CHRISTMAS IN BABYLON

by James DeVita

Nov. 21 - Dec. 23, 2018

C. Michael Wright**
Director

Judy Martel*
Production Stage Manager

Steve Barnes
Scenic Designer

Kimberly O’Callaghan
Costume Designer

David Gipson***
Lighting Designer

Kristian Wiborg
Sound Designer

Meghan Savagian
Propmaster

Raeleen McMillion
Dialect Coach

Brandy Kline
Production Manager/Company Manager

Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

** The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

*** Member of United Scenic Artists, local 829.

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Megs and Davey survived Vietnam, but they’re having trouble surviving back home... until one morning changes everything.

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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Terry McShane ........................................................................................................ Tom Klubertanz*
Denise McShane ...................................................................................................... Mary MacDonald Kerr*
Abby McShane ...................................................................................................... Sara Zientek*
Kelly O’Rourke ................................................................................................. Eva Nimmer
Kathleen O’Rourke .............................................................................................. Laura Gray*

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SETTING

TIME: December, present day
PLACE: North Babylon, Long Island

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Photography and video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited. The audience is asked to silence mobile phones and refrain from using electronic devices during the performance.

SPECIAL THANKS

Brinn Labs – Betty Brinn Children’s Museum – Maker Faire Milwaukee, Bridget Erangey, Clay Feller, Ian’s Pizza, Ray Jivoff, Tyler Marchant, Marquette University Costume Shop, John Nienhuis, Liam O’Callaghan, Carson Roufus, Deborah Staples, Studio Gear

This script was originally workshopped at Forward Theater Company under the title of BABYLON.

ABOUT MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE

Founded in 1975, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) produces intimate and accessible theatrical works that engage and challenge the audience, while employing and nurturing principally local theatre artists. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director C. Michael Wright and Managing Director Kirsten Finn, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre performs at the Broadway Theatre Center in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward. For more information, visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

We welcome people of all races, all religions, all genders, all countries of origin, all sexual orientations, and all abilities. We welcome everyone. We stand with all those who feel unheard or silenced, and will ensure this is a safe place for all who enter.
I’ve always been fascinated by the concept of “family.” (Back in 2008-2009, I devoted an entire season to it!)

When I think of family, I think of concerned and understanding individuals who are interested in my well-being, guiding me when I need guidance and challenging me when I need to be challenged. I think of generosity, trust, and a little TLC.

I have very close bonds with my biological family, but thanks to a long life in the theatre, I’ve also developed incredibly strong relationships with a variety of people who have become my alternative family.

Perhaps that’s why I take great pleasure in watching and listening to the McShanes and the O’Rourkes as they reexamine and rethink what it means to be a family.

These characters still make me laugh out loud as they struggle with the push and pull of those family ties that are sometimes too tight, often too loose, but always present. And they move me enormously when they start to dig down deep to embrace forgiveness and acceptance.

Thank you, Jim DeVita, for this lovely holiday gift to our patrons! You are most definitely one of the family!

~ C. Michael Wright
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JAMES DEVITA
(Playwright)
James DeVita, a native of Long Island, NY, is an author, actor, and theatre director who is a core company member and literary manager at American Players Theatre. His produced plays for the stage include CHRISTMAS IN BABYLON, LEARNING TO STAY, GIFT OF THE MAGI (a musical adaptation), IN ACTING SHAKESPEARE, THE DESERT QUEEN, DICKENS IN AMERICA, WAITING FOR VERN, THE THREE MUSKETEERS, and a new adaptation of CYRANO DE BERGERAC. Jim has also worked extensively as a playwright for young audiences, and has written three novels: A Winsome Murder, The Silenced, and Blue. He is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for Fiction, and a member of The Dramatists Guild and Actors Equity Association. His education began as a first mate on the charter boat JIB VII out of Captree Boat Basin, NY. He then studied theatre at Suffolk County Community College in Long Island, where he received an AS degree, then received his BFA at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Jim would like to thank Michael Wright for his friendship and for his belief in him as a writer. Twenty-five years ago Michael was the first person to take a serious interest in Jim’s work as a writer. Michael helped Jim develop his first play WAITING FOR VERN. He also directed Jim in the show and helped produce it. They have been close friends and colleagues ever since.

