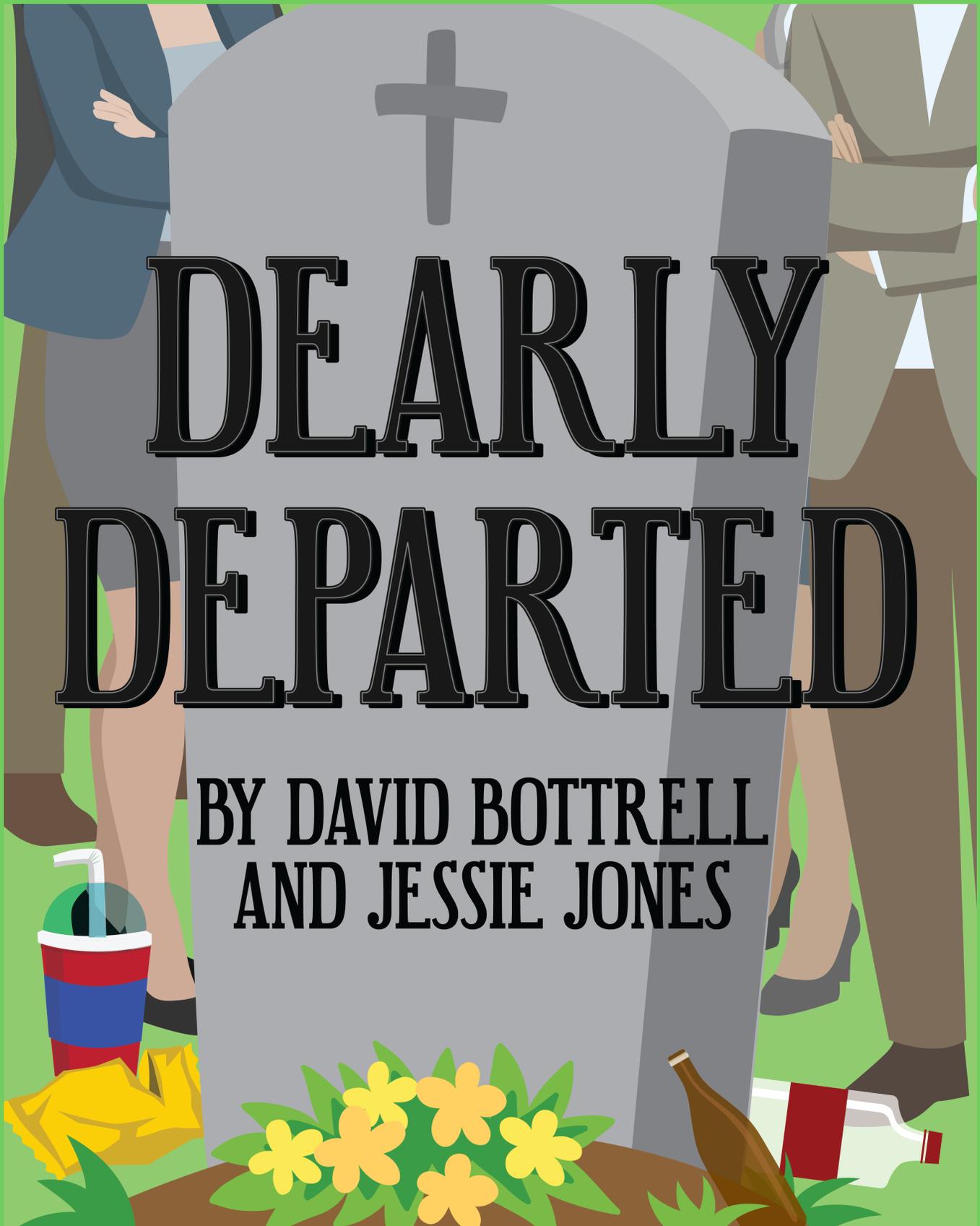


Mariemont Players Inc.

