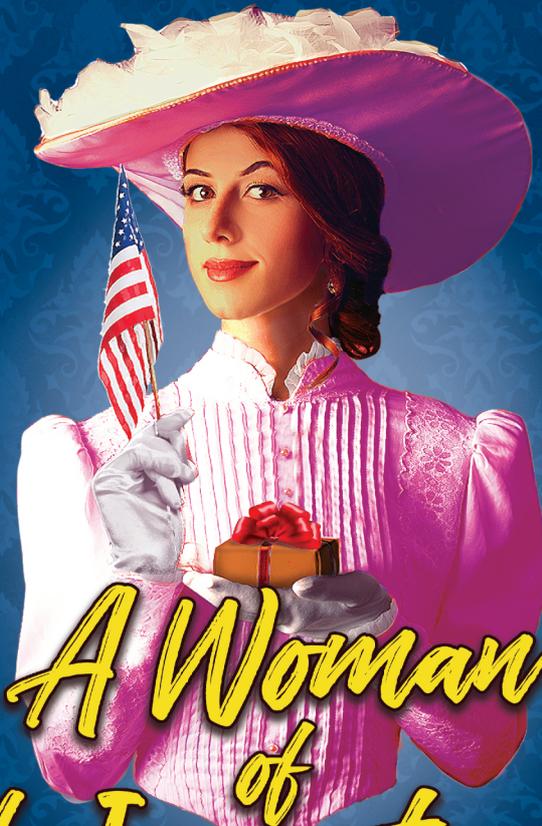


PLAYBILL®



WALNUT STREET THEATRE

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



A Woman of No Importance

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Playbill Quiz

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FOUNDED 1809

AMERICA'S OLDEST THEATRE – PHILADELPHIA'S MOST POPULAR THEATRE COMPANY

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

825 WALNUT STREET • PHILADELPHIA PA 19107

Dear Theatregoer,

Happy New Year! We're delighted that you've joined us for the start of another exciting year of theatre. These past 12 months have seen some very exciting times at the Walnut as we unveiled the capital campaign for our \$39 million theatre and education center expansion. We look forward to our groundbreaking this spring, as well as even more exciting programming in 2020 at America's Oldest Theatre!

Next up on our Mainstage is Gore Vidal's story of political intrigue, *The Best Man*. Take a peek behind the political curtain in the final stage of a campaign that brings out the best – and worst – in two potential presidential nominees. While the political landscape of our country is so fiercely debated, *The Best Man* is a show that should not be missed!

We will conclude our 211th season with the award-winning romantic musical thriller that produced the best-selling soundtrack of all time, *The Bodyguard*. This feel-good musical features some of Whitney Houston's greatest hits, including "I'm Every Woman," "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," "I Will Always Love You," and many more classics guaranteed to have you dancing in the aisles. I hope you'll join us!

We're delighted to have just announced our 211th anniversary season! We are thrilled to begin our new season with *Rocky The Musical*, a heart-stopping theatrical experience following Philadelphia's favorite underdog as he goes from average Joe to heavyweight champion in this story of love and determination. Our holidays will take audiences on a journey "Under the Sea" when the beloved Hans Christian Andersen story and classic film, *Disney's The Little Mermaid* is brought to life on stage! In January, love and marriage devolve into laughter and mayhem in Noël Coward's supernatural comedy *Blithe Spirit*. Following that, hailed as one of the greatest American plays ever written, Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning story of love and sacrifice takes us on an unforgettable American journey in *Death of a Salesman*. Finally, our season will conclude with the inspiring love story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan's rise to music stardom in the exhilarating Broadway musical *On Your Feet!* Their story will heat up the Walnut stage in a celebration of some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-century, including "Get On Your Feet," "Conga," and "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You." Prepare to be on your feet from start to finish!

For now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the world of Oscar Wilde. We love having you at the theatre and look forward to seeing you again soon!

