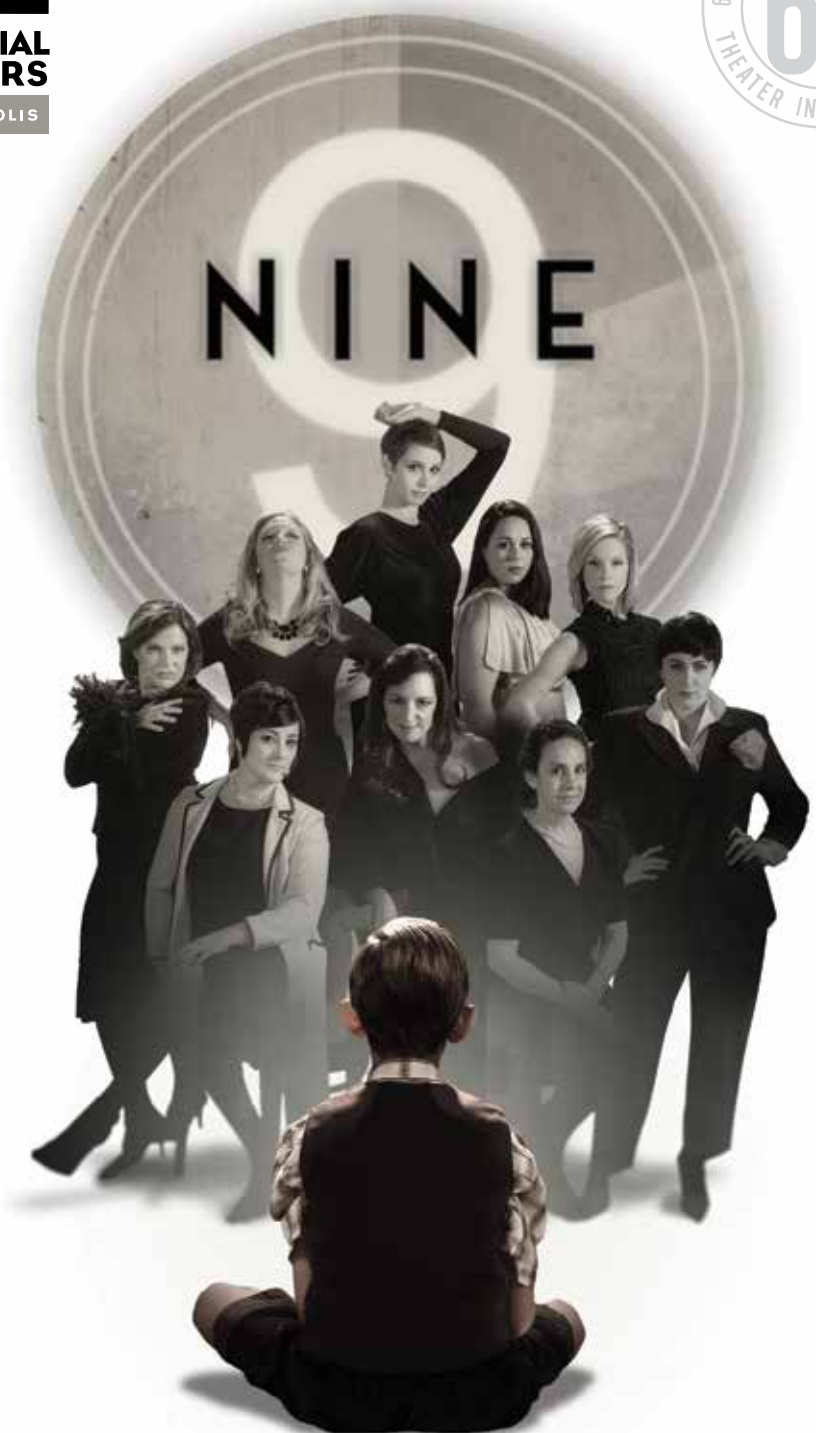


## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director and Choreographer.....Ron Giddings  
 Music Director.....Andrew Gordon  
 Producer.....Judi Wobensmith  
 Stage Manager.....Shirley Panek  
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Nell Codner-Jarashow  
 Lighting Designer.....Frank Florentine  
 Lighting Assistant and Programmer.....Tim Brown  
 Lighting Programmer Adviser.....Wes Bedsworth  
 Lighting Assistants.....Greg Anderson, Wes Bedsworth, Alex Brady,  
 Bernhard Mueller, Mike Pittard, Heather Quinn, Caitlin Weller  
 Sound Designer.....Richard Atha-Nicholls  
 Lighting / Sound Booth Technician.....Caitlin Weller  
 Costume Designer.....Beth Terranova  
 Costume Assistants.....Christina McAlpine, Kaelynn Bedsworth, Jean Berard,  
 Jeannie Christie, Angie Dey, Fran Marchand, Beth Starnes, Meg Venton, Carol Youmans  
 Properties Designer.....JoAnn Gidos  
 Properties Assistants.....Mike Gidos, Charlotte Robinson  
 Lead Carpenter.....Ted Yablonski  
 Carpenters.....Tom Dicken, Norm James, Bob Mumper, Jim Robinson,  
 Grant Thorpe, Dick Whaley  
 Set Decoration and Painting.....Sam Agro, Rebecca Downs, JoAnn Gidos,  
 Ron Giddings, Shirley Panek, Charlotte Robinson, Rhonda Wardlaw, Carol Youmans  
 Hair and Makeup Designers.....Patti Grieb, Beth Starnes  
 Slide Show.....Sam Agro  
 Play Consultant.....Sharie Valerio  
 Assistant to the Director.....Sam Agro  
 Recording and Sound Mixing.....Les Lentz  
 Program Design.....Harlequin Designs  
 Program Cover/ Poster Design.....Drama Queen Graphics  
 Photography.....Colburn Images  
 Program Editor.....Tom Stuckey  
 Program Assistant.....Nancy Long

