

A Note From The Director

To go from typically staging large-scale musicals to a drama with a two-person cast is certainly outside the norm for me. However, I am incredibly honored and fortunate to have had the opportunity to stage such an important story at BTA. I first saw *'Night Mother* on stage at Gallaudet University. It was a student directed performance in the university's black box theatre. The two actors were Deaf. The production was entirely signed. There was no voice interpretation. After initially struggling to follow the play with my limited skills in American Sign Language, I was quickly struck by the power of this story, the struggle between mother and daughter, which needed no words. I was drawn in by the visceral intensity that was deepened by the beautiful imagery created through this physical language. I knew I had to direct this piece. That was in 1998. Clearly this show has been brewing on the back burner for some time. I often say that when the time is right that I will know, and I will put a show on the schedule. For many reasons, the time was right. Seeing what Meg and Stacy have brought to these characters is confirmation for me that the time was right. Marsha Norman has given us an amazing script with which to work, and I have loved watching it come to life through the work of these dedicated and compassionate performers.

This story is about the most honest and vulnerable moments between a mother and daughter. While this show deals with incredibly intense subject matter, the beauty of the relationship between these two characters is what kept it on the list of stories I knew I wanted the opportunity to tell.

This production marks the beginning of a short break for me in the community theatre world as I focus my attention on teaching and the theatre arts program at Danbury High School. I could not possibly feel more blessed to have had the opportunity to do the work that I have done at BTA. I've had the incredible gift of being able to share stories on stage that are quite close to my heart with so many cherished and talented friends. I feel equally blessed to be so excited about the theatre's future under new and creative leadership. I look forward to joining you all in the audience to enjoy the fantastic line up in store for us next season.

Peace, Love and Gratitude,
Michael Burnett

"Our lives become the stories that we weave" ~Once on this Island

SPECIAL NOTE

There will be a collection for the LIZ TEED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP throughout the run of *'Night Mother*. Please look for the donation box in the lobby. 20% of the sale of all artwork will also be given to the scholarship fund.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Meg Jones began painting 13 years ago, after taking a class with Ann Delorian vonHoorn. Meg's choice of subject matter comes from her love of nature and the ocean. She often paints scenes from Maine, Martha's Vineyard and Candlewood Lake. Meg was raised in Bethel, Ct. She studied Early Childhood Education at Boston University and has a Masters Degree in Child Development from Western Connecticut State University. Meg lives in New Milford, Ct. and is a third grade teacher by day! 20% of the sale of all artwork will be given to the LIZ TEED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

Thank you to our 2015 Season Supporters

PLATINUM \$500-\$999

Thomas & Emilie Connor

GOLD \$250-\$499

SILVER \$100-\$249

Dr. & Mrs. James Sullivan

BRONZE \$25-\$99

Anthony Chiodo • Kristin Collins

Celia Regan • Tom & Lynn Sheehan

Cathleen Sullivan • Elizabeth Young

"TIPS" up to \$25

Aurelio Coelho • John Fernandes Jr • Steven Frisch • Tara Hanlon

Rick Hodder • Lillian Hope • Juliette Koch • Corey Leake

Laura Lerman • Liz Matteson • Carolyn Mccarthy • Kevin Morgan

Timothy Muir • John Murdock • Suzanne Murdock

Laura Nicoletti • Sonia Ohanlon • Sabrina Post

Susan Primavera • Timothy Rees • Jeffery Robeson

Karen Robinson • Paul Sofia • Shelley Stampfler

Robert Taylor • Jessie Wasserman • Eric Wilczak

List is complete as of printer's deadline. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

A Brief History of The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

The building that houses BTA was originally a gymnasium for The Curtis School for Boys. First established in 1875 in Bethlehem, CT by Frederick S. Curtis, the school was moved to Long Meadow Hill in 1883 and then to the present site that was the former Goodsell Estate in 1886.

In 1906 the price for one school year was six hundred dollars. This included "tuition, board, a seat in church, lighting and warming, the care and mending of clothing, and the use of school books." In the 1920s, girls were allowed to enroll as day students. This is the second gymnasium for the Curtis School. The first was destroyed by fire in 1906. The present stone building was built in 1907. The Curtis School closed its doors in 1943.

The gymnasium was purchased by the Brookfield Country Players in 1957 and has been used as a theatre for year-round plays and musicals ever since. This year, 2015, is our 58th season.

