

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE



ву Wendy MacLeod DIRECTED BY Sean Daniels

JANUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 3, 2019



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Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley
The Haunted Life







Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley The Haunted Life

FROM SEAN DANIELS, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



So last month marked my four year anniversary of being the Artistic Director of Merrimack Repertory Theatre—and our biggest box office hit in the last 40 years, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*.

It was a great moment for reflection.

After spending four years trying to create theatre the world pays attention to (and feeling mildly successful), I can easily

tell you that none of this would be possible without the amazing "Artistic Staff" I have. (Bonnie runs the "Admin Staff," who are the wizards that keep the doors open, and you and your donations coming in. Without whom, there is no Artistic Staff to create work in the first place).

The Artistic Staff are listed in this program—but it's worth reminding you that all the amazing sets, lights, costumes, actors, stage managers, designers, and playwrights—seven shows worth—are all organized, produced and taken care of by: Peter, Lee, Alexis, Carter, Brendan, Ryann, Krista, Jason, Paul and Erin. That's it. It's a short list! It's a bare-bones staff managing a TON of guest artists (with all the "needs" that artists can have!) and doing so in a way that allows us all to put on some of the best theatre in this country.

If you have enjoyed the different type of work we've had over the last four years, if you've enjoyed seeing box office records broken, if you've enjoyed seeing work starting in Lowell and then traveling on to the rest of the country, if you've enjoyed seeing Tony Award winners consider this theatre their home: thank them. Next time you're at the bar, ask if Peter, Lee, Alexis, Carter, Brendan, Ryann, Krista, Jason, Paul or Erin are around, and let them know what the last four years have meant to you. They work long hours at a fast rate to make it all happen. None of the success we are having would be happening without them. At least on the Artistic side.

After four years, I can tell you that for certain.

Thanks for coming to MRT, and thanks for helping us to continue to be a local theatre the world pays attention to.



FROM BONNIE J. BUTKAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We are thrilled to share Wendy MacLeod's new play, *Slow Food*, with all of you; she's brilliant at taking everyday experiences, raising the stakes, and turning it into comedy. *Slow Food* is the beginning of three-show run of world premieres at MRT. We're premiering Lauren Gunderson's *The Heath* next, followed by Jack Kerouac's *The Haunted Life* adapted by our own Sean Daniels.

You are an important part of the creation of three new works for the American theatre right here in Lowell. It's an extraordinary experience—supporting new works that have never before been produced for the stage. There are unexpected challenges, lots of laughs, dozens of new pages for the actors, and audience reactions that inform our revisions during preview performances.

Our new plays would not be ready for full production without multiple readings and workshops. It can (and often does) take years to craft a new script for production. Our playwrights often partner with theatres across the country to refine their work, and MRT partners with multiple colleges, universities, donors, and other theatres to prepare a play for full production. In just the last few months, we partnered with Emory University Playwrights Center in Atlanta, PlayPenn in Philadelphia, UMass Lowell, and Middlesex Community College. We could not produce new plays without these partnerships, and we couldn't do it without you—our audience.

If you're interested in learning more about the process of creating new plays, please check out our Producer's Circle opportunities. For a deeper dive, consider our Cohort Club or become an Honorary Producer. Go to www.mrt.org to learn more!

Lastly, we are already preparing for the 2019-2020 season. Subscriptions for next season go on sale soon, and returning subscribers will have the chance to renew at the deepest discount in February. Save the date for our season announcement on March 5. You're all invited!

Happy New Year,

"A METAPHOR FOR MARRIAGE"

An Interview with Playwright Wendy MacLeod



Playwright Wendy MacLeod is best known as the author of *Women in Jeopardy!* (an MRT audience favorite from the 2016-17 Season) and as a writer for the TV cult sensation "Popular." She has also earned acclaim and awards for the plays *Schoolgirl Figure, The House of Yes, The Water Children,* and *Juvenilia*. The film version of *The House of Yes,* starring Parker Posey, won the Sundance Award and international acclaim. A professor at Kenyon College and Northwestern University, MacLeod regularly writes for *The New York Times, Salon, McSweeney's, The Washington Post,* and "All Things Considered."

What inspired you to write *Slow Food*?

The play was inspired by a family trip to Palm Springs, where we found ourselves waiting endlessly for dinner late at night in a Greek restaurant, trapped there because it was the only restaurant still open. Our waiter was maddening, and yet his need to be king of this very small kingdom was fascinating. I was reminded of how we become our best selves once we've been fed.

Is there a message you hope to impart to audiences?

