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**MAN, GUNNORS**  
BY RICHARD BEAN



**OCT**  
**2023**

{*ρφφφ*}

by David Auburn

**APR**  
**2024**

**DEATHTRAP**  
by Ira Levin



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**Different Beliefs. Shared Values.**



[www.UUEA.org](http://www.UUEA.org)



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**Aurora Players • PO Box 206 • East Aurora, NY 14052**

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Aurora Players is a member of the Greater East Aurora Chamber of Commerce (GEACC), American Association of Community Theatre (AACT), Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS), Western New York Alliance of Community Theaters (WNY ACTS!), and The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).



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## PARTICIPATION

Aurora Players is a non-profit organization and all work (technical support, actors, administration) is performed entirely by volunteers. Auditions for every production are open to members and non-members alike. Aurora Players encourages anyone interested to get involved, either on-stage or backstage. It's a great opportunity for families, no experience is necessary, and all are welcome! Visit our website for more information on membership, shows, and events: [auroraplayers.org](http://auroraplayers.org).



## PURPOSE

The purpose of the organization is to create interest in and foster enthusiasm for the dramatic arts; to provide a medium of expression for those who love the theatre; and to be the means of bringing together in organized activities all those whose interest centers around drama.

## DONATIONS

Our Pavilion is over 100 years old and anyone who has lived in an older home knows the project list never ends, but available funds, labor, and time usually do. If you – or someone you know – have resources, talents, or ideas that could help Aurora Players, please contact us at [info@auroraplayers.org](mailto:info@auroraplayers.org).

*Your help will be greatly appreciated!*

## AP ONLINE

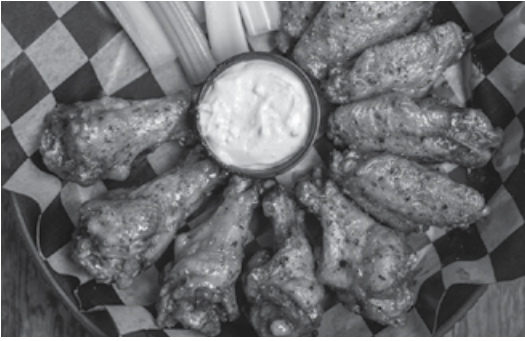
Looking for an easy way to purchase tickets securely and find out more about Aurora Players? Our website, [auroraplayers.org](http://auroraplayers.org), contains information on this season's shows, including photos and videos, auditions, volunteer opportunities (both for shows and to work on committees) and much more. Be sure to bookmark the site and stop back often to stay informed about new opportunities and events.

Our website is managed by Ian and Gina Ronan. Questions, comments and suggestions should be sent to [info@auroraplayers.org](mailto:info@auroraplayers.org).

Be sure to follow Aurora Players on **Facebook and Instagram**.



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**Robert H. Gurbacki**



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# WHY GET INVOLVED?

*by Laurie Oravec*

Historical records suggest that Benjamin Franklin organized our emerging nation's first unpaid fire company in Philadelphia in 1736 after a ship fire burned down the wharf, warehouses and neighboring houses. Since that time, volunteering has been a mainstay of American life, whether it be for large organizations, such as the American Red Cross, or local school bake sales.

Without volunteers, this theater would be dark and silent. I can't even imagine it. For me, stepping into the world of community theater as a volunteer has given me a strong sense of community and led to much personal growth. Practically speaking, the experience has also honed my organizational skills, time management (yes, the ultimate deadline is a show opening!), adaptability and teamwork, all of which are valuable in any walk of life, even for a retiree like me. Consider adaptability: in the world of theater, unexpected challenges are par for the course, be it a set door that won't open during a performance, a sudden glitch with tickets or a costume malfunction (no, not that kind). We quickly learn to think on our feet and find creative solutions. Then we laugh about it later – a lot.

I think that one of the most remarkable aspects of volunteering with Aurora Players is the sheer satisfaction and excitement it brings. I won't lie, there are times I've been bored writing press release number 20, but then I remember what it's all for. It's the thrill of being part of a live production in some way. Sure, I'm not part of making the production happen, but we have to get the word out in order to fill those seats. In

that way, each and every volunteer is key to the secret sauce that makes Aurora Players such a sparkling gem in this community. Of course, being integrally involved in a live production, whether it's helping with set design, costumes, performing or backstage management, is marvelous. It's also fun to be part of a committee to flex one's creativity and problem-solving skills, and the lasting camaraderie that is cultivated on a committee is really quite special and rewarding. As it turns out, even the business side of theater is fascinating, especially knowing that what you do keeps Aurora Players strong and makes the productions possible. Ultimately, witnessing the audience's reactions and knowing you played a role in creating that magic is a deeply satisfying experience.

I've been in shows and I love that aspect, but volunteering with AP goes beyond the thrill of live performances. The roles to play here are truly endless. If you are looking for a place to belong, make friends, serve, learn, find new passion and give back to your community, Aurora Players is looking for you! It is a warm and welcoming place for growth, learning, and joy that ripples into various aspects of life. Memories made, skills learned and relationships forged are invaluable rewards that will continue to enrich my life long after the final curtain call of any show. That's magical; that's my answer to the "why."



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# PARTNERS IN SUCCESS

Aurora Players established the Community Partner Award in 2000 to recognize the contributions made on our behalf by local companies and organizations, and to demonstrate our appreciation for their enduring efforts and continued participation in our activities. The award has been conferred upon the following partners:

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| <b>2000</b> | Elma Press                                     | <b>2014</b> | Warning Electrical Services                 |
| <b>2001</b> | Aurora Answering Service                       | <b>2015</b> | Robert Sowyrda<br>–“ <i>The Piano Man</i> ” |
| <b>2002</b> | East Aurora Advertiser                         | <b>2017</b> | Elma Press                                  |
| <b>2003</b> | Village of East Aurora                         | <b>2018</b> | East Aurora Cooperative<br>Market           |
| <b>2004</b> | Fisher-Price                                   | <b>2017</b> | Nativity Lutheran Church                    |
| <b>2005</b> | The Roycrofters-At-Large<br>Association        | <b>2023</b> | Andrews’ Barber Parlor                      |
| <b>2006</b> | Fontanese Folts Aubrecht<br>Ernst, Architects  |             |   |
| <b>2007</b> | Aurora Paint Pot                               |             |   |
| <b>2008</b> | Warning & Robel - Keith<br>Warning, Matt Robel |             |   |
| <b>2010</b> | Five Star Bank                                 |             |   |
| <b>2011</b> | Roycroft Campus<br>Corporation                 |             |   |
| <b>2012</b> | Allstate Insurance                             |             |   |
| <b>2013</b> | Visual Impact Signs                            |             |   |



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# Hey, Gang! Let's Put on a Season!

