

THE SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE

8

# THE GAME'S AFOOT



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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With the current popularity of all things Sherlock, the brilliant detective from Baker Street has never been more in demand. Whether in films, British or American television, as period pieces or set in contemporary society, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creation has loomed very large in popular culture over the last several years.

William Gillette was a very real actor, writer and inventor who penned and starred in *Sherlock Holmes* a compilation of several of Conan Doyle's stories. Gillette was the first to wear the deerstalker cap and smoke the curved pipe which have become so identified with the character. He was also the first to utter the word "Elementary" to Watson, so we owe a great deal of what we perceive about Holmes to Gillette. He portrayed the detective over 1300 times during his long and illustrious career. The Gillette Castle still exists on the banks of the Connecticut River.

But enough background, tonight we take a light-hearted look at the genius of detection, through the eyes of actor, William Gillette. He attempts to channel the rational mind of his favorite character to solve a mystery, while dealing with devious divas, deadly daggers, doomed doormen, disappearing dogs and his decidedly dotty mother. Will he be able to unravel this granny knot of murder before another tragedy strikes?

Join us now, because *The Game's Afoot!*

Belle Wesel

**LP**

**AVAILABLE AT DESK**



The Summit Playhouse presents its  
Three Hundred and Seventh Production

***KEN LUDWIG'S***  
***THE GAME'S AFOOT***  
***OR***  
***HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS***

***Set Design &  
Construction***

Roy Pancirov

***Lighting & Sound***

Wendy Roome

***Stage Manager***

Petra Krugel

***Producers***

Pam Heller &  
Joann Lopresti Scanlon

***Costumes***

Ann Lowe

***Set Decoration***

Risha Walden

***Director***

**Belle Wesel**

November 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8:00pm  
November 10 at 2:00pm

Originally produced by Cleveland Playhouse  
Micheal Bloom, Artistic Director      Kevin Moore, Managing Director

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Summit Playhouse  
10 New England Ave., Summit, NJ 07901  
908-273-2192    [www.SummitPlayhouse.org](http://www.SummitPlayhouse.org)

## Cast

*William Gillette*..... Robert Barwick  
*Martha Gillette* .....Joanne Sternberg  
*Felix Geisel* .....John A. C. Kennedy  
*Madge Geisel* ..... Kathleen Campbell Jackson  
*Simon Bright* ..... Chip Prestera  
*Aggie Wheeler* ..... Renee Francischetti  
*Inspector Goring*.....Jim Clancy  
*Daria Chase*.....Stacey Petricha  
*Portia* ..... Herself

## Setting

Act I, Scene 1 takes place at the Palace Theater in New York City.

All subsequent action occurs in the drawing room of the William Gillette Castle near East Haddan, Connecticut.

It is December of 1936.

There will be one fifteen minute intermission. Refreshments will be available downstairs in the lounge.

The benefit is for Pathways of Summit.



As a courtesy to the other patrons, please

**Turn off your cell phone**

**No photography or recording**



## Production Staff

Director .....	Belle Wesel
Producers .....	Pam Heller & Joann Lopresti Scanlon
Stage Manager .....	Petra Krugel
Assisted by .....	Diana Chavez, George Dougherty, Kendall Green & Frank Hawrusik
Set Design .....	Roy Pancirov
Set Construction .....	Roy Pancirov
Assisted by .....	Steve Catron, Anthony Crinoline, George Dougherty, Vic Ferretti & Deryk Harrison
Set Decoration .....	Risha Walden
Set Painting .....	Roy Pancirov
Assisted by .....	Steve Catron
Costumes .....	Ann Lowe
Properties .....	Cathy Hawrusik
Assisted by .....	Melissa Lowver & Bob Velasquez
Lighting & Sound .....	Wendy Roome
Assisted by .....	Scott Maron & Tammy Robinson
Publicity .....	Melissa Lowver
Poster & Graphics .....	Ed Walter
Playbill .....	Wendy Roome
Tickets .....	Ann Lowe
Photography .....	Sam Nissen

### **WARNING:**

There will be gunshots during the performance.

