

The Real Man Who Broke the Bank

Lucky Stiff is based rather loosely on *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, a 1983 novel by British comic book writer Michael Butterworth about a timid English schoolmaster who stands to inherit more than \$5 million if he can fulfill the bizarre conditions of a dead relative's will. Ernest Rowbotham will inherit the money only if he accompanies the body of his uncle, a former Chicago Mafia boss, on a tour of Europe. Butterworth's characters, like those in *Lucky Stiff*, are fictional, but there was a real man who became famous for breaking the bank at Monte Carlo Casino. Charles De Ville Wells, born in 1841, was a con man and fraudster who, at the age of 50, gained considerable fame for his success as a gambler at the casino.

At the start of each day in Wells' time, every gaming table in the casino began with a cash reserve of 100,000 francs, known as the bank. If a gambler's winnings exceeded the available reserve, he had "broken the bank." The table was covered with a black cloth, and play at that table was suspended while more money was brought from the casino's vault. During the summer of 1891 and again in November, Wells broke the bank several times, earning about 60,000 pounds on an initial stake of 4,000 pounds.

He certainly wasn't the only successful gambler in Monte Carlo, but he was the only one whose exploits were celebrated in a popular English music hall song that turned him into a folk hero. "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" was composed by Frederick Gilbert, a theatrical agent who wrote comical songs as a sideline. In three verses, Gilbert portrayed Wells as "a mass of money, linen, silk, and starch" who revelled in the attention bestowed upon him during his daily grand triumphal marches around Paris. Gilbert summed it up this way in the chorus:

*As I walk along the Bois de Boulogne
With an independent air
You can hear the girls declare
"He must be a Millionaire."
You can hear them sigh and wish to die,
You can see them wink the other eye
At the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo.*

English comedian and music hall performer Charles Coburn was instrumental in turning Gilbert's song into an international hit. Coburn performed it in different languages during his world tours beginning in 1891. The song remained popular into the 1940s and has continued to crop up since then in occasional cultural references in books and movies. Coburn performed "The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo" in English and French in the 1934 British film *Say It With Flowers*; Peter O'Toole sang it as he crossed the desert in the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*; Bing Crosby included it on his 1961 album *101 Gang Songs*. The song title inspired the 1935 U.S. romantic comedy *The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*, even though the movie had little if anything to do with Wells or his life story. Gilbert's lyrics were included in novels by Booth Tarkington and Thomas Pynchon.

Wells' fame and his short-term success at Monte Carlo did not serve him well in the end. He was arrested in 1892, extradited to stand trial in England, and was sentenced to eight years in prison. He served another sentence in England and a third in France and died in poverty in 1926.

— TOM STUCKEY

Sources: genius.com; wikipedia; songfacts.com



APRIL 6 – MAY 6, 2018

2017/2018 season



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring!

Often times in my president's messages, I talk about our volunteers and thank them for their service. After all, they're the ones who make the printed word come to life – through lights, costumes, acting, the ambience brought to life through the set design and construction as well as the props the actors use. Everything in its place to make each show unique and as true-to-life (or as fantastical) as they playwright intended.

This month I wanted to thank you – our patrons – for joining us for each show. We have a large number of loyal audience members who subscribe and see nearly all of our shows each season. Without you, we'd be playing to an empty house, and believe me, as an actor it's not as much fun. Every audience is unique – boisterous, intense, thoughtful – and audience members find something new in each performance that they find funny or touching. It's always fun to watch how each audience reacts to the playmaking onstage; as actors, our characters sometimes evolve throughout the run as we reflect on how you have responded to the choices we make.

Thank you again for joining us today. We are so happy you are here. Enjoy the show!

– SHIRLEY PANEK

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WHAT'S GOING ON AT CP.



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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I started my journey toward directing my first show four years ago when I was lucky enough to be allowed to assistant direct The Colonial Players' production of *Watch on the Rhine*. In the time since then, I have been reading script after script looking for the right show to direct. I applied to direct two shows with general ideas about how they should run, and nothing really panned out for me. It was entirely different when I first read *Lucky Stiff*. This show affected me more than any script that I had read previously, and ideas started to pour out of me. Before I went into my interview with the Director Selection Committee, I had written 14 pages of notes with my ideas for the show. It was clear that this was meant to be.

