



GreenMan Theatre Troupe presents

# Charley's Aunt



by **Brandon Thomas**

**Directed by Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff**

**First United Methodist Church, Elmhurst  
May 3 - 19**

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in Act Three at  
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## Welcome!

Welcome to GreenMan Theatre and our production of the classic farce, *Charley's Aunt*. If you've seen shows here before, welcome back! If this is your first time at GreenMan Theatre, we hope you enjoy the show and will continue to join us for future performances.

*Charley's Aunt* marks the end of our busy 20th anniversary season. Our celebrations started last summer, with performances of original 10-minute plays, *8 to the Bar/ista*, followed by *Graveside Stories Cemetery Walks* (a collaboration with the Elmhurst History Museum), our annual storytelling program *Spooky Stories and Songs of the Season*, and last fall's production of *Blithe Spirit*, by Noël Coward, a show that we originally presented back in our second season. This February and March, we presented *Murder on the DeLorean Express*, our annual dinner theatre murder mystery. The dinner show is an important fundraiser for the theatre, and this production was a huge success, as we played to sold-out houses each night.

We're already hard at work on our next season, reading original short play submissions for this summer's *8 to the Bar*, which will be performed at the Chicago Dance Factory in nearby Villa Park, on St. Charles Rd. We are also excited to announce that next fall we will bring *The Prom* to our stage. With music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and a book by Bob Martin and Beguelin, *The Prom* follows four Broadway actors, as they travel to a conservative town in Indiana, to help a lesbian student banned from bringing her girlfriend to their high school prom. Martin, Sklar, and Beguelin previously teamed up for the Broadway musical adaptation of *Elf*. Bob Martin is a well-known actor and writer; he co-wrote and starred in the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*. *The Prom* was the first musical of the 2018–2019 Broadway season to be named a *New York Times* Critics Pick. Frank Rizzo, writing for *Variety*, wrote that *The Prom* is “a joyous, funny, and sweet production that should appeal to several generations of musical fans.” Like to sing and dance? Auditions are May 25th and 26th, so mark your calendars and schedule your appointment soon!

Please stay in touch with GreenMan — sign up for our mailing list, follow our Facebook page, and get involved, whether onstage or behind the scenes. For a full list of GreenMan's activities, you can check out our website at [greenmantheatre.org](http://greenmantheatre.org). Thank you again for your support of live theatre here at GreenMan and enjoy the show!



— David Soria  
Artistic Director

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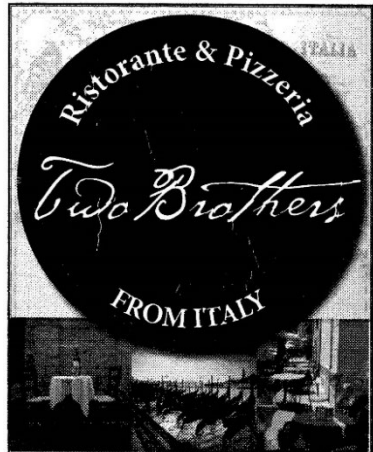
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## ***From the Past —***

**G**reenMan Theatre Troupe's last foray into 19<sup>th</sup> century British comedy was *The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People* by Oscar Wilde, which we performed in May 2007. It was directed by David Soria and featured Cory Sandrock (Algernon Moncrieff), George McArdle (Jack Worthing), Lucy Arenberg (Gwendolen Fairfax), Kris Sandrock (Cecily Cardew), Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff (Lady Bracknell), Lisa Baggott-Miller (Miss Prism), and Daniel Miller (Rev. Canon Chasuble). Also appearing were Matt Hesotian (Footman), Dave Perez (Lane), and Klaus Ruppenstein (Merriman).



What can be in that old satchel? Standing, from left, are Daniel Miller (Rev. Chasuble), Cory Sandrock (Algernon), Kris Sandrock (Cecily), and Lucy Arenberg (Gwendolen). In front are Lisa Baggott-Miller (Miss Prism) and George McArdle (Jack).

**To donate to GreenMan Theatre Troupe, please visit our website, [www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org), and click to Raise the Bar!**

**For information on corporate sponsorships and other ways to support GreenMan Theatre Troupe, contact**

**Katie Lahey, Treasurer, at [katie.lahey@greenmantheatre.org](mailto:katie.lahey@greenmantheatre.org)**

GreenMan Theatre Troupe has started selling ad space in the program for our 2024–2025 season. A business-card-size ad for one show is just \$40, and a half-page color ad for one show is only \$75. Ads purchased for more than one show receive significant discounts.

Please email [steven.soria@greenmantheatre.org](mailto:steven.soria@greenmantheatre.org) for additional pricing options and further information on ad placement.

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founded by Jill Perez, David Soria, and Carole Thorpe

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## ***Back in 1892 —***

**T**his play takes place in 1892 Victorian England, and there may be some expressions and slang that are unfamiliar or puzzling to you. Some of them are explained here, along with some of the different customs of the time period.

