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**PROOF**  
BY DAVID AUBURN

SEPTEMBER 19-24 at 7.30pm  
**THE COURTYARD THEATRE**

PRODUCED BY SUBLIME UNIVERSAL & BENEDICT LAWRENCE

“PROOF” IS PRESENTED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD

## ACT 1

**Scene 1:** The back porch of a house in Chicago, present day

**Scene 2:** The next morning

**Scene 3:** That evening

**Scene 4:** The following day

## ACT 2

**Scene 1:** A flashback, 4 years before the events in Act 1

**Scene 2:** Continuation of Act 1 Scene 4

**Scene 3:** The following day

**Scene 4:** A flashback

**Scene 5:** Present day, one week after Act 2 Scene 3

“Welcome to David Auburn’s ‘Proof’. ‘Proof’ is a special play. It asks questions about inheritance of both gifts and curses. It questions love and loss, sisterhood, friendship, and the connection parents and their children share, even after death. I think most of us want to inherit the best parts of our parents and abandon the worst. Proof explores this in a deeply meaningful way through the extremes of genius and insanity.

We hope that you see some of yourselves in this room. That you recognise your personal conflicts in the extraordinary moments we see in the lives of these characters. To draw your attention to those little internal transformations that theatre allows us to participate in.

Imagine now that we are in Chicago, right outside U of C. The University of Chicago has a total undergraduate enrollment of 5,844, its setting is urban, and the campus size is 217 acres. It utilizes a quarter-based academic calendar. University of Chicago's ranking in the 2017 edition of Best Colleges is National Universities, 3. It's also where we find the back porch of the family of the Play, where Patriarch of the family, Robert, taught mathematics after very successfully introducing the world to equations so brilliant they were described as poetic.”

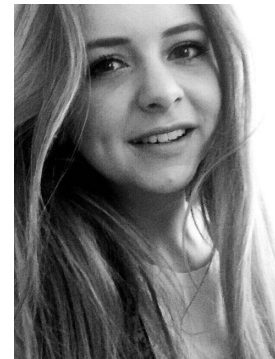
## JENN SAMBRIDGE, STAGE MANAGER

A Theatre Design graduate from Wimbledon College of Arts, University of the Arts London, Jenn’s work includes Tree Folk Theatre’s *Animal Farm* (Set Designer & Stage Manager, Courtyard Theatre); Iris Theatre’s *Alice in Wonderland* (Associate Set Designer, Cockpit Theatre); Punchdrunk and the National Theatre’s *The Drowned Man: A Hollywood Fable*; and You Me Bum Bum Train’s 2015 show. A Grade 8 flautist, and previous Chair of South London Symphonic Winds and President of UAL Music Society, Jenn is currently a committee member for All Saints Concert Band, playing 1st flute/piccolo for both them and Croydon Symphonic Band. She recently achieved Grade 8 with distinction in singing, and has worked with English Pocket Opera Company as chorus for *Orpheus and Eurydice* and *Macbeth* (Platform Theatre), and orchestrated *Let’s Talk Christmas* (WCA Theatre). [www.jennsambridge.co.uk](http://www.jennsambridge.co.uk)



## KITTY MASON, ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Kitty is 18 years old and has studied drama to A Level standard, achieving A\* in her practical. She has previously spent a week providing backstage management for *The Lion King* (Lyceum Theatre). Having acted in and directed many productions for her senior school, most recently acting in *Les Miserables* and *Urinetown*, Kitty is currently rehearsing for the *Wizard of Oz* panto with the Downsview Players. She has also toured Europe twice playing trumpet and singing with the school choir. Kitty's ambition is to be an actress and she plans to gain as much experience as possible across various aspects of theatre before studying drama next year.



## GREGORY JORDAN, LIGHTING DESIGNER

Greg is a Lighting Designer based in London and holds a BA (Hons) in Lighting Design from Rose Bruford College.

His design credits include *Seven Sins* (The Cockpit Theatre), *The Witch’s Mark* (The Space), *Bury the Hatchet* (King’s Head Theatre), *Secrets* (Lion and Unicorn), *Hairspray!* (The Maltings, Ely), *The Enchanted* (Bunker Theatre), *Gun Metal Blue* (Old Red Lion), *Treasure Island* (East Anglia Tour), *Over The Limit* Celtic Season (The Vaults, Waterloo), *Ivy* (Southwark Playhouse), *Trapped* (The Cockpit Theatre), *Speaking in Tongues* (The Cockpit Theatre), and *Salomé* (The Space).

Alongside his design work, Greg has also been involved in a number of other productions, such as *The Phantom of the Opera* (Her Majesty’s Theatre), *The Blues Brothers* (The Arts Theatre), *Urinetown* (Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue) and *Accolade* (St. James Theatre).



### MICHELLE ALEXANDRA, "CATHERINE"

Michelle Alexandra is an actress/singer with a passion for the stage. Though originally from New York, Michelle is also a dual citizen of Norway where she lived for several years before moving to the UK. She studied theatre and vocal performance at The George Washington University in Washington, DC and has also trained at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts, British American Drama Academy, The Simon Studio, and The New York Film Academy among others. She has done stage, television, voiceover, commercial, and corporate work in the US and Norway and is thrilled to be making her London stage debut in "Proof" with such a talented cast and crew. Favorite roles include Audrey in "Little Shop of Whores, a Musical Parody" (written and directed by Christopher Caldwell aka Bob The Drag Queen), Lady Anne in "Richard III", and, of course, Catherine in this fabulous production of "Proof" at The Courtyard Theatre.

