Presents

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER

Book and Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman
Music and Lyrics by Steven Lutvak

Based on a novel by Roy Horniman

Calliope Productions, 150 Main Street, Boylston, MA
Thursday, June 8 @ 7:30 PM
Friday, June 9 @ 7:30 PM
Saturday, June 10 @ 7:30 PM
Sunday, June 11 @ 2:00 PM

A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. MTIShows.com

GWO gratefully acknowledges the support of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, through the Cultural Sector Covid Recovery Grant awarded in 2023.
Thank you
to
Heidi White
and
Greater Worcester Opera
for more
great entertainment
from your fans

Eric Wells
&
Nancy Tivenan
Greater Worcester Opera
presents

**A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder**

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Stage and music director, and choreographer—Aldo Fabrizi
Executive producer — Elaine Crane

Recording engineer and sound mixing — Charles Crane
Stage manager — Katelyn Geary
Scenic design — David Vosburgh
Set construction and painting — Charles Crane
Additional set painting — Elaine Crane, Taylor Lawton
Costume design — Elaine Crane
Costume construction – Kathy Booth, Elaine Crane, Laura Green, Pat Kane, Phyllis Jordan, Carol Leschke
Wardrobe coordination & management—Carol Leschke, Elaine Crane
Dressers — Sarah Mombourquette, Jillian Whitney
Lighting design — Dave Ludt
Musical track coordination and running — Richard Monroe
Makeup design — The Cast
Hair design — Carol Leschke
Wig dressing and hair styling — Carol Leschke, Jillian Whitney, & The Cast
Front of house management – John Leslie
Props design & construction — Mark Leibold, Jacqueline Haney
Additional props — Elaine Crane, Carol Leschke
Photography — Paige Fowler
Program design — Elaine Crane
Social media marketing — Connell Benn
Stage crew – The Cast, Jacqueline Haney, Mark Leibold

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For the sake of the performers and fellow audience members:
Please **turn off all cell phones** & electronic devices.
Please **refrain from texting** during the performance.
Be present in the moment and enjoy the show!
INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAY

A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder is a musical comedy, with the book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman and the music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak. The show ran on Broadway from 2013 until 2016, and won four Tony Awards, including Best Musical. It is based on the 1907 novel Israel Rank: The Autobiography of a Criminal by Roy Horniman. The same novel was also the source for the 1949 British film Kind Hearts and Coronets, featuring Alec Guinness as the family.

Our story begins in 1909, in the jail cell of Montague Navarro, who is writing his memoirs, the night before he is supposed to be executed. As his memoirs are read in a series of voice-overs, we are transported back in time 2 years, to the beginning of the story. During the play, Monty unfolds the tale of his involvement in the D’Ysquith family, all 9 of whose members are played by the same actor.
List of major musical numbers

ACT ONE –
#1 - Prologue
#2 - You're a D'Ysquith
#3 - I Don't Know What I'd Do Without You / Pretty in Pink
#4 - Foolish to Think
#5 - A Warning to Monty
#6 - I Don't Understand the Poor
#7 - Foolish to Think (Reprise)
#8 - Poison in My Pocket
#9 - Poor Monty
#10 - Better With a Man
#11 - Inside Out
#12 - Lady Hyacinth Abroad
#13 - Act One finale: The Last One You'd Expect

INTERMISSION (15 minutes)

ACT TWO –
#14 - Entr’acte
#15 - Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying?
#16 - Sibella
#17 - I've Decided to Marry You
#18 - Final Warning
#19 - Poison in My Pocket (Reprise)
#20 - Looking Down the Barrel of a Gun
#21 - Stop! Wait! What?!?
#22 - That Horrible Woman / A Bit of a Bind
#23 - Act Two finale
Curtain Call – Bows
A Note About Our Production – from Elaine Crane, Executive Director

In 2021, when the world was in shut-down, we decided to take a brave step and do a filmed version of a Broadway musical. Because of its complex musical nature and entertainment value, we chose the Broadway hit, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder. This was really a “mental health” project for us as artists, who were not allowed to sing together or be in a room with an audience. Rather than sitting at home in silence, we chose to put our energies and talents to use in a way that we were able. And so we undertook this enormous project, as much for ourselves as for our community.

