

Shirley Valentine



Tony Award Nominee for Best Play
Starring Emmy Winner Cady McClain

Written by Willy Russell & Directed by Roy Steinberg

June 7 - July 2

Wednesday - Saturday at 7 pm
Sunday at 3 pm

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Roy Steinberg

Producing Artistic Director of Cape May Stage

“No Man is an island”

John Donne

The rest of that poem states that “every man is a piece of the continent,
a part of the main”.

That is the theme of this 2023 Cape May Stage season.

Cape May City is on an island.

For over the past two years many of us have felt like we were in
seclusion with mask mandates and fears of travel due to the pandemic.
And yet, the theatre offers a balm for us to experience our humanity as we gather
together to laugh and cry and think “as part of the main”.

Each of our plays deals with how other people shape our lives whether through
friendships or work relationships or as lovers.

All of our offerings this season are comedies in a time when we could all use a
laugh in a precarious world.

So welcome to Cape May Stage where we can celebrate
what Shakespeare observed:
“the lunatic, the lover and the poet are of imagination all compact”.

Theseus goes on to ask,
“is there no play to ease the anguish of a torturing hour?”

At Cape May Stage the answer is a resounding “yes”!

Roy Steinberg



For when you want that Cape May state of mind.

Cape May

magazine

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Waiting for the show to begin?
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Shirley Valentine



Written by Willy Russell & Directed by Roy Steinberg

FEATURING:

Cady McClain as Shirley Valentine

June 7, 2023 - July 2, 2023

The Otto and Phoebe Haas Stage

Production Stage Manager
Jordan Chester

Lighting Designer
Alex Dannecker

Tech Director
Seth Chaffin

Video Designer
Ryan Perrillo

Scenic Designer
Alex Dannecker

Sound Designer
Hao Bai

Artistic Associate
Chris Dolman

Makeup Designer
Eldo Ray Estes

Costume Designer
Julie Jackson

Props Master/Set Decorator
Courtney Davis

Literary Manager
Shawn Fisher

Production Manager
Jordan Chester

Time: 1988.

Place: Liverpool and Greece

There will be one ten minute intermission.

Special thanks to Christine Petrik, David Green, Sea Weeds by the Sea, & Lisa Stroud

Presented by Special Arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

*Member of Actor's Equity Association.

+Member of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. All electronic devices such as beepers, tablets, cell phones, and watch alarms must be turned off prior to the performance.



2023 Producer Circle Members in support of "Shirley Valentine"



Grete & Martyn Greenacre Grete grew up in the Arctic parts of Norway where she watched movies under the Northern Lights on a gigantic screen made of polished ice. Her childhood was spent as an active member of the children's theater and later in annual high school revues. Martyn lived in England before travelling to the US for college and later, graduate school, although business took him back to the UK for many years. Early years "on stage" and attempts at playing music gave way to rowing at high school and college both as a participant and coach and more recently as a referee. Together they have supported the National Theatre, Ballet and Opera companies in London and been active supporters of the Philadelphia Orchestra for many years. Cape May Stage has become a welcome cultural outlet for them in Cape May where they now would like to spend most of their time.



Ken & Elaine Kirby reside in Havertown, PA and also have a home in Cape May County. Ken recently retired from a 35 year career in fund raising, public relations and government affairs, having worked for the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, Academy of Natural Sciences, Right Management Consulting, The Franklin Institute, and Main Line Health. Ken currently serves as a consultant to a variety of non-profit organizations. Elaine retired after a 25 year career in special events and marketing for the insurance industry. Ken is a former Trustee of The Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia. They are avid theater buffs - whether it be Broadway or an amateur theater company performing in a local gymnasium. They are longstanding and enthusiastic supporters of Cape May Stage, commenting that "the selection of plays and the quality of the acting and directing at CMS is outstanding and a tremendous enhancement to our summers at the shore!" Other than theater, their largest passion (of course!) is their two grandchildren, Carter and Avery.



Jim & Teresa Knipper are enjoying their 25th summer as part-time residents of Cape May. Longtime supporters of theater, they have seen Cape May Stage grow into an incredible gift for the community and all those who attend shows under the leadership of Roy Steinberg. Jim and Teresa have raised four sons and now enjoy bringing their grandchildren to Cape May. Jim, a publisher and a Catholic Deacon and Teresa, a spiritual director and SoulCollage facilitator, host a world of butterflies and bees in their native wildlife garden in the east end of town.



