



WCCC ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

BAG&BAGGAGE

APRIL 24TH
- MAY 2ND

the Ballad of Iron Jo

BY ELLIOT LORENC
DIRECTED BY MANDANA KHOSHNEVISAN



CASEY CAMPBELL PHOTOGRAPHY

SHOW SPONSORS

Helen & Alan
Harnsberger
Diane Dittmer
Robin Kimmel



SEASON SPONSORS



WELCOME TO BAG&BAGGAGE PRODUCTIONS!



Canon (noun): a collection or list of sacred books accepted as genuine.

For two decades we have explored the bounds of the theatrical canon and taken new looks at classic tales told by some of the world's most prolific writers. As we head into the next two decades as Hillsboro's resident professional theatre company we seek to be a part of the expansion of this canon and introduce our community and the world to instant classics by voices they may not be familiar with. Our 24/25 season is jam packed with fresh stories that will provoke thought, create connections, and leave our audiences with a deepened curiosity about the world around them. Come along with us as we solve mysteries, watch birds, meet magical beings, and engage with recognizable characters in entirely new ways!

This season we celebrate 20 years of gathering the community of Hillsboro through storytelling. Thank you for being a part of our story. We hope you will continue to support us as we write the next chapter. We guarantee you will enjoy the new friends you meet along the ride!

Nik Whitcomb, Producing Artistic Director

ABOUT BAG&BAGGAGE

WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR COMMUNITY & OURSELVES

Bag&Baggage's mission is to unpack the stories we carry with us – from anecdotal to epic; from original to classic – using these as the groundwork to create theatrical experiences that explore our shared humanity.



PHOTOS IN THE THEATER: While we ask you to turn off your phones during the show, we're happy for you to take photos before or after the performance! If you post photos, please credit the designers who have brought the show to life and tag us (@bagnbaggage).

Scenic Designer: Kyra Sanford
Costume Designer: Jenna Cady
Lighting Designer: Violet Costales
Puppets & Properties Designer: Signe Larsen

Please note that photos are prohibited during performances. Photos of the stage are not permitted if actors are present.

We ask all visitors to The Vault Theater to take a personal moment to acknowledge and honor the Atfalati band of the Kalapuya tribe, upon whose ancestral lands this building stands. We pay our respects to elders both past and present.

the Ballad of Iron Jo

BY ELLIOT LORENC

CASE CAMPBELL PHOTOGRAPHY



Cast

Rae Davis^a Aurelie

Trevor Harter^a Baba Yasha, Skyler

Murren Kennedy Iron Jo, Merchants, Colleague, Boss

Elliot Lorenc Coyne, Bobbie the Stump, Guard, Worker

Production & Design Team

Mandy Khoshnevisan^a Director

Ephriam Harnsberger^a Stage Manager

Annika Elliott Assistant Stage Manager

Jenna Cady Costume Designer

Kyra Sanford Scenic Designer

Abbie Northrop Sound Designer

Violet Costales^a Lighting Designer

Signe Larsen^a Puppets & Properties Designer

& = Bag&Baggage Resident Artist

Bag&Baggage Staff

Nik Whitcomb
Producing Artistic Director

Barry Carman
Development Manager

Marissa Sanchez
Patron Services Manager

Mandy Khoshnevisan
Technical Director

Ephriam Harnsberger
Company Manager

Venus Edlin
Marketing Manager

Grayson Ashford
Education Associate



Hello! I am thrilled to be directing this show again and also for the first time! It's a real déjà-vu kind of experience, lemme tell ya.

The first version of this show was meant to be onstage – in June 2020 (thanks, COVID). Then called *The Ballad of Aurelie the Bold*, and written by our cohort of Emerging Artists, it was meant to be their year-end project. B&B produced the show in early 2021, as a film. I was excited to be invited to direct it; the script has pretty much all my favorite theatrical things: live music, puppets, and VERY silly jokes.