## Acknowledgments

Chatham Community Players

Dreamcatchers

## Who's Who



**Robert Barwick (William Gillette)** — *The Game's Afoot* marks Barwick's return to the Summit Playhouse having performed here as Bobby Gould in *Speed-the-Plow* and Frank in *All My Sons*. Many thanks to Belle for casting him to work alongside this unbelievably talented cast and for Roy, our set designer for making Gillette's home like a castle! He has appeared in over thirty productions during the last eight years in North Jersey and NYC. Favorite roles include Eddie Pirandello in *Tennyson Anyone?*, Jesse in *Plaza Suite*, Julian Winston in *Cactus Flower* and Brian in *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. Barwick is also the announcer for various road-running races throughout the US. Thanks to all for coming to see our show.

**Jim Clancy (Inspector Goring)** is having a blast with this great group of people. Thirty plus years in local theaters has provided the opportunity to work with The Baird Theater, Maplewood Strollers, Chatham Playhouse, Circle Players, Villagers, Turning Leaf, Trilogy Players, Avenue Theatre and The Theater Project in such as *Lend Me A Tenor*, *On Golden Pond*, *Rumors*, *Room Service*, *Proof*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *A Comedy Of Errors* and *A Flea In Her Ear*. Oh, and also, in the chorus of *Man of La Mancha* a long time ago right here at Summit. Thanks to Jo and Belle for the gig.



**Renee Francischetti (Aggie Wheeler)** is so excited to be back on stage at the Summit Playhouse, where she was last seen as Alison in *Brooklyn Boy*. Renee has worked in several New Jersey theaters and her favorite roles include Toni in *Cactus Flower*, Elma in *Bus Stop*, Audition Girl in *The Good Doctor*, and Mrs. Truckle in *Sly Fox*. Renee lives in Hoboken, NJ and works as a Business Development Manager for a pharmaceutical company. Thanks to Mom and Dad for all your

love and support – and for living so close to the theater! All my love to Matt, can't wait for Paris!

**Kathleen Campbell Jackson (Madge Geisel)** last appeared at the Summit Playhouse as Mabel Cantwell in *The Best Man*, a role that earned her a 2012 Perry nomination for Beat Featured Actress in a Play. Previously, she portrayed Constance in *The Constant Wife*. At Chester's Black River Playhouse, Kathleen has performed in *By Jeeves* (Stiffy Byng), *Nine* (Claudia), *Love, Loss and What I Wore* (Various) and the



cross dressing Princess Leonide in *Triumph of Love*. Plays in the Park credits include seven years of performing The Narrator in *Joseph...Dreamcoat* at the State Theater, *Seussical* (Gertrude McFuzz), *Ragtime* (Evelyn Nesbit), *Titanic* (Kate McGowan), *The Secret Garden* (Martha), and *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Larken). Other recent credits include *City of Angels* (Bobbi/Gabby) with the Chatham Players, and *Company* (Amy), the latter for which she won the NJ Perry Award for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical.



**John A. C. Kennedy (Felix Geisel)** is making his Summit Playhouse debut. He recently portrayed Baptista in *Taming Of The Shrew* at The Chatham Playhouse, where he's also directing next month's *Christmas Cards*. Long ago and far away, John portrayed Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Leonardo in *Blood Wedding*, Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Torch in *Beirut* and Garry in *Noises Off*. John's thrilled with the opportunity *The Game's Afoot* offers him to stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood, stand like a greyhound in the slips, straining upon the start... and introduce his son to the term "Murder Farce".

**Stacey Petricha (Daria Chase)** was last seen at the Summit Playhouse as Mrs. Smith in *Meet Me In St. Louis*. Some recent roles include: Meg in *Leading Ladies* at Stony Hill Players, Eulalie in *Music Man* and Titania in *Bottom's Dream* with The Strollers of Maplewood, and Fraulein Kost in *Cabaret* with the Chatham Players. Many thanks to family and friends.



**Chip Prestera (Simon Bright)** is appearing for the first time on the historic Summit Playhouse stage. Recently, Chip has performed with the Chatham Players in *Angels in America*, *Jersey Voices 2013*, *The Fantasticks* (Perry nomination), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Perry nomination), *A Christmas Carol*, *The 39 Steps*, *Jersey Voices 2012*, *Cabaret* and *Grapes of Wrath*. Other credits with the Hexagon Players of Mendham include *Oliver!* (Fagin), *Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow) and *Annie* (Bert Healy, Perry nomination). Chip thanks his wonderful family for their everlasting tolerance.

