

Our next production is...

Moss Hart and
George S. Kaufman's

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER



Auditions February 7 & 8, 2024

By appointment only

Performances June 20-23, 2024 at
Easthampton High School Auditorium

www.EasthamptonTheater.com for details!

Harvey Fierstein's

TORCH SONG



Easthampton Theater Company

Jan 26, 27, Feb 2, 3 @ 7:30PM Jan 28, Feb 4 @ 2PM

Directed by Jason Rose-Langston

Produced by Michael O. Budnick & Jason Rose-Langston

Blue Room, Old Town Hall, Easthampton, MA

"Torch Song (2018)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com and is supported
in part by a generous Festivals and Projects Grant from the Mass Cultural Council.



Mass
Cultural
Council

*Easthampton Theater Company
Proudly Presents...*

Harvey Fierstein's

TORCH SONG

"Torch Song (2018)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

"TORCH SONG" was initially produced by Second Stage Theater in New York, October 2017, and then in November 2018 at the Helen Hayes Theater on Broadway by Richie Jackson, Eric Kuhn & Justin Mikita, Stephanie P. McClelland, Ken Fakler, David Mirvish, Lassen Blume/Karmen Boyz Productions, CJC & Priest/Judith Ann Abrams, Burnt Umber/True Love Productions, Caiola Productions/Torchbearers and Jujamcyn Theaters, Second Stage Theater. and Donald Tick.

Where the Easthampton Old Town Hall stands is on Nonotuck land. We acknowledge our neighboring Indigenous nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East, the Mohegan and Pequot to the South, the Mohican to the West, and the Abenaki and Pocumtuck to the North.



About Easthampton Theater Company

Easthampton Theater Company is a production group created by Easthampton and nearby residents to bring quality community and regional theater productions to the city. Our founding board and members are dedicated to establishing community-based live theater productions in Easthampton as a premier venue and destination for the Pioneer Valley.

Join us! We are an all-volunteer group always looking for theater folks to join us in our mission in all aspects of theater and management at all levels. Please contact us at info@easthamptontheater.com and tell us about your interest!

ETC Board of Directors

Michael O. Budnick, President and Treasurer
Eva Husson-Stockhamer, Vice President
Deborah Jacobson, Secretary

Gilana Chelimsky
Jason Rose-Langston





Fun and Creative Science & Art

**SciAntics Group featuring
Mad Science of Western New England &
ART-ventures for Kids**

Locally owned since 1998
madsciencewne.com artventuresforkids.com 413-584-7243

**After School • In School • Libraries • On Site Anywhere!
Parties • Shows • Summer Programs • Discovery Stations
WHEREVER KIDS ARE... WE COME TO YOU!**

Director's Notes on Torch Song

On behalf of the cast and crew of Torch Song, welcome and thank you for coming. We are thrilled to have you as our guests, and we thank you for supporting local live theater, and ETC with your continued patronage. We truly couldn't do it without you.

Also, a huge thank you to our fantastic cast and crew. For the past four months they have been working countless hours and offering all their talents, skills, and love to this show. This production was truly a collaborative process, and therefore is and always will be "Our Show." All of them have my gratitude and respect.

Torch Song's themes of love, beauty, family, and finding your way in an uncertain and dangerous world are as relevant now as they ever were. Harvey's show depicts homophobia, bi-erasure, the pressures of hetero-normative values, and what it means to truly be a family. However, it does this through an outlook of hope, love, and acceptance above all. The play takes place between 1974 and 1980. This puts the it squarely after the Stonewall Uprising that sparked the beginning of the modern LGBTQ rights movement, and before the AIDS crisis that decimated the LGBTQ population and led to the homophobia-fueled backlash against the community. A time when a few brave and bold people, like Harvey, were the first to speak truth to power and to tell the world, "Yes, Us Too Damn! We want what you want. What everyone wants.

To love and be loved."

