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The Matchmaker

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Taylor University Theatre Presents

The Matchmaker

a farce by Thornton Wilder
Like Miss VanHuysen, I keep pinching myself unable to believe that we are opening the last show of this year’s theatre season. Thank to all of you who have supported us through your gifts and presence. C.S. Lewis wrote in his essay “An Experiment in Criticism:”

“What then is the good of—what is even the defense for—occupying our hearts with stories of what never happened and entering vicariously into feelings which we should try to avoid having in our own person? Or of fixing our inner eye earnestly on things that can never exist..? The nearest I have yet got to an answer is that we seek an enlargement of our being. We want to be more than ourselves. Each of us by nature sees the whole world from one point of view with a perspective and a selectiveness peculiar to himself... We want to see with other eyes, to imagine with other imaginations, to feel with other hearts, as well as with our own...We demand windows.”

I pray the theatre season this year has been for you a series of windows and doors that have enlarged your experience, challenged your thinking, engaged you with beauty and allowed space for joy.

Before the world fell in love with Hello, Dolly!, Thornton Wilder’s uproarious play The Matchmaker introduced Ms. Dolly Gallagher Levi: a cunning, crafty, and thoroughly modern woman who knows a good catch when she sees one. When the wealthy Horace Vandergelder hires matchmaker Ms. Levi to find him a wife, Dolly doesn’t need to look far to find his perfect mate. While Dolly is “arranging things” for Mr. Vandergelder, the young, hopeless romantics of Yonkers reap the rewards of Dolly’s generosity. Dolly lives in the 1880s—a time of immigrants streaming into the halls of Ellis Island in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, crossing a nation of growing cities, participating in this experiment that was the United States of America—seems a period worth exploring as we continue the American experiment today. To do so with a play that makes us laugh is a treat. Wilder is distinctive among the great 20th century playwrights for not only moving audiences with his plays’ dramatic landscapes, but also for offering practical advice for living.

His advice: stabilize your life, suffuse it with contemplation and surety, but be sure to step out now and again for some excitement. The world is full of wonderful things, and we all should enjoy just the right amount of sitting quietly at home and just the right amount of adventure. Balance. A good message for us 21st century inhabitants.

--Tracy Manning
Terrance Volden

Terrance is in his fifth year as Taylor Theatre’s Technical Director. He graduated from Sterling College in Kansas in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication and Theatre Arts. After graduation, he spent almost three years as a missionary outside of Chiclayo, Peru, working for Latin American Children’s Fund as a teacher, pastor, and translator. In 2012, he obtained his education licenses in both Theatre and Vocal Music, also from Sterling. His theatre credits include three years as Scene Shop Supervisor at Sterling College and freelance scene design and construction across Kansas and Oklahoma. His past work at Taylor includes scene designs for *Oklahoma!, Waiting for Godot, Freud’s Last Session*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Wit*, along with directing *The Servant of Two Masters*.

Kevin Gawley

Kevin is returning to design his 31st production at Taylor. As a freelance lighting/scenic designer, Kevin's work has appeared on many Chicago stages, including Lifeline Theatre where he won the Jeff Citation for his design of *Jane Eyre*, the After Dark Award for his design of *Strong Poison*, and has been an ensemble member and resident designer since 2001. His work also appeared in numerous productions at the Bailiwick, Organic, Porchlight, OperaModa, Blindfaith, Theatre on the Lake, Metropolis, StoreFront, Loyola University Chicago, Revels Chicago, Midwest Jewish, and at the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival theatres. Kevin is currently Professor and Resident Scenic and Lighting Designer at the University of Louisville and has previously taught courses at Loyola University Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire. He is also a resident designer at St. Scholastica Academy. Kevin holds an MFA and BFA in Lighting Design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MBA in Finance from DePaul University. Kevin’s lighting/projection designs were featured summer 2009 at Lifeline Theatre’s productions of *Crossing California* and *Gaudy Night*. 
Bradley Jensen- Assistant to the Director, Dramaturg

Bradley is a sophomore Theatre Arts major from Alexandria, IN. At Taylor he has worked both on and offstage in When the Rain Stops Falling (Joe US and Charge Scenic Artist), Gianni Schicchi (Gherardo and Wardrobe Master), Oklahoma! (Ike and Charge Scenic Artist), Antigone (Teiresias [KCACTF nominee] and Master Carpenter), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Tom Snout/Wall), and Twelve Angry Jurors (Juror 3). He will also be playing Curtis Appleby in Night Watch this spring. Bradley is also a founding member of the Commons Theatre in Alexandria, IN, where he has worked as a performer and director for several years.

