*Into the Woods*, Olive in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins,* and Gertrude in *Seussical the Musical*. She lives in a cute little lakehouse in Ingleside with her husband Chris, stepchild Lee, and far too many cats. She thanks Carl and Debbi for pulling her into this fun show!

**Carl Zeitler** – Carl is thrilled to work with Vero Voce again after appearing as Lennie in *Of Mice and Men* and having had several of his short plays produced in playwright festivals here. Carl wrote and directed *Relationships in Progress* at Gallery Theater and Village Theatre Guild. He wrote *Reflections and Perspectives* for Elgin Theatre Company (also directed) and Theatrevolt. He has written or co-written ten murder mystery dinner theatre productions—four of them with Debbi Dennison. Carl has performed at numerous area theatres in productions of *Boy Gets Girl* (Tony), *The Odd Couple* (Felix), *Closer* (Dan), *The House of Yes* (Anthony), *Barefoot in the Park* (Paul), *Dracula* (Dracula), *Rumors* (Lenny), *Ravenscroft* (Ruffing), and *Macbeth* (Macbeth). Carl thanks Julane Sullivan and All Dressed Up Costumes for their generosity, Dawn Harkins and Dennis Brown for the opportunity and support, this excellent cast for their talent and dedication, and, most of all, Debbi for her vision, creativity, drive, and continued inspiring partnership. Enjoy the show!

**Troy (Puppet #1)** – Troy is happy to reprise this role. When not on stage, Troy is a party DJ with his sidekick “DJ Meowy Mouse.” He enjoys riding motorcycles and loves to make homemade pizza. Troy thanks Debbi for keeping him around all these years and to Winston and Otis for not chewing on him.

**Roy (Puppet #2)** – Roy is jumping with joy to return to this role. He thinks these things are great: playing Frisbee, dominoes, warm hands, Troy, this fun audience, a metal Slinky, hugs, and Christmas.

**WT** Productions presents

*Seasonal Ties*



Written, Produced, and Directed by

Debbi Dennison & Carl Zeitler

December 1-3 & 8-10, 2017

Vero Voce Theatre

***For It’s a Jolly Old Memo***

Written & Directed by Carl Zeitler

Featuring Nancy Braus (Peppy), Danny Glenn (Santa Claus), Carolyn Larsen (Mrs. Smiley), and Heidi Swarthout (Merry)

***Sure***

Written & Directed by Debbi Dennison

Featuring Galen Malick (Ben) and Lori Rohr (Ann)

***Hands Off!*** (originally produced by Vex Theatre)

Written & Directed by Debbi Dennison

Featuring Nancy Braus (Shopper), Steve Delaney (Shopper), Debbi Dennison (Santa Puppet #1), Isabella Ford (Teen), Carolyn Larsen (Grandma), Stephen Pickering (Man), Sheri Warren (Woman), and Carl Zeitler (Santa Puppet #2)

**15 MINUTE INTERMISSION**

***Global Warming***

Written & Directed by Debbi Dennison

Featuring Isabella Ford (Sam), Danny Glenn (Store Clerk #1), Galen Malick (Store Clerk #2), Sheri Warren (Kate), and Carl Zeitler (Steve)

***Three for the Road***

Written & Directed by Carl Zeitler

Featuring Steve Delaney (John), Debbi Dennison (Allison), and Stephen Pickering (Mark)

***December 26th: The Aftermath***

Written & Directed by Debbi Dennison & Carl Zeitler

Featuring the entire cast

*Chaperone* (Underling), *Anything Goes* (Evelyn), *I Hate Hamlet* (Barrymore), *M\*A\*S\*H* (Devine). Film credits include *The Untouchables* and *She’s Having a Baby*. Stephen would like to thank Carl and Debbi, and Amy, Kyleen and Will.

