

# The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

Dear TBTA Friends and Family,

I could not be happier to welcome you to *The Book of Liz*, the third subscription show of our 2011 season. It is you, our patrons and our community, who have afforded us the opportunity, both literally and figuratively, to put together such an exciting line up this year. We welcome back Matt Austin to the theatre, this time as a director. Many of you will remember Matt from his numerous roles on stage, and we are thrilled that he has brought his amazing sense of humor and talent to this play. You are definitely in for a treat.

Our 2011 season will culminate with *Cabaret*, which runs from November 4-26.

Our 2011 pre-season opened with *Dog Sees God* which provided a serious look at the devastating effects of teen bullying. The community response was overwhelming. There was also a great deal of encouragement from our patrons for us to continue to stage more challenging, thought provoking and lesser known work. For that to happen, I must ask for your help. While monetary support is always needed and greatly appreciated, your advertising and word of mouth are the most beneficial in helping TBTA continue to be a thriving community resource. If you like what you see here today, tell your friends and family about us. Better yet, bring them back with you. Your presence here at the theatre is the greatest form of support.

Plans are currently underway for our 2012 season. We expect to be able to announce the next year's line up during the run of *Cabaret*. We hope you will join us for another year of quality live theater here at TBTA.

*ENJOY THE SHOW!*

Peace,  
**Michael Burnett**  
President, TBTA

# The Book of Liz

By The Talent Family:  
**Amy Sedaris & David Sedaris**

Directed by **Matt Austin**

Produced by **Joy Tagliavento, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell**

## **CAST**

*in order of appearance*

Reverend Tollhouse . . . . . Joe Harding  
Sister Elizabeth Dunderstock . . . . . Kelly Doherty-Luf  
Brother Nathaniel Brightbee/Donny Polk . . . . . Michael Wright  
Sister Constance Butterworth/  
Sophisticated Visitor/Dr. Barb Ginley . . . . . Cindy Maddox  
Oxana Kolobko/Cecily Cole/  
Ms. Yolanda Foxley . . . . . Denise Fitzsimmons-Kelly  
Yvone Kolobko/Rudy Bruton . . . . . Patrick Spaulding  
Visil/Duncan Trask . . . . . Chris Sumrell  
Brother Hesikiah . . . . . himself

Produced with permission of Dramatists Play Service Inc., New York, NY

Originally produced by Drama Dept.  
Douglas Carter Beane, Artistic Director  
Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director

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### **TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Michael Burnett, President & Artistic Director    Meg Jones, Vice-President  
Jean Jackson, Secretary    Carol Hoose, Treasurer    Stephanie Daniels, Ex-Officio

### **TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Brian Casella (Technical Director), Kristin Hoose, Sara Mariano, Gary Millar,  
Caitlin Nolan, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Joy Tagliavento, Kira E Wallace  
Zach Jackson, Junior Board Member

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Matt Austin** (DIRECTOR) is thrilled to be returning to TBTA. He is currently celebrating his 7th decade in the entertainment industry, first appearing in the 1944 film *Gaslight* for which he received an Oscar®. Film credits include *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Bedknobs & Broomsticks* and *Beauty and the Beast* among others. He has also appeared on the Broadway stage in *Gypsy*, *Mame*, *Sweeney Todd* and most recently *A Little Night Music*. He is probably best known to audiences for his 12 years playing Detective Jessica Fletcher on *Murder, She Wrote*.

**Jay Austin** (SOUND DESIGN) has been involved with many shows at TBTA and with other area theaters. We are happy to welcome him back to the TBTA Tech Booth.

**Stephen Cihaneck** (LIGHTING DESIGN) has designed lighting for several shows at TBTA as well as for other area theaters. Please visit him at [www.stephencihaneck.com](http://www.stephencihaneck.com).