### **Expressions**

- **Worry me like old Harry** — Harry is a nickname for the Devil.
- **Going to see your uncle** — A euphemism for visiting the pawn broker when you're hard up for money.
- **We'll be gone down or We're off down** — To leave a university, especially Oxford or Cambridge, at the end of a term or after finishing your studies.
- **Perquisite** — A thing regarded as a special right or privilege enjoyed because of one's position. Nowadays, we just say "perk."
- **A Fly** — A light horse-drawn public passenger vehicle or a light, covered, vehicle hired from a livery stable. (The equivalent of an Uber today.)
- **Plowed** — Failing spectacularly, probably because the student spent their year drinking and partying (not referring to being drunk).
- **The deuce** — A homonym of deuce "devil" is deuce "two at dice or cards." So, it's another way of expressing yourself forcefully without swearing.
- **You're a brick** — You are a person who is strong emotionally or loyally.
- **Farrago** — A confused mixture, hodgepodge.

### **Customs and Culture in 1892**

- Young women of high station could not be alone with men. They absolutely had to have a chaperone, or their reputations could be ruined.
- Men stood up when women entered a room and stood until the woman or women sat down.
- Young girls wore their hair down, but once a girl was "out in society" (about age 16), they were expected to wear their hair up in public. Since a woman's hair was her "crowning glory," only her husband was allowed to see it down.
- Gloves were worn outside by both sexes.
- Men and women were very formal with each other prior to being betrothed.
- When a man met a woman outside, he was expected to raise, or "tip," his hat.
- Women used parasols as a form of sunscreen. Upper-class women were supposed to keep their complexions as pale white as possible.

*—Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff  
Director*



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## Director's Notes —

*Charley's Aunt* is one of my all-time favorite plays. I first got to see it in high school\*(see note) and was entranced by the farcical high-energy comedy and the underlying heart of the play.

During the rehearsal process, one of the actors remarked, “This is a really silly play”—and there was general agreement! It *is* a silly play—but it is one of the most delightful ones I have ever seen! This is a farce where characters say and do ridiculous things and, yes, there is more than one of the mandatory chase scenes found in this type of play. There are both mistaken and concealed identities—all are not who they pretend to be.

A chaperone for young ladies when they meet with gentlemen is a nonnegotiable necessity in England in 1892. Once you accept the basic premise—that when the real aunt can't show up on time to be a chaperone to the young men in their luncheon meeting with their intended brides, why, of course, one of their male friends “*must*” dress up and impersonate the aunt—then everything else just falls into place.

What starts fairly innocently as an improvised stopgap (subbing in their friend [nicknamed Babbs] as “Charley's Aunt,”) soon turns into a desperate attempt to “keep all the plates in the air;” hence the high-energy pace of farce.

Another thing that I love about this play is that I believe it has more of a “heart” than many farces do. In between some of the high-energy scenes, there are much quieter moments, when characters reveal some of the wants and needs that make us all human. They want to overcome loneliness, they need to belong somewhere, and they yearn for someone to love. The playwright Brandon Thomas allows us to see the characters' inner selves, which makes this a much warmer, more tender farce than a typical one.

*Charley's Aunt* is a classic of the theatre, and I hope that you enjoy both the romp and the tender bits as much as I do!

—Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff  
Director

\*Note: I also got to read this play in Spanish in my junior year of high school Spanish class and was fascinated by the formality of the culture between men and women of the upper class—before marriage in the Victorian year of 1892. The young people who are courting address each other in the formal form of “you” (usted) until something momentous happens—and then, in the middle of a scene, they switch immediately into the informal form (tu).

“Charley's Aunt” is presented by arrangement with Concord  
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

# Charley's Aunt

by **Brandon Thomas**

Directed by Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff

## Cast in Order of Appearance

Jack Chesney.....	Elliot Brtva
Brasset.....	Duard Mosley
Charley Wykeham .....	Charles Brailovsky
Lord Fancourt Babberly (Babbs) .....	Shazad Mehta
Kitty Verdun .....	Lauren Visser
Amy Spettigue .....	Ashley Ries
Sir Francis Chesney .....	Tom Ochocinski
Stephen Spettigue.....	Tony Lopez
Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez.....	Kate Troc
Ela Delahay.....	Julia Thompson

1892

### **Act One**

Interior of Jack Chesney's Rooms, St. Olde's College, Oxford

Intermission

### **Act Two**

Exterior of Jack Chesney's Rooms, St. Olde's College, Oxford

Intermission

### **Act Three**

Drawing-room, Spettigue's house

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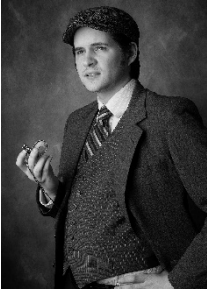
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## **Production Staff**

