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COMMUNITY
THEATRE
SEASON 41

PRESENTS



Miss Bennet
Christmas at Pemberley

by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

SPONSORS

PRODUCTION: Anonymous, in Memory of Mom at Christmas

COSTUMES: Amelia Islander Magazine

SET: Stifel, Price Wealth Management, Robert Price

December 2021

*Every house seeks a story
to fill it with the memories
of a well played Song*

*The Song
of Life
and Living
melting into
One*

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cherished
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AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE
PRESENTS

Miss Bennet
Christmas at Pemberley
by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

Lisa Howard-Welch

Director

Richard Smith

Directing Assistant and Stage Manager

Wendy Wilson

Stage Manager

Michele Glazer

Assistant Stage Manager

MAIN STAGE

December 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 2021

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

MISS BENNET: CHRISTMAS AT PEMBERLEY was originally produced by Northlight Theatre, Chicago, Illinois (BJ Jones, Artistic Director; Timothy Evans, Executive Director).

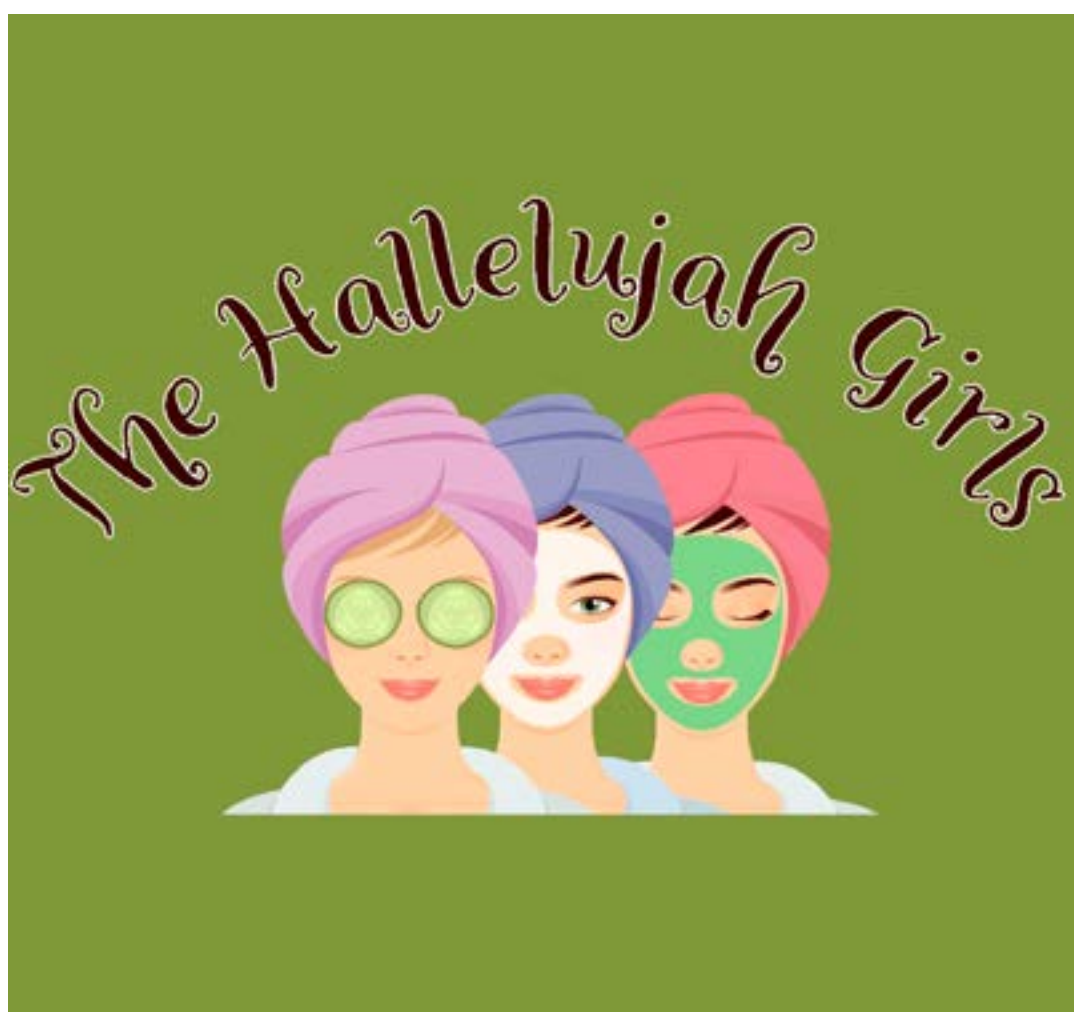
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the benefits of sponsorship.

