

# GULFSHORE PLAYHOUSE

*Kristen Coury, CEO & Producing Artistic Director*

## PERFORMANCE GUIDE TO



### WITH

ROSALIE BURKE

ERIN BURNISTON

LILY KREN

GRACE ELLIS SOLOMON

### Scenic Designer

KRISTEN MARTINO

### Costume Designer

HUNTER KACZOROWSKI

### Lighting Designer

DALTON HAMILTON

### Sound Designer

DAMIEN FIGUERAS

### Assistant Stage Manager

MOLLY CONKLIN

### Production Stage Manager

DANNY KUENZEL

### Music Director

TREVOR M. PIERCE

### Director of Production

RAY INKEL

### COO & Managing Director

JOEL MARKUS

### CEO & Producing Artistic Director

KRISTEN COURY

### Directed and choreographed by

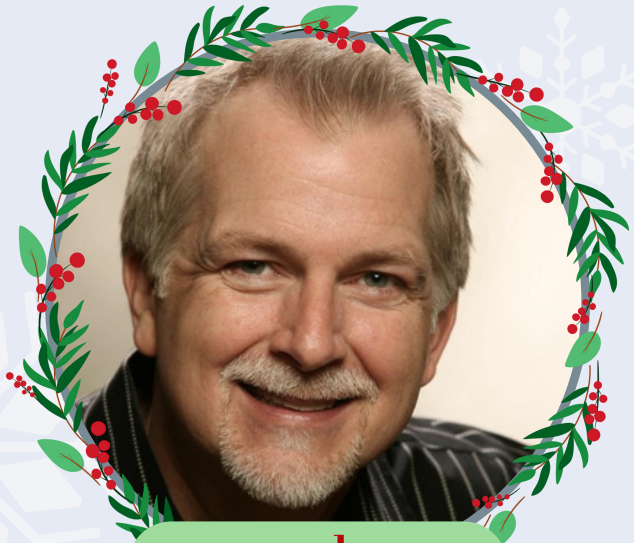
DANN DUNN

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT.....	1
MEET THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES.....	2
THE WONDERETTES SERIES.....	3
WONDERETTES RE-IMAGINED.....	4
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS.....	5
MAKE YOUR OWN SNOWFLAKES.....	6
FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE.....	7
GULFSHORE PLAYHOUSE'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY FILMS.....	8
GULFSHORE PLAYHOUSE'S FAVORITE HOLIDAY ALBUMS.....	9

# meet the playwright

Roger Bean is an American playwright and director. He is known for his jukebox musicals, most notably his *Marvelous Wonderettes* series. He created four musicals following the stories of the *Wonderettes*, the most popular of which were *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and *Winter Wonderettes*. *The Marvelous*



roger bean

*Wonderettes* is the first musical in the *Wonderettes* series (for more information, see pages 3-4). It has been nominated for and won several awards, including a Los Angeles Ovation Awards in 2007. Bean's musicals have been performed across the country at professional and community theatres alike, in addition to being popular Off-Broadway. Roger Bean's beloved jukebox musicals have had over 2,000 unique productions across the United States. In addition to his work as a director and playwright, Bean and his production company, Roger Bean Productions, have co-produced several successful shows on Broadway, including *Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike*, *Annie*, and *A Beautiful Noise*.



# meet the marvelous wonderettes

*Character Renderings by Hunter Kaczorowski*



betty jean

Betty Jean is the self-anointed clown of the group, always vying for attention from her best friend Cindy Lou. She has worked at Harper's Hardware since High School and is now in Corporate Sales, a fact she's very proud of. After a few tumultuous years, she married her high-school boyfriend Johnny, who also used to work at Harper's Hardware. We learn that they have recently separated for good. She has a strength that belies her goofiness. This strength is what gives her empathy; she has no 'poor me' in her attitude.



cindy lou

Cindy Lou is the 'bad girl' of the group, now reformed (to a point). She is sexy with a dry and sassy wit, and has a miles-high jet-black beehive. She has a tattoo on her right upper arm that reads "Billy," her boyfriend who passed away a few years back (from *The Marvelous Wonderettes*). Until that time it seemed that things always went her way, making Betty Jean crazy. She has an incredible soft side and inner depth.



missy

Always the over-achiever of the group, Missy has now blossomed into a full-fledged adult over-achiever. She is an elementary school teacher, and has recently returned from her honeymoon with her new husband Bill, an audience member. She controls the evening's events, even when Betty Jean is in charge: Missy is the one to cover for mistakes, and is always ready to jump in and save the day. She has been best friends with Suzy since elementary school.