presents



January 12 - 29, 2023



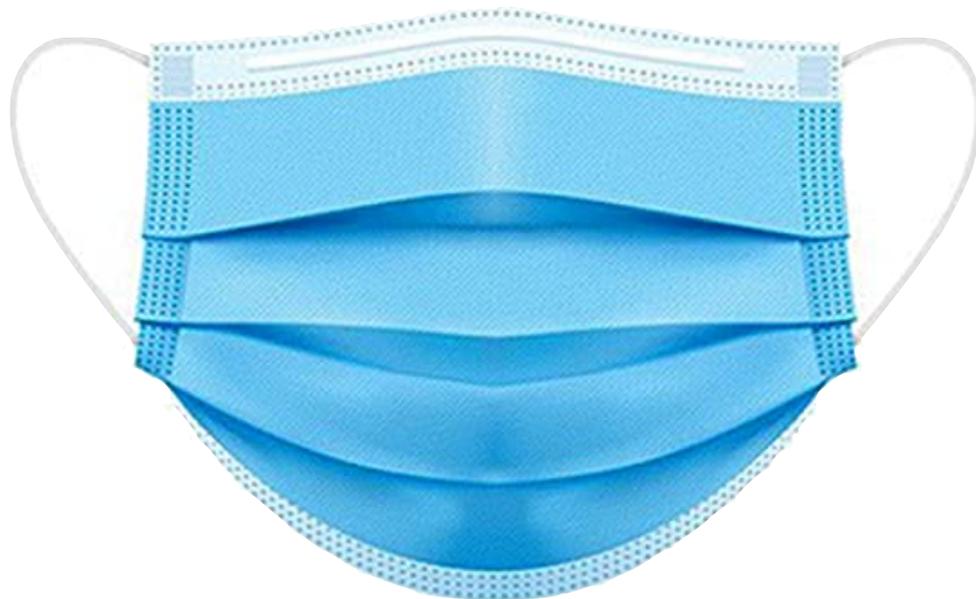
Mariemont Players Inc. will be following the guidelines from the CDC in order to keep our



audiences, actors, staff and crew as safe as possible.

Masks Are Recommended because of our small space and the close proximity to the actors.

They are no longer mandatory.



Mariemont Players

presents

Dearly Departed

By David Bottrell & Jessie Jones

Directed by Aaron Whitehead

Produced by Dee Anne Bryll & Douglas Berlon

SETTING:

In and around the towns of Lula and Timson, somewhere below the Mason-Dixon Line.

TIME: The present.

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

SPECIAL THANKS



Steve Farley
Mark Behnke
jef brown

Evans Funeral Home - Milford
Greene Respiratory Services
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Debbi Berlon
Chuck Sears
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www.dramatists.com



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Welcome to Mariemont Players

The Mariemont Players (MPI) was formed 86 years ago as a church group that performed plays in the village of Mariemont, Ohio. Founded in 1936, the group began a regular season of performances in the 1950s and was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on August 28, 1956 by its president, Woodrow (Woody) Jarrett. In honor of Woody & Lois Jarrett's longtime commitment to the theater, the auditorium is named for them.

In 1960, for slightly more than \$8000, the group bought the old Plainville four-room school building. Volunteer members have been converting the structure into the Walton Creek Theater ever since. The original cornerstone was laid in 1869, but the present solid brick building at the intersection of Walton Creek and Muchmore Roads dates from 1910. We're fortunate to be one of the few local community theaters with a permanent home. Our continuing improvements to the building include a remodeled auditorium with new seating, aisle lights and an electromagnetic hearing loop for the hearing-impaired. Our elevator to the auditorium accommodates those with physical handicaps, including wheelchairs. A handicap accessible restroom is on the first floor.

The Players have had 1000s of members during the past 85 years. Some have even become film actors, Broadway musical directors and played roles in professional theater, TV commercials, corporate videos and voice-overs plus dozens of support roles in media and the creative arts.

Join Us!

Open audition dates for each production are announced on our Facebook page, on our website at mariemontplayers.com or behindthecurtaincincy.com. Cast requirements change on a show-to-show basis with no experience required.

There are many opportunities to work backstage as part of our technical production staff. If your talents or interests include props, costumes, set design and construction, painting, music, lights, sound or stage managing – we have something for you! Contact Vicki Rafferty at vsrraff@mac.com or Bill Pauly (set construction) at billpauly33@gmail.com about the next chance to get involved.

Become a Patron

Your generous donations make it possible to continue improving our theater. Donations are tax-deductible and are acknowledged in the program for each show of the season. You may donate online at our website (www.mariemontplayers.com) or send a check (write patron donation on the memo line) to MPI, 4101 Walton Creek Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45227.