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ron Giddings Jr. • Walt League • Studio 180 • Rose Vellon



MARCH 31 – APRIL 30, 2017 2016/2017 season



# THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC.

108 East Street • Annapolis, MD 21401

Telephone: 410-268-7373

[thecolonialplayers.org](http://thecolonialplayers.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Corporate Officers:

President ..... Shirley Panek  
Vice President..... Herb Elkin  
Secretary ..... Vacant  
Treasurer ..... Kaelynn Bedsworth

### Directors:

Artistic ..... Mickey Lund  
Education & Special Projects ..... Scott Nichols  
Human Resources..... Fran Marchand  
Marketing ..... Timothy Sayles  
Operations..... Wes Bedsworth  
Production ..... Jean Carroll Christie

## CP SPECIAL EVENTS

Season Sneak Peek  
Summer One Act Festival  
Promising Playwright Contest  
Post Show Talk Back  
Scholarship Award  
Season Celebration  
Beth Whaley Series

For information on these events, contact:  
[info@thecolonialplayers.org](mailto:info@thecolonialplayers.org)

## FRONT OF HOUSE

Box Office ..... Lynda Cunningham  
Subscriptions ..... Lynda Cunningham  
Mary Beth Yablonski  
Ushers..... Jeanie Mincher  
News & Cues Editor ..... Beth Terranova  
Webmasters ..... Wes Bedsworth  
Anne Sharpe

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Happy Spring!*

I wanted to take the opportunity to publicly thank our volunteers. There is a lot involved in producing a show. As audience members, we see the obvious – the actors on stage, the costumes, the lights, set, and props. But I think sometimes we take for granted what goes on behind the scenes and don't realize how many people it takes to bring the production to life.

A show's production staff will include a director, producer, lighting designer, sound designer, set designer, props designer, stage manager – who are all tasked with bringing the director's vision to life with a limited budget. Unfortunately, this isn't Broadway or Hollywood, but it's amazing how creative the designers are with the dollars they can spend.

But beyond the show staff we have our audition staff, costume assistants, box office volunteers, usher staff, lighting gang, construction crew, committee members (Bequest committee, Long-Range Planning, ad-hoc, etc.), publicity and so many more!

We are so fortunate to have our village of volunteers. I am grateful for every one of you. I thank you, and want you to know that without you – the show could not go on.

**- SHIRLEY PANEK**

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON  
WHAT'S GOING ON AT CP.



# TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

*Thank you for your support. Your generous gifts help us to continue to provide educational and training programs, encouragement and entertainment to all who are interested in dramatic arts.*

## LIFE MEMBERS

Fred & Paula Fishback  
Richard Gessner  
& Chris Beaton  
Bill & Peggy Griswold  
Daniel G. Higgs  
Judi Hilton-Hyde  
Frank McLane Hyde  
Ronald Powell  
Dr. & Mrs. James W. Ross  
Col. USMC (Ret.)  
& Mrs. Richard W. Smith  
Allan Starkey  
Mrs. Benjamin B. Wills, Jr.

## PRODUCERS

Bill & Susan Allen  
Col. USA (Ret.) Fred  
& Donna Arquilla  
Wes & Kaelynn Bedsworth  
Tim Brown  
Cardinal Engineering, LLC  
James W. Cheevers  
Mark & Colleen Espinosa  
Ellen & Wes Gardner  
Meg Hosmer  
Gary & Janice Jobson  
Alice Kurs  
Michael & Sage Mumma  
David & Patricia Mutschler  
Eleanor Peretto  
& John McLeod  
Margaret Ann Ross  
Robert Sherer  
Karen M. Whaley  
& Jim Magner  
John & Judith Wobensmith

## DIRECTORS

Don & Lucy Arthur  
Dr. & Mrs. James H. Babcock  
Janet & Nick Berry  
Ed & Carolyn Cohee  
Timothy Dangel  
Fred & Susan Eckert

Lisa & Richard Hillman

Dr. Stephen  
& Christine Killian  
Lynne Malley  
Lois & Noel Milan  
Anne & Manfred Muecke  
Pam & Ted Mussenden  
Sharry & Don Reed  
John & Judy Schuyler  
Grace Shapiro  
Sandra Sundeen  
D. Romaine Towers  
Dr. Stephan  
& Tamara Tymkiw  
Catherine & Dick Whaley  
Virginia & Chris White

## DESIGNERS

Richard & Amy Atha-Nicholls  
Gary Beaver  
Chuck & Mary-Jo Bedsworth  
Mary Evelyn Bell  
Jeannie Christie  
Julia & Don Erickson  
Mal & June Fordham  
Cynthia G. Garn  
Doris Gomoljak  
Frederick & Anne Hallett  
Tylar & Carol Ann Hecht  
Tom Hines  
Betty & Robert Hyers  
Michael J. Keller  
Helen Fisher Leitch  
Joyce C. Miller  
Sandy & Phil Ourisson  
Thea B. Pinskey  
Steve Collins  
Ken & Maureen Reightler  
Justin T. Ritchie  
& Jason Beverley  
Jim & Charlotte Robinson  
Marcia G. Sandground  
Michele & Earl Schaffer  
Pamela Settlage  
Anne Sloan  
Joan & Rolph Townshend

