

Marathon Community Theatre presents



WAIT UNTIL DARK

By Frederick Knott
adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher

Director: Michael Wagner

STARRING: Noelle Belden | Lee Lawson | Gerrit Hale | Phil Vachon |
Ron Pyron | Landry Sayer | Journey Nichols-Jones

"WAIT UNTIL DARK (HATCHER)" is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the final Main Stage Production of the 2025–2026 MCT season! This year we expanded our season by adding a fifth show and two matinee performances for each production. We are grateful for the incredible support from our community and are already looking forward to an exciting 2026–2027 season.

Become a member today and enjoy discounts on tickets for all of our main stage shows that feature a diverse selection of entertainment showcasing the gifts of our local talents. We are a volunteer organization and welcome everyone who wants to become involved—on stage, behind the scenes, or in the front of the house—there are so many opportunities!

Our website, www.marathontheater.org, has all the latest information about upcoming events. A summer musical program for school-aged children is organized in June. Check us out on Instagram and Facebook as well!

Another benefit of MCT membership is access to free dance classes for all levels of experience including tap, ballet, jazz, belly dance and more. Dancers are highlighted in our summer Tah-Dance showcase.

Our historic building houses both Marathon Community Theatre and Marathon Community Cinema, and we are working diligently to pay off the loan for our new roof. Please consider a donation to help us continue to provide access to the arts here in our hometown. As the current president of the MCT board, I take great pride in our connection to our local community and businesses. On behalf of the board, I thank you very much for your patronage and encourage you to become a member to enjoy all of the experiences we have to offer.

Sincerely,

Linda Schaefer, President



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MARATHON COMMUNITY THEATRE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

STARRING

Noelle Belden
as Susan

Lee Lawson
as Roat

Gerrit Hale
as Sam

Phil Vachon
as Mike

Ron Pyron
as Carlino

Landry Sayer
as Gloria

Journey Nichols-Jones
as Gloria

Director:
Mike Wagner

Assistant Director:
Bev Fowers

Stage Manager/ Asst. Producer:
Zulma Perez

Producer:
Claudia McEwen

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Richard E Warner, PA



By Fredrick Knott
adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher



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production is strictly
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"WAIT UNTIL DARK (HATCHER) is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)"

FREDERICK MAJOR PAULL KNOTT

(28 August 1916 – 17 December 2002) was an English playwright and screenwriter known for complex crime-related plots. Although he was a reluctant writer and completed a small number of plays, two have become well-known: the London-based stage thriller *Dial M For Murder*, later filmed in Hollywood by Alfred Hitchcock, and the 1966 play *Wait Until Dark*, which was adapted into a Hollywood film directed by Terance Young. He also wrote the Broadway mystery *Write Me A Murder*.



JEFFREY HATCHER

(born 1957) is a much-produced American playwright and screenwriter. He wrote the stage play *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, which he later adapted into a screenplay, shortened to just *Stage Beauty* (2004). He also co-wrote the stage adaptation of *Tuesdays with Morrie* with author Mitch Alborn, and *Three Viewings*, a comedy consisting of three monologues - each of which takes place in a funeral home. He wrote the screenplay *Casanova* for director Lasse Hailstrom as well as the screenplay for *The Dutchess* (2008). He has also written for the Peter Falk TV series *Columbo* and E! Entertainment Television.



SYNOPSIS

In 1944 Greenwich Village, Susan Hendrix, a blind but capable woman, is imperiled by a trio of men in her own apartment. Can she outwit them? In a thrilling adaptation, Jeffrey Hatcher has created a work that modernizes and honors Frederick Knott's original text. As the climax builds, Susan discovers that her blindness just might be the key to her escape, but she and her tormentors must wait until dark to play out this classic thriller's chilling conclusion.

