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### **WITCH CAST**

Elizabeth Sawyer	MOLLY PARKER MYERS
Scratch	CASEY CUDDY
Sir Arthur Banks	THOMAS G. BYRNE
Cuddy Banks	GLEN MORRICE
Frank Thorney	DYLAN PARKIN
Winnifred	SAMANTHA CASSANO*

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes County Players Stage Debut

### **SYNOPSIS**

A charming devil arrives in the quiet village of Edmonton to bargain for the souls of its residents in exchange for their darkest wishes. Elizabeth should be his easiest target, having been labeled a "witch" and cast out by the town, but her soul is not so readily bought. As the devil returns to convince her – and then returns again – unexpected passions flare, alliances are formed, and the village is forever changed. An inventive retelling of a Jacobean drama, this sharp, subversive fable debates how much our souls are worth when hope is hard to come by.

**PLACE:** The Village of Edmonton: a semi-rural small town lost in the country

TIME: Then-ish, but equally of our moment

**CONTENT ADVISORY:** This performance contains adult language.

### There will be NO intermission.

WITCH was commissioned by Writers Theatre (Michael Halberstam, Artistic Director; Kathryn M. Lipuma, Executive Director) in Glencoe, Illinois through the Literary Development Initiative, with the generous support of David and Mary Winton Green, with the world premiere on September 27, 2018. The production was directed by Marti Lyons, with choreography by Katie Spelman, scenic design by Yu Shibagaki, costume design by Mieka van der Ploeg, sound design by Mikhail Fiksel, lighting design by Paul Toben, and stage management by Cara Parrish. The cast was: Audrey Francis (Elizabeth Sawyer), Ryan Hallahan (SCRATCH), David Alan Anderson (SIR ARTHUR BANKS), Steve Haggard (CUDDY BANKS), Jon Hudson Odom (FRANK THORNEY), and Arti Ishak (WINNIFRED).





### THE BURDENS CAST

Jane Berman	LOUISA VILARDI*
Mordy Berman	DYLAN PARKIN

### **SYNOPSIS**

Mordy is a struggling musician living in Los Angeles. His older sister Jane is a successful attorney and a mother of three in New Jersey. But when their widowed mother's life becomes emotionally and financially taxed by her terrible, centenarian father, these two adult siblings are drawn together into an elaborate plot to relieve their mother's burden and their own. Told almost entirely via text messages, *The Burdens* is a dark, family comedy about how technology helps keep us close, while still enabling us to keep our distance. It's sometimes easier to type something than it is to say it face-to-face. But please, be careful of auto-correct. It can be murder.

**PLACE:** New Jersey and California

**TIME:** Starting right now

**CONTENT ADVISORY:** This performance contains adult language and

themes; harm is discussed.

### There will be NO intermission.

THE BURDENS was developed during a residency at the National Playwrights Conference at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in 2016. It was directed by Tyne Rafaeli. It received its world premiere at City Theatre, Pittsburgh, PA, in April 2019, after readings at CAA, Ensemble Studio Theatre (NYC), Florida Repertory Theatre (Fort Myers).

<sup>\*</sup>Denotes County Players Stage Debut

### **WHO'S WHO**

(CAST IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, THEN CREATIVE TEAM & PRODUCTION CREW)

**THOMAS G. BYRNE** (*Sir Arthur Banks*: WITCH) has performed on the County Players stage in *Incorruptible* (Brother Olf), *Seven Keys to Baldpate* (Kennedy), *Molly Sweeney* (Frank), *Prelude to a Kiss* (Dr. Boyle), *Almost, Maine* (Lendall/Phil), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Underling), *Once on This Island* (Armand), and *H2\$* (Gatch/Ovington). Other credits include: *The Fantasticks* (thrice!), *Finnegan's Farewell* (twice!), *Seussical the Musical, Pinkalicious the Musical, Frankenstein the Musical, Chess, Sweet Charity* (twice!), *Grey Gardens, The Pirates of Penzance*, and *Candide*. He is an organist and leader of song at the Church of St. Mary here in Wappingers Falls, and was one of the first cantors certified by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Thomas serves on the board of directors of several nonprofits, including the New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players. By day, he is a Senior Software Engineer with Dassault Systèmes Americas Corporation. He thanks Kit for yet another opportunity to learn from and work with her!

