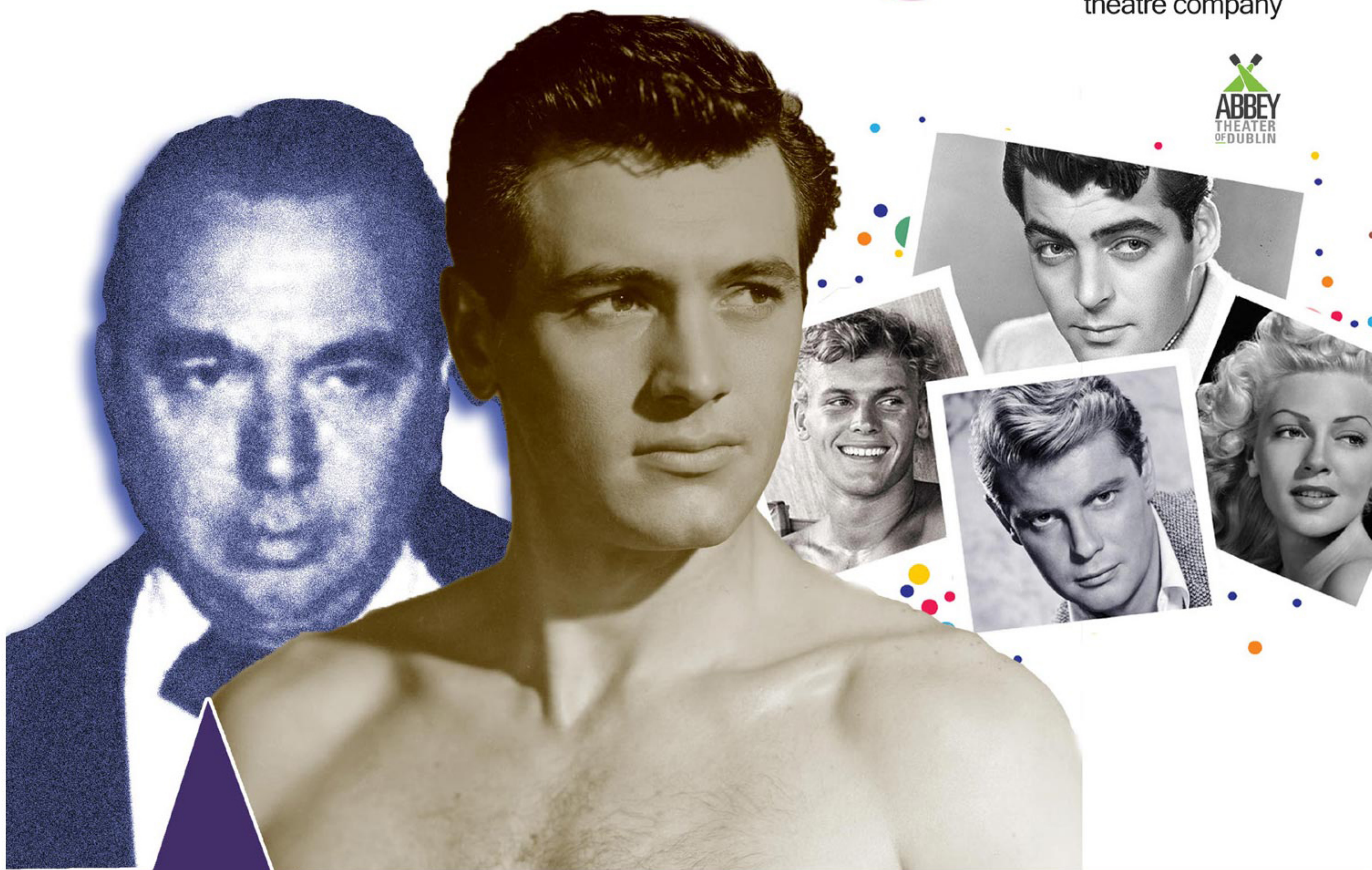


 **EVOLUTION**
theatre company

 **ABBAY**
THEATER
OF DUBLIN



STARMAKER

written by Michael Leeds

Directed by AARON MENDOZA

MAY 23 – JUNE 1

PRESENTING SPONSORS: GREG ZUNKIEWICZ & FAMILY

Ohio Arts
COUNCIL 

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THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

EVOLUTION THEATRE COMPANY

presents

THE AREA PREMIERE OF

STARMAKER

by Michael Leeds

directed by Aaron Mendoza

featuring

PHIL WELLS**

SEAN TAYLOR

ASA LEININGER

HEATHER CALDWELL

JEFF WHITE

JACOB ERNEY

Production Stage Manager

ALEX DOLPH**

Producer and Executive Artistic Director

MARK PHILLIPS SCHWAMBERGER*

**Working under an AEA contract. Courtesy of AEA

*Member of Actors Equity Association in good standing.

