

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST



MAY 19 – JUN. 11, 2023



VAGABOND PLAYERS



VAGABOND PLAYERS

The Best of Broadway on Broadway

806 South Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21231
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www.vagabondplayers.org

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Vagabond Players is a founding member of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. For more information, visit <http://www.baltplayfest.org>.

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

By Dale Wasserman

Based on the novel by Ken Kesey

Directed by Audra M. Mullen

Cast

Chief Bromden	Adam Garrison
Aide Williams	Joi Pride
Aide Warren	Nate Krimmel
Nurse Ratched	Lauren Jackson
Nurse Flinn	Kaite Vaught
Dale Harding	John Dignam
Billy Bibbit	Andy Belt
Scanlon	Jonathan Lightner
Cheswick	Matthew Payne
Martini	Lou Otero
Ruckly	Matt Leyendecker
Randle P. McMurphy	Stephen M. Deiningner
Dr. Spivey	Anthony Rufo
Aide Turkle	Peter Wilkes
Candy Starr	Ari Juno
Sandra	Sydney Marks
Children's Voiceover	Lillian Jackson

Setting

Day Room of a State Mental Hospital
Pacific Northwest
1964

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Cast Biographies

Andy Belt (Billy Bibbit) is excited to be returning to Vagabond Players for his third show this season. Earlier in the season, he was in *Stop Kiss* and *Broadway Bound*. In recent years at Vagabonds, Andy performed in *12 Angry Jurors* and *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. In Baltimore, Andy has appeared in productions of *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Mousetrap* at Spotlighters Theatre and *The Mineola Twins* at Fells Point Corner Theatre. Previously, he earned a degree in theater from Wake Forest University.

Stephen M. Deininger (R.P. McMurphy/Sound Design) is a prolific director, actor, and pianist across the Baltimore area. He is a board member with Vagabond Players and has been onstage as an actor and pianist in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Pillowman*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Avenue Q*, *Cabaret*, *Our Town*, and directed of *God of Carnage*, *Talk Radio*, and *The Crucible*. He is the music director of Channing Memorial Church. He founded the Pandemic Players, an online theatrical performing group that raised funds to support local theaters during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, a project that spurred many similar regional companies and was covered by local media and theater trade publications around the world. During the early months of 2020, he and his wife started building a home recording studio to record hymns for churches adapting to online worship, and where they now record music under the group name Scotch and Lies.

John Dignam (Dale Harding) last traipsed across the Vagabond Players' stage as Rogers in the 2019 production of *And Then There Were None*. Since late 2015, he has worked with several other Baltimore area troupes and has appeared in more than two dozen productions to date. He is scheduled next to reprise his roles in a revival of Dan Rodricks' *Baltimore, You Have No Idea* at the Baltimore Museum of Art in December 2023 (baltimoreyouhavenoidea.com). John would like to thank Audra, Kerry, and the entire cast and crew for their support.

Adam Garrison (Chief Bromden) originally from Sarasota, Florida, is a stand-up comedian with over a decade of experience. In his travels, Adam has performed improv, stand-up comedy, and acted in venues all over the east coast. Past credits include *The Boys Next Door* and *Sordid Lives*. This is Adam's second portrayal of Chief Bromden and his first production with the Vagabond Players.

Lauren Jackson (Nurse Ratched) is thrilled to be back on the Vagabond Players' stage, having previously performed as Mrs. Putnam in *The Crucible* in 2019. Favorite past roles include Rosalie Mullins in *School of Rock: The Musical* at Landless Theater Company, Catherine in *Proof*, Maria in *The Sound of Music*, Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, and Cathy in *The Last Five Years*, all in her home state of West Virginia. Favorite current roles

include mom to amazing 10-year-old Lily and fiancé to brilliant and beautiful (age-redacted) Tim. Three years has been a long time to wait to play this deliciously devilish character and she is beyond proud to get to do it with this incredible cast and crew.

Lillian Jackson (Voiceover) is very excited to be a part of her second grown-up play, having just appeared as Marta von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* with 2nd Star Productions in Bowie. She loved getting to hang out and make this recording with one of her favorite people, Mr. Steve. She is very proud of her mom, who is playing Nurse Ratched.