The thing that most inspired me about this show was not necessarily the message it sent, but rather a lack thereof. The most poignant moment you will see tonight is when everyone sings, "It's Good to be Alive," and that's the point! This show isn't meant to deliver a message; it doesn't have an agenda; it's meant to make you forget your troubles and just have fun for a couple of hours. That is what makes this show so special. No matter what is troubling you in your own life, come in, relax, and forget about your troubles for a while. If you walk away with anything tonight, walk away knowing that: "It's Good to be Alive!"

— ERIC HUFFORD

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



ERIC HUFFORD is absolutely thrilled to be making his directorial debut on the Colonial Players' stage. Eric spends most of his theatrical time acting and singing onstage and creating special effects offstage. Most recently, you may have seen him onstage as Jerry Lukowski in *The Full Monty* at Annapolis Summer Garden

Theatre. Favorite roles at The Colonial Players include Jack Worthing in *Ernest in Love*, Leslie Bainbridge in *Taking Steps*, and Thomas Jefferson in 1776. He has also played Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Anne Arundel Community College. "I'm so grateful to Colonial Players to have been given this opportunity, and I'd like to thank my wife, Sarah, for always supporting me in everything I do. Enjoy the show!"

ABOUT OUR NEXT PLAY

Harvey Fierstein's *Casa Valentina*, which begins a four-week run May 25, is set in a bungalow colony located in the Catskills -- 1962's land of dirty dancing and Borscht Belt comedy. The inconspicuous resort caters to a very special clientele: heterosexual men who delight in dressing and acting as women. Escaping their families for a weekend allows them to safely inhabit their chosen female alter-egos in the company and safety of like-minded men. When these white-collar professionals are given the opportunity to share their secret lives with the world, they must decide whether the freedom gained by openness is worth the risk of personal ruin. Based on real events and infused with Fierstein's trademark wit, this moving, insightful, and delightfully entertaining work offers a glimpse into the lives of a group of "self-made women" as they search for acceptance and happiness in their very own Garden of Eden. While *Casa Valentina* explores serious issues, it reflects the gift for comedy that helped Fierstein win Tony Awards for *Torch Song Trilogy* and *La Cage Aux Folles*. New York's *Newsday* praised Fierstein's "gift for revealing new worlds within worlds we think we know well....(*Casa Valentina*) is moving, beguiling and, yes, again historically significant without lecturing or threatening...Fierstein wants us to understand the vast spectrum of gender and sexuality. Along the way, bless him, he understands how to entertain." *The New York Times* noted that he had dealt with similar material before, but that the characters were usually gay. "The men who populate *Casa Valentina*...are emphatically heterosexual. Or so they say, and mostly you have no reason to doubt them...*Casa Valentina* poses some genuinely arresting questions about identity," *The Times* said.

ABOUT THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



EMILY L. SERGO is so excited to be working with The Colonial Players again, and with such an amazing cast and production team! She most recently music directed *The Full Monty* with Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. No stranger to the stage, her favorite roles include Carlotta Giudicelli (*The Phantom of the Opera*, AACCC), Jo March (*Little Women*, CP), Belle (*Beauty and*

the Beast, CCP), Kate (*Lippa's The Wild Party*, LMP), and Vivienne Kensington (*Legally Blonde*, WOB). Emily would like to thank Eric, Kaitlin, and Lindsey for being the best, and her amazing and hilarious cast. She sends love to Mom, Josh, Brooke, and her husband, James, who supports her in everything she does. Upcoming: *Ragtime* at 2nd Star Productions, *James and the Giant Peach* at Heritage Players.

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHER



LINDSAY ZETTER returns for her third musical production with The Colonial Players, having served as choreographer for *Ernest in Love* and *A Christmas Carol*. Classically trained in ballet since age three, she loved choreographing as soon as she knew the steps. Receiving a degree in Arts Management from Indiana University, she has been Associate Artistic Director of Academy Ballet School

since 2011 and is the Dance Director at The Key School. She has staged and choreographed ballet productions of *Snow White*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *Peter Pan*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Swan Lake*. Other productions include *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Cats*, *Chicago*, *The Addams Family*, and guest choreographing for Annapolis Opera's *Faust*. She is excited about the opportunity to work with such an amazing cast and production team.

