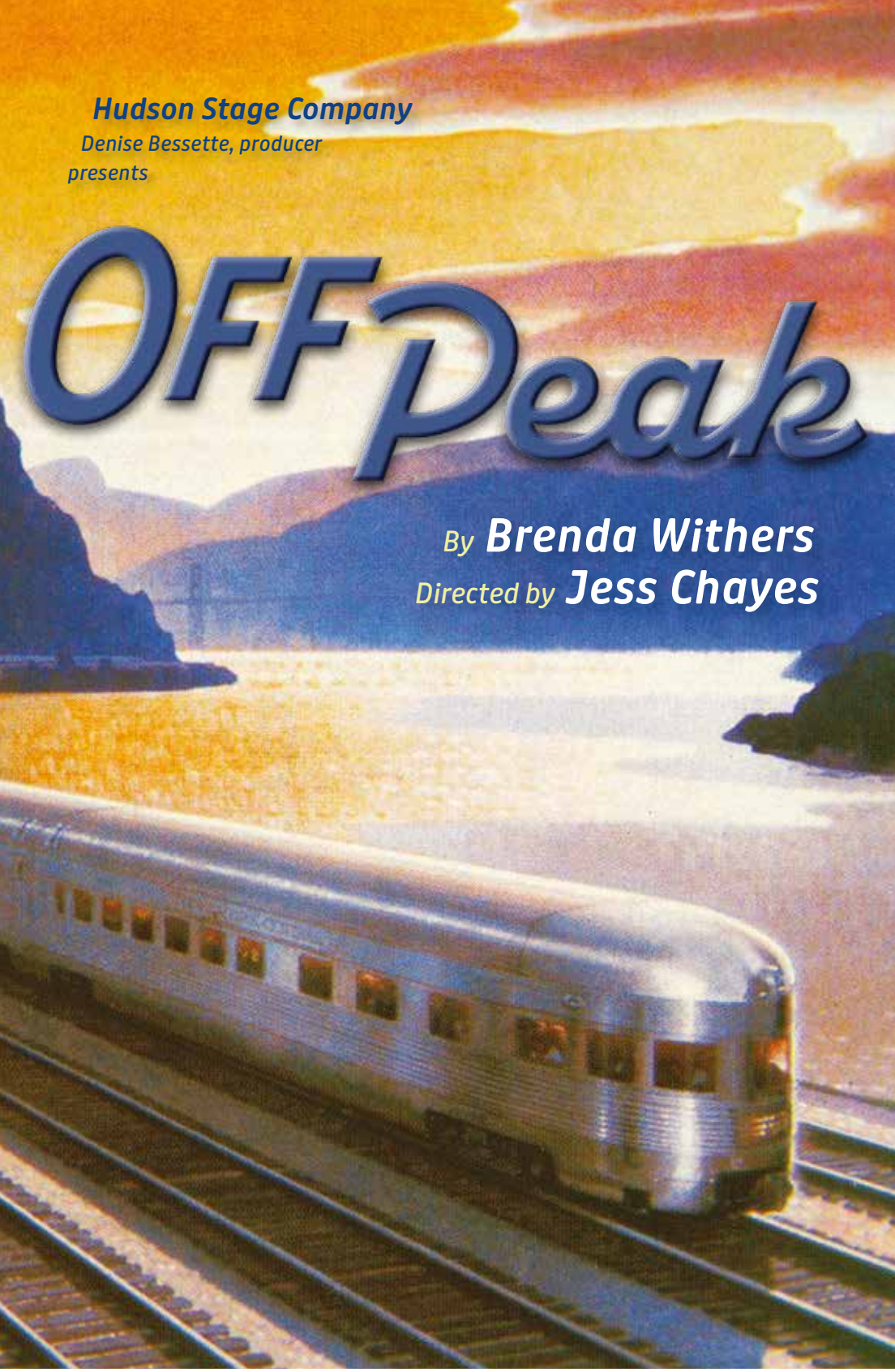


59 E 59

THEATER B

NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 23

Hudson Stage Company

Denise Bessette, producer

presents

OFF Peak

By **BRENDA WITHERS**

Directed by **JESS CHAYES**†

Featuring

KURT RHOADS* *and* **NANCE WILLIAMSON***

with **DOUG BALLARD***

Set Design **SASHA SCHWARTZ**

Lighting Design **PAUL VAILLANCOURT**

Costume Design **LESLIE BERNSTEIN**ß

Sound Design **TOJO RASEDOARA**

Production Stage Manager **ANN BARKIN***

Assistant Stage Manager **BURKETT HORRIGAN***

Executive Producer **DENISE BESSETTE**

Associate Producer **ANNA GIACALONE**

Wardrobe Supervisor & Covid Safety Officer **CHRISTINE CHEN**

Graphic Designer **CELIE FITZGERALD**

Sound Engineer **NATHANAEL BROWN**

Scenic Shop **HILLBOLIC ARTS & CARPENTRY**

Photographer **EMMANUEL FAURE**

Production Electricians **JOHN ANSELMO and DAN MULLINS**

Assistant Production Electrician **CHRIS ROBINSON**

Foliage **AMERICAN FOLIAGE AND DESIGN GROUP**

Sound Equipment **BOULEVARD CARROLL**

— *Hudson Stage Company Staff* —

Business Manager **AGNES LEYDEN**

Webmaster **TIM THAYER**, www.eyebuzz.com

Company Accountant **SUSAN HOLDEN**

— *Running Time: 75 minutes with no intermission* —

Originally produced by Denise Bessette and Olivia Sklar for Hudson Stage Company at Whippoorwill Theatre, North Castle Public Library, Armonk, NY

*Members of Actors' Equity Association.

†Member of Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

ßMember of Local USA 829.

NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The commission for *Off Peak* came with a few guideposts: create a piece that contained some beauty, some humor, and some hope — easier said than done in a world reeling from a global pandemic and social unrest. What emerged was a quiet comedy, a play that sheds light on our current moment without denying its murky imperfections. A kindhearted look at how we make amends (and how we manage to accept them), *Off Peak* is an invitation to shift perspective while we share a common space. We're grateful you're along for the ride.

— Brenda Withers

KURT RHOADS

(Martin)