**SAMANTHA CASSANO** [she/her/hers] (*Winnifred*: WITCH) is thrilled to join the cast of *Witch*! Previous credits include: *Becky's New Car* (Kenni) at the Ridgefield Theater Barn, *Hello Dolly*! (Dolly), *Grease* (Rizzo), and *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* (Maggie) at North Salem High School; *The Gazebo* (Nell) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Crystal) at Trinity Pawling School, and *RENT* (Joanne / SoL Soloist) at The Pulse. In the past few years, Samantha has spent free time singing in a band, attending the theater, hiking with her dad and dogs, buying her first home with her partner Matt, adopting two kittens, and volunteering with birds of prey at Green Chimneys. "Congratulations to the cast of *Witch*! So appreciative to be part of the County Players community, and to participate in many more productions to come! Thank you to my family and friends for always supporting my love of the arts." *County Players debut!* 

**CASEY CUDDY** [he/him/his] (*Scratch*: WITCH) hails from the Finger Lakes region of New York, and he has lived all around the country. Since arriving in the Mid-Hudson Valley in September 2022, he has had the pleasure of performing in County Players productions of *The Cake* (Tim) and *Photograph 51* (Raymond Gosling). Prior to returning to NY, Casey lived in Los Angeles where he was cast in numerous student films, a student TV pilot, and other exciting projects. He had moved to Los Angeles after completing rehearsals for *On Golden Pond* (Norman/Bill) in Tillamook, Oregon, but the production which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Historically, he completed a certificate in film at New York University, and numerous acting and screenwriting trainings. When not pursuing creative projects or fishing on his boat, Casey provides psychiatric nurse practitioner services at his private practice in Beacon.

**GLEN MORRICE** (*Cuddy Banks:* WITCH) is happy to return to the County Players stage. Their previous shows with County Players are *Ragtime* (Tateh), *An Ideal Husband* (Vicomte de Nanjac / Harold), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Hysterium), *Native Gardens* (Pablo), and *Young Frankenstein* (ensemble). Their other past performances include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Mack / Fighting Prawn) and *Avenue Q* (Rod) with Up in One Productions, *Shrek the Musical* (ensemble / Farquaad swing) and *Rent* (Benny) with CENTERstage Productions, *Safe* (ensemble) with Rhinebeck Theatre Society, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Motel) and *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Lt. Rooney) with New Deal Creative Arts. They'd like to thank their family and friends for all of their continued support.

**MOLLY PARKER MYERS** [she/her/hers] (*Elizabeth Sawyer*: WITCH) is an actor/writer based in Kingston. Recent regional credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett), and *Private Lives* (Amanda) at Winnipesaukee Playhouse, *The Moors* (Huldey) at Bridge Street Theatre, *The Thanksgiving Play* (Logan) at WAM Theatre, *House of Blue Leaves* (Bananas) and *Emilie*: *La Marquise de Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Emilie) at Wellesley Rep, and *Papermaker, The Ladies Man* at Shadowland Stages. "Actors are agents of change. A film, a piece of theatre, a piece of music, or a book can make a difference. It can change the world." – Alan Rickman

**DYLAN PARKIN** [he/him/his] (*Frank Thorney:* WITCH, *Mordy:* THE BURDENS, *Production Manager*) started volunteering at County Players in 2017 and has since been involved in several productions including *Into the Breeches!* (Stuart), *Perfect Arrangement* (Jim), *Silent Sky* (Peter), *Constellations* (Roland), *Calendar Girls* (Lawrence), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Man in Chair), and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Freddy). Local credits also include *Braille Garden* and *The Covid Confessions* at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, *The Weekend People* at Round the Bend Theater, *Into the Woods* and *Tough Love* at New Deal Creative Arts Center, and *Ex-Gay Bar* with both Howl Playwrights and ArtsWestchester. He also directed for and performed in the inaugural Hudson Valley Theatre Festival. Dylan holds a bachelor's degree in Food Science from the Culinary Institute of America and works for an ice cream manufacturer in Congers, NY. He also serves on the County Players Board of Governors.