ABOUT THE WRITER AND COMPOSER

LYNN AHRENS and **STEPHEN FLAHERTY** are perhaps the foremost musical theater team of their generation. They have worked together for more than 30 years, with Ahrens writing the book and lyrics and Flaherty the musical score. Their list of Broadway shows includes *Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*, and *Seussical*. They won the 1998 Tony and Drama Desk awards for best score and lyrics of a musical for *Ragtime* and a Tony nomination for their musical score for *Once on This Island*, which also earned for Ahrens a Tony nomination for best book of a musical. Flaherty and Ahrens also were nominated for two Academy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards for their songs and musical score for the animated movie *Anastasia*.

Lucky Stiff was performed at Playwrights Horizons in 1988, their first New York

production, and played on London's West End in 1997. Other Broadway musicals include *My Favorite Year*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Rocky*, and *Little Dancer*.

Ahrens was born in New York City, began her music career writing and performing songs for ABC's *Schoolhouse Rock*, and subsequently became a freelance composer and singer of commercial music. In addition to writing for the stage, she composed music for movies and television shows.

Flaherty was born in Pittsburgh and attended the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. As a college student, he played ragtime piano.

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



THE STAFF (continued)

Players 2016 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Frank's previous work included 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 Artist 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 28 years.



CHARLOTTE ROBINSON (Properties Designer)

Charlotte has worked behind the scenes with The Colonial Players for 30 plus years, serves on several committees, and was a member of the Board of Directors. Her most recent shows were *The Secret Garden*, *Trying*, and *Side Man*. She has worked on multiple productions of her favorite show, *A Christmas Carol*. Many theater-goers may recognize her as one of the Sunday matinee ushers. Charlotte thanks all the patrons who make the long hours worthwhile and all the dedicated, hard-working people involved in this production, especially Mike and JoAnn.



BETH TERRANOVA (Stage Manager)

Beth has pursued her theater interest onstage and backstage for over 40 years in four states and two countries. An experienced actor and director, she also has numerous backstage credits including stage manager, costume designer, set designer, and producer. Beth most recently stage managed the Compass Rose Theater productions of *Eleanor* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Other stage management credits include *Superior Donuts*; *Kindertransport*; *Romantic Comedy*;

and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart* for Annapolis theaters, and *Art*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *Greetings* for Florida theaters. Most recently Beth earned a WATCH nomination for Costume Design for Colonial Player's production of the musical *Nine*, and appeared onstage as Helsa Wenzel in 2nd Star Productions' *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. Beth retired from federal service in December 2017, but hasn't really figured out what that means yet.



CAITLIN WELLER (Sound Designer)

Caitlin is very happy to be returning to The Colonial Players. Since beginning at CP, she has worked as a stage manager, assistant lighting designer, and various parts of tech crew around Annapolis. She is very excited to be a part of this production and thankful for such an amazing and talented cast and crew. Special thanks to family and friends for their unending support, and to The Colonial Players for the great experience.

MUSIC SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Something Funny's Going On.....The Company
Mr. Witherspoon's Friday Night.....Harry and Company
Rita's Confession.....Rita and Vinnie
Good To Be Alive.....Harry, Luigi, and Company
Lucky.....Harry
Dogs vs. You.....Harry and Annabel
The Phone Call.....Vinnie
A Day Around Town.....The Company
Monte Carlo!.....Emcee
Speaking French.....Dominique
Times Like This.....Annabel
Monte Carlo! (Reprise).....Emcee
Fancy Meeting You Here.....Rita
Act I Finale: Good To Be Alive.....The Company

ACT II

Something Funny's Going On (Reprise).....The Company
Him, Them, It, Her.....Harry, Annabel, Rita, Vinnie, and Company
Nice.....Annabel and Harry
Welcome Back, Mr. Witherspoon.....The Company
A Woman In My Bathroom.....Harry
Confession #2.....The Company
Fancy Meeting You Here (Reprise).....Rita
Act II Finale: Good To Be Alive.....The Company





THE CAST



DAVE CARTER

(Body of Tony Hendon)

It has been two years since Dave performed on the CP stage, and he is very excited to be back. He has been very busy recently directing *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and *Sex With Strangers*, but never wants to forsake acting, which is his first love. You may have seen him in such shows as *Communicating Doors*, *A Few Good Men*, and *These Shining Lives*. Some may think him crazy to make his return as the dead guy, but when the show first was announced, he thought how much fun it would be to play this role. He is excited to be a part of *Lucky Stiff* and looks forward to being in only his second musical to date. He wants to thank his family and friends for their loving support in his pursuit of the craft that is his passion.