The process was pretty remarkable. We rehearsed in masks, and had to follow all the protocols. Since we weren’t permitted to sing onstage, we had to pre-record all of the sung music, one person at a time, which took a couple of months and countless hours. Since all other companies were shut down, we couldn’t rent costumes, so we had to make everything ourselves. Theatre III in Acton generously allowed us to use their theatre for a few days, so after months of preparing, rehearsing, and pre-recording, we moved into the theater, hired a film crew and recorded our show. For some of us, the time onstage was the very first time we had seen each other’s faces without a mask, though we had been working together for months. It was a surreal experience, but we were all so grateful to be creating art together. The film turned out beautifully, and even garnered two DASH awards, including Best Performance by our lead actor (Taylor Lawton) and Excellence in Sound Engineering (Charles Crane), who recorded and edited all the music.

One of the things we needed to do in 2021 was keep the cast and crew as small as possible, so we asked Aldo Fabrizi, our company’s music director, to also be the stage director. This year, when we decided to re-mount the show before a live audience, Aldo agreed to once again fill both roles, which is a huge undertaking. We offer our thanks and gratitude to each and every person who made this production possible - there are as many artists backstage as there are onstage, and we couldn’t do it without every single one of them.

Thank you for coming to our production – enjoy our show!
Cast List:

MONTAGUE “MONTY” D’YSQUITH NAVARRO - Taylor Lawton
THE D’YSQUITH FAMILY - Ben Morse
SIBELLA HALLWARD - Heidi White (Lisa Tierney, understudy)
PHOEBE D’YSQUITH - Elaine Crane (Lisa Tierney, understudy)
MISS SHINGLE - Martha Warren
WOMAN #1 - Betsy Fiedler (Tour Guide, Mourner, Skater, Pub Owner’s Wife, Mrs. Pebworth, Sibella’s Maid, Selina Chard)
WOMAN #2 - Kathy Lague (Lady Eugenia D’Ysquith, Mourner, Ancestral Portrait, Skater, Mrs. Hetherington)
WOMAN #3 - Connell Benn (Miss Evangeline Barley, Ancestral Mourner, Phoebe’s Maid, Portrait, Miss Hayes, Hilda)
WOMAN #4 - Lisa Tierney (Sibella/Phoebe understudy, Mourner, Tourist, Maid, Mrs. Rackstraw)
MAN #1 - Brad Amidon (Prison Guard, Tom Copley, Mourner, Ancestral Portrait, Tailor, 2nd Clerk, Skater, Dr. Brownlee, Weight lifter, 3rd actor, Walter, Dr. Pettibone)
MAN #2 - Thaddeus Bell (Chief Inspector Pinckney, Mourner, Tourist, Mr. Cross)
MAN #3 - Erik Gladwin (Magistrate, Mourner, Ancestral Portrait, Skater, Tailor, 1st clerk, Pub Patron, Mr. Goodsall, 2nd Actor Alfred Gorby)
MAN #4 - Santo Mammone (Mourner, Ancestral Portrait, Postman, Skater, Tailor, Pub Owner, Mr. Corcoran, Lord Asquith’s Physician, 1st Actor, Ancestral Bust, Footman)
NEWSIES – Chase Sullivan, Gabriella Herriott
SWING (WOMAN 1, 2, 3, 4) - Katelyn Geary

Behind the Scenes – Understudying (covering) a role means learning all the lines and music, attending rehearsals, and being ready to perform at a moment’s notice. A “swing” is an understudy that learns multiple ensemble roles at the same time, preparing to be able to take any of their places if someone gets sick or injured. Being a swing is probably the most complicated job onstage in a Broadway production. We applaud our hard-working, talented cast members who are working so diligently in these vital roles! 👏
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Brad Amidon (Man 1, Tom Copley, Guard) has performed with Greater Worcester Opera in productions of Carmen, The Marriage of Figaro, The Pirates of Penance, Don Giovanni, and The Mikado. He is excited to return in A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder. Earlier this year, Brad appeared in The Grand Duke, meaning he only has one more Gilbert and Sullivan opera left to complete the full cycle. When not on the theatrical stage, Brad sings with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, performing and recording with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops.

