



DEAR Jack,
Dear LOUISE
By Ken Ludwig

MARCH 13 & 14
Fri 8pm & Sat 2pm

Directed by
CYNTHIA TOPPS



BY MARK ST. GERMAN
CAMPING
WITH HENRY AND TOM

MARCH 14 & 15
Sat 8pm & Sun 2pm

Directed by
MATT ANDREWS

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MAIN STAGE

Lips Together, Teeth Apart, 2025.

Scotty Rausenberger Photography and Tyler Rausenberger.



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— PRESENTS —


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MINI FESTIVAL ③

MARCH 13 & 14, 2026

DEAR Jack,
Dear **LOUISE**
By Ken Ludwig

Directed by
CYNTHIA TOPPS

MARCH 14 & 15, 2026

BY MARK ST. GERMAN
CAMPING
WITH **HENRY AND TOM**

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DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE: CAST

Narrator.....HENRY J. HERNANDEZ*
Jack.....AARON HEISLER
Louise.....KAYLA COLLINS*

**Denotes County Players Stage Debut*

SYNOPSIS

U.S. Army Captain Jack Ludwig, a military doctor stationed in Oregon, begins writing to Louise Rabiner, an aspiring actress and dancer in New York City, hoping to meet her someday if the war will allow. But as the war continues, it threatens to end their relationship before it even starts. Tony Award-winning playwright Ken Ludwig (*Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*, *Lend Me a Tenor*) tells the joyous, heartwarming story of his parents' courtship during World War II in *DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE* and the results are anything but expected.

TIME: June 1942 – May 1945

There will be one short intermission.

After a staged reading at the Folger Theatre in Washington, DC on March 27, 2018, *DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE* premiered at Arena Stage in Washington, DC on November 21, 2019.

"An affecting love letter to unlikely romance... a poignant, funny tribute to the enduring power of human connection."

THE WASHINGTON POST

"Ludwig's play, though about a particular moment in his personal history as well as our collective history, also resonates today. *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* is a moving, funny, and heartbreaking reminder of what we should strive to become, individually and as a country."

BROADWAYWORLD

CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM: CAST

Henry Ford, *Industrialist*ROBERT YARNALL
Warren G. Harding, *29th President of the United States*..... DAVID J. RINGWOOD
Thomas Edison, *Inventor* JOHN M. LEINUNG
Narrator, Colonel Edmund Starling, *Secret Service Man* CHAMP KNECHT*

**Denotes County Players Stage Debut*

SYNOPSIS

In 1921, Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and President Warren G. Harding took a camping trip together into the Maryland woods to escape civilization; what they couldn't escape was each other. Inspired by an actual event, **CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM** is an exploration of friendship, politics and leadership; a comedic and dramatic clash of two great minds and one great heart of the twentieth century.

PLACE: The woods outside Licking Creek, Maryland

TIME: July 24, 1921

There will be one short intermission.

CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM was first presented at the Lucille Lortel Theatre in New York City on February 20, 1995. It was directed by Paul Lazarus.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This play is a fiction suggested by facts. That President Harding went camping with Henry Ford and Thomas Edison is fact; their evening "escape" from the mediapacked campsite is fictional. Conversations are fictional, but based on events, documented personal philosophies and the political climate of the time. Though many remarks are adapted from the actual words of these three men, there is no proof that such a dialogue took place. What is indisputable is that Warren G. Harding is a man who never wanted to be President, Henry Ford is a man who did, and after many annual expeditions, this was Thomas Edison's last camping trip with Henry Ford.

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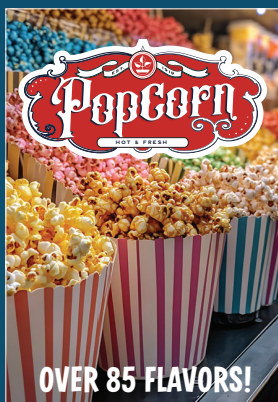


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WHO'S WHO

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

KAYLA COLLINS [she/her/hers] (*Louise*: DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE) is excited to help bring this beautiful story to life! Favorite past productions include *Calendar Girls*, *Urinetown*, and *Seussical* (Creative Theatre - Muddy Water Players). By day, Kayla teaches mathematics and spends her free time with her two teenagers, Kaia and Kellen. Kayla is so proud to be a part of this cast of strong, talented people both on and off stage. She sends a special thank you to her family and friends for supporting her, the theater people in her life that make every show and stage exciting, and to Cindy for trusting her with Louise. **County Players debut!**

AARON HEISLER [he/him/his] (*Jack*: DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE) is thrilled to be back yet again on the County Players stage. Last year he made his County Players debut in *Big Fish* (Don Price) and then appeared in *Dracula* (Dr. Seward) and *A Few Good Men* (LTJG Daniel A. Kaffee). He also acted in two readings with Round the Bend Theatre last summer: *Let's Misbehave* and *I for an I*. Prior to 2025, he performed on stage 20 years ago in the national tour of *Dancing Henry Five* (David Gordon/Pickup Productions). Some of his other favorite roles were in *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Move to Exit*, *A Winter's Tale*, *Carousel*, *Grease*, *The Nutcracker*, *Tom Sawyer*, and *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He has appeared in more than 50 other musicals, plays, and musical reviews. Aaron would like to thank the entire County Players community including you, the audience members!

