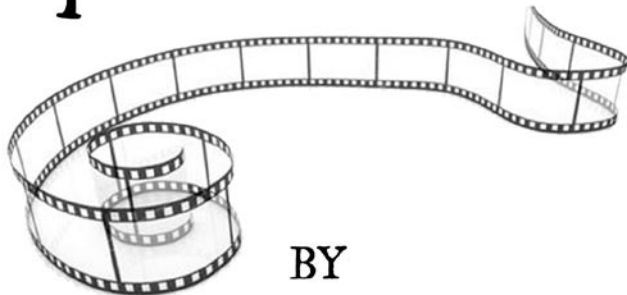


**The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts**

*presents*

# Speed-the-Plow



BY

**David Mamet**

Directed by **John Schwanke**

Produced by **Rebecca Pokorski & Lou Okell**

"Speed-the-Plow" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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## **The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts**

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Beth Patrick, Rebecca Pokorski, Joy Tagliavento\*, Nicole Veach

*\*member-at-large*

# The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

November 2016

Dear Brookfield Theatre family & friends,

Here we are at the final show of 2016: ***Speed-the-Plow***, by David Mamet (Pulitzer Prize winner for *Glengarry Glen Ross*). It is directed by John Schwanke whose more than 40 years of experience includes acting and directing as well as a very successful professional career in theatre production management, building many Broadway shows including “Cats” and “4nd Street”. We are so happy to have John as director for this show!

Please mark your calendars for upcoming December events: improv comedy with **17 Debacles** on Dec. 3 and a special holiday staged reading of “Christmas at Maccombers” by Ray Sipherd on Dec. 10th.

2016 has been an eventful year. Many of you have already heard about the lightning strike that damaged the lighting board adding extra challenges to our production of “The Other Place” in September. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the cast and crew who persevered despite the difficulties, especially director Alicia Dempster who put in many additional hours to be sure the show could go on.

Deepest thanks to Rick and Paget Haylon who heard of our difficulties and offered a generous donation to help us get back up and running. It’s always wonderful to have friends in times of trouble—thank you!

Thanks also to John Schwanke and Rebecca Pokorski who donated funds for the new rug installed in our lobby, just in time for opening night.

We end 2016 with an exciting new beginning! We are happy to announce that Will Jeffries has joined The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts as its new Artistic Director. In developing our 60th Anniversary Season, it became clear that we needed more expertise in order to bring you the type of dynamic, high quality shows befitting such an important celebration.

Will is a retired professional actor who has been active in area community theaters since 2004. He has been instrumental in developing what we believe will be a fantastic 2017 season of shows! We begin in March with “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof” by Tennessee Williams directed by Jeanine DeFalco PhD. Will Jeffries directs our April show, “Bent” by Martin Sherman which deals with the horrors of the Holocaust. Our summer show was the top musical the year our theater founded and the perfect celebration of our 60th year—“Damn Yankees” with words & music by Richard Adler & Jerry Ross and book by George Abbott & Douglass Wallop. It is directed by Don Bovingloh. We follow that up with the contemporary historical drama “Frost/Nixon” by Peter Morgan. Then, one year from now, enjoy the funniest farce ever written “Noises Off!” by Michael Frayn, directed by R. Scott Brill.

We hope you will join us in 2017—subscription information is available in the lobby and online at [www.BrookfieldTheatre.org](http://www.BrookfieldTheatre.org)

Thank you for your continued support!

***Enjoy the show,***

Lou Okell, President

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*Thank you to our 2017 Season Supporters*

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**ADD YOUR NAME & SUPPORT OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON!**

# Brookfield Theatre Membership

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

## 2016 Members

Aldis Alexander, Joseph & Angela Barna, Brian Casella,  
Anthony Chiodo, Arlene Coleman, Larry Coleman,  
Karl Gonzalez, Carol Hoose, Kristin Hoose, Will Jeffries,  
Desirae Kelley, Robert Lane, Don Lombardo,  
Karlene Lombardo, Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Beth Patrick,  
Rebecca Pokorski, M. Jodi Rell, Jim Sullivan, Kathy Sullivan,  
Joy Tagliavento, Nicole Veach

