



The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

presents



Thou Shalt **NOT** Dance

A New Play by **Lynn J McNeil**

Directed by **Maureen Trotto**

Produced by **Cindy Maddox & Lou Okell**

Scenic Design by **Duane E Langenwalter**

Lighting Design by **Brian Casella**

Sound Design by **Stephen Cihanek**

STARRING Meg Jones & Kristin Hoose

www.BrookfieldTheatre.org

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

To Our Growing TBTA Family,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the world premiere of *Thou Shalt Not Dance* by Lynn McNeil. For the past few years we have worked to use the pre-season time slot to present socially important pieces of theatre. While we receive many original scripts that we would love to stage, it is usually not feasible for us to do so. It was clear right from the beginning that *Thou Shalt Not Dance* was one that should not be missed. It has been exciting for all of us to see the evolution of this piece happen right here at the theatre. I would like to thank Lynn McNeil for trusting us with her words; and to thank Maureen Trotto for her skilled direction and many contributions to bringing this script to life.

We are excited about our 2012 line up. Be sure to check the website for performance and audition dates. As I have said before, none of these exciting productions can become a reality without your support. While financial donations are always welcomed, the best way for you to support the theatre is through your advertising. We are seeing a growing number of patrons coming back to the theatre over and over again during the run of a show because they are not only encouraging friends and family to attend, but they are wanting to experience the production with them. This enthusiasm and support for what we are doing here at TBTA is exactly the motivation we need to continue to bring you exciting new work.

We look forward to seeing you throughout the season.

Peace,
Michael Burnett
President, TBTA

Upcoming Events at TBTA:

March 17: Auditions for "HAIR"

March 24: "TBTA's 1st Annual Perennial Centennial Improv Extravaganza-palooza (tentative title)"

Saturday, April 14: The Paddy Awards

*Saturday, April 27: Our 2012 Season begins with
Moonlight and Magnolias*

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.

Be A 2012 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 scholarship annually to a graduating high school senior that has been part of the TBTA community.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE:

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.

FROM THE AUTHOR

A Note from the Author

I did not set out to write a play. I certainly did not set out to write a play that was "important," whatever that means. I just wanted to tell a story—a story that I thought might inspire people on their own journeys of discovery. The story is largely, though loosely, autobiographical. Not everything in the story is factual, but it is true. It is true to life and to many people's experiences.

The story is mine, and yet it does not belong to me. It belongs to every person who has escaped abusive religion, every person who is true to herself regardless of the consequences, every person who found a way to stay whole when life threatened to break him, and to every person who has discovered—or will one day discover—that finding the Divine does not mean losing self. I share my story with you because we are traveling companions on the journey.

About a year and a half ago, after several weeks of summoning my courage, I asked Maureen Trotto to read my very rough first draft of this play. I was honored when she agreed, and even more honored when she told me she thought I was onto something. If she hadn't had the vision for this production, it never would have happened. Her ability to envision my dream brought the play to reality in ways far beyond my imagination. Next came Michael Burnett, who also saw something worth pursuing and encouraged us to move forward. Soon the TBTA Board of Directors was in agreement and gave their blessing and support. Kira Wallace and Jessica Smith helped with the very first table read, letting me hear my words out loud for the first time. Then Meg Jones and Kristin Hoose did more readings for me and were patient through many edits and rewrites. They both have brought openness, compassion, and courage to their roles, blowing me away with their ability to embody the characters. Duane Langenwaller brought his fabulous skills in set design, transforming a blank stage into a space for my dream to come true. Lou Okell joined us as producer, with her attention to detail, her marketing experience, and her genuine spirit. Add a wonderful stage attendant (Jenny Dear), incredibly gifted sound and light folks (Brian Casella, Stephen Cihanek, and their teams), plus those who lent their vocal talents to the recordings, and you see how many people have given of their time and talents to produce this little show. I am blessed beyond measure to have such gifted people working on my play. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

My deepest thanks is reserved for my wife, who has cheered me along every step of the way and who so tenderly kicked me in the butt when I wanted to quit. I also formally apologize to my daughter for writing a play she isn't old enough to see and hereby promise to write another play that she can not only see, but maybe even have a role in. (You did promise your moms 10% of your earnings when you become famous, right?)

And thanks to you for coming to the premiere production of ***Thou Shalt Not Dance***. I hope you find it to be a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit.