CAST

HENRY WILLSON.....Phil Wells**
ROCK HUDSON.....Sean Taylor
LANA TURNER (and others).....Heather Caldwell
TAB HUNTER (and others).....Asa Leininger
RORY CALHOUN (and others).....Jeff White
TROY DONOHUE (and others).....Jacob Erney

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Aaron Mendoza
Production Stage Manager.....Alex Dolph**
Set Design.....Aaron Mendoza
Lighting Designer.....Iz Nichols
Sound/Projections.....Krista Pojman
Costume Designer / Props Master.....Queenie Ledbetter
Box Office.....Sue Rapier, Leslie Robinson, Lauren Wong
Marketing Communications, Graphics & Program.....David Allen Vargo
Producer / Executive Artistic Director.....Mark Phillips Schwamberger

**Working under an AEA contract. Courtesy of AEA

**A very special Thank You to KYLE KUKURA for the use of his golf club,
MICHAEL HERRING for the use of the wheelchair,
and JACOB SPAULDING-SCHECTER
for assisting with production needs.**

Running Time: 2 hours with one 10-minute intermission

**TIME The 40s thru the 80s
PLACE Multiple locations almost all in L.A.**

PLEASE NOTE: The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of the production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law.





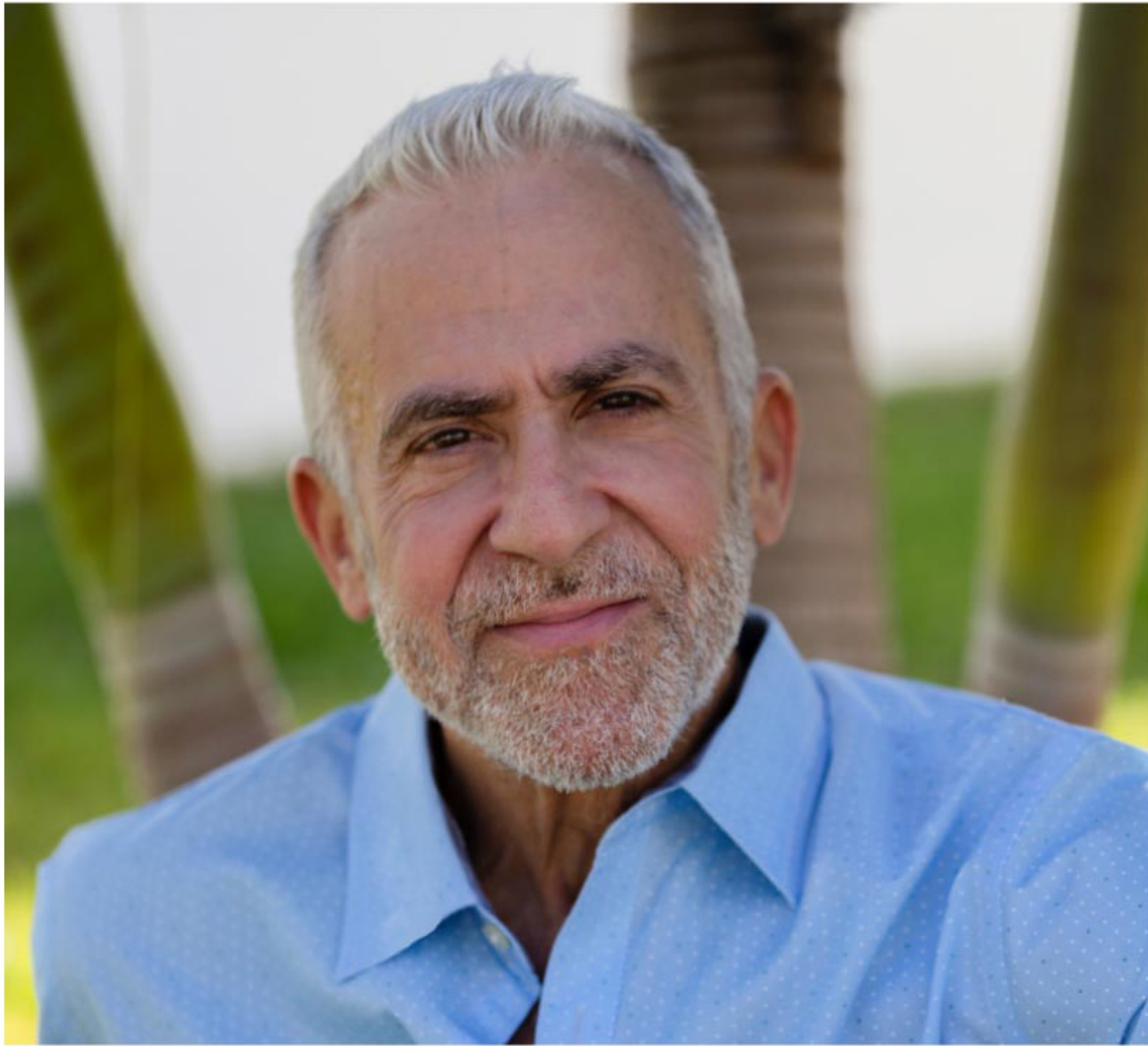
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello! Welcome to Evolution Theater Company's production of *Starmaker*, by Michael Leeds. We would like to thank the cast and crew for all their amazing work and the hours they have put into this show.

