



COMING NEXT...



A CHRISTMAS CAROL



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Play and Lyrics by Richard Wade
Music by Richard Gessner
December 7 — 17, 2023

It's only Christmas in Annapolis when *A Christmas Carol* is playing at CP! We are delighted to bring this Dicken's classic back to the stage with this phenomenally popular adaptation. This musical tale of redemption, will warm your heart, bring you glad tidings, and add a glittering touch to the festive season. Written for the Players in 1981 by Richard Wade and Dick Gessner, our 75th season would not be complete without it.



wit



October 20 - November 11, 2023 2023/2024 season

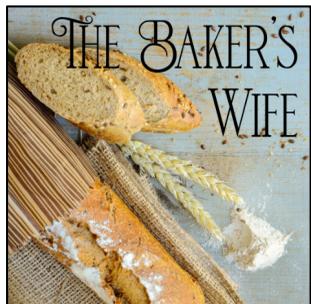
SIDEWALK SALE: NOVEMBER 18



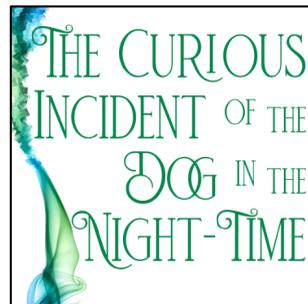
MARJORIE PRIME

Written by Jordan Harrison
January 12 - February 3, 2024

It's the age of artificial intelligence, and 85-year-old Marjorie spends her final, ailing days with a computerized version of her deceased husband — otherwise known as a "Prime". What would we remember, and what would we forget, if given the chance? In this richly spare, wondrous play, Jordan Harrison explores the mysteries of human identity and the limits — if any — of what technology can replace.



March 1 - 30, 2024



April 26 - May 18, 2024

FLEX TICKETS AVAILABLE UNTIL CHRISTMAS!



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The Power of Drama
 Wit. Pulitzer winner. Obie winner. New York Drama Critics Circle winner.... There is such power in plays like this. In Wit there is the power of the human experience, the power of the mind, and the power of the confrontation with our ultimate fate. And yet part of that uniquely human experience is the ability to laugh at what is thrown at us, and Wit certainly delivers on that as well. It is an intense drama - but with a humor and humanity that makes everything more real, more visceral, and creates an experience of unforgettable theater.

Dramas like Wit also provide some of the most challenging and rewarding opportunities (both onstage and off) for our playmakers. The complexity of the characters and the intensity of the situations they find themselves in, force us to go deeper during the rehearsal and design processes. The connections made between performer and audience during performances of these dramas are also often deeper and more intense than those made making people laugh during comedies.

So when we assemble a season, Dramas are always part of the mix. We strive to present the full range of theatrical experiences for our audiences and our artists. Our play selection committee is made up of many people representing audience members, designers, performers, and directors. They are always looking for new plays to read, so if you do have suggestions, please send them to us - we do take them seriously.

And finally, in the spirit of mixing things up (like our slate), I'd like to conclude this message by saying the holiday season is right around the corner. And this year that means CP's A Christmas Carol is up next. It wouldn't be our 75th season without our traditional holiday offering. After so many years of restraint, we are finally able to produce the show with all of our traditional gusto. Our sidewalk ticket sale is scheduled for November 18th. We can't wait to see you there!

— STEVE TOBIN

The Colonial Players wishes to express heartfelt gratitude to our patrons. We appreciate your support!

PRODUCTION STAFF

- Director.....Jacob Haythorn
- Producers.....Ernie Morton, Heather Quinn
- Stage Manager.....Devin Thrasher
- Set Designers.....Heather Quinn, Carrie Shade
- Set Decoration Designers.....Heather Quinn, Carrie Shade
- Properties Designer.....Carrie Shade
- Lighting DesignersJami S. Earnest, Rick Swink
- Sound Designer.....Scott R. Bloom
- Costume Designers.....Shannon McElwee, Abigail Traverson
- Set Painting.....Heather Quinn, Connie Robinson, Carrie Shade
- Lead Carpenter.....Ted Yablonski
- Set Crew.....Ken Kaiser, Edd Miller, Bob Mumper, Jim Robinson
- Booth Technicians.....Jen Coken, Kai Earnest
- Video Projections Mentor.....Wes Bedsworth, David Cooper
- Medical Consultant.....Jamie Shade
- Play Consultant.....IN ASSOCIATION WITH.....Darice Clewell
- Poster and Program Cover Design.....Drama Queen Graphics
- Photographers.....Brandon Bentley

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Jamie Shade
 Jen Coken

**Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited.
 Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.**

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.

