




MAINSTAGE

A black upright piano is shown at an angle, tilted towards the right. The lid of the piano is the primary surface for the title. The text "A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE" is written in a large, white, serif font, with "A" in a smaller, teal, decorative font. Below this, "TO LOVE & MURDER" is written in a smaller, teal, serif font, with "TO" in a small, pink, circular font. The piano's keyboard is visible at the bottom, with several keys missing or broken, and the piano is set against a bright orange background.

**A GENTLEMAN'S
GUIDE
TO
LOVE & MURDER**

APRIL 25 - MAY 11



Congratulations!

to Old Towne Playhouse on another triumphant season from the team at Great Lakes Orthopaedic Center. Your unwavering commitment to artistic excellence and community engagement is commendable. We eagerly anticipate another season of captivating performances that will enhance the artistic vitality of our community. As steadfast supporters of the arts, we are proud to align ourselves with OTP and look forward to being part of the continued vibrancy and creativity you bring to our community.



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GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE **LOVE & MURDER**

Book and Lyrics by

ROBERT L. FREEDMAN

Music and Lyrics by

STEVEN LUTVAK

Based on A Novel by **ROY HORNIMAN**

Orchestrations by **Jonathan Tunick**

Vocal Arrangements by **Dianne Adams McDowell & Steven Lutvak**

Original Broadway Production Produced by

Joey Parnes, Sue Wagner, John Johnson, 50 Church Street Productions, Joan Raffe & Jhett Tolentino, Jay Alix & Una Jackman, Catherine & Fred Adler, Rhoda Herrick, Kathleen K. Johnson, Megan Savage, ShadowCatcher

Entertainment, Ron Simons, True Love Productions, Jamie deRoy, Four Ladies & One Gent, John Arthur Pinckard, Greg Nobile, Stewart Lane & Bonnie Comley Exeter Capital/Ted Snowdon, Ryan Hugh Mackey, Cricket-CTM Media/Mano-Horn Productions, Dennis Grimaldi/Margot Astrachan, Hello Entertainment/Jamie Bendell Michael T. Cohen/Joe Sirola, Joseph & Carson Gleberman/William Megevick

and

Green State Productions

In association with

The Hartford Stage and The Old Globe

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER was developed, in part, at the 2006 Sundance Institute Theatre Lab at the Sundance Resort with continuing Post-Lab Support through its initiative with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Cast

Montague "Monty" Navarro
Brett Nichols

The D'Ysquith Family
Ed Ronco

Sibella Hallward
Katelyn Wilson

Phoebe D'Ysquith
Chelsea Kramer Herrema*

Miss Shingle
Chelsea Kaye

Ensemble
**Steve Ford, Terésa Hirt, Johanna Nimmer, Brighton Shea,
Liliana Sosa Dunn**, Josiah Starr***

*First OTP show **First MainStage OTP Show

Orchestra

Music Directors/Conductors

Elena Stavropoulos; Tyler Clark

Assistant Music Director: **Cherie Van Maanen**

Vocal Director: **Chad Hall**

Clarinet: **Janelle Clouse, Susan Hoekstra, Raleigh Newman,
Ruth Boonzaaijer**

Bassoon: **Jamie Sampson**

Horn: **Jenny Fretland Vanvoorst, Diane Kolak**

Violin I: **Betsy Taylor**

Violin II: **Erin Dodd**

Viola: **Jan Ostrowski**

Cello: **Dan Jones**

Bass: **Abi Umstead**

Percussion: **Roland Woodring**

Keyboards: **Paulette Parsons, Carol Purcell, Megan Schmitz**



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"As You Like It" Act II Scene VII - Shakespeare*

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Director's Note

Growing up amongst a family of creatives, I was exposed to the arts from the start. From a very early age, I watched my mother from the stage footlights portray blind Susan in the murderous thriller *Wait Until Dark* and as the uproariously drunk sidekick, Vera, in the musical *Mame*. I was instantly bitten by the theatre bug. My interests expanded as I grew to include books, television and movies, often watching reruns of old programs. I was most intrigued by 3 categories: Live Absurdist humor, Murder/Mystery, and Romance. My favorites were Monty Python, Stephen King books and movies, and television shows like *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and *The Twilight Zone*. As for romance, I absorbed myself with Jane Austin - *Pride and Prejudice* leading the way.

The Carol Burnett Show was my biggest inspiration behind directing this show. Watching Carol, Harvey, Tim and Vicki, with their rubber faces, in-the-moment comedic reactions, and hysterical, unexpected improvisations began a life-time's appreciation for true comedic genius. *Gentleman's Guide...* for me is kismet; it's the perfect blend of unbridled humor, creative murder, and the often difficult throes of romance.

