



Sebastian Beacon



Frank Wood

NEW YORK STAGE AND FILM FALLS

WRITTEN BY Colm Summers

DIRECTED BY Michael Wilson

CAST

SON Sebastian Beacon

DAD Frank Wood

STAGE MANAGER Campbell Anidjar

STAGE DIRECTIONS READER Pradanya Subramanyan

NEW YORK STAGE AND FILM

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Ian Belknap

GENERAL MANAGER Gabrielle Clark

EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER Jared Mathis

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT Rad Pereira

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE Grace Rowan

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Isabelle Fereshteh Sanatdar Stevens

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT Barbara Toy

Harold Prince Theatre

Thursday, October 2 @ 7 PM

Saturday, October 4 @ 2 PM

There will be no intermission.

INSIGHTS

Oct 4: Post-show chat with playwright Colm Summers and director Michael Wilson, moderated by Brooke O'Hara, Senior Lecturer in Penn's Theatre Arts Program.

Also part of our presentations with New York Stage and Film, enjoy readings of *Lagniappe* by C.A. Johnson Oct 3 @ 7:30 PM and Oct 5 @ 3 PM.

ABOUT THE PLAY

When a young father is diagnosed with Parkinson's, he does everything to protect his relationship with his son. As his condition deteriorates and their roles are reversed, his every expectation of fatherhood falls away. Will he lose himself or—worse—his son, in the process? *Falls* is a play about fatherhood, care and forgiveness. Set in rural Ireland, *Falls* features no tremors, no trauma and a lot of Dad jokes—this is not-your-mother's Parkinson's play. Told in a series of falls, it examines how we get hurt, and sometimes, how we can catch one another before we get hurt.

AMERICA UNFINISHED

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You'll see this theme explored on stage as we celebrate the creativity and impact of America's artists. We also invited New York Stage and Film's Artistic Director, Ian Belknap, and Associate Artistic Director, Isabelle Fereshteh Sanatdar Stevens, to reflect and share their thoughts on this pivotal moment in our country's legacy:

Q: If America is a work in progress, what role do artists play in shaping what comes next?

A: "Part of what I feel is that art has a role in giving people a reason to go on, and that is an important thing in and of itself" - Sally Rooney

We don't know if art can always change the world we live in, but we do think it can help us get through it. We work with playwrights, directors, stage managers, actors and designers that each build theatrical worlds from their own unique point of view, and these varied and different experiences show us, the audience, parts familiar and foreign to ourselves. If people come searching for an introspective experience, one where they may learn something new, they'll find it. If they come closed off, they will likely leave the same. We will continue to support artists asking bold questions and taking big risks that articulate what it means to be alive in our place in time.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Colm Summers (Playwright)

Summers is an award-winning Irish director, based in NYC, and the Artistic Director of the Working Theater. Most recently, he directed *Every Brilliant Thing* at the Geffen Playhouse by Duncan MacMillan, starring Daniel K. Isaac (Theaterly's Best of 2023). Summers has developed work with Berkeley Rep, New York Stage and Film, Rattlestick Theatre, Abbey Theatre, Clubbed Thumb, Irish Rep and more. He was a 2023 Groundfloor cohort member at Berkeley Rep and was the inaugural Resident Director at both the Geffen Playhouse and at the Abbey, the National Theater of Ireland. He is the 2024 Drama League Next Stage Fellow. In 2023, he won Ireland's Next Generation Artist Award. He is a writer in the Origin Theater/Irish Arts Center playwrights' group and BMI Musical Theater Book Writers Workshop alum. He is a Relentless Award Finalist for his play, *Falls*. This season: *The Comedians* by Philip Dawkins at The Raven, Chicago and *Carmen* at New Brunswick Performing Arts Center in New Jersey

Michael Wilson (Director)

Wilson returns to New York Stage and Film where, since 1996, he has directed Chris Bauer, Candy Buckley, Gavin Creel, Viola Davis, Lecy Goranson, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Michael Hyatt, Annalee Jefferies, Celia Keenan-Bolger, Linda Lavin, Kate Mulgrew, Gordana Rashovich, Derek Smith and Lois Smith in productions, workshops and readings of new works by Jane Anderson, Matt Cameron, Tom Donaghy, Elizabeth Egloff, Daisy Foote, Marcus Gardley, Rebecca Gilman, David Grimm, John Guare, Beth Henley, James Lecesne, Romulus Linney, Julian Sheppard, Evan Smith and V (the playwright formerly known as Eve Ensler). Eight of the plays Wilson eventually staged Off-Broadway: *Defying Gravity* (Daryl Roth, producer), *Necessary Targets* (Harriet Leve) and *Desire: 6 New Plays from Stories by Tennessee Williams*.

