

NOVEMBER 29 through DECEMBER 23

## THE SCENES

Scene One

"All Grown Up" by John Cariani

Scene Two

"The Cane In The Corner" by Jonathan Tolins

Scene Three

"Say It Glows" by Jeffrey Hatcher

Scene Four

"My Name Is KAREN!" by Jenn Harris & Matthew Wilkas Scene Five

"God Bless Us Every One" by Theresa Rebeck

Scene Six

"Still Nuts About Him" by Edwin Sánchez

Scene Seven

"Merry Christmas, Blockhead" by Jacques Lamarre

A local bar in a lonely corner of the comos, Christmas Eve.

There will be no intermission.



Stop in after the show with your playbill and receive 20% off your meal!

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#ChristmasCarroll









An Offbeat Collection of Twisted Holiday Tales by

JOHN CARIANI
JENN HARRIS & MATTHEW WILKAS
JEFFREY HATCHER
JACQUES LAMARRE
THERESA REBECK
EDWIN SÁNCHEZ
JONATHAN TOLINS

Conceived and Directed by ROB RUGGIERO†

#### **CAST**

JENN HARRIS\*
MATTHEW WILKAS\*

and RONN CARROLL\* as the bartender

Set Design MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT

Costume Design ALEJO VIETTI
Lighting Design JOHN LASITER
Sound Design MICHAEL MICELI

Wig Design MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER

Production Manager BRIDGET SULLIVAN
Stage Manager KATE J. CUDWORTH\*

The original production of CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS was cast by McCorkle Casting, LTD.

Design by **WondriskaRusso**Photo by **Lanny Nagler w/ Matthew Wilkas and Ronn Carroll** 

CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS premiered at TheaterWorks in Hartford, CT in December 2013

<sup>†</sup> Member of SDC, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

\* Member of Actors' Equity Association, Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the U.S.

TheaterWorks is celebrating its 31st season as a non-profit, professional theater company. Founded in 1985.

CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS is not a part of the 2016-2017 Subscription Season.

## WHO



RONN CARROLL (The Bartender) is delighted to return to TheaterWorks. Recent New York appearances: Trevor Nunn's revival of Oklahoma! and the Lincoln Center premier of A Man of No Importance. Among his 20 Broadway credits: How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Gypsy, The Rink, Bad Habits, On Golden Pond, Steel

Pier, Man of La Mancha, Crazy For You, Peter Pan, Promises, Promises! (London & New York) Carousel, Wonderful Town, Front Page, and Annie Get Your Gun, (Ethel Merman in '66 and Bernadette Peters '99). Off Broadway: Love's Labors Lost, The Knife and Greater Tuna. Film: The Producers (musical), 84 Charing Cross Road, numerous television films and some 500 commercials. He began his career in Washington DC at the famed Arena Stage. Ronn has appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony and The New York Philharmonic. Among his regional productions are King Lear, Front Page, 1776, Camelot, and Dark Of The Moon.



JENN HARRIS (The Woman / Playwright) is excited to return to TheaterWorks.

Jenn is a NYC-based actor, producer and writer. Off Broadway: Silence! The Musical, Modern Orthodox (Lucille Lortel Award & Theatre World Award), All in the Timing, The Understudy, New Jerusalem. Berkshire Theatre Festival: Cat On A Hot Tin Roof,

Pageant Play, The Heidi Chronicles. The Old Globe: The Women, In Your Arms. The Wilma Theatre: The Understudy. Williamstown: Blithe Spirit, God of Vengeance, The Winter's Tale. The MUNY: Hairspray. NY: The Plank Project, Our Hit Parade at Joe's Pub. Film: Gayby (Official Selection SXSW 2012), 5 Doctors, Better Living through Chemistry, A Case of You, Confessions of a Shopaholic. TV: High Maintenance, Difficult People, Younger, Alpha House, 30 Rock, Eastsiders, Bored to Death, Law & Order C.I., and Law & Order. Boston University School for the Arts, L.A.M.D.A., The Second City (Chicago). Jenn was a freelance writer for Billy on the Street and CNE. Her vintage web series, Meet The Agents, is on YouTube. Jenn's solo show The Moment You Been Waiting Four premiered at NYC's The Duplex, and she is the creator and host of Offer Only - A live show where actors recreate auditions for shows they didn't get. Her web series New York is Dead which she co-wrote, produced and stars with Matt Wilkas in, will be premiering very soon!