Please consider supporting MPI at one of these levels.

Director \$100+

Producer \$75-99

Angel \$50-74

Quarter Club \$25-49

Patron \$15-24

THANK YOU for your support!



Director's Notes

This play is a love letter to Somerset, Kentucky.

David Bottrell, co-author of *Dearly Departed*, was born and raised in Somerset, Kentucky (population 11,923). *Dearly Departed* is full of people, places, and experiences from his life in this small Appalachian town, a town that is more or less in the middle of nowhere.

By a remarkable coincidence, I was also born in Somerset, Kentucky. I can see my family, friends, and childhood experiences in *Dearly Departed*. The dynamic between Veda and Norval, whom you will meet in Act II, absolutely reminds me of my cousin, Gloria, and her mother, my Great Aunt Lola. Every time I'd visit them at a family reunion, Gloria would shout to Aunt Lola "THIS IS AARON! YOU REMEMBER AARON, DON'T YOU?" Aunt Lola would mumble a little bit, and then Gloria would introduce my mother, "THIS IS SHARON! YOU REMEMBER SHARON, DON'T YOU?" I don't know if Gloria shouted so much because Aunt Lola was half-deaf, or if Aunt Lola was half-deaf because Gloria shouted so much.

There are other wonderful characters you will meet tonight that are right out of my childhood in the rural South. I went to high school with about a dozen Nadines and Clydes, and most every family in my hometown has a Raynelle in it somewhere: a very strong, very resilient woman who has learned to be tough because life demanded it. Even though she deals with rough patches, she never loses her sense of humor.

That's what these characters never lose; their sense of humor - and *what* a sense of humor it is. *Dearly Departed* is one of the only plays that made me laugh out loud while reading it. So, while this play is a love letter to Somerset, I hope it's the funniest love letter you have ever had the pleasure of experiencing.

-Aaron Whitehead



Hearing Loops allow people who wear hearing aids to directly receive the sound from the stage microphones in their own hearing aids. If your hearing aids have a wireless receiver called a T-coil or telecoil, just switch it on. Talk to your audiologist to see if your instruments are so equipped and how to activate it. Many hearing devices can have either a T (no background noise pickup) or MT program (blended microphone and T-coil program).

If your hearing aid doesn't have a telecoil, you may borrow a separate loop receiver with a headset, available in the first floor lobby. Ask an usher if you would like to use one.

For questions about your hearing aids and telecoils talk to your audiologist.
To learn more about hearing loops visit:
hearingloop.org or brownudioservices.com



Dearly Departed Cast

Bud Turpin	Christie Bishop
Raynelle	Cathy Lutts
Ray-Bud	Christie Bishop
Lucille	Arlene Balczo
Junior	Blake Gehring
Suzanne	Jessie Faye
Marguerite	Lisa Breithaupt
Royce	Justin Hanks
Delightful / Nadine.....	Jackie Miesle
Reverend Hooker	Adam McCoy
Veda / Juanita	Traci Taylor
Clyde / Norval	Josh Zak
The Joy of Life Singers	Jackie Miesle, Lisa Breithaupt, Josh Zak

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Aaron Whitehead
Co - Producer	Dee Anne Bryll
Co - Producer	Douglas Berlon
Stage Manager	Steve Winslow
Set Design	Dan Dermody
Properties	Vicki Rafferty
Costume Design	Teresa Myers
Light Design	Dan Maloney
Sound Design	Douglas Berlon
Music Director	Ted Baldwin
Organist	Mark Behnke
Master Carpenter	Bill Pauly
Set Construction	Tim Carney, Art Kibby, Fred Murrell
Painting Crew	Debbi & Doug Berlon
Light & Sound Execution	Aimée Ward, Molly Barresi, Natasha Boeckmann
Backstage Crew	Allison McBride
Fight Coordinator	Ted Weil
Intimacy Coach	Aaron Courtland
Lobby Display	Jim Curtis & Jill Herzner
Photography	Kristy Rucker
Original Show Art	Teresa Johns
Program/Online Program	Vicki Rafferty
Publicity	Jackie Miesle
Box Office Manager	Aaron Courtland
Facilities	Steve Farley
Website	Jackie Miesle



Many Thanks to all of our ushers and to anyone who may have joined the effort after we went to print!

