Birds of North America

by Anna Moench



OCTOBER 2 & 3
Fri 8pm & **Sat** 2pm
Directed by
JEFFERY BATTERSBY

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

BY SARAH RUHL

CP2 SERIES
MINI FESTIVAL 1

OCTOBER 3 & 4
Sat 8pm & **Sun** 2pm
Directed by
KIT COLBOURN

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OCTOBER 2 & 3, 2026

Birds of North America by Anna Moench

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BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA: CAST

John.....JOSH WAY*

Caitlyn.....HALEY PILKINGTON*

**Denotes County Players Stage Debut*

SYNOPSIS

John and his daughter Caitlyn are birders. As they scan the skies over their backyard in suburban Maryland looking for elusive birds, years go by. Relationships begin and end. Children grow up and parents age. The climate and the world change in small and vast ways. BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA takes a close look at the relationship of a father and daughter over the course of a decade as they struggle to understand the parts of one another that defy understanding.

PLACE: John's yard. Baltimore County, Maryland

TIME: Present

There will be no intermission.

Birds of North America was originally produced by the Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company (Stephen Weitz, Producing Artistic Director; Rebecca Remaly, Managing Director) after development in BETC's Generations program. It was directed by Stephen Weitz. Scenic design by Tina Anderson. Costume design by Katie Horney. Lighting design by Katie Gruenhagen. Sound design by Jason Ducat. The dramaturg was Heather Beasley. The stage manager was Jordon Brockman. The cast was Chris Kendall and Lindsey Pierce.

"This exquisitely subtle, luminous, elegiac father-and-daughter drama is not to be missed."
BROADWAY WORLD

"BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA is a lyrical, funny, and painful play that should be on your must-see list. It says so much, and the minutes fly by."
THE TVOLUTION

"There's a depth charge of feeling beneath the everyday talk, a sense of two lives unfolding, and time in all its jolting discontinuity and its continuity."
WESTWORD

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE: CAST

Narrator ..... WENDY URBAN-MEAD
Jean ..... KAREN DALMER-SHEEHY
Gordon, Dwight ..... MATTHEW DeHOND
Mrs. Gottlieb ..... SUSAN BOND*
Other Woman ..... ANA HEIN
Hermia ..... ERICA WOOLLEY

**Denotes County Players Stage Debut*

SYNOPSIS

A ringing cell phone in a quiet café. A stranger at the next table. And a dead man with a lot of loose ends. DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE is a comedy about how we remember the dead – and how that memorialization changes us. It is the journey of a woman forced to confront her presumptions about isolation in a technological society. Everything we thought we knew, everything we thought was dead, can be uncovered, re-discovered, and brought to life again.

PLACE: Various

TIME: Present

There will be a short intermission.

The world premiere production of DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE was produced in June 2007 by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director) in Washington, D.C. The production was directed by Rebecca Bayla Taichman; the set design was by Neil Patel, the costume design was by Kate TurnerWalker, the lighting design was by Colin K. Bills, the sound design was by Martin Desjardins, the choreography was by Karma Camp; the properties master was Jennifer Sheetz; the dramaturg was Elissa Goetschius and the stage manager was Taryn Colberg. The cast was Polly Noonan, Rick Foucheux, Sarah Marshall, Naomi Jacobson, Bruce Nelson, and Jennifer Mendenhall.

"Satire is her oxygen ... Sarah Ruhl is forever vital in her lyrical and biting takes on how we behave."
THE WASHINGTON POST

"Ruhl's zany probe of the razor-thin line between life and death delivers a fresh and humorous look at the times we live in."
VARIETY

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IN MEMORIAM

County Players is built on the shoulders of volunteers whose passion, wisdom, and creativity have shaped generations of dreamers. Their spirits still inspire us in every story we share. Their dedication was a vital part of our community's heartbeat. Their influence is felt in every corner of our theater. We remember them, we celebrate them, and we carry them with us in every act.

Here we offer tribute to those dear friends who have passed since the beginning of 2026.