SUZU

Suzy is happy-go-lucky, a little giddy, a little silly, and just a little pregnant. She's always willing to go along with anyone and anything, and she seems to giggle at just about anything. She finds great pleasure in everything she does; the sillier it is, the more fun she finds it. Her pregnancy has brought out her attention-deficit disorder, and she reverts to her childhood on the drop of a dime. She is married to Ritchie, her high-school sweetheart, who is running the lights for the performance. Her best friend is Missy.

# the wonderettes series

## the marvelous wonderettes

The first musical in the Wonderettes series. This musical introduces the Marvelous Wonderettes as they prepare for their 1958 high school prom. Act 2 shows them 10 years later at their high school reunion. This show was an off-Broadway hit, with over 1000 performances, and features 50s and 60s classics.

The first sequel to *The Marvelous Wonderettes* features the girls as they perform at their favorite teacher's retirement party. Act 2 shows them at their 20th high school reunion, as they bond over where life has taken each of them. Unlike the earlier show, this musical features songs from the 60s and 70s.

## the marvelous wonderettes: dream on

## the marvelous wonderettes: caps and gowns

In this sequel, the *Wonderettes* meet up in 1958 to celebrate their high school graduation. They sing about the fun times they've had and their own bright futures. Act 2 sends us 10 years in the future to Missy's wedding, where she marries the girls' high school choir teacher.

The Wonderettes are back to celebrate the holidays at their local hardware store. Each of them has moved on since their high school days, but their friendship is still strong. Join us at Gulfshore Playhouse to see the girls sing, dance, and save Christmas.

## the winter wonderettes

# wonderettes re-imagined

The most recent installment of the *Wonderettes* franchise premiered in the summer of 2023. In this re-imagining of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, entitled *Drag Wonderettes*, the friends are played by four drag queens. The show premiered in May 2023 at Stages theatre in Houston, Texas. When describing his production in an interview with OutSmart Magazine, the director Mitchell Greco describes the reimagining as “a show within a show.”



“The performers in *Drag Wonderettes* portray drag artists who are part of ‘The House of Amandas.’ The queens find themselves at the local Elks Lodge putting on their own production of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. There are two storylines going on at the same time. There’s the actual plot of *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, and then there’s the behind-the-scenes subplot of the House of Amandas.” - Director Mitchell Greco

Greco worked directly with the original *Wonderettes* creator Roger Bean to create this show. Bean approached Stages theatre and mentioned that he had received several requests from performers and directors who wished to perform *The Marvelous Wonderettes* in drag. Bean wanted to ensure that the elements of drag used in these productions were thoughtful and intentional, which led to Bean and Greco working together to craft *Drag Wonderettes*. Their hope was to create a show that kept the same themes, mood, and songs of the original, but that added a new twist and celebrated the artform of drag. The show was performed in repertory with another show involving drag, *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. Ultimately, this latest production in the *Wonderettes* franchise is a loving ode to the original, complete with fun, friendship, and beautiful four-part harmonies.

# home for the holidays

Like many heartwarming holiday movies, WW centers around family, friends, and community. It explores themes of nostalgia and gratitude using classic Christmas tunes and recollection of fond memories. The quartet of the *Marvelous Wonderettes* have been singing together since high school, and ten years later they are still involved in each others' lives.

**Who do you look forward to seeing this holiday season? Do you have any favorite holiday traditions or memories with loved ones?**

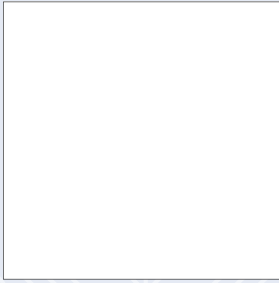


*Scenic Design and Rendering by Kristen Martino*

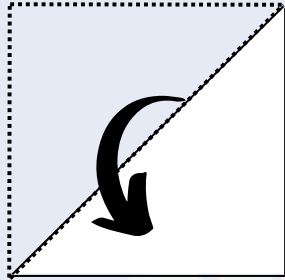
*Winter Wonderettes* is set in 1968 in “Springfield, USA,” at a small hardware store. The setting is intentionally left vague to help the audience relate to the characters and their situations. The hardware store and the friends that are within it could be found in any town. Scenic designer Kristen Martino drew inspiration for the *Wonderettes* set from smalltown 1950s storefronts. The set feels quaint, nostalgic, and familiar. The girls are home for the holidays, and the audience should feel that way too. This mood, along with a few surprise moments of on stage “theatre magic” help to make *Winter Wonderettes* a staple of the holiday season.

