

PLAYBILL®

FIRST ANNUAL

NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Cocktails & Monologues

AN EVENING OF ORIGINAL & WORLD PREMIERE WORKS
WRITTEN BY PLAYWRIGHTS ACROSS THE GLOBE



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH, 2021 7:30PM

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE

620 LINCOLN AVENUE, WINNETKA, IL



We hope you enjoy this performance. For your comfort and peace of mind, the following health protocols are in place. Please acquaint yourself with the theatre space guidelines below. Your cooperation is appreciated.

- Everyone must be fully vaccinated before entering the performance space.
- A mask covering your nose and mouth are required to be worn at all times in the theatre space. If you don't have a mask, one will be provided to you at no charge.
- Please be mindful of your social distance to those not in your household group.
- Snacks will be sold at the bar before the show and at intermission. For the sake of the actors, please do not unwrap or crinkle wrappers during the monologues.
- Wrapped straws will be given with drinks for ease of consumption with minimal masking interference.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the bar for your use.
- There will be one 15 minute intermission. Restrooms are available down the hall.

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newtwists!
Mixology courses at the Community House.



Paradox Theatre Works
First Annual New Works Festival

Presented in conjunction with The Community House of Winnetka

COCKTAILS & MONOLOGUES

With pieces written by

Richard Castle, Andrea Fleck Clardy, Jack Seamus Conley, Stefan Diethelm,
Midge Guerrera, Emily Hageman, Dana Hall, Michael Hardstark, Jack G. Hyman,
Arthur M. Jolly, Philip J. Kaplan, Sydney Keith, Vivian C. Lermond, David Lipschutz,
Pamela Morgan, Deborah Ann Percy & Arnold Johnston, Margo Rife, Lavinia Roberts,
Matt Sanders & Ariel Aliza Sanders, Shelley Stolaroff Segal, Beatrix Wagner, Erin Wilcox

Starring

Matthew Bonaccorso, Tamar Brooks, Mark D'Arienzo, Kristina Drendel, Laura Fudacz,
Stephanie Herman, Alexis Vaselopoulos, Gillian Madsen, Andrew Pond, Judi Schindler,
Charles Seymour, Beatrix Wagner

Technical Direction

Jane Allyson

Stage Management

Sarah Schierbeek

Music Direction

Beatrix Wagner

Directed by

Jane Allyson, Mark D'Arienzo,
David Lipschutz and Andrew Pond

PROGRAM ORDER

ACT I

Unreliable Narrator
The Perfect Sandwich
Out On the Ice
It's Magic
The Maya Award
No, No Don't Speak
Time to Murder My Husband
What Happened to Tinkerbell
The Berenstain Bear-adox
Training Wheels
Safekeeping
Return of Professor Moriarty

ACT II

On The Day You See Me
The Influencer
Cheating Schmeating
Divorcee Shower
Unrequited Shade
The Presentation
My Son Doesn't Listen
Sound Mind
Viktoria's Letter
The Cat Commitment
Sales of a Dead Man
Dolores the Plumber

There will be one 15 minute intermission

WHO'S WHO - THE DIRECTORS



Jane Allyson



Mark D'Arienzo



David Lipschutz



Andrew Pond

NOTES FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Starting a new theatre company during a pandemic is nothing to sneeze at. Literally. Situations one takes for granted as the norm are no longer an option, and even the most mundane thing needs to be carefully considered. Performances are a little different for now, but we carry on, and together we will look toward sunnier skies and healthier days.

*That said, we are beyond excited to produce our **First Annual New Works Festival** here at the Community House. There are so many playwrights around the world who have written some really wonderful things that rarely see the stage. I feel it is our duty to support and promote the craft of playwrighting, especially since live theatre took such a drastic hit these last 18 months. We look forward to creating our **Annual New Works Festival**, changing focus yearly to feature a variety of types and styles, and hope to grow from this “one night only” event into a true weekend long festival!*

*I’ve loved every minute working with these wonderful actors, watching their monologues develop over our virtual rehearsals. Yesterday was the first time we all met in person and I just wanted to hug each and every one of them! Whether you are audience, actor or playwright, I thank you all for your passion for the stage.
Welcome Back! -Jane Allyson 10/15/2021*

WHO’S WHO - THE ACTORS



MATTHEW BONACCORSO (*Training Wheels, Unrequited Shade*)

Matthew is delighted to be part of Paradox Theatre Works’ inaugural performance and is excited for the future of this company, where he also serves as Board Secretary. Additionally, Matthew is a member of the Village Follies, where he not only performs but also serves as Board Secretary. Previously, Matthew served as the Company Manager for Route 66 Theatre, a union theatre company whose decade long run in Chicago provided him with amazing experiences and countless memories. Throughout his career, Matthew has worked both sides of the stage, performing not only as an actor, but serving as a stage manager as well. Matthew has had the pleasure of working with various companies, including, Chicago Kids Company, Tony n’ Tina’s

Wedding, Cole Theatre, Open Door Rep, Proud Kate Theatre, Dog & Pony Theatre, Lincoln Square Theatre, The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company & Donna & Rocco’s Big Fat Italian Wedding.



