

"Joelle's finely crafted play is laced with wit and wisdom." ~ BroadwayWorld.com ~

# THE GARBOLOGISTS

A comedic and hopeful play about finding common ground in uncommon times.

Written by Lindsay Joelle

Sept. 13 – Oct. 22 Wednesday - Saturday at 7 PM Sunday at 3 PM Directed by Roy Steinberg

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## "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"!

By Steinberg



For when you want that Cape May state of mind.



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Many thanks to our 2023 season lead producers: Victor Keen & Jeanne Ruddy, Jim & Teresa Knipper, Jim & Jeannie Morris, and Catherine Rein



#### Sept 13, 2023 - Oct 22, 2023 The Otto and Phoebe Haas Stage

# Featuring

Serena Ebony Miller\* and Michael Basile\*

Production Stage Manager Jordan Chester

Lighting Designer Zach Weeks

Tech Director Seth Chaffin Master Flectrician Alex Dannecker Run Crew

Stephen Martin

Scenic Designer Alex Dannecker

Sound Designer Hao Bai

Video Projections Ryan Perillo

Props Master **Courtney Davis**  **Production Manager** Jordan Chester

Costume Designer Julie Jackson

Artistic Associate Chris Dolman

Literary Manager Shawn Fisher

Time: 2019. Winter

Place: New York Citv

Inside the cab of a DSNY garbage truck, and at various stops along the route. No Intermission.

Special thanks to SeaWeeds by the Sea, Bella Dougherty, Dave's Trash Removal, The Henry Family, Cotton Company, OddBall Vintage & Tony Balzofiore at Mac's Uniforms

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.



Directors pote

#### By Roy B. Steinberg

"Essential workers" is a newly coined phrase created during the Covid epidemic and "The Garbologists" gives a name and humanity to those faceless workers who are certainly essential and so under-appreciated.

The dynamics of any workplace can be fraught with competition, power struggles, and expectations. When we add gender issues and race and social standing, those dynamics are exacerbated many times over. In this play, all those issues are explored with an added secret involving a child that makes this environment even more potentially toxic and yet comic and poignant.

The real surprise is how strangers can be thrust into this setting and emerge with a profound friendship. It is a tale for our times.

The theatre provides a microcosm for a workplace where friendships are quickly made and often forgotten. "I love ya, baby, but the show closed" is a joke among theatre folks since we reveal more personal information during rehearsals in creating the work and so there is an instant form of intimacy.

Once the show is closed, we are off to another group of people and exploring new relationships. On occasion, genuine friendships survive the performance schedules and life-long friendships are created. I have found this more often at Cape May Stage than elsewhere and have attended marriages of several actors who met or cemented relationships in this special place.

Comedy is based on undermining expectations. When Danny quotes Shakespeare and Zadie Smith in his Staten Island accent and we learn that Marlowe is a graduate of Columbia, we must reorient ourselves.

So, peek into the lives of these two sanitation workers for the City of New York and prepare to have expectations undermined, understandings deepened, and appreciations made more profound. That is our mission at Cape May Stage – and if we can accomplish all that while making you laugh, we will have made a friend for our theatre!

"One man's trash is another man's treasure."



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Denise Shutter Ryan Perillo Courtney Davis

Emma Jane Maurer Ellen Smith

Roy B. Steinberg + Jordan Chester\* Seth Chaffin Alex Dannecker Julie Jackson Zach Weeks Hao Bai Courtney Davis Chris Dolman Shawn Fisher Ryan Perillo Stephen Martin

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### We salute our board members for all of their work on behalf of Cape May Stage. Thank you!



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## 2023 Producers Circle Members in support of "The Garbologists"



**Lee & Jill Bellarmino** relocated from Toms River, NJ about 11 years ago to the beautiful shores of Cape May, NJ. Retirement did not slow them down as they both dove into volunteer work using their organizational and leadership skills. Lee retired as President & CEO of NJM Bank in Central Jersey and Senior Vice President of NJM Insurance Group. He has served on Cape May Stage's Board of Directors and he currently serves on the Cape May MAC Board of Directors. Jill, a former school district secretary and library worker is a very active volunteer in the community and a dedicated supporter of both Cape May Stage and MAC. In 2021, both Lee and Jill were the recipients of the Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture) Honor Award, an annual award given for outstanding service to the organization.