Sincerely,

Bernard Havard, President and Producing Artistic Director

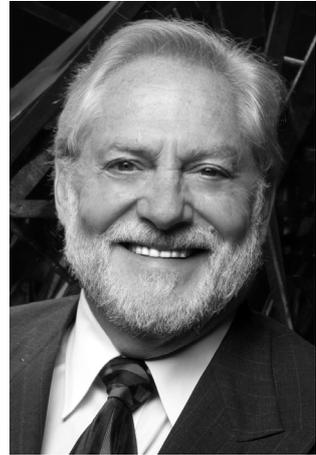


Photo: Mark Garvin



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AMERICA'S OLDEST THEATRE – PHILADELPHIA'S MOST POPULAR THEATRE COMPANY

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

825 WALNUT STREET • PHILADELPHIA PA 19107

BERNARD HAVARD

President and Producing Artistic Director

JANUARY 14 – MARCH 1, 2020

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

By **OSCAR WILDE**

Scenic Design

ROMAN TATAROWICZ

Costume Design

MARY FOLINO

Lighting Design

SHON CAUSER

Sound Design

CHRISTOPHER COLUCCI

Director of Production

SIOBHÁN RUANE

Stage Managers

LORI AGHAZARIAN

ANGELA CUCCO

Directed by

BERNARD HAVARD

Wig Design by The Wig Associates

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ED GILCHRIST

WALNUT STREET THEATRE 5

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lady Caroline Pontefract | MARY MARTELLO* |
| Miss Hester Worsley | AUDREY WARD |
| Sir John Pontefract | BILL VAN HORN* |
| Lady Hunstanton | JANE RIDLEY* |
| Farquhar/Francis | TYLER IVEY |
| Gerald Arbuthnot | BRANDON O'ROURKE* |
| Mrs. Allonby | KAREN PEAKES* |
| Lady Stutfield | JESSICA BEDFORD* |
| Mr. Kelvil | PAUL L. NOLAN* |
| Lord Illingworth | IAN MERRILL PEAKES* |
| Mrs. Arbuthnot | ALICIA ROPER* |
| Archdeacon Daubeny | PETER SCHMITZ* |
| Alice | BECCA JACKSON |

EXTRAS

MAURA McERLEAN, MARK SWIFT

UNDERSTUDIES

MATT BRADDAK (Lord Illingworth), OLIVER FEASTER (Male Extra),
TYLER IVEY (Gerald Arbuthnot), BECCA JACKSON (Lady Stutfield),
MAURA McERLEAN (Mrs. Allonby), JASONICA MOORE (Alice/Female Extra),
ANDREW MULLIN (Farquhar/Francis), SAM PALEY (Hester Worsley),
ALLYSON SANDS (Lady Caroline Pontefract), KIMBERLY SUSKIND (Mrs. Arbuthnot),
MARK SWIFT (Archdeacon Daubeny), TRINA TJERSLAND (Lady Hunstanton),
ALBERT ULOZAS (Sir John Pontefract), THEO WAMPLER (Mr. Kelvil)

* The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the theatre union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Artwork by Michael Voll © 2018

SETTING: The Shires

The action of the play takes place within twenty-four hours.

ACT I. The Terrace at Hunstanton Chase.

ACT II. The Drawing-room at Hunstanton Chase.

There will be one 20-minute intermission

ACT III. The Hall at Hunstanton Chase.

ACT IV. Sitting-room in Mrs. Arbuthnot's house at Wrockley.

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THE CAST



Jessica Bedford



Tyler Ivey



Becca Jackson



Mary Martello



Paul L. Nolan



Brandon O'Rourke



Ian Merrill Peakes



Karen Peakes



Jane Ridley



Alicia Roper



Peter Schmitz



Bill Van Horn



Audrey Ward

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JESSICA BEDFORD (Lady Stutfield) Previous WST credits: *Meteor Shower*, *And Then There Were None* and *The Prescott Method*. Other credits: Theatre Horizon, The Lantern Theatre Co., The McCarter Theatre, Delaware Theatre Co., 59E59, People's Light & Theatre Company, Act II Playhouse, PA Shakespeare Festival, Tiny Dynamite, and Bristol Riverside Theatre. Love to SC.

