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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLAYERS

[LACTS]

AUGUST 19 - 21



RESERVE TICKETS

Tickets **\$15** townandcountryplayers.org OR call 800-838-3006

LOCATION

Town and Country Players 4158 York Road Buckingham, PA 18912

SHOWTIMES

August 19 & 20 at 8:00 PM August 20 & 21 at 2:00 PM

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLAYERS is a 501 (C) (3) Not-For-Profit Organization

Town and Country Players

PRESENTS

A ONE ACT PLAY FESTIVAL

A Signature Series Presentation

New Plays Presented by Emerging Directors

Executive Director Jon Knapp **Executive Producer** Victoria Schultheis

Act I

Christmastown Written by Kayla Hambek Directed by Jessa Casner

The Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World

Written by Scott C. Sickles Directed by Julie Massa

Kismet for Marshmallows Written by Richard Davis

Directed by Jenny McNiven

15-minute intermission

Act II

Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy Written by Abs Wilson

Directed by Michael Schiumo

Witch Way is Up

Written by James Ferguson Directed by Paul Waldowski

Town and Country Players 2022

DIRECTORS' NOTES

Christmastown has been an absolute joy and privilege to build and explore. I couldn't have asked for a better cast or a better theatre community to support and see these incredible people shine on stage! Kayla Hambek is a gem! Her hilarious and heartfelt play is all about acceptance and learning to change our minds; while also playfully poking fun at classic rom-com tropes. So, welcome to *Christmastown*, where all is maybe not always calm, but all is definitely bright.

Jessa Casner, Christmastown

Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World is a one act that will have you laughing, and then blow you over with emotion. Comedy is one of my favorite genres and the best comedies are the ones with heart. This scene is one based on assumptions. Each character makes assumptions about the others motives, their history, and their personality. And while that leads to some comedic moments, it also shows that you never know what someone else is going through. And maybe it's something you can go through together.

Julie Massa, Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World

In 2021 I read an original one act play that stuck with me long after I begged the rest of the T&C Signature Series committee to include it in our *One Acts* Festival. That play was *Kismet for Marshmallows*. How I got lucky enough to direct it I don't know, but I am thrilled to present this quirky and surprisingly thought-provoking show to you today. I couldn't have wished for better marshmallows than the three that will be delighting you with their phenomenal performances. Watching them bring this script to life has been a joy. Many thanks to Vicky, Jon, Janemarie, and our talented author, Rick Davis.

Jenny McNiven, Kismet for Marshmallows

I was immediately "lured in" by the mystique of "Witches". I saw it as a way to engage the audience by taking them "back in time" and then twisting the plot ever so quickly. Witches have always intrigued the viewing audiences and I am hopeful that our cast will further entertain and engage our audiences with their undeniable talent and choices and characterizations they have worked so hard to create. We hope to cast our spell over each and every visitor to our *One Act* Performances!

Paul Waldowski, Witch Way is Up

I love the stories of the old west, and parodies of them even more so. Nowadays, though, we get to examine some of the traits that made it the place it was and improve upon them. Don't wait until the very last minute to make an impact. Spend your life well. Try to make good choices. And above all, let your friends know how much you love them. Every day.

Michael Schiumo, Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy

CAST

Christmastown

Allie	Melissa Mongi Copestake	
Eve	Kelly White	
Lance		
Mrs. Harris	Meg Waldowski	
	Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World	
Gideon	Kevin Palardy	
Augie	Jim Moore	
Bartender	Jessica Stahl	
Kismet for Marshmallows		
Marsha	Mary Saile	
Mel	Jim Moore	
Lou	Fred Conover	
	Witch Way is Up	
Gatria	Meg Waldowski	
Olga		
Patty	Jessica Stahl	
Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy		
Dutch Kassidy	Jim Moore	
Skydance	Kevin Palardy	
Hangman	Joseph Perignat	
Grisly Guy	Fred Conover	

Weepy Dude Conor Lutts
Smarmy Fella James Palmer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Team Members

Executive Director	Jon Knapp
Producer	Victoria Schultheis
Lighting Design	Fred Conover
Executive Lighting and Sound Designers	Scott Monsees Matthew Schultheis
Kismet Costume Design	Janemarie Cloutier
Stage Crew/Understudy	Emily Reese
Director - Christmastown	Jessa Casner
Director - Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World	Julie Massa
Director - Kismet for Marshmallows	Jenny McNiven
Director - Witch Way is Up	Paul Waldowski
Director - Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy	Michael Schiumo
Playwright - Christmastown	Kayla Hambek
Playwright - Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World	Scott Sickles
Playwright - Kismet for Marshmallows	Richard Davis
Playwright - Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy	Abs Wilson
Playwright - Witch Way is Up	James Ferguson

Special Thanks to:

Matthew Schultheis and Scott Monsees for all of their behind the scenes help Janemarie Cloutier for her ability to make anything, including marshmallows.



