#### LIVE ARTS THEATER Season 32 | Transformations | 2022/23

Strauss Construction presents

# BUYER&

# by Jonathan Tolins

Directed by Jude Hansen



# WELCOME TO LIVE ARTS!

f /LiveArts

Check Us Out

/LiveArtsTheater

Live Arts is honored to welcome you to our theater, which sits on the unceded homeland of the Monacan and Manahoac Nations. We recognize them as the original stewards of this land and offer our respect to their elders—past, present, and emerging.

#### WHILE YOU'RE HERE ...

**Concessions** are located on the 3rd floor. Enjoy snacks and drinks during intermission and after the show.

**Restrooms** are on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th floors. Single stall, genderneutral restrooms and changing table are on the 4th floor.

Please **silence your cell phone** and refrain from texting during the show. **No photography or video recording**, either!

Masks are encouraged while inside the Founders Theater, but not required for audience members. During COVID-conscious matinees (April 16 & 23), please **keep your mask on** over your nose and mouth during the show, except when eating or drinking.

You can find our updated COVID guidelines at livearts.org/covid.

#### **NEW TO OUR THEATER?**

**Get involved!** There are hundreds of ways to make theater with us.

Take a few minutes to fill out our **Volunteer Engagement Form.** We will reach out to you with more information about current volunteer opportunities.

Learn more at livearts.org. We can't wait to get to know you!



#### A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Without going too deep or pseudo-psychological, BUYER & CELLAR talks a lot about "stuff," but at its heart is not about "stuff."

It's a **very funny and very human** play, about a very real and famous person in a fictitious story. And about a man who works for her, gets to know her, and discovers maybe a little too much about her life. Although I am not usually drawn to stories of the rich and famous, this one stands out because it manages to be **both sympathetic and critical** in its examination of the price of fame, and never sycophantic.

We move through this foreign Malibu mansion basementmall world alongside our narrator, Alex, and it is from his changing perspective we meet and engage with the grand lady.

Jonathan Tolins' play works its magic on a few levels, as a **delightfully witty monologue**, as a **biting satirical social commentary** on celebrities and narcissism, and as a **love story of sorts** (or really two love stories). How fortunate we are to have the creative energies of Jude and Jack and Elizabeth as our guides, along with a bevy of UVA student designers, and the ubiquitous Mimi. Welcome to the Founders Cellar!

> Susan E. Evans Artistic Director | Live Arts



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#### **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR**

#### Celebrity can be seductive ... but talent is eternal.

Barbra has undeniable talent—you can tell from a single note. So what does an icon like Barbra do with all her wealth and time when she's no longer performing? Meticulously curate her own utopia with "relentless good taste," of course.

What struck me most in rehearsal for this show was just how little Jonathan Tolins invented about Barbra (and James) and their hideaway estate in Malibu. Tiny details that Barbra mentions in the book and in other public interviews all make it into the play.

Yes, the Oprah book tour interview happened (Kathy Griffin gives a hilarious summary—look it up), she has told the hot water bottle story multiple times, and even Fifi is real (although that may not be her name). Yes, she does blow bubbles! Barbra really does think the stage "People" dress is better. She says so on page 217. And yes, Barbra will eat just ice cream for dinner. Why? Because she can. The Seth Rogen road movie exists. It's called *The Guilt Trip*. It's all in the book.

The only thing in the script that isn't true about Barbra is the way she behaves. That, we may never know (until the memoir is released in November).

One thing we can be certain of is her *Passion for Design*.

Jude Hansen Director | BUYER & CELLAR

# The 2022/23 Live Arts Season

**Strauss Construction presents** 

#### **BUYER & CELLAR** by Jonathan Tolins

LIVE ARTS April 7-29, 2023

Directed by Jude Hansen

Pay-What-You-Can tickets sponsored by Ting

Act I is 1 hour. Act II is about 40 minutes. *There will be one 15-minute intermission.* 

This production is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Original Off-Broadway Production produced by Darren Bagert, Dan Shaheen and Ted Snowden; World premiere produced by Rattelstick Playwrights Theater (David Van Asselt, Artistic Director; Brian Long, Managing Director).