When I first read this show's script, I regrettably did not understand many of the cultural references, nor did I recognize the people in it. As I am a member of a younger generation, I was not necessarily aware of the cultural impact these individuals had. It was so much fun researching these legends and uncovering all the show's hidden treasures. Throughout rehearsals, we learned how deeply their lives were intertwined, and how their choices affected each other. This show is about history, Hollywood, and homosexuality. It spotlights unspoken conversations in the film industry and illustrates how they have shaped these legends' lives. As such, I hope you have as much fun watching it as I have had working on it. Thank you all, and enjoy the show!

Aaron Mendoza

THE PLAYWRIGHT



Michael Leeds is a Tony nominated, award-winning playwright and screenwriter.

His extensive portfolio in theater has resonated nationwide, including directing and writing the book for the Tony nominated musical “Swinging On A Star,” “The First Step,” “Who Killed Joan Crawford?,” “Impressions” “The Gift,” “Starmaker,” “Mira,” and an adaptation of Cole Porter’s “Red, Hot And Blue.” Additionally, Leeds has showcased his musical talent by

co-writing the book, music, and lyrics for “Mating Habits of the Urban Mammal.”

Originating as a dancer and actor on Broadway, Leeds refined his craft under the guidance of luminaries like Gower Champion, Ron Field, Martin Charnin, and Martin Scorsese. His evolution into directing, choreography, and writing has left an indelible mark on the industry. Noteworthy directorial achievements include the aforementioned Tony Award-nominated “Swinging On A Star” on Broadway and the Drama Desk Award-nominated “Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah - The Songs of Allan Sherman,” starring Tovah Feldshuh.

Leeds’ influence extends to Off-Broadway, where he directed and choreographed productions such as “Showing Off” with Donna Murphy and revivals of classics like Kander & Ebb’s “70, Girls, 70” and Lerner & Lane’s “Carmelina.” He directed the European Premiere of Arthur Miller’s “Playing For Time,” earning the prestigious Edinburgh Fringe Festival First Award. Leeds has also made significant contributions to the opera world, directing and choreographing productions for Houston Grand Opera and Florida Grand Opera.

Now based in South Florida as well as NYC, Leeds continues to contribute to the cultural scene as a writer and director at various theaters, earning accolades such as Carbonell and Silver Palm Awards. His current role as the Associate Artistic Director at Island City Stage in Fort Lauderdale, underscores his commitment to enriching the arts.

EVOLUTION THEATRE COMPANY

EXTENDS A VERY SPECIAL

THANK YOU

TO

THE DUBLIN ARTS COUNCIL

THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

THE OHIO ARTS COUNCIL

AND

PRESENTING SPONSOR

THE GREGORY ZUNKIEWICZ FAMILY



THE CAST

PHIL WELLS** (HENRY WILLSON)) A veteran of theatre in Central Ohio, Phil joins the cast of STARMAKER in his first role with Evolution Theatre Company. In addition to film and tv work, he most recently appeared onstage as Mr. Van Daan in The Diary of Anne Frank; as Lazar Wolf in Fiddler on the Roof; and as Shylock in Something Rotten! at Gallery Players. Other recent productions include Indecent (Contemporary Theatre of Ohio); Murder on the Orient Express (LTOB); and The Sound of Music (Westerville Civic Theatre), among others. Phil thanks his family and friends for their support in his belief that life is a banquet!

