

Colonial Players' 66th season begins in September, and we have lined up an enticing blend of comedy and drama and music that will take you from 17th-century Paris through World War II and into contemporary America. If you are a subscriber who hasn't renewed your subscription, this is the time to do it; if you haven't subscribed in the past and enjoy our award-winning productions, consider joining us for the 2014-15 season. With a freeze in prices, Colonial Players remains one of the best entertainment values around.

#### HERE IS A LOOK AT THE SEASON:

**★ ROCKET MAN:** Donny is a man in his mid-40s who is dissatisfied with his existence and determined to find a new path for his life. His ex-wife, daughter, and best friend are mystified by his actions as he discards his belongings and looks to the stars for a second chance at happiness. A comedy with serious overtones, it explores alternative universes where lifelines move backwards.

**★** A FEW GOOD MEN: The excitement of courtroom drama involving complex characters makes Aaron Sorkin's play a wonderful theater experience. Three officers, defending two marines charged with murder, search for the truth about an exercise in illegal discipline that results in the death of a third marine. This play contains mature themes and language.

**★** A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Colonial Players' beloved version of Charles Dickens' classic is back, and for the first time, subscribers can purchase tickets as part of their season package. Subscribers also can buy two additional tickets in advance for each subscription. This version of A Christmas Carol was written especially for Colonial Players by Richard Wade and Dick Gessner, and is firmly established as a holiday tradition in Annapolis.

**★** THE LIAR: This sparkling comedy is an adaptation of a play written in 1643 about a man who cannot tell the truth and a servant who cannot tell a lie. As updated in contemporary language by David Ives, it is full of spicy banter and mistaken identities. Audiences will be dazzled as the story races to its hilarious conclusion.

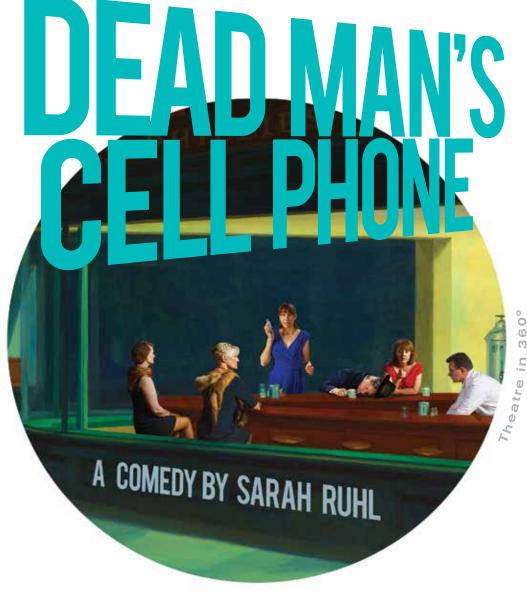
**★** WATCH ON THE RHINE: Set in America in 1941, this play deals with an American woman whose German husband is working to thwart Hitler's rise to power. Fearing for the safety of their children, they return to her home, where the husband is recognized by a house guest. The violent outcome of that discovery shocks the sheltered American family out of their ignorance about what is going on in Europe.

**★** EARNEST IN LOVE: This is a musical version of Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest, a witty and hilarious satire about the courtship of two affluent young women by two self-indulgent young gentlemen. The plans of Jack and Algernon spiral out of control as they woo Gwendolyn and Cecily and seek to overcome opposition from the formidable Lady Bracknell. Of course, all ends happily with not just two weddings, but three.

**★** WHY TORTURE IS WRONG AND THE PEOPLE WHO LOVE THEM: Christopher Durang, a master of outrageous and often absurdist comedy, tackles disturbing elements of America's homeland insecurity in this tale peopled with unusual characters: a passionate butterfly collector, a woman who married an Irish terrorist while under the influence, and a secret agent who speaks like cartoon characters. This play contains violence as well as mature themes and language.









108 East Street • Annapolis, MD 21401 Telephone: 410-268-7373

thecolonialplayers.org

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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

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Theater is nothing if not a way to decipher the ineffable or the ephemeral; a way to provoke laughter and tears and find empathy. At its best, it brings us to places within ourselves that otherwise go unexplored.

