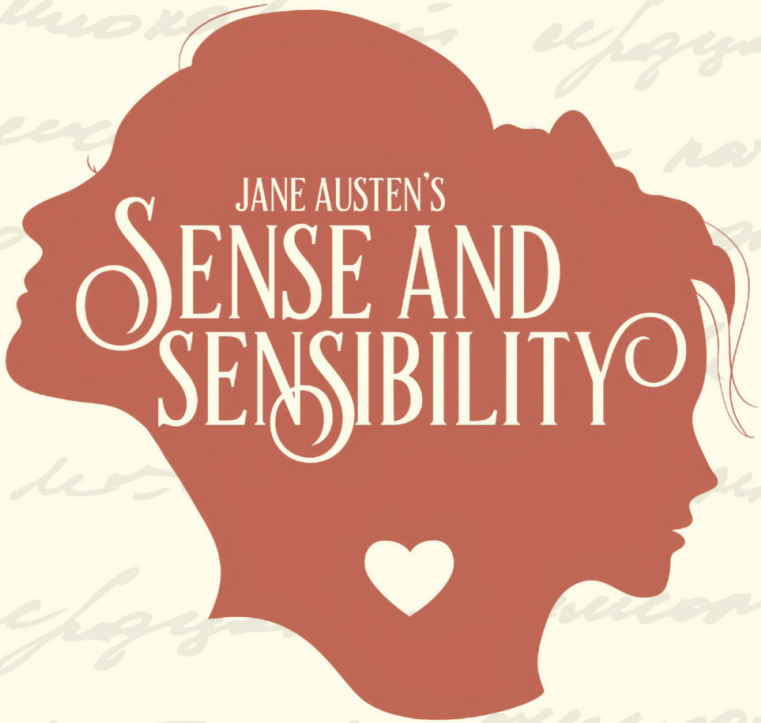


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The Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

By Kate Hamill
Based on the novel by Jane Austen

Sense and Sensibility is presented by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM

**The West Virginia Division of Culture and History
and the National Endowment for the Arts**

WITH APPROVAL FROM

The WV Commission on the Arts

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY

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SYNOPSIS SETTING & SCENES

Mrs. Dashwood is devastated at the sudden death of her husband, resulting in the loss of her family's financial standing and the loss of their beloved home. Moving to a small cottage with her three daughters, Mrs. Dashwood realizes there is a new reality for the women. Must their societal and financial redemption come through the assistance of a man? Not if Elinor and Marianne have anything to say about it. These young women recognize that they - all women - have much to offer...but how can a woman find her voice and build a fulfilling life in a society ruled by matchmakers, gossip, and the male ego?

These Dashwood daughters, one who is gifted with good sense and the other whose sensibilities rule her actions, have to find their place. The hilarity and the banality of everyday life bring a new challenge at every turn. Will their hopes for fulfillment include finding love? With Jane Austen, anything is possible.

Time and Place: England, 1790s, over the course of a few months

ACT ONE

The various scenes in Act 1 occur at the following sites -

At Norland Park - on the grounds, in the library, and in the parlor

At the cottage - on the grounds and in the parlor

At Barton Park - on the grounds and in the parlor

ACT TWO

The various scenes in Act 2 occur at the following sites -

At the cottage - on the grounds and in the parlor

At Mrs. Jennings' London home - in a bedroom and in the parlor

In London - at locations including the home of Mrs. Jennings' friends and the home of Mrs. Ferrars

At the Palmer's residence - on the grounds, in a bedroom, and in the parlor

THERE WILL BE ONE FIFTEEN-MINUTE INTERMISSION

CAST

The Dashwood Family

Mrs. Dashwood..... LYNN SOMERVILLE
 Elinor BECCA MEDENDORP
 Marianne ABBY FARNSWORTH
 Margaret NAOMI POTTS
 John Dashwood..... TIM TUTEN
 Fanny Ferrars Dashwood BECCA BUCK
 Thomas, a servant..... BRADEN MEDENDORP

At Barton Park

Sir John Middleton CHARLES ROBERTS
 Lady Middleton SUSAN COURTNEY
 Mrs. Jennings JANE MANCINI

The Ferrars Family

Mrs. Ferrars..... SUSAN COURTNEY
 Edward Ferrars JOSH PELIKAN
 Robert Ferrars ZACK GRAHAM

