakespeare on the Loose, Theater Simpson, and various custom superheroes.

Diana Lee (Religious Woman / Receptionist) is thrilled to be working with The Agency once again! Since making her first-ever stage appearance with them as an understudy in Chagrin Falls, she has stayed busy with various projects throughout the year. Most recently, she was an understudy in the Jeff Award-winning production of At the Table with Broken Nose Theatre and the subsequent summer remount. Other theater credits include Mickey Cares (Tritonysia Play Festival, The Agency’s Basement Series) and Ruth’s Pills. TV/Film/Webseries credits include Chicago P.D. and Showcase. She is represented by Lily’s Talent Agency.

Molly Lyons (Cab Driver) Chicago credits: Julius Caesar - Julius Caesar, Paola - Chewing on Beckett, Meredith - Temperance vs. Tolerance, Worcester & Quickly - Father Ruffian, Nurse - Romeo and Juliet, Kate Mayo - Beyond the Horizon. She directed Unbraced Theatre’s Julius Caesar, Main Street Opera’s Barber of Seville & Piccolo’s The Love of Three Oranges. Elsewhere, Molly has acted & directed across the US and internationally in Canada, France, Ireland & Republic of Georgia. Molly’s education: BA - Santa Clara University, MFA - California Institute of the Arts, Intensive Training - Royal Shakespeare Company.

Manuela Rentea (Sister #1 / Distraught Woman) is super excited for this opportunity to work with The Agency again and wants to thank Sommer and Andrew for being great teachers and awesome friends to all of us out here. She feels privileged to work with such a talented and dedicated team. She wants to say thank you to all her friends for everything: to her partner George for his love, respect and for being such a good man; and to her mom for having fun learning all the bad words in English and for being the best and cutest baby on earth.
**Delysa Richards** (Good-Looking Woman / Shalita / Scary) has performed in various stage plays such as *Decisions: A Gospel Play; The Point Of Revue* which received an award for best ensemble acting from the American College Theatre Festival. She has performed in three seasonal productions with the Cuckoo’s Theatre Project and had a principle role with the F.Y.I. Theatre in their production of *Expectations*. Delysa feels it is a true blessing and dream to perform in *HellCab* with her amazing cast and crew members! Delysa believes you should always walk by faith and, “In All thy ways acknowledge HIM, and HE will direct thy path,” Proverbs 3:16.

**Sara Faye Richmond** (Stoned Girl / Accordion Player) moved here five years ago and fell in the love with the wildly talented, supportive, weirdo artists of Chicago. With The Agency, she has worked as an assistant stage manager on *I Wish to Apologize… and At the Center*. She has also stage managed *Truth in Context*, property designed *The Spirit of ’76*, art directed *Chagrin Falls*, and acted in *Nautilina*. Sara makes regular appearances at No Shame Theatre and is co-producer of The Basement Series, a monthly theatrical event. Sara wrote and performed the prize-winning, two-woman show, *Ankle Boots: Absurd Miniature Memoirs* at the 2014 Chicago Fringe Festival and its “re-boot” in 2015.

**Reginald Robinson Jr.** (X-Hat / Father-To-Be / Architect) is glad to be working…with The Agency Theatre Collective! Some of his credits include *Pericles, Cymbeline, Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth* and *Henry V* (Muse of Fire Theatre), *Forty-Two Stories* (CityLit Theatre), *Run, Chris, Run* (Stone Soup Theatre), *Ghosts of Treasure Island* (Adventure Stage), and *dirty butterfly* (The Blind Owl Theatre Company). Regional credits include: *Tommy J and Sally* (Studio@620), and *Fences* (American Stage Theatre). Reginald received his MFA from the Florida State University’s Asolo Conservatory. Everlasting thanks to his family and his wife, Chelsea.

**Jack Schultz** (Crack Head, Obnoxious #2) is a proud company member of The Agency Theatre Collective where he produces The Basement Series. Performance credits with The Agency include *I Wish to Apologize to the People of Illinois, The Spirit of ’76*, and look out for the premiere of his solo show *I’m Falling in Love All the Time* in March 2018. Jack is an instructor at Green Shirt Studio and on staff with Sideshow Theatre Company.
Tim Touhy (South Side Guy / Homer) is a founding member of The Agency. Tim’s recent credits with The Agency include *The Spirit of ’76, Paradise Lost*, and *Out of Tune Confessional*. Some of his other acting credits include *A Little Night Music* at the Circle Theatre, and *Alive and Dead in Indiana* with the Village Players. With The Agency’s artistic director, Andrew Gallant, Tim co-wrote and co-directed two of the company’s world premiere plays: *I Wish to Apologize to the People of Illinois*, and *At the Center*. He studied the Meisner acting technique at Green Shirt Studio, and The True Acting Institute.

