

# Laurel Mill Playhouse

Presents



By Ron Hutchinson

Directed by Ilene Chalmers

Assistant Directed by Ronald Araújo

Produced by Maureen Rogers

February 21 - March 15, 2020

Presented by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Publishing  
Company

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

What better way to start out a new decade, directing a play about the most iconic movie Hollywood has ever made?

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of reviewing a play for DC Metro Theater Arts called *Moonlight & Magnolias* at a community theatre in Baltimore. At the time, I had never heard of this play, but was intrigued with what the play was about. I instantly fell in love with this incredibly hilarious and thought-provoking piece of theatre. I knew that one day I wanted to direct this play, so I placed it high on my theatre bucket list. When the play I was to direct for Laurel Mill Playhouse fell through, I was asked to come up with alternative play in its place. Here was my opportunity to finally get to direct my bucket list favorite. Hence, this is where *Moonlight & Magnolias* became a reality for me.

While putting this play together, I was blessed with an amazing and ultra-talented group of actors. This enthusiastic group is what makes this show work so very well. It's all about the physical comedy. Physical comedy, like any other theatrical art form, requires a certain nuance and experience with this type of comedy. All four of my actors are experts at this art. Watching them is inspiring and exhausting at the same time. I love how they would bob and weave through each act and scene at rehearsals. They make it look so easy, which I know it's not. I guess this is where I get to thank Thom, Fred, Gene and Stephanie for their hard work, enthusiasm and brilliance. I feel so very blessed to call you all my friends and colleagues.

Again, it doesn't stop there. I also have an incredibly talented group of creatives who have made this show so very visually and auditorily appealing to the eye and ear. Every one of my team has put in 100% of their time and energy to make this show perfect for our audiences. I am forever beholden to all of you. Thanks Lori, Ronnie, Sascha, Tom, Fred and my sweet husband David for all the blood, sweat and tears. I also want to thank Maureen Rogers for whom this never would have happened without your encouragement to pick another play.

To my audience, I hope you enjoy this little piece of history on the making of the screenplay for "Gone with the Wind." As Victor Fleming says in Act 1, I hope you enjoy an evening that is "Epic as all shit."

Ilene Chalmers

## **PLACE**

A Hollywood studio lot, office of legendary producer David O. Selznick

## **TIME**

1939

## **CAST**

**(In Order of Appearance)**

**David O. Selznick.....Thom Sinn**

**Ben Hecht.....Gene Valendo**

**Victor Fleming.....Fred Nelson**

**Miss Poppengul.....Stephanie Ichniowski**

## **CREW**

**Producer - Maureen Rogers**

**Director – Ilene Chalmers**

**Assistant Director – Ronald Araújo**

**Stage Manager – Lori Bruun**

**Set/Scenic Design – Sascha Nelson, Ilene Chalmers**

**Costume Design – Sascha Nelson**

**Makeup/Hair – Sascha Nelson**

**Light Design – Ilene Chalmers**

**Sound Design – Fred Nelson**

**Props – Ilene Chalmers, Sascha Nelson**

**Fight Choreography – Thomas Plott**

**Fight Captain – Stephanie Ichniowski**

**Master Carpenter – David Chalmers**

**Set Construction – David Chalmers, Gene Valendo, Ronald Araujo**

**Set Painting – Sascha Nelson, David Chalmers, Cast and Crew**

**Set Decoration – Sascha Nelson**

**Headshots/Production Photographer – John Cholod**

**Marketing – Maureen Rogers**

**Lord of Programs – Gary Eurice**

**Box Office – LMP Volunteers**

**Concessions – Larry & Diana Simmons**

**Website – John Cholod**

**Online Ticketing – Michael Hartsfield**

## CAST and CREW BIOGRAPHIES

**Ronald Araújo (Assistant Director; Voices of Leland Hayward, Nunnally Johnson and Security Chief)** is thrilled to be returning to the Laurel Mill Playhouse! A relative newcomer to theater, Ron first hit the stage in 2014 as A Passer-By, a.k.a. “Mr. Big” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Star production of *Funny Money*. Later, he played Pedro, the muleteer in the Laurel Mill Playhouse production of *Man of La Mancha*. He returned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Star to play the Police Officer in *Mary Poppins*. He then went on to play The Announcer, Mr. Sawyer, Assistant D.A Mara, and Louie in the Sandy Springs Theater Group radio play production of *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*. Ron played the mercenary grave-digger and murderous comic relief Hans Metz in the Bowie Community Theater production of *Frankenstein*. He played the creepy and hilarious French-fry-fetishizing Juror N° 9 in Laurel Mill’s *12 Incompetent Jurors*, then followed by playing the avuncular Poole in *Jekyll and Hyde*. He then turned to being the Assistant Director in Bowie Community Theater’s production of *Last Night of Ballyhoo!* Ron wishes to thank his wife Nan for encouraging him to pursue those opportunities, which have certainly enriched his life.

