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OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS

NEIL SIMON'S

# Barefoot in the Park

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**BAREFOOT  
IN THE PARK**

by Neil Simon

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## SYNOPSIS & SCENES

Paul and Corie Bratter are newlyweds in every sense of the word. He's a straight-as-an-arrow lawyer and she's a free spirit always looking for the latest kick. Their new apartment is her most recent find - too expensive with bad plumbing and in need of a paint job. After a six-day honeymoon, they get a surprise visit from Corie's loopy mother and decide to play matchmaker during a dinner with their neighbor-in-the-attic, Velasco, where everything that can go wrong, does. Paul just doesn't understand Corie, as she sees it. He's too staid, too boring and she just wants him to be a little more spontaneous, running "barefoot in the park" would be a start...

**Place:** The top floor of a brownstone on East 48th Street, New York City

**Time:** Early 1960s

### Act One

A cold February afternoon. About 5:30 P.M.

### Act Two

Scene 1: Four days later. About 7:00 P.M.

Scene 2: Later that night. About 2:00 A.M.

### Act Three

The following day. About 5:00 P.M.

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## CAST

Corie Bratter ..... JAMIE BELLE MECKLEY  
 Telephone Repair Man, Harry Pepper ..... WILLIAM D. ROBERTS  
 Delivery Man ..... BILL KNOTTS  
 Paul Bratter ..... CHAD RIDGWAY  
 Corie's Mother, Mrs. Banks ..... RENA SWEARINGEN  
 Victor Velasco ..... MITCH MAZAHER

## STAFF & CREW

Director ..... DAVID PRATHER  
 Technical Director ..... ROD ODEN  
 Costumer ..... REINNE LEAVITT  
 Stage Manager/Production Assistant ..... MARY LUCAS  
 Assistant Stage Manager ..... SABRINA DYE  
 Props ..... ROD ODEN  
 Set Designers ..... DAVID PRATHER, ROD ODEN  
 Set Construction Crew ..... SABRINA DYE, CONNOR WALKER, CAST, CREW  
 Lighting and Sound Designer ..... ROD ODEN  
 Lighting Operator ..... TERRI STOUT BORRELLI  
 Sound Operator ..... MARY LUCAS  
 Stage Crew ..... BILL KNOTTS, EM HAIRL, WILLIAM D. ROBERTS  
 Costume Crew ..... ANN SIMONTON  
 Bookholder ..... BILL KNOTTS  
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## President's Letter



Welcome to 2017 at the Actors Guild! Even though our seasons aren't based on calendar years, it's always notable to turn the page on a new year. As we turn the page on this year, I begin my time as President of the Actors Guild, an organization which has been a big part of my life for over forty years. During that time we have definitely had our ups and downs, successes and struggles, but have persevered to maintain our valuable place in the life of the Arts in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

In looking at the plot of *Barefoot in the Park*, I am struck by the way it mirrors the life of our organization. It combines two people who are madly in love, but don't necessarily agree on everything. That describes our membership to a T! We all love theatre, we love presenting shows, we love this organization, but that's where the similarities cease. We have different ideas about pretty much every aspect of how to achieve our goals. Some of us love the classics, others love new, cutting edge shows; some of us love musicals, others love plays above all else; some of us love realism, others love fantasy: the list could go on and on.

When we select our shows, we try to maintain that delicate balance of new vs. old, serious vs. comedic, musical vs. play and our upcoming season perfectly illustrates that. We have selected three new shows, recently presented on Broadway or professionally: *Sister Act*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *Jekyll & Hyde* and three classic shows from the rich history of theatre: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. And for our youth production we've selected *The Little Mermaid JR.*, a very recent production based on a tale of long ago.

Just as our members have different likes and dislikes, we know that you, our audience members, also have preferences for different types of theatre. As members, we have learned to appreciate, respect and support all types of theatre and we're so grateful that our audiences are willing to go on this journey with us to experience theatre in all its forms.

So, whether you are a straight-as-an-arrow person who loves order or a free spirit who appreciates wild and crazy spontaneity, we hope you'll find something to make you happy at The Actors Guild in 2017.