Ari Juno (they/them/theirs) (Candy Starr) is so thrilled to be performing in their third production with Vagabond Players, having portrayed George in *Stop Kiss* and The Mute in *The Fantasticks*. Ari does a lot of work with little theaters around Baltimore. Selections from their resume include: Millie Martindale in *Perfect Arrangement* and Pimple/Stingo in *She Stoops to Conquer* at Fells Point Corner Theatre, Pompey Bum et al in *Measure for Measure* at Green Globe Theatre, Leslie Casewell in *The Mousetrap*, as well as originating the role of Teddy, the protagonist of *Riot Brrrain* at the 2018 Capital Fringe Festival. They have also worked as a puppeteer with the Baltimore Rock Opera Society.

Nate Krimmel (Aide Warren) is a local Baltimore actor and is ecstatic to be making his Vagabond Players debut. Recent credits include Caden in *The Thanksgiving Play*, Frank/Squinch/Oscar in *10x10x10*, Jim in *Perfect Arrangement*, Tristan in *The Effect*, and Lee in *Jerusalem* at Fells Point Corner Theater; Reed in *No One Could Follow* at Single Carrot; Tyler in *Mary-Kate Olsen Is in Love* at The Strand; Charlie in *All New People Green* at Globe. Training: BA in Drama, Washington College (2018), The Neighborhood Playhouse Summer Intensive (Meisner, 2016), *BITR Sisters Best Supporting Actor (2019).

Matt Leyendecker (Ruckly) is a veteran to the Vagabond Players' stage, performing his greatest feat of acting skill to date - standing completely still and not saying a word. He was last seen in 2022 in *God of Carnage* and appeared in *Talk Radio* (2021) and *Inherit the Wind* (2018). Other notable roles include Richard Burbage in *The Book of Will* (2023) and Sir John Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (2019) at CP and Joe Foster in *Becky's New Car*, BCT (2018) which garnered a WATCH Nomination, Best Featured Actor in a Play. Matt also appears as a regular cast member at the MD Renaissance Festival. Matt thanks all his friends and family (if you think he's talking about you, he definitely is), and thanks you for coming to see the results of months of hard work from this wonderful cast and crew. Enjoy!

Cast Biographies

Jonathan Lightner (Scanlon) is excited to be making his official acting debut with Vagabond Players. However, he is no stranger to performance and might be recognized from his time in the Baltimore competitive karaoke league.

Sydney Marks (Sandy) was last seen on the Vagabond Players' stage as herself in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* and Juror #7 in *12 Angry Jurors*. Favorite credits from the Appalachian Shakespeare Center include Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* and Stephano in *The Tempest*. Other credits include Lyuba in *The Cherry Orchard*, Little Prince in *The Little Prince*, and Lucy the Slut in *Avenue Q*.

Lou Otero (Martini) is thrilled to be returning to the stage with Vagabond Players after his directorial debut with *Shout: The Mod Musical*. Some favorite roles include Victor/Gorilla in *Cabaret* at Vagabond Players, Oliver in *Puffs* at ASOB, Col Matterson in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Spotlighters, Back Half of Cow in *Gypsy* at Cockpit in Court, and Pirate in *Pirates of Penzance* at Suburban Players. When not involved in shows he enjoys early morning chats and naps throughout the day. He wants to send special thanks to his siblings, Jay and Bridie, for their guidance on bringing this character to life.

Matthew Payne (Cheswick) Education: Moscow Art Theatre (MXAT) Summer Stanislavsky School 2015. Film: Jordan - Thespian (Mindblank Productions). Theater: Matthew in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* at Vagabond Players; Chet in *Dirty Pictures* and Clov/George in *Endgame/Voices in the Rubble* with Rapid Lemon; Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show* with Haute Patooties, Clive/Cathy in *Cloud 9* and Dick in *The Cradle Will Rock* at Iron Crow; Jonathan Harker in *Dracula* at East Lynne Theater Co.; Mr. Croup/Tooley in *Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere* and Marcel in *Thirteen Dead Husbands* at Cohesion Theater Company, V. in *The Mesmeric Revelations of Edgar Allan Poe* at Submersive Productions; Franz Kafka in *The Trap* at Ambassador Theatre Company.