OUR NEXT SEASON41 SHOW



by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten

The Hallelujah Girls
follows the lives of six feisty, Southern women!

Sugar Lee decides to start living her life to the fullest by purchasing an abandoned church to turn into a spa. Her friends pitch in to help her. These spirited, middle-aged gals bring their own hilarious predicaments into the story, as they build the Spa-Dee-Dah!

On the Main Stage
February 11-26, 2022

Notes from the Director...

I've always thought of novelist Jane Austen's body of work in terms of a brightly colored confectionary, offering a new delicacy with each story. Her writing is decadent and delicious, and her elegantly crafted characters carry us along on their captivating adventures in love and life.



Austen's stories make us feel as though we are peeking into moments of her own life filled with heartbreak, joy and impassioned young love. Her intrigues, diversions and exquisitely lush look at an idealized 19th century England allow us to visualize what our own Regency world might look like. Austen may not be solely responsible for the 21st century's love affair with the Regency era, but she is the woman who most certainly led the charge.

The simple complexity of her characters' stories always leaves us satisfied, but wanting more, which is probably why they experience many more adventures and intrigues through the eyes of other authors. Even after the last page of one of Austen's books has been turned, we are looking for Elizabeth Bennet, Emma Woodhouse, Fanny Price and Mr. Darcy to explore new enchantments.

Hence, *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* is set two years after Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* ends.

This delightful Christmastime story takes you on a trip to spend the holiday with relatives, which many of us do this time of year. Some of the same personalities that we experience at our own holiday gatherings will be found at this family celebration: the spoiled sister with the rogue of a husband, the awkward middle sibling who is afraid she will end up living in a relative's attic, and the manipulative cousin who just happens to drop in to cause trouble. We're certain you will recognize your relatives in her characters!

I have been gifted the opportunity to direct this charming story of love. With the help of a wonderful cast of young performing artists and a dedicated crew, we share this gift with you.

Additionally, we are grateful for the support of our show sponsors, including an Anonymous Production Sponsor, Costume Sponsor Amelia Islander Magazine and Set Sponsor Stifel, Price Wealth Management, Robert Price. Thank you!

Lisa Howard-Welch, Director



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Scene Synopsis

SETTING

December 1815

A large drawing room and attached library of Pemberley, the grand estate of Mr. and Mrs. Darcy.

In the past, it was quite formal, but daughter Lizzy has warmed it up with a sense of home.

ACT ONE

Prologue: Letter from Mary to Elizabeth

SCENE ONE	December 22, 1815 Afternoon at Pemberley Estate
SCENE TWO	That Evening
SCENE THREE	December 23, 1815, Morning
SCENE FOUR	Afternoon
SCENE FIVE	Same Day, Decorating the Tree
SCENE SIX	Afternoon, Later
SCENE SEVEN	Afternoon, Later Still
SCENE EIGHT	Afternoon, Even Later

*There will be a 15 minute intermission.
Please visit our lobby for refreshments.*

ACT TWO

SCENE ONE	December 24, 1815, Morning
SCENE TWO	Morning, Later
SCENE THREE	Morning, Later Still
SCENE FOUR	Christmas Day



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Cast

(in order of appearance)

ELIZABETH DARCY.....Jessica Tita
MARY BENNET.....Juliet Welch
LADIES' MAIDMokena Lipinski
FITZWILLIAM DARCY.....Trey Stafford
JANE BINGLEY.....Sharon Parker
CHARLES BINGLEY.....Ryan Sadler
LYDIA WICKHAM.....Charlee Lawrence
ARTHUR DE BOURGH.....Nicholas Marquardt
ANNE DE BOURGH.....Clarisse Phillips



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Cast Biographies



Charlee Lawrence

(Lydia Wickham)

Charlee's favorite line in the play actually belongs to Mary, when Mary says "I am not upset, Beethoven is upset." Charlee has loved the friendships she has made. She would like to give extra special thanks to director Lisa Howard-Welch for her acute attention to detail and guidance as Charlee explores her future.