**Lori Rohr** – Lori is excited to be a part of this production. Lori’s other credits include: Juliana in *The Other Place* (Albright Theatre Company), Rosemary in *Picnic* and Boo in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (Harper Theatre Ensemble), Olivia in *Mr. Pim Passes By* and Laurie Jameson in *Third* (Independent Players), Suzy in *Wait Until Dark*, Poppy in *Noises Off* and Mom in *Leaving Iowa* (Elgin Theatre Company), Maggie in *Joined at the Head* (Village Theatre Guild), Claire in *Proof* (Vero Voce) and Julia in *Fallen Angels* (Gallery Theater).

**Heidi Swarthout** – Heidi could not be merrier to be part of her first WT Productions show! A few recent roles that made her extra jolly are: Jess in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)* at the Steel Beam Theatre, Mrs. Daldry in *In the Next Room or the Vibrator Play* at The Albright Theatre, multiple roles in *Crumbs in Bed* at The Riverfront Playhouse, and Isabella in the local commedia group, Troupe Strozzi. And while the stage may fill her spirit with merriment, nothing warms her heart with joy like her magical husband Johnny, and their two festive pups, Zeus and Aussie. She hopes you enjoy the show and that you make it on Santa's "Nice" list!

**Sheri Warren** – Sheri is so happy to be making her Saint Charles theatrical debut while working once again with some of her friends from Elgin Theatre Company's production of *M\*A\*S\*H.* Other previous roles include the Baker's Wife in

the Artistic Home in Chicago. Danny is glad to again be working with Debbi Dennison and Carl Zeitler. He was in three previous “Deb/Carl” productions including two murder mysteries (roles: Cranky farmer and Pissed-off clown) and a one-act play at Village Theatre Guild in Glen Ellyn. Danny is a proud member of the SAG-AFTRA screen actor’s union and has appeared in over 60 short and feature films. Danny invites you to visit him in the cyber-world at www.dannyglenn.com.

**Carolyn Larsen** – Carolyn is having a great time as the elf in charge! She has previously been in productions at Gallery Theater where favorite roles were in *Grace and Glorie*, *The Cemetery Club,* and *Kitchen Witches*, as well as in GreenMan Theatre’s *Cash on Delivery* and *Castle*. Carolyn is a member of The Mystery Shop Theater. She has also performed with *Accent on History*. Carolyn lives in Wheaton with her ever-loving, supportive husband, Eric. Thanks to Debbi and Carl for including her in this fun production!

**Galen Malick** – Galen is proud to be a part of such an original and creative production as *Seasonal Ties*. He is a native of the Fox River valley. He has performed in various local plays, musicals, and festivals including *Wonder of the World*, *Urinetown*, and *Fringe Festival*. Galen also likes to make things. He has built many props for shows and enjoys making handmade sketchbooks and notebooks.

**Stephen Pickering** – Stephen is thrilled to appear in *Seasonal Ties*! Stephen was most recently seen as Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast* (Fremont Street Theater Company) and as Carl Phillips in *War of the Worlds* (TesserAct Theatre Ensemble). Other favorite credits: *42nd Street* (Abner), *How to Succeed in Business* (Biggly), *Crazy for You* (Zangler), *Drowsy*

**NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS**

The holidays… the “most wonderful time of the year”, right? But for some, it can be a very challenging time. Because underneath all of that seasonal glitz lies…our lives. The lives that we walk around in all year round. They don’t change simply because ‘tis the season. They’re still there. Our fears, frustrations, loneliness and feelings of unhappiness don’t evaporate simply because it’s Christmas, Hanukkah, or whatever else it is that you may celebrate. Our battles with personal demons still exist, but yet, we are expected to be joyful and merry. But…perhaps there is some truth that “our troubles will be out of sight.” Does the festive season provide a much needed escape or distraction from life? Do the holidays give us permission to put our lives on hold until January 2nd? For the reasons above, I hope you find *Seasonal Ties* to be weirdly entertaining but strangely realistic. And whatever your ties are to the season, may they bring you nothing but inner peace.

