

HOPEWELL THEATRE

29th Season, 2022/2023



April 21–30, 2023 | 702 Mahoning Avenue

Hopewell Theatre

presents

Becky's New Car

by Stephen Dietz

Directed by Christopher Fidram

April 21, 22, 28, 29 at 7:30 p.m.
April 30 at 2:00 p.m.

702 Mahoning Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio

Becky's New Car was commissioned and originally produced by ACT Theatre in Seattle, Washington, and was part of the New Works for American Theatre in honor of Benita Staadecker, Kurt Beattie, Artistic Director; Susan Trapnell, Managing Director.

Hopewell Theatre, founded in 1992 as The Victorian Players, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to producing quality theatrical performances in the Mahoning Valley.

Director's Note

What a joy it's been to be back directing *Becky's New Car* at Hopewell Theatre. The folks here are so incredibly dedicated and welcoming, and their enthusiasm toward creating live theater in the area is unparalleled. I must give credit to Regina Rees for her unlimited dedication and support throughout this process. I don't know where she gets the energy.

I am also grateful for this dazzling group of actors who've generously given their time and talents. I know I've managed to drive each of them crazy at some point in our rehearsals. Still they kept coming back each night, bursting with fearless determination and creativity.

And how huge is my gratitude for having Jenna Cintavey as my Stage Manager? It's enormous. Jenna jumped in to take on the job because nobody else seemed particularly interested in doing it—including Jenna. But Jenna did it anyway, and her commitment, both on book and backstage, has been invaluable to this production. I'd gladly give Jenna her own bio in the program, if my own didn't take up so much space.

Lastly I want to dedicate this play to all the Becky Fosters of the world: they are devoted wives, doting moms, resourceful employees, and loyal friends. The Beckys of this world are nurturers and problem-solvers who possess that remarkable ability to become whatever anyone around needs them to be. May we not judge harshly if ever they veer too far off the path of quiet contentment and selflessness. When it comes to collisions of the heart, even Becky's aren't completely accident-prone.

—Christopher Fidram

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Rondinelli Tuxedos, Doran Concrete, and the Mahoning Commons Business Association for their help with *Becky's New Car*. Thanks also to our cast, crew, patrons, and volunteers for making productions at Hopewell Theatre happen. We couldn't do it without you!

Accessibility at Hopewell

A special thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Accessibility Project through monetary gifts and supporting the 50/50 drawings at our events. Phase 1 of the project, an exterior ramp, is nearly complete! Phase 2, an accessible first-floor restroom, will begin soon. For more information or to make a donation, visit <https://hopewelltheatre.org/handicap-project>.

Becky's New Car runs approximately 120 minutes. There is a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Please silence all electronic devices during the performance. Photographing or recording the performance is prohibited by law.

* * *

The place is an American city very much like Seattle. The time is the present. Summer.

Cast

Becky Foster.....	Rosalyn Blystone
Joe Foster	Nick Mulichak
Chris Foster.....	Dominick Spisak
Walter Flood	Brian Suchora
Kenni Flood.....	Jennifer Milligan
Steve.....	Timothy Stanley
Ginger.....	Dawn Rogers

Production Team

Director	Christopher Fidram
Stage Manager.....	Jenna Cintavey
Set Design.....	Christopher Fidram
Set Construction.....	Brian Blystone, Chuck Kettering, Nick Mulichak
Light Board.....	Elizabeth Daley
Sound Board.....	Elizabeth Daley
Stage Crew	Denise Cintavey, Jenna Cintavey, Judy Sluss, Rob Whiting, Mary Yee

Biographies



Rosalyn Blystone (Becky) is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City. She made her Ohio stage debut in *Into the Woods* (Florinda) and *Tommy* (The Acid Queen) at The Youngstown Playhouse. She most recently appeared in *Into the Woods* (Jack's Mother) with the Millennial Theatre Company and *Marjorie Prime* (Tess) and *Pippin* (Fastrada) at The Youngstown Playhouse. Rosalyn directed *The Sea Horse* at Hopewell Theatre, and she is a member of the area's premier improv and sketch comedy troupe, The Dinner Theatre Rejects.



