

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD RECAP AND REVIEW



Before Tony Award winning songwriter Jason Robert Brown went on to write his more well known works (*Parade*, *Bridges of Madison County*), he pulled together sixteen songs he had written for various projects (shows, cabaret, concerts) and director Daisy Prince found a common theme to make a more or less unified “song cycle” staged production of the pieces. The theme devised was *the moment of decision, the point at which you transition from the old to the new.* (“[Songs for a New World' Storyline and Musical Numbers](https://www.guidetomusicaltheatre.com/storyline-and-musical-numbers)” [guidetomusicaltheatre.com](https://www.guidetomusicaltheatre.com).)

The material was first workshopped in Toronto before going to Broadway for a brief run in 1995, but it has enjoyed many rejuvenations and iterations in regional/local and other productions since its original debut.

For OMP’s virtual production, director Stephen FJ Martin sought to approach the themes in the material in the spirit of a local repertory company, or a group of local community theatre talent, who are attempting to workshop the material anew, hopefully with some freshness and originality. Martin assembled an all-star ensemble of incredible vocalists to tell the stories embodied in the music about how one singular moment can change the rest of one’s life.

The cast featured Brad Barkdoll, Nina Cline, Beth Jacobs Darowish, Jasmine Graham, Lily Myers, Ariadne Retzer, Josh Schwartz, and Émile Joseph Weeks. The virtual production ran between July 9th through July 17th. Andrea Stephenson, of BroadwayWorld, offered a solid review of the production, which can be viewed at:

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/central-pa/article/BWW->

Although every OMP production is a collaboration of many participants, this production, perhaps more so than a traditional OMP offering, was a close collaboration among Director Martin, Musical Director Ryan Dean Schoening, Stage Manager Rebecca Lease and volunteer Videographer Rose Eileen Turner, together with an excellent pit orchestra directed by Musical Director Schoening, with pit recording help from Lindy Mack. Voices were expertly recorded and mixed with the orchestra by sound engineer, Nathan Oakley.

IN THIS ISSUE	
SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD	1
DRIVING MISS DAISY	2
SEASON 2022 (TEASER)	2
BAREFOOT IN THE PARK	3
IN MEMORIAM – DUANE BAKER	4



SHOW GRAPHICS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THE ORIGINAL ARTWORK OF ROSIE TURNER, USED WITH HER PERMISSION



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

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

Marcie Warner, stars in the titular role of Daisy Werthan, an elderly, rich, sharp-tongued Jewish widow who has recently demolished another car. Her devoted son, Boolie (played by Jonathan Morgan), informs her that she may no longer drive and must now rely on the services of a chauffeur for transportation. The person he hires for the job is a thoughtful, unemployed Black man, Hoke Coleburn (played by David Payne).

Throughout the 25 year span depicted in the play, we see Daisy and Hoke, despite their vastly different backgrounds and circumstances grow ever closer to, and more dependent on, each other.

Marcie Warner has been a familiar face at Oyster Mill Playhouse for more years than she might want us to specify. She has appeared many, many times on the Oyster Mill Playhouse stage in leading and supporting roles, has directed many productions as well, and is no stranger to service on the OMP Board of Directors.

Patrons of Theatre Harrisburg, Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg, and Hershey Area Playhouse know her as a stalwart participant in the productions of those organizations as well.

David Payne appears us on the Oyster Mill Playhouse stage for the very first time. 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 on television calling what were hopefully winning lottery numbers for you!

Jonathan Morgan, is also no stranger to the Oyster Mill Playhouse stage. His latest ventures were in Season 2019, first as the mysterious Italian Mr. Paravicini in the OMP smash production of Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap* and later as the bombastic Big Daddy in the OMP production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Driving Miss Daisy 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>

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR SEASON 2022?



The OMP Play Selection Committee and the Board of Directors are preparing to announce the productions planned and the calendar of performance dates which will comprise the Oyster Mill Playhouse 2022 Season.

As in the past, the upcoming Season will be announced at a special invitation-only preview presentation event held for past season ticket holders and potential private performance purchasers. The event will take place in August, and the 2022 Season will be announced to the general public soon thereafter.

**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:

**Corie Bratter - Samantha Speraw
Telephone Repair Man - Collins Wilson
Delivery Man - Stephen Jahn
Paul Bratter - Josh Lebo
Mother - Anne Marino
Victor Velasco - Gordon Einhorn**



(photo by Stephen Jahn)

We are so excited to welcome them back to the stage!

And, even though minor adaptations were made to the intricate set in order 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.



Barefoot set skeleton as adapted for *Songs for a New World*
(photo by SFJ Martin)



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

IN MEMORIAM DUANE BAKER



(Duane Baker as Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*)
(photo by Stephen Jahn)

Oyster Mill Playhouse was very saddened to learn of the passing of one of its finest artistic contributors, Duane Baker.

Duane was an actor of immense talent, and impeccable timing in a comedy; and he could also be relied on to deliver a stellar dramatic performance in a serious play. His credits at OMP included *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grill*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Accomplice*, *And Then There Were None*, *It Runs in the Family*, *A Party to Murder*, and *You Can't Take it with You*.



Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar & Grille
(photo by Stephen Jahn)

Perhaps one of Duane's most memorable on-stage comedic roles (and there were so many) was as The Grand Duchess Olga Katrina in *You Can't Take It With You*.



(Impeccable costume and makeup by Duane Baker himself)
(photo by Stephen Jahn)

Duane was also no stranger to the Director's chair, directing *Play On* at OMP; and he also served on the OMP Board of Directors. He was also an accomplished actor and director at Little Theater of Mechanicsburg, and served on that organization's Board as well.

Duane will be greatly missed for his theatrical talents. But he will also be fondly remembered for his fine character, his kindness, his ready wit and his loyalty as a friend and colleague.