Ethan Walles (Religious Man / Intense Man) is very excited to be taking this ride with such a talented cast and crew. A graduate of Green Shirt Studio’s Meisner program, he has performed around Chicago in such productions as *ID* (Lady Square Arts), *The Dancing Plague* (Right Brain Project), *The Green Bird* (Cuckoo’s Theater Project), and *Richard III* (Fury Theatre). He is a proud member of The Agency and regularly appears in their weekly open mic No Shame Theatre, where he gets to do a lot of fun stuff with masks and flashing lights.

Marie Weigle (Shopper / Sister #2 / Southside Girl) is beyond thrilled to make her Agency debut with *Hellcab*. Marie is a Virginia transplant after earning her BFA in Performance Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University. She was most recently seen as Bianca in *Taming of the Shrew* with The Arc Theatre and Bonnie in *Bonnie & Clyde* with Titus Ship Production Company. A founding member of Alluvium Group, she co-directed, wrote and produced *I am No Bird*, an original work about the Bronte sisters. She also appeared in *Vices and Virtues* with Profiles Theatre. Film credits include Angie in the feature film *Scent* and various roles with Giunta Creative.

Teresa Champion (Dispatcher’s Voice / Understudy) makes her debut with The Agency. Recent stage roles include Old Lady Goody in *The Last Cadillac*, Mary Jane/Edna/Narrator in *The Sun Dial*, and Miz Crowder/Hazel/Mrs. Avery in *Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Teresa is originally from Colorado and has moved to Chicago to continue pursuing her acting career. She is also very pleased to work with such an amazing group of actors.
Mark Mocarski (Understudy) is a native Chicagoan and actor. His most recent acting credits include *The Spirit of ’76* (Agency Theater Collective) and *Metropolis Triptych* (Loft Productions). He is a graduate from The Theater School at DePaul University and Green Shirt Studio’s Meisner Acting Training Program.

Hannah Tarr (Understudy) is thrilled to be a part of *Hellcab*. This is her second production with The Agency (*Skin For Skin*) and she has also performed with Second City, Pride Films and Plays, Strawdog Theatre, and at various open mic nights in Chicago. She would like to thank Sommer and Andrew for being the greatest theater people in Chicago, her roommates for hearing all about her horror stories as a Lyft driver, and her dogdaughter Chacha.

PJ Walker (Understudy) is very excited to be working on The Agency’s production of *Hellcab*. After graduating from Millikin University, PJ moved back home to pursue theatre in his hometown. Previous credits include *The Cat in The Hat* at Windy City Music Theatre, *El Stories 25* with The Waltzing Mechanics, and staged readings with Mercy Street Theatre & the Goodman Theatre. He would love to thank all cast and crew involved.

Anna Yee (Understudy) is thrilled to make her Chicago theatre debut with The Agency Theater Collective. Since moving to Chicago in 2015, Anna has racked up credits in TV, film, print, commercials, and industrials, most notably in a supporting role in NBC’s *Chicago Fire*. Anna is also a member of HaHa Men Improv and Sketch Comedy and Ascension Performing Arts dance team. She has a degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and emcees live entertainment events. Anna is a proud graduate of Green Shirt Studio’s Meisner Acting Training Program.
Joseph Zaki (Understudy) is ecstatic to work with The Agency for the second time. Joseph is a technology professional by trade with deep passion for theater. Joseph’s acting career started in 1987, participating in a number of theater productions in the late 80's and early 90's. Joseph previously understudied with The Agency on Skin for Skin.

Cait Manning (Production Manager) is thrilled to be working with The Agency for the first time on Hellcab. She hails from New Orleans, Louisiana where she earned a BA in Theatre Arts from Loyola University. Previous Chicago credits include Stage Manager for Snapshots Ten Minute Play Festival with 20% Theatre Company and Death Toll with Corn Productions. She is also the Production Manager for the Chicago Theatre Marathon, a celebration of new and diverse voices in Chicago Theatre, returning in the Summer of 2018. She would like to thank everyone at The Agency, most especially Sommer for giving her the chance to work on this tremendously fun production.

