



# VIRTUAL One Act Festival

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020  
7:00pm**

[www.v1act.org](http://www.v1act.org)



“The curtain rises  
even on an actor’s  
worst day.”

- *Stewart Stafford*



# A Message From The Producers

**A**s Henry David Thoreau wrote “*Do not despair of your life. You have force enough to overcome your obstacles.*” This elegant thought best serves to explain the inspiration behind why we put together this Virtual One Act Festival.

Sitting in his living room around the middle of March, Jim heard from so many creative friends so much sadness and concern of what was to come. Surely, we can figure out a way to keep us engaged and have a purpose to share our craft. So Jim asked around if anyone wanted to participate in something that keeps us physically safe while socially connected. The initial thought was that this would be in the form of a reading of a royalty free play with a few friends.

What Jim didn’t expect was the overwhelming response. This is where Sharon stepped up as a friend who was also interested. Being heavily involved with the Warner Theatre International Playwrights Festival, she was able to connect with playwrights she had worked with in the past and obtained their permission to have selected works performed with 24 volunteer actors and 5 directors.

Since plans were to use a medium primarily based on camera work and film, Katherine Ray, a close friend of Sharon’s, also jumped at the opportunity to provide her expertise. Kat has an extensive background in theater and film and has been working to help all of us provide to you an intimate experience this evening.

In these four short weeks we have all worked together to bring you back to the theatre in the comfort of your home. We hope that you enjoy these performances from the best seat in the house (and you won’t need to worry about getting up to grab a snack and disturbing the audience member next to you.)

In the coming days and weeks please consider donating to your favorite organization of your choice of which many are represented here.

Thank you, stay safe and enjoy the show!



Jim Luurtsema  
Executive Producer



Sharon W. Houk  
Co-Producer



# *Behind The Scenes*

JIM LUURTSEMA, *Executive Producer*  
SHARON W. HOUK, *Co-Producer*  
KATHERINE RAY, *Co- Producer*

<b>The Playwrights</b>	<i>Charlene A. Donaghy, Ira Hauptman, Henry Arthur Jones, Dagney Kerr, David MacGregor, Marj O'Neill-Butler, Laralu Smith, David L. Williams</i>
<b>The Directors</b>	<i>Sharon W. Houk, Jim Luurtsema, Marilyn Olsen, Katherine Ray*, Jess Smith</i>
<b>The Performers</b>	<i>Matt Austin, Mary Cantoni, Jane Coughlin, Emily Diedrich, Ian Diedrich, Matt Durland, Susie Hackel, Doreen Lopez, David Macharelli, Jason Maur, Ashley McLeod, Connor Picard, Colleen Renzullo, Dan Ringette, Steffon Sampson, Jeff Savage, Claire Simard, Ingrid Smith, Jennifer Sokira, Patrick R. Spadaccino, Priscilla Squiers, Scott Stanchfield, Emma Wallace, Lynne Wilson</i>
<b>Original Music Contributors</b>	<i>Mark Garthwait, Jim Luurtsema, The Penniless Wild, Scott Stanchfield</i>
<b>SFX Contributors</b>	<i>Jim Luurtsema, Dustin Pfaender</i>

## *Special Thanks*

This virtual festival would not have been possible without the support from these amazing individuals and organizations:

**Northwest Connecticut Arts Council, Goshen Players,  
Ridgefield Theatre Barn, Warner Theatre,  
Backstage with Eric Lindblom & FM 97.3 WZBG  
Nancy Sasso Janis, Amanda Friedman, Caitlin Beaudry,  
Stephen C. Houk, Tina Parziale, Keith Paul,  
Mark Garthwait, Scott Stanchfield,  
The Penniless Wild, Dustin Pfaender**

Special thanks to everyone who assisted after this virtual playbill was published. We honestly can't thank you enough for your support!



The Director is a member of the  
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

# VIRTUAL One Act Festival

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2020 • 7:00PM

## INITIAL VELOCITY by Dagney Kerr

Ben .....	IAN DIEDRICH
Phoebe .....	EMILY DIEDRICH
Narrator.....	STEFFON SAMPSON

Directed by Katherine Ray\*

**EMILY DIEDRICH** (*Phoebe*) Emily was so proud to be making her directorial debut, heading A WRINKLE IN TIME with Naugatuck Teen Theater. Then life changed and the show was postponed indefinitely. She is very grateful to have other ways to flex her artistic muscles with the Virtual One Acts. She has been onstage in roles such as Betsy in OCTETTE BRIDGE CLUB (Phoenix Stage Company), Casey in FIRST DATE (Goshen Players), Tood in COVER OF LIFE (Phoenix Stage Company) and Roxie in CHICAGO (Landmark Community Theater). Previous choreography credits include CHILDREN OF EDEN, BYE BYE BIRDIE, URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL, GODSPELL, THE DROWSEY CHAPERONE, CABARET and MATILDA. *Here's hoping that all of our performances, parties, events and gatherings, while infinitely changed, will be that much more meaningful when we see each other again!*

