

Theatre Jacksonville Presents

THE Foreigner

BY Larry Shue

DIRECTED BY
Bob Gerard

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NOV. 8-24, 2024



SEASON 105

1st PRODUCTION



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CAST

S/SGT. FROGGY LeSUEUR	C. Michael Porter
CHARLIE BAKER.....	Taylor Jackson
BETTY MEEKS.....	Kelley Norman
REV. DAVID MARSHALL LEE	Daniel Locke
CATHERINE SIMMS	Lily Zawatsky
OWEN MUSSER.....	Allen Morton
ELLARD SIMMS.....	Joey Balliro

PLACE:

Betty Meeks' Fishing Lodge Resort,
Tilghman County, GA.

TIME:

Recent Past

ACT I

Scene 1: Evening.
Scene 2: The following morning.

ACT II

Scene 1: Afternoon, two days later.
Scene 2: That evening.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

THE FOREIGNER is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com) Originally produced by the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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Trowbridge

ABOUT THE PLAY

Theatre Jacksonville kicks off its 2024-2025 Mainstage lineup on Nov. 8 with *The Foreigner*, an award-winning comedy with surprises around every corner. Set in a rural Georgia fishing lodge, *The Foreigner* is a farcical tale of two British gentlemen who hatch a plan for the shyest of them to not have to engage with anyone while at the lodge. The result is a wacky, playful comedy with some delightful vaudeville moments – and with a surprisingly poignant message. *The Foreigner* was a winner of the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off- Broadway Play. “We are delighted to bring *The Foreigner* to our playhouse and hope our audiences will delight in seeing this as much as we have in preparing it,” said Theatre Jacksonville Executive Director Sarah Boone. “Even though it is a lighthearted presentation, the play’s important universal message of keeping an open mind and open heart has widespread appeal.”

The only other time *The Foreigner* played here was as the second show of 72nd Season. It was directed by Robert “Bob” Arleigh White and stage managed by Gloria Pepe. It was being done all over the country and Bob attributed it to “This popularity is, I think, directly related to Shue’s penchant for creating seeming weak characters who mask—at times even from themselves—enormous strengths ... these characters rise to meet new challenges, surprising themselves and most of the other folks they come in to contact with including the audience!”

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Bob Gerard
Production Manager	Michelle Kindy
Set Design	Ben Girvin
Lighting Design.....	Johnny Pettegrew
Sound Design	Brent Mulberry
Costume Design	Classic Costumes
Graphic Design.....	Green Onion Creative LLC
Stage Manager	Aspen Krill
Light Board Operator.....	Squirrel Pitts
Sound Board Operator.....	Mark Rubens
Set Dressing/Props	Allen Morton
Set Construction/Running Crew	Lourdes Acosta, Katie Allen, John Brundage, Tyler Leeps, Shawn LeNoble, Daniel Locke, Squirrel Pitts, Ron Shreve and Christopher Watson

SPECIAL THANKS

Brandi Ford, Franklin Mercantile, Lauren Paragallo, Harley Sykes

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*Donations listed on this and
other pages reflect the period
Oct. 15, 2023–Oct. 15, 2024.*

COMPANY BIOS

JOEY BALLIRO (Ellard) is thrilled to be in his first show with Theatre Jacksonville and he is incredibly excited and grateful to return to the stage after a two-year hiatus. In 2022, Joey graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in performing arts. Some of his previous roles include Dr. Mathias Alvah in the short film *Simulacra* and Jeremy in *Hot Love in the Moonlight*. His dream role is Richard III in Shakespeare's, *Richard III*. He would like to thank his wonderful girlfriend, Courtney, and his amazing family for always supporting him and believing in his dreams.

BOB GERARD (Director) is pleased to be directing his second show at Theatre Jacksonville. Last season he directed *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He has acted in three productions here, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Shadowlands* and *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. He has directed shows for 42 years in Baker County at Baker County High School and Baker County Community Theatre as well as Florida Gateway College. Thank you to the cast and crew for being so talented and supportive, to Sarah and Michelle for allowing me to direct, and to my wife, Kelley and my family for all your help.

TAYLOR JACKSON (Charlie Baker) is excited to make his long-awaited return to the stage in *The Foreigner* at Theatre Jacksonville, marking his first appearance in nearly 20 years. He discovered his love for performance at his mom's dance studio in San Diego and fell for the magic of theatre during high school, where he played leading roles in Neil Simon's *Fools*, *Twelve Angry Men*, and *The Crucible*. After an extended break from the spotlight, Taylor is thrilled to jump back into acting with this hilarious and heartwarming role. He would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Alex for her endearingly persistent support throughout this journey, and to Adri for reminding him of the joy of imaginative play and storytelling. Special thanks to his dogs for their patience as he tested out odd and nonsensical language on them long before stepping onto the role of Charlie. Taylor is delighted to join the Theatre Jacksonville family and share this experience with such a talented cast and crew.



