



# T A P E

BY STEPHEN BELBER

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL SASSO



JUNE 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH  
CHATHAM COMMUNITY PLAYERS

# TIME & PLACE

1999. Lansing, Michigan.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I was in middle school when I first came across TAPE, which perhaps was too early, or perhaps was perfect. The play taught me at that young age that memory is both fallible and malleable. It showed me that a person can be blind to their subliminal wants, yet calculating in their manipulation of others. The play rocked my romantic illusion of heroes and villains. Plus, it was funny—sometimes very funny—despite and even because of its heavy, not-funny subject matter. It took me twenty years before I could articulate it this way, but TAPE taught me that humor comes from discomfort, and that discomfort is an oft necessary component of growth.

While times have certainly changed since TAPE was first performed in 1999—that is, the attitudes around consent and sexual assault have fortunately matured, at least in some circles—it is those aspects of the play which remain as relevant today as they did then that draw me to it: insecurity that masquerades as masculinity, jealousy that embeds itself like a splinter, and the unvarying truth that whoever controls the narrative holds the power.

The talented cast of this production approached the material with intuition and courage, and I am lucky to have worked with them. Likewise, I am grateful to the Chatham Players and to One Weekend Only for entrusting me with a play that I have for so long wanted to direct, and for having faith in you, the audience, that you would take a risk by coming out to see it.

Enjoy the discomfort.

## ADVISORY

TAPE includes discussions of sexual misconduct. If you'd like to know more before the show begins, please ask a staff member. If you are a survivor or seeking to support a survivor, you might start at [Rainn.org/resources](https://rainn.org/resources)



## **MICHAEL SASSO** **DIRECTOR**

is pleased to work again with the Chatham Players after directing “Lillian Whistles Back” as part of Jersey Voices last season. A fiction writer, educator, and (former) award-winning filmmaker, Michael directed and co-wrote the acclaimed web series Swipe Click Bang. His writing explores, amongst other things, complex gender dynamics and the passage of time. Michael holds a BFA in Film Production from Chapman University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Rutgers University. He extends his gratitude to his family and friends for their support, especially to Shelby for picking him up when he is down; and he would like to recognize Ellie, for stage managers are the unsung heroes of theatre.





## **ANTHONY BETROVATO (VINCE)**

is thrilled to be back on the Chatham stage again. You may have also seen him in years past in *The Grape Nerds Reunion* in *Jersey Voices*, *The Glass Menagerie* at Summit Playhouse, or *The Rub of the Green* at The Barn Theatre. Anthony is a graduate of Skidmore College and currently directs theater at Whippany Park High School. He would like to thank Michael, Mike, Marie, and most of all Ellie, for their constant encouragement, patience, and support.



## **MARIE CORREA (AMY)**

is thrilled to be making her debut at Chatham Community Players. Based in Harrison, NJ, her previous roles include *The Motherfucker with the Hat* (Veronica) and *Actually* (Amy) at The Barrow Group Showcase. Marie is incredibly grateful for her family and friends, her angelic Samoyed Maui, cast and crew for making this an awesome experience. Feel free to follow her on Instagram @mariepostedwhat.



## **MIKE GENCARELLI (JON)**

obtained his AA in Drama from the County College of Morris. He is excited to return to the Chatham stage with an extremely talented and devoted cast and crew. Some favorite roles include, Seymour Krelbourn (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Charlie (*Mary's Wedding*), Louis Ironson (*Angels in America*), David Frost (*Frost/Nixon*), Glenn Cooper (*Rumors*), Dr Sanderson (*Harvey*), Cliff Bradshaw (*Cabaret*), and Benny in the NJ premiere of *Rent*. Michael wishes the entire team a happy and successful run. Love the Arts.

## **AARON KELLNER PRODUCER**

has his BFA in Acting and MFA in Dramaturgy. He has worked at several regional theaters including Shakespeare Orange County (CA), Hippodrome State Theatre (FL), York Theatre Company (NY), and Manhattan Ensemble Theatre (NY), and has interned at New Dramatists (NY). Stage managing credits include The Diary of Anne Frank (Summit), It's a Wonderful Life (Wharton), Peter and the Starcatcher (Studio), and several Jersey Voices.

## **ELLIE LEICK STAGE MANAGER**

is thrilled to return to Chatham Community Players, where she got her start in community theater with Inspecting Carol and Gruesome Playground Injuries. She also stage managed productions at The Barn Theatre, Studio Playhouse, and Wharton Arts and appeared onstage in The Crucible (Susanna) at Summit Playhouse and Becky's New Car (Kenni) at Somerset Valley Players. She thanks her family and friends for their love and endless support.

## **JOELLE BOCHNER SCENIC PAINTING**

has enjoyed being part of CCP since 1998. Over the past 27 years, she has acted, stage managed, propped, produced, painted, sewed, and built her way through this organization, which she holds as dear as family. She now humbly serves as paint chair and welcomes you all to this home - your home - should you choose to volunteer with us.

