Voce Theater. Carl cannot express his thanks to Debbi enough for the WT Productions partnership since 2017. He looks forward to future *Seasonal* projects. Enjoy the show!

**Troy** (Puppet #1) – After being stuck in quarantine with Roy last year, Troy thinks it doesn't suck to be back on stage. Previously, he was the star of SEASONAL TIES, SEASONAL BOWS & SEASONAL WRAPS. Offstage, Troy works as a DJ with his sidekick DJ Meowy Mouse. He is proud to have recently won 1st place in a hot wing eating contest. Troy thanks Otis and Milo for not chewing on him.

**Roy** (Puppet #2) – Roy has been longing for theatre to return to snap him out of an extended period of melancholy and apathy, which began when Lola ran off with DJ Meowy Mouse two years ago. He misses the simple days of telling corny jokes, going to magic shows, dominating at ping pong, and putting up with Troy’s grumpy behavior. Roy thanks you for helping him find his smile again.

**Special Thanks**

Vero Voce Theater Dennis Brown Dawn Harkins Renee Tomell Kathy Cichon Arts DuPage Deborah Venezia Melia Delaney David Dowell The *Seasonal Tags* Cast You, the audience

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**wtproductions2.weebly.com**

**WT** Productions presents

*Seasonal Tags*



Written, Produced, and Directed by

Debbi Dennison & Carl Zeitler

December 3-5 & 10-12, 2021

Vero Voce Theater

***Sleigh ‘Em at the Reunion***

Written and Directed by Debbi Dennison & Carl Zeitler

Featuring Steve Delaney (Kris), Kristen Duerdoth (Tracy), Betsey Manzoni (Darcie), and Carl Zeitler (Paul)

***Out of Holiday Cheer***

Written and Directed by Carl Zeitler

Featuring Mark Brewer (Lawrence), Debbie Roberts (Aimee), and Julane Sullivan (Katherine)

***Tag Team Blind Date***

Written and Directed by Carl Zeitler

Featuring Gail Cannata (Amanda), Debbi Dennison (Hayley), Betsey Manzoni (Robyn), Stephen Pickering (Derek), and Erick Sosa (Thomas)

**15-minute intermission**

***Tag Out***

Written and Directed by Debbi Dennison

Featuring Mark Brewer (Doug), Kristen Duerdoth (Elizabeth), and Stephen Pickering (Theodore)

***#HolidayHookUp***

Written and Directed by Debbi Dennison

Featuring Gail Cannata (Mrs. C), Steve Delaney (Scotty), Debbie Roberts (Suzy), Kate Roberts (Ginger), and Carl Zeitler (Collin Collins)

***No Tag Backs***

Written and Directed by Debbi Dennison & Carl Zeitler

Featuring THE ENTIRE CAST

thrilled to play Ginger because she feels like she can relate to her on several levels. She's dedicating this performance to her parents and friends Kassidy, Rick, Meghan, Katie, Alex, Jacob, Joe, Frances, and Mulan. Yeah, Kate is surprised she has friends, too.

**Erick** **Sosa** – This is Erick’s first appearance in a *SEASONAL* show. He’s appeared in local theater productions since the turn of the century. Some recent and favorite roles include George Hays in *Moon Over Buffalo* (GreenMan Theatre), Haemon in *Antigone* (The Kirkwood Players), The Professor in *Eyewitness* (Overshadowed Theater), and Paul Verall in *Born Yesterday* (GreenMan Theatre). In addition to acting, Erick enjoys creative writing and is a lifelong basketball fan (so nice to have a Bulls team that’s fun to watch again!). Thanks to Debbi, Carl, and the cast and crew for letting me be a part of the fun.

**Julane** **Sullivan** – Julane is appearing onstage for the first time with WT Productions, but she previously co-produced and directed *Cupid Must Die!* and *Murder’s Day* with them. Julane has been performing and directing for over 20 years. She is the founder and Executive Director of Shakespeare on Clark at the Centre, for which she has directed *A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Twelfth Night, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing, and The Comedy of Errors.*She is the owner of All Dressed Up Costumes in Batavia and has costumed numerous productions all across the country.

