



# EVERYBODY

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

April 21st - 29th, 2023





**Charley Shafor**  
Managing Artistic Director

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Middletown Lyric Theatre  
is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3)  
organization



**Welcome** to the 45th season we are so glad you are here. In anniversaries we would be celebrating with the sapphire and in some cultures it represents; wisdom, virtue and good fortune. In my time with MLT I can certainly attest that we are or have experienced all three.

At the head of our long journey has certainly been wisdom. This company has achieved numerous awards, city, state and national recognition for our; technical crews, actors, directors and musicians. Without this collective wisdom we would not be celebrating today.

Virtue, to act with; honesty, courage, compassion and generosity. Traits that MLT has always tried to represent though the shows we present and the relationships that we have formed.

Good fortune is what has lead us here today and it has been with the support of many that has allowed us to grow and change with our community. It is our season ticket holders, volunteers, contributors, paid and unpaid, and the young and old; each playing a role to our success.

So for those that came before us and for all who fall in between, **WE THANK YOU.** We look forward to presenting the best theatre we are able and we look forward to your continued support and appreciation.

All my best,

Charley Shafor  
Managing Artistic Director

Middletown Lyric Theatre  
Sponsored in part by  
The Middletown Community Foundation  
present

# EVERYBODY

By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

With:

MG Griffith, Adam Jones, Melodie LaNicca,  
Brent Lindley, Michelle MacCutcheon,  
Dan Maloney, Abbie Miller, Karen Oehler,  
Steve Phelan, Cathy Roesener, Amanda West

Scenic Design  
CHARLEY SHAFOR

Lighting / Sound Design  
EDWIN TOY

Production Assistance:  
Melissa Bauer, Tim & Nancy Griffith  
Melodie LaNicca, Angie Markham,  
Karen Oehler

Choreography/Dance by  
Abbie Miller

Directed by  
CHARLEY SHAFOR

World Premiere produced by Signature Theatre, New York City  
(Paige Evans, Artistic Director; Erika Mallin, Executive Director;  
James Houghton, Founder)

"EVERYBODY  
is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing  
the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))"



## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We all walk different paths but we all walk the path of morality. We all have to make decisions on what type of person we are going to be or at least try to be. How many of us can truly call some of the people in our lives friends? Who has that special relative that would do anything for them? When you stop and think about the things, choices and decisions you have made in your life; will someone be with you, when you need them, to help carry the load?

What about your family? Parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and so on. There's a saying "that blood is thicker than water." Meaning your family would do anything for you. Would they? We all know there are no guarantees in life and the best we can do is just that, our best.

God says, "Love your fellow man." Sounds easy, right? But we all know it's not, because when you use the word love; are you prepared for all the responsibilities that go along with it. When does love stop being just a word and becomes a way of life. A life that leads you down a better path and hopefully a better end.

If there is one thing I have learned from this show; if you do your best, follow your path; there will be love. It may not be the love expected but it is love nonetheless and isn't that all any of us really want?

Thank you to EVERYBODY that made this show possible. I will never forget the experience and I certainly won't forget the love.

## SCENES

I. Here Beginnith A Treatise on How Someone or Something -  
GOD? - Sendeth Death to Summon Every Creature to Come  
and Account for Their Lives in the World, Presented in the  
Manner of a Morality Play.

II. The Summoning

III. “And That’s When I Woke Up…”

IV. A Chorus

V. Friendship

VI. “This Is A Dream?”

VII. A Chorus

VIII. Family

IX. “I’m Sorry I Just Have To Say Something”

X. A Chorus

XI. Stuff

XII. “You Know What? Fuck You!”

XIII. La Danse Macabre

XIV. The Journey

**Total Runtime - About 90 minutes**

**There will be no intermission**

PLEASE NOTE

The author of this play has chosen to include  
strong adult language in some of its dialogue.



## WHO'S WHO

### **MG Griffith**

MG is a Junior at Bishop Fenwick high school and is excited to be back on the stage with MLT. She was last seen in *Freaky Friday* and *Considering Mathew Shepherd*. But don't let that cool you off she's a loaded pistol, who likes piña coladas and getting caught in the rain.