**IAN DIEDRICH** (*Ben*) Just before Covid-19, Ian was portraying Lennie in OF MICE AND MEN with Landmark Community Theater. Thankfully he was able to perform at least one weekend's worth of shows. Since the rest of the performances were cancelled, he's grateful for the opportunity to explore new characters and original works through a virtual setting! Favorite roles include McMurphy in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, John Wilkes Booth in ASSASSINS, Chad in ALL SHOOK UP, Judas in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Frankie (Francis) in FOREVER PLAID and PLAID TIDINGS, Gaston in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, Bobby in URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL, Jesus in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Joseph in JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLORED DREAMCOAT and Michael in GOD OF CARNAGE. Ian has also directed community productions including MATILDA, THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY, GODSPELL and BLEACHER BUMS and has worked on numerous productions behind the scenes and across the state as the Technical Director and Lighting & Set Designer.

**STEFFON SAMPSON** (*Narrator*) Steffon is a Local actor and musician from Bristol Connecticut. Past credits include SUESSICAL THE MUSICAL (Horton the Elephant) TCC , IN THE HEIGHTS (Benny) Landmark , ONE HIT WONDER (Gunner) Landmark. Steffon Is also a member of the Governors Foot Guard and plays Trumpet there in his spare time. *Thank you to all of those attending these one acts we enjoy your support.*

**DAGNEY KERR** (*Playwright*) Dagney Kerr is an LA-based writer and actor, whose plays have been featured in numerous national festivals and competitions, winning Best Original Script, Audience Favorite, and Excellence in Playwriting Awards, among

others. Her play, STAY, was chosen for the 2018 Warner International Playwrights Festival. Dagney also wrote and starred in the critically acclaimed one-woman shows, DEEP SEA DAGNEY and HITCHHIKING TO MARS. She also created the Christmas show, HOLIDAY FEVER, a Los Angeles theater favorite that ran for twelve sold-out seasons. She's the recipient of, 2020 Women Playwrights Initiative Award, by Ivoryton Playhouse (CT) for her play DEANNA AND PAUL, which recently completed runs in LA and NY.

**KATHERINE RAY** (*Director*) Katherine is an indefatigable, demiurgic, convivial TV Theatre and Film production professional and Intimacy Director/Choreographer. When not seeking therapy for her Xenophobia (extreme fear of Tom Cruise) Katherine is curating the world's most amazing Wilford Brimley fan site. She is excited to still be in pre-production for HARRIET THE MUSICAL debuting at some point this year in New York. Recent favorite theatre directing credits include: DISASTER! (Warner), Co-Directing SPRING AWAKENING with Sharon W. Houk (Warner Theatre); Ken Ludwig's BASKERVILLE (Warner), 1984 (Downtown Cabaret Theater), AN ACT OF GOD (Theaterworks NM), FENCES (Ridgefield Theatre Barn), ASSASSINS (Warner Studio Theater), PETER AND THE STARCATCHER (Warner), THE 39 STEPS (Warner Theatre and Ridgefield Theatre Barn.) She is a proud member of the Stage Director's and Choreographers Society (union), League Of Professional Theatre Women, Drama League.



## I LIKE by Charlene A. Donaghy

Maggie ..... EMMA WALLACE

Directed by Sharon W. Houk

**EMMA WALLACE** (*Maggie*) Emma has been involved in theatre since she was 7 years old and now, at age 14, she is thrilled to be taking part in her first Virtual One Act Festival! Some of Emma's favorite performances include playing an orphan in ANNIE, Nala in THE LION KING JR., Cinderella in CINDERELLA JR. and Charlie in CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY. She loves singing, playing tennis and spending time with her cat, Benji. *Emma would like to thank Jim L. and Sharon W. for this exciting opportunity!*

