

TBTA Membership

Membership is still only \$20 and is a great way to support the theatre!

2014 Members

Aldis Alexander, Robert Bassett, Don Bergeron,
Rosemary Bergeron, Frank Bulson, Kerry Bulson,
Michael Burnett, Brian Casella, Gail Cowser, Carol Hoose,
Kristin Hoose, Margaret Teed Jones, Don Lombardo,
Karlene Lombardo, Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell,
Karen E. Steckler, Joy Tagliavento, Diane Toth

Lifetime Members

Bart Geissinger, Gloria Laposka, Barbara Locke,
Wendell MacNeal, Imelda O'Gara Roth,
Bill Possidento, Larry Stewart, David Tuttle

Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2014 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, Janet & Steve Betz, Jim & Margie Blansfield,
Sandy Bouclier, Stacy & Laurie Boxer,
Maureen & Mike Burnett, Adele Brudnicki, Anna & Roy Chan,
John & Vivien Cheeseman, Anthony Chiodo, Frank Cioffi,
D. Laurence & Arlene Coleman, Annette & Brent Crozier,
Marianne Gaffey, Janine & Jonathan Gibney, Jacqueline Green,
Sabrina Hermenze, Steve Hoose, Mary Kluge, Donna Laber,
Denis & Judith Larkin, Donald & Karlene Lombardo,
Rose Luizzi, Marilyn Matern, Brenda & Lou Meola,
Judy Mangan, Michael & Susan O'Brien, Tara Peterson,
Vicki Sakorafos, Georgeann & William Shields, Les Slater,
Cathleen Sullivan, Jim & Marie Sweeney, Diane & Rick Toth,
Deirdra Wallin, Lynda Willingham, Steve Wright

Thank you for your support!

Listing is current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.



by **LARRY KRAMER**

directed by **DAVID BASS**

produced by **LOU OKELL & KERRY BULSON**

starring

MICHAEL WRIGHT • MILES EVERETT
J SCOTT WILLIAMS • MICHAEL REILLY
TODD SANTA MARIA • VICKI SOSBE
CHRISTOPHER BIRD • KYLE PINTO



www.BrookfieldTheatre.org

The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts, Inc.

Dear TBTA Family,

Our 2014 season ends with the ultimate tragic love story “The Normal Heart”—the semi-autobiographical play by Larry Kramer about love and AIDS in 1980’s New York. We are happy to welcome director David Bass to our theater and hope to see him return next season.

We have many wonderful selections for 2015 and are looking forward to making our official announcement for the coming season later this month. Please watch our web site or join our mailing list!

As 2014 winds down, we are asking for you to remember Brookfield Theatre in your year end giving. Our ticket prices are the lowest in the area in order to encourage the widest audience possible. Please help us to continue to provide meaningful community theater experiences with your generous gift.

On your way in today, you may have noticed that we have some storm damage and driveway repair. This is in addition to the regular maintenance that a building with historic value requires, and the fees we pay for the quality programs we provide. Your contribution will allow us to continue this work.

Thank you for your support of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts. We hope to see you again in 2015!

Peace,
Michael Burnett
TBTA President

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Directing this play has been a dream project of mine since the 1980s. That I’m finally getting to direct it in such a beautiful and supportive theater with such a great cast is beyond exciting. For me, this is a very personal show as I lost many talented wonderful friends in the 80’s and 90’s. For some of you this play may be a history lesson but the play is an important reminder that even now in 2014 there is no cure for AIDS, the medication for HIV is exorbitant and many cannot afford it and men and women are still dying of this disease all over the world. This is also a play about the human spirit and the importance of standing up for what you believe in. As Larry Kramer says, “Never stop fighting for the ones you love.”

Thank you to our TBTA 2014 Season Supporters

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

Thomas & Emilie Connor

GOLD \$250-\$499

SILVER \$100-\$249

BRONZE \$25-\$99

Angela & Joseph Barna • Susan Bastura

Maureen Burnett • Anthony Chiodo

Donald Lococo • Nancy Pond

Lisa Strassman

"TIPS" up to \$25

Susan Balla • John Baron • Susan Bastura • Daniel Bayer
Sarah Belanger • Theresa Bobak • Joan Bybee • Helena Coelho
Charlene Degrazia • Charles Donais • Kristine Donahue
Duane Ellingson • Jean Fagernes • Janet Kaufmann • Lynne Kearney
Alyssa Kolessar • Judith Long • Jean Michetti • Howard Rovics
Debra Sanchirico • Lisa Strassman • Oscar Urena
Patti Wakeling • Christopher Watkins • Angel White