# make your own snowflakes!

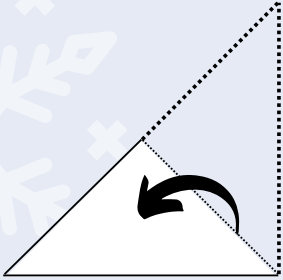
1



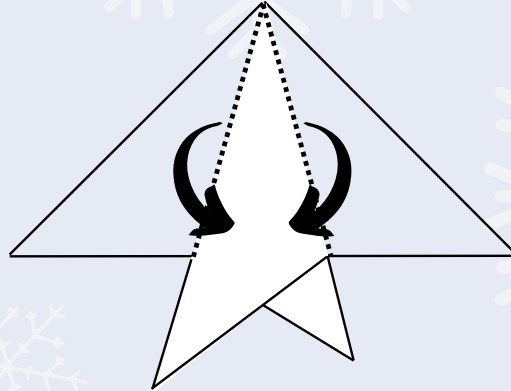
2



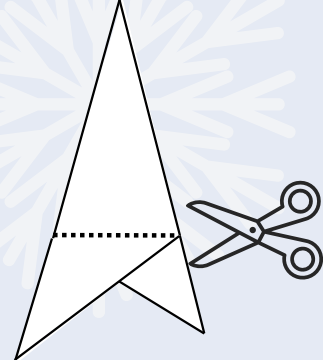
3



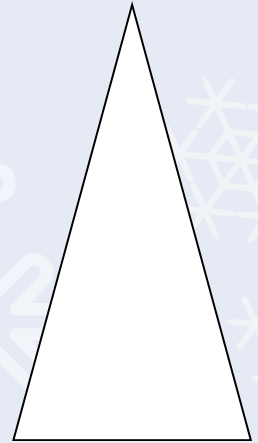
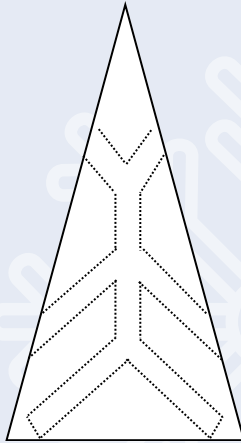
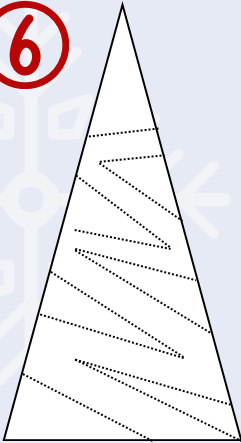
4



5



6



Missing the snow here in Southwest Florida? Follow these directions to make your own paper snowflakes! Start with a square piece of paper, make these folds, then cut out your pattern. You can follow one of the patterns we provided or use the space below to design your own!



# frozen hot chocolate

If you're looking to beat the heat this holiday season, try this twist on a seasonal favorite! This recipe is simple and can be endlessly adapted. It only takes a few ingredients, but feel free to add or change things as you see fit. Fun additions like peppermint extract or caramel can help you put your own spin on this sweet treat.

## ingredients

- 5 ounces chocolate, roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1-1/2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups whole milk
- 4 cups ice

## step 1: mix and melt

Combine the chocolate, cocoa powder, powdered sugar, and one cup of the milk in a small pot. Cook over medium heat and stir until the chocolate is melted. Make sure nothing burns or boils over.

## step 2: blend

Transfer the chocolate mixture to a blender and blend with the rest of the milk, vanilla extract, and ice. Blend until smooth.

## step 3: serve

Serve and enjoy!

# gulfshore playhouse's favorite holiday films

The education team at Gulfshore Playhouse polled the theatre's staff to find out their all-time favorite holiday films and music. Here are their answers. Did your favorite make the cut?

*Click on each image to learn more!*

**Home Alone**  
1990



**White Christmas**  
1954



**It's a Wonderful Life**  
1946



**Klaus**  
2019



**The Mistle-tones**  
2012



★ Director Dann Dunn's Pick! ★

**Love Actually**  
2003



# gulfshore playhouse's favorite holiday albums

The education team at Gulfshore Playhouse polled the theatre's staff to find out their all-time favorite holiday films and music. Here are their answers. Did your favorite make the cut?

*Click on each image to learn more!*

Mariah Carey  
*Merry Christmas*



Frank Sinatra  
*Christmas Songs*



Michael Bublé  
*Christmas*



Whitney Houston  
*One Wish*



She & Him  
*A Very She & Him Christmas*



Duke Ellington  
*The Nutcracker Suite*