Colleen Schuldeis (Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing Hellcab. A graduate of Kalamazoo College, Colleen has spent the last two years apprenticing at The Purple Rose Theatre and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. Past stage management credits include Romeo and Juliet, Cloud 9, The Odd Couple, Mornings at Seven, Clue, The Fundamentals, and Hir. She would like to thank her parents, mentors, friends, and fellow company members.

Alex Meyer (Assistant Stage Manager) is a stage manager from Port Huron, Michigan, with his heart in community-engaged regional and devised theatre. BFA: Western Michigan University, MFA: University of California, Irvine. Chicago credits: Shakespeare in Love (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), For One ((re)discover Theatre), Gloomy Gus (Victory Gardens), ensemble member with (re)discover Theatre. Southern California credits: The Year of Magical Thinking (Laguna Playhouse), the world premiere The Man Who Killed the Cure, [Our Life] The Black Youth Stories Project (Casa 0101), the New Slate and Physical Graffiti dance concerts, Woyzeck, and The Electra Project. Alex enjoys coffee, the color green, and most nerdy things.

Alex Molnar (Assistant Director) is excited to be back at it with The Agency Theater Collective. This is her second time Assistant Directing with Sommer Austin, and she’s loved every minute of it. Lately Alex has been seen in Odd’s Bodkins productions of Much Ado About Nothing and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. She will also be in the upcoming production of A Winter’s Tale with Odd’s Bodkins.
Cordie Nelson (Assistant Director) is so excited to be working with The Agency Theater Collective again! She assistant directed Chagrin Falls in 2016 and is looking forward to directing I'm Falling in Love All the Time with them next spring. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support.

Ellie Humphrys (Lighting Designer) graduated in 2012 with a BFA in Lighting Design from DePaul University and has been working the storefront theatre scene ever since. She is a company member with The Agency and has designed numerous shows with them including Nautilina, Chagrin Falls, At The Center, Truth in Context, and I Wish to Apologize to the People of Illinois. Additional designs of note include Belfast Girls with Artemesia Theatre, Faces of Eurydice with CUBE Ensemble, Ladies First with Laboratory Dancers, and Waiting for Lefty at Triton College. www.ellielightstheatre.com

Elyse Balogh (Scenic Designer) is a graduate from DePaul University’s Theatre School, with a BFA in Scenic Design. Recently, she has designed Shakin’ the Mess Outta Misery (Pegasus), Peter and the Starcatcher, Godspell (St. Patrick’s High), School For Lies (The Artistic Home), Henry V (Babes with Blades), Circle Mirror Transformation, Death of a Salesman (Redtwist). Recent paint charges include The Skin of our Teeth (Remy Bummpo) and Unseen (The Gift). Elyse is the Scenic Paint Apprentice at Steppenwolf this season. www.elysebalogh.com

Hailey Rakowiecki (Costume Designer) is thrilled to work The Agency! Chicago credits include: The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Red Theater), Macbeth (Oak Park Festival Theatre), The Taming of the Shrew (the Arc Theatre) and Jesus, The Jew (Greenhouse Theatre). Other credits include: Wig Out!, Esperanza Rising (The Theatre School). Hailey is a recent graduate of The Theatre School, having earned her BFA in Costume Design and Technology in June. She is also a Wigmaker, having earned both Wigs and Hair Chicago program certificates.

Connor Ciesil (Sound Designer) is a Chicago based Sound Designer and Composer originally from Wauconda, Illinois. Connor is also currently employed as the production staff Audio Engineer at the University of Chicago.

Jamie Macpherson (Fight/Intimacy Director) is a Twin Cities native and very excited to make Hellcab her Chicago debut. Fight/intimacy credits include Feathers and Teeth and Titus Andronicus (Arizona State University) and It’s Not that Simple (Graybox Collective). She recently crossed off a bucket list item by staging fights for The Princess Bride at First Act Children’s Theatre in Madison, WI. Jamie holds an MFA in Theatre for Youth from Arizona State University.
Shea Messinger (Properties Designer) is a set, props, and puppet designer fresh out of school from Bennington College where they designed for several shows and had their own play, When the Sun Falls, produced and lead the creation of a puppet adaptation of Richard Adam’s Watership Down. Previous credits include scenic design for I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change (Quest Theater Ensemble), scenic painting for Alias Grace (Rivendell), and props design for House of Bernarda Alba (St. Sebastian Players).

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