



Proudly presents

The Stick Wife

By
Darrah Cloud

Directed by David Oliver

The Stick Wife is presented with permission from Dramatic Publishing

CAST

Jessie Bliss.....Priscilla Young Anker
Ed Bliss.....Steve Jakiel
Betty Connor.....Kelly Meg Brennan
Big Albert Connor.....David Marciniak
Marguerite Pullet.....Christine Turturro
Tom Pullet.....Andrew Salamone

STAGE MANAGEMENT & DESIGNERS

Stage Manager.....Leyla Gentil
Assistant SM.....Ellen Scherer Falank
Assistant SM.....Audrey Grout

Set Design / TD / PM.....Ron Schwartz
Lighting Design.....Matthew Oliner
Sound Design.....John Shotwell
Costume Design.....Vivian Del Bello
Props.....Spencer Dick
Fight Choreographer.....Stephanie Warnick
Dialect Coaching.....Megan Callahan

The performance runs approximately 1-hour / 40 minutes, including one 10-minute intermission

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES!

*~ Eating or drinking in the theatre is not allowed under house rules ~
~ The taking of pictures or video is strictly forbidden ~
Thank you for your compliance*



Priscilla Young-Anker (Jessie) is thrilled to be involved in *The Stick Wife* and working with such a talented director, cast and crew. Previous roles include Ann Richards in *ANN* and Thelma Cates in *NIGHT MOTHER* (for which she received a 2017 Artie Nomination for best actress in a play and the 2017 WNY best actress award from *The Buffalo Spree*) both at Brazen Faced Varlets. Mrs Alexander in *CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHTTIME* for All For One Productions. Iris in *THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS* and Mae Tuck in *TUCK EVERLASTING* all at Theatre of Youth. Genevieve in Road Less Traveled's production of *JOHN*. Master Page in Shakespeare In Delaware Park's *THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR*. and Colonel Thomas McKean in *1776* at O'Connell and Company. As always thank you to my eccentric loving husband Jeff; without which I could not do what I do.



Kelly Meg Brennan (Betty) MFA-IA From operas to plays to her own devised work, Kelly brings great passion and dedication to arriving at the truth of each character and performance moment whether embodying an aria of heartache or lobbing sarcastic comebacks in a farcical play. Some of her favorite roles include: Pirate Jenny in *The Threepenny Opera* and Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Irish Classical, Karen in *August: Osage County* at The Kavinoky, and Petra VonKant in *The Bitter Tears of Petra VonKant* and Nadia in *Some Explicit Polaroids* at Torn Space Theater. Kelly teaches voice at Niagara University, Production at D'Youville's MFA program, and private voice lessons through her own studio, Expressions of Voice. Kelly has tremendous respect for the craft and the exploration of performing and is constantly seeking opportunities to stretch her creative endeavors. She sends her love to Joe and Meggie-the real actress in the family.



Christine Turturro (Marguerite) is a graduate of Niagara University's BFA Theatre program. she has performed with the Cross Border Orchestra of Ireland at Carnegie Hall, and has toured with the Live Literature company in London, England. Recent Buffalo theatre credits include *The Mai* at Irish Classical Theatre Company (Millie), *Burst* at Alleyway Theatre (Alexis) *Stage Kiss* at Irish Classical Theatre Company (Angela), *The Tempest* at Shakespeare in Delaware Park (Miranda), *The Undeniable Sound of Right Now* at Road Less Traveled Productions (Lena) and *The Crucible* at The Kavinoky (Betty Paris). Additional Niagara University credits include *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Marty Alba), *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Jean), *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem* (Ann Putnam), and *Stage Door* (Linda Shaw). Love and thanks to Mom, Dad, Michaela, Miriam, and M.



David Marciniak (Big Albert) - David is proud to be a part of this difficult and important play and pleased to work once again under the direction of David Oliver, previously directed by him in All for One's celebrated production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Rev. Peters et al) at Shea's 710 Theater. He's appeared in several area theaters, and is a member of the ensemble of Road Less Traveled Productions. Recent credits include *It Runs in the Family* (Dr Mortimore) at Desiderio's Dinner Theater, *Mysterious Circumstances* (Dr. John Watson /Henry) and *Tribes* (Christopher) at RLTP. When not on the boards David, an RN for over 25 years, is a Director for Hospice Buffalo.



