



# The Minutes

by Tracy Letts

SAMUEL FRENCH

The world premiere of *THE MINUTES* was produced and presented at Steppenwolf Theatre Company (Anna D. Shapiro, Artistic Director; David Schmitz, Executive Director) in Chicago, Illinois, on November 9, 2017. The performance was directed by Anna D. Shapiro, with scenic design by David Zinn, costume design by Ana Kuzmanic, lighting design by Brian MacDevitt, and sound design and original music by Andre Pluess. The stage manager was Christine D. Freeburg. The cast was as follows:

**MR. PEEL** .....Cliff Chamberlain  
**MAYOR SUPERBA** ..... William Petersen  
**MS. JOHNSON** ..... Brittany Burch  
**MR. BLAKE** .....James Vincent Meredith  
**MR. BREEDING** ..... Kevin Anderson  
**MR. HANRATTY** ..... Danny McCarthy  
**MR. ASSALONE** ..... Jeff Still  
**MS. INNES** ..... Penny Slusher  
**MS. MATZ** .....Sally Murphy  
**MR. OLDFIELD** .....Francis Guinan  
**MR. CARP** ..... Ian Barford

## CHARACTERS

**MR. PEEL**  
**MAYOR SUPERBA**  
**MS. JOHNSON**  
**MR. BLAKE**  
**MR. BREEDING**  
**MR. HANRATTY**  
**MR. ASSALONE**  
**MS. INNES**  
**MS. MATZ**  
**MR. OLDFIELD**  
**MR. CARP**

Note: Innes and Oldfield should be older than the others.

## SETTING

A city council meeting room



**CARP.** Well. Now you know why I no longer hold our Heritage Festival in high esteem. In fact, after I read this, I thought probably our best course of action would be to burn that goddamn Heritage Festival to the ground. But I'm not really the burning kind. And after some reflection, I realized maybe we could *use* that festival. In a *new* way. To teach people around here some of our *actual* heritage. I don't know anyone who wouldn't benefit from some unvarnished truth. Folks? We have to tell this story. We have to reconcile this. Make reparations, where possible.

**ASSALONE.** "Reparations."

**CARP.** How about apologize, that would be a good start.

**BREEDING.** What do *we* have to apologize for?

**CARP.** For all of it, Matt. We have to apologize for all of it.

**BREEDING.** I haven't done anything.

**CARP.** Yes, you have too, every time you repeat that fairy tale about Sergeant Otto Pym. I've done it too. We all have. This document isn't just a repudiation, it's an opportunity, and this council could take the wheel on this issue. In one stroke we could begin to manage our guilt and start to make room for everyone in this town. You know, this community is not solely comprised of the descendants of German and Irish settlers or of Mr. Blake's ancestors but also of the people who survived this massacre.

**BREEDING.** You believe that? That the descendants of this tribe still live in this town?

**CARP.** No, we killed most of them. But Ms. Red Star, who wrote this down for her grandmother, and who is now a very old lady herself, lives in a nursing home with *your* mother, Matt.

**HANRATTY.** Mr. Carp, I agree with you, it is a remarkable document and I do believe it deserves a public airing... provided we're able to corroborate this woman's story. I think the more prudent way forward would be for us to table this until after this year's Heritage Festival.

**INNES & BREEDING.** Hear hear.

**HANRATTY.** Let's agree to keep this under wraps until then, and then we can create a committee, a research committee, devoted to digging into this topic -

**CARP.** This woman's story has found its way to me after a hundred and fifty years and I'll be goddamned if I'm just going to send it off to die in some committee. Look, I know we can all get stuck in our ways around here, but this is the true story of our town. I know it and you know it. If this council won't face its responsibility, I'll take this to the newspaper and get this published straight away.

**BREEDING.** Carp, I play golf every weekend with Jim Rutherford. He's the editor of the *Big Cherry Record* and I doubt he'd be too interested in a story like this.

**CARP.** Then I'll take it to over to the *Grassland Democrat*, you know they'll publish it. Someone will publish it. I'll get my kids to put it on their computers. Facebook.

**SUPERBA.** Mr. Carp. The issue before this council concerns the use of funds derived from sales of recovered bicycles. You've traveled somewhat far afield.

**CARP.** The issue before this council is a lot bigger than bicycles. The issue before this council is just what kind of community do you want to live in. We have built this town on a fiction. And we perpetrate that fiction every day.

**OLDFIELD.** Well I didn't think I was coming in here tonight to get brow-beaten.