David Zak,
Executive Director

Artistic Associates
Robert Ollis, Donterrio Johnson, Michael D. Graham, Topher Leon, JD Caudill, Larry Todd Cousineau

Presents

CASA VALENTINA
Written by Harvey Fierstein

Director
Michael D. Graham

Assistant Director / Movement Coordinator
Claire Hart Proepper

Scenic Design
Evan Frank

Lighting Design
Shelbi Arndt

Costume / Wig / Makeup Design
Robert-Eric West

Props Design
Sandra Leander

Stage Management
Michael Starcher

Dramaturg
Jeffrey Geddes

Featuring:

Opening August 26, 2019

CASA VALENTINA is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

The Broadway, Pride Arts Center | 4139 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613
www.pridefilmsandplays.com
CAST LIST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Rita ................................................................................................................................. Nicolia Q. Aguirre
Jonathan / Miranda ................................................................................................. Micah Kronlokken
Bessie .......................................................................................................................... Michael Hagedorn
George / Valentina ...................................................................................................... Patrick Byrnes
Gloria ............................................................................................................................ Josh Marshall
Charlotte ..................................................................................................................... Danne W. Taylor
Terry ............................................................................................................................. Kingsley Day
The Judge / Amy ........................................................................................................... Robert Koon
Eleanor ......................................................................................................................... BethAnn Smukowski

UNDERSTUDIES
Gloria, Miranda .......................................................................................................... Casey Coppess
Rita, Eleanor ................................................................................................................ Jessica Goforth
Valentina ....................................................................................................................... Scott Patrick Sawa
Terry, Amy .................................................................................................................... Jimmy Binns

_CASA VALENTINA_ is performed with one 10 minute intermission.

SETTING

Setting: A cabin in the Catskill Mountains

Time: 1962

SPECIAL THANKS

St. Sebastian Players
David Pifko / 4th Street Theatre Chesterton

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Nicholia Q. Aguirre (Rita) is honored to be working with PFP on its production of Casa Valentina. Recent credits include Home on the Lake (Piven Theatre); Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf (Pulse Theatre); Steel Magnolias (Arc Theatre); Vagina Monologues (Fleetwood Jourdain Theatre). “Much love to my family for all their love and support!”

Jimmy Binns (Terry / Amy understudy) Jimmy last appeared at PFP in Christopher Halligan’s 1974 (New Film Scripts Festival Winner). His acting career spans five decades, 4,147 audiences and counting. Ever happy to serve as actor-back-up, Jimmy replaced Brian Perry as Rothko in Red (Redtwist Theater), and Jack Hickey as Charlie in Seascape (Oak Park Festival Theater). “It’s always enlightening to walk in another man’s heels.”

Patrick Byrnes (George / Valentina) marks his first production with PFP. Chicago credits include Frost/Nixon (Redtwist); Far From Heaven, On a Clear Day… (Porchlight); Marie Christine, Amadeus (Boho); Peter and the Starcatcher (Metropolis); Titanic (Griffin); Assassins (Kokandy); A Marvin Hamlisch Songbook (Theo Ubique). Patrick is represented by Shirley Hamilton Talent.

Casey Coppess (Gloria / Miranda understudy) is very excited to be working with PFP. Chicago credits include Golden Girls the Lost

Episodes (Hell in a Handbag) Steamworks the Musical (Annoyance Theater) Control+Alt-Right+Delete (Gayco Productions). Casey graduated from Simpson College with a BA in piano and vocal music. “Thanks, Mom, Dad, Kirby, and the rest of the Coppess/Steckly clan for the unwavering support and love.”

Kingsley Day (Terry) recently appeared as Scrooge in A Christmas Carol (Metropolis) and the Judge in Trial by Jury and Sir Harcourt in London Assurance (City Lit). He has played the patter baritone lead in all 14 Gilbert & Sullivan operettas with the Savoyaires, where last fall he directed Ruddigore.