**Carl** **Zeitler** – Carl has been active in a variety of roles at numerous theatres around the Chicagoland area since 2003. He is thrilled to help create the fourth production in the *Seasonal* series at Vero Voce. Some of his favorite roles over the years include *Rumors* (Lenny), *Cupid Must Die!* (Grim Reaper), *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Aaronow), *Death by Chocolate* (Dick Simmering), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Petruchio), and *The Bootleg Bump Off at Ruby’s Rum Runner Room* (Toughie Krause). Carl thanks this excellent cast for all the contributions they have brought to the rehearsal process. He continues to have a world of gratitude for Dennis, Dawn, and Vero

Debbi and Carl for the opportunity to be in this extremely clever show! Much Love to Paul, Stefanie, Eden, and Claire.

**Stephen** **Pickering** – Stephen is thrilled to return to the “Seasonal” shows with *Seasonal Tags!* Stephen previously appeared in *Seasonal Ties*. Most recently, he played Rowland in the Parker Players production of *Spider’s Web*. Stephen was also in filmed productions of *The Taming of the Fool* (Grumio), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Pastor Chasuble) and *Pygmalion* (Henry Higgins) for Elgin Theatre Company. Other favorite credits include *Anything Goes* (Evelyn), *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Underling), *Crazy for You* (Zangler), *How to Succeed* (Biggley), *42nd Street*, (Abner*), Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth), *Mary Poppins* (Robertson Ay), and *Legally Blonde* (Elle’s Dad), with Fremont Street Theater Company. He will appear in the feature film *The Grey Girl*. Stephen would like to thank Debbi and Carl, his castmates, and Amy, Kyleen, Will, and his dachshund Simon.

**Debbie Roberts** – Debbie has been lucky enough to do shows at Village Theatre Guild, Wheaton Drama, The Drama Group, Gallery Theater, and most recently Theatre on the Hill in Bolingbrook. That one was special because it was a musical that she got to do with her daughter, Kate (*Young Frankenstein*). Other favorite shows are *Good People* (Marge), *Superior Donuts* (Randy), *Lost in Yonkers* (Bella) and *Beyond Therapy* (Prudence). Debbie is having a great time working with all of the talented and crazy people in this cast (including her daughter Kate) ...notice a theme? Debbi and Carl have a passion that is contagious and it is nice to be a part of that. Thank you...and Merry Christmas!

**Kate** **Roberts** – Kate is ready to PAAARRTTYYY at her first ever *Seasonal* show. Kate's one of the most famous people ever, so you might have seen her as Karlie in *Luna Gale*, Sarah in *Any Given Monday*, and Annie in *$38,000 for a Friendly Face*. She's really

Notes from the Directors

Welcome back!

Each SEASONAL show, Carl and I write a few of the scripts together. So, I'm often asked, "How do you write a script *with* someone?” With the wrong person, it can be quite challenging. But with Carl, it just works. We use what I like to call a "tag" method. If you think in terms of a Christmas present, a tag clearly identifies who is giving the gift and also who is taking the gift. And in our writing process, there is a clear but natural, “give and take" between Carl and I. And unlike writing alone, when one of us has writer's block or hits a wall, we have the benefit of simply throwing our hand up and yelling TAG! Then, the other person takes over.

Doing these SEASONAL shows are my pride and joy, and therefore, last Christmas felt a little empty. So, I'm excited live theater is back and am grateful you chose SEASONAL TAGS to be a part of your holiday season! May love, happiness, laughter, and good health surround you.

– Debbi Dennison

I am very thankful for the opportunity to be back on the Vero Voce stage, so I have much appreciation for Dawn and Dennis for their partnership. This talented and committed cast has been so much fun to work with. It’s energizing to have seven cast members in their first *Seasonal* show. The process of working with Debbi through all the phases of this production has been priceless. I enjoy the opportunities that these productions allow for growing as a writer. The finales are exciting to write with Debbi because I like the challenge of meshing the different characters and plotlines to create a new story. Thank you for attending this performance. It’s great that you support original local theatre. Roy hopes that you have an extremely joyful 2022.

