



THE FRANKLIN CIVIC ?PERETTA ASS?CIATI?N ______ PRESENTS ______

THE CRUCIBLE ARTHUR MILLER

MARCH AT 18, 19, 25, & 26 7:39 P.M. MARCH 29 & 27 AT 2:99 P.M.



DIRECTED BY

PRODUCED BY JENNIFER FOX & HANNAH FARAONE



Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc. | New York, NY

THE FRANKLIN CIVIC OPERETTA ASSOCIATION'S



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et me set a scene for you – the saturated darkness of a pitch black evening, no street or car lights to guide the way, only the hazy glow of a pale crescent moon dancing across the night sky. Long shadows stretching their fingers up and out, the shrill cries of an animal off in the distance, and the rustling of a nearby branch against the weathered

clapboard of some ailing out building.

This is where the hysteria of 1692 Salem, Massachusetts was born and bred. To have experienced this type of oppressive life - where clothing was restrictive, society imposing, people fearful and Puritan religion ruling must've been a daily battle. The dramatic and action packed plot of Arthur Miller's powerful work, The Crucible, explores that battle, a piece of nonfiction where wealthy landowners accused common house servants of fantastical magic, and sickly children pointed the damning finger at their parents, raising them up on the gallows to ultimately steal their lives. This was a very real time in history, a period where the fear of being called a witch was akin to signing your name in the devil's dark book and dancing naked in the woods, all while you conjured and casted, or so...the public thought. Friends failed friends, courts signed death warrants, neighbor turned upon neighbor and no religious status or devotion to God could save you from the all seeing eye of a flawed humanity. It was a sad and terrifying moment over three hundred years ago, but still the story resonates with modern audiences today. And really, just how far have we come from condemning our fellow neighbor and pointing a finger at those we don't see as quite "right?"

"It has been my extreme pleasure and privilege to bring this classic piece of literature to the Barrow-Civic Theatre stage. This area never ceases to amaze me with its raw talent, its eagerness for putting on quality theatre to entertain and inspire. Every member of the cast, crew and tech has joined forces to present these words, breathe life into this script, and portray these characters with a beautiful authenticity that is remarkably realistic. We have explored these themes, put ourselves in their shoes, felt the oppression and fear and now, leave you with the final decision – was it all just smoke and mirrors, a group of bored and wily teenagers wreaking havoc on a sleepy Massachusetts town, or perhaps, something more? On behalf of the



Franklin Civic Theatre Operetta Association, I thank you for supporting this kind of art, we leave you with our passion on the stage and hope you enjoy the fruits of our labor."

Nicholas A. Hess **Director**

Cast

Betty Parris Emma Kish Reverend Samuel Parris Ben Bodamer Tituba Vera Saeli Abigail Williams Grace Fish Susanna Wallcott Emilie Weaver Mrs. Ann Putnam Angie Higby Thomas Putnam Aaron Ritsig Mercy Lewis Jackie Higby Mary Warren Aoife Salusky John Proctor August Babington Rebecca Nurse Pamela Watkins Giles Corey Andrew Ritsig Reverend John Hale Jim Nash Elizabeth Proctor Hannah Faraone Francis Nurse Gary Dittman Ezekiel Cheever Caleb McCarthy John Willard Paul Hess Judge Hathorne Ryan Hess Deputy Governor Danforth Shawn Clerkin Sarah Good Elizabeth Braughler Hopkins Hailey Irwin Jane Smith Ashlynne E. Cornmesser Annabelle Rosemary Janice Irwin

Disclaimer This show includes theatrical fog and use of weapons.

Production Team

STAGE DIRECTOR Nicholas Hess

PRODUCERS Jennifer Fox Hannah Faraone

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR James Amero II

ASSISTANT TD Michael Palumbo

CHOREOGRAPHER Casey McVay STAGE MANAGER Bridget Tomaszewski

LIGHTING DESIGN Michael Palumbo

LIGHTING EXECUTION Brandon Huff

Sound Execution Zach Dempsey

STAGE CREW Elizabeth Amero DJ Higby WIG MASTERS Ben Bodamer Ashlynne Cornmesser

> **COSTUMERS** Nicholas Hess Cheri Pearce

PROPS MASTER Linda Thayer

Scenic ARTIST Tracy Brown

SPECIAL THANKS

The Producers and Production Staff of The Crucible would like to send a big THANK YOU to the following community members for their outstanding support in this production!

