

 **Press Contacts:

Madelyn Gardner**Press and Communications Manager
(413) 448-8084 x15
madelyn@berkshiretheatregroup.org**Rebecca Brighenti**Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(413) 448-8084 x11
becky@berkshiretheatregroup.org**NYC Press Contacts:

Richard Hillman**
Richard Hillman Public Relations

(646) 234-5716
richard@richardhillmanpr.com

**Philip Carrubba**
Richard Hillman Public Relations

(917) 523-8849
philip@richardhillmanpr.com

**For immediate release please: Wednesday, July 18, 2018**

**Four-time Pulitzer Award-Winner
Robert Sherwood’s**

***The Petrified Forest***

**Begins August 2**

**at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage**

**Directed by Tony and Pulitzer Award-Winner
David Auburn**

**Pittsfield, MA**– Four-time Pulitzer Prize-winner **Robert E. Sherwood’s *The Petrified Forest*** begins performances, Thursday, August 2 at 7pm, The Fitzpatrick Main Stage (83 East Main Street) in Stockbridge, MA. Opening night is Saturday, August 4 at 8pm. Directed byPulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winner**David** **Auburn** (*Proof*), *The Petrified Forest*features: **David Adkins** (*Homeland* BTG: *At Home at the Zoo, The Homecoming*) as Alan Squier; **Joel Austin** (*Brilliant Traces*) as Lineman 2/ Legionnaire; **Lauren Baez** (*West Side Story*) as Paula; **Rebecca Brooksher** (*Dying City* BTG: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Anna Christie*) as Gabby Maple; **Joey Collins** (The Glass Menagerie BTG: *At Home at the Zoo, The Homecoming*) as Ruby; **Sean Cullen** (*Michael Clayton*, *South Pacific*) as Jason Maple; **Jeremy Davidson** (*Army Wives*, *Brothers and Sisters* BTG: *Quills*; *Wilder, Wilder, Wilder*) as Duke Mantee; **Tré Alexander Dukes** (*The Piano Lesson*) as Pyles; **Jennifer Van Dyck** (*Hedda Gabler* BTG: *Coastal Disturbances, The Stillborn Lover*) as Mrs. Chisholm; **Shawn Fagan** (*Henry IV Part One*) as Boze Hertzlinger; **Walter Hudson** (The Pirates of Penzance BTG: *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Sylvia) as Mr. Chisholm; **John Thomas Waite** (*Amadeus*) as Gramp Maple and **Devin White** (*Last Days of Judas Iscariot*) as Jackie. This production is sponsored by Greylock Federal Credit Union, Greylock Insurance Agency, Red Lion Inn, Massachusetts Cultural Council and The Shubert Foundation.

A waitress named Gabby Maple, longing for poetry and romance; disillusioned writer Alan Squier; and fugitive killer Duke Mantee sweat out a manhunt with a handful of colorful characters in an Arizona diner. This yearning tale, written in 1934, is directed by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winner **David Auburn**(*Proof*).

Written by four-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Robert E. Sherwood, *The Petrified Forest* premiered on Broadway in 1935. This American classic is a nod to Berkshire Theatre’s illustrious past. Berkshire Theatre and the Sherwood family have a long history together—Robert’s sister, Cynthia Sherwood, performed in a number of plays at The Fitzpatrick Main Stage, including starring alongside Ethel Barrymore in *Déclassé*.

His other sister, Rosamond “Roz” Sherwood, was a Trustee at the Berkshire Theatre Festival (1953-1989) and a Stockbridge resident who Robert often visited.

*The Petrified Forest* will play the following performance schedule: Monday–Thursday at 7pm, Friday and Saturday at 8pm. Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm.

Tickets for *The Petrified Forest* are $66, and $45 for Previews. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield or by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at [www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org](http://www.berkshiretheatregroup.org/). The Ticket Office is open Monday-Saturday 10am–5pm, Sundays 10am–2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS:**
**Robert E. Sherwood** (Playwright) was born in New Rochelle, New York, on April 4, 1896. He graduated from Harvard University in 1918 and served with the Canadian Black Watch during World War I. After the war, he wrote for *Vanity Fair* and *Life* and was a member of the Algonquin Round Table with Dorothy Parker, Harold Ross, Robert Benchley, Harpo Marx, George S. Kaufman and Edna Ferber. In 1927 he published his first play, *The Road To Rome*, a successful antiwar comedy. He followed this with *Waterloo Bridge* (1930), *Reunion In Vienna* (1931), *The Petrified Forest* (1935), and the Pulitzer Prize-winning plays *Idiot’s Delight* (1936), *Abe Lincoln In Illinois* (1938) and *There Shall Be No Night* (1940), an account of Russia’s invasion of Finland. During World War II, Sherwood worked as a speechwriter for President Roosevelt and served as director of the overseas branch of the Office of War Information. His book *Roosevelt and Hopkins* (1948), which drew from his experiences during this period, won a Pulitzer Prize and a Bancroft Prize. After the war, Sherwood wrote the plays *The Rugged Path* (1945) and *Small War On Murray Hill* (1957), completed Philip Barry’s play *Second Threshold* (1951) and wrote several screenplays, including *The Bishop’s Wife* (1947) and *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946), for which he won an Academy Award. He died in New York City in 1955.

