

LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

B L A C K

C O M E D Y

by Peter Shaffer

Fridays and Saturdays

**June 6, 7, 13,
14, 20 & 21
at 8:00 p.m.**

Sunday Matinées

**June 15 & 22
at 2:00 p.m.**



Directed by

Lori Bruun

Produced by

Maureen Rogers

General Admission:

\$20

**Children 18 & under,
Seniors 65 and over,
Active & Retired Military
and American Legion
Post 60 Members:**

\$15

LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE

508 MAIN STREET, LAUREL MD 20708

<https://laurelmillplayhouse.org/>

**"Black Comedy" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com**



Director's Notes

I first saw this play my freshman year of college. While I found it very funny, what really struck me was the cleverness of transposing light and dark. Theater is art, and I really enjoy plays that use effects in a unique way. I am glad that LMP puts on shows that make us think, but when Maureen asked

what I wanted to direct, it was this silly meaningless play. It is also a delight to afford my husband the opportunity to explore a different role in this show. I am profoundly grateful for all of the creative talent that selflessly jumped in to support me and worked miracles, alleviating my fears about directing this show. In times when the world can seem upside down, I hope you enjoy this farce where light is dark and dark is light. We invite you to laugh with us.

Parental advisory - small amount of suggestive language.

CAST:

Brindsley - Vijay Dev

Carol - Nina Rice

Colonel - Gary Brick

Miss Furnival - Dana Fleischer

Harold - Nik Henle

Clea—Jessie Duggan

Schuppanzigh - Stephen Bruun

Bamberger - Lenny Dinerman

Emerald Chaise - herself



CREW:

Producer - Maureen Rogers

Director - Lori Bruun

Stage Manager - Dana Bonistalli

Intimacy and contact coordinator
- Sarah Luckadoo

Costumes - Tatum Moss

Hair and makeup - cast

Light design - Lori Bruun

Music composition and engineer -
Andy Mauer

Set design and construction -
David Chalmers

Set dressing / Sculptures- Anne
Hull, Sean Eustis, Jaila Desper,
Nina Rice

Set painting - Anne Hull, Sean
Eustis, Lori Bruun

Props - Sean Eustis, Lori Bruun,
David Chalmers

Chaise fabric repair - Lacy Hall

Lights and sound operator - Dana
Bonistalli

Crew - Jaila Desper, Jordan
Goodman

Program - Marge McGugan

Poster Design - Stephen Bruun

Meet the Cast and Crew



Dana Bonistalli (Stage Manager) is so excited to return to Laurel Mill Playhouse (and work with director Lori for the first time!) as Stage Manager for *Black Comedy*. She was also SM for *Hellbent* and *Love Letters* at LMP. Her last show as an actress was as General Cartwright in *Guys & Dolls* at Howard County Summer Theater, a show she got to perform with her lovely daughters! Dana thanks the cast and crew of *Black Comedy* for being so welcoming and hopes you will come see her turn the lights off and on many, many times.



Gary Brick (Colonel), having previously portrayed Mr. Darcy, being cast as another rather stuffy Brit seems to be a recurring theme that I wonder if I should be concerned about. But regardless, I'm honored to be joining such a talented cast and director for this delightful production.



Lori Bruun (Director) is so excited, after years of stage managing and directing one-acts and *Winter* at LMP, to be bringing this clever and physical comedy to light. She first saw the show at college and was hooked by the concept of inverted stage lighting so the audience can see in the dark. She is thrilled to be working with this talented cast, including her husband who played Harold in that college production and returns as Schuppanzigh. She is also moved by and grateful for all the creatives who have donated their time and efforts to ensure everything shines. In a time of great uncertainty in her life, she



