

VACT

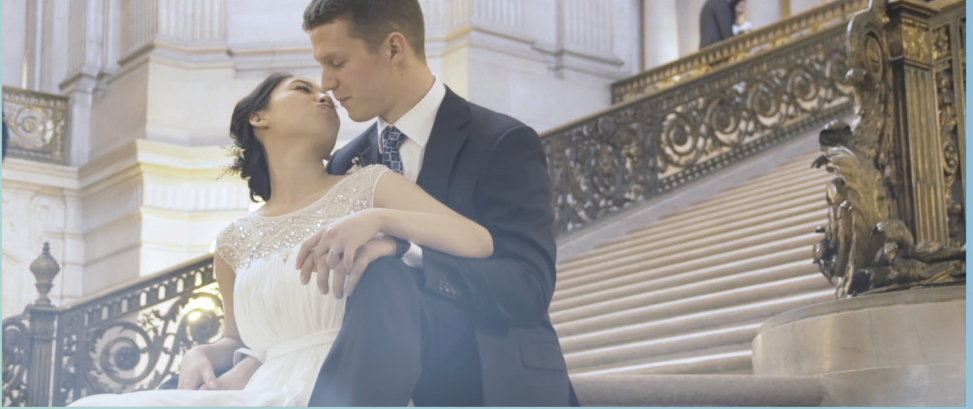
VERONA AREA
COMMUNITY THEATER
presents

— THE —
RADIO PLAY
— DISASTER —

by Don Zolidis

July 16th, 2021 - 6:45pm
July 13th, 2021 - 2:30pm and 6:45pm

30th Season 155th Show



cinema + photo



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***The Verona Area Community Theater
Production of***

**— THE —
RADIO PLAY
— DISASTER —**

by Don Zolidis

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

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Please remember to turn off audible pagers and cell phones during the performance.
Smoking is not permitted.

friends of VACT 2021

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Colette Bartels
Tammy Basten
Tina Bastian
Brenda Baus
Julia Benjamin
Jenn Bennett
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friends of VACT 2021

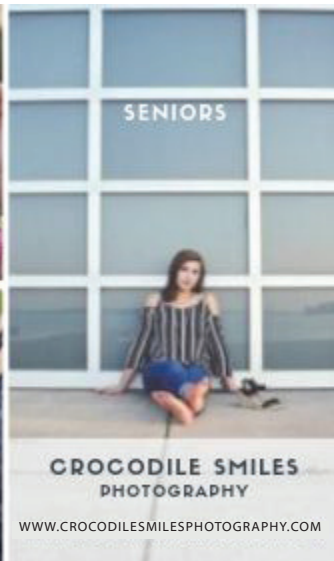
Martha Florey	Kristie Johnson	Erin Mettert
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Martha Isaac	Anne McCall	Leonard Piontek
Anna Isenberg	Philip McCanna	Holly Plahuta
Kevin Iverson	Mark McDermid	Deanna Polley
Torrey Jaeckle	Marilyn McDonald	Erik Popp
Jacob Jaminet	Miri McDonald	Sarah Popp
Sara Janowski	Lawrence McDonald	Michael Quieto
Daniel Joe	Jennifer Mcfarland	David Raemisch
Meghan Johns	Miriam Meisler	Mary Ann Raemisch
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Diane Yokes
Sage Yort
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notes from the director

The great actress Glenn Close once said, “Good live theater disturbs molecules. You create an energy source around yourself and it alternates between you and the audience. Anybody who sees live theater should come out a little rearranged.” The Radio Play Disaster is VACT’s return to live theater after more than a year long break and this cast and crew could not be more excited to be a part of that amazing energy that IS live theater!

After VACT was forced to shut down in March 2020, we, like so many other theaters, rebounded by taking our creativity and passion to a virtual stage. We were so happy to be able to offer two full length virtual productions, 16 short virtual youth productions, and a virtual senior showcase between September 2020 and May 2021. Our stage may have looked different, but the passion of the actors and staff still remained.

While we were delighted to be able to offer a virtual experience, it didn’t replace our longing for live theater, so when it seemed like it was safe enough to get back to a live production we jumped right back in and being able to play around with our first ever outdoor theater experience added even more excitement to the mix. We felt that the Radio Play Disaster was the perfect silly, fast-paced, hilarious, and joyous production to welcome audiences back!

