

**The Mystery of
Irma Vep
(A Penny Dreadful)
by Charles Ludlam**

Opening Friday the 13th!!

Oct 13 - 28th, 2023

**Directed by
Michelle Dayton**

**a Co-Production
with
Oh, My Stars!
Productions**

Scan for Info/Tickets

StrollersTheatre.org

**STROLLERS
THEATRE LTD.**



BARTELL THEATRE

INFORMATION

Please turn off all cell phones and other electronics.

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

The run time for this performance is approximately 2 hours & 10 minutes.

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

This performance will include gunshots and lightning strikes.

The Bartell Theatre on the Evjue Stage
Madison, Wisconsin
October 19th-28th, 2023

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Why does Charles Ludlam's *The Mystery of Irma Vep* get continually performed almost 40 years since it premiered in 1984? My answer is that it is a fun, campy melodrama full of monsters to survive and a new marriage to save from the brink. It is a show full of references of Gothic Horror literature, classic Hollywood monster movies, and Victorian manners. Mr. Ludlam's queer comical masterpiece will let you forget your own melodramas for a couple of hours.

I give my wholehearted appreciation to anyone who was attached to this show at any point from the start of selecting this show for the Strollers 2023-24 season through show time on October 28th. This show would not be what it is without all these folks. Community theatre is made by people and we at Strollers and the Bartell are lucky to have all these folks in the program come and give their talents. Please enjoy the show.

The Mystery of Irma Vep - A Penny Dreadful

By Charles Ludlam

Director

Michelle Dayton

Set Designer

Landon Petersen

Lighting Designer

Luke Delwiche

Sound Designer

Thomas Coyne

Costume Designer

Marie Freese

Special Properties

Emma Katz

Stage Manager

Michèle Brucker

Asst. Stage Manager

Taylor Hartman Strpko

Master Carpenters

Dillon Sheehan, Taizo Murakami

Produced for Strollers Theatre by

Lesemann Marshall

A Co-Production with

Oh, My Stars! Productions

CAST

Jane Twisden.....Joshua K. Paffel
Nicodemus Underwood.....Scott Albert Bennett
Lady Enid Hillcrest.....Scott Albert Bennett
Lord Edgar Hillcrest.....Joshua K. Paffel
An Intruder.....Joshua K. Paffel
Alcazar.....Scott Albert Bennett
Irma Vep.....???

PRODUCTION

Director.....Michelle Dayton
Stage Manager.....Michèle Brucker
Assistant Stage Manager.....Taylor Hartman Strpko
Set Design.....Landon Petersen
Set Construction.....Dillon Sheehan, Chad Abel, Taizo Murakami
Lighting Design.....Luke Delwiche
Electricians.....Jon Rasche, David Goggans
Sound Design.....Thomas Coyne
Photography.....Jon Miner
Costume Design.....Marie Freese
Poster Design.....Oh, My Stars! Productions/Scott Albert Bennett
Portrait Artist.....Margie Hartwig
Special Properties.....Emma Katz
Program Layout and Design.....Benjamin Barlow
Set Painting.....Landon Petersen, Lesemann Marshall, Rowan O'Hara
Backstage Dressers & Production Assistants.....Jenny Maahs,
Molly Vanderlin, Rowan O'Hara

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks to these individuals:

James Rowe, Jason Buskel, Lisa Weindler, Anne Marie Ponzio-Shirley, Colleen & Jim Murphy, Christian Neuhaus, Lindsay Claire Shimizu, Cheryl Cavallier, David Furumoto, Shannon Luckert, Amber Turner, Jane Schneider, Jennifer Kindschi Wiederholtz, Louise Stout, Ginger Swart, Brian Belz, Jim Chiolino, Joel Davidson, Mary Kaye Thibert, Kati Geszvain, Penny Maria Fletcher, Patricia Whitely, Michael Bruno, Rebecca Raether, Jan Levine Thal, Tom Coyne, Jenny Maahs, Steve Noll, Kathleen Tissot, Molly Vanderlin, Bob Moore, Matthew Reines, Amy Rowland, Gretchen Wheat, Patrick Stockland, Benjamin Barlow, Jason Compton, Dillon Sheehan, Chad Abel, Erin Baal, Matt Korda, Stephanie Monday, Julia Houck, Michele Brucker, Walker MacBeath, Kevin Urda, Donna Petersen, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Bobi Entrikin, Conor Koenig, and Moira Moobery

This performance is dedicated to Janis Williams. Community Theatre Actress. Educator. Mentor. Friend.

BUDGET

Royalties & Scripts	\$ 1,250.00
Bartell Rent	\$ 3,000.00
Rehearsal Space	\$ 200.00
Set Construction	\$ 1,900.00
Costumes & Wigs	\$ 900.00
Props	\$ 300.00
Lights	\$ 50.00
Sound	\$ 50.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 600.00
Publicity/Marketing	\$ 650.00
Total	\$ 8,900.00

Thank you for purchasing a Ticket!

