



PRESENTS

AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

FIRST DATE

Book by
Austin Winsberg

Music & lyrics by
Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner



JUNE
7th - 22nd
Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm
Sunday 2pm



(904) 261-6749

AMELIACOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG

INFO@AMELIACOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG

207 CEDAR ST. FERNANDINA BEACH, FL



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."

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THEATRE STAFF

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TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Geoffrey Moss
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AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE

PRESENTS

FIRST DATE

Susan Dodge

Director and Choreographer

Geoffrey Moss

Music Director

Jennifer Jaress

Stage Manager

MAIN STAGE

June 7 - 22, 2024

The video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Originally Produced on Broadway by: Junkyard Dog Productions ,Stem , Productions, Altar Identity Studios, Alex and Katya Lukianov, Susan and Jim Blair, Linda and Bill Potter, in association with Yasuhiro Kawana, Vijay and Sita Vashee, Kevin and Lynn, Foley, Jeff and Julie Goldstein, Edward and Mimi Kirsch, Frank and Denise Phillips, Steve Reynolds and Paula Rosput Reynolds, Land Line Productions, Alhadeff Family Productions/Sheri and Les Biller, Pat Halloran/Laura, Little Theatrical Productions, Tony Meola/Rommel T. Dickinson and John Yonover and ShadowCatcher Entertainment/Tom and Connie Walsh.

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Notes From The Director...

The first time I read the script for *First Date*, I knew I had to direct this musical. I practically spit out my drink (and thank goodness it wasn't on the script!) because the lead characters' struggles on a first date hit so close to home. We've all been there - putting ourselves out there and wondering if we'll find "The One", or at least someone who won't ghost us after the main course.

This musical captures the battle of fighting the voices in your head, the pressure of family values, and the modern-day frustrations of online dating in a way that is identifiable.

But this isn't just a musical for the romantically-challenged. With its small but mighty cast, catchy tunes, and countless comedic directions, *First Date* is a musical for everyone. Whether you're single, coupled up, or somewhere in between, you're bound to see yourself (or your embarrassing cousin) in these characters.

And let's not forget the NYC setting! As a director who's been around the block in that bustling city, I can't wait to bring to life on stage the relatable chaos of first dates in the Big Apple.

Get ready to laugh, cringe, and everything in between. *First Date* is a musical that will have you feeling **allllll** the feelings - from start to finish.

Susan Dodge, Director

SETTING

A restaurant in New York City

Time

Set in the present.

There will be no intermission.



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Cast

Aaron

Casey

Woman #1

Woman #2

Man #1

Man #2

Will Wiley

Heather Starling

Elisha Cauthen

Nicole Sheehan

Paul Rogers

Geoffrey Moss

Production Team

Director and Choreographer

Music Director

Technical Director

Stage Manager

Stage Crew

Set Construction Crew

Susan Dodge

Geoffrey Moss

Geoffrey Moss

Jennifer Jaress

Vicki Gibson

Bill Bowler

Dewain Hanlon

Jamie Morrill

Missy Tremblay

Anne Foos

Jayne Jeney

Peggy Strickland

Missy Tremblay

Jennifer Webber

Anne Foos

Scott Bobeck

Isabelle Bournigault

Missy Tremblay

Karen Bowden

Painting Crew

Light Board Operator

Sound Operators

Costumer & Props

Photographer

Cast Biographies

In order of appearance



Will Wiley (Aaron)

Will is grateful to be able to return to ACT for another production. He recently finished his run of *Escape to Margaritaville* at Alhambra Theatre and Dining. An actor based in North Florida, Will has also performed in *Something Rotten*, *The Nutcracker*, *Billy Elliot: The Musical* and *The Rocky Horror Show*. Instagram: @willohwiley"



Heather Starling (Casey)

Heather is so excited to be back performing at ACT. She was last seen as Judy in *9 to 5, The Musical*. Some of her favorite roles on Amelia Island have been Lucy in *Jekyll and Hyde*, Mary in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Pickles in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*. Heather would like to thank all the staff and volunteers at ACT for always making her feel so welcome, and this hilarious cast and crew for going on this date with her. All my love to Daniel, Benny, Bea, and Bruce.



Elisha Cauthen (Woman #1 - Grandma Ida, Lauren, Instagram, Female with Megaphone #2, Aaron's Mother)

Elisha is an actress, dancer, singer and choreographer. She has performed in multiple musicals/plays, such as *Elf The Musical*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *West Side Story*, *White Christmas*, *Little Women*, *9 to 5, The Musical*, *Annie*, *Addams Family*, *Tommy*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Hairspray*, *Camelot*, *Mary Poppins*, and has choreographed many musicals like *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Little Mermaid*, *Guys and Dolls*, *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical*, *HighSchool Musical*, *White Christmas*, *Little Women*, *9 to 5, The Musical*, *Camelot*, and *1944 Noel*. Elisha is a full-time dance instructor at Lisa Allen's Dance Works. She's been dancing since the age of 2 and is proficient in multiple genres of dance. The performing arts is her passion and it shows in whatever she does!