Thank you so much to producer Dee Baldock for jumping into this project with me and always being a great sounding board for my ideas. Big thanks to Sound Engineer Dale Nickels who was challenged with taking our sound outside, as well as creating a multitude of special sound effects, and addressing many other sound tech challenges. Set Designer Matt Grzybowski got right to work helping me envision how we could create a stage that would work both indoors and out and I am always thankful for his creativity. I was so happy he brought on Gina Hamon to help us with painting, who is always a breath of positive energy. Costume Designer Paula Blankenheim and I finally got the chance to work together on a show and I so appreciated her shepherding along the costumes and helping the cast bring their characters to life. I am always excited to work with Alex Rosenbaum on any production, and was overjoyed that he jumped in to stage manage. I was also glad to be able to welcome a newcomer to our production team, John Dipko, who joined as our fabulous assistant stage manager. Steve Nickels did his usual fantastic job and gave us the lights we needed should our production need to move inside. Thank you also to Lynn Vilker who handles our tickets, and to Sara Pfantz who is making her mark with our programs! Thank you also to the VACT Board for being so supportive of all of my proposals for virtual theater productions and for being willing to keep going on this journey of new experiences with an outdoor production!

Finally, thank you to the cast for bringing your passion and talent and making this show come to life. The spirit you put behind your characters was what made me laugh out loud on the first day of rehearsal and kept me laughing throughout. Thank you for your dedication to this show.

I hope that this is the permanent return of VACT’s live productions and am so happy to have you here to share in the energy of live theater!

Enjoy the show!!
Sara Ward-Cassady

the production staff

Director	Sara Ward-Cassady
Producer	Dee Baldock
Set Designer	Matthew Grzybowski
Costumes	Paula Blankenheim
Stage Manager	Alex Rosenbaum
Assistant Stage Manager	John Dipko
Sound Design/Sound Engineer	Dale Nickels
Lights	Steve Nickels
Webmaster/Tickets	Lynn Vilker
Program	Sara Pfantz
Set Paint Design	Gina Hamon
Set Painting	Dee Baldock, Riley Custer, Maddie Dooher, Liz Nickels, Sara Ward-Cassady

the cast

Harlan Bean	Marcus Wisniewski
Max	Kenneth Kritsch
Trixie Flanders	Lauren Welch
Otis Sheridan	Kelly Kendricks
Samantha Powers	Liz Nickels
Larissa Jacks	Julia Fure
Sir Brinsley Catamount	Riley Custer
Josie O'Connor	Madeline Dooher
Adrienne Lucas	Brianna Hill
Tonya Bristow	Emma Vogel
Branford Bristow	Michael Vogel
Maria Spumante	Sara Pfantz
Furious Hamster	Craig Heuer

the scenes

SETTING

All action occurs in the studio performance room of WUBX, a struggling radio station.

the cast



**RILEY
CUSTER**



**MADELINE
DOOHER**



**JULIA
FURE**



**CRAIG
HEUER**



**BRIANNA
HILL**



**KELLY
KENDRICKS**



**KENNETH
KRITSCH**



**LIZ
NICKELS**



**SARA
PFANTZ**



**EMMA
VOGEL**



**MICHAEL
VOGEL**



**LAUREN
WELCH**



**MARCUS
WISNIEWSKI**

who's who in the cast

RILEY CUSTER (Sir Brinsley Catamount) Riley is overjoyed to be back with VACT performing in *The Radio Play Disaster*. A 7 year veteran of VACT, Riley would like to thank his friends and family for their support, as well as the cast and crew for making this production possible.

MADELINE DOOHER (Josie O'Connor) Maddie is thrilled to appear in her first show with VACT. Being new to the Madison area, having recently relocated from Minnesota, Maddie is excited to step into the local theater scene. She has been involved in Minneapolis based theater and UW River Falls/UW Stout productions. Some of her favorite roles include Witch in *Big Fish*, Rizzo in *Grease*, and Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She would like to thank her parents, friends, and boyfriend for their never-ending love and encouragement, as well as the Bethke family for their warm welcome and much appreciated support.

