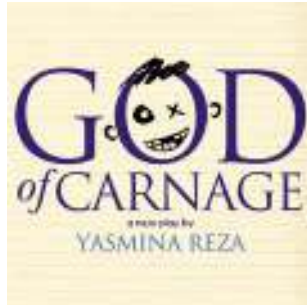
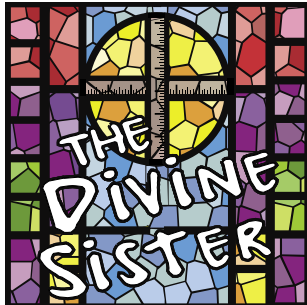


tbta The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

Join us for our 57th Season of Shows!



The Divine Sister March 7-22

A raucous spoof of almost every show about nuns.

God of Carnage April 25-May 10

Parents meet to talk about a playground fight. Their rational discussion quickly turns to mayhem.

Next To Normal July 4-26

This Pulitzer Prize winning rock musical explores how one family copes with crisis.

Blithe Spirit Sept. 12-27

Noel Coward's classic farce about life and the after-life when a seance brings unwanted guests.

The Normal Heart Nov. 7-22

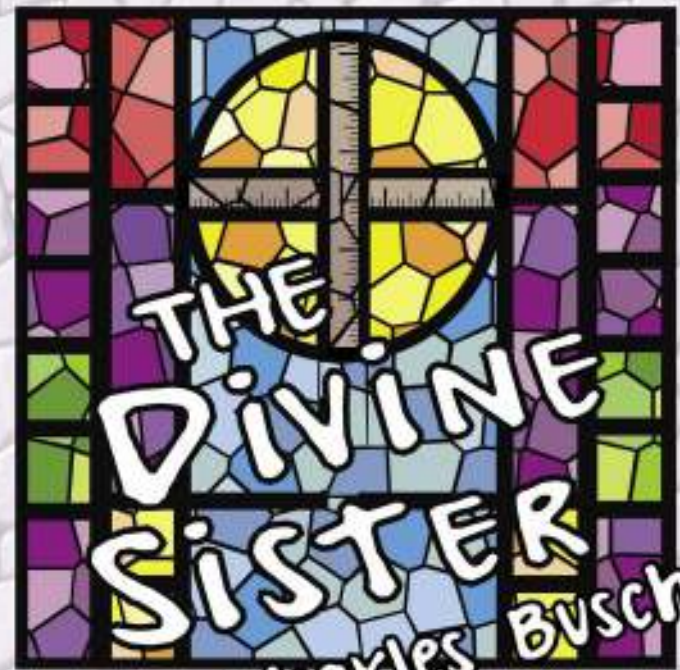
Larry Kramer's semi-autobiographical play about love, AIDS, and New York in the 1980s.

Regular Tickets **\$20⁰⁰** each
\$15⁰⁰ students with ID

Season Subscription: 1 ticket to each show (\$100 value) **\$85⁰⁰**

(203) 775-0023 • www.BrookfieldTheatre.org

tbta
PRESENTS



by **Charles Busch**
directed by **Matt Austin**

Produced by
**Kerry Bulson and
Sara Mariano**

MARCH 7th thru 22nd

STARRING

**Jody Bayer • Desirae Carle
Kevin McDonough • Kelly Mullins
Melanie Romano • Mary Shuldman
Michael Wright**

www.BrookfieldTheatre.org

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

Dear TBTA Family,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our 2014 season. I could not be happier about the shows we are planning to bring to you this year. We have been committed to bringing high-quality entertainment while functioning on a challenging budget in difficult economic times. We have also been committed to avoid asking for your financial help. You have continued to come through by helping to spread the word about the wonderful things happening here at TBTA as well as your continued attendance. For that we cannot thank you enough.

However, it is time now for us to do something that we would love to avoid doing which is asking for your financial support. In recent months we have spent over \$20,000 on the outside of the building in preparation for renovation of our basement. It was your word of mouth that increased our patron base and literally afforded us the opportunity to begin this renovation. We thank Brian Casella for taking the lead on this extensive project.

Now comes the time that we need to tackle the basement which includes our dressing rooms and storage areas of sets and costumes. This is our foundation, and in a building that was built in 1907 it no longer functions to suit our needs. We are not looking to spend money on cosmetic renovations, but need to maintain the building to allow us to continue to do all the behind the scenes work needed to bring you the entertainment to which you have grown accustomed. Donations may be made online or by filling out the form in this program. We are very grateful for your support.

