

109<sup>th</sup> Season

# ROOM SERVICE



JAN. 10 – FEB. 2, 2025



VAGABOND PLAYERS



# VAGABOND PLAYERS

*The Best of Broadway on Broadway*

806 South Broadway  
Baltimore, MD 21231  
410-563-9135  
www.vagabondplayers.org

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Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the performance.

No food or drinks are allowed in the theatre.

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Vagabond Players is a founding member of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. For more information, visit <http://www.baltplayfest.org>.

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT

# ROOM SERVICE

by John Murray and Allen Boretz  
Directed by Steve Goldklang

*Welcome to Suite 904 of the Empire Hotel, where penniless Broadway producer and gifted con man Gordon Miller is desperately trying to raise the cash needed to avoid having his cast and crew (in rehearsal for his next production) evicted and the entire show shut down. The laughs don't stop coming in this deliciously delirious and delectable show biz comedy that became an acclaimed Marx Brothers movie.*

## *Setting*

Gordon Miller's room in the Empire Hotel on Broadway. 1937.

Act I: A Friday afternoon.

Act II scene 1: The following day

Act II scene 2: Five days later

Act II scene 3: One hour later

*There will be a fifteen-minute intermission.*

Room Service is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

## *Cast (in order of appearance)*

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sasha Smirnoff .....    | <b>Tim Sayles</b>                     |
| Gordon Miller .....     | <b>Matthew Lindsay Payne</b>          |
| Joseph Gribble .....    | <b>Lucius Robinson</b>                |
| Harry Binion .....      | <b>Andy Belt</b>                      |
| Faker Englund .....     | <b>Adam Garrison</b>                  |
| Christine Marlowe ..... | <b>Sydney Marks</b>                   |
| Leo Davis .....         | <b>Adrian Bagaric</b>                 |
| Hilda Manney .....      | <b>Natasha "Tash" Hawkins</b>         |
| Gregory Wagner .....    | <b>Stephen Deininger</b>              |
| Simon Jenkins .....     | <b>Anthony Rufo</b>                   |
| Timothy Hogarth .....   | <b>Mike Kranick</b>                   |
| Dr. Glass .....         | <b>Nathan Rosen</b>                   |
| Bank Messenger .....    | <b>Tim Sayles</b>                     |
| Senator Blake .....     | <b>Samantha McEwen Deininger</b>      |
| Understudies .....      | <b>Nava Rastegar and Thomas Peter</b> |

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## *Think you have what it takes to be a part of our productions?*

We welcome artists of all backgrounds and experience levels to join us and be a part of bringing high quality theatre to Baltimore. Visit our website, sign up for our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media to learn about our auditions and behind-the-scenes opportunities.

## *Become a Member Today!*

Have you been involved in a production for Vagabond Players? Whether on the stage or behind the scenes, once you've participated in a production you are eligible to become a Vagabond Players member. Visit our Opportunities page to learn more.



# The History of VAGABOND PLAYERS

The years that followed the great fire of 1904 were a time of great bustle and activity for Baltimore, and the commencement of World War I in 1914 helped to intensify this mood. During 1915 and 1916, Baltimore's industrial growth surpassed that of any similar period. [Also] during the war, a renaissance in the arts took place, led by Baltimore's mayor, Walter Preston. In 1915 Preston told the city council, "Baltimore's citizens have as much right to organizations that provide for aesthetic development as they do to a sanitation department."

Thus, by 1916 the city had its own symphony and community park concerts, and work had begun on a public art museum. Curiously enough, though, no one had been able to establish any kind of successful, progressive theater. This seems especially odd when one considers the great theatrical ferment that was then sweeping the country. Despite this national movement, however, attempts to organize permanent dramatic groups in Baltimore had failed. In 1916, three people decided to alter this situation: Constance D'Arcy Mackay, a New Yorker who specialized in directing elaborate pageants; Adele Gutman Nathan, a Baltimorean who had directed plays while attending Goucher College; and Carol Sax, a former student of theater and art at Columbia University and teacher at the Maryland Institute of Art.

In 1947, Mrs. Nathan recalled the circumstances that led to the founding of Baltimore's first little theater:

*Constance Mackay, Carol Sax and I were waiting for a streetcar at the corner of Charles and Centre Streets...Weary from rehearsal, we leaned against a store window while we talked — good talk about the Little Theatre Movement that was spreading across the country...We agreed that Baltimore should have a Little Theatre. The town was loaded with talent. The question was, where to put the playhouse.*

*Carol Sax noticed that Miss Mackay and I were leaning against a store window. Directly above our heads was sign, "For Rent—Apply St. James Hotel." Eagerly the three of us cupped our eyes with our hands and peered through the darkened glass. The store was empty. It was about two stories high, just right for a theatre, and by some miracle there was a raised platform across the back wall...*

*Early the next morning, Carol Sax went to the St. James Hotel and paid the first month's rent. \$19.*

Constance MacKay did not remain in Baltimore to participate in the actual founding of the theater. However, Carol Sax and Mrs. Nathan proceeded enthusiastically with the project, managing to throw Baltimore into a tizzy of excitement with their oblique publicity.

