



COMING NEXT...



January 6 – January 28, 2023

Crimes of the Heart

written by **BETH HENLEY**
directed by **ROBIN SCHWARTZ**



tickets.thecolonialplayers.org

The three Magrath sisters are back together in their hometown of Hazelhurst, Mississippi in the mid 1970's. Lenny, the eldest, never left Hazelhurst as she is the caretaker of the sisters' cantankerous Old Granddaddy. Meg, the middle sister, left home to pursue stardom as a singer in Los Angeles, but has, so far, only found happiness at the bottom of a bottle. And Babe, the youngest, has just been arrested for shooting her husband. Under the scorching heat of the Mississippi sun, past resentments bubble to the surface and each sister must come to terms with the consequences of her own "crimes of the heart"

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THE COLONIAL PLAYERS

OF ANNAPOLIS



THE LIFESPAN of a FACT



OCTOBER 21 – NOVEMBER 12, 2022

2022/2023 season



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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Fall Forward?

Autumn has just begun and the holiday season is fast approaching. Since we're not doing a holiday show this year (don't worry - A Christmas Carol will be back as part of our 75th season), I thought I'd take the opportunity to look ahead a bit, rather than reflect on where we've been and where we are. It's somewhat strange to be thinking about the holidays and the end of 2022 already, but all of us at CP have much to be thankful for and to think about and look forward to during the holiday season.

By not doing a holiday show this year, we've created some "breathing room" to help prepare for the ambitious second-half of Season 74; four shows in rapid succession, including a Sondheim musical with a live show band. Four shows may seem like business as usual for CP, but I assure you that nothing is usual these days. As I've said before, there are plenty of varied opportunities to get involved with any of these productions, and we are always looking for new folks to join us.

Another big part of our Winter/Spring task list is planning for next season. Season 75 is already a landmark anniversary for CP, and we are working towards honoring and celebrating it in many ways. Our play selection committee is hard at work coming up with a season slate that is meaningful and worthy of our 75th anniversary. We have a project already started to provide an update to our 50th Anniversary history book covering the last 25 years. And we have many other projects and ideas in the works.

So while you are all enjoying The Lifespan of a Fact, and trying to come to terms with the subtleties of describing facts and truths, let me thank all of you for your continued support and wish you all the best of the holiday season. Rest, re-energize, and come back to see what we've got in store for you in 2023. And if you want to join us in making the magic happen, we'll welcome you with open arms.

--Steve Tobin

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Estelle Miller
 Producer.....Richard Atha-Nicholls
 Stage Manager.....Hannah Houseley
 Assistant Stage Manager.....Austin Shuman
 Set Designer.....Edd Miller
 Properties Designers.....Billy McNeel, Roy Peterson
 Lighting Designer.....Eric Gasior
 Sound Designer.....Sarah Wade
 Costume Designer.....Abigail Traverson
 Set Painters.....Tom Stuckey, Kathy Gains, Edd Miller
 Lead Carpenter.....Ted Yablonski
 Set Crew.....Jim Robinson, Ken Kaiser, Bob Mumper, Edd Miller
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 Projections Designer.....Richard Atha-Nicholls
 Tech Assistant.....Bryan Nicholls
 Video Stream Designer.....Richard Atha-Nicholls
 Booth Technicians.....Julia Monroe, Beth Rendely
 Play Consultant.....Steve Tobin

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Poster and Program Cover Design.....Drama Queen Graphics
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My Producer, Richard Atha-Nicholls has played many different roles in this production; from trying to advance my knowledge of how to use a computer system to its fullest capabilities (and having great patience) to doing all things necessary in order to keep me out of the "behind the scenes" tasks necessary to make this production come to its fullest fruition. I had the pleasure of directing Richard many years ago and his being willing to work with me again in itself is a great compliment. Richard is tireless in his efforts to make things happen and I thank him for all of it! - Estelle Miller

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

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

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

How negotiable is fact? Society has been asking this question from the begin of time but has an answer ever been found? Our delicious play asks this question. Does it finally answer it? Joining us on this journey may answer that

question for you or it may not! However, you will be greatly entertained by three incredibly talented actors as they unfold this argument and attempt to define the word "fact". Enjoy!