Director .....	Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff
Producer .....	Marilyn Connolly
Stage Manager .....	Maggie Opal
Set Design and Construction Management .....	Jayne Furlong
Costumes .....	Alma Read, Katie Lahey, Bella Nancy Solis, .....and Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff
Hair and Makeup .....	Kate Troc
Lighting Design .....	David Soria
Sound Design .....	Becca Easley
Props .....	Sharon Bopp, John Dooley, Mary-Carol Riehs, .....and Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff
Dialect Coach .....	Val Meachum
Dramaturg .....	Mary-Carol Riehs
Box Office .....	Becca Easley and Katie Lahey
House Management .....	Marilyn Connolly
Lights and Sound Crew .....	Steven Barre, Cassy Beach, Becca Easley, .....David Soria, and Steven Soria
Deconstruction and Construction Crew .....	Cassy Beach, Elliot Brtva, .....James Brtva, Lily Brtva, John Dooley, Jay Dressler, Becca Easley, .....Jayne Furlong, Tony Lopez, Maggie Opal, Cheryl Rice, Ashley Ries, .....Allison Soria, Katie Soria, David Soria, Steven Soria, Carolyn .....Thomas-Davidoff, Julia Thompson, Kate Troc, Matt Walsh, and others
Box Office and House Crew .....	Cynthia Angermeier, Sharon Bopp, .....Pat Cooley, Gary Davidoff, Annabelle Kowalski, Katie Lahey, .....Maggie Opal, Alma Read, Rhys Read, Judy Soria, Brittaney Stramp, .....Judith Sullivan, Cheryl Turek, and others
Publicity .....	Cassy Beach, Sharon Bopp, David Soria, Steven Soria, .....and Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff
Poster and Program cover art .....	Cathleen Ann
Program .....	Steven Soria
Photographer .....	Ken Beach

GreenMan Theatre would like to thank Kathy Hansen and Pastor Joseph A. Johnson of the First United Methodist Church of Elmhurst; Matthew Schultz at Sir Speedy printers; Nancy Brook of Community Bank; John Wroblewski of *The Patch*; and Barbara Vitello of *The Daily Herald*. Thanks also to Kassondra Schref of *Explore Elmhurst* and *The Front Porch*. GreenMan Theatre would like to send special thanks to the Theatre Department of the College of DuPage for the rental of costumes, to Melissa Alderton of Propabilities, Inc., Chicago, and to Emanuele Tuxedo Rental and Sales, Elmhurst, for the loan of tuxedos. Finally, we would like to thank Jennifer of K&T Colors and Lisa and Dan Miller for set dressing advice.

## Cast



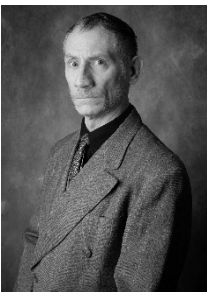
**CHARLES BRAILOVSKY (*Charley Wykeham*)** —

Charles is a new transplant to Chicago and thrilled to return to acting after a hiatus in college. As a child actor in Minnesota, he starred in *Oliver!* at the Lyric Arts Theater (Anoka) and played Vincent in *Beast on the Moon*. He attended three seasons of the Stage Door Manor Theater Camp in New York, where his favorite role was multiple characters in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged*. He recently starred as young Marty in GreenMan's murder mystery *Murder on the DeLorean Express*. He is currently studying engineering at UIC and aims to one day return to NASA, where he was recently an intern on a team designing spacecraft for the Mars program.



**ELLIOT BRTVA (*Jack Chesney*)** —

Elliot is excited to be performing in his sixth GreenMan show! Recently, he performed in *Murder on the DeLorean Express* by Justin Vidovic as Kenny Parker, Jennifer's father. Some of his other roles with GreenMan include Ferdinand in *The Tempest*, Freddy Jones in *Scooby Doo and That's the Way the Cookie Murders!*, and Charles Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*. His favorite roles are father to two amazing children, James and Lily, and husband to a very supportive and caring spouse, Kat. When not performing, Elliot likes to relax playing board games and roleplaying games with his friends and family.



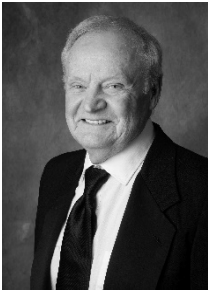
**TONY LOPEZ (*Stephen Spettigue*)** —

Most of Tony's stage time involves comedic, dramatic, and musical improv. He loves being dramatic, physical, and musical on stage, playing in various performance groups, and running workshops. He's done scripted acting and writing work for indie films, public educational projects, a few small plays, and some TV in China. He was in *Willy Wonka* this past winter and performs improv monthly. Raised in Chicagoland, Tony's mostly lived elsewhere—across Europe, Asia, North America, and in the metaverse. He creates virtual reality and immersive digital applications to help people improve, educate, and entertain themselves. He enjoys languages, education, computers, physical fitness, rollerblading, parkour, sci-fi, all things scientific, and most things geeky. His favorite My Little Pony is Rainbow Dash.