Off Peak is Kurt's 3rd show with HSC, having previously been seen in ***A Doll's House, Part 2*** and ***Love Song***. This past summer, Kurt and Nance played the title characters in ***Romeo and Juliet*** at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival. Other pandemic-era shows: ***The Tempest*** (HVSF), ***Red*** (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina), ***Twelfth Night*** (Two River Theatre Co). Broadway: ***Julius Caesar***. Off Broadway: ***Fashions For Men*** (Mint Theatre); ***Othello, The Good Natur'd Man*** (Pearl Theatre); ***American Absurdum*** (Present Company). Regional: ***Sweat, Long Day's Journey Into Night*** (Everyman Theatre); ***Measure for Measure, Antony and Cleopatra, Julius Caesar, Richard III*** (Shakespeare Theatre); ***How I Learned to Drive, Agamemnon And His Daughters*** (Arena Stage); ***Book of Will*** (Denver Center); ***King Charles III, Titus Andronicus*** (Clarence Brown Theatre); ***A Man for All Seasons*** (Arvada Center); ***Arcadia*** (Playmakers Rep), ***To Kill A Mockingbird*** (Alabama Shakespeare Festival); ***Fiction, Dinner With Friends*** (Old Globe). 8 seasons at Dallas Theatre Center. 24 seasons performing and directing at HVSF: ***Much Ado About Nothing, An Iliad, Measure for Measure, Othello, Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth, Tartuffe, Richard II. Off Peak*** marks the 70th play with his wife, Nance Williamson.

NANCE WILLIAMSON

(Sarita)



Nance Williamson is thrilled to ride the rails again with Kurt in ***Off Peak*** having performed in the world premiere production at Hudson Stage. Nance has been a professional actress for thirty-eight years performing in theater, television, and film. Most recently, she can be seen in the movie *The Hating Game*. On TV, Nance can be seen in *The Walking Dead: World Beyond, The Good Wife,* and all the *Law and Orders*. On Broadway, Nance played in ***Cyrano, Romeo and Juliet, Henry IV, Broken Glass.*** Off Broadway, Nance has performed in ***Cyrano, Pride and Prejudice, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Marvin's Room, Two Gentlemen of Verona*** for the New York Shakespeare Festival; ***An Empty Plate at the Cafe du Grand Boeuf***, and ***The Seagull*** among others. Locally, Nance and her husband, Kurt Rhoads, have been members of the Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival for over 20 summer seasons where her favorite roles include Martha Washington in ***The Most Lamentably Spectacular Trial of Miz Martha Washington***, Tamora in ***Titus Andronicus***, Kate in ***The Taming of The Shrew***, Cleopatra in ***Antony and Cleopatra***, Lady M, The Nurse, Mrs. Malaprop and, most recently, Juliet. This is the 70th production Nance and Kurt have performed together.

