

THE OFFICERS OF THE CHATHAM COMMUNITY PLAYERS

2021-2023

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Special Thanks

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Joe and Aiden Forys
Marilyn Monasterio
The Play Reading Committee
(Aaron Kellner, Jessica Phelan, Ali Archetti, Sarah Pharaon,
Joann Scanlon, Will Harper, and Chip Prester)

WELCOME!

Note from the Producers

After 17 months of our theater being dark, we are excited to welcome live audiences back into the Chatham Playhouse for the 27th annual *Jersey Voices*, an evening to celebrate works of New Jersey playwrights! *Jersey Voices* has become a summer staple where audiences are introduced to new work and members of the theater community have various opportunities to contribute and create. It is no surprise then that every year familiar faces return to our Playhouse while also drawing in new artists. This year, three of our participants have acted, directed, and written in years past, and one of our actors wrote a piece that was presented two years ago. Additionally, producer Jessica Phelan has previously both acted in and directed pieces. *Jersey Voices* is a celebration of the amazing talent in New Jersey community theater, and we are thrilled to be back onstage.

One of the unique aspects of *Jersey Voices* is the accessibility to our playwrights. This year, we have embraced the opportunity to include a playwright more closely in the development process, taking an early draft of a script and collaborating with a director and actors to make it more polished. *The Villager Photo* is our first piece to be done in this development series. The piece was selected by the play reading committee and director William Michael Harper (who was part of this committee) to undergo an editing and revision process. Playwright (and previous JV actor) Charles Grayson met with Will multiple times before casting to do character development, rework jokes, cut lines, and expand the ending of the play. Once cast, Charles came to early rehearsals, where actors were encouraged to give their feedback on lines and improv new punchlines. After multiple rewrites, we are proud to present our finished product to you tonight!

Welcome back to *Jersey Voices*, and enjoy the show!

Jessica Phelan and Aaron Kellner

JESSICA PHELAN (Producer) returns for her third year as producer, but has been a JV participant since 2012. Previous onstage *Jersey Voices* credits include *The Buffer*, *Romance 101*, *A Dog's Life*, and *The Incident Report*. She also directed 2016's *Paper Bell*. *For the Bobs - thanks for trusting me with this legacy*.

AARON KELLNER (Producer/Stage Manager) has his BFA in Acting and MFA in Dramaturgy. He has worked at regional theaters across the country including Shakespeare Orange County (CA), the Tacoma Actors Guild (WA), the Hippodrome State Theatre (FL), York Theatre Company (NY), and Manhattan Ensemble Theatre (NY), and has interned at New Dramatists (NY). He recently stage managed *The Diary of Anne Frank* at Summit Playhouse and *Jersey Voices* in 2019, and he is a member of the JV play reading committee.

Meet Our Playwrights:

BRIGID AMOS (*Bernice's Birthday*) grew up in Passaic and Bergen Counties and now makes her home in Lincoln NE. Her newest play, *Covenant Farm*, has been recorded as a podcast by Wild Duck Theatre in London and is part of their Short Plays for Short Journeys. Brigid is also the author of two historical novels, *A Fence Around Her* and *West from the Cradle*. Learn more at brigidamos.com
CHARLES GRAYSON (*The Villager Photo*) is an actor and playwright out of Netcong, New Jersey. This is his second play to become part of the *Jersey Voices* tradition, the first being *The Oldest Trick in the Book* as part of the *Jersey Voices* B-Sides in 2020. Other produced works include *Triage* and *Theory of Mind* as part of the Barn Theatre's Virtual Monologue Showcase (filmed, 2020).

MINJAE KIM (*My Dad is Bald*) is thrilled to be making his professional playwriting debut with CCP. He has a degree in English and Theater from Princeton University, where he was awarded the Alan S. Downer Playwriting prize for his exploratory Korean play, *Bleed Red, White, and Blue*. He hopes you enjoy the recollections of his childhood in Taiwan in *My Dad is Bald*. Mondayminjae.com.
AMBER KUSCHING (*Cloud Illusions*) is a South Jersey-based playwright holding a BA in Theatre Studies from Montclair State. Her plays have been produced over 30 times in NJ, Philadelphia, and NYC, and she has been a featured artist at Jersey Fringe and Philly Fringe. Amber is also the Co-Founder of Virtually Possible Theatre Company, a regional reviewer for BroadwayWorld.com, and a host on the Do What Write podcast on Spotify.

