

The Chatham Community Players
Proudly Presents



*An Evening of One Act Plays
by these New Jersey Playwrights:*

Alex Bernstein
Susan Brown-Peitz
Clinton Festa
Ed Friedman
Jeanne Johnston
Alexis Kozak
Alex Wilkie

July 26 - August 4, 2024

THE CHATHAM COMMUNITY PLAYERS OFFICERS

2023-2025

President: Leslie Williams Ellis
Vice-President: Geneviève Anderson
Secretary: Carol Petersen Saso
Treasurer: Bob Denmark
Business Manager: Tom MacDonald
Past President: Joe DeVico

A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCERS

At its core, *Jersey Voices* is about showcasing new work by playwrights who may be unfamiliar to you. In the 30-year history of JV, we have received over 2,500 play submissions. That is 2,290 more plays than we could ever produce. To honor all of those writers and submissions, we chose to mark our 30th anniversary by looking back at some of our favorite pieces that never quite made it to the stage but deserved to join our pantheon of productions. To the playwrights who continue to create and share their work, and to our audiences who come year after year, willing to take a chance on something new - we are eternally grateful.

Here's to 30 more years!

Special Thanks

Library of The Chathams
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Christen Holly Photography
Shelby Moulton

Madi Kaplan - Morgan McGarry - Shayne Heluk
Leslie Williams Ellis - Geneviève Anderson - Carol Saso

Our Play Reading Committee:

Aaron Kellner, Ali Archetti, Chip Prestera, Erica Stuppler, and Sarah Pharaon

Jersey Voices Production Crew – 2024

Producer	Jessica Phelan
Producer; Stage Manager	Aaron Kellner
Assistant Director	Lisa Flavin
Lighting Design	Ed Whitman, Abby Serrao
Sound Design	Joe DeVico
Set Construction	Roy Pancirov
Props	Corina Lupp, Jackie Jacobi
Painting	Joelle Bochner
Run Crew	Elissa Strell, Ellie Leick
Front of House	Bob Denmark
Graphic Designer.....	Lauri MacMillan
Painting	Joelle Bochner
Program, Box Office	Kathy Rex
Publicity	Chris Furlong
Outreach	Sarah Pharaon

Our Playwrights

ALEX BERNSTEIN (Playwright, *Sexpo 1091*) is the author of *Pirknib* and *Miserable Love Stories*. Most recently, his plays *Gender Reveal Massacre* ran at the New York Theatre Festival; and *In Trouble* (starring Lynn Langone) at the Spark Theatre Festival, NYC. Alex is founder and co-producer of the *Curtains on Fire* playwrights' workshop and podcast. He's thrilled to be part of this year's *Jersey Voices!* Bravo to the entire cast and crew!

SUSAN BROWN-PEITZ (Playwright, *A Leap of Faith*) is happy to be returning to CCP's *Jersey Voices* on its 30th year! Her *Open Doors* was included in *JV 2022*. Other writing credits include *Dis/Connect* and *Making Amends*. Susan is so grateful for the love and support of her husband Tim, her family and friends. And a shout out to NJ PlayLab, and her fellow writers at WWYA and Woodbridge Writers, who have unfailingly shared their expertise and friendship.

CLINTON FESTA (Playwright, *Negate the Gods*) currently lives in Greensboro, NC, with his wife and children. His work has been produced around the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. During the pandemic, he wrote and directed a seven-episode action-comedy podcast called *The Malone Family in the Enchanted Forest*, available on Spotify. Clinton runs an online book drive for inmates in prisons and juvenile detention centers called Sentences Book Donations.

ED FRIEDMAN (Playwright, *Sunday in the Park with Will*): Ed's short plays have had over forty staged productions throughout the NY metropolitan area, and around the country. His anthology, *Short Plays for Long Lives*, is published by Blue Moon Press. Ed's monologues are included in anthologies published by the International Centre for Women Playwrights. His monologue, *Hannah*, is published in *Best Women's Monologues* for 2019. His humor collection, *I Will Not Be Ignored* is available at Amazon.