Lynn J. McNeil

IN OUR LOBBY

Silent Witness Initiative

In 1990, the Women's Center of Danbury developed an exhibit of statues honoring victims of domestic homicide, from throughout their service area, since the passage of CT's Family Violence Prevention and Response Act in 1986. This exhibit is modeled after the national Silent Witness Initiative. Each figure, or Silent Witness, bears a plaque with the victim's name, brief description of the murder, and number of surviving children. This testimony, as well as the visual impact of the red statues overwhelmingly destroys any complacency about the reality of domestic violence in our area. The voices of these Silent Witnesses continue to work to encourage the change needed to end the violence.

I Stand With You

The Women's Center also sponsors the "I Stand With You" Photo Campaign. It is part of their Men's Initiative, an agency program involving men of all ages as allies in the work to promote respect and equality and to end domestic violence and sexual assault through education, awareness, and activism. The campaign is based on the fact that most men are not violent; the more visible this message becomes, the less acceptable interpersonal violence will be.

In Our Shoes

In Our Shoes is aimed at raising awareness about bullying and helping people who have experienced bullying to tell their own stories. It was started by the youth of the King Street United Church of Christ after a rash of suicides by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth, as a way of giving witness to the lives affected by bullying, and also as a way of counteracting the anti-gay messages sent by too many churches. Youth who have been bullied can contribute a pair of their shoes to the project, along with a card telling of their experiences. Each pair of shoes becomes part of a traveling display to witness to the problem of bullying and its effects on teens. Please visit our Facebook page or our website for more information: www.inourshoes.us.

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 2012

Michael Burnett, Mark Campbell, Brian Casella, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Jean Jackson, Zach Jackson, Margaret Teed Jones, Sara Mariano, Gary Millar, Caitlin Nolan, Andrew Okell, Emma Okell, Lou Okell, Adele Skarzenski, Richard Skarzenski, Joy Tagliavento, Kira E. Wallace

TBTA Lifetime Members

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

Season Subscribers

Subscribe now and get one ticket to each of our four regular season shows (Moonlight & Magnolias, HAIR, Into The Woods, and Dead Man's Cell Phone) for only \$60.00 (an \$80 value).

Thank you to our 2012 Season Subscribers

Rebecca Brown, Anna & Roy Chan, George & Marlene Couturier, Janine & Jonathan Gibney, Denis & Judith Larkin, Connie Schoonmaker, Marianne Seeber, Adele & Richard Skarzenski, Joseph & Polly Sorrentino, Diane & Rick Toth, Mark Zerbe

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

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 is proud to present the premier performance of

hou Shalt ~~NOT~~ Dance

©2012 by **Lynn J. McNeil**

directed by **Maureen Trotto**

Produced by **Cindy Maddox & Lou Okell**

Scenic Design by **Duane E. Langenwalter**

Lighting Design by **Brian Casella**

Sound Design by **Stephen Cihanek**

CAST

Sara **Meg Jones**
Narrator/Poet **Kristin Hoose**
Stage Attendant **Jenny Dear**

NOTES

Running time is 1½ hours. There is no intermission.

After the performance we will have a “talk back” session. This is a common feature at premiere productions because it gives the playwright an opportunity to receive feedback about the work. We ask only that your comments offer constructive criticism and be respectful of all involved.

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 can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons who are unwilling to turn off electronic devices are welcome to leave the theatre and return to the box office for a refund.**

MUSIC CREDITS

Gathering music

Dare to Be and *If I Were Brave* and *I'm Not Lost, I'm Exploring*
by Jana Stanfield-www.janastanfield.com

Take A Chance
by Twist of Faith

During the show

Downhome Rockin' and Breakdown
by Kevin MacLeod-www.incompetech.com

Medley: Your Eye Is On the Sparrow, Lead Me to Calvary
by Marsha Stevens-www.marshastevens.com

All music used in *Thou Shalt Not Dance*, including additional incidental music, remains the property of the original composer.

“Out of the Depths” by Ruth Duck, © 1993 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Maureen Trotto
PRODUCERS Cindy Maddox, Lou Okell
SET DESIGN Duane E Langenwalter
LIGHTING DESIGN Brian Casella
SOUND DESIGN Stephen Cihanek
COSTUMES / PROPERTIES Cast
SET CONSTRUCTION & PAINTING Arlene Coleman, Larry Coleman,
Duane E. Langenwalter, Andrew Okell
Emma Okell, Lou Okell, Emily Renwick
SOUND EXECUTION Lou Okell
LIGHTING EXECUTION Nicola Gillotte
LIGHTING CREW Leandra Thompson, Josh White
BACKSTAGE MANAGER Jenny Dear
HOUSE MANAGER Emma Okell
BOX OFFICE Carol Hoose
SRO/CONCESSIONS Jean Jackson
OPENING NIGHT PARTY Carol Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

