

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONO

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THE CORNLEY UNIVERSITY DRAMA SOCIETY PRESENTS



CAST

INSPECTOR CARTER - CHRIS BEAN
CHARLES HAVERSHAM - JONATHAN HARRIS
THOMAS COLLEYMOORE - ROBERT GROVE
PERKINS THE BUTLER - DENNIS TYDE
FLORENCE COLLEYMOORE - SANDRA WILKINSON
CECIL HAVERSHAM - MAX BENNETT
ARTHUR THE GARDENER - MAX BENNETT

CREATIVE

WRITER - SUSIE H.K. BRIDESWELL
PRODUCER - WAYNE BLEXT
DIRECTOR - CHRIS BEAN
DESIGNER - CHRIS BEAN
COSTUME DESIGNER - CHRIS BEAN
PROP MAKER - CHRIS BEAN
BOX OFFICE MANAGER - CHRIS BEAN
PRESS & PR - CHRIS BEAN
DRAMATURGY - CHRIS BEAN
VOICE COACH - CHRIS BEAN
DIALECT COACH - CHRIS BEAN
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER - CHRIS BEAN
REHEARSAL ROLE 'MR. FITZROY' - CHRIS BEAN
STAGE MANAGER - ANNIE TWILLOIL
LIGHTING & SOUND OPERATOR - TREVOR WATSON

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome to The Murder at Haversham Manor.

We are thrilled that the Cornley University Drama Society is now performing at the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. We apologize to those involved in the would-be Actors Guild production of Titanic directed by Dixie Showalter, which due to a clerical error, is now being performed in the Cornley University Gymnasium Pool. We hope there are no hard feelings and we've left the life vests out for you...just not enough for the entire audience.

The question everyone at Cornley has been asking is: "Are we ready for Parkersburg, WV?" The answer is: "Yes."

The cast and I rehearsed for weeks using only the best acting teachings to inspire us. We read that Sanford Meisner once said, "Acting is behaving truthfully," so we immediately changed all the names in the play to our own names and cut the murder, the manor house setting and any other element that we hadn't personally experienced. We then found the piece rather flat, and it only ran at 17 minutes. So we went back to the Meisner book and we realized the full quote was in fact: "Acting is behaving truthfully... under imaginary circumstances," so we reinstated the cuts and we were then quickly back on track.

We found the teachings of Michael Chekhov less confusing. He says, "An actor has to burn inside with an outer ease." So the evening we arrived in Parkersburg it was margaritas, hot tamales, and spicy stuffed poblanos all around at Las Trancas Mexican Restaurant. However, try as we did to not react to our burning insides, it was certainly noticeable that we were all in significant discomfort, which just goes to show how tough acting can be. At the end of the evening, Dennis was actually sick in the restaurant bathrooms. We always knew he was one of the weaker actors.

Special thanks to our sponsor Napoli's Pizza for allowing us funds for a posh set and an increased costume budget. The Murder at Haversham Manor has a much improved look compared to our recent failed productions of Tiny Shop of Horrors, Sensible Boots, and Joseph and the Amazing Beige Trenchcoat.

All this hard work and preparation has left us with an ensemble piece that has achieved such critical acclaim as "VERY INTERESTING" from Mr. Harwood, esteemed head of Design Technology at Cornley University, "A PLAY ON OUR STAGE" from former Actors Guild President Susan Schuchts, and "RATHER UNSETTLING" from real-life police chief Mr. Greaves of the Cornley Volunteer Police Force. I'm sure that with a full audience, the piece will truly bring down the house.

CHRIS BEAN

President of the Cornley University Drama Society & Director of The Murder at Haversham Manor

THE CAST OF THE MURDER AT HAVERSHAM MANOR



CHRIS BEAN
INSPECTOR CARTER &
DIRECTOR

Chris is the newly elected head of the Drama Society. For tonight's show, he

served as the voice coach, dialect coach, fight choreographer, casting director, and costume designer. He also plays the lead role and, of course, directed the production. The Society would like to thank Chris for his remarkable passion and efforts. Credits within the University: Hamlet in *Hamlet*, Macbeth in *Macbeth*, and Othello in *Othello*.



