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CHAPIN THEATRE COMPANY proudly presents the first show in our new theatre at 830 Columbia Avenue! a murderous comedy by ROB URBINATI directed by
FRANK THOMPSON March 16–18, 23–24, 30–31 & April 1 at 7:30 PM Matinees: March 19, 25, 26 & April 2 at 3 PM sponsored in part by SC ARTS COMMISSION • CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION **GREATER CHAPIN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION · LEXINGTON COUNTY** Presented by special

#### =DEATH BY DESIGN

By Rob Urbinati

#### March 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 30, 31, April 1 at 7:30PM & March 19, 25, 26, April 2 at 3:00PM

presented through special arrangement with

Cast	Production Crew
Gina PercivalBridgit	DirectorFrank Thompson
David ReedJack	Producer Tiffany Dinsmore
William ArvayEdward Bennett	Set Designer
Zsuzsa MannaSorel Bennett	TechSimon Marchant
Dennis KacsurWalter Pearce	Stage ManagerCindy Binnicker
Jeff SigleyEric	House ManagerJoan Marco
Corrine ReedVictoria Van Roth	Poster/Playbill DesignJason Jeffers
Emily MeadowsAlice	Playbill EditorGerrard Goines

#### Setting

The action of the play takes place in the living room of the Bennetts' house at Cookham in 1932.

#### Director's Note

Welcome to the wonderful world of Edward & Sorrel Bennett & their delightfully bizarre entourage! As an anglophile & a huge fan of quirky plots & characters, I was certainly charmed & intrigued by my first read of the script. By the second & third reads, I was mentally reviewing the screwball comedies of 1930s stage & screen, & the pithy, heightened realities of wordsmiths like Noel Coward & P.G. Wodehouse. Post-Edwardian England wasn't at all a bad place for those with lots of money, & the carryings-on of the upper class made for excellent satirical writing.

The English country house is a well-established setting for the drawing-room comedies of the years between the wars, with its ever-present bar carts & servants with far more sense than their aristocratic employers. If you watch & listen closely tonight, you'll catch loving references & stylistic nods to great comedic playwrights from Shakespeare to Shaw, liberally peppered with classic English music-hall quips & one-liners. *Death by Design* is an affectionately cheeky tribute to the days of Victrolas, liveried footmen, telegrams, & Martinis, extra-dry, just like the humour.

My sincere thanks to Jim, Tiffany, & the CDC board for entrusting me with stewardship of this very special production. It has been my privilege to work, play, & collaborate with a cast & production team of seasoned professionals who just happen to be warm, supportive, & a helluva lot of fun. We've had a great time creating this world & are glad to have you with us. Enjoy!

-FLT3



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#### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it has finally happened! After decades of dreaming, we have our own theatre. On behalf of the Chapin Theatre Company (CTC) Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you who've given so generously to this effort. We couldn't have done it without your time, talents & donations.

As you can see, it's still a work in progress. We've run out of time on building seating risers & a few other things we wished would be ready. But as we say in theatre—the show must go on! We will get those risers in as soon as possible & we are still looking for permanent seats. But if you are reading this, you are about to experience *Death by Design*—our first play performed in this new space. That's so exciting!

As Glenn Farr, one of our directors, said on a tour of the property, "you have more than a theatre—you have a campus." We have three buildings, which include this 3,500 square foot theatre (with indoor plumbing—haha), a scenic shop to build sets, a costume and prop house with rehearsal and classroom space and about four more undeveloped acres for future growth. That's *definitely* a campus. Call me any time if you want a tour of the other buildings.

It would be too lengthy to thank everyone who has helped on this journey. So, I'd like to acknowledge just a couple of people.

- Firstly, **Ken** & **Jondy Loveless**. When we lost our building back in 2008 (and buying the old Chapin Community Theatre building was not an option), they stepped up & donated about two acres of land to build a theatre. Although we couldn't make that happen, we were able to sell that property and with other donations by Ken and Jondy, make a significant dent in our \$850,000 capital campaign to execute our dream. We will name our lobby after them.
- Secondly, I must thank the **CTC Board of Directors**. Each of them have specific talents they bring to the table that keep us running. I coined a phrase back in my early years on the board—Chapin Theatre is the "best kept secret" in the Midlands. Well, the secret is out & it's as good as it is because of these folks.
- But for me, the most important person in making this dream come true is my wife **Tina**. We've been married for 44 years, & she's supported my passion for Chapin Theatre over the last 33 years. She provides carpentry, painting & sewing skills, helps me memorize my lines & anything else I ask of her, but most importantly, she's my partner—and with her help, I continue.

So, thank you for supporting the arts in the Chapin area. Whether you are a donor, a member, or just attending a show, thank you for being a part of the CTC family. Here's to another 44 years.

