– A Special Presentation –

HEAR WHAT’S IN THE HEART
An Italian Shoemaker’s Tale

by Steve Scionti and James Shanta
Additional dialogue by Anthony Crivello

Directed by
Anthony Crivello

Featuring
Steve Scionti*

Lighting Design
Mike Van Dreser

Stage Manager
Veronica Zahn*

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association

October 24 – 28, 2018

Next Act Theatre’s 2018-19 Season is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Next Act Theatre | 255 S. Water Street | Milwaukee, WI 53204
see things differently.

Spend an evening full of pleasant surprises with the performing arts.

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING NEW AT MKEARTS.COM
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Steve
Grandfather Morello
Sebastiano (Dad)
Uncle Amo
Jerry (Pizza Maker)
Brother Connolly
Tony Manero
Uncle Manny
Antonio (Brother)

The play will be performed without intermission.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES – ANTHONY CRIVELLO

I had the pleasure of being introduced to Steve Scionti over 20 years ago, through a mutual friend I was working with at the time on Broadway. That introduction has become a friendship and brotherhood lasting more than two decades.

Over the years, Steve and I traded stories about our Italian and mutual Sicilian roots, laughing at shared stories of family gatherings and enjoyed holidays, of the joy of sitting with relatives over a lovingly cooked spread of homemade dishes, of favorite aunts and uncles and their peculiar habits, of sports and The Arts ... and the longing to once again sit in the company of those who have departed and missing their voices and laughter.

In 1998, I attended the Los Angeles opening night performance of Steve's one-man show he had co-written with a fellow classmate, James Shanta ... improvised from characters Steve assembled in an acting class. Nine years later, Steve asked me to help him shepherd the project forward, reshape the text and clarify direction of the piece. I still felt a kinship to the show I had seen and the characters he portrayed ... and believed in Steve's talents and the merits of the material. I related to so many of those characters and their idiosyncrasies ... and I hope you will relate too, as audience after audience has.

These are just a fraction of the reasons why I wanted to bring this show to Milwaukee, the city of my family roots, the neighborhoods I grew up in. I am grateful to David Cecsarini and Next Act Theatre for giving this show a platform for that dream to indeed be realized. And now, returning in an “Encore Performance” at Next Act during National Italian Heritage Month!

HEAR WHAT’S IN THE HEART: An Italian Shoemaker’s Tale is not just a series of vignettes, nor is it reserved for those of Italian descent. Rather, it is a heartfelt portrayal of lessons learned on the path of an artist’s life, paying homage to the sources from which those “nuggets of wisdom” were derived: uncles and aunts, fathers and mothers, teachers and a local pizza maker, priests and relatives. And most importantly, the wisdom and lessons handed down to Steve by his grandfather... and now, to you.

Sit back and prepare to laugh; and perhaps cry. And always remember: Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel for those dreamers who, as they walk through life ... dare to look up.

SPECIAL THANKS

Dean Cannestra and the Italian Community Center, Father Tim Kitzke
We have great news for patrons who require a hearing boost while attending our shows. Longtime supporter Milan Racic has honored his beloved late wife Gordana with a generous memorial gift. In part, these proceeds have been used to install a state-of-the-art Induction Loop listening system at Next Act. (The black striping you see on the floor along the front rows is part of the new system.) This will bring a greatly improved listening experience for patrons who have special “T-coil” hearing aids, as well as for those who rely upon conventional sound augmentation. The Loop installation replaces our older radio signal system, and will offer a much better quality of sound, with far less background noise.

T-coil listeners simply need to switch their aids to the Loop setting. For conventional listeners, handy receiver packs with headphones are available at the Concessions bar. The same strong sound will be available through either method of listening. We hope you take advantage of this terrific improvement and find you enjoy Next Act’s intimate brand of theatre even more!

Many, many thanks to Milan Racic for his tremendous generosity. We believe that Gordana would have heartily endorsed this thoughtful and practical gift. Special thanks is also due to Nancy Einhorn, for her advocacy and support of this project.

**AUDIO LOOP INSTRUCTIONS:**

**T-Coil Listeners:** Simply set your hearing device to the Loop setting, and enjoy the show.

**Conventional Listeners:** Check out a receiver and headphones set at Concessions. The House Manager can instruct you on its use, but here are some simple instructions. Like a transistor radio, the small box has an off-on and volume knob; turn on and adjust for your comfort level. You will need to be in the seats to receive the Loop signal.