Antique Annie's

August Babington

Custaloga Town Scout Reservation

Margaux Furter

Franklin First United Methodist Church

Martha Heise

Melissa Hess

Ryan Hess

Ryan Ingram

David Kellner

Bridget Kennedy

Garrett C. Kline Photography

Jill Lander

Aaron Moyer

Oil City Area School District

Parker Furniture

The Sanderson Sisters

Richard Sayer

Jenalee Schenk

Doug Suhr

Scenes

ACT I

Scene 1

A bedroom in Reverend Samuel Parris' house, Salem, Massachusetts, in Spring of the year 1692.

Scene 2

The Common room of Proctor's house, eight days later.

ACT II

Scene 1

Five weeks later. A wood.

Scene 2

The vestry of the Salem Meeting House, the next day.

Scene 3

A cell in Salem jail, three months later.

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERMISSION BETWEEN ACTS.



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Biographies



August Babington (John Proctor) would like to first and foremost thank the Tech crew for their hard work and skills. This is August's first stage acting since his

high school days over a decade ago, and he couldn't be more excited to come back to it and tell a story. August may not be familiar to everyone for acting on the Barrow Stage, but as a former Technical Director of the Barrow-Civic Theatre he has been a part of many productions throughout the years. Some of his works include Shrek the Musical, The Fantastiks, Mary Poppins, Into the Woods, Young Frankenstein, and Beauty and the Beast. August would like to thank Margaux for the endless hours of running lines and for always supporting him. He would like to thank his fellow cast and production crew members for welcoming him back to the world of theatre and even more thanks to the friends who came from this experience. August would like to thank Nick Hess for Nick's vision of this show and for the opportunity to include him in it. Finally, a thanks from August to you for coming to see this production and he hopes that everyone can emotionally find and take something from it.



Benjamin Bodamer (Samuel Parris) is honored to be a part of bringing *The Crucible* to life alongside this incredible cast. He was last seen on the BCT stage as part of the

Together Again... concert last Summer. Some other notable roles include The Queen of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland, Harold Hill in The Music Man, Leo Bloom in The Producers, The Third Man in The Baltimore Waltz, Seymour Krelborn in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Bert in *Mary Poppins*, and Inez Serrano in *No Exit*, among others. Many thanks to Nick, as well as the entire production team, for everything they've done to bring this magic to the stage. Love to my family! For Rebecca.



Elizabeth Braughler (Sarah Good) is so happy to be back on the Barrow stage, especially for a show that combines such wonderful talent, direction (looking

at you, Nick Hess) and the unique opportunity to share the experience with two of her siblings, Hannah and Caleb. Although she did many shows as a student with the Barrow, her most recent appearances were portraying Older Anne in the 2020 version of Anne of Green Gables and co-writing a script with her daughter, Lydia, for The Red Eye Theatre Project in 2021. She would like to thank Luke, Lydia and Louisa for always supporting her creative endeavors, and to wish the entire cast and crew the best of luck! Elizabeth is a full-time homeschool parent, as well as a newly hired dance teacher for The Performing Arts Academy with Darin Dance Studio.



Shawn Clerkin (Danforth) is the newly seated Vicar (priest) at St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin. Shawn and his wife, Almi, have been a

part of the Barrow/

FCOA family since 1993, and their son, Seamus, joined them in the 1776 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Gala Concert in 2018. Shawn was a professor of Theatre and Communication Arts at Gannon University for more than 30 years before retiring last December. He is appreciative of the Barrow/FCOA for being such an integral part of Venango County's art scene.



Ashlynne E. Cornmesser (Jane Smith), winner of the Franklin Rotary Club's 2022 *Celebration of Talent*, is a singer, songwriter, actor, and techie. She has recently

appeared as Josie Pye in the FCOA's *Anne of Green Gables* and is proud to have worked in the tech team for *Elf* and *Wizard of Oz*. She is ecstatic to be working with such a talented and enthusiastic cast and crew and even more ecstatic to have had the privilege of watching Nicholas Hess's vision for this classic story come to life. She wants to thank her sister Keturah for her neverending support during the production of this show, and Nicholas Hess for giving her the chance to be a part of it.



Gary Dittman (Francis Nurse) says, "The magic of the theater is made even more so because this cast and crew are so talented and encouraging." Since high school,

Gary has played many parts in amateur theater both on and off stage throughout the region --- actor, scenic & set designer, special effects designer, stage manager, lighting designer, sound technician, and stage & technical director. Gary has lost count of the shows he has worked on over the years. "I relish playing different parts on and off stage, but the attraction to be on stage is occasionally very compelling. Each new character I study and portray seems to teach me much more about myself than I have ever learned outside the theatre. I intend to do it (theatre) in some form throughout my life." Gary retired 11 years ago after several careers, the last of which was

20 years serving older county residents as the administrator of the Venango County Area Agency on Aging. Now he volunteers and spends much time trying to deny the effects of aging.



