

# Christmas on the Rocks



DECEMBER 2 - 23

**THEATER  
WORKS  
HARTFORD**



## 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.

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Cover Design by WondriskaRusso

Photos by Lanny Nagler

CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS premiered  
at TheaterWorks Hartford 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.

**CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS** is the 2nd production  
of the 2021-2022 Season.

#ChristmasOnTheRocks

#TheaterWorksHartford



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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

## THE CAST

**JEN CODY\***  
**RANDY HARRISON\***  
and  
**TED LANGE\***  
The Bartender

Set Design	MICHAEL SCHWEIKARDT
Costume Design	ALEJO VIETTI
Lighting Design	JOHN LASITER
Sound Design	MICHAEL MICELI
Wig Design	J. JARED JANAS
Ass't Wig Design	TONY LAURO
Stage Manager	NICOLE WIEGERT*
Ass't Stage Manager	CECELIA CHAPMAN

TheaterWorks Hartford is celebrating its 36th season as a non-profit, professional theater company. Founded in 1985.

**Christmas on the Rocks** is the 2nd production of the 2021-2022 Season.

TheaterWorks Hartford • 233 Pearl Street • Hartford, CT 06103 • 2021

# WHO



**JEN CODY** (The Woman) is making her **TheaterWorks Hartford** debut. Jen made her Broadway debut as Rumplesleeper in *Cats* and has starred in many Broadway shows including: *A Christmas Story* (Mrs Schwartz), *Shrek* (original company), *Pajama Game* (Poopsie, original revival company), *Taboo* (original company), *Urinetown the Musical* (original company), *Seussical the Musical* (original company), *Beauty and The Beast* (Silly Girl), and *Grease* (Cha Cha). She can be heard on the original cast recordings of *Seussical the Musical*, *Taboo* with Boy George, *The Pajama Game* with Harry Connick Jr., *Shrek the Musical*, *The Wild Party* and Vincent Youman's *Through the Years*. She has been awarded the Legacy Robe twice for her work on Broadway. Off-Broadway: Charles Bush's *Cleopatra* (Iris), Andrew Lippa's *The Wild Party* (Mae), Charles Bush's *Judith of Bethulia*, and *Henry and Mudge* (Drama League Nomination). Her voice can be heard on many cartoons including her award winning role as Charlotte La Bouff in Disney's *The Princess and The Frog* in which she received the Annie Award (Voice over Oscar) for Outstanding Voice Work in a Major Motion Picture. Other cartoons include: *American Dad* (Cartoon Network), *Mickey and the Roadster Racers* (Disney), *Phineas and Ferb* (Disney), *P. King Duckling*, *Winx Club* (Nickelodeon), *Robot and Monster* (Nickelodeon) and *Khumba* (Triggerfish). Her Film and TV work includes: *New Amsterdam* (NBC), *Paper Spiders* (Cranium Entertainment), *Lucky Stiff* (New Oz Productions), *The Good Fight* (CBS), *Younger* (TVLand), *Instinct* (CBS), *Bull* (CBS), *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *Shrek Live* (Dreamworks) *Unforgettable* (CBS), and *Law and Order*.



**RANDY HARRISON** (The Man) is so pleased to return to **TheaterWorks Hartford**. 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), *The Singing Forest* (NYSF/The Public Theater), *Our Hit Parade* at Joe's Pub and QWAN Company's *NOTES!* and *SWAN!!!* (PS122 and Abrons Arts Center). He has toured internationally as the Emcee in Roundabout Theatre Company's production of *Cabaret* (Elliot Norton Award). 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 Theater, *Red* at Cleveland Play House, *The Habit of Art* at Studio Theater DC, *Twelfth Night* at Shakespeare Theatre DC, *Pop!* at Yale Repertory Theater as well as six seasons at the 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.



