



# DRURY LANE THEATRE

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## Drury Lane Theatre Presents *The Audience* Written by Peter Morgan and starring Janet Ulrich Brooks

**Chicago, IL – Drury Lane Theatre** announces casting for its production of *The Audience*. Masterfully blending the personal and the political, *The Audience* gives an extraordinary glimpse into the woman behind the crown and the leaders she outlasted. Written by Peter Morgan, writer of the Emmy Award-winning “The Crown,” Drury Lane’s production is directed by **Jessica Fisch**. *The Audience* runs **August 28 – October 20, 2024**, at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. Single tickets are available by phone at (630) 530-0111 or online at [www.drurylanetheatre.com](http://www.drurylanetheatre.com). The press opening is scheduled for Thursday, September 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Cast members joining the previously announced **Janet Ulrich Brooks** (*Queen Elizabeth II*) include **Matt Decaro** (*Winston Churchill*), **Raymond Fox** (*Gordon Brown*), **Alex Goodrich** (*Tony Blair/David Cameron*), **Jürgen Hooper** (*Equerry*), **John Judd** (*John Major*), **Omi Lichtenstein** (*Young Elizabeth at certain performances*), **Susie McMonagle** (*Margaret Thatcher*), **Ron E. Rains** (*Harold Wilson*), **Elin Joy Seiler** (*Young Elizabeth at certain performances*), and **Mark Ulrich** (*Anthony Eden*) with **Chris Amos**, **Sarah Chalcraft**, **Brandon Dahlquist**, **Casey Ross**, and **Rebekah Ward**.

Peek behind the closed doors of Buckingham Palace with *The Audience*, an intimate portrait of Queen Elizabeth II and the pivotal private audiences she held with her prime ministers. *The Audience* is an enthralling exploration of the delicate balance of power and unspoken rules of engagement that underscore these confidential meetings. Janet Ulrich Brooks takes on a lifetime of Queen Elizabeth II playing her from ages 25 to 86, accompanied by an incredible cast of Prime Ministers.

The creative team includes **Andrew Boyce** (scenic design), **Moria Sine Clinton** and **Ben Argenta Kress** (co-costume design), **Isabella Byrd** (lighting design), **Lee Kinney** (sound design), **Cassy Schillo** (properties design), **Erin Kennedy Lunsford** (wig design), **Sammi Grant** (dialect coach), and **Matthew Randle-Bent** (dramaturg and royal protocol consultant). **Larry Baker** is the production stage manager.

### About the Artists

**JESSICA FISCH** (Director) is a freelance director, educator, and creator based in Chicago. She is dedicated to the creation of new plays, original content, and bold reinterpretations of classic texts. She has had the privilege of working on and developing work across the country with companies such as Actors Theatre of Louisville, Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Victory Gardens, Writers Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Drury Lane Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Playwrights’ Center Minneapolis, Playwrights Realm NYC, Public Theater’s Emerging Writers’ Group, and Ensemble Studio Theatre’s Youngbloods, among many more. Three Productions she has directed have been named to the Chicago Tribune’s “10 Best Shows in Chicago” list (*Beautiful*, *Cry it Out*, and *Every Brilliant Thing*), and one of her productions was named to the Chicago Sun-Times “Decade’s Best” list for the 2010s (*Every Brilliant Thing*). In 2023, she received a Joseph Jefferson Award nomination for Best Director (*Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*), as well as two Best Production nominations (*Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*).

**JANET ULRICH BROOKS** (*Queen Elizabeth II*) Previous Drury Lane credits: *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Murder On The Orient Express*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Crazy For You* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. Chicago & Regional: Maria Callas in *Master Class* (Jeff Award Principal Actor - TimeLine Theatre Company - Company Member since 2007). *The Cherry Orchard*, *2666*, *Vanya Sonya Masha & Spike*, *Seagull* (Goodman Theatre). *Music Man*, *Beautiful* (Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre) *The Children* (Steppenwolf). *Plantation* (Lookingglass) *A Rock Sails By* and *Blithe Spirit* (Peninsula Players, Door County). At *The Wedding* (Theatre Squared, AR). *Steel Magnolias* (Milwaukee Rep) *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Pipeline*, *Native Gardens* (Victory Gardens). *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* (Helen Hayes Nomination - Woolly Mammoth DC) Films include: *Divergent*, *Conviction*, *One Small Hitch*, *M.O.M.* T.V. credits: *Work In Progress* (Showtime), *Fargo S4* (FX), *Sense8* (Netflix), *Proven Innocent* (Fox TV), *Boss* (STARZ), *Chicago Med*, *Fire & Justice* (NBC). Janet was the first recipient of the Ed See Outstanding Theatre Alumnus Award from the University of Central Missouri. A proud union member of AEA and SAG/AFTRA, Janet is represented by Gray Talent Group.

