

Possum Point Players

presents

By arrangement with Fiery Angel Limited

THE 39 STEPS

Adapted by

Patrick Barlow

From the novel by

John Buchan

From the movie by

Alfred Hitchcock

Directed by

Braeden Swain

From an original concept by Simon Corble and Nobby Dimon.

Presented through special arrangement with CONCORD THEATRICALS.

Our programs are supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on DelawareScene.com.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Failing Successfully. This is the Mantra that our Merry band of Clowns has been following for the last few months. We have taken the time to dive into the world of Clowning and let it inform not only the performance of the actors but the direction of the show itself.

In researching and reading this play countless times, I came to the fundamental realization that the only important part of this play's plot is that it exists. The adapter chooses to use the plot as a tool simply to move from one comedic moment to the next. In this an unintentional trap is laid that many productions have fallen into, where the exact same play is staged in the exact same way over and over and over again.

In an effort to not put up something I had seen many times before, I decided to return to basics. It was as if it had slapped me in the face leaving a powder white hand print, Clowns! Not only was there an implicit invitation to clown in this production, but it was almost mandatory. I suddenly understood that what I didn't like about previous productions was that the clowning seemed limited to the two clowns. It needed to expand to the rest of the cast.

These clowns have worked incredibly hard to bring you the product you see today! I'm immensely proud of them, and they deserve nothing less than our laughter. If nothing else, I can guarantee this will be the most unique production of ***The 39 Steps*** you have ever seen.

So please sit back, laugh till your sides hurt, and hopefully, you will see a Successful Failure of a show!

Braeden Swain

T
f
n
C
V
tl
S
b
F
N
C
P
N
T
M
T
C
S
M

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our newest endeavor, *The 39 Steps*. I clearly remember the first time I saw the Hitchcock movie, and I was hooked. The stage production of this show is a little different than the movie, adding many more comedic effects. Make sure to enhance your experience by trying one of our signature drinks at the bar!



We recently updated our mission statement and it now reads “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.” This is what we are about, and it is our driving force.

We encourage you to join our theatre community and get on stage, help out with a show, or let your friends and neighbors know about us. Please see the box office or visit our website at possumpointplayers.org for opportunities.

On that note, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank our devoted community of patrons and volunteers. Your steadfast support has been the bedrock of our organization, letting us live for over 50 years in Sussex County, Delaware. The enthusiasm and commitment that you display in attending our productions are what keep our organization focused and pursuing what we are passionate about. Good theatre. I walked into a theatre over 15 years ago and never thought I would find friends and people I consider family now as well. I also never envisioned myself as president of an organization with so much history and such incredible artists and audiences, but I have received so much more than I could have expected and am truly grateful.

I am excited about the upcoming year and the new opportunities that are happening right here. Things like the Motown Fundraiser coming in August of this year and the Possum Juniors show WCKY, a show directed by and acted by exclusively those in our Possum Juniors Program, leave me encouraged. And those are in addition to the 2 remaining main-stage productions coming this year.

As we set forth on this thrilling adventure together, I eagerly anticipate sitting in the audience with you to watch our friends, neighbors, and family members entertain and give refuge to themselves and us alike. 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

PRODUCTION STAFF & CREW

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Director | <i>Braeden Swain</i> |
| Assistant Director | <i>Natalie Howard</i> |
| Stage Manager | <i>Blair Williams</i> |
| Assistant Stage Manager | <i>Lauren McClain</i> |
| Lighting Design | <i>Gage Nordberg</i> |
| Lighting Mentor | <i>Logan Hunter</i> |
| Sound Design | <i>Colin Pyle</i> |
| Set Design | <i>Fred Dean</i> |
| Hair & Make-Up Design | <i>Autumn Birney</i> |
| Properties Mistress | <i>Donna Flomp</i> |
| Costume Design | <i>Matthew Hatfield</i> |
| Set Construction Crew | <i>Fred Dean, Shepard Cook, George DeSantis</i> <i>Les Ferguson, Jim Hartzell, Braeden Swain, Anna Toyna, Melody Westphal</i> |
| Stage Crew | <i>Gavin Rineer</i> |
| Cover Art | <i>Erin Schechtman</i> |
| Publicity | <i>Rosanne Pack</i> |
| Program | <i>Dawn P. Conaway</i> |
| Website | <i>John Zinzi</i> |
| Executive Administrator | <i>Anne Baker</i> |
| Administrative Assistant | <i>Michael Short</i> |

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.*

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

THE CAST

Richard Hannay **Jordan Kilgore**
Annabella Schmidt/Margaret/Pamela **Abbey Ruark**
Clown 1 **Matthew Hatfield**
Clown 2 **Devon Spencer Lynch**
Swing **Jayson Felker**

WHO'S WHO



Jayson Felker



Matthew Hatfield



Jordan Kilgore



Devon Spencer Lynch



Abbey Ruark

Together
We can make a difference!
PLEASE SUPPORT
POSSUM POINT PLAYERS

A promotional graphic for Possum Point Players. The background is dark with a blue spotlight effect. The text is in white and black, with some words in italics. The bottom of the graphic shows rows of theater seats.

