

THIRD ⚡ **RAIL**

TWO PINTS

by Roddy Doyle
directed by Scott Yarbrough

October 20-November 5, 2023
Third Rail at CoHo Theatre



Third Rail Repertory Theatre acknowledges that we live and work on the stolen ancestral lands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla and many other Tribes who made their homes, and continue to make their homes, along the Willamette and Columbia rivers. We acknowledge that the seizure of these lands was by forced and armed removal of these Indigenous communities. Portland’s urban Native community is descended from more than 380 tribes, and there are nine sovereign Native American nations located throughout Oregon.

We acknowledge that Third Rail’s administrative offices in the Alberta Abbey reside in a building that was historically a religious and community gathering place in a predominantly Black neighborhood, and that the Black community members of the Albina district have been displaced through decades of systemic racism. It is important to note that this displacement contributes to community violence.

We acknowledge that these words are meaningless without action to address the injustices in our community, and we hold ourselves accountable to act in service of dismantling the systems that feed racism and anti-Blackness.

THIRD RAIL



www.thirdrailrep.org



SANCTUARY CITY

by Martyna Majok
directed by Cristi Miles

March 1–March 17, 2024

Two young undocumented immigrants negotiate the promise of safety and the weight of responsibility, as they fight to establish a place for themselves and each other in America, the only country they know as home.



MIDDLETOWN MALL

by Lava Alapai
directed by Isaac Lamb

May 24–June 9, 2024

A group of twenty-somethings in a 1990’s mall navigate the everyday fun and tension of friendships, food courts, annoying bosses, family drama, and karaoke—until a much bigger challenge suddenly interrupts their lives.

TWO PINTS

By: Roddy Doyle
Directed by: Scott Yarbrough

CAST

One..... Bruce Burkhardtmeier*
Two..... Mike O’Connell*
Bartender..... Scott Yarbrough

CREATIVE TEAM

Director..... Scott Yarbrough
Stage Manager..... Dana Petersen*
Lighting Designer..... Kristeen Willis
Scenic Designer..... Sean O’Skea
Props Designer..... Emily Rusmisel
Sound Engineer..... Matthew Rowning
Technical Director/Builder..... Brian Guerrero
Lead Electrician..... Joshua Yoon
Stage Manager Sub..... Alea Tran

SEASON SPONSOR
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Dianne Sawyer and Richard Petersen

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*Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, [Producer], and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

TWO PINTS will run approximately 90 minutes with two intermissions.

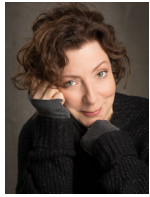
Actors’ Equity Association (“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

Special thanks to: Tom, Siobhan, Angela, and everyone at T.C. O’Leary’s; Raef Wheaton

Cover photo by Owen Carey; program design by Rene Choy



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Welcome to Third Rail's 18th Season! We are grateful to have you, and excited to share the journey ahead. You being with us, in our beloved little CoHo theatre space, is a true joy.

I want to stop and say it again. It is a true joy, and one we do not take for granted. Thank you.

This season we'll traverse some wonderfully varied terrain so please join for the whole thing. We'll settle in for a couple of pints at a local pub in Dublin where two old friends share familiar rituals and ponder the mundane and profound events of daily life. Then we're off to post- 9/11 Newark and "thereabouts" as two young friends navigate all the tender and painful complexities of adolescence, while also living the realities of being undocumented immigrants who only know America as home. Finally, we'll find ourselves in a 1990's mall in Anytown, USA where four friends prepare for a karaoke contest while the new millennium approaches fast.

At the core of each play is friendship. The characters are all so beautifully different from one another, but their friendships, forged by time, place, and circumstance, are so recognizable. Their friendships offer a way for us to not only see into their stories, but to relish with them our messy, mysterious, and glorious shared humanity.

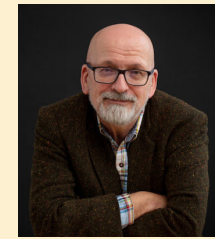
I hope to see you for all three shows but I am thankful for you being here right now. Enjoy!