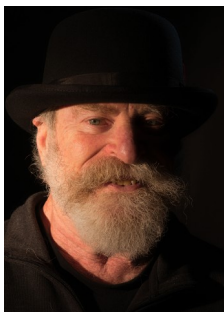
Steve Bruun (Schuppanzigh) first performed in *Black Comedy* in a 1988 college production. After many community theater appearances in Columbia from 1998 to 2004, Steve took a step back from theater to devote more time to not being in theater. Since 2008, Steve has appeared occasionally onstage at LMP, for example as Gary in *I Hate Hamlet*, the Grim Reaper in *Death Takes a Holiday*, Vernon in *Laughing Stock*, a prerecorded airport announcer in *Sylvia*, and an unrehearsed understudy for Mister Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*. Steve sends all his love and many thanks to Lori. Ever since 1988, when she was assistant technical director for *Black Comedy*, Lori has always been there, except for that one week-end of *Pride and Prejudice* when she *couldn't* be there and required an understudy.



Vijay Dev (Brindsley) is excited to be back at Laurel Mill Playhouse where he appeared in '*Twelfth Night*' (Valentine, Servant, 2nd Officer) and '*Crazy For You*' (Lank Hawkins). He also recently appeared in Amazing Theater's production of *Where the Stream May Take Us* (Joey). He has been a gymnast/acrobat for 23 years. Big shoutout to all his friends and family!



Jaila Desper (Set Dressing/ Sculptures/Crew) is excited to be back at LMP as a backstage crew member for *Black Comedy*! In the past, she assisted as part of the tech crew and graphic designer for Laurel Mill Playhouse's productions of "*Twelfth Night*" and "*Crazy for You*" last year. This time around, Jaila painted both Buddha statues, crafted the small metal sculpture set pieces for the show, and will be assisting the actors backstage during the show. She's excited to see the show come together, and very proud of her boyfriend, Vijay (Brindsley) acting in his first leading role!



Leonard Dinerman (Bamberger) asks you to “Call me Lenny, please.” Now that that is squared away, Lenny is thrilled to be appearing again at LMP and especially excited to be cast most gratefully in Lori's directorial debut of *"Black Comedy"* with a marvelous ensemble of actors, stage crew, technicians and coordinators. Without further ado, sit back and enjoy this rollicking comedy romp!



Jessie Duggan (Clea) is excited to return to LMP where she was last seen as a dog in *Sylvia*. Previous credits include Annabella/Pamela/Margaret in *"The 39 Steps"* (MCP, VCC), Aggie in *"The Games Afoot"* (Cockpit in the Court) and most recently Jean in *"POTUS"* (STS). She hopes she isn't getting a reputation for playing a b-word! Much love and thanks to her friends and family for their continued support. And a special shout out to her Alex and anyone else who helps her learn lines!



Emerald Chaise (herself) - Emerald is thrilled to return center stage for another LMP show. Her pre-theater days are a bit hazy, but she ended up on Facebook Marketplace for a mere \$30. She was discovered by Alex Campbell and found new life in a "central" role for *The Play that Goes Wrong* at LMP. It wasn't long before Lori Bruun found another role for her in *Winter*. After that, Lacy Hall healed her wounds, returning her to her former glory for *Wisdom of Eve*. Her last credit, after a little more care from Marvin Rogers, was as herself in Jacqueline Youm's adaptation of *Romeo and Juliette*. With still more help from Lacy Hall, she is thrilled to once again take center stage in a role that seems written for her. (Literally, the script calls for a green chaise.) She is grateful to those who discovered and restored her, preparing her for this moment.



Sean Eustis (props and set dressing) is stoked to help Lori with her directorial vision and Anne with *The Sculpture*. Sean served both onstage and offstage at multiple Balt/Wash area theatres including here at LMP as Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night* last summer.



Dana Fleischer (Ms. Furnival) is thrilled to be back on the LMP stage. You may have seen her most recently as Bernadette in Small Town Stars' *POTUS*, Maggie in GAC's *No Laughing Matter*, or Margo Crane in LMP's *The Wisdom of Eve*. Other favorite past roles include Elizabeth Bennett (*Pride & Prejudice*, LMP), Marian Jellicoe (*The Absence of a Cello*, BCT) and Ann Deever (*All My Sons*, BCT). She is grateful for this opportunity, and for the love and support of her friends and family.



