



Oxford Area Community Theatre
2022-23 Season



presents

RIPCORD

by **David Lindsay-Abaire**

directed by Lisa Biales



Fri. & Sat., Apr. 21 & 22 @ 7:30

Sunday, Apr. 23 @ 2:00

Fri. & Sat., Apr. 28 & 29 @ 7:30

Sunday, Apr. 30 @ 2:00

OxACT's Founding Patrons

Susan Braunig
Bill Brewer
Sgt. David Broxterman, USA
William and Charlotte Bruhn
Allan and Christina Button
Robert and Biz Campbell
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Mrs. C. Rollin Niswonger
Jack and Sally Southard
C. E. and Betty Stousland
Dennis and Helen Sullivan
Stephen E. Toney
William and Dixie Utter
Kaye York-Longworth



OxACT Mission Statement

“The mission of the Oxford Area Community Theatre shall be to provide the community with the highest quality amateur theater possible. In order to achieve our goal, OxACT will present a mixture of musicals, dramas, and comedies from the classical and contemporary repertoire. We will do our best to achieve balance between shows that are appealing to the audience, cast, crew, and director, while increasing theatrical knowledge for all involved.”



OxACT's 2022-23 Board



Rebecca Howard, president
Kayleigh Swatzell, vice president
Patricia Troesch, treasurer
Susan Meikle, secretary

Ben Mattox
Mike McVey
Cecilia Shore
Andrew Swatzell

The OCAC's ADA-compliant restrooms are located down the hall as you leave the theatre to the left (women's) and to the right (men's).

The use of recording devices or cameras is strictly prohibited.

Please silence all electronic devices, such as watches, and

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE!

OxACT reserves the right to determine if or when latecomers will be seated, and may request patrons to leave the theatre if they become disruptive.



SPECIAL THANKS TO



SnaZZy Boutique for the loan of some costume pieces. 211 S. Elm Street, Oxford. 513-461-3900 www.SnaZZyBoutique.net. "Dress the way you want to feel."

Bird House Antiques for the loan of some set pieces. 114 W. High Street, Oxford.

Many thanks to everyone at OCAC for accommodating us here in our little theatre.

Connor Gray for his lovely and appropriately disturbing Mrs. Moore portrait.

Thank you for your patronage! If you would like to help keep OxACT thriving and providing quality arts experiences to Oxford and surrounding communities, please consider becoming a donor or season sponsor. Visit our website at oxact.org for more information, or contact us by phone at 513-523-6228 or by email at info@oxact.org, or send a check to OxACT, PO Box 535, Oxford, OH 45056.

1980-81

Mouse Trap
Blithe Spirit
The Boyfriend

1981-82

Barefoot in the Park
Wait Until Dark
The King and I

1982-83

Bus Stop
Harvey
Oliver

1983-84

Prisoner of Second Avenue
Inherit the Wind
Working

1984-85

Ah, Wilderness
Dial "M" for Murder
Pippin

1985-86

Godspell
6 RMS RIV VU
The Dining Room

1986-87

Evita
The Real Inspector Hound
Our Town

1987-88

Fiddler on the Roof
All My Sons
Morning's at Seven

1988-89

Baby
Painting Churches
Skin of Our Teeth

1989-90

Sound of Music
The Glass Menagerie
Arsenic and Old Lace

1990-91

Closer Than Ever
The Diary of Anne Frank
Once Upon a Mattress
Marriage of Figaro

1991-92

The Music Man
Gianni Schicchi and Suor Angelica
The Shadow Box
The Odd Couple

1992-93

Agnes of God
Ten Little Indians
Die Fledermaus
Oklahoma!

1993-94

Annie!
Fefu and Her Friends
The Fantasticks

1994-95

Working
The Miracle Worker
The Boys Next Door

1995-96

Carousel
Nunsense
The Lion in Winter

1996-97

Annie Warbucks
You Can't Take It With You
My Emperor's New Clothes

1997-98

Steel Magnolias
Sylvia
Adventures of
Peter Pan and Wendy
No Fish in the House

1998-99

Stefanie Hero
You're a Good Man
Charlie Brown
Bell, Book & Candle

1999-2000

Forever Plaid
The House of Blue Leaves
Talking With . . .
The Rainmaker

2000-01

E. Hemingway
Nuncrackers:
The Christmas Musical
The Prince and the Pauper
Dames At Sea

2001-02

Parallel Lives
I Do! I Do!

2002-03

Luv
Wizard of Oz

How many of these great OxACT shows have you seen?

