

Possum Point Players

presents

Sondheim on Sondheim

Music & Lyrics by
Stephen Sondheim

Conceived and Directed on Broadway by
James Lapine

Orchestrations by
Michael Starobin

Arrangements by
David Loud

Stage Direction by
John H. Hulse

Music Direction by
Jerry Birl

*Inspired by a concept by David Kernan
Originally produced on Broadway by Roundabout Theatre Company
Todd Haimes, Artistic Director, Harold Wolpert, Managing Director,
Julia C. Levy, Executive Director*

SONDHEIM ON SONDHEIM is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.
The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.

Director's Note

Sondheim on Sondheim



I hope you enjoy this time learning with and about Stephen Sondheim as much as we have enjoyed putting it together!

I love how Sondheim's music is enjoyable at face value, but also how it is intellectual, deep, and layered with lots that can be unpacked.

Sondheim was a master at humor, language, harmony, and brought out the angst, the sadness, the anger, the loss, the laughter, and the love we all share in the human condition. Seeing and hearing Stephen Sondheim throughout the show has been the icing on the cake for all of us.

Thanks for supporting theater, music, and the arts here in southern Delaware. May the arts enrich your life as much as they enrich ours!

John H. Hulse

John H. Hulse has appeared in nearly 30 Possum Point Players shows, beginning in 1988. Memorable roles include LeFou (“Beauty and the Beast”), Nicely-Nicely Johnson (“Guys and Dolls”), Major General (“Pirates of Penzance”), Amos Hart (“Chicago”), Uncle Archie (“Secret Garden”), Will Parker (“Oklahoma!”), and Freddie Emsford-Hill (“My Fair Lady”). John has directed ten Possum shows, most recently “Big River,” and on the Possum outdoor post-COVID parking lot stage: “Godspell” and back-to-back productions of “Silent Sky” and “The Marvelous Wonderettes.”

Note from the PPP President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to *Sondheim on Sondheim*! I am so excited for this one-of-a-kind show. My love for the works of Stephen Sondheim started with playing Anthony while also assistant directing *Sweeney Todd* when I was 21. At Possum, Kenney Workman cast me as the Baker in *Into the Woods* back in 2016, and my own Baker's Wife is on stage today. Hi Lorraine! I know this show directed by John Hulse will leave us all smiling and singing along to the many memorable show tunes on the way home. Make sure to enhance your experience by trying one of our drinks at the bar!



Our vision is “To connect our volunteers and artists with the community, creating a welcoming space where everyone wants to be!”. This is our goal, and we hope you always feel welcome here.

You will receive an email survey at the end of the show, and we encourage you to complete it and share your experience with us. From your feedback, we can understand how to make things even better. We encourage you to join our theatre community and get on stage, help with a show, or let your friends and neighbors know about us. There is a section in the survey offering the option to become a volunteer. We would love to work with you! Also, please consider becoming a member with us. Our members are the lifeblood of our organization, and we would love to welcome you as one of our Possum Family. You can see the box office or visit our website at possumpointplayers.org for opportunities.

I am honored to have been elected President for one more year and cannot believe the first year went by so quickly! We have a wonderful 2026 season and tickets will be on sale soon! Be on the lookout for tickets to some of our affiliate shows like the Possum Radio Theatre production in February, as well as Possum productions of *Ripcord* in March, *Mary Poppins* in late May and early June, *Angels in America* in September, and *She Loves Me* in mid-November.

Last but not least, I want to thank YOU for supporting Possum Point Players Community Theatre. Your generosity and involvement in today's event mean that we will be able to do things like theatre summer camps for kids, continue the Possum Shakespeare Players and Possum Juniors programs and other affiliates, and continue the tradition of live theatre here in Sussex County, Delaware.

As we set forth on this thrilling adventure together, I count myself very lucky to sit in the audience with you to watch our friends, neighbors, and family members bring our community alive, show after show. Thank you for being here and being a crucial part of the Possum Point Players. We couldn't do this without you.

