



CONSTELLATIONS

by Nick Payne

One Weekend Only
Chatham Community Players
June 7-9, 2024



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



First and foremost- welcome! Thank you so much for coming to see *Constellations*! I'm proud of the work the cast and OWO production team has done to bring this show to life, and I'm excited to share it with you.

Second- I have a confession to make. I'm afraid of physics.

In high school, I struggled with physics more than any other class and then resolved not to attempt a similarly difficult science in college. So, after several years of avoiding physics entirely, I read *Constellations* and began preparing to direct it. The premise of *Constellations* is rooted in theoretical physics, particularly the idea that any number of universes can exist. I could appreciate the structure of the play, but I personally didn't want to think about the multiverse. The vast unknown of the universe in physics scared me, in comparison to the specific and tangible problems of social sciences.

All of these thoughts led me to ask a friend who studies physics why they like it. The answer surprised me: physics was an elegant and succinct way of explaining the universe through equations, but as physics has advanced, the equations come to more and more odd conclusions that can't be proven easily. Through that line of thought, I could almost think of *Constellations* as an experiment. What might two people's lives look like, if the multiverse happens to be real? Or if the multiverse isn't real, what might we want to do differently in our own lives, if given the chance? Would we change how we spend our time or who it is spent with?

I'd like to thank the OWO team for their support during this process and for giving me such a warm welcome to Chatham Community Players. Thank you especially to our producers, Sarah and Steve, who very bravely gave me the opportunity to direct this play during my final semester of college. I'm grateful to have worked with such talented, dedicated people to tell this story.



SEAN BUCKLEY (ROLAND)

is excited and honored to be a part of his first production at CCP. Previous credits include *Pride & Prejudice* (Mr. Darcy), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Chris Bean), *Dial M for Murder* (Tony Wendice), *The Lion in Winter* (Richard the Lionheart), *Romeo & Juliet* (Mercutio), *Love's Labour's Lost* (King Ferdinand), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon) among others. He also starred in the Off-Broadway world premiere of *Wm & Jas - A Ghost Story* (William Gillette). He is a three-time NCAA Division-1 All-American in Men's Fencing and a published author of short stories.