TAMAR BROOKS (*Whatever Happened to Tinkerbell, Sound Mind*)

Tamar Brooks is a Wisconsin native who earned her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre in 2013 and joined the Chicago creative scene shortly thereafter as an actor, playwright, and poet. She is especially fond of mentioning her involvement in a production of Richard II at Flint Castle in Wales and a short works festival about hot dogs. When she’s not onstage, you might find her baking or jumping out of an airplane.



MARK D’ARIENZO (*Unreliable Narrator, Sales of a Dead Man*)

Mark D’Arienzo is a founding member and Board Chairman of Paradox Theatre Works. He holds a BS in Theatre and an MS in Communication from Northwestern University. He has been performing since he was knee high to a grasshopper. Mark is the co-writer of “Donna & Rocco’s Big Fat Italian Wedding” with his wife, Jane Allyson. Many thanks to the cast and crew of “Cocktails and Monologues” for making magic happen. Mark would like to thank Sarah for working for food and especially thanks Jane for letting him make his own mistakes before fixing them and allowing him think that he did it all by himself.



KRISTINA DRENDEL (*The Perfect Sandwich, Delores the Plumber*)

Kristina is thrilled to be a part of the first ever Cocktails and Monologues: New Work Fest. A recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago's BA in Musical Theatre, Kristina spends her days as a private music instructor for children. She enjoys all things literature, music, and of course theatre. She also looks forward to what the future has in store and is so excited to start her career in the Chicago Theatre World. Some of her favorite previous shows have been ***Antigone***, ***Young Frankenstein***, ***Blood at the Root***, and the Columbia College Chicago ***12 Hour Play***

Festival. She would like to thank her family, friends, and her boyfriend, Hanson, for supporting her in endeavors.



LAURA FUDACZ (*Safekeeping, Cheating Schmeating*)

Laura is thrilled to be back on stage with a live audience for Paradox Theatre's New Works Festival. Recent roles include Dr. Strong in Violet Surprise Theatre's Zoom production of ***Dr. Strong*** and 9 different characters making up the ensemble of Valiant Theatre's production of ***Love Serving Love***. Out in Western Oregon she is better known as "Super Mom" saving families from hunger with Figaro's Pizza. She wants to thank her family, friends, and Jake for driving all the way out to Winnetka for this show!



STEPHANIE HERMAN (*No, No, Don't Speak, Divorcee Shower, The Cat Commitment*)

Stephanie is beyond excited to be joining Paradox Theatre Works on their first Cocktails and Monologues night! She is originally from Highland, MI and recently graduated from Wayne State University with a BFA in Theatre and Minor in Musical Theatre. After she graduated, Stephanie packed up all her things and decided to become a Chicagoland actor! She was last seen in Opera MODO's production of ***Into the Woods*** and in Wayne State's ***Trivoya Gold***. Stephanie would like to thank her family and friends for being the greatest support system anyone could ask for. 'I love you all!'



GILLIAN MADSEN (*The Maya Awards, My Son Doesn't Listen*)

Gillian is thrilled to be trying her hand at acting this evening. She has performed with the Winnetka Village Follies since 2016, in noteworthy roles such as singing sheep, singing panda, singing pig, singing hooker, and dancing cop. But she hasn't done any honest-to-goodness acting since elementary school, where she had pivotal children's theater roles such as duck in ***Alice in Wonderland***, friend of ***Cinderella***'s wicked stepsisters, frog in ***Tales of the Brothers Grimm***, and citizen of Oz. Additionally, in a college production of ***A Chorus Line***, she

was cast as one of the bad dancers who doesn't make it past the opening scene. By day, she is a lawyer, but don't tell anyone.



ANDREW POND (*Out On The Ice, The Return of Professor Moriarty, The Presentation*)

Andrew J. Pond moved to Chicago in 2002 from South Florida, where he had studied with the likes of Burt Reynolds, Dom DeLuise, José Quintero, and Charles Nelson Reilly. Since moving to Chicago from the tropics (for the weather), he has worked extensively as an actor, director, and playwright with several children's theatres, has appeared on stages all over Chicago ranging from Redtwist to Metropolis, is a founder and Artistic Director of Eclectic Full Contact Theatre, teaches drama classes for all ages, is an Elvis impersonator, juggler, magician, balloon artist, plays with puppets, does Muppet voices, voices characters on several of Eclectic's audio drama podcasts (one of which he co-writes) and has a degree in philosophy so he can use words like "epistemology" at parties. Other than that, he is completely normal. He would like to thank Jessica, his partner in everything. <https://www.eclectic-theatre.com/>