**W.J. "Brad" Bradhering** supports the Arts including Cape May Stage and and George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, NJ. He has been a Producer specializing in the design, production and staging of business theater and events for Fortune 500 companies for over 45 years. Brad resides in Stone Harbor during the summer and spends the rest of his time, when not traveling, in the Princeton area. He is also a Board Member and the Treasurer of the Rocky Hill Community Group.





**Denise & Vince DeGiaimo** were born, raised, and met in New York City. They became full-time Cape May residents in April of 2021. Vince is a retired Investment Banker, and Denise recently retired after a long teaching career. They moved here from their primary home in New York's Westchester County. They have long supported non-profit and forprofit theaters in NY. And they have been investors in a number of Off and Off-Off-Broadway productions. Vince is currently serving as a Board member of Cape May Stage. And they are proud members of Cape May Stages' Producers Circle, saying that "being a Producer has been so much fun and has connected us to so many wonderful and talented people."





**Irene Darocha & Michael Picariello** are both in the health care field and when not uplifting the wellness of their patients, they often find respite in the enjoyment of live theatre and other artistic performances. "Our continued support of Cape May Stage as an enduring bellwether of the artistic scene in our historic beach community is prompted by the sheer variety and astute casting of the productions. From screwball comedies to dramatic social struggles, the season is also wonderfully highlighted by an A-list of Broadway series productions." The Cape May Stage historically has always had something interesting for everyone to enjoy. "Our enthusiasm of the Stage's artistic vision has remained unwaveringly strong, and we steadfastly encourage all visitors to the New Jersey Shore to make attending a Cape May Stage production a destination highlight worth experiencing."

**Joan & Jack Dempsey** have been theater patrons in both Washington, DC, and New York City for years and they are thrilled to add patronage to our wonderful Cape May Stage! They believe that venues and organizations like Cape May Stage, MAC, and Lessons of History make Cape May, not just a beautiful beach town, but a vibrant destination for arts and culture that enrich our lives and our community. Jack retired as both a US Navy officer and Department of Defense civilian but has no plans to retire from tennis and he is a daily presence at the Cape May Tennis Club. Joan also spent careers in both the US government and in the private sector and currently serves on corporate boards. Both Jack and Joan love entertaining their extended family and friends in Cape May and, when they are in town, their front porch is always occupied.

**Eunice & David King** purchased their first home in Cape May in 2003 and immediately fell in love with this unique beach town and its historical and cultural resources. Over the 20 years we have been coming here, one of the highlights for us has always been attending Cape May Stage productions. Cape May Stage is truly a Cape May treasure that always impresses us with its creativity and production of entertaining, thought-provoking, and timely plays. It is an honor to support this wonderful organization.



## 2023 Producers Circle Members in support of "The Garbologists"



**Kit Marlowe & BJ Wagner-Marlowe** Kit Marlowe is a retired safety manager for an environmental engineering company. He moved from Northern NJ to Cape May, NJ in 2015. It's a beautiful beachfront town, but poverty runs rampant about nine months a year. He serves the UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore, as Board Secretary, and secretary of the UUs for Just Economic Community. He is president of the Democratic Club in Lower Township, NJ. BJ Wagner-Marlowe retired from her role as an Assistant Dean with the Rutgers medical School in 2015. She is active with the Cape May Garden Club, the Cape May County Women's Community Club, and the American Association of University Women.



**Leslie & Myles Martel** were inspired by Mel Brooks' iconic line "I want to be a producer" and now legitimately hold claim to the title "Producer" while supporting Cape May Stage's outstanding contributions to the Cape May cultural scene. Leslie, having been born into the world of live theater, developed a love for it at an early age and has continued to enjoy the theater throughout her life. They have a deep respect for all that Cape May Stage does for the area and send their thanks to the hard-working Board of Trustees and Roy Steinberg.



**Stephen & Janet Miller** are thrilled to be part of the Producers Circle, adding this show to their roster of current theatrical projects on Broadway and the London West End. They reside in Cape May.



respect, and goodwill as a powerful voice in the American political landscape advocating "Country Before Party". Catherine Moyal Nevins has over 30 years' experience in luxury country club real estate sales. Catherine works in all phases of development from concept through completion including marketing, sales, construction and closing.
 George & Theresa Schu The Schus have been fortunate to live in Cape May for nearly 20 years. They also live in the Washington, D.C. area and regularly return to Europe to visit family, friends and old haunts. They thoroughly enjoy Cape May, entertaining friends and family, and seizing all the wonderful opportunities Cape May





**Steven & Sue Teitelman** were among the first patrons to join the Producers Circle. Susan was a member of the board of Cape May Stage for many years and Steve retired as the President of PSEG Energy, Resource, and Trade Company. Steve grew up in Cape May, where his family owned and operated many businesses dating back to the early 1900's. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

offers to live life to its fullest. For them Cape May represents unparalleled historical and cultural richness. They believe that Cape May is particularly set apart by the superb programs that Cape May Stage offers and are proud to be Producers Circle supporters.



