

LOST IN YONKERS

STARRING

**Rigby Wilkins
Pat Covino
Nico Apicella
Dylan Fischetto
Michael Reilly
David Cheris
Lynn Nissenbaum**

BY Neil Simon

**DIRECTED BY
Dana O'Neal**

**PRODUCED BY
Rebecca Pokorski
& Lou Okell**

WITH

**Kolby Coutts
Hector Diaz
Alyssa Grey
Will Mahan
Jeffrey Rossman
Isabelle Tiska
Tarah Vega**



The
**BROOKFIELD
THEATRE**
for the Arts

March 1-16, 2019

FRI & SAT @ 8PM • SUN @ 2PM

BrookfieldTheatre.org

"Lost In Yonkers" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

February 2019

Dear theater family & friends,

Welcome to Brookfield Theatre's 62nd season of shows! We just finished celebrating at our annual Paddy Awards where we honored the volunteers and shows of the past years while looking forward to the exciting year ahead! It was my honor to recognize our Volunteer of the Year David Jurman along with two new Lifetime Members Carol Hoose and Michael Burnett. I am continually humbled by the dedication and the tremendous amount of time and creativity given by our many volunteers, on stage and behind the scenes. It is clear to me that theatre arts have great value throughout our community.

We are also grateful to our loyal patrons whose support inspires us to new challenges each year. We hope you will join us for the rest of our 2019 season of shows and special events. Please watch our web site or sign up for emails by signing our guest book in the lobby or on line at www.BrookfieldTheatre.org!

We thank you for supporting our 62nd year as an all volunteer non-profit organization, providing a brave space for the arts. Brookfield Theatre relies on our loyal patrons to continue the work of providing a creative center for the Brookfield community.

Enjoy the show,

Lou Okell, President

Notes from the Director:

Thank you to Lou Okell for inviting me to direct this production of *Lost In Yonkers*. It has been fun, exhausting and, as usual, a learning experience. Thank you cast and crew for the journey. We have been through a lot together: snow storms, ice storms, appointments, illness, more illness, and the loss of loved ones—but we made it!

Having directed many Neil Simon plays as well as having performed in some, it has been a pleasure to direct his Pulitzer prize winning play so soon after his passing last year. Simon had a way with serious comedy like no other. His immediate character development and built in timing is superb. I hope we did justice to your work, Mr. Simon.

My mission today is to bring you, my audience, into the illusion that you are in Yonkers, NY in 1942, not just by watching the play, but physically here at the theater. As you walk into the house, the show will already be under way—by providing live pre-show entertainment, we hope to bring you back to 1942 at the Yonkers Odeon movie theater. Feel free to improvise along with us as we experience this journey together. As you enter the theater, you are invited to be a citizen of Yonkers 1942—and so it is more important than ever that you *shut your cell phone off* and step back in time with us. You may have Yonkers townspeople approach you or see military members home from the war or applaud the Mayor you voted for. Today is active duty and veterans' appreciation day in Yonkers—a tribute we extend to our current military active duty and veterans. Some current active duty have been invited to the show as our guests. I am a 22-year veteran myself.

Sit back and enjoy - be happy, get a treat from Kurnitz's Kandy store, talk to your fellow Yonkers citizens and enjoy the ride. We hope we make you laugh and pull at your heart strings. Thank you for being here.

This production is dedicated to Michael Audet, my brother-in-law and fellow veteran. Welcome to Connecticut.

Thank you to our 2019 Supporters

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IN-KIND SERVICES

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*List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.
The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community theater. Donations
are tax deductible—please consult your tax professional.*

Members & Subscribers

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

2019 Members

Eric Bosco-Schmidt, Tony Bosco-Schmidt, Danette Bottelsen,
Laurie & Stacy Boxer, Arlene Coleman, Larry Coleman,
Sarah Denn, Carol de Giere, Paget Haylon, Rick Haylon,
Donald Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo, Nadine McMillan,
Suzanne Nassar, Monica O'Brien, Andrew Okell,
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Lifetime Members

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Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

Lou Okell, PRESIDENT • Rebecca Pokorski, VICE PRESIDENT
Danette Bottelsen, TREASURER • Andrew Okell, SECRETARY