Andrew Okell, Robert Lane, Arketype Graphics & Printing

BIOGRAPHIES

Brian Casella (LIGHTING DESIGNER) has been the Technical Director at the Brookfield Theatre for the Arts for the past 8 years. He is a freelance lighting designer who has designed theatrical performances and concerts in several venues in Connecticut and New York. In 2010 he was stage manager for *A Matter of Choice*, part of the Fringe Festival in New York City. Also an intern at *Live Design* in New York City, working at LDI 2010 in Las Vegas and the Broadway Master Classes of 2011 in New York City. He has recently become a technician for Production Core based out of New York City, helping with *School of Lies*, an off-Broadway production. In his spare time Brian also runs a mobile DJ and lighting specialty company named Vivid Events (www.yourvividevent.com). His lighting design credits are numerous, including many shows at TBTA and at other area theaters.

Steve Cihanek (SOUND DESIGNER) has designed lighting and sound for several shows here at TBTA and is happy to have been asked to design sound for this exciting new show. Steve is a photographer whose work may be seen at www.cihanek.com.

Jenny Dear (STAGE ATTENDANT) is currently a senior at Immaculate High School where she recently appeared in the school production of *Aida*. She is planning to attend college in September, although she has not made her final choice yet, to pursue a degree in Theater Management.

Kristin Hoose (NARRATOR/POET) is honored to be a part of the inaugural staged production of *Thou Shalt Not Dance*. Kristin currently resides in Danbury, CT and is the communications manager for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's national office in White Plains, NY. Favorite acting credits include: *Sylvia*, *Dog Sees God*, *Jacques Brel...*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (TBTA), *Whodunnit* (Newtown Town Players) and *My First Time* (TheStage Repertory Company). In addition to acting, Kristin has produced several plays including: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Love Letters*, *Harvey*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beyond Therapy* and *The Food Chain* (TBTA). Kristin would like to thank her family for their constant support, and commend Maureen, Meg, and especially Lynn, on their inspiring work.

Meg Jones (SARA) is thrilled to be working with Lynn and Maureen on the world premier of this important play. Meg was recently seen as Kate in last season's *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, 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".

BIOGRAPHIES

Duane E. Langenwalter (SCENIC DESIGNER) graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts in Scenic design. After designing & Technical Directing many NYC productions he became an ASID interior designer working throughout the metropolitan area in his own firm, Enchanted Visions. Twenty seven years ago he, along with his wife, Maureen T Trotto (herein known as the director) and her sister, Laureen Trotto, founded Thin Air, where toys, packaging, graphics & product design all seem to appear out of Thin Air. His book of poetry *Few Words, a hundred waka*, is now available from the author & will soon be available on Amazon. Duane is thrilled to be working, once again, in the theatre with his delightful wife. With her they have shared the company of five wonderful dogs. Currently Dante & Bacci fill the special canine place in their hearts.

Cindy Maddox (CO-PRODUCER) has stage managed and performed at a number of shows at TBTA and was most recently seen as Sister Butterworth in *The Book of Liz*. She thanks the cast and crew for their many hours to bring this play to its premier performance and thanks her family for their patience and support.

Lou Okell (CO-PRODUCER) is honored to be part of this amazing new work. She has previously produced and co-produced several shows here at TBTA including *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Spelling Bee*, *Wait Until Dark*, *Sylvia*, and *The Book of Liz*. She thanks Lynn, Maureen, Meg, Kristin, Jenny and the entire technical team for bringing this important, inspiring play to life. Special thanks to Andy & Emma for keeping the home fires burning.

Maureen Trotto (DIRECTOR) is the guiding, creative force behind Thin Air, LLC, a partnership formed to create and produce exciting, new concepts for TV, film, theatre, and toys. She is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University Drama Department from which she holds a degree in Theatrical Design, and has served as a member of the Executive Board of the CMU Alumni Association. Maureen was a member of the faculty at North Carolina School of the Arts for five years. While in North Carolina, she co-founded The North Carolina Theatre Ensemble. Maureen has directed *Carnival*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Spelling Bee* and *Sylvia* at TBTA and is looking forward to directing *Into The Woods* later this year. She is happy to be collaborating again with her talented husband Duane. Many thanks to her partners, Duane Langenwalter and Laurie Trotto, and to the rest of the team at Thin Air for their patience and support.

"This has been a rewarding, truly collaborative experience. Thanks to this dedicated group of women and men who helped breathe life into this new work. Thanks to Duane for his unfailing vision. Thanks to Brian and Steve and Jenny and to Lou who picked up all the loose ends. Thanks to Meg and Kristin for months of trust and very hard work. And thanks most of all to Lynn for her courageous presentation of these important issues."