

# VACT

VERONA AREA  
COMMUNITY THEATER  
presents



# THE RED FLAGS

A new play by Catherine Castellani



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

February 8, 9, 15, 16 2024 - 7:30 pm

February 10, 17, 2024 - 2:00 pm

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The Verona Area Community Theater  
Production of

# THE RED FLAGS

**A new play by Catherine Castellani**



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

Written by

**CATHERINE CASTELLANI**

*THE RED FLAGS*

*is presented by special arrangement with American Association of  
Community Theatre, and AACT NewPlayFest.*

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Remember to turn off audible pagers and cell phones during the performance.

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The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

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Smoking is not permitted.

## notes from the director

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Engaging in the creation of a new piece is truly exhilarating. Collaborating with the playwright, cast, and crew to bring this work to life on stage adds an extra layer of excitement. Upon reading this piece, I found myself captivated by the intricate relationships depicted. Love manifests itself in myriad ways and unexpected places, sometimes discovering us. The question arises: does a perfect relationship or love truly exist? Join us on the journey through *The Red Flags*, and we hope you savor every moment. I would like to thank the cast and crew of VACT for all their work and commitment to new works.

Allen Ebert

## acknowledgements

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VACT would like to thank the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) for the incredible honor and opportunity to be a part of AACT NewPlayFest. AACT NewPlayFest is a national new play festival that takes place over a two-year period. VACT was one of six theaters selected to present a new work this cycle. It was an honor to work with playwright Catherine Castellani and AACT Dramaturg David Van Cleave in bringing this production to life. We are so appreciative of AACT's support of community theater and of new works.



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Cathie Hoy

Karissa Huntington

Kathryn Hutchens

Sarah Jacobs

Jenna Jansen

Brian Jensen

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Brianne Kieta

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# the production staff

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|                            |                                                               |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director . . . . .         | Allen Ebert                                                   |
| Producer . . . . .         | Sara Ward-Cassady                                             |
| Stage Manager . . . . .    | Paul Stiller                                                  |
| Costume Director . . . . . | Claire Johnson                                                |
| Set Design . . . . .       | Joshua Carson                                                 |
| Props . . . . .            | Marie Kyle                                                    |
| Lighting Design . . . . .  | Steve Nickels                                                 |
| Sound Design . . . . .     | Dale Nickels                                                  |
| Program . . . . .          | Sara Pfantz                                                   |
| Tickets . . . . .          | Lynn Vilker                                                   |
| Website . . . . .          | Sara Ward-Cassady                                             |
| Backstage Crew . . . . .   | Lauren Dunn, Mya Lebakken,<br>Peyton Morgan, Corbin Schroeder |

Thank you to everyone that helped with costumes, props, sets,  
backstage, ushering and everything else that makes this production possible!

# the cast

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|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Gabrielle . . . . . | Natalie Coombs |
| Chloe . . . . .     | Marsha Heuer   |
| Philip . . . . .    | Steve Fecteau  |
| Ric . . . . .       | Scott Wieland  |



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## the scenes

### TIME & PLACE

A city, the present. The action takes place in a lively bistro, along a riverfront walk, in a citypark, and in Philip & Chloe's apartment.

**Scene 1:** The Set-Up

**Scene 2:** The Riverfront Walk

**Scene 3:** Philip & Chloe At Home

**Scene 4:** A Nice Hotel Room

**Scene 5:** Chloe & Gabrielle After Work (At Marseilles)

**Scene 6:** Stalking

**Scene 7:** Philip & Ric Work Out On The Riverfront

**Scene 8:** Chloe & Gabrielle After Work

**Scene 9:** Ric & Gabrielle On A Date

**Scene 10:** Give Me The Ring

**Scene 11:** Ric Surrenders

**Scene 12:** Chloe & Gabrielle Reconcile

**Scene 13:** The Opal Ring

*There will be no intermission*

# who's who in the cast



**NATALIE COOMBS** (Gabrielle) Natalie is excited to be performing in her 14th show at VACT. Previous favorite roles at VACT include Fiona (*Shrek the Musical*), Martha (*The Children's Hour*), Deb (*Elf the Musical*), and Chiffon (*Little Shop of Horrors*). To her husband, Garrett, whose only red flag was the giant one he was waving on stage when they met (another favorite role: the peasant girl who was a target for Enjolras's flirtation in *Les Mis*) - thanks for running lines with me and supporting me.



**STEVE FECTEAU** (Phillip) The only red flag people notice about Steve is his poor program bio writing. He's been in other shows, he works at a job, he has a family, and he enjoys his interests and hobbies. Perhaps you've seen him before at the market, in an audience, out on the town, or on stage in VACT's 2022 production of *Don't Dress for Dinner*, but more likely you simply recognize him as "Paige's husband" or that guy who looks a lot like Aaron Rodgers. Although these days, maybe being compared to Aaron Rodgers is a red flag too.



