

THE NEW CENTURY

BY PAUL RUDNICK

May 10-20, 2012
WEDNESDAYS-SATURDAYS 8 PM
SUNDAYS 2 PM & 7:30 PM

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Are these characters stereotypes? Sure, why not. Some argue stereotypes are a reflection of reality. So...what about the Helene Nadlers, Mr. Charleses, and Barbara Ellen Diggs in this world? I certainly have been blessed to know a few in my lifetime. Are we capacious enough to make room for the likes of these wonderfully eccentric and wise characters? Or is there a limit to our tolerance and acceptance? However you may choose to answer these questions, one thing is for certain. These characters—these people—will continue to forge ahead and create their own peculiar brand of beauty. A beauty characterized by transforming the pain inflicted by an onslaught of cruel and unforgiving circumstances into exuberant laughter and celebration. It's a new century. Will we make room for them at our tables? Time will tell. I am afraid if I don't, it will be my loss. Personally, I like to laugh and learn, so I think I'll give them a place of honor. Ultimately, this play is a romp! And that is probably a conservative description. Combine Rudnick's sharp, biting, wicked humor with the seemingly inexhaustible comedic talents of a cast like this and perhaps I should have been paying Max & Louie instead of the other way around. It has been a blast!

MISSION STATEMENT

Max & Louie Productions enhances lives through the arts, by presenting bold, brave plays with humor and heart that entertain and challenge, bringing artists and audiences together in a shared experience that illuminates life through joy and the release of laughter.


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THE NEW CENTURY

BY PAUL RUDNICK

HAMMOND

pick up from
last program.

CAST

HELENE NADLER.....Stellie Siteman*
DAVID NADLER/SHANEJosh Payne
ANNOUNCER.....Gary Wayne Barker
MR. CHARLESAlan Knoll*
JOANN MILDERRY.....Elizabeth Graveman
BARBARA ELLEN DIGGSPeggy Billo*

DIRECTOR Ted Gregory

STAGE MANAGERKim Gifford*
LIGHTING DESIGNER..... Glenn M. Dunn
COSTUME DESIGNER Marci Franklin
SOUND DESIGNERMark Griggs
SET DESIGNER Patrick Huber
PROP MASTER.....Andria Mantle
RUNNING CREW..... Laurie McConnell, Erica Rogers

COVER ARTIST..... Peter Shank
GRAPHIC DESIGNER Roxanne Aubrey Marina

Scenery built by Exclusive Events, Inc.

SETTING: Scene I: Small auditorium on Long Island; Scene II: Bare-bones public access T.V. studio in Florida; Scene III: Conference room of a municipal building in Decatur, Illinois; Scene IV: The maternity ward of a New York City hospital; First decade of the 21st Century.

The play will be performed with one 15 minute intermission.

**Appearing by Special Appearance contract with Actor's Equity Association*

Originally Produced by Lincoln Center Theater in 2007, New York City.

MR. CHARLES, CURRENTLY OF PALM BEACH *was originally produced by The Ensemble Studio Theater, Curt Dempster, Artistic Director; Jamie Richards, Executive Producer.*

PRIDE AND JOY *was originally produced at the Tribeca Theater Festival in association with the Drama Department.*

THE NEW CENTURY *is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York*

CAST



PEGGY BILLO* (Barbara Ellen Diggs) is very happy to be making her debut with Max & Louie Productions in *The New Century*. Recent appearances in St Louis include Ima in *The Immigrant* and Boo Levy in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, both with The New Jewish Theatre. Other appearances in St Louis include The Rep (*Diary of Anne Frank*/Mrs Van Daan); Avalon Theatre (*The Price*/Esther); STAGES (*Music Man*/Mrs Paroo); and Muddy Waters (*Vieux Carre*/Mrs. Wire).

Peggy is a Resident Artist with Mustard Seed Theatre and has appeared there in *Remnant*/Krist'n Taler (Kevin Kline winner for Best Supporting Actress in *The Immigrant*/Ima) and *Tartuffe*/Mdm Pernelle. She is represented by TalentPlus and is a member of AEA, SAG, and AFTRA. A big thanks to Ted, Stellie and De, for the opportunity to explore the tender and wonderful world of Crafty...I like to think there's a little bit of Barbara Ellen in all of us.