On Broadway, he directed Cicely Tyson in her Tony Award-winning performance in Horton Foote's *The Trip to Bountiful*; Elizabeth Ashley and Gerald McRaney in *Dividing The Estate*; Candice Bergen, James Earl Jones, John Larroquette and Angela Lansbury in Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*; Margaret Colin, Harriet Harris and Corey Stoll in *Old Acquaintance*; and Jayne Atkinson and Mollie Ringwald in *Enchanted April*. Recipient of Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards, as well as DGA and NAACP Image Awards nominations for his debut film, the Lifetime/Ostar television movie adaptation of *The Trip to Bountiful*, Wilson was Artistic Director (1998–2011) of Hartford Stage, where he commissioned and developed Quiara Alegría Hudes' Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *Water by the Spoonful*.

A Morehead Scholar graduate of Dramatic Art from UNC-Chapel Hill, Wilson is thrilled to be back in Philly where in 2020 he staged the Walnut Street Theatre's revival of *The Best Man*, which—due to the pandemic—never opened. But for six glorious previews, its company of 22 local, big-hearted actors showed this director what the City of Brotherly Love is all about.

Sebastian Beacon (Son)

Beacon is a New York City-based actor. He took to the stage at an early age and never lost the joy of performing. Having made his feature debut in Ang Lee's *Taking Woodstock*, he has been accumulating credits in all mediums ever since, most recently working on the new untitled Steven Spielberg film, making his Broadway debut in Martin McDonagh's *Hangmen* and playing TV roles on *Elsbeth* (CBS), *Law and Order: SVU* (NBC), *FBI Most Wanted* (CBS) and *Royal Pains* (USA Network), to name a few. He has appeared Off-Broadway and at Sundance and Tribeca Film festivals. Delighted to be working with New York Stage and Film, Beacon is represented by CGF Talent Agency, and he is a proud SAG-Aftra and AEA member.

Frank Wood (Dad)

Tony Award® and Drama League Award for *Sideman*. Broadway: *Great Society*, *Network*, *Iceman Cometh*, *Clybourne Park*, *August: Osage County*, *Born Yesterday* and *Hollywood Arms*. Off-Broadway: *Hold on to Me Darling* (The Lortel Theatre, Drama Desk and Outer Critics nominations); *The Meeting: The Interpreter* (St. Clement's); *Toros* (Second Stage, Lucille Lortel Award nomination); *The Best We Could* (MTC); Signature Theatre; Vineyard Theatre; Lincoln Center; Atlantic Theatre; and Playwrights Horizons. Film: *She Said*, *Joker*, *St. Vincent*, *Changeling*, *Dan in Real Life*, *Thirteen Days*, *In America*, *Down to You* and *Royal Tenenbaums*. TV (partial list): *FBI*, *Billions*, *Blacklist*, *The Night Of*, *Mozart in the Jungle*, *Newsroom*, *Girls*, *Sopranos*, *Flight of the Conchords* and *Law & Order: SVU* (recurring). Regional: McCarter Theatre, ACT, Long Wharf, Goodman Theatre and Arena Stage. Education: BA, Wesleyan; MFA, NYU Graduate Acting.

Campbell Anidjar (Stage Manager)

Anidjar (he/they) is a New York City-based stage manager and theatre artist. Recent credits include *Merrily We Roll Along* (New York Theatre Workshop); *A Christmas Carol* (Hartford Stage); *The Screwtape Letters* National Tour; and *Thais*, *The Song Of Rome* (Spoleto Festival USA). Campbell has worked on developmental readings with Manhattan Theatre Club, the Working Theater, New York Stage and Film, Ars Nova and Breaking the Binary Theater. He is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College with a BA in theatre arts and a concentration in producing and management. For all the trans folks who came before, and for all who will come after.