**SHAZAD MEHTA (*Lord Fancourt Babberly*)** —

After 15 years of murder mysteries with GreenMan, Shazad is back after a 4-year hiatus. When he's not acting, Shazad is busy working at his family's business based out of Elmhurst called Mehta Motors. In his spare time, he has been involved in coaching and playing ultimate frisbee over the last 25 years. Shazad lives in Hillside with his 12-year-old dachshund, Salvador Doggié. He dedicates this performance to his recently passed friend Jim Ocasak. Jim was a fixture with GreenMan for many years and was involved in so many ways behind the scenes. Without his efforts, Shazad wouldn't be the actor who appears before you tonight. "Rest in peace my friend; this one is for you."



**DUARD MOSLEY (*Brasset*)** — Duard has appeared in several GreenMan productions including *Blithe Spirit*, *The Laramie Project*, *Frankenstein*, *Harvey*, and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Venturing out of Elmhurst, he appeared as Frank Foster in Glen Ellyn's Village Theatre Production of *How the Other Half Loves*. He was also a member of the improvisational theatre company Spontaneous Combustion, which performed weekly at the Roxy in Chicago. He also performed as Claudius in *Hamlet* and Teddy in *When You Comin' Back Red Ryder* at the Franklin Park Players and as

Tom in William Sayoran's *The Time of Your Life* and Colonel MacKean in *1776* at the Oak Park Village Players.



**TOM OCHOCINSKI (*Sir Francis Chesney*)** —

Making his fifth appearance on the GreenMan Theatre stage, Tom is delighted to appear with such a talented cast. He has worked in a number of theaters in the Chicago area in a variety of roles. His favorite role was that of Henry Albertson in *The Fantasticks*. He has also done some work in commercials and short films. Apart from his time spent acting, Tom enjoys playing the piano and is always on the lookout for the next best series on TV. He wishes to thank his family and friends for their love and support and gives a special shout out to Director Carolyn and to his good friends Jeff, Dennis, and Robin.



**ASHLEY RIES (*Amy Spettigue*)** — Ashley is thrilled to be making her debut at GreenMan Theatre Troupe! She was most recently seen as Sally Perks and others in *Puffs* (Theatre 121), Nina in *The Seagull* (Harper College), and in many other performances throughout her high school career. Ashley's love for the arts started at the age of 5 when she was enrolled in her very first dance class, and she has continued to be active in the arts since. When not found on stage, she can be found hanging with her wiener dogs Sweetness and Benny, along with painting and babysitting. She wants to thank her family and friends for the continued support and love, as well as the amazing cast and production staff for making this journey such a fun one!



**JULIA THOMPSON (*Ela Delahay*)** — Julia is thrilled to be participating in her second show with GreenMan! Her favorite past roles include Old Doc Brown #1 in *Murder on the DeLorean Express* and singing as Eliza Doolittle in the *My Fair Lady* solo from the Broadway revue *Timelapse*. She is currently a pension clerk in her day job, and her dream is to become a professional musical theater actor. Hopefully, you will be able to catch her on Broadway one day! When not working, she adores watching *Star Trek*, cosplaying, keeping up with news from the Disney Parks, and playing electric guitar. She would like to thank her mom and dad for supporting her aspirations!



**KATE TROC (*Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez*)** — Kate is thrilled to play Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez in *Charley's Aunt*. This is her eighth show with GreenMan since her return to theatre seven years ago. She has absolutely loved her experiences so far, and her favorite role was as Barbara Ehrenreich in *Nickel and Dimed*. Kate makes her living as a Wine Marketer, offering a variety of wine experiences to companies and small groups, and currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Hair Cuttery Family of Brands. When not working or acting, you can find Kate on long bike rides, gardening, birding, or playing with her two silly dogs. She is grateful to her fellow cast members and everyone at GreenMan Theatre. She hopes you enjoy the show!





**LAUREN VISSER (*Kitty Verdun*)** — Lauren is delighted to return to the GreenMan stage and reunite with dear friends! When not acting, she is an active member of Windy City Curling Club and will be the club's first female president, as of opening weekend. Special thanks to Carolyn for her encouragement and support; to the cast and crew for their talent and dedication; and to her husband Aaron for accidentally complimenting her British accent. Lauren dedicates this show to her niece Charlotte, whose joy and enthusiasm are contagious. Charlotte's love of theatre and performing helped lead Lauren to audition for this production!