JEANNE JOHNSTON (Playwright, *Blow, Gabriel, Blow*) lives in High Bridge and is delighted to have her second play performed at Jersey Voices. Her first show was *Happily Ever After*, performed in *JV 2016*. Jeanne is most often a director, having directed at Summit Playhouse, Westfield Community Players, Readington Community Theater, Somerset Valley Players, Trilogy Repertory, and Lord Stirling Theater Company. Her next project is *Becky's New Car* at Somerset Valley Players.

ALEXIS KOZAK (Playwright, *Lillian Whistles Back*) studied Theatre Arts at Rutgers University and holds an MFA in Playwriting from Boston University. He has published *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*, adapted from F. Scott Fitzgerald's eponymous short story. He loves theater, soccer, reading, and his family...in no particular order. He grew up in Vineland and lives in Ocean Township.

ALEX WILKIE (Playwright, *The Forgiven*) has been writing plays since 1995. Past productions include the two-act comedy, *Heathens on the Beach*, which received full production at the Ritz Theatre, Oaklyn, NJ, 2023; the full-length comedy *Vaudeville Villains*, that reviewers called "hilarious" at the Sketch Club, Woodbury, NJ, 2019; and *Big Bear Lake*, staged during the Heartland Theatre Company's 10-Minute Play Festival, Normal, IL, last year. He lives in Moorestown, NJ, with his wife, Janet.

Chatham Community Players is committed to making all reasonable efforts to ensure that its facilities, programs and services are accessible to, and usable by, all people, including those with disabilities. Please ask a staff member for assistance.



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

Jersey Voices 2024

Act I

Blow, Gabriel, Blow

Written by Jeanne Johnston - Directed by Ed Faver

Gabriel Chip Prestera Luci Elizabeth Renner
Michael Benjamin Hunt

Sunday in the Park with Will

Written by Ed Friedman - Directed by Cass Cochrane

Gina Miranda Montalvo Garrett José Rivera

A Leap of Faith

Written by Susan Brown-Peitz - Directed by John A.C.Kennedy

Beth Sarah Pharaon William Andrew Marr

Sexpo 2091

Written by Alex Bernstein - Directed by Alyson Pemoulié Halter

Don Richard Sibello Peg Lynn Langone

Act II

Lillian Whistles Back

Written by Alexis Kozak - Directed by Michael Sasso

Lillian Christine Orzepowski Walter Jeff Campbell

The Forgiven

Written by Alex Wilkie - Directed by Julia Cassisi

Helen..... Gloria Lamoureux Lois Lauri MacMillan

Negate the Gods

Written by Clinton Festa - Directed by Stephen A. Mennella

Prometheus Nick Mathews Io Missy Renwick
Sisyphus Ross Pohling

The audience is invited to stay for a brief talk back with the playwrights, directors, and actors after the performance.

Our Directors

JULIA CASSISI (Director, *The Forgiveness*) is so excited to be back at JV after directing last year's *Snow Globe*. Directing credits include the *Sundays@7* reading of *Angels in America*, Pt. 2: *Perestroika* at CCP, and *Over the River and Through the Woods* at Summit Playhouse. Julia's favorite productions are her sons, John (6) and Ryan (3). Big thanks to Jess and Aaron! Big love to Alex!

CASS COCHRANE (Director, *Sunday in the Park with Will*) has been in community theater for more than 35 years. A few favorite directing experiences include *Play On*, *The Mousetrap*, and *Our Town*. First time director for CCP, Cass is happy to be involved with JV, and especially with the *Sunday in the Park with Will* actors, Miranda and José. Many thanks to the playwrights, my fellow directors, and to Jessica and Aaron for herding all of us cats.

ED FAVER (Director, *Blow, Gabriel, Blow*): Ed's recent work at CCP include directing *Mary's Wedding* and acting in *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge). Other recent roles include *Superior Donuts* (Max) at The Barn, *Sweat* (Stan), Villagers Theatre, and *Twelfth Night* (Toby Belch), Cranford Dramatic Club. Ed dedicates his work to Mary Agnes, Tim, and those in his chosen family. He loves you all.

