

ACT

AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE presents



Ken Ludwig's
Lend Me A Soprano

• February 13th–28th, 2026 •

Production Sponsors

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209 Cedar Street, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034
 (904) 261-6749 and info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org
 ACT was chartered by the State of Florida in 1981 as a not-for-profit corporation.
 Auditions and memberships are open to all.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“To enhance the quality of life of our local (and extended) community by providing excellent, innovative theatrical and artistic experiences through presentation and education.”

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 VICE PRESIDENT..... Peggy Strickland
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 Terri Witkosky • Shea Zaccaro

THEATRE STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR.....Jayme Taylor
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*Thank you for your generous support
in making this production possible!!*

A Note from the Director

"May you live in interesting times," is usually considered a curse. If curse it be, then cursed are we. These are interesting times, indeed. How do we persevere through the "interesting?" Hope. When hope seems elusive, we only need to head to the theatre and there it will be, on stage, reminding us that joy is on the horizon.

Ken Ludwig points out in his essay entitled [Excerpts from Ken Ludwig's "On Comedy,"](#) "Yet all the works of art that I have just described [comedies] contain not only a sense of humanity but, ultimately, a sense of hope for the possibility of joy. These plays, no matter how you slice them, leave us with a sense that with resolution, courage, and the right attitude to the wide world, we can survive anything that life throws at us."^{*}

Lend Me a Soprano is one such play, filled with desperate people in desperate situations. Set in the height of the Great Depression, financial ruin surrounds them. Live musicians are hit hard by diminished audiences and the rise of radio. These characters are faced with unthinkable circumstances that push them to rash, audacious actions. Coupled with Ludwig's quick-witted dialogue, we have no choice but to laugh.

Perhaps, we may even see a bit of ourselves, caught in a desperate time, faced with unthinkable circumstances. Interesting times, indeed! As Ludwig's dynamic characters find their resolutions, may we also find some joy, and most importantly, hope.

With hope and joy,

Janet Hild

All great performances start with a story.



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Amelia Community Theatre proudly presents

Ken Ludwig's

Lend Me A Soprano

Ken Ludwig's Lend Me a Soprano is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

The World Premiere of Ken Ludwig's Lend Me A Soprano was produced by Alley Theatre, Houston, TX
Rob Melrose, Artistic Director Dean R. Gladden, Managing Director

Cast

Mrs. Wylie - general manager, Cleveland Grand Opera Company	Sue Weiner
Jo - her assistant	Amy Baker
Jerry - her son	Anthony Rodriguez
Elena Firenzi - a world-famous soprano.....	Regina Torres
Pasquale - Elena's husband	Carlos Semidei
Bellhop - Beverly, a bellhop.....	Terri Witkosky
Leo - a tenor	Steve Parrott
Julia - Chairwoman of the Opera Guild.....	Lisa Knapp

Lend Me A Soprano takes place in an elegant suite in a first-rate hotel in Cleveland, Ohio, on a Saturday in September, 1934



**EIGHT FLAGS
CHIROPRACTIC**

Production Staff

Director..... Janet Hild
Stage ManagerPeggy Strickland
Technical Director Thomas Muhn
Set Construction..... Bill Bowler, Paul Braeger,
Gary Brunt, Dean Koepp, Jamie Morrill,
Steve Powers, Ed Spang, Wayne Tamme
Set Painting Anne Foos, Jayne Jeney,
Peggy Strickland, Missy Tremblay, Jennifer Webber
Costume Lead..... Vicki Gibson
Costume Crew..... Susan Boggs, Isabelle Bournigault,
Janet Dinsdale, Barbara Grass, Vicki Grethe,
Kathleen Gruber, Peggy Strickland,
Missy Tremblay, Cheryl Witt
Props MistressJudy Tipton
Props CrewMelissa Coon, Jim Tipton, Judy Wilson
Light and Sound Board Operators..... Anne Foos,
Brandon Hester, Jason Taylor



Company Bios



Amy Baker (*Jo*)

Amy is thrilled to be returning after making her ACT debut last October as Lucy Seward in *Dracula*. Some of her favorite past roles include Marian in *The Music Man*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sister Mary Hubert in *Nunsense*, and Portia in *Something Rotten!* Amy would like to dedicate her performance to the loving memory of Noah Scott Horton.



