

— U.S. PREMIERE —
FEB 28 - MAR 30, 2025

TOLKIEN

Play by RON REED

Directed by JOE HENDREN

OPENWINDOWTHEATRE.ORG

TOLKIEN

by **RON REED**

Directed by
JOE HENDREN

Artistic Director/Producer
JEREMY STANBARY

Stage Manager/Board Op
PATRICK CAMPBELL

Lighting/Projections Design
ALEX CLARK

Props Design
NATE FARLEY

Set Design
ROBIN MCINTYRE

Sound Design
JEREMY STANBARY
JOE HENDREN

Costume Design
MARYBETH SCHMID

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MANAGING DIRECTOR: **Mark Dittman**

BOX OFFICE: **Jill Mraz**

WEBSITE & IT: **Jeromy Darling**

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Joy Donley for valuable resource sharing.

The University of Northwestern Department of Music & Theatre.

MUSIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

For a list of music acknowledgements in the play, scan the QR code and scroll to the bottom of the page.



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TOLKIEN CAST & PRODUCTION TEAM



Joe Hendren

Director (BBC Annc-2)



Shad Cooper

Actor (J.R.R. Tolkien)



Caleb Cabiness

Actor (C.S. Lewis)



Shana Eisenberg

Actor (Edith Tolkien)



Ian Hardy

Actor (Warnie Lewis)



Corey DiNardo

Actor (Charles Williams)



Keith Prusak

Actor (Hugo Dyson)



Rob Ward

Actor (Roy Campbell)



Alex Clark

Lighting &
Projections Design



Nate Farley

Props Design



MaryBeth Schmid

Costume Design



Robin McIntyre

Set Design



Patrick Campbell

Stage Manager &
Board Op



Jeremy Stanbary

Artistic Director/Sound
Design (BBC Annc-1)

CAST & CREW BIOS



Scan the QR code for cast & crew bios.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



"Tolkien" playwright Ron Reed included an alternate title for this play: "Tollers & Jack: The Story of a Friendship." I mention that because it tells us the real story of the show. Friendship. The mere fact that Tolkien and Lewis were close friends for many years can be difficult to wrap one's mind around - though it is also comforting in many ways - humanizing. Their friendship had, as friendships do, highs and lows. They were close, they grew apart. But the place they held in each other's lives and hearts was undeniable. The play follows their friendship over decades, with scenes skipping ahead at times months or years. Even though that's a theatrical convention to condense the

span of time, it's also an incredibly honest view of how friendships can persist. When I think of my most cherished friendships, time almost has no bearing. Years may go by between meetings - and yet it seems as though no time has passed. Many times, I've found myself saying to a friend "Remember a couple years ago..." - only to soon realize that "a couple" of years was in fact 10 or 20 years. That sense of time is the lens through which we see Lewis and Tolkien's friendship. Finally, I just wanted to say what a pleasure it has been to bring this show to life with some amazing fellow artists and staff here at Open Window Theatre - making some new friends along the way. It feels only fitting to return to the worlds of Tolkien and Lewis since I was introduced to my friends here at Open Window through productions of "The Hobbit" and "Shadowlands" a couple of years ago... sorry - make that 12-13 years ago.

—Joe Hendren

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