ALYSON PEMOULIÉ HALTER (Director, *Sexpo 2091*) has been involved in NJ theater for 25 years as a performer, choreographer, hair designer and most recently, director. Endless love to Frank—the Don to her Peg. Heartfelt appreciation to Jess, Aaron, Alex and the entire JV team. To Rich and Lynn who brought *Sexpo* to life so beautifully, thank you! This is for everyone who continues to put their art out there, no matter how vulnerable, terrifying and exciting it is to do so!

JOHN A.C.KENNEDY (Director, *Leap of Faith*) would like to thank his playwright for her material, flexibility and recurring creativity. John previously directed *Peter & The Starcatcher* in Montclair; *The Revolutionists* at Chester; *Circle Mirror Transformation* for Alliance; *It's a Wonderful Life* at Wharton; *Arsenic & Old Lace* for Trilogy; and *Clybourne Park*, *Play On!*, *Christmas Cards 2013*, and several *Jersey Voices* in Chatham. Next? *The Music Man* in Summit in October! Don't miss it!! CBA

STEPHEN A. MENNELLA (Director, *Negate the Gods*) could not ask for a better directorial debut at CCP. Before happening upon the eternal punishment of Greek gods and goddess, Stephen was most recently seen in *The Miracle Worker* (Captain Keller), *An Inspector Calls* (Gerald Croft), and *See How They Run* (Rev. Lionel Toop). Thanks as always for the support of his theater-loving children, Angelo, Lorenzo and Sophia.

MICHAEL SASSO (Director, *Lillian Whistles Back*) is happy to take part in his first production with CCP. Previous credits include *Sh*tty Awful Everything* (Pancake Pete) at the Hollywood Fringe Festival, and *Dog Sees God* (CB) at Chapman University. Michael, an award-winning short filmmaker, directed and co-created the acclaimed web series *Swipe Click Bang*. He is a current MFA in Creative Writing candidate at Rutgers University—Newark.



2024 FALL THEATER CLASSES



Tuesdays, Sept. 4-Nov. 26, \$165 per class

3:45 p.m. *Creative Drama*, ages 7-11; 4:45 p.m. *Improvisation*, ages 12-16;

5:45 p.m. *Acting for Singers*, ages 13-18

More Information, Registration at Chathamplayers.org!

Chatham Community Players welcomes all newcomers!

No special talents or experience are required, so join the fun, make great new friends, learn new skills, and become part of our community.

Go to Chathamplayers.org for more information.

Our Actors

JEFF CAMPBELL (*Walter*) is turning cartwheels of joy to be part of *Jersey Voices*' 30th anniversary. Not only is this his first show with CCP, but it's his first production since he was a fellow theater geek in college with playwright Alex Bernstein (*Sexpo 2091*). For their encouragement, help, and inspiration, Jeff expresses deep gratitude to Michael and Christine, his co-conspirators; to Anna, who led the way; and to his wife and kids, who keep it real, always.

BENJAMIN HUNT (*Michael*) is excited to be taking part in his first *Jersey Voices*! Some of his favorite past credits include *The Glass Menagerie* (Tom Wingfield), *The Crucible* (Reverend Hale), and *Biloxi Blues* (Roy Selridge). Ben thanks the whole production crew and cast of *Jersey Voices*, as well as the support of his family, friends, Kit Kats, and "satanic" wife.

GLORIA LAMOUREUX (*Helen*) This is Gloria's third JV; she appeared in CCP's *Clybourne Park*. Other credits include *Arsenic and Old Lace* at Trilogy Theatre; *Peter and the Starcatcher*, Studio Playhouse; *The Book of Will*, *Thinner Than Water*, *Shirley Valentine* (NJACT Best Actress), and *Good People*, Chester Theatre Group. She is a member of The Forge Theatre Development Lab at Hudson Theatre Works, and she lives in Succasunna with hubby, Phil.

LYNN LANGONE (*Peg*) is thrilled to be performing in *Jersey Voices*. Her play, *Free Range Cows*, was chosen for JV 2020. Lynn is a three-time Perry Award Winner. Favorite roles include *Calendar Girls* (*Chris*); *Steel Magnolias* (*M'Lynn*); *Other Desert Cities* (*Polly Wyeth*); *Ripcord* (*Abby*); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (*Martha*); and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* (*Maggie*), among others. A big thanks to Alex, Alyson and Rich for this fun and sexy ride!