Maureen



I first became aware of Roddy Doyle in the early 90's when Alan Parker's screen adaptation of Doyle's first novel, *The Commitments*, somehow made it to the movie theatre in my hometown for one single week. I became obsessed and saw it three times during that run. When I spent the summer in London a few years later, I picked up a copy of the book and read the whole thing on a long bus ride from Stratford to London. I gobbled through the rest of the books in that trilogy and then started a habit of picking up his newest book as soon as it was published in the States. (I'm old enough to remember when it was near impossible to get books from the UK before they were published in America.) Before he became the voice of modern Irish literature (my claim), he actually wrote plays for his neighborhood theatre in Dublin. After the success of *The Commitments*, a pair of his plays was published. One of these plays, *War*, is set in a Dublin pub on Trivia Night as we follow the increasingly more intoxicated exploits of four trivia teams. It's one of my favorite plays and I hope to get a chance to see it or hear it read one day.

Flash forward several decades and Roddy's publisher was insisting that he start a presence on social media. Doyle created a Facebook account, but had no idea what to post, so he started writing small, fictional dialogues between two middle-aged men sitting in a pub and discussing the news of the day over pints. These dialogues started amassing a substantial following to the point where three books were published compiling years of these dialogues. In 2018, he decided to give these two characters a larger stage to play on (literally) and made them the focus of a new play, *Two Pints*, which he wrote for the Abbey Theatre. I'm no longer the young buck I was when I first read *The Commitments* and neither is Roddy. His compassionate portrait of two men wrestling with loss, and their search for how they might make the most out of the time they have, resonates with me at this point in my life as well as this world "post" -Covid. Thanks for letting us share their ridiculousness with you.



RODDY DOYLE (he/him) was born in Dublin in 1958. He is the author of ten acclaimed novels, including *The Commitments*, *The Van* (a finalist for the Booker Prize), *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* (winner of the Booker Prize), *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors*, *A Star Called Henry*, *The Guts*, and most recently, *Smile*. Doyle has also written several collections of stories, as well as *Two Pints*, *Two More Pints*, and *Two for the Road*, and several works for children and young adults including the Rover novels. He lives in Dublin.

Thanks to Portland's Art Tax...



- › Every elementary school in the city now has an art, music, or dance teacher.
- › Organizations like Third Rail can bring exciting, thought-provoking work to theatre audiences.
- › Third Rail and dozens of nonprofit arts organizations are expanding access to the arts for underserved communities through programs like Arts For All.

Thank you, Portlanders!

Nigella: Nigella Lawson, English food writer and television chef.

Paddy Power: Irish betting franchise with storefronts in most Irish towns.

Beaumont: Teaching hospital in northern Dublin.

Man United: Manchester United, extremely popular British soccer club, possibly the soccer equivalent of the New York Yankees in terms of public perception.

Grand National: Famous British steeplechase, similar to the Kentucky Derby in terms of popularity.

Bisto: Brand of gravy.

Naomi Campbell: Famous British supermodel of the 90's.

Bayern and Dortmund: German Football clubs.

Gerd Müller (Der Bomber): Famous German footballer of the 1960's-70's.

Franz Beckenbauer (Der Kaiser) - Famous German footballer of the 1960's-70's.

Benazir Bhutto - 2-time Prime Minister of Pakistan, assassinated in 2007.

IMF: International Monetary Fund.

Madam Lagarde: Christine Lagarde, first woman to serve as France's Finance Minister and director of the IMF.

Condoleeza Rice: First woman to serve as US national security advisor and then Secretary of State under George Bush.

Strictly Come Dancing: British reality show equivalent to the US's *Dancing with the Stars*.

Guards: Short for Garda Síochána, the national police service of Ireland.

Artaine Castle: Shopping center in Dublin.

Clarks: Chain of shoe stores.

Offaly: Government of Offaly, County in Ireland.

