

PLAYBILL®



WALNUT STREET THEATRE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

METEOR SHOWER



NEXT UP IN STUDIO 3

November 12 – December 22, 2019

THE GIFTS OF THE MAGI

From the stories of **O. Henry • Book by Mark St. Germain**
Music by Randy Courts • Lyrics by Randy Courts and Mark St. Germain

In this heartwarming and romantic musical comedy, a group of holiday carolers tell the story of Della and Jim, desperately in love with each other but also penniless at the holidays. In their attempt to buy proper presents, a strange twist of fate leads each to find the perfect gift for the other—but at what cost? This beautiful musical adaptation of the classic O. Henry story reminds us of the true meaning of giving, and of love.

January 7 – February 9, 2020

THURGOOD

By George Stevens, Jr.

Meet Thurgood Marshall: Lawyer. Civil Rights Activist. The first African American Supreme Court Justice. In the acclaimed Broadway play *Thurgood*, you have a seat at a fictional lecture on his life given by Marshall at his alma mater, and experience his transformation from a young and spirited dissenter to a pensive Justice full of wisdom. From his early days as the civil rights lawyer to his appointment to the highest court in the land, Thurgood Marshall stood for justice while lifting the standing of his race, and all Americans.

February 25 – March 29, 2020

POPCORN FALLS

By James Hindman

April 14 – May 17, 2020

Edward Albee's *A DELICATE BALANCE*

Directed by Bernard Havard

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT walnutstreettheatre.org
OR CALL 215-574-3550 or 800-982-2787 (7 days a week, 10am – 10pm)

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BERNARD HAVARD

President and Producing Artistic Director

SEPTEMBER 10 — OCTOBER 27, 2019

METEOR SHOWER

By **Steve Martin**

Scenic Design

ROMAN TATAROWICZ

Costume Design

REBECCA DWIGHT

Lighting Design

JIMMY LAWLOR

Sound Design

DAMIEN FIGUERAS

Director of Production

SIOBHÁN RUANE

Stage Manager

KELLY SCHWARTZ

Directed by

DEBI MARCUCCI

The World Premiere Production of *Meteor Shower*

was produced by The Old Globe

Barry Edelstein, Artistic Director Michael G. Murphy, Managing Director
and Long Wharf Theatre

Gordon Edelstein, Artistic Director Joshua Borenstein, Managing Director

Original Broadway Production Produced by Joey Parnes, Sue Wagner, John Johnson, James L. Nederlander, The John Gore Organization, Scott Rudin, Eli Bush, FG Productions, Jamie deRoy, Sally Horchow, Sharon Karmazin, Barbara Manocherian, JABS Theatricals, Ergo Entertainment, Seth A. Goldstein, Elm City Productions, Diana DiMenna, Jay Alix & Una Jackman, Jennifer Manocherian, Cricket Jiraneck, Catherine Adler & Marc David Levine, The Shubert Organization

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Director of Marketing
and Public Relations

ED GILCHRIST

WALNUT STREET THEATRE 3

THE CAST

Corky.....SUSAN RILEY STEVENS*
NormGREG WOOD*
Gerald.....JAKE BLOUCH*
Laura JESSICA BEDFORD*

UNDERSTUDIES

JARED CALHOUN (Norm), NATAJIA SCONIERS (Corky),
IAN MOODY (Gerald), KELLIE COOPER (Laura)

* The Actors and Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the theatre union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

“Meteor Shower”
is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



NATIONAL ALLIANCE
for MUSICAL THEATRE

The mission of the Walnut Street Theatre Company is to sustain the tradition of professional theatre and contribute to its future viability and vitality. It does so through the production and presentation of professional theatre; the encouragement, training and development of artists; the development of diverse audiences; and the preservation and chronicling of its theatre building, a National Historic Landmark.



Walnut Street Theatre is a member of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, the National Alliance for Musical Theatre and the League of Historic American Theatres.

Walnut Street Theatre receives support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Walnut Street Theatre acknowledges with appreciation Bryce's Catering Company (Wynnewood, PA) for their elegant catering of theatre events.



Accessibility Equipment, Training and Marketing provided by Independence Starts Here, the statewide cultural accessibility program of VSA PA/Amaryllis Theatre Co., jointly led in different regions in PA by cultural partners in that region. In Greater Philadelphia, Independence Starts Here is jointly led by Art-Reach, Inc.



ART · REACH

Support for Walnut Street Theatre's general operations provided in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund.