It is important for us to be transparent and to share what your ticket means to us. It really helps to keep theatre alive and active in your community.

Other Financial Information

We pay a **\$5** ticketing fee for every ticket. This fee helps the Bartell and pays for the ticketing system. This means we receive **\$20** for every **\$25** ticket sold.

We would need to sell **445** full priced tickets to cover our budgeted costs with ticket sales alone.

That's an average of **64** sold full price tickets per show.

BIOGRAPHIES

Michelle Dayton (Director) is making a jump from her usual Props/Backstage work into the Director's role with Irma Vep. Michelle could not be more proud of the work the production team and cast have accomplished. Thank you to her fellow collaborators who lent a hand or advised along this journey. Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to all her family, coworkers, and friends who are seeing this crazy show.

Michèle Brucker (Stage Manager) This is Michèle's first production with Strollers Theatre, Ltd. and Oh, My Stars! Productions. Locally, Michèle was recently the Stage Manager for Madison Theatre Guild's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*. She has served as a Stage Manager and as a Production Coordinator with Madison Shakespeare Company and has served as a Stage Manager and as a Director with River Valley Players over the past 20 years. Michèle graduated from UCSD and has worked at the La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Rep, Dallas Theater Center, and the National Playwrights Conference. She has also stage-managed with the Pacific Symphony Orchestra & Art Garfunkel in Costa Mesa. During the pandemic, Michèle was a founding member of Terra Incognita Theatre Collective, an online-to-live theatre collective. Beware the Gibbous MOON!

Lesemann Marshall (Producer, Strollers Theatre) is so happy to be a part of this hilarious show! She holds a BA in Theatre & Dance with a concentration in Musical Theatre from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA (2012). For the past several years Lesemann has developed choreography for various vaudeville and cabaret-style showcases, as well as directed, produced and performed in several fringe theatre events in the DC/Virginia area. Lesemann relocated to Madison in 2019, and joined the Strollers Board as Treasurer in 2021.

Joshua K. Paffel (Jane, Lord Edgar, Others) After a couple of years away, Joshua is very happy and grateful to return to the Bartell. Theater has always offered a form of escape and this experience has definitely provided a nice respite from the "ordinary" of everyday life. Mild-mannered innkeeper by day, these characters provide Joshua with an outlet to scream at night. Surrounded by a production team of such talented and dedicated crew and under the supportive watch of creative leadership, Joshua has enjoyed his journey alongside the inspirational Scott into the twisted world of Hillcrest Manor. Sincere appreciation to all the aforementioned as well the mob of family members, gang of friends, and patience-tested boyfriend being the support necessary to confidently jump off the deep end into the land of make-believe.



MADISON
CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Holidays Collide Concert

Contemporary and Hip-Hop
Nightmare Before Christmas

Nov 18, 3 pm and 5 pm, Nov 19, 1 pm

Mitby Theater

3550 Anderson St, Madison, WI



Dance Festival for a Cause

Verona HS Theater

Performance, Community,
Character

No Cost for Audience

9 am-12 pm Master Classes

12 pm Networking Booths Open

1 pm Performances Start

madisoncontemporarydance.com



BIOGRAPHIES

Scott Albert Bennett (Nicodemus, Lady Enid, Others) - is happy to be realizing a long-time goal with this production. Wearing several hats and exposing multiple personalities, Scott is debuting Oh, My Stars! Productions with the generous help and trust of his Strollers cohorts. Scott has an MFA in Acting from UW-Madison and enjoys presenting and performing outlandish and completely ridiculous shows and characters. A humorless acting teacher once called Scott "glib", but nothing could be further from the truth. Scott is so very grateful for the amazing talent and contributions of ALL the artists who have joined him for this very silly journey to Mandacrest Manor. What an amazing team of people! Special thanks to Michelle D for the insight and congrats on her directing debut (!), Michele B for keeping us on track, Lesemann for friendship & holding everything together, and of course Landon for being such an amazing scenic designer, supporter, and absolute better half in this life. Beware the gibbous moon!

Oh, My Stars! Productions (Co-Producer) - is dedicated to the preservation of camp & drag performance styles in scripted theatrical productions in the Madison and surrounding areas. OMS!P has been in Scott's brain... milling around for over a decade. Traveling to Chicago and Milwaukee, Scott (and his better half) have attended shows by Hell In A Handbag Productions and other camp/parody troupes and thought "Why don't we have this in Madison? Someone should do this..." And then thought, "HEY! I should do this!" Scott has appeared as alter-ego Taffeta Darling (Young Frankenstein reference...), and has performed in campy shows

featuring drag & gender non-conformist casting for 15 years, including *Die Mommie Die!*, *Casa Valentina*, *Scrooge in Rouge*, *The Stops*, and others. And in 2022, directed a gender diverse cast in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The immediate future includes directing Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song* for StageQ in 2024, and hopefully resurrecting a favorite holiday show next season.

Luke Delwiche (Lighting Designer) has worked professionally in stage lighting for something like 25 years. He loves working on shows like the one you are about to see, as it allows for a lot of experimentation and creativity. In a space this intimate, helping to tell the story with light and color brings fun challenges. Standby...Spooky...GO!

