

ABOUT THE CAST

ASHLEY McLEOD (Ashley, "Into The City") 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!

CLAIRE SIMARD (Miss Patty Hanslope, "Her Tongue") 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 *Così 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.

COLLEEN RENZULLO (Minnie Brace, "Her Tongue") 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!

CONNOR PICARD (Ezell, "Ezell Dorsey and the Right Hand Man") 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!

DAN RINGUETTE (Professor Greensward, "BFOQ") 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*.

DAVID MACHARELLI (Professor Essex, "BFOQ") is a yoga teacher, graphic, fine and 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!

DOREEN LOPEZ (Narrator, "BFOQ") 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!

EMILY DIEDRICH (Phoebe, "Initial Velocity") 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*, *Drowsy 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!

EMMA WALLACE (Maggie, "I Like") 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!

IAN DIEDRICH (*Professor Slocum, "BFOQ"/ Ben, "Initial Velocity"*) 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 *Forever Plaid: 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.

INGRID SMITH (*Becky, "Just Desserts"*) Ingrid returns to the northwest area after creating the character 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

JANE COUGHLIN (*Elyn, "Coding Issues"*) 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...

JASON MAUR (*Dr. Wedgewood Carlyle, "BFOQ"*) 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 to all the support to my wife Vicky, my family, and my friends. To everyone out there, be health, 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."

JEFF SAVAGE (*Walter Scobell, "Her Tongue"*) 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.

JENNIFER SOKIRA (*Lolly, "Into The City"*) is very happy to be participating in this exciting project! Favorite roles include Rebecca Steinberg in *It Shoulda 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.

LYNNE WILSON (*Narrator, "Coding Issues"*) Lynne has been in Community Theater in 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 Shoulda 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.

MARY CANTONI (*Joyce, "Just Desserts"*) 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 Stage Company/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.*

MATT AUSTIN (*Waiter/Waitress, "Her Tongue"/Curt, "Into The City"/ Kris, "Just Desserts"*) 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.

MATT DURLAND (*Anthony, "Coding Issues"*) 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.

PATRICK R. SPADACCINO (*Ransom Ball, "Ezell Dorsey and the Right Hand Man"*) 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.

PRISCILLA SQUIERS (*Jean, "Into The City"*) 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.*

SCOTT STANCHFIELD (*Fred Bracy, "Her Tongue"*) 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 Cristiano 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.*

STEFFON SAMPSON (Narrator, "Initial Velocity"/ Evan, "Just Desserts"). 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.

SUSIE HACKEL (*Narrator, "Into The City"*) 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), *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!