### **Adam Jones**

Adam is thrilled to be returning to the Middletown Lyric Theatre for its production of *Everybody*. Adam was previously seen on the MLT stage as the titular character in *The Legend of Georgia McBride* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Other credits include *Boeing Boeing* at the Covedale Center for the Performing Arts, *The Norwegians* at the Dayton Theatre Guild, and *The Odd Couple* at the Lebanon Theatre Company. Adam earned a BFA in Theatre Performance from Ohio University which led him to professional work in Cape Cod, Florida, Los Angeles, and Prague.

### **Melodie LaNicca**

Mel welcomes you to MLT and our production of *Everybody! Mel has been seen on the stage in: Side by Side by Sondheim, November, A Christmas Carol, The Games Afoot, Mirical On 34th Street A live musical radio play, Fix Me Jesus, Twelfth Night, and The butterfingers Angel Mary & Joseph, Herod the Nut & the slaughter of 12 hit carols in a pear tree*. She serves on the MLT Board and is the head of Hospitality. Thanks to Charley & Edwin, The Cast & her Family

### **Brent Lindley**

Brent is thrilled to make his acting debut at Middletown Lyric. Brent, a graduate of Drake University, leads operations for a Columbus-based Commercial Real Estate developer. He is grateful for the patience of the cast & crew, as he is still learning where "stage-left" is...

## WHO'S WHO

### **Abbie Miller**

Abbie was the Vocal Director & Choreographer for MLT's production of *Little Shop of Horrors* and was last seen on stage in; *It's The Most Wonderful Time of The Year*, *MOTHERHOOD: Out Loud*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (winning Best Performer In A Play for the 2021 Broadway World Regional Theatre awards) *The All-American Cabaret*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Gifts of the Magi*, *The Last Five Years*, *SNAPSHOTS: A Musical Scrapbook*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. She is a graduate of Belmont University. Abbie spent a year traveling the US and Canada as a Tour Actor/ Director with Missoula Children's Theatre of Missoula, MT. She has choreographed for Monroe High School and the Performing Arts Academy. She has also been seen in *Company* at Beaver Creek Community Theatre and *Guys and Dolls & She Loves Me* at Lebanon Theatre Company. Love to Josiah and Nash.

### **Michelle MacCutcheon**

Michelle is excited to make her return to theatre after a nearly decade long hiatus with Middletown Lyric Theatre. Some of her favorite roles were Lady Manley Prowe in Greater Hamilton Civic Theatre's, *Something's Afoot* and Alice Sycamore in Lebanon Theatre Company's, *You Can't Take it With You* for which she won an Excellence in Acting award from OCTA. Michelle lives in Lebanon and she and her husband are owned by three dachshunds. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her grandkid.

### **Dan Maloney**

Dan is pleased to be returning to MLT. He is a graduate of Xavier University and a former president of ACT-Cincinnati. Dan is a recipient of Xavier's Otto Kvapil Award for Stage Performance and the Ohio Community Theater Association's Spirit of Community Theater Award. His 2018 production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* was named Best Play by Broadway World Cincinnati. Past MLT credits: *Fat Pig* (Carter); *My Name is Asher Lev* (Asher); *Other Desert Cities* (Tripp); and *The Lifespan of a Fact* (John D'Agata). Dan works for P&G.



## WHO'S WHO

### **Karen Oehler**

This is Karen's thirteenth show on stage with MLT, she's delighted to be back! She was last seen in *The Most Wonderful Time of the year*. She has also appeared in *MOTHERHOOD: Out Loud*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The All-American Cabaret*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Gifts of the Magi*. *BABY*, *Miracle on 34th Street: A Live Musical Radio Play*, *Murder at the Pie Auction*, Daria Chase in *The Games Afoot*, and as Rose in *Les Belles Seours*. Elsewhere she been seen as: Nurse Kelly in *HARVEY*, Florence in *The Curious Savage* and Helga in *Night Watch*. She has also been a director, stage manager, producer, house manager and about every other behind the scenes role imaginable.

