



April 29 - May 15th

ONCE

Book by Enda Walsh

Music & lyrics

by Glen Hansard
and Markéta Irglová

Directed by

Amanda White



DALEKOARTS
VISIT DALEKOARTS.COM

ONCE

CAST
(in order of appearance)

Book by
Enda Walsh

Music & Lyrics by
Glen Hansard &
Markéta Irglová

Based on the motion
picture written and
directed by
John Carney

Directed by
Amanda White

Music direction by
Bradley Beahen

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager
Dillon Baxendell

Choreographer
Joe Crook

Accent Consultant
Benjamin Slye

Scenic Designer/Carpenter/Painter
Robin McIntyre

Lighting Designer
Phillip Uttech

Costume Designer
Cynthia Wade Forsgren

Sound Designer
Topher Pirkel

Props Designer
Sarah Salisbury

Guy
Chris Paulson

Girl
Leslie Vincent

Réza
Quinn Shadko

Eamon
Grant Hooyer

Andrej
Ryan J. Pierce

Da
Eric Lee

Baruska
Shana Eisenberg

Svec
Jeff A. Miller

Billy
Zachary Thomas Hedner

Bank Manager/Ensemble
Nora Sonneborn

Ex-Girlfriend/Ensemble
Shelby Lengyel

Emcee/Ensemble
Shana Berg

MUSICIANS

Piano
Bradley Beahen

Violin
Betsy Keenan-Brown

Cello
Randall Davidson

Special Thanks

Hill Murray Theatre Department, Peter Rothstein, Allen Weeks, Nicole Thietje, School at Stepenwolf Class of 2007, Tom Burgess and Theatre@Normandale, William Inge Theatre Festival, the team at Squirrel Haus Arts



DALEKOARTS

OUR MISSION

DalekoArts (DELL-uh-koh) works with professional theatre artists to pursue impactful, live performance in our community of New Prague, Minnesota and the surrounding region.

OUR VISION

Our purpose is to decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota by increasing engagement and opportunity in New Prague and the surrounding area. It is our dream that New Prague will be a known destination for quality performing arts and arts education.

OUR STORY

DalekoArts was founded in 2012 by theatre artists Ben Thietje and Amanda White as a way to help decentralize professional theatre in Minnesota.

New Prague was chosen as the company's home due to the community's extraordinary interest in theatre, the regional growth and development it has experienced in the last decade, its relative proximity to the Twin Cities, and its close ties to the founders.

"Daleko" — a Czech word meaning "far away" — reflects New Prague's strong bohemian roots, its spatial relationship to the cultural hub that is the Twin Cities, and the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



DalekoArts is a member of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

Theatre Communications Group



DalekoArts is a proud member of the Minnesota Theater Alliance.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Hi friends,

It's possible that none of you will read this note. Not because you aren't polite, intellectual, curious people, of course—but because, instead, you might be listening right now to a band of musicians jam out on the stage while people wander in and sit down (or maybe you're getting up there to play with them if you brought your banjo...no, really...go). This feels right to me. Someone in your group who needed something to do during intermission can tell you what I said.

The heart of *Once*, to me, can be found in part in this opening jam session. There's an informal invitation here: a few people nod as you sit down, there's palpable warmth and gentle amber light in the room. Somehow it always feels like evening, and you're a good two pints or two mugs of tea in. There's music everywhere, in your hair and in your pores. Always a violin, always a sea of guitars. There's so much wood, something smells faintly like hops and oranges, and you can see a bit of dust in the air. This room has seen some things. And that's just your invitation. We haven't even started our story yet.

As it happens, our story is set in Dublin, Ireland (the Motherland, as my own Da likes to call it), and about twelve years ago. Maybe a bit more; people still listen to CDs and talk on flip phones. This story is also, though, full of the spirit of the Czech people—their music, their language, their pride, their people, their resilience. And so this is a place where dreamers, artists, revolutionaries, poets, immigrants with a vision for a greater future for themselves and their families, converge and share space. Tiny, lush, beautiful space, right next to a wild ocean. Toward the end of *The Second Half*, a young Czech musician you'll meet named Svec says, "Dublin's really lovely." His best friend Andrej replies, "A million times

heartbroken, and Dublin keeps on going. You've got to love Dublin for dreaming." This Dublin is a crossroads for hundreds upon hundreds of cultures, communities, and dreams.