Tamara Peachy - Stage Manager

Tamara Peachy made her first appearance on the Taylor stage in 2010. She has been highly involved ever since. You may have seen her in Crimes of the Heart, We Will Not Be Silent, The Curious Savage, and Tartuffe. More recently, she played Aunt Eller in Oklahoma and Older Gabrielle in When the Rain Stops Falling. She has experience in stage managing productions, which include The Arab Israeli Cook Book, Plaza Suite, and the Taylor Touring Troupe. She wants to thank her parents, Tracy Manning, and Daphna Tobey for their extravagant support.

Sara Bailey is honored to be part of her 12th season at Mitchell Theatre. She is an ’09 Taylor alum with a degree in psychology. While attending Taylor she costumed several mainstage productions including Thoroughly Modern Millie, The Hobbit, The Taming of the Shrew, and The Odd Couple. After graduation she has continued her involvement in local theatres and at Taylor, serving as an Assistant to the Director and Costume Designer for multiple productions. Her recent theatre credits include: Marriage of Figaro, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Les Miserables, Working, Oklahoma!, and Gianni Schicchi. Thanks to Tracy for the first chance, to Terrance for the encouragement, and to Rachel for her inspiring dedication and friendship.

Bradley Jensen- Assistant to the Director, Dramaturg

Bradley is a sophomore Theatre Arts major from Alexandria, IN. At Taylor he has worked both on and offstage in When the Rain Stops Falling (Joe US and Charge Scenic Artist), Gianni Schicchi (Gherardo and Wardrobe Master), Oklahoma! (Ike and Charge Scenic Artist), Antigone (Teiresias [KCACTF nominee] and Master Carpenter), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Tom Snout/Wall), and Twelve Angry Jurors (Juror 3). He will also be playing Curtis Appleby in Night Watch this spring. Bradley is also a founding member of the Commons Theatre in Alexandria, IN, where he has worked as a performer and director for several years.
While I love technological advances in theatre, I have always been enamored with the elegant, bygone era of the nights out to a theatre in New York at the turn of the century. As I researched this show, I was struck with how gorgeous the theatres were where it was first produced. I decided then that I wanted to create that elegant experience for our audience. Along with that, we decided to use the technology of the period. Rolling platforms with interchangeable scenery, footlights, rolling drops...we added it all.

We wanted the aesthetic to somehow represent what was happening in New York with the immigration boom in the 1880s. I see a lot of the excitement of the American dream in the adventure of Cornelius and Barnaby. To reflect that, I wanted to create a clear distinction between the colorless, drab Yonkers and the vibrant, adventurous New York. The whimsy of the show portals and watercolor drops help add to the ridiculous, farcical nature of the show. We also knew that a four act show could be huge, so we wanted to somehow do a “minimalistic” production. This was accomplished by using a few open architecture pieces to define spaces, and only including necessary furniture. Being able to see through and into pieces also helps us see more of what is happening in the games of hide and seek. Amongst the adventure, chaos, and confusion, we never lose that elegant experience of a night out at the theatre.

--Terrance Volden

SCENIC DESIGN CONCEPT

Entering this show in January as dramaturg, I started researching the time period, production history, author (Thornton Wilder), and more so that I could provide historical information to the cast and crew. The creative team decided to put special focus on the increase in immigration in the 1880s, so once rehearsals began, my job also involved dialect coaching. I researched German, Greek, Irish, and Hispanic accents so that I could assist the cast in learning the sounds of 1880s New York City. Thornton Wilder gave us an incredible gift in the names he chose for his characters, names with a rich cultural derivation, allowing us to remember the massive number of people who immigrated, which made our nation the diverse land we love.

