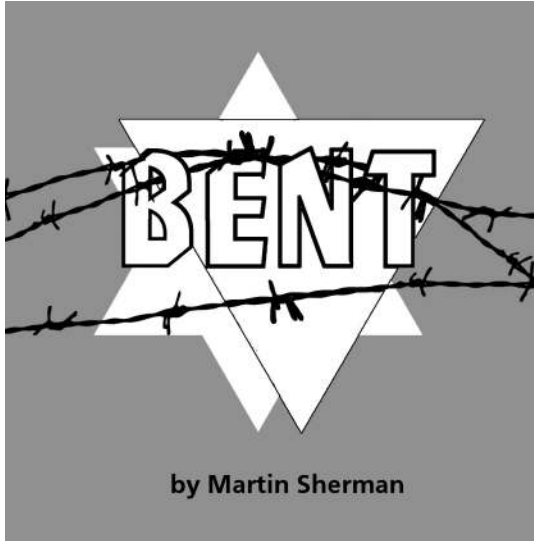


**The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts**

*presents*



Directed by **Will Jeffries**

Produced by **Nicole Veach & Desirae Kelley**

set design by **Donna E Glen**

costume design by **Rebecca Pokorski**

lighting design by **Jonathan Curns**

sound design by **Lou Okell**

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

BENT is an original play that is not based on THE MAN IN THE PINK TRIANGLE or any other book.

BENT was developed during a residency at the Eugene O’Neill Theater Center’s National Playwrights Conference in 1978.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production or distributing recordings on any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author’s rights and actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit:  
[www.SamuelFrench.com/whitepaper](http://www.SamuelFrench.com/whitepaper)

# The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

April 2017

Dear Brookfield Theatre family & friends,

Thank you for your continued support of the creative work we accomplish here at Brookfield Theatre

Our 60th Season continues with this important, powerful, and timely production of Martin Sherman's heartbreaking play "Bent". In including this show as part of our anniversary year, we are reaffirming our commitment to providing the community a place where actors can explore challenging scripts and patrons can experience quality performances that are unique and thought provoking. Many thanks to Will Jeffries, our Artistic Director, who proposed this show nearly a year ago and has worked tirelessly to accomplish what you will experience tonight.

We change the pace completely this summer with "Damn Yankees", the classic American musical that is also celebrating its 60th year. We have an amazing starting lineup of accomplished actors who are already at work on the show. We also have an opportunity for any young men who have thought about performing or returning to the stage—we need more baseball players for our team! We have an excellent teaching choreographer and a vocal coach ready to help you have a successful stage experience. Please contact the theater at BrookfieldTheatreCT@gmail.com if you are interested!

Please visit our web site at [www.BrookfieldTheatre.org](http://www.BrookfieldTheatre.org) to see all the upcoming events we have planned for you. There are staged readings, special events, CT Open House Day, and the rest of our 60th season lineup including "Frost/Nixon" and "Noises Off!" We hope you will join us!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wish you all a happy 60th anniversary with congratulations to all those who have contributed to this amazing enterprise. We hope you will join us in making 2017 a year of celebration and help us to spread the word to the wider community.

***Enjoy the show,***

Lou Okell, President

## OUR HISTORY

The Country Players of Brookfield was founded in 1957 by Tillie Ciccala and Susan French. Plays were initially performed in church halls and school auditoriums. After a school complained about an actress appearing on stage in a slip, it became clear that this band of players needed a home of its own. After refurbishing this building (originally the Curtis school gym built in 1907), it has been the permanent home of the Country Players of Brookfield. The organization eventually grew to include a wide range of cultural offerings and, in 2003, changed its name to "The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts" (shortened to TBTA or Brookfield Theatre) to reflect this commitment. At the same time, plans began for the building of a lobby annex to offer a gathering place for social events and concerts, and gallery space for art exhibits. The new lobby was dedicated in 2005. 2017 marks our 60th anniversary and our re-dedication as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing quality live performances, cultural events, and educational workshops to the community.