ELIZABETH GRAVEMAN (Joann Milderry) is thrilled to be a part of the Max & Louie Productions company. Elizabeth received her BFA in Acting from Lindenwood and some past roles include Mary Jane in *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* (R-S Theatrics), Donna in *Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical* (Nonprophet Theatre Company), Svetlana in *Chess* (Lindenwood University) Maria in *The Heiress* (Kirkwood Theatre Guild), and Grushinskaya in *Grand Hotel: The Musical* (Overdue Theatre).



ALAN KNOLL* (Mr. Charles) is a St. Louis native. His favorite recent roles include: Professor Marvel/The Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz* (Variety Children's Theatre's), Nick in *The Guys* (Blue Rose Stage Collective's), George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Muddy Waters Theatre Company), Max Prince in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* (the New Jewish Theatre), President Chuck Smith in *November* (St. Louis Actor's Studio), Narrator in *This Wonderful Life* (Dramatic

License Productions). Alan is winner of numerous awards including Judy Award, Actor of the Year, 2010, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; 2010 Best One Man Show, *Riverfront Times* for Narrator in *This Wonderful Life*; 2010 Best Actor, *Riverfront Times* for Zaretsky in *Conversations With My Father*; and Woodie Award, Best Supporting Actor for Mr. Marks in *Intimate Apparel*. He was also nominated for the Kevin Kline Best Actor award for his role of Narrator in *This Wonderful Life* and for the Best Supporting Actor award for Zaretsky in *Conversations With My Father*. Alan is a proud member AEA, AFTRA and SAG.



JOSH PAYNE (David Nadler /Shane) is originally from Kansas City, Missouri and has been living and going to school in St. Louis since the fall of 2007. He'll graduate from Lindenwood University in the spring of 2012 with a degree in Theatre, a degree in Dramaturgy, and a minor in Creative Writing. Josh has been working in the St. Louis theatre scene since 2009. Most of that time has been spent with various Shakespeare companies in the area. This production

marks a huge turning point in Josh's life as it will be his first post-college production. Besides acting on stage Josh also loves to do film work, acting and directing as well as writing. He is currently working on a feature length film of his own! Outside of the entertainment world Josh loves cooking, camping, traveling, cycling, and meeting new people.



STELLIE SITEMAN* (Helene Nadler) is an actress, educator, director and producer whose experience encompasses theater, film, T.V., Cabaret, Print, and Radio commercials both regionally and nationally. She is the artistic director of Max & Louie Productions. Over the past 20 years she has been an arts instructor with COCA, Springboard, and The Rep's Wisewrite program. She has appeared in Max &

Louie Productions' *It Had To Be You*, and *The Lady With All The Answers*. Some of her other regional theater appearances have been in *Unbeatable - The Musical*; *Guys and Dolls*; *Roman Holiday*; *The Music Man*; *Bye Bye Birdie*; *Mame*; *Fiddler on the Roof*; *Annie*; *Afterplay*; *Fat Men in Skirts*; *Torch Song Trilogy*; and *The Food Chain*. Her television appearances include: *Truman* (HBO); *Inside America's Totally Unsolved Lifestyles* (ABC special).

GARY WAYNE BARKER (Announcer) An active STL actor and director, Gary's local highlights include Milton in *The Immigrant* (2011 Supporting Actor Kevin Kline Award) and Boolie in *Driving Miss Daisy* (2005 Supporting Actor Kevin Kline Award) both at The New Jewish Theatre. Regional (selected): The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, The Shakespeare Festival STL, Avalon Theatre Company, Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, HotCity Theatre, Ozark Actors Theatre. Represented by TalentPlus. Education: MFA in Acting from Michigan State University; Actors Center NY; Central School of Speech and Drama, London. Resident Artist with Mustard Seed Theatre. Represented by TalentPlus. Professor of Acting and Chair of Fine and Performing Arts at Saint Louis University.

