

MAINSTAGE

PRODUCTION



NEil Simon

DIRECTED BY Benedict Heaps

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Lakeland Community Theatre 36th ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2021-2022



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Lakeland Community Theatre 36th ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2021-2022

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One key element of Your Community Theatre's mission is to offer a high quality theatrical experience at an affordable price. This mission and promise to our community is one central reason why we exist. The fact is individual ticket sales account for less than half of our annual operating cost.

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A Word From Our Artistic Managing Director...



Welcome to our 5th show of our 36th Main Stage Season, Neil Simon's RUMORS.

Simon said in an interview about the play: "I was going through some difficult times...I wanted to work, because work is always a cathartic process for me, and I thought it would be really good just to get into a comedy."

He noted that "This is completely different for me...It's unlike anything l've ever written. It's my first farce."

In describing the play, he said "The play started with the idea of doing a farce...The next thing was to do it as an elegant farce, because the farces in Moliere's days were generally about wealthy people. These aren't extremely wealthy people, but they are well-to-do. So I decided to dress them in evening clothes. There was something about having the a nice counterpoint to the chaos that was happening in the play. And so I picked a reason for them to be dressed elegantly, and it was a 10th anniversary."

Hope you enjoy our production of Mr. Simon's elegant farce!

Alan S. Reynolds Artistic Managing Director Lakeland Community Theatre



RUMORS

By Neil Simon

Setting: Sneden's Landing, New York

CAST

* Indicates First Appearance on the LCT Main Stage	
Chris Gorman	Stacey DeCosmo
Ken Gorman	Larry Helms
Claire Ganz	Brooke Sell*
Lenny Ganz	Preston Pujol
Ernie Cusack	Chris Walsh*
Cookie Cusack	Kate Cook
Glenn Cooper	Chris Hill
Cassie Cooper	Lena Wigfall*
Officer Welch	Jerry Martinez
Officer Pudney	Jessica Carasco*

PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Managing Director	Alan S. Reynolds
Director	Benedict Heaps
Scenic Design/Artist	Alan S. Reynolds
Costume Design	Heather Clarke
Lighting Design	Nicholas D. Judy
Master Electrician	Orlando Mora
Technical Director/Sound Design	Roy Rossell
Assistant Technical Director	Robert Reed
Stage Manager/Light Board	S. Caroline Williams
Props Mistress	Angela Brown
Sound Board	Greg Gjerde, Eric Joseph
Run Crew/Flies	Thomas Bretz

Special Thanks to The City of Lakeland, our wonderful Volunteers and everyone else who helped make this production possible.

Meet The Cast

Jessica Carasco (Officer Pudney) is thrilled to return to the stage in this production. Though it's been a while, Jessica Studies acting at HB Studio, NYC. Jessica's roles have included The Magic Mirror in 1993, a production of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. and The Ghost in 2000, a production of the *Uninvited*. Jessica has completed two short films on Mental Health and Domestic Violence, earning her an award and a spot in Tampa Bay's Underground Film Festival. Jessica wrote, directed, and edited etc. her short films. Her interests and hobbies include making films, writing poetry, and playing guitar.

Kate Cook (Cookie Cusack) is originally from Stockport, England and for the last 34 years has been proud to call Lakeland her home. Kate is thrilled and honored to be returning once again to the LCT main stage. Her most recent performances have been in *Baskerville A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* (Actress one) and *The Savannah Sipping Society* (Dot). Kate has also performed with Rogue Stage in *How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse* (Dr Judy Odea). Kate is an RN at Lakeland Regional Health and thanks all her work family in Interventional Radiology for their love and support. Kate's greatest and favorite role has always been mom to daughter Sarah, stepson Matthew and Sophie the dog who are her greatest joy and blessing.

