

# SPOTLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY

2016-2017 Season



[www.ThisIsSpotlight.com](http://www.ThisIsSpotlight.com)

(720) 530-4596

## Welcome to the 2016-2017 Spotlight Season!

Spotlight Theater has always been known as “the little theatre that could.” And for good reason! For nearly twenty years, we have been presenting plays and musicals that offer a temporary vacation from the pressures of everyday life. Whether it be a side-splitting comedy, a thought-provoking drama, or a riveting thriller, we are delighted to take you away from the “busy” of your lives. And we get to go along, as well!

We have such a great collection of plays to offer you in this, our 19th season (our biggest season yet!)—starting with the rarely produced Tennessee Williams classic **Suddenly, Last Summer**. I know you will enjoy this fierce drama. And then we will whisk you away for the holidays with our 1940s radio show versions of both **It’s a Wonderful Life** and **A Christmas Carol**. You will want to share these shows with your family and friends during the season of thanks and giving.

Speaking of giving, a Spotlight season ticket is a wonderful gift to give someone. Think about it!

Where else can you get a trip to Long Island in the 1950s (in the sparkling romantic comedy **Sabrina Fair**), a mysterious location to explore a Titanic mystery (**Scotland Road**), a hilarious Broadway opening night party in New York (**It’s Only a Play**), and the serene (and sometimes choppy) waters of a lakeside retreat in Maine (**On Golden Pond**).

Consider joining us and get your passport to entertainment, laughter, and humanity.

Thank you for joining us in our journey to bring you the best that live theatre has to offer.

See YOU at the theatre,

**Bernie Cardell**, Artistic Director  
Spotlight Theatre

# Suddenly, Last Summer

by Tennessee Williams  
Directed by Bernie Cardell

## CAST

*(in order of appearance)*

Violet Venable – **Emma Messenger**  
Dr. Cukrowicz – **James O’Hagan-Murphy**  
Miss Foxhill – **Linda Button**  
Catharine Holly – **Maggy Stacy**  
Sister Felicity – **Kelly Alayne Dwyer**  
Mrs. Holly – **Darcy Kennedy**  
George Holly – **Carter Edward Smith**

## CREW

Artistic Director/Production Director – **Bernie Cardell**  
Stage Managers – **Kerry Frakes & Maggie Fosse**  
Set Design – **Christopher Waller**  
Lighting Design – **Vance McKenzie**  
Sound Design – **Luke Allen Terry**  
Costume Design – **Susan Rahmsdorff**  
Props – **Beki Pineda**  
Set Build – **Biz Schaugard**  
Graphic Design – **Deb Flomberg**  
Program Design – **Beth Foster**  
Publicity – **Gloria Shanstrom**  
Spotlight Founder – **Pat Payne**

## **The Spotlight Theatre Board of Directors**

Bernie Cardell (Artistic Director), Dan Connell (President), Charles Hettinger,  
Sue Hettinger, Molly Killoran, Katie Mangett, Luke Allen Terry

*Forget Your Worries ... Escape for a Night of Fun!*

# A Note from the Director

*"I don't want realism. I want magic! Yes, yes, magic! I try to give that to people. I misrepresent things to them. I don't tell the truth, I tell what ought to be the truth. And if that's sinful, then let me be damned for it!" —Tennessee Williams*



**Bernie Cardell**

Over a career that spanned 50+ years, Tennessee Williams gave us a great deal of magic, and directing **Suddenly, Last Summer** has certainly been a magical experience. I have loved working with this cast. You should be so lucky to have an experience like this one.

Obsession is a favorite theme of Tennessee Williams (especially when you combine obsession and the fractured past). Looking into the shattered mirror of the past, Williams brilliantly combines heat, lust, betrayal, desperation, and a little bit of magic to create a world of “shadows and light.” And it is by moving through the shadows (and the light) that we get to the other side, where peace (and the unknown) awaits. Like a lot of Williams’ work, this is a cautionary tale: obsession can lead you to madness, and the truth can lead you to peace. A good reminder for our lives, as well.