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## 2016 Season Subscribers

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Larry & Arlene Coleman\*, Marianne Gaffey\*,  
Jonathan & Janine Gibney\*, Jacqueline Green\*, Steve Hoose,  
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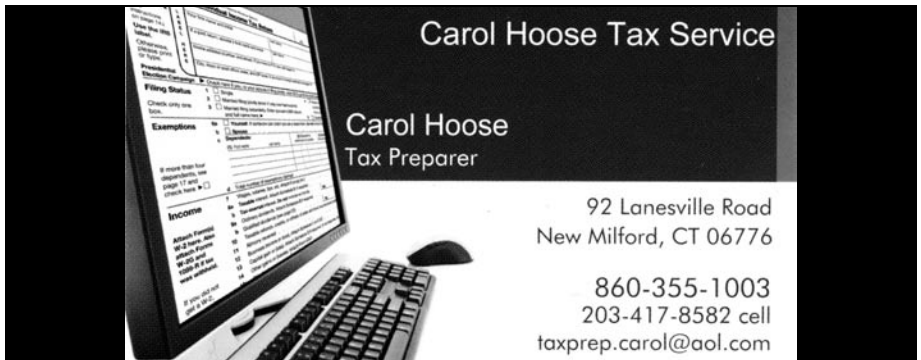
## Gift of Theater

***Thank you to our Gift of Theater Givers***

Karen Maksymiw, Lisa Nguyen, Lou Okell, Tracey Villaverde

***Thank you for your support!***

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



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# Speed-the-Plow

by David Mamet

directed by John Schwanke

## CAST

*Bobby Gould* . . . . . Peter Lerman  
*Charlie Fox* . . . . . Aaron Kaplan  
*Karen* . . . . . Dianna Waller

Running time is approximately 1½ hours. There is no intermission.

## PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR . . . . . John Schwanke  
PRODUCERS . . . . . Rebecca Pokorski, Lou Okell  
COSTUME DESIGN/STAGE MANAGEMENT . . . . . Rebecca Pokorski  
SET & SOUND DESIGN . . . . . John Schwanke  
LIGHTING DESIGN . . . . . Beth Patrick  
LIGHT & SOUND EXECUTION . . . . . Lou Okell  
SET CONSTRUCTION . . . . . Bob Lane, Andrew Okell  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT . . . . . Nicole Veach  
TECH CREW . . . . . Stef Carr, Victoria Ferguson, Dorian Patrick  
HOUSE MANAGER . . . . . TBTA Volunteers  
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER . . . . . Stephen Cihanek  
BOX OFFICE . . . . . Carol Hoose & TBTA Volunteers  
SRO/CONCESSIONS . . . . . Joy Tagliavento & TBTA Volunteers  
OPENING NIGHT PARTY . . . . . Pulcinella & Carol Hoose

## SPECIAL THANKS

Arkettype Graphics • Jon Curns • Simpson & Vail  
Superior Office Furniture • Frank Wargo

“Speed-the-Plow” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

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## 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. In the unlikely event of an emergency, theatre personnel will be available to assist your orderly departure.

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For the safety of performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, taking photos of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please turn off **ALL** phones and other electronic devices as they can interfere with our technical systems and disrupt the show. **Patrons who must text, tweet, or candy crush may do so in the lobby.**

# BIOGRAPHIES

**Aaron Kaplan (CHARLIE FOX)** just appeared here as the Man in *The Other Place*. Aaron is very excited to once again perform a piece written by David Mamet - he previously played punk Bobby in *American Buffalo* and salesman Ricky Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*, both at Ridgefield Theater Barn. Something about the way Mamet writes makes you want to get onstage and yell in front of an audience. Aaron has performed locally in Newtown, Ridgefield, Westport, Sherman, Wilton, and Monroe. Other favorite roles include Dennis in *Mauritius*, Picasso in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Jeff in *Lobby Hero*, Kerner in *Hapgood*, Antipholus of Syracuse in *The Comedy of Errors*, and 17 different characters in the role of Man in *A Perfect Ganesh*. He thanks his family for understanding his need to pursue this passion, and to the cast and crew for bringing it alive. To any agents in the audience: he is currently unrepresented...

**Robert Lane (SET BUILD)** is in his sixth season at TBTA as Set Fabricator. He is the 2010 TBTA Volunteer of the Year. Bob 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.

**Peter Lerman (BOB GOULD)** is originally from Brooklyn, NY (Midwood High School class of 1970), currently residing in Bethel. Day jobs are Respiratory Therapist and audiobook narrator (working on my sixth book right now). He has appeared in more than a few community theater productions as a gangster, ghoul, half-millionaire, producer, assistant producer, Yale graduate, and gambler. In this production he will play, in turn, a prince, a fool, and a corpse. Please remain seated for the entire performance and we're really serious about the turning-off-the-cellphone thing. Thank you for supporting The Brookfield Theater for the Arts. Visit Peter online at [www.Lerman.net](http://www.Lerman.net).

**Andrew Okell (SET BUILD)** thanks his wonderful daughter, Emma, for introducing him to theater. By day he runs his own graphics & printing business ([arkett.com](http://arkett.com)). Andy is the 2011 TBTA Volunteer of the Year. He hopes you will tell your family and friends about TBTA so that he can return to build many more sets with "Bob da Builder" Lane and his growing band of set building co-horts.

