AMERICAN BARD THEATER COMPANY

presents

THE SWEET SPOT

by **ALICE JANKELL**

directed by **PAGE CLEMENTS**



59E59

THEATER C

JANUARY 11 – 27

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presents

THE SWEET SPOT

by **ALICE JANKELL**

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PAGE CLEMENTS

CAST

in Order of Appearance

Vita	**NANCY NICHOLS***
Jerry	**JOEL LEFFERT***
Young Jerry	**GABRIEL RYSDAHL**
Young Vita	**TASHA MILKMAN**

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright	**ALICE JANKELL**
Director	**PAGE CLEMENTS**
Scenic Design	**ROBERT DUTIEL**
Costume Design	**DEBBI HOBSON**
Lighting Design	**XOTCHIL MUSSER**
Sound Design	**JEANNE TRAVIS**
Prop Design	**SETH MAZLIN**
Fight and Intimacy Director	**MARCUS WATSON**
Production Stage Manager	**KIMBERLY WADSWORTH**
Wardrobe/Stagehand	**SIERRA REIN**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Co-Producing Artistic Director	**CHERI WICKS**
Co-Producing Artistic Director	**ERIN GILBRETH**
ASM/Board Operator	**LEE MONAHAN**
Assistant Lighting Designer	**JUNIPER STUART**

Run time: **90 minutes with no intermission**



Painting: © James Coates

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

JOEL LEFFERT

(Jerry)



Joel spent most of the last four years with ***Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*** in San Francisco, using the pandemic break to develop his one-man ***Christmas Carol*** at Portland Stage in Maine. Life in the theater has given him the joy of being Albert Einstein, Sherlock Holmes, John Barrymore, Sigmund Freud, Otto Frank, Shylock, Salieri, King Lear, and many more. Broadway credits: world premiere of Tennessee Williams' ***Not About Nightingales*** (also London's Royal National Theatre), and understudying Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellen in ***Waiting for Godot/ No Man's Land.*** Recent TV/Film: *Jessica Jones, The Enemy Within, Russian Doll,* and *Paint.*

www.joelleffert.com

TASHA MILKMAN

(Young Vita)

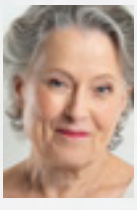


Tasha is an actor, theater-maker, and educator originally from Denver, Colorado. Select performance credits include: ***Henry IV*** (Shakespeare's Globe), ***Sincerity Forever*** (The Flea), ***TAKE SHAPE*** (BKBX), ***Two Noble Kinsmen*** (Philadelphia Shakespeare), ***Above Below*** (HERE Arts). Proud founding member of Broken Box Mime Theater. MFA: Rutgers.

www.tashamilkman.com

NANCY NICHOLS

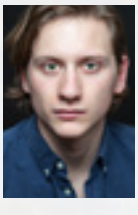
(Vita)



NYC: Molnar's ***Still Life*** (Threshold); Gertrude - ***Hamlet***, Nurse - ***Romeo & Juliet,*** Maria - ***Twelfth Night***, Countess - ***All's Well*** (Hip to Hip Shakespeare); Eileen - ***The Straw***, Queen Elizabeth - ***Richard III*** (Salamander Rep); ***Relatively Speaking*** (York Theatre); John Guare's ***Lydie Breeze.*** Regional: ***As You Like It, Tom Jones, Peer Gynt, A Christmas Carol*** (Trinity Rep); *Life Among the Lowly* (PBS); ***Lady Audley's Secret, Perfect Gentleman*** (Missouri Rep); ***All My Sons*** (Alaska Rep); ***Noises Off, Dial M*** (River Rep). Film: Rob Reiner's *NORTH*. This is Nancy's 28th stage appearance with Joel Leffert. For Nick & Maggie.

GABRIEL RYSDAHL

(Young Jerry)



Having graduated from Terry Knickerbocker Studio June of 2021, Gabriel has since appeared in numerous festival winning short and feature films and the Off Broadway premiere of ***This G*d Damn House***. He is excited to make his debut at 59E59 Theaters.



ALICE JANKELL

(Playwright)

Alice Jankell helped create and develop new Broadway musicals for Disney. She was associate artistic director of Williamstown Theatre Festival, and creative director of F.A.B. Women@The Barrow Group. She's worked around the country in theater, film, and television. A collection of her plays has just been published by Leicester Bay Theatricals. Recent directing work includes Off Broadway's ***An Enchanted April*** and Craig Lucas' brand new play, ***More Beautiful***. Member: The Actors Studio PDW, National Musical Theatre Workshop, New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect, and co-founder of Putnam Theatre Alliance. AEA/SAG-AFTRA/Dramatist Guild.

www.alicejankell.com

PAGE CLEMENTS

(Director)

Page returns to The American Bard Theater Co., having directed the staged reading of ***The Sweet Spot*** last October. Directing credits include ***Blood and Water*** by Rachel Brill, Cynthia Shaw's ***Velvet Determination***, Lucy Avery Brooke's ***Ekphrasis***, *and* one-act plays at the T. Schreiber Shorts and New Works Festivals. She is a vocal, dialect, and Shakespeare instructor at the T. Schreiber Studio. Page's acting credits include over sixty productions in many NYC and regional theaters. She recently appeared in the film, *Art Thief*, premiering last June at the Provincetown International Film Festival and Robin Goldfin's ***Flawless*** at the Theatre for the New City last November. She is a member of AEA.

