

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

WILLKOMMEN!!

As our season comes to a close with *Cabaret*, I think it is even more important than usual to explain a little bit about the choice to stage this production. Many people have asked how this show fits in with the “mission” of the theatre. Quite honestly, I love that people expect the theatre to have a “mission.” While it was not necessarily our intent, many of us here at TBTA have become motivated to produce work that, rather than making a statement, opens a dialogue and continues to ask important questions. I assure you, the decision to stage this production was not made lightly.

Cabaret takes place in 1930 Weimar Germany at the end of Germany’s cultural explosion. Cabaret clubs were a place for cultural, artistic and sexual exploration. They were traditionally hosted by an emcee who became the ring leader for progressive music, dance and most importantly political satire. According to Scott Miller:

“Weimar Germany was in trouble. Due to the war debts, rampant inflation, and a bickering, multi-party parliament, the country was in economic and political ruin. There was political dissension everywhere. The people, particularly the conservative middle class, were unhappy. Adolph Hitler finally figured out that the way to take power was through propaganda—telling the people what they wanted to hear. (And is that any different today?) Hitler’s ultra-conservative Nazi party began a war of propaganda against the standing government. He promised an end to the depression, to political corruption and incompetence, to moral decay. He declared war on popular culture, which he portrayed as decadent, obscene, and anti-German. He attacked Jews, homosexuals, feminists, and artists for ruining the country.” —*Inside Cabaret*

Knowing what became of this unfathomable part of our history, we add a great deal of meaning to this piece. It is important to remember that this takes place in the very beginnings of the rise of Nazi Germany. This is specifically important because we are able to examine people’s decisions from various perspectives—what they were willing to ignore; remain silent about or support. While the blatant atrocities may be different, it is not hard to find examples of similar issues in the world today.

If asking difficult questions is our mission here at TBTA, I am proud of where we are going. More specifically we have gathered a group of artists here that understand the power of this medium in addition to a community that has shown incredible support for this type of work. Theatre for entertainment’s sake is of incredible value. If you leave thinking about things beyond the stage and making connections to issues far greater than the two and a half hours you have spent with us, then we can really continue to effect change.

Please stay tuned for our 2012 season announcement—you may even be here on a fortunate night when we can make that announcement live! Show dates and season plans will be listed on the web site as soon as that information becomes available. We are excited about the amazing productions in the works for next season.

Peace,
Michael Burnett
President, TBTA

CABARET

music by **John Kander** and lyrics by **Fred Ebb**
book by **Joe Masteroff**

Director/Choreographer **Michael Burnett**
Musical Director **Tom Morris**

Produced by **Jean Jackson & Meg Jones**

CAST

Master of Ceremonies Bennett Cognato
Sally Bowles Kira E. Wallace
Clifford Bradshaw David Cheris
Fraulein Schneider Diane LaPine
Herr Schultz Tom Sheehan
Fraulein Kost Stephanie Tornatore
Ernst Ludwig Matt Austin
Kit Kat Girls Samantha K. Gronwoldt, Caitlin Nolan,
Leila Noone, Janina Reiner,
Melanie Romano, Jessica Smith,
Carly Spaeth, Mariel Vincente
Kit Kat Boys John Duron, Zachary Jackson,
Keenan Martin, Ryan Reynolds
Conductor/Customs/Sailor/Max Frank Beaudry

BAND

Keyboards Tom Morris
Percussion Matt Hsiung
Bass Nicholas P. Panzarino

Please note: Running time for Act 1 is 90 min., Act 2 is 40 min.

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

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Matt Austin (ERNST LUDWIG)

Frank Beaudry (CONDUCTOR/CUSTOMS/SAILOR/MAX) is from Oakville, CT and attended WCSU for theatre, majoring in performance and design/technologies, and is a ProCare Fit Specialist at New Balance Bethel. Past credits include *Joseph* (Reuben/Potiphor) at TBTA, *Hairspray* (Corny Collins) at Tri-Arts Sharon, *Rocky Horror* (Brad), *RENT* (Collins), *The Full Monty* (Teddy Slaughter), and *The Mousetrap* (Giles Ralston) at Warner Theatre. Thank you to this amazingly talented cast, crew, and production team. Also thank you to my family and friends for their support, and to the attendees. We could not do this without you!