About the Cast



Arlene Balczo (Lucille) - Arlene is very grateful and excited to be in another Mariemont show. She has been involved in theatre since 1988, including starting 2 groups, serving on Boards and as VP of ACT Cincinnati, and starting and running Mason High School's theatre courses and productions. She has directed and/or choreographed around 70 shows as well as performed on stage. Outside of theatre, Arlene loves to run, cheer on the Bengals and Reds and work on commercials and films. Her favorite moments are when she's with family and friends. She is grateful for her husband, Steve, for his love and support. Enjoy the show!



Christie Bishop (Ray-Bud, Bud) - Christie has performed with many local theatre groups, most recently in a double role as Aristide and Aleksis in *The Gods of Comedy* and as Wilson in the July production of *Harvey* here at Mariemont. He has played Raynerd twice - in *Dashing Through the Snow* for The Village Players and in *Christmas Belles* here at Mariemont. He also appeared as Daniel in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* with The Drama Workshop and as Herr Zeller in *The Sound of Music* at The Carnegie.



Lisa Breithaupt (Marguerite) - Lisa is happy to return to Mariemont after having played Reba in last season's *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. Recent roles include Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*, Sheila in *Foolish Fishgirls and the Pearl*, Mama Murphy in *Bright Star* and Rose in *Gypsy*. Favorite roles include Dolly in *Hello Dolly*, Anna in *The King and I*, and the 21 roles she played in the 2-woman show *Parallel Lives*. When not on stage Lisa is a librarian and branch manager. Support your local library! She would like to thank her family, whom she loves so much, for all their support and for keeping up with the house cleaning while she is in rehearsal.



Jessie Faye (Suzanne) - Jessie is stoked for her first opportunity to work with Mariemont Players! She has been part of community theatre in almost every aspect, from behind the scenes to onstage since 2005. Some of her acting credits include *Radium Girls*, *The Odd Couple* (Female version), *The Elephant Man*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Over the Tavern*, and *Daddy's Dyin' Who's Got The Will*. Unyielding gratitude goes to her two young children who are unmatched in their love, support, and patience for all of her constant theatre endeavors.



Blake Gehring (Junior) - Blake was raised in Edgewood, KY and attended NKU where he studied Radio/TV/Film and Theatre. He most recently studied at the Theatre Training Institute under the direction of Ken Jones, where one of the guest artists was Dee Anne Bryll. He is excited to be returning to the MPI stage where he previously had roles in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, directed by Roger Grooms. Blake spent several years in L.A. after college studying with The Groundlings and Upright Citizens Brigade. He is currently represented by Heyman Talent and in addition to his theatre credits, has worked in TV, film, commercials, voice-over, print and Stand-up comedy.



Justin Hanks (Royce) - Justin is a web developer, writer, and self-proclaimed Pokémon master. His stage credits include *Seussical* (Horton), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Wizard of Oz* (Cowardly Lion), *Curtains* (Bobby Pepper), *Mission: Possible* (Maxwell Sharp), and *Children of Eden* (Father). Up next you can catch him in LSC's *Company* (David) and *Crushin' It*, the latter of which he is co-directing. He is also back for his third year as troupe member and resident writer for Queen City Vaudevillians. Justin is ecstatic to be working with such a talented cast and crew, and he truly believes they've put the "fun" in "funeral".



Cathy Lutts (Raynelle) - Cathy is thrilled to return to the Mariemont stage. *Wally's Cafe* was her last show here, directed by her friend, Norma Niinemets. Throughout the years Cathy has enjoyed producing, working backstage, and participating as a Board member for Mariemont. Glad to be back in the fold.



Adam McCoy (Reverend) - Adam is well acquainted with the stage, having acted in nearly 2 dozen productions over 17 years. Credits include *Jane Eyre* (Lord Byron), *Broadcast Day 1962* (Dumitro Lotz), *Twelve Angry Men* (Juror #12), *Fiddler On The Roof* (Tevye) and *Annie* (Daddy Warbucks). Making his Mariemont debut, Adam is grateful to be continuing his passion for theatre with the cast of *Dearly Departed*. He works as an analyst with 84.51°, serves with Young Professionals at Work on Purpose, and enjoys spending time with his younger brother, mom, and girlfriend, Emily.