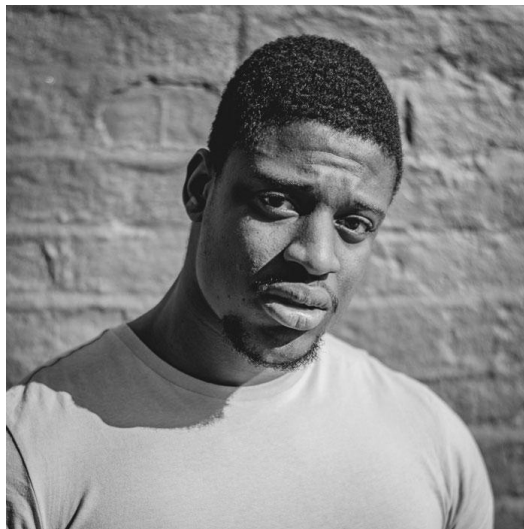
### DAVID OGECHUKWU ISIGUZO, "HAL"

David Ogechukwu Isiguzo is currently training at The Unseen and at Identity School of Acting (IDSA). This production will tally as his third theatre performance and David, who plays the role of Hal, is extremely pleased to be able to bring this fascinating character to life.

He first appeared in "Transformers: The Last Knight" as a SAS soldier. More recently, Barachial in "Deliverance", featured in the Cannes 2017 short film selection and Simbai in "Masterpiece", currently an official selection for the BFI London film festival.

David is a keen marksman and enjoyed a 3 month period as a shooting instructor in the US.

He is also a Muay Thai competitor and has a deep love for all things anime/manga/cartoons and waffles.



### MELISSA JEAN WOODSIDE, "CLAIRE"

Stage credits include:  
Inez, 'No Exit', Edinburgh Fringe Festival, dir Michelle van Rensburg. Belle, 'A Christmas Carol', Petersham House Theatre, dir Theo Vladimir Kingsnott. Bertie, 'K I Double L' Questors Theatre, dir. Stuart Watson. Susan, 'The New Gospel of Christmas', dir. Rachel Macaulay. Prudence, 'Beyond Therapy', The Actors Centre, dir. Nathan Osgood. Viola, 'Twelfth Night', Earls Courtiers in Barkston Gardens Square, dir. Toby Brown.

Film credits include:  
'Castro', dir. Sam Thompson. 'Cut the Cake', dir. Bafana Sithole. 'A Spectre Calls', dir. Howard Ford. 'Women of Revolution', dir. Jamie Kingston. Missy Mcanulty: 'Soar' Music Video, dir. Natasha Marburger. 'Podsnappery', dir. Melissa Jean Woodside. 'Green Sweater Guy', dir. Kara Kandarakis. 'Dance Macabre: The Anxieties of Abigail Jones', dir. Manfred Marburger. 'Royksopp Running to the Sea', dir. Magnus Sinding. 'Ashes', dir. Temi Tolusu. 'Coma', dir. Terry Marriott. 'Vendetta', dir. Terry Marriott. 'Phonebox', dir. Terry Marriott. 'Hell Hath No Fury', dir. Tarryn Meaker. 'She Thinks She Has Everything', dir. Tarryn Meaker. 'To Trend on Twitter', dir. Adam Wooding. 'Scarred', Robyn Roger s. 'No Good Friends', Paul Bucknor.

### RUS KALLAN, "ROBERT"

Theatre Credits include: Leonato in 'Much Ado About Nothing', RSC Open Air Festival, dir: Victor Correia; 'The Singing Stones', dir: Kay Adshead; 'Unrealistic Sleep Expectations', dir: Caroline Byrne; 'Do We Do The Right Thing', dir: Tommy Lexen; 'Parade', dir: Luke Dixon.

Film Credits include: 'Box Red', dir: Ako Mitchell; 'The Making Of The Making Of', dir: Edmund Swabey.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

David Auburn's Proof is a dialogue heavy and character driven piece set in one place over a short period of time. The porch of the house itself becomes a character in this little world about four people hoping to touch genius and having to negotiate with madness. American novelist Michael Chabon said, "Where passion is married to intelligence, you may find genius, neurosis, madness, or rapture." Not only does Proof explore this eloquently on various levels, but it also creates a world in which creatives can play, discovering also the interplay between the comedy and the tragedy of both genius and madness. The dichotomy between what we desire and what we fear within the human experience can be jarring. Our production focuses on the grey area in between, where one is equally as close to one as to the other, as are so many things within the human experience that we would feel more comfortable polarising. We hope that through our production you will find an honest representation through the micro of the macro. That you see some of yourself.

## BRENDEE GREEN, DIRECTOR

'Proof' by David Auburn marks Brendee's directorial stage debut. She is a Canadian actress, writer, and director who has been living in London for nearly a year. She attended York University in Toronto, studying acting, jazz vocals, devised theatre, and dramaturgy. Previously she has assistant directed alongside Jack Grinhaus, artistic director of Theatre Northwest (British Columbia). She co-wrote and performed in the short, 'Meet Cute,' which was recently nominated for an award at the Catfish Shorts Film Festival at Cinewhirled (London). She is currently developing a full-length play called 'One Night' which she hopes to stage in 2018 in London and Canada.