It was also significant to have someone from the LGBTQ community telling their own story. As Jason P. Hayes (production staff and the founder of Disarm Hate) put it at our very first rehearsal, "I have plenty of words in my mouth. I don't need someone else to put them in there for me." We are now living through yet another time of backlash, division, fear, and hate. I wish we lived in a world that truly embraced the message born in the 1970s that "Love is love is love." This hopeful show is here to remind us why we fight on: to see this ideal embraced by all. Thank you so much for helping us to move the world forward in our small way tonight. Thank you for embracing this production, and may it inspire you to love and be loved.

Jason Rose-Langston

Cast of Characters

ARNOLD	Patric Madden
ED	Jay Torres
LAUREL	Kim Tobin
ALAN	David DiRocco
DAVID	Devin Dumas
MA	Rona Leventhal
LADY BLUES	Pedro Serrazina
PIANIST	Jeff Olmstead

Act I

The International Stud

June 1974

Fugue in a Nursery

Summer 1975

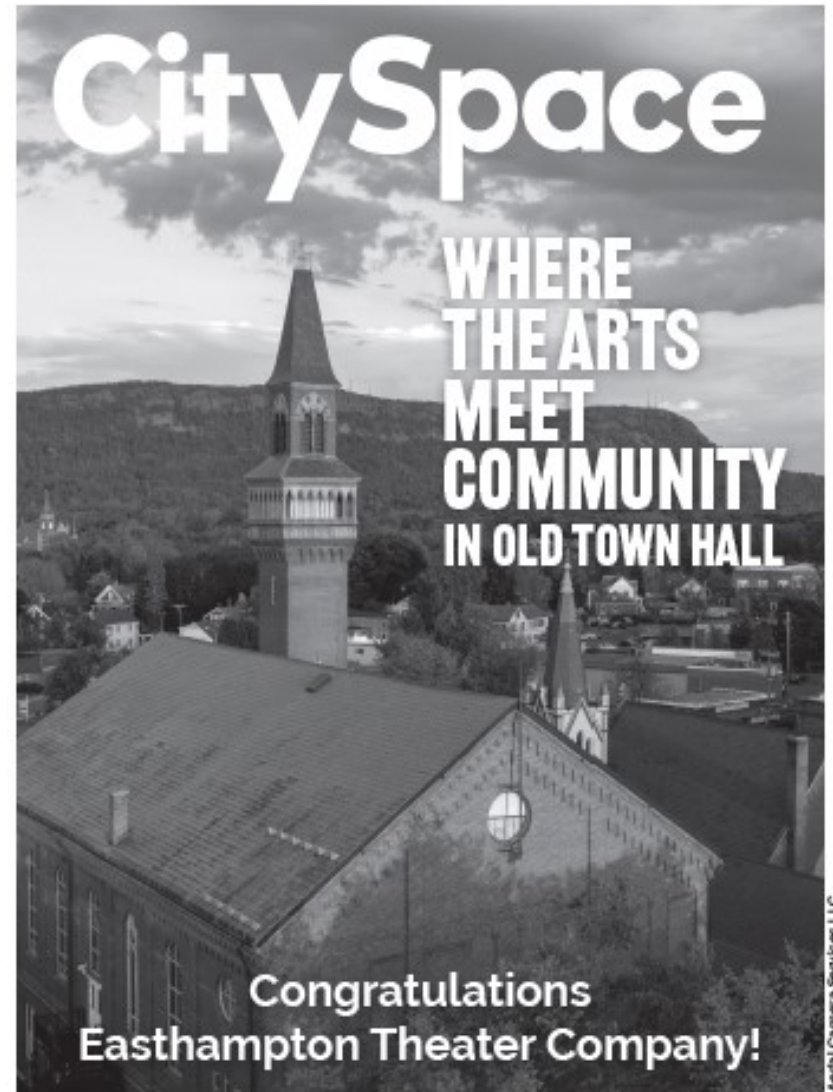
Act II

Widows and Children First

June 1980

PLEASE TURN OFF / SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

THERE WILL BE AN INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS
WITH CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



CITYSPACEEASTHAMPTON.ORG





PRESENTING *ROBIN HOOD* = AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL
April 5th, 6th, 12th, 13th, 19th, and 20th, 2024
 at the Westfield Woman's Club
Details at westfieldtheatregroup.com

