

DOMINION  
STAGE

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anything but predictable



TH FR SA > AUGUST 4 - 19 | 2023  
GUNSTON THEATRE TWO | ARLINGTON, VA

DOMINION STAGE PRESENTS  
THE WORLD PREMIERE OF

# BRUTE FARCE

By Craig Houk

Produced by special arrangement with Next Stage Press, Inc.



## Dominion Stage

2305 S. Walter Reed Dr. Box 15 | Arlington, VA 22206 | [www.DominionStage.org](http://www.DominionStage.org)

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Dominion Stage is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization  
and is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT)  
and Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH).

Dominion Stage is supported in part by the Arlington Cultural Affairs Division  
of Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Commission for the Arts.

**[WWW.ARLINGTONARTS.ORG](http://WWW.ARLINGTONARTS.ORG)**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

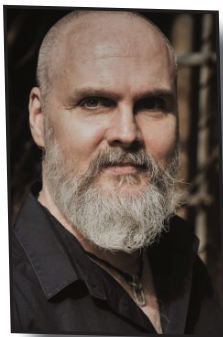
The winner of Dominion Stage's 2022 Playwriting Competition, *Brute Farce* earned a live staged reading in May, with the author onhand. When our next production had to be moved to next year, the logical replacement was that very funny play we'd all enjoyed reading. Which is how you find yourselves tonight a part of the World Premiere of *Brute Farce*, by Craig Houk. We're happy you could join us and share the bragging rights.

Normally, a play of this size takes about a year to pull together. I'm proud of the talented cast and first-rate production team who pulled this together in less than two months. I thank the brave actors who auditioned for a show without an available script to read, and the designers who stepped up at very short notice. Now it's your turn, and I hope you enjoy watching it as much as we did bringing it to life. And when you see *Brute Farce* on future marquees, you'll know you saw it here first.

Matthew Randall



## MEET THE AUTHOR



**CRAIG HOUK** is an award-winning DC based Playwright and proud Dramatists Guild Member. Houk's plays include **COLD RAIN** (published by Next Stage Press, winner "Best Drama" and "Best of Festival" at Capital Fringe 2018), **SYD** (published by Next Stage Press), **BRUTE FARCE** (published by Next Stage Press, 2021 The Loom New Works Festival Finalist, 2022 Dominion Stage Playwriting Competition Full Length Winner), **LOST IN PLACE ANTHOLOGY** (2022 Dominion Stage Playwriting Competition One-Act Honorable Mention), **RADIATOR** (2020 Dominion Stage Playwriting Competition One-Act Honorable Mention).

His newest works include **THE RELUCTANT HEN**, **HERB CLEARY MEANT NO HARM**, and **COOLER**. **LOST IN PLACE: RHONDA & DANIELLE** has been included in Smith & Kraus's "The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2022". **BRUTE FARCE** will have two monologues included in Smith & Kraus's "Outstanding Women's Monologues" and "Outstanding Men's Monologues" 2023. A special thank you to Scott Kelly for his unending love and support.

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



# SETTING THE SCENE

## PLACE AND TIME

Present day. A careworn, scarcely professional, Provincial Theatre in England.  
The action will alternate between the stage and a room beneath the stage.

## CAST

In Order of Appearance

*Alistair McHugh*..... Mario Font  
*Killian Black* ..... Joe Dzikiewicz  
*Deirdre Shepherd*..... Shayne Gardner  
*Reggie Brimble* ..... Karey L. Hart  
*Fiona Bainbridge* ..... Kat Sanchez  
*Vivian Pruitt*..... Heather Plank  
*Quinn Ponsonby* ..... Richard Fiske

*Brute Farce* is presented with a 15 minute intermission.

The video or audio recording of this performance  
by any means is strictly prohibited.

The unauthorized use of flash photography is prohibited.

Thank you for silencing your mobile devices.

