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## What's Next for Lewis & Young





Playbill designed by Holly Sherwood


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LEWIS & YOUNG ENTERTAINMENT

**Presents**

A heart-warming, Thanksgiving comedy that any family can relate to.



# A nice FAMILY GATHERING

by Phil Olson

## November 13th - 22nd

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# Lewis & Young Entertainment
PRESENTS

# A nice FAMILY GATHERING
by Phil Olson

**with**

Nick DiMartino  Holly Sherwood  Rex Young

Alan Stewart  Rylee Vazquez-Reichard  Bailey DeMilt

Harry Lewis


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**The Production Team**

Director..... Tim Stuart
Producer.....Rex Young
Stage Manager..... Kim Stuart
Production Assistant..... Rachel Vazquez
Set & Technical Design..... Harry Lewis
Construction Coordinator..... Gary Boesch
Set Construction..... Harry Lewis, Tim Stuart, Austin Bentley & Rex Young
Set Painting..... Holly Sherwood & Tim Stuart
Wardrobe, Decor & Props..... Cast & Crew
Advertising..... Rachel Vazquez
Usher..... Nelson Rodriguez
Printing..... Lordco Pack-Ship-Print

# Director's Notes

I am thrilled to be directing another production for Lewis and Young Entertainment, especially since this will allow our usual director, Harry Lewis, to work his magic onstage for a change. Plus, for the first time, he will share a mainstage performance with his cohort in crime, Rex Young.

It's been said that a successful show is ninety percent in casting. We all work amazingly well together because we all believe in and approach every production as true artists. It is always a collaboration between the actors and the director, as they flesh out their characters during the rehearsal process. My job as director is to ensure that everything flows well so that you, our audience, may be swept away within the story.

And this story is wonderfully written. I don't want to reveal too much, but this presents the Lundeen family's first holiday gathering since the untimely death of the patriarch of the family. You may see some parallels with your own family and may perceive that the lessons learned by the Lundeen family are truly universal to us all.

Thank you all for allowing us the opportunity to share this with you.

***Tim Stuart, Director***

# About the Playwright

P**hil Olson** grew up in Edina, Minnesota, home of the first indoor mall. His father's grandparents came over from Norway and homesteaded a farm north of Fargo, North Dakota. His mother's grandparents also came over from Norway and ended up in Virginia, Minnesota; the iron range. Mr. Olson played varsity football, basketball and track at Edina East High School, winning the Minnesota State High School Track Meet in the discus. Mr. Olson was recently inducted into the Edina Athletic Hall of Fame.After high school, he went on to Dartmouth College, where he majored in mathematics, was All Ivy, All New England and All East in Track, and played tight end on the Ivy League Championship Football team. After graduating from Dartmouth, Mr. Olson tried out for the Chicago Bears. After his "summer with the Bears," he went on to receive an MBA from The University of Chicago and pursued a business career while writing stage and screenplays.Phil currently lives in Los Angeles where he writes and produces plays. He has 19 published plays that have had over 600 productions in 45 states and 11 countries. Thirteen of his plays are published by the Samuel French iprint of Concord Theatricals, including: *Don't Hug Me, A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol, A Don't Hug Me County Fair, Don't Hug Me I'm Pregnant, Don't Hug Me We're Married, Don't Hug Me We're Family, Mom's Gift, A Nice Family Gathering, A Nice Family Christmas, Polyester The Musical, A Twisted Christmas Carol, Birthday Club* and *Love...or Best Offer*. Mr. Olson has written 7 award-winning plays set in small towns in Minnesota.His play *A Nice Family Gathering* has been optioned to be made into a feature film. His play *Mom's Gift* was produced at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester Hills, MI, starring Cindy Williams (Laverne & Shirley). As a script doctor, he's re-written three movies that have been produced, as well as thirteen original screenplays. He's also sold two screenplays.

