The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

July 2015

Dear TBTA Family & Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome back Maureen Trotto to the director's chair here at Brookfield Theatre. She has brought us many wonderful shows in the past including *Carnival*, ...Spelling Bee, Thou Shalt Not Dance, Sylvia, God of Carnage and another Sondheim favorite: Into The Woods. We are fortunate to have so many experienced and dedicated people to bring a show as complex and entertaining as Company to you.

Based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, *Company* features a series vignettes that follows Robert, a bachelor about to celebrate his 35th birthday, and the friends trying to convince him—and themselves—of the joys of marriage. It was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won six including Best Original Music and Best Original Lyrics.

We are so excited to announce the casts for the remaining shows for 2015:

Opening Sept. 18 and running thru Oct. 3 is *Steel Magnolias*, the well-loved story of gossipy Southern women by Robert Harling. It is directed by Tom Sheehan and stars Marilyn Olsen, Amber Mason, Kristin Hoose, Rebekah Derrick, Katy Ann Milano, and Monica O'Brien.

The last show of this season is *'Night Mother* by Marsha Norman, a beautiful exploration of life and relationships directed by Michael Burnett. It will star Meg Jones as Thelma, Stacy-Lee Erickson Frome as Jessie and runs Nov. 6 thru the 21st.

Our season also features several improv comedy nights with our resident troupe the **17 Debacles!** Shows are scheduled for Saturdays—**Aug. 15, Oct. 10** and **Dec. 5.** As always, tickets are just \$10 at the door. Doors open at 7PM and shows start at 8PM.

Last but not least is our annual Paddys celebration which will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2015. We will celebrate and honor the countless hours given by our volunteers, both on and off stage, and the dedication of our Board of Directors during the 2014 and 2015 seasons. We will also thank our sponsors, subscribers and members for their continued financial support. Please consider adding your name to our list of supporters and join us at the Paddys. It promises to be a fun evening filled with good memories, great friends, and fun!

If you like what you see here today, tell your friends and family. Better yet, bring them back with you—your presence at the theatre is the greatest support. Information about shows and events can be found on our web site www.BrookfieldTheatre.org or follow us on social media.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

Lou Okell TBTA President

Thank you to our TBTA 2015 Season Supporters

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

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GOLD \$250-\$499

SILVER \$100-\$249

Dr. & Mrs. James Sullivan

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Anthony Chiodo • Kristin Collins Celia Regan • Cathleen Sullivan

"TIPS" up to \$25

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Kevin Morgan • Timothy Muir • Suzanne Murdock

Laura Nicoletti • Sonia Ohanlon • Susan Primavera

Timothy Rees • Jeffery Robeson • Karen Robinson Robert Taylor • Jessie Wasserman • Eric Wilczak

List is complete as of printer's deadline. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

A Brief History of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

The building that houses TBTA was originally a gymnasium for The Curtis School for Boys. First established in 1875 in Bethlehem, CT by Frederick S. Curtis, the school was moved to Long Meadow Hill in 1883 and then to the present site that was the former Goodsell Estate in 1886.

In 1906 the price for one school year was six hundred dollars. This included "tuition, board, a seat in church, lighting and worming, the care and mending of clothing, and the use of school books." In the 1920s, girls were allowed to enroll as day students. This is the second gymnasium for the Curtis School. The first was destroyed by fire in 1906. The present stone building was built in 1907. The Curtis School closed its doors in 1943.

The gymnasium was purchased by the Brookfield Country Players in 1957 and has been used as a theatre for year-round plays and musicals ever since. This year, 2015, is our 58th season.

Visit our web site for more information or contact us to share your story!

TBTA Membership

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

2015 Members

Aldis Alexander, Robert Bassett, Kerry Bulson,
Michael Burnett, Desirae Carle, Brian Casella,
Dawn Garamone, Carol de Giere, Carol Hoose,
Kristin Hoose, Margaret Teed Jones, Don Lombardo,
Tracy Lowry, Karlene Lombardo, Sara Mariano,
Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Rebecca Pokorski,
Karen E. Steckler, Joy Tagliavento, Cherie Villano

Lifetime Members

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

Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2015 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, John & Anne Baron*, Anna & Roy Chan*,
Anthony Chiodo, D. Laurence & Arlene Coleman*,
Annette & Brent Crozier*, Marianne Gaffey*,
Janine & Jonathan Gibney*, Diane Hires*, Steve Hoose,
Greg & Joanne Kelsey*, Donald & Karlene Lombardo*,
Lyn Lyon*, Michael & Susan O'Brien*,
Tara Peterson, Anne & Clint Rickards*, Sue Slater*,
Jina Williams, Steve Wright*

Thank you for your support!

