

Longwood High School Presents:

Christopher Durang's

# THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE



Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 8:15 pm-9:00 pm

Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 3:15 pm-4:15 pm & 8:15 pm-9:00 pm

Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 3:15 pm-4:15 pm

## Director's Notes

I normally use my director's note to explain the history of the play we are producing and to outline our rehearsal process. This year is a bit different. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we've had to redefine high school theater and it has not been an easy task. Changes to rehearsal format, compartmentalized productions-within-a-production, quarantines, social distancing onstage, masked acting, possible school closures, and virtual auditions add to the usual challenges of putting on a high school drama. I always say I am proud of our cast and crew. They have shown remarkable resilience and enthusiasm under these bizarre circumstances and I cannot begin to describe the swell of pride I feel this year.

Know this: nearly every actor that you see onstage lost their opportunity to perform on a Longwood stage last year. Both the junior high school and high school musicals were canceled within weeks of opening. Each cast had put in endless hours of preparation and rehearsal time. They were nearly ready for an audience and were then denied the opportunity to share their work with friends, loved ones, and their community. Though fully understandable and necessary, my most solemn moment in over a decade of directing was informing the cast of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* that their performances were canceled.

This year's drama is different. Instead of performing one long play with one large cast, we are performing four small plays with four smaller casts. Each one act play is performed masked and follows social distancing guidelines. Below is a small summary of these short plays, each of which is a comedy.

"The Still Alarm" by George S. Kaufman begins as two old friends have finished visiting over lunch. Unfortunately, the hotel they are in catches fire. They continue to go about their business with little urgency, and encounter a rather oblivious bellboy and two highly eccentric firefighters. It is a hysterical look at taking serious situations a bit too lightly.

"That's Not How I Remember It" by Don Zolidis involves two parents telling their son about the day they met. Of course, each parent has a wildly different (and equally ridiculous) tale. From (socially distanced) karate battles to bad '80s hair, overdramatic love triangles, and embarrassing parental moments, we see that memory can certainly divert from reality with the passing of time.

"The Actor's Nightmare" by Christopher Durang finds a clueless accountant in the middle of a shifting theatrical production, fully unaware of any of his lines, the plot, who he's playing, and what is going on. Is he in a romantic comedy, Shakespearian tragedy, a modern play involving garbage cans, or some strange combination of them all?

"Cut" by Ed Monk follows a cast of actors in a play within a play that might just be another play. The character relationships get so complicated and the script so convoluted that many begin to question where reality ends and the play begins. In a production of so many layers, is it even possible for it to end?

I know our production is live streamed this year. This is nowhere near as wonderful as live theater, but at least it's an opportunity for our amazing actors to perform and our stage crew to work their magic. You can also eat popcorn while watching!

So sit back, relax, and laugh with us. Goodness knows we all need it.

David Burt, Director



**LONGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS**

**Christopher Durang's**

**THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE**

*The Actor's Nightmare* By Christopher Durang  
Is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists  
Play Service, Inc., New York

David Burt.....Director  
Cynthia Gerard.....Props & Costume Design  
James Linker.....Stage Crew Advisor  
John J. Gallagher, Ed.D.....Executive Producer

# ***The 2020 One Acts***

## **Cast List**

Hunter Byrne.....Henry Irving  
Samantha Cavorti.....Susan Barstow  
Jacquelyn Conlon.....Dame Ellen Terry  
Morgan Hodgins.....Meg  
Ashton Hololob.....Sarah Siddons  
Angelina Milici.....Mary Anderson  
Kiernan Urso.....George Spelvin  
Jenna VanThomme.....Executioner  
Mr. Jamal Walcott.....The Announcer

## Cast Biographies

**Hunter Byrne (Henry Irving)** is thrilled to be in the high school's fall production of *The Actor's Nightmare*. This is his first stage production at Longwood High School. Hunter has been selected to SCMEA All County and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. He wants to thank his friends and family for their support. Hunter hopes that you enjoy the show.

**Samantha Cavorti (Susan Barstow)** is happy to perform in *The Actor's Nightmare*. She has also appeared in Longwood High School's production of *Romeo & Juliet* (2019). Samantha thanks her supportive parents and friends. She wishes the best of luck to all of her peers in each show.

**Jacquelyn Conlon (Dame Ellen Terry)** is thrilled to be a part of *The Actor's Nightmare*. This is her first stage production at Longwood High School. Jacquelyn has been selected to SCMEA All County, and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She is also a member of Student Government. Jacquelyn wishes to thank her family and close friends for their love and support! She is grateful to be a part of this play with this amazing cast. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she enjoys performing in it.

