



# I love you because



## A MODERN DAY MUSICAL LOVE STORY

Music by JOSHUA SALZMAN  
Book and Lyrics by RYAN CUNNINGHAM  
Orchestrations by LARRY HOCHMAN

Directed by SHANNON BENIL  
Music Directed by RON GIDDINGS

**JUNE 10 to JUNE 13, 2021**

**2020/2021 season**



**THE COLONIAL PLAYERS, INC.**

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Moving Forward!

Welcome to a very special Summer Production and our second live “in-theater” offering for an *almost* post-COVID world. The response to our return with *Maytag Virgin* was amazing and humbling, and so we are keeping things going with *I Love You Because...* We’re overjoyed to bring some music and song back to CP this time. We’ll still keep being extra careful with our precautions - keeping our theater in a thrust configuration and offering streaming options when we can - but we’re slowly increasing seating capacity over the summer and getting things ready for Season 73.

And speaking of Season 73, we’ve got some exciting things planned! Most of the shows we couldn’t produce in Season 71 and 72 are back on the slate, as well as a new offering and the return of our much-loved *A Christmas Carol* this December. Perhaps most importantly, we are planning to return to our traditional in-the-round configuration in the Fall. Stay tuned to our website, social media and emails for details on the season, and our subscriptions, ticket packages and other news.

Finally, I want to thank our outgoing board members and welcome our new board members who took up their posts on June 1st. As a completely volunteer organization, the amount of time, work, heart and soul that our board members devote to the organization is truly awe-inspiring - even in the most “normal” of times. To say this last year has been challenging is an understatement, but thanks to the efforts of our outgoing board and the vast number of other volunteers, CP has landed on its feet and our new board is raring to go. Please join us in helping to get back to full-speed by volunteering! You can contact us at **info@thecolonialplayers.org** to find out how.

With a song in my heart...

— STEVE TOBIN

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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When I was approached in March about directing this special project for the summer, I was pretty much an immediate YES! I did not know of this musical before agreeing to this, so I had a lot of catching up to do. We were using the original pub reading cast (minus one that had to be replaced) from 7 years ago, all of whom I knew and loved, and I would get to feed my soul again with the theater I so desperately missed during this pandemic.

Having only directed college shows and a One-Act at Colonial Players years ago, this would be my first foray into directing a full-length production here, and a musical no less! Little did I realize how quickly two months passes when you are mounting a full musical. To say we have "thrown together" this musical

would be an insult to all those that have dedicated hours upon hours to make this happen on tight time restraints and a tighter budget. I cannot thank the staff of this show enough for jumping in with both feet. Your contributions are so evident and so appreciated. Our goal was to produce a show with minimal cost and time to show our community that live theater was BACK! Riding on the coattails of the success of our first re-opening show, *Maytag Virgin*, we knew our theater-goers were ready to return to the seats. So I think the audience will find this show is anything but "thrown together" and holds up to the standards of any of our normal season shows. My ONLY regret is that all this work is for only ONE weekend of shows!

— SHANNON BENIL

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

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**Shannon Benil** is thrilled to be directing her first full production at the Colonial Players. She is no stranger to this stage as she has been performing in shows at CP for 27 years, with her first role at age 16 as Belinda Cratchit in

*A Christmas Carol* for director Eric Lund who is now the lighting designer for her in this show! She has also known several of the actors for as many as 20 years, having met them here at CP as well. To say this theater is her second home would be an understatement. It is her family.

Some of her favorite roles at this theater have been in *Calendar Girls*, *Shiloh Rules*, *Rumors*, *Bat Boy* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. During the day, she is the Associate VP of Accounting for an Annapolis ad agency which segues nicely to her current role as Treasurer on the Board for CP. She would like to thank her wife, Marcy (who is her "I Love You Because"), for doing single parent duty for their 8-year-old son. "It is an honor and a privilege to have my name as Director on this show with this wonderful cast. I could listen to you all sing forever!"

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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**Joshua Salzman** (*music*) and **Ryan Cunningham** (*book and lyrics*) are Jonathan Larson Award winners as well as Drama Desk and MAC Award-nominated writers. Their Off-Broadway musical, *I Love You Because*, was in the NAMT Festival of New Musicals in 2005 and has been produced all over the world in five languages. Their musical, *Next Thing You Know*, has been produced at CAP 21 in New York,

across America and in Europe. Their song *Just Not Now* was featured on Lauren Kennedy's solo album *Here and Now*. Ryan and Joshua are graduates of the NYU Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program and are both members of ASCAP and the Dramatist Guild. Joshua lives in New Jersey with his wife and two daughters and Ryan lives in Chicago with his wife and son.