#### Jim DeFelice

President & Managing Director, Chapin Theatre Company

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Jim & Tina DeFelice, Rita & Bob Anderson, Allyson & Lila Bagley, Tiffany & George Dinsmore,
Darlene Natali, Linda DuRant & Lou Clyde for the painting of our beautiful new theatre.

MonaLisa Botts for her assistance with costuming.

Ezra Pound for designing, procuring and installing our light and sound equipment
and Simon Marchant for assisting the installation

DEATH BY DESIGN March 2023

broasted chicken\*burgers\*hot dogs\*corn dogs\*BBQ\*BLT\*thick bologna sandwich\*country fried steak sandwich\*country fried chicken sandwich\*grilled chicken sandwich\*chicken salad sandwich\*grilled cheese w/tomato sandwich\*fish sandwich\*2 pc fish basket\*popcorn shrimp\*fish and shrimp\*chicken tenders grilled cheese\*chili cheese fries\*pimento cheese fries\*fried cream corn nuggets\*fried okra\*onion rings\*fried/grilled chicken salad garden salad\*salad with chicken salad\*wing chips\*ice cream cones\*chocolate dipped cones\*butterscotch dipped cones\*cones rolled in nuts\*milk shakes\*banana splits walnut sundae\*hot fudge cake\*strawberry shortcake and more...

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#### **CAST** & **CREW** (in alphabetical order)

William Arvay (Edward Bennett) is delighted to be sharing the stage with such a talented cast of actors in Death by Design. Bill first took to the stage 50 years ago as Gandalf in The Hobbit. Other favorite roles include King Arthur, Atticus Finch, Pontius Pilate, Chief Bromden, Daddy Warbucks, Prince Hal, & Trekkie Monster. A member of the Screen Actors Guild, he has appeared on television & in movies with Burt Reynolds & Patrick Swayze, among others. Bill is twice past president of the 114-year-old Columbia Drama Club, former business manager at Town Theatre, former marketing director for USC's Theatre Department, owner of the company that built the world's largest fire hydrant (situated on the corner of Taylor & Marion Streets), & currently employed as the mellifluous phone voice of Prisma Health Orthopedics. Bill's all-time favorite role is as father to his three daughters, & partner-in-crime with Resi Talbot.

Cindy Binnicker (Stage Manager) is delighted to be Stage Manager for another CTC show. She has previously stage managed Clue, Pouf!, Beauty & the Beast & Jungle Book, Jr. However, this show stands out from all the others as it marks the opening of Chapin Theatre's new building! She remains humbled & grateful to be a part of the growth, insight & future of this wonderful theatre company.

**Dennis Kacsur** (Walter Pierce) last appeared on the Chapin Theatre stage as Ned Newley in *The Outsider*. Immediately after that performance, unfortunately, the country was shut down by COVID. Dennis claims to have had nothing to do with it, although he has always been suspicious. His other CTC appearances in *Getting Sara Married*, Rabbit Hole, Mamma Won't Fly, Jekyll & Hyde, & The Homecoming, fortunately, did not result in such catastrophic events. He is happy to be back on the stage & would like to thank Frank Thompson for giving him a chance to perform with this wacky & extremely talented cast.

**Zsuzsa Manna** (Sorel Bennett) is so very happy & honored to be involved in Chapin Theatre's inaugural production of Death by Design in their new home. She is no stranger to the Chapin boards having previously appeared in Clue, Dixie Swim Club & Noises Off. Zsuzsa, better known as Z, is a 2013 transplant from New York. She & her husband Mark are newly retired from nearly ten years owning Lake Murray Liquors in Ballentine – it's an adjustment. Since moving to SC, she has performed with Trustus, Workshop, Town Theatre, Village Square Theatre, Newberry Community Players & On Stage Productions. In the NY Tri-State area, she appeared in over 150 productions (stage & screen) & directed & designed several more. A few of her favorite roles... well, they all are in one way or another, include Dottie in Noises Off, Bella in Lost in Yonkers, Nurse Ratched in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Jessie in 'night Mother, Helga in The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Catherine in The Heiress & Rose in *The Woolgatherer*.

**Emily Meadows** (*Alice*) is so proud to be performing in the first show at Chapin Theatre's new home. Thank you for supporting the arts & enjoy the show!

**Gina Percival** (Bridget) loves the stage. Over the years she's been in productions of The Wizard of Oz, Cheaper by the Dozen & Bells on Their Toes, to name a few. Most recently, she played in CTC's Best Christmas Pageant Ever. She has performed with a classic Biblical theatre in three different states & Israel. Gina enjoys taking part in singing gigs with her jazz musician friends. On any day you can find her dancing & singing with her grands or her menagerie of fur & feathered friends on the mini farm. She also enjoys expressing her creativity in many areas of art & using power tools. Believing life is a stage, & someone is influenced every day by our actions, Gina's desire is to play her life role well.