*by Christie Koester Welsby*

How are Aurora Players shows chosen? Choreographer Martha Graham once said, "Theater is a verb before it is a noun, an act before it is a place." Before the final product is performed for you here at the Roycroft Pavilion, our shows are first a verb through the hard work of our Play Reading Committee.

The Play Reading Committee, or PRC, can be considered one of the most important committees within Aurora Players. This committee recommends our three shows for mainstage productions in a single season, as well as shows for special engagements including Theatre in Hamlin Park and a holiday show.

The PRC consists of five to seven Aurora Players members or volunteers who may have directed for Aurora Players and understand the production and technical process. The committee works under the guidance of a committee chairperson. The members have technical knowledge and/or expertise in production, limitations for production, acting, costumes, lighting, music, technical support, set design, etc. Members serve on the PRC for no longer than five years, volunteer for at least two shows per season in any capacity and understand the production and technical limits of the Aurora Players.

This committee solicits submissions of the show proposals from the general membership, past and present directors,

previously unselected directors, and the WNY theater community. They read and evaluate all submissions based on the complexity of the production in relation to our capabilities. Finally and importantly, since not every show is right for our organization, the PRC must consider the balance between directors' show submissions and the best interest of Aurora Players and its mission.

It is perhaps the art of selecting a balanced season that can be the biggest challenge. Play Reading Committee member Mary Eckstein shares her personal experience with the PRC. "When reviewing submissions, the group takes great care to consider which submissions would appeal to the AP audiences, actors and the overall good of the organization. This process can prove to be a challenge if multiple submissions are viewed as a good choice to build a season, when only three will be selected. The PRC wants prospective directors to know that just because their submission was not selected for a particular season that it does not imply that their submission was a poor choice."

Once decisions on the submissions are finalized, two possible season selections are drafted and submitted to the AP Board for final consideration and decision making. Not long after the selections are submitted, the PRC begins the process again for our next season. We certainly would not be able to present the

caliber of shows at AP without the hard-working members of our Play Reading Committee!

Do you have a play or musical you'd like to direct for Aurora Players? If so, we invite volunteer directors to submit a musical or play for the 2024-25 season. Prospective directors may submit up to three plays. Please visit our website at [www.auroraplayers.org](http://www.auroraplayers.org) or email the PRC at [scripts@auroraplayers.org](mailto:scripts@auroraplayers.org) for more information.

This season's performances are the culmination of the Play Reading Committee's vision, and we are continually grateful for being able to share that vision with you. So on with the show and on with the season! ■

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# KEEP THE FOOTLIGHTS GLOWING

For over 90 years, Aurora Players has been a significant part of the cultural wealth of East Aurora and Western New York communities. Our patrons tell us they return again and again because Players' productions offer opportunities to share the many worlds of theatre and enjoy the characters that inhabit those worlds. To many of our members, the historic Roycroft Pavilion is the place to support artistic creativity and be creative.

You can help to keep the footlights of our beloved theater glowing and assist members of our community to continue the mission of Aurora Players:

*"To create interest in, and foster enthusiasm for, the study of the dramatic arts."*



Please consider remembering  
**AURORA PLAYERS**  
in your will or estate plans.

Planning for your future can be a very personal and private decision. Many of our friends and patrons share the desire to guarantee our future as a vital part of the community and have already made this decision to continue their generosity to Aurora Players beyond their lifetime.

Leaving a gift to Aurora Players in your will or estate plan is very simple. We encourage you to speak with your own attorney or financial advisor during your planning if you are interested.

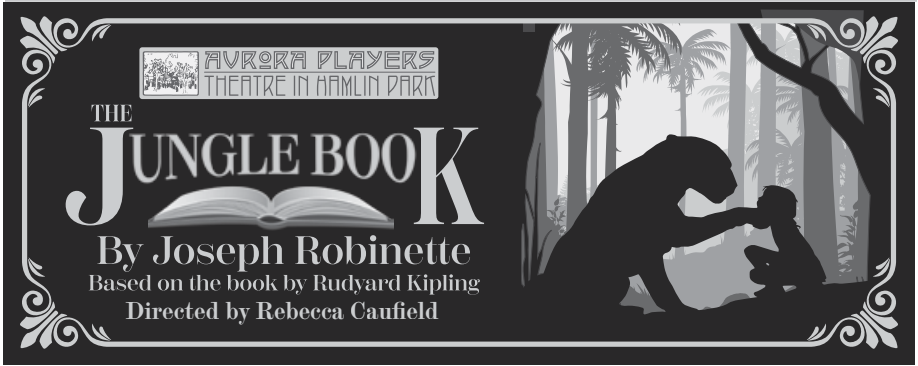
It can be as easy as stating the following:

**"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Aurora Players, Inc. - federal tax identification number 16-6052466, a non-profit organization having an office at P.O. Box 206, East Aurora, New York 14052, the following..."**

Your support makes our work possible today and for years to come.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

# THEATRE IN HAMLIN PARK



## Theatre In Hamlin Park's 4th Production: THE JUNGLE BOOK

by Rebecca Caufield

The trees of Hamlin Park were turned into a jungle for Theatre in Hamlin Park's fourth production, *The Jungle Book*. The story, by Joseph Robinette, is based on the 1894 collection of stories by Rudyard Kipling and intertwines the beloved tale of a lost boy Mowgli, a menagerie of jungle animals, and the red flower (fire) with scenes of 16-year-old Rudyard Kipling as he fights through his own jungle attempting to win the school writing contest by writing *Mowgli's Brothers*.

Director Rebecca J. Caufield brought together a cast of 15 talented actors from across the WNY region. Actors ranged in ages from 11 to 70 with each playing 2-4 characters. Wolves and monkeys dashed from one side of the stage to the other and actors often had a mere 60 seconds (or less) to change costumes before their next entrance.

Caufield says: "This cast is like a family to me and *The Jungle Book* is a show with family at its heart. Whether that family is given or chosen, we are all on a mission of self-discovery to find where we fit in this jungle we call life, all while enjoying the adventure to get there."

While the park was the ideal setting for this show, it did not come without obstacles, the biggest being the weather. Rehearsals were held longer at the Nativity Lutheran church due to the





cold nights of early summer. Once in the park, the Jungle team was often forced to either perform confined to the small stage outside or move the entire rehearsal inside. Once in public production, all show weekends were marked with threats of rain. Every Saturday saw at least one downpour either in the hours preceding or right during set-up time, pausing all activity. However, the clouds eventually cleared and the show went on. Fortunately, only one show was moved to the Sunday rain date. Social media was used to keep any potential audience informed and despite the often soggy park, over 1700 people attended the four-weekend run. We thank audience members for their generous donations

each year, which serve to keep this free program alive.