Thank you again for being such a wonderful part of our TBTA family and joining us for the start of our 2014 season.

Sincerely,

Michael Burnett
President/ Artistic Director

TBTA is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to producing plays of the highest possible standards, offering instructional opportunities, and providing facilities for creative and cultural arts for our community.

Be A 2014 Season Supporter

Front Row Center \$2,500+

- a full page ad in all playbills
- TBTA Membership
- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo on our web site
- recognition on all posters and flyers
- recognition in all theatre advertising

Orchestra \$1,000-\$2,499

- a full page ad in all playbills
- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo & name on our web site
- TBTA Membership

Platinum \$500-\$999

- name recognition in all playbills
- your logo & name on our web site
- TBTA Membership

Gold \$250-\$499

- name recognition in all playbills
- name recognition on our web site
- TBTA Membership

Silver \$100-\$249

- name recognition in all playbills
- TBTA Membership

Bronze \$25-\$99

- name recognition in all playbills

Show Sponsor: Sponsor an individual show or special event for \$2,000

- full page ad in the playbill, "Show Sponsor" noted
- recognition, including your logo, in show playbills and web site
- recognition on posters and flyers
- recognition in all show advertising

TBTA Scholarship Fund

We are proud to award a college scholarship to graduating high schoolers that have been part of the TBTA community.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

Jenny Dear 2012 • Zach Jackson 2012 • Sammy Panzarino 2010

Billy Shields 2007 • Travis Moore 2006

Rob Sniffin 2005 • Andrew Wheelock 2004

If you would like to be part of this giving tradition, please specify "TBTA Scholarship Fund" on your check.

Please mail your tax deductible donation to:
TBTA, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804
(203) 775-0023 • tbta@brookfieldtheatre.org

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor.

Thank you to our TBTA 2014 Season Supporters

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

Thomas & Emilie Connor

GOLD \$250-\$499

SILVER \$100-\$249

BRONZE \$25-\$99

Nancy Pond • Lisa Strassman

"TIPS" up to \$25

Debra Sanchirico

We apologize for any errors or omissions. The above list is complete as of printer's deadline.

TBTA Membership

Membership is still only \$20 and is a great way to support the theatre!

2014 Members

Aldis Alexander, Robert Bassett, Don Bergeron, Rosemary Bergeron,
Frank Bulson, Kerry Bulson, Michael Burnett, Brian Casella,
Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Margaret Teed Jones, Don Lombardo,
Karlene Lombardo, Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell,
Karen E. Steckler, Joy Tagliavento, Diane Toth

Lifetime Members

Bart Geissinger, Gloria Laposka, Barbara Locke,
Wendell MacNeal, Imelda O'Gara Roth,
Bill Possidento, Larry Stewart, David Tuttle

Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2014 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, Janet & Steve Betz, Jim Blansfield, Sandy Bouclier,
Stacy & Laurie Boxer, Maureen & Mike Burnett, Adele Brudnicki,
Anna Chan, John Cheeseman, Anthony Chiodo, Frank Cioffi,
D. Laurence & Arlene Coleman, Annette & Brent Crozier,
Marianne Gaffey, Jonathan Gibney, Jacqueline Green,
Sabrina Hermenze, Steve Hoose, Mary Kluge, Donna Laber,
Judith Larkin, Marilyn Matern, Brenda Meola,
Michael & Susan O'Brien, Tara Peterson,
Georgeann & William Shields, Les Slater, Cathleen Sullivan,
Jim & Marie Sweeney, Diane & Rick Toth, Deirdra Wallin,
Lynda Willingham, Steve Wright

Thank you for your support!

Listing is current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.



BY Charles Busch

DIRECTED BY Matt Austin

PRODUCED BY Sara Mariano & Kerry Bulson

C A S T

Mother Superior. **Kevin McDonough**
Sister Acacius **Jody Bayer**
Sister Walberga **Kelly Mullins**
Agnes. **Melanie Romano**
Jeremy/Brother Venerius. **Michael Wright**
Mrs. Levinson **Mary Shuldman**
Timmy **Desirae Carle**

The show will run approx. 90 minutes. There is no intermission.

By special arrangement with Samuel French, New York, NY.