MATTHEW WILKAS (The Man / Playwright) is excited to be returning to TheaterWorks. Matthew is a New York City-based actor and writer who appeared in Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark on Broadway where he played the role of "Flash Thompson" and then "Peter Parker/Spider-Man". He is also the star of the Award-Winning indie film

hit Gayby. Matthew has acted at The Williamstown Theatre Festival, The Huntington Theatre Company, Berkshire Theatre Festival, The Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and The Sundance Theatre Institute, under the direction of Michael Greif, Anna D. Shapiro, Will Frears, Carolyn Cantor, Mark Brokaw, Nicholas Martin, and Trip Cullman. Television credits include guest appearances on Looking, Ugly Betty, Hope and Faith, All My Children, As the World Turns and Law and Order. He also appeared in Chris Rock's film Top Five.

**JOHN CARIANI** (Playwright) is an actor and a playwright. As an actor, he has appeared on and off Broadway, at regional theaters across the country, and in several films and television shows. As a playwright, he is best known for his first play, *Almost, Maine* (TheaterWorks, 2013). His new plays, *Love/Sick* (TheaterWorks, 2014) and *Last Gas*, are being published by Dramatists Play Service. Thank you, Rob, for inviting me to be a part of **CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS**. It's an honor to be featured alongside such an amazing group of playwrights.

JEFFREY HATCHER (Playwright) Broadway: Never Gonna Dance (book). Off-Broadway / Regional: Three Viewings, A Picasso, Scotland Road, Turn of the Screw, Tuesdays with Morrie (with Mitch Albom), Murder by Poe, Neddy, Ten Chimneys, Compleat Female Stage Beauty, Mrs. Mannerly, Murderers, Ella, Korczak's Children, Cousin Bette and others at TheaterWorks, Manhattan Theatre Club, Guthrie, Old Globe, Yale Rep, Geffen, Seattle Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse and dozens more in the U.S. and abroad. Film/ TV: Stage Beauty, Casanova, The Duchess, episodes of Columbo, and Mr. Holmes starring lan McKellan. Grants/ Awards: NEA, TCG, 2013 IVEY Lifetime Achievement Award, Rosenthal New Play Prize, Charles MacArthur Fellowship Award, Barrymore Award Best New Play (A Picasso), and L.A. Critics Circle Award Best Adaptation (Cousin Bette).

JACQUES LAMARRE (Playwright) is the playwright behind TheaterWorks' 2012 production of I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti, which toured this year to Ithaca's Hangar Theatre and will be produced in Massachusetts and Maine in 2017. His play Born Fat premiered at Waterbury's Seven Angels Theatre earlier this year and was subsequently remounted as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival in Manhattan. He co-wrote the book for the sci-fi musical comedy Save the Robots, which was workshopped as part of the Midtown Festival's fall lineup. Jacques is thrilled to return to TheaterWorks' stage in 2017 with the premiere of his new comedy Raging Skillet, based on the memoir by Chef Rossi. He has co-written thirteen shows and a film with drag superstar Varla Jean Merman. www.jacqueslamarreplaywright.com

THERESA REBECK (Playwright) New York productions: Poor Behavior, Dead Accounts, Seminar, The Understudy, Mauritius, The Scene, The Water's Edge, Bad Dates, The Butterfly Collection, Spike Heels, Loose Knit, The Family of Mann, View of the Dome, and Omnium Gatherum (co-written, Pulitzer finalist). Publications: Collected Plays Volumes I, II and III, Free Fire Zone and two novels, Three Girls and Their Brother and Twelve Rooms With a View. Film: Harriet the Spy, Gossip, and the independent features Sunday on the Rocks and Seducing Charlie Barker (adapted from her play *The Scene*). Awards include the Writer's Guild of America Award for Episodic Drama, a Peabody Award for work on NYPD Blue, the National Theatre Conference Award, the William Inge New Voices Playwriting Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award, the Athena Film Festival Award, an Alex Award, a Lilly Award. She is the creator of the NBC drama, Smash.

## WHO

EDWIN SANCHEZ (Playwright) is the winner of National Latino Playwriting Award for La Bella Familia. Other plays include Trafficking in Broken Hearts, I'll Take Romance, Diosa, Unmerciful Good Fortune, Icarus and Barefoot Boy With Shoes On. His work has been produced regionally throughout the United States as well as in Brazil, Russia and Switzerland. Awards include the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays (Clean), three New York Foundation for the Arts Playwriting/Screenwriting Fellowships, the Princess Grace Playwriting Fellowship, the Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award and the AT&T On Stage New Play Award. He is also the proud author of his first novel, Diary of a Puerto Rican Demigod, available on Amazon, The Drama Book Shop, La Casa Azul Bookstore and The Golden Notebook in Woodstock. Edwin lives in upstate New York where he continues to write as well as teach and mentor playwrights.