Thaddeus Bell (Man 3, Inspector Pickney) is pleased to be singing with GWO today. He studied vocal performance at the New England Conservatory of music and is an active soloist, opera artist and chorister. Thaddeus has performed, as soloist, in the Beethoven Mass in C, the Brahms and Faure Requiems and Handel’s Messiah, which is his personal favorite. He has also appeared in a number of opera productions to include A Hand Of Bridge, Hansel and Gretel, Carmen, Forbidden Love (an English-language production) and Turandot.

Connell Benn (Woman 3, Miss Evangeline Barley) is thrilled to be returning to GWO’s stage pretty much where she left off two years ago! What a treat to be back with the cast and crew performing the show LIVE! Some of her other favorite roles include Eulalie MacKecknie Shinn (The Music Man), Nettie Fowler (Carousel), Mrs. Pearce (My Fair Lady), Duchess Estonia Dulworth (Nice Work If You Can Get It, DASH Nomination), Patience (Patience), and Hope Harcourt (Anything Goes). On weekends, she can be seen singing at Holy Family Parish in Concord.

Elaine Crane (Phoebe D’Ysquith) has been called "brilliant, a charming actress, a beautiful voice and a very fine comic actor". Accolades: Lilli/Kate (Kiss Me Kate - DASH nominee for Best Actress); Maria (The Sound of Music - 2013 DASH Award for Best Actress in a Musical); Rose (Enchanted April – DASH nominee for Best Play Ensemble.) G&S operas are a favorite, and Elaine has portrayed many leading roles in the canon. Honored to be in this fine ensemble, she is thankful for everyone involved onstage and off. Next up (November 2023): Ruth in the biblical musical Ruth with New Life Fine Arts (September) and Phyllis in Iolanthe with Valley Light Opera (November). www.elainecrane.com.
**Betsy Fiedler (Woman 1, Tour Guide)** is a private studio voice teacher, Music Director at Holy Family of Nazareth Church, Adjunct Faculty at MWCC, Senior Faculty for “The LoVetri Institute for Somatic Voicework™” at Baldwin Wallace University, Voice Consultant at Burncoat High School, and is a cantor/soloist at local churches, colleges, and with Greater Gardner Community Choir. Betsy has enjoyed performing with Theatre at the Mount and Greater Worcester Opera. She has recorded 3 CDs of contemporary Christian Music. Favorite singing roles: Eliza (*My Fair Lady*), Lady Tiang (*King and I*). Favorite songs: anything I can sing with my six beautiful grandkids. [http://betsyfiedler.com](http://betsyfiedler.com)

**Katelyn Geary (Stage Manager, Woman 1-2-3-4 Swing)** is a classically trained soprano who holds a Master in Music and an Artist Diploma in Opera Performance from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. As a theater technician, Ms. Geary’s show credits include *L’Elisir d’Amore, Don Giovanni, Cendrillion, O Pioneers!, Gianni Schicchi, City of Angels*, and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. As a performer, Katelyn’s notable performances include Amore in *Paride ed Elena*, Maguelonne in *Cendrillon*, Stella in *Les Contes d’Hoffmann*, Annina in *La Traviata*, and Buffy in *A Wedding*. Ms. Geary teaches private voice and piano lessons as a freelancer, and regularly directs children’s theater in Central MA.
Erik Gladwin (Man 2, Magistrate) is happy to be cast in his second GWO production! His previous roles have been performed with Calliope Productions, Barre Players Theater, Worcester County Light Opera Company, Exit 7 Players and Gilbert Players. Some of his favorite roles include Leo Bloom (The Producers), Cinderella’s Prince (Into the Woods), Sky Masterson (Guys and Dolls) and Ugly (HONK!) and Adolfo Pirelli (Sweeney Todd). He is grateful for the love and support of his family who have given him the love and support to be the performer that he always wanted to be. Special thanks to the production team of the GWO and everyone behind the scenes who has made this show possible. Enjoy the show (if you dare!)

