



presents

a play by **SAM SHEPARD**

THE GOD OF HELL



**Auditions for Christopher Durang's
"Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike"**

July 25th and 26th

6 pm to 8 pm.

June M. McBroom Theater at

Community High School

302 E. Campbell Avenue, Roanoke.

Director: Michael Mansfield.

Performance dates

September 15-18 and September 22-24.

The characters are as follows:

Vanya – male, ages 40-60. Resigned to his life,
more or less, at least compared to Sonia

Sonia- female ages 40-60. Vanya's adopted
sister living with him in Bucks County.

Discontent, upset, regretful

Masha – Vanya's other sister; ages 40-60,
glamorous and successful actress who goes
gallivanting around the world

Spike – An aspiring actor ages 20-30. Masha's
new companion, sexy, self absorbed but
otherwise outgoing and friendly. Is known to
appear in his underwear.

Nina – lovely sincere would-be actress 20-30
star struck, earnest and energetic

Cassandra - cleaning lady and soothsayer,
any age, any race.

Off the Rails Theatre

540-676-1415

offtherailstheatre@gmail.com

www.offtherailstheatre.com

Special Thanks

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PRESENTS

THE GOD OF HELL

A PLAY BY

SAM SHEPARD

THE GOD OF HELL premiered in New York City at the Actors Studio Drama School Theatre on October 28, 2004. Produced by New School University, Bob Kerry, President; Arjun Appadurai, Provost; Evangeline Morphos and Jack O'Connor, Producers.

Cast of Characters

Emma. **MARYJEAN REDON LEVIN**
Frank. **ROBERT SMITH**
Welch. **OWEN MERRITT**
Haynes. **DE'SHAWN RILEY**

Setting

A small Midwestern farmhouse located off of a state road
in the middle of nowhere, Wisconsin.

Scene One: Early morning.
Scene Two: The next morning.
Scene Three: That evening.

*THE GOD OF HELL is performed without an intermission.
Please be aware that strobe lighting is used in this production.*

Director's Notes *The God of Hell*

Sam Shepard wrote *The God of Hell* in 2004. He admits that he wrote it in direct response to the politics of the day; the shenanigans happening in and around the National Elections of that year. More specifically, Shepard himself described *The God of Hell* as 'a take-off on Republican fascism.'

The play seemed timely when I first read it in September of 2015. How frightening that the play becomes more timely every day, as we hurtle headlong toward the Republican National Convention.

So much insanity happens every day in this highly combustible world. In my wildest nightmare, I could not have imagined a political landscape such as the one I now wake up to every morning.

Not paying attention, not fully realizing the terrible depth of the stakes we are gambling is, in my opinion, what has brought this country to the brink. Both in his play and in his own estimation, Sam Shepard asks us to consider this:

"We are being sold a brand-new idea of patriotism, one that is about Fear. It's breeding fear of being on the wrong side. Democracy's a very fragile thing. You have to take care of democracy. As soon as you stop being responsible to it and allow it to turn into scare tactics, it's no longer democracy, is it? It's something else. It may be an inch away from totalitarianism."

Hoping that we might actually shine a light on the true ideology underlying today's political rhetoric, we do unabashedly present Mr. Shepard's satire. We do so with heart and mind committed to the thought that until November 8th, 2016, it is not too late to pay attention.

Production Staff

Director.....	Patrick Kennerly
Stage Manager.....	Kathy Guy
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Callie Almond
Technical Director.....	Rob Bessolo
Set Design.....	Joey Neighbors
Costumer.....	Melissa Webster
Props Goddess.....	Sarah Halstead
Sound Design.....	Dylan Francis
Promotion & Playbill.....	Michelle S. Bennett
Production Intern.....	Tatiana Durant



MARYJEAN REDON LEVIN (*Emma*) most recently appeared with Off the Rails in *The Children's Hour* and *Love Letters*. She has also performed frequently

with Mill Mountain Theatre (*To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Grease*, *Oliver!*, *The Music Man*), Showtimers (*12 Angry Men*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Sylvia*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Shadow Box*), Roanoke Children's Theatre (*The Giver*, *Tuck Everlasting*), numerous regional theaters, and local television and radio commercials. She is an interior designer with Halifax Fine Furnishings.



OWEN MERRITT (*Welch*) is an avid lover of amateur theater and a local veteran of the stage. Most recently, Owen appeared as Katurian in an OTR

production of *The Pillowman*. Prior to that, Owen played Chance in *An Initial Condition*, a brand new production written by a graduate of the Hollins Playwrights Lab which actually took him to the bright lights of a NYC stage! Some other favorite roles include the portrayal of John in *Baby With the Bathwater* at OTR, Rubin Flood in *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* at Attic Theater, the Developer in *Monkey Wrench* at Studio Roanoke, as well as playing Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing* and George Nowak in *She Loves Me* at Showtimers. Owen would like to thank his wife Andrea for her continued love and support.