Stacey DeCosmo (Chris Gorman) is excited to perform again at Lakeland Community Theatre. Some other LCT credits include *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Lazarus), *Disenchanted* (Sleeping Beauty) & *Hands on a Hard Body* (Virginia). Other recent credits include *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta) at Theatre Winter Haven and *Cinderella* (Madame) at CFCArts. Stacey loves singing, songwriting and skydiving. She has been married 30 years. She has two sons and a beautiful daughter-in-law. One son is a going to be a 3rd year resident doctor in SC (his wife is a veterinarian) and another son is in the US Navy.

Larry Helms (Ken Gorman) was seen earlier this season in The Fox on the Fairway (Dickie Bell). Larry has performed in many theatrical productions around the country. He is a retired social worker, having worked nearly 30 years with the Department of Children and Families. His hobbies in order of preference are theatre, golf, and naval contemplation. You're welcome, Ben. **Christopher Hill (Glen Cooper)** is a SAG eligible actor from Lakeland, FL. He has acted in multiple series, films, commercials, and theatre productions. Christopher is a full time commercial and film actor. He is trained in Scene Study, Meisner, Improv and coached by Lee Perkins. Recently he co-starred in the series *David Makes Man* on the Oprah Winfrey Network. When he is not acting he is a father, husband and loves sports especially the Georgia Bulldogs, Go Dawgs! National Champs! Christopher thanks his loving wife Jessica, his agents and the rest of his family and friends for their support while he's following this dream of acting.

Jerry Martinez (Officer Welch) is glad to be back on the LCT stage and working again with Mr. Heaps. Past shows include *Lend me a Tenor* (first show at LCT), *The Fiddler on the Roof, Evita, Little Shop of Horrors*, and *The Graduate*. So happy that LCT is still stronger than ever. Way to go Alan and staff. God bless you!

Preston Pujol (Lenny Ganz) has been involved with LCT for 15+ years, having performed in, teched, choreographed, and directed for numerous camps, classes, mainstage, and youth productions. After graduating from Harrison School of the Arts' Musical Theatre program in 2012, he spent several years working and pursuing theatre in New York. Upon returning to Florida, he performed with Walt Disney World in their Halloween, Christmas, and Festival of Fantasy parades. His LCT credits include *Elf: The Musical* (Buddy), *Hands on a Hardbody* (Choreographer), and *Hand to God* (Timothy). He thanks his awesome friends and family for their unwavering love and support.

Brooke Sell (Claire Ganz) is making her first appearance with LCT, and she is beyond excited to be on stage. She participated in theatre in high school but has not had much time since then. So, she is thrilled to be back in the theatre being as dramatic as ever. She would like to give a special thanks to Preston and Chad for pushing her to audition and encouraging her all along the way. Also, a thanks to all her friends and family who came out to support, you are her world. Enjoy the show

Chris Walsh (Ernie Cusack) is excited to finally make an appearance on the LCT stage. This is the second time he has performed in Neil Simon's *Rumors*. The first was 22 years ago at Moonlight Players in Clermont Florida where he played Ken Gorman. Chris is a founding member and served as the VP of operations for over 8 years at Moonlight. In addition, Chris has performed, directed, and produced shows all over Central Florida from Seminole county, Lake County, Orange County, and Polk County where is currently the President of the Board of Directors for Haines City Community Theatre.

Lena Wigfall (Cassie Cooper) has loved being part of LCT's *Rumors*. She has previously appeared in *The Little Mermaid* (Arista) and *Being Bianca* (Bianca). Lena has competed in The Florida State Thespians Festival where she was awarded Top Honor. When not in school Lena enjoys spending time with friends. She would like to give a shout out to all her friends and family for continuing to support her dreams.

