

Whose life is it Anyway?

by Brian Clark

January 30 - February 7, 2026

Produced by special arrangement with
THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

Production Team

Don Kuehlhorn Director
Wizard® Stage Manager
Jerry Morse Asst. Stage Manager
Chuck Moeser Producer
Phil Murphy Set Design
Kerr Anderson Set Construction
Kathy Verstraete Costume Design
Wendy Roberts Prop Design
J.W. Morse Stand-In / Body Double



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Cast

Ken Harrison Logan Gawne
Sister Anderson Candice Dunn
Kay Sadler Kathleen Murdock
John Tanner Presswood
Dr. Joan Scott Michelle Perez Dungjen
Dr. Michael Emerson Brian W. Dungjen
Mrs. Gillian Boyle Rachel Levine
Phyllis Hill Patti Carruth
Dr. Paul Travers Matthias Schneider
Peter Kershaw Matthew Rutledge
Mr. Justice Millhouse Gary Bolton
Andrea Eden Tamara DePonio
Dr. Barr Anna Norris

Time: The Present

Place: A hospital somewhere in England



Gary Bolton



Patti Carruth



Tamara DePonio



Brian W. Dungjen



Candice Dunn



Logan Gawne



Rachel Levine



Kathleen Murdock



Anna Norris



Michelle Perez Dungjen



Tanner Presswood



Matthew Rutledge



Matthias Schneider



Please take our
post-show survey.

A Note from the Director...

When I first came to Old Town Playhouse, just after the last ice age, the Studio was a small church basement with a full kitchen and two rocking toilets. They really did rock - bad floors! From there, we moved the Studio Theatre out of the Playhouse for many years - took the show on the road, as it were. Today, we are lucky because it has doubled in size and the bathrooms are modern and not in the actual Studio space. Our newly renovated Schmuckal Theatre has modern LED lighting and a sophisticated seating system. But, then and now, Studio is my favorite performance space. The players and the audience are inches apart.

Into this space we bring a play I saw many years ago, *Whose Life is it Anyway?* It was a controversial topic in the 1996-1997 season and is still thought provoking today. In this show, our lead has a horrendous accident and ends up in the hospital paralyzed from the neck down. They want to curtail all medical treatment and let life take its course. A medical professional, dedicated to saving lives, uses the law to force the person to accept medical lifesaving treatment. But what is life if you can't do what you want, in part because you physically are unable?

Today, we have free choice, in many cases, about accepting or refusing medical treatment. However, personal choice still remains a hot topic over many medical issues. Who has the right to tell someone else what they can and cannot do with their own body? The play raises that question and offers opinions but no solutions. Yes, the play ends with a resolution for the person but the solution is specific to that person. The question still remains, *Whose Life is it Anyway?*

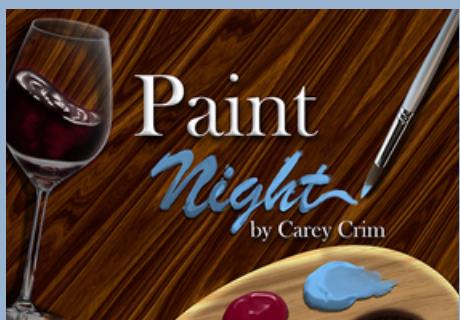
I have the honor to direct a very talented cast in presenting this play in the new, old, refurbished Studio Theater. After many years on the road we have returned to a bigger, better theater. I love it here and hope you will love it too.

- Don Kuehlhorn
Director



Special Thanks

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Six women gather for a much-needed girls' night out. The plan is to eat, drink and create works of art at a local paint and sip night while celebrating a bride to be. But as the alcohol flows, so do their thoughts on motherhood and womanhood, and their carefully curated lives get hilariously and heartbreakingly real.

Cast Biographies

Gary Bolton (Mr. Justice Millhouse) Occupation: Retired Production Manager at Old Town Playhouse, grandfather and lover of life! Previously at OTP: Too many to count!

“There's nothing you can do that can't be done. Nothing you can sing that can't be sung. Nothing you can say, but you can learn, how to play the game, It's easy...All you need is love. “This is Gary's first time on stage in 20 years, but he was integral to the success of OTP in his role as both Production Manager and volunteer extraordinaire for the past 40 years! “I am grateful for the new generation of folks, determined to carry the art of theatre into the future. Bless you!! And thank you Tamera, for believing and supporting the life, that makes us happy.” Gary wishes peace and happiness and much love to all!

