



BACKSTAGE PASS

The Barnstormers Theatre, Tamworth, NH
SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Standing: Blair Hundertmark. Seated, left to right: Chazmond J. Peacock, Seth Tucker, Maggie Hammel, John Long, Dwan Hayes, Becca Gottlieb, Harter Clingman, Justin Sudderth, Cheryl Mullings, Matty Balkum, Carmen Berkley, Buddy Haardt, Hank Offinger and C. Mingo Long

Season Opener: *OUR TOWN*



Director Clayton Phillips

The 2021 Season began with a sold out production of *Our Town*, re-interpreted for a modern audience by director Clayton Phillips: "I was thrilled with the outcome of this production of *Our Town*. I feel that we brought a new contemporary relevance without compromising the original script by Thornton Wilder. The original script calls for simplicity and this production was stripped of all theatrical elements until the end. This is exactly what Mr. Wilder wrote and we stayed true to that while casting a very diverse group of actors, which I believe elevated the material to "Our World."

"We were so proud of this reopening production of *Our Town*! The play holds deep resonance with The Barnstormers audience and we felt like our audiences were able to see it in an entirely new light. The play teaches us to try and take a breath and appreciate the special "moments" that life offers us, and after such a long and strenuous year,



Becca Gottlieb and Cheryl Mullings

the moments our audience and cast shared over the course of a week were simply magical. Seeing the play through a modern lens was a remarkable experience for all."

~ Interim Artistic Director Joe Longthorne

FAR FROM CANTERBURY World Premiere



Far From Canterbury cast: Darius Harper, Alyssa Giannetti, Pim Van Amerongen, Kennedy Caughell, Ellis Gage, Seth Tucker, Amber Hurst Martin, Tauren Hagans, Hennessy Winkler, and Rodrigo Ignacio Cruz.



Left to right: Hennessy Winkler, Tauren Hagans, Amber Hurst Martin, Alyssa Giannetti, Rodrigo Ignacio Cruz, Ellis Gage, Pim Van Amerongen, and Darius Harper.

"Making theatre in person (following a yearlong+ break for most of us) with this beautiful company featuring a rainbow of bodies & identities was an experience that filled me with gratitude & hope. The brilliant Danny K. Bernstein has written a charming & stirring musical fairy tale exploring male accountability, gender, & consent; a progressive story that challenges tradition, which has, through our run here in Tamworth NH, proven to be impactful & enjoyable to even the most traditional of theatre audiences. As Kennedy Caughell said: '*Far From Canterbury* is the fruition of what Broadway promises to become: diverse, inclusive, colorful, loving and magical.'"

"Who can say the path we're on or where we'll find the outcome?" I encourage everyone to follow the journey of *Far From Canterbury*. While I don't know what's next just yet, I can confirm that this was one hell of a world premiere with an unmatched team. 'Look around. The story just began.'"

~ Ellis Gage, John of Bath in *Far From Canterbury*

The Theatre Gets a Facelift!

"Nothing like a fresh coat of paint to bring an historic building back to life. We are on schedule with phase three of our renovations to the theatre: replacing clapboards and a portion of our front porch, along with painting the exterior, box office and lobby of the theatre. Exciting times as we continue to work on improving upon the patron experience when enjoying a play at The Barnstormers Theatre."

~ Board Chair Lou DeMaio



Jazz and Swing With the Tall Granite Big Band



A perfect summer evening of music and dancing. Many thanks to The Preserve for donating their beautiful tent.

Our Cora Nichol gets dance instruction

The Barnstormers Auction

The Barnstormers Annual Auction is online this year, and bidding is open until September 7th at www.32auctions.com/Barnstormers. Please support our event by bidding high and often on treasures and getaways!

"We have had a great reception from local businesses and individuals regarding our annual auction, which we moved to an online platform this year. We have some amazing gifts, such as a beautiful bronze statue called Blessings, based on two rescue burros. It will be on display at The Other Store during regular business hours, Wednesday - Sunday. In addition, we have two fabulous trips, one to Marco Island and the other to the nearby province of Quebec, Canada." ~ Lynn Kearney



Popcorn Falls poster by Jesse Beecher, offered in the online auction

BST In the Valley Food Fight



Ed and Lynn Kearney second and third from right

Board member Lynn Kearney and her husband participated in the *Valley Food Fight* this spring, to raise money for The Barnstormers Theatre. The event was hosted by Valley Promotions, a great supporter of The Barnstormers Theatre and other organizations in the Mount Washington Valley "Doing the Valley Food Fight was such an amazing experience for Ed and me. We were given 3 mystery ingredients which we had to incorporate into our "TV-style meal." Who remembers those! Our ingredients were pork crackle, strawberry jelly beans, and pickled red cabbage. We made sweet and sour meatballs with pork crackle, mac & cheese, and a cheesecake with graham cracker & chocolate crust, and strawberry jelly beans. It was very challenging and we had some stiff competition!" ~Lynn Kearney

Margaret Cleveland



The night in early August when our beloved former board chair Margaret Cleveland died, the sky turned the most beautiful red gold over The Barnstormers Theatre upon which she had lavished so much love and care. It was as though the heavens were beaming her shining spirit right above our village,

an unforgettable night for an unforgettable woman.

Muzzy, as we all knew her, was cruelly stricken by ALS just as her cherished theater was coming back to life after the lost season of Covid blackout, a most bittersweet fulfillment of her hopes. As our board chair and then co-chair with Lou DeMaio, Muzzy had taken her uncle's creation from the sweet, old-fashioned comedies of the early 20th Century into the wilder, bawdier comedies of the 21st. She was helped also by the enthusiastic artistic stewardship of her good friend and former mentor Bob Shea, daring to launch on our small stage such popular Broadway musicals as *The Full Monty*, *Urinetown*, *Spamalot* and *The Producers*. That we are among the first of regional theaters to resume production now is thanks in large part to what Muzzy accomplished.

We will miss her wonderful laugh, her impish bright smile, her delight in any and all things theatrical and most of all her warmth and most generous heart. We can't help imagining the huge pride she would be taking in the witty and hilarious original musical fairy tale our brave young new director Joe Longthorne has launched upon the world on our very own stage this summer. She wrote her own fairy tale of a rich and enchanted life as mother, administrator, HR director, personal coach, writer, editor and fierce lover of cats, friends, family, "stories, swimming at Bearcamp, justice, chocolate chip cookies, peepers, BLTs at The Other Store, owls, giraffes, chocolate mint chip ice cream, rain, singing, theater [to repeat], poetry and all kitties." (cf. her brother George Cleveland)

A celebration of Muzzy's life was held at The Barnstormers Theatre at noon on Sunday, August 29. Her family has suggested donations may be made in Margaret's name to The Barnstormers Theatre, P.O. Box 434, Tamworth, N.H. 03886 or via barnstormerstheatre.org

**Many thanks for helping to make
our creative work possible**

The Haynes Family Foundation

The Tamworth Foundation

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Corner House Restaurant & Bar
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