Steve Jakiel (Ed Bliss) most recent stage appearance was as Herr Schultz in Second Generation Theatre's *Cabaret* at Shea's Smith Theatre. Favorite roles on other area stages include Arthur Przybyszewski in *Superior Donuts* and Papa/Sims in *The Nether* (Road Less Traveled Productions), Chet Pazinski in *Over the Tavern* and Judge Randolph in *A Few Good Men* (Kavinoky Theatre), and Mr. Carp in *Golden Boy*, Lord Caversham in *An Ideal Husband*, and Harry Dalton in *Equus* (Irish Classical Theatre); he's currently in rehearsal for *Grand Horizons*, which will be playing at the Lancaster Opera House in June. Thanks to the talented and passionate team involved in this production, to a tremendously supportive family, and to our audience for valuing live theatre in Buffalo by your attendance!



Andrew Salamone (Tom) Andrew is very excited to be performing in this year's show of "The Stick Wife" with Revelation Theatre. Andrew graduated from Niagara University with a BFA in Theatre performance and a BS in Computer and Informational Sciences. He currently works as an IT professional in the healthcare industry. Recent credits include Dillon Rye in "Potato People in a School Daze", Francois Millet in "Is He Dead", Niels Bohr in "Copenhagen", and as Greg in "Sylvia" through Niagara University Theatre.

David Oliver (Director / Artistic Director) David directed *THE CONSTANT WIFE*, *AN IDEAL HUSBAND* and *EQUUS* at Irish Classical Theatre. At Road Less Traveled, *AN ILIAD*, *FRANKENSTEIN*, *JOHN*, and *THE UNDENIABLE SOUND OF RIGHT NOW*. At Torn Space, *A CLOCKWORK ORANGE*, *BURIED CHILD*, the American Premiere of Ibsen's *EMPEROR AND GALILEAN*, *AUNT DAN AND LEMON*, *SOME EXPLICIT POLAROIDS* and *THE FASTEST CLOCK IN THE UNIVERSE*. At Musicallyfare, *33 VARIATIONS*. At Silo City, an environmental production of Ibsen's *THE MASTER BUILDER*. Second Generation, *ORPHANS* at The New Phoenix. And, most recently, *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NITE-TIME* at 710 Main. As an actor, at Torn Space, *QUILLS*, *ENDGAME*, *THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER* and the one-man Beckett performance *ENDWORDS* (Artvoice Award for Outstanding Performance).

Darrah Cloud (Playwright) Premiered *TURNING*, a commission for Centenary Stage, in March of 2021, in a live production. She wrote the lyrics for *SABINA*, a musical adaptation of Willy Holtzman's play, which premiered at Portland Stage in April of 2022. Her full-length play, *OUR SUBURB*, premiered at Theater J in Washington, DC in 2014 and most recently at Center Stage in Rochester. Her play for teens, *JOAN THE GIRL OF ARC*, premiered at Cincinnati Playhouse in January, 2014, then toured. Other plays produced in New York, Europe and across the U.S. include *WHAT'S BUGGING GREG?*, *THE STICK WIFE*, *THE MUD ANGEL*, *DREAM HOUSE*, *BRAILLE GARDEN* and *THE SIRENS*. Her musicals include *HEARTLAND*,

(Goodspeed Opera, Madison Repertory Theatre, The Majestic Theatre/Dallas, TheatreWorks Palo Alto) THE BOXCAR CHILDREN (Theatreworks USA), HONOR SONG FOR CRAZY HORSE (TheatreWorks Palo Alto) and the stage adaptation of Willa Cather's O PIONEERS!, which has received over 100 productions in the United States and was filmed starring Mary McDonnell for American Playhouse. Her work is published by Dramatic Play Publishing. Awards include the Macy's Prize for Theatre for Young Audiences, an NEA and a Rockefeller. She has had over 10 movies-of-the-week produced on CBS and NBC, is a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and an alum of the Iowa Writers Workshop and New Dramatists. She co-directs The Howl Playwrights Lab in Rhinebeck, NY and teaches at Goddard College.