This play is relevant today (and resonates with me personally) because it also draws attention to the futility found in the dead-end jobs that seem to plague our generation. Cornelius’ fear of never advancing, even at thirty-three, is something that still frightens young people. This theme allows The Matchmaker—written in the 1950s and based in the 1880s—to resonate with audiences of all ages, even in a modern economy.

I have fallen in love with this play and am exhilarated to share our process, work, and offering with you. I hope you laugh as much as I have in the last several months!

--Bradley Jensen
### CAST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Actor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horace Vandergelder</td>
<td>*Evan Koons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ambrose Kemper</td>
<td>Austin Lindner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Scanlon</td>
<td>Daniel McHenney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gertrude</td>
<td>Darah Shepherd</td>
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<td>Cornelius Hackl</td>
<td>*Sean Sele</td>
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<td>Ermengarde</td>
<td>Sarah Dodd</td>
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<td>Malachi Stack</td>
<td>*Conner Reagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Dolly Levi</td>
<td>*Jessica Schulte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnaby Tucker</td>
<td>Andrew Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Irene Molloy</td>
<td>Jenna VanWeelden</td>
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<td>Minnie Faye</td>
<td>Evangeline Bouw</td>
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<td>A Cabman</td>
<td>Steve Mantel</td>
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<td>Rudolf</td>
<td>John Broda</td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>Andrew Wulf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Flora Van Huysen</td>
<td>*Grace Bolinger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Van Huysen’s Cook</td>
<td>*Alexis Jade Colón</td>
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</tbody>
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### SETTING

**Time:** Early 1880s

**Act I**
Vandergelder’s house in Yonkers, NY

**Act II**
Mrs. Malloy’s hat shop, New York

**Act III**
The Harmonia Gardens Restaurant on the Battery

**Act IV**
Miss Van Huysen’s house
*Evan Koons - Horace Vandergelder*
From Cincinnati, OH, Evan is a senior pursuing a BM in vocal performance, studying voice under Dr. Patricia Robertson. Evan has starred in various productions at Taylor: Freddy Graham in *Kiss Me Kate*, Melchior in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Lord Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Snug in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. He has also performed reenactments of the University’s namesake Bishop William Taylor. He would like to thank those who have encouraged, supported, and guided him through his time at Taylor University.

*Austin Lindner - Ambrose Kemper*
Austin is a senior Media Writing major from Jacksonville, FL. At Taylor Theatre, he has performed in mainstage productions, *When the Rain Stops Falling* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, as well as student directed shows—*A Dream Play*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Twelve Angry Jurors*.

*Daniel McHenney - Joe Scanlon*
A freshman from Wheaton, IL, Daniel is excited to be making his Taylor Theatre debut! His previous theatre performances include: *Mary Poppins*, *Check Please!*, *West Side Story*, and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. Daniel would like to thank Kenzie Nevins as well as his supportive family and friends.

*Darrah Shepherd - Gertrude*
Darrah is a freshman Theatre Arts major from Bluffton, IN. At Taylor Theatre, she has enjoyed working as an ASM for *Oklahoma!* and Master Electrician for *When the Rain Stops Falling*. Some of her favorite performance credits include *Antigone* (Chorus) and *Anne of Green Gables* (Marilla). Darrah would like to thank her parents, the cast and crew.

*Sean Sele - Cornelius Hackl*
Sean Sele is a senior Theatre Arts major from Portland, OR. Some of his Taylor Theatre credits include: Taylor Playback Theatre, *Antigone* (2017 Irene Ryan Nominee, KCACTF), *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Arab-Israeli Cookbook*, *I Love a Piano*, and *Servant of Two Masters*.
Sarah Dodd - Ermengarde
A junior Corporate Communication major from Kansas City, Sarah Dodd has appeared in Taylor Theatre's Oklahoma!, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and the student directed show, The Dining Room. “I’d like to thank my Dodd Squad. And Murphy, Lilo, and London. They’re my dogs. I love them.”