As far as a "message," I'm with George S. Kaufmann, that "if you want to send a message, call Western Union." A comedy should entertain, and it does that by being recognizable—the audience needs to see themselves in the characters or the situation. I don't pretend that I'm

communicating "important ideas." Rather, I'm creating opportunities for gifted comic actors and allowing an audience to experience the joy of shared laughter.

How would you describe Slow Food?

This play is very much about middle-age and mortality. I call them Woman and Man because the play can't just be about one couple trying to figure out how to be lovers again after being parents for so long. Over the course of a marriage we all can find ourselves careening between being lovers, co-conspirators, parents, friends, rivals, and adversaries. Being trapped in a restaurant, waiting to be fed, is a metaphor for marriage.





Follow the conversations:

#MRTSLOWFOOD

ATHENIAN CORNER SWIFT TO ADOPT SLOW FOOD

Efharistoomay! A million thanks to our longtime friends at Athenian Corner restaurant in downtown Lowell. The Panagiotopoulos family has been operating the beloved restaurant since 1974 and supporting MRT for years. They hosted our cast, director, and photographer, Meghan Moore, for a publicity shoot, and they provide the delicious meal that finally arrives at the end of *Slow Food*. Show them some love when you drop in for sizzling lamb shish-kebob, crispy spanakopita, or the best moussaka on this side of the Atlantic. www.atheniancorner.com



Joel Van Liew, Brian Beacock, and Daina Griffith. Photo by Meghan Moore.



Front: Joel Van Liew and Daina Griffith. Back: Aysha Glenn, Brian Beacock, Thea Karahalios, Stavros Panagiotopoulos, and Sean Daniels. Not pictured: Thea's brother, Ted Panos, a longtime MRT supporter not only via Athenian Corner, but also as the popular morning deejay on WCAP. Photo by Meghan Moore.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE

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COMING NEXT! FEB 13 - MAR 10 HOW CAN WE MAKE THE HEATH PEACE ACROSS **GENERATIONS?** ву Lauren Gunderson DIRECTED BY Sean Daniels The most-produced playwright in America, Lauren Gunderson (Silent Sky) returns to MRT for the fourth time with The Heath. This time, she turns her prodigious storytelling skills on herself. Connecting personal experiences with Shakespeare's writings, she wrestles with how you can make peace with a beloved relative who seems unlike you in every way. This beautiful meditation on her grandfather's life draws on everything from King Lear to the banjo. The Heath is a soul-stirring story of redemption, love, madness, and the science of memory.

SEAN DANIELS
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



BONNIE J. BUTKAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

SLOW FOOD

BY

WENDY MACLEOD*

BRIAN BEACOCK

DAINA MICHELLE GRIFFITH

JOEL VAN LIEW

SCENIC DESIGNER

APOLLO MARK WEAVER

COSTUME DESIGNER

LIGHTING DESIGNER

DEBORAH NEWHALL^

BRIAN J. LILIENTHAL^*

SOUND DESIGNER

DAVID REMEDIOS^*

PRODUCER

PETER CREWE

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER

BECCA FREIFELD

DIRECTED BY **SFAN DANIFIS**

JANUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 3, 2019

40th Anniversary Community Voices Project recorded, edited, and mastered by David Remedios.

Slow Food was developed during a residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's National Playwrights Conference in 2015. Preston Whiteway, Executive Director; Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director.

SEASON SPONSOR



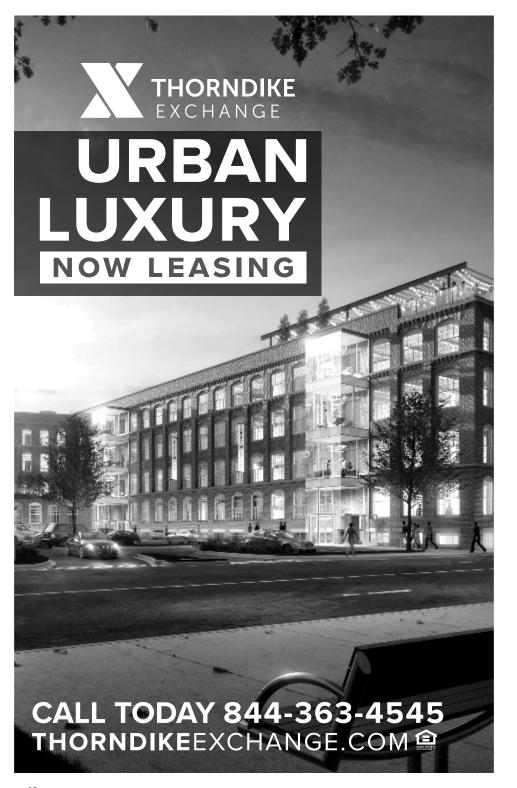
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Merrimack Repertory Theatre is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Merrimack Repertory Theatre operates under agreements between the League of Resident Theatres (LORT), Actors' Equity Association (AEA), Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC), and United Scenic Artists (USA) Local USA-829, IATSE.