**LOUISA VILARDI** (Jane Berman: THE BURDENS) is a writer and photographer whose work has appeared in The Huffington Post, Scary Mommy, and Her View from Home. Her plays have been produced across the country, and she is a proud member of The Dramatists Guild of America. Usually found behind the camera capturing County Players' productions, Louisa steps into the spotlight for *The Burdens*. "Love to David and our boys." **County Players debut!** 

**KIT COLBOURN** (*Director*: WITCH) has directed several productions at County Players: *Incorruptible; It's Only a Play; Photograph 51; Yankee Tavern; Almost, Maine; Seven Keys to Baldpate,* and soon, *Lips Together, Teeth Apart.* Acting credits at County Players have included *Into the Breeches!* (Celeste), *Calendar Girls* (Chris), *Native Gardens* (Virginia), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *You Can't Take It with You* (Mrs. Kirby), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Muriel), and *Chapter Two* (Jenny). Elsewhere in the Hudson Valley, CT and NYC: *The Lion in Winter*, and *The Language Archive*, *Other Desert Cities*, *1984*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Tartuffe*. Kit serves on the County Players Board of Governors, holds a B.A. in theatre-FSU, and is an Associate Broker at Berkshire Hathaway. "Many thanks to everyone at County Players, this talented cast, our amazing production staff, family, friends, and everyone who supports live theatre in any way."

**MATT ANDREWS** (*Director*: THE BURDENS) is directing for the fourth time at County Players, previously helming *Broadway Bound* (2002), *Godspell* (2010), and *Our Town* (2018). He performed in *Noises Off* (Lloyd Dallas, 2008) and has enjoyed serving on Mainstage and CP2 play reading taskforce committees. Matt is excited to be directing CP2's *Camping with Henry and Tom* next season. Special thanks to Christine, Louisa, and Dylan for their hard work and good cheer during rehearsals for *The Burdens*.

**CHRISTINE McCARTHY** [she/her/hers] (Stage Manager) is managing her second set of CP2 readings for County Players. She stage-managed Native Gardens on the main stage last season and Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt 2B earlier this season. She has also managed productions of Bat Boy, Little Women, Hello! Dolly, Something Rotten!, She Kills Monsters, and other shows on various stages with various production companies around Dutchess County. Up next, she is stage managing Godspell at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck.

MARK WEGLINSKI (Sound & Light Designer) is an Emmy Award winning Hudson Valley native and audio engineer professionally credited with the live television musicals Annie, Jesus Christ Superstar, Hairspray, The WIZ, Peter Pan, and Sound of Music LIVE! (NBC), and A Christmas Story LIVE! (FOX). Additional shows include Great Performances for WNET-PBS and BroadwayHD.com, Good Morning America's Summer Concert Series (ABC), CMT Music Awards, MTV Video Music Awards, The 77th Tony Awards (CBS), plus live coverage of the State of the Union and this year's political conventions and debates for ABC and NewsNation. Local credits include numerous productions at County Players, The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, and Marist College. Mark is a member of the County Players Board of Governors and would like to thank the patrons, performers, and personnel for choosing to make time and space in their lives for the collaborative art of theatre. Verylimitedproductions.com

JEN SILVERMAN [they/them/theirs] (Playwright: WITCH) is also a novelist and screenwriter. Plays include: The Roommate (Broadway: The Booth Theatre; Regionally: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Actor's Theatre of Louisville Humana Festival, Steppenwolf, South Coast Repertory Theatre, etc.); Highway Patrol (The Goodman); Spain (Second Stage Theater); Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties (Woolly Mammoth, MCC, Southwark Playhouse London); The Moors (Yale Repertory Theatre, The Playwrights Realm) and Witch (Writer's Theatre, The Geffen, The Huntington). Books include: the debut novel We Play Ourselves, story collection The Island Dwellers and novel There's Going to be *Trouble* from Random House. Silverman also wrote the bestselling narrative podcast The Miranda Obsession for Audible, starring Rachel Brosnahan. Silverman is a three-time MacDowell Fellow, a member of New Dramatists and a Scholar of Note at the American Library in Paris. They write for TV and film, including Tales of the City (Netflix) and Tokyo Vice (Max). Their OSCARqualifying short film *Troy* screened at 70 festivals internationally, including the 2023 Sundance Film Festival, and is featured online in The New Yorker's Screening Room, Honors include fellowships from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim. jensilverman.com

