



STAGEWORKS
Theatre

NOV 20 - DEC 20, 2020



GREETINGS



by Tom Dudzick



281.587.6100
10760 GRANT ROAD
STAGEWORKSTX.ORG

DIRECTED BY DEBRA SCHULTZ

GREETINGS! IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS.



STAGEWORKS *Theatre*

NOV 14 - DEC 20, 2020

Ken Ludwig's

'Twas the
NIGHT before

CHRISTMAS



For Young Audiences
On the Garza Mainstage



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10760 GRANT ROAD
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DIRECTED BY KATIE E. CROSS

KEN LUDWIG'S 'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS.

STAGWORKS THEATRE

Stageworks Theatre is a not-for-profit performing arts and educational organization with a passion for entertaining, enlightening and engaging audiences in Texas. Recent winner in seven categories for the Broadway World Houston Awards, we've also been named Houston's "Best Gem of a Theater" by the Houston Press and "Best Arts and Entertainment" by the "Best of the Northwest" Readers' Choice awards. We are a proud winner of the prestigious, national American Association of Community Theatre Twink Lynch Organizational Award. Stageworks produces a broad mix of classics, comedies, dramas, musicals and new works.

Through its award-winning Acting Academy, Stageworks Theatre offers acting and singing classes, and provides performance opportunities for all ages. To purchase tickets, sign up for auditions or classes, or for more information, please visit stageworkstx.org or call Stageworks at (281) 587-6100.

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the re-opening of Stageworks!

It feels so good to be back and with such a heart-warming, fun holiday surprise for you and your family. We're so excited to see people back in our seats.

When we went dark in March, we thought at most we would be closed for four weeks. The joke was on us, right? Because we were unable to operate, our Board spent the last eight months reworking our financial plan to keep our theatre alive. We've made some really tough choices to reduce expenses, including relinquishing the leases on 50% of our space. We also secured a long-term SBA emergency loan to pay ongoing expenses and reinvest into a new sterilization ventilation system to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This has been a test of patience and perseverance and, though we are not out of the woods, we just love making great theatre!

Theatre teaches and reminds us of many things. It soothes life's aches and pains, cures the blues, enables the possibilities, and reinvents our passion and authenticity. But what this pandemic has taught us more than anything is to not forget how we touch people and, in return, how they touch us! I want to personally thank the Board, our artists, and our volunteers for getting us to this point. I also want to thank the many who have tossed into the hat to keep this going. We are so blessed! One group specifically not only contributed financially to our cause and literally saved us from the brink in the first few dark months of this catastrophe, but also rallied our organization to keep going. The Shining Stars Guild is a brilliant collection of beautiful, distinguished people who inspire us to keep going. And, Larry and Diane Lipton have been mentors and cheerleaders for our rise back to the stage again. Both The Shining Stars and Larry and Diane deserve so much love for their support, energy, and passion for arts in the community. Their contributions deserve a round of applause!

The curtain rising again has been twisting and turning, and it is sure to be interesting in the future. But, for today, we get to forget about everything, and once again spill our passion onto the stage and bring joy to our fans. For that, we are truly thankful this holiday season and so excited for you to be back.

Cheers, Happy Holidays, and enjoy the show!

Michael Montgomery
Artistic Director



FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is so good to be back doing Theatre again. Not sure that I have had such an extended break between shows in a very long time. And I am happy to be sharing our vision of *Greetings!* with you.

In reading this play, it seems rather straightforward. It presents a traditional version of the holidays — complete with the whole family, some good food, a few laughs, a couple of fights, and even some tears. But then you really start to get into the play, and you realize it is anything but straightforward. I'm not talking about the plot twists and turns, but the feelings behind them. *Greetings!* makes you think and feel and think about how you feel. The characters are flawed, but ultimately loving. They are right about a lot, but wrong so much of the time. They are us...like it or not.

Greetings! has definitely been a challenge for the actors as well. Each has had their own journey into places of silliness, awkward moments, utmost frustration, and dark understanding. It's a good problem to have—a challenging show, especially now. The more challenging it is, the more important and rewarding it is to present to an audience.

I hope that you are engaged by *Greetings!*. That is the highest form of theatre-viewing—to be engaged. It is easy to entertain and even to educate an audience, but to present something that engages you fully, visually, aurally, and mentally — that is what I strive to do...so open your heart and your mind and be welcomed into *Greetings!*

Debra Schultz

STAGEWORKS THEATRE PRESENTS

GREETINGS!

