

Edward Albee's

A DELICATE

BALANCE



Directed by Scott Albert Bennett

September 15-30, 2017

STROLLERS
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THE BARTELL

44



Presents

Edward Albee's
A DELICATE BALANCE

Director
Scott Albert Bennett

Producer
Scott Albert Bennett

Stage Manager
Michelle Dayton

Set Designer & Properties Designer
Landon Petersen

Asst. Stage Manager
Page Metcalf

Costume Designer
Bridget Doxtater

Dramaturg
Michael Y. Bennett

Lighting Designer
Brian Hatfield

Sound Designers
Scott Albert Bennett & Brian Hatfield

The Bartell Theatre on the Evjue Stage
Madison, Wisconsin

September 15th - 30th, 2017

Running Time is 2 hours and 30 minutes
with a 15 minute intermission

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics

Photography and video/audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited.

A Delicate Balance is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, New York.

CAST OF A *DELICATE BALANCE* IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Agnès.....	Judy Kimball
Tobias.....	Carl Cawthorne
Claire.....	Rebecca Raether
Harry.....	Jim Chiolino
Edna.....	Patricia Kugler Whitely
Julia.....	Carrie Sweet

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	Scott Albert Bennett
Stage Manager.....	Michelle Dayton
Asst. Stage Manager.....	Page Metcalf
Scenic Designer.....	Landon Petersen
Costume Designer.....	Bridget Doxtater
Properties Designer.....	Landon Petersen
Lighting Designer.....	Brian Hatfield
Sound Designers.....	Scott Albert Bennett, Brian Hatfield
Dramaturg.....	Michael Y. Bennett
Set Execution.....	Lee Waldhart
Carpenters.....	Erin S. Baal, Landon Petersen, Scott Albert Bennett Chad Abel, Josette Belant, Nick Miller, Isabella Leigh
Scenic Artist.....	Erin S. Baal
Painters.....	Landon Petersen, Michael Fleischman, Teresa Sarkela
Costume Assistant.....	Elora Doxtater
Lighting Assistants.....	C. John Shimniok, Tom Littrell
Producer.....	Scott Albert Bennett
Performance Photography.....	Brett Williams
Videographer.....	Benjamin Barlow
Poster Design.....	Katherine Johnson

SPECIAL THANKS

This production was made possible with the special contributions of so many people. A special thanks is in order for these individuals and organizations.

CTM, Madison Arts Production Center, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Full Compass, Madison Theatre Guild, StageQ, The Gerrald A Bartell Community Theatre Foundation and Kirk Stantis, Madison Magazine, The Madstage Podcast, The Isthmus, Madison Community Foundation, Electronic Theatre Controls, Jim Guy at the Milwaukee Rep, Chad Abel, Jan Levine Thal, Aaron Conklin, Suzan Kurry, Buzz Kemper, Phil Koenig



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"If I wrote plays about everyone getting along terribly well, I don't think anyone would want to see them. . . . You have to show people things that aren't working well . . . in the hope that people will make them work better." - Edward Albee in *The Progressive*

As the cast and I have been working on *A Delicate Balance*, we have faced the characters head-on, with truth and reality. We have also found humor and fragile humanity in our exploration. These characters have denied their emotions, denied reality, and denied their own insecurities. They live with regret and loss. In attempting to keep their lives in balance, they have avoided making decisions that could upset the natural order of things, or at least - the order they have come to expect. In one weekend, we see things begin to unravel. I have been asked "how is this play relevant today?" and "how can we sympathize with these characters?" I believe the relevance comes from examining how we deal with grief and loss, how we deal with our lives not being what we had hoped, and how we treat our family and friends when they are in need of help. Do we take real action to help ourselves and others, or do we fight and complain, do nothing, and end up right back where we started? I believe in the power of theatre to hold a mirror up to life, to help us learn and grow. Thank you for taking this journey with us this evening.

Scott Albert Bennett - 2017

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* premiered in 1966 at a time when the United States of America was undergoing a political and cultural upheaval. Led by President Lyndon Johnson, The Great Society—with its string of civil rights, education, and basic entitlements victories—was being met by the ever-growing tensions and realities in Vietnam. And the "bland" 1950s and JFK-led early 1960s, with its Leave it to Beaver illusory modern family, was giving way to a new era of Baby Boomers and an emerging counterculture. The stability of the 1950s and early 1960s was being undermined by both inside and outside forces. The realities of the known world were eroding: both exhilaration and fear of the unknown hung in a delicate balance.

Michael Y. Bennett - 2017

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BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Y. Bennett (Dramaturg) is Associate Professor of English and affiliated faculty in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He is the author or editor of eleven books in the field of theatre studies. In addition to serving on the Advisory Boards of Comparative Drama and the Journal of American Drama and Theatre; as an Associate Editor of Palgrave Communications; and on the Board of Directors of The Edward Albee Society; he is the Series Editor of New Perspectives in Edward Albee Studies. In Spring 2014, he was a UW System Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at UW-Madison, and he received the 2015 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Outstanding Research Award. In Summer 2018, he will be a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, where he will be working on his current book project, *The Problems of Viewing Performance*.