Live Arts is supported in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts, which receives support from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

#### SETTING

LA and Malibu\* 2013

#### CAST

#### ALEX MORE Jack Clifford

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director	Jude Hansen
Production Stage Manager	Elizabeth Rose
Scenic Designer	Russell Petro
Scenic Design Mentors	Melissa Goldman
	Tim Victorio
Props Designer/Set Dresser	Mimi Halpern
Lighting Designer	Kyndal Harrison
Sound Designer	Sarah Harden
Projections Designer	Javier Perez
Costume Designer	Mimi Halpern
Choreographer	Elizabeth Rose
Sound/Projections Operators	Will Barnnet
	Chase Carson
Lightboard Operator	Elizabeth Rose

\*6838 Zumirez Drive, Malibu, to be exact.

# READ THE **STUDY GUIDE**



Scan here or go to livearts.org

#### Explore the play!

Learn more about the script, playwright, and what goes into preparing for a one-man show. The study guide includes behind-thescenes photos, info, and more!



### JOIN US FOR A POST-SHOW AUDIENCE TALKBACK: APRIL 20

Take a peek behind the curtain with Jude Hansen, Jack Clifford, and the team behind BUYER & CELLAR at Live Arts. Moderated by Education Director Ti Ames.

Thursday, April 20 (after the show). All are welcome!

If you would like to join us after the show, please arrive at 9pm.

#### **PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR**



#### JONATHAN TOLINS PLAYWRIGHT

Jonathan Tolins is a playwright and screenwriter. After premiering at the Pasadena Playhouse, his play *The Twilight of the Golds* opened on Broadway in 1993. His Off-Broadway credits include *If Memory Serves, The Last Sunday in June,* and *Secrets of the Trade*. His film work with screenwriting partner Seth Bass includes *The Twilight of the Golds* starring Brendan Fraser and Faye Dunaway, and *Martian* 

*Child* starring John Cusack and Amanda Peet. Television work includes *Night Rap* on HBO, *Queer As Folk* on Showtime, the 2000 and 2002 Academy Awards, and the 2003 Tony Awards.



#### JUDE HANSEN DIRECTOR

Jude Hansen was most recently seen on stage at Live Arts as both Jason and Rexy in THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE (2022). In Chicago, career highlights include producing (and starring in) *Angry Fags* at the Steppenwolf Garage Rep Series and directing the award-winning production of *The Submission*. As a company member, Jude performed in numerous productions and readings for

Pride, Films and Plays. Jude was also a company member with Shapeshifters Theatre, which produced monthly evenings of theater at the Irish American Heritage Center. Other Chicago companies Jude has worked with include The House Theatre, Kinematics, Piccolo, Halcyon, and Redmoon. Jude is a prior recipient of the Australian National Young Playwrights award.



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Promo photo by Will Kerner at Consignment House Gallery

#### **MEET THE PERFORMER**



#### JACK CLIFFORD as ALEX MORE

Jack is thrilled to be in his first show at Live Arts. After growing up on California's central coast, Jack studied theater at Saint Mary's College of California. He is now in his final semester of the UVA Professional Actor Training Program, where he will receive his MFA. Jack hopes to pursue teaching and performing upon completion of his degree. Recent UVA stage credits include Willoughby in *Sense & Sensibility* (2022), Russ/Bill in *How to Live on Earth* (2022), Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2021), and Joe Ryan in *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2021).

#### **PRODUCTION TEAM BIOS**

#### MIMI HALPERN | Props/Costume Designer, Set Dresser

Mimi can't thank Live Arts enough for this fabulous experience. What could be more fun than imagining the world of Barbra. As the saying goes, Hello Gorgeous!

#### SARAH HARDEN | Sound Designer

Sarah is a fourth year at UVA. You may have heard her work in *Direct to You* (UVA, 2023), *Sense & Sensibility* (UVA, 2022), and *16 Winters* (assistant sound designer, UVA, 2022).