- Estelle Miller

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Estelle Milller first began her involvement in the "stage" at age 4! Yes, age 4! That was more than ...well, a long time ago! Being brought up in New York and Brooklyn afforded her the opportunity to see and enjoy many Broadway and off Broadway productions. These experiences

kept tickling her need to be part of this amazing cultural environment. She has directed locally for many years and is proud to say that a few of her productions have won awards for the talent that was brought to the stage. Estelle's theatre family has always brought her great joy and she feels very blessed to be "back at it" again.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Gordon Farrell - Trained as a playwright at the Yale School of Drama, Gordon received an MFA in 1986 and went from there to work with major Hollywood studios, initially as a story analyst for Warner Brothers and Columbia Pictures, and eventually as a screenwriter. He has written for hire and sold screenplays to Universal Pictures, Warner Brothers, MGM, and ITC. As a playwright, from 2009 to 2013, Gordon worked with dozens of women on New York's Lower East Side who wanted to tell their personal stories on stage. The series of monologue plays that grew out of it was called *IN THE RED ROOM/EVERY WOMAN DANCES FOR SOMEONE*. In May 2019 the fully dramatized version, *GIRLS WHO WALKED ON GLASS*, played to SRO houses and rave reviews in Buffalo and was scheduled to transfer to New York City in 2020. His other plays have been produced in San Francisco, at the Alleyway Theatre, at the Yale School of Drama, and at Primary Stages in New York. He is the author of *The Power of the Playwright's Vision*, published by Heinemann Press in 2001. It has been translated internationally and become a standard playwriting text at colleges and universities in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Jeremy Kareken - Jeremy is a playwright living in New York and Baltimore. His short plays *HOT ROD*, *BIG TRAIN*, and *80 CARDS* have been performed around the country and internationally. He served as a speech writer and policy analyst for two presidential campaigns. Born and raised in Rochester, New York, and a graduate of the University of Chicago, he has taught at NYU, NYIT, the Actors Studio Drama School, and currently teaches at the Acting Studio—New York. A lifetime member of The Actors Studio, Jeremy occasionally acts and for 18 years served as the researcher for Bravo TV's *Inside the Actors Studio*.

David Murrell - David was born and raised in New York City. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School and the University of Chicago, currently lives in Queens, and has written a sea chest's worth of TV and film treatments and spec scripts. Access Theater (NYC) and the Cleveland Public Theatre each produced his play *DUCTWORK* and the Hamptons Film Festival Screenwriters Conference selected his and Jeremy Kareken's feature screenplay about haunted breast implants, *THESE! Conquered the Earth*. In 2019, the Outer Critics Circle co-awarded David its John Gassner Playwriting Award for *THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT*.

'THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT' is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

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.



THE CAST



MATTHEW RIGBY
(*Jim Fingal*)

Matt is very excited to perform in *The Lifespan of a Fact!* Matt has lived in Maryland for just over a year, but he has found a great family in the Annapolis theater community. He has been involved in productions non-stop since last October both as an actor and as a member of the crew. His most recent acting role was in ASGT's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* as George, best man to the groom, where for 17.5 shows he danced in the moonlight with his castmates. In this production, he plays the fact checker Jim Fingal, who is reviewing a well written, but error riddled, essay. In the spirit of fact checking and accuracy, here are some more facts about Matt!

Fact: This is Matt's 20th theater production, and 5th production with The Colonial Players.

Fact: Matt has memorized 360 lines for this role.

Fact: Matt wrote this biography to be 174 words long.

Fact: Matt would like to thank his grandmother for her constant support. Her kindness and generosity are truly inspiring.



