

February 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 2022 - 7:30 pm February 12, 19, 2022 - 2:00 pm

VACT Theater
(103 Lincoln Street, Verona)
31st Season, 159th Show

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE VERONA AREA COMMUNITY THEATER!

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The Verona Area Community Theater Production of



Book by

MARC CAMOLETTI

Adapted by

ROBIN HAWDON

Don't Dress for Dinner

is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

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

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

Smoking is not permitted.

friends of VACT 2021

ANGEL \$25,000 and Over

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UNDERWRITER \$5000 - \$9999 Dale & Deb Nickels Jeff & Christine Molzahn

PRODUCER \$1000 - \$4999 Julia Miller In Honor of Nadia Veit Robert Herbst Owens family

DIRECTOR \$500 - \$999 Tom & Paula Blankenheim Susan Dahlen Stephen Nickels Greg & Denise Quinn Nicole Smith Dee & Jon Baldock Anne Veit

ACTOR \$100 - \$499 Mary Ellen Bakken Kathryn Berry Amy Broadbridge Richard & Ruth Jensen Kent & Sally Klagos Lytle Family Marilyn Lytle
Keith Meyer
Music by Mickey / Mickey Lytle
Joan Raffel
Chuck & Marilyn Roum
Pat & Steve Wehrley
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Sage Yort
JoAnn Zingg
Jennifer Bradley
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Suzanne Olajos Shawn Ptaszvnski Amanda Reichhold Jill Testrake Jordyn Thaves **Kasey Thompson** Molly Walter Mary Breiten John Dahlen Iris Chen Katherine Keranen Robert Liska Dave Little **Patty Means** Jill Sibilla Florence Edwards-Miller Marianne McCrary Rick & Janeen Reuschlein Helga Vrany **David Hoffert** Leigh Schmidt Barbara Foley Nicole Haworth Faith Howe Carole Kretschman Kristina Nardi Elizabeth Nickels **Jane Orosco** Roberta Woolums Pamela Ziemlewicz **Aaron Steger** Kelley Engle Quinn Huibregtse Steve Schmieding

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the production staff

Director
Producer
Costume Design
Set Design
Lighting Design
Sound Design
Stage Manager
House Manager
Program
Set Construction Crew The Cast, Matt Grzybowski, Dusty
Smith, Noelle Hatleberg, Tom Arnol & Dale Nickels

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



notes from the **director**

When we first chose "Don't Dress for Dinner" as the play we would perform in 2021 back in 2020, I was so pleased as I didn't think I had ever read a funnier script. Having experienced many other roles both on stage and backstage with VACT, as well as having performed in the play "4 Weddings and an Elvis," I felt I was ready to try my hand at directing. When the pandemic forced us to go virtual last year, I cut my directing teeth on "The Importance of Being Earnest During a Pandemic," VACT's virtual show. Now that we are back live, we are thrilled to finally be able to bring this production to our stage.

First and foremost, my appreciation goes out to Dale Nickels for not only being the producer, but partnering with me in all aspects of the production. He has generously lent the wisdom of his experience without being overbearing, but always being helpful. Whether it was going over the steps to begin the production process, offering suggestions during rehearsal, finding props, and especially the hours of work on set construction. Dale has been there with a cheerful and positive attitude. This has truly been an enjoyable collaboration which has benefited me, and more importantly, the show.

Noelle has been my "right hand" in the day job aspect of my life for many years. She has a lot of theater experience from an earlier period of her life and I'm so glad I convinced her to join us in this venture. She is helpful during rehearsals, dealing with the props and cleanup, and has jumped in enthusiastically with set construction. I hope she becomes a mainstay at VACT.

Sara Pfantz was the first person to come to mind when I thought about who could be the costume director having worked with her in the past and knowing her flair for it. I was so pleased she agreed to work with us and it has given me great peace of mind to turn it over to her and pretty much not have to think about it any further. Thanks also for putting the program together as she has been doing for all of the shows recently.