**CHARLENE A. DONAGHY** (*Playwright*) Charlene is an award-winning playwright with plays produced and/or awarded from New York City to Los Angeles, in Canada and Great Britain. Hansen Publishing Group publishes Charlene's play collection, Bones of Home and Other Plays. Other publications include: Best American Short Plays, Best 10-Minute Plays, Estrogenius. Charlene is Producing Director/Tennessee Williams Theater Festival, Festival Director/Warner International Playwrights Festival and she teaches playwriting and theatre at University of Nebraska Omaha. She is a founding member Proscenium Playwrights, and a member of 9th Floor Playwrights, The Playwrights Center, and The Dramatists Guild of America. [www.charleneadonaghy.com](http://www.charleneadonaghy.com)

**SHARON W. HOUK** (*Director*) Sharon has been involved in both professional and community theatre for over 30 years. Director/choreographer credits include numerous musical (and non-musical) productions. Some of her favorites include A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER, ONCE, ROCK OF AGES, RACE, RUNAWAYS, PIPPIN, HAIR, JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, FOREVER PLAID, RAGTIME, THE WHO'S TOMMY, RENT and ONE NIGHT WITH FANNY BRICE. *Thank you to Jim Luurtsema for conceiving of this creative outlet, to my partner in crime Katherine Ray for just being, to all the wonderful playwrights and performers that have come together to make this evening happen and to my amazing husband for setting up a "virtual theater space" for me in the basement!*



## Coding Issues by David L. Williams

Anthony .....	MATT DURLAND
Ellyn .....	JANE COUGHLIN
Narrator.....	LYNNE WILSON

Directed by Jim Luurtsema

**JANE COUGHLIN** (*Ellyn*) Jane could not be more excited to participate in this endeavor! Thank you, Jim, for putting this together and letting me play a part! (Get it? "Play a part"?) Jane most recently played Hilda in HILDA'S YARD at Farmington Valley Stage Company and Mrs. Tottendale in THE DROWSY CHAPERONE at Goshen Players. Back when we used to be able to be with our friends on stage. Sigh...

**MATT DURLAND** (*Anthony*) Matt is so grateful to Jim and the rest of the team for creating this accessible way of keeping theater alive! Matt has had the great pleasure of working as a Music Director for theaters all over Connecticut and parts of New England. Some of his work has been seen on SISTER ACT, H2\$, LEGALLY BLONDE, ROCK OF AGES, ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, IS THERE LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?, 13, CABARET, MR. BURNS - a post electric play, GREASE, LEADER OF THE PACK, A CHORUS LINE, and several others. He is a big advocate for educational theater and the positive impact it has on inner city students.

**LYNNE WILSON** (*Narrator*) Lynne has been in Community Theater since 1998 when she joined the cast of My Fair Lady for Goshen Players 50th show. She has done many shows over the years including KISS ME KATE, ME & MY GIRL, GODSPELL, STEEL MAGNOLIAS and IT SHOULD'VE BEEN YOU at Goshen Players and ON GOLDEN POND and LOVE, SEX AND THE IRS at the Warner's Nancy Marine Theater and THE MIRACLE WORKER, GUYS AND DOLLS and CEMETERY CLUB at Landmark Community Theatre. Retired from The Hartford Insurance, Lynne now enjoys gardening, volunteering and having more time with her grandchildren. She also serves as current President of Goshen Players Board of Directors. *I want to thank Jim Luurtsema for pulling together the Virtual Theater during a time when we all need a little lift.*

**DAVID L. WILLIAMS** (*Playwright*) David is a graduate of the theatre department of Cornell University, where he was a four time award winner in the Heerman's-McCalmon Playwriting contest, and recently received his MFA in playwriting from the

University of Nebraska. He has written more than thirty plays and musicals, and his work has been produced across the United States and internationally in Australia, Italy, Canada, Denmark, Norway, and Lithuania. His most recent productions include the world premiere of his full-length play *The Starving* at Barter Theatre. He lives in Bellefonte, PA with his wonderful wife Kathleen and his amazing son Samuel. [www.playwrightdavid.com](http://www.playwrightdavid.com)

**JIM LUURTSEMA (Director)** Jim is excited and humbly appreciative that so many incredible people jumped on board for this festival. Jim is active in the area local theatre such as the Landmark Community Theatre, Warner Theatre and Goshen Players. Recent credits at Landmark Community Theatre include; 1940S RADIO HOUR, RING OF FIRE (Director), MARY POPPINS (Co-Music Director). Other credits include but not exhaustive; DROWSY CHAPERONE, IT SHOULD'A BEEN YOU & FIRST DATE (Music Director/Goshen Players) and MARY POPPINS, THE LITTLE MERMAID, NEWSIES & MAMMA MIA (Music Director/Warner Theatre). *Thank you to everyone who made this show possible. Special thanks to my partners in crime - Sharon, Kat, Marilyn and Jess. Much love to all hope you enjoy watching our festival come to life!*