ROBERT GROVE THOMAS COLLEYMOORE

A member of the Cornley Drama Society for three years, Robert uses the Stan-

islavsky method. Credits include: Lame Horse in Black Beauty, Victorian Policeman in Madame Tussauds Chamber of Horror - Livel, Dopey in Snow White and the Tall Broad Gentlemen, and Augustus Gloop in Charlie & the Chocolate Factory. Robert's next performance will be as Godot in a newly self-written sequel to Beckett's classic.



JONATHAN
HARRIS
CHARLES HAVERSHAM

Jonathan works as a hand

model and is therefore excited to learn transferrable

skills by appearing in *The Murder at Haversham Manor*. He is no stranger to acting and appeared in Casualty when he was just five years old. Jonathan also performed with Emote, another local theater company, in *A Midsummer Night's Stamina*, which featured a cast of fourteen pedaling exercise bikes for the full 2-hour performance.



SANDRA WILKINSON FLORENCE COLLEYMOORE

This is Sandra's eleventh season with the Cornley

University Drama Society, during which she has proudly performed roles such as Snow White in Snow White and the Tall Broad Gentlemen, Virginia Woolf in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, and The Cow in Jack and the Bean. Sandra has been performing from a very young age, since her mother appeared pregnant in A Winter's Tale.



MAX BENNETT

CECIL HAVERSHAM & ARTHUR THE GARDENER

Max is in his first year at Cornley University where he

is studying human geography and crime. He is an avid fan of films, and his favorite is *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, which he's seen 27 times. This is Max's first production with the Drama Society, and he is very glad to have donated a large portion of his recent inheritance to help the show.



DENNIS TYDE

PERKINS THE BUTLER

After failing the tryouts for the football, cricket, volleyball, and basketball teams,

Dennis decided to join the Drama Society. Dennis does not live in the Cornley halls of residence and commutes in daily from his parents' house. He hopes the Society will give him the chance to meet like-minded people. Dennis's only stage credit dates back to 1995 when he appeared in his primary school nativity. Credit: Shepherd



ANNIE
TWILLOIL
STAGE MANAGER

The unsung hero of the Society, Annie has designed, built, painted, stage man-

aged, and costumed every single Society show in the last three years. Her hard work and dogged determination behind the scenes lies behind so much of the Society's success. After *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, Annie will begin an internship at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.



TREVOR WATSON

SOUND OPERATOR

Trevor is only participating in *The Murder at Haversham Manor* to earn much needed

extra credit for his electronics module in order to pass his engineering course at Cornley University. Once he has passed the course, he will not continue to work with the Drama Society. Trevor credits his success to his sunny disposition and his positive outlook on life.



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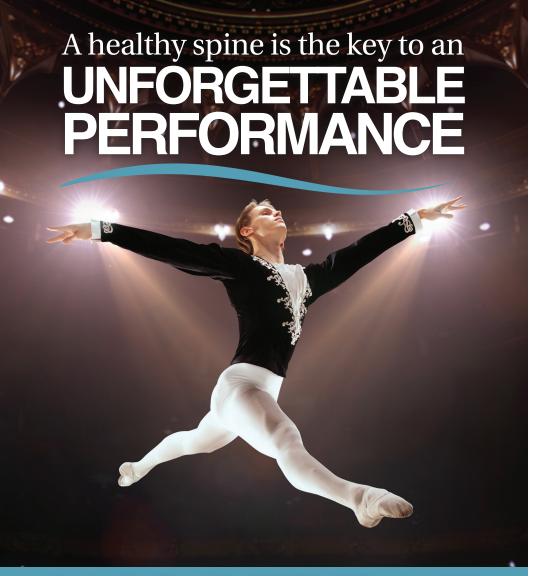
CONGRADULATIONS!!!



Recently our new Cornley Drama Society president, Chris Bean, was awarded the honor of Cornley University's Artist of the Month for his daring portrayal of Claude Hooper Bukowski in the hair-less Cornley Drama Society adaptation of the musical Hair entitled...BALD. Due to time and budget constraints, the male actors did not have time to grow out their marvelous manes nor was there money allocated for the purchase of wigs.