**David Auburn** (Director) plays include *Lost Lake*, *The Columnist*, *Proof* (2001 Pulitzer Prize, Tony Award, New York Drama Critics Circle Award), and *The Adventures of Augie March,*an epic dramatization of the Saul Bellow novel premiering in 2019. His film work includes *The Girl in the Park*, starring Sigourney Weaver, which he wrote and directed; the forthcoming *Ge**orgetown*, directed by and starring Christoph Waltz, with Vanessa Redgrave, and Annette Bening; and the screenplay for *The Lake House*. Recent stage directing credits include *Long Day's Journey into Night*(Court Theatre, Chicago); *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,* *Anna Christie*, *A Delicate Balance*, Tennessee Williams’ *Period of Adjustment*, and Zayd Dohrn’s *Sick* (all Berkshire Theatre Group); and the Off-Broadway world premiere of Michael Weller’s *Side Effects* (MCC)

**David Adkins** (Alan Squier) has performed in numerous productions at Berkshire Theatre Group over the last thirty years. He is an Artistic Associate at BTG and appeared in last season's *Zoo Story* and was honored with a “Berkie Award” for Outstanding Performance in a Lead Role. He has worked On and Off-Broadway, and in resident theaters across the country and guest starred extensively on television, most recently on *Homeland*. Others include: *Blacklist*, *The Good Wife*, *Elementary*, *The Americans* (two seasons), *Happy-ish*, *Without a Trace*, a pilot directed by Forrest Whitaker, the Ben Franklin mini-series on PBS and more.

**Joel Austin** (Lineman 2/ Legionnaire) is an actor originally hailing from Tennessee, who has been working in and around New York City for the last four years. He trains with Terry Schreiber, and recent credits include: Henry Harry in Outlet Ensemble’s Midtown production of *Brilliant Traces*; a David Bowie-styled 70’s Glam Rock, demonic version of Gower in Shakespeare’s *Pericles*; and a scientist responsible for creating the world’s first piece of self-aware Artificial Intelligence in The Navigators’ original play, *The Aurora Project*. Joel’s also a member of Live-In Theatre, an immersive theatre group that performs improvisational murder mysteries nearly every week in New York City and beyond. In his spare time, Joel enjoys hiking, writing, being an all-around cinephile, and playing music.

**Lauren Baez** (Paula) was seen last summer in Priscilla Beach Theatre’s *West Side Story* (Consuela). She is a recent grad of NYU Tisch School of the Art’s New Studio on Broadway. During her time at NYU, some of her favorite roles included: Daniela in *In the Heights* (dir. Melissa Maxwell); Lilli/Kate in *Kiss Me Kate* (dir. Kyle Fabel); Milla in *Boleros for the Disenchanted*; and Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical* (dir. Brian Hill).

**Rebecca Brooksher** (Gabby Maple) this production will be her fifth collaboration with David Auburn and BTG, having last been seen as Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, which earned her a Berkshire Theatre Award Nomination. Other area credits include *Molly Sweeney*, *Blackbird*and *Nina Variations*at Chester Theater Company, and *All my Sons* and *Private Lives* at Barrington Stage. New York credits include: *The Roads To Home*(Primary Stages), *The Real Thing*(Roundabout), *Loot*(Red Bull), *Dying City* (Lincoln Center, Lortel nomination Best Actress), *Love’s Labor’s Lost*(The Public Theater), *The Scariest* (Bleeker Street), *White People* (Atlantic Stage 2). Recent regional credits include: *Golden Age* (The Kennedy Center), *She Stoops to Conquer* and *Twelfth Night*(McCarter Theatre), *Monster at the Door*(Alley), *Romeo and Juliet*(Shakespeare Theatre of NJ), and *Mr. Wolf (*Cleveland Playhouse). TV: *The Sinner, Elementary, Love Monkey,* *Ugly Betty, The Confession*; recurring on *Happyish, The Good Wife, Canterbury’s Law, One Life to Live*. Film: *Cold Souls, The Muse. Juilliard* graduate (Group 34).