## Just Desserts by David MacGregor

Joyce .....	MARY CANTONI
Kris.....	MATT AUSTIN
Becky.....	INGRID SMITH
Evan .....	STEFFON SAMPSON

Directed by Katherine Ray\*

**MATT AUSTIN (Kris)** Matt is thrilled to be part of this Virtual One Act Festival. Previous on-line credits include - Man posting 2 star review of French restaurant in Philly on Yelp, Man tagged in dozens of pictures on IG and Man with both Tinder AND Bumble profiles. He would like to thank Frontier communications for their spotty internet service and to all the good people at Zoom for making this happen.

**MARY CANTONI (Joyce)** Mary is so excited to be part of this Virtual One Act performance with so many talented people and stepping out of her comfort zone. Credits include: Lady of the Lake (SPAMALOT, Richter), Medda Larkin, (NEWSIES, Warner) and Fanny Brice (ONE NIGHT WITH FANNY BRICE, Phoenix, and 13th Street Playhouse, NYC under the direction of Sharon W. Houk). *In my non-existent spare time I am fabulous Spanish teacher, awesome Aunt and wonderful mother to 3 amazing and talented children, Theron (cast of DOGFIGHT and PRODUCERS), Christian and Veronica.*

**STEFFON SAMPSON (Evan)** Steffon is a Local actor and musician from Bristol Connecticut. Past credits include SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL (Horton the Elephant) TCC , IN THE HEIGHTS (Benny) Landmark , ONE HIT WONDER (Gunner) Landmark. Steffon Is also a member of the Governors Foot Guard and plays Trumpet there in his spare time. *Thank you to all of those attending these one acts we enjoy your support.*

**INGRID SMITH (Becky)** Ingrid returns to the northwest area after creating the char-

---

acter of Claire in POTTERS WHEEL at Theatre for a New City in New York. Additionally she has recently performed in the Mayfly 24 hour play festival. Favorite performing and production credits include Kate in ALL MY SONS, Cora in MORNINGS AT SEVEN, Miss Prism in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST, Truvy in STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Becky in BECKY'S NEW CAR, as well lifetime favorites Dottie in NOISES OFF and Mary Tyrone in LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT. Ingrid studied acting at the University of Connecticut

**DAVID MacGREGOR** (*Playwright*) David is a playwright and screenwriter. He is a resident artist at The Purple Rose Theatre in Michigan, where seven of his plays have been produced. His newest play, SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE FALLEN SOUFFLÉ, opened the Purple Rose's 2019-2020 season. His plays have been performed from New York to Tasmania, and his work has been published by Dramatic Publishing, Playscripts, Smith & Kraus, Applause, and Heuer Publishing. He adapted his dark comedy, VINO VERITAS, for the silver screen, and it stars Carrie Preston (Emmy-winner for *The Good Wife*). Several of his short plays have also been adapted into films, and his screenplay In the Land of Fire and Ice was a 2016 Athena List Winner (best screenplays featuring female protagonists). He teaches writing at Wayne State University in Detroit and is inordinately fond of cheese and terriers.

**KATHERINE RAY** (*Director*) See bio under INITIAL VELOCITY.



## **Her Tongue** by Henry Arthur Jones (1851-1929)

Fred Barcy.....	SCOTT STANCHFIELD
Minnie Brice .....	COLLEEN RENZULLO
Miss Patty Hanslope.....	CLAIRE SIMARD
Waiter.....	MATT AUSTIN
Laurence Scobel .....	JEFF SAVAGE

Directed by Jess Smith

**MATT AUSTIN** (*Waiter*) Matt is thrilled to be part of this Virtual One Act Festival. Previous online credits include - Man posting 2 star review of French restaurant in Philly on Yelp, Man tagged in dozens of pictures on IG and Man with both Tinder AND Bumble profiles. He would like to thank Frontier communications for their spotty internet service and to all the good people at Zoom for making this happen.