DOUG BALLARD

(Voice of Conductor)

Doug's film roles include *The Dark Knight, The Big I Am, The Agency, The Descent II, Fearless, Free Willy 2, Sunset Grill,* and *The Gift*. TV series regulars on *Oh Baby* for Lifetime, *Past Imperfect* for ABC, and *Lucky* for FOX. Guest appearances on *Seinfeld, The O.C., The Practice, West Wing, Will & Grace, Northern Exposure, Larry Sanders, Malcolm in the Middle,* and many others. Theatrical credits include Prospero in ***The Tempest*** (Dallas Shakespeare), ***Actor Lawyer*** (Goodspeed), ***God Of Carnage*** (Hudson Stage), ***Bait and Switch*** (The Westbank), ***Christmas Carol*** (Birmingham Theatre), and ***The Romantics*** (NYTE). As a Musical Theatre Guild member Doug performed in ***The Baker's Wife, Saturday Night, Take Me Along,*** and ***Empire***. As an Interact Theatre Company member, he's had roles in ***Counsellor-At-Law*** with John Rubinstein, ***And A Nightingale Sang, Manège A Trois Molière, Into The Woods,*** and ***Splitsville*** by Richard Dresser.

JESS CHAYES

(Director)

Jess Chayes was an inaugural member of the BOLD Theater Women's Leadership Circle at Northern Stage and is a founding co-artistic director of The Assembly. Recent productions include: ***The Antelope Party*** (Dutch Kills), ***Jane Anger*** (Jen Campos Productions), ***Jordan*** and ***Venus Rising*** (Northern Stage), as well as new work development with the New Group, Playwrights Horizons, and Clubbed Thumb. Jess is a NYTW Usual Suspect and a co-founder of the New Georges Jam. Recipient of the Lucille Lortel Award from the League of Professional Theatre Women and the Collaboration Award from the Women in the Arts & Media Coalition.

www.jesschayes.com

BRENDA WITHERS

(Playwright)

Brenda Withers is a writer, actor, and co-founder of the Harbor Stage Company. She's so happy to reunite with frequent collaborators Hudson Stage ***(Almost, Maine***; ***Other Desert Cities***) and Jess Chayes, who directed the premieres of her plays ***Jordan*** and ***The Lodger*** (Northern Stage). Her work (***The Ding Dongs, Northside Hollow, Matt & Ben***) has been produced at places like Portland Stage (Clauder Prize), Two River, Urbanite Theatre, and Amphibian Stage. Recent onstage credits include the Guthrie, A.R.T, and McCarter Theatre. She's a Huntington Playwriting Fellow, a graduate of Dartmouth College, and a member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop.

ANN BARKIN

(she/her, Production Stage Manager)

Ann Barkin is thrilled to be returning to ***Off Peak*** with this wonderful team! Off Broadway: ***Mornings at Seven*** (Theatre at St. Clement's), ***Sistas*** (St. Luke's), ***MsTrial*** (New World Stages), ***This One's for the Girls*** (St. Luke's), ***Education*** (59E59), and ***The Strangest*** (NYTW, 4th Street Theatre). Other shows she has done with Hudson Stage Company include ***The October Storm*** and ***A Doll's House, Part 2***. She has also worked regionally on a number of productions and is currently a stage manager for Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center.

