

# NEIL SIMON'S RUMORS

DIRECTED BY ERIN CHANFRAU



September 15-October 1, 2017

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—OR—



**Carole Newman**

*The best way to spread rumors at  
the club is while drinking a martini  
made with gin and vermouth.  
Don't forget the olives.*

—OR—

**Harold Green**

*Harold doesn't like to play tennis at  
the club. Instead he sips on a  
vodka martini with two olives.*



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Directed by Erin Chanfrau

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Information is a powerful social currency. Rumor is an enticing work-around – salacious or outrageous speculation more than compensates for any certainty of fact. In this hilarious farce by Neil Simon, every character ends up in a threat-level-brown bad situation, but still finds the opportunity to gossip and thoroughly enjoy doing it.

Equal parts panic, hysteria, and frustration, Simon slaps a potentially catastrophic situation right into the middle of a dinner party celebrating the ten-year anniversary of Charley and Myra Brock, and turns it into pure comedy. Please enjoy the trials and tribulations of Chris, Ken, Len, Claire, Cookie, Ernie, Glenn, and Cassie – and may the farce be with you.

*Enjoy the show!*

*Erin*



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# ARTISTIC STAFF

Director ..... Erin Manza Chanfrau

Stage Manager ..... Gabi Marler

Set Design/Master Carpenter ..... Blake R. York

Resident Costume Designer ..... Michele Graves

Resident Lighting Designer..... Niclas Olson

Resident Properties/Hair/Make-up ..... Jeffery Weaver

Resident Scenic Artist ..... Ana Bury

Sound Design ..... Chris Serface

Carpenter ..... Frank Roberts

Photography ..... Dennis K Photography

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& Molly McLean

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**Please remember to silence your  
cell phone and mobile devices.**

**No texting during the performance. —Thank you**

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

## **Erin Manza Chanfrau (Director)**

Erin Manza Chanfrau has been designing, directing, painting, and acting in the greater Puget Sound region for the last seventeen years. She recently directed Tacoma Little Theatre's staged reading of *The Seafarer*. Upcoming projects include designing *Marriage of Figaro* and *Carmen* for Tacoma Opera, and *Macbeth* for Tacoma Little Theatre. Thanks to a great cast and crew, and love to Ginger & Holly.

## **Gabi Marler (Stage Manager)**

Gabi Marler is thrilled to be making her Stage Manager debut here at Tacoma Little Theatre. You may have recently seen her as Ophelia in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, or behind the scenes during *The Pirates of Penzance* at Lakewood Playhouse. She would like to thank Nena, Chris and Mr. E for their wonderful mentorship and the opportunities that they have given her. She would also like to give a special shout out to her parents and her lovely boyfriend for putting up with her.

## **Blake R. York (Technical Director/Master Carpenter/Set Design)**

Blake has been involved with theatre in the area for the past 14 years. Blake serves as TLT's Technical Director, Set Designer, and Graphic Designer for the season posters. Favorite designs in the area include: *Sleuth*, *Sylvia*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *A Christmas Story*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Cabaret* (TLT), *Oliver!*, *A Funny Thing....*, *The Lion in Winter* (Lakewood Playhouse), *Seussical*, *Pippi Longstocking* (TMP), and *The Tempest* (Olympia Little Theatre). He would like to thank his wife Jen, his parents, and his friends for everything they have done and continue to do for him.

## **Niclas Olson (Resident Lighting Designer)**

Niclas is an actor, director, playwright, and designer based in Tacoma. His designs for Tacoma Little Theatre include *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Cabaret*, *Dracula*, and *Of Mice and Men*. His work can be seen regularly at Lakewood Playhouse (*The Woman in Black*, *Oliver!*, *Pride and Prejudice*), Dukesbay Productions (*Tea*, *Night of the Iguana*), and New Muses Theatre Company (*Into the Woods*, *Frankenstein*, *Doctor Faustus*). Niclas is the managing artistic director of New Muses Theatre Company and line producer for Open Space for Arts and Community. [www.niclasolson.com](http://www.niclasolson.com)

## **Michele Graves (Resident Costume Designer)**

Michele has been the Resident Costume Designer for the past four seasons. The quality and variety of the shows, casts, and crews make it a pleasure to

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

be a part of this community theater. Whether doing a period production or a contemporary piece, she enjoys costuming the many actors and getting to know the characters they portray. Each season brings opportunities to create "just the right costume".

