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March 15-24, 2024

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Since 1876, Barrett McNagny has been committed to supporting local organizations that enhance our community and our way of life through board service, volunteering time, donations, and monetary contributions. We are proud to have assisted over 100 organizations in northeast Indiana over the past year, including the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, an organization that brings art to life.



BarrettMcNagny^{LLP}

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Author
John Guare

Originally produced by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City.
Six Degrees of Separation is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service

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

This play contains themes related to suicide. If you or someone you
know is thinking about suicide and seeking emotional support, help is
available. Call or text the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988.

FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
RANAE BUTLER

Assistant Director
CORTNEY WHITE

Stage Manager
BRITTNEY LYNNE KOZA

Props Master
JIM HULBERT

Costume Designer
SARAH MOLONEY

Lighting Designer
ANDREW HOLDERFIELD

Scenic Designer
ADAM FLETCHER



303 E. Main Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
fwcivic.org

Business Office
260.422.8641

Box Office
260.424.5220

Executive/Artistic Director: Phillip H. Colglazier
Director of Marketing: Capri Williams
Director of Education and Outreach/Admin. Asst: Danielle Andersen
Director of Philanthropy: Kathy Crim, CFRM
Lighting Designer/Production Manager: Andrew Holderfield
Technical Director/Scenic Designer: Adam Fletcher
Costume Designer: Sarah Moloney
Assistant Costumer/Rental Manager: Anna Slotterback
Scenic Charge Artist/Volunteer Coord: Ashley Brassell



*Experience the Excitement of Opening Night
with our exclusive Red Carpet Receptions!*

A donation of \$100 or more will secure your invitation (plus guests)
for the 12 months following the date of your donation.*

Final 2023-2024 Season Reception:

Jersey Boys - May 4, 2024

2024-2025 Season Receptions:

At Foellinger Outdoor Theatre:

The Rocky Horror Show - September 13, 2024

At Embassy Theatre:

White Christmas - November 11, 2024

Waitress - February 8, 2025

Freaky Friday - May 17, 2025

**Tickets to the show are required and are not included.*

For more information, contact Kathy Crim at
KCrim@fwcivic.org or (260)422-8641 x 230.

2023-2024 SILVER SPONSORS



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2023-2024 SEASON SPONSOR



Steel Dynamics, Inc. **Mark Millett, President and CEO**

Steel Dynamics is proud to support the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its cultural endeavor here in our community. We look forward to another season of outstanding performances.

2023-2024 SHOW SPONSORS - PRODUCERS

ADM - Asphalt Drum Mixers

As the owners of Asphalt Drum Mixers, we are very excited that our employees, friends, and family have the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful shows that the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre puts on each year. We love the diversity in the productions and really enjoy supporting all the Arts in the Fort Wayne area.



AWS Foundation **Patti Hays, Chief Executive Officer**

AWS Foundation applauds Civic Theatre's "Project Lights Up!" sensory friendly performances. Creating a performing arts experience that is welcoming to individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities and their families means everyone can enjoy the theatre experience. We are delighted to support the Civic Theatre as they answer the need for inclusion of people of all abilities.

Fort Wayne Metals **Scott Glaze, Chairman and CEO**

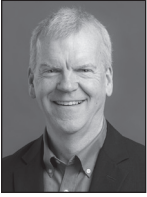
"Supporting the arts is integral to the essence of a community - plays, concerts, orchestras, and dance all have a vital role in forming a vibrant and well-rounded society." -Scott Glaze



Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® **David Belew, Executive Officer**

The Upstate Alliance of REALTORS® is privileged to support the Civic Theatre. As REALTORS®, we recognize the importance of building strong communities. The Civic Theatre is a unique gem that contributes to the vitality of Northeastern Indiana by celebrating the cultural arts and building community pride. We applaud the dedicated cast members, staff, and volunteers at the Civic who help make Northeastern Indiana a great place to live, work and play. We look forward to more outstanding performances this season.

2023-2024 SHOW SPONSORS - CO-PRODUCERS



Ambassador Enterprises **Arlan Friesen, President**

The Civic Theatre and their extraordinary team make each performance memorable and provide experiences that enrich our lives. As a legacy-minded private equity firm, we're proud to support organizations like the Civic Theatre who make a positive impact on our community and help create a better tomorrow.

Apollo Mfg., Apollo Design Technology, Inc., Avid Labs, and Blue Pony - Joel Nichols, Owner

We are honored to sponsor the staff, actors, and volunteers of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. My family, friends, and employees have enjoyed countless outstanding performances by very talented individuals. We look forward to another year of first-class community theater. Let the show begin!



Fort Wayne Civic Theatre Guild **Margaret Ankenbruck, Guild President**

The Guild is so happy to be able to sponsor and support the Civic Theatre. We are grateful to the audience members who purchase products from us at all the performances. If you love theatre and want to support the Civic, then please contact me about becoming a Guild member. Sit back and enjoy another great Civic show!

OmniSource Corporation

OmniSource is proud to sponsor Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the production of *Shrek The Musical*. We believe that the arts are vital to any community. We applaud Civic Theatre's outstanding performances that involve so many talented volunteers from the community both on and off stage.



Sweetwater **John Hopkins, CEO**

Sweetwater is delighted to sponsor the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and its mission to enrich northeast Indiana through music and drama. The Civic Theatre's ability to encourage, cultivate, and showcase local talent is remarkable. Sweetwater, and its more than 2,000 employees, looks forward to another great season of music, laughter, and entertainment.