CHARLES SEYMOUR (*The Berenstain Bear-adox*)

Charles is a music man by trade, and by choice, and by experience. He has performed right here in this building with the Winnetka Village Follies (without shame) for the past 20 years, and has been the Musical Director for the Follies since 2010, thank you Cindy. He has also released two moderately-successful music albums under the appellation ***The Bottles*** that continue to generate tens of dollars per year in streaming revenue. And he plays in a variety of local bands. Occasionally, he goes on the stage to act. He is very grateful to Jane and Mark for including him in this venture/adventure and allowing him to perform a monologue. And he is thankful to his

director (and writer) David who so patiently guided him through the Bear-adox.



JUDI SCHINDLER (*Time To Murder My Husband, Viktoria's Letter*)

Launching her acting career almost 10 years ago, Judi Schindler has appeared in films, industrials and commercials as well as local theater productions. She currently has a lead role in ***Headwaters***, a yet-to-be-released feature film by Little Lake Productions. Favorite theater roles include: Roberta in ***Admissions*** at Theater Wit; Dr. Toule in ***Women of 4G*** at Babes with Blades, and Miriam Goldman in ***Beau Jest*** at Oil Lamp Theatre. She also had the privilege of understudying at Northlight, Victory Gardens, Steppenwolf, Steep and Shattered Globe theaters. Prior to Covid 19, Judi entertained at organizations, clubs and business groups with

her one-woman show: ***Husbands: An Owner's Manual***, which is based on her book of the same title. She also writes a blog called, ***The Toilet Seat Must Go Down***, which covers the funny side of marriage and relationships. Judi, who previously lead an award-winning public relations and marketing firm, is thrilled to be back in a theater in front of a live audience.



ALEXIS VASELOPULOS (*It's Magic, The Influencer*)

Alexis Vaseopoulos is an actor from Northfield, IL, and a recent college graduate from the University of Iowa, receiving a BA in Theatre Arts and a BA in Psychology. Her emphasis is mostly in acting, but she has occasionally written and directed. She enjoys Shakespeare, reading, listening to music, writing, and creating new works. Upon graduation, she worked with Rivendell Theatre Ensemble. Favorite credits include ***The Serpent Under't*** (Eurayle), ***Outside*** (Alex), ***Year of Revue*** (co-creator), and ***A Plant*** (receiver) at the University of Iowa; and as "Stage Directions" for Rivendell Theatre Ensemble's virtual reading of ***Spay*** by Madison Fiedler. This is Alexis' first professional production, and she would like to thank all her Friends,

Professors, and Family, for all their support. To Jane and Mark: Thank you for the amazing opportunity to bring live theatre back and making this process wonderful.



BEATRIX WAGNER (*On The Day You See Me*)

Beatrix Wagner grew up in Germany. She immigrated to the United States right after having graduated from the Folkwang Universität der Künste (Folkwang University of the Arts). Settling in Northern California's Mendocino County, she soon opened up a piano and flute studio as well as getting involved in the local dance and music scene, collaborating in performances with musicians and dancers. After a decade in California with an extended break to travel throughout China and South East Asia, she moved to New York, finally settling on Chicago's Northshore, where she is currently teaching piano lessons to students of all

ages throughout the area. For many years she has been happily performing in the annual local variety show. This is her first venture into writing and acting, having always loved and respected the power and beauty of language and words. Beatrix is super proud of her three wonderful musical multilingual sons.



MONOLOGUES ALPHABETICALLY BY PERFORMER, TITLE AND PLAYWRIGHT

Matthew Bonaccorso	Training Wheels by Michael Hardstark
Matthew Bonaccorso	The Unrequited Shade by Erin Wilcox
Tamar Brooks	What Happened To Tinkerbelle by Dana Hall
Tamar Brooks	Sound Mind by Dana Hall
Mark D'Arienzo	Sales of a Dead Man by Arthur M. Jolly
Mark D'Arienzo	The Unreliable Narrator by Margo Rife
Kristina Drendel	Dolores The Plumber by Vivian C. Lermond
Kristina Drendel	The Perfect Sandwich by Stefan Diethelm
Laura Fudacz	Cheating Schmeating by Shelley Stolaroff Segal
Laura Fudacz	Safekeeping by Andrea Fleck Clardy
Stephanie Herman	The Cat Commitment by Sydney Keith
Stephanie Herman	The Divorcee Shower by Lavinia Roberts
Stephanie Herman	No, No, Don't Speak by Jack G. Hyman
Gillian Madsen	My Son Doesn't Listen by Pamela Morgan
Gillian Madsen	The Maya Award by Philip J. Kaplan
Beatrix Wagner	On The Day You See Me by Beatrix Wagner
Andrew Pond	The Presentation by James Menges
Andrew Pond	The Return of Professor Moriarty by Matt Sanders and Ariel Aliza Sanders
Andrew Pond	Out On The Ice Deborah Ann Percy and Arnold Johnston
Charles Seymour	The Berenstain Bear-adox by David Lipschutz
Judi Schindler	Time To Murder My Husband by Midge Guerra
Judi Schindler	Viktoria's Letter by Jack Seamus Conley
Alexis Vaseopoulos	It's Magic by Emily Hageman
Alexis Vaseopoulos	The Influencer by Richard Castle
Beatrix Wagner	On The Day You See Me by Beatrix Wagner