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I love you  
because



## THE PLACE

New York City

## THE TIME

Present Day

## THE CAST

AUSTIN BENNET.....RON GIDDINGS

JEFF BENNET.....ZAC BRIGHTBILL

MARCY FITZWILLIAMS.....KATIE GARDNER

DIANA BINGLEY.....JAMIE ERIN MILLER

NY WOMAN et al.....ALICIA SWEENEY

NY MAN et al.....DAVID THOMPSON

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# THE SONGS

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## ACT 1

ANOTHER SATURDAY NIGHT IN NEW YORK .....	Austin & Ensemble
OH, WHAT A DIFFERENCE .....	Jeff & Austin
THE ACTUARY SONG .....	Diana & Marcy
...BUT I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT HER .....	Austin & Marcy
COFFEE .....	Austin & Marcy
THE PERFECT ROMANCE .....	NYC Man & Woman
BECAUSE OF YOU .....	Austin & Marcy
WE'RE JUST FRIENDS .....	Diana & Jeff
MAYBE WE JUST MADE LOVE .....	Austin
JUST NOT NOW .....	Marcy

## ACT 2

ALONE .....	Marcy, NYC Man & Woman
THAT'S WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN .....	Jeff, Austin & Take Out Guy
EVEN THOUGH .....	Marcy
BUT I DO .....	Austin, Diana, Jeff & Marcy
WHAT DO WE DO IT FOR? .....	Diana, Marcy, Bartender & Cocktail Waitress
MARCY'S YOURS .....	Diana, Jeff & Austin
GOODBYE .....	Austin
I LOVE YOU BECAUSE .....	Full Ensemble





## THE CAST



### ZAC BRIGHTBILL

(Jeff Bennett)

Zac is a graduate from University of Maryland College Park with a double major in theatre performance and communications. Zac is thrilled to be performing for the first time with The Colonial Players and this stellar cast! Recent productions include *Ragtime* (Younger Brother), *Legally Blonde* (Emmett), *Spring Awakening* (Melchior), *Avenue Q* (Princeton), *9 to 5* (Joe), *Heathers* (JD), and *Gypsy* (Tulsa). Alumni of UMD's improv troupe Erasable Inc.



### KATIE GARDNER

(Marcy Fitzwilliams)

Katie is thrilled to be back at The Colonial Players after this unforgettable year. Some of her most recent and memorable roles include Stephanie Necrophorus in *Nine* at CP, ensemble in *Mamma Mia* at DCT, and Cindy Lou Huffington in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* at the Annapolis Summer Garden Theater. When not performing, Katie is in her tenth year of teaching physical education in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. In her spare time, Katie supports and performs in the local music scene and spends time with her new fur-child, Hudson. Katie would like to dedicate her performances to Mike and her wonderful family and friends for their unwavering love and support.



### RON GIDDINGS

(Austin Bennett)

Ron is so excited to finally be appearing in one of his favorite shows with some of his favorite people. He most recently appeared as Gordon Schwinn in CP's production of *A New Brain*. He has also appeared at CP over the last few years as Aaron Port in *The Babylon Line*, as Nick in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (WATCH award for Featured Actor in a Play), and Edgar/Bat Boy in *Bat Boy* (WATCH award for Best Actor in a

Musical). He has acted in the area with Dundalk Community Theatre, Cockpit in Court, Dignity Players, Moonlight Troupers, 2nd Star, Phoenix Festival Theatre, the Maryland Arts Festival, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, and with Standing O, as John in 2008's production of *john & jen*, in *The Musical of Musicals* (Jitter), *Tracers* (Scooter), *This is Our Youth* (Dennis), and in the US Premiere of *After the Dance* (Peter). "Thanks to my parents, family, and friends for being more supportive than I could ever express."



### JAMIE ERIN MILLER

(Diana Bingley)

Jamie is so grateful to be back "home" at The Colonial Players with some of her very favorite people in this amazing cast and crew. This is just what her heart needed after this crazy year we have all been through! Jamie majored in theater at The University of Central Florida and received her Masters Degree in Elementary Education. She is currently working as an Elementary School Principal for AACPS. Jamie has been seen performing in the Maryland and DC area with Annapolis Summer Garden Theater, The Colonial Players, Dignity Players, Second Star Productions, Standing O Productions, Vagabond Players and Winters Lane Productions. Some of her favorite roles include Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (WATCH nominee), Maureen in *Rent*, Woman 1 in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (WATCH nominee), Millie in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Christine in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, Carla in *Nine* and Izzy in *Rabbit Hole* (WATCH nominee). Jamie would like to thank everyone who put their heart and soul into this special project of ours! And a special thank you goes out to her family and friends for their endless love and support, especially her husband, Andrew, and their nine-year-old daughter, Sophie.



