

## dedication

**Arcadia** is dedicated to the memory of **Richard A. Kirkland** with eternal irreverence and love.



Richard Kirkland (seated) with the director, Michael Mansfield, in *I Hate Hamlet*.

## season 2017: next arrivals

**'night Mother** by Marsha Norman

directed by Rachel Sailer

July 27—30 and August 3—August 5

**Valparaiso** by Don DeLillo

directed by Miriam Frazier

October 5—8 and October 12—14

All auditions and performances are held in the June M. McBroom Theatre  
Community High School, 302 Campbell Avenue SE, Roanoke, VA 24013

**Off the Rails**

Tom Stoppard's  
**Arcadia**

$x^2 + y^2 = z^2$

$z^{n/2} + y^{n/2} = 2p^n$   
or  $z^{n/2} - y^{n/2} = 2^{n-1}q^n$

$z^{n/2} = p^n + 2^{n-2}q^n$   
or  $y^{n/2} = p^n - 2^{n-2}q^n$

$(z^{n/2} + y^{n/2})(z^{n/2} - y^{n/2}) = (2^{n-1}p^n)(2^{n-1}q^n)$

$z = (p^n + 2^{n-2}q^n)^{2/n}$   
or  $y = (p^n - 2^{n-2}q^n)^{2/n}$

$z^2 + y^2 = 2q^n$

$1 + 53x + 9x^2 = a_0 + a_1x + a_2x^2 + a_3x^3 + \dots$   
or  $\frac{a_0}{x} + \frac{a_1}{x^2} + \frac{a_2}{x^3} + \dots$

$2 - 96x - 12x^2 = b_0 + b_1x + b_2x^2 + b_3x^3 + \dots$   
or  $\frac{b_0}{x} + \frac{b_1}{x^2} + \frac{b_2}{x^3} + \dots$

$2 + px - 10x^2 = c_0 + c_1x + c_2x^2 + c_3x^3 + \dots$   
or  $\frac{c_0}{x} + \frac{c_1}{x^2} + \frac{c_2}{x^3} + \dots$

then  $a_n^2 + b_n^2 = c_n^2 + (-1)^n$   
and  $a_n^2 + b_n^2 = c_n^2 + (-1)^n$

Example  $135^2 + 138^2 = 179^2 - 1$   
 $11161^2 + 11468^2 = 14750^2 + 1$   
 $791^2 + 819^2 = 1010^2 - 1$

$9^2 + 10^2 = 12^2 + 1$   
 $6^2 + 8^2 = 7^2 - 1$

$z = (2^{n-2}p^n + q^n)^{2/n}$   
 $z = (p^n + 2^{n-2}q^n)^{2/n}$

## auditions and volunteering

**Off the Rails Theatre is always looking for the next great volunteer! If you are interested in any aspect of creating theatre—from acting to building sets to putting up posters—please contact us. Welcome aboard!**

### 'night Mother by Marsha Norman

directed by Rachel Sailer

July 27—30 and August 3—5

'night, Mother by Marsha Norman is a Pulitzer-prize winning play about a devastating night in the life of a grown woman and her mother. There are parts for two women. One is in her late thirties or early forties. The other is in her late fifties or early sixties. Both actresses will need to be at every rehearsal and be prepared for a fabulous acting challenge.

Auditions for this production will be held:

Saturday, June 17th, 1:00—3:00 pm and Monday, June 19th, 6:30—8:30 pm  
The June M. McBroom Theatre, Community High School  
302 Campbell Avenue SE, Roanoke, VA 24013



## stay on track

keep up with Off the Rails Theatre productions, auditions and events

540.676.1415

offtherailstheatre.com

offtherailstheatre@gmail.com

@offtherailsthr



## an Arcadia primer

**Virgil: Publius Vergilius Maro** (traditional dates October 15, 70 BC – September 21, 19 BC), usually called **Virgil** or **Vergil** was an ancient Roman poet of the Augustan period. He wrote three of the most famous poems in Latin literature, the *Eclogues* (or *Bucolics*), the *Georgics*, and the epic *Aeneid*.