With gratitude,

Steven Dow

The Production Team

Director	John H. Hulse
Music Director	Jerry Birl
Video Tech Wizard	Chase Schirmer
Lights	Drake Meyer
Sound	Anthony Policastro
Stage Manager	Donna Flomp
Assistant Stage Manager	Fred Grant
Set Design	Ed O'Connor
Set Construction Lead	Fred Dean
Set Construction Team	Shepard Cook, Fred Dean, George DeSantis Les Ferguson, Jim Hartzell, John H. Hulse, Ruth Lawson Ed O'Connor, Chase Schirmer, Anna Toyna, Melody Westphal
Costumes	Lorraine Leavel and Cast
Cover Art	Erin Schechtman
Program	Dawn P. Conaway
Publicity	Rosanne Pack
Website	John Zinzi
Exec. Administrator	Anne Baker
Box Office Manager and Digital Designer	Liz Carlson

Video Created and Designed by Peter Flaherty

The Orchestra

Conductor/Piano	Jerry Birl
Synthesizer	Jan Glasscock
Violin	Diane Neutzling
Cello	Stephanie Tsantes
Reeds	Cody Leavel, Kevin Van Syckle
French Horn	Jill Mears
Bass	Melina Zeely

IMPORTANT INFO

- ~Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices prior to the start of the performance.
- ~Cameras (including cell phones) and other recording devices are strictly prohibited.
- ~Any recording of the production is a violation of United States copyright laws.
- ~Out of respect for our actors and your fellow theatregoers, please remain seated during the performance.
- ~Smoking is not permitted in our building.

The Cast

(in alphabetical order)

Luisa Forger

Steve Givens

Carter Huffman

Lorraine Leavel

Thomas Oxbrough

Abbey Ruark

Ashlie Sayler

Justin Truitt

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire and engage diverse communities through high-quality theatrical experiences with collaborative and educational opportunities for artistic expression fostering inclusivity and creativity while serving as a vital cultural resource that enriches the lives of our artists and audience.

Possum Point Players values diversity in casting, as well as all other areas of the organization.

Sondheim on Sondheim

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT ONE

<i>Vocal Overture</i>	All
<i>I'll Meet You at the Donut</i>	Justin
<i>Invocation/Forget War</i>	All
<i>Love Is In The Air</i>	Women
<i>Comedy Tonight</i>	All
<i>Take Me To The World</i>	Lorraine
<i>So Many People</i>	Luisa and Thomas
<i>Something's Coming</i>	All
<i>You Could Drive A Person Crazy</i>	Steve and Lorraine
<i>The Wedding Is Off</i>	Ashlie and Luisa
<i>Now You Know</i>	Abbey, with Ashlie, Luisa, and Lorraine
<i>Franklin Shepard, Inc.</i>	Carter, with Luisa and Justin
<i>Good Thing Going</i>	Luisa
<i>Waiting For The Girls Upstairs</i>	All
<i>Epiphany</i>	Steve
<i>Fosca's Entrance (I Read)</i>	Lorraine, with Thomas
<i>Is This What You Call Love?</i>	Thomas
<i>Loving You</i>	Lorraine
<i>Happiness</i>	All
<i>Ever After</i>	All
<i>A Weekend In The Country</i>	All
<i>Sunday</i>	All

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

Sondheim on Sondheim

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT TWO

<i>God</i>	All
<i>Losing My Mind/Not A Day Goes By</i>	Luisa and Lorraine
<i>Opening Doors</i>	Justin, Carter, Abbey, Steve, Lorraine, and Abbey
<i>The Best Thing That Ever Has Happened</i> ..	Steve and Luisa, Justin and Thomas
<i>Multitude of Amys</i>	Justin
<i>Happily Ever After</i>	Steve
<i>Being Alive</i>	Thomas
<i>Ah, But Underneath</i>	Luisa, with Thomas, Carter, and Justin
<i>In Buddy's Eyes</i>	Lorraine
<i>Something Just Broke</i>	All
<i>Gun Song</i>	Steve, Justin, Carter, Abbey, Ashlie, and Thomas
<i>Do I Hear A Waltz?</i>	Ashlie
<i>Smile, Girls</i>	Luisa, with Abbey, Thomas, Carter, Ashlie, and Justin
<i>Finishing The Hat</i>	Steve
<i>Beautiful</i>	Lorraine and Carter
<i>Children Will Listen</i> ..	Ashlie, Carter, Abbey, Justin, Steve, Luisa, and Thomas
<i>Send In The Clowns</i>	Lorraine
<i>Company/Old Friends</i>	All
<i>Anyone Can Whistle</i>	All