### **Steve Phelan**

Steve is happy to joining MLT for such a funny and insightful play. He has been an actor, stagehand, director, producer, and anything else that's needed in Community Theater. On-stage, you may have seen him playing parts ranging from a butler to God (specializing in political figures including a King, a President, a Prime Minister, and two presidential advisors!) Thanks to Cathy and Katy for sharing the ride.

### **Cathy Roesener**

Cathy was most recently seen at MLT as Rose in *The Children*, and as Katharine Gerard in *Mothers and Sons/Andre's Mother* several years ago. She has been involved with local theater since the late 70's, primarily with Beechmont Players, where she has worked as an actor, Producer, Stage Manager and Director. She has also worked with Riverstage Community Theater of New Richmond as Director and Stage Manager. In addition to Katharine, favorite roles are Sr. Aloysius in *Doubt* and Nat in *Rabbit Hole* (Falcon Productions), Connie in *The Blue Moon Dancing*, and Juror #7 in *12 Angry Jurors* (Mariemont Players). It is a pleasure to work with Charley and Edwin and the rest of the MLT crew again. Thank to Steve for joining me in this labor of love, and to Joanna, Maria, John, Marisa and Ellery, for being the most wonderful parts of my life.



## WHO'S WHO

### **Amanda West**

Amanda is very grateful to have worked with such an amazing cast and for the opportunity to stretch herself in this unconventional show (she is a big fan of the unconventional; for details inquire within). A former resident of Austin, TX and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, theatre is one of the things Amanda is deeply passionate about (the next thing might be you, so watch out!). This is Amanda's sixth production with MLT; she was most recently seen as Claire in *Proof*. Amanda would like to thank her family, awesome friend group (especially her best friend, you know who you are), haters, arch enemies, spurned lovers, and above all viewers like you, for making all this possible.



## **Danse Macabre**

Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns's (1835 -1921) *Danse Macabre*, Op. 40, composed in 1874, is based on the French legend that Death packs a fiddle and comes to play at midnight on Halloween, causing the skeletons in the cemetery to crawl out of the ground for their annual graveyard dance party. The idea is both frivolous, and terrifying; beseeching its audience to react emotionally. It was produced as memento mori, to remind people of the fragility of their lives, and how vain were the glories of earthly life.



## WHO'S WHO

### **Charley Shafor (Director / Set Design)**

This is Charley's 37th year in theatre. In Ohio, Charley's artistry has been seen with the company's and on the stages of; Middletown Summer Youth Theatre, LaComedia Dinner Theatre, MUSE Machine, The Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton Contemporary Dance Company and Weathervane Playhouse. He has been a guest artist at the University of IOWA'S Summer Playwright's Festival twice as well as several productions at the Fireside Playhouse in Ft. Atkinson Wisconsin. Charley has worked for several LORT Theatre's including; George Street Playhouse, Crossroads Theatre and the McCarter all in New Jersey. Circle Repertory, Playwright's Horizons and Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City, Ogunquit Playhouse in Ogunquit, ME and The Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam Ct. where he had the opportunity to work on the original ANNIE 2 later to be called ANNIE WARBUCKS with composer Charles Strouse. While there he also built specialty costumes for the revival of Pal Joey featuring; Peter Reardon & Florence Lacey. His work traveled to London's West end with the production *The Fields of Ambrosia* by Martin Silvestri and Joel Higgins; featuring Broadway veteran Christine Andreas. Outside of the theatre, Charley created art installations for the NCR Corporation, The Reynolds & Reynolds Company and Johnson and Johnson World Headquarters.

Before returning to Ohio, Charley spent seven years, on faculty, at the Tower Hill School; a private Pre-K through 12 college preparatory school in Wilmington, De. While at Tower Hill he developed curriculum, taught a course on American Musical Theatre, technical theatre and worked with various departments to create multi-media arts events.

