

***Upcoming Rude Mechanicals Productions
at the Greenbelt Arts Center in 2023***

The Beaux' Stratagem

directed by Jaki Demarest
March 24 – April 1

Ill Met by Moonlight

directed by Joshua Engel
August 25 – September 9

**Many Thanks to our Donors
who have kept us in business for over 20 years!**

Platinum

Anonymous, Covert Beach, Joseph Condo, Jaki Demarest,
Alan Duda, Stephen & Linda Duda, Doug Humphrey,
Allison McAllister, Ed Starr

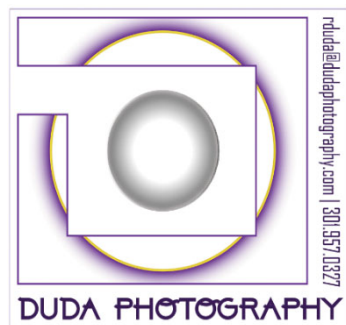
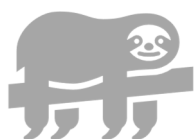
Gold

Claudia Bach & Erin Nealer, Joshua Engel, Mark Engel, Flying Feet
Enterprises, Ginny & Bill Jones, Moira Parham, Peter J. Orvetti,
Trevor Siegel, Wayne deCesar, J. Calvin Smith, Rachel Zirkin Duda

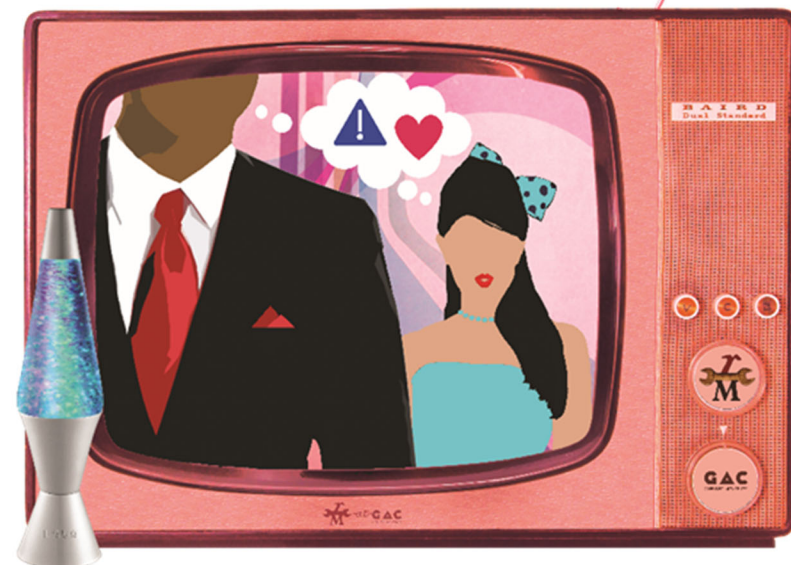
Silver

Jeffrey & Katherine Albo, Mikki Barry, Carol Calhoun, William Bodie,
Joseph Downs, Aaron Engel, Gretchen Hall, Lisa Hilliard & Al Bach,
William Jones, Liana Olear & Samuel Kopel, Stephen & Barbara
Schick, Melissa Schick, Harry Trout, Michelle Trout,
Steven Vaughan-Nichols, John Vogel

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' WARNING:
Failure to sponsor the Rudes may result
in idle actors squatting in *your* basement.



The Rude Mechanicals Present



***The Belle's
Stratagem***

***Written by Hannah Cowley
Directed by Jeff Poretsky
Greenbelt Arts Center
3-11 February 2023***

www.rudemechanicals.com

"As he does not like me enough, I want him to like me still less."

The Crew

Director..... Jeff Poretsky
Producer Josh Engel
Assistant Director..... Liana Olear
Assistant to the Director. Alan Duda
Stage Hand..... Diana Djikiewicz
Stage Hand..... Eric Honour
Art Director..... Jaki Demarest
Music Chris Fominaya
Costumer. Spencer Dye
Lighting Design Eric Gasior
Sound Design..... Jeff Poretsky
Photographer Rachel Duda
Sound Operator Sam Kopel
Light and Sound Operator..... Stephen Duda

#

Director's Notes

This play came to me by happenstance. A friend mentioned that she was going to see an online production, so I read up on the play and thought "this can be a VERY Rudes play." A few more questions to a few more people were all positive. And here we are.

This is one of the prototypical sit-coms, but flipped. With the reversal of who does what to whom, we have a fun tale. Having a strong willed and smart woman take control of her own destiny, (even given that she is dealing with an arranged marriage, as was common at the time), is very different.