It was Chris, a long-time fan of the American hippie musical, who suggested to the director that they flip the theme of the show and go hairless (in more ways than one, which was evident when the "tribe" members shed their clothing during the Act I finale). Unfortunately the gamble did not pay off, mainly due to the fact that the script and lyrics remained intact causing confusion amongst the audience members as to what "HAIR" they were singing about. It was also presented on Red Nose Day and raised no money to end child poverty.

Nevertheless, Chris made a rare, outside-of-the-box artistic decision that helped him acquire the position of president of the Drama Society. We have no doubt that his unique direction will be showcased in The Murder at Haversham Manor!



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The Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer & Henry Shields

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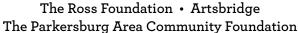
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SYNOPSIS

"Break a leg!" takes on a whole new meaning for a woefully misguided troupe of players at the Cornley University Society's opening night performance of The Murder at Haversham Manor. An unconscious leading lady, a corpse who can't play dead, a ruffled detective, and a word-mangling butler (among others) must battle against technical gaffes, forgotten lines, and sabotaging scenery in a quest to arrive all in one piece at the final curtain call.

CAST

Annie	WILLOW PEYTON
Trevor	Joshua Woodard
Chris	RJ Lowe
Jonathan	George Litman
Robert	KIT PARSONS
Dennis	BEN BRADLEY
Sandra	
Max	SEAN SHOOP

STAFF & CREW

Director	Josh Martin
Assistant Directors	Susan Courtney, Ethan Schaffer
Technical Director	Nathan Arnold
Costume Designer	RACHEL MARTIN
Joshua Woodard	
Stage Manager	Marsha Mueller
Assistant Stage Manager	
Production Assistant	
Props	
Set Designer	Nathan Arnold
Set ConstructionBEN BRADLEY, BREN	da Gerenday, Kevin Martin, Cast, Staff
Fight Choreographer	John Gradwohl
Sound & Light Designer	Josh Martin
Lightboard & Sound Operator	HEATHER COOPER
Stage Crew HECTOR VELEZ, BRAD	EN DEGUZMAN, KATIE RIGGS, JOSIAH CLARK
Advisor	
Photographer	RACHEL MARTIN
Playbill Layout and Design	Brett Meade



ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LC

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- ★ Mike Corra
- ★ Nora Corra
- ★ Susan Courtney
- ★ Betty Dotson
- ★ Mike Dotson Ashley Doyle
- ★ Sabrina Dye
 George Faber
 Seth Fearnow
 Ashley Fluharty
 Robert Francis
 Katherine Frederick
- ★ Barbara Full
 David Grande
 Steven Hardy
 Robert Harris
- ★ Abby Hayhurst

- **★** Jeanne Hayhurst
- ★ Robert Holland
- ★ Carolyn Hollendonner Brooklyn Hoschar Gayle Hoschar
- ★ Ruth Ann Huddle Jessie Ice Myla Kreinik
- Reinnie Leavitt George Litman
- R.J. Lowe
- Mary Lucas
- Jane Mancini
- Jesse Mancini Ioshua Martin
- Rachel Martin
- ★ Betty Matthews
- ★ Charlie Matthews
 Michele McClung
- Gary McIntyre
- Brett Meade
- Conner Meddendorp
- Staci Meddendorp
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 Marsha Mueller
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- ★ Jean Newton
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- Karen Parlett
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- Pam Piggott David Prather
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- Olivia Raber
- David Rexroad
- ★ Teri Robert Rich Schaffer
- ★ Susan Schuchts
- ★ Dixie Showalter
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Director's Note

ello and welcome to The Murder at Haversh...to THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG! The cast, staff, crew and I have spent the past couple months impersonating the Cornley University Drama Society and its members so much that I forgot my real role in this production.