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre gratefully acknowledges the special contributions of the following individuals and businesses.

Choreographer

\$1,000 and beyond

Anonymous (2)
AWS Foundation
Linn Bartling
Lincoln Financial Foundation
Mark & Chris Rupp
Steel Dynamics

Designer

\$7,500 to \$14,999

Arts United of Greater Ft. Wayne
Asphalt Drum Mixers
Fort Wayne Metals
David & Susan Meyer
Upstate Alliance of Realtors

Stage Manager

\$5,000 to \$7,499

Ambassador Enterprises
Apollo Design Technology
Civic Theatre Guild
Ben & Sharon Eisbart
Edward M. & Mary McCrea
Wilson Foundation
OmniSource, LLC.
Peerless Cleaners
Sweetwater Sound
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Technician

\$2,500 to \$4,999

3 Rivers Credit Union Foundation
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& Cremation Services
Ash Brokerage
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F&M State Bank
Flagstar Bank
Journal Gazette Foundation
Lake City Bank
LML Estate Management
Monarch Capital
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PNC
Dr. & Mrs. Jason Row
Betsey & Earnie Williamson

Stage Hand

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Anonymous
Allendale Treatment
Beth & Kelly Clevenger
Valorie A. Colglazier
Jessica & Willie Craft
John & Sharon Fallon
Jerry & Dorothy Fickle
Valiant Foundation:
In Honor of Ben & Sharon Eisbart

Stage Hand

\$1,000 to \$2,499. cont'd

Haller Colvin
Becky & Steve Hollingsworth
Harry & Cynthia Laffkas
Louise A. Larsen
Rick & Penny Phillips
Dorothy L. & Paul E. Shaffer
The Sharp Family
Stephanny & Adam Smith
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Lisa & Dick Teets
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Mr. Thomas E. Skillman
Irene & Bob Walters
Loren & Rhonda Woody

Musician

\$600 to \$999

Steve & Mary Jane Dale
Thomas & Sandra Elyea
Chris & Karan Flick
Joe & Tammy Hyndman
John & Gale Mann Foundation
Barb Foland Mathews
James Palermo In Honor of
Ben & Sharon Eisbart
Dianne Potter
Richard Rison & John Tolley
Judith Wannemacher

Lead Role

\$350 to \$599

Robert & Doris Albertson
John & Cathy Batuello
Matthew & Nicole Booker
Ann S. Borne
David & Susan Chipps
Justin & Jessica Clupper
Marcia Crawford
Steven & Nancy Gardner
Tara Hartman
Bob & Donna Jesse
Robert & Elizabeth Keen
Ed & Linda Kos
Tom & Joan Marcuccilli
Stephen & Catrina
O'Shaughnessey
Deb Overcash &
Mary Anna Bradshaw:
In Honor of Larry Wardlaw
Mo & Tom Palmer
Matt & Emily Roussel
Geoff & Jordan Saalfrank
Carol & Dick Schwartz
Robert & Mary Short
Carole & Jeff Slater
Buck & Julianne Toenges
Marcie & Steve Weissner
Steven & Judy Zacher

Supporting Role

\$200 to \$349

Michael & Mary Jo Amorini
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Bieberich
Dr. Tom Blake
Annie Bobilya Charitable Fund
Lori & Art Chokenea
Phillip H. Colglazier
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Al & Cathy Moll
Kim Moore
Ron & Nancy Orman
Gregg & Ellen Osborn
Delmar & Ruth Proctor
SuZen Reinbold
Dr. Gloria Shamanoff
Lindsey Sharp
Debra L. Stam
Randall & Mary Ann Steiner (L)
Ashley D. Stoneburner
Jay & Barbara Vandermark
Thomas & Tamara Wheeler
Chuck & Irene Winkler
Winnie Zeliger

Ensemble Role

\$100 to \$199

Anonymous
James Amstutz
AN Home Remodeling LLC
Margaret Ankenbruck
JR Barks & Brian Burke
Craig & Diana Bartscht
Elizabeth Belschner
Ted & Janet Bendall
Jason & Jamie Broekhuizen
Robert Buesching
Catherine S. Christoff
Debra & Ralph Compagnone
Greg & Terry Lynn Double
V. Jane Drummer &
Kristine Call
Lenny & Anne Duff
Michael & Emilu Elko
Eric & Patrice Ellingson

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre gratefully acknowledges the special contributions of the following individuals and businesses.

Ensemble Role

\$100 to \$199, cont'd

Merry E. Ewing
Russ & Nancy Fay
Michael & Jean Findley
Brenda & Steve Fishbaugh
Dr. Chris & Sasha Frazier
Jan & Tom Gidley
Sue & Ron Glotzbach
Tim & Michelle Grusenmeyer
Leonard Helfrich
Susann Hiatt
Patch & Terry Hines
Gary Hogle & Barbara Lahman
Steve Innes
Jeff & Betsy Kachmar
Janet & Sam Kamdar (L)
Chris & Sarah Kean
Jim & Peggy Keefer
Roxanne Kelker
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M. Anne Skinner
Courtney & Kris Sligor
Martha R. Smith
Dan & Charlotte Sorg
Pam & David Sorg
Jean Stelle
Rich & Amy Sutorius