#### KYNDAL HARRISON | Lighting Designer

Kyndal (she/her) is a fourth year drama and English major from Lorton, VA. She has performed in only one production and hopes to never perform again. Design credits include *Twelfth Night* (UVA, 2023), *Falsettoland* (Virginia Players, 2022), *A Chorus Line* (Spectrum Theatre, 2022), *The Kitty Cycle* (Virginia Players, 2022), *Something Rotten* (First Year Players, 2022), and *Curtains* (First Year Players, 2021).



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#### 1st Place Winner of the Readers' Choice Awards for the Past 8 Years

#### JAVIER PEREZ | Projections Designer

Javier (he/him) has been doing theater in some capacity for six years, ever since his stage debut in a high school production of *Peter Pan Jr.* His recent technical experience includes sound design for the UVA New Works Festival (2022) and working as projection assistant on *Unholy Wars* (Spoleto Festival, 2022). He is excited to bring what he's learned to his first outing as a projections designer.

#### RUSELL PETRO | Scenic Designer

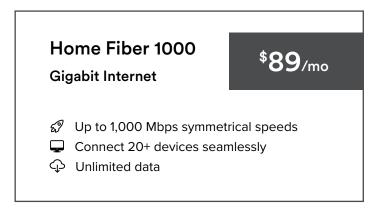
Russell (he/him) is a fourth year undergraduate student at UVA studying architecture who also holds teaching and research assistant positions. In the world of theater, Russell has been singing and dancing on stage since he was a kid, mostly credited to Barbra Streisand, of course. At UVA, he's spent his time designing, performing, and choreographing. UVA credits include assistant scenic designer for *Twelfth Night* (UVA Drama Department, 2023), choreographer and Paul in *A Chorus Line* (Spectrum Theater, 2022), scenic designer for *Curtains* (First Year Players, 2022), choreographer for *Something Rotten!* (First Year Players, 2022), director of *Working: the Musical* (First Year Players, 2020), and ensemble in *Love and Information* (UVA Drama Department, 2020).

ELIZABETH ROSE | Production Stage Manager/Choreographer Elizabeth is an actor recently seen as the Reporter in ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST. She lived in NYC long enough to call herself a true New Yorker and was a performing member of two theater companies there. Elizabeth has loved working with this team and sincerely thanks Jude for the opportunity to collaborate on many aspects of this show.

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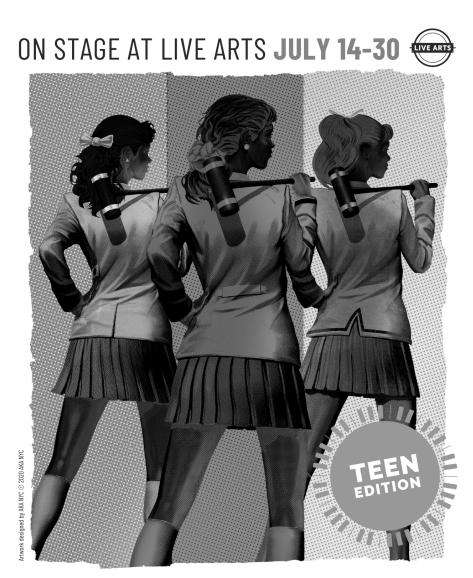
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BOOK, MUSIC, & LYRICS BY **KEVIN MURPHY &** LAURENCE O'KEEFE

HEATHER: The Musical DIRECTED BY DANIEL KUNKEL MUSICAL DIRECTION BY ABBY SMITH CHOREOGRAPHY BY ANNE TALKINGTON BASED ON THE FILM BY DANIEL WATERS

#### WHO MAKES THIS WORK

#### **SETS & LIGHTS**

Caroline Abdenour-Brown Hil Barnett Will Barnett Tom Bloom Chuck Cheesman Etta Feigert

