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OF PARKERSBURG PRESENTS



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January 18, 19, 25, 26 and Feb. 1 & 2 at 8 PM
January 27 at 2:30 PM

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MEDICAL CENTER

Actors Guild of Parkersburg Presents

Prelude to a Kiss

By Craig Lucas

Prelude to a Kiss is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.



Synopsis & Scenes

Peter and Rita are two young, happy lovers who are getting married. On their wedding day, after their nuptial kiss, an old man comes up to kiss the bride. During this kiss, their souls exchange, and the young, beautiful woman Peter just married now houses the soul of a dying, old man. On their honeymoon, Peter starts to notice that something's not quite right. When he discovers the truth, he confronts the old man, who now holds Rita's soul.

Act One

- Scene 1:** Apartment building party
- Scene 2:** The Tin Market Bar
- Scene 3:** The stroll to Rita's apartment
- Scene 4:** Rita's apartment
- Scene 5:** Rita's apartment - six weeks later
- Scene 6:** Dr. and Mrs. Boyle's home
- Scene 7:** The Boyle home "The Wedding" - one month later
- Scene 8:** Jamaica Honeymoon

Act Two

- Scene 1:** The Boyle home
- Scene 2:** Peter's office
- Scene 3:** The stroll to Rita's apartment
- Scene 4:** The Tin Market
- Scene 5:** Rita and Peter's apartment

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

The Ross Foundation

The Parkersburg Area Community Foundation



Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lounge Singer, Minister	MARSHA PARSONS
Peter.....	J.T. SPIVY
Taylor.....	E. ALLAN PENNINGTON
Rita	HEATHER ALLEN
Tom	RYAN NEDEFF
Mrs. Boyle	RENA SWEARINGEN
Dr. Boyle.....	LARRY DEEM
Aunt Dorothy.....	SUSAN COURTNEY
Uncle Fred.....	ANDY RASMUSSEN
Old Man	JOHN HARRY LEE
Jamaican Waiter.....	JOHN GRADWOHL
Leah	JESSICA BLANKENSHIP
Ensemble.....	RICK BACKUS, NORA CORRA, PAM SALISBURY, BILL SWEARINGEN

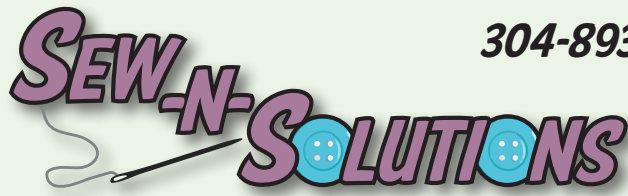
Crew

Directors	BOB HOLLAND, DIXIE SHOWALTER
Assistant Director.....	SPENCER SEELEY
Technical Director.....	JOHN GRADWOHL
Set and Lighting Design.....	JOHN GRADWOHL
Costumer	DEBBIE SEELEY
Production Assistant	NORA CORRA
Stage Manager.....	SPENCER SEELEY
Light Board Operator	SABRINA DYE
Assistant Stage Manager.....	NORA CORRA
Props	PAM SALISBURY
Running Crew.....	RICK BACKUS, HEATHER COOPER, KELLY MATTHEWS, CAYTLEN MILLER, BILL SWEARINGEN
Sound.....	KATIE ROWLEY
Advisor.....	JEAN NEWTON
Book Holder.....	CAROLYN HOLLENDONNER
Playbill Layout and Design.....	BRETT MEADE

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission.

You are invited to meet the cast downstairs in the greenroom following the performance.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.



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A Letter from the President



PRELUDE TO A KISS challenges us to consider the nature, depth, and qualities of love. I have been reflecting on this for several weeks as I prepared to write this letter. What I discovered is that I cannot eloquently express my thoughts on love, but I know a writer who can – Kahlil Gibran. I share with you various excerpts on love from his book, *The Prophet*.

“How often have you sailed in my dreams. And now you come in my awakening, which is my deeper dream.”

“And ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation.”

“When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. And when his wings enfold you yield to him, though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you. And when he speaks to you believe in him, though his voice may shatter your dreams as the north wind lays waste the garden.”

“Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself. Love possesses not nor would it be possessed; for love is sufficient unto love.”

“Love has no other desire but to fulfill itself. But if you love and must needs have desires, let these be your desires: to melt and be like a running brook that sings its melody to the night. To know the pain of too much tenderness. To be wounded by your own understanding of love; and to bleed willingly and joyfully. To wake at dawn with a winged heart and give thanks for another day of loving; To rest at the noon hour and meditate love’s ecstasy; To return home at eventide with gratitude; And then to sleep with a prayer for the beloved in your heart and a song of praise upon your lips.”