**MATT SCHATZ** (*Playwright:* THE BURDENS) is a writer and composer. His plays and musicals include A Wicked Soul In Cherry Hill (Geffen Playhouse, Edgerton New Play Award), An Untitled New Play By Justin Timberlake (City Theatre/ Pittsburgh CLO), The Door You Never Saw Before (Geffen Stayhouse), The Burdens (The O'Neill, City Theatre, Urbanite Theatre, and others), No One Sings Like You Anymore (Seattle Rep Commission), I Battled Lenny Ross (Ensemble Studio Theatre), Georama (St. Louis Rep, Great River Shakespeare Festival, NYMF), Where Ever It May Be (CLO Spark Festival), Dunkfest '88 (Ars Nova), Oh, Gastronomy! (Actors Theatre of Louisville), Love Trapezoid (Astoria Performing Arts Center) and The Tallest Building in the World (Luna Stage). Awards include The Kleban Prize in Musical Theatre, The ASCAP Foundation Harold Arlen Musical Theater Award, The Reva Shiner Comedy Award, the New York Musical Festival Outstanding Lyrics Award, and Broadway World Pittsburgh's Original Script of the Decade Award. Matt has had television and film projects developed for Fox, USA, TBS, Warner Bros, CBS, EOne, and others and has been in writers' rooms for shows for AMC, Sony, Netflix, and others. Matt lives in Los Angeles with his wife Jenna Hymes and their two daughters.

Information in "Who's Who" is provided by those listed. Any opinions expressed are of the players and not necessarily of County Players.

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### **WITCH CAST**



Thomas G. Byrne



Samanatha Cassano



Casey Cuddy



Glen Morrice



Molly Parker Myers



Dylan Parkin

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The playwright's ear for patterns of speech, and the halting language of longing, is marvelous here."

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**LA TIMES** 

"Darkly humorous... thematically current... a spell worth casting."

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Louisa Vilardi Photography.

### **BURDENS CAST**





Louisa Vilardi Photography.

Dylan Parkin

Louisa Vilardi

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"Laugh out loud funny, but it's also a little bit heartbreaking at times. That's a challenging mix to sustain, but *The Burdens* succeeds."

### SARASOTA MAGAZINE

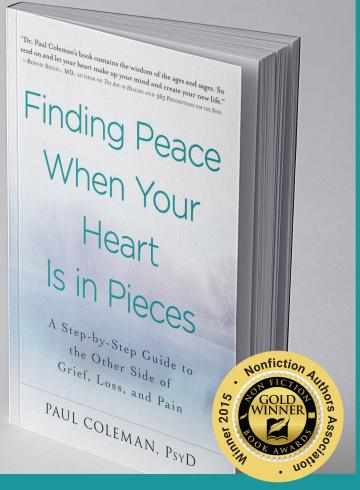
# CREATIVE TEAM & PRODUCTION CREW FOR CP2 MINI-FESTIVAL

Director, WITCHKit Colbourn
Director, THE BURDENSMatt Andrews
Production Manager
Stage ManagerChristine McCarthy
Sound and Lighting DesignMark Weglinski
$Publicity/Marketing/AdsThomas\ G.\ Byrne, Christine\ Crawfis,$
Stacy Greenspan, Joe Pettignano, David J. Ringwood
Production and Publicity PhotographyLouisa Vilardi
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Stacy Greenspan, Joe Pettignano, Louisa Vilardi
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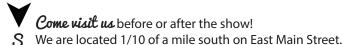


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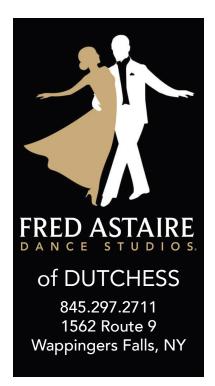