**Joey Collins** (Ruby) BTG: *At Home at the Zoo* (Berkshire Theatre Award for Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Play), The Homecoming. Broadway: The Glass Menagerie, Rock n’ Roll and The Lonesome West. Off-Broadway: 1599, Straight Faced Lies, St. Joan of the Stockyards, Vieux Carré, Bug, Beasley’s Christmas Party, Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde, Apartment 3A, The Antigone Project. World Premieres: Mark St. Germain’s Scott & Hem at Contemporary American Theater Festival and Barrington Stage; Custody of the Eyes by Anthony Giardina at Cleveland Playhouse; Beat Generation, the lost play by Jack Kerouac; and Oceanside by Nick Gandiello at Merrimack Rep. Regional theaters: Rep. Theatre of St. Louis, Triad Stage, Berkeley Rep.,Yale Rep., Pioneer Theatre, The Old Globe, Cape Playhouse, A.C.T. in San Francisco, Cincinnati Playhouse and others. Film: Dottie’s Thanksgiving Pickle with Olympia Dukakis, There You Are, Un Oeuf Is Enough, Bittersweet, The Number 36, Double Take. Television: Luke Cage, Law and Order, Kidnapped, All My Children, Guiding Light, As the World Turns. www.joeycollins.net @MrJoeyCollins
 **Sean Cullen** (Jason Maple) has appeared in the Oscar Award-nominated *Michael Clayton* (with George Clooney,) and the Tony Award-winning *South Pacific* (with Kelli O'Hara). His recent films include HBO's *Paterno* (with Al Pacino) and *DeLorean* (with Alec Baldwin). Sean recently guest starred on *Bull* (CBS), *Suits* (USA), *House of Cards* (Netflix); and *The Blacklist* (NBC). He played Franz in NBC's *The Sound of Music Live* (with Carrie Underwood). Sean's Broadway credits also include: *Golden Boy* (with Tony Shaloub), *James Joyce’s The Dead* (with Christopher Walken) and Coram Boy.  Sean's film work also includes Revolutionary Road (with Leonardo DiCaprio), *He Does Not Want Peace*(with David Strathairn), Simone (with Al Pacino) and *Cop Out* (with Bruce Willis and Tracey Morgan).  He has also appeared at more than twenty of America's leading regional theatres, including the Kennedy Center, A.C.T., Williamstown and the Westport Playhouse. Sean’s a graduate of the Yale School of Drama and St. Bonaventure University.
 **Jeremy Davidson** (Duke Mantee) BTG: *Quills*; *Wilder, Wilder, Wilder*; *Desire Under the Elms*; *Dimetos*; *Coastal Disturbances* and the one-man play Nijinsky's *Last Dance* (also Signature Theater and Kennedy Center, Helen Hayes Award-nomination). Broadway: *Epic Proportions*. Off-Broadway: *Blood and Gifts* (Lincoln Center), *Back Back Back* (Manhattan Theater Club, Drama Desk Award-nomination), *La Terrasse* (MTC), *Cyclone* (Studio Dante). Regonial: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Kennedy Center with Mary Stuart Masterson & George Grizzard, Geffen Theater with John Goodman), *Off the Main Road* (Williamstown), *Going Native* (Long Wharf), *The Foreigner* (Virginia Stage). TV: *Seven Seconds*, *Bull*, *The Americans*, *Madame Secretary*, *Royal Pains*, *Show Me a Hero*, *Army Wives*, *Kill Point*, *Brothers and Sisters* and others. Film: *Salt*, *Little Chenier*, *Before/During/After*, *Deprivation* and *You Bury Your Own*. Writer/Director: *Tickling Leo* (Jury Award: Best Film, Stonybrook Film Festival). Co-founder of Storyhorse Documentary Theater in the Hudson Valley ([storyhorsetheater.org](http://storyhorsetheater.org/)).

 **Tré Alexander Dukes** (Pyles) a North Carolina native, Tre’ is extremely proud to be making his professional debut with BTG. Tre’ is a recent undergraduate at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, with a BFA in Acting. His most recent production was *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson, where he played the role of Avery. Tre’ would like to thank UNCSA for its unconditional support during his four-year training, and all of those in his village of teachers, artists, friends and family who have continued to support and contribute to his growth and journey as an artist.