## **Jeffery Weaver (Resident Properties Manager)**

Jeffery is thrilled to start his fourth year as resident properties master/hair consultant extraordinaire. He enjoys working with the amazing and collaborative staff here at Tacoma Little Theatre. A well-dressed set and believable props not only bring the audience along for the ride, they also transport the actors into their environment. Love to all who continue to support his hard work and allow him to give to the community. Bruce, Jen, Claire and the rest of my family I send my love. *"In life we are all born Naked and the rest is Drag"* -RuPaul

## **Ana Bury (Resident Scenic Artist)**

Ana is thrilled to be back at Tacoma Little Theatre to paint for this production! Previously, she has painted for *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *Gypsy*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Rabbit Hole* at TLT, as well as a multitude of shows at the Lakewood Playhouse over the last four years. She would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave so much of their time to help get this show ready. This show wouldn't be what it is without their hard work and selflessness. Please enjoy the product of our sleepless nights!

## **Nena Curley (Production Manager/Education Manager)**

Nena is thrilled to join the Tacoma Little Theatre staff this year as Education Manager and Production Manager. As many of you may already know, Nena has stage managed around the Puget Sound area for the past 5 years. Some of the stand out shows are *Spamalot*, *Twelve Angry Men*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia* at Lakewood Playhouse. *Dracula*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Gypsy* from last season at TLT. Nena also works with the education program here at TLT, if you have a young one interested in theatre please look at what classes we have coming up!



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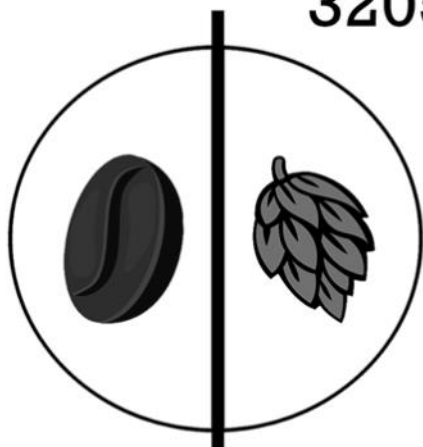
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## **FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors is delighted to have you in our audience, and we hope that you are enriched by this live theatre experience. Our Board has several goals for the upcoming year; please let us know if you want to be a part of achieving them!

- Provide greater access, on stage and off, to our community. While we have been known to cast broadly, we've taken it a step further, and our casting notices specify that auditions are open to all racial and ethnic backgrounds unless otherwise specified. We encourage auditions from people of all backgrounds.
- Provide clearer opportunities for volunteerism. We've always relied on our wonderful volunteers for ushering, and ticket taking, and event planning along with other work. We are now strengthening our Board committees and looking for people who are interested in volunteering with us on event planning, fundraising, facilities, and governance. If you have any interest in serving with any of those committees, please let Chris Surface ([chris@tacomalittletheatre.com](mailto:chris@tacomalittletheatre.com)) know.
- Prepare for our upcoming 100th anniversary and begin planning for continued upgrades to our facility.

Tacoma Little Theatre is fortunate to have strong leadership in Chris Surface, and we look forward to continued success with his leadership and our connection to you and the rest of our community.

Enjoy the show!

The Tacoma Little Theatre Board of Directors

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# CAST OF CHARACTERS

<i>Ken Gorman</i> .....	Mark Peterson
<i>Chris Gorman</i> .....	Jess Allan
<i>Lenny Ganz</i> .....	Matt Garry
<i>Claire Ganz</i> .....	Jill Heinecke
<i>Ernie Cusack</i> .....	Jeffery Swiney-Weaver
<i>Cookie Cusack</i> .....	Shelleigh-Mairi Ferguson
<i>Glenn Cooper</i> .....	Houston White
<i>Cassie Cooper</i> .....	Kristen Blegen Bouyer
<i>Officer Welch</i> .....	Neicie Packer
<i>Officer Pudney</i> .....	Andy Bravo

## SETTING

Snedon's Landing, New York

## TIME

1989

*Act I: 65 minutes Act II: 55 minutes*  
*There will be a 15-minute intermission*

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Jess Allan (Chris Gorman)**

Jess is thrilled to share the stage with fun and creative people. She is proud to have worked on *Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks* (TLT), *Dial M for Murder* (TLT), *Laughing Stock* (Olympia Little Theatre), *The Sluts of Sutton Drive* (WCTNW), *Dracula* (TLT), and *The Physician in Spite of Himself* (TAO) as an ASM, board operator, stage manager and actor. Jess enjoys independent films, reading Sarah Vowell, and dressing up her cats in various outfits. She would like to thank Erin Manza Chanfrau, the amazing cast and crew of *Rumors* and her very patient and handsome boyfriend.



