



# ROAD LESS TRAVELED THEATER THE (CURIOUS CASE OF THE)



# WATSON INTELLIGENCE

BY MADELEINE GEORGE

APRIL 18 - MAY 19  
ROAD LESS TRAVELED THEATER: 456 MAIN STREET, BFLY NY 14202









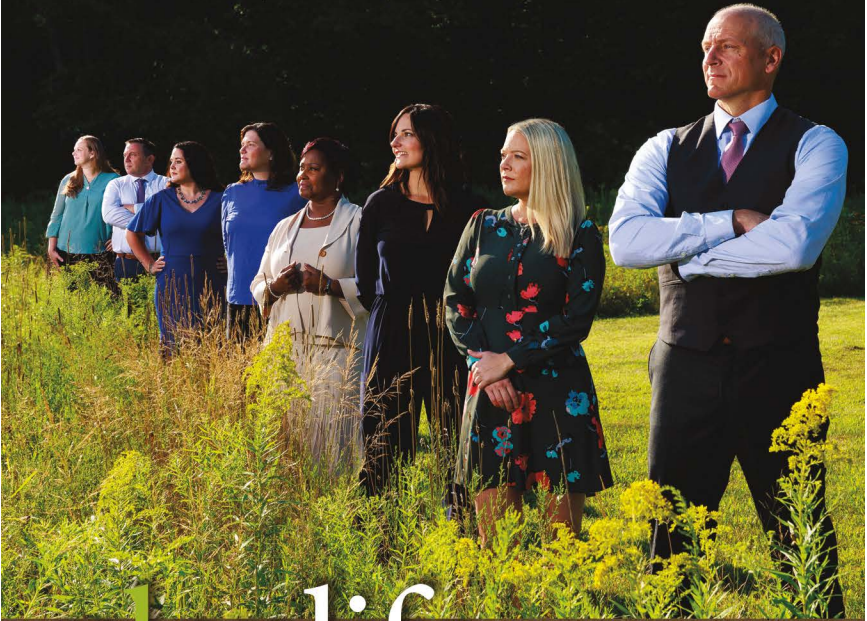








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road less traveled theater



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**Food is not permitted inside the Road Less Traveled Theater and must be consumed in the lobby bar area only.** Beverages purchased at the lobby bar are permitted inside the Road Less Traveled Theater during the performance.

**Performances:** Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 7:30pm / Sunday at 2:00pm

**Tickets for Regular Season Productions:**

General Admission: \$45-\$50 / Student (Fri. Sat. Sun): \$25

Mighty Taco Student Thursday: \$10 with Student ID (general pricing otherwise)

*Group Rates for parties of 10 or more. Please call for details.*

Road Less Traveled Productions: PO Box 542, Bflo NY 14205

Road Less Traveled Theater: 456 Main St. Bflo NY 14202

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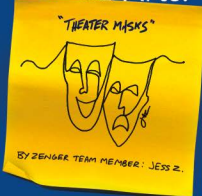
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feature presentation



# THE (CURIOUS CASE OF THE) WATSON INTELLIGENCE

By **Madeleine George**

Directed by **John Hurley\***

Associate Director **Katie Mallinson\***

Assistant Director **Sabrina Kahwaty**

## CAST

**Watson** **Brendan Didio**

**Eliza** **Emily Yancey**

**Merrick** **Dave Hayes\***

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager **Shelby McNulty**

Set Designer **Dyan Burlingame\***

Sound & Projection Designer **Katie Menke\***

Light Designer **John Rickus\***

Costume Designer **Jenna Damberger\***

Propsmaster **Diane Almeter Jones\***

Intimacy Director **Shelby Converse**

Dialect Coach **Jennifer Toohey**

Technical Director **Lou Iannone\***

Production Coordinator **Hasheen DeBerry\***

Assistant Stage Manager **Matt Myers**

Scenic Painter **Dyan Burlingame\***

Properties Assistant **J.C. Hartloff**

Associate Costume Designer **Kay Johnson**

Wardrobe **Cristalís Bonilla-Rivera**

*\*Member of RLTP Ensemble*

## PLACE:

A wood-paneled sitting room, a coffeeshop, a bedroom, a train, a train station platform, a pie shop.