BRANDON DIETRICK

(Vinnie di Ruzzio)

Brandon is excited to be making his debut with The Colonial Players. Although he is new to CP, he is a veteran actor in the area. *Lucky Stiff* marks his 35th show over the past 19 years. You may have seen him in last years' production of *The Full Monty* at ASGT. Offstage, Brandon is a real estate agent for Coldwell Banker. There he specializes in first time homebuyers. He also has his own photography business. Brandon participates in many long distance runs throughout the year, including the Baltimore B3 series and the Bay Bridge Run. He is very excited to be onstage performing with his good friends Allie and Deb again. Hope you all enjoy the show!



KIRSTI DIXON

(Featured Dancer)

Kirsti Dixon is excited to be performing in her third show with The Colonial Players! Last year she performed in *Nine* with this lovely company, and is super excited to rejoin her German sister to be ridiculous dancers again. Recently she has been seen in ASGT's

Sister Act and *Light Up the Stars*, and in Heritage Players' *Spelling Bee* (Marcy Park) and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel). 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.



ALLIE DRESKIN

(Rita LaPorta)

Allie is proud to make her Colonial Players debut and to return to the stage after two years of singing in rock/pop cover bands. Her favorite past credits include Brooke in *Noises Off!* (Silhouette Stages), Prudy Pingelton/Female Authority in *Hairspray* (Purple Light Theatre Co.), Linda in *The Wedding Singer* (Cockpit in Court), Joanne in *Rent* (PFT), Maggie Jones in *42nd Street* (ASGT), Roz Keith in *9 to 5 The Musical* (DCT), and Agnes Gooch in *Mame* (Spotlighters Theatre). You can catch Allie singing in acoustic trio Gutter Rose and party band Get On The Floor around the Baltimore area. Allie would not be here without the support and encouragement of her family and friends to always stay true to what she loves. She always finds a home and place of belonging in the theater, and hopes you do, too. "Keep smiling, it looks good on ya!"



RICK ESTBERG

(Luigi Gaudi)

Rick is thrilled to put on yet another accent or two in this, his sixth CP show in the past five years. Recently he's played a Brit (John in *Calendar Girls*), a lisping trumpeter (Ziggy in *Side Man*), and a Russian (Max in *Superior Donuts*). Huge thanks to a marvelous cast, our great director and music director, and to a very patient, understanding choreographer. Rick has appeared in several Pasadena Theatre productions, including *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror 10) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Lazar Wolf). Rick's other passion is public speaking; he recently won the Toastmasters District 18 Humorous Speech contest against competitors representing over 110 clubs in Maryland and Delaware. A big shout



THE STAFF (continued)

years. Kaelynn currently serves as Treasurer on Colonial Players' Board of Directors. She sends love to her husband, Wes, who shares this crazy theater world with her on a daily basis.



WES BEDSWORTH

(Lighting Programmer)

Wes has been involved with over 50 productions at The Colonial Players since he joined in 2007. He won the 2010 Washington Area Theatre Community Honors award for outstanding sound design for *Earth and Sky* and has been nominated for sound design for *Hauptmann*, *Kindertransport*, *The Diviners*, and *1776*. Wes serves as Operations Director on the CP Board and Technical Director on the Production Team. He sends love to Mom, Dad, Susan, and Abby... and most of all to his wife, Kaelynn, who supports, encourages, and participates in the craziness that is theater life.



TIM BROWN

(Producer)

Tim has been involved in a variety of backstage roles. Most recently he was Producer of *It's a Wonderful Life*. He also produced *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and was assistant producer for *Boeing Boeing*. Other roles have included lighting assistant and programmer for *Nine* and *Sex, Drugs, Rock and Roll*. He was stage manager for CP's most recent production of *A Christmas Carol*. Tim claims to have found that the perfect way to spend his retirement-enabled free time is to support his long-time favorite theater - Colonial Players. He sends thanks to all the wonderful people at this theater who have been so welcoming and fun to work with.



DREA LYNN

(Costume Designer)

Drea Lynn is happy to lend a helping hand as costume designer of this madcap musical theater romp of a show! Production credits for The Players include

lighting design for *Dog Logic* and producer for *The Unexpected Guest*, *the shape of things*, *Earth and Sky*, and *A Christmas Carol*, and most recently award-winning costume design for *1776*. She has appeared onstage in the Ruby Griffith Award-winning production of *Enter the Guardsman*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Assassins*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. When not working with community theater, Drea can be found singing with her rock and soul band "PartyOfTen."