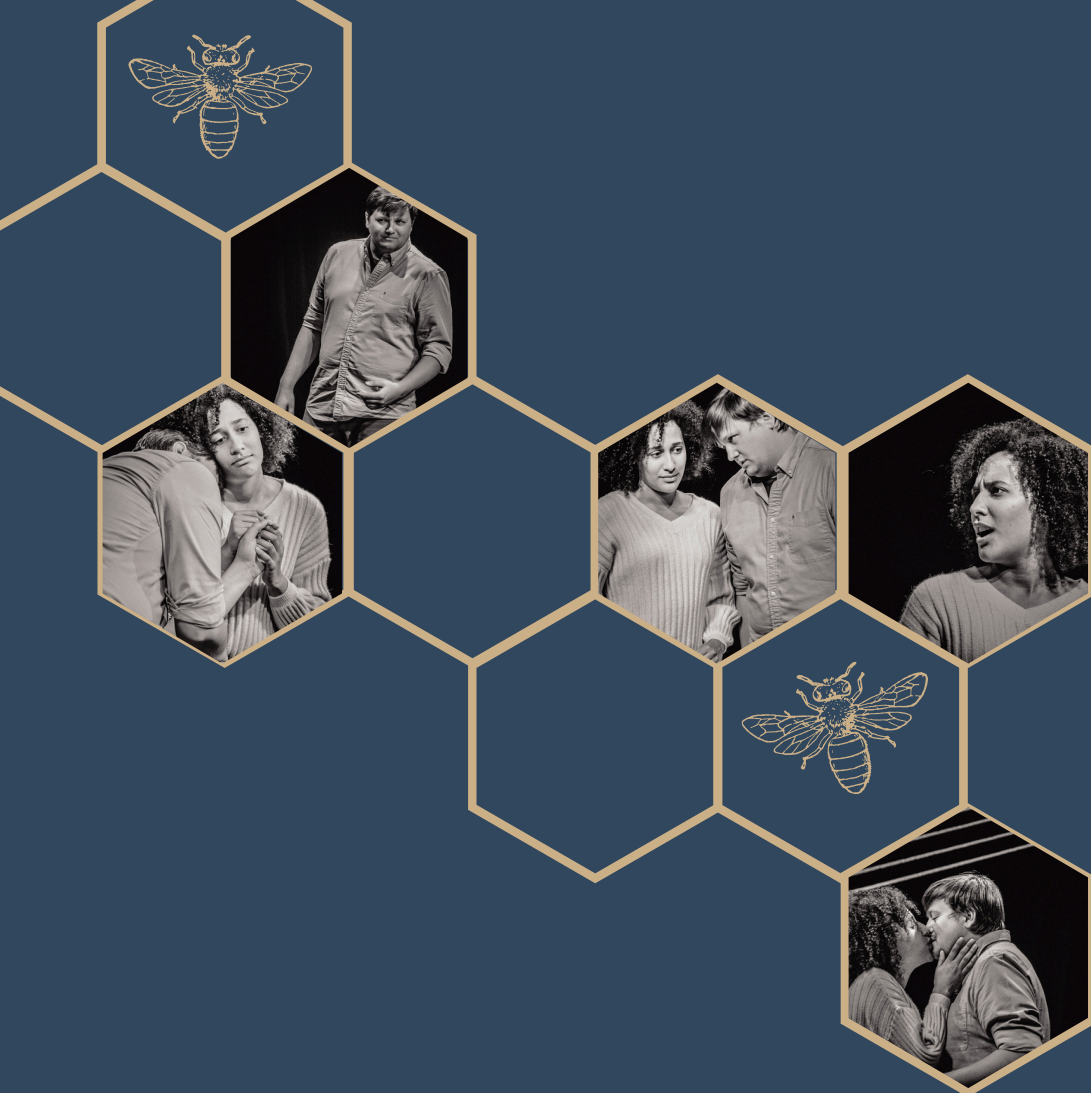
NYASIA (MARIANNE)

is excited to be making her Chatham Community Players debut with such an amazing cast mate and crew. Her recent credits include *Birthday Candles* (Alice/Madeline/Ernie), *Twelfth Night* (Andrew Aguecheeck) and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Annie), which she was nominated for a Perry Award for "Best Supporting Actress in a Play". Nyasia would like to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support. And a special shout out to her hair for elevating every performance.



FELICITY WINTER DIRECTOR

is a New Jersey-based director and actor. She has worked as a teaching artist with Fresh Theatre Arts and Ferrell Studios. Past directing credits include *American Idiot*, *Into the Woods*, and *Heroes of the Fourth Turning*. Past production credits include *Twelfth Night* (Costume Designer), *Puffs* (Technical Director), and *The Last Five Years* (Props and Costumes Coordinator/Co-Stage Manager). As a performer, her credits include *Spring Awakening* (Adult Man, Adult Woman), *Ideation* (Hannah), *West Side Story* (Clarice), and *Plano* (Genevieve). She would like to thank her family and Ethan for supporting her through this process (including the driving).



SARAH PHARAON PRODUCER

has produced *Fat Pig*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries* and *Mary's Wedding for One Weekend Only*. Though she more often appears onstage at Chatham (*Time Stands Still*, *The Humans*, *August Osage County*, *Angels in America*, *Bug*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Crimes of the Heart*) she has directed for *Jersey Voices* and *Sundays @7*. She also chairs our outreach program.

STEVE RUSKIN PRODUCER & SET DESIGN

In addition to working with *One Weekend Only*, Steve has directed, done sound design, fight choreography, set design, lighting, acted, produced, and written shows at Chatham. He recently did fight choreography for *The Pillowman* (Nutley), *MacBeth* (CHS), and set and fights for *King Charles III* (Montclair). Upcoming - fight choreography for, *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really* (Chester) . Yes, he's obsessed with the string art design.