Pat & Stephen Troy  
William & Gazella Weigand  
West River United  
Methodist Center  
Dr. Jim Wise  
Mrs. Gail Wise  
Mary Beth & Ted Yablonski

## SPONSORS

Anonymous  
Art Things, Inc.  
Jim & Judy Barrowman  
Dr. Michael & Ellen Berger  
Jill & Dick Breen  
Bill Brewer & Collot Guerard  
Patrick Brown  
Carol Carman  
Pat & Jim Church  
Judy Crews-Hanks  
Richard Davis  
Robert & Janet Downey  
Carol & Joe Friend  
Frank & Verna Galloway  
Valerie Gutterson  
Alice R. Hall  
Natalie Green & Tim Heiks  
Dr. Ross & Patricia Heisman  
Dianne & Duncan Hood  
Helena & Bill Hunter  
Rebecca Jones  
Bernard & Hannah Kaufman  
David & Katherine Larrabee  
Mrs. Charles R. Larson  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Liddick  
Dan & Nancy Long  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry L. Mortimer  
Edgar & Jeanne Paglee  
Richard & Mary Rea  
Carolyn Rhoads  
John & Constance Robinson  
Helena & Joe Scher  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Scherer  
Ken & Ginger Schroeder  
Joyce & Charles Shue  
Dennis & Maureen Sullivan  
Allan & Carol Sures  
Mary C. Walker  
Carolyn Wells  
Brian & Susan Whaley  
Elizabeth Wilson  
John & Karen Wright

Meredith Allison  
Timm & Kathleen Anderson  
Nancy C. Brosnihan  
Pamela Brune  
Pat & Bill Cameron  
Alice Chambers  
Dianne Crews  
James Dillon  
Allen & Edith Dolgoff  
Susan Elson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gavazzi  
Caroline Gelb  
Mike & JoAnn Gidos  
Elizabeth Hepler  
Karen Hirakawa  
Deborah Hoffman  
Elia & John Howser  
Emily Joyce  
Eugenia Conlin Judge  
Evelyn Killeen  
& Mary O'Connor  
Mary Kenny  
Sally A. Laing  
Lynn Landon  
Jane Lunney  
Susan Millman  
Bill & Priscilla Mitchell  
Shelley Morhaim  
Vesta & Jack Phiel  
Dan & Joan Placido  
Faye & Bernard Rosenberg  
Prasan K. Samal  
Irwin Silber  
Joanne Trepp  
Sharie Lacey Valerio  
Charles Wagner  
Joan & Bill Weingartner  
Carvel & Margaret Wolfe  
Fran & Maureen Wright  
John & Judith Youngblood

*Colonial Players gratefully acknowledges the generous bequest from Roland Riley, a longtime patron whose gift helps ensure the future economic viability of our theater.*

## PATRONS

Barbara E. Aisley

# ★ THE ★ STAFF ★ continued



## **BETH STARNES** (*Hair and Makeup Co-Designer*)

Beth has assisted in countless theater productions and enjoys working behind the scenes. One of her favorite credits is animal costume designer for 2nd Star's *Children of Eden*, which won the 2014 WATCH Award for Best Costume Design in a Musical. In real life, Beth is the librarian for Southern High School, where she is passionate about digital citizenship and teen literacy. This year Beth is proud to be a semi-finalist for AACPS Teacher of the Year and a finalist for the Maryland State Association of School Librarians, Librarian of the Year.

Most importantly, she is mother to three wonderful young adults: Stephanie, Austin, and Daniel (her actor who started all this). Beth would like to thank her co-designer, Patti, as well as her husband, Jeff, for his unwavering support of her theater endeavors.

## **BETH TERRANOVA** (*Costume Designer*)

Beth is still unsure how she ended up as the costume designer for *Nine*, after explaining repeatedly the timing was not good for such a project. And yet... here she is. Beth has just come off designing the Christmas Past sequence for *A Christmas Carol* at Colonial Players and, at Compass Rose Theater, *Eleanor: Her Secret Journey* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Her previous costume designs were seen on the CP stage in *A Few Good Men*, *These Shining Lives*, *Coyote on a Fence*, *Going to St. Ives* (WATCH nomination), *Cinderella Waltz* (WATCH nomination), *Lettice and Lovage*, *The Diviners*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *She Loves Me!*, *Hauptmann*, and *Moon Over Buffalo*. She also designed costumes for *Beyond Therapy* at Bay Theatre. Most recently at CP, Beth produced *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and directed *Sherlock's Last Case*. Other work behind the scenes at CP includes set designer, play consultant, and tech crew. By day, Beth is a Program Analyst for the Navy's Enterprise Business Solutions Program, where her left brain gets a workout. To balance that, she is thankful for the right brain exercise that theater provides.



## **JUDI WOBENSMITH** (*Producer*)

Judi has been involved in over 200 productions in the Annapolis/DC area both on and off the stage. She has produced shows at The Colonial Players, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, and Petrucci's, to name a few. Previous directing credits include: *A Christmas Carol* (four times at CP), *The Music Man*, *Gigi*, *The King and I*, *Carnival*, *Marriages*, *Something's Afoot* (at both Colonial Players and 2nd Star Productions), *The Sunshine Boys*, and *Mrs. California*, among others. She has served three terms on the Board of Directors at CP, Annapolis Summer Garden Theater, and Children's Theatre of Annapolis and has appeared in various TV commercials and documentaries. Judi spends her spare time working at the House of Delegates in Annapolis.