Ensemble Role

\$100 to \$199, cont'd

Scott Tarr
Brian Ternet &
Kimberly Carpenter
Carol Ann Terwilliger
Beth Walker
Larry A. Wardlaw
Nancy M. Webb
James Westerfield
Thomas & Tamara Wheeler
Jordan Wildman &
Ruby Dezaldo
Ellen K. Wilson
Father Tim Wrozek
Andy & Pat Wyss
Bob & Jan Younger
Virginia Lee Zimmerman

The Marquee Club

Justin & Jessica Clupper
Steven & Nancy Gardner
Becky & Steve Hollingsworth
Joe & Tammy Hyndman
Delmar & Ruth Proctor
Ashley D. Stoneburner
Buck & Julianne Toenges
Judy Wannemacher

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Dr. Christopher &
Kirsten LaSalle
Dr. & Mrs. William LaSalle
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William Lee
David & Barbara McCants
Elise Ramel
Mark & Christine Rupp
David T. Sowden
Randall & Mary Ann Steiner
Eunice Wadewitz
Byron & Sheri Williams

(L) - denotes a 2023-24 donor
who is also a Lifetime Member.

In Memory of...

Nancy L. Brown

Kimberly A. Barger

John Elliott

Tom & Holly DeLong

Carol Garcia

Civic Theatre Guild

Audrey Gerson

Valiant Foundation

Dan Guse & Lloyd Ramel

Carol Guse

David Alan Houser

Andrea N. Brown-Keen

Jean Uhrick

Carrie Reynolds

Darlene Richardson

Anonymous

General Operating Support

Community Foundation of
Greater Fort Wayne
English Bonter Mitchell
Foundation
Foellinger Foundation
James Foundation
Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation

Matching Funds

3 Rivers Federal Credit Union
JP Morgan Chase Foundation
Lincoln Financial Group
Mark & Georgia D. Ulmschneider
Waterfield Foundation

The Encore Society

Kelly & Beth Clevenger
Ben & Sharon Eisbart
Elise Ramel (L)

To make a donation, visit fwcivic.org/donate or contact Kathy Crim,
Director of Philanthropy, at KCrim@fwcivic.org or (260) 422-8641 x 230.

Individual gifts of \$100 or more are recognized for the 12-month period following the date of the donation. Totals are recalculated prior to each production and recognized accordingly.

Any recent donations of \$100 or more not listed will be included in the next Stagebill.

Grants and Sponsorships are recognized by season.



HERE'S TO ANOTHER SHOW-STEELING PERFORMANCE

Steel Dynamics is delighted to sponsor the 2023/2024 Season at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. On stage, as in steel production, it takes hard work, talented people, passion, and innovation to deliver a great performance. Enjoy the show!



7575 West Jefferson Boulevard | Fort Wayne, Indiana | steeldynamics.com

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre!

The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre is proud to be one of the oldest downtown arts destinations in Northeast Indiana and to be celebrating our 96th Season. We continue to enrich the Arts and Cultural makeup of our community, bringing tourism downtown while other area businesses benefit from patrons pre- and post-show activities.



Phillip H. Colglazier

Our Vision - To be the regional leader in live theatre experiences through artistic excellence and innovation.

Our Mission - Fort Wayne Civic Theatre entertains, educates, inspires, and enriches the community through exceptional live theatre experiences.

Our Values - In pursuit of our vision and mission we:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Strive for excellence | Nurture the creative soul |
| Steward our resources | Pursue innovation |
| Promote diversity | Educate our community |
| Change lives | |

We are thrilled to have Ranae Butler return to direct *Six Degrees of Separation*. Thank you to Ranae, to the Civic Theatre staff, and volunteers who dedicated many hours of creativity and hard work to this show!

Fort Wayne Civic Theatre remaining shows of the 2023-2024 Season!

Jersey Boys: May 4-19, 2024

Get Your Tickets Online at www.fwcivic.org

Arts United will be renovating this building, the Arts United Center. The Civic Theatre will be temporarily moving out starting June 2024 and relocating to 1940 Bluffton Road on the Foster Park Plaza just West of the Clyde. We will continue to produce high quality shows at the Embassy Theatre and the Foellinger Outdoor Theatre, including a special collaboration with the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

2024-2025 On the Road Season, our 97th Season:

Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show*: Sept. 13-14, 2024 at Foellinger Outdoor Theatre

Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*: Nov. 22-23, 2024 at Embassy Theatre

Waitress: Feb. 8-9, 2025 at Embassy Theatre

Red, a dramatic play about American Painter Mark Rothko: Mar. 21–Apr. 6, 2025 at FWMoA

Disney's *Freaky Friday* – May 17-18, 2025 at Embassy Theatre

Stay tuned this summer for information about our Inspire Campaign: Impact Tomorrow, Today, which is separate from Arts United's A Soaring Vision Campaign. This will empower us during this temporary move transition and will ignite creative imaginations for generations to come. We are excited about this opportunity, and we know you will be, too!

Thank you to all for your support, your return, and for your applause!
Phillip H. Colglazier, Executive/Artistic Director



100% Club

Donors who have completed
the total (\$1,480 or more) contribution to our
100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.

Lead Gift - Wayne & Linda Boyd

Anonymous (2)
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Linnea & George Bartling
John & Cathy Batuello
Cheri & Mark Becker
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Phillip H. Colglazier
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Tom & Joan Marcuccilli
Thomas Marcuccilli
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Barb Mathews in Memory of Bill Foland
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Carol & Dick Schwartz
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Gabriel & Jeanne Shaheen
Dr. Gloria Shamanoff

(cont'd)

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Rev. Timothy A. Wrozek
Marilyn & William Wunderlin
Steven Zacher
Virginia Lee Zimmerman
Sharon J. Zych

In just 4 years we will celebrate our 100th Anniversary Season!