AARON KELLNER STAGE MANAGER

has his BFA in Acting and MFA in Dramaturgy. He has worked at several regional theaters including Shakespeare Orange County (CA), Hippodrome State Theatre (FL), York Theatre Company (NY), and Manhattan Ensemble Theatre (NY), and has interned at New Dramatists (NY). Stage managing credits include *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Summit), *It's a Wonderful Life* (Wharton), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Studio), and several *Jersey Voices* (Chatham).

JOELLE BOCHNER SET PAINTING

has enjoyed being part of CCP since 1998. Over the past 24 years, she has acted, stage managed, propped, produced, painted, sewed, and built her way through this organization, which she holds as dear as family. She now humbly serves as a paint chair and welcomes you all to this home - your home - should you choose to volunteer with us.

JEFF KNAPP SOUND DESIGN

is making his CCP debut! Jeff is resident sound designer for Shadowland Stages (Ellenville, NY) and Vivid Stage (Summit, NJ) and his freelance work has been heard as far away as far north as Maine, as south as Florida and as west as South Korea! In September, he'll be celebrating his 30th Season at The Barn Theatre in Montville where he has directed, designed and acted, Favorite designs include the world premiere of Safe Home by Tom Hanks and Jim Glossman, Shostakovich and the Black Monk (world tour with the Emerson String Quartet), Every Brilliant Thing, The Outgoing Tide and Dead Man's Cell Phone. Love to Mo and the kids.

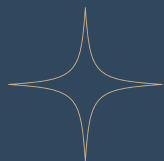
EMILY MILLER MARKETING

is excited to be back making art at Chatham. She's acted here in The Importance of..., The Humans & Time Stands Still. She recently produced NINE: The Musical as well as last season's Inspecting Carol. Emily runs Red Mic Rep Theatre Company, serves on the Board of Speranza Theatre Company and recently directed King Charles III at Studio Playhouse.

ED WHITMAN LIGHTING DESIGN

has designed the lighting for Fat Pig, Mary's Wedding, Gruesome Playground Injuries, Play On, Christmas Carol, Jersey Voices and Sundays @7 at Chatham Community Players. He has designed lighting at Cranford Dramatic Club and other theaters as well as working with the Light Opera of NJ. Ed is involved with set construction at CCP as well as other community theaters in the area.





WITH APPRECIATION TO

The OWO team: Joelle Bochner, Diane Giangreco, Aaron Kellner, Anne McCarthy, and Matt McCarthy

Also: Amy Nauta, Kathy Rex, Carol Saso and Ken Vespiano (ticketing and day of show support), Melanie Ruskin (photography), Chip Prestera, Chris Furlong, Gordon Weiner, and Corina Lupp (graphics and marketing), Roy Pancirov, Tom MacDonald and our Chatham High School interns Morgan McGarry & Madeline Kaplan (set construction), Ed Faver (ASL coach), Ben Russell (dialect coach), St Paul's Episcopal Church and Library of the Chathams (rehearsal space)

Funding has been made possible in part by funds from Morris Arts through the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Originally produced on Broadway by the Manhattan Theatre Club, Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director, Barry Grove, Executive Producer, and The Royal Court Theatre by special arrangement with Ambassador Theatre Group and Dodgers on December 16, 2014.

ABOUT ONE WEEKEND ONLY

One Weekend Only is Chatham Community Players' black box series, a two-show slate of productions, staged to compliment our mainstage season. These shows have small casts, small sets, and are staged up close to our audiences. We like to take a chance on the unexpected - shows that are unusual, sometimes dark, sometimes risky.

UP NEXT AT CHATHAM

Jersey Voices, short plays by New Jersey playwrights, July 26-August 4, 2024
Seussical, Jr., our Summer Youth Theater production, August 10-11, 2024