Gabriella “Gabby” Herriott (Newsie) is delighted to make her acting debut with Greater Worcester Opera. This talented, energetic teen was a supporting cast member in the homeschool production of Artistocats Jr and Hansel and Gretel in 2018. As an 8th grader she enjoys math, home economics, and cake decorating. When she’s not hitting the books she loves gaming and skateboarding. You'll also find her tickling the ivories as she grows as a classically trained pianist. She wants to thank her parents for their love, support, and sense of humor!

Kathy Lague (Woman 2, Lady Eugenia D’Ysquith) is delighted to return to the Greater Worcester Opera, having appeared in The Marriage of Figaro (ensemble and Marcelline cover) and in many of their summer concert series. Kathy has performed with many theatre companies in the Metrowest area in such roles as Abigail Adams in 1776, Hattie in Kiss Me, Kate, Ma Strong in Urinetown, Mrs. Nordstrom in A Little Night Music, Effy Krayneck in The Spitfire Grill, Clairee Belcher in Steel Magnolias and Mabel in The Pirates of Penzance. Kathy would like to thank her patient and supportive husband, Mike, and their fabulous feline, Arrie.

Special thanks for providing rehearsal space to our friends at Briarwood Continuing Care Retirement Community
Taylor Lawton (Montague D’Ysquith Navarro) is a classically trained singer and actor whose roots run deep throughout the theatre communities in Central Massachusetts and Greater Boston. Taylor is a versatile vocalist who performs many musical styles from classical to pop. He enjoys sharing his musical talents with a variety of regional companies. Some of Taylor’s favorite roles include Jean Valjean in Les Misérables and Bob Wallace in Irving Berlin’s White Christmas (Theatre at the Mount), Dr Madden/Dr. Fine in Next to Normal (BTD), and Fabrizio Naccarelli in Light in the Piazza (Dream Play Theatre). In 2021 Taylor received the EMACT “Excellence In Musical Theatre Performance” DASH Award for his portrayal of Monty Navarro in the filmed adaptation of A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder with GWO. Special thanks to the leading ladies in my life, Amanda and our two daughters for their love and support.
Santo Mammone (Man 4, Lord Asquith’s physician) is delighted to take part in his fourth Greater Worcester Opera production. His most recent role was as the Prince of Monte Carlo in Sudbury Savoyards’ production of The Grand Duke. Santo has also played the Bosun in Sudbury’s HMS Pinafore, Zoltan Karpathy in Valley Light Opera’s My Fair Lady, and numerous chorus roles. By day, Santo enjoys books about history and philosophy, games of strategy and chance, and a succession of post-pandemic hobbies and interests.

Ben Morse (The D’Ysquith Family) grew up in Natick, MA, and lives there with his lovely wife, Sue. He has enjoyed many wonderful years working with GWO on numerous Operas, Musicals, and Concerts. Most recently, Ben played Simone in Gianni Schicchi. This will be his second time portraying the D’Ysquith Family with GWO, having been in the earlier video production as well. Ben has also worked with the Sudbury Savoyards, recently playing the titular role in The Grand Duke. Ben’s next role will be Samuel in the original Musical, Ruth, performed in September with New Life Fine Arts at the Groton-Dunstable Performing Arts Center in Groton, MA.

Chase Sullivan (Newsie): Chase’s comedic and theatrical flare continually entertains her family through many imaginative plays and movies she enjoys creating with her siblings. A 7th grader at Burncoat Middle School, she enjoys theatre, painting, and crafting. Chase’s most recent roles include Belinda Cratchit in Ebenezer Scrooge: A Christmas Carol and Wendy Darling in Peter and Wendy. She is excited for the opportunity to learn and grow in her first role in an opera with GWO and wants to thank God for the gift of art and the joy of bringing stories to life for others on stage.
Lisa Tierney (Woman 4, Sibella/Phoebe understudy) is delighted to return to GWO after appearing in *The Pirates of Penzance*. Other favorite performances include *Bridges of Madison County* (Francesca Johnson) with Vokes Players, *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo) with SLOC, *Holiday Inn* (Linda Mason) with Weston Friendly Society, *Guys and Dolls* (Sarah Brown) with Barre Players, *White Christmas* (Betty Haynes) with Theatre At the Mount, *Into the Woods* (Cinderella) and *Lucky Stiff* (Annabel Glick) with Calliope Productions, and *Follies* (Young Heidi) with Concord Players.