Colonial Players is a place where we can make the unimagined real and unearth parts of ourselves and our world without journeying more than a few miles from home. It's where we find renewal and solace through creation and camaraderie. It is a veritable home-awayfrom-home, a respite from the mundane and from worries that can threaten to consume us.

For me as an architect and a theater artist, as a creative and inquisitive human being, Colonial Players and its committed volunteers have renewed my faith in the power of art and community. I have seen us grow stronger and more agile, more technically proficient, more artistically aware, and altogether more professional during the four years of my presidency. This is due to an increasing number of experienced individuals who give not only their time and expertise, but a large piece of their hearts to our theater, and to the ever-growing list of volunteers who choose to help backstage, in the box office, on stage, in the booth, or on the web to make our theater a success.

I will miss helping to guide Colonial Players' journey. I will miss our family members who have left us over the years. But I look forward to the great challenges that lie ahead, and the joy that our theater will continue to bring to our community as we move through the cycle of birth, life, and death.

For all our patrons and members, thank you for playing your part in our success and for bringing me happiness as President.

- TERRY AVERILL

## PRODUCTION STAFF \_\_\_\_\_

Director	Tom Newbrough	
Producer	Kurt Dornheim	
Stage Manager	Brigette Marchand	
Stage Crew	Marguerite Jahns	
Set and Floor Designer	Edd Miller	
Set and Floor Painting	Edd Miller, Tom Stuckey	
Head Carpenter	Dick Whaley	
Carpenters Norm James, Bob Mumper, Jim Robinson, Ted Yablonski		
Sound Designer	Richard Atha-Nicholls	
Lighting Designer	Shirley Panek	
Lighting AssistantsJennifer D	ustin, Michelle Edwards, Lauren McLeod,	
Heather Quinn, Daniel Starnes, Tom Stuckey, Csenge Szabo, Krisztina Vanyi		
Sound/Lighting Board Operators	Stuart Johnson, Lauren McLeod	
Costume Design and Construction	Christina McAlpine	
Properties Designer	Constance Robinson	
Special Effects Designer (phone coding)	Eric Hufford	
Weapons Consultant	Mike Gidos	
Play Consultant	Edd Miller	
Rehearsal Assistant	Michelle Edwards	
Program Designer	Harlequin Designs	
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Program Editor	Tom Stuckey	
Program Assistant	Nancy Long	

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT\_\_\_\_\_

John Robinson

Much of the music heard during *Dead Man's Cell Phone* is the work of John Sosnowsky, aka Sozra, who is also a professional full-time 2D and 3D artist. He has recorded five CDs, including his new release, *Multiverse Vortex*, which is being premiered in this production. Mr. Sosnowsky says that the creative direction his art has taken "spans continents, religions, time, and a multitude of resources.... These pieces are meant to evoke comfort and curiosity, calm through chaos, and the untraditional through convention. Enjoy the juxtaposition of each piece as simplicity draws you into complexity." Information about the work of Mr. Sosnowsky and his wife, Deborah, can be found at **www.sozra.com**.

## TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS (continued)

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



# NOW FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

Nine plays, nine directors, 21 actors, and eight days will add up to a lot of fun when Colonial Players' festival of short plays takes the stage in July. This is a biennial event that always offers a bit of something to suit everyone's taste. This year is no exception. You'll find comedy, drama some poignant moments, a touch of history, and still more comedy. How about a not-so-defenseless little old lady in the park, an alien love triangle, a waiter with a romantic agenda of his own, a conversation between a writer and the famous author of *Out of Africa*? The festival serves several purposes, including giving aspiring directors a chance to try their hands at directing. Experienced mentors work with novice directors to help them prepare their shows for the stage. Auditions draw some new people along with very experienced actors who enjoy the opportunity to be on stage without the major time commitment that comes with weeks of rehearsal and a month of performances for our regular season productions.

Finally, the festival gives audiences a chance to sample of variety of theatrical styles in just one or two evenings. This year's nine plays are divided into two slates, titled *This and That*, that will be presented on alternating days. The shows run Thursday through Sunday from July 17 through July 27. The price is right. You will pay just \$10 for a ticket to one slate. And if you purchase tickets through the box office (410-268-7373, extension 2), you can get a ticket for both slates for just \$15. Individual tickets can be purchased at thecolonialplayers.org.