Jackie Miesle (Delightful, Nadine) - Jackie is excited to return to the MPI stage! Mariemont credits include Sunny in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, Marty in *Grease*, Molly in *More Fun Than Bowling*, Kenni in *Becky's New Car* and Peggy (By My Side) in *Godspell*. Other favorite roles include Portia (*Something Rotten!*), Liz (*Chicago*), Margot (*Legally Blonde: The Musical*), Jemima (*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*), and Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*). Jackie also serves on the MPI Board as VP-Marketing (Like/Follow Mariemont Players on Facebook!). She extends her deepest gratitude to the team, cast, crew, and audience (you!) and a special shout-out to her biggest - and most handsome fan - Will. Thank you for supporting live theatre, we couldn't do this without you!



Traci Taylor (Veda, Juanita) - Traci has performed around the region but loves the MPI boards best. Most recently she was Lady Byron in *Ada and the Engine*, though Becky in *Becky's New Car* remains her favorite role. When Traci is not killing people with the Murder Mystery Co., she is writing and performing comic pieces. She credits God for all good things. Juanita might say "bless her heart" and Veda would certainly say "ain't that right". www.tracitalks.com



Josh Zak (Clyde, Norval) - Josh is enthusiastically Cincinnati. After years of participating in bands and choirs, he's excited to join the cast and crew of *Dearly Departed* for his first-ever performance with Mariemont Players. He'd like to thank the MPI gang for making his first show a good one, and his wife, Adriana for everything she does.

With the continued presence of Covid in our lives, Mariemont Players has recently instituted an understudy program. The understudy committee is building and maintaining a list of actors/actresses willing to step into a show in an emergency. Early in the rehearsal process each director will choose actors from the list who might be appropriate for the major roles in their show. We are hopeful that this added measure will safeguard our performances and greatly lower the chances of MPI needing to cancel shows during a run. It has already been used successfully on several occasions.

If an understudy needs to go on you will see them with a script in hand, but be assured that they have attended rehearsals to familiarize themselves with the show's concept, blocking, and pacing so that, if called upon, they are confident and able to perform with little notice.

Understudies



Peggy Allen (Raynelle, Marguerite) - Peggy is happy to serve as an understudy for this fun production! She was last seen on the Mariemont stage as Veta in *Harvey*. Peggy is also involved in commercials, print ads and voice overs, as well as some film work. She loves clogging and performs with the Showboat Cloggers all around the Greater Cincinnati and Dayton area. She wishes to thank all of you for your incredible support.



Betsy Bossart (Lucille, Suzanne, Delightful, Nadine, Juanita) - Betsy is happy to be part of *Dearly Departed*. She has previously contributed to community theatre productions at Footlighters Inc., Village Players, and The Drama Workshop. Betsy has called Cincinnati home for the past 14 years with her husband, C.J., and children, Madeleine and Theodore. Thank you to Aaron and the cast for a great show and to C.J. for his enduring support.



Ryan Bowron - Ryan is happy to help out as an understudy for this show but hopes that you do not get to see him in a performance and that everyone stays healthy. He has appeared onstage before in various productions at MPI including *The Gods of Comedy*, *Ada and the Engine*, *The Outsider*, and *Is He Dead?*. Ryan really enjoys working with and building fellowship with the MPI community.



About the Production Team



Aaron Whitehead (Director) - Aaron is thrilled to make his directorial return to Mariemont Players, having directed *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* in 2021. He keeps busy as an actor, having appeared in local productions of *Betrayal*, *Something Rotten!*, *The End of the Rainbow*, *The Elephant Man*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. Aaron would like to dedicate this show to his father, Roy Don Whitehead, the Rev. “Brother” Bob Browning, and everyone from his childhood at the First Baptist Church in Somerset, Kentucky.