## **Kristen Blegen Bouyer (Cassie Cooper)**

Kristen is thrilled to be making her debut at Tacoma Little Theatre. Favorite roles include The Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*, Lucy in *Dracula*, Billie in *Born Yesterday*, Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, Adelaide in *Gays and Dolls*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Elsa in *The Sound of Music*. She sang with the St. Olaf Choir and can be seen on PBS at Christmastime.



## **Andy Bravo (Officer Pudney)**

In the second grade after watching *La Bamba*, Andy went on to perform the titular song in his school talent show. Praises from everyone in school and the rush of performing on stage led Andy to his ultimate pursuit in life: acting. He went on to do plays in his high school and abroad in Peru. This will be his first time performing at Tacoma Little Theatre.



## **Shelleigh-Mairi Ferguson (Cookie Cusack)**

Shelleigh has been doing theatre since she was 15 years old. She was last on TLT's stage as Millie in *Exit Laughing*. She also appeared in *Bye, Bye, Birdie* as Gloria Rasputin and *The Fox on the Fairway* as Muriel. Recently, she performed with Tacoma Musical Playhouse as Grandma Addams in *The Addams Family*, which went on to win best show at AACTFest 2017. She also played as Widow Corney in *Oliver* and Frau Blucher in *Young Frankenstein* at TMP. She's also been seen at Lake-wood Playhouse as Dotty in *Noises Off*, The Woman in *Death of a Salesman*, Princess Puffer in *Drood*, and Mrs. Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*. She would like to thank her husband and four boys for their love and support as she goes out to play.



# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## **Matt Garry (Lenny Ganz)**

This is Matt's first play at TLT although he has been in over 100 in his lifetime in theatres from Los Angeles to Everett. He has always wanted to play the role of Lenny in *Rumors* since he saw it originally on Broadway in 1990. He would like to thank Bianca, Bethanie, Chandler, Hunter, and his mom for letting him do what he loves (and also because they're sitting in the audience).



## **Jill Heinecke (Claire Ganz)**

Jill is excited to be back on the Tacoma Little Theatre stage! You may remember her from *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* (Hallie Jackson) or *Second Samuel* (Jimmy Decanne). Originally from Minnesota, Jill came out to attend Pacific Lutheran University, where she earned her BFA in Acting/Directing. Thanks to Erin, the cast, and crew for this wonderful opportunity! And as always, thanks to her family and Frank for their continued support and encouragement!



## **Neicie Packer (Officer Welch)**

Neicie is beyond thrilled to be in this hysterically funny show with a crazily-talented bunch of actors! Thanks to Erin & Gabi for seeing past her southern drawl! Playing Marcella Dean in *Second Samuel* at TLT, directed by the amazing Chris Serface, continues to be her most beloved role to date. She would also like to thank her incredible friends and family for their unending support of this love of her life-Theatre!



## **Mark Peterson (Ken Gorman)**

Mark has been an actor in the Puget Sound Community since 2008. In his most recent production, he played Borachio in *Much Ado About Nothing* with Animal Fire in Olympia. Thank you for supporting local art and artists!

# CAST BIOGRAPHIES



## Jeffery Swiney-Weaver (Ernie Cusack)

Jeffery is happy to be on stage with some familiar friends and be able to make some new friends along the way. He was last seen here at TLT as Mr. MacAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie* and other various rolls throughout the local community. Although Jeffery is no stranger to the stage, he has been most active off the stage with props as the resident Props Master here at TLT. He loves his time in the light and is thankful for this experience. *"Sometimes in life we are part of happy accidents. Embrace them as they come. As always, I extend my gratitude to my family for allowing me to do what I love doing and to entertain people. I love you all."*



## Houston White (Glenn Cooper)

Houston is delighted to join the stellar cast and crew of the Tacoma Little Theatre's production of *Rumors*. Previously Houston held parts in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *Up the Down Staircase*, among other things. He can be seen in a few local short films, and is always willing to jump in around the holidays to help out in various local Christmas Productions. Houston is a graduate of Oberlin College, and has had the great honor of studying with various distinguished acting instructors both in Southern California and Seattle. A loving husband and father, who, when not performing on stage or in film, can be seen attempting to beat up local golf courses on a weekly basis, and has the bruises to prove it!



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