Hannah Faraone (Elizabeth Proctor)

After almost 2 and a half years it's a breath of fresh air to finally be back on the Barrow stage and with a new last name to boot.

Hannah has wanted to be a part of The Crucible since high school, but she never could've imagined how incredible this whole process would be. She's very grateful for such an amazing experience alongside so many talented individuals, including being onstage beside two of her siblings. It's the first time all three have graced the Barrow stage together. You would've seen Hannah most recently in Liberty Cabaret: We <3 The 90's! and a few other honorable roles include Marian Paroo in The Music Man. Jo March in Little Women, Ensemble/Dancer in Big Fish, and Daisy in The Great Gatsby. Hannah would like to thank Nick for giving her the opportunity to play such a beautiful role and for pushing her to be the best she could be, the entire cast, especially Gus for making this experience something truly special, to Anthony for always supporting her crazy love of theatre and being the best husband, to her partner in crime Jenn for being the best co-producer ever, and finally a special thank you to the audience for being here to support this beautiful story and watch it unfold.



Grace Fish (Abigail Williams) is ecstatic to be returning to the Barrow stage after almost three years to fulfill her biggest dream as an actress: to play the bad guy!

Abigail Williams has been one of her

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dream roles ever since the eleventh grade— Grace remembers sitting in English class, praying that she'd be asked to read Abby's lines when they were studying *The Crucible*. Grace has previously been seen on the Barrow stage as Patty Simcox in *Grease*, and in the ensembles for *Crazy for You* and *The Producers*. She'd like to thank Ben for his love and support, and her family for the same. Her biggest thanks go out to Nick, who saw her potential and pushed her to be the best she could be.



Paul Hess (John Willard) had the delightful pleasure of working with so many talented people as The King of Hearts in Alice in Wonderland. That gave me a real taste of

being in a big production at The Barrow Civic Theater! So when Nick suggested I become John Willard in The Crucible I said. "Sure, but I don't want to dance as I had to in Alice! " We, in this area, are blessed with so many talented actors, actresses, musicians, singers, and everyone else it takes to make a production, which I have watched, laughed, and cried from the audience. Once again this production is a family affair with my son Ryan, cast as Judge Hawthorne, and Nick producing... so here we are both performing again for all you wonderful folks, sitting where I have so many times! My only hope is that when you leave you can say "That was a great play!" and I may have some very small part in giving you some of that enjoyment and release from everyday life. Because isn't that what plays do, take us away for just a time to another land? I would like to thank all the producers, musicians, stage managers, stage crew, cast members and the director Nick for helping me to realize my true potential as Court Marshal John Willard and putting up with my learning and mistakes! "Break a leg" to us all as they say in the play biz! Hopefully once again, I won't really do that on stage! Sit back and enjoy! We all want to take you away on a voyage to a time of fear and supposed witching in Salem Massachusetts during the famous witch trials.



Ryan Hess (Judge Hawthorne) first started in theater as a 12-year-old at Second Presbyterian Church for summer bible school. It was a long time ago. My brother,

sister, and my children have been in countless plays/musicals and it has been my pleasure to watch and enjoy them. My brother Nicholas Hess is always challenging me to step out of my bounds and that helped me start to perform for the Barrow. My first large scale production was Alice In Wonderland, circa 2019, as the Mad Hatter. Now I get to go through the whole process again with incredible actors, directors, staff, volunteers, and community members as Judge Hathorne for The Crucible. Hopefully, I can give the aift back to this audience that I received from so many actors of past years. Anyone who doesn't enjoy this most serious play about the need to be your own person who goes against the grain will, most certainly, be held in Contempt! Special thanks go to my family and my wife Kelley for letting me spend countless hours away from home to help something bigger than us.



Angie Higby (Ann Putnam) just finished her role as Manager in *Elf.* She has also been in some other shows at the Barrow like *Anne of Green Gables* and *The* Suessified Christmas Carol. She is excited to perform as Ann Putman. She has enjoyed reading all the history and facts about the witch trials and has enjoyed meeting new people. A special thanks to everyone along the way that encouraged her and helped her develop her character. Also, she would like to thank her husband for the countless reading of lines to help her memorization. Also, for encouraging her to do what she enjoys. She would like to give a shout out to the cast and crew, "Let's create some magic!"



