



Christmas
on the
Rocks

nov 27 - dec 23

theaterworks

the scenes

Scene One

"All Grown Up" by John Cariani

Scene Two

"A Miserable Life" by Jacques Lamarre

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 cosmos, Christmas Eve.

There will be no intermission.

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Christmas On the Rocks

An Offbeat Collection of
Twisted Holiday Tales by

JOHN CARIANI

JENN HARRIS & MATTHEW WILKAS

JEFFREY HATCHER

JACQUES LAMARRE

THERESA REBECK

EDWIN SÁNCHEZ

Conceived and Directed by
ROB RUGGIERO[†]

CAST

JENN HARRIS*

RANDY HARRISON*

and TOM BLOOM* as the bartender

Set Design

MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT

Costume Design

ALEJO VIETTI

Lighting Design

JOHN LASITER

Sound Design

MICHAEL MICELI

Wig Design

MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER

Casting

McCORKLE CASTING, LTD

Production Manager

BRIDGET SULLIVAN

Stage Manager

KATE J. CUDWORTH*

Design by WondriskaRusso

Photos by Lanny Nagler

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

[†] Member of SDC, Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

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

#TwistedTradition

#ChristmasRocks



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TheaterWorks is celebrating its 33rd season as a non-profit, professional theater company. Founded in 1985.

CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS is not a part of the 2018-2019 Subscription Season.



TOM BLOOM (The Bartender) is excited to return for his 2nd year at the bar. Broadway: *Cyrano, Henry IV, Racing Demon, The Rehearsal*. Off Broadway: *Man From Nebraska* (Second Stage); *Smokefall* (MCC); *The Big Meal* (Playwrights' Horizon); *Timon of Athens* (NYSF); *Widow's Blind Date* (Circle in the Square); *Lips Together* (MTC Lortel); *Arms & The Man* (Roundabout); *All's Well* (TFANA); *Winter's Tale* (CSC); *The Lights* (LCT). Regional: Yale Rep, Guthrie, Hartford Stage, Baltimore Center Stage, Williamstown, Two Rivers, Portland Stage (ME), Portland Center Stage (OR), Huntington, McCarter, George Street, NY Stage & Film, Trinity Rep, Indiana Rep, Capital Rep, Bard Summerscape, The Dorset, Gloucester Stage. Film/TV: *The Vulture Club, The Thomas Crown Affair, Joshua, Taking Chance, Limitless, Emperor's Club, Best Thief in Town, Elementary, Damages, Law & Order, SVU, Criminal Intent, Ed, Max Bickford, Wonderland*.



JENN HARRIS (The Woman) is excited to return to **TheaterWorks**. Jenn is a NYC-based actor, writer, and producer. Off-Broadway: *Silence! The Musical, Modern Orthodox* (Lucille Lortel Award & Theatre World Award), *All in the Timing, The Understudy, New Jerusalem*. The McCarter: Christopher Durang's world premiere *Turning Off The Morning News*. 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, Street Scene*. The MUNY: *Hairspray*. NY: *The Plank Project, Our Hit Parade* at Joe's Pub, QWAN Company's *SWAN!!!* and *NOTES!* Film: *Gayby* (Official Selection SXSW 2012), *Fits and Starts, American Reject, A Modern Persuasion, Better Living through Chemistry, A Case of You, Confessions of a Shopaholic*. TV: *High Maintenance, Difficult People, Younger, Blacklist, 30 Rock, Eastsiders, Bored to Death, Law & Order, Law & Order C.I.* Boston University School for the Arts, L.A.M.D.A., The Second City (Chicago). Jenn is the creator and host of *Offer Only* - a live show where actors come and recreate auditions for shows they did NOT get, and also co-hosts the podcast *Touché* on iTunes & Soundcloud. Her web series, *New York is Dead*, which she co-wrote, produced and stars with Matt Wilkas, premiered at The Tribeca Film Festival, won Best Comedy at the NYTVF, and Jenn received Best Actress in a Comedy from Series Fest in Denver. You can watch all of season one on funnyordie.com/newyorkisdead