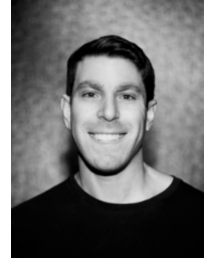
To learn more about our history, check out ***The Vagabonds: America's Oldest Little Theatre*** by Linda Lee Koenig or visit our website:  
<https://www.vagabondplayers.org/history/>

# Cast and Crew Biographies



**Adrian Bagaric** (Leo Davis) is fairly new to the Baltimore theater scene and is thrilled to be making his debut performance on the Vagabond Players stage. His only previous credit in the US was as Second Man/Doctor/Judge in Fells Point Corner Theatre's production of *Machinal* but is no stranger to the stage with many more past performances in his home country of Croatia. Some of his past roles include The Mistress in *The Maids*, Petrell in *Youth is a Sickness*, Captain MacNure in *Ubu Roi* and can be seen starring as David in an upcoming Croatian feature film *Just Between Us*.

**Andy Belt** (Harry Binion) is excited to return to the Vagabond Players stage for his eighth production. Previous shows with the company include *Broadway Bound*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. In Baltimore, Andy has appeared in productions at Spotlighters Theatre (*Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Mousetrap*, *Love/Sick*) and Fells Point Corner Theatre (*Miss Holmes*, *Machinal*). Previously, he earned a degree in theater from Wake Forest University.



**Samantha McEwen Deininger** (Senator Blake) is a professional singer/actor having performed in over 40 musicals, plays, and operas nationally and received numerous awards. She is also part of the bands "Scotch and Lies" and "Falling Water," whose debut album will release early next year! Notable roles include Eva Peron in *Evita*, Florence Vassy in *Chess*, Marianne in *The Revolutionists*, Nicki in *The Bodyguard*, Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, Queenie in *Showboat*, Sarah in *Ragtime*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Joanne in *Godspell*, Queenie in *The Wild Party*, Geneva in *1940's Radio Hour*, Erzulie in *Once on this Island*, Fiordiligi in *Così Fan Tutte*, Reno in *Anything Goes*, and Tituba in *The Crucible*. Special thanks to Sydney Marks for making her the performer she is today!

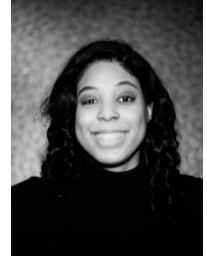
**Stephen M. Deininger** (Gregory Wagner) is a prolific director, actor, and pianist across Baltimore. A Vagabond Players' board member, his Vagabond credits include: actor and pianist in *Into the Woods*, *Doubt*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Pillowman*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Avenue Q*, *Cabaret*, and *Our Town*; and director for *The Crucible*, *God of Carnage*, and *Chess*. He is the music director of Channing Memorial Church and founder of the Pandemic Players, an online theatrical group that raised funds to support local theaters during the COVID-19 pandemic, which spurred many similar companies and was covered by local media around the world. During 2020, he and his wife started a home recording studio to record hymns for churches adapting to online worship, and they now record music under the name "Falling Water."





**Adam Garrison** (Faker England) is a stand up comedian and Creator of Vagabond Players' *A Night Out in Fells*. He is excited to return to acting after a year off, honing his chops as a comedian. In that time, he's headlined shows in Atlanta, DC, and here at the Vagabond Theater! Theatre credits include: *Boys Next Door*, *ZombieTown*, *Sordid Lives*, *Harvey*, *All New People*, and most recently in Vagabond Players' production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* as Chief Bromden.

**Natasha "Tash" Hawkins** (Hilda Manney) is an actress and dramaturg making her Vagabond Players debut. She is relatively new to the city, and this will be her first performance in Baltimore! Tash attended Salisbury University, earning her Communications degree while minoring in Theatre Arts. Some of her previous roles include Anna Mae in *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*, Gonzalo in *The Tempest*, and an ensemble member in *Hair, The Musical*.



**Mike Kranick** (Timothy Hogarth) is thrilled to return to the stage after a nearly six-year hiatus. This is his third production as an actor with Vagabond Players since Season 102 (2017-2018), where he appeared in *The Pillowman* and *Bad Jews*. As a board member, producer, and box office manager for Vagabond Players, Mike seems to have entered the Vagabond Theater and never left. Mike would like to thank director, Steve Goldklang, for convincing him to step outside of the box office; his family and friends for their encouragement; and his partner, Valerie, for her love.