**TED LANGE** (The Bartender) is excited to be back at **TheaterWorks Hartford**. He is a prolific author, educator, director and actor of stage and screen. Ten seasons on the beloved classic *The Love Boat* earned Ted global recognition as well as a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Ted is the recipient of the prestigious Hollywood NAACP's Renaissance Man Theatre Award and the Heroes and Legends HAL Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a graduate of London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and has written over twenty five plays including *The Cause*, *My Soul*, a prequel to *Othello* which won the Hollywood NAACP Theatre Best Play award and was presented at the

Odyssey Theatre on the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and at the North Carolina Black Theatre Festival. Ted's play *Four Queens – No Trump* won the 1997 Hollywood NAACP Best Play award. He has performed at theaters across the country including Stella Adler Theatre, Classical Theatre of Harlem and the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre among many, many others. His television credits include *That's My Mama*, *Mr. T and Tina*, and guest appearances on *Evening Shade*, *Half and Half*, *Family Matters*, *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. When asked about the diversity of his career, Ted states, "The duty of the Artist is to find his muse, then let her rip."



**ROB RUGGIERO** (Producing Artistic Director/ Director) has been part of **TheaterWorks Hartford** artistic leadership for 29 seasons. He has directed over 65 shows, including TWH productions of *The Sound Inside*, *American Son*, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*, *Constellations*, *Next to Normal*, *Relativity* (starring Richard Dreyfuss) and *Christmas on the Rocks*, which he also conceived.

His Broadway credits include *Looped* (starring Valerie Harper in a Tony-nominated performance) and *High* (starring Kathleen Turner) which had its world premiere at TWH. He also conceived and directed the musical revue *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn* which moved off-Broadway and was nominated for Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Rob conceived and directed *Ella*, a musical about Ella Fitzgerald, which saw sold-out runs in 24 regional theaters and was produced as a National Tour. His work on plays and musicals has received multiple awards in Connecticut and around the United States. Rob recently directed *A Grand Night for Singing* at Goodspeed Musicals where over his 14-years he has directed many award-winning musical productions. Internationally he directed *Fiddler on the Roof* in Athens, Greece.

**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 currently in the Roundabout's revival of *Caroline, or Change*. As a playwright, he is best known for *Almost, Maine* (TheaterWorks Hartford, 2013) and *LOVE/SICK* (TheaterWorks Hartford, 2014). 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—and to have such amazing actors bring our play to life.

**JENN HARRIS** (Playwright) is an award-winning actor, producer, writer/director. She co-created the web series *NEW YORK IS DEAD* which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival '17, won Best Comedy at the New York Television Festival, and Jenn won Best Actress at SeriesFest in Denver. Her first short film, *Island Queen* starring Rachel Dratch and Jesse Tyler Ferguson, which she produced and co-directed played in nine film festivals in 2020 including The San Francisco Film festival and Inside Out Toronto. She has performed in many productions in NYC including the role of Clarice Starling in *Silence! The Musical*, won a Lortel and Theatre World award for her performance in *Modern Orthodox*, was in the world premiere of Christopher Durang's *Turning Off The Morning News* and the revival of David Ives *All In The Timing*. Some film and television credits include: *High Maintenance*, *Gayby* (SXSW 2012), *30 Rock*, *Difficult People*, *Younger*, *Blacklist*, *Bored to Death*, *Fits and Starts* (SXSW 2017), *Modern Persuasion* (Cannes Virtual Market 2020) and *American Reject*. Her short film *SHE'S CLEAN* is currently in post-production and she had the honor of playing the Woman in CHRISTMAS ON THE ROCKS for six years and sends all her love to everyone at **TheaterWorks!**

# WHO

**JEFFREY HATCHER** (Playwright) Broadway: *Never Gonna Dance* (book). Off-Broadway/Regional: *The Alchemist*, *Red Bull*, *Three Viewings*, *The Government Inspector*, *Key Largo*, *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 Hartford**, 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 Hartford**. *Spaghetti* recently had two pandemic productions in Texas and Indiana and *Raging Skillet* was recently produced by Emerson Theatre Collaborative in Sedona, AZ. 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 - The Musical* and *Gray Matters*. His latest comedy *Love & Spumoni* premiered at Seven Angels Theatre in 2020 and he looks forward to the world premiere of his new play *Cherries in Winter* at Seven Angels in 2022. Jacques has co-written seventeen comedy shows, a feature film, and two Fleet Enema commercials for drag superstar Varla Jean Merman. [jacqueslamarreplaywright.com](http://jacqueslamarreplaywright.com)

**THERESA REBECK** (Playwright) Recent New York productions: *Seared*, starring Raul Esparza, *Downstairs*, starring Tyne and Tim Daly, and *Bernhardt/Hamlet* starring Janet McTeer. Publications: *Collected Plays Volumes I, II, III and IV*, *Free Fire Zone* and three novels, *Three Girls and Their Brother* and *Twelve Rooms With a View* and, most recently, *I'm Glad About You*. Film: *Harriet the Spy*, *Poor Behavior* and *Trouble* starring Anjelica Huston, Bill Pullman and David Morse. 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 newest play, *The Merit System*, just had its world premiere at Teatro Dallas. 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 is currently teaching playwriting at Wesleyan University, where his new play, *Jose, A Retelling of Carmen* will be produced this upcoming spring.