KEN PREUSS (*A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners & a Dave with Destiny*), writer and performer, became a teacher to guarantee an audience five days a week. His published one-acts for teens and assorted short plays for adults have been produced in festivals and schools in Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Thailand, and 48 of the 50 States.

ROBIN RICE (*Bigger Than Pretend*) has written over 70 plays (22 full length), produced Off-B'way to London, Asia to Australia. Newest are *When Silence Is Not Golden* (Next Stage Press), *Alice in Black and White* and *Play Nice!* (Original Works), and *Adapt or Die* in The Weirdest Plays of 2020. Often her characters struggle to realize dreams. Bowerbirds, wolves, ice cubes, plants and such have their stories too. Lifetime member: Dramatists Guild. RobinRicePlaywright.com

Act I

Cloud Illusions

Written by Amber Kusching - Directed by Arnold Buchiane

Joan Anna McCabe
Mitchell Chip Prestera

Bernice's Birthday

Written by Brigid Amos - Directed by Joann Lopresti Scanlon
Assistant Director – Eleanor Anderson

Lloyd..... Fred Dennehy
Bernice..... Jean Kuras
Musician David Romankow

A Dave with Destiny

Written by Ken Preuss - Directed by Elizabeth Rogers

Dave Jason Kruk
Destiny Monica Ross

Bigger Than Pretend

Written by Robin Rice - Directed by Jackie Jacobi

Remington Lauri MacMillan
Wadsworth Gloria Lamoureux

ACT II

My Dad Is Bald

Written by Minjae Kim - Directed by John A.C. Kennedy

Xinhong Kyle Cao
Genjiro..... Wasif Sami

A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners

Written by Ken Preuss - Directed by Lionel Ruland

Danielle..... Sarah DeVizio
Ellie Megan Pereira

The Villager Photo

Written by Charles Grayson - Directed by William Michael Harper
Reed..... Matt McCarthy
Gideon..... David Romankow

Meet Our Directors:

ELEANOR ANDERSON (*Bernice's Birthday*; CCP Graphic Designer) is assistant directing her 7th show in *Jersey Voices* with Joann. She's been designing for CCP since the summer of 2014 and for The Summit Playhouse since 2019. She thanks her family for supporting her, the cast for doing a fabulous job, and Joann for giving her the opportunity to be a team on yet another show!

ARNOLD J. BUCHIANE (*Cloud Illusions*) is very happy to be working on *Jersey Voices*; it is one of his favorite summer activities. He recently appeared in the world premiere of *This Is Our Story* presented jointly by Interact and Pleasant Valley Productions. Thanks to Jess and Aaron for keeping this very worthy project going.

WILLIAM MICHAEL HARPER (*The Villager Photo*) is grateful for the unique opportunity to work hand-in-hand with local author Charles Grayson in developing *The Villager Photo* for this year's *Jersey Voices* Development Pilot Program. He is a recipient of the Norman Lear Award for Excellence in Producing and holds an MFA from Columbia University's renowned School of the Arts. He has a dog named POTUS whom he loves very, very much.

JACKIE JACOBI (*Bigger Than Pretend*) is thrilled to be participating in *Jersey Voices* as a director this year, after having both performed in and written for the festival in past seasons. Directing credits include off-off B'way productions of *Assassins* and John Buchinno's *It's Only Life*, among others. As an actor, she's performed across NYC and NJ. Thanks to Jess, Aaron, Lauri, and Gloria. Love to Adam, Kait, and Ian.