**Joanne Sternberg (Martha Gillette)** returns to the Summit Playhouse after a too-long absence. She last appeared here in *Light Up The Sky*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Gypsy*, et al. Recent roles are Demetria in *On Borrowed Time* for Main Street Theater, Joanna in *Present Laughter* for Playhouse 22, Mother in *Avow* for Villagers Black Box. Favorite performances include originating the role of Sally in *About Face* for NJ Women's Theater in which she received a best actress nomination in The Newark Star Ledger and successfully following comedian Rodney Dangerfield at



## Who's Who (continued)

Dangerfield's in NYC with her own twenty minutes of stand-up! Many thanks to Roger for all his support.



**Portia (Herself)** is making her stage debut here at the Summit Playhouse, but many will remember her amazing performances in such vehicles as *Dog Day Afternoon*, *Straw Dogs*, *Mad Dog and Glory*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Wag the Dog* and, of course, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*. And who could forget her edgy star turn in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*? Portia would like to extend special thanks to Joanne Sternberg for giving her a hand with this performance.

### STAFF

**Belle Wesel (Director)** is thrilled to make her directorial debut here at the lovely Summit Playhouse with *The Game's Afoot*. Local audiences will be familiar with her work from last season's hilarious production of *The 39 Steps* at the Chatham Playhouse. She also directed several plays at the Burgdorff Center for Performing Arts in Maplewood for the What Exit? Theater Company including *The Dining Room*, *Fast Girls*, *The Lying Kind*, *The Last Night Of Ballyhoo*, *How The Other Half Loves* and *Below The Belt*. As always, Belle's favorite production is her son, Nick, the result of a successful collaboration with her husband, Glenn Jussen.

**Pam Heller (Producer)** has performed on the Playhouse stage and in area theaters in a variety of productions including: *Steel Magnolias*, *Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *Summer and Smoke*, *Prelude To A Kiss*, *Marvin's Room*, *Inspecting Carol* to name a few. Pam has also directed productions for the Summit Playhouse and Kaleidoscope Youth Theater. She is delighted to be working again with Joann Scanlon, as they produced last season's play, *God Of Carnage*. She is grateful to be working with the terrific Belle Wesel and her talented and enthusiastic cast. Kudos goes to the terrific production team. Pam thanks Howard for his support and love.

**Joann Lopresti Scanlon (Producer)** — The Summit Playhouse is so full of memories for me, I love working here in any capacity and coproducing with my good friend Pamela Heller is always a special treat. Working with Belle Wesel and this very talented cast and hard-working creative crew has been a hoot from start to finish. How many ways can you say "weapons?" My theater background includes performing in over 40 plays and directing over 30 with community and professional companies. Theatre has become a way of life for



me, my entertainment, my creative outlet and the source of many beloved friends,

**Petra Krugel (Stage Manager)** is delighted to be part of the amazing cast and team of *The Game's Afoot*. Special thanks to Belle Wesel (and our absent cast member Glen) for making this such a fun experience. Her previous experience with Summit Playhouse includes stage managing, costume design, props and assisting on set construction and décor. In addition to her activities at the playhouse, Petra also stage managed the Minuetto Music Festival in June 2012 and June 2013 in Summit.

**Cathy Hawrusik (Props)** was encouraged by her friends Pam Heller and Joanne Scanlon to return to the playhouse after a brief retirement. Over the years, she has worn many hats including producer, ticket chairperson, props manager and participated in a variety of backstage duties. She enjoys working with this wonderful cast, director and crew.