## TIME:

Simultaneously 1876, 1891, 1931, 2011

There will be one ten-minute intermission during the performance.

“The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# welcome from the artistic director



Welcome to RLTP's 20th Anniversary Season at our home here at 456 Main Street in downtown Buffalo!

It's hard to imagine that it's been twenty years since co-founder Jon Elston and I started Road Less Traveled Productions with a production of Jon's play *Project* at the former New Phoenix Theater (2003). I'm proud to say that after 96 productions, three theater spaces, hundreds of theater artists, and over 100 Artie Award nominations that RLTP is still thriving on the Road Less Traveled. Managing Director Gina Gandolfo and I are so encouraged by all the support from the WNY community over the years that RLTP has received to continue to create exceptional & unforgettable live

theater experiences for WNY. I'm also very proud to announce a unique partnership with our friends at M&T Bank and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield called ALL ACCESS FRIDAYS. In recognition of our 20th anniversary season we will be offering FREE tickets to the first Friday performance of each production. We will be collaborating with Arts Access (ASI) and a diverse group of media outlets to distribute these special tickets to low income, underserved, and first-time theatergoers to continue our mission of bringing communal storytelling to everyone in our WNY community.

*The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence* has been on my radar since at least 2018. Originally scheduled for the end of our 2019/2020 season it was cancelled due to the pandemic in 2020. We had hoped to bring it back in 2021 but sadly the world wasn't ready yet... and then due to personnel schedules we weren't able to get it back into our scheduling until our 2023/2024 season – which brings us to now! Sadly most of our original artistic team was not able to make the journey from 5 years ago to now -- but I want to recognize director Katie Mallinson's stewardship through most of this period. Now, director John Hurley will bring us across the finish line. Originally produced in 2013, playwright Madeleine George's play was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 2014. She subsequently did a rewrite in 2016 and created a play that is even more timely now than it was then. Her ability to craft a story that touches upon AI and our need as humans for interpersonal relationships that fuel our trajectories in life is fascinating and humorous! As our own technology continues to become more "dangerous" to ourselves and to the world around us I think Ms. George's play pushes us to re-examine our human values and how we make our way through the world. Surely all the qualities of a play on the Road Less Traveled.

I'm excited to announce that RLTP's improv program is taking a major step forward this season. Previously we had been offering one improv comedy show per RLTP production. This season we are producing *UNSCRIPTED: Comedy Improv Night* every Wednesday night during regularly scheduled RLTP season productions! Each Wednesday, we invite a special guest artist to join the group and partake in that evening's *UNSCRIPTED* performance! Join the cast of some of Buffalo's best improv talents (Todd Benzin, Kevin DiLucente, Don Gervasi, Meghan Joyce, Annie Moor, & Jimmie Byrd) as they improvise an entire play, all while utilizing the stage and set of the current running RLTP show. This show is the perfect mix of grounded theater and laugh-out-loud improv comedy. One night of theater never seen before and never to be seen again! Performances begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20 (\$15 for BLUE CARD members!). Our lobby cocktail lounge opens 1 hour prior to performances and reopens after.

This June, we are excited to present *Buffalo Stories: The Life of LeRoi C. Johnson* as we welcome and celebrate guest of honor LeRoi C. Johnson. Tickets are limited for this one-night-only event taking place on Saturday, June 1. For ticket info, please visit our website at [www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org](http://www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org).

There is a lot more to come this season at RLTP so stay tuned for more announcements. BLUE CARDS are sale for this season or for the next: 4 tickets and more for just \$150! Thank you for joining us on the Road Less Traveled!

Sincerely 

Scott Behrend Artistic/Executive Director





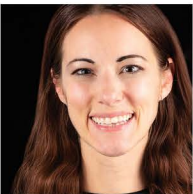
**MADELEINE GEORGE (PLAYWRIGHT)'S** plays include *Hurricane Diane* (Obie Award), *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence* (Pulitzer Prize finalist; Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award), *Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England* (Susan Smith Blackburn finalist), *Precious Little* and *The Zero Hour* (Jane Chambers Award, Lambda Literary Award finalist). Honors include a Whiting Award, the Princess Grace Award, the

Hermitage Major Theater Award and a Lilly Award. Madeleine has written on shows for FX and HBO, and she is a writer/producer on the Emmy- and Golden Globe-nominated mystery-comedy *Only Murders in the Building*.