HENRY J. HERNANDEZ (*Narrator*: DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE) is an actor who has appeared in numerous stage productions throughout New York City, where he is based, as well as in commercial work. He is thrilled to be making his return to the stage after a brief hiatus, with this production marking his first step back since 2019. Henry is excited to be joining County Players and is grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with such a talented and passionate group of artists. He looks forward to continuing his creative journey both on stage and on screen. **County Players debut!**

CHAMP KNECHT [he/him/his] (*Colonel Edmund Starling, Narrator*: CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM) is thrilled to be combining his love of history and his love of theatre in this production. Some of his more recent Hudson Valley acting roles have been in *The Mousetrap* (Up in One Productions), *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Rhinebeck Theater Society), *The Iceman Cometh* (CENTERStage), *The Tempest* (New Deal Creative Arts Center), and *Twelfth Night* (CENTERStage). Some of his favorite performances in the past were in productions of *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Angels Fall*, *A Few Stout Individuals*, *Noises Off*, *The Importance of Being Ernest*, *Hay Fever*, *The Lion in Winter*, and *1776*. In his non-theatrical life, Champ is Director of Operations & Finance for a racial equity-focused arts philanthropy serving organization and lives with his husband and their dog Loki in Hyde Park. **County Players debut!**

JOHN LEINUNG (*Thomas Edison: CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM*) is fresh off his star-turn overruling objections in County Players' production of *A Few Good Men* (CAPT Julius Alexander Randolph). He was seen previously in *Incorruptible* (Father Charles), *Ragtime* (Ford/Whitman/Ensemble), *An Ideal Husband* (Lord Caversham) and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Senex). John received a TANY award for his appearance in *Blithe Spirit* (The Two of Us Productions). John has elsewhere appeared in *Twelve Angry Jurors*, *A Shayne Maidel*, and *The Lady and the Clarinet*, among others. Before retiring, John spent 40 years as a professional video editor, cameraman, and soundman. He sends thanks to his wife, Elaine, for putting up with the many hours and many shows, to the rest of the cast, and to Matt and County Players for this opportunity.

DAVID J. RINGWOOD (*Warren G. Harding: CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM*) is a current member of the County Players Board of Governors, a former CP board secretary, and also proud to be a CP Honorary Lifetime Member. David has produced and/or directed many shows locally, and for CP he most recently directed *Forum* for Main Stage and *Dracula* for CP2 Readers Theatre. Since his CP stage debut in *Company* (Robert), David has appeared on the Falls Theatre stage many times, most recently in *A Few Good Men* (Capt. Isaac Whittaker), and *Ragtime* (Father). Favorite CP shows/roles have included: *You Can't Take It with You* (Mr. Kirby), *Amadeus* (Joseph II), *Spamalot* (King Arthur), *Aida* (Zoser), and *Born Yesterday* (Ed Devery). He wishes to thank Matt for the opportunity to work with this talented cast and crew (friends old and new), and also wishes to thank his supportive children, Liam and Grace, and (as always) to "April."

ROBERT YARNALL (*Henry Ford: CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM*) is delighted to return to County Players, having appeared in *An Ideal Husband* (Sir Robert), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Pseudolus), and *The Book of Will* (Henry Condell). An actor and writer for many years in New York City, favorite productions include David Simpatico's *The Secret of Life, Angels in America* (Elmwood Playhouse) and a musical adaptation of Pleasantville, for which he also wrote lyrics. He wrote and co-starred in the satirical musical revue *Political Idol* (2008 and 2020). Dedicated to his teachers over the years - for their guidance, wisdom and encouragement. RobertYarnall.com

CYNTHIA TOPPS (*Director: DEAR JACK: DEAR LOUISE*) marks her fourth time directing for CP2, having previously directed *Margorie Prime*, *The Roommate*, and *Molly Sweeney*. She recently directed *Calendar Girls* for Creative Theatre Muddy Waters Players. Cynthia is also a costumer having done last season's *Big Fish*. She has appeared in film and television (this season on *Best Medicine*). She thanks Kathy and Ralph Bowman, the County Players Board of Governors, Dylan, Glen, and her husband, David, for their continued support.

MATT ANDREWS (*Director: CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM*) is directing for the fifth time at County Players, previously helming *Broadway Bound* (2002), *Godspell* (2010), *Our Town* (2018), and *The Burdens* (CP2 2025). Matt is excited to be directing CP2's *Wit* next season as well. Previous directing credits at a variety of theatres include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged Revised*, *Noises Off*, *The Fifth of July*, *Dinner with Friends*, *The Little Foxes*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *A Chorus Line*, *Macbeth*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Matt holds an MFA in Directing from The University of Oklahoma and is a graduate of The National Shakespeare Conservatory in NYC.

DYLAN PARKIN [he/him/his] (*Production Manager*) started volunteering at County Players in 2017 and has since been involved in several productions including *Bullshot Crummond* (Otto Von Brunno), *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* and *Let's Misbehave* 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 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.