JONATHAN TOLINS (Playwright) is best known as the author of the Off-Broadway hit, Buyer & Cellar, which was seen at TheaterWorks last year. A film of the original production will be shown on the WNET series Theater Close-Up on December 5th. Other plays include The Twilight of the Golds, If Memory Serves, The Last Sunday in June, Secrets of the Trade, and The Forgotten Woman. He was most recently represented on Broadway by additional material written with his husband, Robert Cary, for the revival of On the Town. His film work includes The Twilight of the Golds and Martian Child, both co-written with Seth E. Bass. For television, he was a writer for Queer as Folk, the Academy Awards, the Tony Awards, Partners, and last summer's BrainDead. He and Robert Cary wrote the script for Grease Live! on Fox TV. He has written articles for Opera News, Opera Monthly, TheaterWeek, Time Magazine, and The Huffington Post, and is a regular panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Radio Quiz. He lives in Fairfield, Connecticut with his husband and their children, Selina and Henry.



ROB RUGGIERO (Director/ Producing Artistic Director) has been a part of TheaterWorks artistic leadership for 23 years. He has directed over 50 shows, including Relativity, Sex with Strangers, Third, Good People, Christmas on the Rocks, Annapurna, The Other Place and Time Stands Still. Rob has earned national recognition for his work

on plays and musicals. His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and *High* (starring Kathleen Turner). Off-Broadway, he conceived and directed the original musical revue entitled *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* (Nominated for the Drama Desk and the Outer Critics Circle Awards). Rob conceived and directed the world premiere musical portrait of Ella Fitzgerald entitled *Ella*, which was seen on more than 24 regional theater stages from 2005-2010 before beginning a National Tour. His work has received multiple awards and recognition here in Connecticut, as well as in other cities



CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS December 14, 2016 around the United States. Rob has directed numerous shows at Goodspeed Musicals including last year's production of La Cage aux Folles, and productions of Fiddler on the Roof (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction), The Most Happy Fella (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction), Carousel (Broadway World Award), Annie Get Your Gun, Camelot, Big River, 1776, and a new adaptation of Show Boat (Connecticut Critic's Circle Award for Best Direction). This new version is now being licensed by the Rogers & Hammerstein Organization. www.robruggiero.com

MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT (Set Design) Nineteen seasons at TheaterWorks. Productions include: Third, Love/Sick, Christmas On The Rocks, Almost, Maine, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Ella, Kimberly Akimbo, The SantaLand Diaries, Tuesdays With Morrie, Fully Committed, Snakebit, Southern Comfort, Master Class, The Beauty Queen Of Leenane, Three Tall Women, Eleemosynary, How I Learned To Drive, Full Gallop, Paul Robeson, Love Letters, Cloud Tectonics, Last Lists of My Mad Mother, Molly Sweeney, The Size of The World, Spic-O-Rama, The Dragon And The Pearl, The Golden Age, Goblin Market, and Uncle Bob. www.msportfolio.com

ALEJO VIETTI (Costume Design) TheaterWorks: Christmas on the Rocks '13, '14, '15, Relativity, Venus in Fur, Ella, Woman Before a Glass, and Make Me a Song. New York: Broadway's Allegiance, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical (also West End, Olivier Nomination, and National Tour) and Holiday Inn, Manhattan Theatre Club, Atlantic Theater Company, Primary Stages, MCC, Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, Irish Rep, The New Group, Cherry Lane, Rattlestick, Soho Rep, and Ensemble Studio Theatre among others. Selected Regional: Hartford Stage, Alley Theatre, Long Wharf, Old Globe, Guthrie, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Goodspeed, La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, Repertory Theatre of Saint Louis, Paper Mill, Pittsburgh Public, Cleveland Play House, Cincinnati Playhouse, Colorado Ballet, Wolf Trap Opera and Minnesota Opera. Others: Ringling Brothers, Edinburgh Fringe, Donetsk Opera (Ukraine). TDF Irene Sharaff Young Master Award Recipient.