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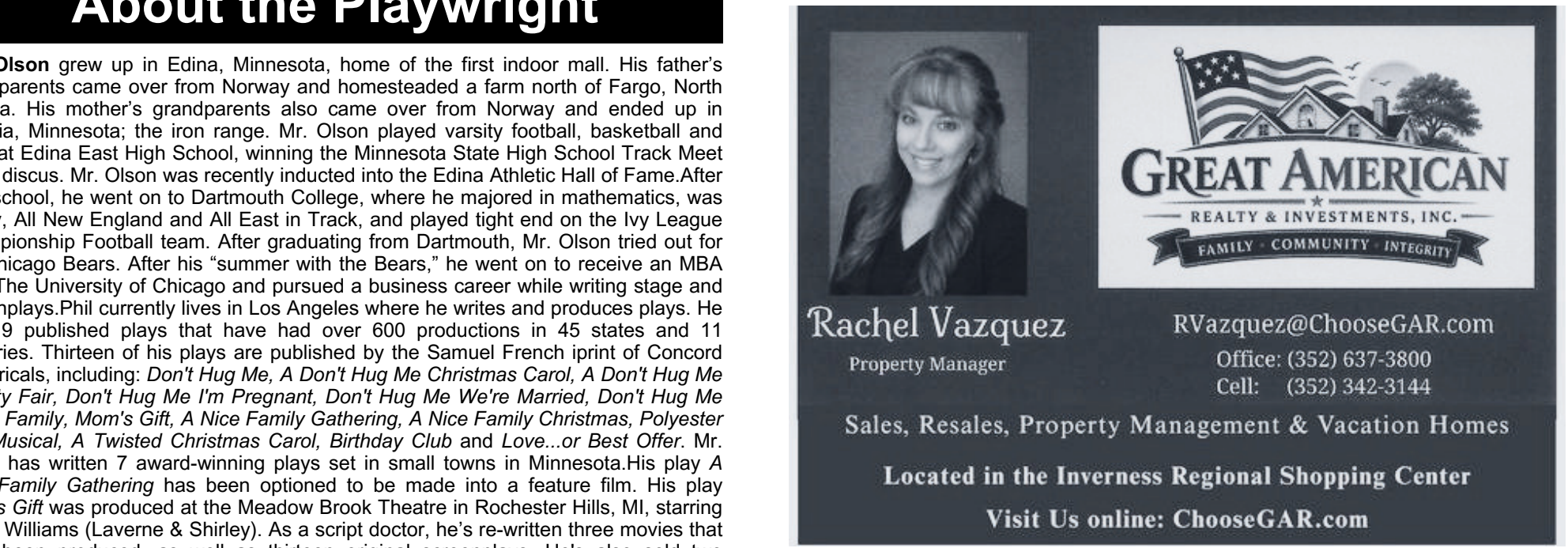



**Tim Stuart** ***Director***

Stepping out from behind the curtain and away from his Stage Manager duties, Tim is returning to the front of house as Director. A 50-year veteran of live theatre, Lewis and Young are happy to have him as a core member in the position of Production Manager. For those who follow LYE productions will remember Tim treading the boards as Sam in *Amy's Wish* and/or Vinnie in *The Odd Couple*. Originally from the great state of Tennessee (birthplace of Davy Crocket, you know) he retired from the Citrus County School System, after a 39-year career. To aid in set construction and to ultimately reflect the actual sets as closely as possible, Tim creates 1/12 scale models of our sets. You can check out his handiwork at the back of the auditorium.



**Kim Stuart** ***Stage Manager***

Working her magic once again backstage, Kim is Lewis and Young's official stage-managing Den Mother. Working at a level of efficiency seldom seen in theater, she deserves a special award for "herding cats" which is easier than managing actors during a show. Those patrons familiar with LYE productions would no doubt recognize her from her onstage work as Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* and Dot in *Savannah Sipping Society*. She is, according to LYE producers, "fast becoming indispensable and one of the reasons that we can put on such great shows". When not gracing the theater with her presence, Kim can be found playing Grandma/Damaw to her seven grandkids and playing the piano at the First Baptist Church of Inverness.



**Rachel Vazquez** ***Production Assistan***t

Taking a short one show sabbatical from scorching the stage, Rachel has decided to impress us with her technical skills by running the soundboard for this show. Still recovering from her starring role in "A Bad Year for Tomatoes", she is currently in rehearsal for January's *Arsenic and Old Lace*. When not being managed on stage (we sometimes need to use a lion tamer's whip) this native Floridian is a professional Property Manager.

# TIME

*The Present*

*Thanksgiving Day.*

# PLACE

*The living room and front porch*

*of the Lundeen Family.*

# ACT I

Scene 1: *Thanksgiving Day morning*

Scene 2: *The same day, a little later, before dinner*

***- INTERMISSION -***

# ACT II

*Just after dinner.*

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# THE CAST OF *A Nice Family Gathering*
(In Order of Appearance)



**Nick DiMartino** *as Carl*

Nick is excited to return to the stage in *A Nice Family Gathering*, his third production with LYE. Offstage, Nick serves as the Director of Operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Citrus and Marion Counties, where he proudly helps build Great Futures for local youth. Nick's favorite role, however, is being a dad to his three amazing children, Kendall, Natalie, and Nicholas, who continue to be his biggest supporters and occasionally his toughest critics! When he's not working, rehearsing, or spending time with family, Nick enjoys sports, 3D printing, a good TV series, chicken wings, and, for reasons nobody can quite explain, bananas. Nick would like to thank his family for sharing him with the stage once again!