Thanks to Steve Nickels for doing the lighting design and handling that and the other technology for the show. When it comes to these things, he is truly a pro's pro and we are lucky to have him.

Set construction has very much been a group effort including every member of the cast and crew. It has been great how they have taken ownership and offered their flair for design and colors. Matt and Dusty, thanks for lending your construction expertise to the cause.

And of course, thank you to the cast for all their hard work and creativity. They have continually come up with new ways to make their characters interesting and entertaining which has allowed us to often sit back, enjoy, and have many laughs during rehearsals. We have an unconventional situation by being partially double cast and they have embraced it and made it work seamlessly.

My most heartfelt thanks go to my wife Tammy and son Morty for their understanding of me being gone most weeknights as well as other numerous times and keeping things humming on the home front. I couldn't nor wouldn't be able to do this without their love and support.

I am quite fortunate to have been a part of the VACT community these past several years. It is a wonderful organization with so many amazing people involved. We hope you enjoy "Don't Dress For Dinner" as it is our joy and honor to present it to you.

Tom Arnol

the cast

Green Cast
Bernard Steve Fecteau
Jaqcqueline
Robert Curt Hanke
Suzanne
Suzette Liz Nickels
George
Red Cast
Bernard Steve Fecteau
Jaqcqueline
Robert
Suzanne
Suzette
George Mike Brady

Green Cast - Thursday, February 10th 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 12th 2:00 pm, Friday, February 18th 7:30 pm, and Saturday, February 19th 7:30 pm

Red Cast - Friday, February 11th 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 12th 7:30 pm, Thursday, February 17th 7:30 pm, and Saturday, February 19th 2:00 pm



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the setting and scenes

SETTING

The main living room of a country house some distance from Paris. The place is an old farm building converted with style and taste.

TIME The present

ACT ONE Early Evening

There will be one 15 minute intermission

ACT TWO
The same, two hours later



who's who in the cast

MIKE BRADY (George) is excited to be back for his seventh production with VACT! Favorite prior roles include The Monster (Young Frankenstein), Mushnik (Little Shop of Horrors), and Bill Austin (Mamma Mia!). When not menacing his fellow cast on stage, Mike helps others to protect themselves in taekwondo at ATA Madison West, and is an eight-time state champion in the art. During the day, he trains software developers at Epic. Mike would especially like to thank his wife and children for their continued support.

PAUL CARLSON (George) This marks Paul's 4th show with VACT. Paul was last on stage in VACT's production of *Matilda The Musical* as part of the ensemble. Paul has been in a few other shows in the Madison area but the majority of his performances were performed in Richland Center, WI with Community Players of Southwest Wisconsin and UW- Richland (now it's UW-Platteville Richland). Paul hopes you enjoy the show and appreciate how much work this talented cast has put into it. Enjoy the show!

STEVE FECTEAU (Bernard) Steve is an overly enthusiastic person by nature but performing in his first VACT production is pushing that enthusiasm through the roof (Steve recommended outdoor performances for this reason but was shot down as the producers noted it is February in Wisconsin). This is Steve's first performance since playing Mortimer in Stoughton Village Players' production of Arsenic and Old Lace in 2015. If the name Fecteau seems familiar to VACT audiences it is because his incredibly talented wife, Paige, is a veteran of several phenomenal VACT productions. Final note to my older son Cooper (9): If you have any questions about the adult themes/ jokes in this show, ummm....er....well....ask your mother.

JULIA FURE (Suzanne) Julia is thrilled to be part of such a funny show and amazing cast in her third production at VACT. She recently appeared in *Matilda the Musical* earlier this year and *Four Weddings and an Elvis* back in the "before times" of early 2020. She is thankful for friends at VACT who always have helped her feel welcome in the Madison area, her family and husband Zach for always supporting her, and her two cats, Noodle and Butters, for the after-rehearsal cuddles. Enjoy the show!

