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Montclair's Own Community Theatre



Coming Soon to Studio Playhouse

Maxine Lyle's *Step Show*...October 3, 2021

Greater Tuna...December 3-18, 2021

Sister Mary Ignacious Explains It All to You...

January 18th-February 12th

Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play...May 6th-May 21st

Visit Our Website for Tickets and Even More

Upcoming Events

www.studioplayhouse.org

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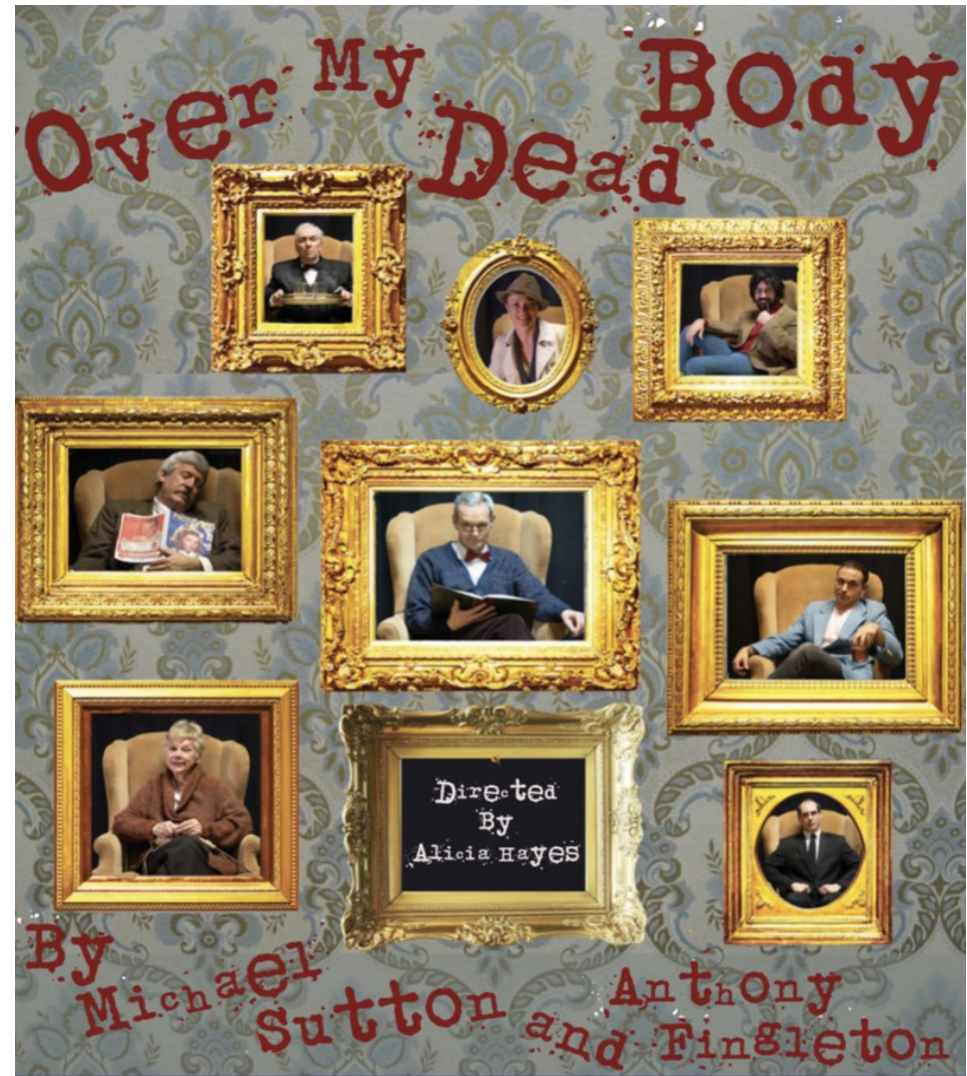
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Saturday, October 9th 2021

14 Alvin Place, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 973.744.9752
www.studioplayhouse.org ~ www.facebook.com/studioplayhouse



presents

Over My Dead Body

By Michael Sutton and Anthony Fingleton

DIRECTOR

Alicia Hayes*

SET DESIGNER

Ken Budris*

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Steve Moger*

COSTUME DESIGNER

Julia Sharp*

SOUND DESIGNER

Liz Kent

2020 STAGE MANAGER

Jillian Hayes

* DENOTES A STUDIO PLAYERS MEMBER

Over My Dead Body presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Services



Thank You from Studio Playhouse!