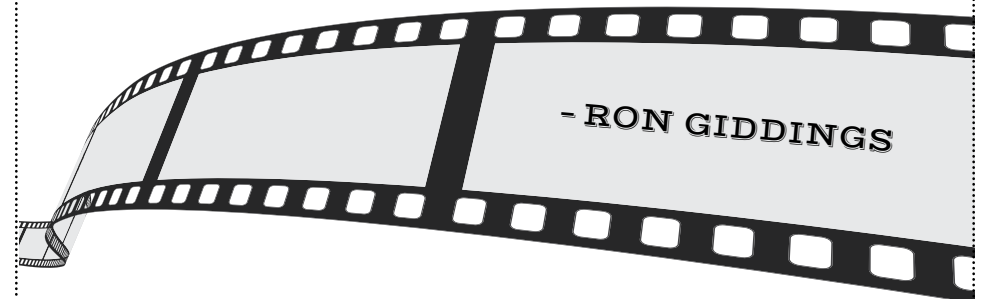
## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**T**o me, *Nine* is about so many things. Certainly, at its core, it is about a man in crisis. Guido is unsure of what will be the inspiration for his next hit film, but this sophisticated musical operates on a variety of levels. As a director, Guido is having an artistic block. He has created a reputation that cannot be sustained...the need to top himself with every film. His adoring fans mob him, crying "genius!" and calling his work "life-changing," but the thing about Guido is that there will never be enough. There can never be enough praise, enough prizes, enough women, enough acclaim.

One of the two most crucial lines in the musical comes from the Greek Chorus character of Our Lady of the Spa. She tells Guido, "you must choose." It is really the central theme of the show for me. There are consequences for every decision. Part of being an adult, "getting tall," is about making choices. This line is echoed at the end when Young Guido sings, "knowing you have no one if you try to have them all." Guido needs these women so desperately because they help him hide. He can choose which aspects of himself he wants to share with each of them, which is far easier than being vulnerable or real with any one of them.

One of the main touchstones for me through the process comes from novelist Olga Grushin. "Geniuses love their own fire, their own brilliance reflected in those around them, and there will always be someone whose mirror is brighter, or else newer and thus more given to reflections, than your own." I shared this quote at the first rehearsal, because it is so important to me that Guido's flitting from woman to woman be about much more than sex. Additionally, there is something scary about the women in this show. They are menacing and intensely aggressive in their desire. They each want Guido for themselves, which of course, can never be.

Two quotes from reviews of *8½*, the film upon which the musical is based, also helped me focus on the themes. "Who will you be at the most crucial moment of your life?" and "As image piles on image and then fantasy becomes indistinguishable from the reality, the viewer may get lost in a maze of dazzling incoherence." Guido's mental breakdown, which allows the audience to view both reality and the world within his head simultaneously, is such an important pillar upon which the musical stands. This is his darkest moment, but also the moment of his greatest inspiration. As audience members, we delight in the fantasy sequences of "Folies" and "Be Italian," huge production numbers, but we cannot forget that the battle for Guido's soul is also taking place before our eyes, and sacrifices must be made.





## About the Director



### RON GIDDINGS

is an award-winning actor, director, and choreographer who received his BA from Loyola College of Maryland in Theatre and Writing and his MA in Arts Administration from Goucher College. As the founding Artistic Director of Standing O Productions and a former Artistic and Education Director of Colonial Players, he has directed *Wonder of the World*, *Moonlight and Magnolias* (WATCH Best Play and Best Director nominations), *Mr. Marmalade*, two 24-Hour Projects, and was awarded the Ruby Griffith Award for Overall Production Excellence in 2007 for his production of *Urinetown; the Musical* at ASGT as well as for Best Achievement of a Play in 2013 for *Shipwrecked!* at Colonial Players. He has acted in the area with Dundalk Community Theatre, Cockpit in Court, Dignity Players, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Moonlight Troupers, 2nd Star, Colonial Players, Phoenix Festival Theatre, the Maryland Arts Festival, and Standing O. He most recently appeared as Edgar/Bat Boy (WATCH award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Musical) in the much-heralded *Bat Boy: The Musical*; as Frank Abagnale, Jr. in *Catch Me If You Can*; and as Nick in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (WATCH award for Outstanding Featured Actor in a Play).

## About the Music Director

### ANDREW GORDON



is honored to have returned to Colonial Players alongside a tremendously talented cast and brilliant production team, having last appeared in 2003's *A Christmas Carol*. An analyst for an IT company by day, he pursued a double major in Mathematics and Piano Performance at New York University, during which he interned with the Broadway revival of *Godspell* and worked as an audition/workshop pianist for the New York productions of *Wicked*, *Newsies*, *Chicago*, and *Porgy and Bess*. As a composer, Andrew has premiered original works at New York City's 54 Below and Washington, D.C.'s Signature Theatre. His credits as a dancer include *West Side Story* at Manhattan's Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, *Can-Can*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Evita*, among others. A recent recipient of WATCH Award nominations for his choreography for *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls* with 2nd Star Productions. Andrew will serve as choreographer for *Mary Poppins* (2nd Star) and *The Full Monty* (ASGT) this season. Sincere thanks and love go out to Jerry, who greets him with nothing but smiles and patience, the incomparable Jeannine Case, who taught him everything he knows about music, and his endlessly supportive family, without whom he would truly be lost. He dedicates this performance to the beautiful memory of his grandparents.