You can be a part of securing the future of the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre for years to come with your gift to Civic Theatre's 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.



If you would like to be a part of this important campaign we ask you to pledge to contribute a total of \$1,500 or more to be paid by June 2028 (over and above your traditional annual giving). You can determine a payment schedule at the time you submit your pledge form. Or, if you prefer, simply make a one-time 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund donation of \$1,500 or more.

Your donation to the 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund will be appropriately recognized in each Civic Stagebill program through our 100th Anniversary Season. Your generous gift will be part of a strong financial foundation that will ensure the Civic Theatre's place in our community for decades to come, nurturing generations of actors and technical stage volunteers.

**Call or email Civic Theatre's Director of Philanthropy
to request your pledge form or to make your
100th Anniversary Endowment donation today!**

**Kathy Crim - (260) 422-8641 x 230
KCrim@fwcivic.org**

**Thank you to these donors who are making an on-going commitment
to support the 100th Anniversary Endowment Campaign.**

David Belew
Dr. Tom Blake
Daniel & Alexa Hansen
Ed & Linda Kos
Harry & Cynthia Laffkas

Dr. Christopher & Kirsten LaSalle
Mark Luttk & Suzanne Wagner
Justin Molitoris & Leandra Lee
Stacey Ottenweller & Abe Aspy

BECOME PART OF THE FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATRE FAMILY

We rely on the support from our amazing community. It is what has kept us around for nearly 100 years! ***How can YOU help?!***

BE A PATRON

Ticket sales are a vital part of our revenue. And it's just not any fun to perform to an empty house, so come see us often. And bring your friends!

"I have been attending Civic Theater for many years and enjoy it every time! There are many very good, very talented people in our area and it is a chance to enjoy their performances. Being at the Theater gives me a chance to sit back and relax for awhile. Thank you, Civic Theater, for being part of the Ft. Wayne arts community!"

-- Patti Robertson

BECOME A SUBSCRIBER

Support Civic Theatre, receive subscriber-only benefits, AND save money on tickets. It's a no-brainer! With Flex Passes, tickets come in quantities of 6 or 20, can be used in any combination, and are available for purchase all season long.

"As a near 40 year supporter of the Civic Theatre, we are thankful and appreciative of the quality of talent that blesses our stage with amazing live performances. The Civic Theatre is a lasting gem that not only is a key to the arts in Fort Wayne, but a cornerstone to the overall quality of life we experience."

-- Al & Cathy Moll

DONATE ON YOUR TERMS

Make an annual gift; Set up recurring monthly donations; Contribute to our 100th Anniversary Endowment Fund; Set the stage for others by leaving Civic Theatre a gift in your will with our Encore Society; and more. The choice is yours!

"I appreciate the opportunity to budget an affordable monthly gift, but I really value the monthly reminder of who/what I'm giving. There are so many wonderful arts and humanitarian causes to support in Fort Wayne that it's easy to become lost in where my money goes and what it benefits. The monthly transactions and thank you notes are a top-notch way for me to remember the good we're trying to do."

*-- Joe (& Tammy) Hyndman
Inaugural Marquee Club members, 2020*

VOLUNTEER

Whether in the scene shop, costume shop, on-stage, or backstage, we are always looking for passionate, dedicated individuals to help create our shows. No experience needed - we will train you!

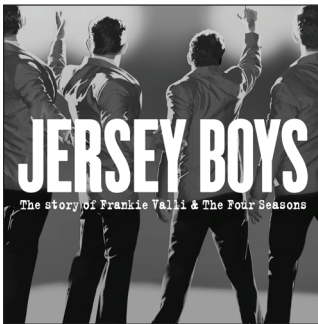
"The Civic Theatre has such a welcoming and encouraging environment for volunteers. I knew very little about what goes into a theatre set when I started volunteering years ago and now I can paint almost anything from walls, doors, and stairs, to all varieties and colors of bricks!"

*-- Sharon Fallon
Volunteer since 2015*

For more information on how you can support Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, please contact: Kathy Crim, Director of Philanthropy
(260) 422-8641 x 230 or KCrim@fwcivic.org

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ouisa.....	Julie Donnell
Flan.....	Bob Ahlersmeyer
Geoffrey.....	Daniel F. Woodruff
Paul.....	Ennis L. Brown II
Hustler/Policeman.....	Isiah Gray
Kitty.....	Jen Poiry Prough
Larkin.....	Nol Beckley
Detective.....	Avery Freeman-Harris
Tess.....	Megan Gerig
Woody.....	Carter Thurnall
Ben.....	Jake Parker
Dr. Fine.....	Duke Roth
Doug.....	Josiah Beights
Doorman.....	Steven Bricker
Trent.....	Khy Bowe
Rick.....	Kevin Torwelle
Elizabeth.....	Allison Arnos



May 4-19, 2024

Audience Survey

Performing for you completes the artistic process for us! We would like your opinion of the Civic Theatre, the show, and your experience with us.