WHO'S WHO - THE PLAYWRIGHTS



RICHARD CASTLE (*The Influencer*)

Richard Castle is a playwright, lyricist and songwriter. *Housewarming Party* will be seen in the upcoming "Bewitching" festival in 2021. *Love Stings*, a new musical, was commissioned by Northern Sky Theater and will have its world premiere in 2022. *Virtual Happy Hour* was produced by both Theater Resources Unlimited and Left Edge Theater in 2021. *Oklahoma In Wisconsin*, his 1950s-style family musical, premiered at Northern Sky Theater in 2017. *The Angel of Painted Post* was selected by Stephen Schwartz for the ASCAP Musical Theater Workshop in Los Angeles. His comedy song *Mr. Whiskers* was a semi-finalist in the International Songwriting Competition in 2020. Other plays include *Vacuity*, *Everything Must Go*, *Anne's Ashes*, and *Cabbages & Kings*. Other musicals include *Bloodline* and *L.A. Carmen* (L.A. Latino Theatre Company). Richard holds a degree from the USC School of Theater and is a member of the Dramatists Guild. www.RichardCastle.com



ANDREA FLECK CLARDY (*Safekeeping*)

Andrea Fleck Clardy is a Boston playwright and activist. Her short plays and monologues have been widely produced and included in numerous "Best of..." anthologies, published by Smith and Kraus, Applause, and New World Theatre, most recently *Laughter Is the Best Medicine: Forty-five 5-minute Plays in the Time of Coronavirus* edited by Debbie Lamedman (Smith & Kraus, 2021). She won the Promising Playwright Award and was a semi-finalist for the Eugene O'Neill Conference, a finalist for the Princess Grace Award, and twice for the Heideman Award. Full-length shows include *Hide and Seek*, with music by Clark Gesner (Hangar Theatre, Ithaca NY), and *Job Loss Figure* (Colonial Players, Annapolis MD). Her publications also include a children's book, a collection of newspaper columns, calendars portraying remarkable American women, and two books about upstate New York. She is a proud member of The Dramatists' Guild, National Writers' Union, and New Play Exchange. www.andreaфлекclardy.com



JACK SEAMUS CONLEY (*Viktoria's Letter*)

Jack Séamus Conley (he/him) is a proud neurodivergent, disabled, and queer/transgender playwright and director located in the Seattle area. He holds a BA in Psychology and Theatre Arts from the University of Puget Sound, and between the years of 2017-2019 took a break from theater to obtain a Masters of Health Administration from Columbia University, after which he got back into the performing arts scene (which has felt like a breath of fresh air). Still fairly new to the playwright scene, Jack largely draws on a mixture of history, literature, and lived experiences to create his work. He's also inspired by psychology and interpersonal relationships, and often combines dramatic and semi-abstract realism, depending on the piece. In all his work, Jack makes it a priority to center his pieces around amplifying marginalized voices, and co-runs a small theatre group, *Rainy Day Artistic Collective*, whose core mission is exactly that. <https://newplayexchange.org/users/63288/jack-seamus-conley>



STEFAN DIETHELM (*The Perfect Sandwich*)

Stefan Diethelm was born and raised in Switzerland, where he fell in love with the arts at a young age. He studied classical singing for most of his life, and decided to pursue a career in the performing arts after high school. He studied at a musical theatre college in Germany and performed in a variety of shows before and during that time. However, he never felt quite at home in the German theatre landscape and kept looking for bigger challenges to improve his craft and grow as a person. He came to New York to study acting at HB Studio, and in turn discovered his passion for playwriting while studying with Eduardo Machado. He has been awarded the Christina Kukucka scholarship for promising young playwrights, and looks forward to improving his craft as a writer and actor. <https://www.instagram.com/stefdiesel>



MIDGE GUERRERA (*Time to Murder My Husband*)