And into this crossroads stumble Guy and Girl. You'll meet them at the top of the show, and they'll let you in on their story in the way they both best know how...through music. It can be (and has been) argued that this is a story about how music can sometimes be more important even than love. Or is it that music comes first, and paves the way for love? Or is music an expression of love? Or is it that dreamers will find each other and make music in whatever ways they can? I'll leave that to you, actually. What I can say with certainty is that this story, like every good story, is bittersweet. There is sorrow in it. And celebration. And pride. And rage, and persistence. And a deep, quiet hope.

And there are some humans from different places who meet in Dublin once and take that moment to make music.

Enjoy the show, with love and gratitude,

Amanda and the Company of *Once*

Ps. This is not a trick. You are watching actors who are playing all of this complex music like their lives depend on it, weaving relationships through it, dancing with each other as they play, and singing as much as they're talking to weave this tale. Sometimes a capella. I hold them in awe.

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DALEKOARTS DEDICATES
ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
TO OUR BELOVED FRIEND

MICHAEL LEE.

1968 - 2021

You may have seen Michael on the DalekoArts stage several times over the past decade: he played “Nick” in our Season 2 production of Rancho Mirage, the glorious “Mrs Bumbrake/Teacher” roles in Season 7’s Peter & the Starcatcher, and, most recently, “Charles Babbage” in Season 8’s Ada & the Engine. He was among the actors who last stood on the Prague Theater stage in a live production before the world ground to a halt in March of 2020.



Michael was our dear friend. He also embodied everything our team would like a Daleko artist to be: he was loving, deeply kind, focused, wildly intelligent, funny, grounded, and he made everyone feel important. He loved talking with audience members after the show. He loved sharing his insights with our community in talk backs and First Looks. He believed utterly in the power of storytelling to unite and challenge human beings. And he truly loved the people he walked through the world with in every moment. Michael had an almost elfish mischief about him, and he made sure that jokes and pranks were abundant in every rehearsal process. (Honestly, in performances, too — you just had to know where to look.) He had a wicked sense of humor. He had music in his core. Sometimes, the legend goes, he just showed up as Santa Claus. He was a kid at heart, in the best way. In one rehearsal for Peter & the Starcatcher, he told the cast he was happy to be a source for research, as he was pretty certain he had a big case of “Peter Pan Syndrome”. If he had it, we want it, too — he was so full of warmth, light, and energy that he turned all of us into kids in the face of what he knew was theatre magic.

We love you, Michael, forever and always. We dedicate every moment of DalekoArts’ Season 10 to you. We will carry your fire and your spirit and your kindness with us forever, and as long as Daleko has a stage, you are there with us. Thank you for sharing your huge gifts and heart with us, and with our audiences.

And, hey: *made ya look.*

CHRIS PAULSON

Guy

Chris is making his DalekoArts debut in ONCE. Recent favorites include: Jervis Pendleton (Daddy Long Legs; Minneapolis Musical Theatre), Will (Big Fish; Good Works Theatre) and Jimmy Ray (Bright Star; Lyric Arts). Chris, a graduate of Luther College, is a singer who has performed professionally in both the Twin Cities and New York City. Love to Barb & Bob, all my loved ones who pave the way, sweet Bailey, and my heart, Hope.

LESLIE VINCENT

Girl

Leslie is delighted to be working with DalekoArts. Previous credits: Park Square Theatre (Jefferson Township Sparkling Junior Talent Pageant; The Diary of Anne Frank), Old Log Theatre (Beehive: The 60s Musical), History Theatre (Teen Idol: The Bobby Vee Story; Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story), Artistry (Victor/Victoria), Sidekick Theatre (The Marvelous Wonderettes), and the Twin Cities Horror Festival (A Morbid History of Sons & Daughters). Offstage, she's a professional musician. Her debut

album *These Foolish Things* came out in 2020 and she'll release her next album later this year. Find out more about her work at www.lesliedellavincet.com or on social @leslie_della_vincet. For Allison - always.

QUINN SHADKO

Réza

Quinn is thrilled to be making her DalekoArts debut! She performs regularly throughout the Twin Cities in both musical theatre and opera. Previous credits include Theatre Latté Da (La Bohème), Park Square Theatre (Snow Queen, The Diary of Anne Frank), Hennepin Theatre Trust (The Realish Housewives of Edina), Skylark Opera Theatre (The Fantasticks, Don Giovanni, The Marriage of Figaro), Lyric Arts (Guys and Dolls, Godspell), Old Log Theatre (Cowgirls), Theatre Elision (Ghost Quartet), Minneapolis Musical Theatre (Happy Days: The Musical, Mame), Lakeshore Players (Mary Poppins), performances with Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, and more. When she's not onstage, Quinn works at MacPhail Center for Music with the Giving

Voice Chorus for singers with Alzheimer's, and is an active commercial voiceover artist with companies like Target, HealthPartners, Annie's Organic, and more. B.A. Rice University, M.M. New York University. Lots of love to my family, and many thanks to you for supporting live theatre and music!