Jessica Goforth (Rita / Eleanor understudy) is delighted to work with Pride Films and Plays. Recent Chicago credits include Medusa Undone (Otherworld Theatre) and May The Road Rise Up (The Factory Theater). She holds a BA in Theatre from Carthage College. This project is dedicated to the memory of Lee Ramey.

Michael Hagedorn (Bessie) is excited to be working with PFP. After a long hiatus he has returned to the Chicago stage where he has appeared as Sir Toby Belch in Twelfth Night (Fury Theatre) and Geronte in The Liar (Promethean Theatre Ensemble). “All my love to Queen MAB with whom everything is possible.”
Robert Koon (Judge / Amy) is pleased to be working with PFP. Recent appearances include A Dickens Carol (Oak Park Festival Theatre), Fun Harmless Warmachine (The New Colony), Pillars of the Community (Strawdog), Seminar (Spartan Theatre), and The Woman in Black (WildClaw Theatre). He is an Artistic Associate with Broken Nose Theatre.

Micah Kronlokken (Jonathan / Miranda) is thrilled to be back at PFP where he was last seen as Tim Conigrave in Holding The Man. Select Chicago credits include: GHOSTS & zombies (Akvavit Theatre); Ten Dollar House (Mineral Point Opera House); Midnight Cowboy, Pride and Prejudice (Lifeline Theatre), A Charlie Brown Christmas (Broadway Playhouse, 2015). Proud Artistic Associate with Akavit Theatre Company. Thanks to Michael for his trust. 143 to D, R, & I.

Josh Marshall (Gloria) is a recent graduate from the University of Redlands, California. Some previous Chicago credits include The Wood (Impostors Theatre Company); Macbeth (Saltbox Theatre Collective); Play On! (Oil Lamp Theater). Josh could not be more humbled to take on such a powerful and relevant show here at PFP.

Scott Sawa (Valentina understudy) is overjoyed to return to PFP! Chicago credits include: Ten Dollar House (PFP); Hey! Dancin! Hey! Musical! (Factory); Poseidon! (Handbag); and productions with Lifeline, Nothing Special, iO, Refuge Theater Project, OPFT, and First Folio. TV/Web: Chicago Fire, Redline to Howard. www.ScottSawa.com

BethAnn Smukowski (Eleanor) is over the moon to be performing in her first PFP production. Credits include The Front Page (Saint Sebastian Players), Cloud 9 and End Days (Stage Center Theater). “Never-ending gratitude and love to my family, friends, and gurus for being so damn fabulous and supportive. Smooches xo.”

Danne W. Taylor (Charlotte): Chicago credits include: The Golden Girls: Bea Afraid and The Valentine Edition, (HIAH); Hurricane Damage, His Greatness, (best actor: International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival) (PFP); Terre Haute, (Black Elephant Theatre); Insignificance, (Mary-Arrchie Theatre); The Eviler Twin (Curious Theatre); and many others. Danne is an Artistic Associate with Hell in a Handbag Productions.

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**ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES cont.**

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Michael D. Graham (Director) returns to PFP after directing Ten Dollar House; Holding the Man; and Barney the Elf. Other favorite Chicago-area directing credits include The Mystery of Irma Vep; Smash; The Misanthrope; The Memory of Water; and Parallel Lives (Piccolo Theatre); Spreading the News (Halcyon Theatre); Butley (Hubris Productions); Expatriates (the side project); Metropolitan Operas (Act One Studios).

Coming up next year: Mrs. Warren’s Profession (Promethean Theatre Ensemble). Love to Cayl!

Claire Hart Proepper (Asst. Director/Choreographer) is pleased to be returning to PFP after choreographing Barney the Elf this past fall. Recent directing credits include: Finding Hortensio (Laughing Stock); Hansel & Gretel, The Snow Queen: Or...Over! (Piccolo); At Your Service: Commedia (BRF). Claire received her theatre and history degrees from U.Va.

