

THE COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

# RUMOR

by Neil Simon



an outrageous farce

JULY 13—NOV 2

PROFESSIONAL LIVE THEATRE

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**W**e, at the **Commonweal Theatre**, acknowledge that we work and gather on the ancestral lands of the Dakota Nation and other Indigenous peoples. We recognize these Nations as the original caretakers of this land and acknowledge the injustices committed against them. We strive to promote healing and inclusion through storytelling, which is fundamental to our mission.

As artists in our community we have a responsibility to create a welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing environment where visitors and community members can gather and explore big ideas through live theatre. Fostering such an environment begins with education and reflection. Our Land Acknowledgement is just one way the **Commonweal** exercises our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Thank you to the Minnesota Historical Society, Lanesboro Historical Society, Prairie Island Indian Community, Mississippi Valley Archeology Center, and Mower County Historical Society for assisting in the research that led to the formation of our Land Acknowledgement.



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Metis artist Victoria Scattergood is inspired by historical ledger drawings which were popular across the northern and southern plains of Canada and the US. She puts a unique perspective on it, using actual historical ledger prints from the late 1800s with beautiful, hand drawn animals.

# WELCOME TO THE COMMONWEAL!

Welcome to our third production of our 2024 season: Neil Simon's *Rumors!*

This marks the fourth Simon play we have offered and the third for me here at the Commonwealth, having appeared in our first iteration of *I Ought to Be in Pictures* in 1997 and *The Odd Couple* in 2009.

One of the truly compelling things that Mr. Simon's plays offer is a master class in how comedy reflects the foibles of the human condition, seamlessly partnering quips and jokes with sharply delineated examples of our interactions with each other.

*Rumors* is Simon's only farce—a comedy that relies on improbable circumstances, mistaken identity, and often many, many doors. (Remember *Leading Ladies* or *Boeing Boeing*?) We think it's a great bridge between our other summer offering of *The Outsider* (with its examination of truth and misinformation in media and politics) and, later on, the exploration of deep uncertainty and unshakeable faith in *Doubt*.

But for now, prepare to laugh away and enjoy *Rumors!*

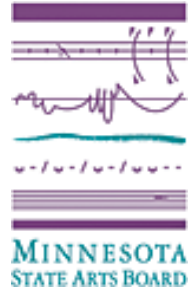


HAL CROPP  
Producing Artistic Director



The Commonwealth Theatre Company is a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

208 Parkway Avenue N., P.O. Box 15  
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(800)657-7025 • (507)467-2525  
Commonwealththeatre.org



## THE COMPANY

### THE ARTIST/ADMINISTRATOR MODEL

The Commonwealth Theatre operates under a unique model in which all resident company members have specific, non-artistic responsibilities in addition to their artistic projects. This innovative approach has a great many benefits, most recently illustrated by the fact that we were able to keep our team fully employed throughout the pandemic, allowing us to reopen our doors and once again bring you professional live theatre at the earliest possible opportunity—one of the first theaters in the nation to do so.

#### LIZZY ANDRETTA (she/her)



Company Member  
Since 2017

**Actor/Development Associate/Dixon House Artist Residence Manager**

**This Season:** Mary (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*), Rachel (*The Outsider*), Cassie (*Rumors*); Co-Props Design (*Ugly Lies the Bone*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Amalia (*She Loves Me*), Senga (*Dancing Lessons*), Meg (*Leading Ladies*), Rosa (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*), Gabriella (*Boeing Boeing*), Mina (*Dracula: Prince of Blood*), Mrs. Kendal (*The Elephant Man*); choreographer (*Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Stones in His Pockets*, and *A Christmas Carol* (2021))

**Education:** MFA in Acting from the East 15 Acting School; BS from Skidmore College

#### CODY BEYER (he/him)



Company Member  
Since 2022

**Actor/Designer/Technical Director & Facilities Manager**

**This Season:** Stevie (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Scenic Design (*The Outsider*); Co-Scenic Design (*Rumors* and *Doubt*); Mr. Darcy (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Sipos (*She Loves Me*), Edmond Rostand (*Bernhardt/ Hamlet*), White Knight (*Alice in Winter Wonderland*); Scenic Design (*Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*); Props Design (*Deathtrap* and *Good People*) **Other Credits:** Chicago credits include: Banquo in *Macbeth* for Theatre-Y; and Tech Director for several Hell in a Handbag Productions

**Education:** BA Honors Theatre, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

"Here's to another year of sharing stories with this wonderful community!"



