

A person with long hair, seen from behind, stands on a stage under a bright blue spotlight. The background is a soft, hazy blue. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of an audience are visible, looking towards the stage.

HERSHEY AREA
PLAYHOUSE

the property known as
GARLAND

BANDSTAND

DIGITAL AUDITIONS DUE 2/22

CALLBACKS AS NEEDED 2/28

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**PER CDC GUIDANCE FOR LOW
COMMUNITY LEVELS, MASKS ARE
CURRENTLY OPTIONAL.**

We are continuing to monitor health and safety measures based on local, state, and federal health recommendations for Dauphin County.

Patrons, performers, and production staff may be masked at any time.



presents

the property known as
GARLAND

BY
BILLY VAN ZANDT

DIRECTOR
PRODUCER/STAGE MANAGER
SOUND & LIGHTING DESIGNER
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
COSTUMES
PHOTOGRAPHY
SET CONSTRUCTION
VOICEOVER ARTISTS

Chiara Meyers
Jonathan Walker-VanKuren
Miguel Santiago
Taylor Swisher
Mary Manning
Toni Carosella
Jeff Miller, Carlton Hoke
Victoria Fredrickson,
David Deitz, Miguel Santiago

"THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS GARLAND" IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT
WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



PRODUCTION NOTES

Welcome to the Hershey Area Playhouse! It is my true delight to welcome you to our first main stage production of the 2023 season—*The Property Known As Garland*. While this may be my first season as Chair of the Playhouse Board of Directors, I am no stranger to this inspirational space and its wonderful community of dedicated artisans, volunteers, and patrons.

Like so many in the Central Pennsylvania area, my involvement with the Playhouse began through beloved friends and passionate family. Through friends, the beginning for me was an invitation to perform, the suggestion to provide talents to lead, and a seduction to contribute to a creative world bigger than my own. Through my daughter's experience with the Theatre Academy, I witnessed first hand the dedication to educational theatre that takes place here, and the inspiration that leads to a lifetime of storytelling and theatre arts excellence.

This production of *The Property Known as Garland* is especially meaningful. Yes, it is the first of our season, but this production is a prime example of the importance of theatre organizations like the Playhouse. Stacy Erdman and Ryan Taylor are experienced and superb actors who are returning to the Playhouse, a stage I know they both treasure and honor with their performances as the iconic Judy and the dutiful Ed. As Stacy and Ryan return to this stage, we celebrate Chiara Meyers' Hershey Area Playhouse directing debut. We are so grateful that she is sharing her experience, knowledge, and vision with us.

Please indulge me while I take a moment to thank the many volunteers and current and past Board and Committee members who make performances like these a reality. Without their generosity of time, talent, and treasure, productions like these would not be possible. We follow a long line of dedicated individuals who have maintained a commitment to quality theatre in Central Pennsylvania. It is an honor to be a part of this tradition, and we thank you for your continued support.

**JASMINE AMMONS BUCHER,
BOARD CHAIR**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Judy Garland. One of the most beloved performers of all time. Her talent continues to live on long after her through countless songs and movies. Everyone knows Judy Garland, the star. But Judy was more than a star. She was a person. Billy Van Zandt's *The Property Known as Garland* allows the real Judy to take the stage. In it, she reflects on her life, the ups and downs that have led to what would be her final performance before her death in 1969, grappling with one question in particular- is she loved?

When asked to direct this show, I was thrilled and terrified. I worried I would not do Judy justice. I was wrong. If I was thinking about Judy as this star, I was missing the purpose of Van Zandt's work: recognizing that Judy was human. I relate to Judy in many ways. A strained relationship with a parent, struggling with self-worth, doubting whether I am loved. Through this show, I felt like I had found a friend I did not know was there. Someone who understood my struggle. It reminded me that we are all people with issues and lives and secrets who suffer occasional breakdowns and need to know someone will be there at the end of the day to say, "I love you." It is a reminder of what it means to be human.