SEAN TAYLOR (ROCK HUDSON) Sean is incredibly excited to be working with Evolution Theater for the first time. He has previously appeared on the Abbey Stage In Our Town, Drums of War, and Moby Dick's Gone Missing. In the past few years he has performed with the Actor's Theater of Columbus (Robin Hood, A Midsummer's Night's Dream), as well as in the feature film Poser. He'd like to thank his parents for their continued love and support, and Francesca, for being the best part of everyday.

HEATHER CALDWELL (LANA TURNER and others)) is overjoyed to make a return to the Evolution Theater Stage in STARMAKER, following recent performances in various productions such as Abundant Life at the Abbey Theater Dublin, Admissions with Eclipse Theater, and Summer 1976 with Wild Women Writers. With a rich 40-year acting career encompassing commercials, TV, and film, Heather stands as a proud member of SAG-AFTRA. Her passion for the stage shines through as she thrives in her current role(s) alongside the talented cast under the guidance of director Aaron. Beyond the stage, Heather devotes her days to teaching Deaf students, exploring the realms of documentary filmmaking, and expressing her creativity through painting.

She is especially grateful for her family for their unwavering support.

ASA LEININGER (TAB HUNTER and others) is an actor, writer, and educator who holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in Theatre and History from Missouri State University. He has a diverse and impressive portfolio of work, ranging from acting (he was recently seen as Peter Van Daan in Gallery Players' Production of The Diary of Anne Frank), playwriting, and historical scholarship to dramaturgy and poetry. He has received multiple awards for his performances at Springfield Little Theatre, published poems in poetry magazines, and been a finalist in writing competitions. He has also worked as a Registered Behavior Technician at Easterseals Midwest, where he implemented Applied Behavioral Analysis to support clients with autism. Additionally, he has volunteered with the Peace Corps, where he designed and facilitated youth programs that fostered employability, communication, and healthy lifestyles. Asa is skilled in stage carpentry, intercultural communication, and social inclusion, and has a certification in Pediatric First Aid, CPR, and AED, and previously held a certification as a Registered Behavior Technician. He is thrilled to be making his debut with Evolution Theatre Co. in STARMAKER.

THE CAST

JEFF WHITE (RORY CALHOUN and others)) a Columbus based actor, is excited to be a part of another Evolution Theatre Company production! Jeff was last seen on stage as George Gibbs in Our Town. Other recent credits include: The Inheritance (Adam/Leo), A Yankee Goes Home (Righty Mills) and Abundant Life (Alex). Thanks to my family, Ally, and August for their love and support. IG: @jeffwhite2.0

JACOB ERNEY (TROY DONOHUE and others)

is elated to be back at Evolution Theatre Company with its production of STARMAKER! Other recent shows include the recent world premiere of The New Seattle at CMA (Johnny/Jeremy), Abbey Theatre of Dublin's production of Our Town (Constable Warren), The Abbey Theatre's Production of Drums of War (Anthony Eden), Evolution Theatre Company's regional premiere of The Inheritance (Jasper/Paul/Man #7), OPT's production of 40 Acres (Warden/Man 1), Gallery Players' production of Intimate Apparel (Mr. Marks), Red Herring's production of Airness (Shreddy Eddy), and ATCS' production of Queen Margaret (Somerset/Richard III). Jacob is a CWRU acting graduate of 2021 and studied abroad at LAMDA in London, UK. Jacob would like to thank his friends, family, amazing coworkers, and especially his dog. Play on!



MARK PHILLIPS SCHWAMBERGER* (Producer & Executive Artistic Director) After over twenty years in the corporate world Mark returned to The Ohio State University in 2007 to complete his degree majoring in Theatre graduating in 2008. Being no stranger to the struggles of “life in the theatre” Mark spent years in NYC, seasons in summer stock and traveling with various companies in the East, South and Midwest. He is the Executive / Artistic Director for Evolution Theatre Company, a 501 (3) C non-profit corporation and Central Ohio's only LGBTQQIA theatre company, dedicated exclusively to presenting works that celebrate the Community's past, present and future as well as presenting works that strive to bring dignity to and tolerance and acceptance for LGBTQQIA individuals.

