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The Midvale High School 50th Reunion

by
Alan Brody

Directed by
Christopher Schario

Stage Manager
Lisa Bragdon*

Costume Design
Michelle Handley

Set Design
Kit Mayer

Lighting Design
Heather Crocker

CAST (in order of appearance)

Mel Shrawder..... **Tom Torres ***
Joyce Cohen..... **Bettina Belknap ***
Nisi Sturgis..... **Younger Bettina, Ellen Teres, Joan, ***
..... **Elinor Dehaviland, Wilma Bulky**
Torsten Hillhouse..... **Younger Tom, Bobby Thompson, ***
..... **Academic Officer, Carl Belknap, Warren Crisman**

SETTING

Midvale High School Class of 1954 50th Reunion

The Play will be performed without an intermission

The Midvale High School 50th Reunion, by Alan Brody is presented by arrangement with Graham Agency, New York (grahamacynyc@aol.com)

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MEL SHRAWDER (*Tom Tores*) last performed in Maine in *The Price* by Arthur Miller at Portland Stage. More recently he completed a two-year tour of *West Side Story* throughout Europe including extended runs in London and Paris. He has performed various roles with the New York Shakespeare Festival, Arena Stage in Washington DC, the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival and other regional theatres. Some of his favorite characters have included Victor Franz in *The Price*, Francis in *Gemini*, Jamie in *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, and the title role in *Henry V*. His network television and film work include appearances on *Law and Order*, *Miami Vice*, *The Mississippi* and *Critical Condition* with Richard Pryor. He's also written and performed two one-person shows: *Homefront* and *Pax Vobiscum*, and has most recently written two plays based on the Native American boarding school experience in Carlisle, Pa. For over a decade he's been a faculty member at the Michael Chekhov Acting Studio in New York and the MICHA Association, and has served as the Head of Acting at the University of Miami where he received a grant to further his studies at the National Theatre of Great Britain.



JOYCE COHEN (*Bettina Belknap*) is happy to be back at The Public Theatre where she previously appeared in *Humble Boy*. She just finished a successful off-Broadway run of the new play *America is Hard to See*. Other credits include: Broadway – *Once A Catholic* Off-Broadway – *Women Without Men*, *John Ferguson*, *Living at Home*, *Diamond Studs*. Regional Theatres: Cleveland Playhouse, PA Shakespeare Festival, Geva Theatre Center, Peterborough Players, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, People's Light and Theatre Co., Salt Lake Acting Co., Utah Shakespeare Festival, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse. Film (selected): *LiveLove*, *Pirates of the Great Salt Lake*, *Adventures of Food Boy*, *Invasion of Privacy*. Television: (selected) Hallmark movies (*Broadcasting Christmas*, *Christmas Under Wraps*), Disney movies (*High School Musical*, *Pixel Perfect*, *Dear Dumb Diary*, *Read it and Weep*), many other network TV movies, Series: *Granite Flats* (recurring), *Touched By an Angel*, *Everwood*, *Promised Land*, *Archie Bunker's Place* (recurring). *Sundance Institute Film Lab*, *Sundance Institute Playwright's Lab*.



NISI STURGIS (*Younger Bettina, Ellen Tores, Joan, Elinor Dehaveland, Wilma Bulky*) - New York credits include *The 39 Steps*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Dysphoria*, and *The Less We Talk*. Her regional credits include *Disgraced* (Goodman Theatre, Berkeley Rep [Best Actress Bay Area Theatre Award], Seattle Rep); *In The Next Room or the vibrator play* (Cleveland Play House); *A Doll's House*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Life of Riley*, *Pentecost*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Pericles* (the Old Globe); *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Doubt*, *You Can't Take It with You*, and *Richard III* (Denver Center Theatre Company); *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Arms and the Man*, *Our Town*, and *Trelawny of the Wells* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); *Hamlet* and *Emma* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *Game On* (San Jose Rep); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Shakespeare's Amazing Cymbeline*, *Failure: A Love Story* and *Macbeth* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival); *Winter's Tale*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *The Real Inspector Hound* (Theatre At Monmouth); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III* and *Twelfth Night* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre); and *Trying* (Merrimack Repertory Theatre). Her television credits include 5 seasons as the recurring role of June Thompson on HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*. Nisi received her MFA from the Old Globe.



