

*PERSIMMON TREE
PLAYERS PRESENTS...*

DEATH BY DESIGN



BY ROB URBINATI

APRIL 22, 28 & 29 AT 7:30 PM

APRIL 23 & 30 AT 3:00 PM

*AT HISTORIC VICTORY HALL THEATER
IN SCOTTSVILLE, VA*



*FOR SHOW AND TICKET INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.PERSIMMONTREEPLAYERS.ORG*

PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS ON BEHALF OF SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.



**Persimmon
Tree Players**



SCOTTSVILLE'S CENTER
FOR THE ARTS AND THE
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Death by Design

Written by Rob Urbinati

Directed by Sean Michael McCord

Produced by Tom Green

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of
Samuel French, Inc.

SETTING:

The living room of the Bennett house
in Cookham, England, 1932

The play is written in two acts with a 15-minute intermission between acts.

Act two resumes exactly where act one left off.

SHOW SYNOPSIS:

What happens when you mix the brilliant wit of Noël Coward with the intricate plotting of Agatha Christie? Set during a weekend in an English country manor in 1932, *Death by Design* is a hilarious, delightful, and mysterious mash-up of two of the greatest English writers of all time.

Edward Bennett, a playwright, and his wife, Sorel Bennett, an actress, flee London and head to Cookham after a disastrous opening night. But various guests arrive unexpectedly – a conservative politician, a fiery socialist, a nearsighted ingénue, a zany modern dancer – each with a long-held secret. When one of the guests is murdered, it's left to Bridgit, the feisty Irish maid with a macabre interest in homicide, to solve the crime.

Death by Design is more than an homage – it's a new classic.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS (in order of appearance):

BRIDGIT - The maid. Irish, crabby, warmhearted.

JACK - The chauffer. Cockney, charming, clever.

EDWARD BENNETT - The playwright. Urbane, vain.

SOREL BENNETT - The actress. Glamorous, daffy.

WALTER PEARCE - The politician. Stiff, conservative.

ERIC - The radical. Scottish, empathetic, fiery.

VICTORIA VAN ROTH - The Bohemian. Intense, artistic.

ALICE - The visitor. Sweet, shy.

CAST:

BRIDGIT Flavia Ruffner

JACK Glenn Hussein

EDWARD BENNETT Stewart Moneymaker

SOREL BENNETT Andrea Kojan

WALTER PEARCE Tom Green

ERIC Jim Campbell

VICTORIA VAN ROTH Anna Lien

ALICE Laura Hussein

PRODUCTION STAFF:

DIRECTOR	Sean Michael McCord
PRODUCER	Tom Green
STAGE MANAGERS	Pat Macomber and Judy McCarthy
SOUND ENGINEER	Mike Montgomery
LIGHT DESIGNER	Sophie Freshwater
BOX OFFICE AND TICKETING	Jen Starkey
SET ENGINEER	George Gaige
SET BUILDER	Chip Staples
COSTUMER	Anna Lien

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Colleen Green, Scottsville Council for Arts and the Natural Environment, Debby and Bruce Deal and Cunningham Creek Winery, James River Brewery, Bob Abbott, Kate Green, Jennifer LaFleur, Kristin Freshwater, Stevie Loeb, Courtney Walker, Bailey Printing of Charlottesville, Baines Coffee and Books in Scottsville

CAST & CREW BIOS (In order of appearance):

FLAVIA RUFFNER (Bridgit)



Flavia Ruffner is an Albemarle County native who has been active in the performing arts since she was 5 with a lead role in a local musical. She has performed in theatre, opera, and film professionally and in amateur roles. While she started in theatre, opera fed her deep love of singing and orchestral arrangements, along with international opportunities. She has sung in places such as Spain, Bulgaria, Germany, and even Okinawa. Her recent role as **Grace O'Malley** in Kate Monaghan's *O'Malley's Gambit* revived her love of the theatre. She is grateful to PTP for allowing her to romp as the Irish Bridgit in a stellar cast.

GLENN HUSSEIN (Jack)



Glenn is new to the area, is excited to be taking part in *Death by Design* and is grateful for the opportunity. He would like to thank everyone involved in the play for making him feel welcome.