I had two goals during that first production. Goal #1: To use the magic of film to make something that looks theatrical, but that can't actually be done onstage. Because it was far enough into lockdown that we were gathering in person again, we rehearsed and filmed it in The Vault together. Instead of setting up static cameras in the back, I shot it like an actual film, with three cameras, shot out of order, with lots of closeups and lots of editing. We showed all the silly theatrical things – playing two characters at once, acting in “slo-mo” – while using sneaky camera cuts to our advantage (set changes!).

Goal #2: We had no idea what was going to happen day to day (thanks, COVID), but I wanted the whole process to be, above all, just a real fun time.

Flash forward to 2025, and we're doing a version of the play again, but this time in front of a live audience as the official World Premiere! Three out of four original castmembers are back (hooray!) and Elliot has revised the script into its current form, *The Ballad of Iron Jo*. And in the wider world,

it's weird times again ... déjà-vu indeed.

My two goals from before are still in there somewhere. I knew going into it that goal #1 from before was going to be a challenge: for a simple play, it's a pretty complex play! I still wanted everything to look very theatrical, and to make the magic visible. But this time, we have to make it all happen in real time! No quick camera cuts. If we want a prop to appear magically, someone has to run and go get it. Those four actors (plus invisible Annika) are champions. It is crazy back there behind the scenes. Dancing while playing instruments? Moving scenery while being a puppet? Amazing!

Goal #2, however, remains unchanged, and perhaps even more unwavering. If the themes from the play seemed timely in 2021, they seem extra timely now. The fact that once again it feels like anything might happen at any time feels even more true.

Once again, my goal was to have the entire process be a real nice time. It feels good to be doing this play, full of my favorite things, making art with some of my favorite people. It feels good to be showing the world a story with flawed, but relatable characters who move from isolation to personal connection, who find community through art and music, who discover the strength of their united voices to make real change.

Today, I hope you enjoy the magic of theater, laugh a lot, and have just a real nice time. Afterwards, I hope you spend time with your favorite people and together, do something, big or small, that's meaningful to you.

– Mandy Khoshnevisan



The *Ballad of Iron Jo* was born right here at The Vault. Originally titled *The Ballad of Aurelie the Bold*, the play received a filmed production in 2020, directed by Mandana Khoshnevisan. It was devised by the final cohort of our Emerging Artist Program—a program that helped launch the careers of many talented artists, both in this production and across the Portland theater scene. As the world continues to shift around us, we felt it was time to give this powerful story the full world premiere it deserves.

Though the Emerging Artist Program has since concluded, its spirit lives on at Bag&Baggage. Education remains a vital part of our mission. This production was developed in collaboration with advanced acting students from both Oregon Children's Theatre and Northwest Children's Theater. It also marks a key milestone for our new educational initiative, HYPE, which launched this year. Several HYPE students are directly involved in bringing *The Ballad of Iron Jo* to life, both onstage and behind the scenes.

This show is more than a production—it's a celebration of growth, resilience, and the power of young artists. We're proud to share it with you, and we can't wait for you to experience it.

Nik Whitcomb,
Producing Artistic Director



Board of Directors

Bianca McCarthy

Board Chair

Nik Whitcomb

Producing Artistic Director

Jincy Pace

James Farwell

Dara Schumacher

Christi Dodge

Krystal Michaels Monroe

Jelana Canfield

Young professional theatre programs involve youth in *The Ballad of Iron Jo's* production



All too often, media created for youth audiences forgoes direct input and involvement from young people. We wanted to disrupt this.

Over the past year, Bag&Baggage partnered with both Northwest Children's Theatre and Oregon Children's Theatre to workshop the play with their professional training youth programs. Additionally, members of B&B's own Hillsboro Youth Performance Ensemble provided support for the production.

HYPE Production Support

Dax Landre - Board Operator

Backing Vocals: Onyx Carroll, Lincoln Emery, Judah Forrester, Madeline Hansen, Dax Landre, Logan Pounders, Megan Stirling, Rebekah Thomas

OCT Workshop Attendees

Cali Thoman, Dylan Mojo Haviv, Luna Flores, Mira Herman, Nishanthi Berkey



Join us for a casual Artist Salon for IRON JO as we reveal the 25/26 season!

