



2023-2024 SEASON

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POP-UP STUDIO THEATRE  
at the LYNAS EVENT CENTER at Flat Cap

**CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION**  
By Annie Baker

**January 26 - February 4**

Curtain 7:30 pm | Matinee 2:00 pm  
LYNAS EVENT CENTER - U.S. 31 South

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WHERE COMMUNITY COMES  
**TOGETHER**

# CIRCLE MIRROR TRANSFORMATION

By Annie Baker



**January 26 - February 4**

**Director - Kristen Stewart**

Assistant Director - **Nancy Ferguson**

Producer - **Stacia Sexton**

Assistant Producer - **Nick Viox**

Stage Manager - **Brett Sinclair**

Set Decor & Props - **Alexandra Herryman**

Costume Design - **Sara Hartley**

Sound Design - **Jake Neighbors**

Light Design - **Bill Fishburn**

Artistic Committee Liaison - **Andrea Makarauskas**

**TICKETS:** 231.947.2210 | [OldTownPlayhouse.com](http://OldTownPlayhouse.com)

Box Office Hours: Wed-Fri, 3-6 pm 148 E. 8th St., Traverse City

# OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE



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# OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE

## CAST

Marty - Debbie Hershey  
James - Jan Dalton  
Schultz - Dane Moeggenberg  
Lauren - Beatrix Hills  
Theresa - Tara Ziegler

### ***From the Director -***

Welcome to our production of *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Our journey through Annie Baker's beautifully crafted story has been one of discovery and connection. This play, set in a small-town community acting class, explores the intricate tapestry of human experience.

As you immerse yourself in the world we've crafted, I want to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for the extraordinary team that brought this play to life.

To my phenomenal cast – your dedication to your roles and to each other has been the heartbeat of this production. You've embraced your characters' vulnerability, humor, and complexity, creating a mesmerizing dance of realism and artistry on stage.

To the incredible team of designers and crew – thank you for every brainstorming session, every problem solved, and every moment of artistic brilliance that you have contributed. This production wouldn't have been the same without your extraordinary talents and your spirit of collaboration.

*Circle Mirror Transformation* is a celebration of life's understated yet significant moments. It's about the fleeting and profound connections we make, the personal growth we experience, and the unguarded revelations we encounter. As Baker eloquently puts it, the play is "a strange little naturalistic meditation on theatre, life, death, and the passing of time."

Thank you for joining us in this delicate, honest, and transformative experience. I hope you enjoy the show!

**Kristen Stewart**  
Director, *Circle Mirror Transformation*





*We all tip our caps  
and wish the very best  
for another successful  
and joyous season  
to our friends at  
Old Town Playhouse*



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## CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Debbie Hershey - Marty:** Debbie is a professional Fundraising Consultant. She has been involved with OTP for many years; most recently as the Director of *12 Angry Men*, *Company*, *Fun Home*, and *Indecent*.



**Jan Dalton - James:** Jan currently works hard at being retired from his work as a legal professional. A long-time veteran of OTP appearing in *Indecent*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *12 Angry Men*, and *The Mousetrap* among many others.



**Dane Moeggenberg - Schultz:** Dane is a professional Writer and Musician. He's been engaged with OTP numerous times over the years. His most recent work was *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Becky's New Car*, *The Tempest*, *Fuddy Meers*, *1776*.



**Tara Ziegler - Theresa:** Tara is a Genetics Partnership Director and is excited to return to the stage here with OTP.



**Beatrix Hills - Lauren:** Beatrix is currently in High School. She is a newcomer to the Old Town Playhouse and this is her first production with us.

# OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE

COMING SOON

February 23 - March 16



April 5 - April 13



May 3 - May 25







*"All of the world is a stage, and all of the men and women in it merely players.  
They have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts."  
"As You Like It" Act II Scene VII - Shakespeare*

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## Annie Baker Playwright

Baker explores the complexities of human behavior and the ways in which language is often inadequate to build true understanding between people. With a keen ear for the subtleties of everyday speech, a masterful command of dramatic structure, and a willingness to allow silences to linger on stage (often to a point of discomfort), she brings to life the erratic rhythms of human interaction.

In several plays set in Shirley, Vermont—a fictional small town—Baker creates seemingly simple stories about ordinary, working-class people facing familiar predicaments. *Circle Mirror Transformation* (2009) traces the emotional transitions and the relationships forged and broken among five participants in a community acting class, with each of several short scenes centering upon an acting exercise that draws out fragments of the characters' personalities and histories. Baker's use of silence and slow, patient pacing illustrates that we communicate the most about ourselves in the gaps and blank spaces between the thoughts we put into words. The three disenchanting young men of *The Aliens* (2010), almost of a third of which is silent, inadvertently reveal their vulnerabilities in their verbal tics and cues, pauses and befuddlement. Frustrated ambitions and workplace malaise are themes Baker returns to in *The Flick* (2013). Idle talk of movies, art, and popcorn among the three young employees at a run-down movie house gradually gives way to tensions around class, race, and gender as their gestures of friendship and intimacy falter. Baker's empathy for her characters and their anxieties is also clear in *John* (2015), as a young couple grapples with spiritual and philosophical questions in a Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, bed and breakfast run by a friendly but uncanny older woman.

In mining the minutiae of how we speak, act, and relate to one another, Baker captures the humor, absurdity, and tragedy that result from the limitations of language and our fraught search for more meaningful human connections.

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# OLD TOWN PLAYHOUSE

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Kathy Verstraete - Costume  
Bill Fishburn - Light  
Sam Clark - Music  
Bernadette Groppuso & Nan Worthington - Property  
Kerr Anderson & Jeff Kroeger - Set  
Gary Bolton - Sound  
Denni Don Hunting - Stage Management

## 2023-2024 Artistic Committee

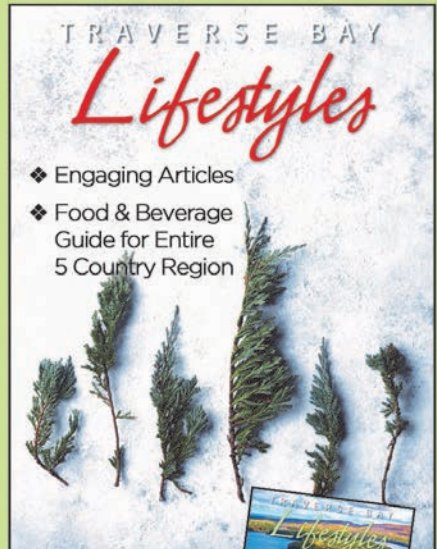
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Hayley Bowker (21-24), Co-Secretary  
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