**Lori Bruun (Stage Manager)** is thrilled to be stage managing a show for this wonderfully talented director, having served in the same role at LMP for *I Hate Hamlet*, *Inspector Calls*, and *12 Incompetent Jurors*. Lori has also directed two one acts and assistant directed, most recently *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem*. She can be tempted on stage, most recently as part of the ensemble in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Thanks to my wonderful husband for tolerating my theater habit and all the “banana peels.”

**Ilene Chalmers (Director)** Ilene is delighted to be back at Laurel Mill Playhouse for her 4<sup>th</sup> time in the position of director. Most recently, Ilene directed *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* at the Bowie Playhouse for Bowie Community Theatre this past fall. The summer of 2018 Ilene was one of three female directors for BCT's "Year of the Woman" where she directed *Becky's New Car* which garnered two W.A.T.C.H. Award nominations. Ilene was seen in *Jekyll & Hyde* the Musical this past April in the role of Lady Savage and directed *12 Incompetent Jurors* at Laurel Mill Playhouse where she also directed *An Inspector Calls* in 2017 and *I Hate Hamlet* in 2016. Ilene holds a degree in Theater from the University of Maryland, College Park and has over 50 years of experience in acting, directing and teaching. Ilene's acting credentials include Mrs. Morehead in *The Women* and Madge Geisel in *The Game's Afoot* at Spotlighters Theatre in Baltimore. She's also been seen as Aunt Tilly in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Mrs. Boyle in *Prelude to a Kiss* and multiple roles in *Love, Loss and What I Wore* at HCC Arts Collective in Columbia, MD, Dorie in *Ferris Wheel*, Soupy Sue in *Urinetown the Musical* and the Prosecuting Attorney in *The Exonerated* while living in Connecticut, just to name a few. Ilene has also been a staff writer for DC Metro Theater Arts. Ilene would like to thank her incredibly talented group of actors and creatives who made this such an amazing journey. She would also like to thank Maureen Rogers for indulging Ilene to direct this wonderful play, and David her husband for his constant love, talent and support. I feel exceedingly blessed to have you in my life.

**David Chalmers (Set Construction, Voice of Martin Quigley)** is picking up his hammer and paint brush at LMP for the 4<sup>th</sup> time, having previously built the sets of *I Hate Hamlet*, *An Inspector Calls*, and *Twelve Incompetent Jurors*. You might call it a labor of love, as his wife, Ilene Chalmers, directed all 4 productions.

**Stephanie Ichniowski (Miss Poppengul/Fight Captain)** is over the moon to be back at LMP. She recently appeared here onstage in *12 Incompetent Jurors* as the Foreman. Stephanie holds a BFA in Drama with a minor in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Studies from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she trained at the Stella Adler Studio of Acting. She currently works as a paraeducator in Montgomery County Public Schools while also pursuing a Master's degree in Theatre Education from Catholic University of America. She is also a member of the acting company at the Maryland Renaissance Festival (recipient of Best Theater for 2019 BroadwayWorld Baltimore Awards), where she most recently appeared on the street as Mistress Nell Quickly, proprietress of the Boar's Head Tavern. Select credits include *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad), *Singin' in the Rain* (Kathy Selden), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tzeitel), MDRF's Company of Women's *Julius Caesar* (Soothsayer/Octavius- recipient of Best Acting Ensemble for 2019 BroadwayWorld Baltimore Awards). She would like to thank Ilene for this wonderful opportunity, Tom for trusting and guiding her through her first experience as a Fight Captain, Lori and Ron for all of their hard work and pencils borrowed, Sascha for her fabulous costumes and props, the cast for being the knuckleheads that they are, Pokémon Go (because), grilled cheese for existing, and her coworkers, family, and friends for their endless kindness and support. Extra love and hugs to Marshall- "More than yesterday, less than tomorrow."

**Fred Nelson (Victor Fleming)** Fred is the veteran of countless theatre productions on both sides of the world. He's been nominated for numerous WATCH Awards, winning Best Leading Actor in a Musical twice - in 2016 for *Man of La Mancha* and in 2013 for *Fiddler on the Roof*. Fred plays King Henry VIII at the Maryland Renaissance Festival in Crownsville this fall, a role he's played annually since 2002. He's delighted to be sharing

the stage here at Laurel Mill with a cast made up entirely of his fellow RenFest actors. During the day, Fred is a television producer for a government agency. He lives in Glen Burnie with his wife Sascha and stepson Trent. He excels at referring to himself in the third person when writing theatre bios.