Theatre in Hamlin Park would like to acknowledge, with great thanks, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Brunson and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Stillman for their generous contributions toward the purchase of the new sound equipment used during this year's production. We are so very grateful to have this improvement to the Theatre in Hamlin Park experience as we continue to bring families together with an accessible theater experience for all ages. ■

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THEATRE IN HAMLIN PARK



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Becoming a Sponsor and/or Playbill advertiser is a great way to show your support for the arts in East Aurora and to reach our theater patrons — not only within East Aurora, but from the surrounding towns as well. Our thousands of patrons include theater lovers from all of Erie County and beyond. When audience members see your ad in the Playbill, it creates a positive impression of your business. It demonstrates that you're an involved and supportive member of the community!

Besides promoting your business, a sponsorship or Playbill advertisement provides many other benefits to you and the community:

- It enhances your image by connecting with people when they are enjoying a theatrical experience that truly engages them..
- Many of our patrons explore the Village of East Aurora as part of their visit, often shopping and dining either before or after a performance. A sponsorship or advertisement will keep your organization top-of-mind.
- Your support helps to fund our youth programs, including the Annual Youth Scholarship and our ProjectSTAGE summer education and mentoring program.
- Through your support, Aurora Players productions attract visitors to East Aurora and enhance the image of our community's charming, artistic and creative heritage.

Please e-mail Kelly Campbell, Fundraising Chair, at [kanncampbell@gmail.com](mailto:kanncampbell@gmail.com) or call us at (716) 687-6727 to discuss your sponsorship options today! More information is also available at [www.auroraplayers.org](http://www.auroraplayers.org)

*Thank you for your continued support!*



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PROUDLY PRESENTS



**ONE TWO  
MAN, GUVNORS  
BY RICHARD BEAN**

Based on *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni  
with songs by Grant Olding

*Directed by Marc Ruffino*

*ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS* was first performed at Lyttelton Theatre,  
National Theatre on 17th May 2011 in a National Theatre production.

It then transferred to the Adelphi Theatre and then to  
Theatre Royal Haymarket in a National Theatre production.

*ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS* was first performed at Music Box Theatre, New York  
on 6th April 2012. The original Broadway Production was produced by Bob Boyett,  
National Theatre of Great Britain under the direction of Nicholas Hytner and Nick Starr,  
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# A Message from AP's President

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**“The mission of the theatre, after all, is to change, to raise the consciousness of people to their human possibilities.”**

— Arthur Miller

**Welcome, Aurora Players members, patrons and theater guests, to another season of live theater in the heart of East Aurora; a season of laughter, drama, and mystery. We gather here in the friendly confines of this historic Roycroft building to experience the shows brought to the stage through the hard work and dedication of the directors, actors, and production crews – and we do so in seasons of change: summer moving into fall, winter into spring, and lastly, spring back to summer.**

**So, too, are changes evident within the organization.** New volunteers take on challenges and roles they are learning from seasoned hands, while the veterans embrace expanded opportunities themselves. Directors new to the AP stage are leading our fall and summer offerings, while production crews also have fresh recruits in critical positions, all lending their expertise and experience to ensure that our shows continue to entertain and delight with the quality that is Aurora Players' hallmark.

**Changes don't stop there, though.** Many of the committees crucial to Aurora Players' continued success also have fresh contributors: keeping the group and its activities visible to the community and to AP members, working to secure our financial stability, and handling the requests for season tickets, patron donations, and membership. Without the energies of these volunteers to do the “behind-the-scenes” work, this group would not exist. This truly is a theater based on community effort and dedication.

**One thing seems changeless, though:** the tremendous support of our season ticket holders, patrons and members, and the community. These vital partners make what we do at Aurora Players worth all the time and labor invested; along with, of course, the applause with which you grace us at the end of every performance.

**We hope that the plays you enjoy this season** give you a laugh-filled respite from your day-to-day routine, make you think about something differently, and intrigue you enough to unravel a mystery. Live theater is a unique experience: one that puts both the actors onstage and the audience in the seats into a shared realm, where that connection affects both groups in significant ways. There's nothing else quite like it. We are excited and honored to share that distinctive bond with you.



**Sincerely,**

Tim Musial

President, Aurora Players Board of Directors

## **The Cast (In Order of Appearance)**

---

Harry Dangle .....	LES BAILEY
Charlie “The Duck” Clench .....	MICHAEL BREEN
Dolly .....	KELSEY GIAMPOALA
Lloyd Boateng .....	JOHN KEHOE
Pauline Clench .....	KIT KUEBLER
Alan Dangle .....	BRIAN TABAK
Francis Henshall .....	JUSTIN POPE
Rachel Crabbe .....	DANIELLE GLYNN
Stanley Stubbers .....	ERIC T. GLYNN
Alfie .....	JASON GONSER
Gareth .....	CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
Ensemble .....	ALLI PELLETREAU
Ensemble .....	JACOB WALTERS

## **The Skiffle Band**

---

Electric Guitar, Trumpet, Harmonica .....	DAMON BEITER
Bass Guitar .....	ERIC NEFF
Drums, Washboard .....	MARY MOEBIUS
Acoustic Guitar .....	KATY WEBSTER

## **Instrumentalists in the Cast**

---

Marimba .....	BRIAN TABAK
Euphonium .....	JUSTIN POPE

## Director's Note

---

**Directing my first show with Aurora Players** has been a thoroughly enjoyable project. I have been directing plays for Hamburg High School for 25 years and have been performing with Aurora Players for 10 years. Comedy is my favorite genre, and I particularly enjoy farce. *One Man, Two Guvnors* has all the elements of a classic farce: it's zany, fast-paced, physical and bawdy. I am convinced you will love these characters; they're not good people, but they are totally lovable.

*One Man, Two Guvnors* is a modern translation of *The Servant of Two Masters* written in 1746 by Italian playwright Carlo Goldoni. *The Servant of Two Masters* is an example of commedia dell'arte, a style noted for exaggerated stock characters and much improvisation by the performers. With classic commedia dell'arte, the playwright would invent a situation, and the characters – such as the buffoonish servant, dim-witted daughter, miserly father, and a jealous lover – would improvise the story; then, in between scenes many of the performers would showcase another entertainment skill such as singing, performing physical 'bits', playing instruments, often unrelated to the main story. Later, in America and throughout Europe this developed into vaudeville or the variety show. Our performers really took this style to heart.

This story takes place in 1963 Brighton, England. We open at the engagement party of Alan Dangle and Pauline Clench. However, the party is interrupted by servant Francis Henshall, whose employer (guvnor #1) is the notorious London gangster Roscoe Crabbe, who is Pauline's former fiancé. Roscoe was thought to be murdered; however, this is not really Roscoe, but his twin sister Rachel in disguise, coming to Brighton to collect on her brother's dowry. Rachel's boyfriend, Stanley, is Roscoe's killer. He also employs Francis (guvnor #2). Both Rachel and Stanley are looking for each other in Brighton, but Francis tries to keep them apart so as to not jeopardize his two jobs. Having two jobs increases his chances of eating – he's constantly hungry. His appetites (for food and love) are what drives this farce.