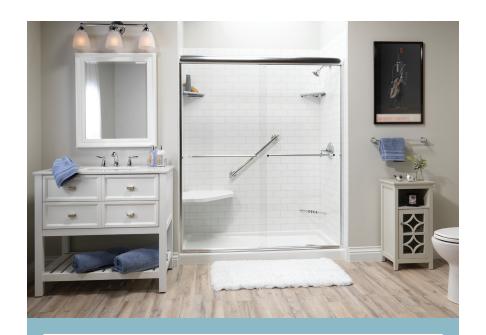
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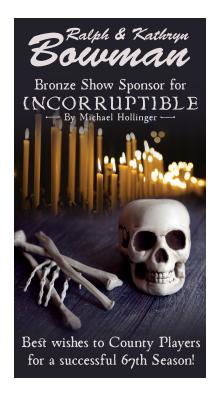
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Dr. Thomas Costello (tcostello@sunydutchess.edu) or Dr. John Howell (john.howell@sunydutchess.edu)



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(\*= Current member of County Players Board of Governors; IMO=In Memory Of.)

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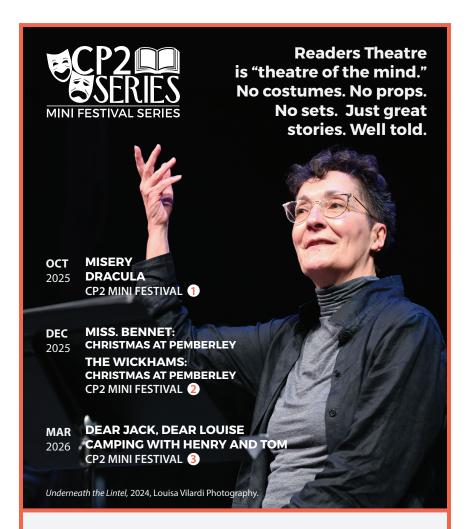
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Donors may also choose to support our work by making an individual contribution (not associated with a subscription) during our year-end appeal and our spring campaign. We wish to express our special appreciation to the following individual contributors of \$50 and more (list is current from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025).

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Cast of *Incorruptible* (2024) in honor of its Crew

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### **NOTES**

**NO RECORDING**: The use of any audio or video recording device, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Furthermore, the videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights and actionable under United States copyright law. Violators may be punished by ejection and violations may render the offender liable for monetary damages.

**FIRE NOTICE:** Fire exits are indicated by illuminated signs above the exit doors. In the event of fire or another emergency, please WALK to the nearest exit door.

**TURN OFF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:** The use of cellular phones, pagers, and other audible or light-emitting electronic devices is an annoyance to your fellow theater-goers and can interfere with our wireless lighting and sound systems. If you are in possession of any of these devices, please ensure they are TURNED OFF, not merely silenced, throughout the performance.

**NO SMOKING:** County Players Falls Theater is a smoke-free building. Smoking is prohibited anywhere on the premises and within 50 feet of any of the entrances.

Guests expecting **EMERGENCY MESSAGES** should notify the house manager upon their arrival at the theater.

**LATECOMERS** will be seated at the discretion of the management at the first appropriate interval on a space available basis.

**RESTROOMS** are located in the back of the theater.

**EMERGENCY RESUSCITATION EQUIPMENT (AED)** is located behind the refreshment counter in the lobby. County Players is designated a Heartsafe Location by the Dutchess County Commissioner of Health.

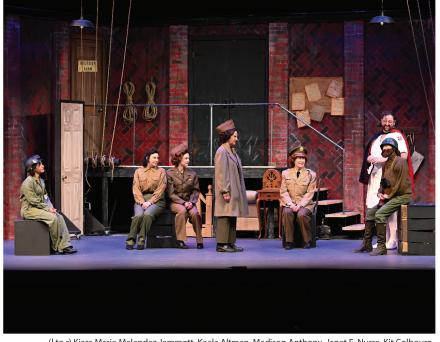
**PARKING** is at your own risk. County Players is not responsible for parking tickets, towing fees, or damage incurred to vehicles of patrons. Please obey all parking signs and regulations.

**TICKETS** are non-refundable. We do not accept unpaid reservations. Purchases may be made in advance or call the Box Office or online at countyplayers.org using your MasterCard, VISA, or Discover, by mailing a check at least two weeks prior to a performance.

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS** are welcomed by County Players. Please direct them to the House Manager who can be located through the Box Office. Policies are subject to change without notice.



(I to r) Kit Colbourn, Madison Anthony, Kaela Altman, Deborah Coconis



Into the Breeches, Louisa Vilardi Photography.