**Denise Fitzsimmons-Kelly** (OXANA/CECILY/Ms. FOXLEY) is thrilled to be returning to TBTA after taking a few years off from theater. Before her temporary hiatus, Denise directed *The Food Chain* and *Beyond Therapy* here at TBTA and was also a member of the Board of Directors. She has produced and stage managed many shows here, although she always feels much more at home on the stage. Favorite TBTA performances include *Grand Night for Singing*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Century of Song*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Jacques Brel...*, *Nunsense II*, *Master Class*, and *As Bees in Honey Drown*. Denise has also performed at the Sherman Playhouse in *Promises, Promises*, at Musicals at Richter as Evilene in *The Wiz*, at the Warner Studio Theater as Mother Superior in *Nunsense II*, and on the big stage at the Warner Theater as Nellie in *Jekyll & Hyde*. When not on stage, Denise is a Spanish teacher at Danbury High School. Denise would like to thank Matt "Ford" Austin for fulfilling her life long dream of playing a Ukrainian peanut.



**Joe Harding** (REV. TOLLHOUSE) has been seen in: *Spelling Bee*, *Light Up The Sky*, *The Seven Year Itch*, *Company*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Nerd*, *Isn't It Romantic*, *Whodunnit*, *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Murder Among Friends* and *I Never Sang For My Father*, all here at TBTA where he received the President's Award in 1996. Joe also directed three shows here: *Whodunnit*, *Lost In Yonkers* and *It Had To Be You*. Joe would like to thank the powers that be at Ability Beyond Disability for getting him the time to work with such a talented group of talented people.

**Meg Jones** (COSTUMES) has been known to work a show or two at TBTA. When she is not costuming, she may also be found producing or on stage. Some of her favorite roles have been in *The Odd Couple*, *Carnival*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Pippin*, *The Laramie Project* and *Sylvia*. Meg is also the Vice President of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts and runs the Costume Department. If you are a creative sort and looking for a chance to channel that creativity, please consider joining our costuming team. And remember: If you like what you see—tell a friend! YOU are our best form of advertisement. THANK YOU for supporting the arts in your community



**Kelly Luf** (SISTER ELIZABETH DONDERSTOCK) is pleased as punch to be back on the TBTA stage for the second time. In "real life" Kelly manages a travel agency (Liberty Travel) and jets off to exotic locales around the world whenever possible. (Recent jaunts include Egypt, Cambodia and Iceland!) Kelly would like to thank the following people: Matt Austin for being Phenomenally Funny and a great director. The cast and crew for being so Fantastic to act alongside, and finally, her staff, family, friends and husband for being so Fabulous and understanding of her love of "F-words."

*Thank you to our TBTA 2011 Season Supporters*

**FRONT ROW CENTER \$2,500+**

**ORCHESTRA \$1,000-\$2,499**

**Best Buy & Brian Casella**

**PLATINUM \$500-\$999**

**Howard & Cathy Lasser**

**Maureen Trotto & Duane Langenwalter**

**GOLD \$250-\$499**

**Michelle Leigh Dugan**

**SILVER \$100-\$249**

**Pat & Kevin Morgan**

**Robert & Nancy Skrok**

**Ben Wallace-CellaRaiders**

**BRONZE up to \$99**

**Mark H. Campbell • John & Marion Miller**

**Virginia Trinque • Steve Wright**

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

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*For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the taking of 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 may interfere with our technical systems. Please unwrap candies before the show begins. This is live theatre.*

# TBTA Membership

Membership is still only \$20.00 and is a great way to show support for the 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, early seating at performances, and inclusion on our mailing list. Join us today?