# Bent

by Martin Sherman

directed by Will Jeffries

## CAST

<i>Max</i> . . . . .	Anthony Contento
<i>Horst</i> . . . . .	Joe Russo
<i>Rudy</i> . . . . .	Craig David Rosen
<i>Greta</i> . . . . .	Tony Bosco-Schmidt
<i>Wolf / Captain</i> . . . . .	Nick Byrne
<i>Uncle Freddie</i> . . . . .	Dana O'Neal
<i>Guard</i> . . . . .	Nick Kaye
<i>Guard</i> . . . . .	Dan Patterson

Running time is approximately 2 hours.

There will be a 15 minute intermission—  
refreshments are available in the gallery.

"Bent" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

## IN THE GALLERY

***Images***, a new exhibition of paintings by three remarkable young artists; **Jacob Cullers**, **Noah Steinman** and **Becky Venable**, debuts in the gallery through the run of "Bent" beginning Friday, April 28. There will be an artists' reception on Saturday, May 6 between 2 and 4 p m.

Our Brookfield Theatre Gallery is curated by artist and Board member Anne Marie Foran. Artists interested in showing in our gallery and encouraged to contact her through the theater email: [press@brookfieldtheatre.org](mailto:press@brookfieldtheatre.org).

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### The Brookfield Theatre For The Arts

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lou Okell, PRESIDENT • Rebecca Pokorski, VICE-PRESIDENT  
Jean A Jackson, TREASURER • Andrew Okell, SECRETARY

Will Jeffries, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

#### DIRECTORS

Danielle Calabrese (*student representative*), Carol deGiere (*new musicals*),  
Anne Marie Foran (*gallery curator*), Desirae Kelley (*improv liaison*),  
Robert Lane (*building manager*), Beth Patrick, Joy Tagliavento (*at-large*),  
Nicole Veach (*historian*), Becky Venable

**Join our team! Contact us at [BrookfieldTheaterCT@gmail.com](mailto:BrookfieldTheaterCT@gmail.com)**

# Bent

by Martin Sherman

directed by Will Jeffries

## PRODUCTION CREW

DIRECTOR . . . . . Will Jeffries  
PRODUCERS . . . . . Desirae Kelley, Nicole Veach  
STAGE MANAGER . . . . . Morgana Kate Watson  
SET DESIGN . . . . . Donna E Glen  
COSTUME DESIGN . . . . . Rebecca Pokorski  
SOUND DESIGN & EXECUTION . . . . . Lou Okell  
LIGHTING DESIGN . . . . . Jonathan Curns  
LIGHT EXECUTION . . . . . A J Bacik  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR . . . . . A M Bhatt  
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER . . . . . Vikki Meskill  
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER . . . . . Burton Tedesco  
SET CONSTRUCTION & DECORATION . . . . . Will Jeffries, Andrew Okell,  
AJ Bacik, Anne Marie Foran, Desirae Kelley, Seamus Kelly,  
Bob Lane, Don Lombardo, Emma Okell, Lou Okell, Becky Venable  
HOUSE MANAGER . . . . . TBTA Volunteers  
REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHERS . . . . . Lou Okell, Bhatt Studios  
HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHER . . . . . Stephen Cihanek  
BOX OFFICE . . . . . Deanna Rullan & Jean A Jackson  
SRO/CONCESSIONS . . . . . Joy Tagliavento & TBTA Volunteers  
OPENING NIGHT PARTY . . . . . Anne Marie Foran

## SPECIAL THANKS

Arketype Graphics • Lindsey Hollister • New Milford Theatreworks

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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

**AJ Bacik (LIGHTING EXECUTION)** is currently a senior at WCSU majoring in Theatre Arts: Design/Tech. He is excited to be making his light booth debut with TBTA. Recent credits at WCSU include VIOLET (Asst. Technical Director) and the US premiere of THE STEPMOTHER (Master Carpenter). Other credits include Bridgeport Theatre Company's A FEW GOOD MEN (Ensemble/Military Advisor) and HAIRSPRAY (Deck Captain). AJ would like to thank Will Jeffries for endlessly supplying opportunities to do what he loves to do. He would also like to thank the incredible crew at TBTA for welcoming him in.