Virgil is traditionally ranked as one of Rome's greatest poets. His *Aeneid* has been considered the national epic of ancient Rome from the time of its composition to the present day.

**Salvator Rosa:** (June 20 or July 21, 1615 – March 15, 1673) was an Italian Baroque painter, poet, and printmaker, who was active in Naples, Rome, and Florence. As a painter, he is best known as "unorthodox and extravagant" as well as being a "perpetual rebel" and a proto-Romantic.

Rosa was among the first to paint "romantic" landscapes, with a special turn for scenes of picturesque, often turbulent and rugged scenes peopled with brigands, shepherds, seamen, soldiers. These early landscapes were sold cheaply through private dealers.



**Commode:** a chest of drawers or chiffonier of a decorative type popular in the 18th century.

**Scrape:** an embarrassing or difficult predicament caused by one's own unwise behavior.



## an Arcadia primer

**Lord Byron and Lady Caroline Lamb:** **George Gordon Byron**, 6th Baron Byron, FRS (22 January 1788 – 19 April 1824), was a British poet, politician, and a leading figure in the Romantic movement. Among his best-known works are the lengthy narrative poems, *Don Juan* and *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, and the short lyric poem, *She Walks in Beauty*.

Byron is regarded as one of the greatest British poets and remains widely read and influential, due in part to his ability to reverse accepted and acknowledged gender stereotypes. Often described as the most flamboyant and notorious of the major Romantics, Byron was both celebrated and castigated in life for his aristocratic excesses, including huge debts, numerous love affairs – with men as well as women, as well as rumours of a scandalous liaison with his half-sister – and self-imposed exile.

From March to August 1812, Byron and **Lady Caroline Lamb** embarked on a well-publicized affair with Lord Byron. He was 24 and she 26. She had spurned the attention of the poet on their first meeting, subsequently giving Byron what became his lasting epitaph when she described him as “mad, bad, and dangerous to know.” Byron’s pet name for her was “**Caro**” and their affair and relationship can be traced across their literary works. Lamb’s writings were mistaken for Byron’s on several famous occasions.

Byron fathered Ada, Countess of Lovelace, whose work on Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine is considered a founding document in the field of computer science. The character of Thomasina is based on Ada Lovelace.

**Capability Brown:** **Lancelot Brown** (born c. 1715–16), more commonly known as **Capability Brown**, was an English landscape architect. He is remembered as “the last of the great English 18th century artists to be accorded his due” and “England's greatest gardener.” He designed over 170 parks, many of which still endure. He was nicknamed “Capability” because he would tell his clients that their property had “capability” for improvement.



## with thanks to our donors

Paul G Beers  
Jeanne H Bernard  
Philip Bernard  
Milton Brooks  
Ruth Frazier & B. J. Burnette  
Sharon Capps  
Dorothy S. (Dotsy) Clifton  
Nancy Dahlstrom  
Bill Doughty  
Gates DeHart  
Miriam Frazier

Irene C. Guy  
Kathy Guy  
Patrick Kennerly  
Kris Sorenson  
MaryJean Redon Levin  
Paula Levine  
Edwin Lilly  
Edwin A. Lister  
Ernie Littlefield  
Joan J. long  
David McCall

Norfolk Southern  
Foundation  
Paula Prince  
Sarah Rubush  
Walton I. Rutherford  
Mrs. Cameron B. Span  
John & Evelyn Tielking  
Kathy VanNess  
Roger Wilson