Thank you to my small, but mighty, cast— Stacy and Ryan! It has been an absolute joy to work with you both. A huge shoutout to Jonathan and Jasmine for encouraging me to take on this project. Thank you for your support throughout this very short and very exciting production process. Thank you to the Hershey Area Playhouse for offering me this opportunity as well as the creative visionaries who helped to make this production a reality. I would also like to thank my family and friends for their constant support and love. Thank you especially to my mom who inspires me every day to be who I am.

Finally, I would like to thank the woman for which we are all here tonight: Judy Garland. Not the star, but the person. I hope that you can walk away from this production feeling like you have gained a friend in Judy, someone who understands your struggles. Not because she went through the same thing, but because she is human as well. That is the message I think Judy would want to be remembered for. And I'm sure that somewhere over the rainbow she is encouraging us to share it.

**CHIARA MEYERS,
DIRECTOR**

CAST

JUDY GARLAND		<i>Stacy Erdman</i>
ED		<i>Ryan Taylor</i>

SETTING

The Falconre Centre, Copenhagen, Denmark, March 25, 1969.

CAST



Stacy
Erdman



Ryan
Taylor

CREATIVE TEAM



Chiara
Meyers



Jonathan
Walker-VanKuren



Taylor
Swisher



Miguel
Santiago

ABOUT THE CAST

STACY ERDMAN (JUDY GARLAND) is a performer from Central PA who studied musical theatre at Syracuse University. She has starred in, musically directed, and choreographed many shows. A recent highlight was musical directing the amazing youth cast of *Cinderella: Youth Edition* at the Hershey Area Playhouse. Favorite rolls include Anne in *Hot N Cole* (Hershey Area Playhouse), Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Sarah in *Guys and Dolls* and choreographing *Anything Goes* for the Anthracite Community Theatre. She also has enjoyed being part of the Cocoa Cabaret Series here at the Playhouse. Stacy lives outside Hershey with her husband, Chuck, her sons, Sage and Trey, her daughter, Elyse, and their two dogs. In her free time, she reads, writes, drinks copious amounts of tea, practices yoga, competes in trivia contests, plays the piano, and dances like no one's watching! To afford all of this fun, Stacy is also an educator and certified reading specialist who currently works for the Commonwealth Charter Academy in Harrisburg as a Content Specialist.

Judy Garland was Stacy's first love. She was a child who, like Judy, was performing on stage at 3 years old. In fact, Stacy wanted to be Judy Garland when she grew up (until she became old enough to realize she'd like to pass on the addiction and loneliness components). Therefore, being entrusted to bring Judy to life here at the Playhouse is a lifelong dream come true. Being the exact age as Judy is in this production when she was offered this part, Stacy is humbled to bring Judy Garland to Hershey for your enjoyment.

Stacy would like to thank several very important people that helped her get here today. Her children for their endless support and reminders that "it's okay to be messy sometimes". Her mother for driving her to countless auditions/rehearsals/shows before she could drive, and for being the good kind of stage mother. Her father (and favorite Karaoke partner) for still letting her sit on his lap now that's she's fully grown. Vic Boris for introducing her to Judy Garland and coaching her throughout her childhood to perform as fearlessly and passionately as Judy showed us on the silver screen. Jonathan Walker VanKuren and Jasmine Bucher for providing "instead friendship and a belief in me that astounds." Rosemary Bucher and Kevin Edward Gane for providing her start at the Hershey Area Playhouse with just a video audition! Chiara Myers for being a most valuable director who also cherishes the legacy of Judy Garland. Ryan Taylor for fetching the best mashed potatoes this side of the Susquehanna. But above all, Stacy would like to thank her husband (and mostly-willing line rehearsal partner) for simply being "the best" and tell him how lucky she feels that he was NOT "The Man That Got Away."