Heidi White (Sibella Hallward) is excited to join the cast of *A Gentleman’s Guide*! Some favorite roles include: Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific* (JEMS Theater) Evelyn Nesbit in *Ragtime*, Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins* (Theater at the Mount), Young Edie in *Grey Gardens*, Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown* (WCLOC), Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (Barre Players), Lady of the Lake in *Spamalot*, Amalia Balash in *She Loves Me*, and Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods* (Calliope Productions). Heidi has worked as a Medical Technologist at UMASS Memorial Healthcare for the last 16 years and holds a master’s degree in Biotechnology.
Artistic Staff

**Aldo Fabrizi (Music Director, Stage Director, Choreographer)** started his musical career as a double bass player performing with organizations such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra/Pops, Opera Company of Boston, Boston Ballet, and the Handel & Haydn Society. Mr. Fabrizi first appeared with the Greater Worcester Opera in 2016 as conductor of their highly acclaimed production of *The Marriage of Figaro* and has been the Music Director ever since. He made his debut as a stage director in GWO’s 2021 production of *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*. In November of 2023 he’ll be leading a production of *Iolanthe* with the Valley Light Opera where he’s been the Music Director since 2012.

**David Vosburgh (Scenic Design)** Rhode Island-born David Vosburgh began his theater career by apprenticing in a Conn. summer stock company. He went on to perform in concerts, operas, Broadway musicals and national tours and to teach in acting studios and universities. Before his retirement in 2019 he had produced, directed and/or designed over 150 plays, musicals, revues and operas. He is grateful to GWO for inviting him to design this production’s set, to the Worcester Senior Center for sponsoring an acting workshop for seniors and to his sister and brother-in-law for providing a comfortable home for him and his companion-cat.

**Behind the Scenes – Dressers** are the magic people who accomplish the “quick changes” needed for actors to rapidly go from one costume to the next, with no pause in the action of the play. In this musical especially, the rapid fire change from one D’Ysquith relative to the next sometimes leaves only a matter of seconds (sometimes less than half a minute!) to change an entire costume. The costume pieces are specially designed for this purposes (certain pieces are all sewn together, or made to be easily removed) but the beautifully choreographed actions of our dressers are what accomplish these changes quickly and accurately. **We applaud our quick change artists – our backstage heroes! 👏**
Mission Statement: Celebrating our 20\textsuperscript{th} year in 2023, Greater Worcester Opera is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization whose two-fold mission includes opera performance and education. The company produces one mainstage opera in June at Calliope Theatre, an annual summer concert series at Briarwood Community Center, a Winter Cabaret, touring operas for students, and a variety of other performance events including library concerts and lectures and other concert events. GWO strives to provide high quality, entertaining musical productions to the audiences of Central MA, while at the same time providing valuable performing opportunities to the area's wealth of local, professionally-trained singers.

The Worcester T\&G raved that GWO “…demonstrates the depth of talent in the area…” and that, “Such home-grown magical music-making deserves celebration, support and… profound gratitude.” Sign up today for our mailing list and stay in touch!

Special thanks to Ben Morse, Aldo Fabrizi, Richard Monroe, Carol Leschke, Leslie Reichert and Briarwood, Charles Crane, Dave Ludt, John Leslie, David Vosburgh, Katelyn Geary, Connell Benn, Paige Fowler, Richard Duckett, Ryan Malyar, Eric Wells & Nancy Tivenan, Andrew Conway, Betsy Fiedler, Kathy Lague, Martha Warren, Jacqueline Haney, Mark Leibold, and all those who helped behind the scenes.

Make a tax-deductible donation today! We are grateful for the support of friends like you who encourage and sustain our work.