

A black silhouette of a gas mask with glowing yellow eyes and a glowing yellow radiation symbol on the front. The mask has a glowing orange and yellow aura around it.

THE CHILDREN

By Lucy Kirkwood

March 3rd - 11th, 2023





Charley Shafor
Managing Artistic Director

Board of Trustees
Melodie LaNicca
Angela Mason
Karen Oehler
Edwin Toy

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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

THE CHILDREN

by Lucy Kirkwood

With:
Gail Rudolph, Cathy Roesener, John Wysong

Scenic Design
CHARLEY SHAFOR

Lighting / Sound Design
EDWIN TOY

Production Assistance:
Melodie LaNicca, Angie Markham, Abbie Miller

Production Stage Manager
Karen Oehler

Directed by
CHARLEY SHAFOR

Special Thanks:
Jim Percival - Wig dressing
Clifton Bauer
Cheryl Landen

THE CHILDREN was first performed at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Sloane Square, London, on November 17, 2016, and was produced on Broadway by the Manhattan Theatre Club (Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer) and the Royal Court Theatre on November 28, 2017.

The Royal Court commissioned THE CHILDREN with a generous grant from the Berwin Lee New Play Commission.

THE CHILDREN is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

NEXT ON OUR STAGE



By Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

APRIL 21 - 28, 2023

What happens when we die? How do I prepare myself? What is the value of my life? In this modern retelling of Everyman, the most well-known and anthologized example of a medieval morality play; God sends Death to take Everyman, who stands in for all humankind, on his final journey. Along the way, Everyman meets characters who personify concepts such as Fellowship, Wisdom, Strength, and Discretion. However, they all abandon him, and he can only bring Good Deeds with him to gain entrance to heaven.

The Cast:

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

EVERYBODY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

CAST / SCENES

The Cast:

(in order of appearance)
Cathy Roesener as Rose
Gail Rudolph as Hazel
John Wysong as Robin

Setting

The east coast of England - Outside the Exclusion Zone

ACT ONE

One day - late afternoon

INTERMISSION

15 Minutes

ACT TWO

same day - a few moments later

Total Runtime - 2 Hours

PLEASE NOTE

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

Please turn off your cell phone, beeper, watch alarm or anything else that might make a noise during the performance. Unwrap any candies, cough drops, or mints before the performance begins to avoid disturbing your fellow audience members or the actors on stage.

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 the United States Copyright Law.

WHO'S WHO



Gail Rudolph (Hazel)

Gail is excited to be back at MLT after appearing last season in *MOTHERHOOD: Out Loud*. She most recently was Dottie in *Good People* at Fairfield Footlighters. Gail has been active in Greater Cincinnati community theater for 27 years mostly with Mason Community Theater & Middletown Lyric Theater. Her work both on and behind stage has been recognized with Orchid award. Some of other MLT favorites include, Aoife Muldoon, *Outside Mullingar*, Coleen, *A 100 saints You Should Know*, Angelina Sauve, *Les Belles Soer*, Liz Essendine Present *Laughter* and Lily Mortar *The Children's Hour*. Other favorites elsewhere, Betty in *The Foreigner*, Mrs. Bennet *Pride & Prejudice*, and Aunt Ola, *The Cover of Life*. Maggie Mundy *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Gail is a retired nurse practitioner in geriatric psychiatry. She would like to thank Charley, Edwin, and Karen for this wonderful role and a fabulous set and experience. It is a privilege to share the stage with Cathy & John. And as always thanks to my husband Rich for his never ending support of this all consuming past time.



Cathy Roesener (Rose)

Cathy is so glad to be working with MLT again after her run 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 a Producer or Co-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). Special thanks to Charley for trusting me with this complex role, to Steve for his love and support, and to Joanna, Maria, John, Marisa and Ellery, for being the most



John Wysong (Robin)

This is John's first show at MLT. He was last seen as Santa and his evil twin Mr. Greenway in *Elf the Musical* at Richmond Civic Theater. He is a member of the Shakespeare in South Park Company, where he donned the yellow stockings in *Twelfth Night*. John was cast as Juan the Muleteer in the Florence award winning best musical *Man of La Mancha* at the Dayton Playhouse, and was the first Boo Radley outside New York City in Sorkin's controversial *To Kill A Mockingbird*. ---

WHO'S WHO

John Wysong - con't

Off stage, John is mine foreman at Camden Ready Mix and is president of the Preble County chapter of The Sean Mayo Fan Club. He has two daughters, Sarah and Hannah. He's been married to Cheryl for 26 years and spends a surprising amount of time apologizing.