By Tom Dudzick

Director

Debra Schultz

Artistic Director

Michael Montgomery

Costume Design

Julie Montgomery

Scenic Design

Debra Schultz

Sound Design

David Dean

Lighting Design

Ron Putterman

Stage Manager

Joseph Reyes

Production Manager

Laura Price

*Greetings! is produced by special arrangement with
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ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

Tom Dudzick had his first play, *Greetings!* produced off-Broadway at the John Houseman Theatre, starring Darren McGavin; it is now a holiday favorite all across the country. Mr. Dudzick went on to write a comedic semi-autobiographical series of plays about growing up Catholic in Buffalo called the *Over the Tavern Trilogy*, which has been one of the biggest grass-roots successes in American regional theatre. Mr. Dudzick's home theatre, Buffalo's Studio Arena, then commissioned his idea about a parochial school novice who takes religion into her own hands, entitled *Hail Mary!* Next up for Studio Arena was *Don't Talk to the Actors*, a hilarious semi-autobiographical backstage comedy, which boasted a star-studded cast including Denny Dillon, Richard Kline, and Lewis J. Stadlen. Mr. Dudzick's newest work, *Miracle on South Division Street* is based on a local Buffalo legend wherein the Blessed Virgin Mary materialized in a barbershop in the author's old neighborhood. The comedy was produced off-Broadway, where it was praised by audiences and *The New York Times*. Mr. Dudzick lives in Nyack, New York with his wife and two children.

CAST

Mickey Gorski Kyle Wright
Emily Gorski..... Ellen Michaels
Phil Gorski..... J Blanchard
Andy Gorski Josef Anderson
Randi Stein Abby Tozer

Setting: Living room and dining room of the Gorskis,
a working-class family in Pittsburgh, PA.

Run time (with 10-minute intermission): 1:30



Josef Anderson (Andy Gorski) is pleased to be back at Stageworks. You may remember him from *Cabaret*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Bonnie and Clyde*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Previous Houston credits: *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *The World Goes Round*, *See Rock City & Other Destinations*. And for their unending love and support, he thanks his parents, Frank and Claire; sister, Adrian; and girlfriend, Rachael.

J Blanchard (Phil Gorski) has acted in numerous Stageworks productions. He was seen most recently as “Dr. Watson” in *Baskerville*. Favorite credits include *Amadeus* (Antonio Salieri), *A Christmas Carol* (Ebenezer Scrooge), *The Crucible*, (Reverend John Hale), *The Sound of Music* (Georg Von Trapp), *The 39 Steps* (Mr. Memory), and *The Trip to Bountiful* (Ludie Watts). He received a Montie for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of “Richard the Lionhearted” in *The Lion in Winter* produced by the Owen Theatre in Conroe.



Ellen Michaels (Emily Gorski) is so happy to be back at Stageworks. She previously appeared in the staged reading of *Lady Susan* (Alicia Johnson) and the production of *Harvey* (Mrs. Chumley). She’s been fortunate to perform with many theatres and production companies throughout the U.S., and now has the privilege of working with this incredible organization. A special thanks goes to you, Audience. We

wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for you.

MEET THE CAST



Abby Tozer (Randi Stein) is a Bay Area native at heart who graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Neuroscience, and a double minor in Acting and Music. She is a lover of all aspects of performance, from movies to music to mainstage. She is currently applying to MFA programs in acting and musical theatre, with hopes to move her career to the Great White Way. She has been in 17 musicals and plays, her favorite role: Eliza in *My Fair Lady*. Her favorite movie is *Singing in the Rain*, and her film icons are Audrey Hepburn and Elle Fanning.

Kyle Wright (Mickey Gorski) was born and raised in the endless field of corn that some of us have come to know as Nebraska. He has spent 14 years working on his craft and is ready for bigger things. In 2018, he graduated with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Nebraska Wesleyan University and currently resides in Houston, Texas, where he's pursuing his professional career as an actor. He has been a part of several Stageworks productions including *Drowsy Chaperone*, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *She Loves Me*.



The Shining Stars Guild supports live theatre and other cultural arts in Northwest Houston through partnerships with Stageworks Theatre, Lone Star College - University Park, Spark Foundation and other local arts associations as agreed upon by the membership.

Our 100+ Members blaze through the year having FUN raising FUNDS to support the Arts in our community! We are very proud to be a Producer Partner with Stageworks Theatre!