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FORT WAYNE BALLET

2023
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67



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by Mark Dunn

April 19, 2024 – May 4, 2024

Directed by Gloria Minnich

Arena Dinner Theatre
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Reserve tickets: 260-422-4226
or order online:
www.ArenaDinnerTheatre.org

Evenings:

April 19, 20, 26, 27 May 4 & 5
Doors Open at 6:15 pm
Dinner at 7:00 pm
Performance at 8:00 pm

Matinee:

April 28
Doors Open at 12:15 pm
Dinner at 1:00 pm
Performance at 2:00 pm



Arena Dinner Theatre is a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization.
A DELIGHTFUL QUARANTINE created in cooperation with Grand Theatre,
in behalf of Social Friction, Inc. www.grandtheatreind.com

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The Minutes



By Tracy Letts

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Six Degrees of Separation, written by John Guare, was published in 1990 and had a successful Broadway run before being made into a film in 1993. It is an intellectual comedy/drama/mystery with heady themes and hidden treasures for those willing to step inside the world of the play. My intention with these notes is to provide you with a few clues for viewing. But first, a note about the thrust

set, a style chosen for its intimacy. There are three areas to familiarize yourself with: 1. The Apartment of Ouisa and Flan Kittredge. 2. "Otherwheres" - the area of the floor that is painted in the style of Kandinski. You will notice that the "Otherwheres" begin to encroach on the apartment as the play proceeds. 3. The Street - these are the aisles directly in front of you which will frequently be inhabited by actors talking directly to you. Please place any belongings under your seat!

Your Questions/Clues for viewing: Over the past 34 years, the following questions ring truer than when the play was written: What happens when a lack of authentic human connection and spiritual emptiness leaves us with a hole inside ourselves? How do we try to fill that hole? Gossip? Sex? Drugs? Experiences? Good causes? Self-delusion? Who in this play is open to authentic human connection? Where are the authentic connections? The missed connections?

A double-sided abstract expressionist painting by Wassily Kandinsky serves as a visual focus on the set as well as a symbol of the themes explored in the text such as chaos/control, two sides to every story, and the imagination. Guare taps into the painter's abstract expressionist style that "tried to unlock the unconsciousness of humanity". Kandinsky painted unrecognized shapes which requires the viewer to assign meaning to the abstract. How do the characters in this play assign meaning to the young black man who walks into their homes? Why do they allow him into their homes?

When this stranger delivers a monologue about the imagination, he sets in motion a series of events that alters the future of our characters, "The imagination. It's there to sort out your nightmare, to show you the exit from the maze of your nightmare, to transform the nightmare into dreams, that become your bedrock. If we do not listen to that voice, it dies, it shrivels, it vanishes. The imagination is not our escape. On the contrary, the imagination is the place we are all trying to get to.....The imagination. That's God's gift to make the act of self-examination bearable." Who will answer the call for self-examination in this play and where will that lead them? Who are the con artists in this play? Who is hustling and for what?

The play is also an exploration of race. Originally cast with only one person of color, I have increased that number to include characters in positions of authority, characters as witnesses to concerns of race, and characters of color in positions of low and high status.

The actors in the play, and Assistant Director, Cortney White, have been instrumental in discussions and discoveries around this theme. I owe a debt of gratitude for their insights and lived experiences. Since this is a play demanding self-examination, what are your thoughts about how race impacts the decisions made in this story?

Hopefully these questions give you a head start in exploring the many puzzles this play has to offer. Untangling the mysteries has been an important part of our artistic process and I couldn't have hoped to do it with a better team. Enjoy!

JOHN GUARE (Author) received the Award of Merit from the American Academy of Arts and Letters for his plays *The House of Blue Leaves*, *Rich and Famous*, *Marco Polo Sings a Solo*, *Landscape of the Body*, and *Bosoms and Neglect*. *The House of Blue Leaves*, which won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award as Best American Play of 1971, received four Tony awards in its triumphant revival in 1986 at Lincoln Center. He wrote the lyrics and won a Tony for his book of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, which also won the Tony for Best Musical of 1972. He collaborated with Milos Forman on the screenplay of the Czech director's first American film, *Taking Off*, which won the jury prize at the Cannes festival in 1971. His screenplay for Louis Malle's *Atlantic City* won the New York, Los Angeles, and National Film Critics Circle Award as well as an Oscar nomination. His series of plays on nineteenth century America, *Women and Water*, *Gardenia*, and *Lydie Breeze*, have been performed in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., London, and Australia. Yale Repertory produced *Moon Over Miami* in their 1988-1989 season. *Six Degrees of Separation* won the 1990 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, the Hull Warriner Award, and the Obie Award, and is published by Vintage/Random House. In London, *Six Degrees of Separation* opened at the Royal Court Theatre and transferred to the West End and was nominated for two Olivier Awards. *Six Degrees of Separation* has been produced in Australia, South Africa, Istanbul, Japan, Germany, Sweden, and Israel. The film version of the play, directed by Fred Schepisi, was released in December 1993. Mr. Guare's play *Four Baboons Adoring The Sun*, directed by Sir Peter Hall and produced by Lincoln Center at the Vivian Beaumont Theater in 1992, was nominated for four Tony Awards, including Best Play, and is published by Random House/Vintage. Mr. Guare is a council member of the Dramatists Guild, the organization representing more than seven thousand playwrights, lyricists, and composers in America and Great Britain. He is co-editor of The Lincoln Center Library for the Performing Arts. In 1989, the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters elected him a member.

RANAE BUTLER (Director) is a theatre educator and Director of Fine Arts for area programs. She knows that the collaborative process of creating theatre with a team of designers, crew, and actors to tell a story about our shared humanity is a personally rewarding endeavor and a profound way to serve the community. A lifelong student of theatre, Ranae holds a BA from PFW and an MFA in Theatre from Brandeis University where she studied under the great teachers, Ted Kazanoff and David Wheeler. Her greatest joy is her family.



