



AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

*“Light, frothy and fun.”*

-New York Post



*“Neil Simon makes people laugh a lot!”*

-USA Today

February  
7th - 22nd  
Evenings 7:30pm  
Matinees 2pm



(904) 261-6749

AMELIACOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG

INFO@AMELIACOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG

207 CEDAR ST., FERNANDINA BEACH, FL

## Production Sponsor

*Amelia*  
**ISLANDER**



209 Cedar Street, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034  
(904) 261-6749 and [info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org](mailto:info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org)  
ACT was chartered by the State of Florida  
in 1981 as a not-for-profit corporation.  
Auditions and memberships are open to all.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

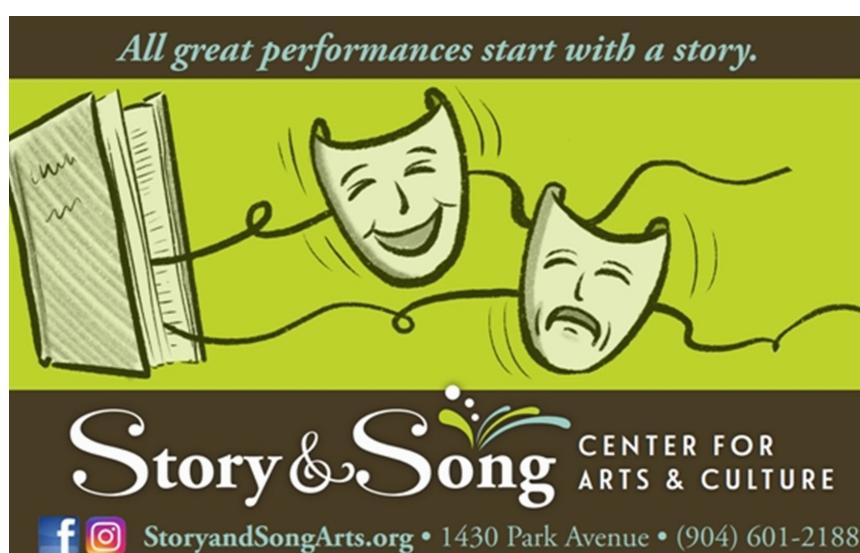
*"To enhance the quality of life of our local (and extended) community by providing excellent, innovative theatrical and artistic experiences through presentation and education."*

### 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Nicole Perrella
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SECRETARY	Bruce Gruber
DIRECTORS.....	Renée LaCroix, Linda Loftis, Elizabeth Sawyer, Garland "Trey" Stafford, Peggy Strickland, Jayme Taylor, Missy Tremblay, Shea Zaccaro

### THEATRE STAFF

MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR.....	Stephen Carver
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR .....	Geoffrey Moss
BOX OFFICE MANAGER .....	Tabitha Mudd



# AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE

## PRESENTS



**Jayme Taylor**

*Director*

**Linda Loftis-Vrooman**

*Stage Manager*

**MAIN STAGE**

**February 7th - 22nd**

**The video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.**

"Rumors" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# **Notes From The Director...**

I've had so much fun traveling back to the '80's while directing this fast-paced production. From the set decoration to the dresses (including shoulder pads), it made me realize that some things really don't ever change. I've so enjoyed seeing this wonderful cast come together to present something that's fun and entertaining and no matter how many times you see it, you just have to laugh. Though the styles have changed, the secrets and misconceptions that happen in everyday life can always occur regardless of the decade.

Eight extremely dramatic men and women, a could-be-suicidal Deputy Mayor, missing servants, and so many scandalous rumors turn this into a very ill-fated anniversary party. How did this go so awry? Why are there so many rumors? This cast of characters would've been better off listening to Mark Twain who said, "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything." But would that have been as much fun? There are so many stories and lies going around this group of friends that a scandal is hard to avoid.

Along with the craziness that happens with all the fibbing and confusion, you see what true friendship can be and how friends will do anything to help each other. The cast are all veterans of Amelia Community Theatre and have offered some wonderful and entertaining ideas to make this play a fun and engaging time. The creativity and experience from life and from their time on stage has developed their characters into an enjoyable, laugh-out-loud depiction of how to cause a scandal.

I hope you enjoy watching and laughing along with us and that by the end you can tell US what really happened. Enjoy the show!

Jayme Taylor, Director

**Setting**  
Sneden's Landing, New York

**Time**  
The 1980's



# **Cast**

Chris Gorman.....Peggy Strickland  
Ken Gorman .....Ron Price  
Claire Ganz.....Terri Witkosky  
Lenny Ganz.....Scott Campbell  
Ernie Cusack.....Bob Duffy  
Cookie Cusack.....Judy Tipton  
Glenn Cooper.....Brandon Hester  
Cassie Cooper.....Audrey Antee  
Officer Welch.....Jim Tipton  
Officer Pudney.....Isabelle Bournigault