I am extremely grateful to all the talented people who helped make this such a fun experience. A great big "thank you" goes out to our crew, including our set designer, builder, costumer, lighting engineer, producers, stage managers, prop masters, hair stylist, media specialists, graphic artist, artistic painters, fight coordinator, choreographer, musicians, photographer, the Aurora Players Board, and play reading committee. I also want to thank my incredibly understanding and supportive wife, Amy, for the many years I have spent away from home and in a theater, performing or directing, over the years. Most especially, tonight, I want to thank my wonderfully funny and enthusiastic performers, who worked very, very hard every night to make this a wildly entertaining show.

*Marco Ruffino*



# Setting and Synopsis

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This play takes place in Brighton, England, 1963

## **ACT ONE**

**Pre-Show: Skiffle Band**

“Just My Luck”

“Brighton Line”

**Scene 1: Charlie “The Duck” Clench’s House**

“Oh Sweet Suzy” featuring Kelsey Giampoala

**Scene 2: Outside The Cricketers’ Arms**

“Bangers and Mash” featuring Brian Tabak

**Scene 3: Charlie’s House**

“My Old Man’s a Gannet” with John Kehoe on percussion

**Scene 4: A Prep Station in between two private dining rooms**

at the Cricketers’ Arms

## **ACT TWO**

“The Ballad of Ted and Calista” featuring Danielle Glynn and Eric Glynn

**Scene 1: Outside The Cricketers’ Arms**

“Gannet” reprise

**Scene 2: Outside The Cricketers’ Arms**

“Lighten Up and Lay Low” featuring Danielle Glynn,  
Kelsey Giampoala, and Kit Kuebler

**Scene 3: Corridor Outside Rooms 10 and 11**

“The End of the Pier Blues”

**Scene 4: A Brighton Pier**

“Brighton Line” reprise with Justin Pope on euphonium

**Scene 5: Charlie’s House**

“Tomorrow Looks Good From Here” featuring Justin Pope, Kelsey  
Giampoala, Eric Glynn, Danielle Glynn, Brian Tabak, and Kit Kuebler

## **Intermission and Recording Policy**

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There will be one 15-minute intermission between Act One and Act Two.

As a courtesy to the actors and audience members, and in compliance with Aurora Players policy and its contractual obligations, we ask that you do not use [flash] cameras, audio recording, and video recording devices during the performance.

VIDEO RECORDING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR’S RIGHTS, AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW. **THANK YOU.**

# Production Crews

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Director .....	MARC RUFFINO
Producers .....	CHRISTIE KOESTER WELSBY, SOFIA KULL
Stage Managers/Stage Crew .....	ALLI PELLETREAU , Anthony Luta, Elias Pelletreau, John Woods
Set Design .....	CHARLIE CARTER
Costumes .....	KIMBERLY HICKS, Lydia Pikul
Set Construction .....	DAVID MOOMAW, CHARLIE CARTER, Christopher Best, Matt Bohlen, David Dubois, Mike McGreevy, Ellen Moomaw, Tim Musial, Chris Naughton, Joseph Pessecow, Lowell Sylwester, Jacob Walters, Amanda Weber, Wess Welsby, Mike Wier
Set Decoration .....	NANCY SHEEHAN JOHNSON, Kimberly Hicks, Joe Cassidy
Set Painting .....	CHARLIE CARTER, Jennifer Carter, Katrina Gibbons, Johanna Kull, Sofia Kull, Ann-Margret Munley, Amanda Weber
Props .....	SARAH PICTOR, Chuck Both, Linda Hitchings, David Moomaw
Lighting & Sound Design .....	LOWELL SYLWESTER
Lighting & Sound Technician .....	JOEY GOTT
Hair .....	CAST, Dori Shear-McGowan
Makeup .....	CAST
Choreography .....	MARY LOLIGER
Stage Combat/Physical Comedy Trainer .....	DANIEL BARONE
Marketing .....	LAURIE ORAVEC, Patricia Hoefler, Mary Loliger, Tim Musial, Ian Ronan, Johnny Woods
Program .....	LAUREN MESMER, TIM MUSIAL
Flyer, Program Cover .....	TIM MUSIAL
Front of House Coordinator .....	MARK ECKSTEIN
House Managers .....	Catherine Burkhart, Jeff Maris, Mark Eckstein, Tim Musial, Others not available at press time
Box Office/Intermission Concierge .....	Gail Ruth Arthurs, Rebecca Caufield, Rachelle Francis, Patricia Hoefler, Cheryl Mackiewicz, Bruce Oravec, Laurie Oravec, Darlene Schmigiel, SaraBeth Williams, Others not available at press time
Ushers/Refreshment Stand .....	Dennis Bernhard, Chris Best, Patti Best, Barb Campbell, Sandra Cassidy, Melissa Cumming, Pat Durham, Tom Durham, Barb Einstein, Lynn Fischer, Alynn Greene, Edwin Heary, Kimberly Hicks, Patricia Hoefler, Cheryl Mackiewicz, Jeff Maris, Kelly McGarry, Jessica Rasp, Darlene Schmigiel, Linda Wach, Amanda Weber, SaraBeth Williams, Others not available at press time
Photography .....	DORI SHEAR-MCGOWAN
Promotional Videos .....	BRYAN SAUER

## Who's Who

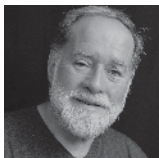
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**Marc Ruffino – Director** – Marc Ruffino has been involved in theater for over 25 years. He has been an English teacher since 1995 and a high school director since 2000. His first show with Aurora Players was in 2013, as he was cast as the murderous mastermind Tony Wendice in *Dial M For Murder*. Since then, Marc has performed in numerous plays for AP including *Towards Zero*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Bus Stop*. He also won three acting awards for his roles in *Grease*, *Present Laughter*, and *Amateurs*. Marc has also appeared on stage with Lancaster Opera House, Desiderio's Dinner Theatre, Rocking Horse Productions, and Shakespeare in Delaware Park. This is his first time directing for AP, but he directed this show for Hamburg High School in 2017, but, of course, a much tamer version. He is very much looking forward to bringing this hysterical show to the Aurora Players stage.



**Les Bailey – Harry Dangle** – Les has appeared in or directed over 100 plays and musicals during his theatre career! In the past, he also served as President of the Board of Trustees for Niagara Regional Theatre Guild. Over the last five years, he appeared in such AP favorites as: *Clue: On Stage* as Colonel Mustard (2022), *And Then There Were None*, and *Bus Stop*. Favorite productions with other theaters include *Sleuth, I Do, I Do, The Crucible, The Odd Couple, Young Frankenstein* and *Something Rotten*, among many others. Also an experienced director, he has directed such shows as *Camelot, Man Of La Mancha, Fiddler On The Roof, The Miracle Worker, Tuesdays With Morrie, Steel Magnolias* and, most recently for Niagara Regional Theatre Guild, *The Crucible, 12 Angry Men, The Miracle Worker* and *Witness For The Prosecution*. You may have also seen Les in more than a dozen TV commercials. Having managed three customer service departments for FedEx Trade Networks, Les is now retired and enjoys golf, gardening, reading, and tennis. A native of Niagara Falls, Les resides in Cheektowaga with his lovely wife Carol, without whose support he would not be successful.