LAURI MACMILLAN (*Lois*) is enjoying her 7th or (8th?) *Jersey Voices* as either a director, writer and/or actor. My thanks to Jessica, Aaron, and the entire JV production team. Big love to Julia for her direction and Gloria for being my favorite partner on this acting adventure. Finally, thanks to you, the audience, for supporting new works.

ANDREW MARR (*William*) is in his second production at CCP, previously appearing in *Fat Pig* (*Tom*). Other credits include *God of Carnage* (*Michael*) and *Wonder of the World* (*Captain Mike*) at Pensacola Little Theatre in Florida. Andrew thanks his friends for always coming to see his shows and his loving, supportive wife for always encouraging him to keep playing pretend!

NICK MATTHEWS (*Prometheus*) is in his first production at CCP. He would like to thank his fellow castmates, his director, Chatham Community Players, and all of you.

MIRANDA MONTALVO (*Gina*) is delighted to be part of JV for a second year in a row! She's a two-time Perry nominee and has been part of community theater for the last nine years. Previous credits include *Bent* (*Cigarette girl*) and *Puss In Boots* (*Gabrielle*). She's done productions at Studio Players, Chatham Community Players, Nutley Little Theater and Wharton Black Box Theater. Miranda is very thankful and excited about this opportunity!

CHRISTINE ORZEPOWSKI (*Lillian*) is in her second role at CCP, having appeared in *Grand Horizons* (*Nancy*) here last fall. Thank you to Michael Sasso, Jeff Campbell, Alexis Kozak, Jess Phelan, and anyone in my life who has ever helped me run lines.

SARAH PHARAON (*Beth*) is thrilled to be back for another JV, and is especially happy to work with Andy and John. Sarah has worked onstage at CCP in *August: Osage County*, *Angels in America*, *Bug*, *Rabbit Hole*, and *Crimes of the Heart*, and earned Perry nominations for her roles in *Time Stands Still* and *The Humans*. She produces and stage manages for our *One Weekend Only Series* and has directed for JV and *Sundays@7*.

ROSS POHLING (*Sisyphus*) is in his second *Jersey Voices* at CCP, following *Date with Death* during the 2020 virtual year. Ross has appeared in countless NJ community theatre plays and has been a high school physics teacher for a decade. He enjoys determining work required to roll objects smoothly up inclines.

CHIP PRESTERA (*Gabriel*) discovered local theater in 2010 and he has now entertained audiences in over 40 shows. This is his 30th show with CCP and 9th JV. Favorites include *The 39 Steps*, *Harvey*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Knock Out*, *Spamalot*,

Christmas Cards, Play On!, Cabaret, The Wizard of Oz, Wait Until Dark, and CCP's *A Christmas Carol* (Dickens). Honored to have received six NJACT Perry Award Acting nominations, he thanks his wonderful wife (and biggest fan) for her never-ending support.

ELIZABETH RENNER (*Luci*) is thrilled to be part of her first *Jersey Voices* at CCP! Favorite past credits include *Mary's Wedding* (Mary/Flowers), *Sylvia* (Sylvia), and *King Lear* (Cordelia). Elizabeth would like to thank Ed and the JV Team, and her "angel" of a husband, as well as her family, friends, and kittens for their love and support.

MISSY RENWICK (*Io*) is elated to be back at CCP, having just played Carla in *Nine*. Select credits include *Agnes of God* (Agnes), Summit Playhouse; *Something Rotten* (Portia), Plays in the Park; *Into The Woods* (Cinderella), Chester; *A Christmas Carol* (Belle), CCP; *A Murder Is Announced* (Julia), Lord Stirling; and *Little Women* (Beth) Maplewood Strollers. Thank you to all involved who make *Jersey Voices* so special.