History

Opened on Broadway at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre on February 2, 1966. Directed by Arthur Penn, the production starred Lee Remick and Robert Duvall. The play premiered in London at the Strand Theatre on July 27, 1966, directed by Anthony Sharp and starring Honor Blackman and Peter Sallis. The 1967 film adaptation, directed by Terence Young, starred Audrey Hepburn and Alan Arkin.

Setting: A basement apartment of an old brownstone in Greenwich Village

Time: October 1944

Act One

Scene 1: Friday evening

Scene 2: Saturday afternoon

Act Two

Scene 1: About an hour later

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Mike Wagner

Assistant Director: Bev Fowers

Producer: Claudia McEwen

Asst. Producer: Zulma Perez

Stage Manager: Zulma Perez

Set Design and Set Build: Karen Diehl

Lighting Tech: Aubrey Anthony Kehn

Sound Tech: Sam Merrell

Prop Mistress: Karen Foley

Costume Mistress: Riet Steinmetz

Costume Seamstress: Terry Israel

Makeup: Claudia McEwen

Photography: Larry Benvenuti

Videography: Bob Young

Gallery Music: Jackie O'Neil

THE CAST AND CREW OF WAIT UNTIL DARK EXTEND AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

Brian & Karen Witte: Thank you for donating the Venetian blinds!

Nearly New- Lynn Kirby: Thank you for supplying important pieces of our set décor!

John Schaefer: Thank you for donating props & set decor and helping as a production assistant!

Shannon Wiley: Thank you for creating "Geraldine."

Waterfront Playhouse: Thank you for lending us the fridge!

CAST



NOELLE BELDEN (*Susan*)

Noelle would like to say thank you for coming to MCT's production of *Wait Until Dark*. She is so appreciative of your support of this mighty community theater. Noelle has been involved in a couple of shows at MCT, the most recent being *Unnecessary Farce* and *Scapino!* In her spare time outside of theater, Noelle works as an educator and trainer at Dolphin Research Center, takes care of her senior cats and watches true crime documentaries. Noelle also enjoys traveling with her best friend SK.



LEE LAWSON (*Roat*)

After trading the mountains of Tennessee for the waters of the Florida Keys — and following his service in both the U.S. Marine Corps and the U.S. Army — Lee made his stage debut as Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. His theater credits also include Octavia in *Scapino*, Officer Trotter in *The Mousetrap*, Mark in *Beer for Breakfast*, Felix in *The Odd Couple*, as well as numerous appearances in murder mystery productions. Lee can also be seen in the upcoming TV series *Mile Zeroes*, written by Amber Nolan.

CAST



GERRIT HALE (*Sam*)

Gerrit arrived in the Keys from Southern California after unexpectedly discovering Marathon while cruising the Intracoastal Waterway — “We came by mistake, but stayed on purpose.” He made his Marathon Community Theatre debut as the crusty Mr. McCall in the holiday dinner murder mystery, then worked backstage as a phantom in *The Rocky Horror Show*, stepping in for two performances as Riff Raff. He next appeared onstage in *The Odd Couple* as Vinnie, and later served as assistant producer for *Little Shop of Horrors*. Gerrit and his wife, Nancy Myers, are enthusiastic volunteers who have embraced the theatre as part of their extended family and look forward to many more productions and community events ahead.



PHIL VACHON (*Mike*)

Phil is a busy trophy husband, father of two lovely daughters, and grandfather to an awesome grandson. After retiring from years of service in the Conch Republic Marine Army (CRMA) as a Lieutenant, he and his fantastic wife Carol settled in Marathon. They are now living their best lives doing volunteer work at the community cinema & theatre and were recently recognized as *Unsung Heroes*. Phil also works part-time at Boot Key Diesel. This is his first time performing on stage at MCT, as well as his first performance in 48 years.