The box works directionally; that is, it matters which way it is pointing.

- **In most of our seating,** the box works best when held up straight, with the volume knob on top, and the flat back pointing toward the stage.

- **In the front rows,** you will get the strongest signal with the box laying flat on your leg, with the flat back pointing straight to the floor.

Please ask the House Manager for assistance, if needed. We hope you enjoy the show.
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BIOGRAPHIES

STEVE SCIONTI (Actor, Co-Writer)
Steve Scionti is best known for creating and performing the hit play, HEAR WHAT’S IN THE HEART. Beginning at the Zephyr Theater in Los Angeles, HEAR WHAT’S IN THE HEART (formerly titled ANTIPASTO!, LIFE’S A PIZZA and THE GATHERING) has played to sold-out performances in Los Angeles, Westchester and New York City. While in LA, the show garnered two Drama-Logue Critics Awards (for Best Performance and Best Writing) and was chosen for presentation at the prestigious HBO Workshop. HEAR WHAT’S IN THE HEART was selected to be in the NY Fringe Festival in 2009, where it received outstanding reviews.

In addition to this success, Mr. Scionti landed the lead role of Freddy opposite Ralph Macchio in the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway play MAGIC HANDS FREDDY at the Soho Playhouse. He made his Broadway debut as the Announcer in LEGS DIAMOND, starring the late Peter Allen. Other theater credits include productions of A CHORUS LINE, WEST SIDE STORY and FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. He taught a workshop at the American School of Dramatic Art on the original choreography to “Cool” from WEST SIDE STORY.

Mr. Scionti has extensive film experience as well. This past June he shot an indie film in Greenville, South Carolina called ITALIAN GUN, in which he plays the lead. He completed the role of Salvatore in the film LATE WATCH, which premiered at the Tribeca-Film Festival. Other film credits include THE BOROUGH OF KINGS starring Olympia Dukakis, THE GLASS JAR starring C. Thomas Howell, THE SLEEPLESS starring Shawn Andrews (star of the hit film DAZED AND CONFUSED) and the Walt Disney production, INVISIBLE DAD, opposite Karen Black.

Mr. Scionti is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory of Music, Dance and Theater where he received a BFA in dance and a minor in theatre. He is currently writing his second one man show called OFF THE MENU.

ANTHONY CRIVELLO (Director, additional dialogue)
Anthony Crivello has received Broadway’s Tony Award, Chicago’s Jefferson Award, Florida’s Carbonelle Award, Wisconsin’s Footlights Award, two Canadian Dora Mavor Moore Nominations, three Jefferson Award Nominations, Los Angeles’ Ovation, Drama Critics, Robbie and Garland Award Nominations and a Friends of New York Theater Award Nomination.

Mr. Crivello is an experienced writer for film, television, music and theater. He has co-written a comedic screenplay (with John Nelson), based on a story he conceived entitled SCOUTING PATTI STYLE. His other work includes the screenplays ACCIDENTAL JOHNNY, THE GREAT STUPID and INNOCENT VIOLENT (all with Ronald Bazarini). Mr. Crivello wrote the book and lyrics for ALLEGORIA: An Irreverent Fairy Tale Musical (with Dale Gutzman). Additionally, he is working on a musical-opera for the stage entitled LUCRECE (with Ronald Bazarini) as well as the sitcom THE CHICKEN BROTHERS. Crivello directed the workshop production of John Kassir’s one-man play CONFESSIONS OF A TV JUNKIE. He contributed additional dialogue and directed the one-man stage play HEAR WHAT’S IN THE HEART (www.SteveScionti.com), which continues to play regional engagements.

Recent stage appearances include HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL Off-Broadway, GOLDEN BOY for The Lincoln Center on Broadway, and as fabled Marquette University basketball coach/NBC college
basketball commentator Al McGuire in the Milwaukee Repertory Theater production of Dick Enberg’s MCGUIRE for which he received glowing reviews. His most recent film BLACK EASTER RESURRECTION will be released in 2019.

Mr. Crivello is a member of The Actor’s Studio in New York City and Los Angeles.