We invite you to join us as we mix, mingle, and learn all about the shows coming in Bag&Baggage's next season! We have another dynamic slate of shows featuring an American theatre classic, a bold new take on a Greek tragedy, and two world premiere productions that celebrate our past, present, and future!

RESERVE





Rae Davis (Aurelie)

Rae's over- and underlying passion is storytelling with the purpose of human connection and acknowledgement. When Rae is not on the stage they are busy barista-ing at Woodstock Cafe, making music, teaching at Oregon Children's Theatre or materializing an assortment of crafts with as many strange trinkets he can get his hands on. He has had the privilege to make art with so many wonderful artists throughout the Portland Metro and is incredibly grateful to be invited back to this project to give it love, life and laughter. As a Black, trans, nonbinary, neurodivergent artist, he strives to make space for any and every kind of person he may encounter as a way to better understand and empathize with them



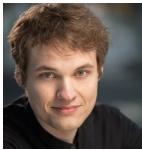
Trevor Harter (Baba Yasha, Skyler)

Trevor Harter (he/him) is thrilled to be back on stage at Bag&Baggage, previously appearing as Cinnamon Sugar and others in *Hardboiled Egg nog*. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Pacific University in 2019 and went on to join the Emerging Artists program here at B&B. Since then, he has stayed busy around the Portland art scene working with Laika Studios, Portland Center Stage, Stumptown Stages, and of course Bag&Baggage. When he's not making art, he must be gardening or doting on one of his small dogs. He would like to thank Nik, Mandy, and the whole production team for all their incredible work.



Murren Kennedy (Iron Jo, Merchants, Colleague, Boss)

Murren Kennedy is a graduate of Portland Actors Conservatory. He previously appeared with Bag&Baggage in *Tartuffe* (as Tartuffe), and the pandemic-shortened production of *The Measure of Innocence* by Anya Pearson. Past highlights in Portland area theatre include *Misery* with Experience Theatre Project (as Paul Sheldon), *Blithe Spirit* (as Charles Condomine) and *Shakespeare in Love* (as Marlowe) with Lakewood Center for the Arts, *Romeo & Juliet* (as Romeo) and *The Henriad Trilogy* (as Various) with Salt & Sage, and *The Winter's Tale* with Portland Shakespeare Project (as Polixenes). Love to Jessa and the cats.



Elliot Lorenc (Playwright, Coyne, Bobbie the Stump, Guard, Worker)

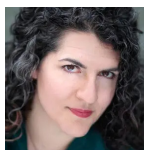
Elliot (he/they) holds a Bachelors in Applied Theatre from Pacific University. After many years being Bag&Baggage's previous Marketing Manager, Elliot is thrilled to step onto The Vault stage for the first time - at least, if you don't count the filmed version of this play! Recent work includes *Henry IV Part 1*, *Henry IV Part 2*, and *Henry V* (as Hotspur, Judge Silence, and Dauphin respectively), *Macbeth* (as Malcolm), and *Titus Andronicus* (as Chiron), all with Salt & Sage Theatre, as well as in the director's chair for Pacific University Theatre's productions of *Constellations* and *Tunnel City*. You can catch Elliot in the upcoming production of *The Winter's Tale* with Oregon Adventure Theatre, and then in *The Winter's Tale* (yes, again) and *Much Ado About Nothing* with Salt & Sage Theatre. When not doing theatre things, Elliot spends his time performing tenor guitar with his celtic and folk music band, playing a myriad of silly tabletop games, convincing people to come see plays at his day job with Profile Theatre, and annoying his cat. Elliot is endlessly grateful to the entire B&B team for giving this goofy (sometimes prescient) little play its live world premiere, and to you for coming out and seeing live theatre. "CLEAN THE POND AND SAVE THE FOREST!"