**CHRIS AMOS** (Ensemble, Footman, Security Man, *u/s Tony Blair/David Cameron*) is honored to join this incredible team of artists. Regional: *Eureka Day* at Asolo Rep; *Twelve Angry Men* at Indiana Rep/Syracuse Stage; *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival; *Comedy of Errors*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Scapin* at the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Chicago: *Another Marriage* (*u/s*) at Steppenwolf, *Both Your Houses* and *Pirandello's Henry IV* at Remy Bumppo, *Tom Jones* at Northlight. TV: *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire*, *Chicago PD*, *The Chi*, *Empire*. MFA in acting from The Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

**SARAH CHALCROFT** (Ensemble, *Bobo MacDonald*, Dresser, *U/S Margaret Thatcher*) is delighted to be returning to Drury Lane. Previously for Drury Lane she has appeared in *A Christmas Carol*. Other Chicago credits include *Hamlet* and *King Charles III* at Chicago Shakespeare Theater; *A Christmas Carol* at The Goodman Theatre; *Scenes from an Execution* for Runcible Theatre Company; *Our New Girl* and *The Dream of the Burning Boy* for Profiles Theatre. UK credits include *Purgatorio* at The Chocolate Factory; *4:48 Psychosis* for Stonecrabs Theatre; *Hedda Gabler* with Theatre Babel; *Transmissions* for Birmingham Rep; *The Merchant of Venice*, *Lear*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Measure for Measure*, *The Tempest*, *As You Like It*, *Queen Margaret*, *Henry V*, *R&J*, and *Infinite Variety* for Bard in the Botanics; *Love's Labour's Lost*, *As You Like It*, *Twelfth Night* and *Hamlet* for British Touring Shakespeare; and *The Vagina Monologues* at Cottiers Theatre. Sarah also appeared in Taggart for STV (Scottish Television).

**MATT DECARO** (*Winston Churchill*) is happy to return to the Drury Lane Theatre where he appeared as Fezziwig and Christmas Present in 2022's *A Christmas Carol* and *Cat On a Hot Tin Roof* as Big Daddy for which he received a Joseph Jefferson Award. Most recently his credits include *The Cherry Orchard* at Goodman Theatre and Kansas City Rep's premiere of *Flood*. He was a company member for several seasons at Sarasota's Asolo Repertory Theater. Roles there include LBJ in *The Great Society*, Oscar Hubbard in *The Little Foxes*, Gene in Frank Galati's *Rhinoceros* and *Stan in Sweat*. Matt has been fortunate to play in theaters across the country including Lincoln Center, Manhattan Theatre Club, The Goodman Theatre, The Guthrie Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Old Globe Theatre, San Francisco's A.C.T., and internationally in Dublin, Toronto and China. Some favorite roles include the Judge in David Mamet's *Romance*, Dave Moss in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Boss Mangan in *Heartbreak House*, Boolie in *Driving Miss Daisy*, and Fa Hai in Mary Zimmerman's *The White Snake*. His TV and film credits include *The Wise Kids*, *Eagle Eye*, *House*, *The Office*, *prison Break*, and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, among many others.

**BRANDON DAHLQUIST** (Ensemble, Footman, Detective, *U/S Gordon Brown*) happily returns to Drury Lane (*Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Sugar*, *Cabaret*). Chicago credits include: Writers Theatre (*Oh Coward*, *Arcadia*, *A Little Night Music*), Marriott Lincolnshire (*Music Man*, *Big Fish*, *Sound of Music*), Paramount (*Secret of My Success*), Royal George (*Miracle*); American Blues Theatre (*It's A Wonderful Life*). Regional; Guthrie Theatre (*As You Like It*), A.C.T. (*1776*, *A Little Night Music*), Milwaukee Repertory (*Glass Menagerie*), Asolo Repertory (*1776*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Rhinoceros*), S.F. Playhouse (*City of Angels*). Television; *Dark Matter* (Apple), *A League of Their Own* (Amazon), *The Chi* (Showtime), *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Difficult People* (Hulu), & *Chicago P.D.* (NBC).