**Holly Sherwood** *as Mom*

Originally from the Midwest, Holly performed with the Kansas City Ballet in her early career, but gave up dancing for her true calling, acting. Having appeared in over fifty stage productions and several short films, Holly is one of the area's busiest talents. Throughout her career, she has played roles as diverse as the hell hound in *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* to her triumphant role as the "Storyteller" in the one-woman show, *Every Brilliant Thing*. As part of LYE's inner circle (we're not a cult), she fills many roles, such as Executive Secretary, Graphic Designer, and Keeper of the Divine Email List (not a cult!). She would like to thank her wonderful fiancé and fur babies for their love and patience.



**Rex Young** *as Dad*

Resurrected to strut the boards once again, Rex is amazed by how much that first-aid course he took in the 90's is helping him play a doctor. The "Young" (and pretty) half of Lewis and Young Entertainment, he is excited to be onstage with his friend, business partner and sometime landlord Harry Lewis for the first time in an LYE full production. In their ten years working together, Rex and Harry have produced some truly great shows with the help of their amazing crew. Rex would like to dedicate this show to all the fabulous talent he has had the privilege to work with over the years.



**Alan Stewart** *as Michael*

Jumping right back onstage after his amazing performance as Tom in *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*, Alan is once again here to bring his scene stealing energy to the Valerie Theatre. Originally from South Jersey he has traveled the country performing but feels he has finally found a home here in Florida… and a weird theatrical family called Lewis and Young Entertainment. Alan was recruited by LYE not just for his acting abilities, but for his intense stage presence. Said Harry Lewis (LYE Producer), "Alan approaches whatever part he plays with a focus and intensity that makes even the most boring character steal the eye of the audience".

# THE CAST OF *A Nice Family Gathering*
(In Order of Appearance)



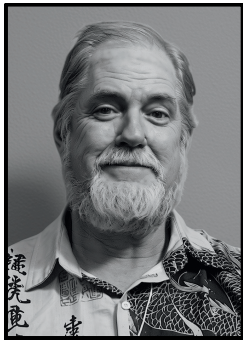
**Rylee Vazquez-Reichard** *as Jill*

Rylee has been performing with Lewis & Young Entertainment since 2024, and what started as a love for the stage has grown into something truly special. This group has become like family, creating a bond that goes far beyond the spotlight. In a show centered around family and Thanksgiving, Rylee is reminded that family isn't just who you're related to, but also the people who stand beside you, share in your laughter, and make every moment memorable. The love and genuine connections shared offstage shine through every performance, making the onstage chemistry as real as it gets. Rylee is incredibly grateful to be part of this special family and wishes everyone a Thanksgiving filled with love, laughter, and gratitude!



**Bailey DeMilt** *as Stacy*

While this is Bailey's first performance with Lewis and Young, it is not her first performance at the Valerie Theatre. She was last seen on stage as Barbara Smith in *Run For Your Wife*, and for one night only as Vixen #2 in *Dracula*. She has also participated several times with the Valerie Players backstage, stage managing *The Addams Family*, *Dracula*, and *Something's Afoot*. She can also regularly be found both backstage and onstage at the Art Center of Citrus County with their Theater department. No matter what she does, Bailey always brings her best to every production she is working on, and she is thrilled to be a part of this one!



**Harry Lewis** *as Jerry*

Harry (the younger and employable half) of Lewis and Young Entertainment is thrilled to be on stage at last with his business partner (and alleged henchman) in an LYE stage play. Taking a step back from his directorial duties, Harry saw an amazing opportunity to exercise his acting chops with his much loved and talented crew. Born right here in Citrus County, he is a business owner, a supporter of the local arts community, and proud nerd. Drawing on his many years of theatre experience (and formal education), Harry has crafted many of the area's best productions including On Golden Pond, Steel Magnolias, and The Odd Couple. He would like to thank his wonderful wife and many poodles for their support.

*** Kim Stuart** as the voice of *Mrs. Enquist*

# A Special Thanks To:

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