Jackie Higby (Mercy Lewis) is a graduate from Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School. She is excited to be back on stage after performing in *Elf.* She

also performed as Diana Barry in Anne of Green Gables, which was performed at the beginning of the Pandemic. She was Ghost of Christmas Present in Barrow's A Seussified Christmas Carol. She also had ensemble role in FCOA's production The Music Man. She has performed in over 30 productions. She has been on several stages like FCOA, Red Barn Players, Butler Little Theater, Hobnob and Missoula Children's Theater to name a few. Some of her roles include: Sponge in James and the Giant Peach, White Rabbit in Alice in Wonderland, Much Muscles, Mad Hatter, Belinda Cratchet, and a Troll under the bridge. She also was an Arcade Kid in the Netflix Series Mindhunter. When she is not acting, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends and her dogs. Jackie is also a Grand Officer of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls. She is excited to play the role of mercy and looks forward to future shows.



Hailey Irwin (Hopkins)

is the offspring of Tammy and Louis Irwin. She is excited to perform alongside her sister, Janice Irwin. Hailey's most recent acting roles were in

FCOA's productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Grease*. She has also assisted the tech and set departments at Cranberry High School for numerous musicals since 2017. Some of those productions include, *Big Fish, Cinderella*, and *Pirate Queen*.



Janice Irwin (Annabelle Rosemary) says that *The Crucible* is one of her favorite plays, and she's so excited to bring it to life with her amazing cast members, producers,

and director. Other memorable productions she has participated in include *Alice in Wonderland*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Music Man*, and *Big Fish*. Outside of theater, she enjoys playing video games with friends and family and walking her precious dog, Stella.



Emma Kish (Betty Parris) is currently a Junior at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School where she majors in the Media Arts with a focus in film. Emma has

performed in many shows at The Barrow -Civic Theater in Franklin including, *Little Women, Alice In Wonderland, Anne of Green Gables*, and many more! Emma also attends dance classes at Pittsburgh Musical Theater focusing in Ballet, Jazz, and Pointe. Along with taking classes at PMT, Emma also has performed in PMT's *A Lyrical Christmas Carol* for the past three years with the most recent time performing as Belinda Cratchit. Emma is very excited to be a part of this beautiful

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rendition of The Crucible, she wishes the cast and crew all her love ! <3



Caleb McCarthy (Ezekiel Cheever) is absolutely thrilled to be back at the Barrow for *The Crucible*! His previous roles include Sergeant Trotter from *Mousetrap*, Gilbert

Blythe from Anne of Green Gables, and the 2021 Red Eye Theatre Project. Caleb would like to thank the Barrow for introducing him to the heartbreaking yet fascinating story of *The Crucible* and giving him a chance to act in a show with both of his sisters for the first time! He also would like to thank Director/Costumer/ Mad Genius Nick Hess for the amount of passion, dedication, and drive he brought to every single rehearsal. Finally he invites everyone in the audience to sit back and enjoy the show.



Jim Nash (Reverend John Hale) is thrilled to be making his Barrow-Civic Theatre debut with *The Crucible*. A native of Titusville, Pa and a graduate of Indiana University of

Pennsylvania's Department of Theatre and Dance, some of his favorite roles include Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, Harold in *The Boys in the Band*, Oscar in *Sweet Charity*, and Dick Daldry in *In the Next Room* (or *The Vibrator Play*). For Judy Millar, Barbara Blackledge, Ed Simpson, and Jill Wadsworth who all taught me how to dream.



Aaron Ritsig (Thomas Putnam) is thrilled to be back on the Barrow stage and stepping into the fascinatingly dark town of Salem. Previous favorite roles have included

Gangster 1 in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Mr. Paravicini in *The Mousetrap*, Selsdon in *Noises Off*, Thing 2 in *Seussical*, Tweedledum in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Jim in *You Can't Take It With You*, where he also fulfilled a life-long dream of being an official BCT kitten-wrangler backstage. Many thanks to Nick for always pushing him as an actor, the producers for all of their hard work, and the cast for making the entire process so much fun.



Andrew Ritsig (Giles Corey) is overjoyed to be under the direction of Nick Hess again for *The Crucible*. Past favorite roles include Karl the Giant in *Big Fish*, Christopher Wren

and Sergeant Trotter in *The Mousetrap*, Lloyd Dallas in *Noises Off*, and Mike Nulty in *White Christmas*. He thanks Nick for his peerless vision and dedication to this story; the cast and crew for their immense talent and for making the rehearsals of a very serious show filled with riotous laughter; and to you, the audience, for supporting the arts. Enjoy the show!