The Steele Sisters

Lucy NIKKI FIELDS
 Anne MISSY ARNOLD

Also in the County

Colonel Brandon..... TOM LODATO
 John Willoughby..... ISAAC EASTWOOD

In London

Miss Grey EMMA KITCHEN
 Guests at the Ball..... CHARLES ROBERTS, NIKKI FIELDS, TIM TUTEN, MISSY ARNOLD,
 ZACK GRAHAM, BECCA BUCK, BRADEN MEDENDORP, CHLOE ARNOLD, WILLOW PEYTON

In Colonel Brandon's Memory

Eliza NIKKI FIELDS
 A Certain Gentleman..... CHARLES ROBERTS
 Jane NAOMI POTTS

At the Palmer's Residence

A Doctor CHARLES ROBERTS

Gossips, servants, a horse, and two dogs ZACK GRAHAM, WILLOW PEYTON,
 BRADEN MEDENDORP, CHLOE ARNOLD, SUSAN COURTNEY, EMMA KITCHEN

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Director GREG MERRITT
 Assistant Director DANNY BAYER
 Technical Director/Lighting Designer/Set Designer BETH LANE
 Stage Manager ZACH OFFENBERGER
 Costume Coordinator PAM PICCOTT
 Costume Crew NANCY BLOOMER, BETTY DOTSON, NANCY HARDY,
 BETTY KELLEY, PAM PICCOTT, ANN SIMONTON, VERONICA FIELDS,
 DEBBIE SEELEY, BECCA MEDENDORP, CAST, CREW
 Props ZACH OFFENBERGER, DANNY BAYER, GREG MERRITT
 Production Assistant NORA CORRA
 Backstage Crew CAST
 Lightboard Operator SABRINA DYE
 Sound ZACH OFFENBERGER
 Artwork MADISON MCHUGH
 Stage Decor DANNY BAYER, SUSAN COURTNEY, LYNN SOMERVILLE, GREG MERRITT
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 Playbill Layout and Design BRETT MEADE

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President's Letter



Shortly after Dr. Chris Gilmer took over as President of West Virginia University Parkersburg about a year and a half ago, he approached the Actors Guild. He asked us to partner with them in an effort to enhance the arts at the University. Some years ago there had been a very strong partnership between the two of us. WVUP at that time had an active theatre department and we worked together on a number of productions and, at one point, even shared a staff person.

The Guild embraced the idea of the renewed partnership and started brainstorming about what we could do. For our first venture, our Teen Guild Builders performed a Christmas children's show in December of 2018. We played to enthusiastic audiences of all ages. Next up was a Mystery Dinner Theatre for two nights over Valentine's Day last year. We invited students and faculty from WVUP as well as members of the Guild to join in the fun. Both performances were a sell out!

Then last fall our Teen Guild Builders were back in the WVUP Theatre to do their annual main stage production. They chose to do *Sweeney Todd* over Halloween and it was an overwhelming success with five packed houses. For Christmas we decided to do the holiday classic *It's a Wonderful Life* as a live radio play, complete with live sound effects. Once again, WVUP students and faculty joined members of the Guild to perform in this charming production. None other than Chris Gilmer was enlisted to play Clarence the Angel, and both he and our audiences could not have enjoyed it more!

When the Guild started to move forward with the next phase of our long-term renovation project, we knew we would have to vacate our auditorium for several months. Our season was already planned and dates established for each production; consequently we would need another home for a short while. The logical solution was to move to this wonderful theatre at WVUP. So here we are tonight with the Guild's mainstage production of *Sense and Sensibility*. It is a perfect fit.

We cannot be more delighted by the warm reception and cooperation we have received from Dr. Gilmer and the University, and look forward to continuing this collaboration. The Guild Builders are already planning to return here later in the year and we will continue to brainstorm on future joint ventures. The Actors Guild thanks all of the staff here for their support. And we pledge our support to WVUP as it continues to enhance its commitment to the arts.

DAVID REXROAD
President of the Board of Trustees



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Director's Note

What a pleasure it has been to work on this production of *Sense and Sensibility*, the beloved novel by Jane Austen, adapted for the stage by Kate Hamill. This script is lively and funny and sweet and poignant. Jane Austen's work always includes engaging characters, and it has been a treat to see those characters brought to life by this excellent cast (which includes several newcomers to the Actors Guild of Parkersburg).