The Cohort Club is funded in part by Mass Humanities, which receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and is an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

^Member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829.
*Member of MRT Patriot Program



CAST

In alphabetical order

Waiter (Stephen)	Brian Beacock
Woman (Irene)	Daina Michelle Griffith
Man (Peter)	Joel Van Liew

SPECIAL THANKS

Athenian Corner

TIME AND PLACE

A Greek restaurant, Palm Springs.

Run time is approximately 95 minutes with no intermission.



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



The Director is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union.



The indicated Costume, Lighting, and Sound Designers in this production are represented by United Scenic Artists (USA) Local USA-829, IATSE.



Merrimack Repertory Theatre is a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.



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WHO'S WHO



BRIAN BEACOCK (Waiter - Stephen) Brian is an actor, writer, producer, VO actor, singer, and musician from the San Francisco Bay Area. After completing the National Tour of Les Misérables, he

moved to Los Angeles where he has created a diverse career including numerous cartoon series and video games such as: Digimon, Bleach, Naruto, Sailor Moon, Durarara, Blue Exorcist, Doraemon, and more. Theater **Credits:** the West Coast Premiere of *Elegies*, When Pigs Fly, the insane one-man show Fully Committed, and as a Broadway Axl Rose in Andy Prieboys' cult favorite, White Trash Wins Lotto. Television: Kath & Kim. CSI. General Hospital, Playing it Straight, Passions, Imagination Movers, and NBC's The Rerun Show. Films: Mulholland Drive, Laws of the Universe-Part 1, Buying The Cow, Circuit, To The Beat, Racing Colt, and the upcoming horror feature Hollow Scream. He has been a musical guest on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, and was honored to sing to Betty White on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno. He wrote and created the zombie comedy digital series Acting Dead (currently streaming on Amazon Prime) which won one of the first ever Primetime Emmys in the new short form category. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @brianbeacock.



DAINA MICHELLE
GRIFFITH (Woman - Irene)
Daina is making her Merrimack debut! In 2018, Daina
had the good fortune of
performing in Sean Daniels'
The White Chip at City

Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA. Regional/NYC: The Gateway, Human Race Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Kansas City Starlight, NYC International Fringe, Quantum Theatre, heXtc (Theatre Row), among others. Film/ Television: Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight Rises (Foley's Wife), Holidaysburg (Angela), Intrusion (waitress), Richard Linklater's upcoming Where'd You Go, Bernadette

(Julie), Unsinkable (Countess of Rothes), "Guiding Light", WGN's "Outsiders" (recurring Season 1, Rikki), "ACTORS ON: Macbeth". Daina was honored to be named Performer of the Year by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette in 2013, and was nominated for The Carol R. Brown Emerging Artist Award in 2015. @dainamgriffith www.dainamichellegriffith.com



JOEL VAN LIEW (Man - Peter) Joel is thrilled to be back at Merrimack after having played Owen in Lila Rose Kaplan's Home of the Brave in 2016. Other regional credits include The 39 Steps

(Geva Theatre, directed by Sean Daniels), The Ver**on Play (ATL Humana Festival), Seven Homeless Mammoths Wander New England (Two River), Pride and Prejudice (ATL), Well (ACT), The Pavilion (City Theatre). NY Theatre: Well (Public), From Up Here (MTC), The Hunt (HB Studio Theatre), Park Slope Minstrel Show by Eleanor Burgess (finalist, Samuel French Play Fest), Permanent Visitor (New Georges), Born of Conviction (White Bird Prods). Film: The Girl in the Book, Crown Heights, Monster. Television: Escape at Dannemora, Billions, Broad City, Blue Bloods, Girls, Boardwalk Empire, Nurse Jackie, Law & Order. Member of the Actors Center.

SEAN DANIELS (Artistic Director, Director) **MRT:** Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, The Villains' Supper Club, Little Orphan Danny, Silent Sky, My 80-Year-Old Boyfriend, Women in Jeopardy!, The Making of a Great Moment, 45 Plays for 45 Presidents, Home of the Brave, Tinker to Evers to Chance, I and You, The Lion. Sean has directed at Manhattan Theatre Club (The Lion, Drama Desk Award & Theatre World Award, nominated for Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle), Lynn Redgrave (NYC), The Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.), St. James (West End, London - The Lion, winner of Best New Musical), Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Portland Center Stage, Geva Theatre, Old Globe, The Geffen, Playmakers