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder is a rare gem of a musical—wickedly funny, charmingly irreverent, and irresistibly clever. It revels in its own theatricality, inviting us to take a deliciously dark journey through Edwardian England, where ambition knows no bounds, and murder is merely a stepping stone to success. It's a perfect combination of my love for Humor, Murder, and period Romance.

At its heart, this story is about Monty Navarro, a man who, upon discovering his aristocratic lineage, sets out to claim his birthright—by any means necessary. But beyond the laughs, the disguises, and the ever-rising body count, *Gentleman's Guide...* also asks us to consider the absurdity of social status, the cost of ambition, and the unexpected ways in which love complicates even the most meticulous plans.

This production has been a joyous collaboration, filled with the kind of energy and creativity that make live theater so magical. From the quick-change artistry of our D'Ysquith family to the razor-sharp timing of the cast, every moment has been crafted with care, humor, and a deep appreciation for the show's witty spirit.

As you watch, I invite you to revel in the mischief, embrace the madness, and perhaps—just perhaps—root for Monty as he sings, schemes, and stumbles his way to the top.

Enjoy the show!

Colleen Hill-Rakunas, Director
A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder

PRODUCTION

Colleen Hill-Rakunas – Director

Karla Fishburn Asst Director/Sound Run

Rick Porter Stage Manager

Stephanie Johnston Asst Stage Manager

Kate Cosentino Producer

Kendall Kotcher Fight & Death Scenes Coordinator

Sam Whalen Choreographer

Kerr Anderson Set Design

Kathy Verstraete Costume Design

Betsy Hammerberg Wig Stylist

Bernadette Groppuso & Nan Worthington Props Lead

Kathy Stephens & Judy Heffron Props

Bill Fishburn Lighting Design

Gary Bolton Sound Design

Karen Gardner Set Dresser

Elizabeth "Lil' Bit" Stewart Prosthetic Head Creation

Stage Run Crew

**Rico Bastian, Cameron Behl, Daniel Crow, Nicole Damveld, Mia Jones,
Jackson Nichols, Danielle Pelshaw, Stephanie Young**

Set Construction

**Nancy Albrecht, Bob Coltman, John Herbst, Mark Jackson, Jeff Kroeger,
Anne Moeser, Mike Spry, Arnie Taddia, Joe Truhe, Dale Wentzloff**

Set Painting

**Jill Bert, Colin Bohash, Gerilyn Burden, Joe Rice, Clare Shipstead,
Jane Stone**

Costumes

**Margaret Bennett, Katie Clark, Vicki Green, Diane Hubert, Terri Kuhar,
Pat Petrovich, Carrie Walker, Betsy Willis**

Costume Backstage Dressers

**Hayley Bowker, Alex Dunn, Joiya Fishburn, Hannah Gordon,
Betsy Hammerberg, Cathy Louis, Erin Pardo, Elizabeth Stewart,
Mara Van Wagner**