LAURA GRAY
(Kathleen O’Rourke)
Laura is thrilled to be back at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre where she was last seen in THE GOOD FATHER with her husband Jonathan Wainwright. Other MCT memories include CRIMES OF THE HEART, THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL, and TALLEY’S FOLLY. Laura is also in her 10th year as an adjunct on the theatre faculty at Carroll University. A special shout out to Tyler and Austin.

MARY MACDONALD KERR (Denise McShane)
Mary is thrilled to be acting again for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. She has appeared in more than 20 productions here, most recently playing QZ in THE FEW. Favorite Chamber roles include Alice in THE DETECTIVE’S WIFE, Sheila in JOE EGG, Dana in THE SWEETEST SWING IN BASEBALL and Sally in VOICE OF THE TURTLE. Mary has also performed with Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Rep, First Stage, Milwaukee Shakespeare and Next Act Theatre. Favorite roles from that list include Pope Joan in TOP GIRLS, Anna in BURN THIS (playing opposite CHRISTMAS IN BABYLON’s playwright James DeVita), Terry Glimmer in SIDE MAN and five runs of SHEAR MADNESS, playing Barbra Di Marco. Mary is also a director, and is especially proud of her work on THE GLASS MENAGERIE at In Tandem, LUNA GALE at Renaissance, MOTHER COURAGE at Carthage College and GOING TO ST IVES at Next Act. Next month, Mary will direct CYRANO at Titan Theatre in New York.

TOM KLUBERTANZ
(Terry McShane)
Tom is delighted to be back on stage at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, after last appearing as Yvan in ‘ART’ a few years ago. A self-proclaimed “lover-of-all-things-Christmas,” he owns the Midwest’s largest selection of ugly seasonal sweaters and has been playing Christmas music in his car since June. Tom has been an Equity actor, a musician, and a
decorated theatre educator in the area for the past 25 years, and he is currently serving the arts community in Madison where he is in charge of all patron services for Overture Center for the Performing Arts. (Shout out to all the amazing ushers and house managers EVERYWHERE!) He would like to thank his AMAZING wife Jaimy and his two beautiful children Owen and Kennedy for their unyielding love and support. His fingers are currently crossed, hoping beyond hope that there will be no coal in his stocking this year. Enjoy the show!

EVA NIMMER (Kelly O’Rourke)
Eva Nimmer is glad to make her MCT debut by bringing to life this wonderful new play. Eva has performed throughout Wisconsin with companies like Forward Theater, Children’s Theater of Madison, Four Seasons Theatre, Luminous Theatre, Theatre LILA and earlier this year, Next Act Theatre (EQUIVOCATION) and Milwaukee Opera Theatre (ANTIOLOGY). She has also worked extensively with Northern Sky Theater in Door County, where she recently co-authored and premiered a new musical with collaborators Joel Kopischke and Alissa Rhode entitled DAIRY HEIRS. Eva received her BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Thanks to James and Michael, and to her family, friends, and many teachers.

SARA ZIENTEK (Abby McShane)
Sara is thrilled to be back on the Chamber Theatre stage! She was last seen here as Dawn in LOBBY HERO and Becky in SLOWGIRL. Favorite past shows include: NOISES OFF (Poppy) at Milwaukee Rep, CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (Boris) at First Stage, THE SUREST POISON (Lipstick) at Renaissance Theaterworks, THE TAMING (Bianca) at Next Act, and ‘TWAS THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS (Mary). Sara has also taught at First Stage Academy, Waukesha Civic Theatre, and was a part of the ROMEO AND JULIET educational tour with Utah Shakespeare Festival. She received her BA in acting from UW-Milwaukee, and was part of the Emerging Professional Residency with Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Love and thanks to her family, friends and teachers. sarazientek.com.