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uml.edu

WHO'S WHO

Rep. A.C.T., Cleveland Play House, Milwaukee Rep, Alliance Theatre, California Shakespeare, Dad's Garage Theatre Company, Swine Palace, Neo-Futurists, Aurora Theatre, Crowded Fire, and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Sean has been named "one of the top 15 up & coming artists in the U.S., whose work will be transforming America's stages for decades to come" and "One Of Seven People Reshaping And Revitalizing The American Musical" by American Theatre magazine. His direction and shows have won "Best Play" and "Best Director" in the Bay Area, Portland, Rochester, and Atlanta. He's previously served as the Artist-At-Large for Geva Theatre Center and spent four years at the Tony Award-winning Actors Theatre of Louisville as the theatre's Associate Artistic Director (where he directed 17 productions including five Humana Festivals). Mr. Daniels is the former Associate Artistic Director/Resident Director of the California Shakespeare Theater and before that spent a decade as the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Dad's Garage Theatre Company in Atlanta. He has developed new work with the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Ars Nova, PlayPenn, Lark, PlayLabs, New York Stage and Film, Asolo Rep, Goodspeed Opera, Weston Playhouse, Bay Area Playwrights, Magic Theatre and was the first American director asked to attend the Baltic American Playwrights Conference in Hiiumaa, Estonia. He'd love to hear from you, on Twitter @seandaniels or email him at sean.daniels@mrt.org.

WENDY MACLEOD (Playwright) Wendy MacLeod's play The House of Yes became a Sundance award-winning Miramax film starring Parker Posey. Women in Jeopardy! premiered at Geva Theater, directed by Sean Daniels, and is now being done around the country. Her other plays include Sin (The Goodman, Second Stage) and Schoolgirl Figure (The Goodman Theatre), The Water Children and Juvenilia (Playwrights Horizons), and Things Being What They Are (Seattle Repertory Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, The Road Theater), and she contributed to Standing on Ceremony, an evening of plays about gay

marriage. She is working on a play called *The Laugh Track* for ACT in Seattle. *Slow Food* was developed at the 2015 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, where it was performed by Reed Birney and Jane Kaczmarek.

APOLLO MARK WEAVER (Scenic Designer) Apollo is a professor of theatrical design at Juniata College. Previously for MRT, he designed The Villains' Supper Club and The Making of a Great Moment. Regional: Henry VI p.1, The Merchant of Venice and The Merry Wives of Windsor for Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Tinker to Evers to Chance and No Child... for Geva Theatre Center. Recent Credits: The Gap, Shitheads, and Moth for Azuka Theatre; The Monster in the Hall for Inis Nua Theatre; and The Brownings and Peaceable Kingdom for Orbiter 3. Visit him on the web at www.apolloweaver.com.

DEBORAH NEWHALL (Costume Designer) MRT: Women in Jeopardy!, The Outgoing Tide, Oceanside, Dusk Rings a Bell, Year Zero, Tally's Folly, Mrs. Mannerly, Red, Beat Generation, Mrs. Whitney, Ghostwriter, The Exceptionals, Four Places, Black Pearl Sings!. Broadway: Radio City Rockettes. Off-Broadway: Love Song (Director John Kolvenbach, 59e59 St. Theater); The Ruby Sunrise (Director Oscar Eustis, Public Theater, Lucille Lortel Nomination). Regional: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Trinity Rep, Studio Arena Theatre, Goodspeed Opera House, Opera Providence, New Rep. Opera: Tosca (Boston Lyric Opera), Werther (Director Crystal Manich, Boston Lyric Opera and Opera Omaha). Film: Honest Thief (with Liam Neeson), The Possession of Hannah Grace, (with Shay Mitchell, director Diederik Van Rooijen, Sony/Screen Gems), The Haunted (Amblin Production), Liberal Arts (with Elizabeth Olsen, Zac Efron, Richard Jenkins, Allison Janney, Director Josh Radnor); Back Mask (Director Marcus Nispel); Valediction (with Ben Barnes); Madso's War, 4 Single Fathers, Hachiko (with Richard Gere, Joan Allen, director Lasse Hallstrom); Monument Avenue (with Denis Leary); American Buffalo (with Dustin Hoffman.) Television: American

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WHO'S WHO

Experience ("The Abolitionists"); Brotherhood, Season 1, Showtime; ZOOM, 6 seasons, 2 Emmy Nominations; Antiques Roadshow, 2 Seasons. Education: BFA, Rhode Island School of Design; MFA, UNC Chapel Hill. Other: This is her 28th production at MRT.