Alex S. Bartlett (1974 - 2026) *Costumes*

Dilys Clark (1932 - 2026) *Costumes, Board of Governors, Honorary Lifetime Member*

Danny L. Lowney (1969 - 2026) *Hair & Makeup*

Jayne F. Peckham (1944 - 2026) *Scenic*

WHO'S WHO

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

SUSAN BOND *(Mrs. Gottlieb:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*)* has been active in community/regional theatre in Westchester for the past 30 years, and trained at HB Studios in Manhattan. Fav musical role: Mama Rose, *Gypsy*. Fav dramatic role: Kate, *Broadway Bound*. Involved with YCPTW, WCT, Hand To Mouth Players and various other Westchester groups. Moved here last year and looking forward with excitement to working with CP, and moving forward in her new county. ***County Players debut!***

KAREN DALMER-SHEEHY (*Jean*: DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*)* has previously appeared in *Company* (Rhinebeck Theatre Society), *Sweeney Todd* (Up in One Productions), *Fiddler on the Roof* (New Deal Creative Arts), and *Sondheim on Sondheim* (CENTERstage Productions). Thrilled to be making her first appearance on this side of the CP stage, she is no stranger to County Players, having music directed several productions here, including *Something Rotten!; Big Fish;* and *Ragtime*. She would like to thank Kit for this exciting opportunity and her family for their continued love and support. "Love to Glen, Molly, and Aidan - the best cheerleaders I could ever ask for."

MATTHEW DeHOND *(George/Dwight:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*)* is honored to be a part of this production. Previous County Player's productions include *A Few Good Men* (Lt. Sam Weinberg), and CP2's *Dracula* (Dracula). He most recently appeared in Round the Bend's production of *Date My Mom.* Originally from Saranac Lake in the Adirondacks, Matt received his BA in Theatre from SUNY Oswego and, after graduating, spent time performing with Pendragon Theatre, Good Guy Productions, and Placid Productions. His favorite productions include *12th Night*, *Little Shop of Horrors, House of Yes*, and *Li'l Abner.* Thank you to County Players for this opportunity and to his family for their support and gift of time to pursue his passion.

ANA HEIN *(Other Woman:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*)* is excited to be returning to County Players, where she previously performed in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Cassandra) and *A Few Good Men* (Lawyer #2/MP), as well as the CP2 readings *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Lydia Wickham), *The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley* (Lydia Wickham), and *Dracula* (Narrator/Maid/Vixen). Other local credits include *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Livingroom Shakespeare. By day, she is a writer of essays and criticism, with an MFA in nonfiction from Columbia University. You can find her work at *anaheinwrites.com*. She would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew at County Players for their dedication, her friends and family for their support and encouragement in all her artistic pursuits, and her fiancé, James, who makes the best food.

HALEY PILKINGTON *(Caitlyn:* BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*)* thanks everyone at County Players for this opportunity. ***County Players debut!***

WENDY URBAN-MEAD *(Narrator:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*)* last appeared in CP's *Grand Concourse* (Shelley). Additional acting credits include *Mary Poppins, Romeo & Juliet, And Then There Were None, The Laramie Project,* and *Our Town* (CenterStage Productions); *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Merry Wives* (New Deal Productions); and *The Women of Lockerbie, Emilia, Kinky Boots,* and *Billy Elliot* (Rhinebeck Theatre Society.) She salutes her talented cast-mates. She thanks Kit and the production team, and the County Players Board of Directors, for this opportunity to be part of one of her favorite plays.

JOSH WAY *(John:* BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*)* thanks everyone at County Players for this opportunity. ***County Players debut!***

ERICA WOOLLEY *(Hermia:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE*)* is excited to be sharing the stage with a remarkable ensemble of gifted and powerful actors. Recent credits in her acting journey includes *Calendar Girls* (Marie) at CP and roles in The New Deal Creative Arts Center's *10 by 10 Fest, 10 Minute Session, The Waiting Room*, as well as performances with Murder Cafe in the tri-state area. Erica is a certified Health and Happiness Life Coach and Personal Trainer helping women over 40 to ditch the negative self-talk, love their bodies, and love their lives. She wants to thank Kit for her character insights, patience, and kindness throughout rehearsals. An especially big thank you to Scott Woolley for being the best cheerleader always! Enjoy the show!.

