

A FARCE

ON THE FARCE DAY OF CHRISTMAS

BY KEN LEVINE

DIRECTED BY SARAH HEARN | DEC. 4 - 21, 2024



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ON THE FARCE DAY OF CHRISTMAS

A Farce | By Ken Levine

*ISBN (E-script): is presented through special arrangement with, and all authorized performance materials are supplied by, TRWPLAYS
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Cast *(in order of appearance)*

Mom Dianna Renee Yorke
Wendy Amy Kennedy
Gary..... Josh Sparks
Karen Laura Hall
Dad Mike Kennedy
Chip..... Jonathan Morel

Synopsis

To keep her religious mother from knowing she’s divorced, Wendy pays her ex to pose as her husband and go home for the holidays. Havoc ensues.

Setting

A living room in Utah. Present day.

ACT ONE	ACT TWO
Scene 1: December 23rd	Scene 1: Moments later
Scene 2: Later that night	Scene 2: The next morning, Christmas Day
Scene 3: The next morning, Christmas Eve	Scene 3: Later that night
Scene 4: Later that night	Scene 4: The next morning, Boxing Day

There will be one 15-minute intermission

The Ottawa Little Theatre gratefully acknowledges that the land on which our theatre sits, and on which we gather, is the traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People

“Gary: Any holiday that forces families to get together is evil” – discuss.

Ken Levine is an Emmy winning writer/director/playwright/major league baseball announcer. He has written over 200 episodes of television for such shows as *M*A*S*H*, *Cheers*, and *Frasier*, and has directed over 60 TV episodes including *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Frasier*, *Wings*, and *Dharma & Greg* ...You can imagine what a CV like that does to a director's head! So I thought, what is this play really about? Right away, that sentence up there hit me as the core of this play. Wendy and Gary go to Utah every Christmas to visit her very dysfunctional parents, and every year, Wendy hopes Christmas will be the way it is on TV: all the softly falling snowflakes, delicious smells emanating from the kitchen, and heaps of intriguing gifts piled under a beautifully decorated tree. The reality is what happens this year: frigid temperatures, Wendy keeping her divorce from Gary a secret from her ultra-religious mother (Gary is only there because Wendy paid him \$5,000 to come), her battling and sulking parents asking embarrassing questions, tricky phone calls at tricky moments, and friends turning up unexpectedly. Levine has used his considerable comic skills, taken a fraught situation, and turned it into a true sitcom. His background as a TV writer is clear to see and hear in the one-liners and the ludicrous situations in which the characters find themselves. Only a crazy sitcom writer can come up with a brine shrimp harvester in Utah, a failed Miss Universe contestant now working for UNICEF, and a lawyer who phones his girlfriend when he could be billing people. As Wendy says, “Who does that who's not nuts?!” I leave it up to you to decide at the end of the evening whether Gary's assessment of Christmas is right or not.

- Sarah Hearn, Director



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Production & Design Team

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Director	Sarah Hearn
Associate Director	Brian McManus
Assistant to the Director	Gil Winstanley
Associate Assistant to the Director	Laurie McMaster
Stage Manager	Kimberley Duncan
Assistant Stage Manager	Margaret Harvey-O'Kelly
Set Design	David Magladry
Lighting Design	David Magladry
Sound Design	David Ing
Costume Design	Glynis Ellens
Properties Design	Barbara Merriam
Set Dresser	Dave Magladry
Hair and Makeup Design	Tiara Wallace
Properties Crew	Zsuzsanna Etesi, Jordan Canning, Wanda Sinclair, Sophie Sinclair, Jack Sinclair, Lucy Sinclair, Owen Sinclair, Karine Charland, Lucille Le Vert, Ann Marie Snell, Marlene Spatuk, Bob McKellar, Erin Tonita, John LeBlanc, Caroline Bieber, Patrick McDaid
Book	Denise Shannon
Volunteer Liaison	Albert Lightstone
Front of House Volunteer Coordinator	Kevin Schneider
Production and Portrait Photography	Maria Vartanova
Promotional Video	Ian Gillies
Promotional Liaison	Christian Giansante
Construction Crew	Tom Pidgeon, Paul Washer, David Magladry
Scenic Artist	Carolyn Borer

These program credits were accurate at the time of printing. We thank everyone involved in this production.

Dianna Renee Yorke – Mom: A stage debut at the age of 6 was a surprise to everyone when she took on the role of the Hangman in a production of *Punch and Judy* when a schoolmate was bitten by the flu bug. Dianna was bitten by the acting bug. Since then, she has performed with many Ottawa companies, including OLT, Orpheus, Goya, Pink Slipper Productions, Tara Players and Kanata Theatre. Dianna has had the honour of playing roles that run the gamut of a teary drunk, honourable schoolteacher, come-hither vamp, a vengeful ghost and a southern would-like-to-be belle...LOL. Dianna is feeling verklempt, as the Jewish people say, to be a part of the cast of *On the Farce Day of Christmas*, old friends and new! P.S; Page 44 is me!!!!