**Marvin & Lee Zektzer** made Cape May their permanent residence in 2017, after decades of renting and years of owning a second home. They say all the time, it was the best decision they ever made. Marvin and Lee are involved in many community activities and have always supported Cape May Stage. They are thrilled to continue to be a part of the Producers Circle.

**David & Catherine Nevins** David L. Nevins received an M.B.A. in finance from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1971 and currently serves as President of Nevins Real Estate Management. Nevins is Chairman of the Board of the Bridge Alliance, an alliance of 100+ organizations who have come together in civility, respect, and goodwill as a powerful voice in the American political landscape advocating "Country Before Party". Catherine Moyal Nevins has over 30 years' experience in luxury country club real estate sales. Catherine works in all phases of development from concept through completion including marketing, sales, construction and closing.

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

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# Do You Want to be a Producer?

Join the Producers Circle and experience Cape May Stage like never before.

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

Private Producers Circle events throughout the season. Two complimentary tickets to opening night of the show you produce. Acknowledgment as Producer on the program's Title Page for produced play. Acknowledgment as Producer on the program's donor list and Cape May Stage website. 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.



Cape May MAC celebrates the history and enriches the life of the greater Cape May region. We breathe life into the stories and places of the past and foster unforgettable experiences in the arts, history, and culture.

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#### CAPE MAY STAGE

Director's Bio



**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, One Christmas Carol, and most recently Shirley Valentine and Art. 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.



The Playwright

Lindsay Joelle's plays include TRAYF (Theater J, Geffen Playhouse — 2022 LA Drama Critics Circle nomination for best writing; Goldberg MFA Playwriting Award); THE GARBOLOGISTS, an EST/Sloan Foundation commission (Philadelphia Theatre Company, City Theatre, Northlight Theatre); and THE MESSENGERS, an Audible Theatre Emerging Playwright Commission recorded by Audible.

Joelle was the National New Play Network's Playwright-in-Residence at Curious Theatre and has developed new work with City Theatre, PlayPenn, and Playwrights Foundation, among others. Alumna of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, Nashville Repertory Theatre's Ingram New Works Lab, New Georges Jam, Columbia University (BA), and Hunter (MFA). Other writing includes the prep book Tutor Tells All: ACT Test Strategy. www.lindsayjoelle.com



Cast Bios



#### Michael Basile (Danny)

Michael is thrilled to be back in his artistic home away from home. Thanks to Roy, Serena, and all those who made this another wonderful experience here in beautiful Cape May. Cape May Stage: The Woolgatherer, Mistakes Were Made, Barefoot in the Park, Chapter Two, Happy. Off-Broadway: The Most Dangerous Man in America (Castillo Theatre), All Dolled Up (Acorn Theatre). Other Regional includes: Rounding Third (Act 2 Playhouse), Laughter on the 23rd Floor (Schoolhouse Theatre), The Odd Couple (Kimmel Center), Italian-American Reconciliation (Depot Theatre). Film includes: The Dark Tower, Where God Left His Shoes, Dog's Life. Upcoming: Relay. TV: "The Endgame", "The Good Fight", "Law and Order", "Law and Order: SVU", "Golden Boy", "Luke Cage", "The Defenders", "Blue Bloods", "Unforgettable", and recurring on all five seasons of NBC's

New Amsterdam." Training: William Esper Studio (William Esper). Michael has had the best "day job" for a New York actor the past 19 years, working as a Firefighter for the FDNY in Engine 242 in Brooklyn. Michael has recently joined the faculty of the esteemed Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre in NYC. For the love of my life, my wife, Michele. michaelcbasile.com



#### Serena Ebony Miller (Marlowe)

Serena Ebony Miller is so excited to make her first appearance at Cape May Stage. Select appearances: Arden: But Not Without You, Priestess of Twerk, Romeo and Juliet, The Commedia Company, Twelfth Night, The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. She is also an accomplished musician and composer, having contributed to works with The Public Theater, SoHo Shakespeare Company, The New Ohio, Shakespeare in the Parking Lot, The New School; as well as several other regional, Off-Broadway productions, and independent works. Favorite venues include The Apollo Theater, The Cutting Room, Joe's Pub, The Bitter End & Town Hall. Serena is a faculty member at The Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theater and a proud member of AEA. Shout out to her family, cast and crew, and especially to those who surround her. Love.