She also appreciates her parents for their support and commitment, and her workplaces, Amelia Island Coffee and Villa Villekulla, for their flexibility. A student in Musical Theatre at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, her interests include cute cow pictures and saying "chicken nugget" out of context.



Mokena Lipinski

(Ladies' Maid)

Mokena has previously appeared on the ACT stage and has embraced her role as the Ladies' Maid in this production. Mokena feels she has grown a great deal in this small-cast setting, and she wants to give a special ovation to her mother. As a junior at Fernandina Beach High School, Mokena enjoys history and singing.

She is supported in this show by her younger sister, Lyra, her loving mother, and many aunts and uncles.

Cast Biographies



Nicholas Marquardt

(Arthur de Bourgh)

Nicholas' favorite line in the play "It is cruel to imagine a life different than the one you may attain," helped him to connect with his character, Arthur, and his quiriness. Although Arthur has accomplished much, he still has self-doubt. Nicholas gives a special shout out to Minda Larsen and Lisa Howard-Welch. He is also thankful for the support of his significant

other, Briana Persin, and his daughter Lydia Mae. Nicholas works at Anheuser-Busch, and enjoys the ocean, the environment, health and fitness.



Sharon Parker

(Jane Bingley)

Previously seen on the ACT stage and elsewhere locally, Sharon is happy to be in this production of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Sharon loves *Pride and Prejudice* and says it's fun to think about what happened after that story, as it is presented in this play. She has really enjoyed working with the whole cast

and crew. Sharon is fond of the line "If only there were something one could do for her," because it shows how Jane cares for her sister and wants to help out. Sharon wants the audience to know that she lived in New Zealand for the last three years.

SEASON 41 MEMBERSHIPS

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12 Ticket - \$260

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2021-2022 Season Shows

Flaming Idiots

by Tom Rooney

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

by Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

The Hallelujah Girls

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie Wooten

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical

Book by DENNIS KELLY Music & Lyrics by TIM MINCHIN

Based on the book by Roald Dahl

Radium Girls

by D.W. Gregory

One Man, Two Guvnors

by Richard Bean

Cast Biographies



Clarisse Phillips

(Anne de Bourgh)

Clarisse has always loved theatre, but this cast in particular has been so much fun to work with, she says. She is currently working on an associate arts degree, but plans to transfer to a larger, theatre-focused school after that. She loves to entertain, and hopes that no matter the outside situation of the audience members, they leave the

theatre a little bit happier. She loves Anne's line "A sooner intervention might have prevented your more eccentric style from rooting." Clarisse loves puns, and the fact that Anne refers to the Christmas tree as something that has "rooted," makes her laugh.



Ryan Sadler

(Charles Bingley)

Ryan loves to say his line "Yes, de Bourgh, but it is an extraordinary event for us." He says there never has been a dull moment with this cast and crew. He gives a shout out to Lorde for her new album *Solar Power* because it taught him to believe in his own power, including his plan to be a double income family with no kids. He plans to

teach theatre, but for now, works in food service. He will be attending FSCJ in the spring for theatre. His special skill is being able to tell who is playing Elphaba and Glinda in *Wicked* within three seconds of hearing the audio.

Cast Biographies



Trey Stafford

(Fitzwilliam Darcy)

Seen earlier this year as Algernon Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Trey is back on the ACT stage in another terrific period piece, this time in the Regency period. Trey uses his line "Very good then" to perfectly describe his portrayal of Darcy, because Darcy is caring and polite, yet with a solemn personality. Trey has loved learning how to play such a

complicated and iconic character. With a master's degree in computer engineering, Trey is a teacher at Fletcher Middle School. His hobbies include reading, writing, cooking and baking.



Jessica Tita

(Elizabeth Darcy)

If Jessica and her brother had a pond, Jessica can imagine that she could be as annoyed as her character Lizzy is with her sisters when she says "It is Christmas and we shall enjoy our time together or I am throwing both of you in the pond." She loves that the cast gets along so well. Jessica is appreciative of her parents, her

brother Phillip, her giving grandparents, Bill and Marcela, and her dog Bella. A student at Fernandina Beach High School, Jessica works at GoJuice. Her interests include drawing and painting, reading, writing poetry, piano, singing, dance and theatre.