Meet The Production Staff

Alan S. Reynolds (Artistic Managing Director/Scenic Design) is a former 24-year member of Local IATSE 477 studio mechanics and a former member of design Local USA 829. Mr. Reynolds served over seven years as a regional executive board member of IATSE 477. His involvement in theatre, film, and television spans over 40 years and over 500 productions. Mr. Reynolds received his B.F.A. in Theatrical Design from Florida Atlantic University and pursued graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University. He served as Adjunct Professor/Guest Scenic Designer at Florida Southern College and Southeastern University and as Resident Designer of LCT and TWH. Mr. Reynolds' numerous directing credits include Tommy, Shrek, The Bridges of Madison County, Mary Poppins, Rock of Ages, Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein, Sweeney Todd, Les Mis, The Addams Family, Spamalot, Aida, You Can't Take it with You, A Christmas Story, The Last Night of Ballyhoo, Chicago, Macbeth, Godspell, Always...Patsy Cline, The Producers, Of Mice and Men, The Man Who Came to Dinner, I Hate Hamlet, Sanders Family Christmas, Moonlight and Magnolias, Swing! and The Last Five Years. In 2010 Mr. Reynolds received the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts American College Theatre Festival Meritorious Achievement Award for Excellence in Direction. He has also received 3 Broadway World Orlando Awards for Best Scenic Design. His numerous Television and Film credits include Monster, True Lies, Marvin's Room, Parenthood, Robo Cop III, The Punisher, Great Expectations, The Waterboy, Kermit's Swamp Years, Mortal Kombat Conquests, Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls, Swampthing, Basic, Tigerland, 21 Jump Street, Thunder in Paradise and Sheena. Also, an avid actor, his over 75 onstage appearances include the title role in Jesus Christ Superstar, The Crucible (John Proctor), The Fifth of July (Ken Tally), Oklahoma! (Jud), Peter Pan

(Captain Hook), Bye Bye Birdie (Conrad Birdie), A Streetcar Named Desire (Mitch), and Laughter on the 23rd Floor (Max Prince). His other theatrical and production associations have included HSN, PRG, MTV, BET, Walt Disney Studios, Universal Studios Florida, Nfocus, Harrison Arts Center, Burt Reynolds Jupiter Theatre, Mark I and II Dinner Theatres, The Playmakers of Tampa, The Des Moines Playhouse and Mad Cow Theatre. In 2019 he was honored to serve as an Adjudicator for the Florida Theatre Conference Community Theatre Competition. Mr. Reynolds served on the board of directors of the Central Florida Human Services Inc.; his community outreach and support of programming using the Arts with Youths in achieving higher academically and gaining more social responsibility is one of his many passions. He is a founding member of Platform Kids, an annual event showcasing and promoting Children and the Arts throughout Polk County. Mr. Reynolds has also served as Arts and Programming Director of Oasis Community Church and Site Director of Prodigy Lakeland, a Cultural Arts program that served at risk kids throughout our community. For over 4 years Mr. Reynolds has continued to serve as a team member of Art and Design as a Scenic Designer for for Universal's Halloween Horror Nights. Married to his very talented and patient wife Susan for 35 years, he confesses that the best thing they ever produced were their very artistic and entertaining grown children: Grant, Kaitlyn and Alex. Mr. Reynolds is proud and honored for the past 13 years to serve as the Artistic Managing Director of "Your Community Theatre".

Benedict Heaps (Director) has been loitering in local theatres for about twenty years now. He most recently appeared in the stage read of *Hands to God* (Jason/Tyrone) and *The Fox on the Fairway* (Henry Bingham). When he isn't at the theatre, he can be found at Busch Gardens, where he works as a Tours and Zoo Education Ambassador, narrating the Safari Tours and other such animal-related things. He is honored to have been able to work with such a talented cast and crew in this production, despite the repeated attempts at sabotage by Larry Helms ;-). He thanks his family and friends for their love and support, as well as his cast mates and production staff for their hard work and patience.

Nicholas D. Judy (Lighting Design) is a freelance lighting and scenic designer from Auburndale, Florida. Companies/credits include Lakeland Community Theatre, Theatre Winter Haven, Ocala Civic Theatre, Polk State College, Harrison Performing Arts School, Family

Worship Center, Southeastern University, Lake Highland Preparatory School, OmniPro, Studio41B, Pioneer Playhouse, Murderfist, and Slayer. During the day, Nick can be found working at All Saints Academy as their Innovation Studio/Theatre Tech Director. Nick is a graduate of Florida State University. He thanks his wife and daughter, Diana and Andi, for their love and support.