Lisa Knapp (*Julia*)

Lisa returns to ACT having most recently appeared in *Little Women: the Musical* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. Lisa is thrilled to share the stage with such talented actors in this mad cap comedy and to work with its amazing director, Janet Hild and stage manager, Peggy Strickland and all the dedicated crew behind the scenes. Lisa is enjoying retirement with her husband, Bob, who has also become involved in the ACT family. Bob is Lisa's biggest fan, and she is forever thankful for his love and support.



Steve Parrott (*Leo*)

Steve is glad to be back performing at Amelia Community Theatre after 6 years. Steve began acting on the island here at ACT in 2009. He has loved being a part of the production, being with the cast, crew, and getting to see the show come together with the set construction and costumes. Steve would like to thank our fabulous audience members for supporting the arts!

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Anthony Rodriguez (*Jerry*)

Anthony's a voiceover director for video games, audiobooks, and English dubs for film/television. His notable works include the English dubs of: Nikolaj Arcel's "The Promised Land," Jason Yu's "Sleep," and Yang Li's "Escape from the 21st Century." He enjoys playing video games, board games, and singing. Thank you to everyone at ACT, his wife, and Jesus Christ!



Carlos Semidei (*Pasquale Firenzi*)

Carlos is proud to return to the ACT stage as the fiery Signore Firenzi. He was recently seen on the ACT stage as Monsieur Constantine Bouc in *Murder on the Orient Express*. Carlos has a degree in Nuclear Science engineering and Information Technology. He is very grateful to work with this talented cast and for the direction by Janet. Carlos would like to thank his children Adam and Athena for always supporting, loving, and helping him through his wonderful endeavors.



Regina Torres (*Elena Firenzi*)

Regina Torres, who plays Elena Firenzi, brings a thoughtful and thorough approach to performance. She began her vocal journey at the University of Florida and completed her graduate studies at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. A lover of both opera and musical theatre, she enjoys portraying strong complicated women - in both comedy and drama. Ms. Torres performs throughout Florida and shares her passion for singing with students in her First Coast private studio.

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Sue Weiner (*Mrs. Wylie*)

This is not Sue's first time on the ACT stage. Sue has loved getting to work with and watch the other talented actors, even reuniting with her first ever ACT acting partner. Her husband Lee and she share two daughters and a cat. Sue enjoys knitting, sitting, and watching BritBox, along with teaching yoga at the YMCA. She would like to thank Thomas, Vicki, and the rest of the backstage crew.



Terri Witkosky (*Bellhop*)

With her involvement onstage, backstage and as a board member, Terri brings joy to ACT in many capacities. Her Bellhop role allowed her to create surprises and shenanigans, sometimes without even speaking. She loved working with the director, cast and supporting crew of this production, and is grateful for her husband, adult children and friends. Hobbies outside the theatre include bike riding, chasing the little white ball around the golf course and cooking for those she loves!



Janet Hild (*Director*)

Janet is humbled and awed by the talent and community that surrounds her as she brings this production to the stage. What a gift! She is grateful for her husband Dave, two sons and future daughter-in-law who have provided her with love and encouragement, throughout the production process. Janet says the character of Jo resonates with her because Jo transforms during the show to a woman who takes charge of her own talents and becomes an irresistible presence onstage and off. When not at the theatre, Janet enjoys reading and traveling.



Peggy Strickland (*Stage Manager*)

One of the fun aspects of being involved at ACT is the many hats I get to wear (and not just as part of a costume). Being Vice President of the Board, heading up props, serving on the ACT-ed committee, and working at the box office are some of the ways I'm serving. With *Lend Me a Soprano*, I'm adding a new chapeau to my collection – Stage Manager. It's such a joy to work with our wonderful director Janet Hild and our fabulous cast and crew.