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



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# Take the Quiz to Win!



Test your knowledge about New York City, the location of *The Garbologists*. 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 *The Garbologists* on Sunday, October 22, but you need not be present to win. Just scan this QR code or enter this URL in your smart phone to begin.

# https://tinyurl.com/yey2btep

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



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Crew Bios



#### Jordan Chester (Production Stage Manager & Production Manager)

Born and raised in Southern New Jersey, Jordan is thrilled to facilitate professional, small-town theatre communities close to 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! As always, big love to Em for the unwavering support. \*Pokes to make sure she's real\*.



#### 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 Agile.



#### **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 Designer & Master Electrician)

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 *The Garbologists* 



#### 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.



Crew Bios



#### 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 Isl is all (Harvard); Arden (Flea). Sound: The Lower Depth (NYU); Little Shop of Horrors (St. Louis Rep). www.haobaidesign.com



#### Zach Weeks (Lighting Designer)

Zach (He, Him, His) is excited to be designing at Cape May Stage. Zach is a New York based designer whose designs have been seen all over New York. Selected credits include Peter and the Starcatcher, Little Shop of Horrors, You're are a good man Charlie Brown, The Tempest, Little Prince (Epic Players), Pushkin (Sheen Center), Fall of the House of Usher (The New School). Regional Credits include Brigadoon & Love and the Law (Muhlenberg College), The Producers, Into the Woods, Hairspray, & Legally Blonde (White Plains PAC). Zach has worked as an Assistant Designer at Carnegie Hall, New

York City Center, Plaza Hotel, and Theatre Row just to name a few. To learn more about Zach or to see more of his work please go to zwdesigns.net



#### Ryan Perillo (Projections)

With over a year of dedicated service at Cape May Stage as the Community Outreach Manager, Ryan was able to weave his previous experience in video production seamlessly into the theater realm. Drawing from years of expertise in producing weddings, he embarked on a remarkable journey to enhance Cape May Stage's online presence. Through his vision and dedication, he infused the Cape May Stage YouTube channel with captivating content, enabling audiences from around the world to experience the magic of theater in a new and engaging way. Ryan's creative journey extended

beyond the screen, as he played an instrumental role in the creation of captivating video projections for productions like "Shirley Valentine," "The Garbologists," and the engaging movie series. His ability to merge technology and storytelling has elevated these performances, leaving a lasting impact on both cast and audience alike. Ryan recently embarked on a new endeavor by establishing his own video production company – Gray Mustache Studios. Specializing in weddings and other short-form video content, Ryan's company reflects his commitment to crafting visually stunning narratives that capture the essence of life's most cherished moments.



# Southern Cape May County CAPE MAY RADIO WCFA 101.5

WCFA 101.5 FM is Cape May's community radio station, owned and operated by the 501 (c)(3) non-profit Center for Community Arts located in Cape May, NJ. WCFA features music and conversation, community storytelling, and local affairs programs, all produced and hosted by volunteers.

### **Proud Supporter of Cape May Stage**

WCFA's mission is to support the mission of the Center for Community Arts. To build community through the arts and community history awareness - - through diverse music, talk, and local affairs programs that reflect the needs and interests of southern Cape May County, and that are not available on other area commercial or public radio stations. WCFA provides a creative outlet for people through volunteer participation in both the broadcast and non-broadcast activities of the station.



Jessie Creep

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#### CAPE MAY STAGE

Our History



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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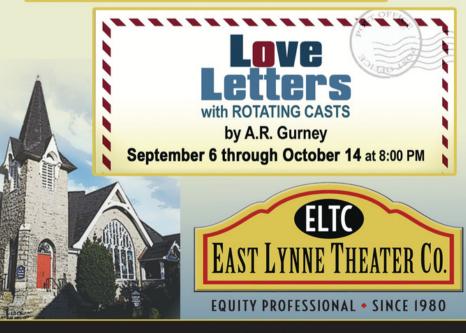


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