# ORGANIZATIONS

ACCT - Aldersgate Church  
Community Theater  
BP - British Players  
CA - Camino Real Playhouse  
CRT - Castaways Repertory Theatre  
DS - Dominion Stage  
DTC - Damascus Theatre Company  
ESP - Elden Street Players  
FCT - Fauquier Community Theatre  
LTA - Little Theatre of Alexandria

MCP - McLean Community Players  
PCP - Port City Playhouse  
PPF - Providence Players of Fairfax  
PWLT - Prince William Little Theatre  
RCP - Reston Community Players  
RTP - Rooftop Productions  
SMP - Saint Mark's Players  
TAP - The Arlington Players  
VTC - Vienna Theatre Company  
WATCH - Washington Area Theatre  
Community Honors

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Executive Producer . . . . . Rebecca J. Harris  
 Producers . . . . . Nick Friedlander, Lauren Markovich  
 Director . . . . . Matthew Randall  
 Stage Manager . . . . . Sam Jensen  
 Fight Choreographer . . . . . Michael Donahue  
 Dialect Coach . . . . . Alden Michels  
 Lighting Design . . . . . Ken and Patti Crowley  
 Sound Design . . . . . Jon Roberts  
 Set Design . . . . . David Correia  
 Properties and Set Dressing. . . . . Helen Bard-Sobola,  
 Jeffrey Davis, Susie Poole  
 Master Carpenter . . . . . David Correia  
 Costume Design . . . . . Joan Lawrence  
 Hair, Wig, & Makeup Design . . . . . Rebecca J. Harris  
 Set Construction, Painting and Load-in Crew. . . . . Sam Austin,  
 David Correia, Rebecca J. Harris,  
 Lauren Markovich, Susie Poole  
 Light and Sound Board Operators. . . . . Nick Friedlander, Doug Thayer  
 Playbill Design. . . . . Dave Moretti  
 Photography . . . . . Matthew Randall

## SPECIAL THANKS

Dominion Stage would like to thank Robert Lansell (for slings and stabs!),  
 The Little Theatre of Alexandria, St. Andrew's Players,  
 The Arlington Players, the 3700 Staff, the Arlington Scenic Studio Staff,  
 and those whose names were not available when we went to press.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING DOMINION STAGE PRODUCTION TEAMS ON THEIR 2022 WATCH AWARD NOMINATIONS AND **\*\*WINNERS\*\***!



### *Firebringer*

**\*\*WINNER\*\***

Outstanding Special Effects > Maria Littlefield

### *King Hedley II*

**\*\*WINNER\*\*** > Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play

Jacqueline E. G. Youm as "Stool Pigeon"

Outstanding Direction of a Play > Rikki Howie Lacewell

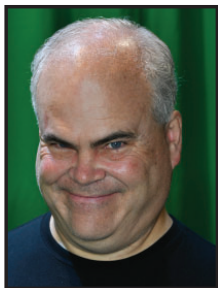
Leta Hall Outstanding Ensemble in a Play | Outstanding Play

Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play Mack Leamon as "King Hedley II"





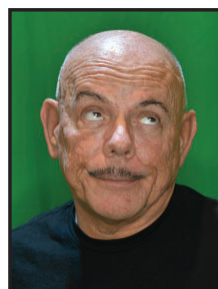
# ABOUT THE CAST



**JOE DZIKIEWICZ** (*Killian Black*) has the superpower of getting zoo animals to respond to him. Ask him sometime about the great Beluga incident of 2017. When not acting, he makes films and does the occasional improv show. A high point of his time on stage was when he played a simple but kind-hearted peasant boy and had an audience member ask, "Was that guy really that stupid?" Some roles: Officer Welch in *Rumors* (LTA), Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* (Rude Mechanicals), George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life Radio Play* (MCP), and other stuff on stage and screen.



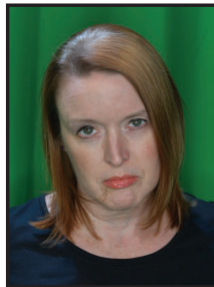
**RICHARD FISKE** (*Quinn Ponsonby*) is a retired Navy diver who stumbled into theatre a while back and never quite found his way out. He is quietly pleased and honored to make his debut at Dominion Stage with such a distinguished director, cast, and crew, and most grateful to his wife Helen for encouraging him to play. Credits include Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird* (LTA), Morrie in *Tuesdays with Morrie* (PWLT), 30+ other professional and community theatre roles around Washington, and Captain Queeg - but that was in another country long ago.