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

For the 75th anniversary season, stories like *Wit* are absolutely essential to lift up and share with the community. Local theatre starts conversations, inspires reflection, and challenges expectations -- and *Wit* is the perfect script to do all these things at a time when polarization and disconnection can feel overwhelming.

We are all far too familiar with hospitals. They usher us into life, they help us stay alive, and when needed, they do their best to ease our path out of it. Whether you were a patient, a loved one helping another, or both, we all retain the images, experiences, and feelings that *Wit* brings to life. *Wit* raises questions of self-discovery, growth, humanity, misogyny, humility, loss, and love. It doesn't tell us what to

think... but it certainly makes us think.

A few moments in this play can be painful to watch. But this cast treats each with genuine humor, thoughtfulness, and empathy which makes this performance feel so personal and real. *Wit* is made more profound by those moments and their dedication.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful to Darice Clewell for her guidance and support throughout this journey. I am also grateful to my partner Tracy who has been supportive beyond belief and held down the fort for the last few months. Thank you to The Colonial Players for selecting this incredible play and taking a chance on me after my three-year theatre hiatus.

— Jacob Haythorn

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Jacob is thrilled to return to the theatre after a Covid-induced hiatus. He has previously directed at Davidson College and in Atlanta, GA, debuting *The Investigation* with Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre and Actor's Express, and leading numerous productions with local amateur theatres.

Jacob has acted in dozens of roles in college and professionally, but highlights include: Ernst Ludwig in Davidson College's 2018 production

of *Cabaret*; Earl of Gloucester in *Henry IV parts 1 and 2* and *Henry V* with Shakespeare on Draught; Henry Condell in Davidson College's production of *The Book of Will*. During the pandemic, Jacob also had the opportunity to debut several new works in staged readings with friends across the country and with the Adjusted Realists in New York.

Jacob is so proud of this cast and grateful for the opportunity to work with The Colonial Players during the 75th anniversary season. Here's to many more!

Produced in New York City by MCC Theater (Bernard Telsey and Robert LuPone, Executive Directors; William Cantler, Associate Director), Long Wharf Theatre, and Daryl Roth, with Stanley Shopkorn, Robert G. Bartner and Stanley Kaufelf. Lorie Cowen Levy, Associate Producer, Roy Gabay, General Manager.

New York production originally premiered at Long Wharf Theatre, New Haven, Connecticut. Doug Hughes, Artistic Director; Michael Ross, Managing Director.

Originally produced by South Coast Repertory, David Emmes, Producing Artistic Director; Martin Benson, Artistic Director.

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THE CAST



TOM BETHARDS

(Ensemble)

Tom is thrilled to return to the stage after four years, and to appear in his first contemporary drama!

Previous performances at The Colonial Players include: 1776 (Mr. Morris), Annie (Mr.

Bundles/Hull), A Christmas Carol (the party guest with the really big laugh), and The Merry Wives of Windsor (Servant John or Robert). He has also appeared in two productions of A Christmas Carol at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, most recently as the Ghost of Christmas Present and Mr. Fezziwig, as well as Oliver! at Silhouette Stages (Mr. Sowerberry), Once Upon a Mattress at the Bowie Playhouse (First Knight), and Annie with Howard County Summer Theater. He is also an avid singer, having recently joined the Annapolis Chorale, and enjoys learning the piano. He would like to thank Jacob for having cast him in this unique and moving play, and his fellow cast and crew and his family for all of their support.



JOSEPH BRUGH

(Dr Harvey Kelekian / Mr. Bearing)

Joseph resumed his acting career in 2020 returning to on-screen productions in movie shorts, commercials and as background talent in television productions for HBO, Paramount+ and Apple TV.

5AM call times, 12 and 14 hour days as a featured background actor with appearances in Succession and Billions (New York), Rustin and White House Plumbers (Washington DC), Lioness and We Own This City (Baltimore), Dopesick and Swagger (Richmond VA). His commercial work has allowed him to be the lead or featured talent in promotional videos for social media and industrial training videos in Washington D.C. (Washington Metro Transit and George Washington Hospital) and Philadelphia (Jefferson Healthcare). Wit is Joseph's first onstage theater project since college when he toured professionally with a children's theater troupe.



JANE CARRIGAN

(Ensemble)

Jane's commitment to The Colonial Players began with the 75th Season Opening of Tartuffe by Moliere. She is thrilled to be continuing as a member of the ensemble in Wit. Jane studied theater as an undergraduate at

the University of Maryland. Life intervened and she spent a productive career in the Federal Government. With retirement, Jane has returned to her previous love, the theater! The Colonial Players has been a great place to renew this commitment and she hopes to take on acting and other roles in seasons to come.