Heather Marie Clarke (Costume Design) holds a BA in Theatre from Butler University and is a costume designer from Lakeland, Florida. For the last 8 years, she has been the Resident Costume and Makeup Designer for the Theatre Department at Booker High School VPA in Sarasota, as well as the Resident Costume Designer for Lakeland Community Theatre. From 2010 to 2013, Heather was the Director of Theatre at McLaughlin Middle School and Fine Arts Academy, and taught private acting lessons in Orlando. Costume Design credits include Lakeland Community Theatre, Theatre Winter Haven, All Saint's Academy, Harrison School of the Arts, Booker Visual and Performing Arts School, Butler University, and McLaughlin Fine Arts Academy. Heather would like to thank Blake, for his love and support, and her parents for always encouraging her to follow her dreams.

Orlando Mora (Master Electrician) works as a theatre technician at Polk State College. Orlando has previously worked on many productions with LCT including *Hello Dolly, Boeing, Boeing, Aida, Les Misérables, The Graduate, Always...Patsy Cline, Peter Pan, Forum, Grease, Sweeney Todd, A Christmas Story, Mary Poppins, Bridges of Madison County* and most recently *Shrek, Leading Ladies, Forever Plaid, Mr. Popper's Penguins, Noises Off, Annie Get Your Gun, and Sleeping Beauty.*

Roy Rossell (Technical Director) has been associated with LCT since 1993 and became TD in 2006. Aformer traveling, union musician, served as such in the U.S. Army as well and has been seen in our Pit, on our and TWH stages and currently appears regularly at LCT Tech Weekends. In addition to the above Roy has served in Insurance Sales, Retail Sales and Management, Fundraising Promotion Management, Direct Sales and Management, Communication Subscription Sales, Marketing and Customer Service Management, Representative Trainer and Train the Trainer. Yeah, he's old, but if you need a good "Dad Joke" to embarrass your children in front of their friends, he's your guy. He sends thanks to his wife of 50 years, (many year LCT volunteer) Lillian and their 2 Sons, 2 Daughters-in-

law and 5 Grandchildren for their support (and tolerance)!

S. Caroline Williams (Stage Manager) works as a wine and spirits consultant. She is a graduate of Harrison School for the Arts (Musical Theatre) where she appeared in numerous musicals. Caroline, a University of Florida alumnus, earned a B.S. in Economics. Throughout the years, Caroline has been involved with LCT as a performer, choreographer, and Theatre for Youth instructor. She is thankful for her family, friends, and teachers who have helped mold her into the woman she is today. And a special thank you to LCT for providing a stage where performers and artists may flourish!

Angela Brown (Props Mistress) is excited for the opportunity to be props mistress for *Rumors*. She has been doing props and costumes for several years including productions of *The Little Mermaid Jr., Frozen Jr., Oklahoma!* and *Babes in Toyland* with other theaters.

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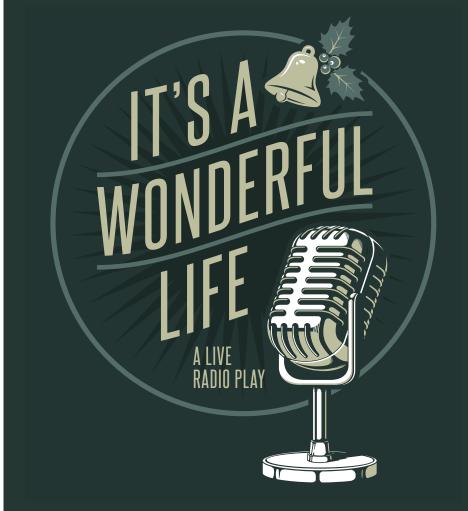


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