JEFFERY BATTERSBY *(Director*: BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA*)* has also directed *Bullshot Crummond*, *The Revolutionists* (a favorite), *Misery,* and *The Children*. His acting credits include *The Price*, *Equivocation*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *Sweeney Todd*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and *True West*. He is grateful for this amazing cast and their dedication to the nature of the play, respect for their characters, and commitment to their craft. To the crew, "Thanks for bringing your best to this show. I appreciate your work and making this experience fun." To his family, "As always, thanks and love belong to Kathy, Kristin, Joanna, and Colin." To the County Players Board of Governors, "Thanks for letting me work in this capacity on this stage. I loved it and look forward to directing again in the future."

KIT COLBOURN (*Director:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE) CP directing credits include *The Language Archive, It's Only a Play*, *Photograph 51*, *Yankee Tavern*, *Witch, Almost, Maine*, *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, *Incorruptible,* and *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*. CP acting credits: *Into the Breeches!* (Celeste Fielding), *Calendar Girls* (Chris), *Native Gardens* (Virginia Butley), *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *You Can't Take It with You* (Mrs. Kirby), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Muriel Eubanks), and *Chapter Two* (Jenny). Elsewhere and NYC: *The Lion in Winter*, *The Language Archive*, *Other Desert Cities*, *1984*, *Blithe Spiri*, and *Tartuffe*. CP Board Member, B.A. in theatre from FSU, Associate Broker (Realtor) at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. She is deeply grateful to this talented cast, our amazing production staff, family, friends, and everyone who supports live theatre in any way.

CHRISTINE McCARTHY *(Production Manager)* has stage-managed readings of *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley, The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley, Witch*, T*he Burdens, Admissions,* and *The Niceties,* as well as main stage productions of *Vanya and Sonya and Masha and Spike, Native Gardens, Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt 2B,* and *Something Rotten!* here at County Players. She has managed productions of *Every Brilliant Thing, Godspell, Bat Boy, Little Women, Hello! Dolly, Something Rotten!, She Kills Monsters*, and other shows on various stages with various production companies around Dutchess County. She is the treasurer of the County Players Board of Governors.

DYLAN PARKIN *(Production Manager) s*tarted 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.

JENN PROPFE *(Stage Manager)* has been involved both on and off stage in many County Players productions, and is excited to be back at it as SM for this CP2 Series! She recently staged-managed *A Few Good Men* (February 2026), *Misery* and *Dracula* (CP2 Series 2025), *Bullshot Crummond* (2025), *Eleanor* and *Underneath the Lintel* (CP2 Series 2024). Jenn has also assistant stage-managed *Big Fish* (2025), *An Ideal Husband* (2024), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (2019), and *Our Town* (2018). She would like to thank her people (they know who they are) for their patience, support, and guidance, but they never read these things anyway.

LIZ CREW *(Sound and Lighting Design)* thanks everyone at County Players for this opportunity.

ANNA OUYANG MOENCH (*Playwright:* BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA) is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. Her plays have been produced at Williamstown Theatre Festival, NAATCO/The Public Theater, the Geffen Playhouse, the Playwrights Realm, East West Players, InterAct Theater, Theater Mu, and many other theaters across the country and around the world. In television and film, Anna has worked with Apple TV+, HBO, A24, 3000 Pictures, Netflix, Fifth Season, UCP, eOne, PictureStart, and Universal. She is a Supervising Producer on Severance and a Co-Executive Producer on *The White Darkness,* both on Apple TV+. Anna was a member of the pilot cohort of the WarnerMedia Access Showrunner Program. Anna lives in Los Angeles with her family.

SARAH RUHL's (*Playwright:* DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE) plays include *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play, The Clean House, Passion Play, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Melancholy Play*, *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday, The Oldest Boy, Stage Kiss*, *Dear Elizabeth, Eurydice, How to Transcend a Happy Marriage, Orlando*, *Late: a cowboy song*, and a translation of *Three Sisters.* She has been a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and a Tony award nominee. Her plays have been produced on and off Broadway, around the country, and internationally, where they have been translated into over fifteen languages. Originally from Chicago, Ms. Ruhl received her M.F.A. from Brown University. She has received the Steinberg Award, the Samuel French Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the Whiting Award, the Lily Award, a PEN Award for mid-career playwrights, and the MacArthur Award. She teaches at the Yale School of Drama, and she lives in Brooklyn with her family. *SarahRuhlplaywright.com.*

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

BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA: CAST



HALEY PILKINGTON



JOSH WAY

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE: CAST



SUSAN BOND



KAREN DALMER-SHEEHY



MATTHEW DeHOND



ANA HEIN



WENDY URBAN-MEAD



ERICA WOOLLEY

Louisa Vilardi Photography.