Melissa Mongi Copestake

as Allie

Melissa is thrilled to be back at T&C after a 4-year hiatus! Previously in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*/Clopin, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*/Ms. Teavee, *Holes/*Kate Barlow, & *Company*/Susan. Melissa would like to thank Jessa for this opportunity. She'd like to thank her amazing husband Gary and dedicate this performance to their children, Vincent & Gia, who are the epitome of joy, wonder & Christmas spirit.



Kelly White

Kelly plays an overly enthusiastic tour-guide both on stage and in real life! She works as a museum assistant and docent at Pennsbury Manor. Last seen in *Guys and Dolls,* Kelly is thrilled to reunite with several of her castmates. She would like to welcome her neighbor Emily, into the T&C family, and she would like to thank her own friends and family for their constant love and support.



Kevin Palardy

Kevin is excited to feature in 3 of the one-acts, directed by so many familiar faces! He was most recently onstage as Benny Southstreet in *Guys and Dolls*! Other fave roles played include Frederick - *Young Frankenstein*, Garry - *Noises Off!*, Franz Liebkind - *The Producers*, and his very first production at T&C as Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*! Thanks to his family and friends for their love and support!



Meg Waldowski

Meg is excited to be back onstage at T&C after stage-managing *Guys* & *Dolls*. Meg has been in several productions including previous *One Acts, Other Desert Cities/*Polly Wyeth, *Drowsy Chaperone/*Mrs Tottendale, *Steel Magnolias/*M'Lynn, *Beauty & the Beast/*Mrs Potts. She has done radio plays with R5 Productions. To her biggest supporters, her husband Paul, her 4 children & 12 Grandchildren, thank you ALL for supporting my addiction.

Gideon

as Mrs. Harris

as Eve



Jim Moore

Jim is grateful to his best friend, Vicky, who, after giving him ample time, wrote this for him. He is forever indebted to her and will treat her to many a coffee and ectoslime at Popp Inn. He's a busy man, running a poker room at a casino and serving as board secretary. Much love to Carly for continuing to tolerate him and to his beautiful children.

Mary Saile

Mary is so excited to be returning to the stage! She last performed in T&C's virtual *Holiday Show* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, the *One Acts* in 2017 and won a Towny award for her role of Cassie in *Rumors*. Many thanks to Vicky and Caity for always being there, to the ladies of Hellfire etc., and to David, Frank, and Tonka for keeping me sane during a pandemic.



Fred Conover

Fred is excited to be back ON stage at the barn after spending much of the past 4 years in the lighting booth. The *One Act Festival* is where he got his start at T&C in 2009 in *CRAZY EIGHTS*/ Benny and *A GAME*/Dr. Henning. Fred serves as co-VP of Marketing for T&C. An enormous "THANK YOU!" to the love of his life, Kirsten, to whom he will be married for 30 years in 2 weeks.



Karen Cameron

Karen is ecstatic and honored to be included with the talented cast and crew of T&C's 2022 One Acts! Having recently participated in *Guys & Dolls*, returning to the T&C stage was a top priority. Previous T&C endeavors include; *Holiday Shows* 2018, 2019, 2021 and the 2019 *One Acts*. My deepest gratitude goes to my family, my son and to Ryan for always loving and supporting me in my lifelong love of theater.

Augie

as Marsha

as Lou

Olga



Jessica Stahl

Jessica is thrilled to be making her T&C debut! Recent credits; *Edmonton*: World Premiere (Sewer Rats Prod.), *She Kills Monsters* (Temple U.), *abSolution* (Phila Young Playwrights). Jessica is a company member at Without A Cue Productions LLC. Later this year, Jessica will be in *The Vagina Monologues* at Music Mtn Theater. She would like to thank her family, friends and boyfriend for always being amazing and supportive.



Conor Lutts

Conor has no idea what to write for his bio. Thankfully, this is his first time performing with Town and Country, so he will use that as an excuse. He'd also like to thank Dad, Barbara, and Morgan for all their support, and hopes they enjoy the show!



Jim Palmer

Jim, a long-term member of T&C, has performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*/Oberon, *Much Ado About Nothing*/Leonato, *Noises Off!*/Lloyd Dallas, *Urinetown*/Senator Fipp and others. Favorites elsewhere; *Oliver!*/Fagin, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*/Bromden & *Jesus Christ Superstar*/Gandalf. Jim flew a helicopter in a Tom Cruise movie, sang lead for The Persuasions & appeared on Broadway before an audience of 8 million people.