The events all take place in an upper *upper* class building in Manhattan, with each family living on a complete floor. When cut to its essentials, as I tried to do here (ably helped, a lot, by Liana Olear), we have some fun people to meet, love, hate, laugh with, and laugh at.

The Belle's Stratagem is performed before a live theater audience. Psst, that's you.



alive. And a very special thank you to the spirit of Kevin Hollenbeck - The Shadowcaptain - who brought me into the Rude Mechanicals in our second year of life.

Megan Poretsky (Dick) This will be Megan's third show and second show with the Rudes. First voicing a child for *Cat On A Hot Tine Roof* four years ago she has fallen in love with learning about the stage, whether doing tech work behind the scenes or behind the curtain (or elevator) getting ready to step onstage.

Nathan Rosen (Hardy) is delighted to return to the Rudes! As the father of three grown daughters, managing one onstage is comparatively easy. Previous Rude shows: *Dr. Faustus*, *The Tamer Tamed*, *Unity or Love in the Time of Corona*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, and *Uncle Vanya*. Last summer he directed *Romeo & Juliet* and played Montague with The Bard's Wagon. Nathan has also acted with Annapolis Shakespeare Co. and Cockpit in Court. He thanks the staff, the cast, the audience, his wife Doris, his father, his children, and his grandchildren for their support, and apologizes to the dogs.

Devin Thrasher (Kitty Ogle) is eager to mark her return to the stage after a painfully long 3 year hiatus. Her last time in the theater was as Sophie Scholl in *The White Rose*, with the Colonial Players. Thrasher has spent most of her academic career performing with UMD's The Maryland Shakespeare Players, in roles such as Friar Lawrence in *Romeo & Juliet* and Rosalind in *As You Like It*. Please enjoy the shenanigans that ensue before you!

Kevin Hollenbeck

The Director's Remembrance

If it weren't for Kevin, you probably wouldn't be reading this. I knew him from a regular vintage dance that was held in a local house-with-a-ballroom. Somehow discussion turned to theater, where I was currently working professionally, and soon I was designing with Alan Duda the lights and set for the Rudes' 6th production, *12th Night*, which Kevin was directing. And I haven't looked back. Strangely enough though, my favorite memory of Kevin has nothing to do with theater. It's when the troupe visited Disney in 2003, and we split from the group to speed walk between coasters and the other 'high thrill' rides in the parks.

The AltotheD's Remembrance

I was the first Rudes apprentice, making Kevin the first master. I would ask myself, "What would Kevin do?" and did that. Then I started asking, "What would make Kevin laugh?" and did that.

Spencer Dye (Costumer) will have costumed Rudes Restorations in 50s, 60s, and 70s. She does not look forward to the next one.

Peter Eichman (Sir George) was young before he became a Rude.

Josh Engel (Producer) still doesn't know what a producer does.

Christopher Fominaya (Music) will be "tickling the ivories" in the pit for this performance. A professional musician, he has performed for two Popes, two Presidents, and a partridge in a pear tree. One of the Presidents enjoyed it. The partridge was indifferent.

Eric Gasior (Light Design) has been working on both the pointy and dull ends of lights for the Rudes for over 20 years.

Eric Honour (Stage Crew) nearly quit until he was told he could just pretend this is a union job.

Laurel Miller-Sims (Lady Frances) feels so touched and would like to wax rhapsodic in thanking the rest of the savvy cast and crew for being such a hardy bunch. You may have come to ogle Laurel in the Rude's recent production of *12 Angry Women* (Juror 10) where they made quite a racket at the door in court! All other recent productions that Laurel has appeared in include *Love's Labors Lost* (Longaville), *Timon of Athens* (Flavius) and their debut as a *Henry VIII* (Cranmer). Laurel's heart just flutters in anticipation for the next Rude show!

Erin Nealer (Letitia) (she/her) is excited to be back onstage with the Rude Mechanicals. She recently performed as Callie (*Stop Kiss*) with the Vagabond Players and has been with the Rudes as Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*), Yelena (*Uncle Vanya*), and Margery (*The Country Wife*). Erin thanks CB and JE for their support.

Liana Olear (AD) has been grouching with Jeff for over 20 years to the benefit of the Rudes.

Peter Orveti (Villers) is honored to be working with the Rudes again for the first time since 2017's *Richard II*. He has been acting for the past decade, appearing most recently with Silver Spring Stage, St. Mark's Players, Kentlands Community Players, and the Fat and Greasy Citizens' Brigade. When not on stage, he is a news analyst and editor, as well as a freelance writer.

Megan Parlett (Mrs. Racket) is excited to return to the stage with the Rudes, having performed with them as the Princess in *Love's Labour's Lost* back in January 2020. Previously, she performed with the Maryland Shakespeare Players as Viola (*Twelfth Night*), Celia (*As You Like It*), and Juliet (*Romeo and Juliet*).