Thank you for attending our show. I am so grateful for the continued support of the Spotlight audience. We have some of the best audiences in Denver! If you like the work that we do, consider converting your ticket tonight into a season ticket so you can see the other six shows in our season. Each one is sure to be a blockbuster!

See YOU at the theatre,

**Bernie Cardell**

Artistic Director

Spotlight Theatre

# About the Playwright

Playwright Tennessee Williams was born on March 26, 1911, in Columbus, Mississippi. After college, he moved to New Orleans, a city that would inspire much of his writing (including **Suddenly, Last Summer**). On March 31, 1945, his play **The Glass Menagerie** opened on Broadway, and two years later **A Streetcar Named Desire** earned Williams his first Pulitzer Prize. He won his second Pulitzer for **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**. Along with Arthur Miller and Eugene O'Neill, Williams is considered one of the three most notable playwrights in 20th-century American drama. He died in 1983.



## Meet the Cast



### **LINDA BUTTON (Miss Foxhill)**

Linda is so happy to be back at Spotlight Theatre. She was last seen here as Miss Stephanie in **To Kill A Mockingbird**. Other credits/favorite roles include: Jeri Neal in **The Dixie Swim Club**, The Costumer in **Ghostlight**, Edith in **Jake's Women**, Ouiser in **Steel Magnolias**, and Mrs. Boyle in **The Mousetrap**. Linda wishes to thank her husband and dearest friend for understanding the balancing act we all need and for walking beside her on this journey called life.



### **KELLY ALAYNE DWYER (Sister Felicity)**

Kelly is thrilled to be back on the Spotlight stage! She was seen most recently here in **No Sex Please, We're British** and **Christmas Belles**. Kelly has been lucky enough to be working with this amazing cast and incredible director. This is such a gift. She would like to thank her mom, her dad and Robin, and Katie for being supportive through everything. Thank you to the Lad for your love and understanding.



### **DARCY KENNEDY (Mrs. Holly)**

Darcy is thrilled to be back at Spotlight Theatre for the third time! She was last seen here as Maudie in **To Kill a Mockingbird** and Honey Raye in **Christmas Belles**. Other roles in the recent past include Kate Keller in **All My Sons** at Cherry Creek Theatre, Meg in **A Lie of the Mind** at The Bug, and The Recordkeeper in **Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol** at the Vintage (which is being remounted this Christmas). Darcy is so excited to be living her bucket list. Performing and growing in this theatre community is more than she could ever ask. "Special thanks to Bernie for your continued faith in me and to my cherished family and friends for your support."



### **EMMA MESSENGER (Violet Venable)**

Emma is an award-winning actress, having twice won the CTG Henry Award for outstanding acting in Vintage Theatre's **'night, Mother** and The Edge Theatre's **The Beauty Queen of Leenane**. She also received Henry nominations for her work in The Edge's **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** and **Exit Strategies**. She is honored to be a three-time winner of the True West Award, and to be named Best Season for an Actress by *Westword*. She is a proud recipient of Bill's Best, Marlowe, Vintage, and Edgy Awards. Emma last appeared on stage at The Edge in the one-woman show **I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers**. She recently worked for Spotlight directing **Steel Magnolias** and has appeared on the John Hand stage in **The Lion in Winter**, **Sordid Lives**, **Sylvia**, and **Beau Jest**. Much appreciation to the great Bernie Cardell, and love always to Rich Messenger.



### **JAMES O'HAGAN-MURPHY (Dr. Cukrowicz)**

This is James' second show with Spotlight; he also appeared in **And Then There Were None**. James has worked with many Colorado companies including Vintage Theatre, The Edge, Miners Alley Playhouse, Littleton Town Hall, Avenue Theatre, Breckenridge Backstage, Bas Bleu, and the Denver Center. He will be reprising the role of Jacob Marley in Vintage Theatre's production of **Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol**. In 2017, look for his return as Bobby Kennedy in a tour of Vintage's production of **RFK - A Portrait of Robert Kennedy**.