Properties

Kris Hammerberg, Judy Heffron, Kathy Stephens

Light Crew

**Cinder Conlon, Julia Fegan, AJ Fewins, Allison Goldsmith,
Colleen Hill-Rakunas, Jared Oosee, Stephanie Wesley**

Special Thanks

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MARTIN SEXTON

FRI, SEP 6, 2024 8:00 PM

CLAYBOURNE ELDER: GILDED AGE

FRI, SEP 13, 2024 7:00 PM

**STILL WITHIN THE SOUND
OF MY VOICE**

SAT, SEP 21, 2024 7:30 PM

JENENE CARAMIELO: GILDED

SAT, OCT 5, 2024 8:00 PM

TONY DANZA

FRI, OCT 11, 2024 7:30 PM

**INTERLOCHEN IN TOWN:
MUSICAL THEATER**

THU, OCT 17, 2024 7:00 PM

**NEW YORK GILBERT &
SULLIVAN PLAYERS
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

SAT, OCT 26, 2024 7:30 PM

**PIRATE KING'S HALLOWEEN
COSTUME BALL**

SAT, OCT 26, 2024 9:00 PM

THE OZARK MOUNTAIN DAREDEVILS

SAT, NOV 2, 2024 8:00 PM

INTERLOCHEN IN TOWN: JAZZ

FRI, NOV 8, 2024 7:00 PM

BUCKETS N BOARDS

FRI, NOV 15, 2024 7:30 PM

GOOD LOVELIES

SUN, DEC 8, 2024 7:00 PM

**ALL IS CALM:
THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE OF 1914**

SAT, DEC 14, 2024 7:00 PM

HOLLYWOOD REVISITED

SUN, FEB 2, 2025 4:00 PM

TIM KUBART & THE SPACE CADETS

FEB, 8 2025

**INTERLOCHEN IN TOWN:
SINGER SONGWRITER**

THU, FEB 6, 2025 7:00 PM

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HARP

SAT, MAR 8, 2025 7:00 PM

THE MOANIN' FROGS

SAT, MAR 15, 2025 7:30 PM

NETFLIX: OUR PLANET LIVE

TUE, APR 8, 2025 7:00 PM

**ELTON, BILL & BARRY:
THEY WRITE THE SONGS**

FRI, APR 25, 2025 7:30 PM



MUSICAL DIRECTION BIOGRAPHIES

Tyler Clark (Music Director)

Occupation: Software Engineering Manager; At OTP: *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Brett)

Tyler Clark has been involved in theater since grade school, including *Grease* (Danny), *Little Shop of Horrors* (The Dentist), *Angels in America* (Joe) and *Company* (Bobby). In addition to acting, he's music-directed over 100 performances of shows including *Cabaret*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Little Night Music* and *West Side Story*. Conducting is Tyler's first love, and he's thrilled to be conducting his first show at OTP. After graduating from Interlochen Arts Academy, he moved around between Ohio, Virginia, Arizona and Texas. But northern Michigan has always been his heart and, now, his home on Bronson Lake alongside the girl he took to prom here 30 years ago.

Chad Hall (Vocal Director) he/him

Occupation: Business Owner; At OTP: *Fun Home* (Vocal Director), *Indecent* (Vocal Director), *Tommy* (Vocal Director), *Company* (Vocal Director)

Chad is a local business owner, vocal coach, and community choir leader in the Traverse City area. Being involved with music and seeing others succeed is a fuel for his busy life. This is his seventh show as vocal director. Before that he was on the MainStage for several shows at OTP. In his spare time, Chad is the musical director of the Cherry Capital Chorus, a local male a cappella group.

Elena Stavropoulos (Music Director)

Occupation: Adjunct Professor at NMC (Applied Piano and Voice), Music Director at Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church; At OTP: *The SpongeBob Musical* (keyboard)

Elena received her Bachelor of Music degree from Northern Illinois University in 2021 and graduated from the Performer's Certificate program the following year. She studied piano performance, vocal performance, conducting, and composition. Additionally, she played both violin and viola in the Neuqua Valley and Northern Illinois Symphony Orchestras. Elena has worked extensively as a private teacher and has been employed as a collaborative pianist for the Grammy award-winning District 204 high school music program and the Interlochen Center for the Arts. She appeared as a soloist with the RYSO, NIU Philharmonic, and NVSO as the winner of their respective concerto competitions. Additionally, Elena is a certified cantor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America trained in Byzantine music. Elena is currently teaching applied voice and piano at Northwestern Michigan College and is the music director at Archangel Gabriel Orthodox Church in Acme. She is excited to be conducting her first musical with Old Town Playhouse!

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Prologue: A Warning to the Audience – Ensemble

ACT ONE

You're a D'Ysquith – Miss Shingle, Monty

I Don't Know What I'd Do Without You – Sibella

Foolish to Think – Monty

A Warning to Monty – Ensemble

I Don't Understand the Poor – Lord Adalbert, Ensemble

Foolish to Think (Reprise) – Monty

Poison in My Pocket – Monty, Asquith Jr., Miss Barley

Poor Monty – Sibella, Ensemble

Better With a Man – Henry, Monty

Inside Out – Phoebe, Monty

Lady Hyacinth Abroad – Lady Hyacinth, Ensemble

The Last One You'd Expect – Company

ACT TWO

Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying? – Ensemble

Sibella – Monty

I've Decided to Marry You – Phoebe, Sibella, Monty

Final Warning – Monty, Lady Eugenia, Ensemble

Poison in My Pocket (Reprise) – Monty

Looking Down the Barrel of a Gun – Lord Adalbert, Ensemble

Stop! Wait! What?! – Monty

That Horrible Woman – Sibella, Phoebe, Ensemble

Finale – Company



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY

Colleen Hill-Rakunas (Director)

Occupation: Business Manager for Medilodge; At OTP: *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Lighting Design), *Lend Me A Soprano* (Lights), *Waitress* (Lights), *The Wedding Singer* (Lights).

Colleen Hill-Rakunas has acted, produced, stage managed, assistant directed, crewed, lit, and worked for Old Town Playhouse and countless productions for over 13 years. This is her 30th production with OTP. She grew up heavily involved in music and theatre. Professionally, she has a bachelor's degree in business management and currently is a Business Manager for Medilodge. She thanks her son for being a constant source of inspiration and pride. "It has been a joy to work on this production with this wonderful team of people. Many thanks to all of them for their tireless work and dedication. "As always, she must thank the Academy for voting for her.