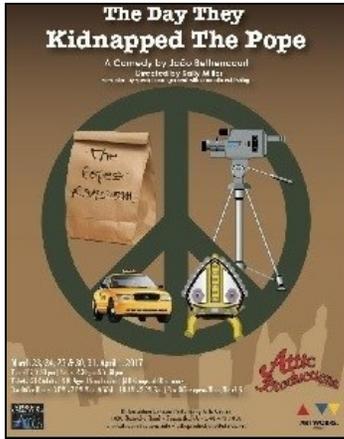
## and to our community partners



Hair by Renae Mountcastle at J Roberts Salon: 540-266-7167



**The Day They Kidnapped The Pope**  
A Comedy By Jacob Behrman  
Directed by Tony M. Es

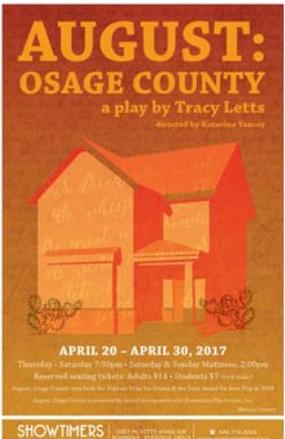


**AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MOUSETRAP**  
The 1st, 16th, 20th & 25th Anniversary  
The 1st, 16th, 20th & 25th Anniversary  
4th, 16th, 20th & 25th Anniversary





**AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY**  
a play by Tracy Letts  
Directed by Katherine Weaver



## about the playwright



Sir Tom Stoppard is a Czech-born playwright. He began his career in England in 1954 as a journalist, soon moving to London in 1960 to start work as a playwright. His first play, *A Walk on the Water* (1960), which was televised in 1963, soon reached London with a stage version titled *Enter a Free Man* (1968). His next work, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* (1964-65), showed at the 1966 Edinburgh Festival to rave reviews. It became internationally known in 1967 after it was entered into Britain's National Theatre. Additional work includes stage plays *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* (1978), *The Real Thing* (1982) and *Rock 'n' Roll* (2006). Over the course of his career he has written for radio, television, film and stage. In 1998 he co-wrote the Academy Award winning screenplay for the film *Shakespeare in Love*.

## from the director

I knew I wanted to do a Stoppard play this year.

After the passing of my great and good friend Richard Kirkwood this past year, I found myself thinking of the many shows in which we walked the boards. The first show we acted in together was a Stoppard show, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. It seemed only right, that in memory of one of Roanoke's most gifted actors and playwrights, I should attempt to bring to life a play that would tickle all of my good friend's fancies. This play is funny, complex, filled with unusual themes and intricate wordplay. You are going to be hard pressed to find a more accomplished piece of literature that investigates subjects as diverse as landscape gardening, Fermat's Theorem, Lord Byron, entropy, time, and how best to describe a "carnal embrace." *Arcadia* is unlike any other play I have directed in that it will push, pull, and tug on your brain in ways that will provide moments of utter confusion followed by moments of transcendent understanding. I owe a great debt of thanks to my gifted cast and dedicated technical crew—without their talents this very personal production would have been impossible.

Thank you for coming out and supporting live theatre. Please, sit back, enjoy, and remember:

Just because something is lost, well, that doesn't mean that it's gone.

- Michael

## an Arcadia primer

...or "What You Need to Know to Know What's Going On in Arcadia"

**Primer:** 'primər' - an elementary textbook that serves as an introduction to a subject of study or is used for teaching children to read.

**Fermat's Last Theorem:** In number theory, **Fermat's Last Theorem** states that no three positive integers  $a$ ,  $b$ , and  $c$  satisfy the equation  $a^n + b^n = c^n$  for any integer value of  $n$  greater than 2. The cases  $n = 1$  and  $n = 2$  have been known to have infinitely many solutions since antiquity.

This theorem was first conjectured by Pierre de Fermat in 1637 in the margin of a copy of *Arithmetica* where he claimed he had a proof that was too large to fit in the margin. The first successful proof was released in 1994 by Andrew Wiles, and formally published in 1995, after 358 years of effort by mathematicians. The unsolved problem stimulated the development of algebraic number theory in the 19th century and the proof of the modularity theorem in the 20th century. It is among the most notable theorems in the history of mathematics and prior to its proof, it was in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the "most difficult mathematical problem."

**Chemical Ladies:** Outdoor portable toilet for women.

**Ha-ha:** A **ha-ha** is a recessed landscape design element that creates a vertical barrier while preserving an uninterrupted view of the landscape.