*Conner Reagan - Malachi Stack
Conner is a senior scenic/lighting design student who has enjoyed four years of work and play at Taylor Theatre. Some of Conner’s production credits include: I Love a Piano, Rabbit Hole, and Oklahoma! He has also appeared on stage in Wit, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and When the Rain Stops Falling. Conner would like to honor Morgan Turner, Ryan Maloney, Sarah Bailey, Mark Vanest, and Scott Steckenrider for their encouragement of and influence upon his work.

*Jessica Schulte - Dolly Levi
Jessica is a Senior Theatre major from Anchorage, AK, now living near Nashville, TN. She has contributed to over 20 productions while at Taylor. She is currently directing, Night Watch, a thrilling collaboration with technical designer, Conner Reagan, which will open in Mitchell Theatre May 12-14. She’s a 3-year member of TU’s Playback Touring Company, and plans to pursue an MFA: Directing. “For all I’ve been given by my Savior, the forest of family and friends that surrounds me, for my teachers, for all the loaves and fishes I’m blessed to re-gift, I am thankful.”

Andrew Baker - Barnaby Tucker
Andrew is a freshman Musical Theatre BFA student from Northbridge, MA. Some of his previous theatre credits include Mary Poppins (Bert), The Wizard of Oz (Scarecrow), Peter Pan (Peter Pan), The Sound of Music (Kurt), and Taylor Theatre’s Oklahoma! He would like to thank his parents, Lisa Scarlett, and Mary Dykstra.

Jenna VanWeelden - Ms. Irene Malloy
A Theatre Arts major from Cincinnati, OH, Jenna has performed in Taylor Theatre’s When The Rain Stops Falling (Elizabeth) A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Hermia), I Love A Piano, and Tartuffe (Marianne), as well as Assistant Directing/Dramaturgy for Rabbit Hole. She’s served on Taylor Theatre’s production staff as Charge Scenic Artist and Properties Master, and enjoyed her experience directing Eurydice this spring. She’d like to thank her family and friends.
Evangeline Bouw - Minnie Faye
Evangeline is a sophomore from Muncie, IN, studying both Theatre Arts and Studio Art. She has used her artistic talents both backstage and on the Taylor Theatre stage in shows including *When the Rain Stops Falling* (Elizabeth US) and *Antigone* (Ismene). Some of her other performance credits include *Almost, Maine* and *High School Musical*. She would like to thank her parents for their love and support.

Steve Mantel - A Cabman
Steve Mantel is a freshman from Bartlett, IL, pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. His Taylor Theatre credits include *Antigone* (Chorus), *Oklahoma!* (Jud), and Taylor Lyric Theatre’s *Gianni Schicchi* (Marco). “I would like to thank my parents, my brothers and sisters at home, and my brothers and sisters in Christ that sustain me here at Taylor University. Special shout out to the Chekhov Comedy Club!”

John Broda - Rudolph
A junior from Spring Arbor, MI, John is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. He has performed in Taylor Theatre’s *Oklahoma!* and Taylor Lyric Theatre’s *Gianni Schicchi*. John’s other theatre credits include *Annie* (Bert Healy), *Picnic* (Alan Seymour), *The Sound of Music* (Rolf), *Godspell* (Jesus), and *You Can’t Take It With You* (Ed). He would like to thank his family for their constant love and support.

Andrew Wulf - August
Andrew is excited to be making his Taylor Theatre debut! A freshman from Columbus, OH, his previous theatre experience includes *Godspell*, *The Nerd*, and *Honk!* Andrew would like to thank his parents and friends.