**JOHN HURLEY (DIRECTOR)** For RLTP: *The Light Fantastic* by Ike Holter (co-direct), *Mysterious Circumstances* by Michael Mitnick, *Hand to God* by Robert Askins, *The Illusion* by Tony Kushner, *Disgraced* by Ayad Akhtar, *It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play* (at Shea's 710), *The Chimes: A Goblin Story* by Charles Dickens, and *Bigfoot* by Jon Elston (online). For RLTP and BPO: *Ellis Island: The Dream of America* (at Kleinhans). As

an actor for RLTP: Danny M in *The Antipodes* by Annie Baker. He is a proud member of the RLTP ensemble. Many thanks and much love to Leanne and family.



**KATIE MALLINSON (ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR)** is a director and dramaturg with an interest in building creative communities that center artistic expression and storytelling. Select directorial credits include: *Guards at the Taj* (Artie Award, Outstanding Direction of a Play), *The Nether*, *Dinner With Friends*, and *Fraud's Last Session* (Road Less Traveled Productions); *People, Places & Things* and *Equivocation* (Kavinoky Theatre);

*Photography 51* (Jewish Repertory Theatre; Artie Award winner, Outstanding Direction of a Play); *Design for Living* (Irish Classical Theatre); *Deathtrap* (Lancaster Opera House); *Bloom* (Raíces); and *She Kills Monsters, Copenhagen* and *On The Verge: Or, The Geography of Yearning* (Niagara University Theatre). She is a proud member of the Road Less Traveled Ensemble. Along with her creative practice, Katie is the Program Director for D'Youville University's new Dramatic Arts MFA.



**BRENDAN DIDIO (WATSON)** is thrilled to be making his RLTP debut in this imaginative, exciting production. He is currently an MFA Acting candidate at D'Youville University in partnership with The Kavinoky Theatre. He also serves as an adjunct instructor at The University at Buffalo. In WNY, Brendan has had the opportunity to play onstage and off with several companies including Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Irish Classical, MusicalFare,

Theatre of Youth, and The Kavinoky. When he's not in the classroom or onstage, Brendan is spending time with his wonderful wife, Gretchen, and their playful pup, Ophelia.



**EMILY YANCEY (ELIZA)** is exhilarated to be making her full-length RLTP debut after performing in their one-night-only fundraiser, *Buffalo Stories: The Life of Maryann Saccomando Freedman*. She is a two-time group Artie-Award winner, four-time individual Artie-Award nominee: *Disaster!* (Sister Downy), MusicalFare (Winner – Outstanding Musical Ensemble; Nominee – Outstanding Featured Performance); *1776* (Rutledge), O’Connell & Company (Winner – Outstanding Musical Ensemble & Nominee – Outstanding Supporting Actress, Musical); *Killer Rack* (Betty Downer), Alleyway (Nominee – Outstanding Leading Actress, Musical); *Factory for Murderers* (Kate/Perlman), Alleyway (Nominee – Outstanding Supporting Actress, Play). Emily performed the title role in the televised opera *Susannah*, produced by WNED-PBS & Buffalo Opera Unlimited. Other credits: *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Eileen), *Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* (Phoebe/Barley) MusicalFare; *She Kills Monsters* (Agnes) Subversive; *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel), *Oklahoma!* (Laurey) Lancaster Opera House; *The Magic Flute* (Pamina), *Die Fledermaus* (Adele) Buffalo Opera Unlimited. BA Vocal Performance, BS Biology & Psychology, Canisius University. [www.eyancey.com](http://www.eyancey.com)



**DAVE HAYES (MERRICK)**, an Ensemble member, has returned to the stage after a long Covid layoff. His last appearance was in the Road Less Traveled production, *Antipodes*. He has been in many shows over the years here at RLTP. Some of his favorites include *Race*, *Superior Donuts* and *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. Some time ago he was in a production of *Dinner With Friends*. Dave has loved his time at RLTP working with his friend Scott Behrend. He looks forward to more opportunities in seasons to come. In his other life, he is a History teacher and Drama Guild moderator at Canisius High School. He is never more anxious than when he’s directing a play or musical at CHS. Yet, the young men of Canisius and young women of various local high schools never fail to impress and inspire him. Thanks for coming to our play. Enjoy. AMDG.