STEWART MONEYMAKER (Edward Bennett)



Stewart is making his third appearance on the Victory Hall stage, having previously appeared as **Barrie** in PTP's *Duets* and as **Freddie Filmore** in VHP's *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Stewart has also performed locally with Live Arts and Four County Players and was recently seen as **Valencio Di Carpathio** in the Louisa Arts Center production of *The Bold the Young and the Murdered* and as **St. Peter** in *The Living Last Supper*. He is very excited to be part of this Persimmon Tree Players' production and to be working with such a committed and talented cast, crew and staff.

ANDREA KOJAN (Sorel Bennett)



Andrea is delighted to be on the Victory Hall stage for the third time and thrilled to be working with this wonderful and talented cast and crew! Andrea was last seen as **Toby** in Persimmon Tree Players' *Duets* and as many characters in Victory Hall Players' *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Offstage, Andrea enjoys living in Lake Monticello with her sweet “doggy daughter” Cinnamon, as well as serving on the boards of several Fluvanna County community groups.

TOM GREEN (Walter Pearce)



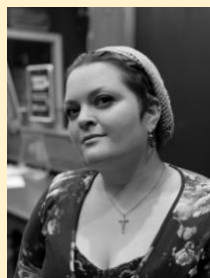
Tom is thrilled to be back on the Victory Hall stage. He has previously appeared at Victory Hall as **Jody Varner** in *Long Hot Summer: The Musical*, **George Bailey** in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, **Ebenezer Scrooge** in *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play*, **Edgar Allan Poe** in *The Edgar Allan Poe Afterlife Radio Show*, and as **Jonathan** in *Duets*. He has also directed and acted with PTP for the past ten years or so and directed (herded) student productions for Scottsville Elementary School for many years. He is thrilled to share the stage with this incredibly talented cast!

JIM CAMPBELL (Eric)



Returning to community theater after a hiatus of four long, hard years (travel, work, exhaustion and plague), Jim feels very privileged to be part of this production. His colleagues are great fun and supremely talented. He hopes you have as much fun watching the show as he has had participating. Over the prior fifteen years, you may have seen Jim in various shows in Charlottesville, Fluvanna and Scottsville, in everything from comedies, to drama, to musicals to murder mysteries. Enjoy!

ANNA LIEN (Victoria Van Roth)



Anna Lien has been a part of the Central Virginia Theater scene since she was a wee lass of fourteen. She has directed, acted, built, written, and stitched for The Old Michie Theatre, Gorilla Theater Productions, Live Arts, and most recently for the ASC. She is delighted to have the opportunity to engage in a little light murder and grateful to the lovely cast and crew

LAURA HUSSEIN (Alice)



Laura is excited to be making her Persimmon Tree Players debut as **Alice**. Her recent credits include **Miss Shields** in *A Christmas Story* with ShenanArts, and **Sylvie** in *The Odd Couple (Female Version)* and **Mary** in *It's A Wonderful Life* at Richmond Community Theater in North Carolina. New to the area, Laura is thrilled to be a part of this production and to work with such talented people.

SEAN MICHAEL McCORD (Director)

Sean is delighted to working with the Persimmon Tree Players again, for whom he first directed *The Edgar Allen Poe Afterlife Radio Show* and now this rascally assemblage of victims and suspects in *Death By Design*. Sean is an award-winning Playwright, Producer, and occasional Bad Actor, but is most at home sitting in a chair and barking orders.

MIKE MONTGOMERY (Sound Engineer)

Mike started working in theater sound in 1995 at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center on *Singing in the Rain*. He has done plays and musicals there and with Heritage High School ever since. Mike moved to Fluvanna in 2014 and found Persimmon Tree Players soon after that. He loves working behind the scenes, helping the players be heard, and making theatre a fun experience for everyone listening. Mike loves being a part of such a great group of people at PTP and looks forward to continuing this for many years to come.

PAT MACOMBER (Stage Manager)

When Pat and her husband moved to Virginia two years ago, Pat never thought she would get back into theater again. After almost 40 years away, she is living the dream working with PTP. This is Pat's first foray into stage managing and she is having a ball! *Death by Design* is her first comedy and she spent many rehearsals laughing until she cried. Besides helping with props and tickets for *Elvis has Left the Building* and directing one of the one-acts in *Duets*, Pat also serves as PTP board secretary. A shout out to Judy for showing her the ropes and a special thank-you to Sean for giving her the opportunity to work on this show. As always, she couldn't do this without the love and support of her husband, George.

JUDY McCARTHY (Stage Manager)

Judy has thoroughly enjoyed working with PTP's talented artists in past and present play productions. She is always excited to see the teamwork of so many as everything falls into place!

Enjoy the show!