**Al Bhatt (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)** is lifelong artist, but a relative newcomer to theater. He is Academic Director of a Master's degree program in Leadership that is grounded in the premise that Leadership is an art form - a unique, one-time expression of an individual or group's vision. Al has developed Leadership artists in companies such as IBM, AmEx, and Facebook as well as in non-profit and social impact agencies and start-ups. He is a photographer, regular public speaker, and currently writing his first stage play. Al is grateful to Will Jeffries for the invitation to work on Bent and to the inspiration provided by his daughter, Sara Bhatt, an accomplished stage actor and singer.

**Tony Bosco-Schmidt (GRETA)** would like to thank his husband, Eric, and children, Maya and Tyler, for their constant love and support. After a 24-year hiatus, Tony returns to the stage for a completely new adventure as Greta. In a previous life (aka 1992/'93) at the Ridgefield Playhouse, Tony was seen as the Baker in INTO THE WOODS, and also directed TEN LITTLE INDIANS and NOISES OFF. Ironically, if you find the right photo on the walls here, you'll see evidence Tony's first role in community theatre, here at TBTA in 1988 in AND MISS REARDON DRINKS A LITTLE. Tony also thanks the cast, crew, producers and director of BENT for helping to bring Greta to life. Who woulda' thought...

**Nick Byrne (WOLF/CAPTAIN)** couldn't possibly be more honored and thrilled to be a part of this very important and thought-provoking production and to finally perform in CT. He previously won TANY'S (Theater Assoc. of NY State) Awards for his performances in HAND-TO-MOUTH'S PEAK EXPERIENCE and BY OUR FINGERNAILS. Other stage: ANNA CHRISTIE (Vocal Theater), TAKE ME OUT (Rising Action Theater), FREEDOM SUMMER (Brecht Forum), FATHERS OF THE DARK KNIGHT (Lion's Roar Productions), HARLOTS AND HERESY (Nyack Village Theater), THE HARDWARE DIARIES (Manhattan Repertory Theater), BREAKING LEGS (Greenville Community Theater), DOUBT (Pound Ridge Theater), IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS (Hunziker Theater), ROMEO AND JULIET (Center Stage Playhouse), A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (Chatham Players), A FEW GOOD MEN (Antrim Playhouse), THE FOREIGNER (Elmwood Playhouse), and BURIED CHILD with Shades Repertory Theater, which Nick is a member of, in addition to the Westchester Collaborative Theater and the New Stage Players in whose original play, VIA DELAROSA, Nick will be a part of in September. Special thanks to Jon and Linda, Gary and all the TR people, and especially to Will and the wonderful cast and crew. Extra, EXTRA special thanks to Deuce.

**Anthony Contento (MAX)** of Woodbury, CT is a husband, father, and Information Security professional by day and an actor, singer, musician, and composer whenever he gets the chance! A member of SAG-AFTRA, Anthony has worked professionally in TV and film, but also loves to perform in plays and musicals. He is thrilled to be performing in his second production at TBTA—you may remember him as Captain Philip Lombard in AND THEN

# BIOGRAPHIES

THERE WERE NONE, Spring 2016. His passion for acting came just before starting a family, hence a 15-year 'pause' ending in 2014. Since then, he has enjoyed playing Ahab in MOBY DICK THE MUSICAL, Phantom in PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, Corny Collins in HAIRSPRAY, and Caleb in THE SPITFIRE GRILL. Anxious to perform full time (without a day job), Anthony hopes you'll go "Like" [facebook.com/anthonyacts](https://www.facebook.com/anthonyacts) so he can keep you posted on his latest endeavors as well as entertain you with characterizations, monologues, and song! His motivation to perform is simple and true; "Pull people into the story, take them to a place where they can put their own context around the words I've been given, get them to relate, to criticize, to empathize...get them to feel, really feel. That's powerful!" Last but not least, Anthony wishes to give a huge thanks to his wife Francine and children Joe and Laura for their very generous allowance of his time away from them in support of his pursuit to perform. (See Anthony's ad elsewhere in this program.)

**Jonathan Curns (LIGHTING DESIGN)** is a graduate of the UConn School of Fine Arts, with a degree in Lighting Design/Production Management in theater. He is the Technical Director at Naugatuck Valley Community College Fine Arts Center in Waterbury CT, and also designs and assists in many productions, from Theater to Ballet, all over the East Coast.

