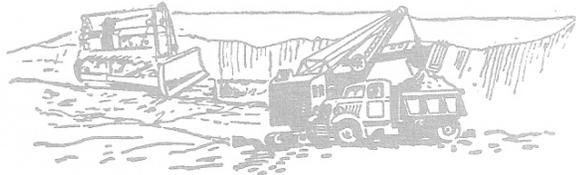




CREEKSIDE PLAYERS

is a playing company based out of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. We firmly believe in the importance of new play production. Creekside strives to produce inspired theater and, in turn, inspire others.

www.creeksideplayers.com
Program by BRAD OGDEN



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The Marino Family

THE CREEKSIDE PLAYERS PRESENT



BEARD
JULY 29-31

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY BRAD OGDEN
www.creeksideplayers.com

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR

The notion of The Bearded Lady whirls me back to the late nineteenth century and all of its sepia-colored nuance.

We, as a society, tend to equate freak shows and their celebrated freaks with that period because that is what history tells us to do. However, there are plenty of modern day "freak shows," and whether we are willing to admit it or not, we are all spectators.

It's easy to look at television shows such as "Teen Mom," "Little People, Big World," "Half-Ton Teen," "Hoarders," and "Intervention" (the list goes on) as enjoyable, thirty-minute glimpses into a life that is likely different than our own, but what is that? What are we really doing? Who do we think we are? No matter how a person may try to justify these programs and no matter what angle a production company may take with a given show, they really are, in actuality, no different from those turn-of-the-century sideshows that we so proudly claim to be "of the past."

Modern American society is material, superficial, and hypocritical. (Now, despite the cynicism of that statement, I am an optimistic—and often idealistic—person. However, to ignore these negative world-views would be irresponsible. And this is, after all, theatre; let's go there.) We all have issues with ourselves, be them internal or external. Some of them have medicinal or therapeutic solutions, others do not. However, in that sense, we, as a global population, are all in the same boat.

We are also the best goddamn critics that ever were. We have mastered the art of scrutiny, and we all—by some incredible Darwinistic feat—have (at least) two fingers that are perfect for pointing. It is a strange paradox: that we are both the pointers and the pointed at, the judges and the judged. We are at both ends of this two-way street and that is an inescapable, frankly terrifying reality. This is, in essence, the crux of "BEARD."

Why tell this story now? Because we live in contradiction. Because we seldom acknowledge that. Because we are all The Bearded Lady.



Brad Ogden, Producing Artistic Director
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from the Movies: *A Cabaret*), Assistant Stage Manager (*The Crucible*, Merriam Theater), and Toby (*Politically [in]correct*). Upcoming projects include assistant directing the Philly Fringe Festival production of *In The Blood* and playing President Eisenhower in UArts' September production of *First Lady Suite*. Please enjoy.

STEPHANIE LEE OVERTON-HALL (Audrey) is thrilled to be back for her fifth Creekside show and honored to be a part of this truly incredible cast. Past credits with Creekside include Tammy (*Stillmore, Georgia*), Cora Collins (*Peanut Butter*), and Principal Raymond (*Drama Club*). Past favorite roles include Nancy (Oliver!), Lady Larken (*Mattress*), and Baker's Wife (*Into the Woods*). When not on stage, Stephanie can be found singing with the Philadelphia Singers, teaching private voice, selling Arbonne products, teaching music/theatre to the students of Archbishop Wood High School, or directing the choir of North and Southampton Reformed Church. Thanks to God, Brad, the amazing cast and crew, my incredibly patient husband Matt, and my family.

CAROLYN QUINN (Stage Manager), an Archbishop Wood High School Senior, is beyond happy to be a part of BEARD. Her managing credits include *Godspell* (OLMC School) and *Music from the Movies* (Creekside); she also directed a production of *Hank, Jr.* (OLMC). When she's not calling cues, Carolyn can be found onstage or planning/attending a school function. Many thanks to her State Street Players family for an invaluable education, her real family for their support, Brad for this fantastic opportunity, and her Uncle Pat, who hasn't stopped inspiring her.

ELLIE RUTTENBERG (Young Audrey) is a recent UArts Brind school grad and thrilled to be playing Young Audrey. UArts credits: *Butterfly* (Barb), *Sexual Perversity in Chicago* (Joan), *Eleemosynary* (Echo). She also played "Jean" in the premiere of *Elizabeth Green's Possession*. This one is for anyone who has ever felt unloved.

MICHAEL SCHIUMO (P.T.) is thrilled to be making his debut with Creekside Players as he finally returns to his favorite kind of role: the antagonist. Usually he can be seen doing shows at Town & Country Players in Buckingham, PA (where he recently played Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*) or at the Kelsey Theater in Hamilton, NJ. Some other favorite roles of his are Applegate (*Damn Yankees*), The Beast (*Beauty and the Beast*), Alan Swann (*My Favorite Year*), Roger De Bris (*The Producers*, Perry Award Nom.) and Cole Porter (*Red, Hot and Cole*). In real life, Michael lives in Horsham with his wife Melissa (who's playing Francine) and works for The Pros Entertainment Services. Thanks so much to Brad for this amazing script, to this cast, to my family for their constant support, and to my wife: "I love you always. To the ends of the earth!"

RICHARD ZETTLEMOYER (Lighting Director) is a technical design theater major with an emphasis in lighting design. His recent lighting credits include: *Lyrical Opera Made by Two* (part of PIFA), *The Seagull*, *Adding Machine*, *Illyria*, *Equinox*, and *Iphigenia*. In addition, Rick was sound designer for *The Music of Katie Thompson*. Richard would like to thank his family and instructors for their support in advancing his education and love for theater.

