

HANOVER SEASON  
HANOVER TAVERN

VIRGINIA **rep**



# Bonnie and *Claire*

BY BO WILSON

VIRGINIA **rep** NEW  
PLAYS

THIS SUMMER  
NOVEMBER THEATRE

# MAMMA MIA!

**JUNE 24 - AUGUST 7**

**November Theatre** *Downtown*

Exploding with the harmonic hit songs made famous by the popular 1970s group ABBA, this intoxicating musical will have you singing and dancing in the aisles.

THIS YEAR'S  
GALA IS IN JUNE!



*Celebrate the journey with  
Virginia Repertory Theatre*

THE 10TH ANNUAL  
**ANYTHING GOES**  
*Gala*

Join us on our Greek Island

The Jefferson Hotel

June 11, 2022

6:00 pm

TICKETS AT **VIRGINIAREP.ORG** OR **804-282-2620**

**Managing Director** Phil Whiteway  
**Artistic Director of Community** Desirée Roots  
**Artistic Director of Education** Todd D. Norris  
**Artistic Director of Programming** Rick Hammerly



# BONNIE AND CLAIRE

By **Bo Wilson**

WORLD PREMIERE

SCENIC DESIGN

**Terrie Powers**

COSTUME DESIGN

**Marcia Miller Hailey**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**Matt Landwehr**

SOUND DESIGN

**Jacob Mishler**

STAGE MANAGEMENT

**Joe Pabst**

DIRECTION

**Dr. Jan Powell**

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SEASON SUPPORT:



E. Rhodes and Leona B.  
Carpenter Foundation



Altria





# CAST

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Bonnie .....	<b>Melissa Johnston Price</b>
Claire .....	<b>Jan Guarino</b>
Zoe .....	<b>Sydnee Graves</b>

# FOR THIS PRODUCTION

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Assistant Stage Manager.....	<b>Amber Hooper</b>
Photographer .....	<b>Aaron Suttén</b>
Videographer .....	<b>Austin Lewis</b>

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# PLACE AND TIME

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A small college town. The play and its characters move through about 10 years, from 1990 to 1994 to 1999.

*There will be an intermission.*

# SPECIAL THANKS

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Meg Carnahan, Bruce Miller, Steve Perigard, Alexandra Morgen Phillips, Roger Price and Whisper Recording, Catherine Shaffner.

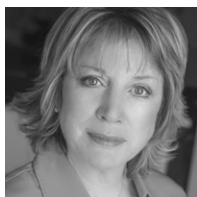
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## COMPANY BIOS

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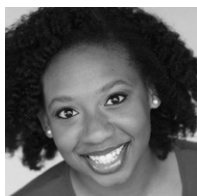


**Melissa Johnston Price** (Bonnie), the 2014 recipient of the Teresa Pollack Award for Excellence in the Performing Arts, has been in over 60 regional productions in a career spanning 45 years. She was seen in Quill Theatre's *Taming of the Shrew* (Baptista), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mrs. Bennett), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Nurse). Melissa counts among her favorite roles: Barbara in *August: Osage County* with Cadence/Virginia Rep (RTCC Best Actress Award), Eleanor in Quill's *The Lion in Winter* (RTCC Best Actress nominee), Becky in Virginia Rep's *Becky's New Car* at Hanover Tavern, and Silda in *Other Desert Cities* (Virginia Rep).



**Jan Guarino** (Claire) feels so very lucky to be finally getting back on the boards with this world premiere at Hanover Tavern! She was last here in the hugely popular *The Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular*. She had the privilege to direct for Virginia Rep's *Barefoot in the Park* (the first show back after the shutdown) and before that she directed *Dancing Lessons*. She has also directed (among

others) *Where's Charley?*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *They're Playing Our Song* for Virginia Rep. A familiar face and voice in Richmond-area advertising, Jan is perhaps best known as spokesperson for Haynes Furniture. She would like to thank her husband, Bo Wilson, for his support and for writing this lovely and charming script!



**Sydnee S. Graves**, she/her, (Zoe) is overjoyed to be performing again, and is excited to be making her Hanover Tavern debut! Previous Virginia Rep credits include *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* (Ms. Square/Mama Square), *Harriett Tubman* and *the Underground Railroad* (Sister/Mom), as well as traveling with Virginia Rep On Tour. Sydnee would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support.