For the safety of performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, taking photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off **ALL** phones, pagers, computer games and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons who are unwilling to turn off electronic devices are welcome to leave the theatre.**

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Growing up Catholic I have always been fascinated by nuns. I am slightly younger than the generation that had nuns as teachers in Catholic school, but they were still around. I would see them in church and at church functions but never really knew what they did or why they chose that life. Nuns always seemed so serious to me. As a kid, I was also fascinated by movies and television of the 50's & 60's. Media also seemed to have this fascination. Movies like *The Song of Bernadette* and *The Bells of St. Mary's* explored the religious lives of nuns while TV shows like *The Flying Nun* or movies like *The Trouble With Angels* brought out the not so serious side of nuns—a side which I loved. Nuns in movies were always so different than nuns in real life. They were glamorous, over the top and sometimes even fun. I'm not saying nuns aren't fun, just the ones I encountered didn't seem to be. I was taught to put nuns and priests on a pedestal; to look at them as almost non-human. Anytime I see a nun doing something remotely like a human, it's funny to me. Seeing them in the grocery store or riding a bicycle or playing baseball brings a smile to my face. It's the feeling that I have caught them doing something that in my mind they are not supposed to do. I have always been a fan of Charles Busch's plays. He lampoons a subject better than any playwright I have seen. I was thrilled to be able to have caught *The Divine Sister* in its initial off-Broadway run a few years ago. Busch has managed to do something that I admire. He has taken all of those nun movies, TV shows and clichés and crammed them into a fast-paced, hilarious play lampooning Hollywood religiosity. I am thrilled I get to direct such a fun, hilarious and inappropriate play. I hope you have as much fun watching it as we have had working on it.

—Matt

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. Should an emergency arise, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

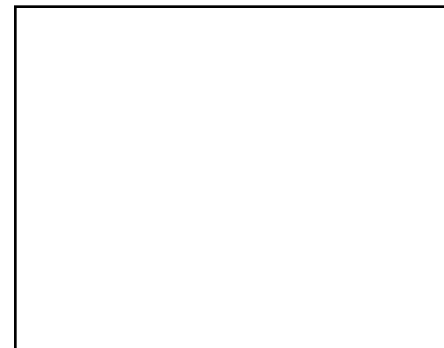


PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER	Matt Austin
PRODUCERS	Sara Mariano & Kerry Bulson
LIGHTING DESIGN	Stephen Cihanek
SOUND DESIGN	Jay Austin
SET DESIGN	Matt Austin, Bob Lane
COSTUME DESIGN	Meg Jones & Karen E. Steckler
STAGE MANAGER / PROPERTIES	Shannon McColgan
STAGE CREW	Erin Mitchell
LIGHTING EXECUTION	Rob Bassett
SOUND EXECUTION	Lou Okell
SET CONSTRUCTION	Bob Lane, Andrew Okell
SET DECORATION	Andy, Lou, Bob, Matt & Kerry
LIGHTING CREW	Dan Achilles, Ashley Dunn, Sam Sweikert, Willson Wallace
HOUSE MANAGER	Molly Just
BOX OFFICE	Carol Hoose
SRO/CONCESSIONS	Joy Tagliavento
OPENING NIGHT PARTY	Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

**Arkettype Graphics & Printing, Carl Address, Charles Busch,
Glen Couture, Lewis Flinn, Duane E Langenwalter,
Justin Morgan, Rankin Sporting Goods, Joe Russo**



TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Michael Burnett, Pres. & Artistic Dir.
Meg Jones, Vice-President
Carol Hoose, Treasurer
Kristin Hoose, Secretary

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Kerry Bulson, Brian Casella (Tech. Dir.),
Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell,
Lou Okell, Karen E. Steckler

BIOGRAPHIES

Jay Austin (SOUND DESIGN) has worked on dozens of shows at TBTA and other area theaters. A previous tech director at TBTA, Crime & Merriment Mystery Dinner Theater and a 'sound guy' for local bands, he followed his son to TBTA numerous years ago as a stage hand, painter, set designer and sound designer/operator. He is probably seated amongst you right now...careful not to approach him as he has been known to carry a stash of tennis balls and could attack at any moment. He would like to thank many people for their support over the years, but can't remember most of their names. He thanks his soon to be internationally famous son Matt and his incredibly caring and supportive daughter Kait for making his life the most incredible journey he could have ever imagined...Love, Padre.

Matt Austin (DIRECTOR) is no longer welcome near a Catholic church.

Rob Bassett (SOUND EXECUTION) is excited to be a part of this production and a new season at TBTA! Previous TBTA credits include Mark in *RENT*, Ryan Kendall in *8*, Jack in *Into the Woods* and Woof in *HAIR*. Thank you for supporting the arts and attending this hilarious production!