**MARIO FONT** (*Alistair McHugh*) is thrilled to be back with Dominion Stage. Recent Dominion Stage efforts include stage managing *Boston Marriage*, hair/makeup and running the light board for *Firebringer*, and performing in *The Boys in the Band* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* Prior production efforts include co-directing *Head Over Heels* (DTC). Acting credits include *November* (PPF), *Book of Days* (SMP), *Beauty and the Beast* (DTC), *August Osage County* (CRT), *California Suite* (PPF), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (SMP), and *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (LTA). Much love and appreciation to the production team and a major thanks to my very own personal in-house director/producer Jason, for his love and support.



**SHAYNE GARDNER** (*Deirdre Shepherd*) made her stage debut at the age of 7. She has been involved in community theater ever since in a variety of roles - acting, directing, stage managing, set construction, writing, producing, etc. - and is thrilled to work with this terrific cast and production team. Shayne most recently appeared as Macy Gibbons in *The Saturday Morning Garden Club* (Shoestring Theater) and *Monty Python's Edukational Show* (VTC). Favorite roles include Cora in *Calendar Girls* (MCP) and Costello in *Who's on First/In Living Sound* (Ibiala International).



**KAREY L. HART** (*Reggie Brimble*) is delighted to return to performing after a long hiatus. Back in "the day" she graduated from Oakland University with a B.A. in the Performing Arts (Specialization: Theatre). Two of her favorite roles are Harper Pitt in *Angels in America* (Meadowbrook Theatre) and Kate Keller in *All My Sons* (Oakland University).



**HEATHER PLANK** (*Vivian Pruitt*) previously appeared at DS as Claire in *Boston Marriage* and Annie in *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (WATCH Best Ensemble Winner, WATCH Featured Actress nominee). Other area performances include Emilie in *Emilie la Marquise du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (VTC), Elvira in *Blithe Spirit* (VTC), Rosamund Plinth in *The Violet Hour* (ESP), Laura Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* (MCP & RTP), and Viola in *Twelfth Night* (Vpstart Crow). She is a NoVa native who began acting in grade school with the Lake Braddock Children's Theatre. She studied theatre at Sweet Briar College and the Marymount London Drama Centre.



**KAT SANCHEZ** (*Fiona Bainbridge*) makes her debut at DS with *Brute Farce*. Her recent roles were Bernstein in *November* (PPF) and Tansy McGinnis in *The Nerd* (CA). Kat has performed the past 20 years with DC-based theatre companies Hexagon, BP, TAP, LTA and Capital Fringe Festival. Kat's favorite roles include Brooke Ashton/Vicki in *Noises Off* (LTA), Jane Worthington in *Out of Order* (TAP), Audrey in *Leading Ladies* (LTA), Dancer in *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* (LTA), and Marcie Clara Johnson in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* (LTA). Thanks to Matthew for Fiona's World Premiere, and for Elliott and Keegan, with love.





## ABOUT THE TEAM

**HELEN BARD-SOBOLA** (Co-Properties, Co-Set Dressing) is always happy to work at DS, her home for so many shows she has worked on. She has been working props for what seems forever, and prior to that she lived on stage and loved it. This is a great cast and crew, and life is good with a new show being produced for the first time! Support your local theatre. Love the ones you're with and as always, love to my family, Mike and Ally!

**DAVID CORREIA** (Set Designer, Master Carpenter) is drawing up his first set design for Dominion Stage, having done set design and set building for PCP in the past. David was the set builder for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (DS) earlier in the year. David is also a WATCH winning sound designer and the technical director for Dominion Stage.