Kyra Sanford (Scenic Designer)

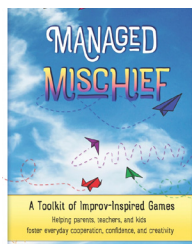
Kyra Sanford is a freelance scenic designer, painter, technical director, and props designer, working for Corrib, Salt & Sage, Broadway Rose, Northwest Classical, Coho, Milagro, and various others. Previous Bag&Baggage productions include *World Builders* and *Who's Holiday*. She is currently the technical director and resident scenic designer at Clark College. She received her BFA in Scenic Design from The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. Instagram: @sanfordscenic

ACTOR, DESIGNER & DIRECTOR BIOS



Mandana Khoshnevisan (Director)

Mandy studied literature, theater, and history (and improvisation) at Stanford University, where she earned a B.A. and M.A. in English. She directed the first version of this play as a film; she's also slated to direct B&B's yet-unannounced holiday show in December 2025. In addition to becoming B&B's Technical Director in 2022, she's worn a lot of hats at B&B over the last few years: set design for *Red Velvet*, projections for *Worldbuilders* and *Troy, USA*, costumes for *The Last White Man*, costume & lighting design for *Who's Holiday*, and dance and fight choreography for *A Clockwork Orange*. You may have also seen her onstage in *Hard-Boiled Eggnog* (Mabel the Yeti/Mrs. Figgy), the one-person show *I F***ing Hate Shakespeare*, *Romeo & Juliet/Layla & Majnun* (Lady Capulet), *Death and the Maiden* (Paulina), *Deathtrap* (Helga), and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Margaret/Dogberry). She's been teaching and directing children's theater since 2000, including 10 years with Northwest Children's Theater. Recently, she published her first book, *Managed Mischief*, about improvisation and creativity. At home, she maintains an excess of books, art supplies, puppets, and impractical musical instruments.



Ephriam Harnsberger (Stage Manager)

Ephriam completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Omaha, Nebraska at Creighton University and has held a variety of roles with Bag&Baggage Productions since 2015. He has managed dozens of productions and events from the Venetian to the Vault, and in the surrounding Hillsboro community. Although Bag&Baggage is his artistic home, he also works with other theatre companies in the Portland Metro area. When he is not wandering about the stage Ephriam also enjoys cooking, camping, kazoo-ing, and singing silly songs with his sisters. He would like to thank Bag&Baggage, Nik, Rosemary, and his parents.



Annika Elliot (Assistant Stage Manager)

Annika is finishing up her second year at PCC as an early college student. She is on track to graduate high school this June with her Honors Diploma. This is Annika's second year involved with Bag&Baggage. Her first show with them was as crew in *Our Utopia* in 2023. Additionally, with Bag&Baggage, she has been on the crew for *Birds of North America*, *Hard Boiled Eggnog*, and *Beginnings & Endings*. Annika has also been highly involved in school theater at Village Home Education Resource Center. Throughout her time there she has enjoyed roles both on and off stage, including: the narrator in *Puffs*; Kaliope in *She Kills Monsters*; as well as the assistant director in *The Great Gatsby*, and the co-director of *The Matchmaker*. Annika would like to thank her family, and specifically her mom, who encouraged reaching out to Bag&Baggage in the first place. She would also like to thank Nik Whitcomb and Ephriam Harnsberger for all of the wonderful opportunities they have given her.



Violet Costales (Lighting Designer)

Violet is a resident artist of Bag&Baggage. She is a lighting designer, video & projections designer, 3D artist and animator. She was awarded Best Lighting Design In Portland 2019 by Broadway World. Some of Violet's previous and current productions from the '25-26 season include: *Rossum's Universal Robots*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Hardboiled Eggnog*, *Beta Bitches*, *Birds of North America*, *Ride the Cyclone*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Las Adelitas*, *Our Utopia*, *Worry Dolls*, *Red Velvet*, and *The Play You Want*. Violet is also a video game developer/programmer and 3D printing enthusiast.



