

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

February 2022

Dear theater family & friends,

It's Brookfield Theatre's 65th Anniversary and we have a great season of shows to celebrate. We have so much to be thankful for and we will be spending the year honoring the contributions of the many people who have given so much to make Brookfield Theatre a center for arts and culture in our region.

The show you are about to see is unique and wonderful. It is an award-winning play that is not often done due to the demands, both physical and emotional, on the cast and crew. Director Tony Bosco-Schmidt first proposed this play in 2019 and, after many false starts due to the pandemic, we are thrilled to finally bring it to you live tonight. Thank you to Tony for your persistence, patience, and directorial skills. Thanks too to our very talented cast for taking on this task and fight choreographer Janice Gabriel for making sure it is safe.

Brookfield Theatre is also grateful to our treasurer Danette Bottelsen who helped us secure numerous grants, to the generosity of our donors, and to our loyal subscribers. We also thank the many volunteers who have given so many hours of time and talent. Special thanks go to **Andrew Okell, Art Stueck, Chris Fay, and David Anctil** who took the time to give the theatre a much needed facelift and to **Jane Farnol** who helped reorganize and sort costumes and props. Thank you for making it possible for Brookfield Theatre to weather the coronavirus pandemic and come out stronger!

Here's how you can help:

- Spread the word about Brookfield Theatre—tell your friends about us!
- Support us with your purchase of a subscription and don't miss a show!
- Join us as a volunteer and help make wonderful theatre happen!

Enjoy The Show,

Lou Okell, President

OUR HISTORY

The Country Players of Brookfield was founded in 1957 by Tillie Cicala and Dot French with an ad in the local newspaper asking, "Are you a ham?" They found many hams to join their ranks and their first play was produced in 1958. Plays were initially performed in church halls and school auditoriums. After a school complained about an actor appearing on stage with no shirt, it became clear that the band of players needed a home of its own. After refurbishing this building (originally the Curtis school gym built in 1907), it has been the permanent home of Brookfield's community theater. The organization eventually grew to include a wide range of cultural offerings and, in 2003, changed its name to "The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc." to reflect this commitment. At the same time, plans began for the building of a lobby annex to offer a gathering place for social events and concerts, and gallery space for art exhibits. The new lobby was dedicated in 2005. This year marks Brookfield's 65th year as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing quality live performances, cultural events, and educational workshops to the community. We rely on YOU to add your love of theatre and your willingness to volunteer to help keep this dream alive! Please help us by spreading the word or consider donating your time and talent and help keep the arts in Brookfield!

Thank you for supporting our work—please help us spread the word!

Night of the Assassins

by JOSÉ TRIANA

translated by KEVIN DREYER

directed by TONY BOSCO-SCHMIDT

produced by LOU OKELL

STARRING

Lalo Sean Latasa

Cuca Morgana Kate Watson

Beba Lizzy Booth

There will be a 10 minute intermission.

Please note that this performance is also livestreamed on YouTube.

NIGHT OF THE ASSASSINS is presented by arrangement with Kevin Dreyer

THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS OR STREAMS IN ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR(S)'S RIGHTS AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.

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 or tweet in the lobby.**

BIOGRAPHIES



Lizzy Booth (BEBA) is ecstatic to be back on stage at Brookfield Theatre having performed here recently as Asha in *BLOOD AT THE ROOT*. Some of Lizzy's recent credits include: *Governess* in *THE TURN OF THE SCREW* (Powerhouse Theater), *Hero* in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING* (JCC in Sherman), *Princess Melanie* in *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: A VERY BRITISH PANTO* (Sherman Playhouse), *Theresa* in *LADIES IN RETIREMENT* (Powerhouse Theater), and *Miranda* in *THE TEMPEST* (Sherman Playhouse). Lizzy also originated the role of *Debbie* in *YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER* at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting in Manhattan. Finally, Lizzy would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony, Maya, Lou, and her two incredible cast mates Sean and Morgana for making this experience such a beautiful and rewarding one!



Tony Bosco-Schmidt (DIRECTOR) is returning to directing for the first time in over 25 years. Since his return to the local theatre world from an extended "hiatus," Tony has also performed here at Brookfield in *BENT* (Greta), *NOISES OFF!* (Frederick/Philip), and *PERFECT ARRANGEMENT* (Bob) along with participating in staged readings of *KINDERTRANSPORT*, *PERSONALITY CONFLICTS*, *STRAIGHT MEN CAN'T DANCE*, and *THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH*. Tony thanks his husband, Eric, without whose patience and hard work, none of this would be possible. Thank you for keeping the home fires burning, My Love. Literally. And a very Happy Birthday to our son Tyler! Good thing we didn't open on your Birthday—right?!!