# **Production Team**

Director	Jayme Taylor
Technical Director	Geoffrey Moss
Stage Manager	Linda Loftis-Vrooman
Stage Management Mentor	Nicole Perrella
Set Construction Crew	Bill Bowler, Jamie Morrill Steve Powers, Elizabeth Wilson
Painting Crew	Anne Foos, Jayne Jeney Peggy Strickland, Missy Tremblay Jennifer Weber
Light Board Operator	Anne Foos
Costumer	Vicki Gibson
Properties	Missy Tremblay
Props Crew	Julia Taylor, Amelia Landino Jessica Baynocky
Set Decoration	Barbara Farnsworth
Board Liaison	Nicole Perrella

# Cast Biographies



## **Audrey Antee (Cassie Cooper)**

Audrey is delighted to participate in her fifth production with ACT. The show's comedic moments have made rehearsals a blast, and she can't wait for audiences to enjoy the hilarious antics. Audrey is grateful for her fellow cast members for making every rehearsal something to look forward to. Audrey teaches English and literature at Florida State College at Jacksonville. Audrey also thanks her husband for practicing overly dramatic arguments with her to prepare for the role.



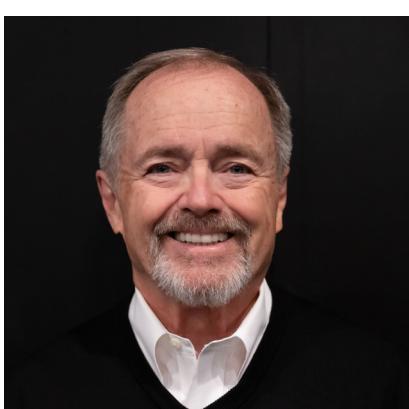
## **Isabelle Bournigault (Officer Pudney)**

Isabelle joined ACT in 2023 as the French Maid in *Clue* and has been part of the theater family ever since. Last seen as Cassandra in *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, Isabelle wears many hats behind the scenes. Isabelle is thrilled to don Officer Pudney's hat, finding the biggest challenge to keep a straight face! Isabelle is the curator at the Amelia Island Museum of History, where she brings stories to life



## **Scott Campbell (Lenny Ganz)**

Scott started acting at the age of nine and by the end of his first year of college, had acted in 22 different productions. Scott then switched his focus to Stage Management and Technical theatre. Over the next thirty years Scott served in nearly every position necessary to produce a live performance. In 2018, Scott returned to acting and since then, has participated in eight productions in Nassau County including on the ACT stage.



## **Bob Duffy (Ernie Cusack)**

Bob returns to the ACT stage and feels privileged about the opportunity to spend time with the creative cast and crew in this senseless and silly romp! Bob believes the true nature of this farce is embodied in the line "How could I believe such a story?!?" Bob gives kudos to his wife Marcia and daughter Kathleen and a big "I told you so!" to the friends and family who questioned if he could learn his lines!



## **Brandon Hester (Glenn Cooper)**

Brandon, on the ACT stage for his fourth performance, is so excited to be a part of this production. Having the privilege of taking an iconic Neil Simon show and making it their own has been an incredibly fun project. By day, Brandon teaches music at Amelia Music Studio and is starting to perform original music around town. He invites you to Disco Witch Brewery on March 8th to hear the songs he's written!

# Cast Biographies



## Ron Price (*Ken Gorman*)

Ron was attracted to this play because he easily could relate to the plot and characters. (This is Ron's fourth Neil Simon production!). Ron thanks Jayme and the cast, several of whom he previously shared the stage, for making this a fun production. Ron hopes you enjoy this zany, fast-paced comedic farce as much as he has enjoyed performing it. And as his character, Ken, would say "Okay. Here we go. One- two- three- shoot!"



## Peggy Strickland (*Chris Gorman*)

Peggy, a veteran of the ACT stage, is having a blast romping through this Neil Simon classic with the rest of the zany cast and crew. It's been a terrific way to heat up the cold, dreary winter we've been having. Kudos to our wonderful Director Jayme Taylor and Stage Manager Linda Loftis for putting up with our shenanigans. "I hope our audience enjoys it as well."



## Jim Tipton (*Officer Welch*)

Jim Tipton is a retired Oklahoma Art teacher and the owner of Pelican Palms Center on 8th street. Working on plays with his wife Judy is a delight and a compromise of his time. Jim not only has been in many productions on the ACT stage, but also is a technical designer of stage lighting and set construction. Jim would like to thank Officer Pudney for all her support helping him remember names!



## Judy Tipton (*Cookie Cusack*)

Judy retired from Fernandina Beach Middle School where she taught theatre and directed many of the summer musicals. In her career, Judy directed over 130 productions which consisted of both plays and musicals. Together, she and Jim have two talented children, Jayme and Jeramy, with five equally talented grandchildren. Judy is pleased to be back on the ACT stage working with these truly funny actors.



## Terri Witkosky (*Claire Ganz*)

This is Terri's third performance with ACT, most recently portraying Winifred in *Into the Breeches* and performing multiple roles in *Miracle on 34th Street: A 1948 Radio Play*. Terri fills her days as a volunteer with several local organizations where she can donate her time and utilize her passions. Most often you will find Terri in her kitchen cooking for loved ones, on the golf course with her husband Jim, or bike riding around town!