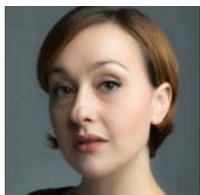
The design includes a turfed incline which slopes downward to a sharply vertical face, typically a masonry retaining wall. Ha-has are used in landscape design to prevent access to a garden, for example by grazing livestock, without obstructing views. In security design, the element is used to deter vehicular access

to a site while minimizing visual obstruction. The name "ha-ha" may derive from the unexpected (i.e., amusing) moment of discovery when, on approach, the vertical drop suddenly becomes visible.

## production team



**Michael Mansfield** is thrilled to be directing *Arcadia*, his fourth show at Off the Rails Theatre. He has directed for many local theaters, including Mill Mountain Theatre, Hollins University, *Overnight Sensations*, and Showtimers. The past two summers Michael has been lucky enough to be a guest director for the Hollins Playwright's Lab. Attempting this extraordinary show without the support of this fantastic crew and talented cast would be impossible. He thanks all those who have worked with him on this most challenging of plays. Special thanks to his insanely talented wife, whose support always transforms the impossible to the magnificent.



**Vanessa Mills** (*Assistant Director*) is a theatre artist from Seattle, WA. She has been in Roanoke for just under a year, and is so pleased with the surrogate family she has made in the Roanoke theatre world. Vanessa wears many hats when it comes to theatre, and was most recently seen onstage in Page to Stage's production of the original play *Love Stinks*. She would like to thank Off the Rails Theatre for being so welcoming of her, both on stage and behind the scenes, and would like to thank her Septimus for his unconditional love and support.

**Joey Neighbors** (*Set Design/Build*) Joey has been in the theatre all his life. He has worked on productions all over the Southeast and Northeast United States. He has his BFA from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Along with his work with Off the Rails Theatre, he also works with Opera Roanoke, Southwest Virginia Ballet, Opera on the James in Lynchburg, Roanoke Children's Theatre and Annapolis Opera in Annapolis MD. He has owned his own business for 19 years, Neighbors Handyman & Custom Carpentry and Star City Sets, doing small remodeling/repair jobs, tile work, and custom built-in's and Sets for Opera and Theatre Companies. His joy in life is his family.



**Melissa Webster** (*Costume Design*) has been handling costumes for Off the Rails Theatre for several seasons now. She started her professional career in wardrobe at Mill Mountain Theatre in the late 90's and graduated from Longwood College (now University) with a BFA in Technical. Melissa and her family also volunteer and work at the Jefferson Center backstage and front of house. Melissa sits on the board of Off the Rails Theatre as well as the Roanoke Skatepark Initiative. She and her family also volunteer for the Roanoke Greek Festival every September.



# Arcadia

a play by Tom Stoppard

## CAST

<b>Thomasina Coverly</b>	Alana Bell Alley
<b>Septimus Hodge</b>	Nick McCord
<b>Jellaby</b>	Steve Glassbrenner
<b>Ezra Chater</b>	Brian Lee
<b>Richard Noakes</b>	David McCall
<b>Lady Croom</b>	Mary Ellen Apgar
<b>Captain Brice, RN</b>	Spencer D. Meredith
<b>Hannah Jarvis</b>	Amanda Mansfield
<b>Chloë Coverly</b>	Kelly Anglim
<b>Bernard Nightgale</b>	Owen Merritt
<b>Valentine Coverly</b>	Salena Marie Sullivan
<b>Gus/Augustus Coverly</b>	David J. Schultz II

A room on the garden front of a very large country house in Derbyshire.  
April 1809  
The present

THERE WILL BE ONE 10 MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS.

## PRODUCTION AND DESIGN

Director	Stage Manager	Assistant Director	
Michael Mansfield	Kathy Guy	Vanessa Mills	
Set Design/Build	Lighting	Props	Costumes
Joey Neighbors	Rob Bessolo	Sarah Halstead	Melissa Webster

*Arcadia* is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.  
Originally produced at the Lyttelton Theatre, Royal National Theatre on April 13, 1993.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Off the Rails Theatre wishes to give special thanks to Community High School for the Arts, The Jefferson Center, Roanoke College, The Hollins Theatre Institute, Showtimers, Mill Mountain Theatre, J. Roberts Salon, and Barry Webster.