www.pageclements.com

ROBERT DUTIEL

(Scenic Designer)

Robert is an associate professor of Theater Arts at Marymount Manhattan College. In addition to teaching scenic design and technical production courses, he is also the technical director for the Theater Program and the Theresa Lang Theater at MMC. While at Marymount, he has been the technical director for over 70 productions and the scenic designer for over 20 shows, most recently productions of ***The Balcony*** by Jean Genet, and ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play*** by Anne Washburn. In addition to his work in higher education, Rob has designed scenery for several seasons of the Hip-to-Hip Shakespeare company, ***Red*** by John Logan at the Schoolhouse Theater, and is currently a scenic consultant and creative team member of the Amanda Selwyn Dance Company.

DEBBI HOBSON

(Costume Designer)

Debbi Hobson has been a costume designer in theater and film for over 20 years. Off Broadway credits include ***A Letter to Harvey Milk*** (dir. Evan Pappas), ***A Will to Live*** (dir. Rick Hamilton), ***Luft Gangster*** (dir. Austin Pendleton), ***What Passes for Comedy*** (dir. Rick Hamilton), ***Echoes in the Garden*** (dir. Aimee Todoroff). Regional credits include ***A Christmas Story*** (dir. Mark Martino), ***Holiday Inn*** (dir. David Grindrod), ***Guys and Dolls*** (dir. Evan Pappas). She is also a resident artist with Phoenix Theatre Ensemble where she designed ***Wind in the Willows***, ***Crime and Punishment***, and ***Drinks with Dead Poets*** for this season's 2023 Phoenix Festival. In 2015 she was awarded the NYIT Outstanding Costume Design award for Unmentionables (dir. Monserrat Mendez).

JEANNE TRAVIS

(Sound Designer)

Jeanne is a sound designer/composer/flutist for film and theater based in New York City. Film: *White Knuckle* (Front Wheel), *Kris The Cat* (2022 LA Film Fest Finalist). With American Bard: ***Echoes in the Garden*** (2020-2021), ***King Lear***, ***Pericles***, ***Prince of Tyre***, ***Measure for Measure.*** More theater: ***The Magazine*** (Carnival Girls), Mac Roger's ***The Honeycomb Trilogy***, ***Honor Students*** (2019 NYITA Nom), ***The City That Cried Wolf*** (2016 NYITA Nom), ***The Temple, or Lebensraum*** (2015 NYITA Win), ***The Desk Set*** (2010 NYITA Nom). Proud member of United Scenic Artists Local USA 829.

SETH MAZLIN

(Props Designer)

Seth is a theatrical scenic and props designer in New York City. They recently graduated from Marymount Manhattan College with a degree in Scenic Design. Recent credits at Marymount Manhattan College include ***The SpongeBob Musical*** (props designer), ***The Caucasian Chalk Circle*** (co-props designer), ***Uncle Vanya*** (props designer), and ***Head Over Heels*** (scenic designer). They have also had the pleasure of being a scenic painter for ***Everything About Camp (almost)*** at TADA! Youth Theatre and ***All The Devils Are Here*** at the DR2 Theatre.

www.theysoup.com

XOTCHIL MUSSER

(Lighting Design) (they/she)

Xotchil is a multi-skilled human who enjoys designing for theater, dance, installations, and other forms of visual + interactive art. As a child, they lived on an island south of Miami; now they live in NYC where they examine the exploration of how theater can be applied to community health and healing. Xotchil is an advocate for antiracist theater and strives to build a community in the industry based on equitable practices and altruism.

www.xotchil.com

MARCUS WATSON

(Fight Director/Intimacy Director) (he/him)

Marcus is a fight director, intimacy coordinator, intimacy director, actor, movement specialist, and teaching artist working in NYC. His violence and intimacy work has been seen on and Off Broadway, as well as on Netflix, HBO, Peacock, Hulu, Showtime, and others. Marcus pulls techniques from his extensive background in physical storytelling to ensure that the story being told is clear, safe, and intentional. He is honored to be a part of the creative team of ***The Sweet Spot***.

www.IDCProfessionals.com

KIMBERLY WADSWORTH

(Stage Manager)

Kimberly thought she'd retired from theater 10 years ago but was apparently mistaken. Notable past shows: ***Fool For Love*** (29th Street Rep), ***Ping Pong Diplomacy*** and ***American Ma(u)l*** (Reverie Productions), ***Mine Eyes*** (NY Fringe Festival); and ***The Easiest Way***, ***Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh***, ***The Woman***, ***What Happened to Jones***, ***Salem***, ***The New York Idea***, ***The Show-Off***, ***Children's Crusader***, ***Metamora***, ***The Scarecrow***, ***The Truth***, and ***The Devil and Tom Walker*** (Metropolitan Playhouse). She has also written two short plays (***Triangles Everywhere*** and ***Xingu***) and blogs about classic film at www.moviecrashcourse.com.