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THE PRODUCTION CREW

AARON MENDOZA (Director) Aaron is originally from Colorado and has recently settled in Columbus after graduating from Otterbein University. He would like to thank his friends, family, and partner for their love and support. He would like to give a special thank you to Evolution for all of their support and this opportunity.

ALEX DOLPH (Production Stage Manager) is a Theatre, Dance, and Psychology graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University. She currently works for BalletMet in the box office. In Columbus, she has been an ASM for Available Light Theatre on Ghost Quartet and You Will Get Sick. At OWU, she was involved in Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill Fill (Joni), "Orchesis '21/22" (Choreographer/Dancer/Light Designer), "Twelfth Night, 2020" (Viola/Cesario), "One Acts 22/23" (Playwright), "Woyzeck, Inc." (The Doctor), and She Kills Monsters (Stage Manager) and many more. She received the Wesleyan Players Award for outstanding senior in Theatre. This is her first time working with Evolution Theatre Company!

QUEENIE LEDBETTER (Costumes)) Queenie is once again pleased to be able to assist with the costuming of an Evolution Theatre Company production. Remember the proverb clothes don't make the man (or the woman). You cannot accurately judge a person solely by appearances.

Starmaker – Location Breakdown

Act One

- Henry's office
- Barber shop
- Men's clothing store
- Photographer's studio
- Selznick's office
- Trocadero
- Henry's home
- Henry's office
- Film set
- Men's wardrobe room
- Henry's office
- Press photographer's costume ball
- Henry's office/Rock's apartment
- Henry's office
- Henry's house
- Soundstage
- Beach
- Hospital
- Henry's office
- Rock's apartment
- Henry's office
- Trocadero
- Henry's office
- Wedding ceremony
- Rock's and Phyllis's house
- Golf course
- Academy Awards
- Henry's office
- Rock's and Phyllis's house
- Henry's office
- Movie premiere

Act Two

- Henry's office
- Law office
- Restaurant
- Henry's office
- Film set
- Accountant's office
- Film set
- Henry's office
- Henry's home
- Henry's car
- Jail
- Gay bar
- Doctor's office
- Nursing home
- Hospital room



Evolution Theatre Company
wishes to express our deepest gratitude
to our generous sponsors & donors



Dublin Arts Council partially funded this production through a Community Arts Grant
to encourage community engagement, cultivate creativity
and foster life-long learning through the arts.

Friend: \$1 - \$99

Anonymous (6)
Beth Arnold
Bryan Babcock
David Cox
Dawn Farrell
Wesley Giles
Charles Giles
Charlys Henrickson
Sandra Hope
Gary Kern
Kristyn Koczur
Kathleen Oxner
Jaron Terry

Supporter: \$100 - \$249

Anonymous (3)
Richard Arndt
Karen Miller
Douglas Althausen
David & Lois Armstrong
James A Mitchel / Bradford G Colegate
Sherry Crawford-Eyen
Suzanne Gray
Thomas Grote & Rick Neal
Richard Horton & Ronald Betz
Carol MacIvor
Brad Myers & Steve Rowlands
Ginger Oswald
Patricia Peterson
Matt Primmer & Ed Stofcheck, Jr.
Marcy Samuel
Carolyn Schiefer
Ryan Wertz & Bill Benninghofen
In memory of John Caprio
In memory of Andre Gautier
In memory of Edwin Lewis
In memory of Linda Wetters

Sponsor: \$250 - \$499

Anonymous (1)
Sheldon Gleisser
Carol J. Herman
Donald W. Stott / Charles Sellner

Sustainer: \$500 - \$999

Mary Bennett
Wayne Cocchi
Joseph Gentilini & Leo Radel
Mark Gibson
Bob Talley & Bob Reynolds

Angel: \$1,000 - \$1499

Richard Oestreich / Jody Rivers

Producers: \$1500+


Robin & Peter Hersha
Terry Douglas Etling
Douglas Whaley & David Allen Vargo

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*(Those that have been a continuous
sponsor from the beginning)*

Mary Bennett
Wayne Cocchi
The Terry Douglas Etling Trust
Joseph Gentilini & Leo Radel
Bob Talley & Bob Reynolds
Carole J. Herman
In memory of John Caprio
In memory of Edwin Lewis
Richard Oestreich / Jody Rivers
Ginger Oswald
Patricia Peterson
Jeff Schwamberger
Mark Phillips Schwamberger
Douglas Whaley & David Vargo
In Memory of Linda Wetters

Join us for the remainder of our 2024 Season!