C. MICHAEL WRIGHT (Director, MCT Producing Artistic Director)
Michael is pretty thrilled to be working with his old friend, Jim DeVita, once again. This is the third original play of Jimmy’s that he has directed, including WAITING FOR VERN (Collision Theatre Ensemble, 1993) and DICKENS IN AMERICA (MCT, 2006 and American Players Theatre, 2013). He has also had the good fortune to act alongside Jimmy in MOOT (Milwaukee Rep, 1992), THE LARAMIE PROJECT (Madison Rep, 2003) and TWELFTH NIGHT (American Players Theatre, 2004), and to direct him on two occasions: WAITING FOR VERN (Collision Theatre Ensemble, 1993) and BROOKLYN BOY (MCT, 2009). Since joining the staff here, Michael has directed twenty-eight productions at MCT, including DOUBT, MIRACLE ON SOUTH DIVISION STREET, THE FEW, LOBBY HERO, FALLEN ANGELS, SLOWGIRL, THE TRAIN DRIVER and UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL, as well as two other original works: OCTOBER, BEFORE I WAS BORN and THE DALY NEWS. Michael has been acting professionally for over forty years, having appeared in regional theatres all across the country, as well as in Athol Fugard’s “MASTER HAROLD”...and the boys on Broadway, in Israel and in the national tour. His most recent
performances have been as Paul in a concert version of A CHORUS LINE for Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED, and as Vanya in VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE here at MCT. In 2009, Michael was honored with an “Artist of the Year” award by the City of Milwaukee Arts Board.

JUDY MARTEL
(Production Stage Manager)
Highlights of Judy’s 125 MCT productions include: 17 Shaw Festivals, THE TRAIN DRIVER, UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL, HEROES, THE DAILY NEWS, TALKING HEADS, ANGELS IN AMERICA, 84 CHARING CROSS ROAD, MASTER CLASS, THREE DAYS OF RAIN, RAT IN THE SKULL, MAN AND SUPERMAN, and BEYOND THE FRINGE. Other memorable local productions include: BAD DATES, CHAPS!, 2 PIANOS 4 HANDS, and GUYS ON ICE at Milwaukee Repertory Theater; EARS ON A BEATLE, ROUGH CROSSING and THE REAL THING at Next Act Theatre; and GORGONS at Renaissance Theaterworks. Before coming to Milwaukee, Judy worked at The Yale Rep, Manhattan Punch Line, The Station, The Hangar, and the Lake George Opera Festival. She is also a freelance editor and writer and a graduate of the Yale School of Drama. Judy has two wonderful daughters, only one of whom escaped working in the theater.

STEVE BARNES (Scenic Designer)
Steve Barnes is happy to be back at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. You may have seen his previous work with MCT in DOUBT, A PARABLE; DEAR ELIZABETH; THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) (REVISED); JEEVES IN BLOOM and DRIVING MISS DAISY. Steve has done numerous designs in the Milwaukee area, including THE VIOLET HOUR and LETTICE AND LOVAGE at Renaissance Theaterworks, JACKIE AND ME at First Stage Children’s Theater, and THE OUTGOING TIDE and BURYING THE BONES at In Tandem Theatre. He has also designed for Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Children’s Theater of Madison, Capital City Theatre, Optimist Theatre, Ka-Tet Theatre Company, and Kohl’s Wild Theater at the Milwaukee Zoo. Enjoy the show! stevebarnesdesign.com

KIMBERLY O’CALLAGHAN
(Costume Designer)
Kimberly is excited to return for her sixth show with MCT. She previously designed costumes for THE FEW, SLOWGIRL, COLLECTED STORIES, and CRIMES OF THE HEART. Kimberly also constructed costumes for MCT’s LEND ME A TENOR. Kimberly has designed costumes for local theaters like First Stage, Next Act Theatre, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, and Sunset Playhouse. She has also enjoyed working as a costume technician on productions at American Players Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Skylight Music Theatre, and First Stage. A Milwaukee native, Kimberly received her BA in Theater Design from Marquette University and her MFA in Costume Design from Carnegie Mellon University. Kimberly would like to thank her family, husband Liam, and her little ones for their support.