DIRECTORS: Sarah Denn, Doreen Rafferty, Joy Tagliavento, Dianna Waller, Jim Wood
Kylie Block (*student representative*)

Join our team! Contact us at BrookfieldTheaterCT@gmail.com

LOST IN YONKERS

by NEIL SIMON

directed by DANA O'NEAL

produced by REBECCA POKORSKI & LOU OKELL

STARRING

in order of appearance

Nico Apicella *Jay Kurnitz*
Dylan Fischetto *Arty Kurnitz*
David Cheris *Eddie Kurnitz*
Rigby Wilkins *Bella Kurnitz*
Pat Covino *Grandma Kurnitz*
Michael Reilly *Louie Kurnitz*
Lynn Nissenbaum *Gert Kurnitz*

and featuring our pre-show ensemble

**Hector Diaz, Alyssa Grey, Will Mahan,
Jeffrey Rossman, Isabelle Tiska, Tarah Vega**

SETTING

The apartment above Kurnitz's Kandy Store, Yonkers, New York
Summer 1942 through Spring 1943

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

LOST IN YONKERS is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., New York.

**THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR
VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS
ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

IN THE GALLERY

NOW SHOWING in our lobby gallery: the artwork of **Jeanne Steers**.

Jeanne Steers is a professional artist and a graduate of RISD. She is the curator of Brookfield Theatre's gallery art shows.

Array and **Savor** are the two collections Jeanne Steers will be exhibiting, from March 1-16 during the running of "Lost in Yonkers" by Neil Simon.

Array explores the idea of fully sharing oneself with the world. By sharing our individual light, focusing on shining brightly, we allow ourselves to collaborate and contribute to the world in a unique and powerful way.

Savor is an exploration of our inner child and reflects on allowing the delicious moments which we still carry within us to be realized anew.

LOST IN YONKERS

by NEIL SIMON

directed by DANA O'NEAL

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Dana O'Neal
PRODUCERS Rebecca Pokorski & Lou Okell
STAGE MANAGER Ron Malyszka
SET DESIGN Andrew Okell
COSTUME DESIGN Doreen Rafferty
LIGHTING DESIGN Stephen Cihanek
SOUND DESIGN & EXECUTION Lou Okell
LIGHTING EXECUTION Joe Cebollero
STAGE CREW Will Mahan, Hector Diaz
SET CONSTRUCTION & DECORATION . . . Andrew Okell, Larry Coleman,
Bob Lane, Don Lombardo, Lou Okell,
Rebecca Pokorski, Doreen Rafferty
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER Stephen Cihanek
HOUSE MANAGER Joy Tagliavento & volunteers
BOX OFFICE Deanna Rullan, Danette Bottelsen,
Rebecca Pokorski
SRO/CONCESSIONS Joy Tagliavento & volunteers
OPENING NIGHT PARTY Rebecca Pokorski

SPECIAL THANKS

Arkettype, Al Chiappetta, Steve Cihanek,
Savers, Sherman Playhouse

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with copyright laws, the taking photos or recordings of any kind is strictly prohibited. **PLEASE TURN OFF ALL** non-essential electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons are welcome to text, tweet, or candy crush in the lobby.**

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. In the unlikely event of an emergency, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Reilly (LOUIE KURNITZ) is thrilled to be returning to the Brookfield stage and to be part of this production! He was last seen here in THE NORMAL HEART (Mickey Marcus). Favorite past roles include THE RAINMAKER (Noah), ALL MY SONS (George), GETTING SARAH MARRIED (Brandon), CLYBOURNE PARK (Karl/Steve) and THE BOYS IN THE BAND (Larry). Thanks to Dana for the opportunity! Special thanks to family, friends, Lou and Rebecca for their support and to the amazing cast and crew!