**KEN AND PATTI CROWLEY** (Lighting Design) are excited to be back at DS. Their most recent designs include DS's *Boston Marriage*, [title of show], and *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, TAP's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *She Loves Me*, LTA's *Sister Act*, *Something Rotten!*, *Rumors*, and *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, RCP's *A Little Night Music*, *Aida*, and *Gypsy*, PWLT's *The Sound of Music* and *Sister Act*, and RTP's *Sweeney Todd*. Other noteworthy designs include *Picnic*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Widdershins*, *Into the Woods*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Das Barbecu*, *Teahouse of the August Moon*, and *I Hate Hamlet*. They are the recipients of numerous awards including LTA, RCP, FCT, and WATCH Awards for their lighting design.

**JEFFREY DAVIS** (Co-Properties, Co-Set Dressing) last appeared with DS as Donald in *Boys in the Band* and recently handled props for *Boston Marriage* (DS). Directing credits include *Man of La Mancha*, *Rocky Horror Show*, *Cabaret*, *The Fantasticks*, *Nevermore*, and *Rock of Ages* (Best Director, DC Broadwayworld). Acting credits include Man in Chair in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, Amos Hart in *Chicago*, Roger DeBris in *The Producers*, Rev. Shaw in *Footloose*, Caldwell B. Cladwell in *Urinetown*, and Felix Unger in *The Odd Couple*. Jeff's work has been recognized with an ACT Award, Best of the Fringe DC Fringe Festival and a Golden Chiquita Award.

**MICHAEL DONAHUE** (Fight Choreographer) was a professional Fight Director for almost twenty years, choreographing stage combat for regional theatres up and down the eastern seaboard, including Williamstown Theatre Festival for three seasons, Shakespeare theatre festivals, and many large outdoor drama venues, such as the *Legend of Daniel Boone* and *Blue Jacket*, as well as many large performance events for HIIT Productions. One of Michael's most challenging performance events was the staging of a full body burn for twenty-two performances in Poconos, PA.



**NICK FRIEDLANDER** (Co-Producer) is overjoyed to be back at DS after a long hiatus! He got his start in stage management on *How I Learned to Drive* (DS), most recently helped his partner-in-crime Lauren with *[title of show]* (DS), and has just finished a stint as the Director of Season Planning for TAP. He gives a big thanks to Helen and Bob, the DS team, and his extended theater family. He dedicates this show to the dearly beloved Jennifer “The Snack” Lyman; thank you always for your love, joy, support, warmth, and hugs.

**REBECCA J. HARRIS** (Executive Producer; Hair, Wig, & Makeup Design) is excited to be designing hair and makeup for *Brute Farce*. Special thanks to playwright Craig Houk for entrusting us with his world premier! Additional thanks to Matthew for giving her creative freedom, Lauren, Nick, Sam, production team, and friends for their love and support. Previous credits at DS include *Boston Marriage*, *Firebringer*, *[title of show]*, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Any Given Monday*, *Gilligan's Fire Island*, *Evil Dead the Musical*, and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (WATCH Winner). “Critics are not actors darling” - Craig Houk, *Brute Farce*

**SAM JENSEN** (Stage Manager) is excited to be back in the area again and getting back into community theatre after a few years away at school. While you will never catch her on stage, she has stage managed *A Christmas Carol* (LTA) and *You Can't Take It with You* (LTA). Not one to be pigeon holed, she has also been a master electrician for *Rumors* (LTA) and a set designer for *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!* (DS).

**JOAN LAWRENCE** (Costume Design) loves British comedy and is enjoying working with Matthew to turn this amazing cast into the characters in *Brute Farce*. She has designed costumes for TAP, LTA, RCP, ACCT, and other DC area community theaters and schools. She was honored to receive her first WATCH Award for RCP's *A Little Night Music*. Among her favorites are *Silent Sky* (ACCT), *Singin' in the Rain* (TAP), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (TAP), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (WATCH nomination, TAP), *Lettice and Lovage* (LTA), *Love in Ruins* (Capital Fringe), *The Sound of Music* (St. Andrew's Players), *My Emperor's New Clothes* (St. Andrew's Players), and *The Children's Hour* (Maret School).