Vera Saeli (Tituba) is very excited to make her theater debut in The Barrow-Civic Theatre's *The Crucible*. Vera loves her work in Public Service and helping others. When

not working, she loves family gatherings, learning new things and spending

time with her furry kids. Vera would like to thank her family, friends and all the members of *The Crucible* for their kindness and support.



Aoife Salusky (Mary Warren) is thrilled to explore the darkness in Salem as the character Mary Warren. Her past performances with FCOA include an ensemble role in *Elf*

the Musical, Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz. Princess Jasmine in Aladdin & His Wonderful, Magical Lamp, Little Red in Doo Wop Wed Widing Hood, and an evil shark in The Little Mermaid. She has also performed the role of Elmer in Newsies at her high school. Aoife is a freshman at Clarion Area HS where she is a member of Clarion Singers and a mental health advocate for Come Together Clarion. Outside of school Aoife enjoys performing with HOLeY Jeans Youth Choir and at Open Mic Nights. She is a teen facilitator for Little Leaders in which she helps elementary girls develop leadership and civic engagement skills. Aoife would like to thank her mentors, friends and family for their support and encouragement.



PamelaWatkins(RebeccaNurse)ishappy to be part ofFCOA's production ofFCOA's productionofThe Crucible.Pam'slastperformanceson the Barrow stageinclude, Blithe Spirit,

Little Women, Grease and Anne of

Green Gables. Pam has also been active as an actor and stage manager for the Community Playhouse. "The cast and crew of The Crucible have been incredible to work with. I am both blessed and humbled to share the stage with such talented performers. Nick Hess is everyone's dream director – to know him is to love him." Actors alone do not make a show. There is an entire team that supports us. This includes our producers, stage manager, props master, set designer, stage crew and Barrow staff. "With deep appreciation, I thank each of vou." Pam and her husband Rod, and two beloved dogs reside in Seneca, PA. Pam would like to dedicate this performance to her husband, Rodney Watkins and her brother, Scott Flinchbaugh for their unending support and love.



EmilieWeaver(SusannaWallcott)is so excited to be apart of this amazingproduction! This is herfourthperformanceat the Barrow, andrecentlyshe'salso

performed with Meadville Community Theatre, French Creek Community Theatre in Meadville, and Meadville Council on the Arts. She is a student at Rocsato Conservatory of Music in Titusville, and a new member of the Junior Schubert Music Club. A high school senior, she is an English tutor and a member of the National Honor Society. A sketch comedy children's play she wrote is being performed by French Creek Community Theatre in April.

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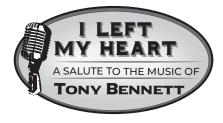
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A COVID- 19 Update for Our Valued Patrons:

An Update For Our Valued Patrons:

The Barrow-Civic Theatre is excited to welcome audiences back into our auditorium in 2022! We continue to track the positive and negative COVID testing and transmission rates and deaths in our area. In addition, we are studying the CDC, PA Dept. of Health, and Venango County guidelines on a regular, ongoing basis. In order for us to remain open, it is paramount that we do all we can to provide a safe environment for our patrons, volunteers and staff, visitors, and performers. We are making every effort to mitigate the spread of the virus within our building.

BARROW-CIVIC THEATRE COVID POLICY:

Vaccinations are *highly* **recommended.** We recommend that all guests who fall into the eligible categories as defined by the CDC become vaccinated as soon as possible. At this time, proof of vaccination is not required to enter our building.

Masks are a requirement in the building for unvaccinated individuals. All guests, regardless of vaccination status, are encouraged to wear a face covering over their nose and mouth in the building while the CDC's community transmission rate in Venango County remains in the "substantial" or "high" categories. (Click here to check status.) Approved face coverings include masks made of tightly-woven and layered fabric. Surgical masks and KN95 masks are also approved face coverings. Gaiters, bandanas, ski masks, scarves, or vented masks are not approved facial protective coverings. Face shields are appropriate if you are unable to wear a face mask.

Approved face coverings are available upon request for those guests who enter without one.

We would like to thank all of our patrons for their patience and understanding as we continue to work through the process of presenting live theatre during a pandemic. Please join us as we all do our part to mitigate the spread of the virus within the theatre. Please monitor your health and the health of your family. If you feel ill for any reason, please do not come to the theatre. Your health and safety, and that of our other patrons, our artists, and our staff is our highest priority.

We certainly appreciate your cooperation as we work to keep our theatre as safe as possible!