**SHELBY MCNULTY (STAGE MANAGER)** is thrilled to join the RLTP team as stage manager for *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence*. Shelby graduated from Niagara University with a BFA in Theatrical Performance, with a minor in ASL and Deaf Culture, in 2022. Backstage production credits include *TEACH* (Stage Manager, Buff State Theatre Department), *Air Heart* (Stage Manager, Revelation Theatre), *Murder Ballad* (Wardrobe Head, Road Less Traveled Productions), *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Wardrobe Head, MusicalFare Theatre), *Moving Back Home: Dance Concert* (Stage Manager, Niagara University), etc. As an actor, Shelby’s Buffalo credits include Diana Barry Understudy (*Anne of Green Gables*, Theatre of Youth), John/Curlly (*Drunk Peter Pan*, Drunk Theatre Buffalo), Fanny Cranberry (*On the Verge*, Niagara University), Priest/Others/Young Woman Understudy (*Machinal*, Niagara University), and more! Thanks to Sarah Foote for showing me the ropes at RLTP, and my husband, Ashton, for always supporting me!





**SABRINA KAHWATY (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)** is so excited to be working with Road Less Traveled in this capacity after appearing in RLTP's productions of *Hand to God* (Jessica/Jolene), *Little Women...Now* (Amy), and *The Nether* (Iris). Directing credits: *The Way It Is*, Buffalo Infringement Festival; *TEACH*, Buffalo State University; *Fighting Mr. Right* and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Main-in-the-Moon-Marigolds*, Niagara University; *A Kid Like Jake* (reading), Second Generation Theatre; and, upcoming, assistant directing *Titanic* with Starring Buffalo and directing *Brilliant Works of Art* with Bellissima Productions for the 2024-25 season. As an actor, Sabrina has also worked with Irish Classical, Theatre of Youth, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Second Generation Theatre, MusicalFare, Ujima, Alleyway, and O'Connell and Company. Thanks to John, Scott, and the entire RLTP team for the opportunity, and friends, family, and Alex for their love and support.

**DYAN BURLINGAME (SET DESIGNER)** is a Freelance Designer and Artist. She is a proud RLTP Ensemble Member, returning for her tenth season! Previous RLTP scenic designs include *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Country House*, *Deathtrap*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Mysterious Circumstances*, *The Nether*, *Speed of Light*, *Superior Donuts*, *The Thin Place*, *True West*, and *The Undeniable Sound of Right Now*. Additionally, Dyan's design work can often be seen at MusicalFare Theatre, The Kavinoky Theatre, Alleyway Theatre, Irish Classical Theatre Company; and as the resident lighting designer for Neglia Ballet Artists. She holds a MFA in Stage Design from Southern Methodist University. Her design portfolio can be found at: [dyanburlingame.com](http://dyanburlingame.com). Dyan wishes to thank her husband and son for their laughter and love.

**JOHN RICKUS (LIGHT DESIGNER)**, an RLTP Ensemble member, has been designing lights for RLTP since its inception. John received a degree in Television/Theater Arts from Valparaiso University in 1992. After returning to WNY he started working for Indigo Productions and spent 10 years in charge of Lighting and Rigging for various events and concerts. In 2001, he joined the Production Department of UB's Center for the Arts as Head Carpenter. John and Carlie Todoro-Rickus started Eclectric Oil and Light LLC about 10 years ago. They work together on lighting projects and installations (see their work on Instagram @eclectricoilandlight).

**KATIE MENKE (SOUND DESIGNER)**, an RLTP Ensemble member, is excited for the 20th Anniversary Season at RLTP. She has designed sound for RLTP for 17 of those seasons! She started in 2006 with *The Dodo Bird* when RLTP was located at the Market Arcade movie theatre. 17 years for Katie has amounted to over 60 sound designs, three RLTP theatre installs, job changes, and becoming a mom to two beautiful boys. Katie is a second generation Buffalo theatre designer (love you, Dad!) and hopes her boys will develop a love of art and theatre just like she did at their age.