GRANT HOOYER

Eamon

Grant is a first time Daleko-er, long time actor person. He moved to the Twin Cities in 2013 from his hometown of Sioux Falls, SD where he graduated from Augustana College with BAs in Psychology and Theatre. Since then, Grant has performed for companies like Lyric Arts (Nice Work If You Can Get It, The Drawer Boy, You Can't Take It With You, Sense & Sensibility, It's A Wonderful Life), Theatre in the Round (Spider's Web, The Farnsworth Invention, Canterville Ghost, Postmortem, Go Back For Murder, Jeeves Takes A Bow), Artistry (The Baker's Wife), St. Croix Off Broadway Dinner Theatre (Come Blow Your Horn), Open Window Theatre (The

World Over), and Theatre Pro Rata (The Ever & After). Grant works for National Theatre for Children as their Distribution Head. IG: @granthooyer

RYAN J. PIERCE

Andrej

This is Ryan's debut production with DalekoArts! You might have seen him in local productions like Merrill Fine Art's production of Young Frankenstein, as "Inspector Kemp/Hermit." Outside of the Twin Cities, Ryan has performed all over the country thanks to Missoula Children's Theater, a touring company based out of Montana and has locations in all 50 states! Ryan received a degree in Theater from Luther College, and enjoys his extra time jogging, playing D&D, and preparing for his upcoming wedding! Big thanks to his fiancée, Melissa, for all the hugs, meals, and support these past few months and the unconditional love and support from Mom, Dad, Alex, and his extended family, friends, and the Lord above...and YOU! Thank you for coming and supporting live theater! We are so thrilled to have you here!

ERIC LEE

Da

Eric is delighted to be making his debut with DalekoArts with *Once*, and to be returning to the stage after these last couple years away! Raised in Des Moines, IA, and attended the University of Evansville, IN for his Bachelors Degree in Theatre, he has spent about six years in the storefront theatres of Chicago, a year in LA, some time back in Des Moines, and before moving to the Twin Cities at the beginning of 2020, was with the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, MN since 2014. Some favorite roles include Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Terry in *Still Life*, and Peter Shaw in *Silent Sky*.

SHANA EISENBERG

Baruska

Shana is thrilled to make her debut with DalekoArts. Shana has performed throughout the Twin Cities for the last 17 years. Most recently, she appeared in *Elf the Musical, Jr* with Stages Theatre Company and *The Emperor's New Clothes* with Sidekick Theatre. Other theatres include Artistry, Old Log Theatre, Full Circle Theatre, Skylark Opera,

Paul Bunyan Playhouse & Lyric Arts Main Street Stage. Much love to W.C. Fields. Many thanks to a fantastic production staff and you, the audience, for supporting live theatre!!!

JEFF A. MILLER

Svec

Jeff (he/him) is an actor, musician, and visual artist. Recent credits include guitar for *THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW* at Phoenix Theater and lead character Mark in the UK bound new folk musical *THE REGULARS*. Seen on Twin Cities' stages with *Mixed Blood*, *Uprising Theatre Company*, *20% Theatre Company*, and *MN Fringe*. In his spare time you can find him working as a stagehand or video jockey at concerts, playing hockey with Team Trans, or hanging out with his dog Aspen. JeffAMiller17.com // @JeffAMiller17

ZACHARY THOMAS

HEDNER

Billy

Zachary is a Twin Cities-based actor. He graduated with a degree in theatre from The University of Northwestern. He has performed at theatres

such as Paul Bunyan Playhouse, Lyric Arts, Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company, Chaska Valley Family Theatre, 4 Community Theatre, Bunce Backyard Productions, UNW Theatre, and Northwestern Opera. Zachary is also the Executive Director at the Arts Consortium of Carver County and a Production Manager of Triple Espresso. www.zacharyhedner.com

NORA SONNEBORN

Bank Manager/

Ensemble

Nora is thrilled to be returning to the DalekoArts stage following her debut last winter as Synchronize in *Holiday Show!* The *Holiday Show*. Other recent credits include Ula in *Antlia Pneumatica*, Susan in [title of show], and Martha in *Spring Awakening*, all at Normandale Community College. You can also hear her as Jill on the musical album *The Posthuman War* and other upcoming Shaperaverse works. Offstage, you can find her scouring Craigslist for new instruments to learn - she's unbelievably honored to put her hoard to good use! She'd like

to thank all of you for coming out and helping live theatre thrive.