TYLER IVEY (Farquhar/Francis; u/s Gerald Arbuthnot) is ecstatic to be making his Walnut Street Theatre debut! He is a graduate of Temple University's Musical Theatre program. Credits: Sky in *Mamma Mia!* (Penobscot Theatre Company), GoGo in *Mad Libs Live!* (National Tour), *Bonnie and Clyde* (11th Hour Theatre Co). Love to my friends and family. tylerivey.com @tytyivey

BECCA JACKSON (Alice) is thrilled to be joining the Walnut Street Theatre family. Favorite roles include Luisa in *The Fantasticks* (BCCPA), Connie in *Come Blow Your Horn* (Hunterdon Hills Playhouse), and Mary in *Laura Ingalls Wilder* (ArtsPower). Becca can also be seen on your TV in the Drexel University, Inspira, and Vanguard commercials. Many thanks to Ben, my family, and CPM Talent Management! beccajackson.com

MARY MARTELLO (Lady Caroline Pontefract) Over 30 shows at WST; most recently: Frau Blücher in *Young Frankenstein*, and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at DTC. Mary has been a member of the Philadelphia theatre community for 20 years and is a proud member of AEA. Thanks to Bernard, the WST staff, and this wonderful ensemble of artists.

PAUL L. NOLAN (Mr. Kelvil) has performed in a number of WST productions since 2006. Favorites include: *Elf*, *Of Mice and Men*, *White Christmas* and *The Mousetrap*. Film and TV credits include: *All Square*, *My One and Only*, *Ascension*, *The Wire*, *Signs*, *Ocean's 11*, *Homicide*, *Killer Tomatoes Eat France* (seriously; it's how he got his SAG card!) and *Contact*.

BRANDON O'ROURKE (Gerald Arbuthnot) At the Walnut, Brandon was recently in *A Funny Thing Happened...* and *Peter and the*

Starcatcher. Other favorites include *Romeo and Juliet* (Media Theatre) and *Les Miserables* (Fulton Theatre). In addition to being a performer, Brandon is also a cinematographer, creative director, and a great appreciator of dogs. To find out more about Brandon, visit: brandonthetheactor.com

IAN MERRILL PEAKES (Lord Illingworth) 11th Walnut show (*The Curious Incident... Night-time*, *Matilda*, *Ideal Husband*, *Of Mice and Men*, etc.) and 129th professional production. Two Best of Denver Awards, nominated for seven Barrymores (won 3), four Helen Hayes Awards (won 1) and winner of the 2003 F. Otto Haas Award. Proud Philadelphia actor. For Karen and Owen.

KAREN PEAKES (Mrs. Allonby) has been seen on the Mainstage of the Walnut in *The Curious Incident...Night-Time*, *Comedy of Tenors*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Fallen Angels*, and *Born Yesterday*; and in the Studio space in *Speaking in Tongues*, *Doubt*, and *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. She has been seen at many theatres in and around Philadelphia, including The Arden, People's Light, Act II Playhouse, InterAct, Delaware Theatre Company, Philadelphia Theatre Company, 1812, and The Wilma. Regionally, she has performed with The Peterborough Players, in NH, and The Folger Theatre, in DC. She is also an audiobook narrator, for Brilliance Audio. Love to Ian and Owen.

JANE RIDLEY (Lady Hunstanton) Walnut Street Theatre: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Other Place*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Mrs. Kemble's Tempest*. Shakespeare Theatre, DC: *Private Lives*. The Old Globe: *Importance of Being Earnest*. The Huntington: *Sherlock's Last Case*. The Fulton: *Noises Off*, *Doubt*, *August: Osage County*.

ALICIA ROPER (Mrs. Arbuthnot) Previously at WST: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Beautiful Boy*, *Enchanted April*, *The Constant Wife*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. Also: Broadway, Off-Off-Broadway, Mark Taper Forum, Seattle Children's Theatre, Two River Theatre, George St. Playhouse, Yale Rep,

WHO'S WHO

and Cleveland Playhouse. MFA: Yale School of Drama. Upcoming: *A Delicate Balance* in the Independence Studio. Love to Rob, Max, and Josh.

PETER SCHMITZ (Archdeacon Daubeny) Happy to be back home at WST! (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *And Then There Were None*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Amadeus*, *Curtains*, *Oliver!*, *Hairspray*, *Les Misérables*, *Carousel*, *Windy City*, et al.). Many thanks to Bernard, and Mark for the opportunity to be Wilde again!