TORSTEN HILLHOUSE (*Younger Tom, Bobby Thompson, Academic Officer, Carl Belknap, Warren Crisman*) This marks Torsten's third time working at The Public Theatre. NYC credits: *The Polish Play* (off-Broadway), *The Odyssey* (off-Broadway), *Tender* (Thirteenth Night), *As You Like It* and *The Recruiting Officer* (off-Broadway NY Classical Theatre), *WTC View* (59E.59th).

Regional credits: *A Few Good Men* (Pioneer Theater), *Be Here Now* (world premiere at Cincinnati Playhouse), *Love/Sick* (world premiere), *The 39 Steps*, and *Out of Sterno* (Portland Stage), *Harvey* (Arvada Center), *Doubt* (Capital Repertory), *Noises Off* (Shadowland Stages), *Pericles* (Theatre at Monmouth), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ART), *Billy Hell* and *Life is a Dream* (Creede Repertory), *Around the World in 80 Days* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Stonington Opera House), *The Lion in Winter* (Commonweal), *Three Sisters* (Moscow Art Theatre), *Cinzano* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival). Film: *Adam* and *Where God Left His Shoes*. Television: *Bull, Law and Order, Law and Order SVU, As the World Turns*. MFA from ART/M.X.A.T. at Harvard University. Born and bred in Colorado: currently living and working in NYC.



ALAN BRODY (*Playwright*) was born in Brooklyn, NY. Although he is most known as an award-winning playwright, he actually began as a novelist. He acted professionally after receiving his BFA from Columbia University and after five years working as an actor, he decided to pursue his PhD in Literature at Columbia where he had also received his MA. He has written two plays; *Coming To* (1973)

followed by *Hey Lenny, Hey Jack* (1975). His play, *Invention for Fathers and Sons*, was the inaugural winner of the Rosenthal Award at the Cincinnati Playhouse in 1989 and *The Company of Angels* won the Eisner Award Streisand Center for Jewish Culture in Los Angeles. He achieved tenure at Skidmore College before becoming Professor of Theatre at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1988. He served as MIT's Associate Provost for the Arts from 1995-2006. Brody's work often draws from his own experiences. We see this in *The Midvale High School 50th Reunion* as the play is set amongst Brody's contemporaries—people who came of age in the post-war era of the 1940's and 50's.



CHRISTOPHER SCHARIO (*Executive/Artistic Director*) has been Artistic Director of The Public Theatre since 1993. His adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, published by Dramatists Play Service in 1996, was developed for The Public Theatre and has enjoyed successful productions at professional and amateur theatres throughout the world. In New York he directed for Roundabout Theatre, Westbeth

Theatre, Spectrum Stage, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Drama Project and Madison Avenue Theatre. Regional theatre directing includes Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Boulder Ensemble Theatre, Kentucky Repertory Theatre, Toledo Repertory Theatre and Millbrook Playhouse. He has acted Off-Broadway, on national tours, regional theater, summer stock, dinner theater, films, soaps and commercials. He has taught at Carnegie-Mellon University, University of Colorado, University of Tennessee, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, as well as privately in New York. He received a BFA in Acting from Ohio University and an MFA in Directing from Carnegie-Mellon University.



JANET MITCHKO (*Co-Artistic Director*) Aside from being the Co-Artistic Director of The Public Theatre, Janet has spent much of the past 20 years in creative heaven as both a director (*Fly Me to the Moon*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Last Romance*, *Hound of the Baskervilles*, etc) and actress (*The Revolutionists*, *What Rhymes with America*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Good People*, *Vanya and Sonia* and *Masha and Spike*, *Time Stands Still*, etc), and is proud to call The Public Theatre her artistic home. Prior to life in Maine, Janet lived in NYC earning her living as a professional actress, voice-over talent, and director as well as teaching acting at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She is a graduate of the acting program at Carnegie-Mellon University, and the extremely proud mother of Emily.

KIT MAYER (*Set Designer*) is pleased to be returning to The Public Theatre for his 11th production. Previous designs include: *Under the Skin*, *The Ladies Foursome*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Tigers Be Still*, *Deathtrap*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Shirley Valentine*, *Sleuth*, *Rumors*, and *Steel Magnolias*. A resident of western Wisconsin, he is the resident designer for the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, MN as well as a member of the design faculty at Viterbo University in Lacrosse, WI. He is a founding member and designer for the Fairbanks Shakespeare Theatre in Fairbanks, AK. His design work has been seen extensively through the upper Midwest and internationally in Australia, Canada, Germany, Monaco, and the UK.