## TBTA Members 2011

Angela Barna, Joseph Barna, Don Bergeron, Rosemary Bergeron, Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell, Brian Casella, Stephanie Daniels, Jeannie Hatcherson, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Steve Hoose, Jean Jackson, Zach Jackson, Margaret Teed Jones, Donald Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo, Cindy Lynn Maddox, Judy Mangan, Kimberly Marcus, Sara Mariano, Jackie McNeil, Brenda Meola, Lou Meola, Gary Millar, Sue Murray, Caitlin Nolan, Andrew Okell, Emma Okell, Lou Okell, Ed O'Lena, Sammy Panzarino, Freda M. Peters, Jennifer Sheaffer, Joy Tagliavento, Richard Toth, Kira Wallace, David Yerkes

## TBTA Lifetime Members

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

## Season Subscribers

### Thank you to our 2011 Season Subscribers

Angela & Joseph Barna, Dr. Irwin & Roberta Berger, Don & Rosemary Bergeron, Jim & Margie Blansfield, Maureen & Mike Burnett, John & Vivien Cheeseman, Alicia Dempster, Megan Forte (2), Marybeth Frank, Jeanne & Jonathan Gibney, Jerry & Emma Goetz, Eugene Goetz, Dr. Shiv & Kathryn Gupta, Jeannie Hatcherson, Steve Hoose, Duane E. Langenwalter, Denis & Judy Larkin, Judy Lee, Waynn Liscinsky (2), Donald & Karlene Lombardo, Larry & Rose Luizzi, Judy Mangan, Kimberly Marcus (2), Brenda & Lou Meola, Pat & Kevin Morgan, Don & Stephania Naimon, Joe Perrelli, Jennifer Sheaffer, William & Georgeann Shields, Karen & Jeffrey Steckler, Bob & Jeanine Sweeney, Richard & Diane Toth, Maureen Trotto, Cliff & Marie Walker, Fred & Joan Weisman, Lynda Willingham, Steven A. Wright (2), David Yerkes, Merrill Zaft

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## 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.

## BIOGRAPHIES



**Cindy Maddox** (SISTER BUTTERWORTH/VISITOR/DR. BARB) is new to the stage, her last role being Santa in her fifth grade Christmas play. She had no lines but did get to wear a wig made of masking tape and cotton balls. She can be seen each week in a different kind of spotlight at King Street United Church of Christ in Danbury, where she is the pastor. Cindy would like to thank Matt for taking a chance on her, Meg for dressing her in the second worst wig of her acting career, and the cast and crew for all the laughs. Thanks also to the Jacksons for sharing their theater family with her, and to her wife and daughter for their never-ending love, support, and encouragement.

**Andrew Okell** (PRODUCER) has enjoyed producing his first show after having been involved in building sets for the past two years. He is the manager of Arketype Graphics ([www.arkett.com](http://www.arkett.com)) and thanks his dog, Alvina, for letting him spend so much time on this show. Thanks also to Matt and Joy for making it seem so effortless and the cast and crew for sharing their talent and time. Special thanks to Lou and Emma for being there when I'm here and Bob for being here when I'm there.

**Lou Okell** (PRODUCER) produced *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* and co-produced *Spelling Bee* and *Sylvia* at TBTA. She is the owner of Arketype Graphics in New Milford and is thrilled to be working with so many very funny people! Thanks to Matt for the opportunity to be part of this amazing team, Joy for her expertise, kindness and caring, Andy for his sharp wit and tireless work on this show, Emma for her patience and willingness to work on two shows at once, and the cast and crew for their dedication and humor!

**Carolyn Onorato** (COSTUMES) is very excited to make her costuming debut at TBTA! For the last several years, she has been both costume assistant and lead costumer at many CT community theatres. Some of her favorite shows that she has costumed are *Urinetown*, *Anything Goes* and *Annie Get Your Gun*. She would like to thank Meg Jones for calling on her to assist with this show and to Matt and all of the cast for welcoming her with open arms.



**Patrick Spaulding** (YVONE/RUDY) is very happy to be making his second appearance at TBTA! He has appeared in many productions hither and yon, most recently as Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* with MAR, Richard Bravo in *Bad Seed* in Sherman and Chip Tolentino in *Spelling Bee* here at TBTA. Some favorite roles include Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing* for The Players at Putney Gardens in Stratford, several productions for Newtown Players (Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, and Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Ganesha in *A Perfect Ganesh* and Pa Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting* (Putney Players Stratford CT), Evil Eye Fleagle in *Lil' Abner* (Swift Creek Mill, Fredericksburg, VA), Huckleby in *The Fantastiks* (Richmond Theatre Co., Richmond Va), Dodge in *Buried Child* (Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green KY), and Rusty Charlie in *Guys and Dolls* (Mill Mountain Playhouse, Roanoke VA) He would particularly like to thank Matt, Joy, Andy, Lou and his fellow cast members for this fun experience...as well as Braxton and Celia.