## About Our Next Play

Christopher Durang's Tony Award-winning comedy *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* winds up our 2016-17 season with a four-week run opening May 19. The story revolves around the relationships of three middle-aged single siblings. Vanya and Sonia live in their family home in Pennsylvania and are supported by their actress sister, Masha. Their quiet lives are turned upside down when Masha arrives for a visit, trailed by her much-younger lover, Spike, who is as dim-witted as he is gorgeous. Throw in a soothsayer housekeeper and an aspiring actress, and you have the elements needed for an evening of laughter. Ben Brantley of *The New York Times* described *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* as a gentle, rambling farce and a sunny play about gloomy people. Writing for TheaterMania.com, Catey Sullivan said the laughs in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* are far more overt than in Chekhov, "with Durang unleashing pure zaniness while riffing on Chekhov's melancholic masterpieces."

# THE STAFF



### FRANK FLORENTINE (*Lighting Designer*)

Frank has spent years creating Magic with a Drop of Light! For the last four years, his lighting designs for The Colonial Players have generated outstanding reviews, two Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH) nominations for best lighting design (*Chapter Two* and *Coyote on a Fence*), and two selections for Best Lighting Design for a Musical (*Bat Boy* and *Ernest in Love*) in the WATCH area. Frank created lots of Magical Light for Colonial Players' 2016 production of *A Christmas Carol*. His previous work includes

25 years as lighting designer for the Smithsonian Institution, National Air and Space Museum; show caves throughout the United States; residences; and a 65,000-mile tour with the late Danseur Rudolf Nureyev. His work has achieved numerous professional awards. Frank is a Fellow of the Illuminating Engineering Society and Lighting Certified by the National Council of Qualified Lighting Professionals. He is also a member of United Scenic Artists 829, Lighting Designer. Frank and his wife, Susan Cook (who reluctantly but lovingly becomes a theater widow when he lights a show!!), have lived in the Annapolis area for 27 years.

### JOANN GIDOS (*Properties Designer*)

This is JoAnn's third show of the season following *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *Calendar Girls*. In addition, she supported *Hamlet* and *God of Carnage* at Compass Rose Theater and also worked with Ron Giddings at Severn School. Working with Ron is always fun and a challenge --recall *Shipwrecked*? As always, a special thank you to Mike Gidos and Charlotte Robinson, the latter having stepped in during the final week of rehearsal while we traveled to Arizona for The Final Four.



### PATTI GRIEB (*Hair and Makeup Co-Designer*)

Patti returns to Colonial Players to do hair design for a second show. Earlier this season, she enjoyed helping create Victorian hair designs for the 2016 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Patti has been a member of Colonial Players since 1994. She has appeared in *A Christmas Carol* at Colonial Players 17 times in various roles. Being behind the scenes provided Patti with a new appreciation for theatrical productions. She sends thanks to Beth Starnes for bringing her aboard for the production of *Nine*.

### SHIRLEY PANEK (*Stage Manager*)

Shirley returns as stage manager after handling that duty for Colonial Players for *1776* and *Bat Boy*. She has designed lights for several shows, including *A Few Good Men* and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and is president of CP's Board of Directors. Shirley also has appeared in several CP productions, most recently portraying Margaret in last season's *Good People*. She extends thanks to Ron, the cast, and production staff for a beautiful show. "Special thanks to Nell Codner-Jarashow for stepping in as assistant stage manager. There is no one who is more fun to have backstage. Love to Jeff, Drew, and Emma."



# \* THE \* CAST \* continued



## **JASON VELLON** (*Guido Contini*)

Jason is excited and honored to bring this wonderful musical to life at Colonial Players! You might have seen him in the previous production here as Lawrence and Liam in *Calendar Girls*. Past roles at CP include Goat in *The Robber Bridegroom*. Shep in *Bell, Book and Candle*, and Clifford Glimmer in *Side Man*, which earned him a WATCH award nomination for best lead actor in a play. Jason trained professionally in NYC and attended the American Music Dramatic Academy. He also worked in film, commercials, and print ads and

freelances with numerous model and talent agencies. Locally he has performed at ASGT, Dignity Players, Chesapeake Music Hall, Signature Theater, Theater 11, and Standing O Productions. Jason thanks his director, Ron, for his passion for the piece and his dedication to putting out the best product. Special thanks go out to Judi, Shirley, Beth, and everyone who worked behind the scenes. Jason also thanks his ladies of *Nine* and Jackson, the younger me. "Your individual beauty on stage and off staggers me. Guido is nothing without you all." Finally Jason would like to say a special thank you to his family of friends....all those who stayed by him and all those who defended, protected, and guided him in the last six months. "You all know who you are." Also, a special thank you to his Aunt Rosie, who helped him with his Italian. "You rock!!" Jason dedicates his performance to his family...his whole family. Everyone!! "What can I say. You guys make me strong. Mikey, I'm saving you a front-row seat. Ciao."

## **RHONDA WARDLAW** (*Francesca / Fifth Woman*)

Rhonda's love of song and dance began at a young age when her mom would take her to New York once a year to see a Broadway show. She distinctly remembers the year they went to see *Nine* with Raul Julia as Guido, and says her performance in this show is a "thank you" to her mom for all the years of love and support. She was in the production of *A Christmas Carol* in 2003 and 2005, and is grateful for this tremendous opportunity to be back on the Colonial Players stage after a twelve-year absence. She and her husband Mark are active in a number of Scottish organizations, but since Rhonda started rehearsals, Mark has taken a real interest in the Italians! Her background includes 20+ years in television as a reporter and meteorologist, most recently in San Francisco, Baltimore, and Washington D.C. She currently works in government communications.



