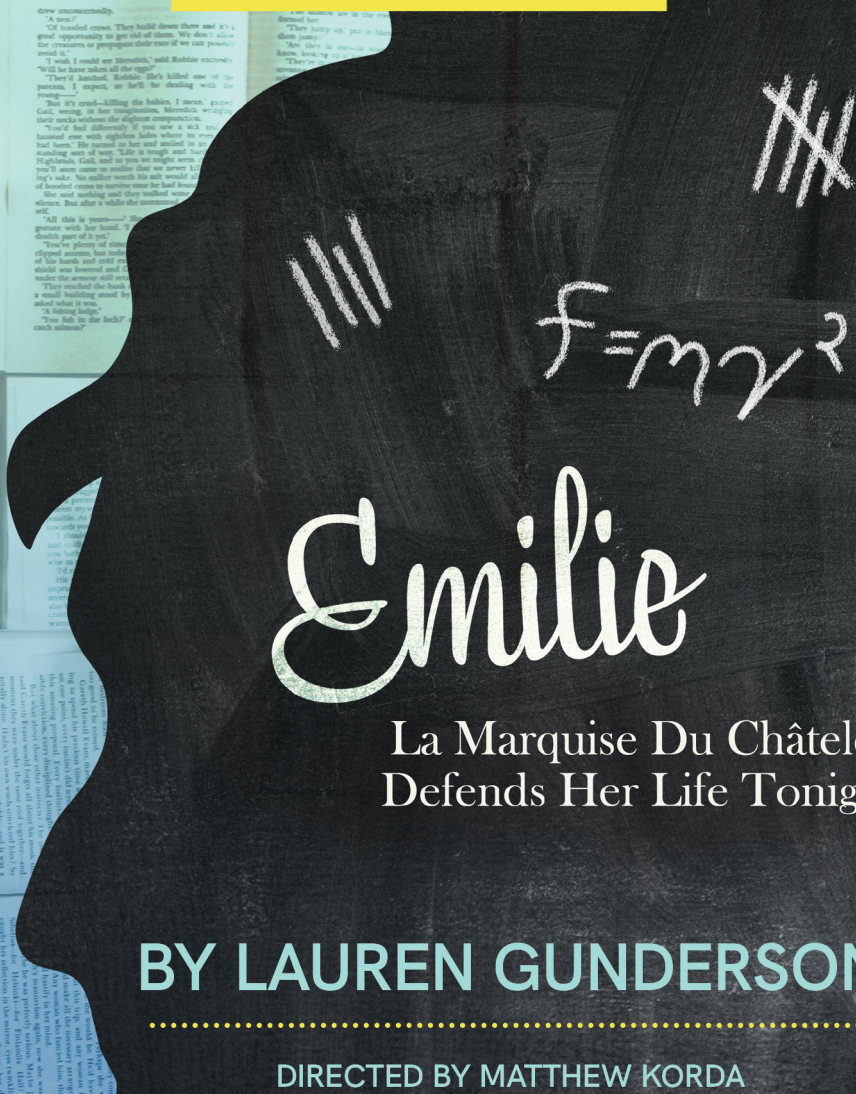


november 5-20



BY LAUREN GUNDERSON

DIRECTED BY MATTHEW KORDA

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Please consider donating to our Red Bucket after the show!

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Running time on stage is 1 hour and 40 minutes.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

In accordance with the current Dane County Mask Mandate, performers are all fully vaccinated and will be exempt from being required to perform in masks while maintaining at least six feet distance from the audience.

There will be brief strobe-like lighting effects and theatrical haze/fog.

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics.