#### **\*\* INFORMATION ABOUT THE FESTIVAL IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB SITE. \*\***

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES \_

Has the relatively recent explosion of technology and social media brought us closer together than in the not-so-distant past, when two strangers in a carriage would choose not to engage each other, or has it created an artificial sense of belonging to something that really doesn't exist? Does connecting electronically as opposed to interacting in person advance our relationships, or hinder them? Where is this "cloud" that people speak of where everything is stored or backed up? Has "The Man" got us all under constant surveillance via our cell phones? Even with all of our iPhones, thinkpads, gadgetry, and wizardry, aren't many people still alienated and alone? Does author Sarah Ruhl actually attempt to answer these inquiries in this quirky, kinetic, down-the-rabbit hole comedy? Don't you wish I would stop asking questions?

Jean's fateful decision to answer the ringing cell phone of a dead man inexorably alters her life... and death in this mysterious homage to the art of Edward Hopper and the suspense of film noir. I truly appreciate the opportunity to share with you the sublime and shocking reality of *Dead Man's Cell Phone*.

- TOM NEWBROUGH

# ABOUT THE DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_



This is the fifth show that **TOM NEWBROUGH** has directed at Colonial Players, along with *Strange Snow, A Shayna Maidel, Incorruptible,* and *Rabbit Hole.* He also was assistant director

under Dan Higgs for *The Boys Next Door*. Tom has worked with CP since 1986, and has appeared onstage in *Crimes of the Heart; Dial M for Murder; The Elephant Man; Terra Nova; Kiss Me, Kate; A Little Night Music; Jaques Brel;* 

Is There Life After High School?; and Assassins. Recent appearances elsewhere include Urinetown at ASGT, On the 20th Century, and A Christmas Story at Standing O Productions, and The Last Days of Judas Iscariot and Art with Dignity Players. Tom is an attorney at law with Cohen, Snyder, Eisenberg & Katzenberg. He thanks CeCe & Donovan for their patience and support. As always, it is a privilege to work with so many talented, creative people who inspire the art that we call theater.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT\_

**SARAH RUHL'S** *In the Next Room* was a big hit with Colonial Players audiences a year ago. Now she is back with another comedic romp, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. She wrote her first play in 1995 while a student at Brown University and is one of the most respected playwrights in contemporary American theater. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2005 for *The Clean House* and again in 2009 for *In the Next Room*, also a Tony nominee for best play. Among Ms. Ruhl's prestigious honors are the Helen Hayes Award, the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award, and a MacArthur Fellowship. Her plays have been produced at six theaters in New York City along with major regional theaters across the country and have been translated into seven languages and performed in five countries.



# THE CAST

#### JEAN BERARD (Hermia)

Jean has many passions, among them her husband, her dogs, and teaching Spanish at Severn School in Severna Park.

But before those, there was theater. She is delighted to be back on stage with The Colonial Players, where she has been previously seen in *The Unexpected Guest, The Spitfire Grill,* and *Bismark Comes Back.* Everyone should be so lucky as to share a life-long passion with such professional enthusiasts. "Thank you to all involved, and especially to my husband, Jim, for sharing life and love."



#### NICK BESCHEN (Dwight)

Nick has performed in many shows at Colonial Players over the last 20 years, most recently as Harold in *Communicating* 

Doors and as Dr. Lyman Hall in last season's production of 1776. He appeared nine or ten times in CP's ever-popular version of A Christmas Carol. Favorite roles include Martin Chalmers in the award-winning Between Mouthfuls at Colonial Players, two roles in Almost, Maine at Dignity Players, and Horatio in Pasadena Theatre Company's Hamlet, Nick is thrilled to be on stage again with such a great cast. He would like to thank his wonderful partner, Leigh, for all her love and support.