**Michael Breen – Charlie “The Duck” Clench** – It’s wonderful to have Michael on the AP stage again, having last been seen in 2018’s *Present Laughter*. He has most recently performed in American Repertory Theater of WNY’s 2022 and 2023 productions. His AP credits are too vast to list, but some favorites include *Barefoot In The Park, The Lion In Winter, A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and *Guys & Dolls*. He has earned AP’s Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor Awards three times each over the years as well as a Buffalo Theatre Artie Award. A Life Member since 2005, Michael has directed numerous shows for AP, including five(!) productions of *A Christmas Carol*, two productions of *It’s A Wonderful Life*, as well as *Our Town, Fiddler On The Roof*, and *The Wizard of Oz* to name a few. Not only an actor and director, he has produced or stage managed over ten AP productions and chaired both Publicity and Play Reading Committees, resulting in five Working and Service Awards. As a mentor for young actors, Michael directed 70 high school productions before retiring, winning 11 Kenny Awards. One of Michael’s passions is a novel he is writing, which is in its third draft. “I’m a gangster in this role, but I’d like to think my character is still a decent man as criminals go! This script is so witty and the crazy jokes come so fast and furious that audiences will need to really listen to catch them all.”

## Who's Who

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**Kelsey Giampoala – Dolly** – Although a veteran actor with AP’s Theatre in Hamlin Park (TIHP), this is Kelsey’s first appearance in a mainstage show with Aurora Players since *Pirates of Penzance* in 2015. She was Alice for TIHP’s first production, *Alice in Wonderland* in 2018, followed by the Storyteller in *Legend of Sleepy Hollow* in 2022. Other credits include Margot in *Dial M for Murder* and Greta in *Murder on the Orient Express* (Rocking Horse Productions), as well as Hope in *Anything Goes* (Niagara Regional Theatre Guild). She also appeared in *The Secret Garden* and *Clue: On Stage* with ACTS Community Theatre. By day, Kelsey is an Advanced Medical Support Assistant in ENT/Audiology. She is also an avid bookworm and hiker. “It’s been a lot of fun to be told to give sass on purpose and to experience being well-endowed for once in my life (thank you Kim Hicks!). I never tired of rehearsing this show - we got to laugh over and over again and I hope the audience does too.”



**Danielle Glynn — Rachel Crabbe** — Danielle is excited to be on the Aurora Players stage once again, and to be sharing it with her husband Eric. Her previous productions with Aurora Players include *Into The Woods* (Baker’s Wife) and *Bright Star* (Fiddle Player). Some of Danielle’s other favorite on-stage roles include: Adult Woman in *Spring Awakening* (Bellissima Productions); Janet van de Graaf in *Drowsy Chaperone*, Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Johanna Barker in *Sweeney Todd* (all with Lake Plains Players); Gwendolyn Fairfax in *The Importance Of Being Earnest* and Hermia in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (both with Lockport Palace Theatre). Offstage activities include running, baking, crafting, gardening, and spending time with her family. She recently began working with Oncology Nursing Society as the Director of their History Center.



**Eric T. Glynn – Stanley Stubbers** – Eric is delighted to be performing again with his talented wife, Danielle, having also shared the spotlight in last season’s production of *Into The Woods* (Cinderella’s Prince). Eric’s other favorite onstage credits include: AP’s *Bright Star* (Jimmy Ray Dobbs), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Robert Martin), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfé), *Sweeney Todd* (Tobias) with Lake Plains Players, and Harvey (Elwood Dowd) and *The Importance Of Being Earnest* (Jack Worthing) at the Lockport Palace Theatre. In real life, Eric is an attorney at the U.S. District Court in Buffalo. When not busy with work, shows, and taking care of his family, he spends what’s left of his time taking business classes, tinkering at the piano, and singing. “This show is ostensibly about British gangsters in the early 1960s, set to skiffle music. Ultimately, it’s about a group of ridiculous people and the shenanigans that ensue when each character is somehow more obtuse than the last. It’s been a lot of fun!”

## Who's Who

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**Jason Gonser – Alfie** – There have been many wonderful Aurora Players roles that Jason has performed, but his selected on-stage credits include *Into The Woods*, *Hair*, *Bright Star*, *Little Shop Of Horrors* (Lead Actor Award, and Excellence in Performance Award from TANYS), *Grease* (Lead Actor Award), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Featured Actor Award), and *The Boys Next Door* (Inclusive Theater of WNY). Jason has a BA in Theatre from SUNY Geneseo and has been recognized for his significant contributions to Aurora Players, including serving on the Board of Directors. Currently Co-Chair of AP's Membership Committee, he is past recipient of a Working Award (2012) and the John C. Briggs Service Award (2019-2020). Jason is an Inventory Control Supervisor at the East Aurora office of Astronics Luminescent Systems, Inc. About his character, he joked, "Alfie is young at heart but is physically an old man; whereas I'm physically young while very much an old man at heart!"



**Christopher Jackson – Gareth** – We are so happy to have Chris on the AP stage again, having last seen him in 2019's *Present Laughter*. In the year prior to that, Chris played the title character in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. Chris' other AP credits are *And Then There Were None* and *Spider's Web*, as well as lighting technician for *She Loves Me* and *Other Desert Cities*. Prior work with Springville Center for the Arts includes on-stage in *Lend Me A Tenor*; lighting work for *The Drawer Boy* and *Guys And Dolls*, and assistant director for *Glengarry Glen Ross*. Working as an Operations Agent for Delta Airlines, Chris is proud to be part of this love letter to Commedia dell'Arte. He'd like to thank Marc for this opportunity to work together again, and Amanda for her unwavering love and support!



**John Kehoe – Lloyd Boateng** – John brings his talent to the AP stage for the fourth time since only 2022! Along with treating Aurora Players volunteers to a comedy improv performance last April, John was last seen in *Rumors*, as the frantically funny Ken Gorman. Prior to that he brought his energy and comedy to AP's *Clue: On Stage* at Wadsworth, for which the cast earned a TANYS Excellence in Ensemble Acting award. He also appeared as Colonel Cathcart in *Catch 22* with Subversive Theatre Collective (2019). He has been a member of ComedySportz since 2004 and has performed in numerous plays, films, and stage productions throughout his more than 20 years in theater. John also wrote *420 The Musical*, which has been workshopped in NYC. In his spare time, John owns and rides a Penny Farthing high wheeler bike and performs a one-person improv show called *Anatomy of Something Unseen*. Of his time on stage, John says, "Funny; I don't openly laugh that often whilst in a play because I'm too focused on my role. But there are many parts in this one that just got me during rehearsal. This play demonstrates the genre of farce perfectly!"