## **ROWENA B. WINKLER** (*Annabella / German Reporter / Fourth Woman*)

Rowena is ecstatic to return to the stage after an "almost NINE" year hiatus. During that time, she was busy obtaining her Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Maryland, College Park and keeping her performance energy active through competing with the Ballroom at Maryland team (where she met the majority of her fans – hi BAM!). Her favorite past roles include Little

Sally (*Urinetown*), Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Sr. Mary Amnesia (*Nunsense*), and Cosette (*Les Miserables*). Rowena would like to give a huge thanks to Ron and the entire Colonial Players community for giving her this amazing opportunity (as an alto nonetheless!), her fellow "Nores" for all the laughs and making her feel so welcome at rehearsals, and her husband Derek for supporting her transition back into musical theater and being OK with seeing his wife slut-it-up on stage.

# SCENE & MUSIC SYNOPSIS

## *Act I*

OVERTURE.....Company  
SPA MUSIC.....Our Lady of the Spa and Ensemble  
NOT SINCE CHAPLIN.....Reporters and Company  
GUIDO'S SONG.....Guido and Company  
REPORTERS' RETURN.....Reporters  
MY HUSBAND MAKES MOVIES.....Luisa  
A CALL FROM THE VATICAN.....Carla  
ONLY WITH YOU.....Guido  
THE SCRIPT / FOLIES BERGERES.....Guido, La Fleur, Necrophorus, and Company  
NINE.....Mama Contini and Aunts  
TI VOGLIO BENE / BE ITALIAN.....Sarraghina  
THE BELLS OF ST. SEBASTIAN.....Guido, Young Guido, and Company

## *Act II*

A MAN LIKE YOU / UNUSUAL WAY.....Claudia and Guido  
THE GRAND CANAL.....Guido and Company  
SIMPLE.....Carla  
BE ON YOUR OWN.....Luisa  
I CAN'T MAKE THIS MOVIE.....Guido  
GETTING TALL.....Young Guido  
REPRISES.....Guido, Young Guido, and Company

# \* ORCHESTRA \*

*Trumpet 1, JEREMY MEEKS; Trumpet 2, RANDY MARTELL;*  
*Trombone, TONY SETTINERI; Violin, KEVIN SLOAN; Viola,*  
*DAVID VINSON; Bass, LLOYD MCKINNEY; Harp, HALEY*  
*RHODESIDE; Drums, CHRIS MARINO; Percussion, CHRIS*  
*PINDER; Reed 1, MERRELL WEISS; Reed 2, JANICE WEBBER;*  
*Reed 3, RANDY NEILSON; Piano, ANDREW GORDON.*

## *About the Playwright & Composer*

Two Tony Award winners -- **ARTHUR KOPIT** and **MAURY YESTON** -- corroborated on the book, lyrics, and music for the Broadway hit *Nine*, winner of the 1982 Tony for best musical. Kopit is a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist for his plays *Wings* and *Indians*, which also received Tony nominations for best play. He won what is now known as the Drama Desk Award for best play in 1962 with the intriguingly-titled *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feelin' So Sad*. Yeston won two Tonys for best musical score for *Nine* and *Titanic*. He also was one of the composers of the Tony-nominated score for *Grand Hotel*. Following their success with *Nine*, Kopit and Yeston wrote a musical based on *The Phantom of the Opera*, but Andrew Lloyd Webber beat them to Broadway with his smash hit. The two Americans reluctantly shelved their musical, later reviving it as a four-hour, two-part NBC miniseries under the title *Phantom*.



# \* THE \* CAST \*



## **DEBBIE BARBER-EATON** (*Sarraghina*)

Debbie holds a degree in Musical Theatre from The Catholic University of America. A director, performer, and acting coach, she has worked in local and regional theater and has a particular interest in the genre of cabaret. Debbie last appeared at CP as Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, earning a WATCH Award nomination for best lead actress in a play. Other favorite roles include Hattie in *Follies* for Signature Theatre; Sonja in *They're Playing Our Song* (Ruby Griffith Award for CP); Rose in *Gypsy*; Pam in *Baby*

(Ruby Griffith Award for CP); Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*; Pistache in *Can Can*; Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*; and the delicious Lady Macbeth, for which she won a CP Acting Award. Debbie recently directed *Calendar Girls* for CP and *Guys and Dolls* for 2nd Star Productions, which garnered the Ruby Griffith Award for All Round Production Excellence and a WATCH nomination for Debbie for her direction. Debbie is proud to have received the final directing award given by CP for her direction of *The Robber Bridegroom*. "Ron, thanks for encouraging me to audition; you know I adore you. As ever, my love and thanks to my dearest beloveds: Neal Andrew, Eddie, Paul, Donna, Cathy, Casey, and my Diva pals. To Jason Vellon, with all my love."

## **KIRSTI DIXON**

(*Olga Von Sturm / Second Woman / Follies Girl*)

Kirsti is excited to return to The Colonial Players. She made her CP debut as the Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol* two years ago. Before that, at UMD, where she studied mechanical engineering on the side, Kirsti performed in and directed productions such as *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *A Very Potter Musical*, and *A Very Potter Sequel* and sang in an all-girl a capella group, The UMD Treblemakers. Recently she has been seen in 2nd Star's *The Music Man*, Heritage Players' *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Spelling Bee*, and ASGT's *The Wedding Singer*, *The Producers*, and *50 Years Under the Stars*. She gives much love to her family and boyfriend for being there for every show and putting up with her never-ending schedule of rehearsals and busy weekends. And she dedicates the rest of her shows to Duane, who she knows would have never missed a show. Especially one as interesting as this.