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## Production Staff



### **CAROLYN THOMAS-DAVIDOFF (Director)** —

Carolyn is one of the founding members of GreenMan Theatre Troupe and a member of the theatre's board. Prior to *Charley's Aunt*, Carolyn directed 15 murder mysteries for GreenMan, starting with the second one that GreenMan did. She wrote all, or part, of those 15 murder mysteries. Carolyn has also directed the storytelling shows *Spooky Stories and Songs of the Season* and other storytelling shows and spoken word projects that come out of her storytelling classes at

GreenMan. Onstage, she played Lady Bracknell in GreenMan's production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and other roles elsewhere. She is a former Artistic Director for the Children's Theatre of Western Springs and has also directed for Elmhurst Children's Theatre. She is a retired teacher who likes to silk paint, travel, and do storytelling—in addition to theatre. Carolyn would especially like to thank the cast and crew for their outstanding work and her long-suffering husband, Gary, and daughter, Gwynneth, for their support.



### **MARILYN CONNOLLY (Producer)** —

Marilyn is excited to be helping this incredible cast with *Charley's Aunt*, as a first time Producer. Marilyn has been with GreenMan since its inception and is a Board member, House Manager, actress, singer, and storyteller and was Assistant Director for *Ninja Pirate Princess* and *Ghost Pirate Prince*. She has portrayed “well known ladies of Elmhurst,” in *Graveside Stories* with the Elmhurst Historical Museum. She also performed in more than a dozen murder mysteries, her favorite role being

“Gladys Kravitz” in the *Bewitched* spoof. Her “first love” is storytelling, and she has been in *Spooky Stories and Songs of the Season* and other story events for more than 12 years! The rest of her time is devoted to her spending time with her four wonderful grandchildren making memories!



### **MAGGIE OPAL (Stage Manager)** —

Maggie is delighted to work with such a talented supportive team on this enjoyable show. She's been involved in community theater since the 70s and her favorite experience is usually her most recent one! A former teacher/counselor, this is her fifth GreenMan stage managing adventure. Maggie's passion is singing, and she has acted in dozens of musicals and solos. She says there's no feeling quite like when you're holding the audience in the palm of your hand as you sing from your

heart! Maggie enjoys being involved with The Crucible Project helping folks be more who God calls them to be. She appreciates active involvement with her faith, pilgrimages, and any and all family times together!



**JAYNE FURLONG (Set Design and Construction)** —

Jayne is a seasoned actor, director, set/costume/poster designer, and all-around theater lover. Some of her past scenic design credits include *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Living Out*, and *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. She has worked with many community theaters in Portland (OR), Austin (TX), and most recently with Galaxy Theater in La Grange where she was seen as Meg in *Crimes of the Heart*. Jayne is a certified yoga instructor and passionate cat mom. Many

thanks to Carolyn for the opportunity to create this world for *Charley's Aunt*, and to her partner, Jay; none of this is possible without your support (and forced labor).



**ALMA READ (Costumes)** — Alma is glad to be working once again with Carolyn as her director. Alma has lost track of the number of shows that she has worked on behind the scenes, whether getting snakes and capes, stage managing, or co-producing, although she has stepped onto the open stage in our murder mystery *Bewitched, Bothered, or Be Murdered!* and in many storytelling performances. She most recently developed the costumes for *Blithe Spirit* this past fall. Alma has also volunteered for the past 20 years with a

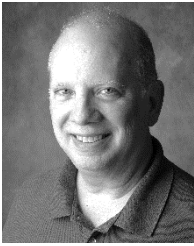
group that works with recovering alcoholics and drug addicts. Alma is thankful for the constant support of her husband, Rhys.

**KATE TROC (Hair and Makeup)** — Kate's bio is included with those of the other actors.



**BECCA EASLEY (Sound Designer)** — Becca is happy to be designing for theatre this spring. Becca has served as a sound designer, assistant director, sound/light operator, director, and stage manager for various shows at GreenMan Theatre. Previous shows include *Murder on the DeLorean Express*, *Graveside Stories*, *Eight to the Bar*, *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins*, *Monstrous Regiment*, and *The Arabian Nights*, among others. Becca has also worked with Village Theatre Guild, Westchester Civic Theatre, and Kirkwood

Players locally and with Raleigh Little Theatre in North Carolina. In her day job, Becca works as a software engineer in Chicago. Thanks to Carolyn, cast, and crew!



**DAVID SORIA (Artistic Director, Lighting Design) —**

David is GreenMan's Artistic Director and has directed or helped behind the scenes on GreenMan's productions since the group started. He directed and designed last fall's production of *Blithe Spirit*. Some of the many other GreenMan shows he has directed include *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Arabian Nights*, *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, and *The Government Inspector*. He has designed or co-designed sets or lights for several GreenMan productions, including *Doubt*, *Monstrous Regiment*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Nevermore: The Dark World of Edgar Allan Poe*, and *Frankenstein*. Elsewhere, he has directed many productions, including *As You Like It*, *Working*, *Old Times*, and *South Pacific*. As an actor, David has appeared in many productions, including *Tartuffe* and *Dracula*. David holds an MFA in directing from Illinois State University and has taught theatre at Illinois Wesleyan and Moraine Valley Community College. David thanks everyone who worked to make the production a success and especially his ever-patient wife, Katie, and daughter, Allison, for their love and support.