THANK-YOU to all our generous donors through both the pandemic and recent flood, we couldn't have been able to mount this season without you. As we move forward with the pandemic persevering and a long road to recovery from the flood, we need your generosity to continue creating quality, affordable theatre to Montclair.

THANK-YOU again to all who have donated, purchased a ticket, or supported us in any way.

GET INVOLVED WITH STUDIO

There are many ways to become a part of Studio Players. Maybe you'd like to act, sing or dance on stage. Perhaps you'd like to express yourself artistically by designing sets, lights, costumes or make-up. Or maybe you'd like to become part of the Studio family by helping out behind the scenes as a stage manager, usher, box office, etc....No matter what your interests, there's a place for you at Studio!

You don't need any special talents to join Studio Players. Even if you've never stepped foot in a theatre before, we'll gladly teach you everything you need to know. It's a great way to get involved and give something back to your community.

Adult membership is available for ages 16 and up; junior membership for ages 8-15. For more information, contact our Membership Manager at 973-744-9752 or studiopl@studioplayhouse.org.

Give the Gift of Theatre

Gift certificates and gift subscriptions are available. Your recipient can choose the dates they wish to attend. The Box Office can keep your credit card info securely on file and only charge it when the tickets are actually reserved.

Call 973-744-9752 or email boxoffice@studioplayhouse.org for more



ABOUT



EMILY MILLER(Dramaturgy) is a professional dramaturg who made her Off Broadway debut in the 2014 production of *Uncle Vanya* as Assistant Dramaturg. Since then Emily has dramaturged many productions in the New York/New Jersey area. She has also been a Dramaturg Guest Artist in Residence at the Academy for Visual and Performing Arts. She graduated Cum Laude from Drew University with a Double Major in Theatre Arts&History

PATRICK BROCKWAY(Fight Director) is overjoyed to be working with Studio Playhouse on *Over My Dead Body*. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson, Patrick has been studying acting and stage combat for the better part of his life. Previous choreography and fight direction credits include: *Zorro!*, *Cyrano!*, *The 39 Steps*, *Macbeth*, *Lysistrada*, *Romeo and Juliet* and others. Patrick would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work and dedication as well as his family and friends for their undying support and affection.

CREW

Master Carpenter.....Mike Sakolsky*
 Set Dressing.....Laura Byrne-Cristiano*
 Scenic Artist.....E. Dale Smith-Gallo*
 Properties Masters.....Laura Byrne-Cristiano*
 Dialect Coach.....Tess Ammerman
 Dramaturgy.....Emily Miller
 Fight Director.....Patrick Brockway
 Lighting&Sound Operator.....Steve Moger*
 Construction Crew.....Michael Sakolsky*, Shelley Sakolsky, E.Dale Smith-Gallo, Brian Wood, Bob Scarpone, Alicia Hayes, Kevin Vislocky, Jean Kuras, Steve Sandler*, Matthew Hayes, Jillian Hayes, Jackie Matthews, Michael Smith-Gallo*, Laura Byrne-Cristiano*

SPECIAL THANKS

Mimi Greco, Cranford Dramatic Club, The Hecht Family, The Smith-Gallos, Pat Mannix, Janet Sales, and Nathan Hayes



cast

Trevor Foyle.....E.Dale Smith-Gallo*
 Dora Winslow.....Jean Kuras
 Bartie Cruikshank.....Bob Scarpone*
 Charters.....Brian Wood
 Simon Vale.....Michael Smith-Gallo*
 Leo Sharp.....Brandon Conti
 Inspector Smith.....Jackie Matthews
 Sergeant Trask.....Kevin Vislocky

settings

1972 SoHo London, Murder League Reading Room
 Act I Scene I : Fall afternoon
 Act I Scene 2: Two nights later
 Act II: The following morning

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

THIS SHOW CONTAINS A GUNSHOT AND DESCRIBED VIOLENCE



JULIA SHARP* (Costume Designer) is a retired professor of fashion. She has costumed over 50 plays for professional (Equity) regional theaters, including *Blithe Spirit*, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Deathtrap*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, the musicals *Peter Pan*, *Oliver*, and *A Christmas Carol*, and several shows for The Studio Players, including *Complete Game*, *Born Yesterday*, and *Madeline's Christmas*. She is also the author of several text books including ones on textiles, and the use of design elements in creating apparel