LESLIE BERNSTEIN

(Costume Designer)

Previous HSC designs: ***The October Storm***, ***Proof, 4000 Miles, Kunstler, Stones In His Pockets.*** Off Broadway: ***Little Rock*** (Sheen Center), ***Wringer*** (City Center II), ***Band Of Angels*** (Mint Theater); ***Interstellar Cinderella, This is Sadie*** (Theater Row). Regional: ***Godspell*** (Syracuse Stage), ***Master Harold and the Boys*** (Portland Stage), ***Intimate Apparel*** (Arkansas Rep). Opera: ***La Bohème*** (Ash Lawn), ***The Magic Flute*** (Arizona Opera). Broadway, Associate CD: ***Disgraced*** (Lyceum Theatre), ***Domesticated*** (LCT), ***WIT*** (MTC). Film, CD: *The Opponent.* Film/TV, ACD: *The Private Lives of Pippa Lee, Hateship Loveship, Law & Order, Under the Dome, Unforgettable, Benjamin Franklin, All My Children.*

www.lsbernstein.com

TOJO RASEDOARA

(Sound Designer)

Tojo Rasedoara is currently working on his MFA at the David Geffen School of Drama at Yale. His recent works include: ***Ghosts*** (Yale Theater), the world premiere of ***Off Peak*** (Hudson Stage), ***Sandblasted*** (Vineyard Theatre), ***Is There Still Sex In The City*** (Daryl Roth Theatre), ***The Gradient*** (Repertory Theatre of St Louis), ***Being/With*** (Nichole Canuso Dance Company), ***Soft Jade*** (Yale Summer Cabaret), ***Citizen*** (Duke University), ***Burning Church*** (New Ohio Theatre), ***Harriet Tubman*** (Hi-Arts). Event credits include: New York Fashion Week, Prabal Gurung, Oscar De La Renta, R13, Zadig and Voltaire, ADEAM, Self Portrait, the Monse Show, and the Victoria Beckham AW18 Pre-collection.

SASHA SCHWARTZ

(she/her, Scenic Designer)

Selected designs: ***Off Peak*** (Hudson Stage Company); ***What the Constitution Means to Me***, ***Young Playwrights Festival*** (City Theatre Company); ***Heisenberg***, ***Urinetown*** (Northern Stage); ***the dance floor, the hospital room, and the kitchen table*** (Kelly Strayhorn Theater & Contemporary Arts Center NOLA); ***Terminer*** (New Hazlett Theater), ***Kentucky*** (Pittsburgh Playhouse), ***Pippin*** (Dartmouth College); ***The Secretaries***, ***The Amateurs*** (Willamette University). Recognition: 2022 Theatre Communications Group Rising Leaders of Color Cohort, 2019 USITT Young Designers and Technicians Forum, 2019 Lloyd Weninger Award for Stage Design.

www.sashaschwartzscenic.com

PAUL VAILLANCOURT

(Lighting Designer)

Paul Vaillancourt works as a designer, assistant, and programmer, both Off Broadway and regionally. His designs have been seen at Hudson Stage Company, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Ithaca College, Massasoit Theater Company, The Company Theater, and others. He has been fortunate enough to work at theaters such as 2nd Stage, Playwrights Horizons, Roundabout, La Mama, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Dallas Theatre Center, Ogunquit Playhouse, Westport Country Playhouse, and others.

www.pvaillancourtdesigns.com

CHRISTINE CHEN

(Wardrobe Supervisor & Covid Compliance Officer)

Christine Chen has served as running crew at UCR Theater during their productions of ***Brown Face*** and ***Red Oleanders***. With a passion for theater, she has directed, written, and performed in various shows during her undergraduate study at the University of California, Riverside, including ***Life Unto Art***, ***The Verdict***, and ***All About Vaccine***.

BURKETT HORRIGAN

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Burkett Horrigan is a NYC-based stage manager and lighting designer, thrilled to be returning to ASM ***Off Peak*** with Hudson Stage Company! Selected credits include: Production: PA- ***Some Like It Hot*** (Shubert Theatre), PA- ***Mr Holland's Opus*** (Ogunquit Playhouse), PSM- ***The Eyes of the World*** (Kennedy Center, Opera House), PSM- Tennessee Shakespeare Company's 2021 season (***Henry VI, Romeo & Juliet, Ada and the Engine***); lighting designer: J2 Spotlight's ***A Class Act, A Day in Hollywood..., The Baker's Wife***. BFA in Theatre, Montclair State University.

