

*A Story About Coming Home*

# Making God Laugh

by Sean Grennan

Directed by Rick Anderson

**Performance Dates**

November 3, 4, 11, 18 at 8 p.m.

November 5, 12, 19 at 2 p.m.



**Eagle Theatre Company**  
est. 2021



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## Message from the Mayor



As the City of Eagle Mayor, I am excited to announce Eagle Theatre Company's 2023/2024 season. It is their second season of shows with new plays that promise to delight and entertain the audiences. Their latest production, *Making God Laugh*, by Sean Grennan, is a perfect kick-off to the holiday season. Their inaugural season was hugely successful due to the generous support and engagement of our community, which is what makes Eagle a special place to live and work. As a non-profit organization, Eagle Theatre Company has spent the past several years preparing to provide live theater opportunities to be enjoyed right here in Eagle. Whether you want to laugh or be moved, there is something for you. I hope you will join me in supporting the Eagle Theatre Company in our community, and wish them continued success at this and future productions.

Jason Pierce, Mayor  
City of Eagle

# Welcome to Eagle Theatre Company!



It's been an exciting, whirlwind of a year as we come off our stellar, inaugural season! As a new community theatre, we couldn't have succeeded without the support of our patrons, charter members, cast /crew and directors, and the generosity of our donors and sponsors.

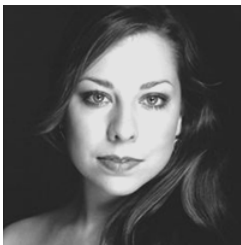
To all of our supporters past, present, and future, thank you for helping us share our love of theatre and build a strong connection to the arts community of Eagle. We have worked toward making a positive impact through theatrical opportunities that “enrich, educate, entertain, and engage” our audiences.

We are thrilled to bring you our 2023-2024 second season of plays and invite you to join the ETC family whether onstage, backstage, or in the audience. Your support makes our all-volunteer organization possible as we continue to grow and provide live, quality theatre.

Our sincere thanks to Eagle Performing Arts Center (EPAC) for their Black Box Theatre that we call home. And now...Curtain up! Light the lights! Let the magic of theatre begin.

With much gratitude,  
Deborah Hertzog  
President, Eagle Theatre Company

# Welcome to Eagle Performing Arts Center



Eagle Performing Arts Center (EPAC) welcomes Eagle Theatre Company (ETC) to our Black Box Theatre! EPAC is a classical ballet school, training dancers ages 3-1/2 through adult. Since 2004, we pride ourselves on providing the highest caliber of ballet and dance training in the Treasure Valley. With a nurturing and humanistic approach, we strive to instill a lifelong love for the art form. Since the inception of EPAC's Black Box Theatre in 2020, my vision for our ballet school has been to become a

true “Performing Arts Center” and community partner. ETC is the first organization outside of EPAC and Idaho Regional Ballet to utilize the space. We welcome ETC with open arms and look forward to many ENCORE performances!

Elizabeth Keller  
Director, Eagle Performing Arts Center  
Artistic Director, Idaho Regional Ballet



Eagle Theatre Company is a proud member of  
**American Association of Community Theatre (AACT)**  
and **Idaho Association of Community Theatre (I-ACT)**



# Eagle Theatre Company Organization

## Board of Directors:

PRESIDENT: Deborah Hertzog

VP1 (MEMBERSHIP): Linda Odom

VP2 (PLAY SELECTION/PRODUCTION): Bethany Bertulis

SECRETARY: Siobhan Reynolds

TREASURER: Irina Kazakova

FUNDRAISING: Karen Arguello

MARKETING: Kathryn Hendricksen

VOLUNTEER COORDINATION: Susan Hume

## Additional Roles

BUSINESS MANAGER: Irina Kazakova

GRANT COORDINATOR: Karen Arguello

PATRON COMMUNICATIONS: Linda Odom

PHOTOGRAPHER/GRAPHIC DESIGN: Sue Anderson

WEB DESIGN/ADMINISTRATION: Kathryn Hendricksen, Sue Anderson

ADVISORY BOARD: Ross Ely, David Garrison, Norb Murray

## Meet Our Board of Directors



Deborah Hertzog



Linda Odom



Bethany Bertulis



Siobhan Reynolds



Irina Kazakova



Karen Arguello



Kathryn Hendricksen



Susan Hume

# Making God Laugh

by Sean Grennan

Directed by Rick Anderson

## Show Synopsis

*Woody Allen once said, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans..."*

*Making God Laugh* follows a family over decades of holiday gatherings. Starting in 1980, Ruthie and Bill's three grown children come home, where we learn of their plans and dreams. While the aging parents contend with their own changes, holiday traditions are repeated, memories revisited, and ancient tensions flare up. The family discovers that despite what is envisioned, we often arrive at unexpected destinations.