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PLEASE**

**Please note: concessions are not allowed in the theatre.**

# THE COMPANY

## STELA BURDT (she/her)



Company Member  
Since 2001

### **Actor/Music Director/Director of Administration**

**This Season:** Kacie (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Sound Designer (*Rumors*), Music Director (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Liz (*Women in Jeopardy!*), Ritter (*She Loves Me*), Jeanie (*Good People*), Madame Flo (*Souvenir*), Woody Guthrie's American Song, *Crimes of the Heart*, *Zombies from the Beyond*, *A Midnight Dreary*, Harvey, and *Man of La Mancha*; Sound Design (Scott Dixon's *Dracula: Prince of Blood*) **Other Credits:** music director, sound designer, freelance musician

**Education:** Proud graduate of Luther College with studies in music and theatre  
"Living my role of a lifetime as a mother, with much love to our community for holding our family up." #TeamScottyForever

## HAL CROPP (he/they)



Company Member  
Since 1992

### **Producing Artistic Director**

**This Season:** Arthur Vance (*The Outsider*), Ernie (*Rumors*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** favorite roles have been in *Ghostwriter*, *Dracula*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *The Drawer Boy*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Christmas Carol*, *Groucho*, and *Talley's Folly*. Select directing credits include *Headspace Theatre*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Brand*, *Heartland Portrait*, *Wild Duck*, *Measure for Measure*, *Peer Gynt*, *Hedda Gabler*, *A Midnight Dreary*, *Enchanted April*, *Ghosts*, *Little Shop of Horrors* **Other Credits:** He was the Sally Irvine Award winner for Initiative (2006) and has served on the Lanesboro City Council, Economic Development Authority, and Chamber Board of Directors

**Education:** MFA National Theatre Conservatory; MBA Santa Clara University; AB Brown University

## SARA HUESER (she/her)



Company Member  
Since 2022

### **Props and Sound Designer/Properties Manager and IT Technician**

**This Season:** Co-Props Design (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Sound Design (*The Outsider*), Props Design (*Rumors*, *Doubt*).

**Commonweal Highlights:** *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Women in Jeopardy!*, *Deathtrap*, *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, *Alice in Winter Wonderland*, *Good People*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Leading Ladies* **Other Credits:** *The Other Place*, *My Way: A Frank Sinatra Tribute*, *The Wild Party*, *The Party*

**Education:** BCompSc, Pennsylvania College of Technology; BFA in Dramatic Writing at Savannah College of Art and Design

## JACLYN JUNE JOHNSON (she/they)



Company Member  
Since 2020

### **Actor/Director/Intimacy Director/Director of Production**

**This Season:** Intimacy Director (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Paige (*The Outsider*), Director (*Rumors*), Jane (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Elizabeth (*Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*), Director (*Deathtrap*, *Leading Ladies*), Margie (*Good People*), Alice Nutting (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*) **Other Credits:** Jaclyn has performing, playwriting, directing, and designing credits with companies such as St. Croix Festival Theatre, Children's Theatre of Madison, Creede Repertory, Riverside Theatre, and Chicago's UTG Improv Theatre.

**Education:** BA, Cornell College

"I'd like to thank, for their loving encouragement: my family, friends, spouse, and our pets. And thank you for supporting the arts—specifically your support of the uniquely healing community of theatre."

# THE COMPANY

## JOSIAH LAUBENSTEIN (he/him)



Company Member  
Since 2018

**Actor/Sound Designer/Marketing Team Associate/Video Editor/Literary Manager**

**This Season:** Sound Designer (*Ugly Lies the Bone* and *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*), Dave (*The Outsider*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Georg (*She Loves Me*), Jack/Stephanie (*Leading Ladies*), Bernard (*Boeing Boeing*)

**Education:** MFA in Acting, University of South Carolina

"A very special thank you to my lovely wife, Rachel, and all the love in the world to my two children, Franny & Jude."