JULIE DONNELL (Ouisa) has appeared in over 40 roles in theater and opera and on several Fort Wayne stages. She was last seen at the Civic Theatre as Sonia in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Prior to that, Julie played Katherine Brandt in *33 Variations*. Other Civic credits include Helen Stott in *And a Nightingale Sang*, Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense*, and Helga ten Dorp in *Deathtrap*. She teaches French, Applied Voice, and Diction at PFW and has translated the German play, *Der tollste Tag*, a loose adaptation of *The Marriage of Figaro*, into English.

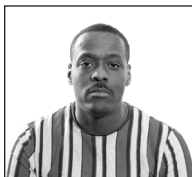
BOB AHLERSMEYER (Flan) received Anthony Awards for his performances in *A Few Good Men* (Lt. Kaffee), *Avenue Q* (Trekkie), *The Farnsworth Invention* (Sarnoff), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Man in Chair), and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Other roles include *The Twilight of the Gods* (David Gold) and *It's a Wonderful Life* (George Bailey) with FPT; *The Producers* (Leo Bloom) with Civic; *All My Sons* (Chris Keller) with IPFW; and *Frost/Nixon* (Jim Reston) and *Blithe Spirit* (Charles Condomine) with Arena. He wrote, directed, and starred in the feature, *Is This Seat Taken*. Love to Nolan and Cat.



DANIEL F. WOODRUFF (Geoffrey) is returning to the Civic Theatre stage after 20 years. He met his beautiful wife, Rhonda, 34 years ago during a Civic production of *South Pacific*. A few years and many productions later, Daniel won an Anthony Award for his performance in *Rumors* by Neil Simon where he shared the stage with his friend, Phillip Colglazier. His beautiful Rhonda has left us, but he can feel her running his lines and encouraging him along the way. "Thanks to the cast and crew, especially Ranae, for granting me another go around."

ENNIS L. BROWN II (Paul) is a multi-talented theater actor, who has graced the stage for many years with brilliance and charisma. He has won two Anthony awards, one for his unforgettable portrayal of Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* and the other for *Working*. Not stopping there, he also earned a nomination for Best Supporting Actor in the productions of *Memphis* and *A Christmas Carol*. After a five-year hiatus, he is thrilled to be back on the Civic stage, ready to captivate audiences once again with his unmatched showcase of passion and skill. Ennis would love to give thanks to his 4 sons and loving mother.





ISIAH GRAY (Hustler/Policeman) is a Fort Wayne based comedian with a career spanning a decade of stand up, sketch, and improv comedy. *Six Degrees of Separation* is his first community theatre show and he's excited to join such a talented cast and crew at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. A scholarship graduate of the prestigious School of Hard Knocks, Isiah began his performance journey in Speech and Debate and went on to write and perform comedy throughout the Midwest. He looks forward to expanding his mind, skills, and theatre repertoire with the Civic Theatre.

JEN POIRY PROUGH (Kitty) is excited to be back on the Civic Theatre stage for the first time since *Seussical* (2022). Some favorites include *August: Osage County* (Barb) with Three Rivers Music Theatre; *Clybourne Park* (Bev/Kathy), *The Christians* (Elizabeth), and *Nunsense* (Amnesia) with First Presbyterian Theater; *Silent Sky* (Annie Cannon) and *You Can't Take It With You* (Penny) at Arena Dinner Theatre; and *The Addams Family* (Alice) at Summit City Music Theatre. She works at Revive Home Brands and writes for "Whatzup". Special thanks to her playwright husband Colby, thespian/artist daughter, Sarrazine, and chipit, Dorie.



NOL BECKLEY (Larkin) is performing in his second show under the direction of Ranae Butler, his first being Fort Wayne Civic Theatre's 2012 production of *A Few Good Men* (Capt. Whitacre). Recently, Nol was in Three Rivers Music Theatre's *August: Osage County* (Charlie Aiken) and Civic Theatre's *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* in 2023. In his spare time, he teaches literature and composition on the secondary level. Nol would like to thank his wife, mother, sister, and niece for their support.

AVERY FREEMAN-HARRIS (Detective) is delighted to join the talented cast and crew of *Six Degrees of Separation* for her first Civic Theatre show! Avery is from St. Louis, Mo., and is currently pursuing a PhD. Avery would like to thank her husband, Roger, for his amazing food, love, and constant support, her sons, Roger and Aveon, for their unconditional love, her parents, Darren and Lauren, who are very instrumental in her life, and her family and friends for the unconditional love and support in all her endeavors. Avery dedicates this performance to her brother, Artrelle Hunt.





MEGAN GERIG (Tess) is honored to perform alongside such a talented cast and crew in her first Civic Theatre show. Her past shows include *No Sex Please, We're British* at Arena Dinner Theatre, *The Charitable Sisterhood* at all for One Productions, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* at First Pres Theater. By day, Megan works as the Costume Assistant at the Fort Wayne Ballet. "Thanks to Damon for his support and for feeding our hooligan trio of feline friends during the late rehearsal nights."

CARTER THURNALL (Woody) is excited to return to the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre as Woody! Some of his memorable roles are Angus in *Tuck Everlasting* (Blackbox Theatre Company), Karl the Giant in *Big Fish* (BBTC), and Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* (Lebanon High School). Carter would like to thank the Moss and Acton families, his directors and cast, and his family and Olivia for always supporting his passions. Enjoy the show!