HEATHER M. CROCKER (*Lighting Designer*) is a New England/New York based lighting and projections designer and is thrilled to be back designing lights for the show. She previously designed the lights for *Fly Me to the Moon*. She received her MFA in Theatre Design and Technology (Lighting/Projections Design) from the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 2015. Selected past lighting design credits include; *Deathtrap* (Winnepesaukee Playhouse, NH), *Billy Bishop Goes to War* and *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (Cape May Stage, NJ), *Murder For Two* (Lyric Stage Company of Boston), *The Master Builder* (Colby College, ME), *West Side Story* (City Theatre, ME), *End Days* (Voice Theatre, NY), *The Nether* (Mad Horse Theatre Company, ME), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Mad Horse Theatre Company, ME), *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (UMKC Theatre), *Almost, Maine* (UMKC Theatre), *Little Women* (UMKC Conservatory of Opera), *Number the Stars* (Coterie Theatre, KC). Projections design credits include: *Freedom Rider* (UMKC Theatre), *Ragtime* and *The Elephant Man* at Gallery Players in Brooklyn, NY.

MICHELLE HANDLEY (*Costume Designer*) is happy to be working once again at The Public Theatre as costume designer for this production of *The Midvale High School 50th Reunion*. Having shared four wonderful seasons designing with Theater at Monmouth, it's been lovely to head down the road to Lewiston, and experience the magic found in this sweet space, too! Honored to work with these good and talented people, and beyond grateful for the blessing to do so.



ADAM P. BLAIS (*Choreographer*) is a Maine based Director, Choreographer, and Educator. Production credits include work with The Public Theatre, Theater at Monmouth, Shakespeare and Company, Waterville Opera House, and The University of Maine. Previously with The Public Theatre: *The Sunshine Boys*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Around The World In 80 Days*, *Red*, *On Golden*

Pond, Time Stands Still, and others. Additional credits: *Sweeney Todd, August Osage County, Sister Act, Doubt, Cabaret, Speech And Debate, Grey Gardens, My Father's Dragon, Hello, Dolly!*, and *The Tempest* (with Academy Award Winner Olympia Dukakis). Adam holds a B.A. in Theatre from The University of Maine Orono, and a M.A. in Leadership Studies from The University of Southern Maine. He is currently the Drama Director at Mt. Ararat Middle and High School and serves on the Board of Directors for The Public Theatre.

LISA BRAGDON (*Stage Manager*) has been working as an AEA Stage Manager for over 20 years. She has worked at theaters big and small and loves working at The Public Theatre. Very proud to have The Public named Best Theatre in Maine by *Down East Magazine* five years in a row. Previous Theatres include Arena Stage in Washington D.C., The Huntington in Boston, The Barter in VA., and Portland Stage Company here in Maine. A Registered Maine Guide for the last 18 years she spends Summers guiding wilderness canoe trips for Winona Camp for Boys founded in 1908. She is very grateful for a wonderful supportive husband of 30 years and a beautiful son.

JIM ALEXANDER (*Technical Director*) has worked on theatre, dance, and opera productions from Maine to Missouri, and toured nationally and internationally. He lives in Harpswell with his partner Dawn and their sons, Max and Ewan, of whom they are abnormally proud. He has served as production manager for The Washington Revels and as master electrician at the Shakespeare Theatre Co., Washington Ballet, and Portland Stage. He has toured as lighting supervisor and production manager with theatre and dance companies including The Flying Karamozovs, Netherlands Dance Theatre, Suzhuo Kunju Opera of Jiangsu Province, the National Ballet of China, and the Ballet Nacional de Cuba.

JOHN MORRISON (*Sound*) is a freelance sound technician from Auburn, ME. This is his 4th season with The Public Theatre. Recent significant projects include audio support for Bates Dance Festival's *Mill Town* at the Bates Mill Complex in Lewiston, live mixing of David Lang's *The Little Match Girl Passion* for Figures of Speech Theater and sound design for *The Ladies Foursome*, directed by Judith Ivey at The Public Theatre. It is unlikely that anyone recalls John's audio contributions to early 80's New York productions of *Taking Steam, The Smiling Assassins, or Mysteries of the Bridal Night*. Over the years, John has worked on projects with James Taylor, Spalding Gray, Chris Botti and Milos Forman. John provides tech support to theater and dance programs at Bates and Bowdoin Colleges and to the Bates Dance Festival. He is also the sound technician for Portland's NBA G-League affiliate, Maine Red Claws.