Lynn Martenstein & Jorg Pawlik have been members of the Producers Circle since 2016. Lynn also serves on the theater's board as VP. Previously, Lynn worked in corporate communications and PR, heading global communications for major companies such as United Airlines and Royal Caribbean Cruises worldwide. She also served on the boards of the Goodman Theater In Chicago and Coconut Grove Playhouse in Miami. Today, she and Jorg divide their time between Delray Beach, Fla. and Cape May, where Lynn and her parents and grandparents have been lifelong summer residents.



Laurie & John Orem have had a summer home in Cape May for over twenty years. Their primary residence is in Darien, CT and they have three grown daughters. John works as an investment banker for Stifel Financial and Laurie serves on the Boards of several non-profit organizations. Laurie and John love all that Cape May has to offer from the beaches to the food to the arts. They and their children have attended numerous productions of Cape May Stage and are excited to join the Producer's Circle this year.

Cape May Stage applauds all of our 2023 Producers Circle members. Thank you for making this season possible!

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Irene Darocha & Michael Picariello
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Get the inside scoop on each season's new productions, help support professional Equity theater in Cape May, and enjoy exclusive member benefits, including:

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Six "anytime" tickets to all shows and up to ten discounted \$25 tickets to all shows. *

*Subject to availability and can not be used for opening night performances.

For more information about becoming a Producer, please contact development@capemaystage.org.



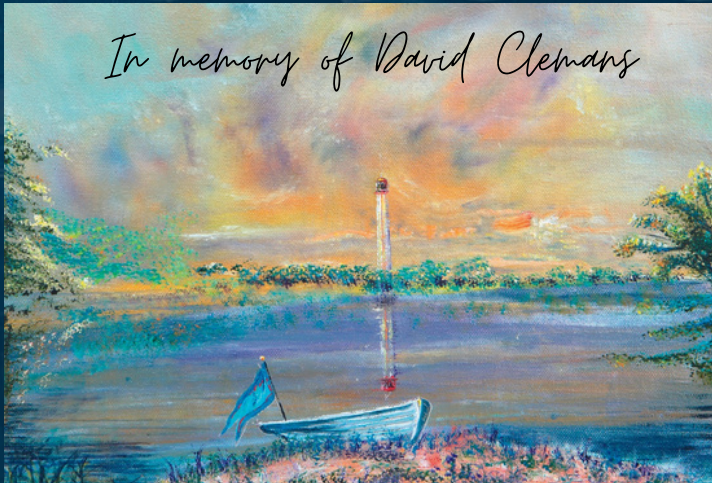
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By Roy B. Steinberg

Liverpool, on the western shore of the UK, suffered badly from the recession of the 1970s and 1980s and though Cape May on the southern shore of New Jersey is known as a resort town, its workers in 2023 are suffering from fears of a recession today. Our play takes place in 1988 but the issues are as current as ever. Shirley Valentine is the maiden name of Shirley Bradshaw and the title refers to Shirley regaining her identity – an identity lost to pre-conceived roles of wife and mother. Gail Collins reminds us in “When Everything Changed” that only recently could women get credit cards in their own names and that employment notices were divided by gender.

Though brutally funny, this is a work about empowerment as much as it is about identity. We know exactly who her husband Joe Bradshaw is and by the end of the play there is hope that he too has broken out of stereotypical roles and will enjoy rediscovering the woman he married. By mounting this production in 2023 we look through a wider lens of telling the story of empowerment and identity with inclusion of the LGBTQ community as well as the Asian and Black and Hispanic and indigenous communities. Breaking pre-conceived notions of roles and status takes courage.

Shirley has enormous courage in our story. Like Nora in Ibsen’s “A Doll’s House”, she literally walks out the door to start a new life. Unlike Ibsen, Willy Russell continues her journey to give us a glimpse of what the future may hold. Conventional society was scandalized by Ibsen. Audiences in 1988 were amused by Russell. We invite you to continue the laugh in 2023 and add a moment of self-reflection.

Casting Cady McClain in this role is an example of life imitating art. Cady is the epitome of a powerful woman and an artist who continues to win Emmy Awards while working as a writer, director, visual artist and Artistic Director in her own right.

“I’ve allowed myself to lead this little life, when inside me there was so much more.”

Playwright Willy Russell



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Roy Steinberg (Director) has directed classical and contemporary plays as well as world premieres all over the United States. He directed Ann Jackson, Kim Hunter, and Alvin Epstein in *The Madwoman of Chaillot* at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. As a member of Circle Repertory Company, he developed and directed *The Marriage Fool* with Lynn Cohen and Farley Granger. His production of *Othello* played at the Intar Theatre on Theatre Row in New York and he directed Joan Copeland in a new play called *Second Summer* for the Colleagues Theatre Company.