**Dr. Jan Powell**, she/her, (Director) is pleased to be back directing for Virginia Rep, where her last show was *Equivocation* (RTCC Directing Award). She was most recently Producing Artistic Director of the Richmond Shakespeare Festival at Agecroft Hall and Quill Theatre in Richmond. Before coming to Richmond, she was Artistic Director at the Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival, and Founding Artistic Director of Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company, resident in the Portland (Oregon) Center for the Performing Arts. She is particularly proud of having directed all of Shakespeare's history plays, but has also worked for thirty years directing a wide variety of plays, operas, and music/movement theatre and working as a theatre consultant, administrator, teacher, coach, choreographer, and performer in places including London, Amsterdam, Tromsø, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and in regional theatres and universities throughout the U.S. She is a past President of the International Shakespeare Theatre Association. Jan is thrilled to be able to direct the latest new play by her dear friend, the brilliant Bo Wilson. She sends all her love to her family, without whom life would be waaaaaay too boring.

## COMPANY BIOS

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**Terrie Powers** (Scenic Designer) is retired after nearly forty years as a scenic designer/artist for Virginia Rep, Barksdale, and Theatre IV. Her designs have been on this Hanover Tavern stage for the past sixteen years. She has designed and painted many sets for Virginia Rep on Tour, which are enjoyed by youth and families over much of the Eastern U.S. She paints in her studio full time; her work can be viewed at [terriepowersart.com](http://terriepowersart.com). One of her paintings was recently chosen to be made into a flag and flown with 192 other original images from artists around the world at Rockefeller Center in April. She currently has three large paintings in an exhibit at BWAC in Brooklyn. Vive les arts!

**Marcia Miller Hailey** (Costume Designer) has been working in Richmond theatres for over 30 years, and now currently works in the costume shop at Virginia Rep as a Cutter/Draper. She has also worked for the Richmond Ballet, Virginia and Utah Shakespeare Festivals, and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. She is very excited to be back at Hanover Tavern where some of the shows she designed include *Forever Plaid*, *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End*, *Miracle on South Division Street*, *Charitable Sisterhood*, *Charitable Sisterhood Christmas Spectacular*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, and *Boeing Boeing*.

**Matt Landwehr** (Lighting Designer) is a graduate of Minnesota State University-Mankato with a B.S. in Theatre Production. After serving as the Associate Lighting Designer for Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, TN and the Lighting Designer for the Historic Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, MI, he moved to Richmond to serve at Theatre IV/Barksdale Theatre as Production Electrician and Lighting Designer. After a multi-year run as Technical Director for SPARC's Live Art concert series, he now works for Henrico Theatre as Technical Director.

**Jacob Mishler** (Sound Designer) has been involved in live production for 25 years, moving into theatrical sound design in 2004. Selected credits: *42nd Street* - Palace Theatre New Hampshire; *Cabaret*, *Rent*, *The Drowsy Chaperone* - Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre; *Gypsy* (Broadway World Award Central PA), *Woman in Black*, *Ghost* (World Premiere), *Million Dollar Quartet* - Fulton Theatre; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *The Bridges of Madison County* (Henry Award) - Fine Arts Center. Love to Julie.

**Joe Pabst** (Stage Manager) made his debut at the Hanover Tavern playing the dead body in *Lucky Stiff*, and things have only gone up from there! He has served numerous Tavern productions as a stage manager (*Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*; *Nunsense*; *Souvenir*; *Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End*), actor (most recently in *Barefoot in the Park*), director (*Always... Patsy Cline*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *The Odd Couple*) and more. He shares his life with his lovely wife, Debra Wagoner, and their fur family.

**Amber Hooper** (Assistant Stage Manager) Amber studied theater at Eastern Mennonite University where she served as stage manager, costume assistant, and various other backstage roles for many shows during her four years in undergrad. Her recent credits include being Assistant Stage Manager for *Barefoot in the Park*, *Dear Jack Dear Louise*, a member of the deck crew for *Pipeline*, and the light board operator for *Ella and her Fella Frank* at Virginia Rep.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Bo Wilson

*Bonnie and Claire* has been circling the airport for two years, and playwright Bo Wilson is thrilled that it was finally given clearance to land! His work is well-known to Virginia Rep audiences and, increasingly, to audiences all over the world. *The Charitable Sisterhood* plays (both smash hits here at Hanover Tavern) have been done all over the country as well as Australia, Canada, and Wales. Earlier world premieres of his work by the Rep include *Mona's Arrangements* and *War Story*, as well as several touring shows.