Pradanya Subramanyan (Stage Directions Reader)

Subramanyan is an Indian American artist and advocate dedicated to cultivating equitable and inclusive spaces within the arts and entertainment industry. With experience in producing, intimacy choreography and management, she champions underrepresented voices through storytelling that emphasizes agency and authenticity. Subramanyan creates community-centered environments where artists are empowered to explore and share transformative stories. Her work focuses on fostering accessibility for both artists and audiences while dismantling systemic barriers to create a future where all communities can see themselves fully represented onscreen and onstage. pradanyasubramanyan.com

New York Stage and Film

Led by Artistic Director Ian Belknap, and founded in 1985 by Mark Linn-Baker, Max Mayer and Leslie Urdang, New York Stage and Film has been heralded by *The New York Times* as a "formidable breeding ground for new work." Hundreds of artists trace their developmental roots to New York Stage and Film, including the Tony Award-winning *Hamilton* (Lin-Manuel Miranda), *Hadestown* (Anais Mitchell), *The Humans* (Stephen Karam) and *Doubt* (John Patrick Shanley); Obie Award-winning *The Invisible Hand* (Ayad Akhtar); Pulitzer finalists *The Wolves* (Sarah DeLappe) and Taylor Mac's *A 24-Decade History Of Popular Music*; Broadway musicals *Head Over Heels*, *American Idiot* and *Bright Star*; the award-winning film *Peanut Butter Falcon* (Tyler Nilson and Michael Schwartz) and multiple collaborations with Ngozi Anyanwu, Jocelyn Bioh, Heather Christian, Halley Feiffer, Laurence Fishburne, Marcus Gardley, Zach Helm, Beth Henley, Tom Kitt, Warren Leight, Mozhan Marnó, Billy Porter, Brian Quijada, Josh Radnor, Duncan Sheik, Steven Sater, Benjamin Velez and many more. Through its dedication to supporting responsive creative processes and providing a home for artists free from critical and commercial pressures, New York Stage and Film has established itself as a vital cultural institution for residents of the Hudson Valley and the New York metropolitan region.

The Parkinson's Foundation

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a chronic and progressive movement disorder that affects one million people in the U.S. and an estimated 10 million people worldwide. The Parkinson's Foundation makes life better for people with PD by improving care and advancing research toward a cure. In everything they do, they build on the energy, experience and passion of the global Parkinson's community. If you or a loved one are facing a Parkinson's diagnosis, you are not alone. @ParkinsonDotOrg can help. Visit Parkinson.org or call the Foundation's free Helpline at 1-800-4PD-INFO (1-800-473-4636) for support in English and Spanish.



Stephanie Berry



Jason Bowen



Nicholas Byers



Marcus Gladney Jr.



Stephen Park



Fina Strazza

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AN Stephen Park

SHIRLEEN Stephanie Berry

PEANUT Marcus Gladney Jr.

DALILAH Fina Strazza

MR. ALPHONSE Jason Bowen

ELMER Nicholas Byers

STAGE MANAGER Kassi Wilson

STAGE DIRECTIONS READER Yoon Joong (YJ) Kim

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Oct 5: Join us after the performance for a conversation with playwright C.A. Johnson and director Jenna Worsham, moderated by our Director of Education & Engagement, Leah Falk.

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ABOUT THE PLAY

Once home to sharecroppers, the Bunche Village outside of New Orleans is now made up of their suburban descents who find community at the local corner store. Both harrowing and hilarious, *Lagniappe* follows their day-to-day lives in this story about loving and longing.