Michael Burnett (DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER) has been directing productions in the area for the last 15 years. At TBTA he has staged *Seussical*, *Pippin*, *The Laramie Project*, *Once On This Island* and *Dog Sees God*. Michael has a degree in theatre and deaf studies from Skidmore College as well as a Master's in acupuncture from Tri-State College of Acupuncture. He is owner of Windhorse Acupuncture: Center for Eastern Healing Arts in Danbury. He is most recently teaching English and poetry at DHS where he has worked as an American Sign Language interpreter for the past 14 years. Michael is constantly humbled by the power of theatre and thrilled to once again be working with such amazing professionals who truly understand that power.

David Cheris (CLIFFORD BRADSHAW) is pleased to be appearing on the TBTA stage for the second time. He has previously been seen in the theatre's production of *The Laramie Project*. David's other credits include roles in *Italian American Reconciliation*, *See How They Run*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *West Side Story*, *Godspell*, *Gypsy*, *Oliver*, *Joseph...*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. David has also directed productions of *Beyond Therapy*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Twelve Angry Jurors*, and *Wait Until Dark*. He would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to everyone at TBTA, especially Meg, Jean, and Michael for their extreme support and talent. He would also like to thank his entire family. "Mike and Autumn, you make me smile."

Bennett Cognato (EMCEE/ASST. MUSICAL DIRECTOR), a senior at Danbury High School, is absolutely thrilled and honored to be back on stage for *Cabaret*. His recent credits include Officer Lockstock in *Urinetown* at DHS and Van in *Dog Sees God*, this year's pre-season show. Bennett has found a lovely home here at TBTA, where he has become acquainted with some of the greatest people he's ever known (not to mention, poetry teacher by day and director and life mentor by night, Michael Burnett). Indisputably, he credits any and all of his accomplishments to his friends, mentors and family, which includes the entire cast, crew, and production team of *Cabaret*. He would also like to specifically thank the lovely and amazingly talented Ms. Kira E. Wallace, who has always been a driving inspiration to him not only to discover the hidden motivations inside the characters he portrays, but the hidden motivations inside himself, while always reminding him that it's okay simply to "play!" Much peace, love, and Australian spaghetti to all. Enjoy the show!

John Duron (VICTOR) is extremely excited to be on stage again for his second show at TBTA. John has also played many roles behind the scenes: He was rehearsal manager/house manager for *Dog See's God*, house manager for *Sylvia*, and *Joseph...*, and ran lighting for *The Book of Liz*. John is also a proficient piano player and has played in over twenty different venues where he has received

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standing ovations. Along with his interest in the arts, John plans to pursue a career in the USAF as a pilot. He was nationally recognized this past summer for his acceptance to the 2011 Law Enforcement National Leadership Academy of the United States Marshals. Previous credits include *Footloose* (Jeter, Cowboy Bob) with Broadview Theatre, *Urinetown* (Billy boy Bill), and *Wait until Dark* (Policeman #1). John thanks the cast and crew of *Cabaret* and the board for providing a fantastic loving atmosphere and their support.

Samantha K. Gronwoldt (HELGA) will be graduating this December with a degree in early childhood education. She is so excited to be back performing at TBTA for the third time after appearing in *Seussical the Musical* and last season's *Once on This Island*. Other credits include: *The Wiz*, *Honk*, and *Footloose*. Samantha would like to thank her family, friends, cast, and crew for all the love and support especially for putting up with her this semester while she was student teaching.

Jean Jackson (PRODUCER) is honored to be co-producing her fifth show at TBTA where she serves on the board as Secretary. She is always in awe of the incredible talent and dedication of the people she gets to spend time with here at TBTA. It warms the soul to know that there are people who do things solely for the love of their art. Jean wishes to thank her husband Vic for his support, her daughter Courtney, for "allowing me to abandon her every night", and her son Zachary for sharing his talents and his world with her. "Thank you, Meg for being my partner again and to Michael for allowing me to me to be part of theater with a purpose!"