### **Edwin Toy (Lighting/ Sound Design)**

Over the past 15 years, Edwin has designed over 60 productions for MLT. His design work has also been seen in Lebanon Theatre Company's productions of *The Odd Couple*, *She Loves Me*, *The Foreigner*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Prior design experiences have taken him up and down the east coast where he spent eight years as resident lighting designer for The Pierre S. du Pont Arts Center in Wilmington, DE. He has also worked at St. Michael's Playhouse (Winooski, VT), Ogunquit Playhouse (Ogunquit, ME), Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts (Wilmington, NC), and Skyward Productions (Washington, DC).

## NEXT ON OUR STAGE



Music and Lyrics by **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**

Book by **JAMES LAPINE**

Stage and Vocal Direction by Ryan Heinrich

### JUNE 16th - 24th

Sunday in the Park with George, merges past and present into beautiful, poignant truths about life, love and the creation of art. The days leading up to the completion of his most famous painting, A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte, Georges Seurat is struggling to make meaningful art and maintaining a relationship with his lover, Dot. Seurat's artistic ability thrives while his love diminishes

#### The Cast:

**Sean Miller-Jones as George | Katelyn Quinn as Dot**

Jeffery Dye, Chase Engle, Leanne Greenburg, MG Griffith,  
Kyrsten Jankovich, Les Landen, Jovoné Lewis, Rhonda Lucas,  
Timothy Macuski, Dylan McGill, Olivia Pannek,  
Megan Rehberg, Evan Rogers, Danielle Ullman

"SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE" is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

[www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

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**Join us!**  
**Annual Student Show**  
 May 12 - June 29  
 Opening Reception May 12, 6-8pm  
 Live Music & Refreshments  
 Entry is free and open to the public!



Pictured: Area Art Exhibition 2022

130 N Verity Parkway  
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 The MAC is a registered 501(c)(3)

**SORG**  
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**Cin City Burlesque**  
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**Riders in the Sky**  
 Saturday, May 6, 2023 - 8 PM

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 Friday, May 19, 2023 - 8 PM

**The Belairs**  
 Saturday, May 20, 2023 - 8 PM

SORG OPERA HOUSE  
 63 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
 MIDDLETOWN, OH, 45044  
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**DM I**

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 MARCH-OCTOBER  
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MARCH.....03.03.2023 <i>4 LOW/POSTPONED</i>	JULY.....07.07.2023 <i>THE BUCKET LIST</i>
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MAY.....05.05.2023 <i>MAMBO COMBO</i>	SEPTEMBER.....09.01.2023 <i>4 LOW</i>
JUNE.....06.02.2023 <i>TINPENNY</i>	OCTOBER.....10.06.2023 <i>LUV LOEZ</i>

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Middletown Lyric Theatre | 45th Season

# WHAT'S HAPPENING MIDDLETOWN

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**Every 1st Friday of the Month**

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All of our concerts are free and open to the public. We are handicapped accessible with easy and convenient parking.

We welcome you to bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the concert.

**To see our full schedule, visit our website:**

[www.myfumc.net](http://www.myfumc.net)

### **MAY 5 - APPLACHIAN GRASS**



Vernon McIntyre and his crew serve up some authentic bluegrass for us this month. The slogan on their website says it all..."bluegrass—it's what we know, it's what we like, it's what we do." This concert is a must-see for all who love this great American music!

### **JUNE 2 THE FLYING KLEZMERIANS**



New name but still the same high energy music from the Eastern European Jewish tradition. This band returns by popular demand to wear their crazy colorful shirts and play for us!

The Middletown Community Foundation, the Miriam Knoll Foundation, the Barnitz Fund, and the congregation of the First United Methodist church have all been instrumental in the success of this concert series, now in its 16th year of bringing music to our community!



## SEASON SUBSCRIBERS

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Listing is current at the time of printing.  
If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please let us know.

# SEASON DONORS

Our 45th season is sponsored in part by:



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# Thank you for caring.



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When we turn caring into doing, we can change lives. I'm proud to support Middletown Lyric Theatre and the work they do to make the world better.