Jeffrey Rossman (PRESHOW HOST/MAYOR) is a well known veteran of local community theaters in Connecticut and New York. He was seen here most recently in last year's staged reading of THE CRUCIBLE and has appeared here in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF as Rev. Tooker and in AND THEN THERE WERE NONE as General MacKenzie for which In 2016, he was nominated for a regional award for "Best Featured Actor in a Play". Jeff has also appeared with the Trouper Light Opera production of IL MIKADO and was seen as Grandfather in Little Radical Theatric's production of RAGTIME in Yonkers. Favorite roles, among many, include Candy in OF MICE AND MEN, HC Curry in THE RAINMAKER, Uncle Smelcuc in DARK OF THE MOON, Matthew Cuthbert in ANNE OF GREEN GABLES and most recently as Herr Klingelhoff in THE UNDERPANTS at the Sherman Playhouse. Jeff has also done numerous short films and one feature length film and has also appeared in Amazon's MOZART OF THE JUNGLE, and ARTLESS. In April, Jeff will be appearing once again with the Trouper Light Opera's production of RUDDIGORE at the Norwalk Concert Hall. Thanks, Dana, for allowing me to contribute to the success of this production. And thanks, also, to my wife, Lynn, for putting up with many sleepless nights listening to me muttering lines or singing lyrics....

Isabelle Tiska (PRESHOW DANCER) is excited to be part of LOST IN YONKERS here at Brookfield! Isabelle's first show, ORPHAN ANNIE OAKLEY, was at the Carriage House Arts Center when she was 9 years old. Previous shows include PETER PAN, LITTLE SHOP OF HAIRDOS, WALK TWO MOONS, INTO THE WOODS, YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, SEVEN AGES OF ANNE and COBWEB DREAMS. Break a leg everyone!!

Tarah Vega (ENSEMBLE SINGER) is thrilled to be joining the cast of Lost in Yonkers. She was last seen in YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN in New Milford. As a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in NYC & house manager at the Westchester Broadway Theatre, you can say the performing arts is in her blood. Many thanks to Mom & Dad for their support!

Rigby Wilkins (BELLA KURNITZ) is excited to be participating in her third Brookfield Theater production. An Ohio native, Rigby took part in theater sporadically throughout high school and college before moving to Connecticut and launched her Brookfield debut as part of the ensemble in SWEENEY TODD, closely followed by her performance as Otis in SUITE SURRENDER. Rigby would like to thank her cast mates and everyone on the production team for being welcoming and supportive, as well as her parents for pushing her to audition in the first place.

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Nico Apicella (JAY KURNITZ) began acting at the age of eight and has had the delight of performing six plays at The Gary The Olivia Theater and two at Brookfield Theatre. Favorite roles include Young Mossy in ACT ONE, Jim in THE ACTOR, Huck Finn (Gala Performace), and Prince John in THE LION IN WINTER. Nico loves to perform Shakespearian roles and has appeared as Hamlet, Pyramus, and Paris. He debuted as a film actor with his leading role in The America Institute of Indian Studies film QUINNETUCKUT. He went on to garner the lead in the film MASON & NADINE which as achieved success in numerous film festivals. Nico is a blacksmith apprentice at the Abbey of Regina Laudis and also studies there with Mother Dolores Hart, his Shakespearian acting coach. He is delighted to be in this production of LOST IN YONKERS.

David Cheris (EDDIE KURNITZ) is thrilled to be working with the amazing and talented people of TBTA once again. David is a father of three, husband of one, and technology teacher of 600. He has a BA in theatre from SUNY Albany and two and a half master's degrees in education from Fordham University and Quinnipiac University. He was most recently seen as Lenny in Castle Craig Players' production of RUMORS. Past credits include CABARET (Cliff) and THE LARAMIE PROJECT, both here in Brookfield; SEE HOW THEY RUN (Clive), ITALIAN AMERICAN RECONCILIATION (Huey), and THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL (Sir Harry Bumper). Directing credits include ALADDIN JR., BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR., ANNIE JR., WAIT UNTIL DARK, TWELVE ANGRY JURORS, BILOXI BLUES, and BEYOND THERAPY. David would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support; especially Kasey.

Stephen Cihaneck (LIGHTING DESIGN-2012 Volunteer of the Year) 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 shows. Since then he has designed lights for Brookfield and other local theaters. Shows include SWEENEY TODD, FROST/NIXON, DAMN YANKEES, THE FANTASTICKS, COMPANY, GODSPELL, BLITHE SPIRIT, GOD OF CARNAGE, DIVINE SISTER, BE A GOOD LITTLE WIDOW, INTO THE WOODS, BOOK OF LIZ, SPELLING BEE, HARVEY, DIVINERS, DINNER WITH FRIENDS, AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN, PUTTING IT TOGETHER, OUTWARD BOUND, MASTER CLASS, and LITTLE RED & THE HOODS, as well as sound design for THOU SHALT NOT DANCE, TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE and GODSPELL. Steve is also TBTA's house photographer. Visit him at <http://cihaneck.com>.