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

C.A. Johnson (Playwright)

C.A. Johnson is a Brooklyn-based playwright originally from Metairie, Louisiana. Her plays include *All The Natalie Portmans* (MCC Theater), *Thirst* (2017 Kilroys List, CATF), *The Climb* (Cherry Lane Mentor Project, InterAct Theatre Company), *An American Feast* (NYU Playwrights Horizons Theater School), *I Know I Know I Know, Somebody's Body* and *The Witnesses* (upcoming at Chautauqua Theater Company in 2025). Most recently, she was awarded the Horton Foote Award by the Dramatists Guild and a Helen Merrill Award by the New York Community Trust. She is currently a resident playwright at New Dramatists and was previously the Tow Playwright in Residence at MCC Theater, the 2018 P73 Playwriting Fellow, a Van Lier

Fellow, a Dramatists Guild Fellow, a MacDowell Fellow, a Core Writer at The Playwrights Center and a Sundance Theatre Lab Fellow. Her work has been commissioned by Manhattan Theatre Club, Seattle Rep, Page 73 and Chautauqua Theater Company. Johnson also has an active career in film and television. She received a BA from Smith College and an MFA from NYU.

Jenna Worsham (Director)

Worsham is a New York-based stage director, playwright, dramaturg and creative organizer. Recent directing: *At The Wedding* (Lincoln Center Theater, NYT Critic's Pick), *The Visitors* (Second Stage, upcoming), *The Locus* (Labyrinth Theater), *Superstitions* (New Georges/The Pool Plays), *The Siblings Play* (Rattlestick Theater), Belleville (Pasadena Playhouse), *The Climb* (Cherry Lane), *Agnes* (59E59 Theaters, NYT Critic's Pick), *Street Children* (Vertigo Theater, NYT Critic's Pick), *The First Immigrant* (Williamstown), *Our Town* (Pride Plays) and *Gun Country* (A.R.T.). Broadway: *The Heidi Chronicles* and *The Parisian Woman* (Associate Director). Worsham is the author of three plays: *The Fifth* (O'Neill Semi-finalist, Venturous Fellowship nomination), *Game* and *The Southerner*. Her writing has been developed at SPACE on Ryder Farm, INTAR and Rattlestick. Worsham is the recipient of a Drama League Fellowship, a Jonathan Alper Award (MTC), a National Directing Fellowship (O'Neill Theater Center) and the Boris Sagal Fellowship (Williamstown). She is the co-founder of New Roots, a residency program for LGBTQ+ artists in Upstate New York.

Stephen Park (An)

Park might be best known for his performance as Mike Yanagita in the Academy Award-winning movie, *Fargo* by Joel and Ethan Coen. His first film role was in Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing*, which was quickly followed by a role in *Quick Change*, where he performed with and was directed by Bill Murray. Shortly after, he became the first Asian American to be cast as a series regular on a sketch comedy TV show, the popular hit series *In Living Color*.

Park has worked with such celebrated filmmakers as Bong Joon-ho in *Snowpiercer* and *Mickey 17*; Wes Anderson in *The French Dispatch*, *Asteroid City* and *The Phoenician Scheme*; and the Coen brothers again in *A Serious Man*. More recently, he has appeared in *Death of a Unicorn* and *Ghosted*. Other film credits include *State of Play*, *Desperate Measures*, *Falling Down*, *Kindergarten Cop*, *The Brass Teapot*, *Rocket Science*, *Sgt. Bilko*, *Toys and Kuffs*.

His TV credits include *Martin*, *Boy Meets World*, *Mad About You*, *Law & Order* (including *Criminal Intent* and *SVU*), *White Collar*, *Elementary*, *Believe*, *The Mindy Project*, *Person of Interest* and *Friends*. On stage, his credits include *Cardinal* (Second Stage); *Aubergine* (Playwrights Horizons); *East of Eden* (Steppenwolf); *The Dumb Waiter* and *Ivanov* (NAATCO); *The New Paradigm* (Atlantic Theatre Company); *Aunt Dan and Lemon* (The New Group); *A Language of Their Own*, *Doughball* and *Big Hunk O' Burnin' Love* (East West Players); and *Shogun Macbeth*, *Rosie's Cafe* and *Three Sisters* (Pan Asian Repertory Theatre).

