

THE LAST FIVE YEARS IN REVIEW



During the audition process for our 2021 virtual season, the creatives worked very closely together to find the best possible fits for each production. Director Ryan Dean Schoening saw a rare

opportunity of having two casts tell the same story while being completely independent productions of each other.

Carly Lafferty and TJ Creedon joined Lindsay Bretz-Morgan and Sean Meara to tell us the story of Cathy Hiatt and Jamie Wellerstein as their marriage dissolves before our eyes. The interesting aspect of this musical that *The Last Five Years* has two independent linear storylines. Cathy's storyline begins at the end of her marriage to Jamie and works backwards to their first meeting. Jamie begins the show after his first date with Cathy and proceeds chronologically to the end we know is coming. Both characters only meet through song once, in the middle of the show, when they get married.

"The biggest challenge for this production wasn't getting the storylines and timelines right," says Schoening. "Rather, it was ensuring that the integrity of the piece remained intact, allowing the performers to offer up their own version of events while digging deep to find personal connection to their characters."



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SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD COMING IN JULY



It's about one moment. It's about hitting the wall and having to make a choice... or take a stand... or turn around and go back. These are the stories and characters of today, the *Songs for a New World*. The first musical from Tony Award winner, Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*, *Bridges of Madison County*), this moving collection of powerful songs examines life, love and the choices that we make.

Brown transports his audience from the deck of a 1492 Spanish sailing ship to a ledge, 57 stories above Fifth Avenue, to meet a startling array of characters that range from a young man who has determined that basketball is his ticket out of the ghetto to a woman whose dream of marrying rich nabs her the man of her dreams... and a soulless marriage.

This production, directed by Stephen FJ Martin, features an all-star ensemble of incredible vocalists telling the stories about how one singular moment can change the rest of your life. While

there is no specific plot addressed in *Songs for a New World*, each character gives us a glimpse at what decision making can do and how it can ripple into our lives.

Featuring Brad Barkdoll, Nina Cline, Beth Jacobs Darowish, Jasmine Graham, Lily Myers, Ariadne Retzer, Josh Schwartz, and Émile Joseph Weeks, the production opens virtually, presented via ShowTix4U, on July 9th at 7:30 PM and will run through Saturday, July 17th. Ticket information can be obtained by visiting our website at <https://www.oystermill.com/tickets>



DRIVING MISS DAISY OPENING VIRTUALLY AUGUST 13TH – AUGUST 21ST

Director Aliza Bardfield leads a strong and resilient cast of three to tell the story of how the most unlikely of friendships can form when you least expect it.

Marcie Warner, starring in the titular role, has been a familiar face and kind soul at Oyster Mill Playhouse for over the last 20 years. From directing to performing to serving on the Board of Directors, she's done it all. Marcie has also been featured many times in leading and supporting roles at different theatres in our community such as Theatre Harrisburg, Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg, and Hershey Area Playhouse.

David Payne joins us on the Oyster Mill Playhouse stage for the very first time, taking on the role of Hoke Coleburn. David is a popular anchor and reporter at Radio PA Network as well as an announcer at Temple University Diamond Band. You may have even spotted him calling what were hopefully winning lottery numbers for you!

Jonathan Morgan, playing Daisy's son Boolie Werthan, is no stranger to the Oyster Mill Playhouse stage. His last venture was a marvelous turn as the Italian Mr. Paravicini in our smash production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*.

This production opens virtually, presented via ShowTix4U, on Friday, August 13th at 7:30 PM with show times of Saturday, August 14th at 7:30 PM, Friday, August 20th at 7:30 PM, and Saturday, August 21st at 7:30 PM. Ticket information can be obtained by visiting our website <https://www.oystermill.com/tickets>

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Our patrons and members should be familiar with our board being a rotating Board of Directors. This means that we say goodbye to fierce advocates for our small and mighty theatre while saying hello and welcoming new visionaries to keep the future of Oyster Mill Playhouse bright and burning.

We would like to thank our President, Rosie Turner, for her four years of limitless volunteer service to our organization. Rosie first joined the Board in 2017 and served as the OMP Public Relations Officer for two years. In that role, she brought her understanding of social media and the metrics available to measure OMP's publicity efforts to improve their effectiveness. She also spearheaded a successful effort to modernize the OMP brand and bring consistency to the varied OMP publicity and other materials.

In 2019, Rosie was elected to become the OMP President. During her term, the OMP By-Laws were improved and revised, as were many policies and practices which had fallen out of date.

We would also like to thank our Production Coordinator, Nina Cline, for her two years of passionate volunteer service at Oyster Mill Playhouse. Nina oversaw the creative vision and implementation of our last two seasons, including, of course, the difficult choices we had to face in 2020 during the pandemic.

We thank both Rosie and Nina for their mind-blowing talents, kind natures, forward thinking visions, and the warm smiles they offered every time we saw them.

Oyster Mill held our recent round of Board Elections at our General Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 5th with the following members nominated and duly elected to their positions.