2020-2021 ACT/Maureen Melugin Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award



Peggy Strickland

Volunteer Peggy Strickland gives countless hours to ACT. She has a rare combination of a highly experienced theatre professional with a unique creative flair. Peggy's dedication to ACT is seen and felt in everything she does.

During the past season, Peggy served as president of the ACT Board of Directors when the pandemic was extremely challenging and required flexibility and patience. While president, she also chaired the fundraising

committee, held regular meetings with her group of other volunteers, and managed innovative projects to raise extra income. The Bingo Night fundraiser, one of the committee's new efforts, was fun and profitable.

Peggy is also ACT's props coordinator, spending many hours last year purging, organizing, and labeling all the theatre's props now located in the Studio 209 building. She even worked on the props crew for *Those Who Fall in Love Like Anchors Dropped Upon the Ocean Floor*.

Peggy's talents as a costumer were also utilized as she helped with many of last season's shows. She even found time to co-direct *You Can't Take It With You*. In typical Peggy spirit, co-directing this show was concurrent with cleaning the bathrooms and green room during rehearsals and performances. No job is too big, too small, or too messy for Peggy!

She also contributed her boundless energy and acting talents, appearing onstage in the Peppermint Players' *All at Sea* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Outside of ACT, Peggy has strong connections with her church community and various dance groups, where she tirelessly recruits new volunteers and invites people to the shows. When Peggy talks about ACT in the community, she emphasizes ACT's high standards for excellence.

We appreciate you, Peggy Strickland, and congratulations on being named Volunteer of the Year!

Cast Biographies



Juliet Welch (*Mary Bennet*)

Juliet is back on the ACT stage after her last performance in Studio 209 several years ago. She says she has enjoyed meeting and working with new people on this show. Juliet is an enthusiastic cat fan, as she describes her two cats as "gorgeous." Desma is a shorthair calico who is fat and sassy and Oberon is a Maine coon mix who is fluffy and orange.

Juliet loves baking, reading and occasionally knitting overly large scarves.



Bravo! Bravo!

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Production Team

Director	Lisa Howard-Welch
Directing Assistant and Stage Manager	Richard Smith
Stage Manager	Wendy Wilson
Assistant Stage Manager	Michele Glazer
Dramaturge.....	Catherine Willford
Show Company Manager.....	Sharon Parker
Technical Director	Geoffrey Moss
Set Construction Crew.....	Bill Bowler, Robert Busler, Jim Emerson, Anne Foos, Jim Ramage, Ed Spang, Missy Tremblay, John Weller
Set Painting Crew.....	Anne Foos, Jayne Jeney, Jim Ramage, Missy Tremblay, Jennifer Webber
Light Operator.....	Anne Foos
Sound Operator	Scott Bobeck
Show Photographer	Bob Eberle
Set Decoration.....	Diane LaPatra
Costumes	Pat Henderson, Chris Partleton
Crew	Cheryl Allen, Linda Busler, Kathy Davidson, Barbara Farnsworth, Barbara Shapiro
Props	Peggy Strickland
Crew.....	Cheryl Allen, Barbara Grass, Jackie Piersanti, Elizabeth Sawyer, Kathryn Sawyer, Marybeth Tita
Biography Writer	Jayne Jeney
Program Editor	Barbara Farnsworth
Usher Coordinator	Debbie L. Price
Box Office Manager.....	Meghan Maranto
Crew.....	Sarah Ballenger, Wendy Jean, Tabitha Mudd, Alice Payne
Publicity/Promotion.....	Barbara Farnsworth, Linda McClane, Meghan Maranto
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Lobby Decorations.....	ACT Guild

We also thank our volunteers who serve as ushers and bartenders, and appreciate all other volunteers whose names do not appear in the program.

Ovations

We thank the following businesses and individuals who helped us present...