**Christopher Sumrell** (VISIL/DUNCAN) has been performing since a very young age and is thrilled to be in his third production with TBTA. After graduating from WCSU, he moved to NYC and worked in the film and television world for a short time. Christopher returned to Connecticut and to the stage with TBTA's pre-season production of *Dog Sees God* which changed his life. He has become a huge supporter of "The Trevor Project," "It Gets Better," and "In Our Shoes." Previous productions include: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (TBTA), *The Sound of Music* (Newbury Musical Theater Company), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Seven Angels Regional

## BIOGRAPHIES

Theater), *Songs For A New World* (Off-Broadway), *Romeo & Juliet* (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Scotland) and many more.

**Joy Tagliavento** (PRODUCER) is so very happy to be working with Matt for the first time, a funny & talented man whom she had previously admired from afar. (Who knew that cheeseballs would bring them together?) Joy is a TBTA Board member and finds this theatre the absolute best place to be. Her theatre experience began in college where she had the incredible opportunity of working with the National Theatre of the Deaf and at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center. Since then, she has performed in, co-directed, produced and stage managed many, many shows, including 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. All her thanks and love go to the cast & crew—and most especially, to the incredible Okell team who have made this stroll through Squeamish country a lovely one!



**Michael Wright** (BRIGHTBEE/DONNY) is very happy to be returning to TBTA so soon after *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. After studying drama at the University of the Arts and WCSU, Michael pursued a career in radio. Almost twenty years later he returned to the stage, appearing in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, *Almost, Maine* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Theatreworks New Milford; *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* at Sherman Playhouse and Danbury Music Center's *Nutcracker*. He can also be heard every Thursday night on WHDD 91.9 FM, hosting *Bohemia After Dark*.

# The Book of Liz

## PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR	.....	Matt Austin
PRODUCERS	.....	Joy Tagliavento, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell
STAGE MANAGER	.....	Carol Martino
SET DESIGN	.....	Matt, Jay, Andrew
SET CONSTRUCTION	.....	Andrew Okell, Bob Lane
SET PAINTING	.....	Andrew Okell, Emma Okell, Lou Okell
COSTUMERS	.....	Meg Jones, Carolyn Onorato
PEANUT COSTUME	.....	Mary Lou Nolan
PRAYER PILLOW	.....	Donna Panzarino
LIGHTING DESIGN	.....	Stephen Cihanek
SOUND DESIGN	.....	Jay Austin
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER/INTERNS	.....	Jenny Dear
STAGE CREW	.....	Karla Pereira
LIGHTING EXECUTION	.....	John Duron
SOUND EXECUTION	.....	Jay Austin
HOUSE MANAGER	.....	Joy, Andrew
BOX OFFICE	.....	Carol Hoose
SRO/CONCESSIONS	.....	Jean Jackson
OPENING NIGHT PARTY	.....	Kristin Hoose

## SPECIAL THANKS

Arkettype Graphics, Gloria Austin, Erik Tonner, James Murphy,  
New Balance—Bethel

## IN OUR LOBBY

A primarily self-taught artist, **Ken Musselman** attended the Cooper School of Art in Cleveland, Ohio. After high school, he joined the U.S. Navy, on his father's advice, to train as a structural mechanic. While training in Memphis, Ken found an outlet for his creativity by painting murals on base. His superiors soon observed that he could better serve the Navy as an illustrator-draftsman. Since then Ken has had the proverbial starving artist's resume until 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. See more of his artwork at [www.kenmusselman.com](http://www.kenmusselman.com).