MARY C. ROGERS
(*Emily Penrose*)

Mary returns to The Colonial Players of Annapolis having performed last season in *The Revolutionists* as Olympe de Gouges. She has worked onstage, backstage and everywhere in between with a number of community theaters in Maryland. Some of Mary's favorite roles include Maggie in *Red Herring*, Aunt Bella in *Lost in Yonkers* (WATCH nomination), and Billy Dawn in *Born Yesterday*. Mary would like to thank Austin, our Assistant Stage Manager. For Abner.

COMING SOON...

Show your support for theatre-in-the-round, all year round, with official merchandise from The Colonial Players!



TIMOTHY SAYLES
(*John D'Agata*)

Tim has been acting in community theater, mostly at The Colonial Players, since 2008. He last appeared on the CP stage as Walt Bates in the 2020 production of *Book of Days*. In addition to many non-musical plays, he has also been known to sing a song or two at CP — notably as Daddy Warbucks in *Annie* and John Dickinson in *1776*. In this play, Tim finds the role John D'Agata, a magazine essayist, particularly tasty — since his own day job for most of the last 40 years has been that of magazine editor. He is thrilled to be back on stage with the delightful and talented Mary Rogers, and has genuinely enjoyed working with Matt Rigby — who, he points out, is not nearly as much of a pain in the tookus as Jim Fingal. Most of all, Tim wants to thank Estelle Miller, a marvelous and inspiring director, for trusting him to bring John D'Agata to life, and the love of his life, Lauren, for bearing with his rehearsal angst — all while preparing herself and her daughter Lily for roles in *The Sound of Music* at the Bowie Playhouse this fall. Lauren and Tim share a house in Pasadena with Lily, Pumpkin the hamster, and the much-photographed tortico kitty sisters Eleanor (Roosevelt) and Ruth (Bader Ginsburg).

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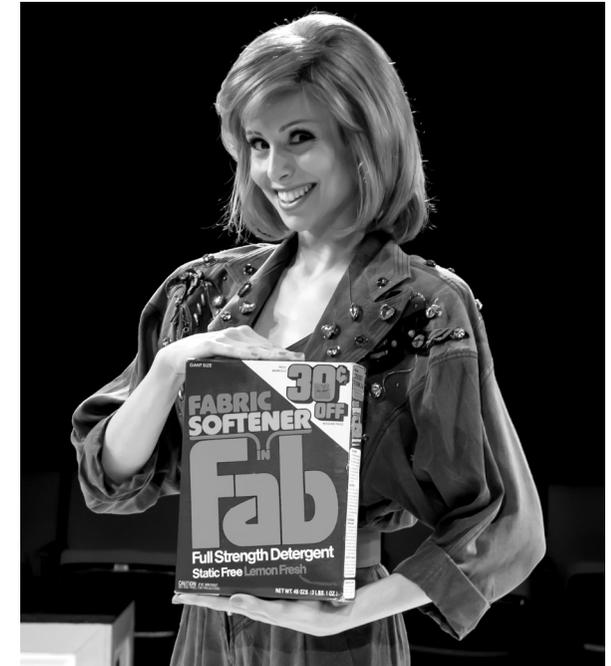
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LONG RANGE PLANNING

The Colonial Players has formed a Long Range Planning Committee to evaluate projects and other corporate initiatives which will improve our theater as it enters its 75th season. Results will be presented to the membership in 2023. Suggestions are welcome from anyone up until the end of January 2023 and may be submitted via email to:

vicepresident@thecolonialplayers.org

Alternatively, one can speak with any member of the committee which includes John Purnell, Steve Tobin, Terry Averill, Mary Beth Yablonski, Richard Atha-Nicholls, Darice Clewell, and Ashley Simon.