Joseph Perignat

It's been a while since they have allowed Joe to execute folks at T&C but he's delighted to be back in the *One Acts*. Normally he relies on acerbic wit, dry humor and sarcasm, but a noose will do fine this time. As always, the support of his wife Eileen, is immeasurable in allowing me to pursue this love of acting.

Patty

Jon Knapp

In his 50-something years, he's worked onstage and backstage both professionally and just for fun. He studied Comm and Theatre at WCU and has held arts mgmt positions at Long Wharf and McCarter Theatres. Interesting highlights include a season at Busch Gardens as an improvisational Renaissance actor and six month wrangling big cats (tigers, leopards, lions, etc) in a Vegas-style magic show. He dreams of one day finding an old theater and turning it into a barn.

Victoria Schultheis

Vicky has produced numerous shows over the years with favorites including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (2018) and *Anne of Green Gables* (2014). Vicky also serves as VP of Productions for T&C. Much love to Alexander and Matt, and shout out to Mary, Caity, Scott. Break legs all!



Emily Reese

A former competitive dancer, this is Emily Reese's first onstage performance since the age of seventeen. When she's not watching, and not participating in plays, Emily enjoys her job with autistic children and spending time with friends and family, including the person who inspired her to do this show, Kelly White.



Jessa Casner

Jessa is beyond thrilled to make her directing debut at T&C! Thanks a Billion to Vicky & Jon for their guidance, organization, dedication, and focus and thanks a Billion more to her rock star cast! She thanks them so tremendously for lending their incredible talents, time, energy and for going on this journey together! Thanks to Kayla for writing an adorable show! Jessa feels so lucky and grateful for this whole

Executive Director

Producer

Stage Crew/Understudy

Director - Christmastown

experience and doesn't take anything for granted!



Julie Massa

Director - Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World

Julie is thrilled to be making her directorial debut. She holds her BA in Acting/Directing from DeSales University, and while you may have seen her onstage in the last few years, she is ready to make good on the other 50% of her degree. Many thanks to her cast for volunteering their time to help a first-time director. Additional thanks to the other directors for graciously sharing their time. Love to David, Graham, and Buddy!



Jenny McNiven

Director - Kismet for Marshmallows

Jenny is pretty darn excited to make her directing debut at T&C. After reading *Kismet for Marshmallows* on the 2020 play selection committee, she was instantly smitten it and could not be more elated to bring it to life in all of its marshmallow-y goodness. Thanks to my 3 incredible marshmallows, plus the crew, Vicky & Jon and all the other directors. Jenny was last seen in *Pygmalion, MacBeth, Emma Abridged, Miss Woodhouse Presents, Holiday Shows, The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, as producer of The Best from the Best, & director of the 2020 *Holiday Show*.



Paul Waldowski

Director - Witch Way is Up

Paul is excited to be working as an approved director for this year's One Acts. All 5 episodics are disjointedly funny and will present a good example of the talent at Town and Country, both on stage and behind the scenes. He wishes all the directors and actors a great run at this year's One Acts. Thanks to Town and Country for another wonderful opportunity!



Michael Schiumo

Director - Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy

Michael, who is usually seen onstage, is ecstatic for this chance to be a first-time director. His acting tenure with T&C dates back to 2006, and he hasn't directed anything since college, so naturally, he's a shoe in. He is a 2017 NJACT Perry Award Winner for Best Actor in *Miss Saigon* (the Engineer). By day, Michael is IT Support for Merakey, and a Freelance Videographer/Editor, as well as full time father to 9-year-old triplets. Thanks to all for this opportunity, and love to his fellow directors and casts of this festival.



Kayla Hambek

Playwright - Christmastown Kayla is a nationally-produced playwright and actor whose work has been seen onstage in Washington D.C. with Transformation Theatre (The Dragonflies); Minneapolis, MN at Elision Playhouse (Miss Woodhouse Presents), Wellstone Center (Persuasion), Sabes JCC (Before. After. Never.), Eden Prairie Players (Just Another Monday),

Strike Theater (Ace of Dates), with Threshold Theatre (The Dragonflies), and as part of the Minnesota Fringe Festival (Workshop): in Buckingham, PA with the Town and Country Players (Emma Abridged, Miss Woodhouse Presents); in Taos, NM as part of SOMOS (Ace of Dates, Romeo and Juliet Mercutio and Ben), and at the University of Portland (OR) as part of the HAHA Festival (Emma Abridged). Kayla has an MFA in Creative Writing from Augsburg University, and is a proud member of the Minneapolis (MN) Playwright Cabal.