Pat Covino (GRANDMA KURNITZ) This is Pat's first play with Brookfield Theatre and she is very excited to be part of this wonderful group of people. Pat has been involved in community theater since 2008 when she was in Little Theater of Manchester's production of MAME. Since that time, Pat has participated in comedies, musicals, and dramas with Somers Village Players, Suffield Players, Windsor Jesters, and New Britain Rep among others. Credits include both community and professional productions. Last year, Pat was Carol Reynolds in THE LAST ROMANCE at the Windham Theatre Guild. Pat has been lucky enough to have been directed by Dana O'Neal in the past as Mrs. Baker in COME BLOW YOUR HORN. This role as Grandma Kurnitz is a challenge and an opportunity. Hopefully it will enrich all of our lives and teach us something about ourselves.

Hector Diaz (ENSEMBLE/CREW) recently started modeling with an agency. This is his first performance as an actor and he thanks Dana for giving him his first stage opportunity. Hector is a Parks Operations Assistant and High School Rowing Coach for a non-profit organization Riverfront Recapture Inc. Rowing is his passion and he enjoys being outside, having an active lifestyle and trying

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new things. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Dylan Fischetto (ARTY KURNITZ) lives in Brookfield and has appeared here in ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR and the SPOTLIGHT SHOWCASE. He enjoys acting, singing, drawing and animating and plans to be a professional actor and animator. Dylan has performed on stage and in film, and has also done modeling. He enjoys telling jokes, making people laugh, and drawing. He has also recently started writing scripts for plays, shows, and animation videos. He is happy to have this opportunity to work hard at something he enjoys.

Alyssa Grey (ENSEMBLE SINGER) is excited to be making her Brookfield debut! A singer, songwriter, and actress, Alyssa is thrilled to be involved in such an incredible show. She would like to congratulate the cast and crew on all their hard work and thank her family for their constant support and encouragement.

Bob Lane (SET BUILDER-2010 Volunteer of the Year) is happy to build another fine set with his set building sidekick. Bob thanks his teammates, his friends and family, and his savior...Rita. It's a good night for theater!

Don Lombardo (SET BUILDER-2015 Volunteer of the Year) is happy to be part of another great Brookfield set build. Thanks to his family for all their support.

Will Mahan (ENSEMBLE/CREW) is pleased to be performing in LOST IN YONKERS. You may have seen him at BHS as Lurch in THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL and as Captain Of The Guard/Theleonus In SHREK THE MUSICAL. Will has also acted in shows at Fineline Theatre and the Cape Cod Theatre Company. Will would like to thank his friends and family for all of their support and generosity towards him, and he looks forward to hopefully having the opportunity to be part of more excellent shows at Brookfield Theatre and elsewhere in the future.

Ron Malyszka (STAGE MANAGER) Most of you are used to seeing Ron on stage. Over the last few decades, Ron has more than 50 credits in area, local community, theatre productions throughout western CT and beyond. Here at TBTA, this would include *THE LION IN WINTER*, *NOISES OFF*, *THE FANTASTIKS*, *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE*, and *TUESDAYS WITH MORIE* to name a few. But he is thrilled to be working with Dana and this incredible cast and wonderful crew in this brilliant production of Neal Simon's *LOST IN YONKERS*, as the stage manager. "Places !!!" and enjoy the show.

Lynn Nissenbaum (GERT KURNITZ) is very excited to make her Brookfield Theatre debut and to work with a fabulous cast and director. She has appeared in numerous productions at the Sherman Playhouse where she is a member of the Board of Directors. Favorite roles include Mrs. Summy (DARK OF THE MOON), Cora Cartwright (LIFE WITH FATHER), Mrs. Bradman (BLITHE SPIRIT), and Rachel Lynde (ANNE OF GREEN GABLES). In addition to work on stage, Lynn has produced, stage managed, and costumed many area productions. When not indulging in her theatre passion, Lynn is a School Psychologist in New Milford. As always "much love to my ever-supportive and loving husband, Jeff."