# Production Biographies



## Jayme Taylor (Director)

Jayme, who previously co-directed ACT's *Billy Elliot: The Musical*, has enjoyed working with this wonderful group of actors in her solo directorial debut. Jayme would like to thank her family for their support: husband Jason, kids Jacob, Alix, Josh and Julia, and her parents. A big thank you also goes out to the great crew of Rumors for making this production a success.



## Linda Loftis-Vrooman (Stage Manager)

Linda has enjoyed working backstage for ACT's productions of *Billy Elliot: The Musical* and *Daddy Long Legs*. Linda is honored to work with the talented group of actors and problem-solving stage crew. Linda is on the ACT Board and Vice President of the Amelia Island Dance Festival. By day, Linda is office manager at Royal Amelia Dance Academy. "I am grateful my husband David is so understanding of my busy schedule and my involvement in the arts."



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— We're making —  
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44th season of  
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AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATER

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# Ovations

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  - The Yulee News
  - The Tom Nehl Fund of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

## Special Thanks To...

Our friends and families who have been our support.

# Thank You SEASON 44 Donors

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Sherilyn VanOrden

# Volunteer of the Year

## Bruce Gruber

### Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, 2024-2025



Bruce Gruber is a loyal, hardworking, and dedicated volunteer who is involved in many aspects of our theatre. He knows ACT from every view: acting, leadership roles, recruiting new volunteers, rewriting our bylaws, play reading for new season selection, long range planning, ushering, and even parking cars.

Bruce has very high standards for himself and the work he produces for our theatre. He is a mature and sage voice of reason whom other volunteers look up to, listen to, and respect. The role of mentor comes naturally to Bruce, and he has given guidance and served as a role model to many in a variety of roles.

Bruce worked tirelessly on our volunteer recruitment program. Originally, he was handed a large and rambling mass of names on an ancient mailing list and he never felt overwhelmed or defeated by the massive project. He recently handed over a well-thought-out, developed, and finished volunteer recruitment and tracking program. Bruce also calls prospective volunteers who have expressed an interest in our theatre. His enthusiasm, warmth, and graciousness has turned many potential volunteers into new members of our volunteer family.

Bruce promotes ACT in our community including the Men's Newcomer Club, the Council on Aging, and various bridge groups where his persuasive, fun personality has single handedly sold many tickets to our performances- especially shows he's in! You may have seen him last February with roles in *Billy Elliot: The Musical*.

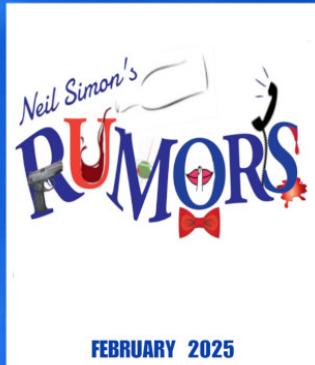
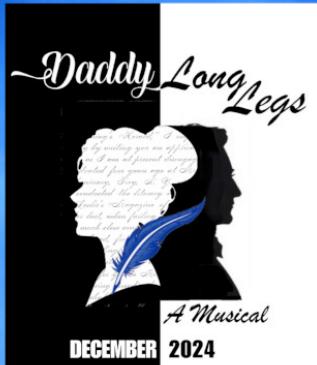
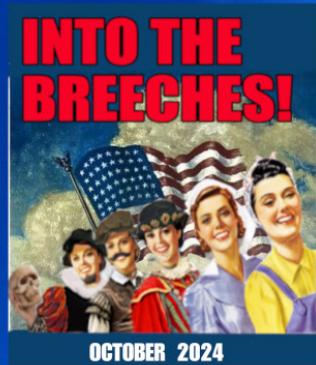
The epitome of a dependable volunteer, Bruce consistently produces excellent results drawing on his life experience in business and his long-time love for community theatre. As secretary to the ACT board, he works to insure the continued smooth running of board business. He also oversees the implementation of our long-range plan, and chaired the momentous task of by-laws revision to create our current by-laws that now reflect ACT's purpose and operations.

Bruce's wisdom, kindness, ethical standards, and stalwart stewardship helped ACT thrive during our 43rd season. Each and every day, he remains easy going and kind to all who volunteer alongside him. We think Bruce is the gold standard bearer for these traits in a volunteer, and we are all enriched by his presence at ACT. We are proud to honor Bruce Gruber as ACT Volunteer of the Year!

# Amelia Community Theatre

Proudly presents

**2024/2025  
SEASON 44**



Amelia Island is Your Theatre Destination. Our premier, community theatre brings people together to share fun and moving stories we know you will enjoy. It's a warm and welcoming environment where you can be a part of a dynamic and friendly community. Our mission is to bring the world of theatre to this beautiful location with unique, high-quality productions that are simply outstanding. We believe this season we have something for everyone, from big Broadway musicals, to hysterical comedies, to the classic murder mystery. It's a dynamic season you won't want to miss.