MONICA SALLAWAY (*Company Manager, Asst. Stage Manager*) is a theatre artist based out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Over the past few years, Monica has been a resident production team member for the Robson Performing Arts Center. She has recently played as a cast member and served on the directing team for *The Drunkard & The Olio*. Passionate about theatre in education, she enjoys writing and producing theatre work for youth, and is a co-founder of the Weatherford Arts Council's Music Theatre Camp, now in its third year. Past favorite production credits include: *Agnes of God, The Diviners, and The Foreigner*. She holds a B.A. in Communication Arts & Theatre from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Monica is thrilled to be with The Public Theatre for its 2017-18 season!

PAUL BARIBAULT (*Board Operator*) A native of Lewiston, this is Paul's second season volunteering at The Public Theatre. His love for theatre began decades ago, when he wrote his first play in his early twenties. Other plays, poetry and screenplays followed. After returning to Maine and a decade plus of writing for the L.L. Bean catalog, one of his plays, *God Touches* was produced at the Franco Performing Arts Center in Lewiston. After the birth of a second grandson, the first of his four children's books was written. Currently he is working on his first non-fiction book, *Our Brilliant Eternity*.

YOEL SHERWOOD (*Crew*) has attended The Public Theatre's Summer Youth Program, and played LeFou in LA Community Little Theatre's *Beauty and the Beast, Jr.* Yoel has also crewed on TPT's productions of *What Rhymes with America?*, *Crossing Delancey*, *Last Gas*, *Ripcord*, *The Revolutionists*, *Fly Me to the Moon* and *Marjorie Prime*.



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION was founded in 1913 to protect Actors from the severe mistreatment that permeated the industry at that time. Since its inception Equity has had only nineteen Presidents. Its current President is Kate Shindle. The Association consists of over 50,000 distinguished stars and other professional Actors and Stage Managers who work nationwide, from New York's Broadway to Los Angeles, from Minneapolis to Miami Beach, in regional, stock and dinner theatre, and in theatres for young audiences which build the audiences of tomorrow. These Actors and Stage Managers are committed to working in the theatre as a profession, not an avocation, and bring to you the finest professional training and experience. By presenting Equity productions, this theatre offers to you, our audience, the best entertainment presented by the finest quality Actors and Stage Managers that your admission dollars can buy.



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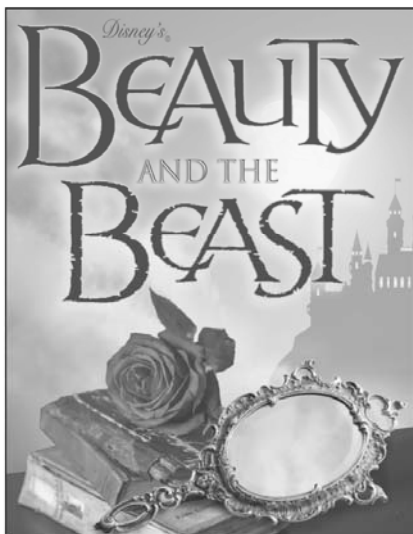
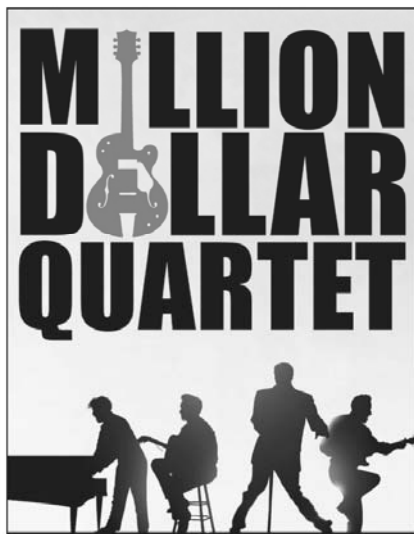
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JUNE 23 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

PRIDE@PREJUDICE

by Daniel Elihu Kramer
directed by Janis Stevens

TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare
directed by Kristin Clippard

RICHARD III

by William Shakespeare
directed by Dawn McAndrews

ENCHANTED APRIL

by Matthew Barber
directed by Kate Bergstrom

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER

by Frederick Knott
directed by Sally Wood

FAMILY SHOW

THE TRUE STORY OF LITTLE RED

adapted by Dawn McAndrews
directed by Tess Van Horn

FALL SHOW

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

by Gilbert & Sullivan
directed by Adam Blais

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