JOHN A.C. KENNEDY (*My Dad Is Bald*) appeared in *Onward* in *JV* 2020, directed *A Visit in the Afternoon* for *JV* 2019 and *Knock Out* for *JV* 2017, and wrote *Wendy* for *JV* 2015. Also with CCP, John directed *Clybourne Park*, *Christmas Cards 2013*, and *Play On!* He directed *Circle Mirror Transformation* at Alliance and will be directing *Arsenic and Old Lace* for Trilogy Rep this November. This one is for his hero, QDK. CBA

ELIZABETH ROGERS (*A Dave with Destiny*) is excited to direct a second time for *Jersey Voices*, where she also directed CCP's mainstage *Bell, Book and Candle*. As the Founding Artistic Director of interACT Productions, she directed *Godspell*, *Bad Seed*, *interACT Sings!*, and *She Loves Me*. She was Stage Manager for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Spelling Bee*, and *The Secret Garden*, and Director of *Company* for Pleasant Valley Productions. At the Barn Theater, she directed for their one-act series and stage managed *Nine* and *9 to 5*.

LIONEL "LONNIE" RULAND (*A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners*) is making his directing debut for *Jersey Voices*. For CCP he has directed *Puss in Boots* and *Snow White and the Magic Mirror*. Favorite directing projects include *Quilters*, *Hair*, and *Shrek the Musical*. Having lost a few good theater friends this past year, directing *A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners* has been a cathartic way to honor them. This is for Jon and Rose.

JOANN LOPRESTI SCANLON (*Bernice's Birthday*) Always the most fun to encourage laughter and Brigid Amos writes great comedy. With a wonderful cast and my most able A/D Eleanor for seven years, anything is possible. As always, *Jersey Voices* is my favorite time of the year.

Meet Our Actors:

KYLE CAO (Xinhong, *My Dad Is Bald*) is delighted to work with such a brilliantly talented cast and team. A rising junior at Rutgers University, he most recently served as Music Director for *Dear Edwina Jr.* and *Spelling Bee* at the Summit Playhouse. His deepest gratitude goes out to John and Wasif for being joys to learn from, Aaron and Jessica for their unfailing guidance, and Dexter, without whom this could not have happened.

FRED DENNEHY (Lloyd, *Bernice's Birthday*) has appeared in New Jersey community theaters in more than a dozen Shakespeare roles, and for the last ten years as Ebenezer Scrooge at Playhouse 22. He has written several plays produced in New Jersey (four co-written with Lisa Black), and three produced Off-Off Broadway. *A Visit in the Afternoon* was featured in *Jersey Voices* in 2019, and *Homecoming* was performed at the Lucille Lortel Theatre in 2018.

SARAH DeVIZIO (Danielle, *A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners*) is thrilled to be in her first production with CCP! A graduate of Boston College and the University of Michigan, Sarah has studied and developed her passions for theater and social work over the past decade. She was recently seen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Gwendolen) at Lord Stirling Theater Company, and is always eager to be back on the community theater stage! Thanks to CCP, Lionel, family, and friends!

JASON KRUK (Dave, *A Dave with Destiny*) is thrilled to be back on stage in real life! He was seen in 2020's virtual *JV* in *Never Have I Ever* (Ritchie). Credits include *Thinner than Water* (Gary), Chester Theater Group; *Little Women: The Musical* (Professor Bhaer) and *Next to Normal* (Dr. Madden), Holmdel Theater Company; *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Schultz), Alliance Repertory Theater; and *Enemy of the People* (Dr. Stockman) and *Doubt: A Parable* (Fr. Flynn), Maplewood Strollers. He thanks Lucy, Toby, Theo and Julius for their love and support.

JEAN KURAS (Bernice, *Bernice's Birthday*) appeared in the first *Jersey Voices* and is always delighted to be back in this beautiful theater. Thanks to an excellent director and talented cast mates and crew, and to Brigid for the wonderful words.

GLORIA LAMOUREUX (Wadsworth, *Bigger Than Pretend*) is thrilled to return to *JV*; she previously appeared in CCP's *Clybourne Park*. Other credits include *Votes for Women*, Speranza Theatre; *Glass Menagerie*, Summit Playhouse; *Shirley Valentine* (NJACT Best Actress) and *Good People* (Margie Walsh), Chester Theatre Group. She is a member of The Forge Theatre Lab of Hudson Theatre Works and Women Playwrights Series at Centenary Stage, and has an MA in Theater from Montclair State University.