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THE CAST



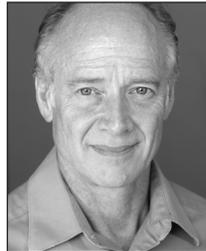
Jessica Bedford



Jake Blouch



Susan Riley Stevens



Greg Wood

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JESSICA BEDFORD (Laura) Previous WST credits: *And Then There Were None* and *The Prescott Method*. Other credits: Theatre Horizon, The Lantern Theatre Co., The McCarter Theatre, Delaware Theatre Co., 59E59, People's Light & Theatre Company, Act II Playhouse, PA Shakespeare Festival, Tiny Dynamite, and Bristol Riverside Theatre. Love to SC.

JAKE BLOUCH (Gerald) is thrilled to be back at the Walnut after appearing in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. A Philadelphia based actor and musician, previous credits include: *Something Wicked This Way Comes* and *Honk!* (Delaware Theatre Co.), *See What I Wanna See* (11th Hour Theatre Co., Barrymore Award), and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Theater Exile). All my love to Sophie.

SUSAN RILEY STEVENS (Corky) Recently at the Walnut: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Noises Off*. Other recent credits include *Collected Stories* at Act II Playhouse, and *Marcus/Emma* at InterAct. Regional: PA Shakespeare Festival, 1812 Productions, People's Light, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Dallas Theatre Center, Portland Stage Company, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. M.F.A.; Yale School of Drama.

GREG WOOD (Norm) Recently at the Walnut: *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Noises Off*, and *The Humans*. Other recent credits include; *She Loves Me* and

Mornings At Seven, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Once*. Film and Television credits: *The Sixth Sense*, *Signs*, *The Happening*, *The Harvesting*, *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Law & Order*, *Ed, Hack, and Homicide*.

STEVE MARTIN (Playwright) co-wrote, with Edie Brickell, the story, book and original music for his most recent Broadway production, *Bright Star*, which earned five Tony Awards and seven Drama Desk Award nominations, winning the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music, as well as Outstanding New Broadway Musical and Outstanding New Score from the Outer Critics Circle. As an author, Martin's work includes the plays *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *The Underpants*; the best-selling novella *Shopgirl*; and his memoir, *Born Standing Up*. He wrote the screenplays for and starred in such classic films as *The Jerk* (1979), *Roxanne* (1987), *L.A. Story* (1991), and *Bowfinger* (1999). Martin is also an accomplished banjoist and composer. Martin's eclectic body of work has earned him an Academy Award, five Grammy Awards (two for comedy, three for music), the Mark Twain Prize and the Kennedy Center Honor.

DEBI MARCUCCI (Director) is extremely happy to return home to her WST family and honored to direct the first regional theatre production of *Meteor Shower* since its Broadway debut. This marks her 8th show in the Independence Studio on 3, where Debi

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WHO'S WHO

previously directed *Oleanna*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Tell Me on a Sunday*, *Souvenir—A Fantasia of Florence Foster Jenkins*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Lobby Hero*, and the American premieres of both *Mr. Bailey's Minder* and *The Ugly One*. Elsewhere, she has directed productions of *Footloose*, *Sweet Charity*, *Flashdance: The Musical*, *No Way To Treat a Lady*, and *Lobby Hero*. Debi also served on the staff of WST as a Stage Manager of over 120 productions for over 24 years. Now a permanent resident of sunny Florida, Debi is eternally grateful to Bernard Havard for his continued loyalty, support, and love throughout the years. Thanks for bringing me home!

ROMAN TATAROWICZ (Scenic Designer)

Walnut: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Humans*, *Oleanna*, *Souvenir*, *Jerry's Girls*, *The Other Place*, *Red*, *I Love a Piano*. Selected Off-B'way: *The Banana Monologues* (Acorn Theatre); *Honky*, *Roses in December*, *The Oxford Roof Climber's Rebellion* (Urban Stages); *Mother Courage*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Dames at Sea*, *The Threepenny Opera* (Jean Cocteau Rep.). Many Off-Off-B'way including *Bee-Luther-Hatchee* (Audelco Award nom). Regional credits: Capital Rep., Merrimack Rep., Queens Theatre in the Park, Florida Studio Theatre, Azuka Theatre, Act II, InterAct, Bristol Riverside, People's Light, Pa. Shakespeare Festival and ETC (Santa Barbara). Member United Scenic Artists Local 829. tatarowicz.com

REBECCA DWIGHT (Costume Designer)

is a Brazilian/American costume designer from Miami, FL. Her other designs include: *Civil War Voices* and *Oleanna* (WST), *Son of Blackbeard* (TAV Prod.), *As You Like It* (Ithaca College), and *Dogfight* (Ithaca College). Rebecca has also worked at the Williamstown Theatre Festival as a design assistant, and is currently the assistant costume shop manager at the Walnut. Many thanks to the WST costume shop, the WST production team, my family, and Matt. RebeccaDwight.com