Currently residing in Italy, Midge's book *Cars, Castles, Cows and Chaos* will be published by Read Furiously in 2022. For the tenth anniversary of 9/11, theatres in four states produced her response to the tragedy, *E-Mail: 9-12* and it will be published in October 2021 by Next Stage Press. Monologues have been published in "Contemporary Monologues for a New Theater," Applause Theatre & Cinema Books, 2018. *Annarita*, was selected for the Samuel French 29th Annual Short Play Festival. Historic works Midge was commissioned to write and direct: *Ruth St. Denis: The Dance Continues*; *Turnabout and Transitions*, re-count events in Somerset County, New Jersey in

1776; **Crane Chronicles and Stephen Crane: The Middle Years**, presented by the Stephen Crane Committee at the Stephen Crane House. **Many Snows Ago** explores the tales of Eastern Woodland Indians and has been performed at numerous schools. She has written over fifty plays for children, all produced by the Laffin' Stock Company. www.midgeguerrera.com



EMILY HAGEMAN (*It's Magic*)

Emily Hageman is a music and theater educator residing in Sioux City, Iowa. Her plays have seen production with Samuel French Off Off Broadway Short Play Festival (2019 and 2021), Heartland Theatre Company, The Growing Stage Theatre, and Gi60s. Emily is published with YouthPLAYS and Stage Partners. <https://newplayexchange.org/users/18964/emily-hageman>



DANA HALL (*What Happened to Tinkerbell, Sound Mind*)

Dana Hall is a playwright and mental health therapist. She's honored to have her work featured with Paradox Theatre in the company of such talented creatives. Dana has dozens of plays produced across the nation and recently took home a best of fringe award at Women's Theatre Festival (NC) for her examination of social disparities with the play, **No Justice**. Her full-length virtual-comedy **The Tenant** was featured at Rogue Theater Festival (NYC) & Thornhill Theatre Space (PA). Her children's book, **Beyond Words**, won a Mother's Choice Award. She's worked with Scripps Onstage (CA), Neo-Futurists (Chicago), The Tank (NYC), Shiny Unicorn Productions (MA), and 5 & Dime Theater (FL) to name a few. She's the co-founder/artistic director of This

Moment Productions, a virtual theatre company with the mission to increase access and equity in the theatrical arts. She's a member of Dramatist Guild of America, International Centre for Women Playwrights, and HonorRoll! www.DanaHallCreates.com



MICHAEL HARDSTARK (*Training Wheels*)

Michael Hardstark's plays have had numerous productions and readings throughout the United States, including: the Chelsea LAB Repertory Theatre, NYC, the 91st Playhouse, NYC, the Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, MI, the Greenway Court Theatre, Los Angeles, CA., (with Alfred Molina and Harold Gould), the Prescott Arts Center, AZ, and the Neapolitans Theatre Company, Chicago, IL. His play, **The Last Laugh**, is published by Concord Theatricals. Michael has taught acting and scene study at such institutions as; the Warren Robertson Theatre Workshop, NYC, the 78th St. Theatre Lab, NYC, and Olympia Dukakis's Whole Theatre Company, Montclair, NJ.

Michael is a member of the American Renaissance Theatre and the Dramatists Guild. You can contact Michael Hardstark through www.newplayexchange.org



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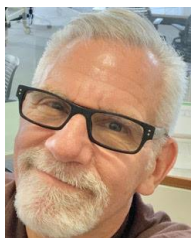
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BEATRIX WAGNER

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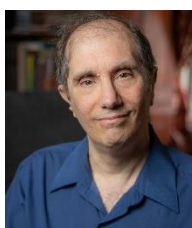


**JACK G. HYMAN (*No, No, Don't Speak*)**

Jack G. Hyman is a playwright, director, actor, and teacher who has written for stage, television, and magazines. He wrote for the Cable TV series, *The Islanders* and is a produced playwright on the NY stage. His new children's book (*Breakfast With The Birds*) has recently been made into a musical for kids. Additionally, Jack has been a writer/performer for the long-running PBS kids show, *Bloopy's Buddies* and a freelance associate producer at ESPN. He is currently writing the sequel to his children's book along with the book and lyrics of a grand new musical based on the life of a 19th century French artist. Jack graduated from Emerson College in Boston and did grad work at NYU. He is a native Texan, now living in NYC and Florida. jackghyman.com

**ARTHUR M. JOLLY (*Sales of a Dead Man*)**

Arthur M. Jolly (he, him) is a playwright and screenwriter, recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences with a *Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting*, and in 2017 won the *Hammond House International Literary Prize for a Screenplay*. Feature screenplays include *Where We Disappear*, available on Amazon Prime. As a playwright, Jolly has won the *Todd McNerney National Playwriting Award*, the *Region IV David Mark Cohen Playwriting Award*, *Babes With Blades' Joining Sword and Pen* competition a record three times, and was a finalist for the *Woodward/Newman Drama Award*. He has penned over 70 produced plays, with productions across the US and in Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America. Plays produced in Chicago include *The Lady Demands Satisfaction*, *A Gulag Mouse*, *Trash*, *Childish Things*, *Fallen to the Communists*, *Five Finger Exercise*, *The Four Senses of Love*, *The Secret of Jarlsberg* and *Thicker Than Water*. www.Arthurjolly.com