MADISON DAVIS

(Ensemble)

Madison is proud to appear in her debut performance with The Colonial Players. She hails from Annapolis and performs for her children five days a week in a one-woman show called "Get Out the Door,

We're Going to be Late!" Madison performs regularly with and teaches for Reflex Improv. She loves her improv teammates and their ability to make her laugh until she cries. She would like to thank the cast and crew of Wit for allowing her to be a part of their magic. She cherishes her friends and her family and misses them when she is in rehearsal but appreciates their unwavering support. Madison would like to say a special thank you to her husband, Chris, whom she loves. He believes she can do anything and then picks up all the slack so she can go out and try. And to her children, Charlie and Alexandra, you are the best parts of all her days and nights.



CHRISTINA HUDSON

(Ensemble)

Christina was last seen in the lights at CP in season 74's The Book of Will, after running the lights for several previous CP productions. When not in the dark of the tech booth or the lights of the stage, Christina

enjoys spending time with her children and volunteering at the SPCA of Anne Arundel County.



NICHOLAS MARTINEZ

(Ensemble)

Nicholas (Nick) Martinez is a 26-year-old actor from Chino Hills, California. This is his third production that he has been a part of at The Colonial Players, with previous roles in The White Rose and The Book

of Will. Nick is very thankful for the experience to get to know the wonderful cast and crew of Wit, and he would like to extend his gratitude to the entire community of actors, crew, and executive staff at The Colonial Players for their camaraderie and insight. Nick is excited to be a part of the play and he hopes you enjoy the show!



KELLI MIDGLEY

(E. M. Ashford, D. Phil.)

Kelli is pleased to return to the stage after an extended break. This is her first appearance with The Colonial Players. She has previously appeared with Chesapeake Shakespeare Company, The

Rude Mechanicals, Silver Spring Stage, and Nobleheart Rep. She studied Theatre at UMCP.

VOLUNTEERS ARE FAB!

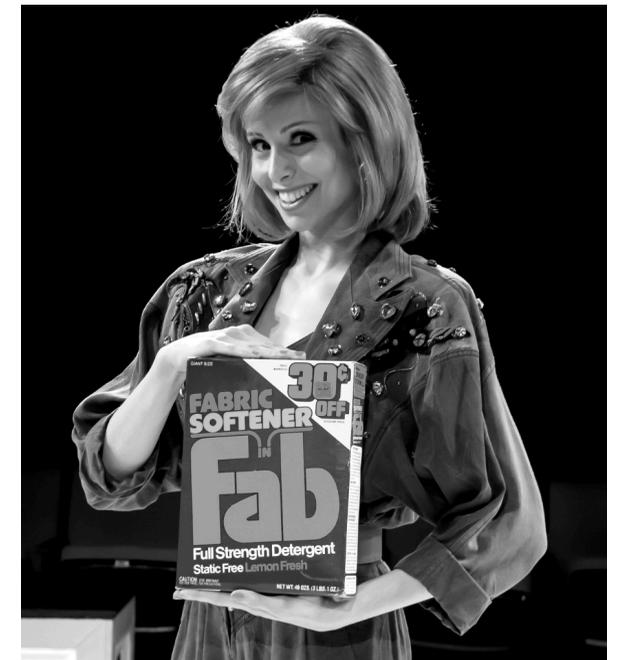
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THEATRE IN 360° PODCAST

Keeping audiences up to date with our current shows, discovering what is happening in and around the Annapolis theatre community, and taking a close up look at those that keep it running. Available from our website and all good podcast distributors.



OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE

Show your support for theatre-in-the-round, all year round, with our new official merchandise! We have commemorative pins, insulated tote bags, water bottles, and a limited supply of the 50th Anniversary book - just in time for our 75th Anniversary!



<https://thecolonialplayers.square.site/>



THE CREATIVE TEAM

SHANNON MCELWEE

(Co-Costume Designer)

Shannon is an actor and costume designer in the Annapolis area. She studied acting in Edinburgh, Scotland and is now working on an A.A. in Theatre Studies at Anne Arundel Community College. She aspires to one day become a professional Costume Designer. She is also currently Hair and Makeup Designer for *12 Angry Jurors* at AACC. At AACC she was Costume Designer for *Hairspray* (2018), Hair and Makeup Designer for *In Love and Warcraft* (2016), and Wardrobe Crew for *Macbeth* (2016). As an actor, her most recent works include *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (Gertrude), *Antigone* (Guard/Chorus), and *Macbeth* (Lady Macduff) all at AACC. She also was in Edinburgh Napier University's production of *The Seagull* (Polina). Shannon would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her throughout the almost 16 years she has been involved in theatre. She thanks the cast and crew for being such an inspiring and delightful group of people to work with. A thank you goes out to Abigail Traverson for being an amazing person to collaborate with, and Sean Urbantke for being the best mentor a girl could ask for. Always remember, you're never fully dressed without glitter!