## THE CAST



### ALICIA SWEENEY

(*NY Woman*, et.al.)

Alicia has been involved with The Colonial Players as a performer, choreographer, actress, and director. She is thrilled to be on stage again

with friends she met almost 20 years ago right here at this very special theatre. Thank you to Shannon, David, Ron, Jamie, Katie, Zac and everyone in the theatre community but most especially to you, our audience for supporting live theatre.



### DAVID THOMPSON

(*NY Man*, et.al.)

David is very grateful to be back on stage at The Colonial Players where he has been in *A Few Good Men*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Assassins*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *Pippin*. Other local credits are *Children of Eden*, *Chess* and *Sweeney Todd*. Endless thanks to all his wonderful family & friends!



## THE CREW

### RICHARD ATHA-NICHOLLS

(*MusicProducer*)

Richard was excited and daunted to be asked to record and mix the music for *I Love You Because*, but he likes to be challenged. A big thank you to Wes Bedsworth for his assistance during the recording session. Richard has previously engineered or designed sound for numerous productions primarily at Colonial Players of Annapolis, Bowie Community Theatre, and Laurel Mill Playhouse. His sound design has garnered two WATCH nominations. Richard has appeared on area stages and in his spare time helps run Discworld conventions. Occasionally he has been known to direct. Love to C, A, P & K. Always in my heart, O.

### KATHY GARRITY

(*Stage Manager*)

Kathy has been involved behind the scenes in local Theatre for the past 16 years but is relatively new to The Colonial Players beyond being a spectator. Her first on-stage production in 30 years was with CP's production of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!* in 2019. She loved it! After the COVID recess, Kathy is so excited to be back at the theater as Stage Manager for this amazing show!

### ERIC LUND

(*Lighting Designer*)

Eric's most recent work at CP was as Lighting Designer for *Book of Days*. On stage, he was last seen playing Gloria in *Casa Valentina* and before that he appeared as Rod in *Calendar Girls*. He also designed lights for *The Secret Garden* and was nominated for a Washington Area Theatre Community Honors award for his designs for *Sideman* and *Venus in Fur*. He has worked extensively in area theaters including Dignity Players, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, Vagabonds in Baltimore, and others. On CP's stage, he has appeared in productions of *Rebecca*, *The Clearing*, and various iterations of a *A Christmas Carol*. He appeared in Dignity Players' productions of *The Laramie Project*, *Gross Indecencies*, and *The 39 Steps* and has directed for CP with *The Voice of the Prairie* and two seasons of *A Christmas Carol* and for Dignity Players with a production of *The Vagina Monologues*. He is also very excited to be directing CP's 2022 production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. He is a founding board member of Annapolis Pride. And he is very honored to be working with this amazing cast and crew. And, as always, thanks his husband of 26 years, Mickey, for his support and endless patience!





## KATHY PARROTT

*(Stage Manager)*

Kathy is thrilled to be back at The Colonial Players and to work with such talented people! She has always considered herself a thespian even though her talents are definitely more in costume and prop design. This time Kathy is excited to try her hand at Stage Management. While she has always loved the theater, her daughter Hallie was responsible for getting her involved in community theater. During Kathy's middle and high school years, she designed costumes, props and makeup for The Colonial Players, The Children's Theater of Annapolis and The Talent Machine. When she is not at the theater, she is an Interior Designer and Project Manager. "I hope you enjoy the show as much as I have enjoyed working on it!"

## CONSTANCE ROBINSON

*(Properties Designer/Set Decorator)*

Since 2003 Connie has volunteered as a public relations consultant, graphic designer, box office assistant, properties designer and set decorator for The Colonial Players. She serves on the current Marketing Committee, and has collected props or decorated sets for over TWENTY-FIVE productions at The Colonial Players Theater, and other local theaters. She is proud to have received three WATCH nominations for Properties Design. Connie enjoys her volunteer hours because of the friendly, dedicated people she works with. She also thanks her husband, John, for his continued assistance fixing, creating, or donating props. Connie is also grateful to friends for their support and loaning their household items for props. During the past year of the COVID-19 pandemic, she has missed being with the CP family. But, Connie said it has been fun being "back in business" now, working with the creative Director/Set Designer, Shannon Benil, for this show.