Learn more about Shining Stars and getting involved by emailing dianeclipton@gmail.com



MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Debra Schultz
Artistic Director	Michael Montgomery
Costume Design	Julie Montgomery
Scenic Design.....	Debra Schultz
Production Manager	Laura Price
Sound Design.....	David Dean
Lighting Design.....	Ron Putterman
Stage Manager.....	Joseph Reyes
Master Carpenter.....	Adrian Collinson
Properties Manager	Jamie Munoz
Photographer.....	Will LeBlanc
Scenic Team.....	Josh Clark, James Duncan

Special Thanks

Will Haralson, Will LeBlanc of Casablanca Productions

Debra Schultz (Director & Scenic Design) is happy to be back! She has directing and scenic credits here at Stageworks—*Harvey* and *A Few Good Men* (directing and scenic), *The Elephant Man* (directing), *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, *Cabaret*, *Crimes of the Heart* (scenic). A few other credits include *Give/Take* (ConeMan Running Productions), *True West* (Country Playhouse), and *Cinderella* (StageRight). She is a full-time college drama professor where she both directs and designs.

David Dean (Sound Designer) is an IT consultant and experienced musician who plays guitar/bass at Cypress Bible Church. Winner of the 2015 Houston BroadwayWorld award for Sound Design on *A Christmas Carol*, his recent credits include *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Producers*, *Footloose*, and *Into The Woods*. David's thrilled to work with this talented team on *Greetings!*

Julie Montgomery (Producer & Costume Designer) Usually hiding in the costume cave at Stageworks, this past-president of the board now serves as Academy Liaison and loves designing shows. Production credits include *Winter Wonderettes* (Stage Manager), Assistant Stage Manager for *Peter Pan & Fiddler on the Roof*, *Les Miserables* (Sound Tech), *Footloose* (Costumes & Sound Tech), *Oliver!* (Costumes), *The Producers* (Costumes), *The Wizard of Oz* (Costumes), and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Costumes). Thanks to the Shining Stars who motivated me to figure out how to lead the creation and presentation of theatre in a safe way during these times. Your love and appreciation of the art and effort is contagious.

MEET THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Michael Montgomery (Artistic Director) has been associated with Stageworks since 2011 and has been a part of 40+ shows. Past direction credits include *Cabaret*, *The Three Musketeers* (Broadway World Award Best Direction), *Damn Yankees*, *Oliver!* and *Bonnie and Clyde, the Musical*, *Christmas Carol, the Musical*. Special love to his beautiful family JJM, MEM, KAM—whose energy and life continue to be a source of my inspiration and character.

Laura Price (Production Manager) graduated cum laude from the University of Houston—Downtown in May 2018 with a BA in Theatre. Laura has performed in *Elephant Man* (Princess Alexandra) and *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Mops), and this is her 6th show painting for Stageworks, including *A Christmas Carol*, *Beehive*, *Harvey*, and *Cabaret*. Laura loves working on stage and behind the scenes. It's never too late for your dreams to come true. Living the dream!

Ron Putterman (Lighting Design) Designing his 46th show at Stageworks! Other lighting credits include plays at The Stafford Centre, Fort Bend Theatre, Country Playhouse, Main St. Theatre, Owen Theatre, Hobby Theatre, Theatre Southwest, and the St. Clements Theatre in NYC. Ron is the 2015 and 2017 “Best Lighting Design” BroadwayWorld award winner for Stageworks’ *Peter Pan* and *Les Miserables*. He was a Television Director and producer at KPRC-TV for over 30 years. Ron also penned his autobiographical book entitled *To Find My Son*, which became a Columbia Pictures CBS movie.

Joseph Reyes (Stage Manager) would like to thank each and every audience member for coming out to support the arts during this trying time in life. Joseph has been doing shows at Stageworks since 2017 and has lost count of how many he’s been apart of, but thinks that this show is one of the most special for bringing back a light that we all needed. He hopes you enjoy the show and also can’t wait to share the next one with you.

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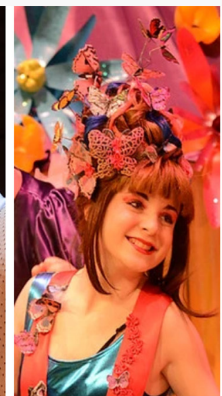
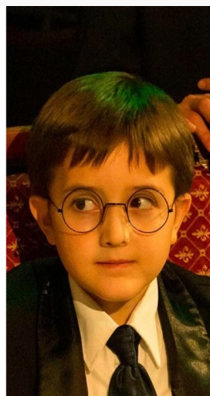
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these crazy times.**

STAGEWORKS
Theatre