Joi Pride (she/her) (Aide Williams) is a Spanish-bilingual actor based in Maryland. She is excited to make her Baltimore theatre debut at Vagabond Players! Regional credits include Understudy Photo Elf in *Santaland Diaries*, Stephanie in *100 Percent That Surgeon*. College credits include Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Carole/Starr/Julie in *26 Pebbles*, Joe/Director in *Three Guys and a Brenda*. Virtual credits include Calpurnia/Octavius Julius Caesar, Joe Scott in *Captain Joe*, Raquel in *Bailes de Salón*. She studied Spanish, Theatre, and International Studies at Queens University of Charlotte.

Anthony Rufo (Dr. Spivey) is excited to be back at Vagabond Players. Earlier this season, he was an alternate for Jack and Ben in *Neil Simon's Broadway Bound*, taking the stage as Jack for two performances. Anthony took an extended break (over 20 years!) from performing and could not be more pleased with his experience at Vagabond Players.

Kaite Vaught (Nurse Flinn) is thrilled to be back at Vagabond Players in a slightly different capacity than usual! A stage manager by trade and training, she is excited to get back on stage with this incredible cast! She has a B.A. in theatre from Centre College and a J.D. from University of Baltimore School of Law. Selected theatre credits include Stage Manager: *The Crucible*, *Twelve Angry Jurors*, and *God of Carnage* at Vagabond Players, *The Mineola Twins* and *Wit* at Fells Point Corner Theatre; Cast: *A Christmas Carol* and *Romulus* at Memorial Players.

Peter Wilkes (Turkle) is thrilled to be returning to Vagabond Players in the role of Turkle. His most recent Vagabond Players' credits include Giles Corey in *The Crucible*, General Mackenzie in *And Then There Were None*, and the Reverend Jeremiah Brown in *Inherit the Wind*. Trained in New York at The Esper Studios, Peter's other favorite roles include Terry Farmer in *Casa Valentina*, Sydney Carlton in *Inspecting Carol*, and Reverend Tom in *7 Blowjobs*. Peter would like to personally thank the "Cuckoo" team for their support, and his wife, Dickey for her patience, love, and understanding during this new adventure.

Crew Biographies

Audra M. Mullen (Director) is excited to be able to see this production finally come to fruition. Past Vagabond Players credits include Director for *Fallout*; Asst. Director for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *And Then There Were None*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rabbit Hole*, and Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*; and Stage Manager for *Cabaret*. Before joining the Vagabond Players family, she directed, stage managed and worked behind the scenes throughout the Baltimore region for over 15 years. Audra cannot thank this incredible team enough – those who have waited for 3 years to hit the stage, those who have jumped on this crazy ride this time around, her husband for his patience and support, and especially Kerry for being her right hand, her sounding board, her "person" through all of it!

Kerry Simons (Assistant Director) is beyond thrilled and deeply honored to (FINALLY-after 3 years) be working on this production with this truly talented and special group of individuals. Past Vagabond Players credits include Assistant Stage Manager for *Avenue Q*, *Cabaret*, *The Pillowman* and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Stage Manager for *Fallout and Constellations*. Her first love has always been performing. Favorite past credits include The Narrator in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Jeannie in *Hair* and FrueLINE Kost in *Cabaret*. She would like to say thank you to one of the most amazing people, her Aries sister and Director of this fabulous production, Audra...I love you tons!

Stuart Deininger (Stage Manager) is making their debut as a stage manager for the first time for Vagabond Players. Previously the tech operator for *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, they've taken the next step in stage tech and people management. Stuart is usually seen on the stage rather than behind it, however they have taken up the challenge of shaping this production of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* into a smooth and enjoyable experience.

Alana Rae Sackman (Intimacy Consultant) is a London-based Intimacy Coordinator/Director, performer, and immersive theatre professional. She holds a Masters degree in Applied Theatre: Social, Educational, and Community Contexts from Goldsmiths University of London. She is very passionate about creating a consent-forward culture within the entertainment industry and being an advocate for all actors. www.alanaraesackman.com

The History of VAGABOND PLAYERS

The years that followed the great fire of 1904 were a time of great bustle and activity for Baltimore, and the commencement of World War I in 1914 helped to intensify this mood. During 1915 and 1916, Baltimore's industrial growth surpassed that of any similar period. [Also] during the war, a renaissance in the arts took place, led by Baltimore's mayor, Walter Preston. In 1915 Preston told the city council, "Baltimore's citizens have as much right to organizations that provide for aesthetic development as they do to a sanitation department."