JAKE PARKER (Ben) is super excited to be at the Civic Theatre for his first performance since high school, when he got to play Celeste in *Vacancy In Paradise*. Jake's friends have joked about him being a theatre kid ever since so he's happy to finally be on a stage again. "I'd like to dedicate my performance to the movement

for a permanent ceasefire in Palestine. I'd also like to thank my mom and my close friends Bennett, Shawn, and Shock for always supporting me in my pursuit of my interests."

DUKE ROTH (Dr. Fine) is thrilled for his first show here at Civic Theatre! Duke has been involved with theatre his whole life; his first role was Oscar the Grouch in Kindergarten. He is the Shipping and Receiving Manager at Aegis Sales and Engineering. Duke's most recent shows include *One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall* and *Ripcord* (Scotty) at Arena Dinner Theatre. Other notable roles include David in *My Dead Clown* at First Pres Theater, Sammy in *Blood Brothers* at Arena (nominated for best supporting actor) and Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*.





JOSIAH BEIGHTS (Doug) is excited to be on the Civic Theatre stage for the 3rd time this season! He is a Senior in high school and will be attending Ball State University this fall. Josiah has been seen on the Civic Theatre stage in *Something Rotten!* (Robin) as well as *Shrek The Musical* (Pinocchio). He would like to thank

everyone who supports him in his artistic endeavors.

STEVEN BRICKER (Doorman) is returning to the Civic Theatre for his second show. Nine years ago, Steven played the Parks Keeper in *Mary Poppins*. Most recently, he starred in *The Baker Street Irregulars* (The Pause), played Mr. Body in *Clue* (The Excelsior), Mr. De Pinna in *You Can't Take It with You* (Arena), and Raynerd in *Dashing Through the Snow* (Arena). Also, bravo in *Bad Seed* (First Pres).



KHY BOWE (Trent) is a Senior at Canterbury High School who is eager to start their acting career and is performing in their first Civic Theatre show. They have currently received offers from AMDA, Muhlenberg, Emerson, and other schools, where they plan to study theater and performing arts. Special thank you to

their parents for supporting their career choices, and to Joyce Lazier and Ranae Butler for teaching them everything that will make them successful.

KEVIN TORWELLE (Rick) is delighted to return to the Civic Theatre. Past credits include *Working*, *Rent*, *Timekeepers*, and *The 39 Steps* (FW Civic). *Twelfth Night*, *Ben Butler*, *The Santaland Diaries*, and *Red* (First Pres Theatre). *King Lear*, *Hot L Baltimore*, *The Laramie Project* (PFW), *Busybody* (Arena Dinner Theater). *Comedy of Errors*, *Macbeth* (Shakespeare Machine), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Parlor City Shakespeare). Up next, you can see Kevin as Prince Henry in collaboration with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic in *Falstaff*. "Much love to June and Fred."



ALLISON ARNOS (Elizabeth) is beyond excited to play Elizabeth in *Six Degrees of Separation*. While this is her first role with Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, she is no stranger to the stage. When Allison is not acting, you can find her teaching elementary music, or portraying beloved Disney characters with Once Upon

a Princess. Throughout this production, Allison has been most excited to network with other performers and expand her acting skills.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION CREATIVE TEAM



CORTNEY WHITE (Assistant Director) is glad to be back with the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre after performing in the Ensemble for *The Color Purple* in February. The Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and the Arts United Center is the most prominent stage in the city and he's proud to have a chance to create with this great team!

BRITTNEY LYNNE KOZA (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be part of *Six Degrees of Separation*. She has been working with local theatre for a decade and before that earned a Bachelor's Degrees in Theatre and Linguistics from Purdue University. Notable productions Brittney has been part of include FWCT's productions *Shrek The Musical*, *Elf - The Musical*, *Seussical*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Newsies*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their continued support and for pushing her to be her best.



ANDREW HOLDERFIELD (Production Manager/ Lighting Designer) is honored to be given the opportunity to serve the theatre and community of Fort Wayne. He is a graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit and originally from Alabama. Previously, Andrew worked for companies including Carnival Cruise Lines, The Gateway Playhouse, and Hope Summer Repertory Theatre. Outside of work, Andrew loves reading and playing lots of board games. Andrew would like to thank the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre family for welcoming him.

JAMES HULBERT (Properties Master) has been actively involved in theatre for over fifty years, beginning in college, followed by his Bachelor's Degree from Taylor University. He has served in the role of Prop Master for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre since 2014, highlighting one of first: a collaboration with renowned Performer and Director Jane Lanier in *Mary Poppins*. Jim has contributed his skills in design and production support to the Fort Wayne Ballet and Dance Collective, University of Saint Francis, and Purdue University at Fort Wayne. On occasion, he has taken the stage as performer in *To Kill a Mockingbird* (UFC); *The Wedding Gift* (FW Civic); and *Young Harriet Tubman* (FW Youtheatre). Jim prides himself in his philosophy of 'the illustration of the disregarded' – a lofty title for his habit of using anything and everything to make the prop effective for the production. Under the leadership of Robert Shoquist, he received the Fort Wayne Civic Anthony Award for Excellence in Technical Theatre in 2014. Jim wishes to thank his heroes of collaboration and inspiration, Lori Freistroffer and Emma Humbarger.



SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION CREATIVE TEAM



ADAM FLETCHER (Technical Director/Scenic Designer) is a native of nearby North Manchester and first became invested in theatre as a carpenter for the Muncie Civic Theatre in 2002. After earning a BA in Theatre from IPFW in 2013, he has since served the area's theatre community as Head Carpenter for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, where he began interning in 2011, and as a Seasonal Scenic Designer for Fort Wayne Youththeatre, Canterbury Schools, Wabash Area Community Theatre, and Fort Wayne Ballet. He recently completed his seventh season as Scenic Designer for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre.

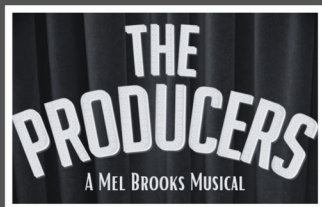
ASHLEY BRASSELL (Scenic Charge Artist/Volunteer Coordinator) is proud to be the Scenic Charge Artist and Volunteer Coordinator for the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre.



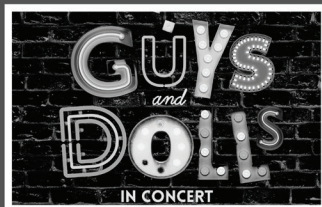
Ashley attended Purdue Fort Wayne earning a Bachelors in Theatre with emphasis in Technology and Design. Ashley has been involved with many local theatre organizations and has been active in theatre for over a decade. She hopes to continue to give back to this amazing community through educating and fostering a safe and welcoming space to collaborate to create wonderful productions.



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Performances June 21st - 30th
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SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION CREATIVE TEAM



SARAH MOLONEY (Costume Designer) has worked multiple seasons at The Santa Fe Opera, Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts, the local IATSE, as well as owning and operating an alteration shop, Hot Button Alteration, throughout the pandemic years. As a Fort Wayne resident for 8+ years, she is beyond excited to be part of the arts community in Fort Wayne. Sarah wants to give special thanks to every crew, actor, friend, and mentor she has met along the way, and to Aunt Donna who set her on this journey.

ANNA SLOTTBACK (Assistant Costumer/ Costume Rental Manager) is excited to work on her second season at the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre. She received a BFA in Costume Technology in 2015 from DePaul University in Chicago. Anna freelanced in the Bay Area working at Berkeley Rep in wardrobe and as an over hire stitcher for 11 productions. She was also able to work at the SF Opera as an over hire stitcher for two seasons.

A black and white theater poster for the play 'The Father'. The top left features the First Pres Theater logo, which is a shield with a stylized figure. The title 'The Father' is written in large, white, serif font across the center. Below the title, it says 'BY FLORIAN ZELLER TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON'. The background of the poster shows a close-up of an elderly man's face, looking distressed with his hand to his forehead. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

First Pres
THEATER

The Father

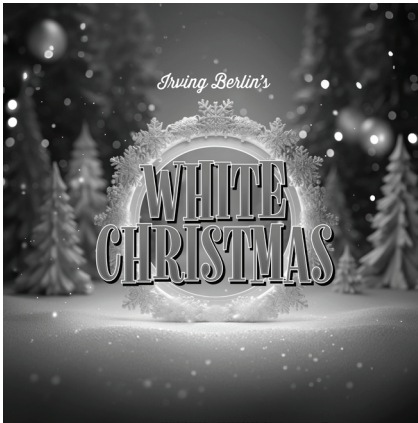
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Assistant Costumer/Costume Rental Manager.....Anna Slotterback
Stage Manager.....Brittney Lynne Koza
Floor Crew.....Louwanna Wilson
Light Board Operator.....Brittney Lynne Koza
Props Runner.....Louwanna Wilson
Props Assistance.....Lori Freistroffer
Production Assistant.....James Oakry
Build & Paint Crew.....Loren Woody
College Intern.....Lex Wright
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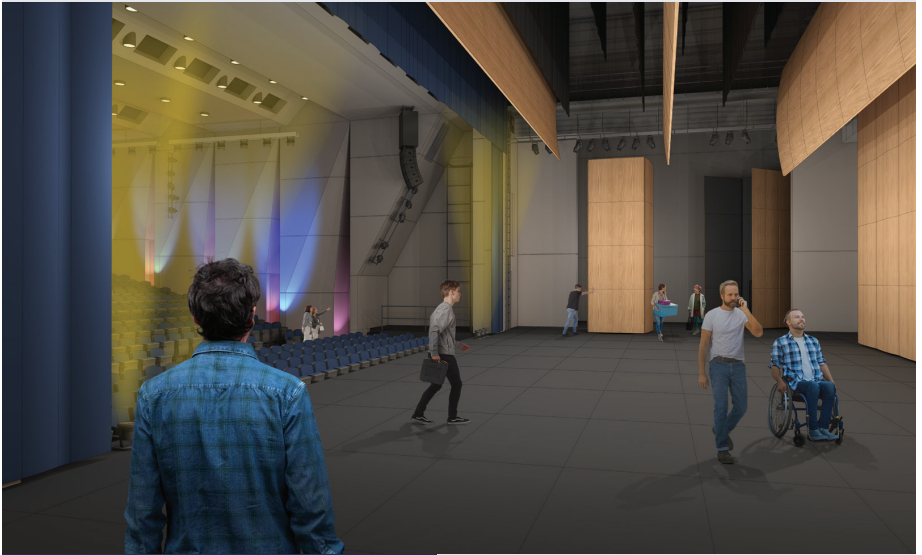
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