**RAYMOND FOX** (*Gordon Brown*, *u/s Harold Wilson*) is an Ensemble Member with Lookingglass Theatre Company. Additional Chicago credits: The Goodman, Remy Bumppo, Court, and TimeLine (*Blood and Gifts*, 2013 Equity Jeff Award for Supporting Actor) theatres. Off- Broadway/Broadway: *Metamorphoses* (Second Stage Theatre, Circle in the Square Theatre). Regional: Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Guthrie Theater, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Arena Stage, Arden Theatre, South

Coast Repertory Theatre, Hartford Stage, American Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, McCarter Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, and Canada's Stratford Festival. Education: Northwestern University and the A.R.T. Institute/Harvard University.

**ALEX GOODRICH** (*Tony Blair/David Cameron*) is very excited to make his Drury Lane debut. Chicago credits include *Hero: the Musical* (Jeff Award - Best Supporting Actor in a Musical), *The Music Man*, *Buddy! The Buddy Holly Story*, *Hello Dolly*, *Something Rotten!*, *Honeymoon In Vegas*, *She Loves Me*, *Elf: the Musical*. (Marriott Theater); *Fen*, *The Mousetrap*, *Photograph 51*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *One Man Two Guvnors* (Court Theater); *Twelfth Night*, *It Came From Outer Space*, *Hamlet*, *Love's Labor's Lost*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, (Chicago Shakespeare); *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*, *Shining Lives*, *Civil War Christmas*, *She Stoops to Conquer* (Northlight Theatre); *Old Jews Telling Jokes* (Royal George Theatre); *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Writers Theater) *Everything Is Illuminated* (Next Theatre).TV credits include Chicago Fire and Shining Girls on Apple TV+.

**JÜRGEN HOOPER** (The Equerry) is thrilled to return to Drury Lane, where past productions include *39 Steps* and *A Christmas Carol*. Broadway: *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Ntnl. Tour: *Lion King*. Chicago: *Life & Limb*, *Huck Finn* (Steppenwolf) *Rabbit Hole* (Goodman), *Comedy of Errors*, *Amadeus*, *Romeo & Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Isaac's Eye*, *The Chosen* (Writers), *The Hard Problem* (Court) *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* (ATC), *Paradise Lost* (TimeLine), *What's Wrong With Angry?* (Circle Theatre, Jeff Award). Regional: *The Mousetrap*, *The Game's Afoot* (Indiana Rep), *Wanamaker's Pursuit* (Arden Theatre), *Cherry Orchard* (Milwaukee Rep). TV/Film: *Chicago Med*, *Crisis*, *Chicago Fire*, *Suits*, and *Game Day*.

**JOHN JUDD** (*John Major, u/s Anthony Eden*) is happy to be making his Drury Lane debut. As a Chicago actor for nearly forty years, he has appeared on most of the city's stages as well as Off-Broadway, regionally and internationally. He most recently appeared in Shattered Globe Theatre's *A View From The Bridge* and *The Malignant Ampersands* at A Red Orchid Theatre where he is an ensemble member.

**OMI LICHTENSTEIN** (*Young Elizabeth*) is thrilled to be making her Drury Lane debut! Favorite Chicago credits: Debbie in *Billy Elliot*; Summer in *School of Rock* (Paramount Theatre); Bielke in *Fiddler on the Roof* (The Lyric Opera); Brigitta in *The Sound of Music* (Marriott Theatre); Young Fiona/ Baby Bear in *Shrek* (Music Theater Works); and was a solo performer in the *We Are Here* concert at the Salt Shed. Omi is grateful to her coaches, Paonessa Talent Agency, Bercy Talent, and the creative team at Drury Lane. When not on stage, Omi is at her other favorite place, overnight camp. @Omi\_Lichtenstein