CREATIVE TEAM & PRODUCTION CREW FOR CP2 MINI-FESTIVAL

Director, *BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA* ..... Jeffery Battersby

Director, *DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE* ..... Kit Colbourn

Production Managers ..... Christine McCarthy, Dylan Parkin

Stage Manager ..... Jenn Propfe

Sound and Lighting Design ..... Liz Crew

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Production and Publicity Photography ..... Louisa Vilardi

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"Good Luck to Cast and Crew"

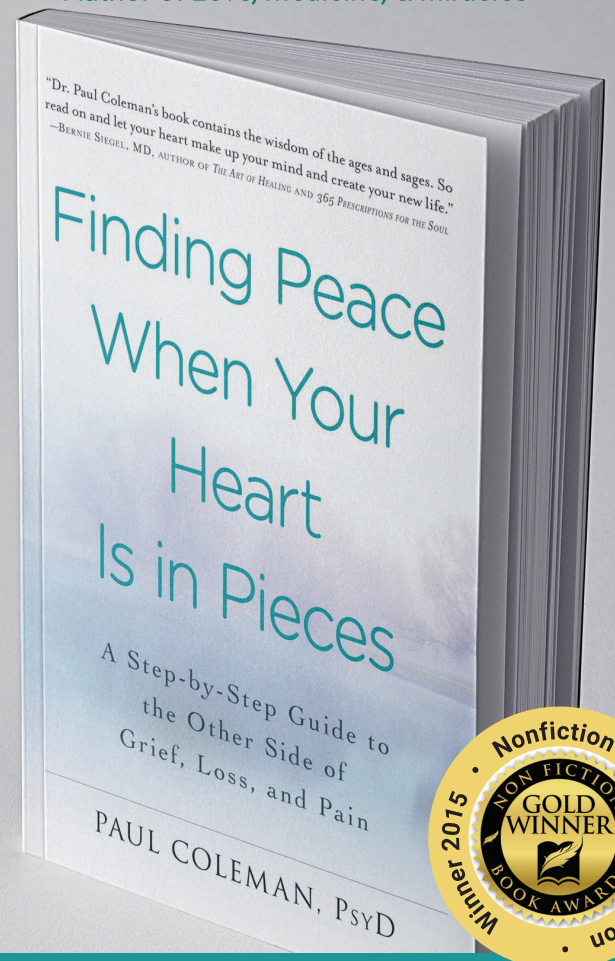
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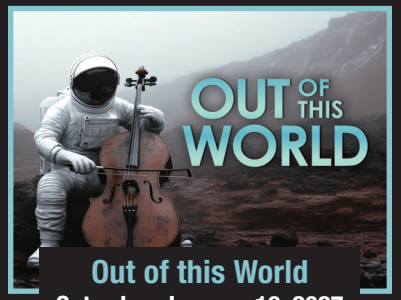