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## Brandon Thomas —

Walter Brandon Thomas (24 December 1848 – 19 June 1914) was an English actor, playwright, and songwriter, best known as the author of the farce *Charley's Aunt*.

Born in Liverpool to a family with no theatrical connections, Thomas worked in commerce, and as an occasional journalist, before achieving his ambition of becoming an actor. After a succession of minor roles, he became increasingly sought after as a character actor. He wrote more than a dozen plays, the most celebrated of which, *Charley's Aunt*, broke all historic records for plays of any kind with an original London run of 1,466 performances, opening in 1892. It has had numerous subsequent productions all around the world, including many film and musical theatre adaptations.

Although Thomas never repeated the prodigious success of *Charley's Aunt*, he maintained a career as an actor and dramatist until his death, acting mostly in comedy, but with occasional serious roles in the plays of Shakespeare and others.

*Charley's Aunt* was written for his friend, the actor W. S. Penley. Later the two disagreed (and went to court) about how much, if any, of the plot was Penley's invention rather than Thomas's. Penley told a journalist in 1894, "The play was my idea and Brandon Thomas wrote it. Later on, we went down into the country and worked at it. Then we worked it out on the stage." Penley produced the play and took the star role of Lord Fancourt Babberley. The early performances of the play were given on tour in the English provinces, beginning at Bury St. Edmunds on 29 February 1892, before opening at The Royalty Theatre on 21 December 1892. For the first few weeks in London, Thomas played the role of Sir Francis Chesney; he regularly played the part in later revivals until shortly before his death. The play was an immediate success and transferred to the larger Globe Theatre on 30 January 1893. It ran for a record-breaking 1,466 performances across four years, closing on 19 December 1896.

The piece was successfully staged throughout the English-speaking world and, in translation, in many other countries. It had a major success on Broadway in 1893 and was revived there several times. In 1894, it was given both German and French premieres and was produced in Berlin every Christmas for many years. Thereafter, it was frequently revived for decades and successfully adapted for films and musicals.

Thomas died at his home in Bloomsbury, London, in 1914, aged 65, after a brief illness. He was buried in Brompton Cemetery. In its obituary notice, *The Times* quoted him as saying, "I hoped to go down to fame as a great actor. If I go at all, it will be as the author of *Charley's Aunt*."



—From Wikipedia  
—[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandon\\_Thomas\\_\(playwright\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brandon_Thomas_(playwright))





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Best Wishes to the Green Man Theatre Troupe!!

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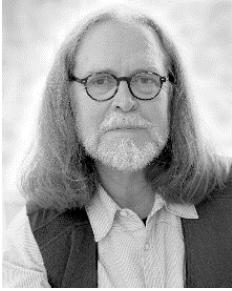
***Punky's Irish Pub: Video Gaming***

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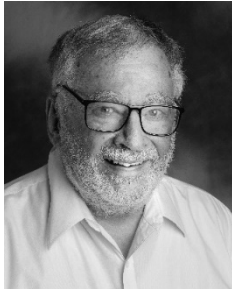
## In Memorium —

This past year saw the passing of three long-time members of the GreenMan Theatre Troupe: Jim Ocasek, Harry Davis, and Jim Bruner.

Jim Bruner was our Renaissance Man: actor, director, playwright, Trustee, and genial host of Board meetings in the company of his two energetic English Springer Spaniels. For several years, he performed as the King at Medieval Times. Among the shows he performed in with us were *Born Yesterday*, *Cash on Delivery!*, and *Tale of Two Cities*. He directed *Harvey* and two of the short pieces in our *After the End of the World* show, one of which he wrote. He also served for three years on the GreenMan Board. After 23 years in Orlando, Florida, where he worked as a banker, a director, and an actor, he moved back to our area, which was our gain and Florida's loss. He liked to end his program bios with the tag line "Thanks to GreenMan for a great place to work (and play)."



Harry Davis was an enthusiastic and well-respected member of the GreenMan family. Harry got his start with GreenMan when he played a poetry-loving gangster in the murder mystery *Murder Stage Right*. Most recently, he performed with us in *The Tempest* and in 2022's *8 to the Bar/ista*. Harry was also in *Don't Drink the Water* and *Shakespeare in Hollywood*. "I had the pleasure of working with Harry on his first show with GreenMan, *Murder Stage Right*, and *The Tempest* and *8 to the Bar/ista*, his last two shows with us," said Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff. "Harry was such a gentle and lovely man. He threw his whole heart into the roles that he played, and worked very hard to make his roles the best that he could. I always enjoyed working with him and will miss him."