DAVID GIPSON (Lighting Designer)
David Gipson has been designing professionally for over 30 years. Wisconsin credits include THE GOOD FATHER for Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and THE SNOW DRAGON for Skylight Music Theatre and Opera Siam in Bangkok, Thailand. Off Broadway, RUNT OF THE LITTER at 37 Arts and MCC Theatre, OUR TOWN for Steppenwolf’s Arts Exchange in Chicago and THE LATE HENRY MOSS and THIEF RIVER at the Contemporary American Theatre Festival. He designed over one hundred productions in Chicago for The Goodman Studio, Victory Gardens.
Theatre, Pegasus Players, Organic Theatre, Oak Park Festival, Teatro Vista and City Lit Theatre and others. In Houston, he designed over two hundred productions with Stages Repertory Theatre, Main Street Theatre, Infernal Bridegroom Productions, Catastrophic Theatre and The Ensemble Theatre. He graduated with a B.F.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 since 1997. Visit his website at davidgipsonlightingdesign.com.

KRISTIAN WIBORG (Sound Designer)
Kristian is currently a full-time Entertainment Technician at Disney World’s Animal Kingdom, where he works on shows such as Festival of the Lion King and Finding Nemo The Musical. He is a 2017 graduate of UW-Milwaukee where he studied Theatre Technical Production with an emphasis in sound. Kristian is ecstatic about continuing to work with MCT and the many great local Milwaukee theatre artists that make up this production.

MEGHAN SAVAGIAN (Propmaster)
Meghan Savagian is excited to return for her eighteenth production with MCT since 2007’s MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS. A UW-Milwaukee PTTP graduate, Meghan is also the assistant prop director for American Players Theatre.

KIRSTEN FINN (MCT Managing Director)
Kirsten is in her tenth season as managing director of Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Previously, Kirsten served as a major gifts officer for Milwaukee Public Television Friends and ran her own development consulting firm, KM Creative. She has previously been managing director of Wild Space Dance Company and development director of the Florentine Opera and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Kirsten holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in theatre and communications from Marquette University and is a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE).
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** The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.

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Production Manager/Company Manager ..................................................... Brandy Kline
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Education Associate ....................................................................................... Samantha Martinson
Marketing Interns ......................................................................................... Bridget Erangey, Carson Roufus

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Actors’ Equity Association (“Equity”), founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 actors and stage managers. Equity seeks to foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors’ Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks
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Broadway Theatre Center’s
Studio Theatre

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
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Join us for three one-act plays by the winners of our high school playwriting competition!

PINTA EL FUEGO by Markia Silverman-Rodriguez, Pius XI Catholic High School
A teen visiting her grandmother expects two weeks of monotony, but leaves with a deeper understanding of her culture, family history, and the power of her creativity.

1-800-123-BOYS by Jazmin Reyes, Ronald Reagan High School
Three siblings are forced to spend some time outside, they never realize how much their minds — and hearts — will be altered by the arrival of a dreamy new neighbor.

THE DIVINE KOMEDY by Max Engel, Pius XI Catholic High School
In this witty re-imagining of the medieval poet Dante Alighieri’s The Divine Comedy, Dante and his mentor Virgil travel through hell, talking politics, religion, and melting glaciers.

Friday, Feb. 1
We’re raising a pint to MCT for a second year!
Watch your mailbox for more details soon!
**EXCHANGES:** Season subscription tickets may be exchanged free of charge for another performance of the same production up to 48 hours in advance. Single tickets may be exchanged for another performance of the same production up to 48 hours in advance for a $5 per ticket fee. Contact the box office at 414.291.7800 to exchange.