Production Team

Producers	Michael O. Budnick, Jason Rose-Langston
Artistic & Technical Director	Jason Rose-Langston
Assistant Director / Props	Deborah Jacobson
Stage Manager	Veronica Klakotskiy
Set Design	Eva Husson-Stockhamer
Lighting Design	Frank Croke
Sound Design & Operation	Manny Morales
Costume / Makeup / Wig Design	Jason P. Hayes
Lighting Operation	Moe Doran
Head Set Builder	Bruce Torrey
Set Builders/Painters/Movers	Ryan Boisjolie, Michael O. Budnick, Eva Husson-Stockhamer, Deborah Jacobson, Veronica Klakotskiy, Mikhail Klakotskiy, David Weinberg
Stage Crew	Mikhail Klakotskiy, Kelley Tobin, Benjamin Beaumier, Wayne Trembly
Fiber Artists	David DiRocco, Pedro Serrazina, Joy Gilman, Jason Rose-Langston, Jane Travis-Address
Torch Song Sign Design	Ed Ryan
Sound Recording	Jeff Olmstead
Marketing Director/ Graphic Design & Projections	Michael O. Budnick
Social Media Marketing	Gilana Chelimsky
Program	Matt O'Reilly

Production Biographies

MICHAEL O. BUDNICK (Producer) is co-founder and President of Easthampton Theater Company. He previously served on the Board of Valley Light Opera and as Treasurer of Exit 7 Players and has produced for area children's theater. Directing credits include God of Carnage (Easthampton) Marvin's Room (Westfield) Curious Incident, The Who's Tommy (Exit 7) and The Gondoliers (VLO, where he also has played many Gilbert and Sullivan comic baritone roles.) Other favorites include Caiaphas in Jesus Christ Superstar (Opera House Players), Lurch in Addams Family (Exit 7), Van Dann in Anne Frank (Silverthorne), Alhambra in The Gondoliers (Simsbury Light Opera), Police Chief in Nice Work if You Can Get It and Captain in Anything Goes (Westfield), Horace Vandergelder in Hello Dolly (Black Cat), and Herr Schulz in Cabaret (Opera House). He is also known regionally as director/performer "Professor Micron" of Mad Science and ART-ventures for Kids. Thanks to wife Alison, family, ETC Board, the community, our amazing cast and crew and everyone who believed in the genesis of ETC.

DAVID DIROCCO (Alan) is excited to be a part of his first show with Easthampton Theater Company. Growing up in theater, he is grateful to have always had the support of his family and enthusiastic friends. David has been a part of dozens of shows throughout school and with Boston's Heart & Dagger Productions. He thanks everyone involved for their dedication in bringing such an important piece of theater alive in an area he holds dear.

DEVIN DUMAS (David) Having grown through the conflict of teenage sexuality and angst in the 2010s, Devin is thrilled for his first opportunity to represent that on the stage. He hopes that you'll see parts of yourselves in these characters. He hopes you'll see the people you love in them and the people you don't in them. He hopes you'll see these characters want, love, and fear, but that you never see them hate - these characters do not hate each other. He hopes that after you've gone, you'll find

Giving back moves
our community
forward.



bankESB is proud to support the
Easthampton Theater Company.

bankESB is proud to support the events, programs, and causes that bring local people together. It's how we all help our communities unlock their full potential.



bankESB.com | 855.527.4111

SPONSORS (\$500+)

Mass Cultural Council

BankESB

Miles Morrissey

GENEROUS DONORS

Jack and Esther Budnick	Walter and Susan Stern
Mad Science & Crayola Imagine Arts Academy of Western New England	Kelly and David Glista
Matthew Wimmer	Kathleen Hunter
David Lawson	Gina DiRocco
Virginia Selman	Constance McGovern
Frances Crisafulli	Todd Rovelli
Stanislaw Dziurzynski	Cynthia Young
Denise Wood	Nina Dudley
Annabel Link	Robert Walsh
Sam Leichter	Nancy Horan
BJ Simonzi	Gary Midura
Brian Couchon	Gary Curtis