He's also appeared on Virginia Rep stages as an actor, most recently in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*. Bo was born in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and lived all over the southeast before settling in Richmond, Virginia just in time to start fourth grade. Richmond has been his home ever since, with time away at Virginia Tech and at the O'Neill Center's National Theatre Institute. He's also a professional voice talent with several hundred radio and TV ads to his credit, for products ranging from Sylvan Learning Centers to Mohatma Rice to the Fallout video game series. His better half is the lovely Jan Guarino, who appears as Claire in this production.

He has written thirty or so other titles, and has been published by Dramatic Publishing, Samuel French, and Algonquin Press. In 2016, his play, *The Bookbinder's Tale*, was a finalist for the prestigious National Playwrights' Conference at the O'Neill Theatre Center. *Bonnie and Claire* will be published by Dramatic Publishing in the coming year.

*This play is for my mother, Rosaline Wilson.*

## VIRGINIA REP STAFF

**Artistic Dir. of Community**..... **Desirée Roots**  
**Artistic Dir. of Education** ..... **Todd D. Norris**  
**Artistic Dir. of Programming** ..... **Rick Hammerly**

**Director of Production**..... **Bruce Rennie**  
Technical Director..... Thomas Hawfield  
Lead Carpenter..... Chris Foote  
Carpenter ..... Joel Ernst  
Carpenter ..... Andrew Huelskoetter  
Carpenter ..... Liz Murphy  
Custodial Services..... Tim Bethea

**Production Manager** ..... **Ginnie Willard**  
Lighting Supervisor/Resident Lighting  
Designer ..... BJ Wilkinson  
Electrician..... Joel Ernst  
Audio Visual Supervisor/  
Resident Sound Designer..... Jacob Mishler  
Props Supervisor..... Caroline Calhoun  
Scenic Charge Artist ..... Amy Sullivan  
Scenic Artist ..... Diane Zimmerman  
Production Apprentice... Katherine Swartzbeck

**Director of Costumes** ..... **Sue Griffin**  
Cutter/Draper ..... Marcia Miller Hailey

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## LEADERSHIP



### PHIL WHITEWAY

*Managing Director*

Phil is a key leader in Virginia's nonprofit arts management community. He co-founded Theatre IV in 1975 as Virginia's first

professional theatre for young audiences. In 2001, he assumed the role of Managing Director of Barksdale Theatre. In 2012, he provided staff leadership as Theatre IV and Barksdale merged to form Virginia Rep, Central Virginia's flagship professional theatre. Under his management, Phil's companies have received the first *Excellence in Instruction Award* from the Virginia Board of Education, the *Dominion Shining Star Award* from Virginians for the Arts, and the *50 for 50 Arts Inspiration Award* from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

Phil was a founding member of the boards of the Richmond Arts Consortium and the Broad Street

Association. Under his staff leadership, Theatre IV purchased and renovated our historic November Theatre, receiving the *Community Builders Award* from the Central Richmond Association for its contribution to downtown revitalization. Phil is a graduate and past board member of Leadership Metro Richmond. He has served on the Governance Board of Partners in the Arts and as treasurer of Virginians for the Arts.

Phil has received the *Voice of the University Award* from his alma mater (University of Richmond), the Theresa Pollak "Lifetime Achievement Award" from *Richmond Magazine*, and the *Governor's Award for the Arts* from Tim Kaine. In 2000, Phil was included by *Style Weekly* among the "100 Most Influential Richmonders of the 20th Century."

Phil consults on arts management both locally and nationally. He is forever grateful for the love and support of his wife, Donna, and their four adult children—PJ, Jennings, Alex, and Gordon.



### DESIRÉE ROOTS

*Artistic Director of Community*

Desirée has showcased her triple threat talent for over 35 years as an active member of the Gospel,

Jazz, and Theatre scenes regionally, nationally, internationally, and in Richmond, VA where she grew up. She started singing in church when she was four, and started her professional theatrical career at age 13. Growing up in a musical family, it was only natural that she follow in her performing parents' footsteps.

Desirée has performed throughout the East Coast with orchestras, jazz ensembles, and as leader of her own ensembles. She's been the opening act for internationally renowned artists including Boney James, Brian McKnight, the late Phyllis Hyman, and B. B. King. She is a Grammy nominated recording artist and has produced shows she wrote including *Ella at 100* in honor of the First Lady of Jazz, Ms. Ella Fitzgerald's 100th birthday. She received the Theresa Pollak award for "Vocal Excellence" in 2014.