He was the Artistic Director of Theatre Matrix in New York and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin. He has directed touring companies of bilingual productions of *Moliere's The Miser* and *The Bourgeois Gentleman*. As a Guest Artist he has directed college students throughout our nation in plays like *American Buffalo*, *Our Town*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Mr. Steinberg has also produced and directed film and television including *Guiding Light*, *One Life To Live*, *Days Of Our Lives*, *Forensic Files*, and *Scandalous Art*. He has four Emmy nominations for his work. He directed Jo Beth Williams in *Life In General* on strike.tv, which won five Spirit Awards.

At Cape May Stage, Mr. Steinberg has directed *Souvenir*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Blithe Spirit*, *How to Make a Rope Swing*, *Say Goodnight Gracie*, *Social Security*, *Visiting Mr. Green*, *Proof*, *Class*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Understudy*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Boeing Boeing*, *Happy Days*, *Freud's Last Session*, *The Santaland Diaries*, *The Woolgatherer*, *Mistakes Were Made*, *This Wonderful Life*, *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Disgraced*, *Buyer and Cellar*, *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife*, *The Gin Game*, *Outside Mullingar*, *The Ultimate Christmas Show*, *Chapter Two*, *The Shuck*, *An Actor's Carol*, *Heisenberg*, *Sylvia*, *Sidekicked*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Double Play*, *America's Sexiest Couple*, *The Lifespan of a Fact*, and *One Christmas Carol*. Mr. Steinberg has an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He also functions as the Producing Artistic Director. His proudest production is his daughter, Alexa Catherine.



Cady McClain (Shirley Valentine) is a history making three-time Emmy© Award winning actress.

She is the first woman to have won three Emmys© for three different characters on three different television shows: All My Children (Best Juvenile, 1991), As the World Turns (Best Supporting, 2004), and Days of Our Lives (Best Guest Performer, 2021). She has performed Off-Broadway at 2nd Stage as “Lady” in David Ives’ The Red Address with Kevin Anderson (directed by Pam Berlin), at Lincoln Center Theater as “Hero” in Much Ado About Nothing, as “Adriana” in A Comedy of Errors at Hudson Theater Guild (with Erik Jensen), as “Cory” in Barefoot in the Park

at the Westbury and Valley Forge Music Fair, and as “Tamra/Bridget” in Quiet on the Set at the Westbeth Theatre Center. Her film work includes My Favorite Year (with Peter O’Toole) and Pennies From Heaven (with Steve Martin and Bernadette Peters) and starring roles in the independent films Soldier’s Heart (directed by Actor’s Studio member Brian Delate), Home Movie (with Adrian Pasdar, released through IFC), Alma Mater (with Alexander Chaplin and Will Lyman), Simple Justice (with Doris Roberts and Cesar Romero), and Retreat (with Michael E. Knight). Television credits include several episodes of Law and Order SVU (with Mariska Hargitay, Amanda Seyfried, and Christopher Meloni in 2004, then Kevin Kane and Ice T in 2023), Cheers (with Woody Harrelson and Ted Danson), and St. Elsewhere (with Christina Pickles). Her feature directorial debut, Seeing is Believing: Women Direct (featuring Lesli Linka Glatter, Sarah Gavron, and Naima Ramos Chapman, among others) won Best Documentary Pro Action at the Artemis Women in Action Film Festival, the Audience Award at the SOHO Film Festival, a Jury Prize at the Newport Beach Film Festival, and Best Documentary at the Ridgewood Guild International Film Festival. The film is now distributed on PBS and the educational online platform, Kanopy. She was honored to be awarded the International Matrix Award for her work related to supporting the female voice in film and television by the Association of Women in Communications. An Ambassador for Kids in the Spotlight (a foster youth filmmaking program) she is also the Artistic Director for AxialTheatre in Westchester, NY. She teaches acting at Michael Howard Studios in NYC.

Actors’ Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actors unions. Equity’s mission is to advance, promote, and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org



Jordan Chester (Production Stage Manager & Production Manager)

Born and raised in Southern New Jersey, they're thrilled to facilitate professional, small-town theatre communities right at home. Previous stage management credits include *Water by the Spoonful*, *The Wild Party*, *Ragtime* (Eagle Theater), *Incorruptible*, *Abigail: 1702* (South Camden Theater Co.), *Nocturne* (EgoPo Classic Theater). Thank you to everyone at CMS for the warm welcome and, as always, big love to Emmy for the support and Stubby sitting.