Jody Bayer (SISTER ACACIUS) feels blessed to be sharing the TBTA stage with this zany group of actors and hopes St. Genesius approves of the production! She also enjoys performing with the "17 Debacles" improv troupe here. There is no doubt that Jody has developed memorable roles in area theaters such as Berthe (*Boeing Boeing*), Eleanor (*Lion In Winter*), Edna (*Prisoner of Second Avenue*), Roz (*9 To 5*), Sister Amnesia (*Nunsense*), and Doreen (*Tartuffe*), to name a few. In her role as Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, Jody received an Excellence In Acting award from the Theater Association of New York State. Thanks to Matt for his vision, Peter, my family, and dear friends for supporting my passion to bring laughter to others! "He that is of a merry heart has a continual feast." — Proverbs 15:15

Kerry Bulson (PRODUCER) is happy as 'H-E double hockey sticks' to be producing her second show here at TBTA. Coming off an incredible experience producing *RENT* last summer, she thanks baby Jesus to be working on such a devilishly funny show with a director she has known since he was literally in Catholic school short pants.

Desirae Carle (TIMMY) is very excited to be making her TBTA debut with such a talented cast and director. She was last seen at TheatreWorks as Sarah the sea-lizard in *Seascape*. She would like to thank her friends, family and everyone that humored her by supporting her passion for acting in such unconventional roles that have her dressing in head to toe green spandex and now as a little catholic school boy. The thrill of the part clearly holds no limits for this girl! Special thanks to CK and much love to BK.

Stephen Cihanek (LIGHTING DESIGN) After studying theater and engineering in college, his interest in theater returned while attending the First Baptist Church in Brewster where he took on the role of technical director and lighting/sound designer (and sometimes actor) for many productions. Since then he has designed lights for TBTA and other local theaters. Shows include *Little Red & the Hoods*, *Master Class*, *Outward Bound*, *Putting It Together*, *As Bees in Honey Drown*, *Dinner with Friends*, *Diviners*, *Harvey*, *Spelling Bee*, *The Book of Liz*, *Into The Woods* and *Be A Good Little Widow* as well as sound design for *Thou Shalt Not Dance* and *Tuesdays With Morrie*. Steve is also TBTA's photographer and the 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

A Brief History of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

The building that houses The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts (TBTA) was originally a gymnasium for The Curtis School for Boys. First established in 1875 in Bethlehem, Connecticut by Frederick S. Curtis, the school was moved to Long Meadow Hill in 1883 and then to the present site that was the former Goodsell Estate in 1886.

In 1906 the price for one school year was six hundred dollars. This included "tuition, board, a seat in church, lighting and worming, the care and mending of clothing, and the use of school books." In the 1920s, girls were allowed to enroll as day students. This is the second gymnasium for the Curtis School. The first was destroyed by fire in 1906. The present stone building was built in 1907. The Curtis School closed its doors in 1943.

The gymnasium was purchased by the Brookfield Country Players in 1959 and, since then, has been used as a theatre/playhouse for year-round plays and musicals.

Visit our web site for more information, a list of previous shows, photos and more!

BIOGRAPHIES

Meg Jones (COSTUMER) is happy to be working with her partner Karen and dressing the cast of *The Divine Sister*. Meg is the Vice President of TBTA and runs the costume department. She has been the Costume Designer for many shows and has also been known to grace the stage from time to time. In her other life, Meg teaches Third Grade. She is the mother of two lovely young woman, Catherine and Sheridan. Meg hopes that you enjoy the show. If you do, help us spread the word! Your praise is our best advertisement!

Bob Lane (SET DESIGN/BUILD) It's all Zachary's fault! Lured to TBTA in 2009 to build the set of *Pippin* for his talented nephew, Zach Jackson, Bob has built and/or designed nearly every set at TBTA since, mostly with set building buddy Andy. You could call it a religion or a *Divine* inspiration....

Andy Okell (SET BUILDER) is blessed to return to build another set with "Bob the Builder". Andy is a member of the TBTA Board of Directors and has no visible means of support.

Lou Okell (SOUND EXECUTION/SET PAINTER) is happy to be back up in the choir loft for another show at my favorite spiritual retreat. Many thanks to all the wonderful and talented volunteers that make this show possible!

Sara Mariano (PRODUCER) feels so blessed to be part of this wickedly divine production. She has been involved with TBTA since 2010 both on-stage (Joanne in *Rent*, Marcy in *Dog Sees God*, Rona in *...Spelling Bee*) and as a producer (*Hair; I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*). This production is bringing back memories of the 8 years she spent in Catholic school...Joyce Christ those plaid skirts itched!