Meet the Artists

Jerry Birl is a native of the Lewes/Rehoboth Beach area. His past credits on- and off-stage include “Into the Woods,” “The Secret Garden,” “Annie Get Your Gun,” “Fiddler on the Roof,” “Scrooge!” “Oliver!” “South Pacific,” “Annie,” “City of Angels,” “White Christmas,” “Typhoon Judy,” “Seussical the Musical,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” “A Little Night Music,” “La Cage aux Folles,” “The Sound of Music,” “Sweeney Todd,” and many others. Jerry is the Minister of Music and Parish Administrator at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, where he has served since 2000.

Luisa Forger is thrilled to be returning to the Possum’s stage after appearing as a Cagelle in “La Cage aux Folles” this past fall. You may have also seen her as the Minstrel in “Something Rotten!” or as April in “Company.” A Camden-Wyoming resident, she sings with Kent Chamber Choir of Dover and works as a forensic DNA analyst on the Dover AFB. She’s excited to take on her third Sondheim show and all of its challenges with this amazingly talented cast. When not performing, Luisa can be found hanging out with her three cats or tackling a home project. She would like to thank her family and friends, especially JGA and SED, for all their love and support.

Steve Givens is a longtime Possums performer and volunteer. Originally from Seaford, he currently lives in Georgetown and works as an English teacher at Sussex Central. He was last seen on the Possums stage in “God of Carnage” and “Company.”

Carter Huffman is a 17-year-old senior at Sussex Academy and is thrilled to be back on the Possum stage! Carter has performed in several local theatre productions. Some of his favorite past roles include: Milton Theatre’s “The Sound of Music” (Friedrich), Sussex Academy’s “The Lightning Thief” (Percy Jackson), “Ride the Cyclone” (Noel), “Carrie” (Tommy Ross), Clear Space Theatre’s “Annie” (Burt Healy), and Possum Point Players’ production of “Little Women” (Laurie). Carter would like to thank his Mom and Dad, family, friends, and his mentors and teachers for all their love and support.

Lorraine Leavel has been performing throughout Delaware for more than 20 years. She is thrilled to be singing so much wonderful music by her favorite composer. Lorraine currently serves as the theatre teacher for Lake Forest High School, as well as the Possum Juniors’s supervisor. Favorite roles include Mrs Lovett (“Sweeney Todd”), both The Witch and the Baker’s Wife (“Into the Woods”), Charlotte (“A Little Night Music”), Margaret White (“Carrie”), Nancy (“Oliver!”), Betty Haynes (“White Christmas”), and Mother (“Ragtime”). Lorraine lives in Milford with her amazing husband Cody (who’s playing in the pit!) and two goofy dogs, Sutton and Thea.

Thomas Oxbrough is the Choir Director and Assisting Marching Band Director for Sussex Central High School in Georgetown. Born and raised in Dagsboro, currently residing in Millsboro, Thomas earned his Bachelor’s of Music with a concentration in vocal music education away in the mountains of James Madison University. Thomas has musically directed shows, including “Disaster: The Musical” and “Ride The Cyclone,” but “Sondheim on Sondheim” is his first show at Possum Point Players!

Meet the Artists

Abbey Ruark is thrilled to be a part of this production of “Sondheim on Sondheim.” You may have just seen Abbey in “The 39 Steps” this past June! She’s had a blast doing what she loves with new friends and old friends alike. Fun fact: the first show she ever performed in was Stephen Sondheim’s “Into The Woods” twelve years ago! Other selected credits include “Little Women,” “Addams Family,” “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” and “Little Shop of Horrors.” Love to Mom, Dad, Chase and Jhony!

