



By Special Arrangement With
Playscripts

**2023
Season**

AIRNESS

by Chelsea Marcantel

An epic comedy about air
guitar competitions,
community building, and
finding your inner rockstar.

**THIS PRODUCTION INCLUDES
THE USE OF STROBE LIGHTS AND
ADULT LANGUAGE**

Airness ('er-nəs) adjective: the extent to
which an air guitar performance
transcends the imitation of a real guitar
and becomes an art form in and of itself.

February 9-19

Thursday-Saturday - 7:30 | Sunday Matinee - 3pm

In The Ruth & Bucky Stein Studio Theatre

Big Dawg Productions
is proud to present
AIRNESS
By Chelsea Marchantel

When Nina enters her first air guitar competition, she thinks winning will be easy. But as she befriends a group of charismatic nerds all committed to becoming the next champion, she discovers that there's more to this art form than playing pretend; it's about finding yourself in your favorite songs, and performing with raw joy. Following her mission to shred or be shredded, will Nina be able to let go and set herself free onstage? AIRNESS is an epic comedy about building community and finding your inner rock star.

"Straight out, it's the most fun I have had at the theater all year"
(Talkin' Broadway)

Winner of the American Theatre Critics' New Play Award

Presented by Arrangement With Playscripts

Time - Now

Setting - Various dirty, dingy bars in urban areas across the US.

Directed By Jace Carlyle Berry

Cast

Shreddy Eddy - Josh Bailey
Golden Thunder - Chad Hsu
Facebender - Anthony Lawson
CANNIBAL QUEEN..... Ashley Flowers
The Nina - Bianca Shaw
D Vicious - Atwood Pendragon
Announcer/Sprite Exec./Hooded Figure - Molly Albright

Crew

Stage Manager - Terri Hsu
Costume Design - Stephanie Scheu Aman
Lighting Design - Aurora Flores
Sound Design - Steve Vernon
Board Operators - Ashley Finn
Marketing & Publicity - Jen Ingulli, Zach Peschl, Robin Dale Robertson

PROLOGUE: Last Year's National Championship
SCENE 1: Staten Island, NY- Qualifier
VIGNETTE 1: Competition Videos
SCENE 2: San Diego, CA- Western Conference Finals
SCENE 3: Boston, Mass- Mid Atlantic Conference Finals
VIGNETTE 2: Vicious' s Sprite Commercial
SCENE 4: Chicago, IL- Central Conference Finals
SCENE 5: New York- Eastern Conference Finals
SCENE 6: New York- After the Loss/ Invite to the Dark Horse
VIGNETTE 3: The Dark Horse Competition
SCENE 7: Los Angeles- The National Championship

US Air Guitar League Standard Rules of Play

US Air Guitar contests each consist of two rounds:

Round 1 (freestyle): each competitor performs to a song of their choice, with top 5 advancing to round 2

Round 2 (compulsory): advancing competitors from round 1 will perform surprise song

This year's live Regionals will abide by the standard US Air Guitar performance rules:

Each performance is played to 1 minute (60 sec.) of a song

The 60 seconds can start anywhere in the song

The instrument must be invisible & must be a guitar

Air roadies are allowed, but must leave the stage before the performance

Back-up bands (air or real) are not allowed

US Air Guitar League Judging Criteria

For each Regional, there is a jury of independent judges. The results of the jury cannot be protested. All performances are scored on a scale from 4.0 to 6.0, with 6.0 being the highest possible. Scores are given to one decimal point (e.g. 5.4, not 5.48). A single score is given to each air guitarist based on their overall performance in that round. The scores from BOTH ROUNDS are added to determine the contestants' final scores. This combined score determines the winner.

The score reflects the quality of the performance based on three key criteria:

1. Technical merit

You don't have to know what notes you're playing, but the more your invisible fretwork corresponds to the music that's playing, the better the performance.

2. Stage presence

Anyone can do it in the privacy of their bedroom. Few have what it takes to rock a crowd of hundreds or even thousands - all without an instrument.

3. Airness

The last criteria is the most difficult to define yet often the most decisive of all. Airness is defined as the extent to which a performance transcends the imitation of a real guitar and becomes an art form in and of itself.

Bios

Josh Bailey (Shreddy Eddy) is so thankful for the opportunity to be onstage shredding an air guitar! This is his 10th year in Wilmington theatre, and has most recently attended magic school in "Puffs", played every third Christmas character in "Every Christmas Story Ever Told", and lost a dear friend in "The Explorer's Club". He would like to thank friends, Ronnie, the insane talent of Jace, and Steve for the support and opportunity. And thanks to YOU, the audience. Are you ready to rock?