2003-04

Cole
A Raisin in the Sun

2004-05

The Search for Signs of
Intelligent Life in the Universe
"Master Harold"...and the boys
Guys and Dolls

2005-06

The Cemetery Club
Between Men and Cattle
Free to Be . . . You and Me

2006-07

An Evening of Improv
Company
Cabin Fever, a Texas Tragicomedy

2007-08

Spoon River Anthology
Into the Woods

2008-09

Fiddler on the Roof
Quilters
Black Comedy

2009-2010

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to
the Forum
Quake
Pirates of Penzance

2010-2011

Doubt
The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling
Bee
Always, Patsy Cline

2011-2012

The Crucible
Adaptation/Next
Prelude to a Kiss

2012-2013

See How They Run
The Book of Liz
Walter Cronkite is Dead

2013-2014

The Great American Trailer Park
Musical
God of Carnage
The Retreat from Moscow

2014-15

The Last Reading of Charlotte
Cushman
Seussical
Tuesdays with Morrie

2015-16

The Belle of Amherst
Lost in Yonkers
Always a Bridesmaid

2016-17

Art
Talley's Folly
Four by Two (by Four)

2017-18

Oh, Coward!
The Gin Game
Rabbit Hole

2018-19

The Other Place
39 Steps
Vanya and Sonia and Masha and
Spike

2019-20

True West
Bingo!

2020-21

COVID Called

2021-22

All the Roles I'll Never Have
The Octette Bridge Club
The Edgar Allan Poe Afterlife Radio
Show

2022-23

All the Roles I Loved the Most
Two on the Aisle, Three in a Van
Ripcord

Oxford Area Community Theatre
2022-23 Season



presents

RIPCORD

by **David Lindsay-Abaire**

directed by **Lisa Biales**



*Originally commissioned by the Manhattan Theatre Club
(Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer)
with funds provided by US Trust and received its
world premiere there on October 1, 2015.*

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Abby Deb Richardson
Scotty Connor Gray
Marilyn Rebecca Howard
Zombie Butler/Lewis John Jude Windland
Clown/Derek/Benjamin Vincent Smith
Woman in White/Colleen Sara Pate

***Time: the action takes place over the course of several days
in October, present day***

***Place: Most scenes are in the shared room of Abby and
Marilyn at a retirement home; additional scenes include a
Haunted House, skydiving from an airplane, and a park.***

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Production Team:

Director:

Lisa Biales

Technical Supervisor; Set/Lighting Design/Props:

Rebecca Howard

Light/Sound Board Operation:

Kayleigh Swatzell

Running Crew:

Rene McKinstry, Cecilia Shore, John Jude Windland

Construction Crew:

Scott McKinstry, Andrew Swatzell, Jordan Jeffries,
Rebecca Howard, John Jude Windland.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It takes a community to put on a show, and this place we call home is ripe with talent and creativity. At our first meeting, before I even knew what was happening, Becky had the entire set taped off in yellow. A great place to start fleshing out how we would move around on stage. Then we had a crew move walls, doors, and windows up from the basement, and like magic, Andy, Becky, Scott, and Jordan brought our set to life. This allowed us to further discover our characters in their home on the stage. Then hours and hours of painting, wallpapering, finding set pieces, building beds, detailing, and tweaking. Meanwhile, we are digging deeper into the psyche and depth of each of our characters and their relationships with each other. The greatest joy in directing has been stepping into each character with the actors and never asking them to do something I would not do myself. I have taken delight in the process of noticing, observing, reflecting, and watching this show take flight. I couldn't have done any of this without the expert assistance of Becky "I think you've done this before" Howard, who had the uncanny ability to stay one step ahead of me, making my job easy. Thank you, Becky, and thank you to the community for coming to our show and supporting our theater company!

ABOUT THE CAST

LISA BIALES (Director) graduated from Ohio University in 2003 with a Master's in Theater. She was music director of the Hocking County Children's Chorus in Logan, Ohio from 1995–2003. Lisa worked as an artist-in-residence at Oxford Middle School for ten weeks in 2005, culminating with a performance by Mo Kelly's 6th grade class of a musical written and directed by Biales called *The Very Best Play in the World*. Lisa appeared as Patsy in OxACT's *Always, Patsy Cline* in 2011 and directed a one-act *Asleep on the Wind* in the *Four by Two (by Four)* show in 2017. In the movie *TWIXT*, written and directed by Francis Ford Coppola, Lisa played the character Ruth, who picks up her little guitar and sings! A performing songwriter, Lisa will release an album of original Christmas music in November. This play is Lisa's first experience directing a full-length production with OxACT.

CONNOR GRAY (Scotty) is so excited to share the funny, surprising, and touching story of *Ripcord* with you. He's found himself welcomed so generously by the Oxford community and wants to give back in the ways he knows how. Story telling has always been a medium he connects with and he hopes to continue to share important stories as his life goes on.