**COLLEEN RENZULLO** (*Minnie Brice*) Colleen lives in Torrington and enjoys performing and directing in several local community theater groups. She is excited to add “virtual” actress to her resume. *It’s not surprising that the members of our theater community have come up with such an imaginative way to continue doing what we love to do in the age of quarantine and social distancing!*

**JEFF SAVAGE** (*Laurence Scobel*) Jeff is an actor who has appears on stage, on screen, in commercials and as a voice-over artist. He lives in the Northfield section of Litchfield. He is excited to be a part of this effort to add an artistic light to a world in which theaters and other creative venues are dark. *Special thanks, and a virtual hug, to all who*

---

*have banded together to make this project possible.*

**CLAIRE SIMARD** (*Miss Patty Hanslope*) Claire is the Head of Music and Theater at the Wooster School in Danbury, where she teaches chorus and acting for grades 3-12. She made her Richter debut last summer as Grace Farrell in ANNIE. Favorite roles and shows include MAMMA MIA! at ACT (Donna, Tanya, Rosie u/s), JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (ACT - Ridgefield Playhouse), Noel Coward's BITTERSWEET at Bard Summerscape, Young Heidi in FOLLIES (Signature Theater, dir. Eric Schaeffer), HAPPY END (Arena Stage), and WAR BRIDES (Spirit of Broadway Theatre). Claire has a B.M. in Vocal Performance from the Catholic University of America and did post-graduate studies at Brooklyn College Conservatory, the Conservatoire de Paris and the International Institute of Vocal Arts in Chiari, Italy. Opera roles include Musetta in *La Boheme*, Pamina and 1st Lady in *Magic Flute*, and Fiordiligi in *Cosi Fan Tutte*. Locally, Ms. Simard has sung at Congregation Shir Shalom, the Richter Arts Association, St. Stephens Church in Ridgefield, and at Concordia Conservatory in Bronxville, NY, where she was adjunct voice faculty from 2008-2012. She lives in Ridgefield with her husband Nick and their two children, Amélie and Gabriel.

**SCOTT STANCHFIELD** (*Fred Barcy*) Scott hails from Torrington, CT but his day job takes him to Windsor, CT working as a claims examiner for Sedgwick Claims Management Services. He has been a long-time member of the local theater community. He has had various roles in many productions over the years, be it on stage or behind the curtain (usually in the orchestra pit). Most recently, he was the accompanist/keyboardist for Goshen Players' production of THE DROWSY CHAPERONE. He was also the music director for Goshen Players' production of [title of show]. He was most recently seen on stage in the role of Greg for Goshen Players' production of SYLVIA. Other on-stage roles include Norman Thayer, Jr. in ON GOLDEN POND, Tito Merelli in LEND ME A TENOR and Nunzio Cristano in OVER THE RIVER AND THROUGH THE WOODS, among others. *I am grateful to Jim Luurtsema and Sharon W. Houk for their continued passion and dedication to the local theater community and for putting this unique event together. I am also grateful to be reunited with my long-time collaborator and "theater wife", Colleen Renzullo with whom it is always a pleasure to work.*

**HENRY ARTHUR JONES** (*Playwright*) The circumstances surrounding the early life of Henry Arthur Jones would generally be considered anything but favorable to a successful dramatic career. He was the son of a Buckinghamshire farmer. What education he received was brief and acquired in a local grammar school. At 13 he went "into business" and was a commercial traveller until he was 30. The people among whom he was raised believed that drama was the invention of the devil and that those who went to the theater were bound straight for perdition. If Jones became a dramatist it was because the urge within him was so strong he couldn't help it. His first play was written when he was 16, two years before he ever saw the inside of a theater. His first produced play, ONLY ROUND THE CORNER, was staged in 1878. The melodrama, THE SILVER KING, written in collaboration with Henry Herman and produced in 1882, assured his position as a dramatist. Henry Arthur Jones belongs to that period sometimes referred to as the "Victorian Transition." It was the period when drama was trying to free itself from its inherited superficialities and to become a part of contemporary life. In 1884, Jones made an attempt at serious drama in his SAINTS AND SINNERS. It was hooted by the first-night audience and condemned by the press. Discouraged, Jones returned to melodrama. In 1896, when London had become to a certain extent "Ibsen-conscious," Jones made another attempt at serious drama with MICHAEL AND HIS LOST

ANGEL. Again he was hooted by the audience and condemned by the critics. It was too forward looking for that generation and not sufficiently plain spoken for the next, as a later attempt at a revival proved. In the opinion of Jones himself and of some of his commentators it deserves to be rated as his best effort. The following year, however, he returned to the polite, superficial comedy with THE LIARS, following it in 1900 with MRS. DANE'S DEFENSE. THE LIE had its première in New York in 1914 and did not reach the London stage until 1923. There even so capable an actress as Sybil Thorndike could not save it from vitriolic comment from the pen of the renowned English dramatic critic, James Agate. Henry Arthur Jones made a start with the new dramatic movement. He was never able, however, to shake off the influence of that early Victorian period when his work began, nor to achieve a real success with the newer trend of dramatic thought.