## the cast



**Alana Bell Alley** (*Thomasina Coverly*) is a junior at Hollins University, majoring in theatre with a minor in psychology. She most recently appeared in the Hollins childrens' traveling show *Marvelous Cornelius* and the 10 Minute Play Festival. This is her first role at OtRT. She thanks all the talented and kind people who inspired her to achieve her dreams; she loves and is grateful to them all.



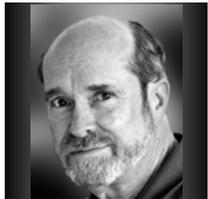
**Nick McCord** (*Septimus Hodge*) is an average American 30-something. He was born in Middle America, which, much like a Mad Magazine fold-in, doesn't matter as much as what's on the two sides. He enjoys hot dogs, apple pie, and institutionalized advantage. Nick wants very much for you to enjoy the show, as fleeting blips of public approval are the only way he knows how to delineate his own droll, inexorable march through a mind-garden of venomous snakes.



**Steve Glassbrenner** (*Jellaby*) is not good at bios, but he loves to act. He thanks you for choosing art over the couch. Unless you brought your couch. This play and the people involved mean a lot to him.



**Brian Lee** (*Ezra Chater*) Brian is thrilled to be returning to OtRT after a 4 year hiatus. Since performing in *Antigone*, it has been a goal of Brian's to be directed by Michael Mansfield after having shared the stage with him in that production. Brian would like to give a special thank you to Michael for allowing him to pull a double duty rehearsal schedule, as Brian will be seen in Showtimers production of *August: Osage County* in April.



**David McCall** (*Richard Noakes*) is happy to be working with Off the Rails Theatre again, even if he is onstage and not backstage where he properly belongs. Other recent forays into acting included Man 1 in *Merry Christmas*, *Good Soldier* with Page to Stage Theatre Company and Kolenkhov in *You Can't Take It With You* at Showtimers. Thanks to Michael for his patience.



**Mary Ellen Apgar** (*Lady Croom*) is thrilled to once again share the stage at Off the Rails Theatre. She is a brand new mom to a beautiful baby boy and can't wait for him to take the stage, too! Mary Ellen would like to thank her parents for their support and would especially like to thank her fiancé for encouraging her to do what makes her whole.

## the cast



**Spencer D. Meredith** (*Captain Brice, RN*) is excited to be making a return to Off the Rails Theatre. Most recently he played Sir Toby in Showtimers' production of *Twelfth Night* and Officer Ariel in OtRT's production of *Pillowman*. Outside of work and theatre he enjoys spending time with his animals and practicing sideshow tricks.



**Amanda Mansfield** (*Hannah Jarvis*) has performed professionally in Pittsburgh, Chicago, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Actor's Theatre of Louisville and Roanoke; and is a co-founder of Classics at Brucemore. She most recently appeared as Sonia in OtRT's *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike*, and in Hollins University Theatre's *Starcropolis* and *Adverse Effects*. For Michael, with a deeply intellectual romanticism.



**Kelly Anglim** (*Chloë Coverly*) has a B.A. in Theatre from James Madison University and has worked with numerous theaters and production companies throughout Virginia. Favorite roles include Martha Jefferson (*1776*) and Olivia (*Twelfth Night*).



**Owen Merritt** (*Bernard Nightingale*) is very excited to be returning to the OtRT stage. Owen recently made his directorial debut with *Twelfth Night* at Showtimers. Some of Owen's recent roles include Welsh in *The God of Hell*, Katurian in *Pillowman*, and Chance in *An Initial Condition*. Owen would like to thank the cast and crew of *Arcadia* and his wife Andrea for her love and support.



**Salena Marie Sullivan** (*Valentine Coverly*) is excited to be back on the stage with Off the Rails Theatre. She was previously seen in OtRT's productions of *Doubt* and *Middletown*. She hopes you enjoy the show!



**David J. Schultz II** (*Gus/Augustus Coverly*) is happy to be making his debut performance at Off the Rails Theatre. Past credits include Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, Schroeder in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and the Big Bad Wolf in *Shrek*. David would like to thank his friends, family and Michael for their support.