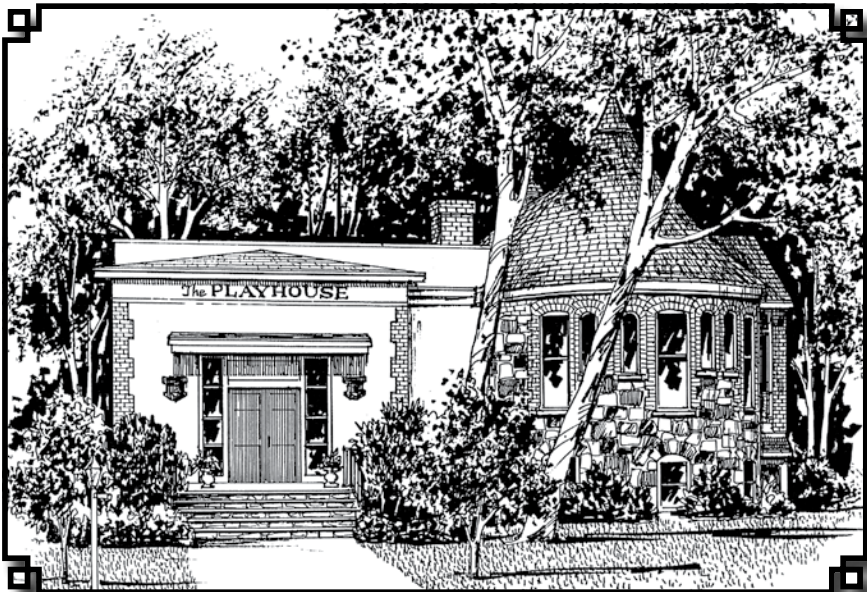
**Ann Lowe (Costumes)** has been involved with the Playhouse since 2009, starting with set decoration for *Murder in Green Meadow* and *Sylvia*. She then moved on to her true calling of costuming for *The Late Christopher Bean* (Perry nomination), *Speed-The-Plow*, *Meet Me In St. Louis*, and *God of Carnage*. She is thrilled to be working on this production. Thanks to everyone, from cast to crew to director, for making this show so special. As always, thank you to Matt for all of his support and encouragement.

**Wendy Roome (Lighting & Sound)** has appeared in a number of minor roles over the last twenty years, although it will take a sharp eye to spot her in the cast pictures downstairs in the lounge. Off-stage, she has designed sound and/or lighting for many of our recent shows, and she is the Playhouse's Technical Director and Webmaster. Off-off-stage, she lives in Berkeley Heights, where she is owned by several cats.

**Risha Walden (Set Decoration)** — This is the second season that Risha has volunteered at the Summit Playhouse. She is an Interior Designer living and working in Summit and is thrilled to bring her ideas to the stage for the set décor. Risha has grown up on stage and studied technical theater at university. She worked professionally in the theater doing vaudeville in the Yukon. She is excited about the Summit Playhouse and loves being part of this community theater.

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# Playhouse Contributors (2013–14 Season)

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Nancy Boucher  
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## Audition Notice

### *The Last Night Of Ballyhoo*

By Alfred Uhrey

Directed by Sherrie Ahlin

Auditions: **Nov. 21 @ 7pm** and **Nov. 23 @ 4pm**

Callbacks: **Nov. 30 @ 4pm**

Production: Feb. 21 — Mar. 9, 2014

Alfred Uhrey's achingly beautiful play is luminous and powerful taking place in Atlanta, Georgia, in Dec. 1939. *Gone with the Wind* is having its world premiere, Can one of the finest Jewish families in the South avoid the land mines of prejudice that stand in their way? The family gets pulled apart and then mended together with plenty of comedy, romance and revelations along the way.



## UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

**COMING SOON:** February 21, 22, 28; March 1, 2†, 7, 8, 9†

THE LAST NIGHT OF  
**Ballyhoo**

This 1997 Tony Award winning play by Alfred Uhry employs comedy and romance to illustrate the play's many powerful themes. Uhry's family of characters are fun and zany. Set in December of 1939 the play begins as Atlanta is hosting the premiere of *Gone With The Wind*. Atlanta's elitist German Jews are more concerned with who is going to Ballyhoo, the social event of the season than the fact that Hitler is invading Poland. The Frietag family gets pulled apart and then mended together with plenty of comedy romance and revelations along the way.

Written: Alfred Uhry, Director: Sherrie Ahlin

**COMING SOON:** April 25, 26; May 1, 2, 3, 4†, 9, 10

**Harvey**

A heart-warming tale of Elwood P. Dowd, an affable man who claims to have an unseen friend Harvey – whom Elwood describes as a six-foot, three-and-one-half-inch tall rabbit. Elwood introduces Harvey to everyone he meets. His sister, Veta, increasingly finds his eccentric behavior embarrassing. A comedy of errors ensues when she decides to have him committed to spare her and her daughter from future embarrassment. However, it seems Elwood's delusion has had an unusual effect on everyone he and Harvey meet.

Written: Mary Chase, Director: Steve Catron

† indicates 2pm matinee start time

For tickets, go to [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)