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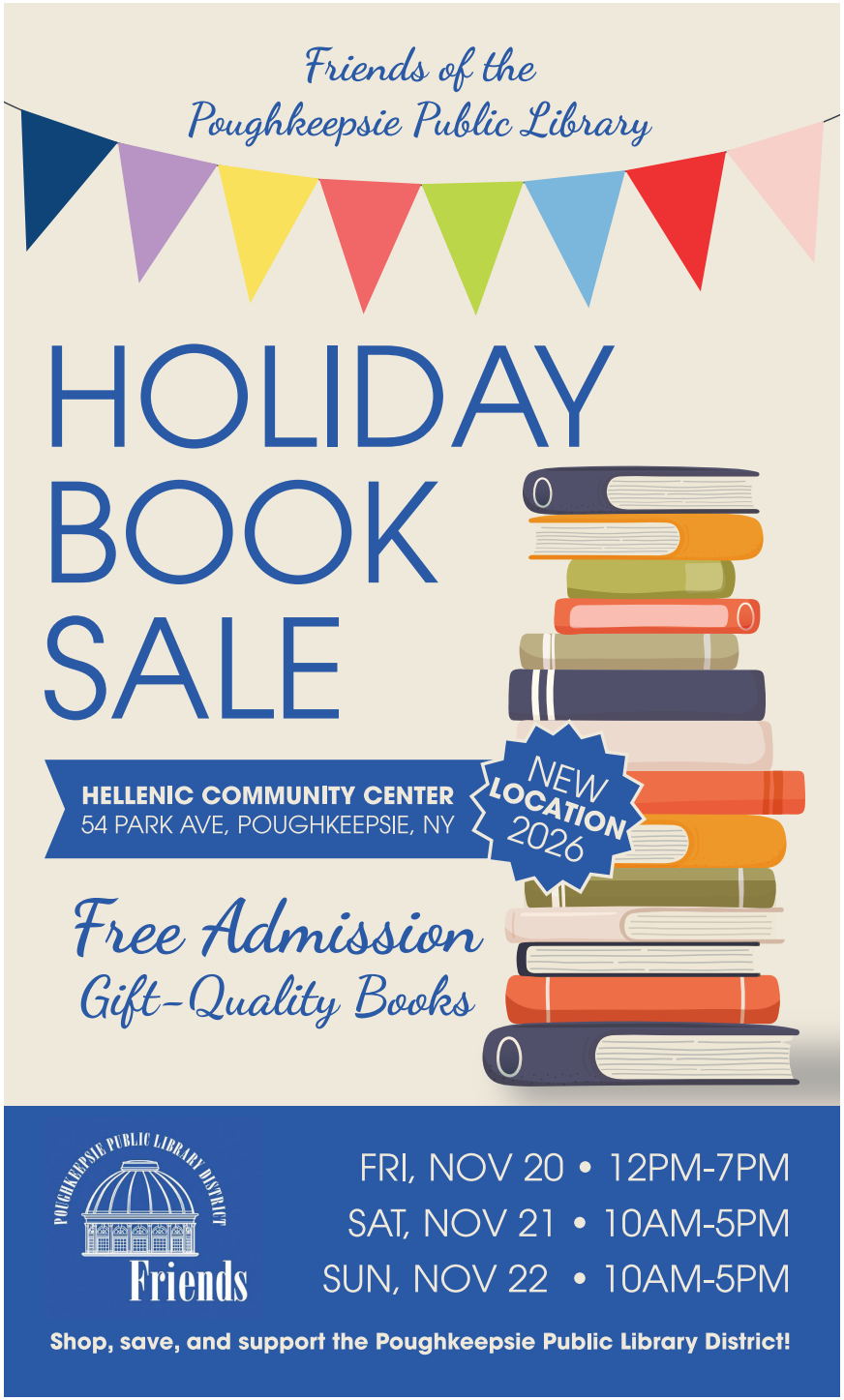


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(2026-2027)



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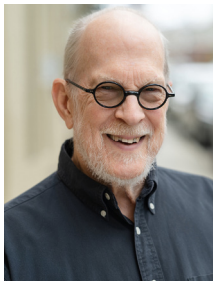
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Donors are also encouraged to support our initiatives through individual contributions outside of subscriptions during our year-end appeal and Spring campaign. We extend our sincere gratitude to the individual contributors of $50 and above, as listed from October 1, 2025, to August 15, 2026.

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

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County Players is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization
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All contributions are deductible to the extent provided by law. County Players deeply appreciates those forward-thinking individuals who include the organization in their financial and estate planning.

ADOPT-A-SEAT DONORS

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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.

ASSISTED HEARING DEVICES are freely available to patrons with hearing loss during all performances to assist them with amplification and clarity. The system makes use of lightweight headsets with adjustable volume controls, and patrons can sit anywhere in the theater to use them. Headsets are available at the Box Office in the lobby prior to the performance.

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.

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Doug Woolley and Janet Nurre



Jenn Propfe and Julie Seltzer

The Language Archive, 2026. Louisa Vilardi Photography.



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