## ISABELLA ANASTASIA LEIGH (she/her)



Company Member  
Since 2023

**Production Stage Manager/Administrative Team Associate**

**This Season:** Rehearsal Stage Manager (*Ugly Lies the Bone*, *The Outsider*, *Rumors*, *Doubt*); Performance Stage Manager (*Rumors*); Intimacy Coordinator (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Rehearsal Stage Manager (*She Loves Me* and *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*); Rehearsal/Performance Stage Manager (*Deathtrap*) **Other Credits:** stage management and directing with: Austin Shakespeare, Jarrott Productions, ScriptWorks (Austin, TX); Broom Street Theatre, Children's Theatre of Madison, Forward Theater, Music Theatre of Madison, and StageQ (Madison, WI)

**Education:** BA in Gender & Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Much love to my kitties: Rosalind, Beatrice, Mercutio, and Tybalt."

## SYNTH MANUEL (they/them)



Company Member  
Since 2023

**Stage Manager/Dramaturg/Designer/Production Team Associate**

**This Season:** Assistant Stage Manager/Props Design (*The Outsider*), Co-Scenic Design and Intimacy Coordinator (*Rumors*), Sound Design/Performance Stage Manager (*Doubt*); Stage Manager (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** *The Effect*, *She Loves Me*, *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, *Women in Jeopardy!* **Other Credits:** Quad City Area Credits include: director (*The God of Vengeance*); stage manager (*Cabaret*, *Ride the Cyclone*); assistant director (*The Threepenny Opera*, *The Mountaintop*); dramaturg at The Spotlight Theatre

**Education:** BA in Theatre History and Tech & Design, Augustana College

"All my love and gratitude to Isa, Eli, Clarke, and my wonderful family."

## JOHN B. NICOL (he/him)



Company Member  
Since 2022

**Actor/Assistant Stage Manager/Production & Administrative Associate**

**This Season:** Assistant Stage Manager (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), A.C. Petersen (*The Outsider*), Co-Scenic Designer (*Doubt*), Arthur de Bourgh (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Arpad Laszlo (*She Loves Me*), Michal (*The Pillowman*), Deputy/Nick Cricker II (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*)

**Education:** BS in Theatre Arts, Minnesota State University, Mankato

"Thank you to the people who hear, and further thanks for the people who listen."



# THE COMPANY

## LAURIE ROBERTS (she/her)



Company Member  
Since 2022

### **Actor/Choreographer/Development Associate**

**This Season:** Jess (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Chris (*Rumors*), Elizabeth (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*), Intimacy Coordinator (*The Outsider*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Eight Shoppers (*She Loves Me*), Myra (*Deathtrap*), Assistant Director (*Bernhardt/Hamlet*), The Dutchess (*Alice in Winter Wonderland*), and Choreographer (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*) **Other Credits:** Chicago credits from A Red Orchid Theatre, Facility Theatre, Hell in a Handbag, and Theatre Y. Cincinnati credits include Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Know Theatre, and Cincinnati Fringe Festival (recipient of the 2015 Producer's Pick.) Laurie has also worked as an acting teacher, movement director, and choreographer.

**Education:** MFA, University of South Carolina; BA, University of Washington  
"Love to my husband, Cody, & the floof-babies: Duke Orsino & Meriadoc Brandybuck."

## JODI RUSHING (they/she)



Company Member  
Since 2019

### **Stage Manager/Front of House Supervisor**

**This Season:** Assistant to Costume Designer (*Ugly Lies The Bone, Rumors*), Performance Stage Manager (*The Outsider*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Performance Stage Manager (*Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*), Performance Stage Manager (*Good People*), Costume Design (*The Complete Work of William Shakespeare...*), Costume Designer (*I Love to Eat*), Assistant Stage Manager (*On the Verge*) **Other Credits:** Stage Manager (Doniphan Dance Project), Conference Manager (American College Dance Association - South); Makeup Artist (*The Wonder of the World...* currently in post production)

**Education:** BA in Theatre & Film, University of Mississippi

## TIM SAILER (he/him)



Company Member  
Since 2021  
(plus 2009-2011)

### **Actor/Assistant Director of Marketing**

**This Season:** Kelvin (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Ken (*Rumors*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, She Loves Me, Leading Ladies, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, An Enemy of the People, The Rainmaker* **Other Credits:** More than 50 roles across 35 plays at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA; Utah, Houston, and Texas Shakespeare Festivals; Park Square Theatre; Theater L'Homme Dieu; audiobook narrator