Visit our web site for more information or contact us to share your story!

Brookfield Theatre Membership

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

2015 Members

Aldis Alexander, Robert Bassett, Kerry Bulson,
Michael Burnett, Desirae Carle, Brian Casella,
Dawn Garamone, Carol de Giere, Carol Hoose,
Kristin Hoose, Margaret Teed Jones, Wayne Leiss,
Don Lombardo, Karlene Lombardo, Tracy Lowry,
Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Rebecca Pokorski,
Karen E. Steckler, Joy Tagliavento, Cherie Villano

Lifetime Members

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

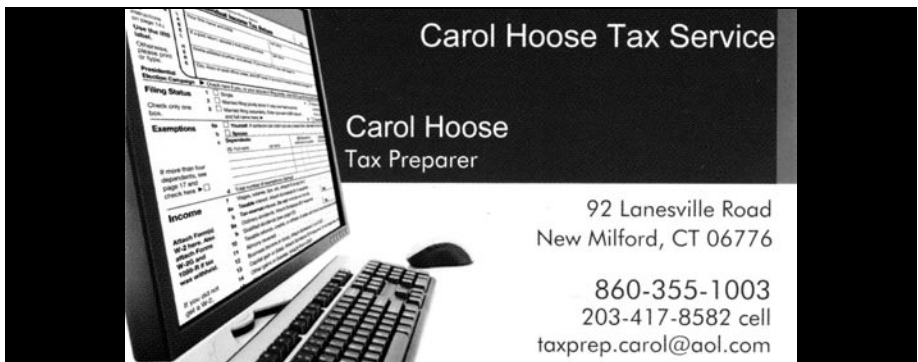
Season Subscribers

Thank you to our 2015 Season Subscribers

Susan Amlung, John & Anne Baron*, Anna & Roy Chan*,
Anthony Chiodo, D. Laurence & Arlene Coleman*,
Annette & Brent Crozier*, Marianne Gaffey*,
Janine & Jonathan Gibney*, Diane Hires*, Steve Hoose,
Greg & Joanne Kelsey*, Donald & Karlene Lombardo*,
Lyn Lyon*, Michael & Susan O'Brien*,
Tara Peterson, Anne & Clint Rickards*, Sue Slater*,
Jina Williams, Steve Wright*

Thank you for your support!

**Subscription for Two. List current as of press time. We apologize for any errors or omissions.*



Carol Hoose Tax Service

Carol Hoose
Tax Preparer

92 Lanesville Road
New Milford, CT 06776

860-355-1003
203-417-8582 cell
taxprep.carol@aol.com

'7 NIGHT MOTHER

by Marsha Norman

directed by Michael Burnett

C A S T

Jessie Stacy-Lee Erickson Frome

Mama Meg Jones

The show is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR/PRODUCER/SET DESIGN Michael Burnett

LIGHTING DESIGN Justin Morgan

STAGE MANAGER/PROPERTIES Karen E Steckler

LIGHTING & SOUND EXECUTION. Brandon Robbins-Cartagena

SET CONSTRUCTION Larry Coleman, Bob Lane, Don Lombardo,
Andy Okell, Lou Okell

HOUSE MANAGER Cynthia Merchant & BTA Volunteers

HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER. Stephen Cihanek

BOX OFFICE Carol Hoose

SRO/CONCESSIONS Joy Tagliavento & BTA Volunteers

OPENING NIGHT PARTY Kristin Hoose

SPECIAL THANKS

Jill Hancock, A Common Ground,
Danbury High School Productions,
Gallaudet University, John Perry

Performed with permission from Dramatists Play Service Inc., New York, NY

BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Burnett (DIRECTOR/PRODUCER) is thrilled to have had the opportunity to bring this piece to life. Michael graduated from Skidmore College with a degree in Theatre and Deaf Studies. He has worked with both the theatre and dance companies at Gallaudet University, as well as performing with New York Deaf Theatre. He has worked for the Danbury Public School System for the past 18 years as an American Sign Language interpreter, teacher and director for Danbury High School Productions. He has also served as president and artistic director for BTA. Michael has had the great fortune of being able to stage socially important work here at BTA such as *The Laramie Project*, *Dog Sees God* and *Next to Normal*. *Night Mother* is no exception. Michael would like to thank his very talented and dedicated cast and crew for the time, energy and most of all the wonderful spirit that they all brought to this production.