LIZ KENT (Sound Designer) is excited to be working on her first show with Studio Playhouse. Liz is a designer, actor, musician, and teaching artist located in North Jersey. Past favorite design credits include *1984* with NEXTStage Repertory, *How It Really Happens* for the Philadelphia Fringe, and *Assassins* with Kenan Theatre Company. Past favorite acting credits include *A Christmas Carol* with McCarter Theatre Center, *Sweeney Todd* with PlayMakers Repertory Company, and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* with Stony Hill Players. www.liz-kent.com

TESS AMMERMAN(Dialect Coach) Previous Dialect work includes *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Chatham Players). Previous theatrical credits include *Much Ado About Nothing* (Holmdel Theatre Co), *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre), *A Child's Christmas in Wales* (STNJ), *The Revenger's Tragedy* (dir. Mark Bell, RCCSD) and *The Suicide* (dir. Ben Naylor, RCSSD). Tess received her MA in Classical Acting from The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and has recently formed a new company called TSquared Productions which premiered its first show last fall at the Philadelphia Fringe. EJM & MFD



KEN BUDRIS* (Set Designer) Ken has been involved with Studio Players—onstage and off—since 1999. Ken's favorite set designs include *The Man Who Came To Dinner*, *Fools* and *Beyond Therapy*. Favorite roles on the Studio stage include Hank in *Boys In the Band*, Harry Brock in *Born Yesterday*, Terrence in *Breaking Legs*, Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Charlie in *The Foreigner* and Jonathan in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Ken's directing credits include *Don't Drink the Water*, *Don't Dress for Dinner* (co-directed with his wife, Claudia), *Fools* and *Beyond Therapy*.

LAURA BYRNE-CRISTIANO * Set Dressing/Props : Laura has been at Studio since 2005. She is a six time Perry Award Nominee with nominations in both performance and design. Although she now resides in Philly, she loves to still help to create the atmosphere the audience and actors experience. Thank you to Alicia for a great creative relationship, and thank you to Dale and Mike for proving a home away from home for too many days to count.

STEVE MOGER *(Lighting Design) has been teaching theatre, music, and television production at Tenafly High School in Bergen County for over 20 years. He and his students have created scenic and lighting designs that have won recognition in programs such as Paper Mill's Rising Star Awards and NJ Metro Cappies. Previously at Studio, Steve was the scenic and lighting designer for *Almost, Maine* and has been the lighting designer for several shows, including *Some Girl(s)*, *The Twentieth Century*, *Spring Awakening*, *Urinetown*, and *The Secret Garden*. For the last 13 years, Steve has been the Designer and Technical Director for the New Jersey Summer Theatre Workshop (www.njsummertheatre.org), a summer student theatre program in residence here at the Studio.

While charming, clever and unique, this play is a little ridiculous.

Okay, you're about to watch it, I'll level with you. It is absolutely ridiculous.

But despite its convoluted nature, the themes are not so strange. It touches on topics like nostalgia, the importance of chosen family, longing for the past, the desire to be admired, establishing a legacy and passing knowledge to the next generation. Yes, it is full of bizarre schemes, fun characters, silly jokes and "baroque touches". It is also full of heart, and I hope you enjoy it.

Off we go!

-Alicia Hayes
Director

2021 Director's Note

Hello! Thank you for returning to Studio Playhouse for the staged reading of *Over My Dead Body*.

On March 14th, 2020, I woke up and thought “Well, at least I get to feel normal today” The world was wildly changing on a day to day basis no one really knew what to expect. But March 14th was dry tech day, and since I knew that I would spend the whole day creating theatre, I knew at t least that would feel normal. In the midst of tech, we received word that Studio was officially postponing *Over My Dead Body*. No one was really surprised, but any hopes of normalcy officially went out the window. We rallied together, finished up our tech for whenever we reopened (which is why you have lights, sound, and a set this evening), and then Studio went dark.

19 months later and we are finally back together. I'm so glad that we get to close this chapter and highlight much of the work this cast and crew put into this show. It is still a zany, ridiculous, over the top, entertaining play. But now it represents so much more. It represents all the change in the last year and a half, the collaboration and support of the Studio Board, and the people who rallied together (yet far apart) to get through this pandemic. So thank you for joining us. We hope that you enjoy this evening

-Alicia Hayes

ABOUT

KEVIN VISLOCKY (Trask). Kevin is happy to be a part of his second Studio production this season. Earlier he appeared as Mr. Raymond in *The Receptionist*. Favorite past performances include: *Frost/Nixon* (Nixon), *Othello* (Iago), *I Hate Hamlet* (Barrymore), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (Picasso), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Voice Two), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Benedict), *Time Stands Still* (James), *Macbeth* (Macbeth), *Burn This* (Pale), and *Amadeus* (Mozart). Thanks to Alicia and everyone in this production for sharing your talents! Thank you for joining us today! “You can only be as good as you dare to be bad.” – John Barrymore