Miss Bennet Christmas at Pemberley

- Amelia's Attic
- Amelia Islander
- Amelia Island Museum of History
- Andrew Welch
- Craig Belcher & Toni D'Amico
- Elizabeth & James Layman
- Janet Hild
- Joseph Stearman
- News-Leader
- The Tom Nehl Fund of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida
- Robin Pullen

NEW EVENING SHOW TIME

Our 2021-2022 Main Stage evening shows now start at 7:30 pm.

The evening lobby and bar will open at 6:30 pm, and seating will begin at 7:00 pm. The matinee show time remains at 2:00 pm. The matinee lobby and bar will open at 1:00 pm, and seating will begin at 1:30 pm.

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Don Davis
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Harris
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SEASON 41 CONTINUES!

The Hallelujah Girls



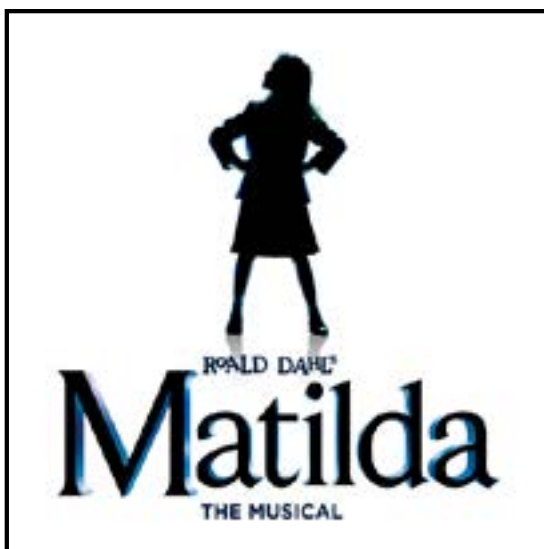
by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope,
and Jamie Wooten

**7:30 pm: February 11, 12, 17, 18, 19,
24, 25, 26, 2022**

2 pm: February 13, 20, 2022

Southern Comedy When Sugar Lee decides to start living her life to the fullest by purchasing an abandoned church to turn into a spa, the only thing her friends can do is try to help. These spirited, middle-aged Southern women bring their own hilarious predicaments into the chaotic situation, as they build the Spa-Dee-Dah and launch their new, improved lives! *(PG: Mild Innuendo)*

Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical



Book by DENNIS KELLY
Music & Lyrics by TIM MINCHIN
Based on the book by Roald Dahl

**7:30 pm: April 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23,
28, 29, 30, May 1, 2022**

2 pm: April 24, 2022

Musical, Winner of 5 Tony Awards! A young girl with a bright imagination, astonishing wit, and psychokinetic powers uses her courage to fight against the evil headmistress. This inspiring musical brings the larger-than-life tale to the stage. Matilda won't let impossible challenges stop her or her friends from changing their stories. *(PG: Fantasy and Intense Situations)*

Production Biographies



Lisa Howard-Welch

(Director)

Lisa has spent over three decades as an actors' coach, acting educator, director and actor. She has loved seeing her talented, amazing, and fearless cast in this show grow into the Regency world, as first she advised them, and then watched them explore on their own. With inspiration from Tener Wade, during a challenging season last year, she was thrilled to be back directing in front of live students during 2021's Shakespeare summer camp. Her interests outside the theatre include art, history, architecture, herbalism studies and all things Shakespeare. Lisa is married to her creative, British husband, Andrew, who currently is on a concert tour, doing lighting and automation. Keeping her company while he travels, are her "kitten children" William, Angus Beef Pony, Gribbles and Pippa.



Michele Glazer

(Assistant Stage Manager)

New to ACT, Michele has loved working on a period piece, set at Christmas, while getting to know the cast and crew. She is a theatre graduate from the University of Arizona, former television sitcom writer, and currently works for Dow Jones/*The Wall Street Journal*. Her main interest is theatre, but she also enjoys gardening, hiking, travel, reading and yoga.

Production Biographies



Richard Smith

(Directing Assistant & Stage Manager)

Last seen on the ACT stage in *You Can't Take it With You*, Richard's favorite on-stage role was as Drake, the butler in *Annie*. Now, he is enjoying a different role backstage with enthusiastic young actors being led by an accomplished director. Richard and his wife, Sheila have been involved with ACT for four years. He is retired from manufacturing management,

but he always has enjoyed amateur theatre, along with model building, gardening and family activities. He also enjoys serving God and the community by volunteering at the hospital, and the police auxiliary.