Zachary Jackson (BOBBY) is a senior at DHS. He has served as junior board member since January 2010 and has performed in *Seussical*, *The Golden Cabaret*, *Pippin*, and *Once on this Island*. He has also worked as sound operator for *Much Ado* and *The Laramie Project*. Outside of TBTA, Zach has most recently appeared as Bobby Strong in *Urinetown* at DHS. Zach is so happy to be working with those who have long been a part of his theatre family, and grateful for the opportunity to work with new cast mates. In addition to Michael and the rest of the cast and crew, he wishes to thank his family, friends, teachers, and co-workers for all of their love and support.

Meg Jones (PRODUCER/COSTUMES) is thrilled to be working with Michael Burnett again on this important piece. Meg was recently seen as Kate in *Sylvia*. She has been on stage at TBTA in *Carnival*, *The Odd Couple*, *Peter Pan*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Pippin* and *The Laramie Project*. She is Vice President of TBTA and runs the costume department She has worked as producer and costume designer on many shows. By day Meg teaches first grade at Hill & Plain school in New Milford. She is the mother of two lovely daughters—Catherine and Sheridan. Meg would like to thank John for supporting her "theatre habit".

Diane LaPine (FRAULEIN SCHNEIDER) is a veteran TBTA performer. She studied voice with the late Neville Landor and for many years enjoyed a career as a professional vocalist and vocal coach. For the past 15 years, Diane has been a full-time Broker/Realtor and owns Cornerstone CT Realty here in Brookfield along with her husband, Jim who is also a professional saxophonist. Diane has served as vocal director for Danbury High School spring musicals (*Grease*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Urinetown*) and at TBTA (*Pippin*, *Once on This Island*). Diane has 2 children in college, Jaimie a senior at Berklee College of Music majoring in music education/voice and Gregory, a freshman at WCSU majoring in jazz studies/saxophone.

CABARET

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER	Michael Burnett
LIGHTING DESIGN	Justin Morgan
MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Tom Morris
ASST. MUSICAL DIRECTOR	Bennett Cognato
PRODUCERS	Jean Jackson, Meg Jones
STAGE MANAGER / PROPERTIES	Carol Martino
SET DESIGN	Michael Burnett
SET CONSTRUCTION	Robert Lane, Don Lombardi, John Martino, Andrew Okell
SET PAINTING	Kim Bald, Jeannette Draper, Deborah Farber, Monica Ramos
COSTUMERS	Meg Jones, Jill Hancock, MaryLou Nolan
SOUND DESIGN & EXECUTION	Jamie Bishop
LIGHTING EXECUTION	Jill Hancock
SPOT OPERATOR	Kristin Hoose
LIGHTING CREW.	Seth Baldwin, Victoria Howe, Devin Muniz, Ben Gillotte
BOX OFFICE	Carol Hoose
SRO/CONCESSIONS	Jean Jackson
OPENING NIGHT PARTY	Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

A Common Ground, Kris Hodge, Victor Jackson,
Windhorse Acupuncture, Brian Casella,
Liz Popiel, WCSU Theatre Department

IN OUR LOBBY

Vincent James Pia, 35, is an artist, writer and sometimes music-maker who currently lives and works in Danbury, CT. A self-taught photographer, he is never without a camera, and shoots the equivalent of at least one roll of film per day...every day. In addition to photography, he also paints, creates mixed-media works, collages, "junk art" as well as writing poetry, articles and essays. This is the first solo exhibition of his photography, and he is extremely grateful to TBTA for this opportunity! You can see more of his work at www.vincentjamespia.com.

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Keenan Martin (HANNS) is ecstatic to be performing in his TBTA debut. Previous credits include *Gypsy*, *Godspell* and *The Music Man*. Keenan is currently a junior at New Fairfield High School. He would like to thank his friends and family, especially his parents for their continued support and driving! He looks forward to being in many more TBTA productions.