BRIAN J. LILIENTHAL (Lighting Designer) MRT: 26 productions including: Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Women in Jeopardy!, The Making of a Great Moment, The Realness: a breakbeat play, 45 Plays for 45 Presidents, Going to See the Kid. Regional: Over 250 productions at: Huntington Theatre; Arizona Theatre Co; Milwaukee Rep; Cleveland Playhouse; Pasadena Playhouse; South Coast Rep; Actors Theatre of Louisville (60 productions; 20 world premieres); Geva Theatre Center; The Kennedy Center; Gloucester Stage; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Arden Theatre; Trinity Rep (over 25 productions); Playmakers Rep. Opera: Long Beach Opera; Bard Summerscape; and Portland Opera Repertory Theatre. Awards: Los Angeles Ovation Award for lighting design; MRT's Artistic Achievement Award, 2016; nominated multiple times for Boston's IRNE Award. Education: MFA: California Institute of the Arts. Other: Teaches lighting design at Tufts University; member of Patriots Program at MRT; Resident Lighting Designer, National Playwrights Conference, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center 2007-2015. Mr. Lilienthal lives in Somerville with wife, Emily, daughter Eliza, and dog Babe. He plays drums in a rockabilly/ jump blues band that plays throughout the Boston metro area, www.BrianJLilienthal.com.

DAVID REMEDIOS (Sound Designer) MRT: Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley; Murder for Two; The Villains' Supper Club; KNYUM; The Royale; Women in Jeopardy! (Onstage Theatre Award); The Making of a Great Moment; Abigail/1702; Home of the Brave; I and You; Out of the City; Oceanside; The Best Brothers; Year Zero (original music and sound); Two Jews Walk into a War; The Blonde, the Brunette, and the Vengeful Redhead. Recent: Berta, Berta; A Late Morning (in America) with Ronald Reagan, Contemporary American

Theater Festival; Old Money, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company; The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (IRNE Award), SpeakEasy Stage Company. Regional: American Repertory Theatre; Huntington Theatre Company; Portland Stage; Trinity Rep; Geva Theatre Center; The Studio Theatre; 59E59; Theatre for a New Audience; La Jolla Playhouse; Berkeley Rep; Center Stage Baltimore; Cincinnati Playhouse. International: Prominent arts festivals in Bogotá, Paris, Hong Kong and Edinburgh. Awards: IRNE, Connecticut Critics Circle, Elliot Norton. David is Program Head of Sound Design at Boston University, a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829, and is a founding member of MRT's Artistic Patriot Program. remediossound.com

BECCA FREIFELD (Production Stage Manager) Becca is thrilled to return to Merrimack Repertory Theatre after working as a stage and company management intern during MRT's 2010-2011 season. Area stage management credits include Straight White Men, Two Jews Walk into a War, Man of La Mancha, Oleanna, Thurgood (original run & on tour), Fiddler on the Roof, and Good (New Repertory Theatre); Dancing at Lughnasa (Gloucester Stage Co.); Every Brilliant Thing (SpeakEasy Stage Company); Barbecue (Lyric Stage Company of Boston); Shoes On, Shoes Off (Brandeis Department of Theater Arts); Romeo & Juliet and Evil Dead: the Musical (Arts After Hours), among others. Up next, Ms. Freifeld returns to New Rep for the New England premiere of Cardboard Piano in the spring.

PETER CREWE (Producer) MRT: Producer: Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, Murder for Two, Native Gardens, The Villains' Supper Club, Little Orphan Danny, Lost Laughs: The Slapstick Tragedy of Fatty Arbuckle, KNYUM, A Christmas Carol, The Royale, Going to See the Kid, Abigail/1702, 45 Plays for 45 Presidents, Home of the Brave, Tinker to Evers to Chance, It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. Stage Manager: The Outgoing Tide. Assistant Stage Manager: Out of the City, Oceanside, The Best Brothers, 13 Things



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HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL・FALAMOS PORTUGUÊS・ 特等的

WHO'S WHO

About Ed Carpolotti, Dusk Rings a Bell, Equally Divided, The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith, Stella and Lou, Proof, Red, Half'n Half'n Half, Mrs. Whitney, The Voice of the Turtle, Two Jews Walk Into a War..., The Exceptionals, Tryst, Four Places, The Last Days of Mickey & Jean, Black Pearl Sings!, Fabuloso, The Seafarer, Bad Dates, Tranced, The Fantasticks, A View of the Harbor (workshop), Stage Management Intern (2004). Regional: Company Manager, Studio Arena Theatre; Production Assistant, Studio Arena Theatre; Assistant Stage Manager, Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Seaside Music Theatre; Assistant Stage Manager, Lucie de Lammermoor, Boston Lyric Opera; Stage Management Intern, Trinity Repertory Company. Education: BFA, Salem State College in 2004.