It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of founding GreenMan Theatre Troupe Board member James E. Ocasek this past November. Jim was connected to GreenMan from its beginning and served on the GreenMan Board from 2004 until the time of his passing. He worked on numerous shows as technical director, scenic designer, or lighting designer. Jim also led many other projects behind the scenes, using his legal expertise to review and negotiate contracts for the theatre, representing GreenMan before local grant committees, and leading efforts to improve GreenMan's technical capabilities. He always worked hard to strengthen the organization, to make GreenMan's shows as professional as possible, and to provide a great experience for the many GreenMan volunteers, on- and off-stage. To say he will be missed is an understatement. All we can do is to thank him again for his great friendship, his deep love of theatre, and his steadfast dedication to the group.



## **GreenMan Storytellers —**

This past March, the GreenMan Storytellers presented “Irish Tales and Songs” at the Elmhurst Public Library on Tuesday, March 12.



From left: Katie Lahey, Cassy Beach, Victoria Rebeck, Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff (director), Julie Brandon, Melanie Concklin, Becca Easley, and Steven Soria.

This summer, in conjunction with the Elmhurst History Museum and the Elmhurst Public Library, the GreenMan Storytellers will be presenting a show on World War II and the Home Front at the Library.

Please contact Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff at [thomdav@comcast.net](mailto:thomdav@comcast.net) or 708-254-4575 if you are interested in participating in next year’s storytelling class (late summer 2024) or in a spoken-word presentation.

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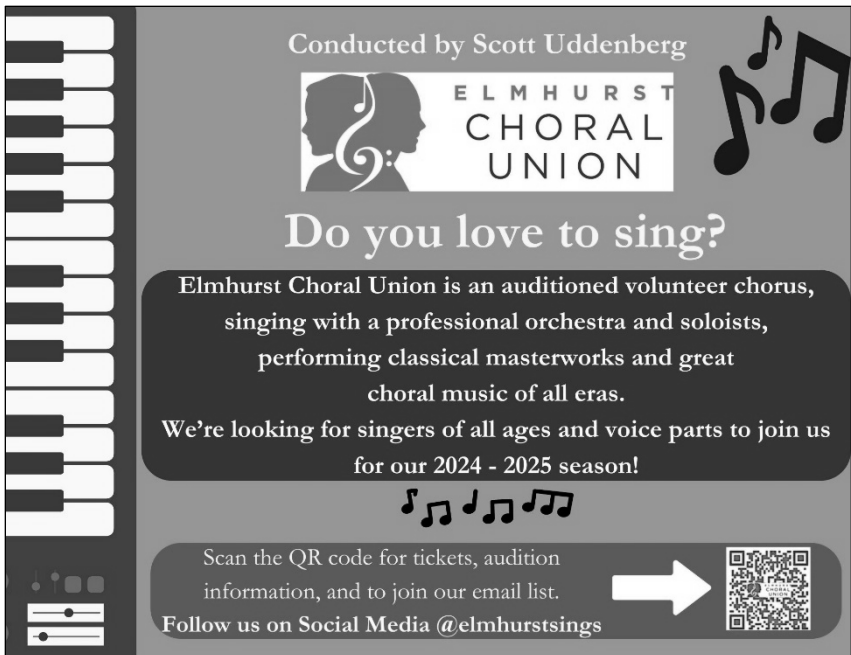
**G**reenMan Theatre Troupe regularly offers theatre arts programs designed to challenge, engage, and inspire. Programs are available for both adults and children.

For additional information about current and future offerings and registration details, please contact Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff, GreenMan Theatre's Education Chair, at [thomdav@comcast.net](mailto:thomdav@comcast.net), call GreenMan Theatre at 630-464-2646, visit [www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org), or follow us on Facebook. Explore your creative side with GreenMan Theatre Troupe!


Past programs include —

- “Storytelling” with Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff
- “Creating the Fantastical” with Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff and David Soria
- “Story Theatre” with Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff and David Soria
- “Approaching Shakespeare: Language, Character, Action” with Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff and David Soria
- “Improvitational Workshop” with Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff
- “Introduction to Playwriting” with Cory Sandrock
- “The Musical Audition” with Kris Sandrock
- “Unarmed Stage Combat” with Angela Bend and Scott Surowiecki


Are there any classes that you would like to see GreenMan offer? Feel free to call or email us at [mail@greenmantheatre.org](mailto:mail@greenmantheatre.org).



Conducted by Scott Uddenberg



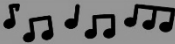
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## ***Murder on the DeLorean Express* —**

**O**ur murder mystery dinner theatre fund-raiser this year was the time-bending parody *Murder on the DeLorean Express*, written and directed by Justin Vidovic.



Marty (Brian T. Wolf) and Jennifer (Heather Meyer) have just settled down for a quiet dinner at the same restaurant where they had their wedding reception 30 years earlier when Doc (John Benischek) arrives to transport Marty back in time to that reception.