Nicole (Nikki) Sheehan (Woman #2 – Allison, Google Girl, Female with Megaphone #1)

Nicole is thrilled to play Woman #2 in this production of *First Date*. New to ACT, Nicole recently moved to Amelia Island from Boston, and instantly fell in love with the energy and spirit of her fellow cast and crew. Favorite previous roles include St. Jimmy in *American Idiot*, Lois in *Dear Friends*, and George in *Godspell*. In addition to this incredible cast and crew, Nicole would like to thank her family and in-common-laws for their support and encouragement, particularly her partner, Jake, who fulfilled many of her womanly duties while she put in hours rehearsing. Nicole and Jake share their home with their tuxedo cat, Desmond, Bengal cat, Uly and Vizsla, Syl. Nicole is privileged to work remotely for Massachusetts General Hospital, providing operations, talent management and financial operations support to the development department. When not working, performing or tending to the needs of her spoiled fur children, you may find her at Aurora's Dog Park, stumbling and falling all over town as she learns to quad skate for an upcoming role, or - most likely - sleeping. Catch her in Buffalo, NY (spring/summer 2025) in Bellissima Productions' *Invincible Ones* (Paige) and *Between the Lines* (Delilah)!

Cast Biographies



Paul Rogers (Man #1 – Reggie, Aaron’s Future Son, Gabe, YouTube, Stoner Guy)

Making his debut with Amelia Community Theatre, Paul couldn’t think of a better show to take part in than *First Date*. Coming from the world of Pro Wrestling, Paul returned to the stage last summer at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in *The Wedding Singer* as Sammy, and later in the fall in Saint Marys Little Theatre’s production of *Jekyll & Hyde* as the menacing Red Rat Owner Spider! Paul’s goal in theater is to write and produce his own original show in the next few years. Whether it be through spitting bars like Mike D from Beastie Boys, or strutting his flamboyance like Roger from *American Dad!*, Paul hopes that the inspiration chosen to portray many of his characters shines through in his performances. Paul would like to thank his family (especially his #1 Fan, his mother) for the continual support and encouragement especially on this leg in his life journey. He would also like to thank his girlfriend, Elisha, for always being a guide to him, helping along the way in life, and being an inspiration.



Geoffrey Moss (Man #2 – Waiter, Casey’s Christian Father, Blaze, Facebook, British Artist, Friendly Therapist)

Geoffrey has a BFA degree in Theatre Design and Technology from Wright State University and is the Technical Director for ACT. He has previously been seen onstage as Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Teen Angel in *Grease*, Voice of Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and most recently on the ACT stage as Mr. Green in *Clue*. Before moving to Florida, he won DayTony Awards of Excellence for Direction of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Clark State) and Set Design for *A Streetcar Named Desire* (XACT).

Production Biographies



Susan Dodge (Director and Choreographer)

A dancing dynamo from Florida, Susan has pirouetted her way from the Sunshine State to the Big Apple and beyond! This versatile artist has danced with the prestigious *Paul Taylor Dance Company*, choreographed musicals, and even starred in a few herself. But don't let her impressive resume fool you - she's also a total goofball, cracking up audiences and students alike with her infectious energy and quirky sense of humor. Now, she's ready to bring her directorial debut to ACT with an awesome cast.



Geoffrey Moss - Music Director

Geoffrey (ACT's Technical Director) has a BFA degree in Theatre Design and Technology with a focus on sound design, and previously worked as Technical Director for Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. Currently, he also works part time at Memorial Methodist Church, where he manages audio visual activities. Geoffrey is grateful to his wife, Sarah, and son, Bowen, for being supportive of everything he does.



Jennifer Jaress (Stage Manager)

Jennifer is very excited to be a part of *First Date* as stage manager. She has been in numerous performances here at ACT in *9 to 5*, *The Musical* and *Billy Elliot: The Musical*, as well as in other performances such as *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Grease*, *Nebuchadnezzar*, *Summer Comes Late*, and *A Christmas Story*. When not on stage or backstage, Jennifer enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unconditional love and support!

Ovations

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Volunteer of the Year

Cindy Levine

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, 2023-2024



No non-profit can survive without volunteers, so the person who can recruit them and make them feel valued is an extraordinary person. For ACT, Cindy Levine has embraced that volunteer recruitment role with vigor. She created a new ACT Guild from our long-standing volunteer organization, that not only supports ACT, but provides a unique opportunity to build friendships and have fun.

Cindy, as chair of ACT Guild, organizes monthly meetings, instituted a MEET THE DIRECTOR program and leads events like the enhanced opening night parties. She shops for food and decorations, recruits volunteers and cleans. She can usher you to your seat or help you find a parking place. Watching her in her ACT apron, it seems like she is everywhere in the front of house. She helps wherever she is needed and no job is too big or too small for her to tackle.

In addition to all those activities, Cindy is a member of the board of Directors. She chairs the Marketing/Publicity Committee and serves on the Fundraising Committee and the Volunteer Engagement Team. She works with representatives from a cross-section of the theatre to promote ACT actively. Cindy restored the tradition of the lobby board for each play with pictures of the cast and crew and other interesting information related to the show.

With the Volunteer Engagement Team she strives to both retain previous volunteers and recruit new ones. People still are talking about the "Chili Cookoff Competition" between the board members that was the highlight of the Volunteer Appreciation Party organized by Cindy. Today, thanks to Cindy, we have a Volunteer Recognition Board in our lobby, that recognizes the efforts to those less known but much needed. She promotes ACT to all her marketing efforts and encourages attendance at our shows by bringing her friends.

Cindy says she is shy, but she never fails to make everyone feel welcome. Her recognition of the efforts of others makes her special, and if you've gotten one of her encouraging emails you feel special too. Cindy is smart, kind persistent, a team player, and just a joy to work with. For her efforts to recognize everyone else, it's time for ACT to recognize Cindy Levine as Volunteer of the Year!

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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.

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