WAGs: "Wives and Girlfriends" of soccer players.

Bublé: Michael Bublé, French-Canadian crooner.

Ha'penny place: Contraction of "halfpenny"; to be in a worse or poorer place geographically and metaphorically.

RAF: Royal Air Force.

Leonard Cohen: Canadian singer-songwriter who often wore a fedora.

The Liffey: River that flows through the middle of Dublin.

Glasnevin: Large cemetery in London dating back to the 1830's.

Barry Manilow: Singer-songwriter super popular in the 70's.

Messi: Lionel Messi, Argentinian soccer player considered one of the best current players.

Ronaldo: Cristiano Ronaldo, Portuguese soccer player, also considered one of the best current players.

Kylie Minogue: Australian singer who reached stardom in the 80's and 90's.

Beckham: David Beckham, famous English soccer player.

Biggles: Fictional English pilot and adventurer and hero of a series of books for kids.

Goldgrains: English brand of cookie.

Cornetto: Brand of ice cream novelties.



SCOTT YARBROUGH (he/him) (Director/Bartender) is the Founding Artistic Director of Third Rail. He received

degrees in Theatre from Oklahoma Baptist University (BA), Louisiana State University (MA), and Ohio University (MFA). Directing credits: *Radiant Vermin*, *The Events*, *The Nether*, *Mr. Kolpert*, *Static*, *The Night Alive*, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, *Noises Off*, *Sweet and Sad*, *That Hopey Changey Thing*, *Collapse*, *The Pain and the Itch*, *Last of the Boys*, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *Kiss Me Like You Mean It*, *The Gray Sisters* (World Premiere), *The Lying Kind*, *Fabuloso*, *A Skull in Connemara*, *Dead Funny*, *Nobody Here But Us Chickens*, *Shining City*, *Grace*, *A Lesson from Aloes*, *Number Three* (World Premiere), *The Pavilion*, *The Lonesome West*, *Dirty Story*, *Recent Tragic Events*, *Grotesque Playground Injuries*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, and *Chesapeake*.



BRUCE BURKHARTSMEIER (he/him) (One) has been a professional actor and Actors Equity member for nearly forty

years. He studied for five years with the renowned acting teacher Uta Hagen in New York City, in addition to periods of study with luminaries Geraldine Page, Earle Hyman, and William Hickey. He has worked at many theatrical venues throughout the country,

including Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Meadowbrook Theater in Detroit, and the Odyssey Theater Ensemble in Los Angeles. A company member of Portland's Third Rail Repertory Theater for six years, Bruce has also appeared in shows at Oregon Shakespeare Company/Portland, Portland Center Stage, Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Repertory Theater, Profile Theatre, and the Oregon Stage Company. He has won three Drammy Awards for Best Actor: as John in *Shining City*, as Truman in *A Noble Failure*, and as Joe in *Killer Joe*. He also won a Best Supporting Actor as Tilden in Sam Shepard's *Buried Child*.



MIKE O'CONNELL (he/him) (Two) has performed in Third Rail's productions of *The Nether*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *The Night Alive*,

Middletown, *Sweet and Sad*, *That Hopey Changey Thing*, *Penelope*, *Last of the Boys*, *The Lying Kind* (Drammy), *A Skull in Connemara*, *Shining City*, *Nobody Here But Us Chickens*, *Number Three*, *The Pavilion*, *The Lonesome West*, *Dirty Story* and *Recent Tragic Events* (Drammy). CoHo Theatre: *The Few*. PETE: *Three Sisters*. Portland Center Stage: *Much Ado about Nothing*, *Another Fine Mess*. Artists Repertory Theatre: *House and Garden*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *An Owen Meany Christmas Pageant*, *Art*, *The Weir*, and *Three Days of Rain*. Portland Playhouse: *Wakey Wakey*, *Telethon*, and *The Huntsmen*. Profile Theatre: *The*

Homecoming. Clackamas Rep: *The Odd Couple*. New York: *Leir Rex*, La Mama; *Pentecost*, Five Points Theater; *The Middle Watch*, Theater Outrageous; and *Lovers* at the Players Club. Regionally: *A Christmas Carol*, *Two Gentleman of Verona*, and *Speed the Plow*; *Suburbia*, The Unicorn Theater; and *Taming of the Shrew*, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival. Michael is a certified Fitzmaurice Voicework Associate Teacher. He teaches at Portland State University and Portland Actors Conservatory. MFA, University of Missouri at Kansas City.