THE 39 STEPS

SCENIC BREAKDOWN

Act I

I'm sure something happens.

Act II

OH MY GOD!!!

There will be one 15 minute intermission.

PLEASE NOTE: Synthetic fog is used during this performance.

Special Thanks

Anne Baker
Shepard Cook
Jayson Felker
Joyce Felton
Les Ferguson
Fred Dean
George DeSantis
Steven Dow
Steve Givens
Susannah Griffin
Jim Hartzell
Rosanne Pack
Set Contruction Crew
Chase Schirmer
Michael Short
Meaghan Swain@meoghanswainphotography
Anna Toyona
Melody Westphal

MEET THE ARTISTS

Jayson Felker (*Swing*) is a Delaware-based actor and theatre-artist, thrilled to be joining friends and frequent collaborators in this production. Previous main-stage productions include *Wait Until Dark* and *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus*. Looking to broaden horizons as an artist, Jayson has also been involved in various technical and creative roles such as stage management, soundboard operation, and most recently working as a dramaturge for *Little Women*. A special thanks to everyone who has made this process such a pleasure, and to you, yes you, the patron reading this.

Matthew Hatfield (*Clown 1*) is very happy to be seen again on the Possums main stage! Matthew is a Delaware based actor and designer whose work was last seen in *Little Women* as costume designer. Last seen on stage in *Oklahoma!*, some of his favorite credits include *Wait Until Dark* (Carlino), *The Life And Adventures of Santa Claus* (Claus), *Noises Off!* (Garry/Roger), *Death of a Salesman* (Happy Loman), *Into the Woods* (Cinderellas Prince), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Motel the Tailor). Matthew is a founding member of the Powderkeg Theater Company and costume designed their inaugural production of *Gruesome Playground Injuries*. When not on stage, Matthew is scouring the streets looking for a raccoon that will adopt him and allow him to become the raccoon king. He would like to thank Braeden, Natalie, Blair and the rest of the cast and crew for creating such a safe and fun space to play and explore.

Jordan Kilgore (*Richard Hannay*) is grateful to once again be working with the biggest clowns he knows— his friends. He's been seen here at PPP in *Little Women* (Prof. Bhaer), *Calendar Girls* (Lawrence), and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Justin), and nearby at the Milton Theatre in *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Priest), *Jersey Boys* (Bob Crewe), *The Wizard of Oz* (Tin Man), and *Cabaret* (Cliff). Other recent credits include *The Tempest* (Prospero), and *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy, Really* (Dracula). Jordan is also a professional voice actor and audiobook narrator. Thanks to Braeden and the entire team for all their time, efforts, and buffoonery. Enjoy the show! www.jordankilgore.com



MEET THE ARTISTS

Devon Spencer Lynch (*Clown 2*) (*he/him*) is a freelance Musical Theatre Performance coach, teaching lessons in Salisbury, MD. He has a BFA in Musical Theatre from The University of the Arts, where he received the Ira Brind 'Excellence in Musical Theatre' Award. Selected Performance credits: Possum Point Players - *Heroes of the Fourth Turning* (Kevin) and *Into the Woods* (Jack); UArts - *A New Brain* (Gordon), *Parade* (Britt Craig), *Myths & Hymns* ("Hero & Leander") and *Ride the Cyclone* (Noel); Fultontown Theatre Company - *The Tempest* (King Alonso); Milton Theater - *Cabaret* (Bobby), *Spring Awakening* (Georg), *The Rocky Horror Show* ('22) (Riff Raff), *Legally Blonde* (Aaron Schultz), and most notably, *Anything Goes* (Moonface Martin). Love to Mom, Logan, Peyton, Jordan, and Saga.

Abbey Ruark (*Annabella, Margaret, Pamela*) is thrilled to be a part of this production of *The 39 Steps*. You may have just seen Abbey as Jo March in *Little Women* this past April! Quite a juxtaposition from that role, this is her first time acting in a non-musical production, ever! This process has been a challenge for her, and she's excited to display what she's learned about the art of clowning on the Possum stage. Abbey would like to thank her fellow castmates (and best friends) for always laughing with her, and director Braeden Swain for teaching her how to fail successfully. Other selected credits include *Into the Woods*, *Addams Family*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Love you Mom, Dad, Chase and Jhony!

**We love sharing the
inside scoop with you!!**

Season Updates
Videos and Pictures

You 



 Visit us on
Facebook

Join us online!

possumpointplayers.org