### **CARTER EDWARD SMITH (George Holly)**

Carter is thrilled to be making his Spotlight debut, and to be working with such a fantastic cast and creative team. You may have seen him recently at Town Hall Arts Center as Emmett Forrest in **Legally Blonde: The Musical** or as Wilbur C. Henderson in the Miners Alley production of **You Can't Take It With You**. He wants to thank Bernie for this opportunity and Jamie for encouraging him to do this show. For Brenda. BE BRAVE.



### **MAGGY STACY (Catharine Holly)**

Maggy can't believe she gets to immerse herself in another beautiful Tennessee Williams play with a team that flows beautifully with it. She was Maggie in **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** at The Edge Theatre; other roles include Izzy in **Rabbit Hole** at Vintage Theatre (Henry Award, Best Supporting Actress), Honey in **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf** at The Edge (Henry nominee), White Witch in **The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe** at Aurora Fox, Mrs. Danvers in **Rebecca**, and one of Euripides' Angels in **Medea**. Maggy earned a BA in Psychology at MSUD, and she also works in film, commercial, and educational areas. She loves martial arts, improv, and collaborating with amazing artists.

## **Meet the Production Staff**

### **BERNIE CARDELL (Artistic Director/Production Director)**

After ten years of waiting, Bernie is so excited to finally be directing **Suddenly, Last Summer**, and especially with this moveable feast of a cast and crew. Bernie proudly serves as the Artistic Director of both Spotlight Theatre and Vintage Theatre, and most recently directed **Rabbit Hole** at Vintage (winner of the 2016 CTG Henry Award for Outstanding Production), **Brigadoon** for Performance Now, and **The 1940s Radio Hour** for the Northglenn Players. Coming up, Bernie will be appearing on stage in **Wait Until Dark** this fall at the Avenue Theater and directing the John Grisham courtroom drama **A Time to Kill** for Vintage in January 2017. The Spotlight audience is the BEST audience! Thank you for your continued support!

### **MAGGIE FOSSE (Stage Manager)**

Maggie has been acting and stage managing in Denver for the past 26 years. She is excited to be working as stage manager for Spotlight Theatre Company for the eleventh time. She has also stage managed for Firehouse Theatre Company and Vintage Theatre Company. She acted in theatre with City Stage Ensemble and Everyman's Theatre Company along with being in several films. She also took a workshop with RADA. Maggie is very pleased to be working with a great cast and with director Bernie Cardell.

### **KERRY FRAKES (Stage Manager)**

Kerry is excited to be working as stage manager for the eleventh time with Spotlight Theatre Company here at the John Hand Theatre. Since 2004, he has also stage managed for Firehouse Theatre Company, Vintage Theatre Company and Miners Alley. Kerry is pleased to be working with a great cast and with director Bernie Cardell.

### **VANCE MCKENZIE (Lighting Design)**

Vance is a freelance lighting designer working throughout North America. He recently designed the regional premier of **The Great Gatsby** for the Arvada Center, **It's a Wonderful Life** for THEATREWORKS, and the regional premier of **Jane Eyre** at the Lakewood Cultural Center. Other designs include **The 39 Steps** at Breckenridge Backstage Theatre and **Carry On** with Ballet Nouveau Colorado, **A Journey of the Human Spirit** for the Newman Center, and **A Christmas Carol** for the Arvada Center. Vance has his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

### **BEKI PINEDA (Props)**

Beki has been providing props for Spotlight productions for the last seven years. That's a lot of crazy props and pretty furniture in and out the door. But every show has its special problems and its special joys—like working with Bernie and this cast and crew. Thank you for all the fun and for supporting live theatre.

### **SUSAN RAHMSDORFF (Costume Design)**

Susan learned to sew from her mother, who thought it might keep her out of trouble. It mostly worked. She is thrilled to be costuming her favorite Tennessee Williams play with some of her favorite people! Her work has been seen at Spotlight, Firehouse, Vintage Theatre, Boulder Opera, Equinox Theatre, and Town Hall Arts Center's Actor's Playground. She loves hunting for vintage clothes and weird vintage furs, playing with her two corgis, and learning new trivia. Love to her husband of the future, Luke!