## **JOE DEVICO SOUND DESIGN**

is an award winning theatrical sound designer who has worked as designer on more than thirty productions both on and off Broadway. He has five Perry award nominations and two wins for Outstanding Sound Design. As a musician/composer, his music can be heard on TBS, TLC, TeenNICK and We Networks and in national spots for Coca-Cola and GE Capital. Joe has worked in the music departments for Broadway's Come Fly Away, Baby It's You, Honeymoon In Vegas, and An American in Paris and recorded the cast album of the upcoming Broadway musical, The Nutty Professor.

## **EMILY MILLER MARKETING**

has acted here in Sideways, The Importance of..., The Humans & Time Stands Still. She produced NINE: The Musical as well as Inspecting Carol. Emily runs Red Mic Rep Theatre Company, serves on the Board of Speranza Theatre Company and recently directed King Charles III at Studio Playhouse. My love to Elizabeth Sanchez-Quiñones





## **STEVE RUSKIN** **SET DESIGN & FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER**

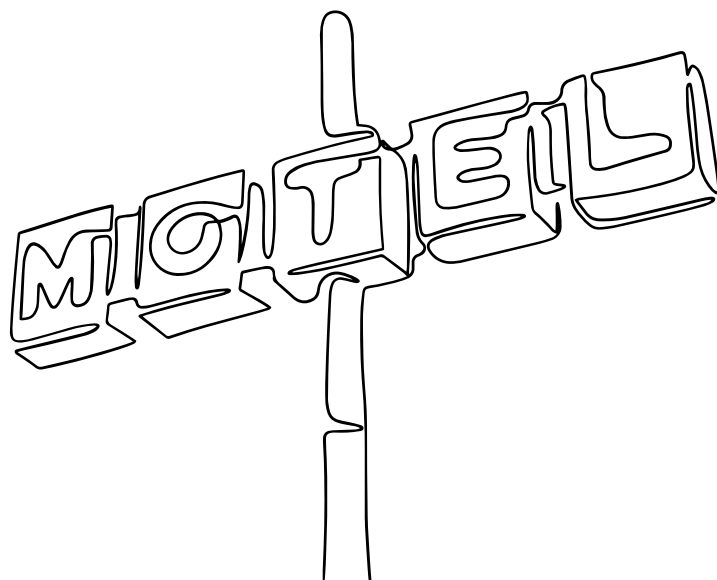
recently did fight choreography for *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really* (Chester), *Of Mice And Men* (Montville) and *Shawshank Redemption* (Somerset). Steve co-produced and designed the sets for all five previous One Weekend Only shows. Steve teaches Tai Chi and Wing Chun Kung-Fu. It's been a kick creating a Motel 6 set. We'll leave the light on for you.

## **CAROL SASO** **PROPERTIES**

Over her many years at CCP, Carol has appeared onstage several times, helped with makeup, costumes, front of house, and backstage crew. She is currently the props chair and volunteer coordinator. Carol is happy that she has been able to help out with this production.

## **ED WHITMAN** **LIGHTING DESIGN**

has designed the lighting for *Constellations*, *Fat Pig*, *Mary's Wedding*, *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, *Play On*, *Christmas Carol*, *Jersey Voices* and *Sundays @7* at Chatham Community Players. Recently, Ed designed for *The Music Man* and *Seussical* at Summit Playhouse. He has designed lighting at Cranford Dramatic Club as well as working with the Light Opera of NJ. Ed is involved with set construction at CCP and other community theaters.



## **WITH APPRECIATION TO**

The OWO team: Anne McCarthy, Matt McCarthy, and Sarah Pharaon

Also: Diego López Burgos, Lou Cusano, Benjamin Davis, John Fraissinet, Chris Furlong, Melissa Hartland, Maybelle Lincoln, Corina Lupp, Shelby Moulton, Amy Nauta, Roy Pancirov, Chip Prestera, Kathy Rex, Rebecca Sasso, Gordon Weiner, "Gram" Marian Zuaro, Library of the Chathams, the Maintenance Crew of Rutgers University-Newark, and St Paul's Episcopal Church

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## **ABOUT THE SHOW**

Originally developed and workshopped at the Access Theater, New York City, Jacqueline Christy, Artistic Director.

Premiered in the 2000 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Jon Jory, Artistic Director, opening February 29, 2000.

Tape was subsequently produced by Naked Angels in New York City on January 17, 2002, Tim Ransom, Artistic Director; Ilana Levine and Sherri Kotimsky, Producers.

## **ABOUT ONE WEEKEND ONLY**

One Weekend Only is Chatham Community Players' black box series - small casts, small sets, staged up close to our audiences. It's where we take a chance on the unexpected. Thanks for coming along for the ride.