**Tom Plott (Fight Choreographer)** Tom has works as George Washington's Doctor at Mount Vernon and as the Sherriff and the Hermit at the Maryland renaissance festival. He is also a trained Fight Choreographer with the American Academy of Stage and Screen Combat Chorographers. He has worked with various companies in the U.S and Canada. He is now the Director of the Fight Corps at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. He also writes and directs the Fightasia shows for the festival. Tom thanks his wife for putting up with him! And remember it doesn't cost anything to be Kind. So There.

**Maureen Rogers (Producer)** is the Artistic Director/Public Liaison at LMP. She also has appeared on stage with Merely Players, GAC, RLT, Pasadena Theater Company, and Laurel Community Theater. Recently you may have seen her in *Auntie Mame* as Vera, *Barefoot in the Park* as Mother, *I Never Sang for My Father* as Margaret, *Dancing at Lughnasa* as Kate, *Black Coffee* as Aunt Caroline, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* as Mrs. Stanley, and *The Hollow* as Lady Angatell. Some of her favorite roles have been as Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in *The Music Man*, Nurse Ratched in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Marilla in *Anne of Green Gables*, Emma Goldman in *Assassins*, Jessie in *Calendar Girls* and Cora in *The Girls of the Garden Club*. She just completed the role of Mrs. Warwick in *The Unexpected Guest* at LMP. Maureen would like to thank all the cast and crew for all their hard work and dedication.

**Thom Sinn (David O. Selznick)** makes his LMP debut with his second venture into the role of the tightly wound, desperate and dumbfounded David O. Selznick in *Moonlight and Magnolias*. Local theatergoers might recognize Thom from his portrayal of death row inmate John Brennan in *Coyote on a Fence* at the Colonial Players in Annapolis, or the not-so-jolly Bank Chairman in 2<sup>nd</sup> Star Theater's production of the musical *Mary Poppins*. Other favorite theater credits include the recently completed role of Tilden in Sam Shepherd's *Buried Child* (Theatrical Mining Company); John Barrymore in *I Hate Hamlet* (Spotlighter's); Valentine "Wall" Hatfield in *Sally McCoy* (Cohesion Theatre); Jerry in *Betrayal* (Fells Point Corner Theatre); Robert in *Proof* (Tidewater Theatre). Thom has enjoyed two seasons at the Maryland Renaissance Festival as a member of His Majesty's Court portraying Sir Thomas Howard, the Duke of Norfolk. "Many thanks for coming and remember.....bananas are brain food."

**Gene Valendo (Ben Hecht)** is very pleased to be appearing in this, his fourth production at Laurel Mill Playhouse, where he previously played Anthony Kirby, Sr. in *You Can't Take It With You*, Dr. William Chumley in *Harvey*, and Sir Joseph Porter in *HMS Pinafore*. Other favorite roles include Major Quimby in *Bloody Murder*, Dr. Hubert Bonney (WATCH Award nominee for Outstanding Featured Actor in a play) in *It Runs in the Family*, Henry Perkins in *Funny Money*, Horace Vandergelder in *Hello, Dolly!* (which won the 2014 Ruby Griffith Award for All-around Production Excellence), Juror #8 in *Twelve Angry Men*, and Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol; The Musical*, all with 2<sup>nd</sup> Star Productions. He has also appeared in recent years with the Colonial Players of Annapolis and with Musical Artists Theatre. Gene was on cast at the Maryland Renaissance Festival as Imperial Ambassador Jehan Jonglet (2015 & 2016 seasons) and as Lord Chancellor Cardinal Thomas Wolsey (2017 & 2018 seasons). He won the WATCH Award for Outstanding

Special Effects for *Mary Poppins* (2<sup>nd</sup> Star, 2017) and for *Singin' in the Rain* (2<sup>nd</sup> Star, 2018), and is nominated for that award again this year for 2<sup>nd</sup> Star's recent production of *A Christmas Carol; The Musical*. He wishes to thank Combat Choreographer Tom Plott for making Act 1 Scene 2 of this production such a special experience—performance, after performance, after performance...

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Jim and Sandie Curtis for the use of your pick-up truck.

Cindy Cacaw Anderson and Don Burkett for the use of the wonderful Remington typewriter.

Friends and neighbors who contributed some 200 books that we had to hunt and gather. You all rock!

Rebecca Lawrence for the beautiful shirts that you made for the cast and crew. Also, thanks for the help with the opening night gifts.