*We apologize for any errors or omissions.
The above list is complete as of printer's deadline.*

The Normal Heart

by Larry Kramer

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR **David Bass**
PRODUCERS **Lou Okell & Kerry Bulson**
SET DESIGN **Andrew Okell**
COSTUME DESIGN **Meg Jones**
LIGHTING DESIGN **Brian Casella**
SOUND DESIGN **David Bass, Lou Okell**
ANIMATION DESIGN **Kerry Bulson, Lou Okell**
STAGE MANAGER / PROPERTIES **Barbara Disraeli**
PROJECTIONIST **Hattie Sorrells**
LIGHTING EXECUTION **Karen Pope**
SOUND EXECUTION **Marla Manning & Stefanie Woerdeman**
SET CONSTRUCTION **Robert Lane, Don Lombardo,**
Kevin McDonough, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell
SET PAINTING **Kerry & Lou**
HOUSE MANAGER **Steven Hernly & TBTA Volunteers**
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER **Stephen Cihanek**
BOX OFFICE **Carol Hoose**
SRO/CONCESSIONS **Joy Tagliavento**
OPENING NIGHT PARTY **Kristin Hoose**

SPECIAL THANKS

Arketype Graphics & Printing, Chris Bird,
Frank Bulson, Stephen Cihanek,
Michael Donnelly—Superior Office Furniture & Supply,
Carol Hoose, Stephen Lasar AIA, New York Public Library,
Ridgefield Theatre Barn, Karen E. Steckler, Mat Young

EMERGENCY FIRE NOTICE

Please observe the **EXIT** sign nearest to the seat which you occupy. It is the shortest route to the exterior of the building. Should an emergency arise, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

The Normal Heart

by Larry Kramer

directed by **David Bass**

produced by **Lou Okell & Kerry Bulson**

CAST

Ned Weeks **Michael Wright**
Felix Turner **Miles Everett**
Bruce Niles **J Scott Williams**
Mickey Marcus **Michael Reilly**
Tommy Boatwright/Craig Donner **Todd Santa Maria**
Dr. Emma Brookner **Vicki Sosbe**
Ben Weeks **Christopher Bird**
Hiram Keebler/David/Doctor/Grady **Kyle Pinto**

SETTING

New York—July 1981 to 1984

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

Original New York Production by New York Shakespeare Festival
Produced by Joseph Papp

Performed with permission from Samuel French, Inc., New York, NY.

For the safety of performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, taking photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off **ALL** phones, pagers, computer games and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems. **Patrons who are unwilling to turn off electronic devices are welcome to leave the theatre.**

PLEASE KNOW

**The windiest militant trash
Important Persons shout
Is not so crude as our wish:
What mad Nijinsky wrote
About Diaghilev
Is true of the normal heart;
For the error bred in the bone
Of each woman and each man
Craves what it cannot have,
Not universal love
But to be loved alone.**

**All I have is a voice
To undo the folded lie,
The romantic lie in the brain
Of the sensual man-in-the street
And the lie of Authority
Whose buildings grope the sky:
There is no such thing as the State
And no one exists alone;
Hunger allows no choice
To the citizen or the police;
We must love one another or die.**

**— W.H. Auden
From "September 1, 1939"**

Please know that everything in *The Normal Heart* happened. These were and are real people who lived and spoke and died, and are presented here as best I could. Several more have died since, including Bruce, whose name was Paul Popham, and Tommy, whose name was Rodger McFarlane and who became my best friend, and Emma, whose name was Dr. Linda Laubenstein. She died after a return bout of polio and another trip to an iron lung. Rodger, after building three gay/AIDS agencies from the ground up, committed suicide in despair. On his deathbed at Memorial, Paul called me (we'd not spoken since our last fight in this play) and told me to never stop fighting.

Four members of the original cast died as well, including my dear sweet friend Brad Davis, the original Ned, whom I knew from practically the moment he got off the bus from Florida, a shy kid so very intent on becoming a fine actor, which he did.

Please know that AIDS is a worldwide plague.

Please know that no country in the world, including this one, especially this one, has ever called it a plague, or acknowledged it as a plague, or dealt with it as a plague.

