

TBTA Membership

TBTA Membership is still only \$20.00 and is a great way to show your support of our theatre. Benefits include: recognition in all programs and on our web site, 10% discount on opening night tickets, invitation to opening night parties and Members Only events, preferred seating at performances, ability to vote for our annual Paddy Awards and inclusion on our mailing list. *Why not join us today?*

TBTA Members 2009

Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell, James Chiaramonte,
Stephen Cihaneck, Alicia Dempster, Billy Dempster,
Bernadette A. Demunde, Susan Gabriele, William Gabriele,
Mikki Harkin, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Steve Hoose,
Courtney Jackson, Jean Jackson, Vic Jackson, Zach Jackson,
Meg Jones, Barb Kessler, Larry Kinnear, Suzanne Kinnear,
Donald Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo, Lyn Lozier,
Mike Lozier, Peter Mele, Diane Millar, Gary Millar, Andy Okell,
Emma Okell, Lou Okell, Sammy Panzarino, James Ryan,
Edward Schwarzer, Billy Shields, Georgeann Shields,
William Shields, Zach Shields, Richard Skarzenski, Stephanie Skrok,
Alex Vournazos, Steve A. Wright (2)

TBTA Lifetime Members

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

Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2009 Season Subscribers

John Cheeseman, Vivien Cheeseman, Chante Davis,
The Dempster Family, Kathi Fitzherbert,
Donald & Karlene Lombardo, Mike & Lyn Lozier, Judith Mangan,
Marilyn A. Matern (2), Kevin & Meg McLoone, The Okell Family (3),
Jennifer Sheaffer, Georgeann and William Shields,
Richard Skarzenski (3), Mr. & Mrs. James Sweeney,
Cliff & Marie Walker, Steve A. Wright (2), Calvin & Susan York

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Cast of Characters

listed alphabetically

Hero Maya Close
Sexton Steven Cognato
Verges Amy Donahue
Benedick Sasha Frenkel
Ursula Erin Gallagher
Balthazar Monica Gallagher
Barachio Benjamin Greger
Watch/Friar Zai Howard
Leonato Gary Jerolman
Margaret Caitlin Keeler
Claudio Nathan Mandracchia
Conrade Catherine McCollian
Watch Leila Noone
Beatrice Laura Pellegrini
Watch Emmaline Riley
Antonia Jessica Smith
Don John Rob Sniffin
Dogberry Stacey Snyder
Don Pedro Tim Walsh

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

September 2009

Dear Friends of TBTA,

The production you are about to see tonight is a result of the hard work and shared energy of a number of people, and I'd like to begin by acknowledging them. The mere thanks is not enough, but I hope that they have all had joy equal to mine in their contribution to this process. First, I have to thank my family for being the rock that they are in my life; without their help, I would have nothing, would be nothing. Secondly, I want to acknowledge my teachers for fostering my love of the theatre and never letting me give up, particularly Zachary Moore and Clista Townsend, for giving me a chance to live in the language of the Bard. My love and affection also goes out to the family here at TBTA, particularly Michael for giving me this opportunity and for constantly pushing me to be better than I think I am, and getting out of my own way. I have to thank my producers and my crew for being the incredible individuals and cohesive team that they are, and for their flexibility and willingness to adapt and grow with me. To my designers, especially Meg and Lexx, for keeping me focused and providing amazing support artistically, and for making our work look good. And to my beautiful, wonderful, strong, smart, sassy, talented, eager, focused, driven and FUN cast, who have breathed new life into words that I love dearly and are telling a beautiful story both on stage and off. My last thanks must go to my beautiful Assistant Director, Joy. Not only would this show not have been possible without you, the energy you bring to my life is incredibly powerful and inspirational; I could not ask for a better creative partner. Thank you all.

My goal in crafting this production was twofold. First, I wanted to show that Shakespeare's language is still accessible 400 years later, and second, to share my love of Shakespeare with a cast of actors that hadn't all met him yet. I like to think that both of those goals were accomplished. However, early on, a friend of mine asked me "Why *Much Ado*? Why not another play?". I thought for a moment, and the answer was easy. In *Much Ado*, we see many different characters, each with their own chance at happiness and fulfillment. For some, this requires submission to their emotions and feelings; for others, it requires letting go and forgiving; for still others, happiness comes from realizing the value of their own lives. Each of them though has some block or another that gets in the way. Some are able to joyously overcome themselves and find it. Others are not so lucky. My challenge to you as an audience is to take a look at your own lives and find what makes you truly, deeply happy. And once you know it, go get it. There is nothing that really holds you back from a meaningful existence. As Shakespeare himself said in *The Winter's Tale*:

"When you do dance, I wish you
A wave o' th' sea, that you might ever do
Nothing but that."