**Education:** MFA in Acting, University of Houston

"We must risk delight." – poet Jack Gilbert

## ALEX SCHLESINGER (they/them)



Company Member  
Since 2021

### **Actor/Designer/Light & Sound Technician/Marketing Associate**

**This Season:** Projection Design & Performance Stage Manager (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Lighting Design (*The Outsider*), Glenn (*Rumors*), Charles Bingley (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Waiter (*She Loves Me*), Clifford (*Deathtrap*), Stevie (*Good People*), Nick Cricker/Durdles (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*) **Other Credits:** Riff Raff (*The Rocky Horror Show*) at New Minowa Players in Decorah; Amos Hart (*Chicago*) at Luther College

**Education:** BA in Theatre, Luther College

"Thanks to my mentor, professor, and good friend Jeff Dintaman for his years of support and sharing of knowledge that got me to where I am today."

# THE COMPANY

## ADRIENNE SWEENEY (she/her)



Company Member  
Since 2001

**Actor/Associate Artistic Director/Director of External Communications**

**This Season:** Louise (*The Outsider*), Cookie (*Rumors*), Props Design (*Christmas at Pemberley*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** Sarah Bernhardt (*Bernhardt/Hamlet*), *Women in Jeopardy!*, (*Berthe*) *Boeing Boeing*, *Sylvia*

**Education:** MFA in Acting, University of Arizona

"Thank you for choosing to be here."

## JEREMY van METER (he/him)



Company Member  
Since 2012

**Actor/Director of Development**

**This Season:** Ned (*The Outsider*), Father Flynn (*Doubt*)

**Commonweal Highlights:** *I Ought to Be in Pictures*, *Come Back*, *Dracula: Prince of Blood*, *Outside Mullingar*, *Brand*, *The Philadelphia Story* **Other Credits:** Barter Theatre Actor in Residence; Riverside Shakespeare Festival; Illinois Shakespeare Festival; Great River Shakespeare Festival; Caffeine Theatre (Chicago) Artistic Associate

**Education:** MFA in Acting from the University of Iowa

"Wear gratitude like a cloak, and it will feed every corner of your life." Rumi; "A million thanks to you for supporting professional live theatre. And GO Hawkeyes!"

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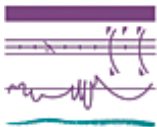
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## MEET THE 2024–2025 APPRENTICE CLASS

The Commonwealth Theatre Company offers exciting 10-month apprenticeships intended to help young theatre artists transition into the professional world. Apprentices serve on either a performance or technical track. Additionally, they work alongside company members on the Marketing, Development, and Production teams. Because of this rare organizational model, Commonwealth apprentices experience the full scope of running a nonprofit theatre company. It culminates in a final capstone production which is chosen, designed, and performed by the apprentice company.



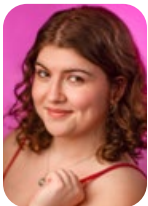
**BRI ANGLE** (she/her, acting apprentice) is thrilled to be joining the Commonwealth for her first season. Her favorite credits include Nan Carter in *Exit, Pursued by a Bear*; Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; #2 in *The Wolves*; and Agnes in *She Kills Monsters*. Bri is also a former member and co-director of the improv troupe Oddly Appropriate, and has enjoyed bringing fun and fake crime to events throughout Colorado with Murder Mystery USA and Odd Prop Productions. Bri is a graduate of Colorado Mesa University, where she earned her BFA in Acting/Directing.



**DYLAN DELAGARDELLE** (he/him, technical apprentice) is so excited to be part of the Commonwealth Apprentice program! Dylan is from West Des Moines, Iowa. He has served as stage manager many times for DMACC Ankeny Theater with shows such as *No Exit*, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and most recently *Head Over Heels*. Dylan is very excited to continue down his path of technical theater and learn the most he can during his time at the Commonwealth.