BILL VAN HORN (Sir John Pontefract) Recently at Walnut: *Gifts of the Magi*, *Annie*, *Forum*, *Oz*, *A Christmas Story*, *Mary Poppins*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Elf*, *The Prince*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Directed *Civil War Voices*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and created and starred in *O Captain, My Captain: Whitman's Lincoln*. Bill is a permanent member of the acting company at Theatre at Monmouth in Maine. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

AUDREY WARD (Miss Hester Worsley) is a sophomore at Temple University, earning her B.A. in Theater Studies with an acting concentration and a journalism minor. She most recently played Petra Stockmann in the Temple Theater production of *An Enemy of the People*. Thank you to her family, friends, and school for their endless support!

BERNARD HAVARD (Director) Oscar Wilde, 1882, letter to Richard D'Oyly Carte: "The only reason, to speak honestly, that the play is as good an acting play as it is, is that I took every actor's suggestion I could get." I echo this tribute to this fine company of actors. Oscar Wilde loved America and admired American values. *A Woman of No Importance* is evidence of this. Bernard's directing credits include Stephen Karam's *The Humans*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People*, Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage* and *Art*, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Skylight*, *A Life in the Theatre*. Love to J and B. Please visit our website at Walnutstreettheatre.org for my bio and to learn more about our exciting expansion.

ROMAN TATAROWICZ (Scenic Design) Walnut: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Humans*, *Oleanna*, *Meteor Shower*, *Souvenir*, *Jerry's Girls*, *The Other Place*, *RED*, *I Love a Piano*. Selected Off-B'way: *The Banana Monologues* (Acorn Theatre); *Honky*, *Roses in December*, *The Oxford Roof Climber's Rebellion* (Urban Stages); *Mother Courage*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Dames at Sea*, *The Threepenny Opera* (Jean Cocteau Rep.). Many Off-Off-B'way including *Bee-Luther-Hatchee* (Audelco Award nom). Regional credits: Capital Rep., Merrimack Rep., Queens Theatre in the Park, Florida Studio Theatre, Azuka Theatre, Act II, InterAct, Bristol Riverside, People's Light, Pa. Shakespeare Festival and ETC (Santa Barbara). www.tatarowicz.com

MARY FOLINO (Costume Design) is currently WST's Costume Shop Manager, having previously worked as the Costume Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and the Assistant Costume Shop Manager here at WST. Favorite WST designs include *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *South Pacific*, *Forum*, *Annie*, *Holiday Inn*, *Matilda*, *A Comedy of Tenors*, *Curious Incident*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Shrek*. Many thanks to Bernard and the WST family, all of my collaborators on this piece, and the amazing costume and wardrobe staff!

SHON CAUSER (Lighting Design) Walnut credits: *A Comedy of Tenors*, *The Humans*, *Kate*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *God of Carnage*, *Good People*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Elf*, *Love Story*, *Jerry's Girls*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Shipwrecked!*, *Plaid Tidings*, *Glass Menagerie*, *Vivian*, *Greater Tuna*, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*. Regional credits: Lantern Theater, Fulton Theater, 1812 Productions, Inis Nua, Theatre Horizon, Delaware Theater Company, Maples Rep, Boise Contemporary Theater. M.F.A., Lighting Design, Temple. Thanks: Bernard, Mark, Siobhán, Matthew and the whole Walnut family. Love to Christine.

CHRISTOPHER COLUCCI (Sound Design) Recent work: *The Snow Queen* (Arden Theater); *A Christmas Carol*, *The*

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WHO'S WHO

Last Match, and *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (Lantern Theater Company); *The Night Alive* (Inis Nua); *A Small Fire* (Philadelphia Theater Company); and *The Roommate* (1812 Productions). Upcoming: *Describe the Night* (Wilma Theater). Christopher has received a Pew Fellowship in the Arts, 8 Barrymore Awards and a 2019 Independence Foundation Fellowship. BA, Theology/Philosophy, Eastern University. MA, Philosophy, Western Kentucky University. Soundcloud (soundcloud.com/cmsound) YouTube (tinyurl.com/yd89tm64) Instagram @cmcolucci

LORI AGHAZARIAN (Stage Manager) This is Lori's fourteenth season here at the Walnut. Prior to joining WST, Lori spent seven seasons as PSM at the Prince Music Theater. Freelance credits include Wilma Theater, Opera Co. of Phila., Pig Iron Theatre Co., 1812 Productions, PTC, and the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. In addition to stage managing, Lori spent five years as the box office manager for the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival/Philly Fringe. To my friends and family for their endless support. Glad to be back!