Carol Martino (STAGE MANAGER) is excited to return to TBTA as Stage Manager for *Cabaret*. Previous shows include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Once on This Island*, *Wait Until Dark* and *The Book of Liz*. She also assisted with props for *Dog Sees God*, and backstage work for *Joseph....* She is so grateful for TBTA, and for all of the amazing people it has brought into her life. A very special thanks to her husband for all of his patience during rehearsals. To the cast, crew, Michael, Jean and Meg—you are inspiring! Enjoy!!

Tom Morris (MUSICAL DIRECTOR) has conducted and performed for several musicals in Connecticut. Past productions include *Oliver!*, *Spelling Bee*, *Into the Woods*, *The Music Man*, *Pippin*, *Children of Eden*, *Thoroughly Modern Mille*, *Oklahoma*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. In addition he has performed on stage in *42nd Street* as Julian Marsh, *Wonderful Town* as Bob Baker and *Victor Victoria* as Squash Bernstein all with Musicals at Richter. Tom is currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Danbury Music Centre. He is happy to be back at TBTA and would like to express his love and thanks to Jess, Brooke, Jack, Tom and family for their love and support.

Justin Morgan (LIGHTING DESIGNER) *Cabaret* marks Justin's sixth design at TBTA. He is a graduate of DHS and UConn, where he obtained his BFA in design/technical theatre. He worked professionally in technical theatre and live entertainment for several years before becoming a teacher with Danbury Public Schools in 2004. Justin has been the technical director and lighting designer for DHS Productions for over 14 musicals. He would like to thank the entire TBTA family for the opportunity to work with such talented and beautiful people.

Caitlin Dawn Nolan (ROSIE) is absolutely thrilled to be a part of her fifth production at TBTA where she is also a board member. Her credits here include *Seussical*, *Pippin* (lead dancer), *Once on This Island* (Asaka) and this season's *Joseph...* (producer/choreographer). In her daily life, Caitlin is a nanny for a wonderful family with two beautiful little girls and is also an award winning choreographer for Lori's Center Stage Dance Studio's competitive company. So much love and thanks to my mom for being my fan and always getting involved no matter the project, Jean and Meg for everything, Kira, Sam and Frank for ALL the love a girl could ask for, and the entire cast for being so talented and committed to bringing this show to life. Sensei...thanks for letting me be involved in theatre with a purpose! "Be the change you wish to see in the world"

Leila Noone (FRITZIE) is delighted to be kicking up her heels at the Kit Kat Klub in her 6th TBTA production. She was last seen as a dancer in *Once on This Island*, *Pippin*, *Seussical*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and as Tiger Lily in *Peter Pan*, all at TBTA. Leila is a graduate of NYU and Fordham, a gymnastics coach, yoga instructor, and aerial arts teacher. She would like to thank her family, friends, anyone who was ever kind to her, Jean Jackson for keeping track of her belongings, and Charlie Chaplin and Tom Nazro for a lifetime's worth of funny faces. *Der Weg ist das Ziel!*

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Janina Reiner (TEXAS) is happy to be returning to TBTA where she was last seen in *Joseph....* Other credits include: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Miss Saigon*, *Kiss Me Kate*, and *Aida*. Thank you to Michael for challenging me. To the talented cast and crew congratulations and most important my family and AJ “xoxo”. *Welcome to Berlin!*

Ryan Reynolds (HERMANN) is very happy to make his debut on TBTA’s stage under the direction of Michael Burnett. Ryan is a sophomore at WCSU where he is studying music education. He has appeared on stage as Mark Cohen in *Rent*, Johnny Warner in *Zombie Prom*, Jacey Squires in *The Music Man* and was in the cast of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* as well as *Footloose*. Ryan would like to thank everyone who is a part of this show for the wonderful experience.

Melanie Romano (UTA) feels incredibly blessed to return to TBTA for the fourth time. Previous credits include *Pippin*, *Once on this Island* and *Joseph....* She is a recent graduate of Providence College where she was a member of the school’s all-female a cappella group. She now works at the Women’s Center as a prevention educator. Melanie has been involved in local community theater since she was 8 years old. She would like to thank everyone involved in the show and her family for their love and support.