**COMING SOON!**

# **Leaves of America**

**Walt Whitman's Stories of the Civil War**

**adapted and performed by Christopher Dwyer**

*I celebrate myself, I sing myself and  
What I assume, you shall assume,  
for every atom belonging to me, as  
good belongs to you.*

*-Song of Myself*

Playing at the: **Laurel Mill Playhouse**

March 20-22

[www.laurelmillplayhouse.org](http://www.laurelmillplayhouse.org)



# **LEAVES OF AMERICA**

**ADAPTED AND PERFORMED BY CHRISTOPHER DWYER**

**PRODUCED BY MAUREEN ROGERS**

**MARCH 20 – 22, 2020**



677 Main St, Laurel, MD 20707  
(301) 953-1943

Monday through Friday 11:00am – 10pm

Saturday 12:00 - 11:00pm \* Sunday 12:00 – 9:00pm

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**Thank you to DCMTA all their staff for their support of Laurel Mill Playhouse!**

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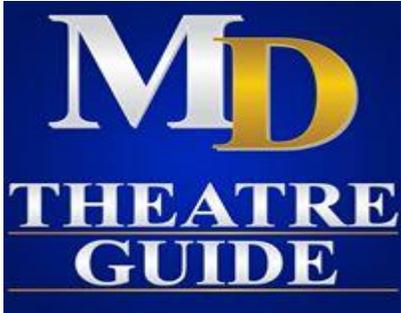
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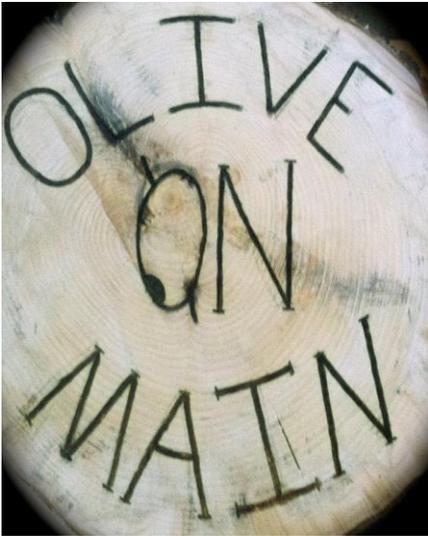
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## **SPECIAL THANKS**

- **The Roberts, without whose support we would never be in this lovely building in historic Laurel, for the wonderful brand new air conditioning system that will cool our lovely casts and patrons.**
- **Marvin Rogers, who gutted a one hundred year old store front, transforming it into a theater for the Laurel Community.**
- **Patrick Ready, who removed old wiring, designed and rewired the building in order to transform it into a working theater.**
- **Michael Hartsfield, who not only directs but consistently demonstrates the true spirit of community theater.**
- **Mary Dodd for her generous donations which enabled us to purchase a new digital piano, refrigerator, wall sconces, paint, and lumber, and her time and effort for our special events.**
- **James Raymond for our beautifully decorated front windows.**
- **John Cholod for website design and maintenance and incredible photography!**
- **To the many volunteers who have contributed so much and made LMP a special place for all!**
- **To our wonderful Board and Corporate Officers that support LMP in so many ways.**
- **Huge thank you to Dwight Sullivan for designing and building our new professional box office!**
- **Thank you to Red, Hot & Blue located at 677 Main St, Laurel, MD 20707, Phone:[\(301\) 953-1943](tel:3019531943) and thank you to our Friends and Neighbors, Olive on Main for their support of LMP! Please visit them!**

## OUR HISTORY

Burtonsville Players Inc., doing business as Laurel Mill Playhouse, is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) status, community theater group. Originally organized thirty five years ago as the Burtonsville Players Inc., Laurel Mill Playhouse recently bought and completely renovated a 100 year old building in the middle of historic Laurel, Maryland. This makes Laurel Mill Playhouse one of the few community theater organizations to own their own facility.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the community with the opportunity to expand the cultural base of the quad-county area. We do this through theater arts, combining music, art, dance, youth, and senior activities. Our group has the determination to provide space and resources to foster a creative environment. Our encouragement of individuals to be challenged by new works and skills will lead to discovery and expansion of creative potential in the community. Our goal is to provide training and initiate outreach opportunities within the counties we serve.

## DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marvin Rogers - President  
Larry Simmons - Vice-President  
Patrick Pase – Treasurer  
Diana Simmons – Secretary  
Michael Hartsfield - Director  
Julie Rogers - Director

### CORPORATE OFFICERS

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A proud member of WATCH AND AACT and Laurel Board of Trade