**DIANE ALMETER JONES (PROPSMASTER)**, an Ensemble member and a freelance designer, is delighted to be working at RLTP as a prop master. She can also be found propping around Buffalo at Irish Classical, Ujima, Raices, Alleyway, All For One Productions, Second Generation Theatre and the Kavinoky. Almeter Jones continues to hone her skills as a union member of IATSE 52 in art departments, and as a mental health advocate, she writes and produces her own work. Cheers, and a tip of the hat to Tim and her ever-supportive family and friends.



**JENNA DAMBERGER (COSTUME DESIGNER)**, holds an M.F.A. in Costume Design from Boston University and a BA in Theater from Baldwin Wallace University. She is the Founder & Creative Director of Houndstooth Costume Collective, a costume studio for theater and film productions. Jenna received Artie Awards for Outstanding Costume Design for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2022, Shakespeare in Delaware Park) and *The Illusion* (2018, RLTP). Highlights of her WNY designs include *The Color Purple* (Ujima/Second Generation/Shea's 710), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (All For One Productions), *Sweat, Guards at the Taj, The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* and *Disgraced* (RLTP), *The Secret Garden* (SGT), *Secret Soldiers* (Theatre of Youth), *Measure for Measure, Love's Labour's Lost* (SDP). Her designs have been seen throughout the country at theaters including Cleveland Public Theatre, Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey Next Stage Ensemble, Emory & Henry College, and The Clinton Area Showboat Theatre. She is a proud member of the Road Less Traveled Ensemble.

**JENNIFER TOOHEY (DIALECT COACH)** is happy to be back dialect coaching with Road Less Traveled Productions for the 7th time! Coaching credits include *Blithe Spirit, The Apple Cart, Shadow of a Doubt, The Doctor's Dilemma, Gem of the Ocean, Just to Get Married, The Russian Play, Man and Superman, Sex and Victory* (Shaw Festival), *Is God Is* (Obsidian/Tarragon Theatres, Toronto), *Murder on the Orient Express, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (All for One Productions), *Master Harold and The Boys* (Irish Classical Theatre Company), *The Thin Place, Tribes, Superior Donuts, The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid, Between Riverside and Crazy, Miss Bennett: Christmas at Pemberley* (Road Less Travelled Productions), *Detroit '67* (Paul Robeson Theatre). Jennifer is an Associate Professor of theater at SUNY Buffalo State and is a proud member of Canadian Actor's Equity and the Voice and Speech Trainer's Association.

**SHELBY CONVERSE (INTIMACY DIRECTOR)**, (she/they) is returning to RLTP again this season after their devilishly good time on *The Light Fantastic*. A graduate of SUNY Fredonia (#FREDWorks), they have spent the last few years studying with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators while also continuing to train all across the country through the Society of American Fight Directors. Most recently, Shelby's work has been seen onstage in *Belfast Girls* (Irish Classical Theatre Company), *Guards at the Taj* and *Mysterious Circumstances* (Road Less Traveled Productions), *Bloom* (Raíces Theatre Company), *Murder On The Orient Express* (Shea's 710 Theatre), *Choir Boy* (Ujima Theatre Company), and *The Gentleman Caller* (Buffalo United Artists).

**LOU IANNONE (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)** is a member of the RLTP Ensemble and since their production of *A Very Fine Use of a Grenade* in 2014, he has built every set for RLTP and more. Lou has an MFA in industrial design from the Rochester Institute of Technology and during the day is a designer and fabricator of museum exhibits. Other recent projects include the fabrication of RLTP's new bar and scene shop and the design/fabrication of the museum at the Italian Cultural Center in Buffalo, NY. Thank you Wendy for the love and support.





**HASHEEN DEBERRY (PRODUCTION COORDINATOR)**, an Emsemble member, has served as RLTP's Production Coordinator since 2007. In that short time, he has met and collaborated with a bevy of local and national artists. Hasheen works on both sides of the curtain himself, performing in productions for Subversive Theatre Collective and O'Connell and Company. He's also worked as an Assistant Director, Assistant Stage Manager, Stage Manager, Technical Director, and Lighting Designer; the latter of which earned him an Artie nomination. Hasheen is grateful for the support of the theatre community for all these years, and looks forward to the next project!