Amy Kennedy – Wendy: Amy has been with Ottawa Little Theatre since the age of 15—which, let's just say, wasn't yesterday. Over the years, she's found her way on stage, backstage, and everywhere in between, fueled by her love for theatre (and plenty of coffee during tech weeks). Amy has truly enjoyed working alongside her talented castmates and the endlessly patient crew. She's thrilled to be back on stage with Dianna Renee York (*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*), Laura Hall (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), and Mike Kennedy, who not only shares the stage with her but also happens to be her dad. She's also excited to finally work with longtime OLT member Josh Sparks and newcomer Jon Morel, who has quickly proven he's up for the challenge. Ottawa Little Theatre has been her creative home, and she's proud to be part of the OLT family. My favourite page would have to be 257.

Josh Sparks – Gary: Normally you'll see Josh in the lobby or behind the bar. Occasionally he likes to get up on the stage too. He's been acting for many years and has appeared recently on the OLT stage in *Noble Pursuit* and *Burn*. He was also involved in some ancient productions like *Noises Off*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *I Hate Hamlet*. If he could recommend a page it would be 294 but with the hand action happening on page 315.

Laura Hall – Karen: Oh, Hi there. It's been a minute since I've been on the OLT stage. My fans will remember me from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mauritius*, *Flare Path*, and *Enchanted April*. To Ray: nice butt. Keep up the good work. To everyone else: Enjoy the show and have the Merriest of Christmases! Page 100...yeesh..

Mike Kennedy – Dad: Mike is glad to be back on stage here at the OLT. His most recent production was in *The Book of Will* in 2023. He was at Kanata Theatre just before that in *Quartet*. The last few years the December show has been traditional classic Christmas fare. This year it's about laughter and the cast has laughed a lot getting this show to you! Sit back, relax, and enjoy! Page 16

Jonathan Morel – Chip: After a self-imposed but too long absence from the stage, Jon is very excited to be making his OLT debut - although not quite as excited as he is about page 135. He would like to thank the cast, crew and everyone at OLT for making him feel very welcome, and promises he'll stop getting lost in the halls of the theatre eventually. Now where is the bathroom?

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DRAMA

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**Warning: adult content, strong language, suicide, sexual violence*



Sarah Hearn – Director: Sarah has been directing plays for 30 years now (can you believe it!?!) ranging from Agatha Christie to Neil Simon to David Auburn but this is her first farce. She has had so much fun creating the dysfunctional universe that is the Collins' house at Christmas, watching as Gary's words, "any holiday that forces families to get together is evil!", come true and then resolve in the spirit of the season. She hopes you laugh as heartily as we all did in rehearsal and that your holiday season is wonderful. Sarah especially thanks her Associate Director, Brian McManus, for his amazing insights and help, and warmly welcomes Laurie McMaster back to the OLT fold after an hiatus of 20 years. Selected directing credits include: (OLT) *Love from a Stranger*, *The Columnist*, and *Of Mice and Men*, (Artbeat Theatre Group) *Just Say the Word*, (TotoToo Theatre), *Cloudburst* and *Torch Song Trilogy*. Selected acting credits include (Kanata Theatre) *Baskerville*, (OLT) *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *A Murder is Announced*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "Page 37 is me"

Brian McManus – Associate Director: Brian is very happy to be working at Ottawa Little Theatre for the first time. He has been active in community theatre for over forty years. Working at Kanata Theatre since 2016, he directed Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (2024) and Norm Foster's *Opening Night* (2022). Acting roles at Kanata Theatre include Sir Andrew Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night* (2023) and Clarence the Angel, Mr. Potter and Martini in *It's a Wonderful Life* (2018). He would like to thank Sarah Hearn for welcoming him into this talented team. It is always fun to experience a new environment and to make new theatre friends. Oh, I almost forgot, page 33 for me.

Gil Winstanley – Assistant to the Director: Gil is always proud and happy to be part of Sarah's dream team, putting together a great range of plays for your enjoyment over the years! She hopes you love this latest one - a Christmas Day you won't forget! (And don't forget to add the Kama Sutra to your Christmas list!)