ALICIA HAYES* (Director) Alicia is thrilled to direct her first main stage show at Studio Playhouse. She directed *Stuart Little* at Studio and three *24 Hour New Play Experiments* through Chalkboard Theatre Project. She was last onstage at Studio as Older Molly (*Jake's Women*) and was the stage manager for *The Boys in the Band*. She recently played Emmy (*A Doll's House Part Two*) at Summit Playhouse and stage managed *How It Really Happens* for the Philly Fringe. Love and thanks to those who support her in her endeavors! Off we go!

www.aliciachayes.com

JILLIAN HAYES (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be stage managing her first mainstage production here at Studio. She has previously stage managed *Beauty and the Beast*, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. She enjoys singing in her touring choir, spending time with family and friends, and helping out in various shows at Studio. She wants to thank the whole Hayes gang but especially her sister Alicia for giving her this opportunity. Acts 412

 ABOUT 

MICHAEL SMITH-GALLO (Simon Vale), last seen as Michael in *The Boys in The Band*, has previously directed Studio's *The Receptionist* and appeared in *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince...), *The Assembled Parties* (Ben), and *Stage Kiss* (He/Johnny). Other local credits include: *The Pitmen Painters* (Oliver Kilbourn), *Dinner with Friends* (Tom), *Boeing Boeing* (Bernard), *A New Brain* (Roger Delli-Bovi), *A Man of No Importance* (Robbie Faye), *King Charles III* (Prince William), *reasons to be pretty* (Kent), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Orin Scrivello). Michael is a current board member of Studio and an erstwhile one of the Yale Dramat. Thanks to the entire Dead Body team, especially Alicia and hubby Dale. Cleaving and Upholding!

BRANDON CONTI (Leo Sharp): Brandon is so excited to make his Studio Playhouse debut! He was last seen locally in Chatham's reading of *Dog Sees God*.

JACKIE MATTHEWS (Inspector Smith): Jackie is excited to be performing in her first play. She is a writer and performer with the sketch comedy team *The Ruse*, a house team for *Super Sketch Tuesdays* at the People's Improv Theater in New York. She would like to thank her parents, Jodi Foster and Ellen Degeneres, for preparing her for this once in a lifetime role.

 ABOUT 

E. DALE SMITH-GALLO * (Trevor) is excited to return to the Studio stage after previously appearing in *Into the Woods* (The Witch), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Howard, NJACT Perry nom.), and *Stage Kiss* (Adrian) to name a few. He directed *The Boys in the Band* last season and *Jake's Women* in 2017. His original work, *Divine/Intervention* was seen at the 2015 FringeNYC Festival, earning "Outstanding Production of a Play." Off stage, he heads the Theatre Dept. at Urban Assembly School for the Performing Arts in Harlem. Thanks to Alicia for the opportunity, and Mike for his love, support, and partnership.

JEAN KURAS (Dora Winslow) Jean has been seen at Studio as Margaret Lord in *Philadelphia Story*, Mrs. Dixon-Durant in *Cactus Flower* and Mrs. Hedges in *Born Yesterday*. She thanks the talented cast, the excellent stage crew and the special artistry of Alicia for making the body come to life so skillfully.

BOB SCARPONE *(Bartie), a history teacher and game show champion (*Jeopardy!* and *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*), is thrilled to make his Studio Players debut. Favorite roles include Willy Loman (*Death of a Salesman*), George (*Of Mice and Men*), Allan (*Play it Again, Sam*), Teddy (*Arsenic and Old Lace*), Gloucester (*King Lear*), Polonius (*Hamlet*), Captain Von Trapp (*The Sound of Music*), The Wizard (*The Wizard of Oz*), Mr. Bumble (*Oliver!*), and Kevin (*In the Heights*). Love to Terri/Lizzi; thanks, Alicia/crew/cast; apologies for the nonstop, lethal puns. Thanks to the audience; without you, this would just be a dress rehearsal.

BRIAN WOOD (Charters) - This is Brian's 4th show at Studio Players, having played Inspector Japp in Agatha Christie's *Black Coffee*, Colonel Craddock in *Murdered to Death* and Dr. Reverend Harper in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Other recent roles include Cheswick in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Van Helsing in *Dracula* and Anton Schindler in *33 Variations*.