SHELBY LENGYEL

Ex-Girlfriend/

Ensemble

Shelby is ecstatic to make her DalekoArts debut! She received her AFA in Theatre Performance from Normandale Community College in the spring of 2020. Her favorite roles at Normandale include: Hamlet, Doralee in "9 to 5: The Musical," Nina in "Antlia Pneumatica," and Lizzy Bennet in "Pride and Prejudice." Offstage, Shelby is a full-time student at Hamline University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Creative Writing. Her days are filled with poetry, thrifting, and time with her nephews. She'd like to thank her family and friends for filling the seats and she hopes you enjoy the show!

SHANA BERG

Emcee/Ensemble

Shana is joining the DalekoArts stage for the first time. She is excited to be back on stage creating and collaborating after an isolating few years. Previously, she has been in

productions around town at The History Theatre, Park Square, Theatre Unbound, TigerLion Arts, and Actors Theatre of MN. Her undergrad was spent at Berklee College followed by her M.M. in Voice from McNally Smith. Thanks to my family and friends, to my dog, Izzy, who listens to me practice endlessly, and Michael, who is my favorite.

DILLON BAXENDELL
Stage Manager

Dillon is super duper excited to be back at DalekoArts! Previous DA credits include: Ada and the Engine (Lord Lovelace) and The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged (Stage Manager). As a stage manager/stage hand, Dillon's worked at Theatre at Normandale (Men On Boats, Hamlet, The Wolves, Picnic), Artistry (Legally Blonde), and Lyric Arts (Legally Blonde, God of Carnage, Junie B. Jones Is Not A Crook). Recent performance credits include Bright Star (Max) at Lyric Arts, Seussical, Jr. (Mr. Mayor) at Lakeshore Players, and [title of show] (Hunter) at Theatre at Normandale. Special thanks to Paran and to

you for coming out and supporting DalekoArts!

JOE CROOK
Choreographer

Joe is excited to be back at DalekoArts for another project. He graduated from MNSU with a BFA where he was selected to perform at the Kennedy Center three times in his career as both an actor and dancer in KCACTF and ACDF. Since graduation, he has worked both on and off stage for Black Label Movement, The Minnesota Opera, Collide Dance, The National Theatre for Children, Off-Leash Dance, Paul Bunyan Playhouse, The Phipps Center, Old Log, Way Off Broadway, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Christopher Watson Dance, Continental Ballet, The Ames Center and Theater Latte Da. He is currently a company member with Arena Dances, Shapiro and Smith Dance, and Stark Dance. Joe has also been an adjunct faculty at MNSU. He was awarded outstanding choreography by KCACTF for his work on a Normandale Colleges production of Colossal by Andrew Hinderaker. He has choreographed shows at St. Olaf, MCTC, and The

Children's Theater. In his free time, Joe is a plumber, event manager, and active art maker.

BENJAMIN SLYE
Accent Consultant

Ben is a local dialect coach and actor. He is grateful to Daleko Arts for the opportunity to work on such an interesting piece. He has worked as a dialect coach with Theatre in the Round (A Murder is Announced), Bunce Backyard Productions (Newsies), Hill-Murray School (A Christmas Carol), and Stillwater Area High School (The Last Lifeboat). He has been on stage with Gremlin Theatre, Theatre in the Round, Expressions Theater, and Chaska Valley Family Theater. He would like to thank his family, as well as his mentors, Keely and Foster. And thank you for supporting live theater!

ROBIN MCINTYRE
*Scenic Designer/
Carpenter/Painter*

Robin graduated with a BFA and an MFA in Theatre Design and Stage Technology from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Since 1991 Robin has

designed for a variety of local theatres including Lakeshore Players, Mounds View Community Theatre, Park Square Theatre, The History Theatre, Flying Foot Forum, Collide Dance Theatre, The Phipps Center for the Arts, and Cedar Summerstock in Osage, Iowa. For 10 seasons Robin created hundreds of sets for both main stage musicals and Black Box theatre productions at Bloomington Civic Theatre and Art Center. He is currently freelance designing in the Twin Cities and working with The University of Northwestern in St. Paul, Benilde St. Margaret and Lakeville North High School theatres, and DalekoArts in New Prague.

PHILLIP UTTECH
Lighting Designer

Phillip is a freelance designer & technician with an MFA in Lighting Design from Western Illinois University. After having a blast working on Holiday Show! the holiday show, Phillip is excited to be back for another lighting design with DalekoArts! He also designed Daleko's past production of Middletown and Another Chris Smith Carol. Phillip

has had lighting designs with Animal Engine, the Minnesota Vikings Halftime Show, and a Super Bowl event with Showcore.