yourself considering the origins, feelings, wants, and intentions of the people you care about and the people you struggle with. Before Torch Song, Devin received an associate degree in the CMTA program at Holyoke Community College in 2021, and he last performed in Ex Tenebris with Escapism Productions in September. Devin performed in Clue as Mr. Green US and performed in and stage managed Footloose with Exit 7 Players earlier this year, and is a producer for next year's production of The Prom with them as well. When he's not at the theater, Devin is usually playing video games, writing, listening to audio dramas, or traveling. Devin looks forward to continuing his work in theater, and is grateful to everyone who's given him these opportunities! Devin sends all his love to Tom (Tommy Beaw(r)!) and Nick and Emily; and to mom, dad, Emily, Pepaw, Kelly, Michael, Jami, Adam, Chris, Kathy, Andy, Zack, Tyler, Grace, and his ever supportive Exit 7 family as well!

HARVEY FIERSTEIN is the author of the Tony-winning hit, *Kinky Boots*, as well as *Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony, Drama Desk and Obie Awards), *La Cage aux Folles* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards), *Newsies* (Tony nominated), *Casa Valentina* (Tony nominated), *A Catered Affair* (12 Drama Desk nominations), *Safe Sex* (Ace Award), *Legs Diamond*, *Spookhouse*, *Flatbush Tosca*, *Common Ground* and more. He has recently rewritten *The Wiz* for live TV broadcast, and penned a revised book for *Funny Girl*, currently running in London. His political editorials have been published in the *New York Times*, *TV Guide* and the *Huffington Post* and broadcast on PBS's "In the Life." His children's book, *The Sissy Duckling* (Humanitas Award), is now in its fifth printing. As an actor, Mr. Fierstein is known worldwide for his performances in films including *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Independence Day*, and *Bullets Over Broadway*, on stage in *Hairspray* (Tony Award), *Fiddler on the Roof*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony Award), and on TV shows such as "Smash," "How I Met Your Mother," "The Good Wife," "Cheers" (Emmy nomination), "The Simpsons," "Family Guy," and "Nurse Jackie."

JASON P. HAYES (Costume/Makeup/Wig Design) is a 2016 & 2017 Drama Desk Award Nominee for Outstanding Wig & Hair Design for his work on **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE & THE VIEW UPSTAIRS**. Hayes was the Hair & Makeup Designer and Supervisor for **THE PRESENT** starring Cate Blanchett. His Broadway Theatrical design credits include **CASA VALENTINA, THE REALISTIC JONES'S, SPRING AWAKENING, BLITHE SPIRIT, 13 THE MUSICAL & RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** for 10 years. Hayes also Designed Makeup and Wigs for **HAIRSPRAY** in Johannesburg, South Africa. His Regional Theater credits include **A.R.T., The Papermill, The GoodSpeed, The Cleveland Playhouse, D.T.C., The GEVA, The Phoenix Theater Company, California Music Circus, The Public Theater NYC, Philadelphia Theater Company, The Goodman** and many many more. His TV credits include **THE MYSTERIES OF LAURA, SMASH, HOSTAGES, 30 ROCK, MERCY, GOSSIP GIRL, SNL**; and some of his film credits include **IMORDECAI, THE RISE OF HOLLYWOOD, TRANSAMERICA, CAMP, SHERRY BABY, ADMISSION, THE SAVAGES, FRIENDS WITH KIDS & PARTY MONSTER** to name only a few. His celebrity clients include Cate Blanchett, RuPaul, Angelica Huston, Debra Messing, Toni Colette, Dylan McDermott, Felicity Huffman, Jennifer Hudson, Liza Minelli, Sean Hayes, Josh Lucas, Megan Fox, Antonio Banderas, Mary Stuart Masterson, Jennifer Hudson, Meagan Good, Ariana Grande, Elle Fanning, Nicole Kidman, Cherry Jones, Angela Lansbury, Laura Linney, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, Macaulay Culkin, Marilyn Manson, Harvey Fierstein, Paul Rudd, Patrick Stewart, T.R Knight to name a few.