## **REBECCA KYLER DOWNS**

(*Liliane La Fleur*)

Rebecca is new to Annapolis and thrilled to be doing her first show at The Colonial Players. A professional actor in Los Angeles and New York, she has looped movies and recorded voice-overs and video games, including multiple characters for the entire *World of Warcraft* series. TV shows include *CSI Miami*, *Robbery Homicide Division*, *Will and Grace*, *Monsters*, and

*Night Stand*. She has shot several independent films, working with wonderful actors like Walter Olkewicz, Robert Hays, James McCaffrey, and Alexandra Wentworth; she cheerfully admits a few of them were absolutely dreadful. Rebecca worked off-Broadway in New Jersey at The Whole Theater Co. as well as at smaller theaters in New York, Los Angeles, and Boston. Her favorite roles were Ruth in *The Homecoming*, Twirler in *Talking With...*, and Cassandra in *Agamemnon*. In all of her commercials -- Fed-Ex, Nyquil, Toyota, Applebee's, Taco Bell, Verizon, etc -- she's a mom. Also a professional jazz singer and published songwriter, Rebecca collaborated on music for *Wedding Crashers* and *Monster-*

# \* THE \* CAST *continued*



## **JACKSON PARLANTE** (*Young Guido*)

Jackson is a fifth grader at Crofton Woods Elementary. He has appeared in many Talent Machine Company productions such as *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Camp Rock* as well as three holiday shows. In his spare time, he enjoys tap-dancing, playing the piano, gaming, singing, and spending time with his friends and family. Jackson is thrilled to be part of his first Colonial Players production and would like to thank Ron, Judi, and Andrew for the opportunity to play Young Guido!

## **CARA MARIE PELLEGRINO**

(*Our Lady of the Spa / Aunt*)

Cara is excited to be in *Nine* after a long hiatus from the stage. Past credits include: The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (GMU), Nellie in *Jekyll and Hyde* (KAT), Rene/Ensemble in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (DTC), and Mary Flynn in *Merrily We Roll Along* (WST). Cara holds a BA in Music Education with a minor in Theater from James Madison University. She thanks her husband for his constant love and support, her parents and friends for believing in her even when she didn't, and the amazing cast and staff of *Nine*!



## **SUSAN S. PORTER** (*Mama Contini*)

Susan is delighted to be back at CP, where she was last seen in *A Christmas Carol*. Favorite roles include: Yenta, *Fiddler*; Edith Frank, *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Toby's Dinner Theatre); Mrs. Gardiner, *Pride and Prejudice*; Marcellus/Player Queen, *Hamlet*, tour (Chesapeake Shakespeare); Margaret/various other roles, *The Laramie Project* (KAT); Cyn, *The Revelation of Bobby Pritchard* (Iron Crow); Cunningham, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* (NCDA);

Maddy, *Mamalah* (Spotlighters Theatre); Lee Green, *Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, and Shirley Kaplan, *Street Scene* (Fell's Point Corner Theatre); Norma Hubley, *Plaza Suite* (Cockpit in Court); Lorenzo/Coachman, *Pinocchio* (Red Branch Theatre); Doris, *Lemonade Dreams* (FCP-Capital Fringe Festival); improv troupe, Yo' Mama's Cookin' (HCC). Training: National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts. To Ron for your trust and support and always, mia famiglia.

## **ALICIA SWEENEY** (*Luisa Contini*)

Alicia is pleased to return to The Colonial Players. Previous performances at CP include Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*, Mrs. Taylor in *Bat Boy*, and The McShane Sextuplets in *Wonder of the World*. Alicia has been involved with many community artistic organizations in Annapolis. She was recently seen as Morticia Addams in Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre's *Addams Family* and as Edith Frank in Compass Rose Theater's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. When not performing, she works at Calvary United Methodist Church and also volunteers for SOS Labrador Retriever Rescue. Many thanks to Ron, the entire cast and crew of *Nine*, and to you, the audience, for coming out to support live theater.



# \* THE \* CAST \* continued

a member of the Severna Park High School Mock Trial team as well as a member of the Young Democrats of America. She would like to thank her family and wonderful friends for supporting her and her amazing cast for being so welcoming.

## DEBRA KIDWELL

*(Maria / Cardinal / Sixth Woman / Follies Girl)*

Debra is happy to be back at Colonial Players in this fantastical and entertaining production. You may have caught her 2016 CP performance in *Boeing, Boeing*. Other recent credits include *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* with Laurel Mill Players, *The Producers*, and the 50th anniversary show with Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, and *Guys and Dolls* with 2nd Star. Debra loves all things song, dance, and glamour, so she is having the best time in this perfect show for all three! Enjoy!



## ERICA MILLER *(Claudia Nardi)*

Erica is excited to back on the stage at The Colonial Players. Performing in *Nine* is a dream come true, and she couldn't have asked for a better cast! She extends her many thanks to the production team for all of their hard work. Previous performances in the area include: Gwendolen Fairfax in *Ernest in Love* at CP, ensemble in *South Pacific* with the Annapolis Opera, Ulla in *The Producers* at Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Sgt. Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* and Tracy Lord in *The Philadelphia Story*, both with 2nd Star Productions. Erica graduated from Point Park University in Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts in 2009. She moved to Annapolis in 2013 and has since become an actress, teaching artist and administrative staff member with local theaters, and a wife at home. Mom, Dad, and extended family -- I hope I make you proud.