  **Jennifer Van Dyck** (Mrs. Chisholm) BTG: *The Lady Hamlet* (workshop), *Coastal Disturbances, The Stillborn Lover*. She has worked extensively with Charles Busch creating roles in *The Confession of Lily Dare*, *Cleopatra*, *Judith of Bethulia*, *The Divine Sister* and *The Third Story*. Recent collaborations: Tanya Kalmanovitch’s *Tar Sands* *Songbook*; new plays by Topher Payne, Deborah Zoe Laufer, Sarah Schulman, Sinan Unel; directors Carl Andress, Michael Barakiva, Melia Bensussen, Melinda Lopez. Broadway: *Hedda Gabler, Dancing at Lughnasa, Two Shakespearean Actors, The Secret Rapture*. Off Broadway: *Perfect Arrangement, Orson’s Shadow, The Castle, The Picture Box, The Breadwinner.*  Film/TV: *Madam Secretary*, *Bull, The Good Wife, The Blacklist, Royal Pains, Elementary, Person of Interest,* many episodes of *Law & Order, Too Big to Fail, Michael Clayton, Across the Universe*. Regional: Bucks County, Westport Playhouse, Old Globe, Huntington, Trinity Rep, Long Wharf, Hartford Stage, Williamstown Theater Festival. Jennifer’s narration work encompasses hundreds of audiobooks in a wide range of genres.
 **Shawn Fagan** (Boze Hertzlinger) favorite roles include Hal/Henry in *The Making of a King: Henry IV 1&2/Henry V* (Playmakers Rep), Frank/Franz in *Appropriate* (Westport Country Playhouse), Angelo in *Measure for Measure* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival), the Stage Manager in *Our Town* (Portland Center Stage), Caleb in *The Whipping Man* (Cleveland Play House), Christy in *The Playboy of the Western World* (Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival), Edgar in *King Lear* (Utah Shakespeare Festival), Hamlet in the world premier of *Wittenberg* (Arden Theatre Company), Texas in *Intimations for Saxophone* (Arena Stage), and Hugh in *The Voysey Inheritance* (Denver Center). New York credits include Hotspur in *Henry IV Part One,* Philinte in *The Misanthrope* (Pearl Theatre Co.); James Whelan in the U.S. Premiere of *Wife to James Whelan* (Mint Theatre); *Peninsula* (Soho Rep); *Freakshow, Dearest Eugenia Haggis* (Clubbed Thumb); and *Milk ’n’ Honey* (Lightbox/3LD). More info at [www.shawnfagan.net](http://www.shawnfagan.net).
 **Walter Hudson** (Mr. Chisholm) is delighted to return to BTG having appeared in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Sylvia, Mrs. Warren’s Profession, Amadeus, Macbeth, The Einstein Project, Edith, My Fair Lady, HMS Pinafore and A Man for All Seasons, among others. He has appeared on Broadway for the NY Shakespeare Festival as the Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance, and The Human Comedy, as well as Cy Coleman’s Welcome to the Club, and Off Broadway as the Dentist in Little Shop of Horrors at the Orpheum Theatre. National tours include: Pirates, Blood Brothers and Noises Off. He has worked regionally at numerous theatres, including: Yale Rep, Long Wharf, Kennedy Center, NAC (Ottawa), Denver Theatre Center, Huntington Theatre, Ford’s, Alliance, Rep Theatre of St. Louis, Cleveland Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and Syracuse Stage. Recent television includes: The Following, Nurse Jackie and The Onion News Network.

**John Thomas Waite**(Gramp Maple) made his Broadway debut as an understudy in *Dracula*, and was one of seven actors to take on the role of Mozart in the original Broadway run of *Amadeus*. For years he went in and out of the Off Broadway production of *The Fantasticks,* playing The Mute, The Man Who Dies and eventually The Old Actor. He has performed in London with The Independent Shakespeare Company, in New York City with The Irish Repertory Theatre and with regional theaters across the country. His TV credits include: *ED*, *Royal Pains* and *Muhammad Ali’s Greatest Fight*. His film credits include: *The Understudy* (Marin Ireland), *Freedom* (Cuba Gooding Jr.) and *After Louie* (Alan Cumming). He directed Mimi Quillin's one-woman show, *Call Fosse at the Minskoff,* which won Best Production at the 2016 United Solo Theatre Festival. John Thomas has been a proud member of Actors Equity for 46 years.

 **Devin White** (Jackie) is excited to spend his first season at the Berkshire Theatre Group. Devin is originally from Portland, Oregon; where he worked at Oregon Children’s Theatre as a company member and teacher. Devin also spent one season at The Oregon Shakespeare Festival performing in two shows (Gravedigger in *Hamlet*, and Green/Ensemble in *Richard II*). Devin studied at Southern Oregon University for his BFA, and just completed his first year in pursuit of an Acting MFA at Yale School of Drama, playing Butch Honeywell in *Last Days of Judas Iscariot*,as well as Lloyd in *MUD* at the Yale Cabaret.

###

**About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County school children annually.