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About the Playwright



CRAIG LUCAS is an American playwright, screenwriter, theatre director, musical actor, and film director. He is currently Associate Artistic Director at the Intiman Theatre in Seattle.

Born on April 30, 1951, and abandoned in a car in Atlanta, Lucas was adopted when he

was eight months old by a Pennsylvania couple. His adoptive family was conservative; his father was an FBI agent and his mother was a housewife. He graduated in 1969 from Conestoga High School in Berwyn, PA. In the 1960s and 1970s, Lucas was interested in the political left and discovered an attraction towards men. He recalls that his coming out made it possible for him to develop as a playwright and as a person.

In 1973, Lucas graduated from Boston University, with a Bachelor of Arts in theatre and creative writing. His mentor, Anne Sexton, urged him to try his luck in New York. He worked in many day jobs while performing in Broadway musicals including *Shenandoah*, *On the Twentieth Century*, and *Sweeney Todd*.

In 1991, he rewrote his play, *Missing Persons*, which a friend showed to director Norman Rene. Norman promised to produce the play when finished. This was the beginning of a fifteen-year collaboration. While working on *Missing Persons*, the two developed a musical revue entitled *Marry Me A Little*, about two people who live next to each other and never meet yet both sing about the failure to connect with others.

After his early work on romantic comedies, Lucas began to write more serious works about AIDS, including *Singing Forest* and *The Dying Gaul*, the latter of which was made into a film that Lucas also directed. Lucas also authored the book for *The Light in the Piazza*, which garnered him a Tony Award nomination.

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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 Guild above and beyond the call of neighborly duty.

Our most recent Bayley Award was granted to the Khalil Family.

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 Charlie Matthews and the entire cast and crew of *Tuesdays with Morrie* as the Best Show for the 2011-2012 season. Receiving the honor for Best Performance was John Lee, for his portrayal of Morrie in *Tuesdays with Morrie*.

The Grace-Marie Merrill Award

Melody Carson 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.



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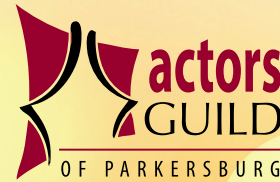
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Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

HEATHER ALLEN (Rita Boyle) is appearing in her fourth Guild production. She appeared as Amber Von Tussle in last season's production of *Hairspray*. She also appeared in *The Rocky Horror Show* as an Usherette/Phantom and was a member of the Ensemble (Pam) in *RENT*. Heather accepted a dance internship at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City in 2006. She then moved to Parkersburg to attend WVU-P and she now works as a medical transcriptionist. Heather would like to thank her mom and step dad for instilling confidence and courage in her.

JESSICA BLANKENSHIP (Leah) has appeared in *On Borrowed Time* and *In the Beginning* at the Actors Guild and worked sound on *Leading Ladies*, backstage on *Into the Woods*, and as Assistant Technical Director for *The Boys Next Door*. Jessica appeared at MOVP in *The Sound of Music*, and has performed in many collegiate productions while studying theater at Converse College. She recently co-starred in the local film, *The Christ Complex*. Jessica is a DJ at Results Radio on Froggy 99, under the moniker Jessica Swimson, and a co-host on the morning drive with John D. Green and the Green Team.

SUSAN COURTNEY (Aunt Dorothy) has appeared at the Guild in *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*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Rumors*, and *Squabbles*. She has assistant directed and worked backstage on numerous productions. Susan is with guest relations at Camden Clark Medical Center.

LARRY DEEM (Dr. Boyle) has appeared on stage in *1776*; *The Dinner Party*; *South Pacific*; *Ten Little Indians*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *All that Glitters*; *In the Beginning* and *The Civil War*. He has also worked backstage in many of the technical aspects of theatre, including light board operator, sound board operator, and stage manager, among other roles.

JOHN GRADWOHL (Jamaican Waiter, Technical Director) has appeared on-stage at the Guild as Dutchy in *Paint Your Wagon* and Snug the Joiner in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He also served as assistant director for *Rumors*. In addition to his Guild duties, John performs as Professor Phineas T. Bubblemaker in *Professor Bubblemaker's Medicine Show* and *Professor Bubblemaker's Beautiful Bubble Ballet*, as well as performing for festivals, parties, and schools in the area.

JOHN HARRY LEE'S (Old Man) Khalil Award came for his performance in *Tuesdays with Morrie* (which won "best play" of the 2011/2012 season). October 2012, *Morrie* won 1st place at the WV Community Theatre Association.