## JAMIE ERIN MILLER *(Carla Albanese)*

Jamie is thrilled to be back at The Colonial Players with this amazing cast and crew in this incredible show. Jamie was most recently seen as Gertrude McFuzz in Greenbelt Arts Center's *Seussical the Musical*. She majored in theater at The University of Central Florida and received her Master's Degree in Elementary Education. She currently works in education by day and theater by night. Since moving to Maryland almost 11 years ago, Jamie has performed in the Maryland and DC area with Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, The Colonial Players, Dignity Players, 2nd Star Productions, Standing O Productions, and Winters Lane Productions (to name a few). Some of her favorite roles include Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (nomination for a Washington Area Theater Community Honors Award), Maureen in *Rent*, Woman 1 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (WATCH nominee), Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Lois in *Kiss Me Kate*, and Izzy in *Rabbit Hole* (WATCH nominee). Jamie thanks Ron and everyone at The Colonial Players for the opportunity to bring Carla to life. She is extremely grateful for the love and support of her family and friends, especially her husband, Andrew, and their five-year-old daughter, Sophie. "Gertrude and *Seussical* were for you, Sophie. This one is for Mommy! 'Boomp! Boomp!'"

# \* THE \* CAST \* continued

*in-Law*. She's performed her own songs in soundtracks for films like Oscar-nominated *The Cooler* and *Down With Love* and TV series *Roswell* and *Cathouse*. She is profoundly grateful to her parents for setting the bar for life and love so high.

## KAITLIN FISH *(Diana / Gondolier / First Woman)*

Kaitlin is thrilled to be returning to The Colonial Players in this production of *Nine*. She was most recently seen at CP playing Ayah/Claire Holmes in *The Secret Garden*. Other favorite roles include Ethel Toffelmier in *The Music Man* with 2nd Star Productions and Fred's Wife in *A Christmas Carol* with The Colonial Players. Kaitlin would like to give a huge thank you to Ron, Andrew, Judi, and the entire cast and crew for such a wonderful opportunity. When she is off the stage, Kaitlin works as a Realtor and loves helping her clients find their dream homes.



## KATIE GARDNER *(Stephanie Necrophorous)*

Katie is thrilled to make her debut performance at The Colonial Players. Some of her most memorable roles include Cindy Lou Huffington in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Yellow Girl in *Shout! The Mod Musical*, and a lead singer in *Swing!* at the Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. When not performing, Katie is in her sixth year teaching physical education in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. She also enjoys coaching the dance and Girls on the Run teams at her school. In her spare time, Katie supports and performs in the local music scene and attends music festivals. She would like to dedicate her performances to her family, Mike, and her friends for their unconditional love and support.

## RYAN GUNNING *(Lina Darling / American Reporter)*

Ryan received her B.A. in Theatre Performance from the College of Charleston with concentrations in both performance and directing. Most recently, she appeared in Vagabond Theatre's productions of *Our Town* and *Avenue Q*. She is thrilled to be making her Colonial Players debut with such a wonderfully talented group of artists in this fantastic production. Thank you to all of my friends and family, especially my parents, who are the best people I know.



## HANNAH HALL

*(Heidi Von Sturm / British Reporter / Third Woman / Aunt)*

Hannah is a freshman at Severna Park High School, and this is her first production with The Colonial Players. She is thrilled to be in a show with such a creative and sweet cast and crew. Aside from CP, she has been in shows such as *Mary Poppins* at Children's Theater of Annapolis and *HMS Pinafore* at 2nd Star Productions. Some of her favorite roles include July in *Annie* and Marian Paroo in *The Music Man* at Anne Arundel Community College. Hannah recently appeared in *Rock N' Roll Revival* at Severna Park High School. She has studied opera at Interlochen Center for the Fine Arts in Michigan and under her voice teacher, Deborah Brown. Hannah is also

THE COLONIAL  
PLAYERS, INC.  
*presents*

Book by  
**ARTHUR KOPIT**  
Music and Lyrics by  
**MAURY YESTON**

Directed and Choreographed by  
**RON GIDDINGS**

Music Direction by  
**ANDREW GORDON**

*Adaptation from the Italian by Mario Fratti*

Broadway production directed  
by Tommy Tune.  
Original Cast Album on  
Columbia Records and Tapes.



# ★ THE ★ CAST ★

*Guido Contini*.....Jason Vellon  
*Young Guido*.....Jackson Parlante  
*Luisa Contini*.....Alicia Sweeney  
*Carla Albanese*.....Jamie Erin Miller  
*Claudia Nardi*.....Erica Miller  
*Mama Contini*.....Susan S. Porter  
*Liliane La Fleur*.....Rebecca Kyler Downs  
*Lina Darling / American Reporter*.....Ryan Gunning  
*Stephanie Necrophorus*.....Katie Gardner  
*Our Lady of the Spa / Aunt*.....Cara Marie Pellegrino  
*Sarraghina*.....Debbie Barber-Eaton  
*Diana / Gondolier / First Woman*.....Kaitlin Fish  
*Maria / Cardinal / Sixth Woman / Folies Girl*.....Debra Kidwell  
*Francesca / Fifth Woman*.....Rhonda Wardlaw  
*Annabella / German Reporter /*  
*Fourth Woman*.....Rowena B. Winkler  
*Olga Von Sturm / Second Woman / Folies Girl*.....Kirsti Dixon  
*Heidi Von Sturm / British Reporter /*  
*Third Woman / Aunt*.....Hannah Hall

## TIME & PLACE

1960, Venice and within Guido's mind

*There will be one intermission between Act I and Act II.*

*Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.*  
Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited.  
Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.