JULIA FURE (Larissa Jacks) Julia is thrilled to finally be back to performing live theater! She most recently appeared as Fiona in VACT's February 2020 production of *Four Weddings and an Elvis* and is happy to reconnect with the awesome people she met during that time. She'd like to thank her husband Zach, who turns 30 the week of this show! She'd also like to thank her family and her best quarantine buddy, Noodle.

CRAIG HEUER (Furious Hamster) Craig is thrilled to be sharing the stage/platform/parking lot with his VACT friends for 32nd time. Craig started performing with VACT in 2002. Some favorite roles include: Pellinore in *Camelot*; title role in *Wizard of Oz*; and of course Jeffrey in *The Curious Savage* where he met the love of his life. When not on stage, he enjoys spending time with his beautiful and talented wife, his sweet and mischievous son, and their four kitties! You may also recognize him as your local wine and spirits manager at Hy-vee from buying copious amounts of quarantine alcohol. "Thank you! Come again!"

BRIANNA HILL (Adrienne Lucas) Brianna is delighted to be performing in-person again for her third VACT show. Her previous shows include *Young Frankenstein* (ensemble) and *The Importance of Being Earnest in a Pandemic* (Cecily Cardew). She hopes that you enjoy the shoe!

KELLY KENDRICKS (Otis Sheridan) K.B. is thrilled to be cast in his sixth show at VACT. His previous shows include Curtis in *Sister Act*, Higsbee's Santa in *A Christmas Story*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *A Very Virtual Hometown Holiday*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest During a Pandemic*. Kelly has spent a great deal of time in theatre behind the scenes and has truly enjoyed the past 4 years being out in front of the curtain. He is especially thankful to be working with such a talented cast, a talented director and even more thrilled to be back on a real stage! K.B. looks forward to many more adventures with VACT and hopes everyone has as much fun with this show as he has had!

KENNETH KRITSCH (Max) Kenny has always enjoyed theatre from Madrigal Dinners in middle school to Oregon High School's performance of *Guys in Dolls* as Sky Masterson. He just completed his first year at UW Platteville while majoring in Industrial Technology Management, and was able to be a part of *Taming of the Shrew* during the fall semester. Kenny is very glad that he was able to continue performing over the summer, and would like to thank everyone in attendance for seeing our show.

LIZ NICKELS (Samantha Powers) Liz is excited to be back up onstage playing Samantha and getting to be around people again. Previous shows with VACT include *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *The Odd Couple* (Female Version). When not onstage, Liz plays the parts of TS at Epic and Mom to her spirited 8 year old. "Thank you T and S for your love and support!"

who's who in the cast

SARA PFANTZ (Maria Spumante) You may have seen Sara on the VACT stage as Vanessa in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Florence Unger in *The Odd Couple*, or as Lina Lamont in *Singin' In The Rain*. For Sara, working on VACT shows is an amazing, challenging adventure. Sara is in awe of her fellow actors and crew, and inspired by their talent. "To my family and friends who made it here for this performance, thank you and I love you."

EMMA VOGEL (Tonya Bristow) Emma is thrilled to be back on stage after this crazy year without theater. She's been on the VACT stage before as Truly Scrumptious in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the ensemble of *Mamma Mia*. A huge thank you to Sara and the entire production crew for this fun summer opportunity, as well as a big shout out to the amazingly talented cast. Especially her favorite cast member, Michael, who you'll see her yell at on stage a lot, but of course, never in real life. Her favorite part of this whole production has been watching her husband on stage and in real life act again after six years... and the fact that this is their first time acting on stage together!

MICHAEL VOGEL (Branford Bristow) Michael is excited to perform in his first VACT production and his first acting role since college. While it was through theater that he met his wife and fellow cast-mate, Emma, this husband and wife have never acted together until now! He is thankful for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast of actors, who all have great comedic

instincts. While not onstage, Michael can be found reading and writing for his work as pastor at Harvest Church of Madison, enjoying a cup of fresh roasted coffee, or spending time outdoors. He wants to thank you all for coming to support the return of theater, but especially thanks his wife Emma for pulling him back into theater again.

LAUREN WELCH (Trixie Flanders) Lauren is very excited to be back performing with VACT! Some of her favorite roles include Baroness Bomburst in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, Gianetta in *The Gondoliers*, and Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act*. When she is not on stage, Lauren enjoys horse-back riding and making up songs about her pets. Lauren would like to thank her parents and Jon for all of their support throughout this process. Enjoy the show!