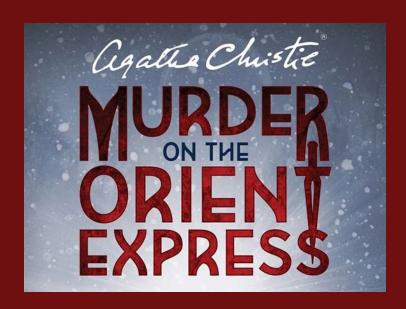
Thank you for joining us for, what we hope, will be one of the funniest and most entertaining shows you have witnessed in the theatre. This was defi-

nitely my takeaway the first time I saw the show in NYC at the Lyceum Theatre with my wife and kids. Our experience started going wrong before we even got to our seats and realized we were seated in the Second Balcony. Heights cause me a bit of anxiety, so...well, that's a longer story than I have space for here, so get with me later. Once we made it to our alternate seating location, we witnessed the most brilliantly hilarious piece of theatre I have ever seen.

Being a member of a community theatre, I imagined the pitfalls, perils, and possibilities of producing such a show on our local stage. The actors I knew we could find, but the list of technical demands was very demanding. When this play was added to our season, I immediately started down a rabbit hole of research to find out how much I didn't know about the show and if I was going to be able to put my hat in to direct the show. In the meantime, I also got to see the show again in NYC at New World Stages with R.J. Lowe (on his birthday). After my second viewing and TONS of research and discussions with people who actually know how theatre magic works, I was ready to apply to direct. Luckily my knowledge of and affection for the show shined through and here we are at the end of that journey adding the most important element...YOU!

This production could NOT have been pulled off without a talented and dedicated staff, cast, and crew. As a director, I am a big fan of collaboration and strive on every production to "put my Aces in their places." I am not skilled in every aspect of theatre, so it is imperative to surround myself with amazingly talented people. My production staff met many evenings for hours, planning our attack. Costumes, stage management, set design & construction, props, directing, marketing, and production management all worked seamlessly together to

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achieve my overall vision to stay as true to the source material as possible while adding our own look and feel to the final product. My cast is truly a "dream team" of the best talent that has ever set foot on our stage. They have brought with them experience, skill, and creativity that have made these characters more comical and dimensional than I could have ever imagined. From the beginning they came in ready to work, thirsty for this type of theatre, and they achieved every goal and overcame every obstacle they were faced with.

Of course, a lot of the magic of this show happens behind the scenes, and we couldn't pull it off without our hardworking and attentive crew. They are often doing as much work backstage as the actors are onstage. I thank all of these people for putting their trust in me and being patient with the process like true professionals.

So get ready to laugh, cheer, and celebrate the exceptional work of all of these talented people...and if everything goes wrong as planned, we know we've done something right!

JOSH MARTIN
Director, The Play That Goes Wrong







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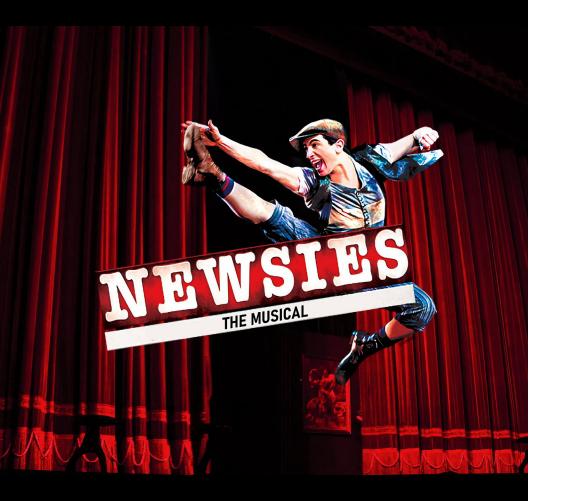
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Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

BEN BRADLEY (Dennis) has been volunteering with the Actors Guild and appearing on our stage since 2003; with his most recent role being Linus in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown. His other notable performances include Spamalot, Jeckyland Hyde, The Addams Family, and A Year With Frog and Toad. He also made his debut as an assistant director for the Actors Guild's 2019 production of Mary Poppins the Musical. Ben is self-employed as a real estate investor, is actively involved in the local chamber of commerce, and enjoys traveling to Disney World with his wife of 18 years, Natalie.

GEORGE LITMAN (Jonathan) is thrilled to be back onstage in a full-out comedy as fun as this one! Coming fresh from the Guild's recent musical *Grease*, he's also been in such shows as *The Sound of Music, The Game's Afoot, Mamma Mia, The Miss Firecracker Contest, Elf: The Musical, A Few Good Men* and *The Producers*, to name a few. He's also had roles in past Shakespeare by the River productions in Marietta, as well as shows at the Peoples Bank Theater and Marietta College. He hopes you have a great time and enjoy all the laughter and fun!