Leyla Gentil (Stage Manager) is very excited to be working with Revelation Theatre on their production of THE STICK WIFE! Leyla is a SUNY Purchase graduate (B.A.), with a double major in Theatre & Performance and Arts Management. Leyla has previously stage managed for Irish Classical's THE MAI, O'Connell and Co's THE RINK, Alleyway Theatre's BUFFALO QUICKIES and THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES, Post-Industrial Productions' MEDUSA UNDONE, Brazen-Faced Varlets' TITUS XX, ANTON IN SHOW BUSINESS, ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT, ANASTASIA TRIALS IN THE COURT OF WOMEN, and THE SECRETARY, and New Phoenix's IZZY!. All the love in the world to Jay, her parents, everyone on the Stick Wife team, and her two furry demons.

Ellen C. Scherer-Falank (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be working with Revelation Theatre for their production of THE STICK WIFE. Recent stage managing credits include ANN (Brazen-Faced Varlets), THE BIRTH OF SANTA (ART/WNY), and THE ACTING CLASS (Unique Theatre). She also assisted backstage for BUFFALO QUICKIES (Alleyway Theatre), THE ALEPH COMPLEX (Alleyway Theatre) TITUS XX (Brazen-Faced Varlets), and ALLEY OF THE DOLLS (Buffalo United Artists). Ellen's work has been produced by CurtCo Media, Cone Man Running Productions, Green Buffalo Productions, and Inclusive Theater of WNY. Thank you to Leyla Gentil and Dylan Falank for your endless support.

Ron Schwartz (Scenic Designer) Ron's scenic designs have been seen on many stages around Buffalo. He served as the resident Scenic Designer at the Irish Classical Theatre Company from 2008 to 2013, his most notable designs on the Andrew's Theatre stage include *The Servant of Two Masters*, *The Learned Ladies*, and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*. Additionally, he has designed sets for Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Jewish Repertory Theatre, Road Less Traveled Productions, and Theatre of Youth. From 1996 to 2006, Ron took part in the planning, fabrication, and painting of well over 500 productions, ranging from operas and theme parties to trade shows and Fortune 500 company product launches as a Project Manager/Scenic Painter based out of Alexandria Virginia. When not designing sets, Ron spends his days serving as the Technical Director and Production Manager for the Theatre Department at Buffalo State College, where he has spent the past 11 years mentoring students in Scenic Construction and Painting, Stage Craft, Rigging, Properties Construction, and Shop/Crew Management.

Vivian Del Bello (Costume Designer) Vivian's work as Costume Designer has been seen primarily at the Irish Classical Theatre Company in *The Tempest* (in collaboration with the BPO) *Great Expectations*, *Stage Kiss* (Artie Award winner for Outstanding Costume Design), *The Onion Game*, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *'Tis Pity She's A Whore*, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*, and *Minding Frankie*. She has also worked at numerous other theatres throughout Buffalo and Boston. In addition to designing Vivian has served as Wardrobe Manager at ICTC (5 seasons) and at the American Repertory Theater in Boston. She is a proud graduate of Emerson College with a BFA in Design & Technology.

Spencer Dick (Prop Master) of Lockport, NY. He's a recent graduate of Niagara University where he acquired a degree in Theatre production and design and minors in fine arts and communications. His credits include *Great Expectations*, (ASM) and *The Mai* (Props) at ICTC; *Cabaret* (Charge Artist) at Second Gen; *People Places Things* (Charge Artist) and *Misery* (Charge Artist) at the Kavinoky.

Megan Callahan (dialect & speech coach) is also a director, theater teacher, actor and musician. She has worked with theaters all throughout WNY wearing various hats, and is a member of the founding faculty of D'youville University's Master of Fine Arts in Dramatic Arts.