Thus, by 1916 the city had its own symphony and community park concerts, and work had begun on a public art museum. Curiously enough, though, no one had been able to establish any kind of successful, progressive theater. This seems especially odd when one considers the great theatrical ferment that was then sweeping the country. Despite this national movement, however, attempts to organize permanent dramatic groups in Baltimore had failed. In 1916, three people decided to alter this situation: Constance D'Arcy Mackay, a New Yorker who specialized in directing elaborate pageants; Adele Gutman Nathan, a Baltimorean who had directed plays while attending Goucher College; and Carol Sax, a former student of theater and art at Columbia University and teacher at the Maryland Institute of Art.

In 1947, Mrs. Nathan recalled the circumstances that led to the founding of Baltimore's first little theater:

Constance Mackay, Carol Sax and I were waiting for a streetcar at the corner of Charles and Centre Streets...Weary from rehearsal, we leaned against a store window while we talked — good talk about the Little Theatre Movement that was spreading across the country...We agreed that Baltimore should have a Little Theatre. The town was loaded with talent. The question was, where to put the playhouse.

Carol Sax noticed that Miss Mackay and I were leaning against a store window. Directly above our heads was sign, "For Rent—Apply St. James Hotel." Eagerly the three of us cupped our eyes with our hands and peered through the darkened glass. The store was empty. It was about two stories high, just right for a theatre, and by some miracle there was a raised platform across the back wall...

Early the next morning, Carol Sax went to the St. James Hotel and paid the first month's rent. \$19.

Constance Mackay did not remain in Baltimore to participate in the actual founding of the theater. However, Carol Sax and Mrs. Nathan proceeded enthusiastically with the project, managing to throw Baltimore into a tizzy of excitement with their oblique publicity.

To learn more about our history, check out **The Vagabonds: America's Oldest Little Theatre** by Linda Lee Koenig or visit our website:
<https://www.vagabondplayers.org/history/>

Production Staff

Director	Audra M. Mullen
Assistant Director	Kerry Simons
Stage Manager	Stuart Deiningner
Lighting Design	Joel Selzer
Sound Design	Stephen M. Deiningner
Set Design	Roy Steinman
Set Construction	Moe Conn Jay DeMarco
Props/Costume Coordinator	Maeve Koch
Costume Alterations	Kai Blackford
Fight Choreographer/Captain	Matthew Payne
Intimacy Consultant	Alana Rae Sackman
Mental Health Consultant	Bridie Vickery Adult Intensive Services Manager QMHP-C
Photographer	Nicolle Walker
Marketing/PR	Audra M. Mullen Kerry Simons
Graphic Design	Sarah Hepworth
Box Office/Front of House	Michael Kranick
Producers	Stephen M. Deiningner Michael Kranick

Special Thanks

Milford Mill United Methodist Church for providing rehearsal space

VAGABOND ANGELS

It is because of the ongoing support of our community that Vagabond Players has operated continuously for over 100 years in Baltimore. Thank you to all who have helped us bring the best of Broadway back to Broadway!

Become an Angel today!

Support the arts, remember a loved one, or honor a fellow theatre lover.

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(Contributions of \$1,000 or more)

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The Ann Horwitz and

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of Ferd and Ann Mainolfi

David and Karen Graham

Geoff Hart

Gloria Henderson

Bruce Levy

Wendy Matt

Joy Morrell

Tommy Peter

Thom Peters

Angels

(Contributions of \$50-\$99)

Elizabeth Burin

Candice Chesno

Andres Danter

William M. Dunn

Myra Hettleman

Bob and Ginnie Kass

Mark Romanoff

Anthony Rufo

Donna Selden

Sheldon Shugarman

Ellen Weston

Vagabond Players is a recipient of grants from the Abell Foundation
and the Maryland States Arts Council



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OUR 107TH SEASON!**

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We welcome artists of all backgrounds and experience levels to join us and be a part of bringing high quality theatre to Baltimore.

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Have you been involved in a production for Vagabond Players? Whether on the stage or behind the scenes, once you've participated in a production you are eligible to become a Vagabond Players member.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TICKETS, VISIT
WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG**