## Cast

*in order of appearance*

RUTHIE	Susan Hume	MADDIE	Kelly Hendrickson
BILL	Steven I. Lanzet	THOMAS	Triston Jackson
RICHARD	Andrew Chojnacky		

Time: 1980 - 2010

Place: Family Living Room

### Act I

Act I, Scene 1: 1980, Thanksgiving

Act I, Scene 2: 1990, Christmas Eve

### Act II

Act II, Scene 1: 1999, New Year's Eve

Act II, Scene 2: 2010, "Easter"

- Please silence your phones and watches and remain seated to keep the aisles clear during the performance.
- The use of any audio/video recording device and any photography, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited.
- Length of play is 2 hours with a 15-minute intermission in between Acts I and II.
- Refreshments available before performance and during intermission.
- Meet and greet with the cast after the show in the lobby.

# Making God Laugh

## Director's Note

This cast and production team have come together to tell this lovely story in this space. It is our hope that as you laugh with us...and at us...that we all see ourselves in this family. This story about coming home, as seen through the lens of holidays, is really about the importance of "letting go" of plans and embracing that which makes us human: love and acceptance. Thank you for taking the journey with us today. -- *Rick Anderson, Director*

## Production Staff

DIRECTOR: Rick Anderson  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR: Patricia Walker  
SET DESIGN: Tara Bastian  
MASTER CARPENTERS: Kenny Bastian, Kory Syverson, Corey Ure  
SET ARTISTIC RENDERING: Allen Gladfelter  
CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE: Rick Anderson, Andrew Chojnacky,  
Susan Hume, Patricia Walker  
SET CREW: Rick Anderson, Ray Arguello, Kenny Bastian,  
Tara Bastian, Brad Kimball, Peter Robbins, Corey Ure  
STAGE ASSISTANT: Emery Schumacher  
COSTUME DESIGN: Susan Hume  
COSTUME SUPPORT: Beth Bertulis  
COSTUME CHANGE ASSISTANTS: Kim Hemmert, Jamie Johnson  
PROP ACQUISITION: Cheri Ure  
PROP ASSISTANCE: Patricia Walker  
FOOD PREP: Sabrina Hart  
LIGHT DESIGN : Dianna Hite-Smith  
LIGHTING SUPPORT: David Garrison  
TECH OPERATOR: Roger Hart  
SOUND EFFECTS: Cheri Ure, Rick Anderson  
PUBLICITY/MARKETING: Kathryn Hendricksen  
PHOTOGRAPHY/GRAPHIC DESIGN : Sue Anderson  
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION: Karen Arguello, Stacy Beem

HOUSE STAFF: Val Brooks, Kathleen Cookman, Debbie Depaul, Robin Didriksen, Linda Fulkerson, Shari Gonzales, Linda Kennedy, Nancy Messuri, Leah Murray, Norb Murray, Arlene Nelson, Randal Nelson, Katy Palmer-Rogers, Fred Plassman, Heidi Prigge, Julianne Resnick, Peter Robbins, Marianne Robinson, Mary Rogers, Sean Rogers, and Dawn Smith.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful for the following individuals, organizations, and businesses for their support: Kenny Bastian (Golden Oak Designs), Darryl Jungen, Austin Mendiola, Paige Overly, Corey Ure (Big Fish Carpentry), Lowe's, Eagle Chamber of Commerce, The Chocolat Bar, Chico Theater Company.

# Who's Who

## Cast

**SUSAN HUME** (*Ruthie*). Susan is thrilled to be back on the Eagle Theatre Company stage as a part of this talented cast. She performed in ETC's spring production of *The Odd Couple, Female Version*, where she played the part of Florence Unger. Susan's most recent role was that of Karen Keegan in Stage Coach Theatre's production of *Things My Mother Taught Me*. When she is not on stage, Susan loves traveling and tending to her orchids and English roses. She dedicates her performances to the one who makes her laugh the most, her wonderful husband, Mark.

**STEVEN I. LANZET** (*Bill*). Steven's other "Husband" roles were in *La Cage aux Folles*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Curtains*. He was typecast as Sophia in *Golden Girls* and as Half Troll/ Half Cute Boy in *Cute Boys in Their Underpants Fight the Evil Trolls*. He wore "revealing" costumes in *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. At Boise Little Theater, he was in *Fools* and *The Open House*, and he was "*The Sensuous Senator*" at Stage Coach. Thanks to Rick, this great cast and crew, and ETC for adding a new theatre and rewarding experience to my list.

**ANDREW CHOJNACKY** (*Richard*). Andrew has previously acted in the Magic Valley with both community theatre and college programs. He says, "I was drawn to our current show, *Making God Laugh*, due to the great writing and parallels in the story that I found in my own life. I'm excited to bring this story to life."

**KELLY HENDRICKSON** (*Maddie*). Kelly was born and raised in the Treasure Valley. She did plays throughout childhood, high school, and college. Kelly was introduced into the entertainment world through a close family friend, Roland Canamar, who owns a studio set business, Silver Dream Factory, in Anaheim, CA. She was on movie sets assisting in makeup, production, and as an extra through college. Kelly also loves playing the piano and recording music. Kelly's love for performing and the arts brought her back to audition for *Making God Laugh*.