## Who's Who

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**Kit Kuebler – Pauline Clench** – Kit is thrilled you could make it to her engagement party! This is Kit’s third production with Aurora Players. You may have seen her as Daphne Stillington in **Present Laughter** or as Cherie in **Bus Stop** before it was unfortunately cut short by the pandemic. As director Marc Ruffino has said, this show was influenced by Commedia dell’Arte—an Italian comedic theatrical form that always uses the same character types (the servant, the master, the lovers, etc.) to tell a hilarious story. Kit actually studied this form at the Accademia dell’Arte in Tuscany, Italy during college, and has greatly enjoyed tapping into what she learned there. Several other notable on-stage credits include **A Midsummer Night’s Dream** as Hippolyta (Shakespeare in Delaware Park) and Helena (Irish Classical Theater), **Our Town** (American Rep), and **As You Like It** (Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park). During the day, Kit is a creative writer at an advertising agency. “It has been SO much fun to leave work and play around for a few hours, trying new bits and deliveries, and bursting into laughter with my stage partners. Theatre doesn’t always have to be serious, and this whole process has been a reminder of that!”



**Justin Pope – Francis Henshall** – Justin is an actor/playwright who recently earned his BFA in Theatre Performance from Niagara University, where he honed his playwriting skills. Many of his growing repertoire of over 20 short plays have been produced in Buffalo; one was even produced at the world’s largest sci-fi/fantasy short play festival in Chicago, Illinois. Justin is also a performance artist in the genre known as cosplay and attends many conventions throughout the country (with his incredible girlfriend). Although new to Aurora Players, he most recently performed the role of Steve in **Mercy Seat** earlier this year and Israel Thayer in **Something Wicked** (2021), both with American Repertory Theater of WNY. Other on-stage credits include: **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** (Gad) with Ghostlight Theatre, and **Legally Blonde**, plus **Is He Dead?** with Niagara University. “Francis and I have a shared character trait – we’ll do whatever we can for food! But really, in terms of physical behavior, Francis is the closest character I’ve ever played to the real me. I’m cursed with constant natural animation, so playing Francis lets me be myself on steroids. The fun is in the lunacy!”



**Brian Tabak – Alan** – Brian is also new to the Aurora Players stage, but not to theatre. His roots are firmly planted in the world of comedy, having been in over 1,100 ComedySportz Buffalo improv matches since 2004, while also serving as Creative Director of the organization from 2011-2018. He frequently performs with Niagara Regional Theatre Guild, recently appearing in the classics **Guys and Dolls**, **Brigadoon**, and **Noises Off**, and is scheduled to perform with the company in spring 2024 as Charles Condomine in **Blithe Spirit** and The Creature in **Young Frankenstein**. A self-described board game aficionado (go on and challenge him - he dares you), Brian is also nearly two-thirds of the way through both his quest to visit all the US National Parks and to see the Arizona Diamondbacks play in every MLB park. On playing Alan: “After spending many of my teen years learning to be less like Alan, I now find myself digging deep to reconnect with the pretentious, deficient (yet passionate) twit I’d packed away so long ago. It’s been good, silly fun!”

## Who's Who

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**Jacob Walters – Ensemble (Police Officer, Bartender and Boy Scout)**—AP is pleased to welcome Jacob for his first performance on the Roycroft Pavilion Theater stage. Though new to AP, he participated in many productions while attending Hamburg High School, including: *Shrek the Musical* (Lord Farquaad), *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Darcy); *Clue: On Stage* (Mr. Boddy), and *Into The Woods* (Jack). Jacob plans to attend SUNY Fredonia to pursue a degree in Theatre Production. With experience in construction, he played a key role in constructing the set before you and is interested in building sets professionally. About his role, Jacob says, “I’ve loved acting my entire life. In this role, I play a pretty dimwitted police officer, which leads to some very fun interactions for me on the stage.”

## Meet The Playwright

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**Our first show’s author, Richard Bean**, was born in East Hull in 1956. After school, he worked in a bread plant before leaving to study Psychology at Loughborough University. Richard has worked as a psychologist and a stand-up comedian.

He was awarded the 2011 Evening Standard Award for Best Play for *THE HERETIC* and *ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS*, as well as the 2011 Critics’ Circle Award for Best Play and 2012 Whatsonstage.com Award for Best New Comedy, both for *ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS*. His work for the stage includes *ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS* (National Theatre (Lyttelton)/Adelphi Theatre/Theatre Royal Haymarket/Music Box Theatre, New York/World Tour); a stage version of David Mamet’s *THE HOUSE OF GAMES* (Almeida); *THE BIG FELLAH* (produced by Out of Joint); *PUB QUIZ IS LIFE* (Hull Truck); *ENGLAND PEOPLE VERY NICE* (National Theatre (Olivier Award Nomination for Best New Play)); *THE ENGLISH GAME* (produced by Headlong); *UP ON ROOF* (Hull Truck, nominated for TMA Play of the Year); *IN THE CLUB* (Hampstead Theatre); a version of Moliere’s *THE HYPOCHONDRIAC* (Almeida); *THE HERETIC, HARVEST* (Nominated for Evening Standard and Olivier Best New Play Awards. Winner of Critics’ Circle Best New Play), *HONEYMOON SUITE* (Pearson Play of the Year), *UNDER THE WHALEBACK* (George Devine Award) and *TOAST* (all at the Royal Court); *THE GOD BOTHERERS* (Bush Theatre); *SMACK FAMILY ROBINSON* (Newcastle Live!); *THE MENTALISTS* (Lyttelton Loft, National Theatre); and *MR ENGLAND* (Sheffield Crucible Theatre). His radio plays include “Of Rats and Men;” “Yesterday;” “Unsinkable;” and “Robin Hood’s Revenge.”

(courtesy of Dramatists Play Service)



# 2023-2024 Board of Directors

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Vice President . . . . . Patricia Hoefler  
Recording Secretary . . . . . Catherine Burkhart, Rebecca Caufield  
Members-at-Large . . . . . Catherine Burkhart, Kim Hicks,  
Laurie Oravec, Gail Stengel  
Treasurer . . . . . Lowell Sylwester

Aurora Players Board meetings are held monthly.

All are welcome to attend general membership meetings:  
November 9, 2023 (7:00pm at the historic Roycroft Pavilion).  
2024 meeting dates forthcoming.

Aurora Players is a member of American Association of Community Theatre (AACT),  
The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP),  
Greater East Aurora Chamber of Commerce (GEACC),  
Theatre Association of New York State (TANYS), and  
Western New York Association of Community Theaters (WNY ACTS!).