Along with performing, Desirée has had a long standing career in the corporate and nonprofit sectors. Upon receiving her B.A. from Virginia Union University, she initially embarked on a teaching path. This quickly evolved into other opportunities such as a Programming Manager for Richmond Jazz Society, Inc., Booking Manager for Downtown Presents (now Venture Richmond), and client liaison for Drake Beam & Morin, a Fortune 500 corporation. She has also been an educator and music facilitator privately and within the Henrico and Richmond Public school systems for over 20 years.

Desirée began her association with Virginia Rep as a high school intern when the company was Theatre IV with the unique mission "to seek national-caliber excellence equally in four areas: the arts, education, children's health, and community leadership."

These four pillars of service are what drew her to become *Artistic Director of Community* — "working with the theatre company I love to serve the community I love."



**RICK HAMMERLY***Artistic Director  
of Programming*

Rick has worked as an award-winning, DC-based actor, director, filmmaker, and arts manager for

over three decades.

He received a 2018 Helen Hayes Award for his direction of *Lela & Co.* and a 2020 Helen Hayes Award nomination for his direction of *Agnes of God*, both for Factory 449. Other directing credits include *Dizzy Miss Lizzie's Roadside Revue's The Brontes* (New York Musical Theatre Festival), *Reykjavik* (Rorschach Theatre), *Emilie: La Marquise du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (WSC Avant Bard), *Driving Miss Daisy* featuring Karen Grassle (Riverside Center for the Performing Arts), *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* (Adventure Theatre MTC), *Dead Man Walking* (American University) and *Closet Land* (Factory 449). In 2015/16, he was selected to participate in The Shakespeare Theatre Company's inaugural Directors' Studio program.

As an actor, he has performed Off-Broadway and regionally, receiving a Helen Hayes Award for his turn as Hedwig in Signature Theatre's production

of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, as well as nominations for his work in *Angels in America* (Signature Theatre), *Me and Jezebel* (MetroStage) and *Oliver!* (Adventure Theatre MTC). For ten years, he played Mr. Fezziwig in Ford's Theatre's annual production of *A Christmas Carol* and was most recently seen as Miss Tracy Mills in Round House Theatre's *The Legend of Georgia McBride*.

His debut film, *signage*, which he wrote, directed, and produced, has screened in over 60 film festivals worldwide, receiving 6 film festival awards and was subsequently licensed by MTV's LOGO Channel.

He is a founder and the current Producing Artistic Director of Factory 449, the recipient of multiple Helen Hayes Awards, including the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company, and the Executive Director of the Washington Area Performing Arts Video Archive (WAPAVA).

Rick is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and Actors' Equity Association (AEA). He received a B.A. in Theatre from the University of Virginia, an M.A. in Film & Video Production from American University, and has completed the coursework for an M.A. in Arts Management, also from AU.

**TODD D. NORRIS***Artistic Director  
of Education*

Todd is an American theatre director, educator, writer, and actor. He recently served as president of

the International Museum Theatre Alliance and continues to act as an advisor.

Todd comes to Virginia Rep from the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, IN — the world's largest children's museum — where he has worked since 2013, serving as Director of Interpretation and then Associate Vice President of Interpretation and Family Programs. In these roles, he was responsible for fiscal management, artistic direction for its professional children's theatre seasons, coordinating holistic approaches to gallery performances, and overseeing quality for hundreds of daily programs.

From 2003-2013, Todd worked at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, eventually becoming Senior Manager of Performance Interpretation. While at Colonial Williamsburg, he also acted in several episodes of their Emmy-Award winning

*Electronic Field Trips* and directed and performed in many evening programs and special events.

Favorite previous directing assignments include *Humble Boy*, *Tales of Olympus*, *Eleemosynary*, and *The Santa Clues*.

He has taught and directed at several schools including The College of William and Mary, Christopher Newport University, Alice Lloyd College, and Wright State University.

He was born in Columbus, OH, and received his M.F.A. in Acting from University of Louisville and his B.A. in Theatre Performance, with a minor in music, from the University of Findlay. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Todd will focus on programs for children, families, and schools including touring programs and arts in education. He and Desirée Roots will co-lead Virginia Rep's award-winning Community Health + Wellness program, which creates, implements and assesses model projects that demonstrate how theatre can be used as an effective tool in addressing critical educational and societal challenges.