Please know that there is no cure.

Please know that after all this time the amount of money being spent to find a cure is still miniscule, still almost invisible, still impossible to locate in any national health budget, and still totally uncoordinated.

Please know that here in America case numbers continue to rise in every category. In much of the rest of the world—Russia, India, Southeast Asia, Africa—the numbers of the infected and the dying are so grotesquely high they are rarely acknowledged.

Please know that all efforts at prevention and education continue their unending record of abject failure.

Please know that there is no one in charge of this plague. This is a war for which there is no general and for which there has never been a general. How can you win a war with no one in charge?

Please know that beginning with Ronald Reagan (who would not say the word 'AIDS' publicly for seven years), every single president has said nothing and done nothing, or in the case of the current president, says the right things and then doesn't do them.

Please know that most medications for HIV/AIDS are inhumanly expensive and that government funding for the poor to obtain them is dwindling and often unavailable.

Please know that pharmaceutical companies are among the most evil and greedy nightmares ever loosed on humankind. What 'research' they embark upon is calculated only toward finding newer drugs to keep us, just barely, from dying, but not to make us better or, god forbid, cured.

Please know that an awful lot of people have needlessly died and will continue to needlessly die because of any and all of the above.

Please know that the world has suffered at the very least some 75 million infections and 35 million deaths. When the action of the play that you have just seen begins, there were 41.

I have never seen such wrongs as this plague, in all its guises, represents, and continues to say about us all."

—Larry Kramer, 2011

BIOGRAPHIES



Michael Wright (NED WEEKS) returns for his fourth show at TBTA, last seen in *The Divine Sister* earlier this season. The Newtown resident has appeared at Musicals at Richter, TheatreWorks New Milford and the Sherman Playhouse. He thanks his wife Laurie and daughter Jerusha for just being so damn wonderful. Michael would also like to thank Arthur Fredric, Beth Bonnabeau, Jane Farnol, Glenn Couture, Robin Frome & Matt Austin for helping to make his return to the stage after 20 years a most welcome pleasure.

IN OUR LOBBY

About the Artist

Jonathan-Joseph Ganjian is a New Fairfield based jack of all trades. Professionally speaking he is a consultant, activist and painter. For the past decade, Jonathan has been an activist campaigning for LGBTQ visibility and awareness while in the past four years has become a staunch advocate for those living with HIV or AIDS. His New Fairfield based consulting firm Jonathan Joseph Consulting LLC specializes in both philanthropic and for-profit strategic planning and business consultation. More information about Jonathan's professional work can be found at: www.JonathanJosephConsulting.com

Jonathan works with APGD in two capacities: one through his firm, acting as fundraising counsel on development matters related to grants and individual donors as well as special events; and the other as a part time early intervention specialist focusing on engaging the medical community with APGD through the Prescription for Awareness program, part of the #Beingthechange movement developed by the agency. Jonathan is also responsible along with agency director Roberta Stewart in developing #Beingthechange as a unique and multifaceted response to the ever evolving face of HIV/AIDS in today's world.

About the Art Work

Jonathan has been an avid painter his entire life in an effort to counteract the fine motor skill issues arising out of his ataxic cerebral palsy diagnosis. Although he has been selling directly to his collectors for years, it was not until he became HIV positive that his creative output began to go into overdrive, resulting in the current "Gold Series".

The Gold Series is an exploration of challenge, triumph, perseverance and the tenacity told through color, texture form and light. Jonathan's aim was to use gold as a vehicle to express so many things we're unable to when faced with challenges, with the other colors and textures conveying the terrain and vibrancy of our everyday lives. The collection (totaling 50 pieces, with some still in progress) combines Caravaggio's obsession with light as storyteller with the abstraction and freneticism of Twombly, Basquiat, Chagall, Richter and Still. Each piece in the collection is a meditation on emotion, experience and retrospective reflection and invites the viewer to divine their own meaning from the composition before them.

Of the 50 pieces for the Gold Series, many have already been sold; in honor of *The Normal Heart* and in light of the personal connection between Jonathan and the subject matter; 30% of the proceeds from the sale of any work shown at TBTA will be donated to AIDS Project Greater Danbury. Jonathan accepts all major credit cards, cash and payment plans (6, 12, and 24 months). His website for his Gold Series is forthcoming, to be added to a mailing list for notification please use the contact form at www.jonathanjosephconsulting.com and indicate Gold Series Completion Notification in the subject.