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).

WHAT'S HAPPENING MIDDLETOWN



THE WORKS OF

**CE
PAYNE**

Renowned American Illustrator

Exhibiting March 3 - April 6, 2023

This exhibit is sponsored by James and Barbara (Spence) Pearce



This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest CIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Middletown Arts Center.

MIDDLETOWN ARTS CENTER
130 N Verity Parkway
Middletown, OH 45042
(513) 424-2417
middletownartscenter.com



Sweet Baby James

The #1 James Taylor Tribute
Friday, March 10, 2023

Phoenix Mendoza

w/ special guests Josh Leo and Jon Hayes
Friday, March 31, 2023 - 8 PM

Tyler Christopher as Elvis Presley

Featuring his full backing band
Saturday, April 1, 2023 - 8 PM

Riders in the Sky

Saturday, May 6, 2023 - 8 PM

SORG OPERA HOUSE
63 SOUTH MAIN STREET
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DOWNTOWN MIDDLETOWN INC.

CONCERT SERIES
MARCH - OCTOBER

CONCERT SERIES
MARCH - OCTOBER
GOVERNORS SQUARE
5PM - 9PM

MARCH.....03.03.2023 4 LOW	JULY.....07.07.2023 THE BUCKET LIST
APRIL.....04.07.2023 BAND TBD	AUGUST.....08.04.2023 BAND TBD
MAY.....05.05.2023 BAND TBD	SEPTEMBER.....09.01.2023 BAND TBD
JUNE.....06.02.2023 TINPENNY	OCTOBER.....10.06.2023 BAND TBD

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WHAT'S HAPPENING MIDDLETOWN

FIRST FRIDAYS @ FIRST METHODIST



Fascinating Music.

Fabulous Art.

Fun for Lunch.

12noon - 1:00pm

Every 1st Friday of the Month

First United Methodist Church Sanctuary
120 S. Broad St., Middletown, OH 45044 | 513.423.4629

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

APRIL 14 - MILT GOEDDE

(note date change due to Good Friday)



Having Milt perform for us is the very definition of "serendipity" involving a DIY project and a trip to Cincinnati. You won't want to miss this incredibly creative piano man serving up pop and jazz standards from Count Basie and Hoagy Carmichael to the Beatles and everything in between. No DIY project or trip to Cincinnati required!!

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!

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

Gerald & Jacky Banks	Steve & Marcia Markham
Melissa Bauer	Greg & Becky Martin
Kitty & Jerry Blattner	Bob & Shirley Melloh
Janet B. Crawford	James & Eileen Moon
Joyce Chrisy	Jana Morse
Tom & Sara Davis	Joseph & Cynthia Muron
Mr & Mrs. Larry DeSue	Mrs. Martha Oches
Pat & Dave Diven	Jack & Deanie Raiche
Marilyn Easterly	Rich & Gail Rudolph
Roger & Sally Enchelmeyer	David & Carole Schul
Missy Grant	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sharples
Barb Greene	J.C. & Anita Shew
Philip & Jamie Murphy Harrison	Robert & Carolyn Snook
Wayne & Mary Johnson	Bruce & Lisa Spring
Sue & Chris Keffalos	Tim & Shelley Sweeten
Jennifer Lakeman	Mike Stafford
Cheryl Landen	Debbie Waters
Steve & Susie Lane	Stu & Diane Wilson
Cyndi Lawson	Fred & Cathy Young
Mary Lawson	

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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ACTORS - \$250+

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Kitty & Jerry Blattner Gaylene May

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Steve & Susie Lane Rich & Gail Rudolph

Stu & Diane Wilson

Additional funding provided by:
Sam & Lena Finkelman Fund - The William & Peggy Verity Fund
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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.