ERNIE MORTON

(Co-Producer / Video Projection Designer)

Ernie is delighted to help Jacob, the cast and staff bring this touching, funny, heart-wrenching story to the CP stage for the 75th Season. This also brings in Ernie's 10th year working with CP, where he's been seen as booth technician, stage manager, lighting designer, producer. He currently serves as CP Safety Manager for the operations team and as Production Director. Ernie has filled a number of backstage and technical roles at CP, including co-producing this show, but this is his first attempt at video projection design.

HEATHER QUINN

(Co-Producer / Co-Set designer)

Heather has worked on numerous theater projects in the DC-Maryland area both on-stage and behind the scenes over the years. Heather appreciates sharing both producer and set designer/decorator jobs with two fantastic people (Ernie and Carrie, respectively). Heather's last turn at set design and set/floor painting was CP's January production of *Crimes of the Heart*, a pre-1974 kitchen extravaganza in avocado, harvest gold, and turquoise. This set design is the opposite — minimalist — intended to be subliminal yet intertwined with Vivian's inner thoughts and memories. Heather would like to thank the many creative and dedicated people involved in this production and, in particular, all those who contributed to the set design, acquiring set elements, and/or set construction (e.g., Carrie Shade, Scott Bloom, Shannon McElwee, Edd Miller, and the entire construction team). Heather thanks CP's volunteers and supporters who keep the theater alive, "You are the energy on which community theater runs." She encourages anyone interested in any aspect of community to "come play with us." Opportunities are endless!

CARRIE SHADE

(Props Designer / Co-Set Designer)

Carrie is thrilled to be part of the production team for *Wit*, and that *Season 75* is underway! At CP, she recently designed props for *Ravenscroft* and *The Book of Will* and served on the Play Selection Committee for *Season 75*. Previous props design experience includes many college productions at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also dabbled in acting, directing, and producing. Special thanks to Jamie for her medical expertise, and to everyone at CP for their generous support and teamwork!

RICK SWINK

(Co-Lighting Designer)

Rick has been designing lighting for nearly 25 years, primarily with Damascus Theatre Company where he also serves as technical director and was a past WATCH nominee. *Wit* is his debut in working with The Colonial Players, and he is most grateful for the opportunity. Rick and his wife Elli moved to the Annapolis area four years ago to live closer to family. He is an avid cyclist and enjoys mountain biking.

DEVIN THRASHER

(Stage Manager)

Devin is debuting her stage managerial career. She was previously seen on The Colonial Player's stage as Sophie Scholl in *The White Rose* ('19) and Marcy in *Ravenscroft* ('23), and is eager to try her hand backstage. She is eternally grateful for the incredible support of the producers, Ernie and Heather, as well as the director, Jacob, for the fearless leadership.

ABIGAIL TRAVERSON

(Co-Costume Designer)

Abby is delighted to return to costuming for CP after last season's *The Lifespan of a Fact*. Abby was last seen as the Assistant Stage Manager for CP's final show last season, *Ravenscroft*. During the summer of 2022, she was also a part of the team that renovated CP's costume loft. Although her focus for *Wit* has been on costuming, as always with community theater she also lent a hand to other aspects of the show including properties and marketing.

The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC)

In the pursuit to save lives, the NOCC fight tirelessly to prevent and cure ovarian cancer and to improve the quality of life for survivors. It is with this commitment that the NOCC reach out to all who are touched by this disease to offer support, services, information, and most of all, hope.

For more information, visit <https://ovarian.org/>



THE CAST



JOI PRIDE

(Susie Monahan, R.N., B.S.N.)

Joi Pride (she/her/ella) is a Spanish-bilingual actor based in Maryland. This is her first time working with The Colonial Players. She was most recently seen in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Aide Williams)

at Vagabond Players, and *The Women of August* (Louise) with The AngelWing Project. College: *Three Guys and a Brenda* (Joe/director), *26 Pebbles* (Carole/Starr/Julie), *As You Like It* (Touchstone). Virtual: *Julius Caesar* (Calpurnia/Octavius) with Shakesqueer Theatre Company, *Captain Joe* (Joe Scott) with Brave New Classics, and *Bailes de Salón* (Raquel) with Teatro de la Luna. Joi is an alum of the Circle in the Square Theatre School (Summer Intensive) and Queens University of Charlotte (B.A. in Spanish, minors in Theatre/International Studies).