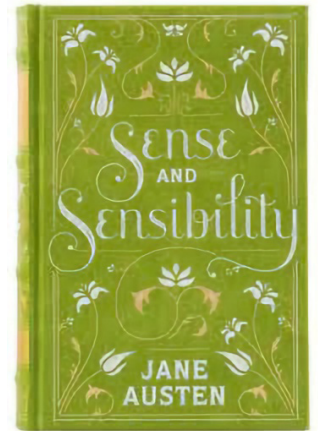
Jane Austen allows her readers to find themselves in her novels. She offers a witty take on society and the norms that guide us. Although she tempers her writing with humor and warmth, we revel and (sometimes) cringe at the timeliness of her themes... female empowerment, social manipulation, gossip, and young love...themes that were timely in the 18th century and are still timely today.

I appreciate the administration and staff at WVU-P facilitating our production as it is held on their campus. I acknowledge the work of the AGP's newly-hired technical director, Beth Lane. This show's production staff show has been delightful, and I am especially grateful for the generosity and creative spirit exhibited by the assistant director, stage manager, costume coordinator, and advisor - Danny Bayer, Zach Offenberger, Pam Piggott, and Barbara Full, respectively. I offer "thanks" to our production assistant, Nora Corra.

There is something intriguing and warm about the genteel community created in this story. There is something sad in the loss of that community as we, in this modern time, are too busy to enjoy each other and laugh together and use our sense and our sensibility to become better. I think a theatrical experience creates a community... intriguing and warm...and I invite everyone to join.

GREG MERRITT

Director, *Sense and Sensibility*



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Kelly Boseman	Anessa Koskey	David Rexroad
Natalie Bradley	Myla Kreinik	★ Teri Robert
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Johnathan Defibaugh	★ Charlie Matthews	Beth Sour
★ Betty Dotson	Haley Matthews	Gwen Sour
★ Mike Dotson	Michelle McClung	Pete Sour
Sabrina Dye	Gary McIntyre	J.T. Spivy
George Faber	Brett Meade	Deanna Spring
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Cathy Freed	★ Greg Merritt	Jaliyah Townsend
★ Barbara Full	Marsha Mueller	Hector Velez
★ Jim Full	Megan Newbanks	★ Helen Waddell
John Gradwohl	★ Jean Newton	Chris Walker
David Grande	Jeff Newton	Jeff Welch
Steve Hardy	★ John Newton	Robin White
Bob Harris	Brent Null	Josh Woodard

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

CHLOE ARNOLD (Gossip/Ensemble, Ball Guest) is a senior at Parkersburg High School and has returned to the Actors Guild for her second show! Previously, she was Pluto and Marie Roget in *Murder by Poe*. At school, she is involved in the PHS A Cappella and Chamber Choirs, Science Bowl, and Key Club. She's so excited to be in a play with her mom, Missy!

MISSY ARNOLD (Anne Steele, Ball Guest) was last seen as Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins*. She is especially excited to be sharing the stage with her daughter, Chloe Arnold. Missy works at Highmark WV, has been married for twenty years to Nathan, and has two children, Chloe and Noah. She loves to sing in her Church choir and on the online karaoke app called Sing by Smule. Missy is excited to work with the cast!

BECCA BUCK (Fanny Dashwood, Ball Guest) is a newcomer to the AGP stage, but not a stranger to MOVP, and is honored and thrilled to bring Fanny Dashwood to life. When Becca isn't portraying a fierce, demanding, malicious, English lady, you can find her with her nose in a book or substituting at Pleasants County Schools carefully articulating her acting craft as she interacts with society. She thanks her family/friends, for their love and support,

SUSAN COURTNEY (Gossip, Lady Middleton, Mrs. Ferrar, Ball Guest) has appeared onstage in shows which include: *Murder by Poe*, *The Game's Afoot*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Alone Together*, *The Red Velvet Cake War*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, *The Foreigner*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, *The Last*

Night of Ballyhoo, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Dearly Departed*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Boys Next Door* (twice), *Rumors* and *Squabbles*. She has worked backstage on numerous other productions.