RJ LOWE (Chris) was last seen at the Actors Guild seducing little old ladies as Max Bialystock in *The Producers* and donning the candy-cane tights of Buddy the Elf in *Elf the Musical**. Since 1985, he's been active onstage and off: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye*); *Big Fish* (Edward Bloom*); *Mamma Mia!* (director*); *The Story of My Life* (Alvin Kelby, AACT Best Actor Award); *Hairspray* (Edna Turnblad); *Into the Woods* (Baker), and MANY more. At MOVP: *Nunsense A-Men* (director*/Reverend Mother*); ...Charlie Brown (Snoopy*) and more. A graduate of NYC's

AMDA, R.J. performed/directed professionally for six years. (*=Khalil Award)

ALEXIS PARSONS (Sandra) is thrilled to be back onstage in her first theatrical endeavor that does not include singing and/or dancing in over 20 years! Alexis has previously been seen onstage at The Actors Guild as Ulla in *The Producers*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein*, Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and Joanne in *RENT*. She would like to thank her kids, Eden and Harmony, for being amazing and hardly ever complaining about her insane rehearsal schedule and her husband, Kit, for being her biggest fan, bestest friend, and for sharing this crazy theater life!

KIT PARSONS (Robert) is making his 40th appearance as a principal character in a play or musical. Kit is a graduate of the Second City Conservatory, as well as their improv program. He currently performs on the mainstage at The Nest Theatre in Columbus and is a frequent guest performer at The Annoyance in Chicago and Arcade Comedy Theater in Pittsburgh. Kit is the proud husband of Alexis Parsons and frequently gets to share theatrical projects with his beautiful daughters Eden and Harmony.

WILLOW PEYTON (Annie) is ecstatic to be back on the Actors Guild stage. No stranger to the stage, Willow was most recently seen as Liesl in *The Sound of Music*, but you may have also seen her as Genie in *Aladdin*, Stage Manager in *Our Town*, or Wicked Witch in *Wizard of Oz* to name a few. Last summer, she studied acting at Marshall University through WVGSA and was elected representative. She is an award-winning painter and a two-time state Poetry Out Loud runner-up champi-

on. Currently, she performs with the Company on the Valley Gem Sternwheeler.

SEAN SHOOP (Max) is returning to the AGP as Max. He was last seen in Murder On The Orient Express (Michel), Broadway Bound (Eugene Jerome), And Then There Were None (Phillip Lombard), You Can't Take It With You (Tony Kirby Jr.), and All My Sons (Chris Keller). He would like to thank his family, friends, two cat sons (Russell and Artemis), and his beautiful wife, Angela, for all the support and encouragement.

JOSHUA WOODARD (Trevor) has appeared on the Guild stage as Mal Beineke in The Addams Family, Sir Bedevere/ Mrs. Galahad/Concorde in Spamalot, Don Price in Big Fish, Eddie Souther in Sister Act, and Seymour Krelborne in Little Shop of Horrors He has also served as costumer for Sister Act and Mamma Mia! and as co-creator of the Audrey II plants

for *Little Shop*. He most recently directed the Khalil Award-winning Mary Poppins. Josh is employed as the director of the WV DHHR division of professional development and is excited to be returning to the Guild stage.

IOSH MARTIN (Director) was last seen on the Actors Guild stage in Murder on the Orient Express. Other Guild appearances: Opening Up, Clue, You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown, Fiddler, Shrek, Dracula, Avenue O. The Full Monty, The Secret Garden, Alice in Wonderland, Tuesdays with Morrie, Leading Ladies, The Story of My Life, RENT, Man of La Mancha, It's the Reel Thing, Big: the musical, The Civil War, Seussical, and Monky Business. Additional Guild Credits: Director - Matilda the Musical (Summer 2024), The 39 Steps, All Shook Up, The Boys Next Door, Music Director - Sweeney Todd, Hairspray, The Rocky Horror Show.

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THE CAST











BEN BRADLEY

GEORGE LITMAN

RJ LOWE

PARSONS









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