DENISE BESSETTE

(Producer)

Denise Bessette is a founding producer of Hudson Stage Company. Since its inception 24 years ago, she co-produced all of its productions and staged reading series of new plays. As an actress, she most recently appeared in HSC's ***A Doll's House, Part 2.*** Denise worked regionally at Long Wharf Theatre, the Huntington Theatre, the Kennedy Center, and Interact Theatre in LA, where she co-produced the multi-award winning ***Counsellor-at-Law.*** Her TV and film work include: *The Other Two, Bull, Law and Order: SVU.* She is deeply thankful to her supportive family and for all the years of collaboration with HSC partners Olivia Sklar and Dan Foster.

ANNA GIACALONE

(Associate Producer)

Anna Giacalone is thrilled to continue working with Hudson Stage Company at 59E59 Theaters! Anna has worked with Hudson Stage Company since January 2020, most recently serving as the producers' assistant for the world premiere of ***Off Peak***. She holds a BA in English and Communications from Pace University. Previously, Anna served as the box office manager at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival during their 2022 season. Recent credits include: ***Romeo and Juliet***, ***Mr. Burns, a post-electric play***, ***Where We Belong*** (HVSF); ***Off Peak, The October Storm*** (HSC).

SPECIAL THANKS

Olivia Sklar, Jeff Cunningham, Paul Schneeberger, Jon and Sydney Stern, Steven Wittels, Barbara Doctor, Tom and Cindy Secunda, Anthony Bak and Metro North Railroad, Maria Cameron/AEA, Melissa Shawcross, Lynne Rapping, Kelleen Moriarty, Kat Vaccaro, Ken & Angelica Jablonski, Andrew Gmoser, John Leyden, Steve Gallo and North Castle Public Library, ArtsWestchester

HSC HONORARY BOARD

Glenn Close, Blythe Danner, LaChanze, Austin Pendleton, Bill Pullman, Mercedes Ruehl, Frances Sternhagen

OFF Peak

CURATOR'S NOTE



Welcome to Hudson Stage's production of ***Off Peak*** which was a hit with upstate audiences, earlier this year. We are so happy to welcome our friends back but it's bittersweet, as after 23 years of bringing new plays to the Hudson Valley, this talented group will soon disband for other pursuits. They are gracefully wrapping up their stellar tenure on a high note and we'll certainly miss hosting them.

Val

VAL DAY
Artistic Director

59E59 THEATERS STAFF

ELYSABETH KLEINHANS President/Founding Artistic Director
VAL DAY Artistic Director
BRIAN BEIRNE Managing Director
ELIZA JOHNSON Finance Associate/Office Manager
CATE PUGLIA Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
MELISSA SHAWCROSS Technical Director
ERICA PIERRE Marketing/General Manager
CRISTINA GREENFIELD Marketing Manager
MELINDA GRABER Digital Marketing Associate
ALAN BUTTAR Graphic Designer
MATT ROSS Press Representative
NICOLE CAPATASTO Press Representative
CLAIRE WOJCIECHOWSKI Press Representative
GRACE WALKER Press Representative
SHANNON SMITH Theater Manager
COLLEEN MORGEN House Manager
CARLOS CONILL Facilities Manager
WALDIN ROJAS Facilities Assistant
FRANKIE DIAZ Facilities Assistant
LLOYD MULVEY Director of Ticketing Services
CRAIG SCHENKER Box Office Manager
ANDREA ARVANIGIAN Box Office Supervisor
JORDAN ELMAN Box Office Supervisor
DANIELLE COVINGTON Box Office Supervisor
CAILIN KELLY Box Office Associate
MICIAH WALLACE Box Office Associate/Usher
ALANIS MOLINA-GARNELO Usher
ANNA BONGARDINO Usher
ANNE RUTTER Usher
BENJI SILLS Usher
CHRISTIAN MIRANDA Usher
ELLIOT JACOBS Usher
ERIC BERKELEY Usher
FLOWER RIOS Usher
ITAI ADAM VAGNER Usher
JOEY PITTORINO Usher
KAYLA GRANT Usher
NATALIE LILAVOIS YUSTY Usher
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ Usher
SANTIAGO AGUILAR Usher
JOHN D. IVY Theater Technician
KAT KHELLBLAU Theater Technician

THEATER B 1ST IRISH **JANUARY 11 - 29**



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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