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DIRECTION, DESIGN & PRODUCTION



TED GREGORY (Director) has directed premieres by award-winning playwrights Romulus Linney, Elaine Avila, Kirk Lynn, Robert Schennkan, and Dan Dietz, among others. He recently worked with playwrights Maria Irene Fornes and Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas directing their work at the National Theatre of Panamá. Most recently, *Jane Austen: Action Figure* (Elaine Avila) was chosen "Best of the Fest" by audiences at the International Festival de Cocos (Panamá). He is the

former artistic director of HotCity Theatre where he directed *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* (Paul Rudnick). He has taught and directed at the University of Texas at Austin, Florida State University, Columbia University, and Lindenwood University. He received a Fulbright Scholar Award (2010), where he helped establish the first MFA theatre program in Latin America at the University of Panamá. His recent collaboration with playwright, Elaine Avila, is featured in the January 2012 issue of *American Theatre*.

KIM GIFFORD* (Stage Manager) is excited to be Stage Managing for Max & Louie Productions. Locally she has worked as a stage manager for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, New Jewish Theatre, Avalon Theatre Company, HotCity Theatre, St. Louis Shakespeare, City Theatre (formerly City Players of St. Louis), and The Little Theatre on the Square. She has also served as

ASM for the Off Ramp series at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Kim is a proud member of Actors Equity and was a founding member of the Slightly Askew Theatre Ensemble. Currently Kim is a Stage Supervisor at the Touhill Performing Arts Center.

GLENN M. DUNN (Lighting Designer) was awarded the Kevin Kline lighting award for his 2007 design of *Remnant* for Mustard Seed Theatre. As GMD design and Consulting, he runs a lighting design and computer consulting business in St. Louis. Glenn has stage managed at the St. Louis Repertory Theatre for 36 years and was the Production Stage Manager at The Muny for 10 years. He holds a Master's Degree in Lighting Design from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

MARCI FRANKLIN (Costume Designer) is the costume shop manager at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis. She is designing *Seussical* for East Central College Theatre where she has worked as the costume designer for the spring musical for the last six years. As a graduate of Lindenwood University, Marci had the pleasure of working under Nikki Junker, who gave her her first experience in the world of costumes. Marci has worked at Stages St. Louis building menswear and specialty costumes. Most recently, she had the opportunity to work on the major motion picture, *The Hunger Games*. She is pleased to be working on *The New Century* and is privileged to work with a great group of professionals!

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MARK GRIGGS (Sound Designer) studied sound design at the University of Utah and graduated with a BFA in May 2011. He is a new transplant to St. Louis from Salt Lake City where he worked at Pioneer Memorial Theatre as Assistant Sound Designer, A2 and Staff Sound Technician. Some of his design credits include: *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*; *Almost, Maine*; *The Guys*; and *Rent*.

PATRICK HUBER (Set Designer) studied Design at Webster University and Dramatic Literature at Washington University. He has been the resident scene and lighting designer for the Orthwein Theatre Company, Shattermask, Actors' Renaissance Theater, St. Louis Shakespeare, Upstream Theater, St. Louis Actors' Studio and Union Avenue. His designs for *Metamorphoses* at St. Louis Shakespeare and *9 Parts of Desire* at St. Louis Actors' Studio were nominated for Kevin Klein Awards. Patrick teaches at Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School and recently spent a year as a visiting artist at Washington University, where he taught scene design for the Performing Arts Department.

ANDRIA MANTLE (Prop Master) is delighted to be working on her first show with Max & Louie Productions. Currently her work can be seen in various St. Louis area schools with the Shakespeare Festival St. Louis Education Tour for which she was the Props Designer and Production Assistant. She has also worked with the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, St. Louis Shakespeare, Barter Theatre in Virginia, Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre, and Tent Theatre. Andria is a proud graduate of Missouri State University where she received a B.F.A. in Technical Theatre, Design and Stage Management. She would like to thank her parents and Alex for always supporting her!

ERICA ROGERS (Running Crew) is pleased to be a part of the crew for *The New Century*. This is her first show with Max & Louie Productions and she is thrilled! Her recent credits include, *Slasher*, *The Eight Reindeer Monologues*, *Birdbath*, *Glengarry Glen Ross*, *The Dead Guy*, *A Dark and Stormy Night*, *Welcome to the Moon*, *Sistahs Indeed*, and *Working*. She would like to thank everyone in the cast and crew and a special thank you goes out to her family for their support during this production. Enjoy!