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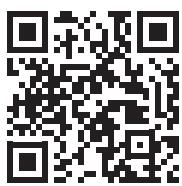
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DANIEL LOCKE (Rev. David Marshall Lee) is excited to be back on stage at Theatre Jacksonville. He was last seen onstage at Theatre Jacksonville as James and 5 other characters in *On the Market* and as Mr. Kraler in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Daniel is humbled by this story of hospitality and inclusion against an all-too-relevant world of intolerance. Off stage Daniel is an ordained pastor serving St. Mark's Lutheran Church and is proud to preach and teach a message of unconditional grace and welcome that condemns harmful systems of oppression and denounces racism and hatred in all forms. He is thankful to his wife, Sarah, and his two amazing children for their love and support.

ALLEN MORTON (Owen Musser) is anxious and excited to return to the Theatre Jacksonville stage after a 10-year hiatus playing his first ever villain at the age of 61! This is Allen's sixth show with Theatre Jacksonville. Audiences may remember him from *Love Goes to Press* (Tex Crowder), *The Champagne Charlie Stakes* (Jackie), *A Vampire Reflects* (Lt. Crisis) and *Twentieth Century* (The Conductor) here. Some of his favorite roles over the years include *Black Comedy* (Harold Goringe), *Pageant* (Miss Deep South), *Love! Valor! Compassion!* (Buzz), *Greater Tuna*, *A Tuna Christmas*, *Tuna Does Vegas*, *Red, White and Tuna* (Thurston Wheelis and many others) and believe it or not *The Foreigner* (Ellard Simms) when he was beginning his love of theatre in Owensboro, Kentucky, at the young age of 24, at Theatre Workshop of Owensboro. He would like to thank this talented cast and crew, and our ever so patient and generous director, Bob Gerard, for making this journey so much fun and effortless, surviving not one, but two hurricanes. He would also like to thank his Boogie, David, for his unconditional love and support 831. And last, but never least, he would like to thank you, the audience, for your unconditional support to Theatre Jacksonville and allowing us to "play".

Theatre Jacksonville productions are sponsored in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Jacksonville, and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.



KELLEY NORMAN (Betty Meeks) is delighted to be back onstage at Theatre Jacksonville for its 105th season. Kelley first attended a Theatre Jacksonville production in grade school and has been hooked ever since. Kelley spent 38 years teaching English and drama at Baker County High School assisting with BCHS Drama and Baker County Community Theatre for the past 44 years. Her favorite roles include Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, and Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew* playing opposite Bob Gerard's, Petruchio. Art imitates life. Kelley's three favorite productions will always be Sara Beth, Dylan, and Spencer. Grateful for this opportunity to work with talented cast mates. Many thanks, Michelle and Sarah.

C. MICHAEL PORTER (S/Sergeant Froggy LeSeur) made his Theatre Jacksonville debut as Noah Claypole in *Oliver!* in 1983. He has performed in a variety of productions — dramas, comedies, and musicals. This summer he appeared in *Mame: The Broadway Musical in Concert* at the Florida Theatre. Previously, he played Gaston in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, Colonel Mustard in *Clue*, Teddy Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Lou in *Four Weddings and an Elvis*, and Professor Sloan in *The Explorers Club*. Over the years he has performed with various groups as Fagin in *Oliver!*, the Governor in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, the Major-General in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and Cinderella's Prince in *Into the Woods*. Michael has worked as a television producer/director, photographer, webmaster, and teacher. He likes his three C's: cars, cameras, and cats.

LILY ZAWATSKY (Catherine Simms) is thrilled to be making her Theatre Jacksonville debut! A Jacksonville native, Lily grew up performing around town and is excited to be returning to theatre after a 10-year hiatus. Previous credits include *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae), *Impossible Marriage* (Floral), and *Alice in Wonderland* (Narrator). Lily would like to thank the entire Theatre Jacksonville team for this opportunity, the cast and crew for their hard work, her family and friends for their love and encouragement, and special thanks to her boyfriend, Jimmy, for his unwavering support.