President

Ryan Dean Schoening

Vice-President

Michael Hosler

Secretary

Marcie Warner

Treasurer

Lois Heagy

Production Coordinator

Aliza Bardfield

Business Manager

Caitlyn Davis

Public Relations

Carl Bakey

Member's at Large

KeriAn Cross

Lindy Mack

Bryden McCurdy

Jonathan Morgan

LeeAnn Murray

Ariadne Retzer

Samantha Speraw

Larry Warner



ALL ARTWORK INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY ROSIE TURNER, USED WITH HER GRACIOUS PERMISSION



THEATER RE-OPENING PLANS

We are so thrilled to finally open our doors again to the public this fall as we finish our 2021 season with live, in-person performances of Neil Simon's *Barefoot in the Park*, directed by Michael Hosler.

With the PA Dept of Health mask mandate having expired on June 28th, we will not be requiring our patrons to wear a mask upon entry to the building or while in the building.

We understand that some patrons may still have some concerns regarding safety while in our intimate theatre. We encourage you to wear a mask if it helps you feel more comfortable while you're visiting with us. We will not be performing temperature checks or COVID-19 related screenings.

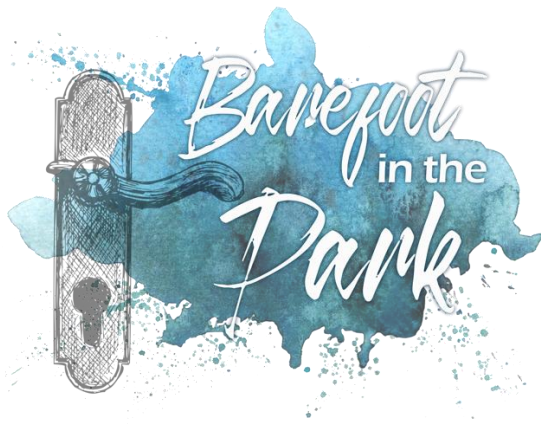
We do ask that, if you have purchased a ticket for a performance but are feeling unwell as the date/time approaches, please consider staying home and reaching out to our Box Office at boxoffice@oystermill.com to find a more suitable performance for you to attend.

Notwithstanding that some guidelines have been relaxed, you can be confident that the theatre will be cleaned at the conclusion of each performance and any high-touch surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectants.

Our intermissions will be extended from 15 minutes to 20 minutes to adequately serve your restroom or concession needs while avoiding any potential overcrowding in our lobby.

If you are meeting a member of the cast after any performance, we kindly request that you wait outside on our front porch or on the outside of the building rather than gathering in the lobby. We will have ushers available to assist with directing you to these areas as well as addressing any questions or concerns that you may have.

NEIL SIMON'S
BAREFOOT IN THE PARK
LIVE ON STAGE IN NOVEMBER



The first live in-person production to be staged at Oyster Mill since the beginning of 2020 will be our long-awaited production of *Barefoot in the Park*, directed by Michael Hosler. The show's opening night will be held on Friday, November 5th with a **7:30 PM** curtain. Performance dates are shown below:

November 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	02	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27

(Curtain for Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances is at 7:30 pm; Sunday performances are matinees with curtain time at 2:00 pm)

There will be no major changes in the way we present *Barefoot in the Park* with the exception of reducing the maximum seating capacity from 91 seats to 78 seats.

With tickets already selling at a quick pace, we highly recommend that you get yours for this fabulous production (which was only five days away from opening before the statewide shutdown began) as soon as possible!

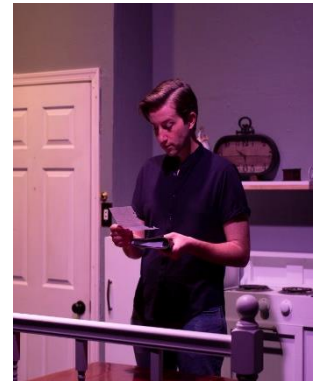
Hosler and all of the originally announced cast of *Barefoot in the Park* have remained committed to ultimately presenting this production. We are so excited to welcome them back to the stage!

And, although adaptations to the set were made to accommodate the video productions of *The Last Five Years*, *Song for a New World*, and *Driving Miss Daisy*, the skeleton of the set remained throughout, and all the components of the original set and set dressing have been preserved and will be reassembled so the production will have its original look.

STILL PHOTOS FROM THE LAST FIVE YEARS
 (PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROSE EILEEN TURNER)



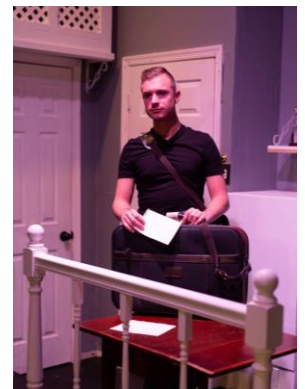
Carly Lafferty



TJ Creedon



Lindsay Bretz-Morgan



Sean Meara