VERONICA ZAHN (Stage Manager)
Veronica Zahn returns for her second show with Next Act following THE OTHER PLACE in the 2016-17 season. This is her fifth year as a theatre artist in Milwaukee, working primarily in stage management. Other Equity SM credits include RUSSIAN TRANSPORT, TOP GIRLS (Renaissance) and PIPPIN (Skylight), in addition to productions with Theatre Gigante and teaching at Carthage. She is also the Administrative Assistant for Next Act, working in marketing and development. BA in Theatre Arts, Bethel College; MFA in Stage Management, Wayne State University. Thanks to family and friends present for supporting the theatre! Preview is 4 months married, Matt! For Dad and J.C. veronicazahn.com

DAVID CEC SARINI (Producing Artistic Director)
David’s professional theatre debut was played out with the Guthrie Theatre in Minneapolis as a journeyman actor in 1978. From 1980-86, he worked his formative years as an original company member of the American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI. During his thirty-plus year Milwaukee residency, he has acted with many of its professional companies, including Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Skylight and the Milwaukee Rep. David has proudly served as Producing Artistic Director for Milwaukee’s Next Act Theatre, going on 27 years. Favorite, recent Next Act directing projects include I AND YOU; THE OTHER PLACE; SILENT SKY; and TWILIGHT: LOS ANGELES, 1992. Memorable acting assignments include Sir Robert Cecil in EQUIVOCATION, Vince Lombardi in LOMBARDI: THE ONLY THING, Ben in LAST OF THE BOYS, Eddie in FOOL FOR LOVE, Bennett in MICROCRISIS, Ezra Pound in INCOMMUNICADO, “all the gang” in BILLY BISHOP GOES TO WAR and Max Prince in LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR. Much thanks to Anthony Crivello for making the connection.
ANNE LEHMER  
(Development Director)  
A nonprofit fundraising professional since 2005, Anne came to Next Act in January of 2016. In Seattle, she raised millions for the Nordic Heritage Museum, United Indians for All Tribes Foundation and the YWCA Seattle|King|Snohomish. Active in the Northwest Development Officers Association and the WA Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFPWA), Anne served on the Board of Directors of AFPWA and as Board Chair for teen mentoring organization, the Service Board. Anne holds an MA in Museum Studies: Fundraising and Administration, from San Francisco State University and loves Milwaukee’s museums, historic architecture, green spaces, performing arts, festivals and ethnic/cultural events. That is, when she’s not puttering in her vegetable garden or playing in the snow.

REBECCA MODER  
(Marketing Director)  
Becky has been with Next Act Theatre since 2012. Before that she ran the marketing department at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center. She holds a B.A. in Arts Management with a Business minor from UW-Stevens Point. When not at Next Act, Becky is spending time with family up north in Three Lakes, WI or working on home renovation projects with her husband, Tim.
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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FOOD AND BEVERAGES – Drinks may be taken into the theatre, but food is not permitted.

ENTERING AND EXITING THE THEATRE SPACE – Please use walkways to access the seating areas and refrain from crossing over the stage.

CANCELLATION POLICY – Next Act does not cancel or reschedule performances due to inclement weather or sporting events, nor do we offer refunds.

LATECOMER POLICY – Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate time in the performance. This may be at the intermission. *Seating may not be permitted 30 minutes after the start of a performance. If you are running late, please call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765.*

HEARING LOOP LISTENING SYSTEM – The theatre is equipped with an advanced technology Hearing Loop Listening System. The system will broadcast directly to those with T-coil hearing aids. Portable assistive listening devices for conventional listening are also available and may be checked out at the Concessions counter.

LOST PROPERTY – Items left at the theatre are kept in Lost & Found for 30 days. Call the Ticket Office at 414-278-0765 if you have lost an item.

TICKET EXCHANGES – Subscribers may exchange their tickets, without fee, up to 48 hours prior to the performance (price adjustments may apply). Single ticket buyers may exchange their tickets for a fee of $5 per ticket up to 48 hours prior. Exchanges are based strictly on availability. Patrons are strongly urged to request exchanges well in advance.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES – To avoid disturbing the performance, NO cameras or recording devices of any kind are allowed in the theatre. Please turn off all electronic equipment including pagers and cell phones.

SMOKING – The Next Act Theatre facility is a smoke-free environment.

STUDENT AND SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS – Seniors and students receive a $5 discount per ticket on advance sales. Students may also purchase half-price rush tickets with a valid student I.D. one half-hour prior to curtain, based on availability. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.

GROUP DISCOUNTS – Groups of 10 or more receive a discount of 20%. To book groups, contact Becky at 414-278-7780. Discounts are not available on performance run extensions.

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