*Subscription for Two. List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.





Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM Book by GEORGE FURTH

Originally Produced & Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Directed by MAUREEN TROTTO

Musical Director BRENDAN FOX

Choreographer TODD SANTA MARIA

Scenic Design by DUANE E LANGENWALTER

Produced by KAREN E STECKLER & ROB BASSETT

CAST

Erick Sanchez Rob	ert	Lauren Brown	Amy
Anya Caravella Ap	ril	Bennett Cognato	larry
Steven CognatoPo	ıul	Chris Fay	Larry
Janice GabrielJen	ny	Shannon Gaffney	Cathy
John Mudgett Pe	ter	Sara Parille S	usan
Eli Patton Dav	<i>r</i> id	Karen Robinson Jo	anne
Kate Valiska Sar	ah	Alexis Willoughby	Narta

BAND

Brendan Fox — Keyboard Allegra Pin — Drums Hector Arés — Bass

Company

is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019

Phone: 212-541-4684 • Fax: 212-397-4684

www.MTIShows.com



Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM Book by GEORGE FURTH

Originally Produced & Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR
Musical Director Brendan Fox
Choreographer Todd Santa Maria
PRODUCERS Karen E Steckler, Rob Bassett
Set Design Duane E Langenwalter
Costume Design Carolyn Onorato
Lighting Design Stephen Cihanek
Sound Design Ray D. Tutto
Stage Manager/Properties Karen E Steckler
Sound Execution Rob Bassett
Lighting Execution Wendy Yung
Spotlight Operator Ashley Dunn
Set Construction Duane E Langenwalter, Larry Coleman, cast
SET DECORATION Duane E Langenwalter
House Manager TBTA Volunteers
House Photographer Stephen Cihanek
Box Office
SRO/Concessions Joy Tagliavento
Opening Night Party Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

Bennett Cognato, Elijah Crehan, Angelo DaCunha, Corey Downs, Janice Gabriel, Carol Martino

For the safety of performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, taking photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off **ALL** phones and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems and disrupt the show. **Patrons who need to text, tweet, or candy crush may do so in the lobby.**



Music & Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM Book by GEORGE FURTH

Originally Produced & Directed on Broadway by Harold Prince
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

"Overture" Orchestra
"Company" Robert and Company
"The Little Things You Do Together" Joanne and Couples
"Sorry-Grateful" Harry, David and Larry
"You Could Drive a Person Crazy" Kathy, April and Marta
"Have I Got A Girl for You" Larry, Peter, Paul, David, Harry
"Someone Is Waiting" Robert
"Another Hundred People" Marta
"Getting Married Today" Amy, Paul, and Company
Intermission
Act II
"Entr'acte" Orchestra
"Side by Side by Side"/
"What Would We Do Without You?" Robert and Couples
"Poor Baby" Sarah, Jenny, Susan, Amy, Joanne
"Have I Got A Girl for You" (Reprise) Larry, Peter, Paul, David, Harry
"Barcelona" Robert and April
"The Ladies Who Lunch" Joanne
"Being Alive" Robert
"Finale Ultimo (Company)" Robert and Company

CMU Alumni Association. Maureen was a member of the faculty at North Carolina School of the Arts for five years where she taught on both high school and undergraduate levels. While in North Carolina she co-founded The North Carolina Theatre Ensemble. She was an adjunct professor at FIT in Manhattan where she taught toy design. Maureen's talents span several arts. She has achieved professional success in storytelling, writing, directing, sculpting, theatrical design and toy invention/design. This is Maureen's seventh show at TBTA and as always she is delighted to be collaborating with her incredibly talented husband and Scenic Designer, Duane Langenwalter. 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.

Kate Valiska (Sarah) was recently seen on the TBTA stage in *Godspell*. She is currently in her second term as President of the Board of Directors for Musicals at Richter in Danbury, where she has performed for the past 10 years. Some of Kate's favorite roles include: Tzeitel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Warner Theatre Co.), Rita La Porta in *Lucky Stiff* (Wilton Playshop), Connie in *A Chorus Line* (MAR), Cassius in *Julius Caesar* and Rosalia in *West Side Story* (IHS). She would like to thank Maureen, Brendan, Todd, Rob, and Karen for this incredible opportunity. To the cast of *Company*: You are all crazy talented and are gonna blow this show out of the water! To Alexis: "I don't need dental work...elbows!" Last but not least, to Eli: Thank you for being part of this amazing production, for making me smile the whole way through, your constant support, and love. I love you.