Patti Carruth (Phyllis Hill) Occupation: Financial Analyst. Previously at OTP: *The Prince of Egypt* (Ensemble)

“I have always loved the theater – I am so glad to be back on stage!”

Tamara DePonio (Andrea Eden) Occupation: Retired Regional Branch Manager, 4Front Credit Union. Previously at OTP: *Sister Act* (Michelle/Ensemble), *Chicago* (Ensemble, Velma Understudy), *Spamalot* (Choreographer), *Mary Poppins* (Choreographer)

Tamara DePonio is thrilled to join the cast and crew of Old Town Playhouse's studio production of *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* Since moving to Traverse City, she has acted, danced, sung, choreographed, assistant directed, and competed in more than 20 OTP productions. Most recently, she appeared in *Chicago* (2022) as a member of the ensemble and understudy for Velma, and in *Sister Act* (2025) as Michelle and a member of the Ensemble. Tamara is especially excited to return to the OTP Studio stage for the first time since *Doubt*, where she portrayed Mrs. Mueller.

Brian W. Dungjen (Dr. Michael Emerson) Previously at OTP: *Ten November* (Cooper/Lange/Sets), *No Exit* (Lighting/Sets), *Godspell* (Director/Judas), *Chicago* (Ensemble)

Brian has been an OTP volunteer since 1983. He has acted, directed, stage managed, designed sets, dabbled in lighting, worked set crew, worked with Young Company, and had the privilege of meeting a great number of the best people! Brian is also a founding member of Riverside Shakespeare. He holds a degree in Theater Performance from Western Michigan University.

Candice Dunn she/her (Sister Anderson) Occupation: Dialysis Technician. Previously at OTP: *Matilda* (Backstage Crew), *Sister Act* (Nun/Bartender) Candice Dunn is a dialysis technician by day, a student by evening, and an actor whenever she can steal a moment for the stage. She cherishes the meaningful connections and strong bonds she has built within the Old Town Playhouse community. Candice made her OTP debut as a Nun/Bartender in *Sister Act*, where she discovered her love for musical theatre and ensemble work. She later supported the *Matilda* production team by helping run props, gaining a deeper appreciation for the teamwork that brings each show to life. Driven by curiosity, compassion, and creativity, Candice is thrilled to continue growing as a performer and collaborator both onstage and behind the scenes.

Cast Biographies

Logan Gawne he/they (Ken Harrison) Occupation: Catering Bartender/Server. OTP Debut!

Making his OTP debut – and in a major role, Logan is returning to stage for the first time since graduating high school. He is grateful to his fellow players and production for their support (and for his minimal stage directions) and looks forward to entertaining an audience.

Rachel Levine she/her (Mrs. Gillian Boyle) Occupation: Museum Guest Services and Media Coordinator. Previously at OTP: *Ten November* (Production Crew), *No Exit* (Producer), *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon* (Noelle), *Radium Girls* (Producer)

Rachel is excited to be reprising the same role her mother, Anna Norris, played nearly 30 years ago. She has enjoyed being a part of the OTP community nearly her whole life, with roles backstage and on stage, both Studio Theatre and Mainstage. Over the past year, she has co-produced and performed as an unhinged, bespoke ornament maker.

Kathleen Murdock (Kay Sadler) Previously at OTP: *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours), *The Addams Family* (Ancestor/Ensemble), *Radium Girls* (Sob Sister)

Kathleen has been acting since she was 14 years old. Before OTP, she performed with the Pentucket Players in Haverhill, Massachusetts. She has appeared in feature films including *Love, Weddings and Other Disasters*, and can be seen on HBO's *Julia*, playing a restaurant hostess.

Anna Norris she/her (Dr. Barr) Occupation: Retired Speech Language Pathologist with Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District. Previously at OTP: *Ten November* (Production Crew), *No Exit* (Producer), *Radium Girls* (Producer), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Props)

Anna initially began theater at NMC and migrated to Old Town Playhouse in the late '70s to work on props. She continued work on stage and behind the scenes. She has also served on the Board of Artistic Directors for two terms, worked as a Technical Chairperson for Props for multiple seasons, and has performed as minor character parts off and on since her first steps on the OTP stage.