Ashlie Saylor is 37 years old and lives in Seaford. You may have most recently seen her as Marmee in Possum’s rendition of “Little Women.” She is so stoked that you have come to join this merry company of Sondheim lovers. She would like to thank her loving husband and cutie patootie son for all the support in pursuing her passions.

Chase Schirmer, 36, is a Georgetown native who came to Possums in 2008 to assist with lighting for “A Christmas Carol.” Volunteering his technical skills, Chase eventually became the chair of SFX and lighting and for the last nine years has been fine-tuning and improving Possum systems. He hopes that every show at Possums is heard and seen, so that our audiences can enjoy every performance.

Justin Truitt is super excited to be back on the Possum Point stage! His favorite Sondheim musical is “Assassins.” Some of his favorite credits include Audrey II (“Little Shop of Horrors”), Shrek (“Shrek: the Musical”), Beetlejuice (“Beetlejuice Jr”), and Fred Anderson (“A Christmas Carol: The Musical”). Justin is currently pursuing a degree in Music Education with a vocal concentration at Delaware State University.

Who’s Who



Jerry Birl



Luisa Forger



Steve Givens



Carter Huffman



Lorraine Leavel



Thomas Oxbridge



Abbey Ruark



Ashlie Saylor



Chase Schirmer



Justin Truitt

Sondheim on Sondheim

Shows Represented

By George (1946), performed at the George School:

“I’ll Meet You at the Donut”

Saturday Night (1954), unproduced until 1997, book by Julius J. Epstein and Philip G. Epstein:

“So Many People”

West Side Story (1957), music by Leonard Bernstein, book by Arthur Laurents

“Something’s Coming”

Gypsy (1959), music by Jule Styne, book by Arthur Laurents:

“Smile, Girls” ‡

The Frogs (1974), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1962):

“Invocation/Forget War”

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum (1962), book by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart

“Love Is in the Air” ‡

“Comedy Tonight”

Anyone Can Whistle (1964), book by Arthur Laurents:

“Anyone Can Whistle”

Do I Hear a Waltz? (1965), music by Richard Rodgers, book by Arthur Laurents:

“Do I Hear a Waltz?”

“*ABC Stage 67*” television series, Season 1, Episode 9: “Evening Primrose,” originally broadcast November 16, 1966; written by John Collier & James Goldman

“Take Me to the World”

Company (1970), book by George Furth

“You Could Drive a Person Crazy”

“The Wedding Is Off” ‡

“Multitudes of Amys” ‡

“Happily Ever After” ‡

“Being Alive”

“Company”

Follies (1971), book by James Goldman

“Ah, But Underneath” (London Production, 1987)

“Waiting for the Girls Upstairs”

“Losing My Mind”

“In Buddy’s Eyes”

A Little Night Music (1973), book by Hugh Wheeler

“Send in the Clowns”

“A Weekend in the Country”

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Shows Represented

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street (1979), book by Hugh Wheeler
“Epiphany”

Merrily We Roll Along (1981), book by George Furth

“Franklin Shepard, Inc.”

“Good Thing Going”

“Now You Know”

“Opening Doors”

“Not a Day Goes By”

“Old Friends”

Sunday in the Park with George (1984), book by James Lapine

“Finishing the Hat”

“Sunday”

“Beautiful”

Into the Woods (1987), book by James Lapine

“Children Will Listen”

“Ever After”

Assassins (1990), book by John Weidman

“Something Just Broke”

“The Gun Song”

Passion (1994), book by James Lapine

“Fosca’s Entrance (I Read)”

“Is This What You Call Love?”

“Loving You”

“Happiness”

Road Show (2008), book by John Weidman, formerly titled ***Bounce*** (2003)

“The Best Thing That Ever Has Happened”

Specifically for ***Sondheim on Sondheim*** (2010)

“God”

‡ cut from the original production of the show

Sondheim on Sondheim

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