**Will Jeffries (DIRECTOR)** appeared on this stage in the readings of Ray Sipherds plays THE RESCUE STATION and CHRISTMAS AT MACOMBERS, and in THE OTHER PLACE. He is a retired professional actor, with a career on stage, television and film spanning 25 years. On other area stages he has appeared in THE COCKTAIL HOUR, SLEUTH, LEND ME A TENOR , A TIME TO KILL, DEATH OF A SALESMAN, ALL MY SONS, THE SEAFARER, THE SHADOW BOX, THE FANTASTICKS, TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, TIME STANDS STILL, A FEW GOOD MEN, and OTHER DESERT CITIES., and many more. He has directed A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE, THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES, ENTER LAUGHING, THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON, Edward Albees THREE TALL WOMEN and others. He will appear on this stage again later this season as President Richard Nixon in FROST/NIXON. He serves TBTA as Artistic Director.

**Nick Kaye (GUARD)** This is his first time on the Brookfield stage and he is grateful to Will for giving him this opportunity to work on such a powerful and provocative piece of theater. Nick has been seen on and off stage in many of the local community theaters over the last seven years, most recently as Stanley in Eastbound Theater's production of RUN FOR YOUR WIFE. Favorite roles include Frank in EDUCATING RITA (Ridgefield), Eric Swan in CASH ON DELIVERY (Newtown), Basil Charrington in DON'T TELL THE WIFE (GAC, Fairfield), Charles in THE CLEAN HOUSE (Ridgefield) and Michael Starkweder in THE UNEXPECTED GUEST (Curtain Call). Other than that, Nick designs and builds sets, designs and executes sounds and lights and is a member of the Board of Directors at Town Players in Newtown. Nick's next theatrical endeavor will be to direct one of the One Acts at Ridgefield Theater Barn this summer. Nick lives in Bethel, CT and hopes you are moved by the show as much as he is.

**Desirae Kelley (PRODUCER)** is thrilled to be part of this amazing show. This is her second time producing after STEEL MAGNOLIAS. Her stage credits include Sarah (SEASCAPE), Sarah (THE CRUCIBLE), Little Timmy( THE DIVINE SISTER), Edith (BLITHE SPIRIT) and one of the Shakespearian Actors (THE COMPLETE WORK OF WM. SHAKESPEARE: ABRIDGED) as

# BIOGRAPHIES

well as performing with TBTA's resident improv troupe 17 DEBACLES. In addition to her stage experiences, she also serves on the Board of Directors. Desi would like to thank this talented cast, crew and production for such an incredible experience, Sisterface for being her shadow and Brian for putting up with the crazy. An insanely huge THANK YOU to Nicole, for being the best producer ever!

**Bob Lane (PRODUCER/SET FABRICATOR)** In his seventh season at Brookfield Theatre, from set fabricator to producer and board member and much in between. He is the 2010 TBTA Volunteer of the Year. Thanks to the Jackson family for pulling me into this place. Thanks to my friends and theater family for the support. Thanks to my co-producer & fabricator Andy, who makes the process fun and even educational. And most of all to my wife Rita, who supports what I do and despite the hours (some very late), gets it!

**Vikki Meskill (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER)** is a senior at WCSU. She is currently resident Prop Master for Musicals at Richter. Other credits include stage management, scenic artist, assistant scenic designer, and set dresser. She is excited to be working with Brookfield Theatre for the first time as Assistant Stage Manager.

**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). He is the 2011 Volunteer of the Year and hopes you will tell everyone about the show 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 (SOUND DESIGN & EXECUTION)** serves as president of the theater and is the 2009 Volunteer of the Year. Many thanks to Will for giving us this wonderful show, to Desi & Nicole for putting it all together, and to the entire cast and crew for their dedication and talent. *Enjoy the show...*

**Dana O'Neal (Uncle FREDDIE)** of East Hartford is a graduate in Theater Performance at CCSU and has performed recently there in THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER and YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN and presently working on his Masters. In addition to performing in over 40 productions, he has directed several show, including THE BOYS IN THE BAND and DINNER WITH FRIENDS. He has performed in operas and studied directing at Yale and is retired from the legal field having recently worked at the Attorney General's office as well as 22 years in the Military. He is the playwright of FATHER ANNE OF THE RIGHT TEMPORAL LOBE and enjoys the company of his three grandchildren.