Alexis Willoughby (Marta) is excited to be back at TBTA after recently being seen in Godspell (By My Side). Past TBTA credits include "Spelling Bee" (Marcy Park) and Carnival (Princess Olga). Other favorite roles include Into the Woods (Witch), Spring Awakening (Martha), Three Sisters (Masha), I Love a Piano (Sadie), Damn Yankees (Gloria Thorpe), Lysistrata (Lampito) and Sweeney Todd (Prostitute/Tenor). Alexis recently graduated from Western Connecticut State University with her bachelor of arts in theatre performance. While at WCSU she had the opportunity to perform both in NYC off Broadway and in Edinburgh Fringe Festival. She would like to dedicate this performance to her Aunt Marzi who had a heart of gold and was "friends with every son of a bitch she met." For more information on Alexis check out www.alexiswilloughby.com.

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Lou Okell, President • Kristin Hoose, Vice-President
Carol Hoose, Treasurer • Andrew Okell, Interim Secretary
Michael Burnett, Artistic Director

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Rob Bassett, Desirae Carle, Brian Casella (Technical Director), Meg Jones, Sara Mariano, Rebecca Pokorski, Karen E. Steckler

Karen Robinson (Joanne) teaches in and enjoyed ensemble roles with Crime and Merriment Mysteries, Musicals at Richter, The Brookfield Theatre of the Arts, and the Warner Theatre. She is excited return to TBTA and grateful to be working with such a talented cast. She would like to thank her husband, Mensah, for his love and support! Karen owes great honor to God, who allows her to live, love, dream and touch souls through song.

Erick Sanchez (ROBERT) is excited to be working with such a talented and fun cast and crew in his first musical theater production! He's even more excited to finally be performing onstage with his superstar girlfriend, Lauren Brown (Amy). Erick has most recently appeared in Terrence McNally's *The Masterclass* (Anthony Candolino) at Louisiana State University with Theater Baton Rouge. Erick is going into his second year as a Master of Music - Vocal Performance student at LSU. At LSU, Erick performed in Bohuslav Martinu's *Hlas Lesa* (Myslive ek). Erick got his undergraduate degree at WCSU where he performed in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* (Sam), Georges Bizet's *Carmen* (Le Remendado), Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues of The Carmelites* (Le Chevalier), and Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* (Gabriel Von Eisenstein). Erick is from Stamford, Connecticut.

Todd Santa Maria (Choreographer) TBTA Credits: The Normal Heart, Auntie Mame (staged reading), Beyond Therapy, Into the Woods, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Carnival; NYC credit: Fabulous (Dramatist Guild Series); Theme Park: Walt Disney World; Todd has performed, choreographed and directed with theater groups all over CT, NY and MA including TheatreWorks New Milford, Playhouse on Park, Seven Angels Theatre, Warner Stage Company, Small Town Theatre Company, Thomaston Opera House, Hole in the Wall Theater, Town Players of Newtown, and Little Theatre of Manchester. Select performance credits include: Fully Committed, Gypsy, A Chorus Line, The Producers, The Little Dog Laughed, Camelot, Angels in America Parts I & II, Bent, Once Upon a Mattress, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Les Miserables and Masterpieces. Next, Todd will perform as the "Carnival Boy" in West Hartford Community Theater's Carousel.

Karen E Steckler (PRODUCER/STAGE MANAGER) "My mom loved Broadway. Once a month, even though she worked 2 full-time jobs, and for me it would be a school night, we'd travel into NYC from Long Island to see a musical. Sometime in 1970 she took me to see *Company*. The tickets cost \$2.90 apiece and we sat higher than the chandeliers. The music has lived in my head, my home, and my car ever since. The experience of being able to produce TBTA's presentation of this show has been more gratifying than I can ever explain including bringing back special memories of my past. Thank you to the Board of Directors at TBTA, our director Maureen, my most talented co-producer Rob, the cast and the crew. This has been a joy to work on and a gift I'll cherish forever. Mom...I know you're with me in spirit. This one's for you!"