BIOGRAPHIES

David Bass (DIRECTOR) received a BFA in Theater Direction from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. He has studied with playwright/director David Mamet, actor William H. Macy, director Anne Bogart and legendary acting teacher Stella Adler. Over the past twenty-plus years he has directed plays in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles and throughout Connecticut. Most recently he directed *Fully Committed* and *The Little Dog Laughed* at the Town Players of Newtown and *August: Osage County* at the Ridgefield Theater Barn. Next June he will be directing *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* at the Ridgefield Theater Barn. Special thanks to Lou and Kerry for their invaluable help with this production and to my extraordinary cast who made this an unforgettable journey.



Christopher Bird (BEN WEEKS) majored in Theatre at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA, studied at HB studios in New York and attended the graduate training program at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco. In Los Angeles he worked in film and television both in front of and behind the camera and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He has appeared onstage in numerous productions at Town Players in Newtown including *Veronica*, *Caught in the Net*, *Ravenscroft*, *The Tempest*, and *Merry Wives of Windsor*. He is on the Town Players board of directors and serves as technical director for the theatre. This is his second production with TBTA having also appeared in this year's production of *God of Carnage*.

Kerry Bulson (PRODUCER) is incredibly honored to work on this production and thanks David and Lou from the bottom of her heart for letting her tag along on this important journey. Past producing credits at TBTA include *RENT* and *The Divine Sister*, and she has been known to wield a mean paintbrush during set decoration. She enjoys her dual life as data geek by day, theatre creature by night. She lives in Danbury and thanks this amazing cast (smooches), her incredibly supportive and handsome husband Frank, and her two most important productions, her sons Scott & Ryan.

Brian Casella (LIGHTING DESIGN): keeps busy between owning a DJ and event lighting company, Vivid Events, and freelance lighting design. Some lighting design credits include: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Putting it Together*, *Songs for a New World*, *Doubt*, *Damn Yankees*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Assassins*, *Little Women*, *Joseph...*, *Spring Awakening*, *Sylvia*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Carnival*, *Parade* and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. www.YourVividEvent.com.

Barbara Disraeli (STAGE MANAGER) returns after appearing as Mrs. Bradman in September's *Blithe Spirit* here at TBTA. Some additional on-stage credits include *Tom, Dick and Harry*; *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*; *Scripted from Romance, Revelry and Regret*; *Rehearsal for Murder*; and *Come Back to the Five and Dime...* at area theaters. Off-stage credits include stage manager with Brewster Theater for *Blithe Spirit*, *Our Town*, *Lion in Winter* and *Tartuffe*. She thanks David, Lou and Kerry for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful production, as well as the entire cast and crew for their dedication to this show.

BIOGRAPHIES



Miles Everett (FELIX TURNER) recently appeared as Oswald in *Ghosts* for Theatre Artists Workshop. Past roles have included: Tom in *Glass Menagerie*, Konstantin in *The Seagull*, Caliban in *the Tempest*, Mitchell in *The Little Dog Laughed*, Elyot in *Private Lives*, Lord Leicester in *Mary Stuart*, Michael in *Dances At Lughnasa*, Howie in *Rabbit Hole*, and George Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*. Miles studies acting with Marlene Wallace.

Robert Lane (SET CONSTRUCTION) is in his fifth season at TBTA as Set Fabricator. He thanks his wife, Rita, for supporting his time spent building (many long into the evening). He also thanks all of the TBTA-ers he has collaborated with over the years.

Don Lombardo (SET BUILD) is a long-time supporter of TBTA and is happy to join Andy and Bob on another setbuilding adventure.

Marla Manning (SOUND EXECUTION) is delighted for another chance to work with theater hubby David Bass! Though she's taken on almost every position in the theatrical world, much of the past year has been spent in the director's chair, with *Stop Kiss* (Ridgefield Theater Barn) and *The Glass Menagerie* (Town Players of Newtown) her most recent credits. Marla thanks Don and bunnies Brody & Princess Snowflake for understanding—or at least acting like they do!

Andy Okell (SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION) is happy to return to build another set with “Bob da Builder” Lane. Andy is also on the Board of Directors and thanks his wonderful daughter, Emma, for introducing him to theater. By day he runs his own graphics & printing business (arkett.com). He hopes you will tell your family and friends about the high quality of our shows at TBTA so that he can return to build many more sets in the future.