Laurie McMaster – Assistant to the Director: After a 21-year absence, Laurie is thrilled to be back at OLT! The moment confirmation came through about a move back to Ottawa, she reached out to see if Sarah would be so kind as to ease her back into the theatre scene, and shortly thereafter happily accepted the offer of AD. This is a familiar position for Laurie. She held this role previously at OLT on *Hot Property* (1999), *Moon Over Buffalo* (1999), *A Little Hotel on the Side*

(2000), *The Miracle Worker* (2001) and *Opening Night* (2003). Acting credits include *No Sex, Please - We're British* and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. She has also been stage crew, makeup, dresser/ wardrobe assistant to name a few. She's had an incredible time being back in the OLT atmosphere and is so happy to be a part of this wonderful show! She hopes you enjoy this as much as she has, wishes you all a very happy holiday season and recommends checking out page 57.

Kimberley Duncan - Stage Manager: Kimberley is excited to be working on this hilarious production that reminds us all that the holidays are wonderful, but too much family time can require painkillers. She wants to wish everyone a happy holiday season...she will be spending hers trying to figure out exactly what is happening on page 114!

Margaret Harvey-O'Kelly - Assistant Stage Manager: Margaret has been a volunteer with Ottawa Little Theatre for eighteen years, on and off the stage. She is delighted to be part of this Christmas play. It has been delightful watching the play evolve. Wishing you all the very best of the Season. Her favourite page is 542!

David Ing - Sound Design: A government bureaucrat by day and theatre technician by night. David Ing has been putting on community theatre productions across the National Capital Region and the Greater Toronto Area for 20 years. Highlights from his theatre career include Lighting Designer for *Charlie: Son of Man* (Echo Productions), Assistant to the Director for *Miracle on 34th Street* (Ottawa Little Theatre), Stage Manager for *Hairspray* (Suzart Productions), and Sound Designer for *Cloudburst* (Toto Too Theatre). A very Merry Christmas to all of the OLT patrons!

Glynis Ellens - Costume Design: Christmas Shows are the perfect way to get into the Holiday Mood and this Farce is the best way to get ready for the busy days of Christmas surprises. This is my 100th play since September 2003, my 81st with OLT, my 32nd as Costume Designer and my 20th working with Sarah Hearn and her marvelous team. Some favorites: *The Columnist*, *Three Musketeers*, *Inspecting Carol*, *It's A Wonderful Life*, *Pardon Me*, *Prime Minister* and *A Christmas Story* (OLT) *Love Valour Compassion*, and *Torchsong Trilogy* (Toto Too) and *Book of Will* (Bravo Theatre in Ajijic, Mexico). It is a pleasure to be working with such a creative and agreeable cast and crew to prepare for the busy Christmas Season!

Barbara Merriam – Properties Design: Barbara has been working on OLT shows since 2010 - designing and assisting with props, helping out as a dresser, acting as stage crew and stage managing. She performed similar roles for the former New Edinburgh Players and currently does so for the Linden House Theatre Company. Designing props for *On the Farce Day of Christmas* has been lots of fun because the cast and crew are amazing, including the talented props crew members. As always, it's so much fun to take part in OLT shows!

Denise Shannon – Prompter: After acting in two OLT plays (*The Book of Will* and *Miracle on 34th Street*), Denise is excited to gain perspective from the other side of the stage by working with this excellent production team! She would like to thank director Sarah Hearn for her creative vision and the great learning opportunity that this has been. Congratulations to the cast and crew on this wonderful production - and Merry Christmas to all!

Ken Levine – Playwright: Ken Levine is an Emmy winning writer/director/ playwright/major league baseball announcer. Full-length plays include *A or B?*, *Going Going Gone*, *Our Time*, *Upfronts and Personal*, *America's Sexiest Couple*, *Smoke Gets In Your House*, *4:05*, and *Guilty Pleasures*, as well as *On the Farce Day of Christmas*. They've been performed in New York, Los Angeles, and throughout the country. His many short plays have been produced around the world and have won numerous festivals and competitions. Ken has also written over 200 episodes of television, served as head writer on *M*A*S*H*, producer of *Cheers*, consultant for *Frasier*, and writer and character voice on *The Simpsons*. He has directed over 60 TV episodes, co-wrote the Tom Hanks movie, *Volunteers*, and has been the play-by-play voice of the Baltimore Orioles, Seattle Mariners, and San Diego Padres and hosted *Dodger Talk* for eight seasons. His popular podcast is *Hollywood and Levine*.

Have you seen or heard of a play that you think might appeal to Ottawa Little Theatre audiences? Send the title and playwright to the Season Planning Committee at artistic@ottawalittletheatre.com.

We are currently collecting ideas for the 2027 season, and the committee will consider every idea that comes our way.