Joseph
and the
AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Lyrics by Tim Rice Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

evolution
theatre company

In association with the Abbey Theater of Dublin

Co-Directed by JOE BISHARA & JAMIE MARKOVICH McMAHON


JUNE 20 – 29

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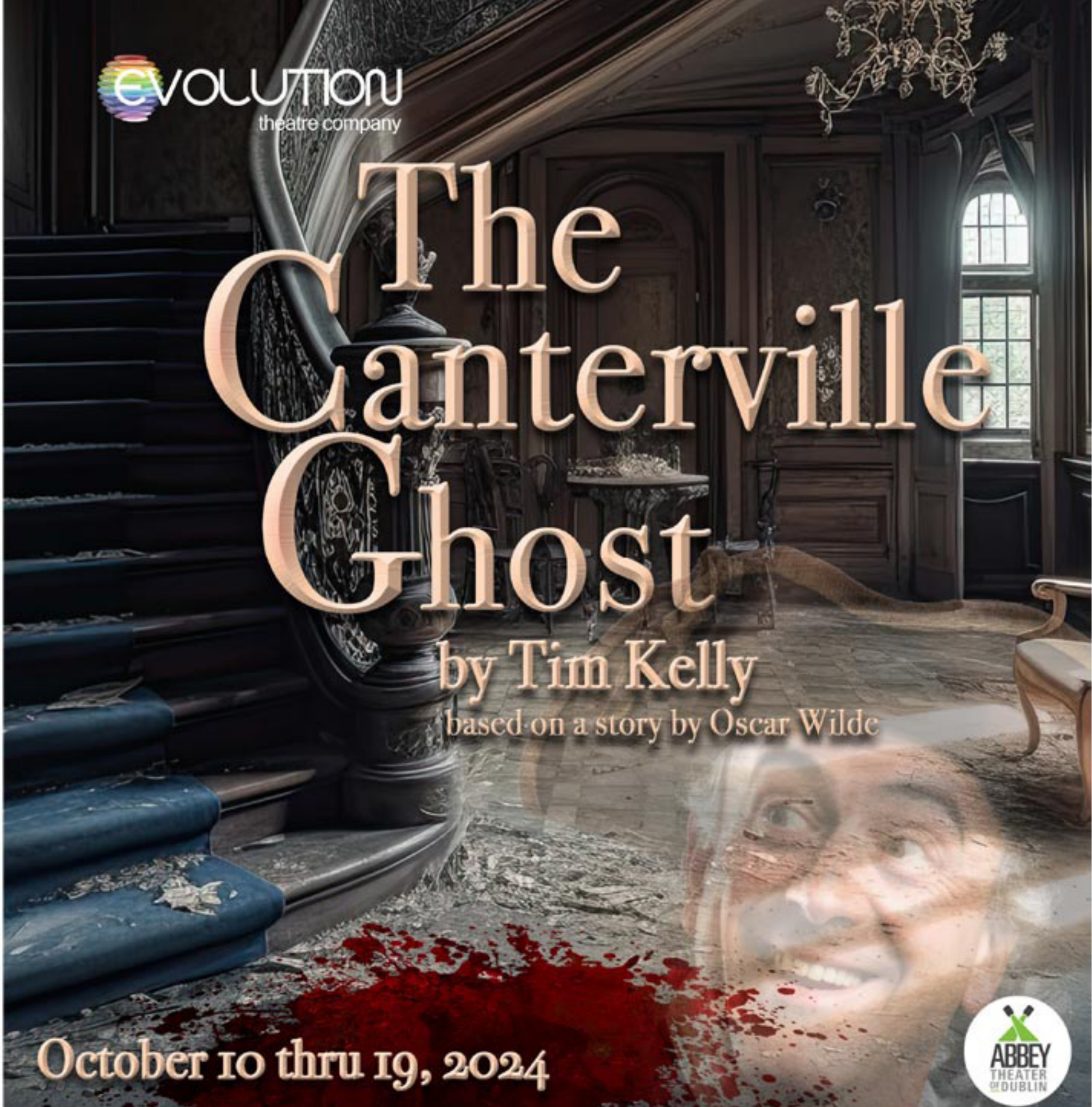
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The Canterville Ghost
by Tim Kelly
based on a story by Oscar Wilde

October 10 thru 19, 2024

ABBEY THEATER OF DUBLIN