Jeff Poretsky (Director) Zoominatographer - Many, TD - Many, LD - Many, SD - Some, AD - *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* & *Coriolanus*, Dir - Finally! Thanks go to Liana - for being the brain that told me things that I didn't know I needed to know, Alan - for being the sounding board as AtotheD and keeping me in line, Sandy - for letting me make this insanity happen, and to the cast and crew - who made this come

Cast and Crew Bios

Gary Brick (Saville) is delighted to be doing his first live performance with the Rudes after joining them for a Zoom performance of *The Revengers Tragedy* during the early days of the pandemic. Among his many talents, he brings the same expertise that he did when performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company of having the right measurements to fit their available costume. He looks forward to fitting in to more Rude performances in the future.

Paul Brinkley (Flutter) returns! By popular remand! Now in amazing Technicolor! Sunglasses not included. Sorry for the late nights, Sarah! I'll make you a nice dinner or ten.

Lou Clarkewallis (Courtall) is finally back for his first show with the Rude Mechanicals in about 4 years! He's so excited to be back with his theater family, and already can't wait for the next show!

Jaki Demarest (Art Director) has been really delighted to see Jeff Poretsky finally direct his first show. Thanks so much to Jeff, to Alan and Liana for incredible contributions, and to Gary Brick, Peter Orveti, Diana Djikiewicz and Eric Honour for helping to paint the pink and blue nightmare! Break legs, everyone, it's been a pleasure putting you in a swinging 60s pad!

Wes Dennis (Doricourt) is thrilled to return to the GAC stage, having last graced it in late 2019 as the Mathemagician in GAC's *Phantom Tollbooth*! Since then he's been in a number of delightful pandemic-era Zoom productions with the Rude Mechanicals; his most recent credits before a live studio audience include Victor Frankenstein in Upstage Artists' *Frankenstein* and Mercutio in the Bard's Wagon Players' *Romeo & Juliet*. However, it was at GAC and with the Rudes that Wes made his stage debut a virtual eternity ago, and he hopes that watching the show gives you a forty-ninth part of the enjoyment he's imbibed from his time with the venue and especially this incredible company over the eons.

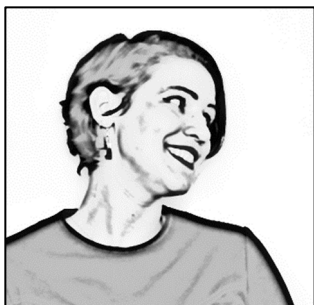
Diana Djikiewicz (Stage Crew) is happy to be backstage with the Rudes for the first time in five years! After enjoying her time dabbling in acting, she has returned to her shadowy gremlin roots.

Alan Duda (AtotheD) plans to AD five shows in a row. Hence his initials. His mom likes pop-up books. Hence the sets.

Rachel Duda (Photographer) shoots people in the face for money.

Stephen Duda (Operator) hopes this turns out better than the last show when he was left onstage for the entire performance for the entire run.

The Cast at a Glance



The Belle
Letitia Hardy
Erin Nealer



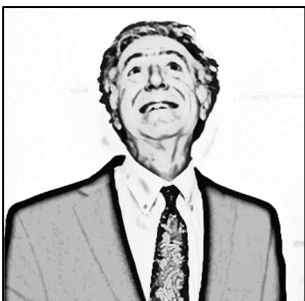
Her Intended
Doricourt
Wes Dennis



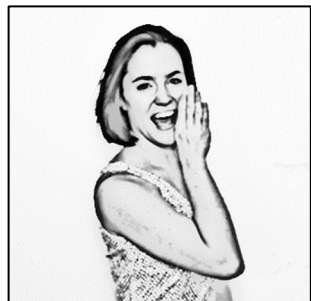
The New-In-Town
Lady Frances
Laurel Miller-Sims



Her Doting Husband
Sir George
Peter Eichman



Her Father
Mr. Hardy
Nathan Rosen



The Alpha
Mrs. Racket
Megan Parlett



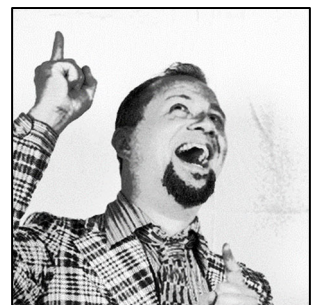
The Cad
Courtall
Lou Clarkewallis



The Perceptive
Saville
Gary Brick



The Curmudgeon
Villers
Peter Orvetti



The Fop
Flutter
Paul Brinkley



The Climber
Miss Kitty Ogle
Devin Thrasher



The Operator
Dick, Sir
Megan Poretsky