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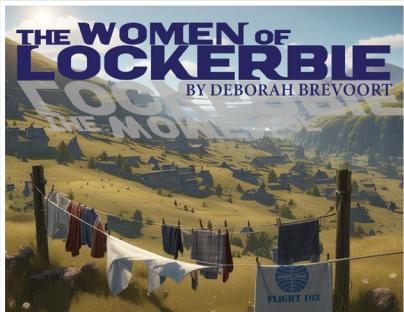
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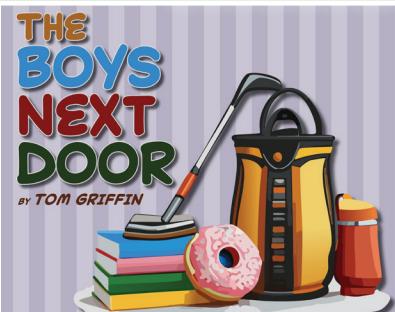
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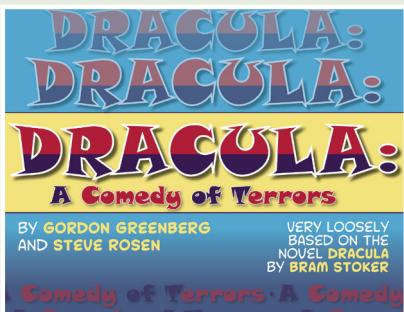
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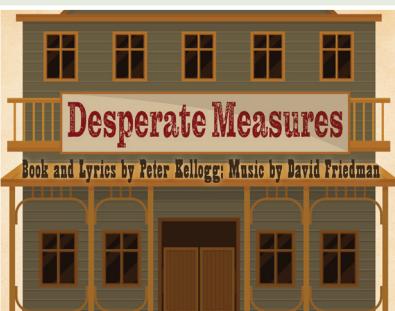
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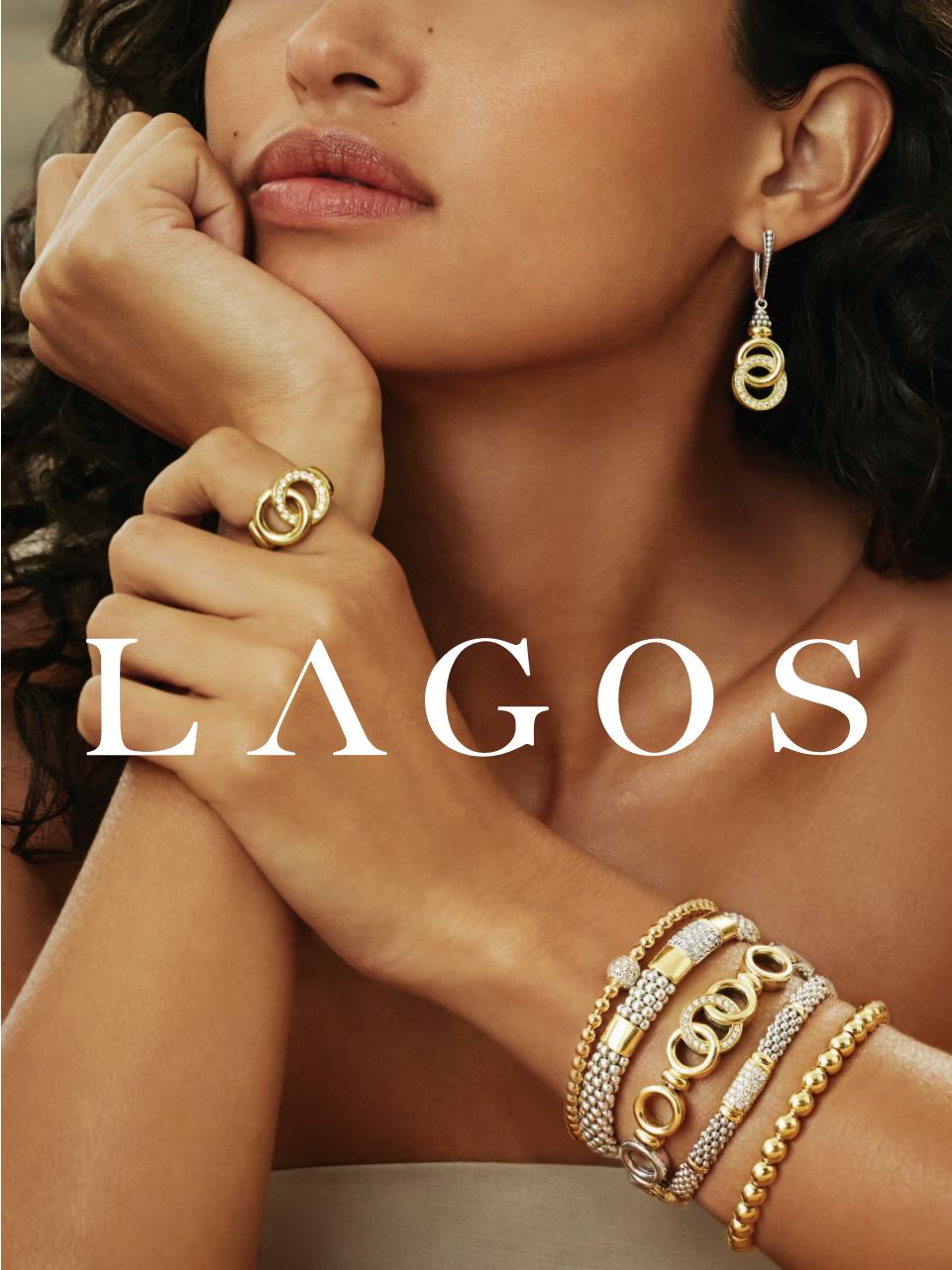
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