RYAN TAYLOR (ED) is very excited to be in his second production at Hershey Area Playhouse. He previously performed in the Playhouse's *Rock of Ages* in 2021. Ryan has been doing theatre since the sixth grade and plans to pursue it in the future. Some of his notable roles include Frank Abagnale Jr. in *Catch me if You Can*, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls*, and *Warner Huntington III* in *Legally Blonde*. Ryan was an apprentice at Gretna Theatre during the summer of 2022 where he performed in the following shows as different featured roles, *Pinkalicious*, *Matilda*, *Elephant and Piggie*, and *Go Dog Go!* Ryan would like to thank his friends and family for their support.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

CHIARA MEYERS (DIRECTOR) is ecstatic to direct the Hershey Area Playhouse's first show of the season, *The Property Known as Garland*. This is Chiara's first time working with the Playhouse. Chiara is honored to work on a piece devoted to such an icon as Judy Garland. A recent graduate, she has a BA in Creative Writing and English from Lebanon Valley College with a minor in history and musical theatre. Chiara is the Education Assistant for the Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards, works as a conductor for the Hershey Trolley Works, is a substitute teacher and advanced dancer at Susquehanna Dance Academy, and is the Assistant Choreographer for LVC's inaugural Musical Theatre Program production of *On The Town*, which performs at the Playhouse this April. This is not her first time directing having directed *Almost, Maine* and *Bonnie & Clyde* while at LVC. Chiara would like to thank her family and friends, especially her mom, for always encouraging her theatrical pursuits. She would also like to thank the Playhouse for giving her this opportunity, Jonathan Walker-Vankuren and Jasmine Ammons Bucher for supporting her throughout this process, as well as the wonderful cast and creative team that have helped bring the show to life!

JONATHAN WALKER-VANKUREN (STAGE MANAGER/PRODUCER) is excited to be stage managing for the first time at the Hershey Area Playhouse. Jonathan is currently an Assistant Professor of Voice at Lebanon Valley College while also maintaining an active teaching, directing, and performing schedule outside of the college. Keep up to date with Mr. Walker-VanKuren by visiting his website, www.jonathanwvankuren.com.

TAYLOR SWISHER (ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER) is a Hershey Area Playhouse board member. She previously performed in *The Wedding Singer* (Holly), *Rock of Ages* (Waitress #1), and as a pit musician for *Sweeney Todd*. Taylor also produces and volunteers with Palmyra High School.

MIGUEL SANTIAGO (TECHNICAL DIRECTOR) is a third-year audio and music production major at Lebanon Valley College. He enjoys all aspects of theater both on and off the stage. As an actor he has performed in a number of roles including Georg Von Trapp in *The Sound Of Music* and Jack Kelly in *Newsies*. More recently he has engaged more in the technical aspect of theatre. Recently, Miguel has done lighting and/or sound design for *Hot N Cole*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Kodachrome*, and *Sweeney Todd*.

JEFFREY MILLER (SET CONSTRUCTION) is a retired Superintendent of Schools from the Methacton School District (Norristown, PA). Previous to his service in Methacton, Jeff was Superintendent of Schools in the Lower Dauphin School District from 1991-2003. A former member of the Board of Directors of the Playhouse and current Operations Manager, Jeff has been in the Playhouse's productions of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Oliver*, and *Fiddler on The Roof*. Jeff is happy to have partnered with Carlton Hoke to build many of the sets for Playhouse productions. Jeff lives in Hershey with his wife, Bonnie and their cat and has been an active supporter of the Hershey Area Playhouse.

CARLTON HOKE (SET CONSTRUCTION) retired from teaching in 2005 after 35 years of teaching art and computer classes in the Derry Township School District. Since then he has designed, constructed, or painted stage settings at the playhouse for many of our productions. He says that working with Jeff on Playhouse projects is the perfect retirement job.

MUSIC CREDITS

"OVER THE RAINBOW"

*Written by E.Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen
Published by EMI Feist Catalog Inc.*

"THE TROLLEY SONG"

*Written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blaine
Published by EMI Feist Catalog Inc.*

"CRY"

*Written by Churchill Kohlman.
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For more information about Hershey Area Playhouse, please visit

HERSHEYAREAPLAYHOUSE.COM

2023 SEASON

the property known as
GARLAND

BANDSTAND

9 TO 5
THE MUSICAL

**FIRST
DATE**

**THE SPONGEBOB
MUSICAL**
YOUTH EDITION

**SCHOOL OF
ROCK**

**Steel
Magnolias**

A
**Charlie Brown
CHRISTMAS**