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The trip to the past turns deadly, as the young Doc (Zach Flax) is stabbed in the back, with Lorraine (Katie Soria) and the young Marty (Charles Brailovsky) looking on. Uncle Joey (Kevin Hathaway) and George (Brian T. Wolf) are at right.



After the mystery is solved, the band can play! In the foreground are Huey Lewis (Doug Peterson) and pals Uncle Joey (Kevin Hathaway) and Biff (Gwynneth Davidoff) with Lorraine (Katie Soria) and young Marty (Charles Brailovsky) looking on.

**The DeLorean Cast —**



Back row, from left: Zach Flax, Doug Peterson, Julie Thompson, John Benischek, and Elliot Brtva.  
 Middle row: Brian T. Wolf, Andrew Ross, Kate Troc (with head), Kevin Hathaway, Gwynneth Davidoff, Kelly Belmont, and Heather Meyer.  
 Seated in front: Katie Soria, Tess Caldwell, Cayley D’Anna, Charles Brailovsky, and Mary-Carol Riehs.

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## About GreenMan Theatre Troupe —

Welcome to Elmhurst, population 47,200+...visit the art museum, go to the symphony, take a class at the college, see a children's play, sample the many fine restaurants, go see a play at the community theatre. "What community theatre?" That was the question that Jill Perez and Carole Thorpe asked. The answer? Start a new theatre for the Elmhurst community. Working with director David Soria, they formed GreenMan Theatre Troupe to offer opportunities to see live theatre, participate in plays, and enrich the community. It is our goal to produce high-quality plays and musicals drawn from many different genres. We also offer classes and workshops in theatre arts to the community. We envision this theatre finding a permanent home in the cultural life of Elmhurst and the surrounding community. We welcome you as members and patrons of the theatre. GreenMan Theatre Troupe looks forward to celebrating the spirit of theatrical creativity and working with the community to "keep theatre green" in Elmhurst for many years.

### Our Mission:

- To provide diverse, quality theatrical entertainment for our audience.
- To provide opportunities for personal growth in theatrical arts for our members.
- To provide a source of cultural enrichment and pride for our community.

### And just what is a *GreenMan*?



Before GreenMan Theatre Troupe was incorporated in June 2004, one of the many questions we faced was what to call ourselves.

We considered many names that might celebrate the history of the community or our pride within the community.

We considered names that reflected the growth of the community and the elm tree, symbol of that growth and strength.

We then thought of the ancient symbol of creativity and renewal:

#### ***The GreenMan***

Often carved on old churches and cathedrals throughout England (and now gracing many suburban gardens on decorative sculptures), the **GreenMan** is identified by a face peering out of dense leaves or branches.

In Celtic mythology, he is a spirit of spring and summer.

Disappearing and returning, year after year, century after century, the **GreenMan** reminds us of the ebb and flow of life and creativity.

## *Co-Founders*

Jill Perez

David Soria

Carole Thorpe

## *Board of Trustees*

### *Officers*

Becca Easley — President

Carolyn Thomas-Davidoff — Vice President

Steven Soria — Secretary

Katie Lahey — Treasurer

### *Trustees*

Cassy Beach

Donna Miller

Marilyn Connolly

Mary-Carol Riehs

Craig Gustafson

David Soria

### *Past Trustees*

James Bruner (2016–2019)

Jill Perez (2004–2008)

Richard Bucchi (2014–2015)

Debbie Proska (2019–2022)

Mary Dove (2006–2007)

Alice Rebecchi (2006–2007, 2009–2014)

Chuck Erickson (2013–2023)

Cheryl Rice (2011–2017)

Trudi Franson (2004–2005)

Cory Sandrock (2007–2010)

Phil Hendricks (2007–2010)

Kris Sandrock (2007–2009)

Tom Hughes (2008–2014)

Judy Soria (2006–2008)

Chuck Jacobson (2008–2015)

Katie Soria (2011–2014)

Stan Kosek (2009–2012)

Sue Soria (2004–2007)

Lisa Krueger (2005–2006)

Carole Thorpe (2004–2007)

Anne Lucas (2004–2005)

Benjamin Vargas (2009–2012)

Shazad Mehta (2014–2020)

Jane Waldherr (2004–2005)

Jim Ocasek (2004–2023)

Carl Zeitler (2009–2015)

## **Membership!**

Buy a ticket? Sure, but how would you like to take your involvement with GreenMan Theatre Troupe to the next level?

Consider becoming a member of the Troupe. For \$20, you'll receive a tote bag, discounts on classes and workshops, a newsletter, an invitation to attend our Board meetings and other Members-only events, and annually, an opportunity to vote for candidates for the Board.

See what really goes on behind the scenes. See how all the pieces come together to make a show. And, most importantly, help put some of those pieces in place yourself!

Please visit our website for all the details: [www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org)

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