Thomas Coyne (Sound Designer) Thanks to his lovely wife Betsy Wood, Tom has, since 2015, run the sound board and, occasionally, designed the sound program for 15 shows including the theatre companies of Left of Left Center, Madison Theatre Guild, Mercury Players Theatre, Stage Q, Strollers Theatre, OH, My Stars! Productions as well as OUT!Cast Theatre.

BIOGRAPHIES

Percy (unconscious Lady Enid) was orphaned on a street corner many years ago and rescued by a woman who gave him a home until his presence scared off her dog and husband. He found solace by living with a school drama director, and then receiving a featured role in the play *The Night of the Living Dead*, where he played a person about to become a zombie. Oh the tales he could tell! It is rumored that he has a long-lost identical twin sister somewhere in Spring Green, though that has never been proven. Percy thanks you all for coming to see the show!

Landon Petersen (Set Designer) is best known for being pressured by his partner to do set design. His past works include *The Mousetrap*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Casa Valentina* and more. He is thrilled to be doing his favorite genre - Victorian (with the bonus of creepy & campy). He thanks Director Michelle for this opportunity, the crew who he wishes to acknowledge the phenomenal amount of creative energy, skill & time that it took to make this happen, and his partner and co-star of the show, Scott Bennett, who he is thrilled to see finally publicly manifesting his multiple personalities.

Emma Katz (Specialty Props Designer) Would like to thank Casper, Midnight, and Vincent van Gogh for putting up with late meals during tech week. Enjoy the show!

Marie Freese (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be working on her first show with Strollers and Oh My Stars! Productions. She has acted, designed, and directed in Madison since 2017, in shows such as *As You Like It*, *Sloshed Shakespeare*, and *Henry IV* parts 1 & 2 for Madison Shakespeare Company,

Trial by Jury for Madison Savoyards, and organized and directed several workshops for Terra Incognita Theatre Collective. Marie is so grateful to be costume designing her first show since before the pandemic and would like to thank her loving parents, her supportive and amazing partner, Eric (who has definitely never locked her in a dungeon. . . yet) , her amazing production team, Strollers, and Oh My Stars! productions. Enjoy the show and avoid the werewolf bites. . . if you can . . .

Molly Vanderlin (Backstage Team) has been waiting years to undress Joshua Paffel and she finally got her chance!! Molly would like to thank this audience for supporting the Arts, and her Mom for always championing her performances

Dillon Sheehan (Set Construction) is a carpenter, painter, electrician, and scenic designer from Belmont, Massachusetts. They moved to Madison in late August of this year to join some of their theater friends in starting a new arts collective. When not constructing or painting some kind of scenery, you can find Dillon out on a hike, reading a Stephen King novel, or trying out a new recipe.

Jenny Maahs (Backstage Team) Jenny is excited to be working on the first show from Oh, My Stars! Productions. Favorite roles include Mrs. Peacock in *Clue* & Jackie O in *The House of Yes*. Happy spooky season, everyone!

Rowan O'Hara (Backstage Team) is proud to be working with Strollers Theatre again, and wants to thank their family for their support. Hope you enjoy the show!.

**ORSON
WELLES
PRESENTS**



**AN EVENING
WITH
NIXON**



A New Play
by
Finn Gallagher & Nathaniel Klein
Presented by
Oracular Studios

at the
Bartell Theatre

Nov 29, 30 & Dec 1
at 7:30pm

Dec 2
at 2pm

St. Luke's
Episcopal Church



Madison, Wisconsin
1947-2022

Thank you
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

4011 Major Ave,
Madison, WI 53716

<https://www.stlukesmadison.org/>

MAD'S THEATRE

Performing Arts Information in Madison, Wisconsin

madstheatre.com

2023-2024 SEASON

The Mystery of Irma Vep (A Penny Dreadful)

By Charles Ludlam

a Co-Production with Oh, My Stars! Productions

Directed by Michelle Dayton

October 19th - 28th, 2023

Mother Courage and Her Children

By Bertolt Brecht

Translated by David Hare

Directed by Julia Houck

February 9th-24th, 2024

Shakespeare in Love

By Lee Hall

Adapted from the screenplay by Tom Stoppard and Marc Norman

Directed by Sam D. White

May 3rd-18th, 2024

SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

Become a Subscriber! Subscriptions are a great way to support Strollers Theatre!

- Tickets to three Strollers shows at a great discount (~12% off!)
- 3 shows for \$66
- Easy ticket exchange privileges

Subscriptions are a great way to save money on your tickets and help support your community theatre by purchasing seats in advance. We rely on audience members and supporters to stage high-quality productions throughout the year.

Exchange your full price ticket today for a Season Subscription!

BARTELL THEATRE

STROMERS
THEATRE LTD.

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

BY BERTOLT BRECHT



TRANSLATED BY DAVID HARE

DIRECTED BY JULIA HOUCK

FEBRUARY 9TH - 24TH