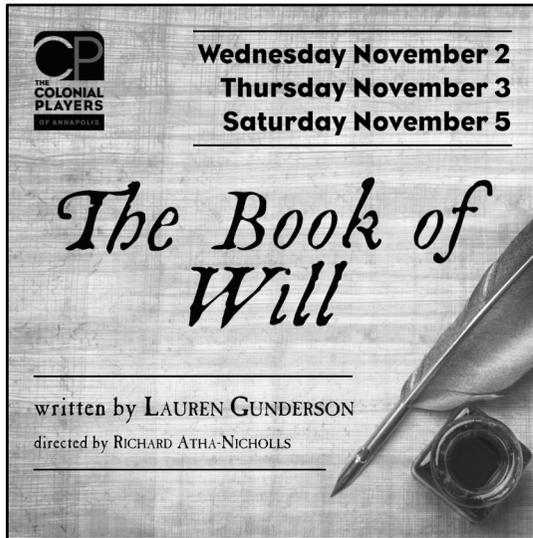
YOUR HISTORY

As the 75th anniversary of The Colonial Players approaches, we are starting a history project of our community theater by collecting stories from people who have been involved in all facets of the organization - Productions, Volunteers, House Staff, Board Members, and of course, Patrons. We will concentrate most of our effort on the 25 years since our 50th anniversary season - from Season 51 (1999-2000) through the upcoming Season 75 (2023-2024). Dona Weingarten is looking to collect narratives from all volunteers who have contributed to the various endeavors that have kept The Colonial Players blossoming during these last 25 years.

To contribute, please contact Dona at cp75@thecolonialplayers.org and put "History" in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you!



UPCOMING AUDITIONS

Wednesday November 2
Thursday November 3
Saturday November 5

The Book of Will

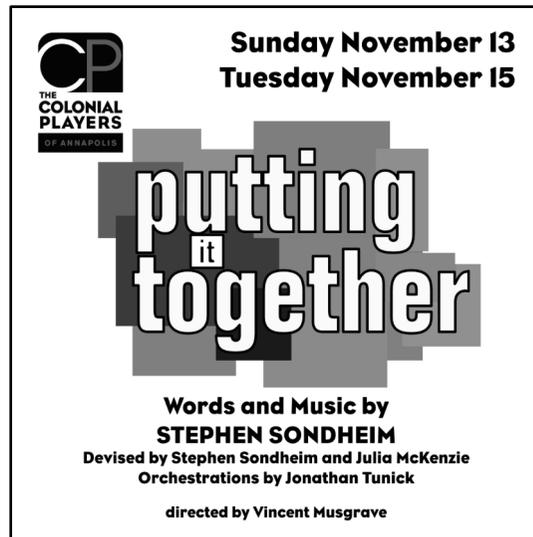
written by **LAUREN GUNDERSON**
directed by **RICHARD ATHA-NICHOLLS**

Without William Shakespeare, we wouldn't have literary masterpieces like Romeo and Juliet. But without actors Henry Condell and John Heminges, we would have lost half of Shakespeare's plays forever! So, it's 1619 in England, and the King's Men are getting the band back together. The goal: to gather the Bard's scattered masterpieces and bind them to each other, and to history. It's a grand feat, to be sure. Especially for a community of actors who may know all the ins and outs of iambic pentameter, but next to nothing about binding books. Even so, they undertake their mission with pluck and wit and hearts full of joy. It's a theatrical, beat-the-clock race to save a legacy, offering some of Shakespeare's greatest hits spoken by your favorite players.

All roles are open to all ages and ethnicities - Shakespeare is for everyone. No accents will be required. The show requires at least 6 women and 11 men.

Drawing its title from a song in Sunday in the Park with George, this musical revue celebrates Sondheim's incomparable career in musical theater. Featuring nearly thirty Sondheim tunes, Putting It Together is set at an all-night, black-tie party in a penthouse, the hosts, an older couple face their disillusion and marital troubles; a younger, less jaundiced couple struggle with their feelings and desires, and a commentator oversees and influences the action. The spouses deal with infidelity and divorce but finally reconcile before dawn.

The show requires 3 women and 4 men. All roles open to all ethnicities, races and multicultural backgrounds. Pre-registration is required for these auditions.