LAURI MACMILLAN (Remington, *Bigger Than Pretend*) has most recently been seen in *A Doll's House, Part 2* (Anne Marie) in Cranford. Other credits include *Thinner Than Water*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Play On!*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Realistic Joneses*, *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*, *Shows for Days*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *When We Are Married*, *Moon Over the Brewery* and *God of Carnage*.

ANNA McCABE (Joan, *Cloud Illusions*) appears in her third *Jersey Voices* and fourth time with CCP. Favorite roles include *Rabbit Hole* (Izzy), *Grapes of Wrath* (Aggie Wainwright), and *Dream of a Burning Boy* (Rachel). Anna thanks her loving and overly supportive parents who are always watching with pride, and her boyfriend and friends who continue to show up to support her. A big congratula-

tions to those who work tirelessly to make *JV* come to life, especially to Chip and Arnold. Thank you.

MATT McCARTHY (Reed, *The Villager Photo*) is thrilled to be back at CCP. He was last seen here in *The Humans* and has also been a part of three other *Jersey Voices*. Other shows at CCP include *Sideman*, *Proof*, and *Bug*. He would like to thank Anne and Aubrey for their support.

MEGAN PEREIRA (Ellie, *A Benevolent Alliance of Mourners*), a 2016 graduate of Keene State College (NH) with a degree in Theater, performs in her first show with CPP. Previous shows include *Equus*, *Rabbit Hole*, *The Shape of Things* and *Light Up the Sky*. Megan thanks her friends, boyfriend, and family for their unparalleled and unfailing support. One of her greatest joys is performing for the people she loves.

CHIP PRESTERA (Mitchel, *Cloud Illusions*) is freekin' glad to be back for his 28th CCP production and his 7th *Jersey Voices*. His journey here began in 2012 in *Grapes of Wrath*; favorites are *The 39 Steps*, *Angels in America*, *Christmas Cards*, *Spamalot*, & *Play On!*. Chip has performed in nine productions at other local theaters, including *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Bob Ewell), *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow). Chip has received six NJACT Perry Award nominations. He thanks his loving wife for her non-stop, never-ending support.

DAVID ROMANKOW (Gideon, *The Villager Photo*; *The Musician*, *Bernice's Birthday*) is a CPP veteran, having appeared in *Moon Over Buffalo* (George Hay, Perry Award nominee), *A Christmas Carol* (Fred/Pawnbroker), and *Other Desert Cities* (Lyman Wyeth). Other favorite roles include *Opus* (Alan), *Circle*; *Spelling Bee* (Vice-Principal Panch), *Chester*; and *Noises Off* (Lloyd Dallas), *Barn*. By day, David is a technical writer, backgammon aficionado, and tomato lover.

MONICA ROSS (Destiny, *A Dave with Destiny*) is excited to be back at CCP for *Jersey Voices*. She was last seen here in *Spatter Pattern*. Thank you to my newborn baby, Harry, and amazing husband, Rick, for encouraging me to be in this show. BFA Purchase College.

WASIF SAMI (Genjiro, *My Dad is Bald*) is a rising freshman at Princeton University, where he almost was recruited to play D1 basketball except for the fact that he is 5'8". Though working on this one-act brings back some tragic memories from rec basketball, Wasif is grateful for every second of the process. Thanks to John, Kyle, Aaron, Jessica, and Minjae for making it so fulfilling. And to his parents and friends, too, for their support. Enjoy!

Production Crew

Producer Jessica Phelan
Co-Producer/Stage Manager Aaron Kellner
Lighting Design Ed Whitman
Sound Design Joe DeVico
Construction Roy Pancirov, Ed Whitman
Box Office Kathy Rex
Casting Gus Ibranyi
Graphic Designer..... Eleanor Anderson
Program Kathy Rex
Publicity Chris Furlong