Dee Anne Bryll (Co-Producer) - Dee Anne is an award-winning director, choreographer, actress, and teacher whose work includes Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Xavier University, the Carnegie Theatre, Cincinnati Landmark Productions, Commonwealth Theatre Company, and Kings Island. In addition to her choreography and direction, Dee Anne is an adjudicator and workshop leader that includes work for the Educational Theatre Association, Atlanta Georgia’s Alliance Theatre Woodruff Arts Center Education Conference, Iowa Musical Theatre Teachers, West Virginia Theatre Conference, and the Ohio Community Theatre Association. She is proud to be serving as President of the MPI Board! Thrilled to be working with Doug, Aaron, and Steve.



Douglas Berlon (Co-Producer, Sound Design) - Douglas is happy to be partnered with the amazing Dee Anne Bryll to help bring Aaron and the cast and crew’s fantastic storytelling to our MPI patrons. Thank you to everyone who works behind the scenes to support this hilarious show.



Steve Winslow (Stage Manager) - Steve has enjoyed working with Aaron Whitehead, Dee Anne Bryll and Doug Berlon in getting *Dearly Departed* ready for our patrons. He was a co-producer for Aaron Whitehead’s *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* during MPI’s 2021 - 2022 season. Steve was stage manager for Dee Anne Bryll’s *Radium Girls* here at MPI in 2016. Many thanks to Bill Pauley, Tim Carney, Fred Murrell and Art Kibby for building another great set for Mariemont Players.



Dan Dermody (Set Design) - Dan has been involved with Community Theater since 1992 as a scenic designer for several community theater groups in the Greater Cincinnati area. Dan was the recipient of the Mario Pitocco Award in 2006 from ACT Cincinnati. He has served on the board of directors for Mariemont Players in several capacities, including board president. Dan has also twice been an “Acclaim” award winner for set design. Currently he is owner of Dermody Design Group - a space planning, construction management & design company specializing in residential and commercial design/build projects.



Teresa Myers (Costume Design) -Teresa is happy to return to Mariemont Players! She got her start in community theatre back in 1982 in the summer musical, *Kiss Me Kate*. Teresa has done most of her theater work across the river in Fort Thomas with Village Players. She is an award-winning actor, producer, and costume designer. Thanks for the warm welcome back at MPI.



Vicki Rafferty (Properties, Programs) - Vicki started working backstage in community theatre in 1989 with East Side Players and has worked with many other theaters in the Greater Cincinnati area including Stagecrafters, The Drama Workshop, The Village Players, Wyoming/CenterStage Players, Tri-County Players and Beechmont Players. She started working with MPI in 2007 on *Natural Causes* and has done props and set decor for many productions since then, most recently for *Harvey*. Vicki is a Mario Pitocco Award recipient for excellence in technical theatre and also an OCTA Spirit of Community Theatre Award recipient.



Dan Maloney (Light Design) - Dan has been a member of Mariemont Players for over a decade. He is a graduate of Xavier University and a former President of ACT-Cincinnati. Dan is a recipient of the Ohio Community Theatre Association's Spirit of Community Theatre Award and Xavier University's Otto Kvapil Award for Stage Performance - among many others. MPI acting credits include *Laura*, *The Foreigner*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Blue Moon Dancing*, *Is Life Worth Living?*, *Bus Stop*, *Beau Jest*, *The Silver Whistle*, *All the Way*, and *This Random World*. MPI directing credits include *12 Angry Jurors*, *Who Am I This Time?*, *Beau Jest*, *Doll House*, *The Outgoing Tide*, and *Out of Sterno*.



Ted Baldwin (Music Director - Ted regularly collaborates with vocalists in theater, cabaret and private voice studios. He coordinated music for The Carnegie's recent production of the Judy Garland bio-play, *End of the Rainbow*, performed on Covington's riverfront. Ted has played keyboard with many theaters, including: Cincinnati Music Theatre, The Carnegie, Cincinnati Landmark Productions, and Northern Kentucky University. Favorite productions: *The Last Five*



Bill Pauly (Master Carpenter) - Bill is in his 47th production over ten seasons building sets for MPI. With fellow carpenters Art Kibby, Tim Carney, and Fred Murrell he finds it a joy building each set with their unique designs and challenges. Bill has received many awards for his work including MPI's President Award and two Elston Hurst Awards, and 20 Orchard Awards from ACT. He wants to thank MPI, the patrons, his fellow builders, and his wife for the opportunity to create the passion and excitement of these production sets.