CAST



RON PYRON (*Carlino*)

Ron Pyron is a local filmmaker/editor who enjoys creating art, playing music, sailing, flying and exploring his creativity with other humans. Ron is a real legend in his own mind and is regularly mistaken for an adult merely because of his age. He refuses to take life seriously and he often laughs profusely while simultaneously displaying magnificent flatulence when others get caught taking life seriously. Ron is also the recipient of many non-serious awards for his lack of seriousness and he vows to stay hungry for even less seriousness in the foreseeable future.



LANDRY SAYER (*Gloria*)

Landry is a 5th grader at Stanley Switlik Elementary who has lived in Marathon her whole life. She's already had plenty of experience on stage, acting in school productions of Willy Wonka (Matilda), Frozen (Olaf), and most recently Morticia in The Addams Family. She also has performed in several variety shows over the years at MCT. She is looking forward to sharing the role of Gloria with her classmate, Journey, in this production. She would like to dedicate this performance to her family and especially to Poppy!



JOURNEY NICHOLS-JONES (*Gloria*)

Journey has been a part of theater for nearly five years. She has taken part in many different roles here at the local community theater and at Switlik. Theater is a huge part of her life, and she loves being involved. Theater is where she truly shines bright. She is in fifth grade going into sixth and plans to continue her theater career over in middle school and here at MCT. She is a star on and off stage. She wants to thank everyone for their continued support, and she hopes everyone enjoys the show.

CREW



MIKE WAGNER (*Director*)

Mike is thrilled to be directing his second main-stage production at MCT. He has appeared on the MCT stage in *A Few Good Men*, *Sleeping Indoors* and *Harvey*, to name a few. Mike turned his talents to directing with the readings of *The Drawer Boy*, *Love Letters* and the main stage production of *Scapino*. Mike lives on his sailboat with his “Admiral” Bev.



BEV FOWERS (*Assistant Director*)

Bev is pleased to again take up the mantle of Assistant Director for this classic thriller. Bev has worked backstage at MCT for many seasons on such productions as *Tuna Christmas*, *The 39 Steps*, *Sleeping Indoors* and *A Few Good Men*. She lives on her sailboat with her “Captain” Mike.



CLAUDIA MCEWEN (*Producer*)

Claudia is a retired long-term Marathon resident and has been a member of MCT since the old days, putting on shows like *South Pacific* at the old Indies Inn (1981). She has been the “make-up lady” backstage for many years, including years of working her magic in the Key Colony Beach City Hall parking lot and the post office there. She has held numerous positions on the board of directors over the years.

CREW



ZULMA PEREZ (*Stage Manager/ Asst. Producer*)

Zulma burst onto the community theater scene at MCT in 2002 with Applause — and yes, she’s been chasing that applause ever since. After a brief hiatus (during which she heroically perfected the arts of relaxing, overthinking and talking herself back into theater), she is thrilled to return to the glorious chaos of stage life. She’s excited to be back in the hustle, the bustle and the “wait, is that my cue?” moments that make theater feel like home.



RIET STEINMETZ (*Costume Mistress*)

Outside of other stage production-related roles such as producer, prop person, set dresser, etc., Riet has enjoyed helping out with costumes for many years, which at times can be as entertaining as the show itself. It has been a fun creative season with lots of camaraderie and laughs. She hopes many theater friends in the audience decide to join the fun and get involved in volunteering in one way or another. Just talk to a member or call the theater. Applause, applause!



KAREN FOLEY (*Prop Mistress*)

This is Karen’s fifth season volunteering at MCT. Finding and making props are definitely her favorite! It’s a treat being involved with such creative and fun people. We are always looking for “prop” helpers. She encourages those who love theater to come out and volunteer. Karen lives with husband Peter (a fine set builder /carpenter and fisherman) and two spoiled rotten pups, and works part time at Fisherman’s Hospital.