BONNIE J. BUTKAS (Executive Director) Bonnie most recently served as the Senior Director of Foundation Relations at Rochester Institute of Technology, where she led the university's strategic efforts to secure funding from private and family foundations. During her tenure, RIT secured its first significant gifts from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Henry Luce Foundation. Prior to RIT, she was the Director of Development at Geva Theatre Center in Rochester, NY overseeing five years of unprecedented growth in the company's contributed income and playing a key role in a successful \$10 million capital campaign to renovate the building and grow the theatre's endowment. In New York City, she served as the Director of External Relations at the York Theatre Company, the Director of Development and Communications at TADA! Youth Theatre. Directing Assistant on The Lion King on Broadway, and the co-founder of Lexington Dance Collective. Prior to NYC, she was the Managing Director of Bristol Valley Theater in Naples, NY. Butkas was raised in the

Finger Lakes region of Western New York and holds degrees in Journalism and Dance from the University at Buffalo. She volunteered with the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Genesee Valley, Girl Scouts of Western New York, and the YWCA of Rochester & Monroe County. In Fall 2016, she co-founded Action Together Rochester. She serves on the MCC's Academic Arts Center Advisory Board, and lives in Westford, MA with her family.

MERRIMACK REPERTORY THEATRE

(MRT) celebrates 40 years this season as the Merrimack Valley's professional theatre. With a steadfast commitment to contemporary voices and new plays, MRT produces seven works, including several world premieres, each season. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Sean Daniels and Executive Director Bonnie J. Butkas, MRT strives to fulfill its mission "to share theatrical stories of human understanding that reflect and engage our community." The company guarantees that shows are accessible to audiences of all incomes; partners with businesses and non-profit groups to fully engage the community; and contributes to the economic vitality of Lowell by attracting diverse audiences from throughout the region.



Joel Van Liew, Brian Beacock, and Daina Griffith at Athenian Corner restaurant. Photo by Meghan Moore

40 YEARS OF COMEDIES!

In honor of our 40th Anniversary Season, we celebrate our history of comedies, including *Women in Jeopardy!* by *Slow Food* writer Wendy MacLeod, as well as *God of Carnage*, Reduced Shakespeare Company's *The Ultimate Christmas Show*, and the world premieres of *Home of the Brave* and *Going to See the Kid*.













Photos by Meghan Moore.

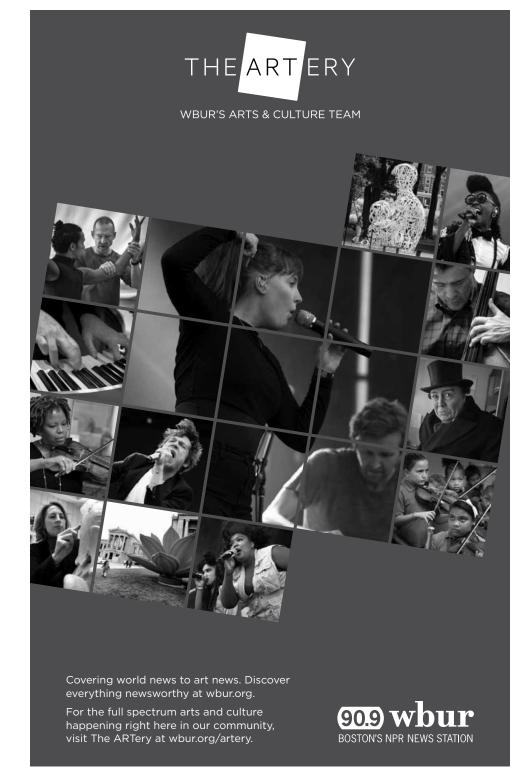
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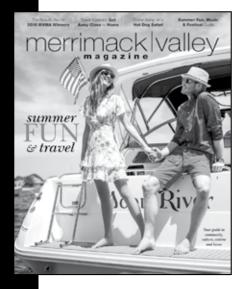
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Donna and Peter Richards



Concert Schedule for 2018/2019

WINTER CONCERT:

The Killer B's: Classical and Contemporary Composers Whose Last Name Begins with "B" January 26 at 7:30 PM United Methodist Church, Westford

January 27 at 3:00 PM All Saints Episcopal Church, Chelmsford

SPRING CONCERT:

The Seven C's: Classical and Contemporary Composers Whose Last Name Begins with "C" May 4 at 7:30 PM, United Methodist Church, Westford

May 5 at 3:00 PM, Trinity Lutheran Church, Chelmsford

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MRT SHATTERS TWO RECORDS







Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley pictures: 1. Amanda Collins and Vichet Chum. 2. Victoria Grace, Katie Grindeland, Amanda Collins, and Alexis Bronkovic. 3. Katie Grindeland, Veronika Duerr, Vichet Chum, Alexis Bronkovic, Jesse Hinson, Victoria Grace, and Shawn K. Jain. Photos by Meghan Moore.