Julie Jackson (Costume Designer)

Ms. Julie Jackson has a B.A. in Theatre Production Design/Costume Design from Stockton University. Her 40 years of extensive experience includes costume design work for the University of Michigan's School of Theatre, School of Dance, and School of Music, and Costumer/Stitcher for the renowned University of Michigan Power Center, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Ann Arbor Opera Guild, and Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX. Ms. Jackson's costume design work also includes regional theaters throughout the tri-state area. Ms. Jackson was nominated for the Kennedy Center Barbizon Costume Design Award for Steve Martin's *Picasso* at the Lapin Ag le.



Courtney Davis (Props Master)

Courtney Davis is thrilled to be back at Cape May Stage this season. She has a B.A. in Music Industry with a Minor in Musical Theatre at Monmouth University. She has worked sound, lighting, rails, and makeup at various theatres through New Jersey including Two River Theatre, Algonquin Arts Theatre, and The Broadway Theatre of Pitman, and she is excited for this opportunity to grow at Cape May Stage.



Alex Dannecker (Scenic & Lighting Designer)

Alex has recently joined the Cape May Stage team as their Set and Lighting Designer. He graduated from Stockton University with a degree in Theatre Design & Technology. Alex was the Technical Director for the MRHS Drama Club for the past 4 years. Alex is now a Production Manager for Encore Global. His previous works include: *Off-Boardwalk Cabaret* produced by Juniper Productions (Technical Director), *Atlantic City Fashion Week Fall '16* (Lighting Director), *Heather's* (Set/Lighting Designer) for Artemis Theatre Co., *The Love of the Nightingale* (Lighting Designer) for Stockton University. Alex is very excited to work on future shows with the Cape May Stage and congratulates the cast and crew of *Shirley Valentine*.



Seth Chaffin (Technical Director)

Seth is a South Jersey/Philadelphia based Technical Director, Set Designer and Master Carpenter. He has a BFA from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a concentration in Set Design and Technical Direction. He has been part of the creative team in numerous productions throughout the Philadelphia and South Jersey areas, including the Philadelphia Polyphone Festival. In his spare time, Seth enjoys woodworking, jewelry making, blacksmithing and forging, and wood burning.



Hao Bai (Sound Designer)

Hao is a multidisciplinary designer in lighting, sound, and video projection for live and virtual performances. Hao's work has been seen internationally at Asia Culture Center (South Korea), WuZhen Festival (China), in the states at CAC (Cincinnati), Stanford, Jone Hall (Houston), Woolly Mammoth Theatre (DC), and in New York at The Public Theatre, NYU Skirball, The Shed, Bushwick Starr, La MaMa, JACK, Performance Space New York, New Stage Theatre, 59E59, A.R.T./New York Theatres, 14 Street Y, BAAD!, Stella Adler, The Performing Garage, The Gallery Players, The Tank, etc. Recent: Virtual: Final Boarding Call (Ma-Yi Theater+WP Theater); Nocturne in 1200s (Ping Chong). Lighting: Waterboy and the Mighty World (Bushwick Starr & The Public Theatre). Projection: Electronic City (NYIT Awards); Chronicle X (The Shed). Production Design: Where We Belong (Woolly Mammoth Theatre). Upcoming: Lighting: CHINOISERIE (Ping Chong). Production Design: This Is! is all (Harvard); Arden (Flea). Sound: The Lower Depth (NYU); Little Shop of Horrors (St. Louis Rep). <https://www.haobaidesign.com>

The Playwright



Willy Russell
"Shirley Valentine"

Willy Russell was recently represented on Broadway with his smash-hit transfer from London, Blood Brothers. For Shirley Valentine Mr. Russell won the 1989 Tony Award, Drama Desk Award for Best Play and Oliver Award for Best Comedy of the Year. His worldwide hit play and movie Educating Rita won London's SWET Award for Best Comedy, and in 1981, an Academy Award nomination for screenplay adaptation.

Born in Liverpool, he left school at 15 to become a hairdresser before returning to education and becoming a teacher. It was while training to become a teacher that he wrote his first play, which premiered at the Edinburgh Festival, When the Reds. His adaptation of Alan Plater's Tigers are Coming O.K. was his first professional work, presented in Liverpool in 1973. This was followed by John Paul George Ringo... and Bert which moved from Liverpool to the West End, winning the Evening Standard and London Theatre Critics Awards for Best Musical. Mr. Russell was Commissioned to write a play for the Royal Shakespeare Company. The result, Educating Rita, ran on the West End for two years, has been performed all over the world and was made into a motion picture starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters. Blood Brothers opened in Liverpool in 1983, before subsequently moving to the West End.