Signe Larsen (Puppets & Properties Manager)

Signe is happy to be creating puppets for *Iron Jo!* Signe has been making masks, playing with puppets, and crafting since she was a wee babe. She has created puppets for regional theaters such as Northwest Children's Theatre, Oregon Children's Theatre, Imago, Lakewood Theatre, Cornish College of the Arts, and more! She spent a year working at Michael Curry Designs creating costumes and puppets for international Disney parks, Cirque du Soleil, Taylor Swift Eras Tour, Broadway productions, as well as Awakenings at the Wynn in Las Vegas: one of the most technically advanced productions in the world. Her props were last seen in *Who's Holiday*, and was last seen on the B&B stage playing 16 different characters in *Beginnings & Endings*. Some of her favorite experiences include making hand knit sweaters for the feature film *The Hateful 8* (Quentin Tarantino), And competing and winning a televised costume contest which is featured on Disney+! She creates custom costumes, bespoke garments, wearable art, upholstery, and so much more, and hopes you enjoy the show!



Abbie Northrop (Sound Designer)

Abbie is thrilled to be back working at Bag&Baggage, having last designed for *Red Velvet* last season. While currently working as a sound engineer at Portland Center Stage (*The Light*, *Liberace* and *Liza at the Holiday Mansion: A Tribute, Mrs. Harrison, Sweeney Todd*), they also recently designed with the Native Theatre Project's *Diné Nishł*, that performed at The Vault, along with some other spots in the Portland area. Abbie has also done stage management with Corrib Theatre (*From a Hole in the Ground*, *Woman and Scarecrow*, and *Metaverse*).



Jenna Cady (Costume Designer)

Jenna is an interdisciplinary artist based in the Portland, Oregon metro area. For Bag&Baggage Productions, Jenna costume designed for *I F*cking Hate Shakespeare*, *Apples in Winter* and *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea*. Jenna has also worked in costuming and wardrobe for Oregon Adventure Theatre, Portland Center Stage and Stomping Ground Arthouse. In 2018 Jenna co-founded Theatre Viscera, a Portland based theatre group dedicated to queer performance.

Presented by Dodge Media Productions & Bag&Baggage Productions

HILLSBORO
FILM
FESTIVAL

May 30
- June 1

The Vault Theatre
530 E Main St

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Bag&Baggage is profoundly grateful to our donors. As a non-profit theater dedicated to the public good, we rely on the generosity of folks like you who believe in our mission of service. The following list acknowledges donors of \$100 or above between July 1, 2022 - March 29, 2025. If you notice an error or omission, please reach out to barry@bagnbaggage.org

HEROES

Ronni S. Lacroute §
Pat Reser & Bill Westphal
Helen & Alan Harnsberger §‡
Gayle & Fred Nachtigal*
Laura & Michael McMurray §
Karl Citek & Patricia Logan §*
Reser Family Foundation
State of Oregon

CHAMPIONS

Elizabeth & Jeremiah Case §
Bianca & Ryan McCarthy §‡
Charlotte Rubin §
Laura Hoover‡
Jann & David Weber
Robert Dunstan
James Draznin
Applied Materials Foundation
E.S.T./Sloan Foundation
Jan Simmons §‡*
Steve & Marilyn Gray*
Eric & Diane Lewis
Alice Bartelt & Paul Moore
Andrew Hoffmann & Linda Morrisson
Sue & Pete Harris*
Michael Fox & Debby Garman §‡
Carol A. Beauchamp §
Vicki Currie
Cindy Cosenzo
Starseed Foundation
Mead Agency §
Pupernickel §

ADVOCATES

Bridie Harrington
Gregory Hannon
Janica Stewart*
Starseed Foundation
Shirley Mason
Ralph & Marilyn Helzermann §
Christi Dodge
Kathryn Oliva
Jan Simmons §‡*
Elizabeth Nielsen*
John Figuerido
Renee Fowler
William & Rita Tomison*
Diane Dittmer §
Robin Kimmel §
Brad & Linda Needham*
Ruth Jenkins
Debbie Thomas & Robert Rineer
Mia Hocking*
Steve Calloway
Susan Vosburg*
Virginia & Mark Watson
Laura Hoover ‡
William Scott*
Apollo Mechanical
Jerzy & Sharon Rub
Gwendolyn Drake*
Cindy & David Wilkins
Scott & Sonya Hoatson*
Beverly & Monty Khoshnevisan
Grant Hilden
Mick & Pauline Beard*
Tri-Met
Sequoia Gallery ‡