JOHN LASITER (Lighting Design) CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS marks John's 40th show at TheaterWorks and his 23rd year of association with the theater. Broadway: High starring Kathleen Turner. Regional: Actors Theatre of Louisville, Arena Stage, Arizona Repertory Theatre, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Center Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Play House, Dallas Theater Center, Florida Stage, George Street Playhouse, Geva Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, The Guthrie Theater, Hartford Stage Company, Long Wharf Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Muny in St. Louis, New Mexico Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theater Company, Paper Mill Playhouse, Pittsburgh Public Theater, South Coast Repertory, Syracuse Stage, Virginia Stage Company and Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Off-Broadway: Alarm Dog Repertory Company, Blue Light Theater Company, Music Theater. www.johnlasiter.com

MICHAEL MICELI (Sound Design) TheaterWorks credits include: Relativity, Third, Annapura, Freud's Last Session, Christmas on the Rocks, The Mountaintop, The SantaLand Diaries, and Speech & Debate. South Pacific at Asolo Rep; Resurrection, Mahalia: A Gospel Musical, The Devil's Music, Crowns, Ain't Misbehavin', and Floyd & Clea Under the Western Sky at Hartford Stage; Resurrection at Philadelphia

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## **Sunset Baby**

By Dominique Morriseau
Directed by Reginald L. Douglas
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From one of the most exciting new voices in American theater, this dynamic play about fathers and daughters sears with wit, wisdom and the brutal politics of freedom.



### **Next to Normal**

Book & Lyrics by Brian Yorkey Music by Tom Kitt Directed by Rob Ruggiero March 23 through April 30, 2017

This moving, blisteringly honest, Pulitzer-Prize winning musical tells the story of a family trying to take care of themselves and each other. This show is an emotional powerhouse with a thrilling contemporary score.

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## **Fade**

By Tanya Saracho Directed by Reginald L. Douglas May 25 through July 2, 2017

Acclaimed screenwriter Tanya Saracho (GIRLS, HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER) brings us this new comedy about the burgeoning friendship between two Latinos of Mexican decent working at a ruthless Hollywood television studio.



## Raging Skillet

The True-Life Adventures of a Punk Rock Caterer By Jacques Lamarre Based on the memoir by Chef Rossi July 20 through August 27, 2017

The playwright behind the hit I LOVED, I LOST, I MADE SPAGHETTI heads back to the kitchen with this irreverent and touching new comedy about rebelling against the pressures of conformity.

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## WHO

Theatre Company; Daddy Long Legs and Emma at Cincinnati Playhouse; Emma at Repertory Theatre of St. Louis; and As You Like It, The Taming of the Shrew, Twelfth Night, and Macbeth at ArtFarm. He sound designed Ella: The Musical, which ran at numerous regional theaters and as a national tour. Michael is partner at Miceli Productions, a photo and video production boutique. www.MiceliProductions.com

MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER (Wig Design) is thrilled to return to TheaterWorks. Director Rob Ruggiero and Mark were paired creatively on the critically acclaimed production of La Cage aux Folles at Goodspeed Musicals. His work has been seen on Broadway in West Side Story, Lysistrata Jones and The Farnsworth Invention to name a few. Mark designed Private Lives, The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore and To Kill A Mockbird for Hartford Stage. He is the recipient of a special Drama Desk award for his contributions to the creative team for Horton Foote's The Orphans' Home Cycle. Mark makes his home in East Haddam and is the Resident Wig and Make-Up Designer and Costume Rental Manager for the Goodspeed Musicals. He wishes everyone a very happy holiday season! \*peep\*

BRIDGET SULLIVAN (Production Manager) is enjoying her second season with TheaterWorks, her experience includes production and projection management, as well as many years in the world of props. Head of production for the Weston Playhouse Theatre Company in Vermont for 7 years, Bridget's past work also includes managing celebrity concerts at North Shore Music Theatre, and Project Manager for Barbizon Lighting Company. Props and management credit highlights also include City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh and the Santa Fe Opera, and a few industrial events with Senovva. A proud graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, VA., Bridget has a BA in Theatre Arts, and hails from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

KATE J. CUDWORTH (Production Stage Manager) has enjoyed three seasons and 21 productions with TheaterWorks including Relativity, Woody Sez and Becoming Dr. Ruth. Off-Broadway: Freud's Last Session, [title of show]. NY/Regional: Barrington Stage Company (8 seasons including Freud's Last Session; Dr. Ruth, All The Way; Joe Iconis' The Black Suits), Atlantic Stage Company, Hartford Stage, Manhattan School of Music (4 seasons), Yale Opera, York Theatre Company, Bronx Opera Company, Fringe NYC, NYMF.

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