JIMMY LAWLOR (Lighting Designer)

Oleanna. Jimmy is a Scorpio, new father, cat owner, and a music enthusiast. He only runs when chased. Jimmy designs lighting for opera, theatre, dance, corporate clients, architecture, interiors, and more. New York work includes

Broadway, Off-Broadway, and beyond. Jimmy's work has been seen internationally in Abu Dhabi, Sydney, Mexico, Canada, and Germany. MFA from NYU Tisch. Member of USA 829. lawlordesign.com

DAMIEN FIGUERAS (Sound Design)

is thrilled to be returning to the Walnut! He is a two-time Barrymore nominated designer. Recent credits include: *Party Face* (Off-Broadway), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (RTC), *Warplay* (Azuka Theatre), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Lantern Theatre Company), *The Cake* (Lake Dillon Theatre), *Three Sisters*, *After Chekov* (Curio Theatre). As always, he would like to dedicate his work to the memory of his mother. DFIGueras.com

KELLY SCHWARTZ (Stage Manager)

is thrilled to be in Independence Studio on 3 for her second season at the Walnut Street Theatre. Kelly holds a BA in theatre from Butler University. She spent seven years as WST's national touring stage manager. All my love to Dave and Aidan for their constant laughter and support.

SIOBHÁN RUANE (Director of Production)

This is Siobhán's seventh season at the Walnut. With almost 20 years in the business, Siobhán has worked internationally as a Production Manager and Stage Manager. Previously, Siobhán held the faculty position of Stage Management Advisor at Florida State University's School of Theatre. Additional credits include Cirque du Soleil, Norwegian Cruise Line, Cirque Productions, and various regional theatres. Siobhán holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, an MFA from the University of Delaware, and is (proudly!) originally from the Jersey Shore.

MARK D. SYLVESTER (Managing Director)

Mark is proud to be celebrating his 26th season at the Walnut. His extensive career has spanned Summer Stock to Broadway as an actor, stage manager, box office treasurer, theatre manager, marketing and public relations director and general manager. After several years working with commercial theatre he has devoted his career to non-profit theatre companies since 1987. To date, Mark has been associated with more than 450 stage productions. An avid collector of musical theatre recordings, his

WHO'S WHO

collection contains over 3,000 cast albums from around the world. Widely regarded as a theatrical marketing expert, Mark lectures and consults with organizations internationally. He has served on several boards including seven years with the National Alliance for Musical Theatre where he now holds the honorary position of Board Emeritus and the Advisory Committee of Samuel French, the international play publisher and licensing company. With Bernard Havard he co-authored the book *Walnut Street Theatre*. Since he joined the Walnut in 1994 it has become the most subscribed theatre company in the world.

BERNARD HAVARD (President and Producing Artistic Director) *Vox Populi* (The Voice of the People) was written on the Walnut Playbills in the 1800s. Whenever the Walnut has strayed from a populist program, the theatre

has gone bankrupt. When I came here 37 years ago, we had no programs and no audience. Today we enjoy the largest subscription of any theatre in the world. So, my thanks to our loyal audience and a warm welcome to newcomers who enjoy and believe in what we do. I have tremendous admiration for the artists who have dedicated their lives to the theatre and the Walnut, in particular. Our theatre is a non-profit 501-C3 institution and we rely on contributed income to extend our reach into the community. Last season we reached more than 172,000 students in our city schools. We have 30 trustees who give their time, wisdom and contributions to help guide this historical treasure. I came to the Walnut in 1982, and I am as excited now about our future as I was in the beginning. My heartfelt thanks to all who enter this theatre. For my biography, go to About Us on our web site at WalnutStreetTheatre.org.

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 Christian Marshall
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 Studio 3 Stage Management Apprentice .. Julianna Holzmann
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 Second Dresser/
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 Stitchers Kayla Speedy, Sarah Mitchell,
 Abigail Stenner, Gretchen Ellis
 Wig Apprentice Emily Fox

Stage Crew
 Head Carpenter.....Jeff Weigel
 Head Electrician..... Matthew Sanatore
 Head Flyman..... Tyler Shipley
 Head Sound.....Adam Orseck
 Head Props.....Valerie Bannan

Seasonal Assistant Lighting.....John Szarka
 Seasonal Assistant Sound..... Zack McKenna
 Stage Crew Apprentice..... Andrew Martinez
 Costume Stock Coordinator.....Katie Yamaguchi
 Load-In Manager.....Matt DeMascolo
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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits for its members, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorsequity.org



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The Director is a member of the
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For information on the Fall 2019 semester beginning September 28th, or Spring 2020, call 215-574-3550, ext. 510.

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