### **BIZ SCHAUGAARD (Set Construction)**

Biz works in the Denver area as a set designer/builder, prop finder, and book seller. She would like to thank everyone who has helped build, hold, paint, and generally helped out over the years. Extra love and kisses to Gov and Skippy.

### **LUKE ALLEN TERRY (Sound Design)**

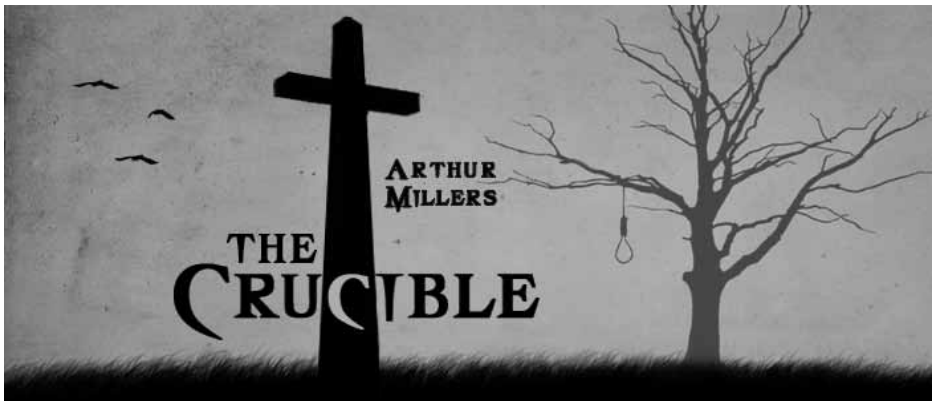
Luke is thrilled to be beginning his tenth season with Spotlight! Most recently, he directed the hilarious farce **No Sex Please, We're British** and has previously designed **Steel Magnolias**, **The Big Bang**, and **To Kill a Mockingbird**. Special thanks to the entire Spotlight board and the cast and crew, and all of his friends and family near and far. Extra love to the corgis and his wife of the future (or just WIFE depending on when you're reading this!), Susan. I love you and I like you. And thank YOU, the audience, for supporting live theater. We dare you to come back! Prosper.

### **CHRISTOPHER WALLER (Set Design)**

Christopher is proud to be joining the team here at Spotlight Theatre. He holds a double BA in Theatre and Communications from Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas and an MFA in Theatre Design and Technology from the University of Georgia. His designs have been seen in Boulder, Denver, Atlanta, and St. Louis. The Technical Director and Resident Designer for the Parsons Theatre in Northglenn, he is also the owner and principal designer of Waller Designs, a full-service design studio.

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## **Firehouse Theatre Presents**



**Oct. 8—Nov. 5 at the John Hand Theatre**

•••**SEE IT LIVE**•••  
**Colorado Theatre Guild**

*Arts In the Open*  
September 17-October 30  
*The Treasures of Toothless Jack:*  
*A Pick-A-Path Play*  
970-663-9491/artsintheopen.org

*Avenue Theater*  
September 1-September 24  
*The Money Shot*  
303-321-5925/avenuetheater.com

*BDT Stage*  
May 21-September 3  
*Footloose*  
September 9-November 12  
*Mid-Life 2! #WhatDidIComeInHereFor*  
303-449-6000/bdtstage.com

*Bas Bleu*  
September 22-October 16  
*The Blue Flower*  
970-498-8949/basbleu.org

*Breckenridge Backstage Theatre*  
August 26-September 4  
*Hairspray*  
970-453-0199/backstagetheatre.org

*The Edge Theater Company*  
August 26-September 25  
*Murder Ballad*  
303-232-0363/theedgetheater.com

*Equinox Theatre Company*  
August 12-September 3  
*The Toxic Avenger Musical*  
970-984-0781/equinoxtheatredenver.com

*Evergreen Chorale*  
September 16-October 9  
*My Fair Lady*  
303-674-4002/evergreenchorale.org

*Lake Dillon Theatre Company*  
August 26-September 18  
*First Date, A Musical Comedy*  
970-513-1151/lakedillontheatre.org