**TRISTON JACKSON** (*Thomas*). Triston has a 20-year background in theatre and is always looking to grow his craft and improve his abilities in new and interesting ways. He is happy to be making his debut with Eagle Theatre Company in *Making God Laugh*, working alongside some new faces in the community. He thanks you all for coming to the show and hopes you have a good time!

# Crew

**RICK ANDERSON** (*Director*). Rick is excited to direct his second play for Eagle Theatre Company. Previous directing experiences include “A Mad Breakfast,” *The Music Man*, *Damn Yankees*, *Making God Laugh* and *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)*. He has performed in dozens of shows over the past 18 years. Favorite roles include Wilbur Turnblad in *Hairspray* and the Blind Hermit in *Young Frankenstein*. Thank you to Deb and the ETC Board for your support.

**Patricia Walker** (*Associate Director*). Patricia is excited to be a part of her second ETC production. Having been involved in every aspect of community theatre she is thrilled to see Eagle benefit from this great addition to their arts and culture scene and humbled to play a small part in this 2nd season. She is happy there are fewer breakfast entrees in this production but trying to figure out how to make Fantasia Dip is the new challenge.

*Making God Laugh* is presented by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.,  
[www.playscripts.com](http://www.playscripts.com)

“Moon River,” Henry Mancini, Johnny Mercer  
100% Sony/ATV Harmony (ASCAP)

“At Last,” Mack Gordon, Harry Warren  
(100%) EMI Feist Catalog Inc. (ASCAP)

## Get Involved with Eagle Theatre Company!

- Become a member donor and support our vision and purpose.
- Consider one of the many ETC volunteer opportunities:
  - **Acting, Directing, Behind the Scenes**
  - **House Staff:** *Ushering, Box Office, Concessions*
  - **Committees:** *Budget and Finance, Fundraising, Marketing, Membership, Play Selection/Play Production, Volunteers*

To join, donate or volunteer please visit [eagleetc.org](http://eagleetc.org)

## Follow Us On Social Media!



Eagle Theatre Company @eagle\_theatre\_company



# Member Donations

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Deborah Hertzog  
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Tricia Stromberg

### **Playwright (\$500+)**

Sue and Rick Anderson  
Irina Kazakova and Larry Harmon  
Linda and Mike Odom

### **Producer (\$250+)**

Andrea Bates  
Shelby and Jeremy Hertzog  
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Mary and Dave Rogers

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Payton Sam Mitchell  
Heidi Prigge

### **Director (\$100+)**

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Leah and Norb Murray  
Leslie Scantling  
David Shepard

### **Partner (\$50+)**

Annette and Craig Christensen  
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Ashley Parker  
Ginger Timons  
Jill Wagers  
Joseph Wright

## Upcoming Events

*Almost, Maine* Auditions  
November 10-11, 2023

*Blithe Spirit* Auditions  
February 16-17, 2024

Community Gathering  
December 13, 2023

*Blithe Spirit* Performances  
April 12-28, 2024

*Almost, Maine* Performances  
January 26-February 11, 2024

Visit [eagleetc.org/events](http://eagleetc.org/events) for more information.



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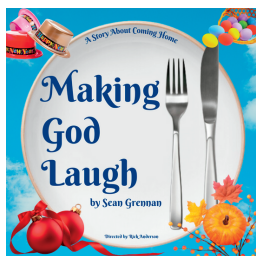
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# Celebrating our 2023/2024 Season!



November 2023

## **Making God Laugh**

**Written by Sean Grennan**

*Directed by Rick Anderson*

*Making God Laugh* spans decades of family holiday gatherings starting in 1980. Grown children return, sharing aspirations, while aging parents face their own changes. Holiday traditions and old memories replay, and deep-seated tensions flair. The family discovers despite what is envisioned, we often arrive at unexpected destinations.



January 2024

## **Almost, Maine**

**Written by John Cariani**

*Directed by Payton Sam Mitchell*

*Almost, Maine*, is the setting for love's whimsical dance under the northern lights. On a cold, clear winter night, residents stumble into amusing and heartfelt connections in nine enchanting vignettes. This midwinter night's dream offers good-natured magic realism, blending poignancy with heart-warming and heartbreaking moments.



APRIL 2024

## **BLITHE SPIRIT**

**Written by Noel Coward**

*Directed by Frank White*

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF  
NOEL COWARD

*Blithe Spirit* tells the story of finicky novelist Charles, who is haunted by the ghost of his first wife, Elvira, who has been summoned by the eccentric medium Madame Arcati. As chaos ensues, Charles's second wife, Ruth, unexpectedly dies, leaving both ghosts to haunt him forever. This much revived classic is a witty, conflict-filled tale rich in humor.