Maya Bosco-Schmidt (STAGE MANAGER) has loved the arts ever since she learned how to talk. She loves to sing, act, draw (with multiple gel pens if possible), and play the ukulele. Maya was involved in the drama programs at Whisconier Middle School and Brookfield High School where she stage managed *HERCULES* and *ROBIN HOOD* and acted in *WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY*, *THE ADDAMS FAMILY*, *SHREK*, and *THE WEDDING SINGER*. Her favourite role was as an Imelda Marcos impersonator in *THE WEDDING SINGER* because she was able to sing in a different language. She cannot wait to be more involved with Brookfield Theater as the world starts to open up again. Maya thanks her parents Eric and Tony, brother Tyler, friends, and boyfriend Sean. She also thanks her amazing cast—Sean, Morgana, and Lizzy—you are all stars! She hopes you enjoy the show!



Stephen Cihanek (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 *BLOOD AT THE ROOT*, *AMERICAN IDIOT*, *LOST IN YONKERS*, *SWEENEY TODD*, *FROST/NIXON*, *DAMN YANKEES*, *THE FANTASTICKS*, *COMPANY*, *GODSPELL*, *BLITHE SPIRIT*, *GOD OF*

BIOGRAPHIES

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, LITTLE RED & THE HOODS, and sound design for THOU SHALT NOT DANCE, TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, and GODSPELL. Steve is also Brookfield Theatre's house photographer. Visit him at Cihanek.com.



Kevin Dreyer (TRANSLATOR) began working with the University of Notre Dame's Theatre program in 1986 and he joined the Film, Theatre, and Television faculty in 1989. In addition to teaching theatre courses, he has been the Resident Lighting Designer for the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival since its inception in 2000 and was the Producing Artistic Director in 2011.



Sean Latasa (LALO) is excited to be back at Brookfield, and able to channel everything from the last two years into his performance. He has previously been seen here in the "Scottish Play", MOON OVER BUFFALO, and several virtual shows (A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, MISS BENNETT: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY, MR. BURNS...). Other favorite shows include 1776, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, TWELVE ANGRY MEN, and AND A NIGHTINGALE SANG. Sean thanks

Tony, Maya, and Lou for this amazing opportunity to perform something so serious and strange, as well as Morgana and Lizzy for their powerhouse performances that forced him to up his game. And to you: Thank you for watching our faces with your faces while our faces were acting.



Andrew Okell (SET BUILDER-2011 Volunteer of the Year) first started in theatre at the tender age of 8 in THE TIME MACHINE. He has been building and designing sets at Brookfield since 2008. Favorites include LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS, MOONLIGHT & MAGNOLIAS (Rose Brand Best Amateur Set Design 2012), STEEL MAGNOLIAS, LION IN WINTER, MOON OVER BUFFALO, and personal favorite NOISES OFF. Thank you to building cohorts Bob Lane, Don Lombardo, Vinnie Young, and Larry Coleman for enabling me.



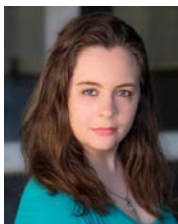
Lou Okell (PRODUCER / COSTUMES-2009 Volunteer of the Year) currently serves as theatre president. She is a graphic arts professional by day and is happy to volunteer her talents to her community through theatre. Lou is proud to begin Brookfield's 65th Anniversary Season with such an exceptional and thought-provoking show. Many thanks to Tony for his tremendous work bringing this script to the stage and to the cast of Sean, Lizzy & Morgana—thank you for your commitment, time, and

incredible talent! Thanks to Janice for the wonderful choreography, Maya for managing the show, Steve for the beautiful lighting and for stepping in when I needed help, and David for having my back. Love always to Andy and Emma. *Please help us spread the word about Brookfield Theatre!*

BIOGRAPHIES – CREATIVE



José Triana (AUTHOR) was born in Hatuey, Cuba. He emigrated to Spain in 1954 and studied acting at the Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid. He began writing plays while he was living in Spain and continued to do so when he returned to Cuba after the revolution. Triana won the Casa de las Américas prize in 1966 for *LA NOCHE DE LOS ASESINOS*. The play won him great praise and fame as a playwright but caused him to fall out of favour with the Cuban Ministry for Culture as the play was received as a depiction of the ineptitude of Castro's government. Triana has lived in Paris since 1980.