Lou Okell (PRODUCER) has had a long relationship with TBTA beginning by providing low-cost and donated graphics & printing since 1988, which led to volunteering in 2007, and finally joining the Board in 2008. She has promoted and volunteered for nearly every show since. She thanks David, Kerry, and the hard working cast & crew for all their wonderful work on this show, and thank you to our audience for supporting live theater. For Eddie, Robby, Mark & Julie, and especially for Jay.



Kyle Pinto (DAVID/HIRAM KEEBLER/GRADY/EXAMINING DOCTOR) is thrilled to be cast in *The Normal Heart*. He has performed on the Ridgefield Theater Barn's stage as Ben in *The Sunshine Boys*, as Bruce in *Beyond Therapy*, *The One Acts* and most recently as Peter in *Stop Kiss*. He also enjoyed playing Gerry in *Dancing at Lughnasa* at Pound Ridge Theater Company. Before coming back to Connecticut, Kyle spent several years in a local improv group called, 'Inside Jokes' in Providence, RI and then a traveling children's theater in Italy. Kyle is so thankful to be a part of this production to bring attention to the social issues still prevalent today.

Karen Pope (LIGHTING EXECUTION)

BIOGRAPHIES



Michael Reilly (MICKEY MARCUS) is honored to be part of such a ground-breaking play. He was previously seen at TBTA in *Wait Until Dark* (Roat) and *Harvey*. He has performed with numerous theater groups throughout Connecticut. He was last seen at the Clockwork Rep in *Getting Sara Married* (Brandon). Favorite past roles include *Lost In Yonkers* (Louie) at Playhouse on Park, *The Rainmaker* (Noah) at the Goshen Players, *All My Sons* (George) at the Suffield Players, *The Boys In The Band* (Larry) at Hole in the Wall Theater, *Rumors* (Ken) and *The Boys Next Door* (Jack) both at the Clockwork Rep. Thanks to David and Lou for the opportunity! Thanks go to this great cast and crew for all their hard work and gratitude to my family and friends for their continued support! He dedicates his performance in memory of his cousin Lori who lost her fight against this disease. “Sometimes in life there is that moment when it's possible to make a change for the better. This is one of those moments”—Elizabeth Glaser



Todd Santa Maria (TOMMY BOATWRIGHT/CRAIG DONNER) is happy to be returning to TBTA, with previous credits including: *Beyond Therapy*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Into the Woods*, and *Carnival*. NYC Credit: *Fabulous* (Dramatists Guild); Other acting credits include: *Fully Committed*, *The Little Dog Laughed*, *Gypsy*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Producers*, *Angels in America Parts I & II*, *A Few Good Men*, *The Laramie Project* and *Equus*. Special thanks to family, friends, David, Lou, Kerry and this amazing cast.

Hattie Sorrells (PROJECTIONIST) is currently as student in Danbury and is happy to be returning to TBTA after working on lighting for the previous show, *Blithe Spirit*. She thanks Lou for inviting her to join the team!



Vicki Sosbe (DR. EMMA BROOKNER) is pleased to be returning to the TBTA stage and to be a part of this amazing production. She was last seen here in 2012 as Jean, in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Favorite roles include Gretchen in *Boeing, Boeing*, Christine in *The Bad Seed*, Mrs. Manningham in *Gaslight*, Frenchie in *Cabaret*, Mrs. Cheveley in *An Ideal Husband*, and Myra in *Hayfever*. In her spare time, she is a wife to husband Kevin, and mom to three awesome kids. Much love to my family and sincere thanks to Beth Bonneau and Phyllis Sosbe for all their help and support.

Willson Wallace (STAGE CREW), a student in Danbury is happy to be volunteering again at TBTA. Break-a-leg cast & crew!



J Scott Williams (BRUCE NILES) is happy to make his TBTA debut with this production. A Connecticut veteran of local theater, audiences have seen Scott in productions of *Burn This*, *Jeffrey*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Cabaret*, *Bent*, *Doubt*, *Present Laughter*, *Arms and the Man*, *A Few Good Men*, *Noises Off*, and *Seascape* at area theaters. In real life Scott is a Landscape Architect in Brookfield.

Stefanie Woerdeman (SOUND EXECUTION)