The production travels to Louisville in March to compete in the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Lee has appeared in *Witness for the Prosecution* and *The Rocky Horror Show* and directed *Man of La Mancha* and *The Story of My Life*, which was honored at OCTA for acting and directing. While simultaneously appearing in *Morrie*, he directed the Smoot Theatre's Camp Broadway production of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

RYAN NEDEFF (Tom) is making his debut with the Actors Guild. He was a member of the Parkersburg Catholic High School Drama Club and Story Tellers Club. He's appeared in productions of *Guys and Dolls*, *West Side Story*, and various medleys. He lives in Parkersburg with his wife Rachel and son Ralland.

MARSHA PARSONS (Lounge Singer, Minister) has been musical director for *You Gotta Have Heart*, *The Reel Thing*, *All That Glitters, 1776*, *Oklahoma!*, and *The Sound of Music*. She has been on stage in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; *Beauty and the Beast*; *All That Glitters*; *Chicago*; *Honky Tonk Angels*; *Lend Me a Tenor* and played in the pit for *Into the Woods*; *Big, the Musical*; *The Civil War*; *All that Glitters*; and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Marsha is active at the Smoot Theatre and plays piano for Logan UMC. She teaches music at VanDevender Middle School.

E. ALLAN PENNINGTON (Taylor) is a Guild veteran and has been a player in many Guild productions. Most notably, Allan was the narrator for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and played the role of the scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*. He was recently in *Alice in Wonderland*. Allan lives and works in Parkersburg.

ANDY RASMUSSEN (Uncle Fred) was born in Portland, Oregon and grew up in Bend where he found the stage and performed in a few plays. After spending a few years as a ski instructor in the winter and white water rafting in the summer, he met the love of his life. After getting married, they moved to North Carolina where her family lived. Now living and settled down in Parkersburg, he has found the stage again. He has performed in *Corpse* (Major Ambrose Powell), *Charley's Aunt* (Brassett), *The Foreigner* (Rev. David Marshall Lee), *Deathtrap* (Sidney Bruhl), and *The Odd Couple* (Murray).

J.T. SPIVY (Peter) has appeared in *Beauty and the Beast*, *In the Beginning*, *Ten Little Indians*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Alice in Wonderland* at the Actors Guild. He participated in Guild Builders for two years. At Ohio Valley University, he played John in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, and performed in *The Foreigner*. J.T. currently teaches English at Edison Middle School.

RENA SWEARINGEN (Mrs. Boyle) appeared as Maggie in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Carmen in *Cooking with Gus*, Aunt Em in *The Wizard of Oz*, and Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing* on the Guild stage. She worked backstage in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; as a Venticelli in *The Lion in Winter*; and Christine Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution*.

BOB HOLLAND (Director) has performed on the Guild stage in many roles, including Max in *Lend Me a Tenor*, C. S. Lewis in *Shadowlands*, Albert in *The Dinner Party*, Felix Unger in *The Odd Couple*, Ivan in *Art*, Dickerson in *1776*, Freddy in *Noises Off*, Gooper in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has directed *An Inspector Calls*, *Deathtrap*, *Black Coffee*, and *Nightwatch*. Bob has worked backstage and serves as the Guild's unofficial dialectician. He is an associate at the Jan Dils law firm.

DIXIE SHOWALTER (Director) has been actively involved with the Actors Guild for over twenty years. In that time she's done a lot of backstage jobs and loved them all. Dixie served as director for *1776*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; and *The Dinner Party*. Her onstage performances have included roles in *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Nunsense*, and *Cooking with Gus*. A retired R.N., Dixie loves traveling with her husband Butter, and spending time with family and friends.

SPENCER SEELEY (Assistant Director) has served as assistant director for *On Borrowed Time* and *The Dixie Swim Club*. He has appeared on stage in *Paint Your Wagon* and *The Dixie Swim Club*.

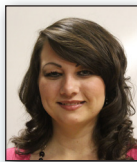
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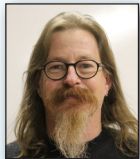
Jessica Blankenship



Susan Courtney



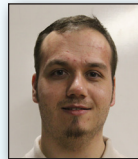
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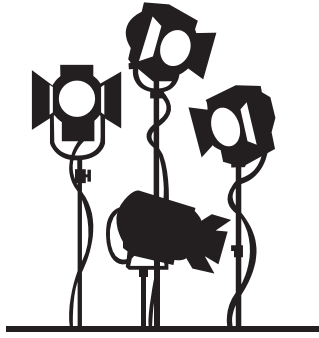
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