Enjoy.
Rob Sniffin

For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the use of ANY photography is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off all phones, pagers, computer games and other distractions. Please unwrap candies before the show begins and respect each other. This is live theatre.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Production Staff

DIRECTOR Rob Sniffin
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Joy Tagliavento
PRODUCERS Diane Millar, Gary Millar, Sammy Panzarino
COMPOSER. Tara Gruszkiewicz
CHOREOGRAPHER Caitlin Nolan
ASSISTANT CHOREOGRAPHER Maya Close
SET DESIGN. Rob Sniffin, Crystal Gonzalez
LIGHTING DESIGN Alexis DePersia Norelli
MASTER CARPENTER John Martino
SET CONSTRUCTION Kim Skidmore
COSTUME DESIGN Meg Jones
LIGHTING EXECUTION. Victoria Howe
SOUND EXECUTION Zachary Jackson
STAGE MANAGER Carol Martino
POSTER DESIGN Dave DiMarchi
OPENING NIGHT PARTY. Kristin Hoose

Special Thanks

Katie Sniffin, Clista Townsend, Daliya Karnofsky, Chelsea Downes, Sue Murray,
Crystal Gonzalez, Michael Burnett, Stephanie Skrok, Jean Jackson,
Katrina Gnatek, Allison Lemel, Trent Anderson, Don Ballman, Brian Casella

***This production features an original song composed for TBTA by
Tara Gruszkiewicz***

***Now showing in our lobby, artwork by
Dave DiMarchi***

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.

TBTA Scholarship Fund

We are proud to award a scholarship annually to a graduating high school senior that has been part of the TBTA community.

Past recipients include:

Billy Shields 2007

Travis Moore 2006

Rob Sniffin 2005

Andrew Wheelock 2004

Help us to support the future of the arts. Donations may be mailed to:
TBTA—Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 528, Brookfield, CT 06804.

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Stephanie Skrok, *President* Alicia Dempster, *Vice-President & Managing Director*
Diane Millar, *Secretary* Peter Mele, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Michael Burnett, Kristin Hoose, Jean Jackson,
Meg Jones, Gary Millar, Caitlin Nolan, Andrew Okell,
Louisa Okell, Rob Sniffin, Joy Tagliavento

Michael Burnett, *Artistic Director*
Brian Casella, *Technical Director*
Sammy Panzarino, *Junior Board Member*

Biographies

Maya Close (HERO, *DANCE CAPTAIN*) is a recent graduate of Connecticut College with a BA in Human Development and a certification in Elementary Education; she plans to pursue her masters in Special Education. Previous credits include Leading Dancer in *Pippin*, Tricia in *Dog Sees God*, Bird Girl in *Seussical the Musical*, Cindy Ella in *Cindy's Ella's Going to the Ball...Baby*, and the Yellow Brick Road in *The Wiz*. Maya would like to thank her family and friends for their continual support in this transitional period in her life. She would also like to thank Rob for always believing in her and pushing her to do great things.

Steven Cognato (SEXTON) This is Steven's second performance at TBTA. Previous performances include *Beauty and the Beast* (DHS, Cogsworth), *Peter Pan* (DHS, Capt. Hook), and *Pippin* (TBTA, Player). Steven is currently a senior at Danbury High School. He would like to thank his family, God, and Captain America.

Amy Donahue (VERGES) is a recent high school graduate who is thrilled to be making her debut at TBTA. In the past, she has appeared in NMHS's productions of *Oklahoma!* (Ado Annie), *Guys and Dolls* (Miss Adelaide), and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Millie Dillmount). She also participated in the musical *Ida y Vuelta as La Gitana* in her Mexican high school's annual production this past spring, which unfortunately was cancelled due to the swine flu epidemic. Besides theater, Amy enjoys keeping busy with whatever interests her at the moment whether it be running, traveling, singing in/speaking various languages, waitressing, or all of those at the same time! Many thanks to all her friends in family for their support in all of her endeavors.

Sasha Frenkel (BENEDICK) *Much Ado About Nothing* marks Sasha's return to the Connecticut stage after a five year hiatus. Other notable roles include The Lion in *The Wiz* (DHS) and Percival Browne in *The Boyfriend* (Longview High School). He has just graduated Wentworth Institute of Technology with a Masters of Architecture. He would like to thank his family and TBTA for their support in this role.

