



# CHALK

[a silent comedy.]

**ALEX CURTIS**

# CHALK

THE KRAINE THEATER  
MONTHLY @ 2:30PM (45 MIN)  
2ND & LAST SATURDAYS  
2019 - 2020 SEASON

PR / TOURING PACK  
APAP 2020





‘★★★★★ CRITICS' PICK, "AN ABSOLUTE DELIGHT TO WATCH" – ALL ABOUT SOLO

★★★★★ "A SIMPLE, GENEROUS, AND TOUCHING SHOW FOR EVERYONE" – BROADWAY BABY

BEST BET, "WILDLY ENTERTAINING AND INCREDIBLY MOVING" – THEATER IS EASY

**IF EVERYTHING YOU DREW BECAME REAL, WHERE WOULD YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE YOU? THAT'S THE QUESTION THAT ALEX CURTIS' SILENT COMEDY SOLO SHOW 'CHALK' IS POSING TO AUDIENCES AT THE KRAINE THEATER.**

A charismatic clown discovers magic chalk that makes everything he draws come to life in this fantastical one-man show guaranteed to delight audiences of all ages.

Chalk is a non-verbal, physical comedy in the style of the great silent film era comedians, like Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd. It's a goofy testament to the power of a childlike imagination as well as a moving exploration of the adult search for romantic love and connection. Using a few simple props and a pocket full of chalk, Alex sweeps his audience into a hand-drawn world where anything can happen.

With a perfect mix of play and pathos, the narrative of this whimsical clown romp is designed to truly engage your imagination and "draw you in". It has been described by audiences as **"a must see"**, **"as moving as it is hilarious"** and **"something to throw your arms around and hug."**

Alex says: "As an artist, I am deeply passionate about storytelling — creating a structure that takes the hero through a journey with a beginning, middle and end — and I think that's something that sets this show apart from a lot of other clown work. I feel like Chalk is more similar in style and tone to a Pixar film than it is to most other clown shows out there. It's silly and simple in the way that all clowns have to be, but it channels that into a cohesive narrative."

## AUDIENCE

Chalk is a uniquely accessible show, playing to audiences of all ages and all nationalities. It's a show created for adults that is also fun for children, and it plays particularly well to diverse audiences, including parents with kids aged 3-9. Also, because the show is completely non-verbal there is no language barrier, meaning it can be performed to, and enjoyed by, audiences anywhere in the world.

## SHOW SPECIFICATIONS

**Running time:** approximately 45 minutes

**Currently taking bookings for:**

June-December 2020

**Suitable for:**

Main house and studio presentations

**Technical Requirements**

Preferred stage dimensions: 7m wide x 5m deep or larger

Minimum stage dimensions: 5m wide x 4m deep

**Preferred set:**

Three rotating 1220mm x 2440mm flats, painted on both sides with 'Chalkboard' paint, with a fixed 160mm frame on either side. An entrance upstage covered with center-part curtains.

**Minimum set requirements:**

Three 1220mm x 2440mm standing flats painted with 'Chalkboard' paint. The three flats lock together using loose pin hinges so that they can create an upstage wall that stays together during the performance.

**Preferred Lighting:**

General wash with Color LED capabilities and 3+ LED programmable movers

**Minimum Lighting:**

General wash with dimming and color capabilities, 1+ mover or spotlight

**Tech time:** 4+ hours





## SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Ability to run sound from Qlab 4.

Venue must provide a lighting designer to build the lighting design for the venue (based on instructions provided by the performer). Venue must provide a tech operator to run sound and lights during the performance

**Sound design by Alex Curtis**

## FINANCES

Priority will be given to venues offering guarantees + box office split and first calls, though we will consider all opportunities to provide a platform for this work.

## THEMES

- Creativity / Problem Solving
- Clown / Physical Comedy
- Love / Heartbreak
- Resilience / Imagination
- Silent Film
- Family Friendly
- Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA)

## CONTEMPORARIES

- The Boy with Tape on his Face
- The Blue Man Group
- The 39 Steps
- Bill Irwin
- The New Victory Theater
- Harold and the Purple Crayon
- Pixar

## AVAILABLE EXTRAS

- Three-hour clowning workshop for children or adults
- Three-hour improv workshop for children or adults
- One-week educational residency with interactive lessons on creativity and problem solving for 1st graders
- Sensory-friendly performances





## SHOW HISTORY

CHALK was first developed with the Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company MFA Program, and premiered at Providence Fringe Festival in July 2014. It made its New York debut at the FRIGID Festival in 2016, was featured in the Gotham Storytelling Festival, The Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and the New York Fringe Festival. Chalk is currently in residence with monthly performances at the Kraine Theater in NYC. Audience members have described CHALK as **"masterful"**, **"original"** and as **"a true gem in a time where imagination and innovation are often absent in the theatre."**

## SHOW CREATIVE TEAM

Chalk is created & performed by Alex Curtis, directed by Caitlin Ryan O'Connell and choreographed by Mike Kirsch.