RANDY HARRISON (The Man) is making his **TheaterWorks** debut. Randy's New York credits include *Wicked* (Broadway), *Harbor* (Primary Stages), *Edward the Second* (Red Bull Theater), *Antony and Cleopatra* (Theatre for a New Audience) and *The Singing Forest* (The Public). He toured nationally as the Emcee in Roundabout Theatre Company's *Cabaret*. His regional credits include *Angels in America Parts 1 & 2* at Berkeley Repertory Theater, *Sunday in the Park with George* and *The Glass Menagerie* at the Guthrie, *Red* at Cleveland Play House, *The Habit of Art* at Studio Theatre DC, *Twelfth Night* at Shakespeare Theatre, *Pop!* at Yale Rep and

6 seasons at Berkshire Theatre Festival (*Equus, Amadeus, Mrs. Warren's Profession, Ghosts, Waiting for Godot* and *The Who's Tommy*). TV credits include *Mr. Robot, Bang Bang You're Dead*, and *Queer as Folk*. He made his directorial debut with the web series *New York is Dead*, which won best comedy at the New York Television Festival.



ROB RUGGIERO (Director/Producing Artistic Director) has been part of **TheaterWorks** artistic leadership for 25 years. He has directed over 50 shows, including *The River, The Legend of Georgia McBride, Constellations, Next to Normal, Relativity, Sex with Strangers, Christmas on the Rocks, The Other Place* and *Time Stands Still*. 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 musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* (Nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards). Rob conceived and directed *Ella*, a musical portrait of Ella Fitzgerald, which has been seen at 24 regional theaters and on National Tour. His work has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. In his eleventh collaboration with Goodspeed Musicals, Rob directed *Oliver*. He also directed highly successful productions of *Rags, La Cage aux Folles, Fiddler on the Roof* (Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Direction), *The Most Happy Fella* (Connecticut Critics Circle Award for Best Direction), *Carousel* (Broadway World Award), *Annie Get Your Gun, Camelot, Big River* and *1776*. His adaptation of *Show Boat* is now being licensed by the Rogers & Hammerstein Organization. www.robruggiero.com

JOHN CARIANI (Playwright) is an actor and a playwright. As an actor, he's appeared on Broadway in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tony Nom; OCC Award), *Something Rotten!* (OCC Nom), and *The Band's Visit*. He's also appeared in several films and television shows and will next be seen on *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. As a playwright, he is best known for *Almost, Maine* (TheaterWorks, 2013). Other plays include *Love/Sick* (TheaterWorks, 2014) and *Last Gas* (TheaterWorks sometime soon, he hopes). 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, Mr. Holmes*, episodes of *Columbo*, and *The Good Liar*. 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) premiered *I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti* and *Raging Skillet* at **TheaterWorks**. *Spaghetti* recently closed at Atlanta's Georgia Ensemble Theatre and *Raging Skillet* had productions and workshops at Jewish Play Project, New Jewish Theatre and Wellfleet Harbor Actor's Theatre. His comedy *Born Fat* was workshopped at the Philly Fringe, premiered at Seven Angels, and was remounted for the Midtown International Theatre Festival in NYC (Outstanding Solo Show). Other MITF productions include *Save the Robots* and *Gray Matters*. Jacques has co-written fourteen comedy shows, a feature film, and two Fleet Enema commercials for drag superstar Varla Jean Merman. Upcoming: the world premiere of his new drama *Trigger Warning* for Boston's Zeitgeist Stage. 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*.

EDWIN SÁNCHEZ (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 and The Drama Book Shop in NYC. Edwin lives in upstate New York where he continues to write as well as teach and mentor playwrights.

MATTHEW WILKAS (Playwright) 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, The Berkshire Theatre Festival, The Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, and The Sundance Theatre Institute. His television credits include *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*. Matt co-wrote the web series, *New York is Dead* which premiered at The Tribeca Film Festival in 2017 and won Best Comedy at the NYTVF.

MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT (Set Design) 30 productions for **TheaterWorks**. Selected Off-Broadway productions include: *The Bus* and the American Premier of Frank McGuinness' *Gates Of Gold* (59 E 59); *Bloodsong of Love* (Ars Nova); *The Black Suits* (The Public Theater); *Things to Ruin* (Second Stage, The Zipper Factory); *The Plant That Ate Dirty Socks* (Theaterworks USA at The Lortel). Selected Regional Credits include productions at Portland Center Stage; Ford's Theatre; The Old Globe; Cleveland Play House; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Asolo Repertory Theatre; Maltz Jupiter Theatre; Saint Louis Rep; Sarasota Opera; The MUNY; Paper Mill Playhouse and multiple productions for Goodspeed Musicals including *Rags, La Cage Aux Folles, Fiddler On The Roof, The Most Happy Fella, Carousel, Showboat, Annie Get Your Gun, 1776, Big River* and *Camelot*. Tours: James Taylor's *One Man Band; Ella; Motherhood the Musical*. Michael recently designed productions of *Marie Antoinette The Musical* and *Phantom* for EMK International in Seoul, South, Korea. www.msportfolio.com

ALEJO VIETTI (Costume Design) **TheaterWorks**: *Christmas on the Rocks '13-'18, 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, National Tour, Australia and Japan) and *Holiday Inn*, Manhattan Theatre Club, Atlantic Theatre 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) *Rocks '18* marks John's 46th show at **TheaterWorks** and his 24th 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. www.johnlasiter.com

MICHAEL MICELI (Sound Design) **TheaterWorks** credits include: *Constellations, Relativity, Third, I'll Eat You Last, Good People, Annapurna, Freud's Last Session, Christmas on the Rocks, The Mountaintop, The SantaLand Diaries 2012, Speech & Debate, and Ella. South Pacific* at Asolo Rep; *Private Lives, 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

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ROCKS Crew

Philadelphia 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* for ArtFarm. He designed sound for *Ella*, which ran at numerous regional theaters and as a national tour. Michael is partner at Miceli Productions, a photo and video production company. www.MiceliProductions.com

MARK ADAM RAMPMEYER (Wig Design) is thrilled to return to **TheaterWorks**. Director Rob Ruggiero and Mark were paired previously on the critically acclaimed productions of *Rags* and *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 Mockingbird* 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 Costume Rental Manager for Goodspeed. *peep*

MCCORKLE CASTING, LTD (Casting) Pat McCorkle C.S.A., (Katja Zarolinski) Broadway: *Amazing Grace*, *End of the Rainbow*, *The Lieutenant Of Inishmore*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Amadeus*, *She Loves Me*, *Blood Brothers*, *A Few Good Men*, etc. Off-Broadway: *Stalking the Bogeyman*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Lady Day*, *Tribes*, *Our Town*, *Falling*, *Toxic Avenger*, *Freud's Last Session*, *Almost, Maine*, *Driving Miss Daisy*. Feature film: *Girl in the Lake*, *Premium Rush*, *Ghost Town*, *Secret Window*, *Basic*, *Tony and Tina's Wedding*, *The Thomas Crown Affair*, *The 13th Warrior*, *Madeline*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *School Ties*, etc. Television: *St. George* (George Lopez Show) *Twisted* (ABC Family), humans for *Sesame Street*, *Californication* (Emmy nomination), *Hack* (CBS), *Chappelle's Show* (Comedy Central), *Barbershop*, *Remember WENN* (AMC). mccorklecasting.com

BRIDGET SULLIVAN (Production Manager) joined the **TheaterWorks** team in 2016. Her experience includes production and project 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 being Project Manager for Barbizon Lighting Company. Other credits include City Theatre Company in Pittsburgh and the Santa Fe Opera. She's looking forward to this renovation season after working through renovations at Weston and NSMT. Go Team TW!

KATE J. CUDWORTH (Production Stage Manager) has enjoyed six seasons with **TheaterWorks** including *The River*, *Hand to God*, *The Invisible Hand*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *The Wolves*, *Fade*, *Next to Normal*, *Sunset Baby*, *Relativity*, *Midsummer*, *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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