Maureen Trotto (DIRECTOR) is the guiding, creative force behind Thin Air, a partnership founded to create and produce exciting, new concepts for TV, Film, Theatre and Toys. She is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon University Drama Department in Theatrical Design, and has served as a member of the Executive Board of the

Rob Bassett (Producer/Lighting Execution) is so excited to be producing this fantastic show. *Company* marks Rob's eleventh production here since he stumbled upon this wonderful theatre in 2012, but his first time as a producer. On stage credits include *Godspell* ("We Beseech Thee" soloist), *RENT* (Mark), *Into the Woods* (Jack); and *HAIR* (Woof). Many thanks to Maureen, Duane, Brendan, Todd, Carolyn, and Steve for their time and talents in bringing the show to life; and a special thank you to Karen for being an exceptional and dedicated co-producer and a pleasure to work with. Finally, to the incredibly talented cast up on the stage-thank you for your energy and commitment to this production-you are all stars.

Lauren Brown (Amy) This is Lauren's fourth production at TBTA! Past credits include *Rent* (Maureen), *Hair* (Sheila) and *Pippin* (Catherine). She is thrilled to be playing neurotic Amy alongside some of her best friends, second bests and past players! Pardon me, is everybody there? Because if everybody's there I'd like to thank you all for coming to see *COMPANY!*

Anya Caravella (April) is excited to be acting at TBTA! She has been singing and performing since she was four years old. Anya studied classical music and voice in college, and received various scholarships, including studying opera in Milan, Italy, where she lived for two semesters. Anya was also the Music Director for the Children's Theater Workshop in her native New Mexico for several years. Most recently, she has played Meredith in *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, Juanita in *Dearly Departed*, and Delores in *Olympus On My Mind*. Anya would like to make a special shout out to her "Five Women!" people and her husband for their awesome support!

Stephen Cihanek (Lichting & Sound Design) 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 pro-ductions. Since then he has designed lights for TBTA and other local theaters. Shows include Little Red & the Hoods, Master Class, Outward Bound, Putting It Together, As Bees in Honey Drown, Dinner with Friends, Diviners, Harvey, Spelling Bee, The Book of Liz, Into The Woods, Be A Good Little Widow, The Divine Sister, God of Carnage, Blithe Spirit and Godspell as well as sound design for Thou Shalt Not Dance, Tuesdays With Morrie and Godspell. Steve is also TBTA's photographer and our 2012 Volunteer of the Year.

Bennett Cognato (HARRY) is proud to be back on the TBTA stage with such an amazing cast and crew. Bennett is a rising senior studying political science at the University of Connecticut, where he is a student senator and recently hired staff member of the UConn Women's Center. Previous credits at TBTA include Rent (Roger), Hair (Berger), Cabaret (Emcee) and Dog Sees God (Van). All thanks go to those who have made this such a fun and engaging experience from an actor's perspective—Maureen Trotto, Karen Steckler (thank you for all the pencils!), Rob "HBIC" Bassett as well as the devilishly talented and hard-working Erick Sanchez and Kate Valiska, my ham of a brother Steve whom I could not be more proud of (Look out, US Navy!), Lauren, Eli, and of course the star power that is Alexis Willoughby. Thanks as well to mom and dad for their support, and for being the weirdest and best example of what a married couple can be and accomplish. Enjoy the show!

Steven Cognato (Paul) never thought he would be part of *Company* until he made a spontaneous decision to rush over to the theatre and audition! He has performed at TBTA as an actor (*Pippin*, *Once on this Island*, *Much Ado About Nothing*) and musician (*Rent*, *Godspell*). Having played Carl Magnus Malcolm in Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* at Manhattanville College in 2012, Steven could not wait to get himself furiously tangled in another Sondheim opus. He thanks his brother for persuading him to audition, his parents and family for their support, and his girlfriend Amy for her undying love and affection. Tremendous thanks as well to the cast, Maureen, and Brendan for their talents, efforts, and perseverance. Aside from acting, Steven is fond of reading, playing the piano, and a rousing game of chess or billiards. Break legs, all!

Chris Fay (Larry) is returning to TBTA after a long absence. Chris has performed here in such productions as *A Day in Hollywood / A night in the Ukraine* and *The Pump boys and Dinettes* to name a few. He has also appeared in theatres in Danbury, Ridgefield and New Milford. Chris took a leave of local theatre to raise three wonderful children! Most recently Chris can be seen in benefit musical murder mystery productions put on by Crime and Merriment.