ANGELA CUCCO (Stage Manager) is happy to be back at the Walnut for her tenth season! Previously, she stage managed for six seasons upstairs in the Independence Studio on 3. Other stage management credits include Williamstown Theatre Festival, George Street Playhouse, Vineyard Playhouse, Skyline Theatre Company, New York International Fringe Festival and Philly Fringe. Many thanks to Mom, Dad, Laurie, Anthony, Dante and the WST family. Love forever to David.

SIOBHÁN RUANE (Director of Production) This is Siobhán's seventh season at the Walnut. With almost 20 years in the business, Siobhán has worked internationally as a Production Manager and Stage Manager. Previously, Siobhán held the faculty position of Stage Management Advisor at Florida State University's School of Theatre. Additional credits include Cirque du Soleil, Norwegian Cruise Line, Cirque Productions, and various regional theatres. Siobhán holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, an MFA from the University of Delaware, and is (proudly!) originally from the Jersey Shore.

MARK D. SYLVESTER (Managing Director) Mark is proud to be celebrating his 26th season at the Walnut. His extensive career has spanned Summer Stock to Broadway as an actor, stage manager, box office treasurer, theatre manager, marketing and public relations director and general manager. After several years working with commercial theatre he has devoted his career to non-profit theatre companies since 1987. To date, Mark has been associated with more than 450 stage productions. An avid collector of musical theatre recordings, his collection contains over 3,000 cast albums from around the world. Widely regarded as a theatrical marketing expert, Mark lectures and consults with organizations internationally. He has served on several boards including seven years with the National Alliance for Musical Theatre where he now holds the honorary position of Board Emeritus and the Advisory Committee of Samuel French, the international play publisher and licensing company. With Bernard Havard he co-authored the book *Walnut Street Theatre*. Since he joined the Walnut in 1994 it has become the most subscribed theatre company in the world.

BERNARD HAVARD (President and Producing Artistic Director) *Vox Populi* (The Voice of the People) was written on the Walnut Playbills in the 1800s. Whenever the Walnut has strayed from a populist program, the theatre has gone bankrupt. When I came here 37 years ago, we had no programs and no audience. Today we enjoy the largest subscription of any theatre in the world. So, my thanks to our loyal audience and a warm welcome to newcomers who enjoy and believe in what we do. I have tremendous admiration for the artists who have dedicated their lives to the theatre and the Walnut, in particular. Our theatre is a non-profit 501-C3 institution and we rely on contributed income to extend our reach into the community. Last season we reached more than 150,000 students in our city schools. We have 30 trustees who give their time, wisdom and contributions to help guide this historical treasure. I came to the Walnut in 1982, and I am as excited now about our future as I was in the beginning. My heartfelt thanks to all who enter this theatre. For my biography, go to AboutUs on our web site at WalnutStreetTheatre.org.

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT THIS THEATRE!

MAINSTAGE

- *The Best Man*
(March 10 – April 26)
- *The Bodyguard*

INDEPENDENCE STUDIO ON 3 Intimate Stories in an Intimate Space

- *Thurgood*
(Now – February 9)
- *Popcorn Falls*
- *Edward Albee's A Delicate Balance*

WST FOR KIDS

- *Grace for President*
(February 1 – 7)
- *Junie B. Jones: The Musical*
- *Nate the Great*

WALNUT STREET THEATRE SCHOOL

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Production ConsigliereMatt DeMascolo

Doctors..... Jeff. Fam. Med. Assoc., Jeff. Otolaryngology



Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits for its members, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorequity.org



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The Director is a member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



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NATIONAL ALLIANCE for MUSICAL THEATRE

The mission of the Walnut Street Theatre Company is to sustain the tradition of professional theatre and contribute to its future viability and vitality. It does so through the production and presentation of professional theatre; the encouragement, training and development of artists; the development of diverse audiences; and the preservation and chronicling of its theatre building, a National Historic Landmark.



Walnut Street Theatre is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and the League of Historic American Theatres.



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