**MATT MYERS (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)** is excited to be making his RLTP debut! Stage management credits include *An Act of God* (SM), *A Chorus Line* (ASM), and *Young Frankenstein* (ASM) with O'Connell & Company as well as *Much Ado About Nothing* (ASM) with Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Matt is currently the resident scenic designer for Lewiston-Porter High School. Favorite design credits include *Shrek*, *Mamma Mia*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *An Act of God*, *1776*, *The Addams Family*, *Men on Boats*, *Recent Tragic Events*, *Anything Goes*, and *Damn Yankees*. Matt holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Niagara University in theatre performance with minors in theatrical design/production and dance. For more of his work: [www.matthewcmyers.com](http://www.matthewcmyers.com)

**KAY JOHNSON (ASSOCIATE COSTUME DESIGNER)** is a costume designer and dresser, as well as operations manager for Houndstooth Costume Collective. A '20 graduate from the University at Buffalo, some of their favorite credits include *Threepenny Opera* (2019), *Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (2019), both at University at Buffalo, wardrobe for *Little Women...Now* (2022) at Road Less Traveled Productions and *Midsummer Nights Dream* (2022) at Shakespeare in Delaware Park. Kay has also enjoyed dressing for the *Frozen* tour (2021) and *Hamilton* tour (2022) at Shea's Buffalo.

**J.C. HARTLOFF (ASSISTANT PROPSMASTER)** (she/they) is excited to be assisting with props for the show. They graduated from Niagara University in 2023 with a B.F.A. in Theatre Performance. She has done props for *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (NU), *Belfast Girls* (assistant-ICTC), *The Natural Horse* (Alleyway), and *The Bowling Play* (assistant-2nd Gen). She's also been a scenic for *Anne of Green Gables* (TOY), *The Color Purple* (Ujima/2nd Gen/Shea's 710), *Guys and Dolls* (MusicalFare), *The Life and Slimes of Marc Summers* (Alleyway) and Des Moines Metro Opera's 2023 Festival Season in Indianola, IA. Their most recent appearance on the stage was as Usher/"God"/Understanding in *Everybody* at NU.

**CRISTALIS BONILLA-RIVERA (WARDROBE)** is delighted to be working wardrobe for RLTP. She studied theatre with a focus in performing as well as costume and set design while at Buffalo State. Some of her recent work includes prop intern and makeup assistant for *Bloom* with Raíces Theatre Company, and intern assistant director for *Sweat* with Road Less Traveled.

**2024 BRIDGE PROGRAM MENTEES: DWIGHT BARLOW (DIRECTING) \* ISIAH BROWN (ACTING) DANIELLE BURNING (ACTING) \* SIA ROGERS (MARKETING)**

Road Less Traveled Productions would like to acknowledge and thank Sloan's Antiques for their contribution to *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence!*

A portrait of LeRoi C. Johnson, a man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue blazer over a black t-shirt with a white graphic of a hand with fingers spread. The background is a plain, light color.

# BUFFALO STORIES:

## THE LIFE OF LEROI C. JOHNSON

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PHOTO BY YVES-RICHARD BLANC

*Buffalo Stories 2024* will feature guest of honor, LeRoi C. Johnson, a Buffalo-based visual artist who works as a lawyer by day even while becoming an accomplished artist locally and internationally. The time Johnson spent living, working, and painting in Washington, DC in the 1970s was integral in the evolution of his style and recurring artistic themes. He describes his work as “electric primitive,” exploring cubism and surrealism but incorporating bold, bright colors as well as African, Caribbean, and South American cultural influences. He quickly established himself within the city’s art community, exhibiting in local galleries and across the nation. He has also served on the boards of the Burchfield Penney Art Center and the Buffalo Society of Artists. In 2019 Johnson’s work was included in the London Biennial.

The evening will include:

- \* pre-show reception at 7:00 p.m. (open bar and hors d’oeuvres) \*
- \* 8:00 p.m. performance \*
- \* post-show reception \*



Seating is limited. Advance purchase only.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org](http://www.roadlesstraveledproductions.org) or by phone at (716) 629-3069.

*Buffalo Stories* offers a glimpse into the lives of Buffalo’s most intriguing personalities while toasting our vibrant community and supporting Road Less Traveled Productions. The event celebrates the life of a local Buffalo icon by presenting a one-night only musical written about the guest of honor’s life.