EVA HUSSON-STOCKHAMER is grateful to be the Set Designer on **Torch Song**, it's been a collaboration with many on our talented team. Eva is the Vice President of the Easthampton Theater Company and is extremely proud of the cast and the team that put this show together. Eva has had many dance and theater programs in the area and has directed over 50 productions of all types over the years.

Special Thanks

Eva Husson-Stockhamer, Mohawk Trail Regional School Drama and Custodial Staff for set pieces and assistance

Hair Products donated by **OKSANA SALON** of East Longmeadow & West Hartford Center

Props loaned by **Majestic Theater, Exit 7 Players, Holyoke Community College, Andy Price, and Westfield Theatre Group**

Microphone loaned by **Old-School Music**

Angela Zammarelli/Easthampton Family Center for sharing space

St. Philip's Episcopal Church for rehearsal space

Brayden Stallman for planting the seed for **Torch Song 2018**

Mad Science for marketing communications tools and photocopying

CitySpace for help all around including access and promotion

Congratulations to Easthampton Theater Company on your production of **Harvey Fierstein's Torch Song!**

-Owen Zaret, City Councilor At-Large

**OWEN
ZARET**

CITY COUNCILOR AT-LARGE



**ST. PHILIP'S
CHURCH**

128 Main St., Easthampton
527-0862

www.stphilipseasthampton.org

**Sunday Worship 10 am
and Compline 8 pm nightly
Streaming on Facebook Live.**

Come as You Are

The Rev. Michael Anderson Bullock
Priest-in-Charge

Be Careful:

If you come here you will grow!

JAY TORRES (Ed) was last seen on the stage as Angel in Opera House Players' RENT and is thankful to be part of Easthampton Theater Company's second ever production. He would like to thank his loved ones for their support and encouragement, fellow cast and crew for making it all happen and the fun along the way, and everyone who comes to see this incredible piece of theater!

KIM TOBIN (Laurel) is excited to be making her Western Mass debut with ETC! She'd like to thank her loved ones for their support and the cast and crew for being so wonderful to work with. Her favorite credits include Costard in Love's Labour's Lost, Marc Antony/Calpurnia in Julius Caesar, Feste in Twelfth Night, and Chick in Crimes of the Heart.

This production is supported in part by a generous Festivals and Projects Grant from the Mass Cultural Council.



Lady Blues' Set List

Act I

"I See Two Lovers" by Mort Dixon and Allie Wrubel

"But Not for Me" by George Gershwin

"The Nearness of You" by Ned Washington and
Hoagy Carmichael

Act II

"Kissing a Fool" by George Michael

"In My Solitude" by Duke Ellington

"I Will Never Turn My Back on You" by Big Maybelle

She was the Performing Arts Director at Holyoke Catholic High School and is currently the Performing Arts Director at Mohawk Trail Regional School. On occasion, she has been seen performing as well. Favorite stage role: Maria Morelli-Lend Me a Tenor. Best role: MOM to Sam & Brianna. As always, for PJM, my 2 and all "my kids."

DEBORAH JACOBSON (Assistant Director/Props) is thoroughly enjoying her involvement with this wonderfully creative and collaborative theater company. As a veteran of VLO, Exit 7, OHP and ACT, she loves performing on stage and now welcomes the chance to help present this beautiful, important and timely work to Pioneer Valley audiences from behind the curtain.

VERONICA KLAKOTSKIY (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage managing her first show after a long theatrical hiatus. She is truly grateful for the opportunity to be involved with such a wonderful production. Favorite SM credits include Eurydice (HCC) and Twelfth Night (MCLA), but she also has a varied background that includes performance, tech, and directing. You never know where you may catch her in the theater! She extends many thanks to her husband, Mikhail, for his continued support of her crazy sleep schedule and passion projects.