KAITLIN FISH

(Assistant Director)

Kaitlin is thrilled to be assistant director for *Lucky Stiff*! She would like to give a special thank you to Eric for allowing her to work with him on this project. She also thanks Emily and Lindsay for sharing their talents and teamwork, making this process a blast! *Lucky Stiff* is her first time working on a production team at The Colonial Players, and it has been a humbling and wonderful experience. She truly enjoyed watching this talented cast and crew bring this wild and fun show to life! Kaitlin has assisted on the directorial side at Children's Theatre of Annapolis and has been seen recently onstage in various productions with CP, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, and 2nd Star Productions. As a huge lover of dogs, she was naturally drawn to this show. It has touched her heart and reminded her that "It's Good To Be Alive! Woof Woof!"



FRANK A. 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 for a play (*Chapter Two* and *Coyote on a Fence*) and two awards for best lighting design for a musical (*Bat Boy* and *Ernest in Love*). Frank created lots of Magical Light for the Colonial



THE CAST (continued)

Addams Family. Other favorite roles include Guildenstern, Gravedigger, et al. (*Hamlet*, Compass Rose Theater), Alcippe (*The Liar*, Broadneck High School), and Ferdinand (*The Tempest*, Broadneck High School). He would like to thank The Colonial Players for welcoming him so kindly, his sister Victoria for supporting him through diligent car-sharing coordination, and his girlfriend, Bella, for liking him as much as her character likes dogs (he hopes).



REED SIGMON

(*Harry Witherspoon*)

Reed is honored to be involved with his first Colonial Players production. Past performances include Lucas Beineke (*The Addams Family*, AACC), Tobias (*Sweeney Todd*, Laurel Mill Playhouse), Monsieur Reyer (*The Phantom of the Opera*, AACC), and Henry Clay (*Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, AACC). Most recently, he could be seen in Laurel Mill Playhouse's production of *The Curious Savage* as Jeffrey Meredith. Reed recently graduated from UMBC with a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication Studies and is currently working

in marketing for mywalit US. He would like to thank his loving family, friends, and cast mates for making him feel like the luckiest stiff around.



GENE VALENDI

(*Emcee, Solicitor, Old Texan, Nun, Prosperous Man, Croupier*)

Gene is very pleased to be returning to The Colonial Players stage, where he last appeared as Joseph Hewes in 2013's *1776*. His favorite previous roles include: Major Quimby in *Bloody Murder*, Dr. Hubert Bonney (WATCH nominee for Outstanding Featured Actor in a play) in *It Runs in the Family*, Henry Perkins in *Funny Money*, Horace Vandergelder in *Hello, Dolly!*, and Juror #8 in *Twelve Angry Men* (All with SSP); Sir Joseph Porter in *HMS Pinafore* (LMP); and King Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Musical Artists Theatre). For a change of pace, Gene produced 2nd Star's 2017 production of *Mary Poppins* (WATCH nominee for Outstanding Musical), but has decided that acting is less stressful and a lot more fun. "Thanks, Eric, for the incurable case of dissociative identity disorder I have developed while working on this production."



THE STAFF



TERRY AVERILL

(*Set Designer*)

Terry is a longtime volunteer at The Colonial Players who has been active both onstage and offstage as an actor, director, set designer, and president of the CP Board for four years. Earlier this season he directed and designed the set for *33 Variations*. Other favorite designs were *Batboy*, also at CP, and *Language of Angels* and *Grace and Glory* at Bowie Community Theatre. He appeared onstage at The Colonial Players in *Superior Donuts*, *1776*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Directing credits at CP include *Watch on the Rhine*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; and *Kindertransport*. Terry also performed at the Smithsonian's National

History Museum, portraying abolitionist John Brown in *The Trial of John Brown*.



KAELYNN BEDSWORTH

(*Sound Designer*)

This is Kaelynn's ninth season with CP, and she has volunteered both on the stage and off in a variety of roles, from actress to go-button pusher to steampunk wig maker to Looney Tunes sound effect specialist to smushed banana cleaner. You may have seen her grace the stage in *The Secret Garden*, *Annie*, *1776*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and more. Behind the scenes, she has produced, costume designed, sound designed, and scene painted for many shows over the last few



THE CAST (continued)

out to my wife, Lucie, who's been enduring so much humming around the house of late, and to my coworkers who always help fill up the seats here!