Andrew Okell (SET DESIGNER/SET BUILDER-2011 Volunteer of the Year) first started in theatre at the tender age of 8 in THE TIME MACHINE, ROBIN HOOD and some not so well known productions. Becoming less desirable on stage, set building and design became a better option. Numerous sets have been built and some designed over the last decade including LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT..., MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS (Rose Brand Best Amateur Set Design 2012), STEEL MAGNOLIAS, LION IN WINTER and a

BIOGRAPHIES

personal favorite NOISES OFF. Thank you to Brookfield theatre and building cohorts Bob Lane, Don Lombardo, and Larry Coleman for enabling me.

Lou Okell (PRODUCER/SOUND DESIGN) serves as the theatre president and enjoys theatre production. Many thanks to Dana for his thoughtful interpretation of the work of Neil Simon, to our conscientious stage manager Ron for guiding the show, and to the dedicated cast and crew for bringing LOST IN YONKERS to life. Please tell your friends and family to come see this show!

Dana O'Neal (DIRECTOR) directed Brookfield's production of FROST/NIXON and also appeared on stage as Uncle Freddie in BENT. Dana graduated from CCSU in theater performance and took directing at Yale. He has directed several Neil Simon shows, including COME BLOW YOUR HORN and THE GINGERBREAD LADY as well as stage managed RUMORS and scene study with PLAZA SUITE. He played Buddy in COME BLOW YOUR HORN for the Air Force in Europe competition while stationed in England. He has served 22 years. Other shows he as directed include, THE BOYS IN THE BAND, OUR TOWN and PVT. WARS. He has performed at Long Wharf and Theater Works and has been in over 40 productions.

Rebecca Pokorski (PRODUCER-2017 Volunteer of the Year) is very happy to be productin Lost In Yonkers with this wonderful cast and crew. Rebecca currently serves as vice president of the theatre and resides here in Brookfield with her lovely daughter Eden and her wonderful and supportive fiancé Joe Cebollero (who is up in the booth running lights). You may have seen Rebecca here in the recent PADDYS AWARDS show or in THE WILD PARTY, INTO THE WOODS, I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE, and DAMN YANKEES. She also co-directed BLITHE SPIRIT, directed last year's staged reading of THE CRUCIBLE, and costumed designed many shows Other favorite roles include Madame Thernardier in LES MISERABLES at Thomaston Opera House, Vicki in THE FULL MONTY at Brewster Theatre and Mayor Matilda Hyde in ALL SHOOK UP with Warner Stage. Rebecca has a degree in Costume Design from SUNY Fredonia and has worked as a costume professional at The Wisconsin Shakespeare Festival, The Mac-Haydn Theatre and Tennessee Repertory Theatre before moving on to Broadway at Disney's BEAUTY & THE BEAST, JEKYL & HYDE, MISS SAIGON and with The Royal Ballet at The Met.

Doreen Rafferty (COSTUME DESIGN) For the past 35 years, Doreen has been costuming dancers for theater productions, dance recitals, community projects and competitive endeavors. LOST IN YONKERS is her first outfitting experience in a setting that doesn't revolve around dancers, or at least include dancers...well almost...because our show does include a tap dance which is choreographed by Doreen. LOST IN YONKERS in general was appealing to this costumer on many levels. Doreen's parents are both from New York and they got married in the 1940's. Her mom was raised by relatives when her own mother passed away and father had to work a schedule that didn't lend itself to raising a little girl, along with the family being German. Her dad's family also raised a relative who lived with them when the mother passed away, and there was the frequenting of the candy store with the glass jars, and stories of the soda jerk days. The situation just seemed to be right. The main show cast and preshow cast have been a pleasure to work with in this regard and costuming the lobby crew to cover all aspects of the production and tie things together, has been fun as well. Plus, who doesn't enjoy Neil Simon? Doreen extends a special thanks to Dana for his vision and great ideas, to Lou and Rebecca for their support and guidance, and to those involved with the show for their contributions in helping to make this a success. She looks forward to costuming again for Brookfield Theatre in the future.