THE CREEKSIDE PLAYERS PRESENT

BEARD

A New Play by BRAD OGDEN

Producer
BRAD OGDEN

Stage Manager
CAROLYN QUINN

Lighting Designer
RAVEN BUCK

Sound Designer
BRAD OGDEN

Lighting Director
RICK ZETTLEMOYER

Dramaturge
SARA KEATS

Composer (*Original Music*)
MAC KENNEDY

Scenic Designer
BRAD OGDEN

Director
BRAD OGDEN

July 29 – July 31, 2011
Gershman Y Blackbox Theatre

Special thanks to Charles Gilbert, Jennifer MacMillan, and the University of the Arts for their support of new theatre. Thanks also to our supporters:

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BEARD takes place in and around Brooklyn, New York between 1997 and 2011. Sometimes.

THE CAST

WillowAlyssa Farrell
Young WillowEmma Bowers
P.T. Michael Schiumo
EliAndrew J. Carroll
Young EliAndrew Albitz
RuthAndrea Cartagena
AudreyStephanie Lee Overton-Hall
Young AudreyEllie Ruttenberg
FrancineMelissa Angelo-Schiumo
Young FrancineRachel Marchant

BIOGRAPHIES

ANDREW ALBITZ (Young Eli) is a junior at the University of the Arts. He is very happy to be working on a new text with the Creekside Players. He would like to thank Brad Ogden for this opportunity and everyone working on this show for their talent and dedication. He also is very grateful to everyone in the audience for supporting new, independent theatre. In the fall, he will be spending a semester studying acting at the Moscow Art Theater School and will return to UArts in the spring to finish his bachelor's degree.

MELISSA ANGELO-SCHIUMO (Francine) is making her Creekside Players debut. She's so happy to play this role with some of her close friends and to be a part of such a talented cast and crew! Some favorite roles include: Musetta (*La Boheme* with DVOC), Mayzie LaBird (*Seussical*), Alice/Belle (*My Favorite Year*), Elsa/Ethel (*Red, Hot, and Cole*), and Madame de la Grande Bouche (*Beauty and the Beast*). For more information on Melissa, visit www.melissaangelo.com. She thanks her family and friends for their constant love and support, and love to her wonderful and talented husband Michael – “to the moon and back.”

EMMA BOWERS (Young Willow) is a rising sophomore acting major at the University of the Arts, and she couldn't be more thrilled to, once again, be collaborating with her friends and classmates. Recent credits include *Butterfly*, *The Vagina Monologues*, and *The Joys of Flying* (Equinox Student Play Festival). Emma

would like to thank Brad for the opportunity, her family for their support, and Mac for everything else. Enjoy the show!

RAVEN BUCK (Lighting Designer) is a sophomore at University of the Arts who is studying Theater Design and Technology. She is delighted to be designing for Beard in a medium that she has previously had limited design experience with and hopes you enjoy. She would like to thank her friends, production team, and Brad for giving her this great opportunity.

ANDREW J. CARROLL (Eli) is very blessed to get to tell a story about humanity with a talented director/writer and cast. He's an Acting Major at UArts going into his senior year. He was most recently seen as Danforth in *The Crucible* at UArts and will be in REV Theatre Company's *Carthaginians* in the Philly Fringe. He needs to laud thanks on Brad for letting him be a part of this. Love to friends, family, and Manda.

ANDREA CARTAGENA (Ruth) has been involved in numerous productions as a performer, technician, stage manager, choreographer and director. Ms. Cartagena was most recently UNseen as the voice of Audrey II in Town and Country Players' *Little Shop of Horrors*. Some favorite past roles include: Jeanie (*HAIr*, Count Basie Theatre and Academy Theatre), Mae Peterson (*Bye Bye Birdie*), Queen Aggravain (*Once Upon A Mattress*), Reno Sweeney (*Anything Goes*), Bloody Mary (*South Pacific*), Stella Deems (*Follies*), Frankie (*Frankie & Johnny in The Claire de Lune*, Oddfellows Playhouse), Irene, (*State of Mind*, original & revival casts, Village Gate, NYC), and Ethel Merman, *Cole Through The Night* (original & touring casts). Marc, Seanah, LuLa & Kalika: all my love.

ALYSSA FARRELL (Willow) is happy to be appearing in her second Creekside production. She is a 2009 graduate from Penn State University where she earned degrees in Theatre and Public Relations/ Advertising. Favorite credits include Beauty and the Beast (Belle), Assassins (Squeaky Fromme), Ragtime (Evelyn Nesbit), Seussical (Gertrude), Bare: A Pop Opera (Ivy), Annie (Grace Farrell), The Rocky Horror Show (Janet) and Inherit the Wind (Rachel Brown). Love and thanks to Mom, Dad, Dana and Matthew.

RACHEL MARCHANT (Young Francine) is a rising sophomore at Northwestern University where she majors in theatre and spends most, if not all, of her free-time working on shows. She has acted throughout middle school, high school and college, and she has recently found a passion for producing shows, including *Scorched* at Northwestern next winter. Many thanks to the family and friends who continue to support her crazily-random theatrical life!

BRAD OGDEN (Director/Playwright) will be a junior Directing, Playwriting & Production major at UArts this fall and is grateful to have your attendance. This is the eighth original play which Brad has directed and produced through Creekside. Recent credits include: Director, Performer (*Music*