HANNAH HALL

(*Featured Dancer*)

Hannah is a sophomore at Severna Park High School, and this is her second production with The Colonial Players. She was first seen in *Nine* last season. Aside from CP, she was recently seen in *Fiddler on the Roof* at Compass Rose Theater and *Annie Get Your Gun* at 2nd Star Productions. She has studied opera at Interlochen Center for the Fine Arts in Michigan and Manhattan School of Music. Hannah is also 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

(*Dominique, Spinster, Southern Lady*)

Deb is delighted to be part of this wild show! Most recently she performed as a dancer with ASGT in *Light Up The Stars* and also in *Mary Poppins* with 2nd Star Productions. You may have caught her last year at The Colonial Players in *Nine*. Deb is very proud of this show and appreciates the dedication of the production team, which shines through in every detail. Enjoy the show! And remember...what happens in Monte Carlo, stays in Monte Carlo.



ISABELLA LOPEZ

(*Annabel Glick*)

Isabella is super pumped to be a part of her second show with The Colonial Players following her appearance in *Annie* five years ago. Since then, she's been in shows throughout Maryland and at Broadneck High School. Her favorite roles include Eva Perón in

Evita, Clarice in *The Liar*, The Leading Player in *Pippin*, and Nimira in the world premiere of the fantasy rock musical, *Magic Under Glass*. Her most recent role was the character of Door in Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*, where she had to do a British accent. However, now it is her costar who has to do the British accent! Bella would like to thank her family for being supportive, her boyfriend (Grant Scherini) for being sweet and driving her to rehearsal, and her two dogs for giving her inspiration and endless love.



JEANNE LOUISE

(*Landlady, Drunken Maid, Miss Thorsby, Southern Lady, Nurse*)

Almost a decade ago, Jeanne Louise debuted on The Colonial Players stage in *The Curious Savage* as spoiled rich girl Lily Belle Savage. She returns after portraying somebody or other in Durang's *'dentity Crisis* during last summer's one-act festival. In between, she has performed in shows for 2nd Star Productions, Bowie Community Theatre, Newtowne Players, Prince George's Little Theatre, Rude Mechanicals, and Twin Beach Players. After completion of the actors training program at Circle-in-the-Square Theatre School in New York, Jeanne spent the next 20-something years as a struggling performer in NYC and around the US before marrying a member of The Capitol Steps musical satire troupe and "retiring" to Maryland. Jeanne is a volunteer cat socializer and photographer with The Haven kitty shelter in North Beach.



GRANT SCHERINI

(*Bellhop, French Waiter, Punk, Gambler, Leper*)

This is Grant's first main-stage performance with The Colonial Players (he previously worked with them in a reading of the 2015 Promising Playwright winner *Kid Turboni Brings the Rain*), and he couldn't have asked for a more rollicking show to debut with! Grant is a theater major at Anne Arundel Community College, where he performed onstage as Richard Mayhew in *Neverwhere* and Uncle Fester in *The*

THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC.
presents



Book and Lyrics by **LYNN AHRENS**
Music by **STEPHEN FLAHERTY**

Directed by **ERIC HUFFORD**
Music Direction by **EMILY L. SERGO**
Choreography by **LINDSAY ZETTER**

THE CAST

Harry Witherspoon.....Reed Sigmon
Annabel Glick.....Isabella Lopez
Rita LaPorta.....Allie Dreskin
Vinnie di Ruzzio.....Brandon Dietrick
Luigi Gaudi.....Rick Estberg
*Emcee/Solicitor/Old Texan/Nun/
Prosperous Man/Croupier*.....Gene Valendo
Bellhop/French Waiter/Punk/Gambler/Leper.....Grant Scherini
*Landlady/Drunken Maid/Miss Thorsby/
Southern Lady/Nurse*.....Jeanne Louise
Dominique/Spinster/Southern Lady..... Debra Kidwell
Body of Tony Hendon.....Dave Carter
Featured Dancer.....Hannah Hall
Featured Dancer.....Kirsti Dixon

TIME
Late 1980s

PLACE
East Grinstead, England; Atlantic City, NJ;
Monte Carlo

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

Produced by Special Arrangement with Music Theatre International.
Taking photographs and using any recording devices are strictly prohibited.
Smoking is prohibited throughout the building.