## Special Thanks

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Aurora Theatre, Bee Newspapers, East Aurora Advertiser/Elma Review,  
Greater East Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Pizza Del Aureo's, Elma Press,  
UPS Store #5490 (East Aurora), Village of East Aurora

## Please Support Western New York Community Theatre

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Alden Christian Theatre Society, The Ghostlight Theatre,  
Inclusive Theater of Western New York, Niagara Regional Theatre Guild,  
Rocking Horse Productions, Springville Players, Towne Players





# Committee Chairs

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## STANDING COMMITTEES

Costume Loft .....	Kim Hicks, Nancy Johnson
Facility .....	Lowell Sylwester
Finance .....	Gail Stengel
Front of House .....	Mark Eckstein
Fundraising .....	Board
Historian .....	Dori Shear-McGowan
Marketing .....	Laurie Oravec
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Playbill .....	Kelly Campbell
Play Reading .....	Patti Best
Props and Set Furnishings .....	Tara Potzler, René Ronan
Publicity and Public Relations .....	Laurie Oravec
Readers Theater .....	Catherine Burkhart, Karen Phillips
Scholarship Program .....	Rebecca Caufield
SRO Editor .....	Alli Pelletreau
Volunteerism .....	Tim Musial
Web Master .....	Ian and Gina Ronan

## EVENTS

Banquet 2023 .....	Catherine Burkhart, Rebecca Caufield
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## AD HOC COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

GEACC Business & Tourism Council .....	Laurie Oravec
Graphics .....	Tim Musial
ProjectSTAGE .....	Erin Francis
Script Library .....	Kim Hicks
Strategic Planning .....	Board
Theatre in Hamlin Park .....	Justyne Harris

## 2023-24 PRODUCERS

<i>One Man, Two Guvnors</i> .....	Christie Koester Welsby, Sofia Kull
<i>Proof</i> .....	Mark Eckstein
<i>Deathtrap</i> .....	TBD

*We would like to thank all of these members for their volunteerism, their continued efforts, and their never-ending support of Aurora Players.*

**VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE CHAIRS ARE KEY TO AP'S SUCCESS**

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## **Leading Friend**

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## **Donors**

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*We gratefully acknowledge the following donors  
for their additional support of Aurora Players.*

Bernard Calkins

Ruthie Consiglio

Lynn Fischer

Michael Casacci

Melissa Cumming

John Hughes

Rebecca and Karen Caufield

Paul Dugas

Patricia Kopf

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## **In Appreciation**

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We gratefully acknowledge our Patrons, Members, Season Ticket holders, and Donors and sincerely thank them for their continued support. For information on becoming a Patron, joining Aurora Players, purchasing season tickets and gift cards, or donating to Aurora Players, please visit our Box Office during intermission or pick up a brochure in the lobby.

# **Season Tickets :: Patron Packages :: Membership**

## **FLEXIBLE SEASON TICKET PACKAGES**

Aurora Players season tickets packages are available for sale through October 31, 2023.

**Season tickets holders enjoy the following benefits:**

**SAVE OVER 15%** – A season ticket package of three tickets costs just \$50 – that’s a savings of \$10 for three adult tickets.

**FLEXIBILITY** – Use your tickets how you choose. Use all three for one show for multiple people or use one ticket per show for an individual—the choice is yours!

**EARLY ACCESS** – Secure your seats before ticket sales open to the general public.

**NO LIMIT ON SAVINGS** – Buy unlimited season ticket packages **through October 31, 2023** – enjoy multiple shows throughout the season with friends and family!

## **BECOME AN AURORA PLAYERS PATRON**

Revenue from ticket sales and concessions covers just the cost to produce shows, pay utilities, insurance and other ongoing expenses. Patron donations enable us to upgrade equipment, pay for special projects, offer community programs, and improve our beautiful space here at the historic Roycroft Pavilion Theater.

Patrons receive at least three season ticket packages, additional discounted tickets, and grateful acknowledgments on our patron plaques in the theater lobby and all programs.

Recent patron donations have allowed us to purchase a new sound system for Theatre in Hamlin Park, a laptop for the box office, and new copier. Our current wish list includes painting the outside of the building and completing renovations behind the stage.

**Perhaps you can help us reach this year’s goals!**

**Patron Packages** start at \$250 and are partially tax-deductible (net of season ticket value). More information at [www.auroraplayers.org](http://www.auroraplayers.org) or please call our box office at **716-687-6727**. We’d love to hear from you!

## **AURORA PLAYERS MEMBERSHIP**

Members of Aurora Players elect our Board of Directors and vote on important matters such as changes in the corporate Bylaws and Financial Policy. You can become a member with an annual donation of as little as \$20.00 for a single membership (\$15 for students) or \$30 for families. **Members enjoy the following benefits:**

**EARLY ACCESS** – Secure your seats before ticket sales open to the general public.

**QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER** – Stay in the loop on the latest Aurora Players news and special events.

**DIRECT NOTICE** – Be among the first to know about auditions, shows, special meetings and other important information via email.

**SOCIALIZE!** – Join fellow members for at least two membership meetings per year and the annual banquet in September.

**Annual memberships expire on September 30th of each year.**

# Autographs

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**One Man, Two Guvnors**



**SAKOWSKI & MARKELLO, LLP**  
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

6861 SENECA STREET  
ELMA, NEW YORK 14059  
716-655-0102

**JOSEPH SAKOWSKI**  
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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

### *Rolling with the 716!* ProjectSTAGE 2023 was a huge success!

Theater is a passion ... for some people. When people who are passionate about theater get a chance to work together, two things happen: the magical and the unexpected. It was my pleasure over two weeks to be with these talented, young, creative theater people. They are a family. For the most part they have been together for years in ProjectSTAGE Act I, Act II and now Act III. There were some “newbies,” who were in short order adopted by the “veterans.” I don't think the audience could tell in the final production who was new and who were old-hands!

I challenged them to not only act in the plays but also to try directing plays written by local writers (the 716) and they embraced the challenge.



I was able to get plays from local playwrights through my Buffalo/WNY theater connections. The students read over 20 plays and decided on nine ten-minute plays.

The plays ranged from silly comedies to pretty heavy dramatic pieces with some strong language. All the kids were/are mature enough to recognize that strong language is real and realistic and they were also firm in their artistic selves to stand by the playwright's vision and truth. This commitment and their acting and directing talent gives me great hope for the future of theater!

Thanks to all the parents and families of these amazing children for their support and encouragement. A very special thanks to: Erin Francis for all of her help with



production and for stage managing, and Lowell Sylwester for lighting and sound design. The ProjectSTAGE program doesn't happen without Erin Francis! She is the indispensable person!

The kids were all wonderful! Thanks Timothy, Amelia, Kaitlin, Cate, Eve, Avary, Zech, Elijah, Kanen, Elias, Maddie and Beth!