DANA PETERSEN (she/her) (Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing at Third Rail for the first time! She has previously been on the stage management team for *Young Americans*; *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*; *tick, tick... BOOM!*; *Rent*; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*; *Redwood*; *In the Heights* (Portland Center Stage), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (The Old Globe). Dana is proud to be a member of Actors' Equity.

KRISTEEN WILLIS (she/her) (Lighting Designer) is excited to be designing for Third Rail again. She received her BA from Centre College in Danville, KY and received her MFA in lighting design from Wayne State University, Hilberry Company in Detroit, MI. Kristeen is a proud member of United Scenic Artists and has been an educator, a designer (lighting, scenery, sound, props), a technician, a technical director,

a production manager and most recently a project manager for commercial lighting controls. She is a Resident Artist with Artists Repertory Theatre. She has designed locally and regionally and has won several Drammy Awards for lighting and scenic design.

SEAN O'SKEA (he/him) (Scenic Designer) and Third Rail Rep go way back. His first scenic design for Third Rail was *A Skull in Connemara* in 2009, directed by Scott Yarbrough and featuring Bruce Burkhartsmeier and Mike O'Connell in the cast. So *Two Pints* feels like coming home to old friends. *Skull* remains one of Sean's favorite productions of his career. He also designed *The Pain and the Itch* and *Noises Off* for Third Rail and frequently designs for Broadway Rose Theatre Company, most recently designing *Honky Tonk Laundry* and *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Sean is the professor of Design at Southern Oregon University in Ashland where he lives with his lovely wife Doreen and almost grown-up daughter Siobhan.

EMILY RUSMISEL (she/her) (Props Designer) On staff with Oregon Children's Theatre since 2017, Emily's been prone to paint, carve foam, sew curtains, and occasionally design taco themed productions (*Dragons Love Tacos 2022 & 2020*). Working throughout the Willamette Valley, Emily's design recognitions include the 2020 PAMTA for Outstanding Scenic Design for *Footloose* with Broadway Rose Theatre

Company, the 2019 Sparkle Award for Outstanding Set Design for *Wolf at the Door* with Milagro Theatre, the 2018 PAMTA for Outstanding Scenic Design for *Trails* with Broadway Rose Theatre Company, and the 2018 Drammy for Outstanding Achievement in Properties Design for *Men on Boats* with Third Rail Repertory Theatre. Before hitting the PDX arts scene in 2014, Emily spent three seasons with the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, led public arts projects, and taught puppetry workshops at public schools, libraries, and the Children's Discovery Museum. www.emilyrusmisel.com

MATT ROWNING (he/they) (Sound Engineer) is a musician, sound designer, actor and healthcare worker from SE Portland, where riding the MAX green line taught them not just how to stay alive, but thrive. He is very excited to join the incredible folks at Third Rail for another season! Third Rail credits: sound support for *Mary Jane*, *I'm Black When I'm Singing*, *I'm Blue When I Ain't* and *The Music Man*. Upcoming at Third Rail: *Middletown Mall*. @chaereb

BRIAN GUERRERO (he/him) (Technical Director) was previously honored to serve as the Assistant Director on the Third Rail production of *Or.*. In addition to building sets, Brian keeps busy as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Portland and George Fox University. When not working, Brian spends time with his wife, Eve, and his triplets - Hector, Rosie and Ella.