**MARSHA HEUER** (Chloe) Marsha is honored to be performing in this world premiere show! She holds a BA in International Relations, SE Asian Studies, and Theatre-Acting Specialist from UW-Madison; a BA in Social Studies and Theater Education from UW-Platteville; and a Masters in Education from Viterbo. *The Red Flags* is Marsha's 42nd overall VACT show, and her 30th onstage role with VACT since 2003! Favorite past roles include: Corie Bratter (*Barefoot in the Park*), Cherie (*Bus Stop*), Flavia/Belinda (*Noises Off!*), Ulla (*The Producers*), and Fairy May (*The Curious Savage*). She is a high school social studies teacher at Oregon High School, where she also directs and choreographs shows. Special shoutout to Craig & Theodore for their continuous support of all things theater! "Love you!"



**SCOTT WIELAND** (Ric) Scott is super excited to be part of this world premiere play!! This is a super cast and production team and he hopes that everyone enjoys seeing something never seen before. Thanks to Liz and Tristan for pushing me to audition, and to all my friends who were able to attend.

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# about the NewPlayFest

The American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) is proud to include Verona Area Community Theater as a Producing Theatre in AACT NewPlayFest 2024!

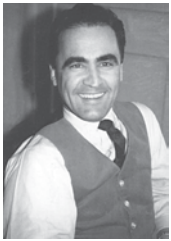


AACT NewPlayFest is an initiative by AACT to address the critical need for new, high-quality plays for community theatre audiences around the globe. Many theatres across the country applied to be a producing theatre. More than 300 playwrights submitted scripts! Six theatres and six scripts were selected for full productions.

AACT helps theatres thrive. AACT provides networking, resources, and support to suit the needs of those involved in community theatre. AACT represents the interests of thousands of theatres across the United States and its territories, as well as theatre companies with the U.S. Military Services overseas.

This AACT NewPlayFest world premiere production of *The Red Flags* by Catherine Castellani is made possible in part by a grant from the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation, and is sponsored by Dramatic Publishing Company. DPC publishes AACT NewPlayFest winning plays in anthologies and licenses future productions of the winning scripts. [dramaticpublishing.com](http://dramaticpublishing.com)

Jack K. Ayre celebrated his 90th birthday before passing away in December 2011. At his birthday party he sang with a barbershop quartet – one of his favorite activities – and celebrated with his cousin and lifelong friend, Frank Ayre Lee. Though as adults they lived



JACK K. AYRE

on opposite sides of the country, the cousins kept in touch through letters that displayed a love for the written word and an irreverent sense of humor. Jack had participated in theatre productions at Drew University in New Jersey and at a community theatre in Connecticut in his younger years and continued that interest when he moved to California. Mr. Lee was also an avid aficionado of theatre and had dabbled in playwriting, adapting Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book* for a children's theatre production, and penning *McSteg*, a tongue-in-cheek discourse ribbing his cousin Jack and based on a scene in Shakespeare's *MacBeth*. Upon Jack's death, resources he left were used to create the Jack K. Ayre Foundation for the United States Coast Guard, of which he was a member during WWII, and the Jack K. and Agnes K. Ayre Foundation for Blind Children – his mother, Agnes, was a teacher and pioneer in educating the blind. In addition, the Jack K. Ayre and Frank Ayre Lee Theatre Foundation has been created by the children of Frank Ayre Lee as a tribute to their father, who passed away in August 2012, and a legacy for the creative endeavors of Jack, who was an advertising executive and public relations director. The family is pleased to honor both men through a lasting legacy promoting new works for theatre through AACT NewPlayFest.



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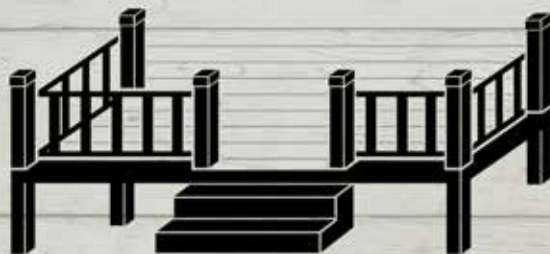
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# who's who in the crew

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**ALLEN EBERT** (Director) is a veteran of the United States Army. He graduated with a degree in Theatre and Drama from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently Allen is the Executive Director at the Children's Theater of Madison (CTM). Over the past 23 years Allen has directed, performed, adjudicated and conducted workshops at state, regional and national theaters.

**SARA WARD-CASSADY** (Producer) is so inspired to be working with the incredible cast and staff of this premiere production! Sara enjoys being a part of productions both onstage and off, with favorite onstage roles at VACT including Emily Hobbs, in *Elf the Musical*, Sandy, in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, and Mother, in *A Christmas Story*, and favorite offstage roles including directing VACT's *Disaster, the Musical*, *The Children's Hour*, *Matilda*, and *Footloose, Middle School Edition*, as well as producing and stage managing many other VACT productions. Sara is forever thankful to her husband, Colin, and daughter, Erin, for always supporting her in these creative endeavors!