**Sydney Marks** (Christine Marlowe) is thrilled to return to the Vagabond Players stage after having last performed in *Into the Woods*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Chess*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *12 Angry Jurors*. Before moving to Baltimore, Sydney graduated with a degree in theatre and teaching from Eastern Kentucky University. She is a proud ELA teacher at Towson High School. Love to DMDTMA and thank you to Samatha Deiningner for being her inspiration.



**Matthew Lindsay Payne** (Gordon Miller) Education: Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) Summer Stanislavsky School 2015. Film: Jordan - *Thespian* (Mindblank Productions). Theater: Leonard Vole - *Witness for the Prosecution* (Vagabond Players) Cheswick - *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (Vagabond Players) Matthew - *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Vagabond Players) First Man - *Machinal* (FPCT) Riff Raff - *The Rocky Horror Show* (Haute Patooties) Clov/George - *Endgame/Voices in the Rubble* (Rapid Lemon), Jonathan Harker - *Dracula* (East Lynne Theater Co.), Mr. Croup/Tooley - *Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere* (Cohesion Theater Company), V. - *The Mesmeric Revelations of Edgar Allan Poe* (Submersive Productions), Marcel - *Thirteen Dead Husbands* (Cohesion Theater Company), Franz Kafka - *The Trap* (Ambassador Theatre Company).

## Cast and Crew Biographies



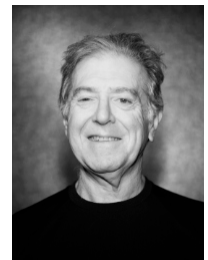
**Thomas Peter** (Understudy) is delighted to return to Vagabond Players, having understudied Sir Wilfred Robarts but gone on for Justice Wainwright(!!) in last season's *Witness for the Prosecution*. Pre-pandemic, Thomas appeared at Vagabond's as Herman in *Cabaret* and The Rev. Lionel Toop in *See How They Run* and stage managed *The Complete History of America (abridged)* and *The Normal Heart*. Other acting credits include Chris in *Becky's New Car*, Mr. Marks in *Intimate Apparel*, Shetland Houndstooth in *Thirteen Dead Husbands*, Christopher Wren in *The Mousetrap*, Jeff in *[title of show]* and Tom Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie*. He would like to thank the cast and crew, and his parents and friends for all their love and support.

**Nava Rastegar** (Understudy) is making her Vagabond Players debut, and her first show anywhere in a long while. She is excited to work on a play again, and thankful to everyone at Vagabonds for the chance to learn from such funny people.

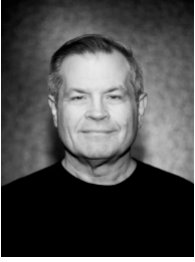


**Lucius Robinston** (Joseph Gribble) is a Princess Grace award-winning performer, director, writer and teacher who received his MFA from the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theater. As a deviser, he has created and performed in *Irvinville* and *Panic* with Theatre LuDu, *Forgive Us, Gustavito* (Best of Fringe @ Charm City FF 2018) with Otherlands Ensemble, *A House (after Ibsen's Ghosts)* with Burning Coal Theater, *YOU'RE IN DANGER!* (Kansas City Fringe, Providence Fringe 2018), and *The Devil and Billy Markham* (Winnipeg Fringe 2014). Baltimore credits include *How I Learned to Drive* (Vagabond Players), *Mankind* (Iron Crow), *King Lear*, *As You Like It* (Baltimore Shakespeare Factory). He is an ELA and Drama teacher with City schools and will next appear in *Art* with Vagabonds.

**Nathan Rosen** (Dr. Glass) is delighted to make his debut with Vagabond Players. Favorite roles include Vanya in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* and Vanya in The Rude Mechanicals' *Uncle Vanya*. Recent directing projects include *Twelfth Night* and *Romeo and Juliet*. He has directed more than 150 plays. Nathan has acted with Greenbelt Arts Center, Spotlighters, Cockpit in Court, Laurel Mill Playhouse, The Rude Mechanicals, Classic Theatre of Maryland, The Bard's Wagon, and Howard County Summer Theatre. He thanks the production team and his family for their support, and apologizes to the dog.







**Anthony Rufo** (Simon Jenkins) most recently appeared at Vagabond Players as Molokov in last season's production of the musical *Chess*. He has also appeared as Dr. Spivey in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and was an alternate for Jack and Ben in Neil Simon's *Broadway Bound*, taking the stage as Jack for two performances.