DE'SHAWN RILEY (*Haynes*) is thrilled to be making his Off The Rails debut. He has done many shows around the Roanoke Valley, and in Lynchburg VA.

De'Shawn has been acting for 11 years. Some of his favorite past roles include: Roger (*Rent*), Donkey (*Shrek the Musical*), George Gibbs (*Our Town*), Prince Charming (*Cinderella*)



ROBERT SMITH (*Frank*) loves OTR, first time with these fantastically talented folks, thanks to all. Remember to support live theater..... often....Enjoy!

CALLIE ALMOND (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful show with Off the Rails. She has previously been seen in OTR's production of *Middletown* and Showtimer's *You Can't Take it With You*. Although you didn't see her, she was ASM for OTR's production of *The Children's Hour* and ran lights for *Rent* with Showtimers. Callie studied theatre at Emory & Henry College and taught drama at Franklin County High School for three years.

MELISSA WEBSTER (*Costumer*) has been doing technical production for Off the Rails since they were GAMUT! She knows it is an honor and privilege to be part of a group of technical theatre staff and board of directors that are at the top of the local theatre game. Melissa started her professional theatre career with an internship at Mill Mountain Theatre in the the 1990's. She has done costuming and wardrobe for operas, ballets, musicals, plays, and bands since graduating with a BFA in Technical Theatre from Longwood. She, along with her husband Barry and daughter Sophia, also sit on the board of the Roanoke Skatemark Initiative and volunteer for lots of nonprofits and festivals in the Roanoke Valley. Thank you for supporting live local theatre!

PATRICK KENNERLY (*Director*) has been involved with live theatre for over 50 years. He holds a Theatre Arts bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech (1978) and is currently enrolled in the Certificate in New Play Directing program at The Playwright's Lab at Hollins University. Patrick spent 8 years in New York City (1978-1986) where he performed in numerous Off-Off Broadway shows and co-founded The Hudson River Theatre Company which was dedicated to performing new theatrical works. From 1980-1983, Patrick toured across the U.S. with The National Shakespeare Company in which he served as both actor and company road manager. Patrick also toured with Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival Summer Parks Tour. Since returning

to Roanoke in 1990, Patrick has performed with Mill Mountain Theatre, Hollins University Theatre, Showtimers Community Theatre, Studio Roanoke, Logos Theatricus Productions, Inc., Roanoke Children's Theatre, and Off The Rails Theatre. Patrick's local directing credits include *A Lesson Before Dying*, *Oliver!*, and *Cabaret* at Showtimers Community Theatre and *The Song of Mark* with Logos Theatricus. Patrick has also served as a Producer in the local theatre scene with Showtimers, Hollins-Mill Mountain Theatre's Centerpieces Reading Series, and with Logos Theatricus, where, in 2009, he produced a world premier full-length production of Michael Colby and Ned Paul Ginsburg's touching musical about adoption, *They Chose Me!*

Original Music by

Jimmy Carpenter and Chris Shepard

JIMMY CARPENTER is best known to the Roanoke Valley from his monthly gigs at "The Coffee Pot" in the 1990's when he wrote, sang and played a wicked saxophone with the band, "Charlie Pastorfield and The Believers." After 1999, Jimmy moved to New Orleans where he wrote, arranged and performed with "Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers." In New Orleans, Jimmy also set out on his solo career and became a studio musician and featured performer with many blues and jazz greats. In 2014 and 2015, Jimmy Carpenter was nominated

for Best Instrumentalist/Horn by the Blues Foundation. Jimmy has released two solo albums, "Toiling in Obscurity (2009)" and "Walk Away (2014)." For more information go to www.jimmycarpenter.net

CHRIS SHEPARD is a singer, songwriter, guitarist and multi-instrumentalist who has written and recorded music for theatrical productions, short films, and his own self-acclaimed albums. Chris spends his non-musical time acting and has appeared at Off the Rails Theatre as The Mechanic in *Middletown* and Michal in *The Pillowman*.

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A black and white photograph of a person's hands working in a garden, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid. The text box contains the name "Heather O'Bryan Horticultural Consultant" in a cursive font, followed by the email "reap.and.repeat@gmail.com ~ 540-583-6396" and a description of services: "Specializing in landscape and vegetable garden consultaion, container design and summer vacation plant sitting." The background shows a person's legs in white pants and boots, and a shovel in the soil.

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