Nik Henle (Harold Gorringer) is thrilled to be back at Laurel Mill Playhouse, where he last appeared as Edmund Swettenham in *A Murder Is Announced*. His most recent role was as Geoffrey in *The Lion in Winter* at Kentlands Community Players. Other favorites include Craig in *Laughing Stock* (Spotlighters Theatre), Edward in *The Hollow* (Kentlands Community Players), Lawrence in *For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls* (LMP), Howard in *Moon Over Buffalo* (LMP), Flute in *Dreamer/Seeker* (Capital Fringe Festival), and Steve and Dave in *Almost, Maine* (Rockville Little Theatre). He has also worked with Montgomery Playhouse, Endangered Species Theatre Project, and Charm City Filmmakers, among others. He has taken acting and improv classes at Maryland Ensemble Theatre's Ensemble School and The Actors' Center.



Anne Hull (Set Painting/Set Dressing)

Anne enjoys community theater life as an actor, scenic designer/painter, various backstage tech roles and patron. She has painted many sets for local MD and VA community theaters. This has been great fun working with Lori, Sean, Jaila and others. Come join in the fun of making theater magic!

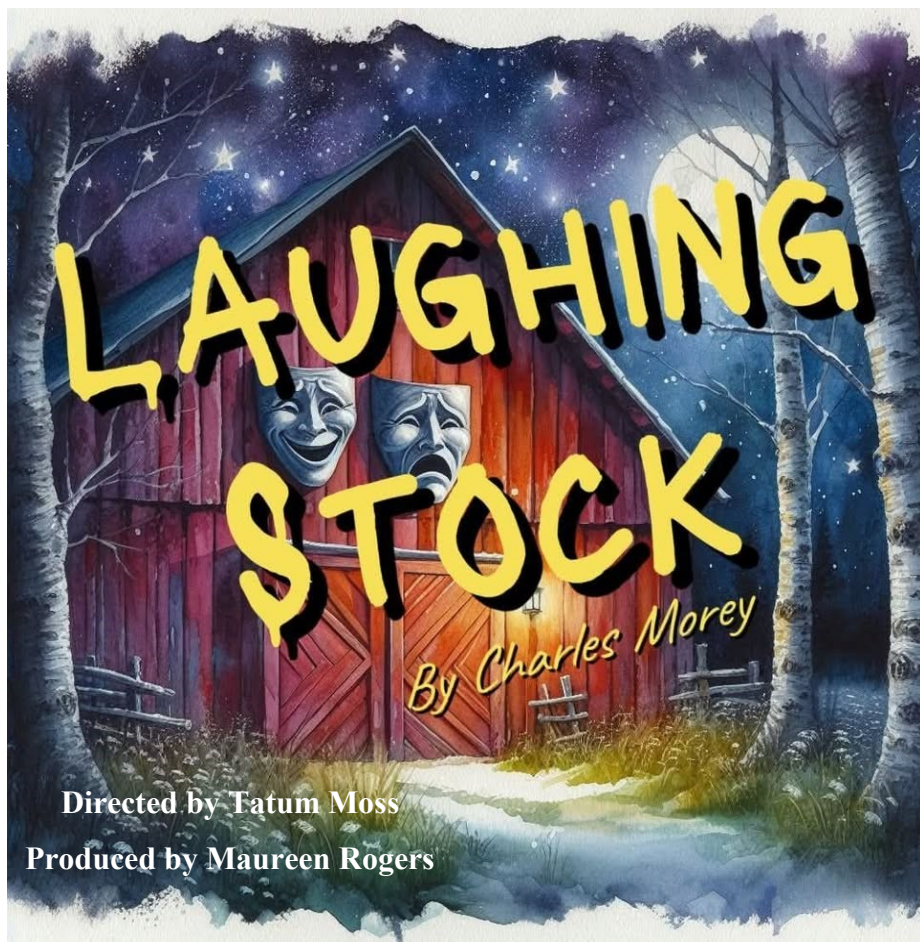


Tatum Moss (Costume Stylist) is super excited to be working with Lori yet again! Previous projects they have collaborated on include *Spider's Web*, *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem*, *12 Angry Jurors*, and *The Wisdom of Eve*. Tatum would like to thank Lori for letting her live in the 60's just a little bit longer, and extends arms full of love to her family and friends for their support. Enjoy the show!