GLEN MORRICE (*Stage Manager*) is thrilled to return to support two talented casts for the final CP2 Readers' Theatre festival of this season. They've previously stage managed *The Dining Room* and was assistant stage manager on *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apartment 2B*. You can catch them on stage in County Players' production of *Something Rotten!* in May. "Special shout outs to Karen, Molly, Aidan, and Chris. Break a leg to everyone this weekend!"

KEN LUDWIG (*Playwright: DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE*) has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals have been produced in over 20 languages in more than 30 countries. His first play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by The Washington Post. *Crazy For You* was on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical. In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award, and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year. His other plays include *Moon Over Buffalo*; *Leading Ladies*; *Baskerville*; *Sherwood*; *Twentieth Century*; *A Fox on the Fairway*; *A Comedy of Tenors*; *The Game's Afoot* and *Shakespeare in Hollywood*.
KenLudwig.com

MARK ST. GERMAIN (*Playwright: CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM*) is an American playwright, author, and film and television writer. He has written the plays *Eleanor*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Freud's Last Session* (Best Play Award from the off-Broadway Alliance), *Camping with Henry and Tom* (Outer Critics Circle Award and Lucille Lortel Award), *Out of Gas on Lover's Leap*, *Forgiving Typhoid Mary* (Time Magazine's "Year's Ten Best"), *Ears on a Beatle*, and *God Committee*. With Randy Courts, he has written the musicals *The Gifts of the Magi*, *Johnny Pye and the Foolkiller*, winner of an AT&T "New Plays for The Nineties Award" and *Jack's Holiday* at Playwrights Horizons. Mark's musical, *Stand by Your Man*, The Tammy Wynette Story was created for Nashville's Ryman Theater. He is an alumnus of New Dramatists, where he was given the Joe A. Callaway Award, a member of the Dramatists Guild, the Writer's Guild East, and a Board Member of the Barrington Stage Company. He was awarded the "New Voices in American Theatre" award at the William Inge Theatre Festival.

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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DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISE: CAST



KAYLA COLLINS



AARON HEISLER



HENRY J. HERNANDEZ

CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM: CAST



CHAMP KNECHT



JOHN M. LEINUNG



DAVID J. RINGWOOD

Louisa Vilardi Photography.



ROBERT YARNALL

CREATIVE TEAM & PRODUCTION CREW FOR CP2 MINI-FESTIVAL

Director, DEAR JACK, DEAR LOUISECynthia Topps
Director, CAMPING WITH HENRY AND TOM.....Matt Andrews
Production ManagerDylan Parkin
Stage Manager Glen Morrice
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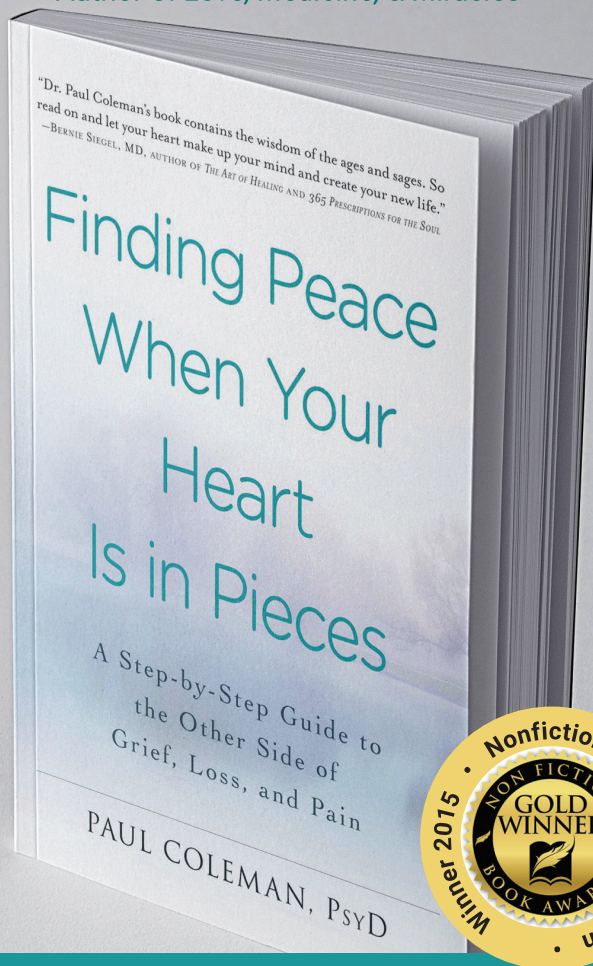
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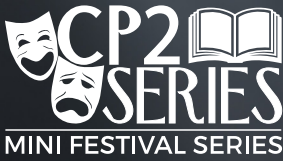
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3

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An Ideal Husband, 2023. Louisa Vilardi Photography.

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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.

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(l to r) Dante Nastasi, Christopher Alvarez, Kevin McCarthy, Vincent Peter



(l to r) Michael A. Boden, Glen Macken, Jason Anson, Aaron Heisler, Matthew DeHond, Cora Colwell

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