Scott Albert Bennett (Director/Producer) has been having the best time creating and playing with this amazing cast and crew. Scott is the current president of the Strollers Board, and was recently seen as Angela Arden in *StageQ's Die, Mommie, Die!* He loves the Bartell, where he can go from a campy comedy into an absurdist drama. Enormous thanks to Lee & Erin, and love to Landon. Thanks for bringing your design talent into my world.

Carl Cawthorne (Tobias) is delighted to be back on the Evjue stage in this remounting of *A Delicate Balance*. Carl played Harry in the last Strollers' production of this play back in January of 1999. Other favorite Madison area roles include Tarleton in *Misalliance*, The Old Man in *Prelude to a Kiss*, Oscar in *The Odd Couple*, and The Marquis De Sade in *Marat/Sade*. As always, love to family and friends for all your kind support.

Jim Chiolino (Harry) is excited to be appearing in his second Stroller's show, having sung in *Amadeus* recently. Recent roles: JP Morgan in *Ragtime* (Middleton Players); Ted Sunder-son in *Perfect Arrangement* (StageQ); Steve in *August: Osage County* (Mercury Players); & Judge/Amy in *Casa Valentina* (StageQ). Jim is president of the Madison Theatre Guild & produced its last season. He is producing much of this current season as well. In his spare time,

Jim Chiolino (cont) Jim thinks he has a job. If anyone knows more about that, please let him know. Thanks to Scott and to this amazing cast & crew!!

Michelle Dayton (Stage Manager) is jumping into the role of stage manager after a long hiatus. She is grateful to the cast, crew, family, and friends for all the support and guidance. Michelle has most recently designed props for Strollers Theatre productions: *Prelude to a Kiss* and *Steel Magnolias*.

Bridget Boywid Duxtater (Costume Designer) has been active in theater, onstage and off, since junior high school. Recently she did makeup design for Madison Shakespeare Company's *Macbeth* and *As You Like It*. Bridget enjoyed working on costumes for *A Delicate Balance* with her daughter, Elora. She'd like to dedicate their work on this show to the memory of Bridget's father, John, who supported his local theater scene and taught his daughter to appreciate great dramatic literature.

Brian "Hatter" Hatfield (Lighting Designer) is proud to call many local companies home. This is Hatter's first production with Strollers. He is an eclectic artist who uses many mediums to make his living. Hatter has been a Master Electrician for Forward Theatre CTM, Four Seasons and others. He designs props for Madison Ballet. He is the Technical Director for Fresco Opera and is looking forward to their upcoming production of *Queen of the Night*. A few of Hatter's favorite lighting designs include *Frog and Toad ECCT*, *A Chorus Line ECCT* and *Peter Pan ECCT*. Hatter is looking forward to many productions in the future. He would like to thank his sons Christopher and Nicholas for their love and support.

Judy Kimball (Agnes) is delighted to be a part of this production of *A Delicate Balance*. Recent roles for Judy on the Bartell stages have included Virginia in *The Clean House*, "B" in *Three Tall Women* and Lotte in *Lettice and Lovage*.

Page Metcalf (Asst. Stage Manager) thanks everyone for being awesome!

Landon Petersen (Set Designer/Set Dressing/Properties Designer) has designed the sets for last spring's *Steel Magnolias* for Strollers and this past summer's *Die Mommie Die!* for Stage Q. Landon would like to thank Lee and Erin for all of their hard work and hopes they know how truly appreciated they are. He would also like to thank his partner and Director Scott for trusting in his vision.

Rebecca Raether (Claire) is thrilled to finally have a crack at Albee in *A Delicate Balance* – and to be part of this august cast and crew. As the Bartell marks its 20th anniversary, Rebecca marks her 17th year with the Bartell. Favorite shows include *The Norman Conquests*, *The Underpants*, *Misalliance*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Steel Magnolias*. Rebecca thanks her family and friends for their steadfast support, with special gratitude to the man who always claps the loudest.

Carrie Sweet (Julia) is honored to have the privilege to act alongside such an incredibly talented and fun group. Past Strollers' credits

Carrie Sweet (cont) include *Steel Magnolias* and *Blithe Spirit*. She dedicates this to her own dysfunctional family. We all have them, but you three are the absolute best.

Lee Waldhart (Set Execution) is familiar name to Madison area theater goers, and has been an avid supporter of community theater for over 40 years. An actor, director, tech director, instructor, set designer, and carpenter, he has over 200 stage productions under his belt. He has been an integral part of the West High Theater program for 25 yrs.

Patricia Kugler Whitely (Edna) is a graduate of the UW acting program. She is delighted to work with and learn from this unbelievably talented cast. Recent acting endeavors include Quiser in *Steel Magnolias*, Claire in *Rumors*, and Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Because of a delicate balance of humor and caring she's clocked in 40+ years of marriage (and yes, to the same man), and has two grown children.

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