Scott Sickles

Playwright - Greater and Lesser Edmunds of the World

Scott is an LGBTQ/neurodivergent/biracial Korean American writer whose plays have been performed across the U.S., and internationally in Canada, Australia, Europe and Asia. His short plays collections/ cycles Playing on the Periphery: Monologues and Scenes for Queer Kids (Amazon); Demon Bitch Goddess (Amazon); Hellish Delights (Reign or Shine Productions); and Tartarus. Other published one-acts include: Murmurs (Samuel French Festival Plays #21), Beautiful Noises (S&K's 2009: Best 10-Minute Plays...), Up on a Roof (5-Minute Plays, Applause), and Turtles and Bulldogs (Best American Short Plays 2015-2016, Applause). Other short plays are available on the New Play Exchange and can be requested at www.ScottCSickles.com



Richard Davis

Playwright - Kismet for Marshmallows

Rick Davis is professor emeritus at Augusta University in Georgia. He has written six full length plays, 13 children's musicals, 23 one-acts. Counting this production, all have been performed, some in NYC, some in LA, a few in Europe, one in Australia, and the rest in theatres across the country. More than half have won awards, and ten have been published. Most recently, his one-act, *Replacement Value*, won first prize in the 2021 Porter Fleming Literary Festival. The play was subsequently produced at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, California. Also, Storyland Theatre, an adult troupe that performs for kids, created animated versions of his children's musicals, *Humphrey Clinker Gets His Wish* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*, both of which are currently running on YouTube.



Abs Wilson

Playwright - Dutch Kassidy and the Skydance Guy

Abs is a grad student and wordsperson at NYU Tisch's Musical Theatre Writing program, dabbling in playwriting, game-design, screenwriting, and immersive design. She got her BA at St. Olaf College and her passion for theater at the National Theater Institute 2020 Theatremakers Summer Intensive program. Abs is currently based in New York, although for some reason she writes a LOT about cowboys.



James Ferguson Playwright - Witch Way is Up

James is a husband, father, writer and sometimes artist. He could use this space to regale you with a variety of accomplishments but after two years of isolation, let's be honest, he's just happy to be back out in the world and would prefer to use this space to say thank you to everyone and anyone involved in developing new work for the theatre. You're all lovely. Thank you and stay healthy.

TWITTER/INSTAGRAM: @scalepluspoints

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/jcferguson

A NOTE FROM T&C'S PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Town and Country Players' 2022 Season. This represents a milestone year in our history, as this is our 75th season of bringing quality community theater to the Bucks County Area.

Town and Country Players got its start in 1948, with a production of *The Late George Apley*, performed at the Doylestown Borough School. T&C moved to our current location, "The Barn," in 1953, renting the barn until we purchased it in 1962. Throughout the years, we have made many improvements to our space, including air conditioning, catwalks, raked seating, sound and lighting improvements, and - perhaps most importantly - our addition in 2014 which tripled the number of restrooms and added rehearsal space.

That said, T&C is more than just the name and the barn that we perform in. If one looks at our database of past productions, one will find a list of nearly 4000 individuals who have been involved in our productions over the years, from actors, musicians, directors, and producers, to designers, technicians, carpenters, stage crew, and stage managers. This doesn't include those members who have supported us in other areas, including the myriad of business/operational areas required to continuously bring productions to the stage.

Of course, all the effort required to bring a production to the stage wouldn't count for much without the support of our community. From the 400 patrons who came to see *The Late George Apley* in 1948, to the 150 who can fill the house for each performance in our intimate theater today, without our patrons, all those hours and late nights spent rehearsing, designing, building would be for naught.

I also want to thank all those who have donated to T&C over the years. Your generosity has enabled us to keep the lights on, improve our infrastructure, and weather hard times (like the last couple of years). We hope you enjoy the One Act Festival.

Matthew Schultheis

President, Town and Country Players



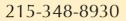
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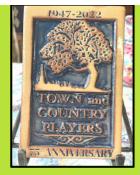
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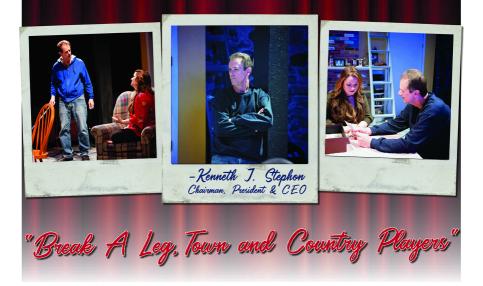




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