### ABOUT ALEX

#### CREATOR, PERFORMER, SOUND DESIGNER

Alex Curtis is a professional actor performing in theater, film, and television.

Alex graduated with his MFA in acting in 2014 from Brown University/Trinity Repertory Company. Since then, career highlights include playing a house-hunter on an ABC Family reality TV show (not real, btw), appearing on the ABC prime-time crime drama 'FOREVER', and landing a co-starring role on an episode of award-winning CBS drama 'Blue Bloods'.

Alex's clown work has been featured in the New York Clown Theatre Festival, the Gotham Storytelling Festival, FRIGID New York, and the 10 Foot Rat Cabaret. He hosts the podcast 'Stop Waiting Tables' where he interviews creatives about making art and making a living and has a recurring role on the web series 'Love In NY' (named 'Best of the Web' by FUNNY OR DIE). Alex lives in Brooklyn with his cactus and action figure collection.

[ALEXMCURTIS.COM](http://ALEXMCURTIS.COM)



**CAITLIN RYAN O'CONNELL**  
**DIRECTOR**

Caitlin Ryan O'Connell is a theatre director and teaching artist based in Brooklyn, New York. She recently assisted Will Eno on his new play *Wakey, Wakey* at Signature Theatre. She has worked with Ars Nova, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, LCT3, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Trinity Repertory Company, and Clubbed Thumb.

In 2010, she conceived and directed *A World of Girls*, an original play based on interviews with teenage girls from twenty-two countries

worldwide. At Brown/Trinity Rep, Caitlin directed Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Love of the Nightingale*, Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, William Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* and Will Eno's *GNIT*. Caitlin is a former directing intern at Actors Theatre of Louisville. She has trained with the National Theater Institute, St. Petersburg Theatre Arts Academy, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Simon McBurney's *Complicite* and the NY Neofuturists.

She is a teaching artist with The International Theatre and Literacy Project and works in Rwanda to devise theatre with Rwandan youth. Caitlin is an alumna of Wellesley College and a graduate of the Brown/Trinity Rep MFA Directing class of 2016.



**MIKE KIRSCH**  
**CHOREOGRAPHER**

Mike Kirsch is a NYC-based producer, director and choreographer. His film and video productions, which he produces, directs and choreographs, have been seen by millions across the globe.

He has directed and choreographed productions for MTV, ABC, SeaWorld, Bloomingdale's, L'Oréal, Sabra Hummus, and for *Shellac* in Times Square during New York Fashion Week. Most recently his dance film "Public Displays" was selected and featured

## CHALK (A SILENT COMEDY.)

at the prestigious Lincoln Center for the Arts' Dance on Film Festival. His work has also been featured numerous times on The Today Show, in The New York Times and The Huffington Post.

A few of his theatre director/choreography credits include Assistant Choreographer for Death Takes a Holiday (a new musical by Maury Yeston produced by Roundabout Theatre Company starring Rebecca Luker), Director/Choreographer for Oliver! at Festival 56, Choreographer for How To Succeed at the New London Barn Playhouse, Annie Get Your Gun at the MacHaydn Theatre, Choreographer for The Days of 98 in Skagway, Alaska and Choreographer for Broadway Under The Stars and Working for Transcendence Theatre Company.

[MIKEKIRSCHCREATIVE.COM](http://MIKEKIRSCHCREATIVE.COM)

## THE TRAILER



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE CHALK TRAILER.](#)

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"A WHIMSICAL, JOVIAL, ENJOYABLE SHOW!" - HI! DRAMA





# GET IN TOUCH

IF YOU THINK CHALK COULD BE A GOOD MATCH FOR YOUR VENUE PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT ALEX CURTIS FOR A PROVISIONAL CHAT.

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**EMAIL: [CONTACTALEXCURTIS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CONTACTALEXCURTIS@GMAIL.COM)**

**CALL: +1 (949) 554-9831**

**SHOW WEBSITE: [CHALKTHEPLAY.COM](http://CHALKTHEPLAY.COM)**

**ALEX'S WEBSITE: [ALEXMCURTIS.COM](http://ALEXMCURTIS.COM)**