Brendan Fox (MUSICAL **DIRECTOR)** is a pianist and composer from Wilton, CT. As musical director, he has collaborated on a variety of productions around Fairfield County: *Lucky Stiff* and *The Drowsy Chaperone* at the Wilton Playshop, *The Little Mermaid Jr.* at Wilton Children's Theatre, and *Annie Jr.* at Musicals at Richter. He has also served as musical director for Wilton's Summerstage Jr. program since its inception in 2010. He is excited to be working on his favorite show and his first production at TBTA with a talented cast and crew!

Janice Gabriel (Jenny) is delighted to be back on stage at TBTA after a two-year hiatus. While she has performed with many theaters in the area, she was last seen here in *RENT* and *Into the Woods*. During the day (and many evenings) you can find her at Newtown High School where she teaches theatre and will be teaching a few English classes in the fall. She would like to thank Maureen, Brendan, Rob, and Karen for this wonderful opportunity. Break a Leg to the cast and crew!

Shannon Gaffney (Kathy) is so excited to be performing in *Company*! She is a rising sophomore in the BFA musical theatre program at Manhattanville College, where she is a member of the Choir, Women's Chamber Ensemble, Dance Ensemble, & Musical Theatre Ensemble. She has been in many theatre productions, including *Young Frankenstein* (Elizabeth Benning), *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda) and *Once on This Island* (Agwe). She has been nominated for several Halo Awards and National Youth Theatre Awards for her performances. In addition to theatre, Shannon is minoring in creative writing, and has had several stories published in her college's magazine, *Graffiti*. She would like to thank her parents, and JJ, for all of their support.

Duane E Langenwalter (Scenic Design) 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. Thirty 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 spare time is occupied with reading, digital art, Iaido & singing. His book of poetry *Few Words*, *a hundred waka*, is available from the author or through Amazon. He is thrilled to be working, once again, in the theatre with his delightful wife. With her they have shared the company of six wonderful dogs. Currently Dante & Arrow fill the special canine corner of their hearts.

John Mudgett (Peter) is honored to be cast in yet another dream show at TBTA. Previous credits include *Godspell* ("Light of the World" Soloist), *RENT* (Benny), *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (Milton Gatch), *Harvey* (Dr. William Chumley), *Sweeney Todd* (Ensemble) and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Bisset). John would like to thank his friends and family for their support, and the entire cast and production team for working so hard on this challenging but beautiful piece of theatre. Special thanks to Rob, Karen, Duane, Todd, Brendan and Maureen who all played major roles in bringing this show to life.

Carolyn Onorato (Costume Design) is is so so happy to be back at TBTA costuming another great show. *Company* is one of her favorite shows so thanks to Meg for giving her the opportunity to be part of the team. Big thanks to Maureen, Karen and Rob for their direction, partnership and new found friendship. Boater hats off to a very talented cast that all knew each other quite well from the first read through. Lastly to my very own "Bobby...Robert darling" husband of 25 years, thanks for loving the theatre with me, side by side, all these years.

Sara Parille (Susan) is pleased to make her debut to musical theater in this production of *Company*. Although she hasn't had much theater experience, Sara trained in dance for nine years and has performed in various venues for singing. Sara currently lives in Danbury with two of her friends and recently graduated from Sacred Heart University with a masters in education. She attended WCSU for her undergraduate in history. Aside from her love of teaching, Sara is a huge Harry Potter fan and enjoys every second she gets to perform for others! Sara would like to thank her number one supporter in her life and her personal hero, her father John. She'd also like to thank her step-mom, Maria, and sisters Amanda, Kristi, and Rachel, who have always put up with her diva tendencies and shown unconditional love. A final shout out to her best friend who introduced her to all her most recent performing opportunities, Lauren Brown. Good luck to the cast and crew! It's going to be an amazing production and each and every one of you is so talented and has made this the experience of a lifetime.

Eli Patton (David) Born and raised in Texas, Eli now resides in Danbury and is a bench jeweler for Betteridge Jewelers in Greenwich, CT. Previous stage credits include: *Godpsell* (Stage Manger), *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd) and *God's Favorite*, which he directed. Eli would like to thank the entire cast and crew of *Company*, especially Maureen for giving him his first role in a musical theater production, and Alexis, his fuzzy little man peach, for drinking Bailey's out of a shoe. He would also like to thank his lady, Kate, for introducing him to this great community, and for constantly challenging him to be a better person.