DYLAN ROCHE

(Jason Posner, M.D.)

Dylan is glad to be back onstage at The Colonial Players where he has previously appeared in *Crimes of the Heart* (Doc) and *Sex with Strangers* (Ethan). Offstage, he's a freelance

writer with local bylines in Annapolis Home, UpstART, What's Up, and Chesapeake Family Life, as well as national publications and websites. Check out his debut novel 'The Purple Bird' and his forthcoming release 'The Tide and the Stars.'



MAURA SUILEBHAN

(Vivian Bearing, Ph.D.)

Maura is humbled and grateful to join the cast and team at The Colonial Players for this production. While this is Maura's first time collaborating with theater makers here, she has been an active member at

Silver Spring Stage for many years working as an actor, a producer, and as a member of the board from 2018 to 2023. Maura has also performed at various small professional theaters in the DMV including Scena Theatre, The Taffety Punk Theatre Company, and Quotidian Theatre Company, among others.

Outside of theater, she enjoys collaborating with her husband and son in the daily act of trying-to-figure-it-all-out-and-still-have-fun-along-the-way (it is a constant work in progress) and wishes to thank them both from the bottom of her heart for having chosen to embrace and support her in this mammoth undertaking. She also wishes to thank the entire The Colonial Players family for entrusting her with this role. Maura believes that theater can provide a wonderful opportunity for people to find connection and increase our compassion for the lived experiences of others; to help us transcend ourselves. She ardently hopes you find a little bit of that magic in sharing this performance along with us. You are an essential member of our ensemble.



THE CREATIVE TEAM

SCOTT R. BLOOM

(Sound Designer)

Scott has more than forty years of experience in community and professional theatre around the DC metro area, and has won awards as an Actor, Director, Set, Lighting and Sound Designer, and as a playwright. His list of credits as a sound designer are mostly from shows he's also directed, such as *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Arms and the Man*, *The Emperor of North America*, (at Silver Spring Stage,) *The Cocktail Hour* (at Bowie Community Theatre,) *Lost in Yonkers* (at Sandy Spring Theatre Group,) *Nuts* (at Rockville Little Theatre,) *Uncommon Women and Others* and *A Man for All Seasons* (at Cedar Lane Stage,) and several One Act and short plays everywhere. Professionally he has worked with The Source Theatre, Quotidian Theatre Company, and The Maryland Traveling Rep Theatre. He is the Founder and President of The Theatre Pages (srbnet.com), a founding board member of The MD Community Theatre Festival Association, and the MD State Contact and a long-time board member of The American Association

of Community Theatre. Recently retired and moving back closer to Annapolis where he grew up, he is pleased to be working for the first time with CP where he knows so many people. He has also been known to write and record a little music, puffer around with electronics, eat too much, (obviously) and he tries hard not to piss off Jan, his wife of forty years.

JAMI S. EARNEST

(Co-Lighting Designer)

Jami returns to lighting design after several decades of producing and developing two new budding theater enthusiasts, Kai and Finn Earnest. Jami was a University of Maryland Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) scholar for lighting design, and spent several years designing on-campus and dinner theater productions before pursuing other career interests. Jami is glad to be back in community theater, with *Wit* being her first show at The Colonial Players, after supporting Kai in the ASGT 2023 production of *Head Over Heels*. Thanks to Rick Swink: "You are my hero!"



wit



WRITTEN BY
Margaret Edson

THE PLACE

University Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Center

THE TIME

The final hours of Dr. Vivian Bearing, PhD

THE CAST

VIVIAN BEARING, PHDMaura Suilebhan
HARVEY KELEKIAN, MD.....Joseph Brugh
JASON POSNER, MD.....Dylan Roche
SUSIE MONAHAN, BSN, RN.....Joi Pride
DR E M ASHFORD, PHD.....Kelli Midgley
MR. BEARING.....Joseph Brugh
ENSEMBLE*.....Tom Bethards
.....Jane Carrigan
.....Madison Davis
.....Christina Hudson
.....Nicholas Martinez

*ENSEMBLE BREAKDOWN

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LAB TECHNICIANS: Tom Bethards, Jane Carrigan, Madison Davis, Christina Hudson
FELLOWS: Tom Bethards, Madison Davis, Christina Hudson, Nicholas Martinez
CODE TEAM HEAD: Jane Carrigan
HOSPITAL STAFF AND CODE TEAM:
Tom Bethards, Jane Carrigan, Madison Davis, Christina Hudson, Nicholas Martinez

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