Morgana Kate Watson (CUCA) could not be more excited to be returning to the Brookfield stage as Cuca. Most recently, she was seen as Millie in *PERFECT ARRANGEMENT*, at Theatreworks New Milford's *MAN OF LA MANCHA* doubling as Maria and the Flamenco dancer. Other Brookfield credits include *FRESH BAKED MUSICALS*, *COME FIND ME* (Charley Tinseltrees), *THE CRUCIBLE* (Betty Parris), *DAMN YANKEES* (Lynch), and *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF* (Lacey). Other local

credits include *TAMING OF THE SHREW* (Servant; Widow) in Sherman, *REEFER MADNESS* and *RAGTIME* at the Warner, and multiple productions at Musicals at Richter. Also a writer, her original play *ARE YOU MY SISTER* was staged here last season along with *A FOR ALCOHOLIC* which was presented here virtually. New York Credits include *WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF!* (Rebecca; Snake), *ALL IN* (Sarah), and *LOVE, DRUGS, AND OTHER STUFF* (Penny). She holds a BA in Drama Studies from SUNY Purchase. So many thanks to Tony for trusting her with this incredible part. Much love to Mom, Dad, Auntie Em, Rebecca, Keegan, Marta, and Willow. Follow her on Twitter @MorganaKateWats. For JoAnn.

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.

Known for her dynamic and colorful paintings, Jeanne Steers works mainly in acrylic or wax oil crayon on shaped masonite board. Over the years her work on shaped board has evolved, the shaped canvas adding an additional dimension and element to the meaning of the piece. This third dimension adds depth while providing an unique framework for the art.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I have a few heroes to introduce you to tonight. Sean, Morgana, and Lizzy won't leave the stage except for our short intermission. There are no scene changes and no fancy set or props to hide behind. This show is all them. There aren't words enough to describe how three people can put their whole selves into an ensemble with such passion and dedication. I'm so incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to watch them create this show for you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Thank you also to Lou Okell and the board of Brookfield Theatre for trusting me to direct this production. Although the allegories originated decades ago in Jose Triana's original Spanish script, the themes of family, loneliness, power, and love are ever present and just as real for all of us today. Thank you to Janice Gabriel for choreographing some of our physical content—I appreciate your concern for safety and your keen eye for the stage. Thank you to Stephen Cihanek for this gorgeous light design and for teaching me how to run the live feed. And a huge HUG and THANK YOU to my daughter and Stage Manager, Maya, on whom I depended for more than just Stage Managing, but also Assistant Directing, Costume and Makeup advice, Lighting Technician, snack helper, and anything else that may have randomly come up.

Directing NIGHT OF THE ASSASSINS has been something of an ear-worm for me over the past five years or so. I was first introduced to it back in 1991, when my professor, Kevin Dreyer, translated it from the original Spanish and staged it in the Black Box theatre at Notre Dame. The rhythm and passion he brought to life inside those four walls have haunted me ever since. Fast forward to when I returned to theatre in 2017 for BENT. I knew right away that Brookfield Theatre wasn't afraid to do something a little different—something that challenges the audience to participate and not merely observe. These shows are similar in that they aren't comfortable or easy to watch. I'm sorry to spoil it, but you aren't going to go home tonight singing a cute little ditty, feeling good about the world around you. The title pretty much gives that away, and if that doesn't, the show summary is your next clue.

You will be challenged. These three souls are challenged. Lalo, Cuca, and Beba, as you are soon to see, are acting out the events surrounding the murder of their parents. In this unnamed room in their house, they play all the parts—the nosy neighbors, the cops, their parents, and even each other. What reasons are capable of creating such a sense so as to impel one to an act of murder?

Thank you all for coming!

Night of the Assassins

by **JOSÉ TRIANA**

translated by **KEVIN DREYER**

directed by **TONY BOSCO-SCHMIDT**

produced by **LOU OKELL**

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR Tony Bosco-Schmidt
PRODUCER Lou Okell
STAGE MANAGER/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Maya Bosco-Schmidt
LIGHTING DESIGN Stephen Cihaneck
LIGHTING & SOUND TECHNICIAN Maya Bosco-Schmidt
SET BUILD Andrew Okell, Lou Okell
COSTUMES Lou Okell
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER Stephen Cihaneck
POSTER DESIGN Tony Bosco-Schmidt & Lou Okell
GALLERY CURATOR Jeanne Steers

For the safety of performers, the courtesy of patrons, and in compliance with CDC recommendations, please follow current mask & social distance guidelines. Remain seated throughout the performance and mingle with cast and friends outdoors after the show. Please use all exits.

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.