Brett Nichols



Ed Ronco



Katelyn Wilson



**Chelsea Kramer
Herrema**



Chelsea Kaye



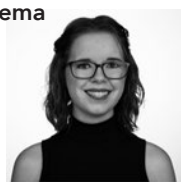
Steve Ford



Teresa Hirt



Johanna Nimmer



Brighton Shea



Lilliana Sosa Dunn



Josiah Starr

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Brett Nichols (Monty Navarro) At OTP: *Chicago The Musical* (Director), *The Who's Tommy* (Captain Walker), *A Midsummer's Night Dream* (Oberon), *Mary Poppins* (Bert)

Brett is very excited to be back on the OTP stage after six years of not performing! "I am exceedingly grateful to the *Gentleman's Guide* production team and cast for taking a chance on awarding such a huge role to an aging performer!" Special Thanks to Rick and Lynne Church for the coaching and support, and to my forever KEN, Jax and G for putting up with the schedule, accents, songs and general lunacy around the house during this production! "Please be kind to one another! Why not right now? Take a moment, turn to the person next to or around you, and smile at strangers! Don't forget, we are all in this together, and we do need one another. Enjoy the show!!"

Ed Ronco (The D'Ysquith Family) he/him; Occupation: Journalist; At OTP: *The Addams Family* (Producer), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Maurice/Cogsworth); *Something Rotten* (Robin)

Ed Ronco returned to his home state of Michigan in 2022 after a dozen or so years out west, working for public radio in rural Alaska and then Seattle. He's proud to be back in the Mitten and delighted to have found Old Town Playhouse, where he's now been involved in four productions and serves on the Artistic Committee. "Working on *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* has been a gift. Thanks to an amazing cast, production team and crew." Ed thanks David for supporting this whole theater thing, friends and family from afar for coming up to see the show, the costume team for their redoubtable tenacity and all of you for coming tonight.

Katelyn Wilson (Sibella Hallward) she/her; Occupation: Jane of All Trades; At OTP: *The Addams Family* (Props Lead), *Waitress* (Jenna), *The Wedding Singer* (Julia)

Katelyn is a graduate of Michigan State University with a BFA in Theatre, and has performed across the state, as well as internationally. She's elated to return to the stage at OTP as Sibella, in her favorite musical, after portraying Jenna in *Waitress* last fall. She has enjoyed filling out her first year with the playhouse both on and offstage and would like to thank her village for endless engagement and support.

Chelsea Kramer Herrema (Phoebe D'Ysquith) she/her; Occupation: TCAPS Instructional Assistant & Substitute Teacher for TCAPS; Private voice, piano and drama teacher; *OTP Debut!*

Chelsea is a lifelong performer who was born and raised in Traverse City. She has performed in theatre, film, television, operas, and choral groups, and has been a featured soloist for weddings, funerals, and special events. She obtained her vocal music degree from Hope College and has taught private voice, music, and drama. Favorite theatre performances - *The Light in the Piazza* (Clara), *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna), *Our Town* (Emily Webb), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Glinda). Thanks to the staff and cast for making her OTP debut a blast, and love to Rob, Dad & Mom, Sibs & fam, music teachers, and friends for the support!

Chelsea Kaye (Marietta Shingle) she/her; Occupation: General Management of Fred Bunstone (and some days, software/tech); At OTP: *The Addams Family* (make up team), *No Exit* (sound), *Lend Me a Soprano* (Jo), *Radium Girls* (Mrs. Roeder) Chelsea is a trained actress and writer, self-made stand-up comedian, and part time bunny wrangler. She hails from TC but spent ~6 years in Los Angeles, cutting her teeth on various creative pursuits, including sourcing the best matcha and donut shops in the city of angels. Now that she's back in her hometown, she's planning a tour of every beach in the region, writing a new one-woman show, and painting enough watercolor flowers to fill The Met.