**SUSIE McMONAGLE** (*Margaret Thatcher*) Broadway credits include Fantine in *Les Miserables* at the Imperial Theatre. First National Broadway Tours include Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot* Nederlander Theatre, Donna in *Mamma Mia Tour 2*, Rhetta in *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *The Secret Garden*. Susie was last seen at Drury Lane as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*, Donna in *Mamma Mia*, Mrs. Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot* and Diana in *Next to Normal* for which she won a Jeff Award. Ms. McMonagle's Chicago Theatre credits include Gretta in *James Joyce's The Dead*, and *Man of La Mancha* at Court Theatre. Candida in *Rock 'n' Roll* at the Goodman. *Black Pearl Sings*, *At Wits End* and *Sideshow* at Northlight. Favorite Chicago credits include *Indian Ink*, *Dirty Blonde*, *Spitfire Grill*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Cats*, *Evita*, *Miss Saigon* and *Chess*. Susie is the recipient of After Dark Awards, Critic's Circle Awards, Joseph Jefferson Awards as well as 12 Jeff nominations. She received her B.F.A. from Stephens College.

**RON E. RAINS** (*Harold Wilson*) returns to Drury Lane where he played Johnny Cash in *Ring of Fire*, Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Jackie Elliot in *Billy Elliot*, and ensemble roles in *Big*, *The Musical* and *1776*. He works at most of the larger theaters in Chicago, notably appearing for 11 seasons in The Goodman Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*. Ron is known for his role as Peter Rosenthal, head film critic for The Onion. He's been on Chicago Med and Chicago Justice, as well as in numerous independent films. Ron's a proud member of SAG-AFTRA & Actors Equity Association. He's represented by Gray Talent Group.

**CASEY ROSS** (u/s The Equerry, Archbishop, Private Secretary, Footman, Security, Detective) couldn't be happier to make his Drury Lane debut with *The Audience!* Regional theatre credits: Ogunquit Playhouse - *The Sound of Music* (Elberfeld); The Springer Opera House - *The Producers* (Leo), *The Full Monty* (Malcolm), *Lend Me a Tenor* (Max), *A Tuna Christmas* (Arles track), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere); The Great American Melodrama - *Under The Boardwalk* (Glen), *Rip Van Winkle* (Cockles); Wilner Theatre Mainstage - *Noises Off!* (Garry/Roger); Princess Tours - *The Music of Denali* (Harry); National Tour: Hyperion Productions - *Route 66* (Tenor 2). Television: Chicago Fire (NBC), Fargo (FX).

**ELIN JOY SEILER** (*Young Elizabeth*) is thrilled to be making her Drury Lane debut in *The Audience*. Favorite roles include Ally in Sarah Silverman's new musical *The Bedwetter* (NYC workshop), Baby June in *Gypsy*, Amaryllis in *The Music Man*, and Grover Dill in *A Christmas Story* (Marriott Theatre), and Debbie Wilkinson in *Billy Elliot* (Paramount Theatre).

**MARK ULRICH** (*Anthony Eden, u/s John Major*) is happy to return to Drury Lane Theatre where he was last seen in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. Chicago: Steppenwolf, Goodman Theatre, Northlight, TimeLine, A Red Orchid, Marriott Theatre, Writer's Theatre, Remy Bumppo, Artistic Home, Silk Road Rising, 16th Street Theatre, and Rivendell Theater Ensemble, where he is a proud company member. Film: *Other People's Heads*. Television: *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Justice*, *Power Book IV*. Mark is represented by Gray Talent Group.

**REBEKAH WARD** (*Dresser, u/s Queen Elizabeth II, Bobo MacDonald*) is thrilled to be joining this talented cast & crew at Drury Lane Theatre. Having worked with multiple Chicago/Regional theatres, she was most recently seen in the world premier musical "*Revolutions*" at The Goodman. Additional credits include Steppenwolf, Northlight Theatre, IRT (Indiana Repertory), The HOUSE Theatre, BackStage Theatre Company, Strawdog Theatre Company, Oak Park Festival Theatre & Remy Bumppo. She received a **Joseph Jefferson Best Actress** award for her work as Sabina in "The Skin of Our Teeth" as well as a **Joseph Jefferson Best Supporting Actress Nomination** for her role as Edna in "Waiting for Lefty". Rebekah's film/television credits include guest star roles on *Chicago Med*, *Chicago PD* & *Masters of Sex* (SHOWTIME). Additional credits include *Chicago Fire* (NBC), *Empire* (FOX), and *Sam & Cat* (NICKELODEON).