Erin Gallagher (URSULA) is thrilled to be in her first play at TBTA. She recently graduated from SNHU with a BA in Child Development. Other roles she has played include Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*, Abbey Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Icabod Crane in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. She would like to thank all of her family and friends for their love and support.

Monica Gallagher (MESSENGER) is a veteran performer at TBTA and is excited to be back. Previous TBTA shows include *Pippin* and *Seussical*, as well as *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae) and *The Wiz* at DHS. She attends UConn as an Urban and Community Studies major. Thanks to family and friends for coming out to see yet another show!

Benjamin Greger (BORACHIO) was born in Manhattan and now lives in Danbury. This is his debut performance at TBTA and hopefully not his last! He is 17 years old. He is unique and different, with an imagination that could outdo any 5 year old! He is outgoing, but shy in the beginning, until of course, you get to know him!

Tara Gruszkiewicz (COMPOSER) is currently a Master of Music candidate at the Manhattan School of Music, where she studies classical voice with Patricia Misslin. She received her B.A. in Music at Manhattanville College. Performance credits include Miss Todd in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Nettie Fowler in *Carousel*, and Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*. In addition to singing and acting, Tara enjoys composing music in various genres. Thanks to Rob and TBTA for this opportunity.

Zai Howard (FRIAR, WATCH) has had a life long love for the dramatic arts, and is just so thrilled to be a part of this production. She is new to performing Shakespeare, but takes extra delight that this is her favorite Shakespearean play. She has had a fabulous time with this talented cast and can only hope to continue to perform with TBTA in the future.

Special Dinner and a Show Package!

offered by



located on Route 25 (Main St), Newtown (15 minutes from the playhouse).

Available Dates: **Sept. 18, 19, 25, 26, Oct. 2 & 3**
seatings from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m.

\$45.00 includes appetizer, choice of entree, glass of house wine,

ice cream and coffee or tea, and a ticket to the show!

All entrees are served with seasonal vegetable and chef selected starch accompaniment

CALL THE BOX OFFICE TO RESERVE: 203-775-0023

Biographies, cont'd.

Gary Jerolman (LEONATO) made his theatrical debut in a production of *A Midsummer Nights Dream* at Newtown High School nearly forty years ago. Since then he has received a BA in theater from SCSU, studied at HB studios in NYC, performed in summer stock, children's theater, dinner theater, community theater, and regional theater. He's also taught acting and directed 13 musicals at Newington High School. This is Gary's first appearance at TBTA and he is delighted to be acting in a 400 year old play because that means he'll be only the second oldest thing on stage.

Meg Jones (COSTUME DESIGNER) Although Meg has been seen onstage at TBTA (*Pippin*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *The Odd Couple*, and others) she also works behind the scenes running the Costume Department at the theatre. Her work has been seen most recently in *Pippin*, *Little Women* and *Peter Pan*. If you or someone you know has a desire to help dress the stage please consider joining our team at TBTA. Sewing skills are not necessary, but certainly welcomed! Call 203-775-0023 and leave me a message!!!

Caitlin Keeler (MARGARET) is so happy to be back performing at TBTA in her first attempt at Shakespeare! She has been in over 30 musicals and operas in the greater Danbury area. Favorite roles include; Squeaky Fromme-Assassins (TBTA), Chava-Fiddler on the Roof, Bebe-A Chorus Line, Mother-Amhal and the Night Visitors, La Ciesca-Gianni Schicchi, and Marcellina-Le Nozze di Figaro. Thank you to everyone in the cast and crew for making this a wonderful experience. Special thanks to Rob; an amazing director and friend.

Nathan Mandracchia (CLAUDIO) is thrilled to be a part of TBTA. Currently he has been working on new musical projects with an organization called *Sounds of Peace* as well as making public solo appearances at various musical venues. He is a graduate of WCSU with a Bachelor's degree in Theatrical Arts. Past Credits include: Bobby in *A Chorus Line*, Cain in *Children of Eden*, Lancelot in *Camelot*, Beralde in *The Imaginary Invalid*, Joseph in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Billy Crocker in *Anything Goes*, Haimon in *Antigone's Last Dance*, an original Dance Rock Opera which debuted Off-Broadway and in Scotland's Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Other roles include Hero in *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum*, Joe Hardy *Damn Yankees*, and Captain Sanjar in *The Apple Tree*. Thank you to all cast and crew for making this a wonderful experience. Special thanks to family and friends for all of their love and support, but most to importantly to his Heavenly Father who has given him his gifts and talents to share.