Tom Sheehan (HERR SCHULTZ) is very happy to be returning to TBTA. He last appeared here in a special production of *Love Letters* which he also directed. Additional TBTA productions include *Master Class* and *Man of La Mancha* (Padre Perez). Some favorite roles include Caldwell B. Caldwell in *Urinetown*, Frank Butler in *Annie Get your Gun*, Cervantes/Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*, and Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. Additionally, Tom has performed as Fred Graham/Petruchio in *Kiss Me Kate*, Jigger Craigin in *Carousel*, Sir Danvers in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma* and Edward Rutledge in *1776*. Tom also delivered a memorable performance in a non-musical role as Uncle Peck in *How I learned to Drive*. Thanks to Michael, Tom and everyone at TBTA who have made this a very special experience. Thanks as well to my friends and especially my family, children and grandchildren. My deepest gratitude to my wife, Lynn, without whose support none of this would be possible. And as always, “Ta gra agam duit!”

Jessica Smith (FRENCHIE) A graduate of The Boston Conservatory with a degree in vocal performance, Jessica works as a music and drama teacher, professional singer, director, music director and voice teacher. Jessica enjoys performing locally, and has appeared on the TBTA stage in *Wait Until Dark* (Suzy), *The Laramie Project* (Reggie Fluty), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Antonia) and two deliciously fun Paddy’s Award shows. Other local productions include *Oliver*, *Gypsy*, *Guys and Dolls*, *A Chorus Line*, *Funny Girl* and *Wonderful Town* (Musicals at Richter, Danbury) and *A Little Night Music* (TheatreWorks, New Milford). With love to Tom and special thanks to Michael and the incredible TBTA family for continued support and love.

Carly Spaeth (IVANA) is thrilled to be making here TBTA debut and thanks Michael and the rest of the *Cabaret* cast and crew for their support and friendship. Other stage credits include *A Chorus Line*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Godspell*, *West Side Story*, *Pippin*, *Joseph....*, *Peter Pan*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Gypsy*. She has also appeared in *Sex and the City*, *Unfaithful*, and *Bad Company*. Carly is a graduate of NYU’s CAP21 and Manhattanville College. She has her Masters degree in music education and currently teaches elementary music in Katonah, N.Y. Carly sends her love to her family.

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Stephanie Tornatore (FRAULEIN KOST) is thrilled to be back on the stage, joining the TBTA family for the first time. She graduated with a Masters degree in oboe performance from the University of Delaware last May and has worked with the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. Here in CT, Stephanie is the musical director of the Newbury Musical Theatre Company, as well as a private oboe and flute teacher. Best of luck to the cast and crew and thank you all for being so welcoming!

Mariel Vincente (LULU) is in her second year at WCSU. Her previous credits include *Once on this Island*. Mariel works as a cake decorator at Stew Leonard’s in Danbury. She is very grateful to be working with a wonderful and talented group of people to keep her spirits high in a production about a sad time in history. She would like to thank her mother always supporting her. She would also like to thank everyone who has been a part of *Cabaret*.

Kira E. Wallace (SALLY BOWLES) is so proud to be back on stage at TBTA. Previous credits here include, *Dog Sees God*, *Once On This Island*, and *The Laramie Project*. The process of putting up this show has not only been an incredible journey, but also an honor to share it with such beautiful, energetic, and open minded and open hearted people. Thank you to the cast and crew for always being there to support me. Thank you Sensei, for always believing in me and pushing me to find new levels of potential and to always *keep the channel open*. Thank you to my unconditionally, loving family—Mom, Dad, Levi, Willson, David, Gwen, Tatey, Sophia and Forrest. Last but never least, thank you to my best friend DJ for being you and loving me! I love you!

“What does Cabaret have to teach us in [2011]? That it’s not okay to ignore what’s going on around us, that we cannot allow our world to be less than it should be, that we should never keep quiet, that it’s important to participate, that we have a responsibility to each other and to our community, that any discrimination, any indignity, any prejudice, no matter how slight must be brought out into the light of day and condemned.” —Scott Miller

TBTA is a 501c 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.

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TBTA

P.O. Box 528

Brookfield, CT 06804

(203) 775-0023

tbta@brookfieldtheatre.org