*Longmont Theatre Company*  
September 16-October 1  
*I Ought to be in Pictures*  
303-772-5200/longmonttheatre.org

*Midtown Arts Center*  
September 2-November 5  
*Motones vs. Jerseys*  
970-225-2555/midtownartscenter.com

*Miners Alley Playhouse*  
September 9-October 16  
*God of Carnage*  
303-935-3044/minersalley.com

*OpenStage*  
September 3-October 1  
*La Bête*  
970-484-5237/openstage.com

*Spotlight Theatre Company*  
August 27-September 24  
*Suddenly Last Summer*  
970-530-4596/thisissspotlight.com

*StageDoor Theatre*  
September 9-September 25  
*Steel Magnolias*  
303-838-0809/www.stagedoortheatre.org

*Town Hall Arts Center*  
September 9-October 9  
*Once Upon a Mattress*  
303-794-2787/townhallartscenter.org

*Upstart Crow*  
September 1-September 11  
*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*  
303-442-1415/theupstartcrow.org

*Vintage Theatre*  
July 29-September 4  
*Frankie and Johnny*  
*in the Claire de Lune*  
September 16-October 23  
*Oldest Boy*  
September 16-October 30  
*Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*  
303-856-7830/vintagetheatre.org

**PLEASE VISIT OUR SOUTHERN MEMBERS!**

*Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center -*  
*Colorado Springs*  
csfineartscenter.org

*Springs Ensemble Theatre Co -*  
*Colorado Springs*  
springsensembletheatre.org

*Steel City Theatre Company -* Pueblo  
sctcpueblo.com

*Theatre D Art - Colorado Springs*  
theatredart.org

*TheatreWorks - Colorado Springs*  
theatreworkscs.org

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## *Why I Like Putting on Plays*

Most of our days are spent compromising on quality. So many demands compete for our time and attention that “just good enough to get by” is the standard by which we judge our daily productivity. Intensity. Excellence. Breakthrough. Rare are the times we can afford to aspire to these higher standards of achievement. With so much to do, we live mostly on life’s plateaus rather than on its pinnacles.

Domains exist, though, that tend to draw us up from the median to the special. Of these, I especially like the world of participatory theatre. Cast and crew of a play have but a short time to create the gift they will offer to their audience. Each must “act well his part,” yet they must also meld into an ensemble with chemistry, energy and good pace. The fellowship that forms is intense and precious. The product is totally visible—you can’t hide on stage. If the play is a good one, it brims with truth and superb expressions. Memorizing them, internalizing them, then giving life to them can have transformative effects on the cast. Delving into well-crafted fictional characters facilitates examination of the actor’s own inner chambers. Bringing good scripts to vigorous life comes as close to giving birth as is possible outside biology.

Plays and casts move on to new projects. But after so much has been demanded of them and to some degree achieved, the individuals from a show are likely to take with them memories of heights, and depths, and unalloyed emotion. As they climb back down to the daily hustle, likely as not they carry the pictures in their heads of views from the summit.

—*John Hand*—

**JOHN HAND THEATER**

# 2016-2017 Spotlight's 19th season!

August 27 - September 24, 2016

## Suddenly, Last Summer

by Tennessee Williams | Directed by **Bernie Cardell**

### TWO LIVE RADIO PLAYS!

Running in Repertory: November 19 - December 18, 2016

It's A  
Wonderful  
Life



A Christmas Carol



Directed by **ANDY ANDERSON** and **KRIS GRAVES**

February 18 - March 18, 2017

## Sabrina Fair

by Samuel A. Taylor

Directed by **Rachel Bouchard**

## Scotland Road

May 6 - June 3, 2017

Some secrets  
run deep.

by Jeffrey Hatcher | Directed by **Luke Terry**

IT'S ONLY A

PLAY

June 9 - July 23, 2017

by Terrence McNally

A co-production  
with Vintage Theater

Directed by **Katie Mangett**

## On Golden Pond

July 29 - August 26, 2017

by Ernest Thompson | Directed by **Bernie Cardell**