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Presents

# EMILIE: LA MARQUISE DU CHÂTELET DEFENDS HER LIFE TONIGHT

by Lauren Gunderson

## Director

Matthew Korda

## Stage Manager

Patrick Stockland

## Producer

Benjamin Barlow

## Asst. Stage Manager

Kevin Whitecrow

## Associate Producer

Kaleigh Schuler

## Lighting Designer

Zak Stowe

## Intimacy Coordinator

Jeanne Leep

## Costume Designer

Brittany Loughman

## Set Designer

Teresa Sarkela

## Sound Designer

John Thornberry

## Props Designer

Liz Mael

## Hair and Makeup Designer

Sara Wojtak

## Choreographer

Heidi Hakseth

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The Bartell Theatre on the Drury Stage  
Madison, Wisconsin

November 5th - November 20th, 2021

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*"Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight"* is presented by  
arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

CAST

Emilie.....	Rebecca Raether
Voltaire.....	Tom Kastle
Soubrette.....	Mikayla Mrochek
Madame.....	Patricia Kugler Whitely
Gentleman.....	Bryan Royston

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Matthew Korda
Producer.....	Benjamin Barlow
Associate Producer.....	Kaleigh Schuler
Stage Manager.....	Patrick Stockland
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Kevin Whitecrow
Intimacy Coordinator.....	Jeanne Leep
Set Designer.....	Teresa Sarkela
Lighting Designer.....	Zak Stowe
Costume Designer.....	Brittany Loughman
Props Designer.....	Liz Mael
Sound Designer.....	John Thornberry
Hair and Makeup Designer .....	Sara Wojtak
Choreographer.....	Heidi Hakseth
Light Board Op.....	TJ Hill
Lighting Crew.....	Jonathan J Miner, Tom Steer, TJ Hill
Construction Crew.....	Jessie Fidler, TJ Hill, Sarah Edlund
Production Photography.....	Jonathan J Miner
Production Videography.....	Benjamin Barlow
Poster Design.....	Hayley Bolinder

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.

Children’s Theatre of Madison (CTM), St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Lakeview Moravian Church, Mercury Players Theatre, Madison Theatre Guild, StageQ, The Gerald A Bartell Community Theatre Foundation and Kirk Stantis, Linda Johnson, The Isthmus, Banzo Catering, Kathy Dayton, Jonathan J Miner, Tom Steer, Conor Koenig, Tom Littrell, The Friends and Family of Michael Dayton, and Overture Center for the Arts

**Benjamin Barlow** (Producer) wears a lot of hats! Literally and figuratively 😊 He's appeared on stage with Children's Theatre of Madison (CTM), the Platteville Summer Arts Festival, and Madison Opera, in addition to serving as Strollers Theatre's Publicity Chair. The cast and crew have been absolutely fantastic, so please enjoy all of the hard work they have put in.

**John Thornberry** (Sound Designer) has Off-Broadway credits (*A Vow of Silence*, Jewish Repertory Theatre); credits for regional productions of *Wit*, *Copenhagen*, and *Crime and Punishment* (Boulder CO); and for other Colorado and Wisconsin productions (*Frost/Nixon*, *A Christmas Story*, *All My Sons*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Waiting for the Parade*). This is John's second Strollers production: his first was Matt Korda's *Bloomsday* during Season 63.

**TJ Hill** (Lighting Crew and Board Op) recently moved to the Madison area and is excited to work on his first theatre production in Wisconsin here at the Bartell! He had previously worked as the technical director as a member of the u[s]ual Suspects from Rockford Illinois and has performed, directed, and designed for a wide range of productions from *Urinetown*, to *The Revolutionists*, to fully improvised shows. TJ would like to thank Matt for the opportunity to be a part of this journey.

**Tom Kastle** (Voltaire) is an actor, singer, and sailor (long story) based in Madison whose work includes films like Francisco Torres' *Delight In the Mountain*, opera, playing Frosch in the Madison Savoyards' production of *Die Fledermaus*, and television, as narrator of an Emmy nominated documentary. At the Bartell, Tom has played everything from a tap dancing Hagrid to Henry IV and a political pundit with Jan Levine Thal and the legendary Ed Asner in *God Help Us*. Playing Voltaire and exploring "time and space" with a cast like this is a dream come true.