MARCUS WISNIEWSKI (Harlan Bean) Marcus is excited to bring you this important news update! Pure joy is felt as he takes his place in VACT's first live theater production since the pandemic started. Recent shows of note with VACT include *Mamma Mia!* (Pepper), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Boris), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin Scrivello D.D.S), and *Willy Wonka* (Willy Wonka). A veterinarian, Marcus enjoys spending time with his dogs, going to the gym, random dance parties, badger/snake shenanigans, and envisioning terrifying alien invasions. He would like to thank his best friend Macarey, Jeff, and his parents for their never-ending love and support. To JMC, this one (and every one), is for you.

Audition Notice

Aug 3, 2021 & Aug 4, 2021

Auditions are open to adults, and youth ages 11 and up

VACT is excited to be performing our first musical in over a year! *Matilda The Musical* is the story of an extraordinary girl who dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

<https://www.vact.org/auditions>



who's who in the crew

SARA WARD-CASSADY (Director) Sara is ecstatic about being a part of VACT's first live production in over a year, as well as its first outdoor production! Sara enjoys working both onstage and as part of the production staff. Favorite onstage roles at VACT include Sandy in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, Mother, in *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, and Kate, in *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. Favorite staff roles include directing VACT's youth productions of *Frozen Jr.* and *Annie KIDS*, as well as producing and stage managing numerous adult and youth productions. Thanks to the fantastic *Radio Play* cast and staff for their creativity and for being a part of this memorable production, and, as always, special thanks to Colin and Erin for all of their support.

DEE BALDOCK (Producer) Since founding VACT in 1992, Dee has produced over 60 shows and directed 12. She was excited to begin a new adventure with the Senior Theater - *The Music Man Sr.* which we hope to continue next spring. She has performed in many shows with her favorite being Alice in *A...my name will Always be Alice*, Melissa Frake in *State Fair* and Grandma in *Billy Elliot*. "Thanks to everyone who worked to make this show a success."

MATTHEW GRZYBOWSKI (Set Designer) graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh with a BA in Communications - Theater. He went on to an acting/directing internship at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater during their 1999-2000 season. Matthew has been an active member of the Madison theater community over the years with various organizations in many different roles both on and off stage. He is excited to have had the opportunity to be a part of a number of VACT productions over the last several years.

PAULA BLANKENHEIM (Costume Design) This is the seventh show and first play Paula has taken on a major role in costuming for VACT. She started with *White Christmas* in 2010 and has since done costumes for *Mary Poppins*, *A Seussified Christmas Carol*, *South Pacific*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *3 Nanny Goats Gruff* and *Young Frankenstein*. "I want to thank the cast and crew for all your hard work. This show has been a blast to work on. Thanks everyone!"

ALEX ROSENBAUM (Stage Manager) Alex has been involved with VACT since 2001. He has been on stage, off stage, and off-offstage in various roles over the years. He would like to thank his friends and family, and all of the casts and crews he has been a part of. Enjoy the show!

JOHN DIPKO (Assistant Stage Manager) John is excited to be part of VACT and get back into community theater after almost 20 years! His (distant) past roles include productions at Broom Street Theater, Columbus Redbud Players and Sun Prairie Civic Theatre in 2003, and Green Bay Community Theater in 2001. John is married with two children ages 7 and 4 and is honored to help VACT bring people together again to experience art and make new memories.

DALE NICKELS (Sound) has produced or directed several VACT shows and designed the sound for nearly every show since *The Wizard of Oz* in 1996. From time to time he shows up on stage. Most of the time he lives behind the sound board, dealing with an increasing number of wireless microphones. His most recent directorial outing was *Four Weddings and an Elvis*. "Thanks to my lovely wife, Deb, for letting me play."