ACTIVISTS

L.C. Bernadine
Scott Whiteford
Carol Loughner ‡
Carla Dorsey
Lawrence Siulagi*
Michael Schensul
Lieta Gratteri
Harold Gold
Hugh Christian
Mark Baldwin ‡
Beach & Jincy Pace
Jim & Betsy MacKay
JoAnne Bauer
Mark & Tracy McInally
Justin Pot
Eric & Diane Lewis
Titionian Wallace Sr
Kate & Thomas Bearden*
Dev Devarajan
Jen Hartmann-Luck
Jonathan Gifford
Bruce & Deb Duffe
Krystal Michaels-Monroe
Job Rabinowitz*
Linda Taylor
Judith Kleinstein
Lora Reed
Bob Stern
Kymberli Colbourne
Alan Ark
Michael Davidson
Rebecca Hill
Wendy Fresh
Kari Fredheim*
Sara Z. Abel
Chelsea Curto
Jeff & Sandie Nelson
Connor Fikes
Julie Gebron
Katherine Larsen
Inroads Credit Union
Ray & Silverna Scott*

Deb Duffe
Julie Hymes
Sherry Lamoreaux
Harriet Ottaviano*
Julie & Dale Case
Barry Johnson-Smith
Katherine Larsen
Marcie Dobyns

Sustaining Supporters (*)

A recurring monthly donation is one of the most impactful ways to give. Join these amazing humans in supporting day-to-day operations at the Vault!

Whisper Campaign Contributors (§)

Join these patrons in making \$500 gifts to our Resilience Fund, and encouraging 5 friends to do the same! The Whisper Campaign helps us ensure our longterm financial health.

Sponsors (§)

Folks with this symbol have sponsored a special project, show, or program this season. Sponsorships are still available for our 20th Anniversary Season, starting at \$1,000.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US RAISE \$20,000!

SHINDIG AT THE SCHOLLS



We are eternally grateful to the attendees, donors, performers and volunteers from our 20th anniversary gala. On March 29, we were able to come together as a community to celebrate and reach our \$20,000 fundraising goal. THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Bag&Baggage productions is a 501(c)3 non-profit. As such, we rely on our sponsors and donors to help us provide world-class theatre to the people of Washington County and beyond.

SEASON SPONSORS

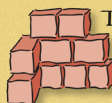


JAMES F. AND MARION L.
MILLER
FOUNDATION

Marie Lamfrom
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



RACC



THE
KINSMAN
FOUNDATION

24/25 SEASON SHOW SPONSORS

Oregon Cultural Trust
Charlotte Rubin
Ryan & Bianca McCarthy

Hillsboro Hops
Karl Citek & Patricia Logan
Helen & Alan Harnsberger

Diane Ditmer
Robin Kimmel
Elizabeth & Jeremiah Case

EDUCATION SPONSORS

Heritage Bank
Autzen Foundation
Gayle & Fred Nachtigal

Barbara Emily Foundation
Jackson Foundation

Herbert A. Templeton
Foundation

NATIVE THEATER PROJECT SPONSORS

NoVo Foundation
PGE Foundation
Spirit Mountain Community Fund
Ronald W. Naito Foundation

Venturous Theatre Fund
Roundhouse Foundation
Sheri & Les Biller Family Foundation

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Hillsboro Arts & Culture Endowment
Pat Reser & Bill Westphal

Ronni S. Lacroute Fund of the Oregon
Community Foundation

Green Screen
Animation Room
Magnetic Forts
Things that Go



YOUR TICKET'S WORTH DOUBLE

Receive Free Entry in May
for 1 Adult + 1 Child to the
New Children's Museum,
Right around The Corner!

Fun
Learning
Inspiration
and Play

Use Code **ironjo** at checkout.
www.flipmuseum.org/visit-us



Make your
own finger
puppet!

Need: scissors,
tape & coloring
utensils