#### **FRONT OF HOUSE**

Hope Bagley Erin Bulinski Max Bulinski Deborah Caudle Elaine Chapman Roberta Cook Alex Davis Brian Dowd Malcolm Dyson Nick Evans Joan Forrest Margaret Gardiner Eric Gilchrist Amv Goffman Dave Goldstein Ruth Mary Hall Brian Hamshar Edwina Herring

- Lita Flowers Skyler Kuyk Cosmo Kuzmick Elias Masri Lindsay Meck Lyra McKee Savannah Meriweather
- John Owen Christine Robertson Fran Smith Emily Torman Ben Venerus Tony Walker Kris Williams

Sue Horne Jim Horstkotte Ginny Hoverman Michele Howe Demitri Kalogeropoulos Jane McDonald Mark McLane Margaret Migas Patrick Migas David Minton Kathi Minton Susan Munson Sandra Pai Sarah Peaslee John Rabasa Tom Raney Julia Robertson

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#### PLAYBILL

Design by Katie Rogers

Production Photos by Will Kerner

Cover Art: A derivative of "1964 ... Barbra Streisand" by x-ray delta one; Adobe Stock #316951850

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As Live Arts' pro-bono attorney, Jim gives generously of his time and expertise. We are incredible grateful for his wise counsel and commitment to forging theater and community in Charlottesville!

# WE'RE HIRING 2023 Live Arts Summer Staff



We are looking for enthusiastic, energetic individuals to join our team of camp counselors and administrative interns who make Live Arts theater camps possible! All positions include a weekly stipend.

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If there is an error or you would like your name to appear in a different format, please contact Development Manager Ronda Hewitt at ronda@livearts.org.

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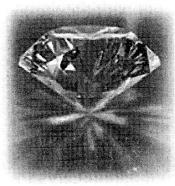
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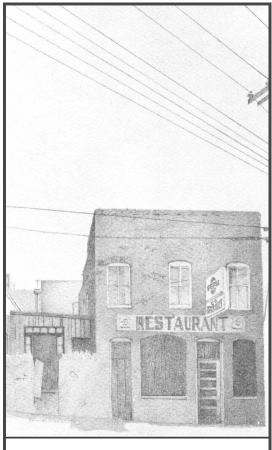
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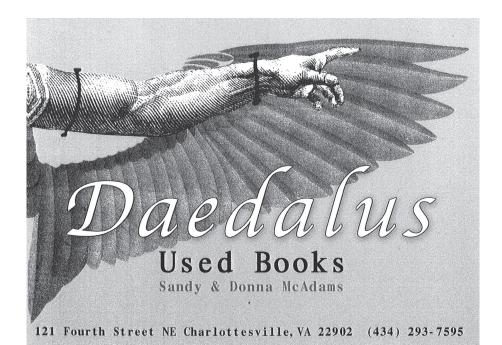


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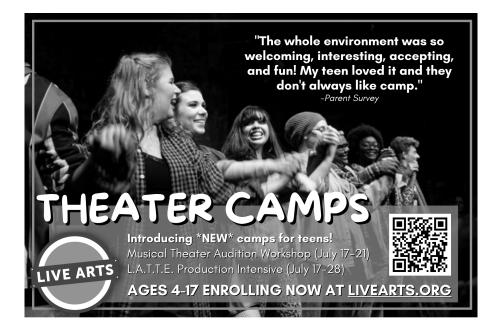
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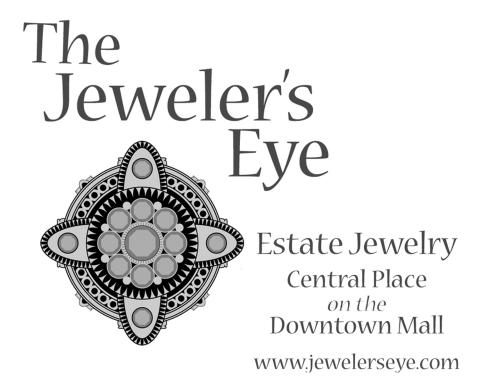


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Jack Clifford as Alex More in BUYER & CELLAR. Photo by Will Kerner.





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