We invite you to take some time to visit the Spotlight Gallery, located in the north lobby on the house-right side of the theatre. We are dedicating this

space to showcase the talents of our volunteers, audience members and donors in mixed media arts. Our goal is to shine a spotlight on someone you may have been sitting next to as a subscriber, or watching on stage, or been served by, who has some hidden talent you may not have been aware of. We are surrounded by so many talented people here at OLT, we wanted to use this space to exhibit their works. If there are pieces you are interested in purchasing, the details on how to contact the artists directly are included in the exhibit. We are pleased to welcome our featured artist Hala Hawa during the run of *On the Farce Day of Christmas*.

Don't forget to check out our OLT website News page for interviews with all of the artists with the Spotlight Gallery past and present! If you are an artist interested in having an exhibit, please contact Venetia Lawless through volunteer@ottawalittletheatre.com.

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Orléans

2370 St. Joseph Blvd.
613-837-2370

Barrhaven

3000 Woodroffe Ave.
613-823-4747

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585 Somerset St. W.
613-235-6712

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Production Staff

Technical Director & Facilities Manager..... Tom Pidgeon
Technical & Production Support..... David Magladry
Production Assistant..... Paul Washer
Scenic Artist..... Carolyn Borer
2nd Painter..... Nick Philippe, Laura Kelly

Box Office

613.233.8948 | info@ottawalittletheatre.com



Office Hours:

Monday to Friday | Opens at 11am



Performance times:

Wednesday to Saturday evenings at 7:30pm
Sunday matinees at 2:30pm

Tickets can also be purchased online anytime!

Visit: ottawalittletheatre.com

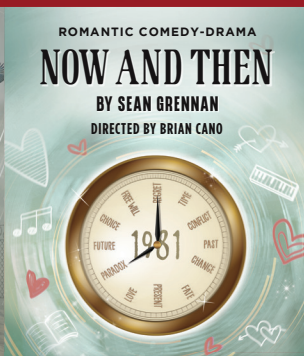
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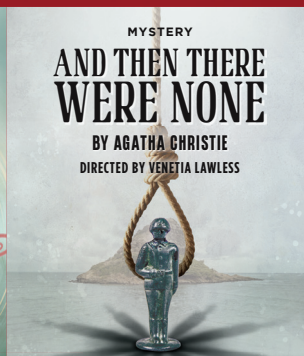
2025 SEASON!



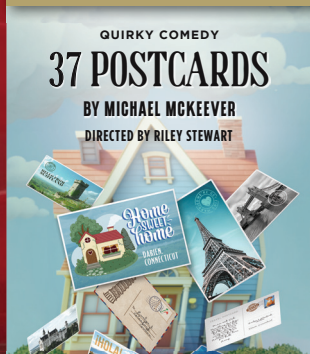
FEB 26 – MAR 15



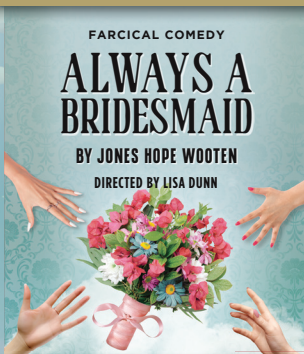
APRIL 2 – 19



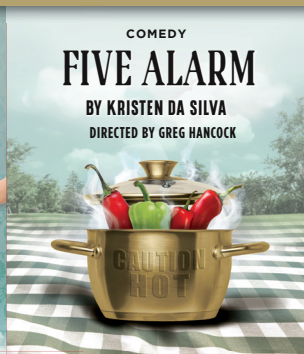
MAY 7 – 24



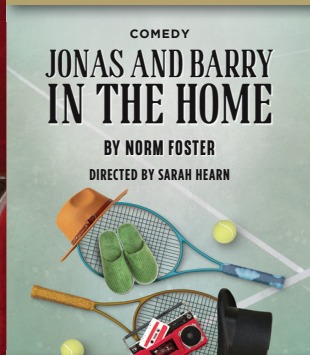
JUNE 11 – 28



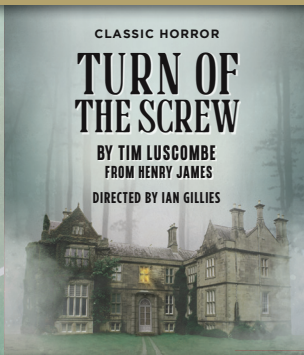
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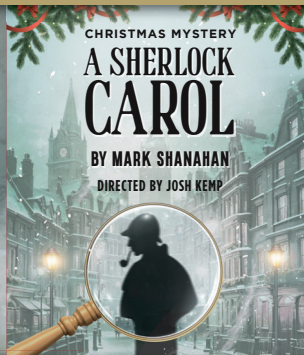
AUG 20 – SEPT 6



SEPT 24 – OCT 11



OCT 29 – NOV 15



DEC 3 – 20



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