And finally, a special thanks to the playwrights! It ALL starts with the words on the page. That is where the magic starts! This year's 716 playwrights: Donna Hoke, Matt Boyle, The Medaille Summer Theatre Ensembles Playwrights of the 2018 and 2019 classes (their directors—Bella Poynton and Jon Elston), Jenn Dlugos, Charlie Hatton, Madison Sedlor, Gigi McCann, T.L. Sherwood, and Noah Stoddard! ■

*Thank you to all who supported  
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**– Matt Boyle, Director**  
*2023 ProjectSTAGE, Act III  
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<b>1964</b>	Betty Ford Jim Ford	<b>2002</b>	Rosemary Barney Elizabeth McCuen
<b>1978</b>	Glo Gallagher Roberta Rathbun Gary Troust	<b>2005</b>	Michael W. Breen
<b>1979</b>	Charles Merla Delores Merla	<b>2006</b>	Mary Moebius Kathleen Murray Peter G. Taylor
<b>1980</b>	John Spooner Marybeth Spooner	<b>2009</b>	Ben Little Karen Little Tim Musial Don Seel Nancy Seel
<b>1981</b>	Roger Stowell Harriet Woodworth	<b>2011</b>	Gail Ruth Arthurs Lynn Fischer Kathleen Frost Susan Musial
<b>1982</b>	Monna Rose	<b>2012</b>	Jessica K. Rasp
<b>1987</b>	Julie Shed Walter Shed	<b>2015</b>	Michael Nowicki
<b>1994</b>	Dan Brunson Carl Burgwardt Pat Durham Tom Durham Pat Lefort Billie Lucas Jan McKellar	<b>2016</b>	Mike Starzynski
<b>1995</b>	Becky Pfohl	<b>2017</b>	Kimberly Hicks
<b>1998</b>	Melanie Desiderio Audrey Dillon Bill Erdley Bill Estabrook Ann Mosner Jim Mosner Richard Rathbun Bob Steck Carol Steck Sylvia Troust	<b>2018</b>	Margaret Brunson
<b>1999</b>	Chuck McCormick Jane McCormick Tina Nowicki	<b>2019</b>	Rebecca Popiel
<b>2000</b>	Julia Ciesinski Gary Cunningham	<b>2023</b>	Catherine Burkhart Alli Pelletreau
<b>2001</b>	Bill Murphy Al Sleeper Glenda Sleeper		

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# *One Man, Two Guvnors*

*by Richard Bean*

Brighton, England. 1963. Change is in the air and Francis Henshall is looking to make his mark. Fired from a skiffle band and in search of work, he finds himself employed by small-time gangster Roscoe Crabbe, who is in town to collect a fee from his fiancée's gangster father. But Roscoe is really Rachel, posing as her own dead brother, herself in love with Stanley Stubbers (her brother's killer) who, in turn, becomes our hero's other 'guvnor'. Fighting a mounting sense of confusion, Francis goes out of his way to serve both bosses. But with the distractions of a pneumatic book keeper, a self-important actor and select members of the criminal fraternity (not to mention his own mammoth appetite) to contend with, how long can he keep them apart? Richard Bean's hilarious comedy received 5-star reviews from every London newspaper and was the hit of the 2012 Broadway season. ■



Based on *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni  
with songs by Grant Olding

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# Proof

by David Auburn

On the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Now, following his death, she must deal with her own volatile emotions; the arrival of her estranged sister, Claire; and the attentions of Hal, a former student of her father's who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that her father left behind. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness—or genius—will she inherit? ■



(courtesy of Dramatists Play Service)



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# Deathtrap

by Ira Levin

Comfortably ensconced in his charming Connecticut home, Sidney Bruhl, a successful writer of Broadway thrillers, is struggling to overcome a dry spell which has resulted in a string of failures and a shortage of funds. A possible break in his fortunes occurs when he receives a script from a student in the seminar he has been conducting at a nearby college—a thriller that Sidney recognizes immediately as a potential Broadway smash. Sidney's plan, devised with his wife's help, is to offer collaboration to the student for co-credit. Or is it? *Deathtrap* provides twists and turns of devilish cleverness, and offers hilariously sudden shocks in such abundance that audiences will be spellbound until the very last moment. ■



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## ACCEPTING THE AWARD...

We shook things up with the 2023 Aurora Players Banquet in September! It was a well-attended brunch at stunning Suncliff On The Lake in Derby. Lake Erie and sunshine provided a gorgeous backdrop to celebrate the 2022-2023 season, recognize our volunteers and actors with awards and catch up with friends, old and new. All enjoyed the chance to visit, laugh together and get a little preview of the upcoming season.



### NEWCOMER AWARD

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Ian Ronan

Dori Shear-McGowan

Michael Wier

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### FEATURED ACTRESS

Isabella Ruof

(Cassie Cooper, *Rumors*)

### FEATURED ACTOR

Anthony Wizner

(Glenn Cooper, *Rumors*)

### LEAD ACTRESS

Maryna Seufert

(Jill Tanner, *Butterflies Are Free*)

### LEAD ACTOR

Joel Murphy (Lenny Ganz, *Rumors*)

## AP CELEBRATES THE 2022-23 SEASON

### THANK YOU, 2022-23 DIRECTORS

Joel Murphy, Paul Blackwell, Dr. Madeline Harts, Gina Schuster – *Into the Woods*

John Szablewski – *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

Reneé M. Ronan – *Rumors*

David Hall – *Butterflies Are Free*

Matt Boyle – *ProjectSTAGE*

Rebecca Caufield – *The Jungle Book*

### THANK YOU, 2022-23 PRODUCTION CREWS

Deep appreciation is extended to our producers, costumers, stage managers, actors, musicians, set designers, builders, painters, furnishers and decorators, prop masters, lighting and sound technicians, hair and makeup stylists and production crews for their dedication and efforts to ensure the artistic and financial success of our productions. **They are all stars of Aurora Players.**

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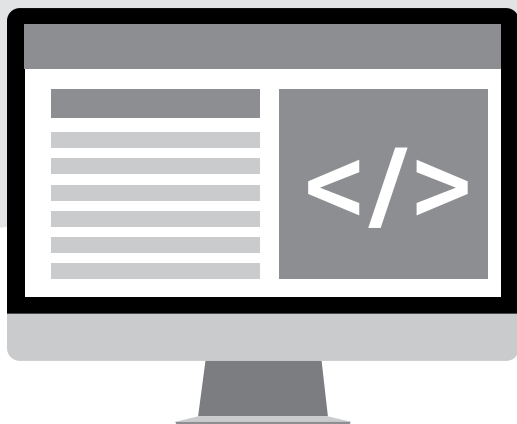
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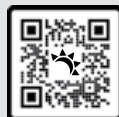
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