Steve Ford (Ensemble) he/him; Occupation: High School Mathematics Teacher; At OTP: *Waitress* (Earl), *Something Rotten* (Brother Jeremiah), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Krabs), *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Ruben)

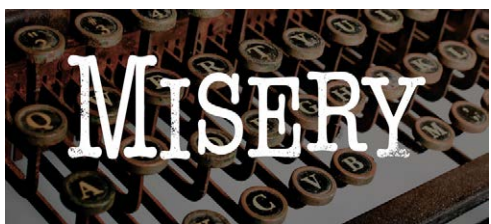
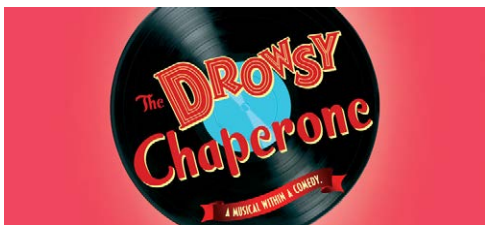
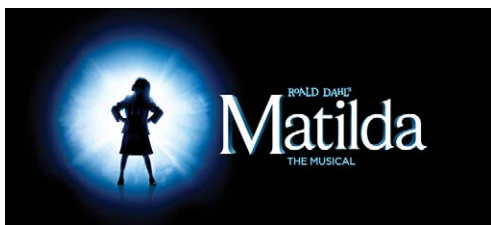
Steve is always happy to be on the OTP Mainstage, making art with his friends. His heart overflows for the Playhouse and the many lives it has brought together. He is a high school teacher by trade and recently directed the Kalkaska High School production of *Clue*. Steve would like to thank Claire and Archie for just about everything.

Terésa Hirt (Ensemble) she/her; Occupation: Special Education Assistant At OTP: *Waitress* (Ensemble/Norma Understudy), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts), *The Christmas Schooner* (Martha), *Aristocats* (OTP Young Company, Vocal Director)

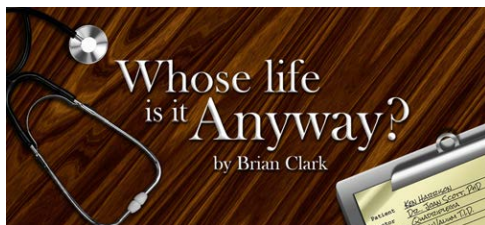
Terésa is delighted to be rounding out this season with such a fantastic farce! She's always excited to flex her comedic muscles, especially while singing amazing music!

(continued...)

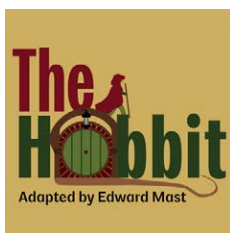
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YOUNG COMPANY 2025-26 SEASON



(Terésa Hirt...continued)

When not on stage, backstage, or generally just enjoying being around the Playhouse, Terésa enjoys crafts of any kind, but especially tatting lace. You can also see her in the recent film *Dogman 3: Fight to the Finish*, her big screen debut. OTP has quickly become the “Third Place” that Terésa always dreamed of. Thanks to everybody at OTP for being the most welcoming, inclusive, talented, and all-round lovely people one could hope to meet.

Johanna Nimmer (Ensemble) Occupation: Veterinary Receptionist; At OTP: *The Addams Family* (Ancestor)

Born and raised in the Chicago area, Johanna was introduced to theatre at a young age. After participating in youth theatre all throughout her childhood, Johanna went to Seton Hill University in Greensburg, PA. There, she received her BFA in Musical Theatre in 2021. After graduating, she decided to take a break from performing. *The Addams Family* was Johanna's return to the stage. And now, she's on a roll.

Brighton Shea (Ensemble) she/her; Occupation: Restaurant Host; At OTP: *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Carol)

Brighton is excited to be making her OTP musical debut in this quirky production! Brighton is currently studying Organizational Leadership and Product Management, however her heart has always lived on the stage. Some of her previous performances include: the play *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Carol), the musical *Sunday in the Park with George* (Louise), and a short play titled *Stuck with Lemons* (Jill). Brighton is very grateful for the cheerful OTP community and for the opportunity to be in this incredible ensemble.

Liliana Sosa Dunn (Ensemble); Occupation: Domino's Insider; At OTP: Young Company *Holiday Cabaret 2024*, *Ride the Cyclone* (Jane Doe), Young Company *Holiday Cabaret 2023*

Liliana is a senior in highschool, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder* marks her first MainStage production since joining the Young Company in fall of 2023! When offstage, Liliana enjoys crochet, jewelry making, and choir. She would also like to thank her friends and family for their continued support.

Josiah Starr (Ensemble) he/him; Occupation: Bartender/Substitute Teacher; *OTP Debut!*

Josiah Starr is an actor, musician, and filmmaker. He enjoys, among other things, movies, music, swimming, hiking, and long walks on the beach.

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Kevin Rhodes piano
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Nancy Stagnitta, Flute
Kevin Rhodes, Piano
MAESTRO | MAR 29/30



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Kevin Rhodes, Conductor
SYMPHONIC | APR 13



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Traverse City, MI 49686

Email: info@northwoodpaint.com
Phone: 231-947-8522
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