**JESS SMITH** (*Director*) Jess is an adjunct professor of theater at Sacred Heart University, and a vocal and dramatic director, with credits in CT, NY and MA. She is also a professional singer focusing mainly on jazz standards, and a performer on the local stage. Jessica is excited that Jim had this fantastic idea, and is extremely tired of this “new-normal.” Until life gets back to “old-normal,” she is thankful to be part of creating theater virtually!



## **BFOQ** by Ira Hauptman

Dr. Wedgewood Carlyle .....	JASON MAUR
Professor Essex .....	DAVID MACHARELLI
Professor Greensward.....	DAN RINGUETTE
Professor Slocum .....	IAN DIEDRICH
Narrator.....	DOREEN LOPEZ

Directed by Marilyn Olsen

**IAN DIEDRICH** (*Professor Slocum*) Just before Covid-19, Ian was portraying Lennie in OF MICE AND MEN with Landmark Community Theater. Thankfully he was able to perform at least one weekend's worth of shows. Since the rest of the performances were cancelled, he's grateful for the opportunity to explore new characters and original works through a virtual setting! Favorite roles include McMurphy in ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, John Wilkes Booth in ASSASSINS, Chad in ALL SHOOK UP, Judas in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Frankie (Francis) in FOREVER PLAID and PLAID TIDINGS, Gaston in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, Bobby in URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL, Jesus in JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR, Joseph in JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT and Michael in GOD OF CARNAGE. Ian has also directed community productions including MATILDA, THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY, GODSPELL and BLEACHER BUMS and has worked on numerous productions behind the scenes and across the state as the Technical Director and Lighting & Set Designer.

**DOREEN LOPEZ** (*Narrator*) Doreen is thrilled to be participating in the Virtual One Act Festival! She joined the theater community 11 years ago, following in the footsteps of her two talented daughters. Since then, this community has been a big part of her soul. Some of her favorite credits include Mae Peterson (BYE BYE BIRDIE), Miss

Cratchitt (GYPSY), Julie (AVOW), Esther (TWO BY TWO) and Mother Burnside (MAME). *She would like to thank Jim for putting this together so that she can stay connected with her love of theater, and her theater family during this CRAZY time! Let's do this incredible thing!*

**DAVID MACHARELLI** (*Professor Essex*) David is a yoga teacher, graphic, fine arts scenic artist from Waterbury whose credits include Max in LEND ME A TENOR, The White Knight in ALICE IN CONCERT, and multiple recurring characters on the radio show Nutmeg Junction. *Thanks to Jim Luurtsema for organizing a fun event in these trying times!*

**JASON MAUR** (*Dr. Wedgewood Carlyle*) Jason is honored to be a part of the Virtual One Act Festival, bringing the gift of live theatre to people during these trying times. Trained by John Astin, Jason has performed in both community and professional productions throughout CT, MA, NY, MD, and DC in addition to his time on Fox's "Masterchef" and Food Network's "Cooks Vs. Cons". *Love and thank you for all the support to my wife Vicky, my family, and my friends. To everyone out there, be healthy, be happy, be safe. I can't wait to share the true stage with you once more, but, until then, the show must go on."*

**DAN RINGUETTE** (*Professor Greensward*) Dan is Music Director & Coordinator for Our Lady of Hope Parish in New Hartford & Harwinton, and Voice, Piano & Woodwind Instructor at the Warner Theatre Center for Arts Education. Recent/Upcoming MD credits: DOGFIGHT, SOMETHING ROTTEN!, DISASTER!, A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER, SPRING AWAKENING, ONCE.

**IRA HAUPTMAN** (*Playwright*) Ira Hauptman's plays have been performed in New York at the Manhattan Theatre Club, the Ensemble Studio Theatre and Theater for the New City, as well as in Los Angeles, Berkeley, San Francisco, Bangalore, Paris, Brussels and many other cities. He's received two play commissions from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science & Technology Project. The first was for PARTITION (published by Playscripts), which is about clashing mathematicians in the early twentieth century. The second was for STARRY MESSENGER (published by Dramatic Publishing Company), which is about Galileo's recantation of his convictions. Ira is a graduate of Yale Drama School and teaches at Queens College.