**PHILIP J KAPLAN (*The Maya Award*)**

Philip J. Kaplan has been published in three volumes of Best Ten-Minute Plays (Smith and Kraus) and the Best Men's Monologues 2021. Full Length plays include, *The Best Day Of Your Life*, Vintage Theatre (2019), *Bunnyboy*, *The Growing Stage* (2020), *The Cupcake Conspiracy* (w/ C.J. Ehrlich), *Rover DramaWerks* (2015), *Florentine Players* (2017), and *I, Vermin: A Hollywood Success Story*, NY Fringe Festival (2002). He is on the leadership team of The Shelter a New York Theatre Group. Website: <http://philipkaplan.weebly.com>

**SYDNEY KEITH (*The Cat Commitment*)**

Sydney began writing at the age of seven after realizing she could speak her mind without having to speak to people. Originally from Seattle, she has spent the last six years committed to assisting with every aspect of theatrical productions in the Puget Sound area, including acting, set building, sound design, and stage management. After making her writing debut in Plank Island Theatre Company's *Writing Wrongs* monologue show in Aberdeen, Sydney is elated to be expanding her audience to the Chicago area! For more information on Sydney's writing and links to her other monologues, visit sydneykeithwrites.com.

**VIVIAN C. LERMONT (*Dolores the Plumber*)**

Vivian is an award-winning playwright who has penned more than 100 plays and monologues that have entertained audiences in the US, Mexico, England, Scotland, Canada and Australia. Her full-length drama/comedy, *Back to Bethlehem (PA)*, premiered Off-Broadway in 2006 at the Manhattan Theatre Club. In addition to her stage plays, Vivian has also written two full length screenplays that were awarded first place in two highly competitive screenwriting contests. Currently, a variety of her work is featured on *The Writer's Block Radio Hour*, a radio program that airs worldwide on the web via supersoundscotland.net

<https://newplayexchange.org/users/40602/vivian-lermond>

**DAVID LIPSCHUTZ (*The Berenstain Bear-adox*)**

David Lipschutz (he/him) is excited for the opportunity to write and direct for this festival (including directing his own piece!). He is a Chicago-based artist and company member of Hell in a Handbag Productions. Directing credits include productions with Handbag, BPBCo, Underscore, Pride Films & Plays, and Eclectic Full Contact. He has also written works performed throughout the country and has his first international production coming later this year *G'Oy Vey!* with Act Your Age Showcase in Manchester, England. For more information on his written works, find him on New Play Exchange: <http://newplayexchange.org/users/59341/david-lipschutz>. Thanks to Jane and everyone at Paradox, and to Erin, Ash & the boys, and BC/KJOC.

**JAMES MENGES (*The Presentation*)**

James Menges is a writer and photographer. Menges puts his perspective of humanity, politics, technology and their impact on society on the stage and screen. His plays and monologues have been performed in theaters across the USA. Menges is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America. Plays: www.jamesmenges.com, Photos: www.mengesphoto.com

**PAMELA MORGAN (*My Son Doesn't Listen*)**

Pamela Morgan has worked in theatre for two decades and co-founded This Moment Productions. She's had plays featured across the country, internationally, and published with Smith Scripts. She recently won Best Show for the LGBTQ Short Play Festival in New York for her virtual one act: **Senior Moments**. Visit Pamela at www.pamelamorganwrites.com.

**DEBORAH ANN PERCY & ARNOLD JOHNSTON (*Out On The Ice*)**

Married writers Deborah Ann Percy (Johnston) and Arnold Johnston live in Kalamazoo and South Haven, MI. Their individually and collaboratively written plays have won over 300 productions and readings on stage, screen, and radio, as well as numerous awards and publications across the country and internationally; and they've written, co-written, edited, or translated some twenty books. Their award-winning poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and translations have appeared widely in literary journals and anthologies After a distinguished administrative career in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. They are members of the Dramatists Guild, the Associated Writing Programs, Poets & Writers, and the American Literary Translators Association. www.Johnston-Percy-Writers.com.