Jennifer Milligan (Kenni) is excited to be back at Hopewell Theatre, where she appeared in *Evita*. Other favorite shows in the area include *Clue* at Trumbull New Theatre; and *Boeing Boeing*, *The 39 Steps*, *Calendar Girls*, and *The Red Velvet Cake War* with Stage Left Players. If you enjoy horror films, you may have seen Jennifer as Raven in *Red Woods*, available on streaming platforms. When she is not living out her dream as an actor, she is a barista at Stonefruit Coffee!



Nick Mulichak (Joe) has acted in and directed a number of productions at area theaters, most recently appearing as Liberty Valance in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* at Hopewell Theatre. Other notable shows include *August: Osage County* (Bill), *The Zoo Story* (Jerry), and *Venus in Fur* (Thomas) at The Youngstown Playhouse; and *Deathtrap* (director), *Plaza Suite* (director; Sam), and *On Golden Pond* (director; Bill) at Hopewell Theatre.



Dawn Rogers (Ginger) is excited to be back on stage after an almost ten-year hiatus. She was in *Spoon River Anthology* at Selah Dessert Theatre this past fall, and she plans to continue staying active in the theater community. *Becky's New Car* will be the first time Dawn has performed with Hopewell Theatre, but is no stranger to this stage—some of her last performances were in *Life with Father* and *The Madwoman of Chaillot* with the The Victorian Players.



Dominick Spisak (Chris) is a recent graduate of Youngstown State University. He is no stranger to acting, having recently appeared as Tony in *In-Laws*, *Out-laws*, and *Other People (That Should be Shot)* at Trumbull New Theatre. Other shows include *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Legally Blonde*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Anything Goes*, *Grease*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. Dominick would like to thank his family and friends for their continuous love and support.



Timothy Stanley (Steve) made his mark in Youngstown community theater in the '90s with Dr. Jean Kelty and The Victorian Players' productions of *The Lion In Winter*, *Becket*, *The Rainmaker*, *Death Takes A Holiday*, *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, and others. His last performance was in Dr. Thomas Copeland's production of *Tartuffe*. Timothy says he is happy to be returning to the stage in a role "more like myself."



Brian Suchora (Walter) is thrilled to be back on Hopewell's stage, where he was last seen as a henchman in *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*. Other Hopewell credits include *Plaza Suite* (Jesse Kiplinger) and *The Sea Horse* (Harry Bales). Favorite shows include *See How They Run* (Clive) and *August: Osage County* (Steve) at The Youngstown Playhouse; *Leaving Iowa* (Donald) at Salem Community Theatre; *Barefoot in the Park* (Paul) at Trumbull New Theatre; and *Sylvia* (Greg) at Selah Dessert Theatre.



Christopher Fidram (Director) is an award-winning actor/director who's been making local theater for 40 years. Directing credits include *The Elephant Man*, *Doubt*, and *I'll Be Back Before Midnight* at Hopewell Theatre; *Outside Mullingar*, *The Drawer Boy*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Terms of Endearment* at The Youngstown Playhouse; *Julius Caesar* with Mahoning Valley Players; and *Over the River and Through the Woods* and *Leaving Iowa* at Salem Community Theatre. When not directing or performing, Christopher enjoys traveling the world.

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About Hopewell Theatre

For nearly 30 years, Hopewell Theatre has explored and celebrated the human experience through high-quality, all-volunteer theatrical productions.

Originally named The Victorian Players, our first season began in 1993. We performed in different area venues until moving to our current home at 702 Mahoning Avenue in 1994.

Over the years, the scope of The Victorian Players' artistic vision broadened to include plays reflecting a variety of time periods and topics. 2017 brought a new mission statement and a new name for the organization, and thus Hopewell Theatre was born. Our Board and volunteers are pleased to carry on founder Dr. Jean McClure Kelty's legacy by fostering quality entertainment, promoting theatre as an art form, and, most of all, having fun.

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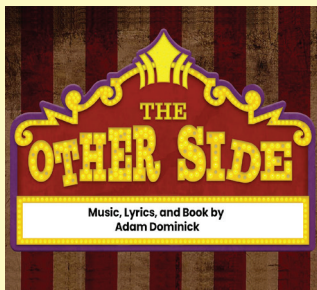
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Hopewell Theatre

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