Allison McBride (Backstage Crew) -Allison studied theatre at Asbury University before moving to the greater Cincinnati area. She enjoys working backstage in her free time almost as much as she loves snuggling her dachshund puppy, Gansey.



Molly Barresi (Light/Sound Execution) - After stage managing *This Random World* in September, Molly is excited to be back at Mariemont once again. Other credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Odd Couple*, *Working*, *Les Miserables*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Man of La Mancha*.



Natasha Boeckmann (Lights/Sound Execution) - Natasha is thrilled to be back working with Mariemont Players, but this time behind the scenes. She was last seen on stage with Mariemont in *Gods of Comedy*, *Last Night of Ballyhoo* and *The Outsider* and you can see her in their upcoming production of *Cry It Out* later this season. Enjoy the show!



Aaron Courtland Soper (Box Office Manager, Intimacy Coach) - Aaron is a seasoned Box Office Manager with a background in the entertainment industry and as a Creative Professional. He is a new contributor to Mariemont Players Inc. and Cincinnati as a recent transplant from Houston, Texas. Aaron has great enthusiasm with assisting Mariemont Players patrons that support our Theater season after season. The warm welcome Aaron has experienced in his short time at Mariemont Players sets a wonderful foundation as he becomes more involved in the dynamic Cincinnati creative Arts community.



Thank You Mariemont 2022 - 2023 Season Patrons!

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* In memory of Ginny Weil

As of 1/19/2023

Mariemont Players' Audience Services

For Your Comfort and Safety

- **Restrooms:** Handicap-accessible restroom on the first floor lobby level, and two additional restrooms in the basement.
- **Refreshments:** Available prior to show and during intermission in the first floor Hurst lobby.
- **Elevator:** Accessible from parking lot, lobby and auditorium. Ask an usher for assistance.
- **Emergency Exits:** Located at the left and right of the front aisle and at the left and right sides of the stage.
- **AED (Automated External Defibrillator):** On top landing just outside the auditorium, designed to be used by anyone in case of sudden cardiac arrest.
- **Hearing Loop:** For the hearing-impaired patron with a T-coil equipped hearing aid. If your hearing aid is equipped with a wireless receiver called a T-coil or telecoil, just switch it on. If your hearing aid doesn't have a telecoil, you may borrow a separate loop receiver with a headset, available in the first floor lobby. Ask an usher if you would like to use one.

Good Neighbor Policy

- Latecomers cannot be admitted until a suitable break.
- PLEASE be sure all cell phones, pagers and personal alarms are TURNED OFF, not just placed on silent or vibrate.
- Be considerate of those around you. Talking and rustling papers distract the performers and other audience members.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the auditorium, except water bottles. Please dispose of all refreshments before entering the theater.
- Walton Creek Theater is a smoke-free building. There are smoking receptacles outside.
- Publisher's copyright strictly forbids photography, video or audio recording of any kind during the performance.

Group Rates

MPI offers special rates to groups of 10 or more for certain performances.

Please call our Box Office at 513 501-1718 for more information.

Contact Us

Mariemont Players
4101 Walton Creek Road
Cincinnati, OH 45227
NEW Box Office #: 513 501-1718
www.mariemontplayers.com





About the Authors

David Bottrell

David Bottrell has performed in numerous productions at such theatres as Actors Theatre of Louisville, Manhattan Punch Line, Berkshire Theatre Festival, La Mama, Philadelphia Theatre Company and Studio Arena Theatre. Television appearances include roles on “Head of the Class” and “As the World Turns”. *Dearly Departed* marks his playwriting debut. He is a native of Eastern Kentucky.

Jessie Jones

Jessie Jones co-authored the laugh-out-loud comedies *Dearly Beloved*, *Christmas Belles*, *The Red Velvet Cake War*, *Always A Bridesmaid* and the perennial-audience favorite, *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* and many others. Jessie’s first play, *Dearly Departed*, which she also co-authored, had its premiere at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, followed by an Off-Broadway production at Second Stage in New York City. She also co-authored the feature film “Kingdom Come”, the screen adaptation of *Dearly Departed* which was released by Fox Searchlight Films. Her short stories have been published in literary journals and she has written for television sitcoms and an animated series for Walt Disney Productions. As an actor, Jessie has appeared onstage in New York and in regional theatres as well as in television and film.

www.joneshopewooten.com

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