JOSÉ A. RIVERA (Garrett) is grateful to return to JV after last year's *Water Bar* role. Recent credits are *Fools* (Mishkin), *12 Angry Jurors* (#6), *Night Watch* (Lieutenant Walker), and others. He is grateful to Cass Cochrane, Ed Friedman, and Miranda Montalvo for making *Sunday in the Park with Will* one of his all-time favorite show experiences. Love & thanks to his wife Michelle and daughter Grace for all their encouragement and support.

RICHARD SIBELLO (Don) has not existed for the past 20 years, at least not in the theater world. But back in the pre-Facebook days, he appeared in *Company* (Bobby) at CDC, *Sylvia* (Tom/Phyllis/Dr. Leslie) at Playhouse 22, *Run For Your Wife* (John Smith) at WCP, and many, many others. Big hugs to Lynn and Alyson for making this such a pleasure, and love to Boo-Boo and Brie-Brie for making this possible.

Our Crew

JESSICA PHELAN (*Producer*) returns for her sixth year as Producer, but has been a JV participant since 2012. Previous onstage *Jersey Voices* credits include *Kidneys*, *Dave with Destiny*, *The Buffer*, *Romance 101*, *A Dog's Life*, and *The Incident Report*. She also directed 2016's *Paper Bell*. *For the Bobs, always*.

AARON KELLNER (*Producer/Stage Manager*) has a BFA-Acting and MFA--Dramaturgy; has worked at regional theaters across the USA, including Shakespeare Orange County (CA), Tacoma Actors Guild (WA), Hippodrome State Theatre (FL), York Theatre Company (NY), Manhattan Ensemble Theatre (NY); has interned at New Dramatists (NY); and has Stage Managed *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Summit Playhouse in 2020 and *Jersey Voices* since 2019.

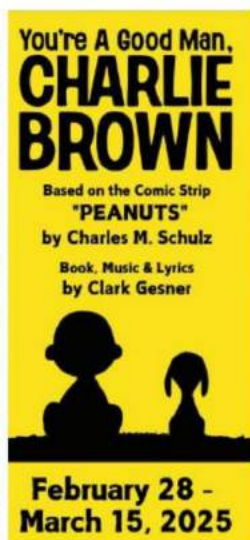
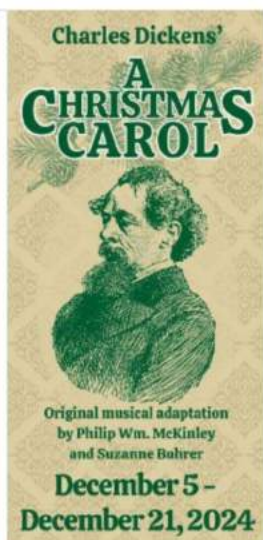
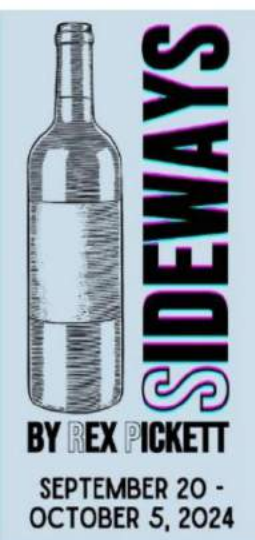
ED WHITMAN (*Lighting Design*) has designed the lighting for *Constellations*, *Fat Pig*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Play On*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Jersey Voices* and *Sundays @7* at CCP. He has also designed lighting at Cranford Dramatic Club and other theaters, as well as working with the Light Opera of NJ. Ed is involved with set construction here as well as other community theaters in the area.

CORINA LUPP (*Props*) is thrilled to be part of her first production of *Jersey Voices*! She has recently helped out with props and backstage at CCP, and is looking forward to more fun to come. Thank you to Jess and Sarah for the opportunity, and to all of the wonderful folks involved in this year's JV!

JACKIE JACOBI (*Props*) is happy to lend a hand with JV props this year, after having acted, directed, and written for the festival during past seasons. She's performed and directed across NYC and NJ, and co-advises the drama program at Metuchen High School. Thanks, as always, to Jess and Aaron for their passion, and Corina for the expert-level organization.

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Chatham Community Players 2024-2025 Season!



Don't miss our next series of
One Weekend Only