STEVE NICKELS (Lights) Steve has been designing lights for VACT shows for over 15 years, and can usually be found up in the lighting booth. He has also worked backstage as a stage manager, ropes operator, spotlight operator, and producer, and occasionally even ends up on stage, but always manages to be involved with the lights. Outside of theater, Steve is a software developer in the Madison area, and an avid fly fisherman. "May the Light shine on you!"

recent VACT Productions

- 2011 Guys and Dolls; Stone Soup; Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.; Footloose; The Wizard of Oz; Undertow: The Musical
- 2012 Noises Off; Welcome to the Jungle; Seussical Jr.; Grease; Encore! 2012: Celebrating 20 Years; High Society; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
- 2013 The Producers; Disney's Winnie The Pooh, Kids; Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.; Legally Blonde, The Musical; Peter Pan; Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
- 2014 Heaven Can Wait; Disney's 101 Dalmatians, KIDS; Encore Jr.; Bye Bye Birdie; The Music Man; How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying; Getting to Know The Sound of Music; White Christmas
- 2015 Singin' In The Rain; Aladdin, KIDS; Hairspray Jr.; The Drowsy Chaperone; Shrek The Musical; Forever Plaid; Elf The Musical Jr.; A Very Merry Hometown Christmas
- 2016 Brighton Beach Memoirs; Dinosaurs Before Dark, KIDS; High School Musical Jr.; Bring It On the Musical; Mary Poppins; Billy Elliot the Musical; A Seussified Christmas Carol; It's A Wonderful Life the Musical
- 2017 South Pacific; The Lion King, KIDS; Guys and Dolls Jr.; West Side Story; The Little Mermaid; Sister Act the Musical; Stone Soup; Godspell Jr.
- 2018 The Hunchback of Notre Dame; Bus Stop; A Race To The Finish; The Jungle Book KIDS; Bye Bye Birdie YPE; Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka; Little Shop of Horrors; Annie KIDS; Legally Blonde Jr.; A Christmas Story
- 2019 The Odd Couple; Three Nanny Goats Gruff; The Aristocats KIDS; 42nd Street YPE; Disney's Newsies; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; Young Frankenstein; We Are Monsters; Disney's Frozen Jr.
- 2020 Mamma Mia!; 4 Weddings and An Elvis; VAcT Virtual Theater Fall 2020; A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday
- 2021 The Importance of Being Earnest In a Pandemic; Do You Read Me?; Influencer Nation (5th & 6th grades); Farmageddon and the Undercover Crop; Tragedians Anonymous; Bad Auditions... On Camera; 12 Incompetent Jurors; Influencer Nation (7th & 8th grades); The Breakup That Broke Time

For a complete list of VACT's past productions since 1992, please visit
[www.vact.org /page-pp](http://www.vact.org/page-pp)

Verona Area Community Theater, Inc

VACT, Inc. originated in the summer of 1992 and is now producing ten shows a year. From the beginning, our goal has been to offer the people in the Verona Area community opportunities to utilize their talents in all facets of the arts. Our primary goal is to have fun! If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact one of the board members listed below:

VACT INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President: Dale Nickels
Vice President: Sara Ward-Cassady
Secretary: Elizabeth Kraemer
Treasurer: Brian Johnson

Additional Members

Tom Arnol, Dee Baldock, Terry Dvorak, Kendra Johnson,
Marie Kyle, Matthew Pulda, Lynn Vilker



Thank you so much for attending The Radio Play Disaster. Like many arts organizations, COVID-19 caused a great deal of change for VACT. We are so grateful for all of the support we received. Every kind message, donation, and show of support meant the world to us as we navigated time without live theater and figured out how to adapt. While there is a light at the end of the tunnel, your support will help us return to live theater and come back stronger than ever. If you're a theater lover who is in a position to help, please consider making a donation to VACT. Donations can be made through our website by going to www.vact.org and clicking on the "donate now" link at the top of the page.

Visit www.vact.org/donate-now to make your donation today!



Stay connected!



@VeronaAreaCommunityTheater



Did you enjoy the show? Tell your friends!

**Share your photos and experience with the official hashtag:
#VACTRadioPlayDisaster**

SUMMER CAMPS



VACT
VERONA AREA
COMMUNITY THEATER

Registration is **OPEN**
NOW on our website:

<https://www.vact.org>

DANCE and DRAMA
CLASSES: multiple
styles for all ages
between 3:30-7pm!

DRAMA CAMPS:
1 week and 2 week
options for grades
K-8!

**Register NOW for VACT Summer
Drama Camps and Classes and Verona
Youth Summer Dance Classes**



Use your **CAMERA**
to scan me!



**June, July and
August 2021**

Questions? Contact:

Education Director
Emma Vogel

emma@vact.org