CYNTHIA WADE FORSGREN

Costume Designer

With a background in education, art, and historical clothing design & construction, Cindy has been designing & costuming shows for over 25 years including 13 years with Bloomington Civic Theatre/Artistry as designer for the Black Box Theatre, and assisting with productions in the Schneider Theater. She also designed for Mounds View Community Theater including Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. Joseph's coat was a finalist in the Fine Arts Competition at the Minnesota State Fair. Cindy costumed The Flying Foot Forum and was nominated for a SAGE Award for Dance for Design for Alice in Wonderland at the Orpheum Flint Hills Children's Theatre Festival. She has been designing for University of Northwestern, Eden Prairie Players and Chain Reaction Theatre. Cindy's

excited to be back to work with DalekoArts and this wonderful production of Once.

TOPHER PIRKL

Sound Designer

Topher is excited to return to DalekoArts and to theatre in general after a brief hiatus. He previously designed sound for DalekoArts's production of The Shape of Things, and is a frequent sound designer for Normandale Community College. He is also the general manager of a local rental company that specializes in audio equipment for live theater and music. He is kept sane by his wonderful wife and three very strange dogs.

SARAH SALISBURY

Props Designer

Sarah is thrilled to be back with Daleko, dipping her toe back into the theater world after the Great Shut Down. Sarah has been Props Designer for such Daleko shows as Ada and the Engine, Constellations, Ghost Tour, Godspell, Middletown, She Loves Me, etc. When not haunting thrift stores, Sarah is a Customer Service Representative for an animal emergency

room. As of now, she is also stage managing the occasional dance show, but anything else still remains to be seen.

BRADLEY BEAHEN

Piano / Music Director

Bradley is thrilled to be making his debut at Daleko Arts with Once! As a music director/conductor, he's worked at Lyric Arts, Plaid Tidings, Winter Wonderettes, [title of show], Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, Mamma Mia, Normandale Community College, [title of show], Old Log Theatre, Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Latte Da, Pansy Craze and Lakeshore Players, Company. As a performer, he's been seen Off-Broadway, locally at the Ordway, Chanhassen and the History Theatre, as well as a lovely handful of regional theaters throughout the country. Bradley resides in a plant-filled oasis (2 bedroom apt) in Minneapolis, with his overtly supportive and talented visual artist boyfriend Mark. He'd love to thank Mark, as well as his friends and family for their unending courage and support. www.bradleybeahen.com

BETSY KEENAN-BROWN

Violin

Betsy is taking the leap by making her debut at the wonderful Daleko Arts, and is back on the theater stage for the first time since highschool. Recent musical years have been spent playing violin, bass guitar and singing in local bands. Her days are spent in software development, or at "name your sport event" with her amazing son, Lochlan. Betsy would like to thank Rob and all of her loved ones for their support, allowing the time to be a part of such an incredible production; and to Bradley for believing in me, and the new cherished memories.

RANDALL DAVIDSON

Cello

Randall plays cello and is a composer. Music of humor and passion are the hallmarks of Randall Davidson's compositions. He's had performances throughout the U.S. and Europe. Critics, performers and audiences have appreciated his dramatic and accessible musical language. Davidson's catalogue (randalldavidsonmusic.com).

com) encompasses nearly every genre: theater, chamber music, choral, opera, dance, orchestra, commercials, sound installations and jazz & rock.

AMANDA WHITE
Director

Amanda is thrilled and grateful to be part of the team that brings *Once to life* for the DalekoArts audience. In addition to being a founding Artistic Director, Amanda has been lucky in DA's history to direct *Ada & the Engine*, *Peter & the Starcatcher*, *Godspell*, *Our Town*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Barefoot in the Park*, and *The Odd Couple*. She has also been privileged to join the companies of *Holiday Show: The Holiday Show*, *Ghost Tour*, the *Main Street Holiday series*, *Middletown*, *The Rink*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Adventures in Mating*, *Love Letters*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Rancho Mirage*, and *Proof*. Amanda is in her sixth year as a member of the Theatre Department Faculty at Normandale Community College. She is also proud to serve as the Managing Director for the

William Inge Center for the Arts this season as the company honors two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage. Amanda has served on the Major Gifts and Strategy teams at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, as Associate Artistic Director for the William Inge Center for the Arts, and as Managing Director at Mixed Blood Theatre. Amanda is a graduate of Columbia University's MA Program in Arts Administration, MSU Mankato's MFA in Theatre Performance, Truman State University's Theatre Arts program, and the School at Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago. This one is for *Annie...birth to earth, Prim*.

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