ISAAC EASTWOOD (John Willoughby) is making his seventh appearance at the Guild. Ike has also appeared at MOVP and WVU-P on stage, as well as appearing in several commercials and certain movies. When not running the hottest nightclub in the MOV (The Locker Room in Marietta) he enjoys spending time with his daughter and painting. In 2019 he was named top male crossfitter of the year and also 2020 Master of the Universe. The only thing left on his bucket list is to win an Oscar.

ABBY FARNSWORTH (Marianne Dashwood) is a sophomore at PSHS and has been involved in the arts from a very young age. She has previously sung in both the Smoot Theatre Children's Chorus and Girls Ensemble, as well as the PSHS A Capella Choir and Concert Choir. Although this is her first production at the Actors Guild, she has been involved in several other previous theatre productions her favorites being *Clue* and *Willie Wonka JR*. Abby has also performed in *Annie JR*. and *Mary Poppins JR*. Abby is on the PSHS Speech Team.

VERONICA NIKKI FIELDS (Lucy Steele; Eliza, Ball Guest) is a long-time volunteer having fulfilled many roles on stage as well as off since 1985. She costumed 2018's *Le Cage Aux Folles* and will be serving as director for the summer 2020 production of *Rock of Ages*. She has raised seven talented children with husband B. Scott Fields, is a Cosmetolo-

gist IRL at Le Colour Bar, and is happiest when perpetuating the magic of theatre.

ZACK GRAHAM (Gossip, Servant, Robert Ferrars) is a senior at Ravenswood High School where he played football. He has played for eleven years and earned all-state notoriety. Zack has been in the youth program for the Guild but has also done main stage shows such as *Peter and the Starcatcher* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Zack is very excited to be in this play and hopes you will enjoy the performance.

EMMA KITCHEN (Gossip, Servant, Miss Grey) is a sophomore at Williamstown High School. This is her debut performance at the Actors Guild. She has trained in dance at PACE for seven years and is a member of their Stars competition team. She has performed in all styles of dance but her heart belongs to Jazz. Emma has trained in New York City with the Rockettes and dreams of one day performing in the Big Apple. She is honored to be a part of this production while developing her skills in her journey of growth in the theatre.

TOM LODATO (Colonel Brandon) has appeared most recently on the Guild stage as Sir Robin in *Spamalot*, as Donkey in *Shrek: the Musical* and as Bob Wallace in *White Christmas*. He also starred as Leaf Coney Bear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; as Toad in *A Year with Frog and Toad* and as Josh Baskin in *Big, the Musical*. Tom works at United Bank in wealth management. He and wife Brianne live in Parkersburg with their two children.

JANE MANCINI (Mrs. Jennings) was last seen in *It's a Wonderful Life*, *the Radio Play*. Jane has recently been on the Guild stage in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and appeared in *The Crucible* and *Frankenstein 1930* at MOVP in Marietta. She

is the Actors Guild delegate to the Ohio Community Theatre Association where she is an at-large board member. Jane lives in Parkersburg with her husband Jesse and is the mother of three daughters and four (soon to be five) grandchildren. She hopes everyone enjoys the show.

BECCA MEDENDORP (Elinor Dashwood) is currently twenty years old and has been acting since she was thirteen. In that time, she has been in several productions including: *Willy Wonka*, *Spoon River Anthology*, and *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. She is the oldest sister of three brothers which has taught her some patience and understanding that she hopes she brings to her character. Becca thinks Elinor Dashwood has more patience than she at times and is passionate about creating artwork. She strives to show others that they are cared about in the little things she does.

BRADEN MEDENDORP (Gossip/Ensemble, Ball Guest, Thomas) is an eighteen year-old whose passions lie in Jesus, music, and theatre. His theatre career started in 2018 with his first show, *Peter and the Starcatcher* with the Actors Guild of Parkersburg. Since then, his love for performing has taken flight, and he has been in eight shows, with *Sense and Sensibility* being his ninth. His favorite role to date would have to be Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*. He is happy to be a part of this show and he hopes everyone enjoys it.