Ovations

Please join us in thanking the following businesses and individuals who so graciously helped us to present...

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Anne Foos



When an organization goes through a transition, it is reassuring to have a volunteer regularly show up with the words “How can I help?” That sentiment, delivered with a positive attitude, inspires other volunteers to do the same. It also perfectly describes our Volunteer of the Year for 2025-26.

Ever since Anne Foos walked into a Volunteer Open House in 2021, she has helped with almost every show. She builds sets, she paints sets, she takes sets apart. Most often, she can be found in the Tech Booth either manning the light board or running the sound cues. She also has been part of our stage crew. That’s

why it was so beneficial this year to have all that extensive backstage knowledge to provide guidance to people assuming new roles in an all-volunteer theater. Her steady presence and calm demeanor were reassuring to everyone working alongside her to continue the professional quality of shows that ACT presents.

This year Anne took on additional new responsibilities and showed initiative as she volunteered all day at the ACT Golf Outing, offering to do whatever was needed.

Although Anne is very quiet, her attention to detail never wavers. In another life before moving to Amelia Island, she was the staff member for a network television show who made sure the person going on stage was properly dressed, and everything was in place. Her concentration and consistency are a big part of her personality.

Anne also is a strong advocate for ACT to her friends, especially her pickleball friends, and encourages attendance at all our shows. Outside the theatre, Anne and her husband, Kevin, are passionate car enthusiasts and love traveling.

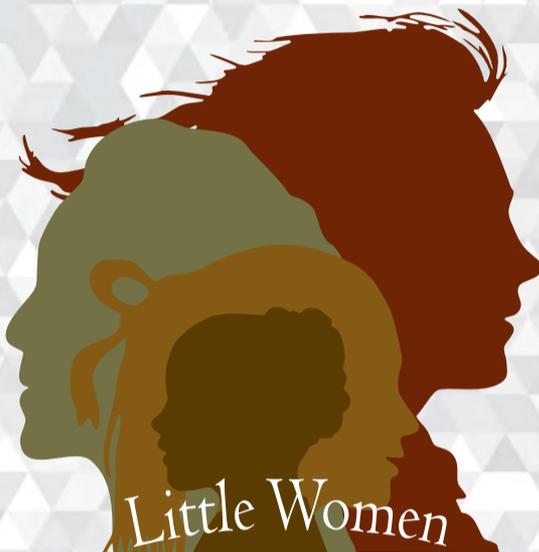
Anne is smart, kind, flexible, a team player and just a joy to be around. It’s hard to imagine that anyone could volunteer at our theatre as much as this woman has, and talk so little. You may not know her and all she does, but we couldn’t do it without her. She is an asset to ACT and we are very proud to introduce and congratulate her on being Volunteer of the Year!

ACT 45th Season

AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE



OCTOBER 2025



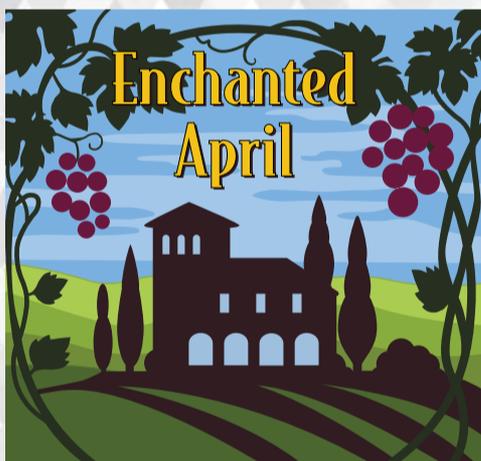
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Amelia Island is Your Theatre Destination. Our premier community theatre brings people together to share fun and moving stories we know you will enjoy. It's a warm and welcoming environment where you can be a part of a dynamic and friendly community. Our mission is to bring the world of theatre to this beautiful location with unique, high-quality productions that are simply outstanding. We believe this season we have something for everyone, from big Broadway musicals, to hysterical comedies, to the classic murder mystery. It's a dynamic season you won't want to miss!

TICKETS:

AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org/main-stage