In addition to the film Educating Rita he wrote screenplays for the movie versions of Shirley Valentine and Dancing Thru The Dark based on his plays Stags and Hens. His plays have been translated into almost every language, with productions currently running in Japan, Australia, South America, Scandinavia and Europe.



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Test your knowledge about Cape May Stage. Answer all ten questions correctly to be entered into a drawing to win a special prize from Cape May Stage. The drawing will be held at the final performance of "Shirley Valentine" on Sunday, July 2nd, but you need not be present to win. Just scan this QR code to begin.

Hint: All of the answers can be found in this program!

If you would prefer a paper copy of the quiz, just ask our box office associates or ushers.

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Cape May Stage has a rich history dating back to 1989, when it staged its first official production, "Sea Marks," at the Chalfonte Hotel and Cold Spring Village. In 1993, Cape May Stage moved into its permanent home at 405 Lafayette Street, where it still performs today. This beautifully restored and maintained historic building was erected in 1853 as the Cape Island Presbyterian Church (known as the "Visitor's Church"), and later served as a community center and welcome center for the town.



Over the years, many people have contributed to the success of Cape May Stage. But none more so than its founder, **Michael Laird**. By his own account, Michael was an "equity actor and a director and a producer and a sculptor and a playwright and a poet and a clown." Before settling in Cape May he appeared Off-Broadway in New York, at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia and at Asolo State Theatre in Sarasota, Fla. He also did summer stock at PEI Playhouse in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Michael ran Cape May Stage until he passed away in 2001.



The building used by Cape May Stage is called the Robert Shackleton Playhouse. Named after the late actor **Robert Shackleton**, whose family has deep roots in Cape May, the theater pays tribute to his acting career. Mr. Shackleton was raised in suburban Philadelphia, graduating from Temple University and then moving on to perform in Broadway and London theaters, as well as in the movies. His acting career was interrupted by World War II and in 1956 he tragically passed away at the age of 42. His love of theater lives on in Cape May as his daughter, Leslie Shackleton Martel, serves as the president of the Cape May Stage board of directors.

Thanks to the generosity of the Shackleton family along with other members of the Cape May Stage community, the building was renamed the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in 2007 and this historic structure is now a state-of-the-art theatre known to residents and visitors as "the jewel in the crown of Cape May's architectural gems".



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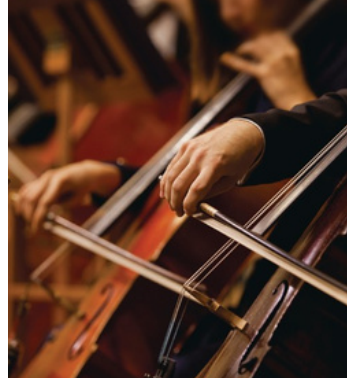
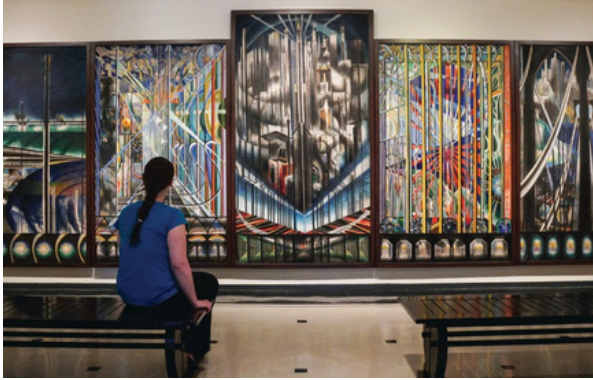


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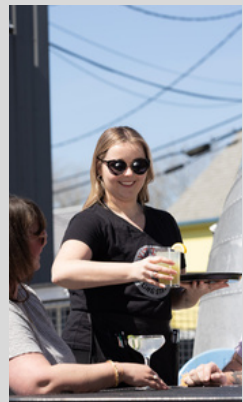
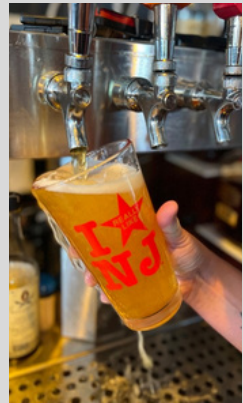
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