In 1997, inspired by the movie *Jerry Maguire*, Park wrote a "Mission Statement" to the Hollywood community after he witnessed a racial incident on the set of *Friends*. This statement went viral online after *The Los Angeles Times* refused to print it. This led to Park receiving an Anna May Wong Award of Excellence from the Asian American Arts Foundation in San Francisco for taking a stand against racism in Hollywood. The award was presented to him by the Rev. Jesse Jackson. In 2025, the statement has resurfaced in the news as its relevance is still being recognized almost 30 years later.

Stephanie Berry (Shirleen)

Berry was recently seen in *The Gospel at Colonus* at Little Island. She appeared in *Gem of the Ocean* at Two River Theatre, *Staff Meal* at Playwrights Horizons and as Olivia in Classical Theatre of Harlem's production of *Malvolio*. She is the 2023 recipient of an Obie Award for Performance for her role in *On Sugarland* at New York Theatre Workshop and an Obie Award for her solo show, *The Shaneequa Chronicles: The Making of a Black Woman*. Selected film and TV credits include *Fantasy Island*, *O.G.*, *The Last OG*, *Bull*, *Blue Bloods*, *Blacklist* and *Law & Order*. She is the recipient of the 2022 New Professional Theatre's Award for Activism and the 2021 League of Professional Theatre Women's Lee Reynolds Award.

Marcus Gladney Jr. (Peanut)

At 18, Gladney moved to NYC to make his Broadway debut in the Tony nominated play, *Choir Boy*. Other theatre credits include Classic Stage's *Black Odyssey* and Hartford Stage/Baltimore Center Stage's production of *The Hot Wing King*. His TV/film credits include: *Underground Railroad, What Remains* (Prime); *City on a Hill* (Showtime); *Mayor of Kingstown* (Paramount); *The Good Doctor, Will Trent* and *Queens* (ABC); and *Wu-Tang* (Hulu).

Fina Strazza (Dalilah)

Strazza was most recently seen as Beth Powell in the Broadway production of *John Proctor Is the Villain*, earning her a Tony nomination for Best Featured Actress in a Play. Broadway: *Matilda* in *Matilda*. Off-Broadway: *Animal, A Loss of Roses, Member of the Wedding*. TV: *Paper Girls* (series lead), *Law & Order: SVU* (recurring), *Madam Secretary, FBI: Most Wanted* and *Last Week Tonight*. Her eight films include *Above the Shadows, A Christmas Melody* (recording "Oh, Santa!" with director Mariah Carey) and Netflix's newest *Fear Street: Prom Queen*.

Jason Bowen (Mr. Alphonse)

Bowen's previous credits include Broadway: *The Play That Goes Wrong*. Off-Broadway: *Goddess* (The Public Theater), *Half-God of Rainfall* (NYTW/A.R.T.), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Keen Company), *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (Audible Theater), *Native Son* (The Acting Co.) and *If Pretty Hurts* (Playwrights Horizons). TV/film: *Law & Order: SVU* and *Chicago P.D.* (NBC); *Blue Bloods, Madam Secretary* and *Elementary* (CBS); *The Good Fight* (Paramount Plus); *Mother/Android, The Upside* and *What's Your Number?*

Nicholas Byers (Elmer)

Byers is an actor, writer and film photographer from North Carolina, who earned his MFA at the Brown/Trinity Repertory Program ('25). He most recently starred in the Chautauqua Theater Company's world-premiere run of *The Witnesses*. His screen credits include *Coney Island, The Night Courier* and *Labeled*, with lead stage roles in *Fences, True West* and *Fugitive Songs* at Brown/Trinity.

Kassi Wilson (Stage Manager)

Wilson's (she/her) past credits include Broadway: *Six: The Musical, Hamilton, Hell's Kitchen, Sunset Blvd* and *Smash*. Off Broadway: *Hell's Kitchen* (The Public Theater), Public Works' *The Tempest* (The Public Theater), *King James* (Manhattan Theater Club), *The Harder They Come* (The Public Theater), *Raisin in the Sun* (The Public Theater), *Fat Ham* (The Public Theater) and *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord* (WP Theater). Regional: *The Scarlet Letter* (Two River Theater Company). Other past live event credits include Broadway Bares, The Tony Awards and Afropunk. She is thankful to join NYSAF in supporting this process!

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