Michelle Perez Dungjen (Dr. Joan Scott) Occupation: News Director/Host/Producer. Previously at OTP: *Ten November* (Director), *No Exit* (Director), *Radium Girls* (Director)

“This season marks my 30th season with the Old Town Playhouse. I am so grateful to have a home where friends have become family.”

Tanner Presswood (John) Occupation: Production Manager at Old Town Playhouse. Previously at OTP: *Roald Dahl's Matilda* (Doctor/Escapologist Understudy), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Rocky), *The Prince of Egypt* (Moses), *Waitress* (Ensemble/Dr. Pomatter Understudy)

Tanner is fired up to be a part of the cast for *Whose Life is it Anyway?* This will be his first time appearing in a straight play in almost 17 years, making this a very exciting and meaningful experience. This will also mark his first Studio Theatre production at OTP. When he's not performing on stage, you can find Tanner racing his wife in Mario Kart, taking his dog for a romp outside, or piling snow along the edges of his driveway. Tanner hopes you all enjoy the show and come back for the next one!

Cast Biographies

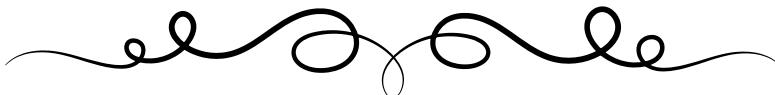
Matthew Rutledge (Peter Kershaw) Occupation: Middle School Science Teacher. Previously at OTP: *Ten November* (Zabinski/Alien Theorist) Matthew Rutledge, a science teacher, musician, writer, and actor, draws inspiration from his family, nature, and time spent on the water. He infuses every role with curiosity and heart. He has a penchant for dad jokes—"I'm afraid of negative numbers; they stop at nothing."

Matthias Schneider *he/him* (Dr. Paul Travers) Occupation: Portraitist. OTP Debut!

Matthias' first performance was in the First Grade. He played the donkey in the manger scene. Into adulthood he fell in love with improv and quickly became a member of the Planet Ant Theatre's improv troupe, the "Hometeam", in Hamtramck, MI. There he performed with the likes of Keegan Michael Key and Tim Robinson. Matthias pursued the Second City in the Motor City and eventually became an understudy for their MainStage. The journey of achieving that goal took some doing. First, he headed west to study acting, in the MFA program, at the University of Montana. He recalls having five different performances in one day! From Missoula he moved to Chicago and immersed himself into the improv scene there. He completed the Chicago Second City's Conservatory and was also on an improv team at I.O. (Improv Olympic).

Creative Team Biographies

Donald Kuehlhorn (Director) has been with Old Town Playhouse for almost 40 years. "When I arrived, I watched my first production at the Playhouse in the Studio Theater, *Tom Paine*, I believe. The theater was half the size; the rest was a kitchen. Now, it is the entire lower level and my favorite place to watch or act or direct a play. As an actor or director, you are right in the audience. As an audience member you are on stage. Scary stuff! All the more reason to do theater in the Studio."



Production Team

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Wizard®	Stage Manager
Jerry Morse	Asst. Stage Manager
Chuck Moeser	Producer
Phil Murphy	Set Design
Kerr Anderson	Set Construction
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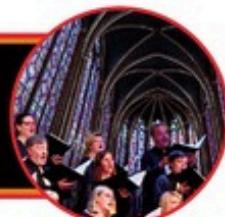
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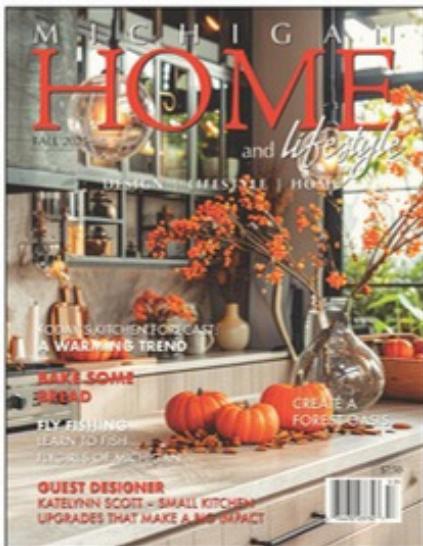
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