JOSH PELIKAN (Edward Ferrars) is excited to be stepping back onto the stage once again, this time as Edward Ferrars, the awkward but lovable shy guy. He feels as though this role resonates with him, and he wants to thank the direction and production team for choosing him to be a part of their representation. Previous roles include, but are not limited to, Scanlon in *One*

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Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest (Chapel Street Players), Peter in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Milburn Stone Theater), Helicanus in *Pericles* (West Virginia University), and Tim Allgood in *Noises Off!* (West Virginia University).

WILLOW PEYTON (Gossip/Ensemble, Ball Guest) is an eighth-grader at PCMS and has been a member of the Guild Builder program at the Actors Guild of Parkersburg since 2018. This thirteen year-old has previously graced the stage in *The Struggles*, *The Little Mermaid JR.*, *Aladdin JR.*, *The Pied Piper*, *Mission Impossible*, and most recently, King Julien in *Madagascar JR.* Willow is first trombone in the PCMS band and performs in the historic Smoot Theatre's Girls Ensemble. She thanks her family for always supporting and believing in her.

NAOMI POTTS (Margaret Dashwood, Jane) is a seventh-grader at Jackson Middle School where she is a member of the Select Choir and Women's Vocal Ensemble. She has previously portrayed Fanny Brice and the Coney Island Girl in Smoot Theatre Camp Vaudeville productions. In addition, she has appeared on the Guild stage in *Aladdin JR.*, *Madagascar JR* (Zelda), *Mary Poppins* (Fanny), and was featured as Ariel in *The Little Mermaid JR.* Naomi would like to thank her family and Guild family for their continued encouragement and support.

CHARLES ROBERTS (Sir John, Doctor, Ball Guest) has worked at Results Radio for years. His community theater acting started more than thirty years ago during his senior year at Parkersburg South High School in *Spoon River Anthology*. His first Guild role was in *A Few Good Men* in 1995. He's performed on different stages in 30+ plays including, WVU-P (*West Side Story*) and Fairmont State College (*A Christmas*

Carol). Charles has been in several more productions at the Actors Guild and the Mid-Ohio Valley Players theaters, including his role as Harding in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

LYNN SOMMERVILLE (Mrs. Dashwood) grew up in Huntington where she was involved in many different areas of community theater. Lynn and her husband recently moved to Parkersburg. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of this production. Lynn is a substitute teacher in Wood County. She has been married to David for thirty-seven years and has two daughters. She is involved with her church and enjoys hiking, kayaking, reading, and other activities.

TIM TUTEN (John Dashwood; Ball Guest) was last seen at the Actor Guild as a crazed mad maniac Heart & Prefect in *Murder by Poe*. He is very excited to be back at AGP and to be a part of this production. Tim has portrayed George (*Same Time, Next Year*) and Reverend Hale (*The Crucible*) among other characters. He would like to thank all theatre enthusiasts, his friends, family and fellow eccentrics. This performance is dedicated to Kalina Jones "Lovely Lady May".

GREGORY MERRITT (Director) has been active in the local arts community since the early 80s with experiences at the AGP, MOV-P, WVU-P, and the Smoot Theatre. Greg's performance experiences at the AGP include *Pirates of Penzanze*, *The Music Man*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His directing experience at the AGP includes *Godspell*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and *On Golden Pond*. Greg is an instructional coach for Wood County Schools.

DANNY BAYER (Assistant Director) is happy to serve in this key capacity for the first time at the AGP. Elsewhere



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he has directed for Theatre IV in Richmond, Virginia; the Tri-County Players Cincinnati, Ohio; and the Showboat Becky Thatcher in Marietta, Ohio. He was seen as Mr. Banks in *Mary Poppins* and Drosselmeyer in the Mid-Ohio Valley Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*.

BETH LANE (Technical Director) is very excited to be working with The Actors Guild. She graduated from Marietta College with a BFA in Theatre. Beth has extensive experience working in theatri-

cal productions locally and internationally; including but not limited to lighting, set, sound, costume design and build, direction as well as performance. Beth resides in Marietta.

ZACH OFFENBERGER (Stage Manager) is a newcomer to the Guild, having previously worked on the stage crew for *Mary Poppins*. He is employed by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service in Parkersburg and enjoys playing music in his spare time.

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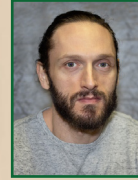
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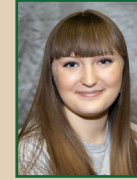
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