REBECCA HOWARD ((Marilyn; Technical Supervisor; Set/Lighting & Props Design)) has been involved in over 50 productions with OxACT as actor, director, lighting/sound and set designer, props/scenic designer, and/or playwright. Examples of a few of her favorite productions have been *Painting Churches* (1989); *Nunsense* (1996); *Free to Be...You and Me* (2006); *Quilters* (2009); *Lost in Yonkers* (2016); and *Oh, Coward!* (2017). OxACT hasn't kicked her out yet, so she plans to keep coming back until they do. She has also appeared with Hamilton Civic Theater and the Fitton Center, where her one act *Birding With Aunt Nancy* was a winner of their writing contest and was later produced as one of the one acts in OxACT's *Four by Two by Four*. As an idealistic youth, she studied in the theater conservatory program at Webster University in St. Louis, and as a cynical adult, earned an MA in Theater from Miami, with a focus in directing and playwriting, and a PhD in Educational Leadership. In her other life, she is a wife, a parent, a dog/cat/fish wrangler, a university instructor, a school board member, and an educational consultant.

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE (Playwright) is an American playwright, lyricist and screenwriter. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2007 for his play *Rabbit Hole*, which also earned several Tony Award nominations. He attended Milton Academy and concentrated in theatre at Sarah Lawrence College, from which he graduated in 1992. He was accepted into the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program at the Juilliard School, where he wrote under the tutelage of playwrights Marsha Norman and Christopher Durang from 1996 to 1998. In 2016, Lindsay-Abair was named co-director of Juilliard's Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program.

SARA PATE (Collen; Woman in White) is a lifelong Oxford resident and mother of three. You may recognize her from previous Oxact shows or her duet performances with Ron Hautau. Sara currently works for the City of Harrison. When she is not working or performing she enjoys hiking, kayaking and spending time with her two dogs. "Performing is honestly my favorite thing to do and I am so happy that I get the opportunity to work with my friends and OxACT to bring you this fun show."

DEB RICHARDSON (Abby) Abby reminds us that the grumpy person who gets under our skin is probably the one who needs the most grace and patience, since they are likely to have endured more hell and hardships than most of us can imagine. Our encounters with the "Abbys" every day may not be more fun after this story soaks in, but hopefully it at least gives us pause. My gratitude towards my teammates on this journey knows no bounds. So much talent and heart wrapped up in this cast and crew! Oxford and OxACT are fortunate to benefit from all this energy and creativity. So lucky we are, to bask in the myriad talents among us! Deb has worked on multiple shows with OxACT, dating back to 1999, with too many favorite roles and casts to list them all. She has also worked with GHCT, Fairfield Footlighters, Mason Community Players, and other independent theatre companies. She sings with Sirens and dances with Sol Sisters. She loves learning improv comedy with the talented Improv Cincinnati community. When she's not trying to entertain others, she travels a little. And best of all, she revels in spoiling her grandkids! Enjoy the show!

CECILIA SHORE (Set/props Running Crew) is excited to be returning to backstage at OxACT this season after some decades away. Her last (non)appearance was at Presser Hall. When asked for an account of her time away, she quotes (with a nod to Sherlock): “I travelled for years in Tibet, visiting Lhasa, and spending some days with the head lama. I then passed through Persia, looked in at Mecca, and paid a short but interesting visit to the Khalifa at Khartoum.”

VINCENT SMITH (Clown; Derek; Benjamin) is enjoying his time back on the OxACT stage after previously appearing in *Art*; *See How They Run*; *Prelude to a Kiss*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; and *Always, Patsy Cline*. Vince would like to thank his family for helping to afford him the time to play this part and for encouraging him, including his grandfather, who always said he should be on the stage (“There’s one leaving in just a few minutes...”). He would especially like to thank the entire community of artists and patrons who make OxACT and the Community Arts Center thrive!

KAYLEIGH SWATZELL (Light/Sound Technician) has been involved with OxACT for several years and is thrilled to be behind the scenes still. She debuted her skills in 2022 by bringing *The Edgar Allan Poe Afterlife Radio Show* to life (or death, as the case may be), and refined her directing chops further with her second turn at directing this season, bringing *Two on the Aisle*, *Three in a Van* to OxACT audiences. She is grateful that her family (The SWAT Team) is willing to come along to help as well. In her spare time, she enjoys all things fascinating, macabre, and odd, including her new pet python.

JOHN JUDE WINDLAND (Zombie Butler; Lewis) is a multidisciplinary artist. Ripcord is John’s OxACT debut. He has been an artist in the Oxford community since the early 1990’s when he moved here from West Virginia and was a founding member of Platter Sliced Bacon – a band that created mixed media experiences. Primarily a bassist he can be found playing multiple instruments, many of his own creation. Circuit bending and culture jamming are two of his passions; you can check out his music online as John Jude Windland and Fissure Shaft. He has been a 3rd Floor artist of the OCAC for over a decade—it is here that he does most of the circuit bending projects and paintings, while the music creation, production, and publication takes place in his home studio. You can enjoy his music on all streaming platforms.



SHOUT OUT TO OUR SEASON DONORS!

OxACT has always been supported through the generosity of community members who attend as patrons, or who donate to help us keep the lights on! If you would like to become a donor, you can make a donation through the PayPal portal on our website (oxact.org), or send a check to

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PO Box 535
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