BARBARA FULL  
President of the Board of Trustees



## Director's Note



Let me be honest...I have never been a Neil Simon fan. No, really. I've found Mr. Simon's work to be occasionally misogynistic (much influenced by cultural norms) and often uneven in tone and structure. I took on *Barefoot in the Park* as a challenge to my own literary and theatrical sensibilities, and to appreciate an artist's work that has touched so many, but that has somehow escaped me. Am I a Neil Simon fan now that I have had the experience of directing *Barefoot*? Again, let me be honest. No.

But don't get me wrong, I do understand and appreciate Simon's appeal. He has a way of creating characters that allows an audience an easy connection, characters who say and do the things we always wanted to (and sometimes do), especially at our most ridiculous moments. And the best part of directing *Barefoot* has been our cast. Jamie Meckley has wonderfully carried the show on her shoulders as Corie. Chad Ridgway helped create fantastic chemistry as Paul. Rena Swearingen made Mrs. Banks the most loved and dreaded of mothers. Mitch Mazaher brought to life the unstoppable force that is Victor Velasco. William D. Roberts made himself at home as the telephone repairman Harry Pepper. And Bill (if-you-blink-you'll-miss-him) Knotts starts the show off just right as the delivery man.

These actors creating these characters from Mr. Simon's story of a newlywed couple make this show enjoyable from top to bottom. I do love these characters and how they push each other's buttons. Honestly, you are going to love them, too.

DAVE PRATHER  
Director, *Barefoot in the Park*

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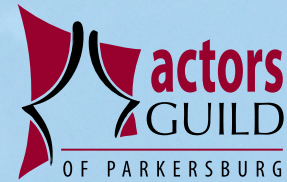
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# HONOREES

## The Bayley Award

The “Bayley” was established by the Actors Guild with a two-fold purpose: first, to honor one of our “founding mothers” and most influential members – Suzanne Bayley. The other function of the Bayley Award is for our membership to express an annual, public “thank you” to an individual, group or business in the community for services to the Actors Guild above and beyond the call of neighborly duty.

Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to Jeff Baughan.

## The Khalil Awards

For many years Dr. Ghassan Khalil and his family have made an annual contribution to ensure the continuation of live theater in our community and have championed the importance of the arts in our lives. The Khalil Awards were established to honor the Outstanding Production and the Outstanding Performance of each season. An anonymous panel consisting of persons who have seen every show of the previous season selects the recipients of these awards.

The Actors Guild of Parkersburg would like to congratulate Director David Prather and the entire cast and crew of *Arsenic and Old Lace* as the Best Show for the 2015-2016 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was Tasha Spencer, for her portrayal of Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde*.

## The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

Barbara Full is the most recent recipient of the Grace-Marie Merrill Award for exceptional volunteerism to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. The award is named for a former drama teacher at Parkersburg High School who was an early member of the Guild, where she acted in and directed plays.



# Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

**BILL KNOTTS** (Delivery Man) has been involved with the Actors Guild of Parkersburg since 1982, and the 1983 production of *Barefoot in the Park* was his third consecutive play working on the running crew. Bill considers his appearance in this 2016-17 version a real treat, even though it is basically a cameo. "If you blink, you'll miss me!" Bill's most recent characterizations were Victor Fleming in the 2014-15 Khalil Award winning *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and Jonathan Brewster in the 2015-16 Khalil Award winning *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "ENJOY THE SHOW, everyone!!"

**MITCH MAZAHER** (Victor Velasco) is honored to be making another appearance on the AGP Stage. Previous appearances at AGP include Patsy (*Spamalot*), Gomez Addams (*The Addams Family: The Musical*), Charlie Aiken (*August: Osage County*), Vince Lombardi (*Lombardi*), Jack Palmer (*The Boys Next Door*), Wilbur Turnblad (*Hairspray*), and Jim Haller (*All Shook Up*). Mitch lives in Zanesville, Ohio and roles in other theaters include Warbucks (*Annie*), Teyve (*Fiddler on the Roof*), Henry II (*The Lion in Winter*), Oscar Madison (*The Odd Couple*), and Charlie Brown (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*). Mitch is delighted to be reunited with Dave Prather for another show.