Nina Rice (Carol) is thrilled to return to the stage after disappearing from the limelight to pursue her degrees (BS & MS) in Mechanical Engineering in Chattanooga, TN. Her most recent performances were at the Walt Disney World attractions "*The Great Movie Ride*" (R.I.P.) and "*The Pirates League*" (also R.I.P.). Some of her favorite roles include Lainie Wells in "*Two Rooms*" (UT Knoxville, 2008) and Luke in "*Foolin' Around With Infinity*" (UT Knoxville, 2007). In her free time, she enjoys taking long walks on the beach and recreating costumes from film and art. Nina would like to thank the cast and crew for all the work they put into this show, and those of you watching the show, for coming!

Next at Laurel Mill Playhouse



Directed by Tatum Moss

Produced by Maureen Rogers

Friday and Saturday—July 11, 12, 18, 19—8pm

Sunday—July 13, 20—2 pm

Tickets: General Admission—\$20

Children 18 and under, Seniors 65 and over, Active and Retired
Military, American Legion Post 60 members—\$15



**Children's Theater Production and
Cabaret**

Director—Michael Hartsfield

Producer—Maureen Rogers

Musical Director—Mimi McGinniss

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday

August 1 through 17

What's your Super Power?

Acting? Carpentry? Light Design? Sewing?



Volunteer NOW to help with our productions

Sign up on our website www.laurelmillplayhouse.org

Singing Opportunity for Women

Chesapeake Harmony Chorus loves to sing and invites you to visit a rehearsal. We are a women's singing group based in the greater **Annapolis MD**, area. We sing four-part acapella harmony in the barbershop style and are a chapter of **Sweet Adelines International**. We rehearse at Historic Baldwin Hall in Millersville, Md, every Wednesday night at 7:pm. For more information about visiting a rehearsal or joining the chorus, please contact us at Membership1@ChesapeakeHarmony.org.



LAUREL MILL PLAYHOUSE

508 Main Street, Laurel, MD 20707

Reservations - Visit us at: www.laurelmillplayhouse.org

OUR HISTORY

Burtonsville Players Inc., doing business as Laurel Mill Playhouse, is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) status, community theater group. Originally organized thirty five years ago as the Burtonsville Players Inc., Laurel Mill Playhouse recently bought and completely renovated a 100 year old building in the middle of historic Laurel, Maryland. This makes Laurel Mill Playhouse one of the few community theater organizations to own their own facility.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide the community with the opportunity to expand the cultural base of the quad-county area. We do this through theater arts, combining music, art, dance, youth, and senior activities.

Our group has the determination to provide space and resources to foster a creative environment.

Our encouragement of individuals to be challenged by new works and skills will lead to discovery and expansion of creative potential in the community.

Our goal is to provide training and initiate outreach opportunities within the counties we serve.

Board of Directors Corporate Officers

Marvin Rogers – President

Larry Simmons – Vice-President

Diana Simmons – Secretary

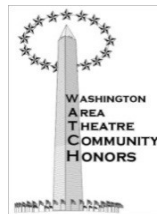
Michael Hartsfield – Director

Lorraine Brooks – Director

Lori Bruun – Director

Marge McGugan – Costumes

**Maureen Rogers – Artistic Director
and Public Liaison**



**A proud member of WATCH AND AACT
and Laurel Board of Trade**

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www.laurelmillplayhouse.org