CONTENT WARNING

The backstory of **THE STICK WIFE** is the 1963 bombing of Alabama's 16th Street Baptist Church, perpetrated by four members of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), the white supremacist terrorist group. With this in mind, please understand that **Revelation Theatre does not condone, but rather rejects, any form of racism, sexism, or violent behavior.**

The Stick Wife contains :

- Verbal Abuse
- Alcohol consumption
- Hate Speech - outdated and offensive terms such as “colored” are used
- Depiction of attempted Sexual Violence
- Hate Group Paraphernalia
- Firearm Use - There are no gunshots - Prop Rifles and Handguns are held and pointed

Director's Note

This play, *The Stick Wife*, represents two cycles for me. I produced and directed it 34 years ago at The Franklin Street Theater, which is now the Chop House on Franklin Street! I still feel the play is a seriously accomplished work. I'm thrilled by Darrah Cloud's rhythmic power games that echo from the ages of our culture.

What is a shameful reality is that the message of the play is still relevant. Remounting this material at this particular time felt appropriate, as we're experiencing a new age of old racist acting out, and women continuing to struggle to establish their full freedom. While greater awareness has taken hold in the last 34 years, and our behavior may be more in check, it's a slow-moving history.

We need to be reminded of our darker past. For many of us it's still raw, while the younger generations have to work with a racist and sexist history that has insinuated itself into our culture to systemic levels, and with the emotional residue that lingers from that. We need to be reminded of our darker past, because it's always in danger of repeating itself.

But also, *The Stick Wife* is a theatrical exploration, and one perspective on a vast history. This play rivets me with its desperate, needful characters, the tenacities of its women, and the raw truthfulness that lurks behind all the lies. I hope you have a similar reaction.

Our GOALS at **Revelation Theatre ~**

- ~ To Explore, Reveal and Create original theatrical experiences
- ~ Our creative focus is on devising original plays and performances, and the production of lesser known and challenging existing scripts
- ~ To continue the development of our OUTREACH Youth Program, for passing on knowledge about the arts

OUTREACH Youth Program

All creative artists can remember their early experiences of the arts and performance. A substantial aspect of our mission at Revelation Theatre is to encourage young people to explore their creativity. Through our Outreach Program, we offer an educational event as a part of each of our productions.

Up Next : **Saturday, April 29th - 2:00 to 5:00**

Playwriting Workshop!

Revelation Theatre is hosting a workshop with playwright, Darrah Cloud, author of *The Stick Wife!* Darrah is a prolific playwright & screen writer, and a professor of creative writing at Goddard College.

This 3-hour workshop is available to teenage students (13 - 19) interested in writing for the stage, just bring a sample of your work. It's all free-of-charge!

Upon completion of the workshop, students are welcome to stay for the performance at 7:30!

There will be complimentary food served to participants between the workshop and *The Stick Wife* performance!

LOCATION & DIRECTIONS : Flexible Theater, Donald Savage Building. Buffalo State campus
Enter campus on Rockwell Road - across from Albright-Knox Gallery
At the 2nd stop-sign turn Right into Cleveland Circle
Turn Right again for the Donald Savage Building
There will be parking along Rockwell Road available and in the Ketchum (R2) Lot

For more information, or to reserve a spot, call 716-213-7253

Revelation Theatre's first project, *Infinite Distances*, was developed and workshopped over eighteen months during the pandemic, it was presented last October for one weekend.

The Project is an exploration of the emotional and social conflicts of the covid-years through movement and spoken word. It was the company's debut devised production and relevant to all age groups, but it was also the first project for the company's Youth OUTREACH. This is significant, especially with current concerns regarding the mental health of many of our youth, due to the disruption by the pandemic on normal social development.

Infinite Distances addresses conflict and resolution with five performers, through a visceral physical presentation and interaction with the audience.

INFINITE DISTANCES was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature



We're in the process of bringing this devised performance back to young audiences next season.

A Special Thank You to the following for your Support

Priscilla & Jeffrey Anker

Donald J. Jacobs
Christine Oliver Gordon

Thanks also to ~ Kevin Leary / Ziwei Mai / Julia Miskines / Kathleen Rooney / Lawrence Brose

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