Sunday November 13
Tuesday November 15

putting it together

Words and Music by
STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Devised by **Stephen Sondheim and Julia McKenzie**
Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**
directed by **Vincent Musgrave**

For full details, please see our website:

thecolonialplayers.org/index.php/get-involved/auditions



THE CREW



RICHARD ATHA-NICHOLLS
(Producer)

Richard has thoroughly enjoyed producing *The Lifespan of a Fact* for director Estelle Miller. He is usually found in the tech booth designing sound/projections or designing and programming the video stream camera cuts. His sound designs have garnered two WATCH nominations. Richard has appeared on area stages and in his spare time helps run Discworld® conventions. He will be directing the Colonial Players' production of *The Book of Will* opening February 24, 2023. Love to C, A, P & K. Always in my heart, O.



ERIC GASIOR
(Lighting Designer)

Eric is delighted to be working with the Colonial Players for the first time since the 2014 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Eric has designed lighting for Fluid Movement and other community theaters in Baltimore, Laurel, and Greenbelt. He has also been the technical director for the science fiction and fantasy convention *Balticon* for eight years.



HANNAH HOUSLEY
(Stage Manager)

Hannah is thrilled to be backstage again! Her most recent exploits at CP include stage managing *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*, and crewing for *The Revolutionists*. Over the summer she could be found many a night backstage at ASGT. Outside of the theater, Hannah is a full time student at AACC and general biology nerd. Thank you to all of the phenomenal people who have seen me through my time at CP over the last 4 years. For the love of it!



EDD MILLER
(Set Designer)

Edd has worked with the Colonial Players for over fifty years. Actor — *The Lost Boy*, Director — *Going to St Ives* (WATCH award), Set designer — *Chapter Two* (WATCH nominated) as well as painter, set construction, usher etc. are only some of the joys he has shared over the years.



ABIGAIL TRAVERSON
(Costume Designer)

This is Abigail's first show as a costume designer and she is enthusiastic to work with such a great team. She has always had an interest in clothing design and is excited to be a part of this show as a costume designer. Abigail studied theater at Anne Arundel Community College. She worked with their theater company in designing and performing a haunted theater tour. Abigail started working with the Colonial Players in their 2021 production of *The Lost Boy* as an actor and looks forward to working with them in future productions.



SARAH WADE
(Sound Designer)

Sarah is very pleased to work on *The Lifespan of a Fact*. She's been seen both on and offstage. Past credits include directing the past two years of *A Christmas Carol*. On stage, past roles include Gloria Mitchell in *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*, Elaine Harper in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (WATCH award winner- best supporting actress in a play), Cecily Cardew in *Ernest in Love*, Catherine Donahue in *These Shining Lives*, amongst others. Sound designs include *Love, Loss and What I Wore*, *Sex with Strangers*, *Calendar Girls*, *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha and Spike*, and *Watch on the Rhine*.



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

THE LIFESPAN of a FACT



BY JEREMY KAREKEN & DAVID MURRELL AND GORDON FARRELL

BASED ON THE BOOK BY JOHN D'AGATA AND JIM FINGAL

'The Lifespan of a Fact' is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

THE PLACE

New York City
Las Vegas

THE TIME

Present Day

THE CAST

EMILY PENROSEMARY C. ROGERS
JIM FINGAL.....MATTHEW RIGBY
JOHN D'AGATATIMOTHY SAYLES

There will be no intermission.

THE LIFESPAN OF A FACT was originally produced on Broadway by Jeffrey Richards, Norman & Deanna Twain, Will Trice, Barbara H. Freitag, Suzanne Grant, Gold/Ross Productions, Jamie deRoy, Jennifer Manocherian, Barbara Manocherian, ManGol Productions, Carl Moellenberg/Wendy Federman, Ken Greiner, Van Kaplan, Dominick LaRuffa Jr., Marc David Levine, WitzEnd Productions, Eric Falkenstein/Moreland Mott, Caiola Productions, Rimmel T. Dickinson, & Jayne Baron Sherman