## BETH TERRANOVA

*(Producer)*

*I Love You Because* marks Beth's 53rd effort with The Colonial Players. Beth previously produced *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?*, *A Few Good Men*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Chapter Two*, three *One Act Festivals*, and *Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life*. Most recently, she designed costumes for *Maytag Virgin*. Among other backstage credits, Beth directed and designed the sets for *Shiloh Rules*, *Sherlock's Last Case*, *1776*, *She Loves Me!* and *Hauptmann*, and designed the set for *The Spitfire Grill*. She has Stage Managed *Lucky Stiff*, *Superior Donuts*, *Kindertransport* and *Romantic Comedy*. In addition to *Maytag Virgin*, Beth's costume designs have also been seen in *A Christmas Carol*, *Nine*, *A Few Good Men*, *These Shining Lives*, *Coyote on a Fence*, *Going to St. Ives*, *Cinderella Waltz*, *Lettice and Lovage*, *The Diviners*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Philadelphia Story*, *Hauptmann*, and *Moon Over Buffalo*. On the CP stage, Beth was most recently seen as Williamina Fleming in *Silent Sky*. Beth is a 10-time nominee for Washington Area Theater Community Honors (WATCH): Outstanding Play [Producer or Stage Manager] - *Lucky Stiff*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?*, *A Few Good Men*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*; Costumes - *Nine*, *Cinderella Waltz*, *Going to St. Ives*; Set Decoration and Special Effects - *Sherlock's Last Case*; Featured Actress - *Two Rooms* (Ellen van Oss); and Director - *Hauptmann*. She won the Outstanding Director award for *Hauptmann* and shared the win for Outstanding Play [Producer] for *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe?* Beth recently retired from 30 years of Government Service.

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COMING NEXT



LOVE, LOSS AND WHAT I WORE

By Nora and Delia Ephron JULY 9 - 25, 2021

"Love, Loss and What I Wore" follows a collection of stories about the nostalgic power of women's clothing. A diverse cast of women tell funny, wistful and universal memories about their families and loved ones through the prism of their closets.  
DIRECTED BY ROBIN SCHWARTZ

SEASON 73

The Colonial Players are excited to welcome you back with our Voyages of Discovery! Season 73 will traverse the globe, exploring locales across North America, Europe and beyond, and along the way we'll discover stories of revolution, redemption, and revelation. Join us on our journeys through time and space, and a season you won't want to miss.

THE REVOLUTIONISTS .....SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 2, 2021

by Lauren Gunderson DIRECTED BY JENNIFER COOPER  
Four beautiful, badass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution's Reign of Terror.

BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK...OCTOBER 22 - NOVEMBER 13, 2021

by Lynn Nottage DIRECTED BY ELEANORE TAPSCOTT  
This comedy draws upon the screwball films of the 1930's to take a funny and irreverent look at racial stereotypes in Hollywood.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL .....DECEMBER 2 - DECEMBER 12, 2021

by Richard Wade and Dick Gessner DIRECTED BY SARAH WADE  
Written for CP in 1981, this phenomenally popular production will run for two weekends in December. Tickets will be sold at the theater on November 17.

THE LOST BOY .....JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 5, 2022

by Ronald Gilbert Paolillo DIRECTED BY JOE THOMPSON  
Despite finding success and fame as a writer, James M. Barrie is dissatisfied with his work and his life. This fictionalized account of the birth of Peter Pan will warm the hearts of audiences everywhere.

AGNES OF GOD .....FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 20, 2022

by John Pielmeier DIRECTED BY JEFF SPRAGUE  
Suspensions and questions force three women to re-examine the meaning of faith and the power of love, leading to a dramatic, compelling climax.

FREAKY FRIDAY .....APRIL 8 - MAY 8, 2022

by Bridget Carpenter, DIRECTED BY RON GIDDINGS AND KAITLIN FISH  
Music and Lyrics by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey  
This joyous Disney musical version of Mary Rodgers' beloved book is heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional.

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

by Simon Stephens .....JUNE 3 - JUNE 25, 2022  
Based on the book by Mark Haddon, we follow 15 year old Christopher DIRECTED BY ERIC LUND  
as his story examines what it truly means to love, and the sacrifices it often takes to do so.