BOTH CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY AND THE HOLIDAY RAFFLE MAKE HISTORY

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley bestowed its own gift on Merrimack Repertory Theatre December 13 when it became the best-selling show in the company's history, just seven weeks after the theatre celebrated its 40th birthday.

And at the close of *Miss Bennet* . . . , the annual Holiday Raffle also become a historical best-seller. "To everyone who donated incredible items, solicited local businesses for donations, sold tickets to your family and coworkers, hustled for lobby sales, and bought multiple books of tickets yourselves, thank you!," Jill Meredith Vinci, Development Manager.

Congratulations to Debbie Henderson (pictured below) of West Boylston and Jean McGillick (camera shy) of Chelmsford, the winners of the two raffle baskets, each worth more than \$2,500. The proceeds benefit the programs and productions of MRT, a not-for-profit arts and education organization and the Merrimack Valley's only professional theatre.





TOP 15
BESTSELLING SHOWS
IN MRT HISTORY

2018-19 Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

2004-05 Reduced Shakespeare Company's The Complete History of America

2007-08 2 Pianos 4 Hands

2017-18 A Christmas Carol

2011-12 Reduced Shakespeare Company's The Ultimate Christmas Show (abridged)

1997-98 Over the Tavern

2008-09 The Fantasticks

2006-07 Dinah Was

2006-07 Reduced Shakespeare Company's Completely Hollywood (abridged)

2011-12 Daddy Long Legs

2015-16 The Lion

1998-99 A Midsummer Night's Dream

2015-16 It's a Wonderful Life: A Life Radio Play

2002-03 Sanders Family Christmas

1996-97 A Christmas Carol







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If you have already made MRT part of your estate plans, we invite you to join the Living Legacy Society. Thank you.

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- Invitation to select opening night performances and parties
- · Reserved parking (as available)

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- Invitation to all Insider Look events

PRODUCERS CIRCLE SILVER (\$5,000-9,999)

All of the benefits at the Bronze level plus:

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- Opportunity to be an Honorary Producer on a production with access to all facets of the producing process

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- Private backstage tour with opportunities to meet the artistic and production staff

PRODUCERS CIRCLE PLATINUM (\$25,000+)

All of the benefits at the Gold level plus:

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13. WARP ANDWEFT

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Most of downtown Lowell's great restaurants are a five-minute walk from MRT, so you only need to park once for dinner and a show. See page 50 for more information on parking locations and rates.

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Please celebrate our local community partners, who support and enrich our productions. Thank you to each of them.

Mill City Grows - Native Gardens

The Jane Austen Society of North America/ Massachusetts Region – Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

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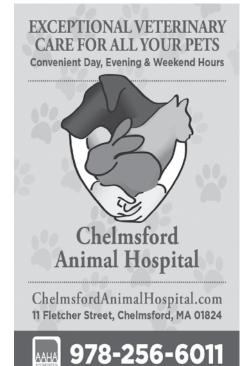
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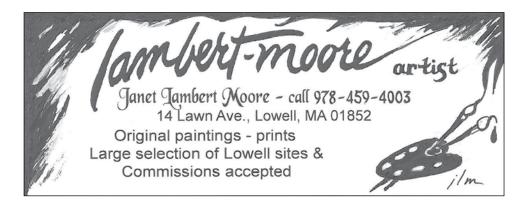
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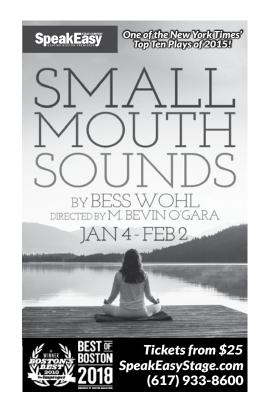


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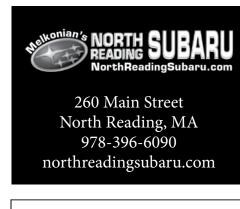
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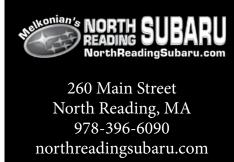
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

If you have any problems during a performance, please ask one of our volunteer ushers to locate the House Manager.

ACCESSIBILITY oc tedf & 9

Open Captioning

Thanks in part to a grant and guidance from Theatre Development Fund (TDF), we will offer an open captioning performance during a Sunday matinee for all shows. Open captioning uses a text screen on the side of the stage to display simultaneous transcription of dialogue and lyrics during a live performance. When booking your seats, mention your interest in open captioning in order to secure the most advantageous view. Visit www.mrt.org for dates.

Listening Devices

Please reserve our free listening devices through the box office when you make your reservation.