– Carl Zeitler

Show Biographies

**Mark Brewer** – Mark has had the fortune to appear with several theater companies. Most recently he was Henry Hailsham-Brown in The Parker Player's *Spider's Web*. With Oakton Community College he's been Lord Brounker in *The Living,* Otto Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank and* Brian in *The Shadow Box.*Other favorite roles include Renfield in *Dracula*and Dr. Lyman in *Bus Stop*for James Downing Theatre, Jonathan Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*andLeo/Maxine for Theater D, and Jack/Stephanie in *Leading Ladies* and "All the Men" in *A Piece of My Heart* for Elgin Theater Company.

**Gail** **Cannata** – Gail is enjoying her debut with the *Seasonal* Team. As Artistic Director at Gallery Theater, most of her theater time is behind the scenes. It's rare to find Gail on the stage; but it's been fun meeting new people and to support live theater again after such a long drought. Gail thanks Debbi and Carl for the opportunity, and she wishes everyone a peaceful and safe holiday season. Enjoy the show!

**Steve Delaney** – Steve is proud to perform in his fourth show for WT Productions, having previously performed in *Seasonal Wraps* (Jonathan Rapp), *Seasonal Ties* (John), and *Murder’s Day* (Neil). He is currently performing in *The Polar Express*(Conductor) at the Fox Valley Trolley Museum. In autumn 2021, Steve performed in *Waiting for Godot* (Pozzo) for Independent Players. Previous IP productions include *The Government Inspector*(Bobchinsky), *Our Town* (Howie Newsome) and T*he Play’s the Thing*(Albert Adam). This summer he performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Bottom)* for Goodly Creatures and previously played Oberon in the same play for Shakespeare on Clark at the Centre. Past performances at Vero Voce Theatre include *Of Mice and Men* (Carlson), *Stuart Little* (Father), and numerous murder mysteries and playwright festivals. For Elgin Theatre Company, Steve appeared in *Wait Until Dark* (Mike Talman). He graduated from Loyola University of Chicago with a BA in Theater.

**Debbi Dennison** – Debbi is thrilled to bring back a fourth year of SEASONAL stories! Previously at Vero Voce, she was in “Page to Stage” and ELLA’S RAINBOW (Elizabeth). Favorite roles include Belinda/Flavia (NOISES OFF), Sis (LEAVING IOWA) with Elgin Theatre Company, and Faye (CHAPTER TWO) with Gallery Theater. Debbi trained at the Second City Training Center and performs improv with LOBSTER STOLE at Laugh Out Loud. Offstage, she works as a Multimedia Producer and a freelance Camera Operator. Debbi thanks Dennis & Dawn, the cast, the audience, and Carl for the WT partnership. Debbi dedicates this show to the "other" Santas...healthcare workers, teachers, and essential workers.

**Kristen** **Duerdoth** – Kristen is excited to be working with Carl & Debbi again and working with this wonderful cast. She has performed all over the Fox Valley area. Some of her favorite shows include *Boeing Boeing* (Berthe); *Harvey* (Veta); *The Lion in Winter* (Eleanor); *Looped* (Tallulah Bankhead)*;* *Key for Two* (Harriet); *Dearly Beloved* (Twink); *Who’s in Bed with the Butler?* (Susie); *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Mistress Page); and many more. Thank you to the Porch Drinkers and my family for your never-ending support.

**Betsey** **Manzoni** – Betsey was last seen on stage at the Drama Group as Bella in Gaslight. Other local credits: *Mary Page Marlow*, *Becky’s New Car, Chalk* (Director), *The Odd Couple, On Golden Pond, A Flea in Her Ear* (Director) *Good People; Black Friday, Venus in Fur* (Director), *The Graduate, God of Carnage, Rabbit Hole* (Assoc. Director), *Chicago, The Philadelphia Story, Miracle on 34th Street, Aida,* and *Seussical*. Betsey was also in the award-winning short film *Sebastian and The Machine* and has done numerous toy voice-overs and product set-up videos. Thanks to