Catherine McCollian (CONRADE) is thrilled to be a part of such a talented cast. While this is her first Shakespearean production, she is no stranger to the stage. She was last seen in the TBTA's production of *Pippin*. Other roles include Eponine in *Les Miserable* (Thomaston Opera House) and Ti Moune in *Once on This Island*. She would like to thank Rob and everyone else who made this show possible, enjoy!

Caitlin Nolan (CHOREOGRAPHER) works as a teacher at Lori's Center Stage Dance Studio and at The Sandbox Day Care Center. Previous shows include *Pippin* (TBTA), *Seussical the Musical*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Footloose*, and *Cindy Ella's Going to the Ball...Baby!* Caitlin has also joined the Board here at TBTA.

Leila Noone (WATCH) is a TBTA veteran performer. She just graduated from Fordham University and is now attending New York University for graduate school. In her spare time, she works as a yoga instructor/gymnastics coach. Past TBTA roles include a Player in *Pippin*, Choreographer/Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan*, and a Bird Girl/Jungle Creature in *Seussical*. She would like to thank God, her family, and Rob!

Laura Pellegrino (BEATRICE) is thrilled to be making her TBTA debut with a wonderful and talented ensemble/crew. Her previous credits include *Diary of Anne Frank*, *The*

Biographies, cont'd.

Wiz, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Antigone*, *Juana La Loca*, *Jerry Herman's Showtune*, and *Julius Caesar*. This production marks her second experience with Shakespeare, and hopefully not her last. Above all else, she would love to thank her family for offering their unconditional love and support and for encouraging her to stay grounded whilst pursuing her dreams. Also, thank you to all those unexpected souls who inspire day in and day out, if even in the smallest, most arbitrary ways. Cheers!

Emmaline Riley (WATCH) is a Senior at Danbury High School. She appeared in DHS productions of *Beauty and the Beast* (Madame de la Grande Bouche) and *Peter Pan* (Wendy). She is a member of DHS's Madrigals singing group and plays ukulele in her spare time. Emmaline would like to thank her family and Mr. Michael for asking her to audition for the show.

Jessica H. Smith (ANTONIA) is so thankful for this first opportunity at the TBTA, and would like to thank all those involved in this wonderful production. A graduate of The Boston Conservatory with a degree in vocal performance, Jessica works as a voice teacher, director, musical director and professional singer. Jessica is co-owner of The Studio For Musical Theater, providing theater training in the Danbury and Westchester County (NY) areas. Special thanks always to my supportive family, Matt, Sam and April.

Rob Sniffin (DIRECTOR, DON JOHN) is absolutely delighted to be making his directorial debut here at TBTA. No stranger to the stage, Rob has appeared at TBTA in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Apostle) and this past summer played the title role in *Pippin*. He has also appeared in several Shakespeare productions at Manhattanville College where he will graduate this fall. There he played Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Mark Antony in *Julius Caesar* and Benedick in *Much Ado...* He has also taught Shakespeare for the past three years at the Enchanted Garden in Ridgefield. Rob would like to thank his wonderful cast and creative team for their patience, understanding, and willingness to be bold and free. As always, in memory of Charlie NeJame.

Stacey Snyder (DOGBERRY) is thrilled to be a part of this amazing cast! She most recently played the role of Mama Noah in Richter Park's *Children of Eden*. Her New York City performances include: *The Eleven Dollar Prophet*, *Standing at The Crossroads* and *Friends...* Stacey has appeared on Comedy Central with Morgan Spurlock and her voice can be heard on WNYE T.V. as *The Flower Power Girls* in Seemore's Playhouse. Stacey would like to thank Director Rob Sniffin, for the opportunity to portray this fun character and Mom, Dad, Adam and Miles for their infinite love and support.

Joy Tagliavento (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR) is pleased and honored to be working on her second production at TBTA, where she believes she has found a new "home away from home". Her theatre experience began in college where she had the incredible opportunity of working with the National Theatre of the Deaf. Since then, she has performed in, co-directed, produced and stage managed dozens of shows, including many community theatre productions, and has worked professionally for the Chamber Opera Theatre of New York, the Actors Repertory Company of CT and the Candlewood Playhouse in New Fairfield. When she isn't at her job or at the theatre, you can find her tending to sick or orphaned animals in her capacity as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Joy is thrilled to be working with her daughter Maya, the light of her life, on this production—and with Rob, her brilliant and sweet second son.

Tim Walsh (DON PEDRO) is happy to be back at TBTA having previously appeared in *Carnival* and *The Diviners*. A graduate of WCSU's Theatre program, he has also performed as a member of the acting company at the New York Renaissance Faire. Tim thanks everyone involved in this show for a great experience and his wife, Cassandra for her constant love and support.