**ANYA GOLOVKO** (she/her, acting apprentice) is thrilled to join the Commonwealth Theatre for her first professional contract! Anya is an actor, choreographer, and technician from Houston, Texas. She has recently graduated from Waldorf University with a BA—double majoring in Musical Theatre and Theatre Performance. Some of her favorite roles include: *Bright Star* (Margo), *Addams Family* (Alice), *The Fantasticks* (Hucklebee), and *Checkout Girls* (Marge). Anya is a firm believer that every performer has to be well rounded in every capacity of theatre, and is thankful for the opportunity to share her work and love for theatre.



**MAYA SOL MACKEY** (she/her, acting apprentice) is exuberant to be making her professional acting debut! She is a recent graduate of the University of Montevallo 2024 BFA Acting Class and is delighted to be joining the Commonwealth 2024 apprentice class! Her favorite roles include Dorine in *Tartuffe*, Loud Stone in *Eurydice*, and Mr. Zyclo in *Anon(ymous)*, all performed at the University of Montevallo. Maya hopes to bring truth, compassion, and joy to all her roles. Although a native of Alabama, she couldn't be more excited to experience a season in Minnesota with Commonwealth!



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## THIS PRODUCTION ALSO FEATURES...



**LYNDA J. DAHL** (Claire Ganz, she/her) is delighted to return to the Commonweal stage. You may have seen her performing as the Liz understudy in *Women in Jeopardy!* As a Twin Cities theatre actress, she's enjoyed roles in Theatre Pro Rata's *Convent of Pleasure*; *The Wanderers* and *Groupthink* with Six Points; *True West* and *Death of a Salesman* with St. Croix Festival; and *Trust* at The Lab Theater. Film credits include features *Faerie* and *Twin Cities*. Lynda would like to thank Scott, the love of her life for his constant love and support.



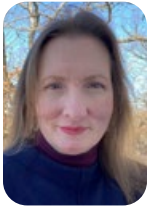
**TIANNA DEGARMO** (scenic carpenter, she/her) is a lifelong tradeswoman and artist. She owns and operates DeGarmo Designs LLC based out of Lanesboro, MN. DeGarmo Designs is home to her love of woodworking, interior design, and carpentry. She operates a custom shop and provides on-site carpentry services to help you reimagine your home or business.



**PAUL EPTON** (lighting design, he/him) is back at the Commonweal for two productions this season: *Rumors* and *Doubt*. Commonweal favorite designs include *Come Back*, *Sanders Family Christmas*, and *Silent Sky*. He started designing lights as an undergraduate at Carleton College, spent 4 years in grad school (not in theatre) at Rice University, then returned north to Detroit. He moved to Minnesota in 1992 and continues to design and do tech work for numerous companies. A year-round bicyclist, one of his early designs was for *Spokesong*.



**ADAM LENEHAN** (Lenny Ganz, he/him) is grateful to be back at the Commonweal for another season. You may remember him as Jackson and Kirk in last year's *Women in Jeopardy!* and previously as Bazzard in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Other favorite credits elsewhere include *Afterlife: A Ghost Story*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Crucible*, and *Angels in America*. Adam has a B.A. in Theatre from Barat College and a MSHE and presently works at Luther College. Residing in Spillville, he would like to thank the people (and fur family) in his life for lifting him up, encouraging him to be his authentic self, and pursuing what nourishes his spirit.



**KIM MURPHY** (costume design, she/they) is excited to be joining Commonweal for her third season for *Ugly Lies the Bone* and *Rumors*. Since 2000, Kim has been a costume designer at St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, WI. Kim and her husband, James Shoop live an artistic life in St. Croix Falls and raised two beautiful souls Gabriel and Sienna. Kim and James can often be found at their Gallery at The Northrup King Building in N. Minneapolis. Kim received a B.S. in Apparel Design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and AAS in Fashion Design From the Fashion Institute of Technology-NYC. With G & S in college, opportunities are ahead and sends love to all who have supported her.

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# RUMORS

by Neil Simon

## DESIGNERS & SPECIALISTS

Director	Jaclyn June Johnson
Scenic Design	Cody Beyer
Scenic Design/Intimacy Coordinator	Synth Manuel
Scenic Construction	TiAnna DeGarmo
Costume Design	Kim Murphy
Costume Assistant	Jodi Rushing
Lighting Design	Paul Epton
Props Design	Sara Hueser
Sound Design	Stela Burdt
Production Stage Manager	Isabella Anastasia Leigh
Assistant Stage Manager	Dylan Delagardelle
Assistant Stage Manager	Bri Angle

## CAST

Chris Gorman	Laurie Roberts
Ken Gorman	Tim Sailer
Claire Ganz	Lynda J. Dahl
Lenny Ganz	Adam Lenehan
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## SETTING

The home of Charley & Myra Brock—Snedon's Landing, New York, 1988.