*Past honorees include*

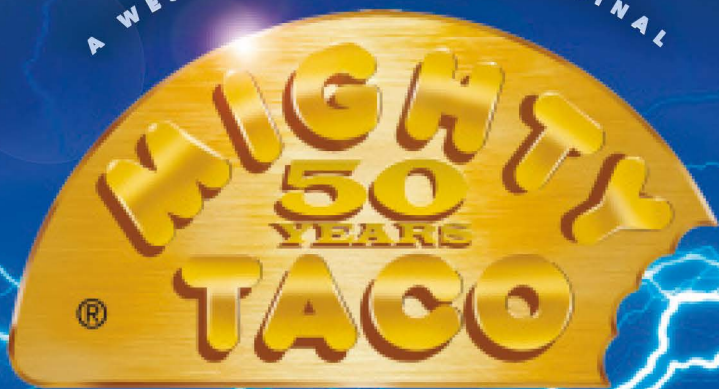
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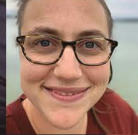
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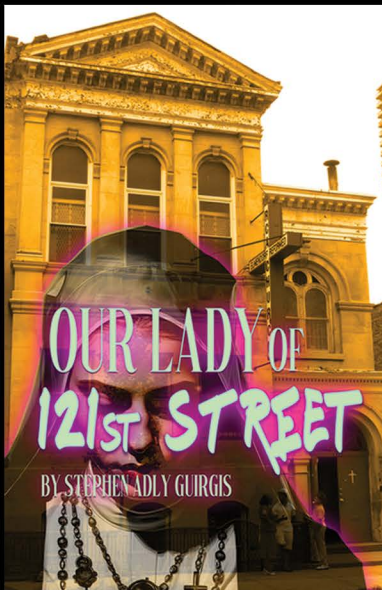
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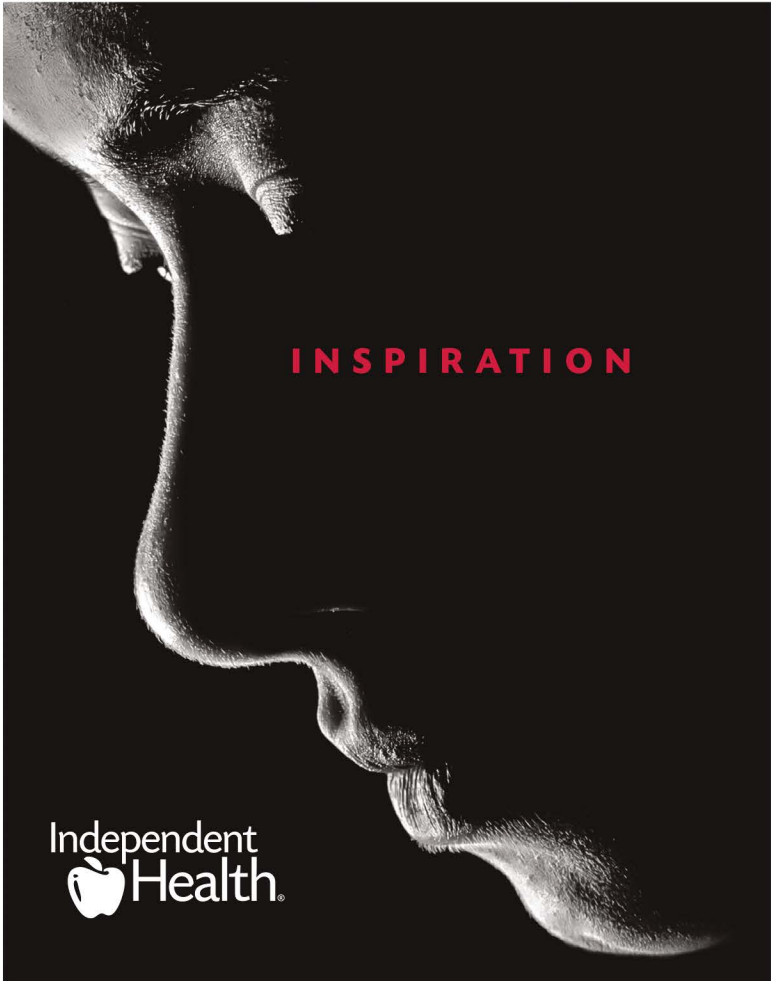
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