**MARILYN OLSEN** (*Director*) Marilyn is a veteran of many local theaters, both on and off stage. She has directed for the Warner Theatre, Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Carriage House Arts Center, Phoenix Stage Company and The Lipstick Project. On-stage at the Warner, you may have seen her last season as Lady Beaconsfield in JEKYLL AND HYDE or Rosie in MAMMA Mia or in previous seasons as Norma Desmond in SUNSET BOULEVARD or Blanche Dubois in A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE. Marilyn is a physician assistant in Waterbury. *Special thanks go to Sharon and Jim for cooking up this social distancing clambake!*



## Ezell Dorsey And The Right Hand Man by Laralu Smith

Ezell Dorsey .....	CONNOR PICARD
Ransom Ball .....	PATRICK R. SPADACCINO

---

Directed by Sharon W. Houk

**CONNOR PICARD** (*Ezel Dorsey*) Connor has been involved in theatre in all aspects for over twelve years. Recent credits include WINNIE THE POOH KIDS (Director and Lighting Designer), LIGHT: An Electrifying Musical Revue (Lighting Designer), and SWEENEY TODD (Sweeney Todd) all at the Warner Theatre in Torrington, CT. Other credits include THE BALCONY (Assistant Director and Light Board Operator) and Stage Manager for ROLLING AND MAN-I-FEST-O at Marymount Manhattan College. *Thank You to Sharon for this great opportunity!*

**PATRICK R. SPADACCINO** (*Ransom Ball*) Patrick has participated in theatre since childhood. He began a career in radio and performed stand-up comedy before meeting (and marrying) the love of his life. He experimented with a number of other vocations before pursuing work in the design & technology fields, and now develops websites. In the years since, Patrick retained ties to the theatrical arts, and has performed in shows like THE SOUND OF MUSIC, MY FAIR LADY, THE KING AND I and JEKYLL & HYDE. He has adapted, directed and played the title role in both musical and solo versions of A CHRISTMAS CAROL, and his solo adaptation of that novel was also produced this past December at the Warner. EZELL DORSEY AND THE RIGHT HAND MAN is Patrick's first virtual show. In light of the performances that have had to be postponed or cancelled during these difficult times, he's especially grateful for this opportunity to bring theatre back to the community. When he's not creating websites or involved in a show, Patrick also rides horses, composes music, enjoys hiking and nature photography, and loves spending time with his wife Natalie and their dog, Jovie. He has published two novels (*The Far-Away Hearts Club* and *All I Want For Christmas*) and recently completed two one-act plays. Patrick thanks his wife for her endless encouragement, his friends and family for their support, and the amazing privilege of working alongside so many kind, talented, creative people.

**LARALU SMITH** (*Playwright*) Laralu is a writer and actor based in NYC. She has written a number of short stories, poems and works of non-fiction – as well as a novella in progress, *The Saga of Ezell Dorsey*, from which she has adapted this play. As an actor, she has performed in countless plays, both in NYC and regionally. She is a member of UCB's Diversity Jam and can be seen as 'Woman Who Sees Jesus' in "The Book of Craig" (Studio City Film Festival/Best TV Pilot-2018). B.A. Ohio State. M.A. Northwestern. AEA SAG-AFTRA.

**SHARON W. HOUK** (*Director*) See bio under I LIKE.



## **Into the City** by Marj O'Neill-Butler

Ashley .....	ASHLEY MCLEOD
Curt.....	MATT AUSTIN
Jean .....	PRISCILLA SQUIERS
Lolly .....	JENNIFER SOKIRA
Narrator.....	SUSIE HACKEL

Directed by Sharon W. Houk

---

**MATT AUSTIN** (*Curt*) Matt is thrilled to be part of this Virtual One Act Festival. Previous online credits include - Man posting 2 star review of French restaurant in Philly on Yelp, Man tagged in dozens of pictures on IG and Man with both Tinder AND Bumble profiles. He would like to thank Frontier communications for their spotty internet service and to all the good people at Zoom for making this happen.

**SUSIE HACKEL** (*Narrator*) Susie is so happy to be part of this virtual theater festival. She has performed in local community theaters throughout the area. She has appeared with the Warner Stage Company in MAMA MIA, ADDAMS FAMILY (Grandma), RAGTIME and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (Yente). She has also performed with the Landmark Community Theater in Thomaston in SISTER ACT (Sister Mary Lazarus), ELF THE MUSICAL (Mrs. Clause), ANNIE, IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (Ma Bailey) and most recently as Gussy the Goose in CHARLOTTE'S WEB. She appeared the Sharon Playhouse in BIG RIVER (Mrs. Watson), THE MUSIC MAN and BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. When not on stage, Susie works as a reading specialist with the New Milford Public Schools. *Here's to all the house-bound virtual theater lovers!*