CREW



SAM MERRILL (*Sound Tech*)

Sam Merrell has lived in the Florida Keys for eight years after relocating from Texas following Hurricane Irma. A graduate of the Art Institute of Austin, he served six years in the U.S. Army as a combat documentation production specialist, developing strong visual and technical skills. He is now a Media Coordinator at Dolphin Research Center. With a background in photography, videography and design, Sam transitioned into theater as a stagehand for Disenchanted, Stage Manager for Nunsense and The Rocky Horror Show, set design assistant for Wizard of Oz, puppeteer for Audrey 2 in Little Shop of Horrors and continues to explore all positions in the theater.



AUBREY ANTHONY KEHN (*Lighting Tech*)

After performing in several of MCT's recent productions, including Little Shop of Horrors in February and March, Anthony is excited to take a seat in the booth with their best friend Sam to make this production of Wait Until Dark come to life! Anthony minored in Theatre at Trinity University, where they gained experience in all aspects of theatre both on- and off-stage, and previously operated lights for MCT's production of The Siegel last year. They would like to give a special shout out to friend, boss and star of this show Noelle Belden for accommodating their crazy schedule and allowing them to admire her stunning performance every night.

KAREN DIEHL



(Set Design & Set Builder): Karen started at MCT as Assistant Stage Manager under Bill Ross for SOUND OF MUSIC and had a small but mighty non-speaking role. She has also Stage Managed or Co-Stage-Managed 9 TO 5, GREATER TUNA, TUNA CHRISTMAS, 39 STEPS and ESCANABA IN THE MOONLIGHT. Karen made her appearance in her first speaking role in ESCANABA with a short one-night cameo comment. While she was sound tech for A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM, she prefers to build sets and create illusions that allow the audience to use their imagination.

ANA PAULA CLAUDIO



(Stage Hand/Assistant Stage Manager):

Ana has some theater experience from previous amateur plays in Brazil. She played Adela in a Garcia Lorca play The House of Bernarda Alba and also a fortune teller at Moliere's play The Forced Marriage. This is her first show at MCT.

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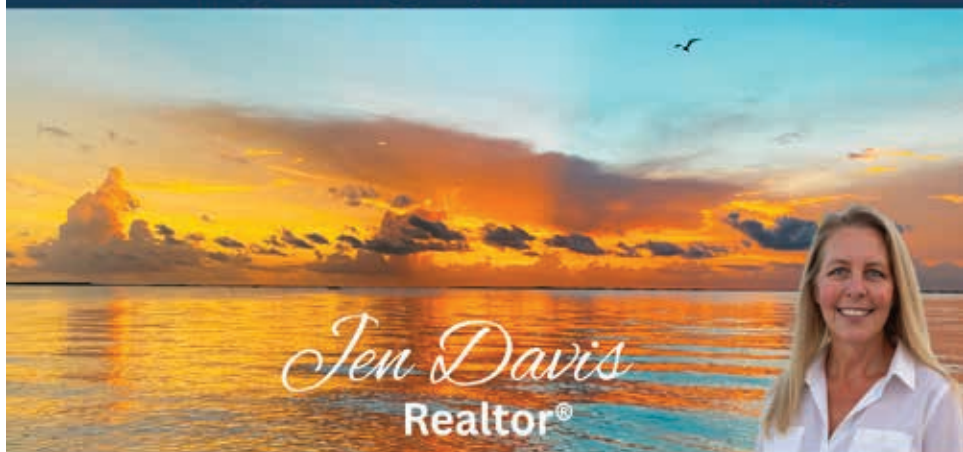
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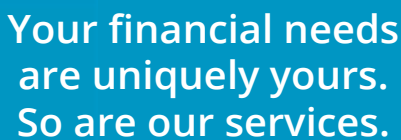
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\$251,000

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CONTACT
 954-399-7333 (ext. 100)
 info@marathontheatre.org
 3000 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL 33480
 www.marathontheatre.org

QR CODE

DONATE

MCT TAX ID# 50-1082008
 Marathon Community Theatre is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is operated by a fully volunteer board of directors (with a small paid staff).

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