*Grace Bolinger - Miss Flora Van Huysen*
Hailing from Hudson, OH, Grace is a senior English Education major and Theatre Arts minor. Her acting credits include roles in Taylor’s Playback Theatre, *Gianni Schicchi*, *12 Angry Jurors*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Working*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Servant of Two Masters*, and *Kiss Me, Kate!* Special thanks goes to her fiancé, family, friends, directors, fellow castmates, production staff, and ultimately all praise goes to the Lord, “For He is good; His faithful love endures forever.” –Psalm 107:1.
*Alexis Jade Colón - Miss Van Huysen’s Cook
A senior Theatre Arts major from Cincinnati, OH, some of Alexis’s favorite Taylor Theatre “roles” have included: director of *The Bear* and *The Proposal*, improvisational musician and actor for Taylor Playback Theatre, Puck in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, assistant director/adaptor for *The Marriage of Figaro*, and acting coach for *The Miracle Worker*. “Special thanks to mi familia loca, SWC, my patient professors, the Chekhov Comedy Club, and the Freshman Irish Studies Program”

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- The Nevins Family
- Taylor Dining Services
- The Jensen Family
- Ginger Rittenhouse
- Tammy and Rob Neel
- The Denardo Family
- Vance and Tammi Maloney
- Facilities Services

STUDENT DIRECTED SHOW

*Nightwatch*
Directed by Jessica Schulte
May 12 & 13
PRODUCTION STAFF

Artistic Director.................................................................*Tracy Manning
Scenic Designer and Technical Director.............................*Terrance Volden
Lighting Designer...............................................................Kevin Gawley
Stage Manager.................................................................*Tamara Peachy
Assistant Stage Manager ..................................................Emma Wagoner
..............................................................Lynreshay Johnson
Deck Captain........................................................................Brandt Maina
Samantha Collins
Emma Wagoner
Chrishauna Curry
John Kuker
Michaela Shake
Tucker White
Lynreshay Johnson
Maria Renee Antezana
Hillary Foreman
Assistant to the Director/Dramaturge.................................Bradley Jensen
Master Carpenter...............................................................Andrew Baker
........................................................................**Evan Koons
Charge Scenic Artist..........................................................Rachael Kayes
Emma Seeman
.............................................................*Megan McKechnie
Matthew Anderson
Master Electrician...............................................................Darah Shepherd
Benj Morris
Austin Lindner
Amber Taylor
Kait Bedel
Andrew Wulf
Costume Designer..............................................................*Sara Bailey
Costume Shop Supervisor..................................................*Rachel Erskine
Kait Bedel
........................................................................**Callie Haven
........................................................................**Natalie Smiley
PRODUCTION STAFF

Milliner.................................................................Alexis Turner

Properties Masters..............................................*Erin Gautille
Kenzi Nevins

Properties Assistant............................................Evangeline Bouw
Michaela Shake
Kait Bedel
Grace Bolinger
Daniel McHenney

Bird Handler......................................................Abby Palmisano

Sound Technician................................................Braden Alexander
Grace Rose

Makeup/Hair........................................................Grace Foltz
Grace Cox
Angie Celaya
Maranda Miller
Bianca Woodstock
Abby Palmisano
Brandt Maina
Suzie Quinn

Poster Design & Video Publicity..............................*Andrew Paul Davis

Photographer......................................................Rae Kinsel

Box Office Assistant............................................*Alexis Jade Colón
Kaitlyn Hable
David Nurkkala
Neil Perry

Head Usher.........................................................Lydia Mooney
Katherine Kunz
Desiree Ridgeley
Paige Kennedy
Allison White
Melody White
Evelyn Allee
Caroline Shapley
Jordan Hardesty
Becca Eis
Emily Rachelle
Paige Wagner
Sarah Lynn
Amber Taylor
Ashley Burkett
Brad Walker
Mallory Tyree
Erin Davis
Alisa Schaefer
Jessica Dundas
Mallory Inneger
Lauren Vock
Canaan Passwater

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Outstanding Lighting Design- Kevin Gawley
Distinguished Production of a Play
Distinguished Director of a Play-Tracy Manning
Distinguished Ensemble of a Play
Distinguished Performance by an Actress in a Play- Leah Murphy
Distinguished Performance by an Actress in a Play- Morgan Turner
Distinguished Scenic Design- Cory Rodeheaver
National Commendation for Technical Direction- Terrance Volden
National Commendation for Properties Design-Conner Reagan and
Leah Murphy
National Commendation for Make-up Design- Jessica Schulte
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Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.