LEE MONAHAN

(Board Operator) (he/him)

Lee is a theater maker with a focus in stage management, based in New York City. He started working in 2018 and has had the pleasure of working for companies such as American Bard, The 24 Hour Plays, Roundabout Theatre Company, Mama! Foundation for the Arts, and Afterwork Theatre Company. He is very thankful for the opportunity to work with American Bard again.

SIERRA REIN

(Wardrobe Stagehand)

Sierra is a California native with established roots in New York City soil. TV/Film: *Fleishman is in Trouble* (FX/Hulu), *The Maples* (Louisville's International Festival of Film 2023). Theater: ***White Christmas*** (Ogunquit Playhouse), ***Master Class*** (Odyssey Theater), and ***City of Angels*** (Goodspeed Opera Co.). Winner of 2018 MAC and Bistro Awards for her debut show, ***Running in Place***. She sings with vocal group Marquee Five and in the "Sondheim Unplugged" series live and in recorded forms ("Volume III" currently nominated for a 2024 Grammy Award). She edits for the "Horror Movie Survival Guide" podcast. Reps: Dulcina Eisen Associates/The Talent Express Management.

www.sierrarein.com

JUNIPER STUART

(Assistant Lighting Designer) (she/they)

Juniper is an up & coming lighting/video designer. Graduating from SUNY Fredonia in May 2023 with a BFA in Theatrical Production & Design, focusing in Lighting Design. She is excited to be debuting Off Broadway as an assistant lighting designer. Her regional work includes Hillman Opera (LD) and work at Chautauqua Opera. She also works as a follow spot at the Met Opera (Florencia, X, Boheme).

junipersstuart.wixsite.com/jstuart

THE SWEET SPOT PRODUCERS

Co-Producing Artistic Directors: **Erin Gilbreth & Cheri Wicks**

ABTC Board: **John H. Shaw III, Harry Dreizen, Ann Marie Carr, Ross Hewitt, Erin Gilbreth, and Cheri Wicks**

AMERICAN BARD THEATER COMPANY

American Bard Theater Company (ABTC) is a New York based non-profit organization established in 2009. Their mission is to excavate the language of playwrights and create thought-provoking, self-reflective productions that illuminate issues relevant to underrepresented voices. They work to develop their artists' skills by investing in projects that nurture and challenge them. The Co-Producing Artistic Directors, Cheri Wicks and Erin Gilbreth, were both founding members of the company, and began their current leadership positions together in 2017. Their specific interest is in examining power structures and personal relationships in America, basing their creative choices in the text provided by American playwrights.

THE SWEET SPOT

First workshopped during American Bard Theater Company's annual Corner Stone Reading Series in November 2022, Alice Jankell's play will receive its world premiere at 59E59 Theaters. We're thrilled to bring ***The Sweet Spot*** to a broader audience through the generosity of our donors and in collaboration with 59E59 Theaters.

SPECIAL THANKS

Actors' Equity Association, Transcend Streaming, The Chain Theatre (Christina Perry and Kirk Gostkowski), Ron Cohen, Gina Verdi, Manhattan Marymount College, Ripley Greer Studios, Face It Foto (Basil Rodericks)

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— POET —

Betsy Bond, Erin & Fred Gilbreth, Carolyn & Stephen Stott

— BARD —

Ann Marie Carr, Thaddeus Kopacki, John Shaw & Cheri Wicks

CURATOR'S NOTE



This is the American Bard Theater Company's first production here and we hope it is just the beginning of an ongoing collaboration. Their mission is to excavate the language of playwrights and create thought-provoking, self-reflective productions that illuminate issues relevant to underrepresented voices. In keeping with that vision, Alice Jankell's charming new play was inspired by her own grandmother's habit of ending each day by setting the table for breakfast the next morning.

I was delighted to program a show about love and intimacy that focuses beyond the romantic growing pains of twenty-somethings to a couple who have come to know each other completely and have traveled together along life's long and ever winding road.

Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director,
59E59 Theaters

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

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JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor/Bartender
DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
MARGOT GAGE Box Office Supervisor
LEAH GABRIEL Box Office Supervisor
LUCY KELLY Box Office Associate/Front Desk
ELLIOT JACOBS Box Office Associate/Front Desk
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Box Office Associate/Usher
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ANT PRIOLA Front of House Assistant
JOEY PITTORINO Front of House Assistant
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
BIONDYS DURAN-MENDOZA Usher
BRANDON BAUTISTA Usher
CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher
ERIC BERKELEY Usher
HANS MUEH Usher
ISRAEL ORENGO Usher
ITAI ADAM VAGNER Usher
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NEXT IN THEATER C **FEBRUARY 8 – MARCH 3**



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

59E59 Theaters reside on the traditional homelands of the Lenni-Lenape People on the Lenape Island of Mannahatta. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of the land who were forcefully removed during colonization resulting in erased and excluded peoples and culture. We are grateful for the opportunity to work on the land and honor their elders, past and present alongside future generations for their stewardship and continuing relationship with their territory.

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