DARICE CLEWELL

*(Other Woman, The Stranger)* Darice has performed with The Colonial Players and has served on our board of directors several times over the past 25

years. Roles at CP include Lottie in *Enchanted April*, Lotte in *Lettice and Lovage*, and various roles in *Steel Magnolias*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Splendour*, *The Road to Mecca*, and *Rumors*. Other local stage roles include Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* at Bowie Community Theatre and, at Dignity Players, Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible* and various roles in *The Vagina Monologues* and *Sordid Lives*. Her directing credits at CP include last year's WATCH-nominated *Trying, Copenhagen, Is There Life After High School?*, and *Isn't it Romantic?*. Choreographic endeavors include nine shows at CP, including *A Little Night Music, She Loves Me, Cabaret,* and six other shows. She directed *Art, Stones in his Pockets,* and *The Shadow Box* at Dignity Players. "Tom, thanks for letting me join in on the antics with my favorite playmates. And thanks for the introduction to the dead guy."

#### HEATHER QUINN (Jean)

Heather has worked on numerous theater projects in the DC-Annapolis area both on the stage and behind the scenes.

She is happy to be back onstage and working with a splendid creative team. Most recently at Colonial Players, she appeared as Dr. Cora Gage in Going to St. Ives (WATCH nomination) and Lanie Wells in Two Rooms (WATCH nomination). Other CP roles included: Rose Arnott in Enchanted April, Hannah Jarvis in Arcadia, and Killaine Farrell in The Clearing. Locally, she has also performed in several Dignity Players productions (The Laramie Project, Dead Man Walking, Six Degrees of Separation). She thanks the cast, director, and AD for all those inventive antics seen in rehearsal. "Rehearsing a play is a great way to learn new skills...how to use a little sign language, tell laughable lies with a straight face, use a cell phone....(that's right, guess who never had one?)."

> LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! AND 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.

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# THE STAFF (continued)

News, and The Butler Did It, to name just a few. When not in theater, Brigette loves to bake, cook, watch sports, and go to the beach. She is an avid knitter and a certified pastry chef. Brigette thanks her family and friends for their love and support. Special thanks to her mom and dad for everything they have done. "Love to you both."



### **CHRISTINA R. MCALPINE** (Costume Designer)

Christina is glad to be back doing costumes for Colonial Players. *The Curious Savage* was her last costume design with Colonial

Players. She has also helped with costumes for In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play, 1776, The Lion in Winter, and Mrs. California. Her Bay Theatre Company credits include: The Price, The Actor's Nightmare, Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All, Wit, Becky's New Car, Love Letters, and Mauritius. She has also worked locally with Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Anne Arundel Community College, and the University of Maryland. Christina holds a BFA in Theatre from the University of West Florida. She hopes you enjoy the show and thanks all those who keep this wonderful art form alive!



#### EDD MILLER (Set Designer)

Edd has a long history with Colonial Players as a director, actor, set designer, and volunteer in other areas. He

designed sets earlier this season for Annie and Coyote on a Fence, which he also directed. Edd was nominated for a Washington Area Theatre Community Honors set design award for Chapter Two and won a 2012 WATCH award for best direction for Going to St. Ives, which also won awards for best play, out of 83 plays judged, and best lead actress. Other set designs for CP include last season's productions of Sunlight, In the Next Room or The Vibrator Play, and Taking Steps. He also has acted in and directed many shows since joining CP in 1964.



## SHIRLEY PANEK

(Lighting Designer)

Shirley is pleased to be back behind the light board for *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Normally seen on the stage, she is thrilled

to be working with such a dynamic director and amazingly talented and funny cast. In 2013, she was chosen as one of DCMTA's Best of 2013: Favorite Designers of 2013 for her lighting design for *Communicating Doors*. Other lighting designs include, *Trying*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and *Chapter Two* (2012 WATCH nominee) at The Colonial Players, and *Art* at Dignity Players. Shirley would like to thank Tom for his enthusiastic vision for the show. Thanks also to the cast and production staff and crew for their patience during tech week. "Love to Drew, Emma, and Jeff - the lights that shine in my life every day."

# (Properties Designer)

Connie recently worked as properties designer for *Collected Stories* with Dignity Players theater. She previously

enjoyed being the properties designer at Colonial Players for the Victorian-era *In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play*, which earned a Washington Area Theatre Community Honors nomination for best properties, and *Annie*, set in 1933. In previous years, Connie volunteered as marketing assistant and graphic designer for Colonial Players. In addition to collecting props for *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Connie enjoyed helping decorate the set along with set designer Edd Miller. Connie thanks her husband, John, for his continued support.