**LOST TICKETS:** Seat locations are on file and duplicate tickets may be reprinted by contacting the box office.

**TICKET DONATIONS:** Season and single tickets are non-refundable. Ticket holders who are unable to use their tickets may donate them for resale and receive a receipt for a tax-deductible contribution. Contact the box office to donate your tickets.

**DISCOUNTS:** Seniors receive $5.00 off the regular ticket price. Active members of the military, veterans, and their families can save 25% off any ticket. Student tickets are $15. Half-price rush tickets are available 30 minutes prior to curtain.

**GROUP DISCOUNTS:** Groups of 10 or more can receive tickets at a group rate. Contact Matthew Reddin at 414.276.8842 x114 or matthew@milwaukeechambertheatre.com

**CONCESSIONS:** The Skylight Bar & Bistro, operated by Indulge Wine Room.

**CABOT THEATRE PERFORMANCES:** The Skylight Bar & Bistro on the second floor is open two hours before performances and during intermission. Patrons can enjoy full menu by ordering counter service. The Studio Lobby Bar on the first floor is open 30 minutes before all performances and during intermission. Patrons can enjoy light snacks and drinks. The Skylight Bar & Bistro upstairs is closed except on dates when Skylight has a performance in the Cabot Theatre.

**PARKING:** Free and low-cost parking is available throughout the Historic Third Ward. The Broadway Theatre Center recommends parking at the Historic Third Ward parking structure on Milwaukee St. at Chicago Ave. (2 blocks east), where a special BTC deal is available. Other options include: METERED STREET PARKING - throughout the Historic Third Ward, meters are free after 6:00 p.m. and on weekends. ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER LOT - Jackson St. at Menomonee St. (three blocks east of the Broadway Theatre Center), parking for a small fee. HISTORIC THIRD WARD PARKING STRUCTURES - Water St. at Chicago Ave. (2 blocks west), parking for a small fee. VARIOUS SURFACE PARKING LOTS - these lots are only available when an attendant is present and a fee is charged. SPOTHERO – reserve a parking space on spothero.com before leaving home.

**ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** Silence cellular phones, pagers and alarm watches. Photography and recording are strictly prohibited during the performance. Please refrain from using electronic devices or text messaging during the performance.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** MCT does not offer refunds or cancel or reschedule performances due to inclement weather.

**SPECIAL PATRON SERVICES:** Contact the box office, 414.291.7800, to arrange for seating in wheelchair accessible locations. Hearing devices are available for both Cabot Theatre and Studio Theatre productions; see house manager to use a hearing device.

**FOOD & BEVERAGES:** Bottled water and beverages in plastic containers are permitted in the Cabot and Studio Theatres. Lids, available at the Skylight Bar & Bistro, are required for shows in the Cabot Theatre and recommended for shows in the Studio Theatre.

**VIEWPOINTS:** ViewPoints is a free series in which knowledgeable presenters share their insights about a particular MCT production, followed by an interactive discussion with the audience. ViewPoints takes place at 6:30 p.m. prior to a Wednesday evening performance.

**TALK THEATRE:** Prior to Wednesday matinees is Talk Theatre, an opportunity for patrons to participate in an informal discussion with the producing artistic director and other artists involved in a production. The Talk Theatre discussion begins at 12 noon. The Skylight Bar & Bistro is open for lunch service beginning at 11:00 a.m.

**TALKBACKS:** Fun and informative discussions with cast members are regularly scheduled following Thursday evening performances.

**USHERS:** Volunteers interested in ushering should contact the house manager at 414.291.7811 x250 or housemgr@skylightmusictheatre.org

**SUPPORT MCT:** To become a donor contact Milwaukee Chamber Theatre at 414.276.8842 or dawnw@milwaukeechambertheatre.com or visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.

**MCT FRIENDS:** Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Friends gain recognition and support for MCT through a variety of activities. To get involved, call 414.276.8842 or visit milwaukeechambertheatre.com.