JOSHUA YOON (he/him) (Lead Electrician) was born in South Korea and raised in California and Oregon. Joshua is a graduate of Southern Oregon University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. In addition to Joshua's studies, he has also worked with Broadway Rose Theatre Company, both as an intern and a professional theatrical electrician. Over the span of his college career, Joshua has been the Lead Electrician in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, as well as various Senior Thesis Projects. His hobbies include cooking, programming, and riding his motorcycle, Bumblebee.

ALEA TRAN (they/them) (Stage Manager Sub) is a theatre artist whose interests lie in creating art that provides space and support for minority voices and developing new works. In addition to freelancing in a variety of backstage roles, they work box office here at Third Rail Repertory Theatre and are a member of the PATHWAYS mentorship program through Artists Repertory Theatre. Recent productions include *Adam's Run* (stage manager, Renegade Opera); *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (assistant stage manager, Oregon Children's Theatre), *American Fast* (production manager, Artists Repertory Theatre); *Chicken & Biscuits* (assistant stage manager, Portland Playhouse); and *The Hombres* (props assistant, Artists Repertory Theatre).

The mission of Third Rail Repertory Theatre is to provide a dynamic artistic home for theatre audiences in Portland by fostering a professional local company, which, through collaboration and discipline, brings to life exceptional stories that provoke dialogue, encourage empathy, and inspire curiosity.

Third Rail Repertory Theatre is a Member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

Third Rail Repertory Theatre receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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The list reflects donations received between July 1, 2022 – September 14, 2023. We strive to keep this list up to date and accurate. Please contact development@thirdrailrep.org if there are any corrections or additions. Thank you for your support.

We would also like to thank the people who have supported the Philip Cuomo Family Foundation and the Cuomo Theatre Collaborative in our work to secure and expand a home for the performing arts in the CoHo Theatre building. To learn more about the PCFF and CTC, and how you can support this work, please see the back cover of this program.

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The Philip Cuomo Family Foundation and The Cuomo Theatre Collaborative:

WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND A HOME FOR PERFORMING ARTS

For 26 years CoHo Theatre on NW Raleigh has been a vital resource for artists, and a reliable location for audiences. Prior to his death in November 2021, Philip Cuomo (CoHo's then Producing Artistic Director) had been working towards the purchase of the CoHo Theatre building, committed to its preservation as a center for performing arts in the community.

Inspired by Philip's vision and tireless work, Philip's family formed the Philip Cuomo Family Foundation in order to steward the purchase and renovation of the NW Raleigh Building. Three non-profit theatre companies with strong ties to Philip's work and vision, and ties to the building itself as a necessary asset – Third Rail Repertory Theatre, PETE (Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble), and CoHo Productions – formed the Cuomo Theatre Collaborative to work closely with the Philip Cuomo Family Foundation in order to preserve Philip's legacy.

Mission

The mission of the Cuomo Theatre Collaborative is to secure a sustainable home for the performing arts at 2257-2259 NW Raleigh Street that provides space, resources, and opportunities to artists and audiences. Through a model of collective leadership, artist empowerment, and affordable access, this space will

interrupt the gentrification narrative and integrate the arts as a necessary piece of community vitality in Portland's exploding Slabtown neighborhood.

Vision

Performance requires a place. A place to make, to practice, to gather, and to share a visceral experience. Smaller itinerant companies and independent artists are dependent on access to high quality, affordable performance, rehearsal, teaching, and office spaces. Over the last several years, venue after venue has closed or downsized. There is a scarcity crisis that limits opportunities. Covid has compounded the problem. There is no shortage of creative sparks lighting up Portland. They just need the right place to land, catch, and burn steady. The vision of the Philip Cuomo Family Foundation and the Cuomo Theatre Collaborative is to provide this place at 2257-2259 NW Raleigh Street.



There are many ways you can support this project!

To make a donation, visit <https://philipcuomofamilyfoundation.org>. For more information, or to find out how you can support the Philip Cuomo Family Foundation and the Cuomo Theatre Collaborative, email thecuomocollaborative@gmail.com, or reach out directly to Maureen at maureen@thirdrailrep.org.