CURT HANKE (Robert) is thrilled to be in his second VACT show. Some of his favorite previous roles include Sebastian in *Tempest* (Shakespeare!), Bach in *Stardust* (Russian accent!), Ernie in *Rumors* (Neil Simon!), Sir Osgood Fielding Jr. in *Sugar* (*Some Like It Hot* musical!) and Stan in *Four Weddings & an Elvis* at VACT (Viva Las Vegas!). Curt would like to thank his amazing, supportive wife and BFF Michelle — and theater buffs Pax (8) and Celeste (6) for their support and patience. Dad will do his best to "break a leg!"

JILLIAN HEPINSTALL (Jaqcqueline) is DEE-LIGHTED to be a part of VACT's production of *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Though she spent the better part of middle school through college constantly involved with theatre, she had taken an eight year hiatus from it when she moved to Madison to work for Epic. Finally, lured back in by a production of *Beauty and the Beast* with Middleton Players in 2019, Jillian has been loving being back on stage in *Mamma Mia!*, *Big Fish* (Josephine), and *Matilda the Musical*. Jillian is so thankful for the boundless support of her partner, Brian, the love of her Inner Circle (fka Llama Mia), and all of the incredible individuals at VACT who make these shows happen.



who's who in the cast

AMANDA MINER (Suzanne) Amanda is thrilled to be in her first VACT production! Being new to the area, she couldn't imagine a better first theater experience in Madison. Some of her favorite roles have been Fiona in Shrek the Musical, Lucy in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown and Winnifred in Once Upon a Mattress. She would like to thank the cast and crew for this wonderful opportunity and her family and friends for all their support!

LIZ NICKELS (Suzette) Liz is excited to be back on stage performing with some of her favorite people again. Previous shows include *The Radio Play Disaster*, *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, and *Young Frankenstein*. When not onstage, Liz plays the parts of TS at Epic and Mom to her spirited 9 year old. "Thank you T and S for your love and support!"

EMILY OSTENDORF (Suzette) Emily is excited to be in her first show with VACT. It's been over 10 years since her last performance, but she's glad to be back. She'd like to thank her family for their constant encouragement, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

SARA WARD-CASSADY (Jaqcqueline) is excited to be back on stage performing again, playing the role of Jacqueline! Sara enjoys working both onstage and offstage, with favorite onstage roles at VACT including Sandy, in Four Weddings and and an Elvis, Mother, in A Christmas Story: The Musical, and Kate, in Brighton Beach Memoirs, and favorite offstage roles including directing VACT's Matilda the Musical, The Radio Play Disaster, and Frozen Jr. and producing and stage managing many other VACT productions. Thanks to the fantastic Don't Dress for Dinner casts for navigating this production and bringing their creativity to these characters. Special thanks to Colin and Erin for their love and support, as well as their spectacularly entertaining home performance of this show while helping Sara run lines.





Enjoy the night of entertainment with Verona Area Community Theater



the cast



MIKE BRADY



PAUL CARLSON



STEVE FECTEAU



JULIA FURE



CURT HANKE



JILLIAN HEPINSTALL



AMANDA MINER



LIZ NICKELS



EMILY OSTENDORF



SARA WARD-CASSADY

who's who in the crew

TOM ARNOL (Director) Tom is thrilled to be directing Don't Dress For Dinner after a year delay. His directorial debut was in last year's virtual play The Importance of Being Earnest During a Pandemic and the previous year he performed as Lou in VACT's production of Four Weddings and an Elvis. He has also been on the stage in five musicals for VACT as well as backstage work in numerous productions as stage manager, producer, and lots of set construction. He is in his sixth year serving on the board of directors for VACT. He thanks the entire cast and crew for their dedication and hard work, but especially his wife Tammy for her unending support, son Morty, his original inspiration for getting involved in theater, and dog Rosie who has also performed on stage for VACT.