**LAUREN MARKOVICH** (Co-Producer) is dipping her toes in the role of producer for the first time. She can often be found stage managing, most recently working on *Firebringer* (DS), *[title of show]* (DS), *Rumors* (LTA), and *Wait Until Dark* (LTA), or just stepping into whatever backstage role needs filling. In college at the University of Delaware she also worked on several shows with the Delaware Resident Ensemble Players and studied Theatre Production. When not doing theatre, Lauren can be found at her day job working with families experiencing homelessness in DC. Break legs!

## ABOUT THE TEAM (CONTINUED)

**ALDEN MICHELS** (Dialect Coach) is an actor, singer, and director who has performed at First Stage, Workhouse Theatre, and The Kennedy Center as well as numerous community performances. He previously served as dialect coach for *Boston Marriage* (DS), *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (RCP), *A Christmas Carol* (LTA), and *Newsies* (TAP). He lives in Bethesda, Maryland with his wife and two cats.

**SUSIE POOLE** (Co-Properties, Co-Set Dressing) is on her first adventure with DS. She was recently backstage as ASM for *Unnecessary Farce* (VTC). She was previously involved with *Boeing Boeing* (LTA) where she received WATCH nominations for set dressing and properties. Other favorites include Co-Stage Manager for *The 39 Steps* (LTA), Stage Manager for *The Dixie Swim Club* (PCP), Stage Manager for *No N\*\*\*\*\*, No Jews, No Dogs* (PCP), Assistant to the Director for *Farragut North* (PCP), Assistant to the Director for *Witness for the Prosecution* (LTA), and Properties and Set Dressing for *A Christmas Carol* (LTA).

**MATTHEW RANDALL** (Director) has appeared in or directed numerous productions over the years at groups including LTA, ESP, Vpstart Crow, DS, PCP, TAP, and VTC. He was last seen onstage as Archer Brown in *November* (PPF) by David Mamet (WATCH Outstanding Featured Actor Nominee), and last directed *Boston Marriage* (DS). He is a photographer and current Co-President of DS.

**JON ROBERTS** (Sound Design) is very happy to be working with DS again after sound designing for *Boston Marriage* (DS). Jon was a "special student" at the Yale School of Drama and has been the recipient of multiple WATCH nominations and awards (WATCH Award - Best Special Effects for *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (DS) and was nominated for Best Sound Design of the Decade by BroadwayWorld DC for his sound design for *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* (DS). He was also nominated for WATCH Best Projection Design for *How I Learned to Drive* (DS). His biggest award though is being married Jessie who created this techie.





# REVIEW

*Dreamgirls*



*Avenue Q*



*Heathers - The Musical*



*Reefer Madness*



# THE PLAY WITHIN THE PLAY

## PLAYBILL

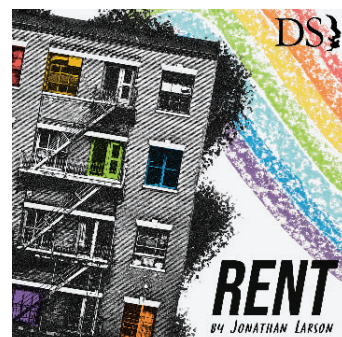
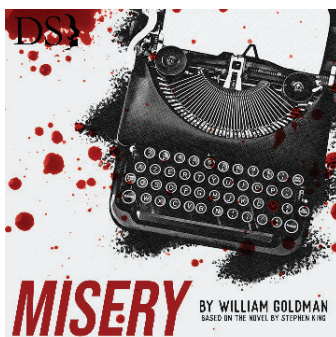
DUDLEY HACKHAM COMMEMORATIVE THEATRE  
Stockton-on-Tees

### The Deceitful Accountant or, Blame It On Biarritz!

featuring  
**VIVIAN PRUITT as Priscilla**

with  
KILLIAN BLACK as Kenneth  
FIONA BAINBRIDGE as Dolores  
QUINN PONSONBY as Hubert

## NEXT ON STAGE AT DS



**DOMINIONSTAGE.ORG**