**JAMIE BELLE MECKLEY** (Corie Bratter) last appeared on the Guild stage as Mollie Ralston in *The Mousetrap*. She also starred as Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family Musical* and as Mina Murray in *Dracula* at AGP. Jamie is thrilled for the opportunity to be back on stage and honored to perform alongside such a talented cast and crew in this fun comedy. She resides in Waverly and teaches English at Jackson

Middle School, as well as helps manage Meckley Farms in Sistersville. Jamie would like to thank her husband, family, and friends for their constant love, support, and encouragement.

**CHAD RIDGWAY** (Paul Bratter) is very excited to make his Actors Guild debut with *Barefoot in the Park*. A Parkersburg native, Chad also appeared in the Mid-Ohio Valley Players' production of *I Hate Hamlet* earlier this year and will go on to assist musical direction of PHS's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Chad would like to extend his deepest gratitude toward everyone who made this a great show and an incredible experience, and a very special thank you to his wife for her unyielding support and love. ENJOY THE SHOW!!

**WILLIAM D. ROBERTS** (Harry Pepper) has appeared in Guild productions of *The Addams Family*, *Tom Sawyer*, *The Civil War*, *The Reel Thing*, and *Paint Your Wagon*. He was also Padre in the 2010 production of *Man of La Mancha*. A native of the MOV, he regularly serves as cantor and soloist in local churches and studies voice with Tiffany Casa Sante. Dave is a software systems analyst and serves as chairperson for the Actors Guild's house and grounds committee.

**RENA SWEARINGEN** (Mrs. Banks) most recently appeared in *August: Osage County* as Barbara. She has also appeared in many other Guild shows: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *Cooking with Gus*, *Leading Ladies*, *Wizard of Oz*, *The Foreigner* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. She received a Merit in Acting for her role in *The Red Velvet Cake War* as Gaynelle.

**DAVID PRATHER** (Director) is a long-time member of the Guild, and has appeared in and directed several shows. He received Khalil awards for performances in *Honk!* (The Cat), *Chicago* (The Jury), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Otto Frank), and *The Boys Next Door* (Lucien P. Smith) and for directing *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He has also directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Leading Ladies*, *On Borrowed Time*, and *August: Osage County*. Dave studied acting at The National Shakespeare Conservatory in New York and writing at Warren Wilson College near Asheville, NC.

**ROD ODEN** (Technical Director) made his directorial debut with the Actors Guild while directing *The Mousetrap*. Although Guild Technical Director by day, Rod has had the pleasure of directing on stages from Los Angeles to Lexington. Some of his directions include *Rumors*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Music Man*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Annie*. Rod thanks his amazing wife, Raquel, for her support of and participation in his endeavors.

**REINNIE LEAVITT** (Costumer) was the costumer for *The Boys Next Door* and on the costume crew for the summer production of *Spamalot*. She has been in many Guild productions including: *The Civil War*; *Pump Boys and Dinettes*; *Big, the Musical*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Man of La Mancha*; *Into the Woods*; *The Secret Garden*; *Shrek, the Musical*; and *9 to 5 the Musical*. Reinnie was on the music direction team for *Robin Hood, the Musical* (Guild Builders) and is a past AGP's *A Night of Dancing with the Stars* champion. She works at CCMC in cancer services.

**MARYLUCAS** (Stage Manager) has appeared on the Guild's stage as a member of the Ensemble in *Young Frankenstein* and as Bitsy Hargis in *The Red Velvet Cake War*. She has also worked as assistant director, production assistant, assistant stage manager, and props runner on other shows at the Guild since 2013. Mary has a love of animals, and currently has eight indoor cats. She also loves to read, walk half marathons, and travel, and she is learning to play the piano. Mary teaches 2nd grade at Kanawha Elementary in Wood County, WV.



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