Stacy-Lee Frome (JESSIE) is delighted to be back at BTA, where she last appeared in 2002 as the Little Nun in *The House of Blue Leaves*. Recently she has been seen at the Sherman Playhouse as Sally Talley in *Talley's Folly*, Mary Hatch Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*, and Lizzie Curry in *The Rainmaker*. Stacy has been very active in local theatre over the years; her past roles in the area have included Marilla Cuthbert in *Anne of Green Gables*, Rose Arnott in *Enchanted April*, Gayle/Sandrine in *Almost, Maine*, Maggie Cutler in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and Mme. de Tourvel in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. She wishes to extend her heartfelt gratitude to Michael, for giving her the opportunity to explore the beautiful and complicated role of Jessie. Huge hugs to Meg, not only for being a wonderful and supportive co-star, but simply because we need some. And of course, as always, all her love to her amazing husband Robin.

Meg Jones (THELMA) is excited to be back on BTA's stage. You may have seen her in *The Laramie Project*, *Sylvia*, *Thou Shalt Not Dance*, *Spoon River Anthology* and *PIPPIN*, among others. She has also been costumer and producer for many other shows. Meg is grateful for the chance to work with Michael, Stacy and Karen on this beautifully written and powerful story. This performance is given in honor of Meg's sister-in-law, Liz Teed. Liz lost her battle with depression to suicide a year ago. She will remain forever in Meg's heart

Robert Lane (SET CONSTRUCTION) is in his sixth season at BTA 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 BTA-ers he has collaborated with over the years.

Don Lombardo (SET CONSTRUCTION) is a long-time supporter of BTA and is happy to join Andy and Bob on another set building adventure.

Justin Morgan (LIGHTING DESIGNER) *Night Mother* marks Justin's eleventh design at The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts. Some of his favorite designs at BTA include, *Rent*, *Hair*, *Once On This Island*, and *Dog Sees God*. Justin is a graduate the University of Connecticut, where he obtained his BFA in design/technical theatre. He had worked professionally in technical theatre and live entertainment for several years before becoming a teacher with Danbury Public Schools in 2004. Justin has been the Technical Director and Lighting Designer

BIOGRAPHIES

at Danbury High School Productions for 18 musicals. He would like to thank his wife, Crystal for all of her love and support. Justin also thanks the entire BTA family for the opportunity to work with such talented and dedicated people.

Andy Okell (SET CONSTRUCTION) is 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 BTA so that he can return to build many more sets with "Bob da Builder" Lane, Larry & Don.

Brandon Robbins-Cartagena (LIGHTING EXECUTION), a high school senior, is honored to be the running the lighting for the production. Although tech has always been a fascination to Brandon, he lives on the stage. Brandon has been involved in various staged productions, including BTA's production of *8* in 2012. Brandon's love for theatre has shifted to the love for direction over performing where he has the opportunity to apply his lessons and technique to teach others. Although the theater arts have been a passion since age 10, Brandon's future is in education. Similar to directing, teaching allows him to help others and learn while doing something he loves. He hopes to one day run a musical program, similar to the one at DHS, where kids love to be and feel safe. Brandon hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Karen E Steckler (STAGE MANAGER) Winner of 4 Emmy's in the field of broadcasting for ABC-TV, part of the team coverage of 6 Olympics including Munich 1972, and a recipient of the Alfred I. DuPont Columbia University Award in Broadcast Journalism for the coverage of the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, Karen is on the Board of Directors at BTA. She has either produced, costumed, stage managed, prop mastered, or run lighting for several shows here including *Be A Good Little Widow*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Blithe Spirit*, *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change*, and her favorite all-time musical *Company*. "It is a privilege to work with the ever so talented Meg Teed-Jones, Stacy-Lee Frome, and of course our dedicated and wonderful director Michael Burnett.

THE BROOKFIELD THEATRE FOR THE ARTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lou Okell, President • Kristin Hoose, Vice-President
Carol Hoose, Treasurer • Desirae Carle, Secretary
Michael Burnett, ex-officio

DIRECTORS

Rob Bassett, Brian Casella (Technical Director), Janice Gabriel,
Meg Jones, Abbey Lynch, Sara Mariano, Andrew Okell,
Rebecca Pokorski, Karen E. Steckler, Nicole Veach

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 and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems and disrupt the show. **Patrons who need to text, tweet, or candy crush may do so in the lobby.**