BRYAN SCHULTE and **ANDREW McCANDLESS** both work for **EXCLUSIVE EVENTS INC.** They work with a team to create the best and most unique private and corporate events in St Louis. Bryan and his wife Erin own the company that they started from scratch six years ago in their garage. Today, Exclusive has a staff of 20 and handles over 300+ events a year. To keep true to their theatrical roots, Bryan and Erin continue to support and work with community and professional theaters as well as supporting theatrical education at local high schools and universities. They provide an environment for young theater professionals to practice what they studied, whether it be design, lighting, costume or carpentry. We appreciate everything our crew does and our thanks go to them.

ANN AURBACH (COCA Production Manager) is pleased to be again participating in St. Louis theatre with Max & Louie. Ann grew up watching St. Louis theatre which lead to a B.A. in Stage Management at IU-Bloomington and a career in operatic stage management working for companies across the United States.

JUSTIN FOSTER (Sound Board Op) is proud to again be working with Max & Louie after operating lights for "Lady with all the Answers." He has been a staple at COCA as the lead technician for every show of the Family Theatre series and dozens of other events in COCA's theaters from The Orange Girls' "Scorched" and "Eurydice" to family concerts such as Elizabeth Mitchell and Dan Zanes. Justin holds a BA in audio engineering from Webster University and would like to thank his friends and family for the incredible support he has been given over the years.

MOLLY HOUGHTON (Light Board Op) is a student at Northwest Missouri State University majoring in Theater and Psychology from Ferguson, MO. She is very excited about her first show with Max & Louie Productions. She has learned a lot and would like to thank Kim for this opportunity. Enjoy the show!

ADMINISTRATION

STELLIE SITEMAN* (Artistic Director) See *Cast*.

DE KAPLAN (Managing Director) A health-care professional with her own business, she has been an avid supporter of local theatre, having served on two theatre boards in the past as well as producing several cabarets.

A huge departure from "my day job," staffing folks that need care, I have always had tremendous respect for the people that make us laugh. It's just my kind of escape from the serious nature of life. Given the opportunity to be a part of this very talented group assures me that at least for three weeks at a time, I will be laughing a lot. 15 years as a Jewish Hospital administrator gave me the tools to carry on with "Lifestyle Management" and assist in running Max & Louie Productions.

MARLA STOKER (Producer/Publicist/Social Marketing Consultant) has an extensive background in media public relations, marketing and promotions. She currently provides PR consulting on a private basis for a wide variety of clients within the entertainment industry through her company, Marquee Media and Marketing. Previously, she spent ten years doing publicity and promotions for major motion picture studios giving her a long record of successfully carrying out projects that keep everyone from billion dollar movie studios to small local businesses happy. Marla also has experience producing independent short films and curating the short film division of the St. Louis International Film Festival. Her overall passion for the entertainment industry allows her profession to mirror what she loves in her personal life.

SHELLEY SALINAS (Administrative Assistant) is pleased to be working with Max & Louie Productions. She has years of experience in the theatre from backstage to front of house. Adding to her well-rounded background, she has enjoyed learning more of the administrative side with this project.

ROXANNE AUBREY MARINA (Graphic Designer) spent nearly 20 years in graphic production and design in New York City before moving to St. Louis. She looks forward to a long association with Max & Louie Productions. She is available for print design and production work on a freelance basis and can be contacted through her website huppytheanarchist.com.

PAUL RUDNICK's plays have been produced on and off Broadway and around the world. They include *Valhalla; The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told; Mr. Charles, Currently of Palm Beach; Pride and Joy; The Naked Eye; I Hate Hamlet, Let, and Jeffrey* for which he won an Obie, an Outer Critics Circle Award, and the John Gassner Playwriting Award. His novels are *Social Disease* and *I'll Take It*, both published by Knopf. His articles and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker, Esquire, Vogue, Vanity Fair, and The New York Times*. He is rumored to be quite close to *Premiere* magazine's film critic, Libby Gelman-Waxner, whose collected columns have been published under the title "If You Ask Me." His screenplays include *Addams Family Values*, the screen adaptation of *Jeffrey* and *In & Out*.



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