**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 Hartford**. 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. [msportfolio.com](http://msportfolio.com)

**ALEJO VIETTI** (Costume Design) **TheaterWorks Hartford**: *Christmas on the Rocks '13-'21*, *The Sound Inside*, *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *Relativity*, *Venus in Fur*, *Tryst*, *Ella*, *Woman Before a Glass*, and *Make Me a Song: The Music of William Finn*. 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, Roundabout Theatre Company, City Center Encores, Atlantic Theatre Company, Primary Stages, MCC, Radio City Music Hall Rockettes, Irish Rep, The New Group, Cherry Lane, Rattlestick, and Soho Rep 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 St. Louis, Paper Mill Playhouse, 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 '21* marks John's 49th show at **TheaterWorks Hartford** and his 26th 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. [johnlasiter.com](http://johnlasiter.com)

**MICHAEL MICELI** (Sound Design) **TheaterWorks Hartford** 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 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. [MiceliProductions.com](http://MiceliProductions.com)

**J. JARED JANAS** (Wig Design) Broadway: *Jagged Little Pill*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Claire de Lune*, *Gettin' the Band Back Together*, *Bandstand*, *Indecent*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Visit*, *The Real Thing*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*, *Motown*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*, *All about Me*, *Next to Normal*. Recent Off-Broadway & Regional: *Ah, Wilderness!* (Hartford Stage), *Kimberly Akimbo* (Atlantic Theater), *Seven Deadly Sins* (Tectonic Theater Project), *Sing Street* (NYTW), *BLKS* (MCC), *Nantucket Sleigh Ride* (Lincoln Center), *Alice by Heart* (MCC), *Miss You Like Hell*, *The Low Road*, and *Father Comes Home from the Wars...* (Public Theater), *Jerry Springer the Opera* (New Group), *Yours Unfaithfully* (Mint Theatre, Drama Desk nomination). Recent Film/TV: *And Just Like That*, *The Gilded Age*, *Madam Secretary*, and *The Good Fight*.

**PAUL MANSFIELD** (Director of Production) A recent addition to **TheaterWorks Hartford**, Paul brings over 24 years of experience in the industry along with a very successful background in entertainment. His recent credits include the following: 2021 Presidential Debates, *Assassin's Creed Symphony*, *The Illusionists*, *4U Prince*, *Peter Pan 360*, Moscow Ballet's *Nutcracker*, *The Walking Dead Experience*, *Pip's Island*, *Annie*, *Rock of Ages*, *WWE*, Taylor Swift, Jay-Z and many others over the years. Paul is excited to be part of the TheaterWorks family and he looks forward to bringing his talents and expertise to the future development of the organization.

**NICOLE WIEGERT** (Production Stage Manager) **Theaterworks Hartford**: *Walden*. Regional: *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Pike St.*, *Detroit '67*, *Henry V*, *A Lesson from Aloes*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hartford Stage), *Passing Through* (Goodspeed Musicals), *Spinning* (Long Wharf), *Shakespeare In Love* (CT Rep), *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Flood* (Mountain Playhouse), *Grease*, *A Chorus Line* (Ivoryton Playhouse); *Beauty and the Beast*, *Beehive the 60's Musical* (Theatre by the Sea); *James and the Giant Peach*, *Big Fish*, *Our Town*, *Anatole* (First Stage Milwaukee); *Hall of Final Ruin*, *The Griots* (Renaissance Theatreworks); *Swan Lake* (Milwaukee Ballet). Television: *House Hunters*, *Extreme Cheapskates*, *Biggest Loser*. Other: *Love to LC*, *WW* and *CW*.

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION** (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actor unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit [actorsequity.org](http://actorsequity.org)



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