– Debbi Dennison

Thinking about the holidays, you typically imagine happy and light moments, but harsher realities exist and seem magnified this time of year. I tried to create two opposite worlds with *For It’s a Jolly Old Memo* and *Three for the Road.* The first one deals with Christmas elves reacting to a memo from Santa Claus calling for a new dress code. Even though this is a comedy with fantastical characters, people can identify with such workplace policies. The second play is a drama that finds a man who’s been dealing with bleak feelings for years; feelings that turn bleaker during the holidays. Might two visitors from his past rekindle some joy within him? I don’t believe in absolute joy. Nor do I believe in absolute misery. I trust the audience will sort it out for themselves.

– Carl Zeitler

**SHOW BIOGRAPHIES**

**Nancy Braus** – Nancy is so excited to be performing at Vero Voce for the first time. She thanks Debbi and Carl for the opportunity. Nancy has been seen in numerous productions in the Chicago suburban area. Some of Nancy’s favorite past roles include: Isobel in *The Kitchen Witches*, Doris in *The Cemetery Club*, Libby Ruth in *Always a Bridesmaid*, Captain Bridget McCarthy in *M\*A\*S\*H*, Peg Costello in *Desk Set*, and Elizabeth in *Angel Street*. Nancy has studied at Act One Studios and Second City. She also performs with the Time Travelers Improv Troupe in Schaumburg, Il., and Family Friendly Theater in Palatine, Il. Nancy has also appeared in a number of interactive murder mystery dinner theater productions.

**Steve Delaney** – Steve is always thrilled to return to the Vero Voce stage, this time with the talented WT Productions team. In recent years Steve has portrayed Howie Newsome in *Our Town* for Independent Players, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Shakespeare on Clark and Mike Talman in *Wait Until Dark* for Elgin Theatre Company. He has performed in numerous others plays, murder mysteries and playwright festivals. Mr. Delaney graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a BA in Theater. He enjoys writing and has completed two novels and several plays.

**Debbi Dennison** – Debbi is beyond thrilled and so proud to bring this production to the Vero Voce stage where previously she was seen as Elizabeth in *Ella’s Rainbow* (New Playwright Festival). Favorite roles include Belinda/Flavia (*Noises Off*), Sis (*Leaving Iowa*), Faye (*Chapter Two*) and all the wacky characters in *Twist-A-Carol*. She has also enjoyed performing in the many Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre shows that she co-wrote with Carl. Debbi has trained in improv and acting at the Second City Training Center in Chicago. She has been a member of several performing improv groups including CHAOS and the TIME TRAVELERS. Off stage, she works as a Cable TV Producer and as a freelance Camera Operator. Debbi has many people to thank: “First, to Dawn & Dennis for saying ‘yes’ to our show and for all your help. Next, I’d like to thank this amazing cast. Thanks to Brian Misiak for building the puppet window and for all that you do for me. A big thank you to Julane Sullivan and All Dressed Up Costumes. And last, thank you Carl for your creativity, organization, perseverance, and your partnership. Without you, my ideas would still be in my head.”

**Isabella Ford** – Isabella is a sophomore in high school and has been acting in plays since she was 5 years old. She started at the Fox Valley Repertory Children’s Group at Pheasant Run performing in fairy tale plays and as Sandy in *Grease*. She also enjoyed plays at middle school here and while living in California. Her favorite part was Alice in *Alice in Wonderland*. She also won Foothill Middle School’s Drama Student of the Year in eighth grade. Returning to Illinois for high school, she was able to perform in *Oliver* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She also recently debuted at Village Theatre Guild in Glen Ellyn for their 2017 kick off show. Besides theater, she also loves riding horses, painting, learning about all things science, and growing hot peppers in her garden.

**Danny Glenn** – Danny is a stage and film actor and voiceover talent from Chicago. Danny’s most recent stage role was playing Crito in the comedy *Leda* at The Cornservatory in Chicago. Prior to that he was Arthur in *Prime Real Estate* at