**Matthew Korda** (Director) is so glad you chose to return to live theater. Over the past year and a half we have missed the unique connection we all feel between artist and audience, and thanks to the sacrifices we all have made during this time, it is all the more delightful to say "Welcome back". Please continue to observe the safety guidelines recommended by health officials so we can continue to bring you these wonderful stories live and in person. You may have seen Matthew's previous direction for Strollers in a 2019 production, shortly before the shutdown, of *Bloomsday* by Steven Dietz. It is no accident that there are many similarities between that production and this one. Many of the cast and crew have returned as well, and the plays, while very unique in the stories they tell, have a similar aesthetic quality that lends itself to a similar approach toward telling those stories. We hope you enjoy the show, and tell your friends and family. We could not do this without your support.

**Jeanne Leep** (Intimacy Coordinator) is the producer of Edgewood College Theatre and the chair of the Department of Theatre Arts at Edgewood College. She received her Ph.D. in directing from Wayne State University, her M.A. from the University of Michigan in Theatre Studies and has also studied at the Moscow Art Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. She is the author of *Theatrical Improvisation*, *Short Form*, *Long Form*, and *Sketch-Based Improv*, and the co-founder of River City Improv, a performance improvisational troupe based in Michigan. Former the Chair for the ATHE Acting Focus Group, Dr. Leep is a longtime member of the Association of Theatre in Higher Education. Some past directing credits include *Metamorphoses*, *Proof*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Penelopiad*, *Body Awareness* and *Expecting Isabel*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and husband Chris "Nigel" Edmonds for their support.



**Brittany Loughman** (Costume Designer) is pleased to be returning to theatre after a very long hiatus, and she is particularly grateful to the cast and crew of *Emilie* for taking a chance on an unknown entity/recent Madison transplant. She is thrilled to have gotten this opportunity to once again figure out how to sew things for other people, all of whom have been truly delightful. She would like to thank all the folks working in vaccine development, particularly those who have contributed to live theatre returning.

**Liz Mael** (Props Designer) is an RN when she is not collecting props or acting in a play or movie. She has been involved in Madison community theater for 13 years, debuting in *Melvin*, *The Angry Magician* at Broom Street Theater (BST) shortly after her 50th birthday. Her favorite role was as Lulu Belle in *Vogue* and she was the lead in *Dancing in Cleo's Café*, both at BST. She has been a stage manager, lights and sound technician. She would like to express exuberant thanks to her husband, Todd Peterson, who should really be getting partial credit for acquiring props for many shows, including this one, and her daughter, Lindsey, for her contributions. She would also like to thank Matt, for not only entrusting her with prop procurement, but also digging through Strollers storage unit with her on a rainy afternoon. Additional thanks go to Madison Theater Guild for their willingness to share props. She's thankful for this experience with this amazing and brilliant cast and crew!

**Mikayla Mrochek** (Soubrette) is a local actor/writer/artist and is thrilled to be a part of her second Strollers production. Previously, she appeared in *Bloomsday* as Caitheleen. Other credits include *A Plague on All Our Houses* (Whirligig Productions), *The Revolutionists* (Mercury Players), *Trouble in Mind* (KRASS), and *As you Like It* (Edgewood College). She would like to thank, above all, her family; the cast and crew of this show; and YOU, for being here and supporting your arts community.

**Rebecca Raether** (Emilie) is thrilled to return to the Drury stage with Strollers Theatre. Rebecca has appeared in productions at the Bartell for more than 20 years – with favorite Strollers shows including *The Norman Conquests*, *Misalliance*, *Steel Magnolias*, *A Delicate Balance* and *Bloomsday*. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their love and support – and for graciously acting as her sole audience through all the drama of 2020 and 2021. Special gratitude to the man who always claps loudest.

**Bryan Royston** (Gentleman) is astounded that it's taken this long for him to work with the stellar people of Strollers Theatre again. He was last seen in a Strollers production (*Misalliance*) back in March, 2016. He's happy to be back for his third Strollers effort and has thoroughly enjoyed his first production under the direction of Matt Kor-da. Oh, and he is so thrilled that theater is on its way back! Bryan thanks his family, friends, superbly talented fellow cast & creatives, (Matt!), Strollers Theatre, the Bartell, and you! Enjoy.  
#maskon #scienceisreal  
"I'm glad you're sufficiently captivated. I know you're hard to entertain."  
A13: Because he can Neverland. / Q14: Why should you never write with a broken pencil?