**Dan Patterson (GUARD)** is thrilled to be working again with TBTA on such an important show with such a great cast. Dan was seen last season in And Then There Were None (Justice Wargrave) A member of SAG-AFTRA some of his favorite roles include MacDuff in MacBeth, Billy Bibbit in One Flew Over The Cuckoo's nest, and Dr. Van Helsing in Dracula.

**Rebecca Pokorski (COSTUME DESIGN)** is vice president of TBTA and most recently produced SPEED-THE-PLOW. Previously you have seen her costumes in RENT (Angel's costumes), GODSPELL and THE FANTASTICKS. Rebecca 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

# BIOGRAPHIES

at the Met. You have seen Rebecca on stage at TBTA as well as on other area community theater stages. Rebecca is grateful to be a part of this production and would like to give the glory to God.

**Craig David Rosen (RUDY)** is thrilled to return to the stage after a 7 year hiatus to raise his two children. He is also thrilled to make his TBTA debut. Acting credits include: GODSPELL, FORUM, GUYS AND DOLLS, THE HOUSE OF BLUE LEAVES (directed by Will Jeffries), THE INCONVENIENCE OF DEATH AND FRIENDSHIP, BURYING JAY, WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION and THE GODFATHER'S MESHUGGENER WEDDING. Directing credits include: THE RINK, FORUM, CAMELOT, MAN OF LA MANCHA, WEST SIDE STORY, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, KISMET, ROOM SERVICE, FRIENDSHIP, DEATH AND SINGING and STEEL MAGNOLIAS. Thanks to Will for the opportunity to work on a play he has loved for many years. Craig dedicates this show to his two amazing kids and especially his husband Rob for giving him the opportunity to return to his love of theatre.

**Joe Russo (HORST)** returns to Brookfield after having last performed here in 2010's THE LARAMIE PROJECT. Roles elsewhere include: Curtis (THE LYONS); Cripple Billy (THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAN); Beethoven (DOG SEES GOD); Bob Cratchit (GHOST OF A CHANCE); and Freddy Eynsford-Hill (PYGMALION). Also a playwright and member of the Dramatist's Guild, Joe's award-winning works have been seen at Hartford Stage and the HBO studios in NYC. He continues to develop the Play in Progress series he created at local theaters as a way to promote new works by emerging and established Connecticut playwrights.

**Nicole Veach (PRODUCER)** is beyond thankful she has had to opportunity to have a hand in this very powerful and moving show. It has been a privilege working with such talented individuals, who pour their hearts into every moment and aspect of the performance. Nicole is a board member here at TBTA and past credits include stage managing THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WM. SHAKESPEARE ABRIDGED, STEEL MAGNOLIAS, THE FANTASTICKS and DEATHTRAP (BTC). Performing credits include Rogers in Agatha Christie's AND THEN THERE WERE NONE. Nicole would like to thank the cast, crew and production team for all of their hard work and dedication, her family and friends for always supporting her no matter what, especially Desi who has been her other half and rock throughout this process and finally this amazing theatre community for embracing such an amazing show!

**Morgana Kate Watson (STAGE MANAGER)** is excited to be working on this show. Primarily a performer, she holds a BA in Drama Studies at SUNY Purchase and has performed in New York (THE BROTHERS GRIMM SPECTACULATHON, WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF!, ALL IN) and locally (CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, TWELFTH NIGHT, A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS, 9-5, REEFER MADNESS, RAGTIME, to name a few). She will be appearing in Brookfield's Summer production of DAMN YANKEES. She is also a writer and is currently workshoping her original play, LOOKING FOR THE LITTLE DIPPER. Much thanks to Will for bringing her into this project and the chance to watch these guys work every day. Love to Cassie, Marta, Rebecca, Meg, and Keegan. To the cast: Go get'em, Boys.