**ASHLEY McLEOD** (*Ashley*) Ashley was most recently seen playing Ashley in ONE HIT WONDER at the Thomaston Opera House. Other favorite past roles include Gertrude in SEUSSICAL, Janet Weiss in ROCKY HORROR, Miss Hannigan in ANNIE, Sally Bowles in CABARET, Shelby in STEEL MAGNOLIAS, Gabby/Bobbi in CITY OF ANGELS, Heidi in [title of show], Poppy in NOISES OFF, The Witch in INTO THE WOODS, Elizabeth Benning in YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, and The Lady of the Lake in SPAMALOT. Next up she will be playing Morticia in THE ADDAMS FAMILY at TheatreWorks New Milford. *A huge thank you to Jim and Sharon for making this virtual one act festival possible!*

**JENNIFER SOKIRA** (*Lolly*) Jen is very happy to be participating in this exciting project! Favorite roles include Rebecca Steinberg in IT SHOULD'VE BEEN YOU (Goshen Players), Miss Barley/Ensemble in A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER (Warner Stage Company), and Tessie Tura in GYPSY (Two Planks). *She is deeply grateful for the connection to her theater friends and the opportunity to be creative that Jim and the team have created here and she wishes everyone good health and safety during this uncertain time.*

**PRISCILLA SQUIERS** (*Jean*) Priscilla is excited to join these Virtual One-Acts in the company of old friends and new. A veteran of many area stages, her roles have ranged from Maria Callas in MASTER CLASS and Florence Foster Jenkins in SOUVENIR to Donna Sheridan in MAMMA MIA and Anna in THE KING AND I. Stage debut: HOMER PRICE AND THE DONUT MACHINE, 4th grade. *Thanks to Jim, Sharon and all the theatermakers for helping us stay in relationship during this time of being apart.*

**MARJ O'NEILL-BUTLER** (*Playwright*) Marj O'Neill-Butler, a resident of Miami Beach, Florida, is the Regional Rep for the Dramatists Guild – Florida Region. Her work has been seen in 26 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Great Britain, Scotland and Seoul, S Korea. She has had 39 different plays produced in multiple theatres, numerous readings and just about as many rejections. A published playwright and mother of two grown sons, Marj is a proud member of Equity and SAG-AFTRA.

**SHARON W. HOUK** (*Director*) See bio under I LIKE.



## Music Contributors



**MARK GARTHWAIT** - Mark Garthwait is a guitarist/musician living in Torrington, CT, who performs regularly with Castaway Productions, Landmark Community Theater and the Warner Stage Company/Warner Theatre.

**JIM LUURTSEMA** - Jim is a graduate of the WCSU Music program 2006 and is an active musician and music director in the great CT area. He was the founder of the Thomaston Jazz Orchestra and plays in many pits in numerous theaters in the area. Jim has contributed a composition that will be heard tonight and hopes that you all enjoy your evening and hopes to see you all supporting local theatre, arts and music wherever you are from.



**THE PENNILESS WILD** is an indie/folk/rock outfit based out of Hartford, CT. Originally comprised as a folk duo, they have since transformed into a five-piece electric unit, while holding true to their folk style of writing. The band released their first studio project in late 2017 entitled "Cardboard Sheets" and have been performing regionally in support of the EP playing with bands like Good Old War, Bronze Radio Return and The Ghost Of Paul Revere, to name a few. Featured Track is "Flesh"

released April 10th, 2020.

Carson Millican (*Vocals/Guitar*) • Harrison Poltorak (*Guitar/Vocals*)  
Mike Visconti (*Bass*) • Noel Roberge (*Drums/Vocals*) • Ruben Soto (*Keys*)

**SCOTT STANCHFIELD** - Scott has been an active musician and published composer in the Connecticut area for X years. He has played with such groups such as "Mick & Scott" and recently Joined the "Recliner Pilots" based out of Cheshire Connecticut on keyboards. Scott can often be found performing as a pit musician in Northwest Connecticut at Goshen Players, Thomaston Opera House and the Warner Theatre. Scott is also performing in one of the One Acts entitled "Her Tongue" and can be seen on stage acting various roles as can be seen in his actor bio in this program. Scott has contributed two compositions for this festival. He hopes you enjoy your virtual evening out from the safety of your living room.

# Thanks for Watching!

*If you've enjoyed tonight's festival, please pass it on - make a donation to your favorite non-profit and lend a hand to those who are struggling during this crisis.*

VIRTUAL  
One Act Festival

[www.v1act.org](http://www.v1act.org)