## (Gordon) Jim most recently directed The 39 Steps at Dignity Players, where he appeared in Sordid

JIM REITER

Lives, The Crucible, and The Shadow Box, directed by tonight's Mysterious Stranger. Jim designed the music for Dignity's Art and Collected Stories, and is doing the same for Colonial's upcoming Rocket Man. He appeared in the Annapolis Chorale's Once Upon a Mattress, Theater 11's A Storyteller's Season, Annapolis Shakespeare's *Pride and Prejudice*. and Bay Theatre's Becky's New Car. At Colonial Players he played Ben Hecht in *Moonlight and* Magnolias, Scrooge in A Christmas Carol, Dale in Dog Logic, Mr. Maraczek in She Loves Me. Robert in Proof, and Boolie in Driving Miss Daisy with the esteemed and greatly missed Beth Whaley. Jim received the 2008 Outstanding Featured Actor Award from the Washington Area Theatre Community Honors for his multiple-character performance in Colonial's Hauptmann. At Bowie's 2nd Star Productions, Jim directed 1776, The Music Man, Once Upon a Mattress, and How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying.



THE CAST (continued)

MARY FAWCETT WATKO (Mrs. Gottlieb)

As an actor and director, Mary has worked with numerous theater groups and has been with Colonial Players since

1981. Two CP favorites as a director: Enchanted April and Angel Street; as an actor, Rumors and The Lion in Winter. Mary received a Ruby Griffith Award from the British Players for her direction of Dial M for Murder for Bowie Community Theatre. With Dignity Players of Annapolis, she directed Death and the Maiden, Sight Unseen, and one of her favorites, Blue Orange. Theater continues to be a passion and has been since she appeared on BBC TV at the age of 11 years - oh so long ago! Working with the director of Dead Man's Cell Phone – Tom Newbrough – has been a special treat. "He has wonderful energy and a great sense of humor, which makes the rehearsal process more fun than you may possibly imagine! Thank you, Tom!"



# THE STAFF

#### **RICHARD ATHA-NICHOLLS** (Sound Designer)

Richard is happy to be back at Colonial Players designing sound for *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. He previously engineered or

designed sound at Colonial for *The Spitfire Grill; Kiss Me, Kate; Jekyll & Hyde; Jake's Women; A Christmas Carol; The Piano Lesson; Over the River and Through the Woods; Pippin;* and two summer One-Act Festivals. In addition to designing sound, Richard has appeared on area stages and can be seen in July in Colonial's summer One-Act Festival. Occasionally, he has been known to direct and directed CP's 63rd Season opener, The *Unexpected Guest.* Love to C&A.

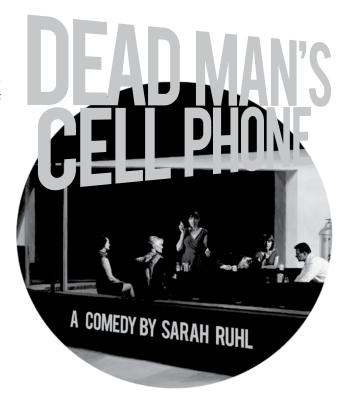
### BRIGETTE MARCHAND (Stage Manager)

Brigette Is happy to be back at CP after recently working on Dignity Players' production of *The 39 Steps*. Other recent

credits with Dignity Players include *Collected Stories* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.* She has worked with several other theater companies, including Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Vagabond Players, Bowie Community Theatre, and Churchill Theatre. Other theater credits include *Hauptmann, Dearly Departed, A Shayna Maidel, Sly Fox, The Battle of Shallowford, Rumors, Robber Bridegroom, A Christmas Carol, Good* 

#### 65th Season

THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC. *presents* 



# Written by SARAH RUHL

Directed by
TOM NEWBROUGH

# THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Heather Quinn
Mary Fawcett Watko
Darice Clewell
Jean Berard
Nick Beschen
Jim Reiter

## TIME The present.

Playwright Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of *Dead Man's Cell Phone* off Broadway in 2008.

Originally Produced June 2006 by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, D.C., Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director.

Dead Man's Cell Phone was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program.

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

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French. Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited. Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.