Shannon "Shan-nun" McColgan (STAGE MANAGER) is thrilled to be back at TBTA. In 2011 she worked as the stage manager for *Dog Sees God*. She performed in DHS's production of *Urinetown*, and danced many years in the Danbury Music Centre *Nutcracker*. Currently she is a dance instructor for tap, ballet and jazz at Sas School of Dance. Shannon is a member of the Premier Entertainment Dance Team, traveling throughout the Northeast performing and teaching line dancing.

Kevin McDonough (MOTHER SUPERIOR) This is Kevin's first appearance at TBTA. He has performed with the New Canaan Town Players in *Fox on the Fairway* as well as several Holiday Pantos. He has been seen at The Ridgefield Theatre Barn in *A Christmas Carol*. Most notably he performed as a clown & traveled the country with the *115th edition of Ringling Bros Circus*. As always, he thanks his wife Sue & his children Alexander and Gemma for all their support. A special thanks to Sister Geronimus, Sister Leonette, Sister Bellamy & all the nuns that taught & terrified him as a student. If not for their guidance and sure hand, he would not be as well prepared as he is to perform this role.

Erin Mitchell (STAGE CREW) Although Erin has no theatre experience, she is delighted to have a hand in her first show. Erin has always loved theatre and appreciates all forms of art. By day, Erin is a copywriter and by night, a wine drinker. She's a lot of fun in a small package.

BIOGRAPHIES

Kelly Mullins (SISTER WALBERGA) feels blessed to be returning to TBTA as Sister Walberga. Previous roles include Hope in *Be a Good Little Widow*, Mistress Page in *Merry Wives of Windsor* and Corrinna Stroeller in *House of Blue Leaves*. "A big thank you to this unholy cast and crew and our divinely talented director."

Melanie Romano (AGNES) is a Prevention Educator at the Women's Center. She has a degree in Women's Studies from Providence College, where she was a member of the school's all-female a cappella group. She has been involved in local community theater since she was 8 years old. Previous TBTA credits include Melody in *Be a Good Little Widow*, Andrea in *Once on this Island*, and ensemble in *Pippin*, *Cabaret*, and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Mary Shuldman (Mrs. Levinson) is thrilled to be part of this cast and production! Past favorite roles include Adult Women (*Spring Awakening*), Jeanette (*The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*), Arlene (*Baby*), Mrs. Mullen (*Carousel*), Mrs. Phagan (*Parade*), and Ado Annie (*Oklahoma*). At the Ridgefield Theater Barn, Mary performs with *The Role in the Hay Players* improv troupe and is Secretary and Volunteer Coordinator. Mary sang live with Chicago (the band) in Detroit, MI and had a walk on role on Broadway in *Rock of Ages*. She also was lead singer for a rock-n-roll band. Special thanks to all of the production team here at TBTA. (Matt, I really don't hate you any more!) And always, love to my very supportive husband and family!

Karen E Steckler (COSTUMER), a Brookfield resident for ten years, is a member of TBTA's Board of Directors. An original New Yorker, she worked for ABC-Disney, News, Entertainment and Sports for 44 years. She is the winner of 4 Emmys, among other accolades, in the field of broadcasting. Karen volunteered for every TBTA show last year either producing or costuming and is so happy to be working with Meg Jones again this season.

Michael Wright (BROTHER VENERIUS/JEREMY) is thrilled to be back for another fun, family-friendly production at TBTA, under the stewardship of Matt Austin. It's wonderful to work with a director who appreciates and utilizes the opacity of his talented performers. Michael celebrates his Irish Catholic heritage and hopes with one more generation of selective breeding his grandchildren will actually glow in the dark.

IN OUR LOBBY

Ken Musselman is a primarily self-taught artist, though he attended the Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was born and raised. After a stint with the Navy, Ken has had the proverbial starving artist's resume, plowing through the gamut of labor to "keep the lights on". However, on nearly every occasion, his art shines through. Such was the case when he became a doorman for the Walt Disney Resorts, where he was involved with advertising layouts for the Epcot Flower & Garden Festivals and illustrated a property map for the Disney Yacht and Beach Club Resorts. Over the course of 30 years, Ken has displayed his award winning art in a number of private and public shows in Cleveland, Ohio, Jacksonville and Orlando, Florida, as well as here in Connecticut. www.kenmusselman.com
TBTA THANKS Ken Musselman for making posters of "Opening Night" available to purchase at \$20 each with all profits benefitting the theater.