**Tim Sayles** (Sasha Smirnoff & Bank Messenger) is back for his second show in a row at Vagabond Players, having just finished playing Cinderella's father in *Into the Woods* — along with his wife Lauren (Jack's mother) and stepdaughter Lily (Narrator). He's been active in community theater since about 2008, most frequently at the Colonial Players of Annapolis — where he played Daddy Warbucks in *Annie* and John Dickinson in *1776*, as well as a dozen other roles over the years. Tim is managing editor of the Chesapeake Bay Journal, a monthly newspaper covering environmental issues in the Bay watershed.



**Steve Goldklang** (Director) has directed over 70 productions in the Baltimore area. Recent Vagabond Players productions include: *Doubt*, *Broadway Bound*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *The Odd Couple*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *Born Yesterday*. Other recent productions at Fells Point Corner Theater: *A Doll's House Part 2*, *The Divine Sister*, and *Cock*. Steve has also conducted Directing and Auditioning workshops at Vagabonds. When he is not at the theater, you can find him on the pickleball court in Baltimore and Annapolis, both playing and coaching.

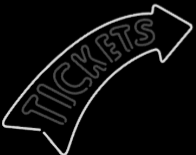
**RAPID LEMON PRODUCTIONS**

**PRESENTS A WORLD PREMIERE PLAY**

**DIRECTED BY JALICE ORTIZ-CORRAL**

**JANUARY 4 - 26, 2025**

**AT STRAND THEATER, BALTIMORE**



# *Production Staff*

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Director .....                  | Steve Goldklang                               |
| Stage Manager .....             | Jesse Stiteler                                |
| Assistant Stage Manager .....   | Apryl Bancroft                                |
| Booth Technician .....          | Maeve Koch                                    |
| Lighting Design .....           | Adrienne Cassara                              |
| Costumer .....                  | April Forrer                                  |
| Set Design .....                | Roy Steinman<br>Bruce Kapplin                 |
| Set Construction .....          | Bruce Kapplin<br>Jay Demarco                  |
| Photographers .....             | Shaelyn Jae Photography<br>Audra M. Mullen    |
| Marketing/PR .....              | Audra M. Mullen<br>Sydney Marks<br>Su Kim     |
| Graphic Design .....            | Sarah Hepworth                                |
| Box Office/Front of House ..... | Michael Kranick                               |
| Producers .....                 | Sydney Marks<br>Bruce Levy<br>Steve Goldklang |

## *Special Thanks*

Laura Malkus and Fells Point Corner Theatre  
Alan Duda and The Rude Mechanicals

Steve Arnold

Joel Kolko

Jim Smith

Dr. Brian Lewis

Rick Benton

Ray McFaul and the Exeter Group at Morgan Stanley

Rob Marbury

Vagabond Players is a recipient of grants from the Abell Foundation, the Maryland States Arts Council, and Mayor Catherine E. Pugh and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts



# VAGABOND ANGELS

Become an Angel today!

Support the arts, remember a loved one,  
or honor a fellow theatre lover.

## *Broadway Angels*

(Contributions of \$1,000 or more)

Cathy Shipley, *In Loving Memory of Terry J. Long*  
Josh and Mary Shoemaker  
Chuck and Ruth Spivak  
Julie Press, *In Memory of Bruce Press*  
Michael B. Styer  
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## *John Bruce Johnson Memorial Angels*

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Bill and Joan Woodward

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Max Garner  
David Graham  
Susan Middaugh

## *2024–2025 Angels*

(Contributions of \$50–\$99)

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Dennis Betzel  
Peter Bodde  
Candice Chesno  
Diana Gray

Linda McEwen  
Erin Peryea  
James Roark  
Susan Steele  
Christopher Weglein

# ENJOYING THIS PRODUCTION? JOIN US FOR THE REST OF OUR 109<sup>TH</sup> SEASON!

FEB. 21 – MAR. 16, 2025

## ART

Written by Yasmina Reza  
Translated by Christopher Hampton  
Directed by Charlie Juhkins

How much would you pay for a white painting? Would it matter who the painter was? Would it be art? Lines are drawn and friendships are tested in this Tony Award winner for Best Play.

APR. 4 – 27, 2025

## PIPELINE

Written by Dominique Morisseau  
Directed by Lorraine C. Brooks

With profound compassion and lyricism, Morisseau shines light on an urgent and necessary conversation in this deeply moving story of a mother's fight to give her son a future — without turning her back on the community that made him who he is.

MAY 30 – JUN. 22, 2025

## Picasso at the *Lapin Agile*

Written by Steve Martin  
Directed by Stephen Deiningger

Martin plays fast and loose with fact, fame, and fortune in this brilliant absurdist comedy that places young Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904, just before the renowned scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world afire with cubism.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKET PRICES, VISIT

[WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG](http://WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG)