There will be one 15-minute intermission. Please see the front of house staff for the precise run time of each act.

"Rumors" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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## PLAYWRIGHT BIO



**MARVIN NEIL SIMON** (1927–2018) is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific and performed playwrights in theatre history. He wrote more than 30 plays and nearly the same number of screenplays (mostly film adaptations of his plays). Some of his works include: *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *Plaza Suite*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, and *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. His style ranged from farce to romantic comedy to more serious dramatic comedy. Overall, he received 17 Tony nominations and won three awards. In 1966, he had four successful productions running on Broadway at the same time, and in 1983 he became the only living playwright to have a New York theatre, the Neil Simon Theatre, named

in his honor. In 1988, *Rumors* opened on Broadway and ran for 535 performances.

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's no rumor; *Rumors* is a rollicking romp! Before you embark on this boisterous journey, let's celebrate why it's so hilarious. The enduring comedy, the strained yet affectionate relationships, and outrageous circumstances combine in a cocktail of chaotic delight!

Neil Simon's wit and comic timing are at the forefront. The rapid-fire dialogue and absurd situations create a whirlwind of enigmatic energy. As characters navigate the chaos of snowballing gossip, absurd speculation, and conspiratorial cover-ups, Simon makes it easy to embrace the spectacular folly that unfolds.

Then there are the vivid characters. Despite outward appearances of success and sophistication, each grapples with insecurity and vulnerability. From bumbling politicians to sardonic lawyers, we see a rich tapestry of flawed, yet endearing, folks trying to keep up appearances while everything spirals out of control. Furthermore, we see the complexities of marriage through a series of struggling yet loving relationships. For example, there's the career-focused partnership of Ken and Chris, or the fiery chemistry between Lenny and Claire, in which we witness the entanglements of love and marriage in all its messy glory.

I'm delighted to have worked with this talented group of artists in bringing *Rumors* to our stage. With it, we celebrate the absurdity of life, the strength of love, and the power of laughter—all resonating now as much as it did when it premiered in 1988. So sit back, embrace the comedy, cherish the relationships, and revel in the charm of Neil Simon's beloved romp!



## SPECIAL THANKS

The Commonwealth is grateful for a generous anonymous donation in sponsorship of the entire 2024 season. Special thanks also to Lifetime Eye Care of Preston, St. Croix Festival Theatre, Theatre in the Round Players, Inc., and University of Wisconsin-River Falls Theater Department.

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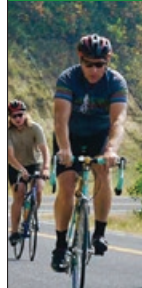


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The lifeblood of the Commonwealth is the MDC, which consists of individuals and households who make a non-binding, 10-year commitment of support. For membership details, please visit the Support page at [CommonwealthTheatre.org](http://CommonwealthTheatre.org).

"When the MDC was initiated, we immediately joined. This level of giving helps ensure a solid financial base for the organization to meet their annual expenses while planning for the future. We encourage you to join us in supporting the Commonwealth, so we all can continue to enjoy the wonderful productions we have come to treasure."

—Jon & Mary Hart



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# Visit the VALLEY

Rushford Peterson Valley, a hidden gem in scenic bluff country with space to breathe and explore! Located 14 miles east of Lanesboro on scenic Highway 16.

## THINGS TO DO

*Experience bluff country by trail or water!*

- Root River Bike Trail: 60 miles of paved trail
- Bluff Country Scenic Byway
- Root River fishing, tubing, canoeing

## PLACES TO STAY

- Inns, campgrounds, vacation rentals

## PLACES TO EAT

- Many local favorites

## PLACES TO SHOP

- Basic necessities or items unique to the Valley



EXPLORE **mi** MINNESOTA

take root  
Rushford-Peterson Valley  
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## Art in the Park

Saturday, June 15, 2024

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music, theater, dance, and more

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