**MARGO RIFE (*The Unreliable Narrator*)**

Margo Rife studied dramatic writing through classwork at Chicago Dramatists and was part of their *New Plays Student Showcase*. Her monologues have received virtual and live staging at *The Playground Experiment Faces of America Festival* in NYC, Burning Coal Theatre anthology *Illuminated Dresses* and MOJOAA *Reclamation Project* in Raleigh, NC. She was also involved in the *Zero Tolerance Project* at Theatre of Western Springs where she is a member of their Playwriting Group. Several of her short plays have been staged there. She is currently doing set dressing for their upcoming production of ***The Mysterious Incident of the Dog at Night Time***. Margo's short

and full-length plays can be read on New Play Exchange and the Playwrights' Center. Margo is an editor for ***Basement Stories***, a podcast produced at the LaGrange Library. Her flash fiction has appeared in many online literary magazines like New World Writing. <https://pwcenter.org/profile/margo-rife>

**LAVINIA ROBERTS (*The Divorcee Shower*)**

Lavinia Roberts is an award-winning playwright and educator. She is published with Applause Books, Big Dog Plays, Brooklyn Publishers, Eldridge Publishing, Heuer Publishing, Plays: The Drama Magazine for Young People, Pioneer Drama, Redleaf Press, Smith and Kraus, and others. She has received productions in all 50 states and internationally in Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, and The United Kingdom.

<https://laviniaroberts.com>

**MATT SANDERS & ARIEL ALIZA SANDERS (*The Return of Professor Moriarty*)**

Matt Sanders and Ariel Aliza Sanders live and write in Brooklyn, NY. Their short plays have been produced in various New York City venues and one in London, and now in Chicago.

**SHELLEY STOLAROFF SEGAL (*Cheating Schmeating*)**

Shelley Stolaroff Segal is a playwright, actor, composer, and essayist. She received her drama training at the Drama Studio London and the CSC Conservatory in NYC. ***My Son***, her play about autism and race, premiered in NYC and was a TNT POPS finalist. An abbreviated version was presented at TEDx East. Her latest play, ***The Harmonica in Your Closet***, was a winner in the 2021 International Stage It! Play Festival. Other production credits include ***Bliss***, a play about marriage, ***Outing Your Autistic Child***, which she performed and scored, and ***Not Strictly Vaudeville***, which she performed and scored. Non-fiction credits include *The Washington Post*, *Blunt Moms*, *Autism/Asperger's Digest*, *Chicken Soup*, *Multiples Illuminated*, and *From Sac*

Literary Journal. She's happy and proud to be a part of Paradox's New Works Festival! <https://shelltells.com>



BEATRIX WAGNER (*On The Day You See Me*)

Beatrix Wagner is currently teaching piano lessons to students of all ages throughout the area, and for numerous years has been happily performing in the annual local variety show. This is her first venture into writing and acting, having always loved and respected the power and beauty of language and words.



ERIN WILCOX (*The Unrequited Shade*)

Erin Wilcox, a Baton Rouge native, is delighted to be having her work performed for the first time at the Paradox Theatre's First Annual New Works' Festival "Cocktails and Monologues". She received her degree in Psychology (with a minor in Political Science) from Louisiana State University in 2019. Although she is a new playwright, she's no stranger to writing, theater, and inspiration especially after spending her time after college working with the elderly and hearing their stories of love and bravery while becoming a Certified Resident Activity Director in Louisiana. She credits her theatrical inspirations to *Hamilton*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Ain't too Proud*, and *A Chorus Line* to name a few. In her free time she enjoys writing poetry, playing her favorite video games, eating some amazing Louisiana cuisine, watching her favorite Disney movies, taking trips to the local bookstore with her mother, and traveling with her father.

WHO'S WHO - THE PRODUCTION STAFF



JANE ALLYSON – Artistic Director, Technical Operator

After performing and directing on the local, regional and Dinner Theatre circuit for many years, Jane decided to turn her hand to Theatrical Production. Through the years, Jane has founded *Portage Players* in Michigan, *Interact Productions* which performed from WI to MI, and *That's Murthertainment* Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre in Chicagoland. Jane is co-author & director of the interactive comedy hit "***Donna & Rocco's Big Fat Italian Wedding***". Together with her husband Mark D'Arienzo, they have co-authored several audience participation plays, including their comedic character *Father Tony Zamboni*, the parish priest from *Our Lady of the Unclean Catholic Church*. Jane is a vocalist musician for Seniors travelling to retirement homes and senior living communities with the healing power of music. She also sings as the character "Gina Martini" with the Red Room Trio and is the vocalist for Blue Buddha Jazz Band. She thanks Mark and the entire cast for their dedication and hard work and her fabulous daughter for stepping in to help. www.janeallyson.com



SARAH SCHIERBEEK – Stage Manager

Therapist intern by day, jack of all trades by night, Sarah is happy to be part of Paradox Theatre Works first show! Sarah has been in several musical theatre shows such as ***Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*** and ***Shrek the Musical*** as well as *Village Follies*. She has appeared in dinner theatre productions such as ***Johnny Boy's Graduation*** and ***Donna & Rocco's Big Fat Italian Wedding***. Sarah is also a pretty good semi-professional soprano. Sarah is excited to be able to support her mom and stepfather as they begin this wonderful new journey with Paradox Theatre Works.