**PAUL STILLER** (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be involved with his 21st VACT show. Paul participated in many VACT shows as an actor during his childhood and has been the stage manager for the most recent nine productions he has participated in. Enjoy the show!

**CLAIRE JOHNSON** (Costume Director) is a local designer who has been costuming with VACT since 2014. Her appreciation lies in working with production teams and delving into scripts and characters to breathe life into their stories. The journey is especially fulfilling with new productions, like *The Red Flags*.

**JOSHUA CARSON** (Set Designer) is excited to be back at VACT for the first time in over eight years to work on *The Red Flags*. He has previously worked on VACT productions such as *The Music Man* and *Singing in the Rain*. Josh has a passion for community theater and his favorite musical is *Newsies*. In his spare time he enjoys lapidary, painting, reading, silversmithing, skateboarding, welding, and woodworking. He received his BA from Southern New Hampshire University in Mathematics and Philosophy and is currently working toward a teacher's certification to teach high school art and mathematics.

**MARIE KYLE** (Prop Master) has been the elementary music teacher at Sugar Creek Elementary School in Verona for over 25 years. She has worked as the music director and appeared on stage for many VACT shows, as well as directing the teen productions of *Grease*, *Legally Blonde*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Favorite onstage roles include Narrator, in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Glinda, in *The Wizard of Oz*, Betty Haynes, in *White Christmas*, and Mother Superior, in *Sister Act*. Marie loves being in shows with her husband, Jim, and playing the role of mom to sons Joe and Tom.

**STEVE NICKELS** (Lighting Designer) has been designing lights for VACT shows for over 15 years and can usually be found in the lighting booth. He has also worked backstage as a stage manager, ropes operator, spotlight operator, and producer, and occasionally can even be found on stage, but always manages to be involved with the lights. "May the Light shine on you!"

**DALE NICKELS** (Sound Designer) has produced or directed many 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 soundboard, dealing with an increasing number of wireless microphones. His most recent directorial outing was *Elf the Musical*. "Thanks to my lovely wife, Deb, for letting me play."

**CATHERINE CASTELLANI** (Playwright) Catherine Castellani's plays include *Level Up*, *Possession*, *2Y20M*, *In Search of Lost Time*, *The Red Flags*, *The Mongoose and the Cobra*, *Windsor Terrace*, and *The Bigsley Project*. Catherine's work has been developed by HB Studios, The Valdez/Last Frontier Theatre Conference, Dixon Place, Naked Angels Tuesdays@9, The Nora Salon, Bloom, and Centenary Stage. Her 10-minute plays have been produced nationwide, including at Actors Theatre of Louisville, City Theatre (Miami), The ArtsCenter (Carrboro), and The Public Theater (NY). Catherine is a two-time Fellow MacDowell, and one-time Ucross Foundation resident. [www.catherinecastellani.com](http://www.catherinecastellani.com)

# recent VACT Productions

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- 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; Hairspray; Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka; Little Shop of Horrors; Annie KIDS; Legally Blonde Jr.; A Christmas Story
- 2019 The Odd Couple; The Giver; 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; Chicago High School Edition\*; Getting To Know Footloose The Musical\*; Seussical KIDS\*; Pajama Party\*; VACT Virtual Youth Theater Fall 2020; A Very Virtual Merry Hometown Holiday (\*cancelled due to COVID)
- 2021 The Importance of Being Earnest In a Pandemic; VACT Virtual Youth Theater Spring 2021; The Radio Play Disaster; Seussical KIDS; Singin' In The Rain Jr.; Matilda The Musical
- 2022 Don't Dress for Dinner; Something Rotten!; Pirates Past Noon KIDS; High School Musical 2 Jr.; The Music Man Sr.; Disney Beauty and the Beast; Encore! 2022; Willy Wonka KIDS; Rock of Ages MSE; Elf The Musical
- 2023 The Children's Hour; The Lion King KIDS; The Little Mermaid JR.; The SpongeBob Musical; The Singin' In The Rain SR.; The Wizard Of Oz; Disaster! the Musical; Frozen KIDS; Footloose: Youth Edition
- 2024 The Wedding Singer

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, Kim Eckmayer, K.B. Kendricks,  
Marie Kyle, Sarah Lederer, Alex Rosenbaum, Lynn Vilker



Thank you so much for attending *The Red Flags*. Like many arts organizations, the past several years caused many changes for VACT. Our regular operations were greatly disrupted and for the first time in VACT's almost 30 year history we were forced to cancel productions and stop operations. We are thrilled to again be bringing 10 live shows to the stage! We are so grateful for all of the support we received during the last several years. Every kind message, donation, and show of support has meant the world to us. VACT will always work to reach new theatrical heights alongside members of the greater Verona area and surrounding communities. We will also work to make our programs accessible to anyone with an interest in any of our programs or productions. Please consider making a donation to VACT and help us continue to bring theater and arts programming to the community.

Visit [www.vact.org/donate-now](http://www.vact.org/donate-now) to make your donation today!





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# **THE RED FLAGS**

**A new play by Catherine Castellani**



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF COMMUNITY THEATRE

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