**Teresa Sarkela** (Set Designer) paints, designs, and likes whiskey. First meeting this script in 2015, it has effortlessly resonated through many bizarre moments of her life since-- whether tenaciously working, heart-shaped, or falling apart. Huge gratitude to the crew and cast for bringing this story to life [and with such impact]. Thanks to Matt for garage whiskey, coffee, artsy discussions, and crazy amounts of support. Enjoy; freaking sincerely, enjoy!

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Kaleigh Schuler** (Associate Producer) is so excited to be a part of this production. Her research position at UW Madison makes her feel particularly connected to this script, its leading lady, and the challenges faced navigating the field. She hopes you enjoy watching it at least half as much as she's enjoyed being a part of making it happen!

**Patrick Stockland** (Stage Manager) is excited for his first opportunity to stage manage. He thanks the cast & crew for their talent and grace through the whole production.

**Zak Stowe** (Lighting Designer) is an award-winning lighting designer, producer, director, and all around crazy theatre person. Zak is the President and Executive Director of StageQ and President of the Bartell Community Theatre Foundation. He has previously served as Technical Director of State Street Theatre Co and Lighting Specialist for Full Compass Systems. Zak currently is the Lighting Supervisor for the Overture Center for the Arts in Madison, WI and tours as a pyrotechnician for Tora!Tora!Tora! Air Shows. Past designs include: *Così fan tutte* (UW Opera); Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (Four Seasons); *Cabaret*, *Falsettos*, *Die Mommie Die*, and *Next Fall* (StageQ); *Born Yesterday*, *Other Desert Cities*, and *Working* (Madison Theatre Guild); *CLUE: On Stage*, *Stars Wars Panto* (Mercury Players); *Mineola Twins* (KRASS Womens' Theatre); *Menacing*, *The Guest Book* (Broom Street Theatre); *Almost, Maine* (Strollers); *Urinetown* (JMMHS); *Singing in the Rain*, *She Loves Me*, *Into the Woods*, *Around the World in 80 Days* (MLC Forum); *Miracle on 34th Street*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *I Do! I Do!* (State Street Theatre).

**Kevin Whitecrow** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to have been invited back to Strollers for his third show. He has worked on *Bloomsday*, and *Men On Boats*. He loves being a part of the crew.

**Patricia Kugler Whitely** (Madame) is thrilled to be onstage again after a long hiatus caused by you know what. She has, happily, worked on many Strollers shows; most recently, *A Delicate Balance* as Edna, *Steel Magnolias* as Ouiser, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* as Big Mama, and from yesteryear: *Absurd Person Singular* as Jane Hopcroft, and *Picnic* as Flo Owens. She hopes you all enjoy this magnificent production.

**Sara Wojtak** (Hair and Makeup Designer) is delighted to be a part of *Emilie*. Past shows she's done hair and makeup design for and performed in include *The Gondoliers*; *H.M.S. Pinafore*; and *Little Shop of Horrors*, among others. Previous performances at the Bartell include *Clue*; *Almost, Maine*; and *Dog Sees God*. She thanks her love and her family for their encouragement and support. Enjoy the show!

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For more information on Strollers Theatre, please visit our website at [StrollersTheatre.org](http://StrollersTheatre.org)

## OUR RED BUCKET DONATIONS

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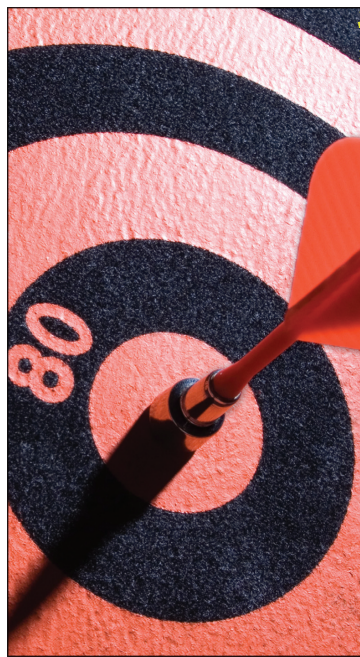
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