Wendy Wilson

(Stage Manager)

Wendy is another talented actor and crew member at ACT. She appreciates her friends and family who support and encourage her. Her three children all are living their own lives and she loves them all for the special people they are to her. Wendy has been seen onstage at ACT and has been indispensable as a stage manager, props crew and makeup artist. She retired from the

United States Navy as an Air Traffic Controller after 22 years, and currently is a substitute teacher in Nassau County. She loves singing in the Grace Notes, a contemporary Christian band, travel, playing golf and visiting with friends.

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SEASON 41 CONTINUES!

Radium Girls



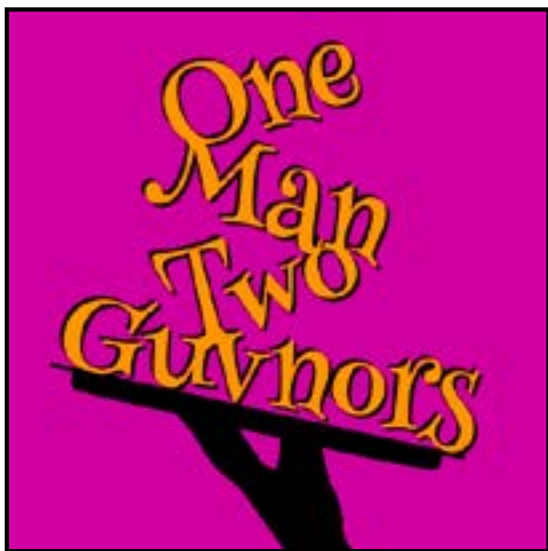
by D.W. Gregory

**7:30 pm: June 10, 11, 16, 17, 18,
23, 24, 25, 2022**

2 pm: June 12, 19, 2022

Historical Drama Based on a true story, Grace works for the U.S. Radium Corporation, painting dials on watches. She is taught to twist the glowing paintbrushes with her mouth to get the perfect lines on each watch. Grace's coworkers fall ill and die from mysterious causes; always explained or hidden by U.S. Radium Corporation. Did the women know each drop of paint was killing them? Grace fights against everyone for her day in the courtroom and all their rights. *(PG-13: Adult Language and Topics)*

One Man, Two Guvnors



by Richard Bean

**7:30 pm: August 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26,
27, 2022**

2 pm: August 14, 21, 2022

Comedic Farce This Tony Award-winning comedy is full of outrageous shenanigans. Francis, who is down on his luck and looking for a proper meal, suddenly finds himself employed by a mysteriously not-dead gangster and the surprised murderer of the not-dead gangster! With panic and an ever-growing hunger, can Francis solve the mystery, get paid, and finally get a decent meal? *(PG-13: Adult Language and Innuendo)*

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Synovus.....	16
<i>In Memory Of.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Season41 Donors.....</i>	<i>23, 25</i>
<i>Season Membership Form.....</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>ACT Board of Directors.....</i>	<i>28</i>

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What Do ACT Volunteers Do? Direct and act in shows, stage manage, work on lights and sound in the tech booth, costume the actors, work in the box office, build and paint sets, and much more!

How to Volunteer: Simply visit us online at AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org and click on the "I Want to Volunteer!" link to get started.

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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 provide quality theater and artistic experiences to the community through participation and presentation”

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TREASURER.....Linda Rogers
SECRETARYMissy Tremblay
DIRECTORS Violet Boerescu, Karen Bowden,
John Chastine, Bruce Gruber, Lisa Howard-Welch,
Ron Leiseca, Cindy Levine, Robin Pullen,
Trudie Richards, Andrew Schmidt

THEATRE STAFF

TECHNICAL DIRECTORGeoffrey Moss
BOX OFFICE MANAGERMeghan Maranto

VOLUNTEER STAFF

BUILDING MANAGERScott Kessler
MEMORIAL CHAIR Caroline Wyatt

PAST ACT LEADERSHIP

Ellen Green Ensley, managing director 1981 - 1985

Mary L. Hurt, artistic director 1985 - 1998

Linda McClane, managing director 1998 - 2019