Wheelchair Seating

Wheelchair space is available by notifying the Box Office when purchasing tickets. A ramp is located to the left of MRT's main entrance.

RESTROOMS/LATECOMER POLICIES

Restrooms are located in Lowell Memorial Auditorium (LMA). Follow the signs down the hallway on the left side of the theatre. Please do not go past any barriers in the LMA hallways or an alarm will sound. If at any time you leave your seat during the performance, the House Manager will seat you in the rear balcony when you return.

No one will be admitted once the performance begins. The House Manager will seat you in the rear balcony until intermission, at which time you may take your ticketed seat.

EMERGENCY CALLS

If you expect an emergency call during a performance, please leave your name and seat location with the House Manager. MRT's emergency phone number is 978-654-4678, press 9.

FIRE REGULATION

Please take a moment to locate the nearest emergency exit. If the fire alarm sounds, please remain in your seat until the House Manager directs you to the nearest exit. Do not run. Exit the theatre in a calm and orderly manner.

BAD WEATHER POLICY

MRT does not cancel performances due to bad weather except in the event of highway closure by the State

Police. If you are concerned about driving in poor weather, contact the Enterprise Bank Box Office.

COURTESY/CONCESSIONS

Please silence your cell phones, beeping watches and electronic devices when entering the theatre. Please do not text during the performance.

Refreshments are available before performances and during intermission. Food is not allowed in the theatre. Intermission beverages may be pre-purchased at the concession stand. If you bring a beverage into the theatre, please carry out the trash when you leave. Please refrain from unwrapping cellophane wrappers during the performance. For the comfort of all patrons, please avoid wearing strong perfumes, colognes, and hairsprays.

RECORDING/PHOTOGRAPH REGULATIONS

The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited during the performance. EXCEPTION: You may take photos of the set before the show. If you post photos on social media, please acknowledge the designers.

PARKING

• Davidson Lot: 1-199 Davidson St. Lowell

Free parking for Subscribers and Producers Circle members only.

• Church Lot: 144 East Merrimack St. Lowell

The Immaculate Conception Church generously offers parking for free to MRT patrons when not in use by Lowell Memorial Auditorium (LMA). When in use by LMA, you must pay a fee to park. Visit lowellauditorium. com for LMA's schedule.

• Garage Parking

Garage parking is available for \$5 with validation provided at MRT Concession Stand at:

- Lower Locks Parking Garage: 90 Warren St. Lowell
- John St. Parking Garage: 75 John St. Lowell

• Street Parking

Street parking for evening and weekend performances is available first-come, first-served. MRT is not responsible for parking tickets or tows.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

GROUPS & DISCOUNT

Discounts may not be used in combination.

- Students: \$15 any performance.
- **Groups:** Discounts are available for groups of six or more. For more information, call 978-654-7561.
- Lowell Night: Second Thursday night performance of each run for Lowell residents. Restricted seating. Purchase in person, \$10 each (cash only), at the Box Office three hours prior to curtain. Must show ID. Limit two per person.
- Military: MRT is a proud member of the Blue Star Theatre program and offers all active duty, veteran, or retired military personnel \$10 off on up to four tickets per production. Use the code MIL when ordering online or call 978-654-4678. MRT also offers 50% tickets for military personnel for our special Military Day performance of each show 4 pm of the second Saturday performance.
- Educators: Take 50% off up to four tickets for Educators Day the 4 pm performance of the second Saturday of each show.
- \$5 First Preview Night: Wednesday evening preview. Restricted seating. Purchase in person (cash only) at the Box Office three hours prior to curtain. Limit two per person.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Enterprise Bank Box Office/ Nancy L. Donahue Theatre

50 East Merrimack Street Lowell, MA 01852-1205 Phone: 978-654-4678, press 1

Phone: 9/8-654-46/8, press 1

Fax: 978-654-7575 Email: box_office@mrt.org

Enterprise Bank Box Office Hours

Tuesday – Saturday: 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm *Open through curtain on performance nights*. Sunday: 12:00 pm through curtain on

performance nights.

Closed on non-performance nights.

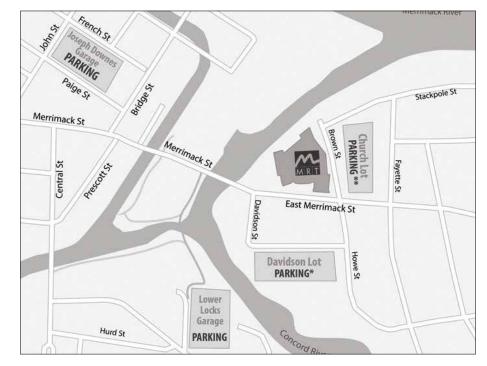
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