DALE NICKELS (Producer/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.

SARA PFANTZ (Costume Design/Program) You may have seen Sara on the VACT stage most recently as Maria Spumante in *The Radio Play Disaster* but Sara has also enjoyed costuming shows like *Bus Stop, Young Frankenstein,* and *Four Weddings and an Elvis.* Sara is inspired by the talent of the cast and crew of *Don't Dress for Dinner* and happy to have the opportunity to help bring their characters to life. "Enjoy the show."

STEVE NICKELS (Lighting Designer) 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 can even be found on stage, but always manages to be involved with the lights. "May the Light shine on you!"

NOELLE HATLEBERG (Stage Manager) Noelle is thrilled to work on her first VACT show. She previously Stage Managed numerous shows with UW Madison and the Madison Theatre Guild. She is very excited to get back into the world of theater after taking many years off. She would like to give a special thanks to her husband Dan, her parents, family and friends for their support. She would also like to thank Tom Arnol for getting her back into the theater.



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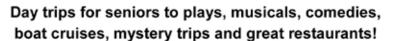
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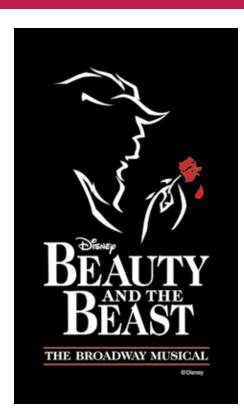
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Audition Notice

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 and Thursday, March 31, 2022

VACT's summer production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast will enchant audiences with its beloved story, iconic characters, lively ensemble numbers, and gorgeous sets and costumes.

Visit www.vact.org/auditions for more information and to register for auditions!

recent VACT Productions

- 2011 Guys and Dolls; Stone Soup; Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.; Footloose; The Wizard of Oz; Undertow: The Musical Noises Off; Welcome to the Jungle; Seussical Jr.; Grease; Encore! 2012: 2012 Celebrating 20 Years; High Society; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever The Producers; Disney's Winnie The Pooh KIDS; Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.; 2013 Legally Blonde, The Musical; Peter Pan; Seven Brides for Seven Brothers; The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Heaven Can Wait; Disney's 101 Dalmatians, KIDS; Encore Jr.; Bye Bye Birdie; 2014 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.
- 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)
- 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

For a complete list of VACT's past productions since 1992, please visit 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

<u>Officers</u> 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, Lynn Vilker



Thank you so much for attending *Don't Dress for Dinner*. 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!





One-Week Half Day Camp <u>June 27th-July 1st</u> Kindergarten - 2nd Grade Half Days (AM)

Two-Week Half Day Camps - PLAYS

July 11th-15th and July 18th-22nd

3rd - 5th Grade (AM) and 6th-8th Grade (PM)

Two-Week Full Day Camps – MUSICALS

<u>August 1st-5th</u> and <u>August 8th-12th</u>

3rd – 5th Grade and 6th-8th Grade

Details:

- Students should anticipate signing up for the camp that matches the grade they just COMPLETED in the 2021-2022 school year.
- Registration will open and camp themes and productions will be finalized in the spring.
- During camp weeks there will also be evening fine arts education classes and workshops offered for all ages!



Questions? Email Education Director Emina Vogel at emma@vact.org







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AGES 10-15:

10AM - 1PM

WORKSHOP

FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

AGES 16+:

2PM - 5PN

QUESTIONS? EMAIL EMMA@VACT.ORG

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INSTRUCTORS:

Emma Vogel - Education Director/Acting Coach Kenzie Merucci - Choreographer Dr. Adam Shelton - Vocal Coach

Registration Fee: \$50
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2021

November 18th - 20th November 18th - 20th 2021

December 2nd - 5th 2021



February 10th - 19th 2022



April 7th - 9th 2022



April 28th - 30th 2022



April 28th - 30th 2022



June 17th - 25th 2022

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