Corrine Reed (Victoria Van Roth) is delighted to return for her third show on the Chapin Theatre stage. She grew up doing community theatre in Winnsboro, SC with the Pine Tree Players. Favorite past roles include Judas in Godspell (Sion Presbyterian Church), Gina Jo Dubberly in Christmas Belles (Pine Tree Playhouse), & Jenna in Farce of Nature (Chapin Theatre Company). She has a Bachelor's & Master's Degree in Social Work with a focus in community economic development from the University of South Carolina. By day, Corrine runs her own grant writing & nonprofit consulting business, Starfire Charity Solutions, LLC. When she's not acting or writing, she irritates her two dogs & loving husband with Broadway showtunes!

**David Reed** (*Jack*) is excited to be part of this inaugural production at the NEW Chapin Theatre Company building. He's done about a dozen shows with CTC & is once more having great fun working with this present cast & crew. He thanks Frank Thompson for casting him & thanks you for supporting the arts!

#### **Building Campaign Donors**

Thanks to the following generous patrons who helped us achieve our goal of providing a new home for the Chapin Theatre Company. We couldn't have done it without you! Soon we are going to put a permanent dedication in our new lobby. Please make sure your names are properly spelled & represented as you would like. If we inadvently left your name off this list, please send us an email at **chapintheatre@att.net**.

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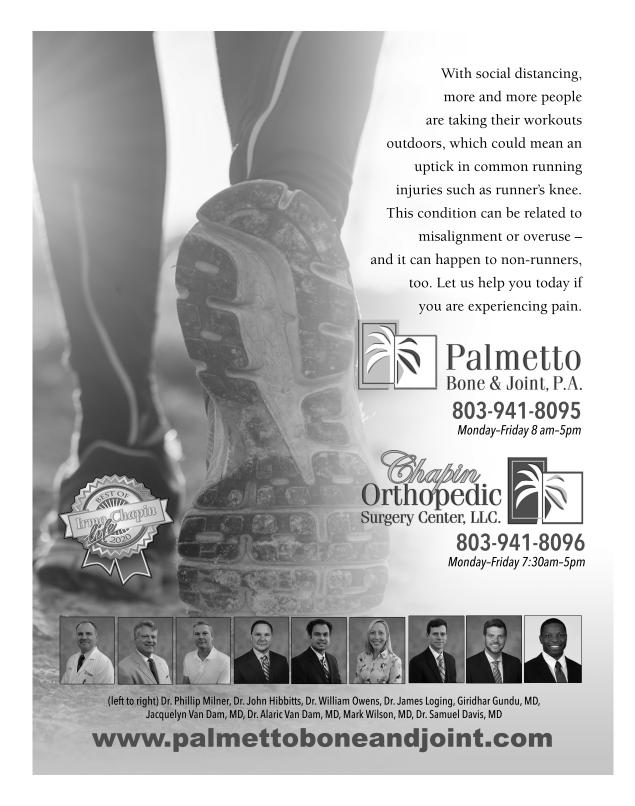
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#### CAST & CREW (in alphabetical order)

**Jeff Sigley** (*Eric*) is excited to be reunited with director, Frank Thompson (who directed him in Workshop Theatre's production of Around the World in 80 Days) & to share the stage with some of the finest actors & actresses in the Midlands. Jeff began his community theatre career 13 years ago when on a whim he auditioned for & was casted as the Cowardly Lion at Village Square Theatres production of *The Wizard of Oz*. He "caught the bug" instantaneously & has produced, stage managed, costumed, directed or acted in over 40 shows since his debut. He has acted in productions at Onstage Productions, Village Square Theatre, Workshop Theatre & Chapin Theatre Company. His last production was as director of Beauty & the Beast at VST this past fall. Some of his favorite roles besides the Cowardly Lion, include the King of Siam in *The King & I*, Buffalo Bill Cody in *Annie Get* Your Gun, Edna Turnblad in Hairspray, Passeportout in Around the World in 80 Days, & Dr. Einstein in Arsenic & Old Lace, to name a few. Jeff has served on the Board of Directors at On Stage Productions as well as Village Square Theatre where he served as President, Vice President, & Treasurer during various terms over the last 12 years. During the day, for the last 14 years, Jeff has worked for MSA Home Health providing physical therapy to homebound patients. He would like to thank Frank as well as CTC for the opportunity to perform with this amazing group of people.

Frank Thompson (Director) is proud to be at the helm of the inaugural show here at Chapin Theatre Company's fabulous new home! His CTC credits include Professor Plum in Clue, Lumiere in Beauty & the Beast, Watson in The Hound of the Baskervilles, Freddie/Philip in Noises Off, & both installments of The Ten-Minute Play Festival. Frank has directed and/or performed with most of the midlands-area theatre companies & is particularly proud of his directorial work on Chicago, Don't Dress for Dinner, Stand by Your Man: The Tammy Wynette Story, Around the World in Eighty Days, Sister Act & Boeing Boeing. Much love to this amazing cast & production team for making Death by Design a delight. Break legs & remember... #DoWhatCindySays

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