RONA LEVENTHAL (Ma) comes to the stage through a form of theatre that tears down the fourth wall: the art of storytelling. Her work for the past thirty-three years as a Performer, Teaching Artist, Workshop Facilitator, Keynote Speaker, Coach and Consultant has taken her to many corners of the world as well as many venues in the US. When telling stories, she's used to embodying all of the characters herself! But every now and then it's nice to "play with others" in productions such as this! Rona's theatre credits include Our Town (Stage Manager), The Crucible (Rebecca Nurse), The Day they Kidnapped the Pope (Sara), American Clock (Rose), Caucasian Chalk Circle (The Singer), Merry Wives of Windsor (Dr. Caius) and The Vagina Monologues. ETC has become her new favorite theatre company to play with! She has much gratitude to all of the cast and production staff!

PATRIC MADDEN (*they/he*) (Arnold) is glad to be making their debut at the Easthampton Theatre Company and is grateful to the entire Torch Song team for what has been a fantastic process. Patric is best known in this neck of the woods for their performance as The Cat in a 6th grade production of HONK! at the Williamstown Elementary School, so they are relieved to offer Western MA audiences a fresh frame of reference. Patric is an actor, director, performance artist, and arts administrator who recently relocated to the Pioneer Valley from NYC. They studied English at Brown University and acting at the Yale School of Drama. They have performed at Yale Repertory Theatre, Yale Cabaret, UnitedSolo, Williamstown Theatre Festival, SpectrumNYC, Rattlestick Theatre, 3 Dollar Bill Brooklyn, Berkshire Theatre Festival, Emrooz Festival, and Norfolk Festival. By day, Patric is a staff member at artEquity doing work at the intersection of arts and activism. Patric is grateful to Harvey for writing this vibrant play which is still so resonant all these years later; to the many fantastic teachers they have had over the years; to their family for supporting their artistic life; and especially to their mother who spotted the audition notice for this play in the local paper.

MANNY MORALES (Sound Design and Operation) is proud to return to ETC to work on Torch Song! He recently worked as a stage manager for God of Carnage with ETC, with Little Theatre of Manchester in In The Heights as part of the ensemble and with HCC Players on Midsummer Night's Dream as Flute/Thisbe. He has also worked with various other Western Mass Theater Groups such as Westfield Theatre Group, Exit 7, and Paper City Productions. He is a singer, actor, and continues to build experience behind the scenes. A big thank you to all the production team members, cast, and crew for making this experience worthwhile!

Composer/songwriter **JEFF OLMSTEAD** (Pianist) loves torch songs. He directs Valley Jazz Voices and two acapella groups: The Wise Guys and On That Note. He wrote music and lyrics for "Tar2f", premiered by the Silverthorne Theatre in the before times.

JASON ROSE-LANGSTON (Artistic and Technical Director/Producer/Fiber Arts Designer) is making his directorial debut with this production and couldn't be more honored and humbled to helm such a wonderful show. Most of his history on the stage has been, well, on the stage: acting in many local community theater productions throughout the Valley. He is one of the founding members of Easthampton Theater Company and currently sits on the board of directors. When he first met Michael O. Budnick in his production of Tommy (playing The Pinball Wizard), at Exit 7 Players in Ludlow MA, Michael continuously told Jason, "I think you might be good at this directing thing." Being a lifelong performer, Jason had never considered taking on the Director's chair before, and he is thrilled to have had such a collaborative and joyous experience with ETC on Torch Song. He would like to thank all his fabulous cast and crew for all their hard work and embracing all his good "Bad Idea's". This show was truly a collaboration of so many talented and dedicated people putting in countless hours simply for the love of it. This is why Jason insists this is "Our Show", and always will be. He'd also like to thank his loving, and very understanding family for all the sacrifices they make so he can go play with the big kids so much. He'd like to dedicate this show to all those who continue to strive to find their way in this world. Remember that love is the path. Walk the path and you will find your way.

PEDRO SERRAZINA (Lady Blues) is very excited to be a part of this production of Torch Song. He's been a fan since he first saw the movie as a teenager. He studied musical theater at the Boston Conservatory of Music. It was in Boston that Pedro begin performing and drag as his alter ego Sable and then in New York City, where he performed off-Broadway and in cabaret shows singing live in drag. So to be a part of Torch Song now and singing in drag again really makes this a full circle moment. Pedro currently lives with his loving husband of 13 years and their three dogs in Monson, Massachusetts, 20 minutes from where he grew up in Ludlow.