Michael Starcher (Stage Manager) is a freelance stage manager who has worked for several Chicago storefront companies including Hell In A Handbag, Underscore Theatre, Steep Theatre, Red Theater and Eclectic Full Contact Theatre. His PFP credits include Yank: A WWII Love Story, Flies! The Musical, Holding the Man and Afterglow. When he’s not busy herding cats, Michael works as the Operations Manager for the Pride Arts Center.

Evan Frank (Scenic Design) returns to PFP where he designed Buyer and Cellar and the PAC Pride Series last summer. Other recent designs include Grace, or the Art of Climbing (Brown Paper Box Company) and Two Days in Court (City Lit). He is a company member with Refuge Theater Project. efrankdesign.com

Robert-Eric West (Costume / Wig / Makeup Design) is proud to join the design team for Casa Valentina. Company/Board member and Resident Costumer for Saint Sebastian Players, he recently directed DROOD and Love, Loss & What I Wore. MFA (Indiana University), co-founder of Studio BE: Youth Revolution, musical theatre audition coach, and freelance director & designer.

Shelbi Arndt (Lighting Design)

Aaron Harris Woodstein (Sound Design) is proud to make his PFP debut. Sound Design credits include: The Light Youth Festival (Collaboraction Theatre); The Front Page, Hay Fever, R&G, Oliver!, Remembrance, The Tempest (Saint Sebastian Players); A Lie of the Mind, As You Like It (Illinois Wesleyan University). “You are loved”.

Sandra Leander (Props Design)

Evan Sposato (Technical Director)

Ricki Pettinato (Assistant Lighting Designer) was recently seen as Carly in Southern Comfort at PFP, and recently unseen as Stage Manager, Assistant Lighting Designer, Light Op, and Sound Op for Amicable at Theatre Above the Law. She is relieved to only have one job on this show.

Logan T. Walker (Assistant Stage Manager) is ecstatic to be assisting this production of Casa Valentina. Last May, he graduated from Missouri’s Culver-Stockton College, and is a fresh face in Chicago’s theatre scene. He’d like to thank PFP for giving him the opportunity to join such an amazing institution.

Justin Petty (2nd Asst Director / Intern) is thrilled to work at Pride for the first time this summer. His credits Include: All Quiet on The Western Front (University of Toledo), Fences (Toledo Rep) and Blue Eyebrows (University of Toledo).
(reflects donations received between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019)

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ABOUT PRIDE FILMS AND PLAYS

Pride Films and Plays creates diverse new work (or work that is new to Chicago) with LGBTQ+ characters or themes that is essential viewing for all audiences. We accomplish this mission through fully-staged productions, writing contests and staged readings, and filming one short film each season.

PFP is the primary tenant in the Pride Arts Center, which connects and promotes other artists who share our values, creating a safe environment for all. PAC books one-night events or limited runs, cabaret, film, dance, comedy, and other events. In 2015, Huffington Post called PFP “A powerful and empowering entity.”

PFP is a member of the Belmont Theater District, League of Chicago Theaters, Buena Park Neighbors, LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, Northhalasted Business Alliance, and Uptown United. PFP is part of the Smart Growth program at Chicago Community Trust.


SPECIAL THANKS TO

Special thanks to those who supported this production, including Tom Chiola who adopted Danne W. Taylor

Sarah Vanbindsbergen
George Luebking
Brent Hix
David Byrne
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Kyle Palmer
Katharine Moeller
Matthew Holsapple
Mary Samerdyke

Jonathan Osborne
Timothy Lind
Jeanmarie Hagedorn

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES FOR PRIDE ARTS

Funny Lesbian Play Week
Staged Readings of new works by women that are funny or romantic
Oct 7 to 13, Buena Theater

A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE
Book by Terrence McNally, Music By Steven Flaherty, Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Directed by Donterrio Johnson, Music Direction by Robert Ollis
October 17 to November 17, Broadway Theater

LezFest, a variety show featuring lesbian and non-binary performers
October 22 and 23, Broadway Theater

November 4, SIMPLY SENSATIONAL
Our fall benefit