**Lou Okell (PRODUCER)** is president of TBTA and the 2009 Volunteer of the Year. Lou should thank the wonderful cast and crew of "Speed-thePlow" and *does* thank them! Special thanks to our director John, to Rebecca and Nicole for getting it done, to Beth for making the schedule work, to the cast for their many hours mastering this demanding script, and to Bob & Andy for putting it all together. *Enjoy the show...*

**Beth Patrick (LIGHTING DESIGNER)** Once upon a time, this girl thought she wanted to be a professional lighting designer. Then after a chance of a lifetime to run away and tour with a dance company, she ditched grad school and became the Production Stage Manger for Pilobolus Dance Theatre. After 4 years of touring the world, she gave up that glamorous full time tour life for the comfort of her own bed. She then did time as the Director of Production for Pilobolus before joining Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet where she was the Company Manager and then the Events Manager. Beth now calls Event Resources in Hartford her home where she is Production Manager. Beth is very happy to have been "swindled" into this gig by the lovely Producers and to have the ability to once again play in the theatre in her down time.

**Rebecca Pokorski (PRODUCER)** is very excited to have the privilege of working with the incredibly talented cast and crew. Previously you have seen her costumes in *Rent* (Angel's costumes), *Godspell* and *The Fantasticks*. Rebecca

# BIOGRAPHIES

holds a BFA in costume design from SUNY Fredonia and has worked at the Tennessee Repertory Theatre in Nashville before going on to Broadway to work in costumes for such productions as *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Dream, Jekyll and Hyde* and *Miss Saigon* as well as the Royal Ballet at the Met. You have seen Rebecca on stage at TBTA as the Stepmother in *Into the Woods*, and in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Rebecca is grateful to be a part of this production and would like to give the glory to God.

**John Schwanke (DIRECTOR)** brings over 40 years experience in educational and professional theatre. He holds a bachelor's degree in Acting from Moorehead State University and a master's in Theatre Arts from Illinois State University. John has acted in and directed more than 60 productions over his stage career. He also spent several years in Hollywood working on the major motion picture "The Inheritor" with Geoffrey Lewis and Suzanne Benton. While in Hollywood, he developed an extremely successful career in theatre production management as the assistant art director and lighting designer for Disney on Parade, and the original "Peter Pan" with Cathy Rigby. From there John joined Theatre Techniques in New York City, the company that he was to eventually own. John's company built over 500 theatrical productions including "Cats", "A Chorus Line", "42nd Street", "Chicago", "Me and My Girl", "On the 20th Century", "Sunset Boulevard", "M Butterfly", "Sweeney Todd" and "Into the Woods" to name a few. His company also built the stages for major musical acts such as Kiss, The Rolling Stones, Boston, Hall and Oates, Jethro Tull, and Parliament Funkadelic among others. He has written two works for the silver screen, a treatment for a major motion picture entitled "Crime Pays, Evil Don't" and a tv series script "Billy and The Kid". John eventually sold the company which is still highly successful as a leading provider of entertainment and event technology solutions under the name Production Resource Group (PRG).

**Dianna Waller (KAREN)** is delighted to be back on the Brookfield Stage after last being seen as Ruth Condomine in "Blithe Spirit". Some other past roles, include: Alice Beineke "The Addams Family", Doatsy Mae "Best Little Whorehouse", Lucy "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown", Susan "Company" at the Vagabond in Baltimore, Ann Deever "All My Sons", Judy "9-5: The Musical", Georgie Bukatinsky "The Full Monty", Meg Brockie "Brigadoon", The Authority Figure "Hairspray", Mindy "Five Women Wearing The Same Dress", Emily Gorski "Greetings", Various Characters "Beehive" at Cohoes Music Hall, and Various Characters "Forbidden Broadway's Greatest Hits". Dianna would like to thank John and Lou for the opportunity, her real life leading man, Jim, for being simply amazing, her incredible parents for putting theatre in her life, and Christopher Gladysz- always. Last, but never least, Rebecca Pokorski for sharing her home, and talents! I could never have done this without you!

## IN OUR LOBBY

**Bill Hughes** I was looking through a folder of my early artwork, my intentional and unintentional homages to Erte, Gorey, Warhol, Herring and Hirschfeld. The folder was labeled, "Life on the Line." A lot of the work was from age ten, so I am evidently either in a half century rut, or a lifelong relationship with the line. Growing up in and around NYC theater offered the opportunity to not only form an acquaintance with the above artists, but to hopefully learn from so many on, off, and backstage. The result of these opportunities ranged from acting, directing, puppet design, choreography and scenic design to founding several theater troupes. NYC also afforded the privilege of getting to know a number of playwrights, lending some a hand and on even occasion a word or two. And so, another relationship with another type of line.