AMY SKALINDER, COMMUNITY HOUSE PRESIDENT

For more than 25 years, Amy has combined her passion for enriching lives and strengthening communities with deep experience in program development, board relations, fiscal management, fundraising, and general operations. She has served in key leadership positions with organizations primarily serving youth and families, including the McGaw YMCA in Evanston and Angles (formerly Links – North Shore Youth Health Service) in Northfield. Amy earned her Bachelor's Degree from Tufts University and her Master's in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago. She joined the Community House as President in 2019 and oversees all aspects of the organization's operations. When she's not at work, Amy enjoys playing ice hockey, singing in a classical chamber choir, and spending time with family.

MIKE BUSCHER, COMMUNITY HOUSE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Mike Buscher joined the Community House in 1992. Over the years, his role has evolved from Fitness Center Manager to Superintendent of Recreation to his current role as Director of Operations. Mike oversees all areas of the Community House's operations including the Fitness Center, Rentals, Programs, and maintenance of the building. Mike is passionate about volunteerism helping the underprivileged and assisting organizations dedicated to the field of health & wellness. His affiliations include the Illinois Park & Recreation Association, National Recreation and Park Association, Learning Resources Network, American Council on Exercise, and the National Academy of Sports Medicine. Mike enjoys traveling, hiking, college sports, and spending time with family.

PATTI RUIZ, COMMUNITY HOUSE PROGRAM MANAGER

Over the past 25 years Patti has helped the development of many children who have walked through the doors of the Community House. Specializing in early childhood, performing arts, special events she is the staff liaison for our theatre programs at the Community House. Patti holds a Recreation Degree from Northeastern Illinois University and an Early Childhood Certificate of Education. She is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, is an Advisory Board Member of the Alliance of Early Childhood and has served as President of the Northshore Roundtable of Recreation. In her free time, Patti and her husband are avid sports fans and she loves rooting for the Chicago White Sox while her husband unfortunately roots for the Chicago Cubs. They both love cheering on Northwestern football and the Chicago Blackhawks.



SING! DANCE! ACT!

Annie Jr.

FOR AGES 8 to 13 | NO ACTING EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

• REHEARSAL INFO • •• COST •••

LOCATION: Skokie Theatre
7924 Lincoln Ave. Skokie, IL

WHEN: Beginning January 13
Saturdays 10a - Noon
& Thursdays 4p - 6p

\$350
Includes two comp tickets
to the performances

• PERFORMANCES • • TEACHERS •

March 17 – 20

Cathy Jacobson
& Lisa Friedman

••• Register by November 1 •••

First two classes are on Dec 13 and 15 from 4 pm to 6 pm. These
are auditions. Roles will be assigned after those two classes.

847-677-7761
SkokieTheatre.org

SKOKIE THEATRE



Eclectic Full Contact Theatre
www.eclectic-theatre.com

ECLECTICPODCASTNETWORK

DEEP SHADOWS

Bloody Bay

THROWING SHADE

HALF HOUR AUDIO HOUR

CLUSTER F

monocyte

If you are interested in being part of Paradox Theatre Works upcoming season, please visit our website at: www.paradoxtheatreworks.com
Auditions and job openings will be posted on our site.

We have open spots for committee members for the following:

- Play reading committee
- Fundraising committee

If interested in any of these committees, email: paradoxtheatreworks@gmail.com

Paradox Theatre Works' Board of Directors

Chairman.....Mark D'Arienzo
Vice Chair.....Kate Quick
Treasurer.....Charles Seymour
Secretary.....Matthew Bonaccorso
Members.....Andrew Pond
.....Beatrix Wagner
Artistic DirectorJane Allyson

Thank You to Our Theatrical Partners

The Community House
Eclectic Full Contact Theatre

WWW.PARADOXTHEATREWORKS.COM

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK



 <p>2022 Village Follies Show will be LIVE in Matz Hall</p> <p>Annual Variety Show Fundraiser supporting the Community House in Winnetka, Illinois</p> <h1>Village Follies</h1>	<h2>Village Follies 2022</h2>  <h2>The Beat Goes On</h2>
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Village Follies has been a Winnetka tradition for over 50 years. Please join us as we sing and dance our way across the Matz Hall stage in a fun filled show featuring the writing and acting talents of the entire Village Follies community!

March 11, 12, 13, 18 & 19 at 7pm

www.Villagefollies.com

2022 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

"SUTTON LEE SEYMOUR" LIVE ONSTAGE!
April 2022

LIVE OLD TIME RADIO SHOW - Fundraiser
May 2022

SUMMER MUSICAL PRODUCTION
June 2022

"PARTY IN THE PARKING LOT" - Fundraiser
Summer 2022

ANNUAL NEW WORKS FESTIVAL
"10 Minute Plays"
Fall 2022

...AND MORE IN THE WORKS!

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