**Morgan Hodgins (Meg)** is thrilled to be a part of *The Actor's Nightmare*. She also appeared in *Romeo & Juliet* (2019). Morgan wants to acknowledge the love and support of her parents and friends. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Ashton Hololob (Sarah Siddons)** is happy to appear in *The Actor's Nightmare*. She was also a part of the Longwood High School's productions of *Romeo & Juliet* (2019) and *Yip! Yip! Yaphank!* (2018). Ashton has been selected to SCMEA All County and is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. She wishes to acknowledge the love and support of her parents and friends. Ashton is happy that even in such a confusing and dark time something great can be created in the theatre department.

**Angelina Milici (Mary Anderson)** is thrilled to be in this year's production of *The Actor's Nightmare*. She also performed in *Romeo & Juliet* (2019) and *Yip! Yip! Yaphank!* (2018). Angelina has been selected to NYSCAME/SCMEA All County. She is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and Choralions. Angelina acknowledges the love and support of her family and friends. She feels incredibly grateful to have had the chance to perform a play for the last time in high school despite the current challenges.

**Kiernan Urso (George Spelvin)** is thrilled to perform in *The Actor's Nightmare*. This is his first non-musical performance at Longwood High School. Kiernan has been selected to NYSCAME/SCMEA All County and SCMEA All County. He is a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and Choralions. Kiernan wishes to acknowledge the love of his family and friends for supporting him throughout every theatrical endeavor. Although this is one of his last times stepping on the Longwood stage, he will never forget the memories that it holds for him.

**Jenna VanThomme (Executioner)** is thrilled to be a part of this year's production of *The Actor's Nightmare*. This is her first stage production at Longwood High School. She wishes to acknowledge the love and support of her friends and her family.

## **Stage Crew**

Maia Moosmueller, Stage Manager

Aiden Antonelli

Dennis Bannon

Anthony Dimeck

Sofia Fidanza

Giovanni Gotay

Gia Lalone

Nathan Maldonado

Zoe Nicholas

Barry Sherlock

Hailey Simon

## About The Director, Advisors and Producer

**David Burt (Director)** has directed fourteen Longwood High School productions, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Monty Python's SPAMALOT*, and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Mr. Burt also serves as the high school's ninth and tenth Grade Chorus Teacher and is advisor to the Tri-M Music Honor Society. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in Music Education and Vocal Performance from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, and a master's degree from Stony Brook University. Many thanks to our amazing cast and crew of students, the Longwood community for embracing theater arts, and the high school's unparalleled creative team for working wonders! This one's for the Longwood theater students whose productions were canceled last year. The show will go on. Thank you.

**Cynthia Gerard (Props & Costume Coordinator)** is an art teacher at Longwood High School. This is her second play production coordinating costumes and props after last year's *Romeo & Juliet*. She is excited to be a part of the theater productions at Longwood. Ms. Gerard finds it to be extremely rewarding and energizing. "The talent of the students and staff is inspiring and I am just thrilled to contribute to the productions! I learn something from all of them every day."

**James Linker (Stage Crew Adviser)** has been a technology teacher for the Longwood School District for sixteen years. Mr. Linker's Tenure as Stage Crew Adviser includes such credits as *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Bad Auditions by Bad Actors*, *Fools*, *Macbeth*, *Our Town*, *Yip! Yip! Yaphank*, *Damn Yankees*, *Hairspray*, *Cinderella*, *Dirty rotten Scoundrels*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *SPAMALOT*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. He would like to express his gratitude for the opportunity he has had to work with the talented cast and production staff of this year's productions. He wishes the best of luck to all involved.

**John J. Gallagher, Ed.D (Executive Producer)** is the Director of Music & Fine Arts for the Longwood Central School District and is proud to present our students on stage in a virtual format!

During his tenure, he has produced memorable dramatic and comedic productions including *Romeo & Juliet* (2019), Irving Berlin's *Yip Yip! Yaphank!* (2018), *M\*A\*S\*H* (2012), *Get Smart* (2010), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (2009), and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2006).

Longwood's arts education programs are an integral part of the educational process. They bring enormous intrinsic value through the exposure to and cultivation of creativity in students. The National Association for Music Education states, "The arts, with their strong emphasis on team-building and self-reflection are supremely suited to re-ignite students' interest in learning through collaboration, while simultaneously fostering creativity, critical thinking, and communication."

All of the educators involved in this production are proud of the student actors, stage crew and technicians who worked to make this new endeavor possible. Congratulations to director David Burt, set designer James Linker and costumes & props coordinator Cynthia Gerard.

## **Special Thank You To**

Terri Heinrichs-Logistics & Support

Jennifer Stallone-Program Design

Anthony Dimeck-Lighting and Sound

Longwood High School Administration

Longwood High School Custodians

Longwood High School Secretarial Staff

District Technology Office

District Operations & Maintenance Staff

Our Amazing Theater Families

# **Longwood High School Administration**

## **Principal**

Scott Schuster

## **Assistant Principals**

Melissa Conlon

Michael Kapfer

Barbara Merkle

Scott Reese

Alicia Smith

Jamal Walcott

## **Department Chairperson**

Kimberly Burns



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