### Fact Sheet / *The Audience*

**Title:** *The Audience*  
**Written by:** Peter Morgan  
**Directed by:** Jessica Fisch  
**Featuring:** Janet Ulrich Brooks (*Queen Elizabeth II*), Matt Decaro (*Winston Churchill*), Raymond Fox (*Gordon Brown*), Alex Goodrich (*Tony Blair/ David Cameron*), Jürgen Hooper (*Equerry*), John Judd (*John Major*), Omi Lichtenstein (*Young Elizabeth*), Susie McMonagle (*Margaret Thatcher*), Ron E. Rains (*Harold Wilson*), Elin Joy Seiler (*Young Elizabeth*), and Mark Ulrich (*Anthony Eden*) with Chris Amos, Sarah Chalcraft, Brandon Dahlquist, Casey Ross, and Rebekah Ward.

**Creatives:** Andrew Boyce (scenic design), Moria Sine Clinton and Ben Argenta Kress (co-costume design), Isabella Byrd (lighting design), Lee Kinney (sound design), Cassy Schillo (properties design), Erin Kennedy Lunsford (wig design), Sammi Grant (dialect coach), Matthew Randle-Bent (dramaturg and royal protocol consultant), Larry Baker (production stage manager)

**Dates:** August 28 – October 20, 2024  
**Press Opening:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

**Schedule:** **Wednesdays:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Thursdays:** 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.  
**Fridays:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Saturdays:** 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.  
**Sundays:** 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Drury Lane Theatre at 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace

**Tickets:** Tickets start at \$52.95\*  
\*Including taxes and fees  
Group discounts available to groups of 10 or more  
Dining and show packages are available

**Box Office:** 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace  
(630) 530-0111

Monday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm  
or visit [DruryLaneTheatre.com](http://DruryLaneTheatre.com)

### **2024/2025 Season and Subscription Information**

The rest of Drury Lane's 2024/2025 season includes *Ain't Misbehavin'* (June 26 – August 18, 2024), celebrating the music of Fats Waller; the masterful intimate portrait of Queen Elizabeth II *The Audience* (August 28 – October 20, 2024); the spellbinding Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (November 6, 2024 – January 12, 2025); and the inspiring true story *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (January 29, 2025 – March 23, 2025).

Drury Lane Theatre's performance schedule for the 2024/2025 season is as follows: Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Three-show subscriptions to the remainder of Drury Lane's season are still available and begin at \$162.75 per subscription – over 50% savings compared to single ticket prices. This includes priority theatre seating, great dining discounts at Lucille Restaurant and The Lounge, exclusive presale opportunities, and much more. For more information, visit [DruryLaneTheatre.com/Subscribe](http://DruryLaneTheatre.com/Subscribe).

Group tickets start at \$50.05 and Student group tickets start at just \$35.35. On-site dining is available at Lucille Restaurant with convenient pre-show or post-show prix fixe menus. To book a group of 10 people or more, call Group Services at 630-570-7272 or email [Groups@DruryLane.com](mailto:Groups@DruryLane.com).

Excellence isn't limited to the stage at Drury Lane! Before or after the show, theatergoers can indulge in delicious onsite dining at Lucille Restaurant featuring seasonal pre-fixe menus and an elevated atmosphere to complete their experience. Exclusive to subscribers is a pre-paid dining subscription at Lucille. Boasting over a century of collective expertise in hospitality, the dedicated team ensures that you will be cared for with freshly prepared meals, handcrafted cocktails, and exceptional service. At Drury Lane, everything is in one place, so you will never be late for your performance.

### **About Drury Lane Theatre**

Built from scratch. Built in Oakbrook. Built for you.

Founded by Anthony DeSantis over 70 years ago, Drury Lane remains a family-run organization under the leadership of President Kyle DeSantis. Drury Lane Theatre continues as a major force in the Chicagoland theatre scene, producing world-class theatre in collaboration with some of the nation's leading actors, directors, and creative minds. Drury Lane Theatre produces the highest quality theatrical experience that immerses and supports our artists and audiences in the exploration of what it means to be human and to experience the transcending power of the performing and visual arts. Drury Lane strives to create an environment in which every individual or group is welcomed, respected, supported, valued and able to fully experience and participate in this transformative art form.

The theatre has staged more than 2,000 productions and has been nominated for over 360 Joseph Jefferson Awards. Drury Lane proudly employs thousands of professional actors, musicians, designers, and crew members to entertain upwards of nine million audience members and counting.

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