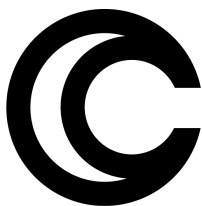


Open Circle Theatre produces high-quality, inventive theatre productions that provide opportunities for professional theatre artists with and without disabilities.



open circle theatre

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NEWS RELEASE

Monica Lijewski Makes a Return to the Musical Theatre Stage in Open Circle Theatre's *The Who's Tommy*

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SILVER SPRING, MD -- Open Circle Theatre (OCT) announces the casting of **Monica Lijewski** as a member of the ensemble in its upcoming production of ***The Who's Tommy*** (Music and Lyrics by Pete Townshend, Book by Pete Townshend and Des McAnuff) running **October 27 through November 20, 2016** at the **Silver Spring Black Box Theatre**.

Monica was a working Equity actor and singer in 2011 rehearsing the role of the Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music* at Olney Theatre Center when a loss of balance landed her at the bottom of an open orchestra pit rather than on a stage platform. The accident resulted in a spinal cord injury causing her to be paralyzed from the mid-chest down with some loss of hand and arm function.

Monica's extensive musical theatre background makes her well-suited for OCT's *The Who's Tommy*, based on the beloved rock opera of the 70's. Her credits include Iowa Housewife in *Menopause the Musical*, Mrs. Fezziwig/Mrs. Dilber in *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre, Smitty in *How to Succeed in Business...* at Heritage Repertory Theatre, and Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor* at West End Dinner Theatre.

"OCT has been a launch pad for talented actors who were born with disabilities or have become disabled later in life. To give a space for them to hone their craft playing roles often not provided to actors with disabilities in the professional theater world is vital. Empowering Monica to reclaim her identity as a performer is why OCT exists."

Suzanne Richard, Artistic Director

Please visit our website and blog at www.opencircletheatre.org for more information and press from past years.

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