## OUR MISSION

Our Mission: To entertain, challenge and uplift our communities through the power of live theatre. To that end, we seek national caliber excellence in the arts, education, and community health and leadership.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## VIRGINIA REPERTORY THEATRE

114 West Broad Street; Richmond, VA 23220

Administration: 804-783-1688 Box Office: 804-282-2620

VIRGINIAREP.ORG



## Virginia Repertory Theatre's History of Action in Support of Racial Equity

Since its founding as Barksdale Theatre (1953), Virginia Rep has maintained a steadfast commitment to racial equity. We proudly acknowledge the roles of our audience, artists and Boards in this hard-won legacy of progress toward inclusion, diversity, equity and access.

- 1954** In partnership with VUU, and in open defiance of Virginia's Jim Crow Laws, Barksdale welcomes Virginia's first fully integrated audience since Reconstruction.
- 1968** Barksdale casts Carl Lester as Persil-le-Noir in *Irma La Douce*, marking RVA's first hiring of a Black actor in a major supporting role, not as a servant, in a major theatre.
- 1973** To critical acclaim and sold-out houses, Barksdale stages Lorraine Hansberry's *To Be Young, Gifted and Black* as RVA's first major production focusing on Black experience.
- 1975** Theatre IV's founding mission commits to excellence in "four equal areas: the arts, education, children's health and community leadership," putting EDA front and center.
- 1978** Barksdale welcomes a guest production of *The River Niger*, a realistic family drama firmly rooted in contemporary Black experience — another first.
- 1980** Theatre IV places *A Raisin in the Sun*, staged by Black director Amini Jahari, in its inaugural season — again, a first. In subsequent seasons, we produce 42 additional mainstage shows focusing on Black or Latin experience.
- 1981** Theatre IV produces its first touring instructional play based on Black History, *Bound for Freedom*, casting Tony Cosby, Kelvin Davis and Eloise Libron in its resident touring company. In subsequent years, we create 12 additional Black History instructional titles, touring them to schools statewide and nationally.
- 1986** Theatre IV purchases and renovates the historic Empire Theatre, formerly the Booker T, as our permanent home.
- 1997** Martha Gilbert elected President of the Theatre IV Board of Directors, the first Black Board President of a major nonprofit arts organization in Virginia.
- 2002** Theatre IV presents *Buffalo Soldier* as the first professional theatre production to be staged in the Pentagon, as a morale booster following 9/11.
- 2009** Barksdale and Theatre IV jointly stage Virginia's first Hispanic Theatre Festival.
- 2020** Virginia Rep Board creates IDEA Committee: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access.
- 2021** Katrinah Carol Lewis named Interim Co-Artistic Director, followed by the permanent appointment of Desirée Roots as Co-Artistic Director of Virginia Rep.

The rest of Virginia Rep's Social Justice efforts, including our Anti-Racism Statement, can be found on our website at [va-rep.org/anti-racism.html](http://va-rep.org/anti-racism.html).

# THANK YOU DONORS!

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We thank the many individuals and institutional funders who have made charitable contributions in the past year. The following lists reflect contributions to our annual operating fund between May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022. If you would like to join these supporters by donating to our nonprofit theatre, please visit [www.virginiarep.org](http://www.virginiarep.org) to **DONATE NOW** or mail your contribution check to Virginia Repertory Theatre, 114 West Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23220. Corrections to this list or questions about donating should be directed to our Development Office at (804) 783-1688 x1263.

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If you would like more information, contact Emily Cole-Jones,  
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# Virginia Repertory Theatre & Hanover Tavern Creating a Home for History and Art



Welcome to Hanover Tavern, Virginia Rep's ancestral home. Barksdale Theatre was founded here in 1953 when six actors from NYC, two children, a dog, and two pigs moved into Hanover Tavern after purchasing the dilapidated ruin for \$25,000 — every penny they had. Over the next 40 years, they lived here, raised their children here, created RVA's first professional theatre of the modern era here, and worked tirelessly to save and restore this national treasure. In 2012, Barksdale merged with Theatre IV to form Virginia Rep. We remain forever proud of our provenance. We are privileged to continue to bring the joy of live theatre to this beloved historic home.



Thank you for  
your support.

Top to bottom: Maggie Roop, Irene Kuykendall, and Lexi Langs in *Crimes of the Heart*; Durren Marquis Tyre and Aly Wepplo in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Joe Pabst, Steve Boschen, Ford Flannagan, and Levin Valayil in *The Fabulous Lipitones*; CJ Bergin and Tyler Stevens in *Broadway Bound*. Photos by Jay Paul and Aaron Suttan.