Chad Hsu (Golden Thunder) can't express his gratitude for the opportunity to perform in the Wilmington community and with Big Dawg. Some of his recent roles were George in "Kinky Boots", Vince Fontaine in "Grease", and Mr. Avila in "Let the Right One in". Chad would like to thank Jace and Steve for trusting him with this role. Most of all, he would like to thank his wife, Terri, for her continued support and for sharing the passion for theater. Hope that you enjoy the show and ROCK ON!

Anthony Lawson (Facebender) is the Artistic Director for Panache Theatrical Productions. This is his first time returning to the stage in over three years. Unfortunately, he can't hang out after the show because he spends all of his free time with his dog Jameson. He also enjoys carrot cake and Tron.

Ashley Flowers (Cannibal Queen) is a local actress, model and theatre technician. She was recently seen in Don Fried's "Blood Privilege" and is a featured dancer on Season 3 of "Hightown" (STARZ). Flowers would like to thank the crew, the cast and her support system. She would also like to remind the audience to take a deep breath, leave the reality of the world behind and enjoy the show!

Bianca Shaw (The Nina) was raised in Wilmington, NC. She began acting at TheateNOW and has now been apart of 20 productions here in Wilmington. She recently was awarded Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Musical from Thalian Association for her role as Crystal in "Little Shop of Horrors". Bianca is humbled to be in her second straight play, both under Big Dawg Productions. She would like to thank Steve Vernon and Jace Berry for believing in her artistic abilities. She would also like to give a huge thank you to the cast for guiding her through this process. Enjoy the show and she hopes you can too find your true AIRNESS.

Atwood Pendragon (D Vicious) is a Wilmington local and grateful for Big Dawg's tenacious endurance on the Wilmington theater scene. He can be found most weekends along with other members of the cast playing Dungeons and Dragons on the Casting Roles Youtube page.

Molly Albright (Announcer/Hooded Figure/Sprite Exec) graduated in 2019 from Duke with majors in Biology and Theatre, where she did a lot of both. Since moving to Wilmington last Spring, Molly most recently portrayed Hannah in "Puffs". Prior to that, she portrayed Madame Mortelle in the Haunted Forest at Panic Point, where she learned she takes immense pleasure in making people fear for their lives, in a controlled setting. When not pondering the moral questionability of that last statement, Molly works as a shellfish research technician, touching the lives of tens of millions of larvae each day. She is honored to be working with Jace and Big Dawg Productions, and thanks them along with her family and friends, for believing in her.

Terri Hsu (Stage Manager) is pleased to continue shadow walking in this production with Big Dawg. Recently, she could be found as SM for "Kinky Boots", "Diary of Anne Frank", "Newsies", and ASM for "Grease", all with OHTC. She was also SM for "Always a Bridesmaid" and "Every Christmas Story Ever Told" with Big Dawg. She would like to thank Jace and Steve for the invitation to work on this unique and fun show! Her undying gratitude goes to her husband Chad Hsu a.k.a. GOLDEN THUNDER for sharing a passion for the theatre with her.

Jace Carlyle Berry (Director) is honored to be directing their second play with Big Dawg. Previous local directing credits: "Always a Bridesmaid" (Big Dawg Productions) and "The Cake" (Panache Theatrical Productions). They have also been seen onstage in several Big Dawg shows, including "Let the Right One In" (Eli), "Men on Boats" (Old Shady), "The Revolutionists" (Charlotte Corday), and "Agnes of God" (Agnes). Endless thanks to Steve Vernon and Big Dawg for the opportunity and the cast and crew for all of their dedication and enthusiasm. For those about to rock, we salute you.

Special Thanks to the staff and volunteers at the Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Alice Morgan Sherwood, Jeff Loy, Gravity Records, Bass Pluckers, Guitar Pickers, Reggie's 42nd St. Tavern, Susan Auten, Ed Wagonseller, Steve Rassin, Bryan Jacobs and Lula's (A Pub), James Bowling, You (yes, YOU), Terry Collins, Donna Troy, Robin Dale Robertson, Beth Swindell.

Extra Special Thanks to All of our family members, friends, employers, pets, creditors, responsibilities, financial obligations and significant others for allowing us time and space to create and play.

Big Dawg's Mission

To produce entertaining, thought-provoking, and socially responsible theater, with an emphasis on involving youth and the community in the performing arts.

Board Of Directors

Jeff Loy - President

Zach Peschl - Vice President

Randy Davis - Treasurer

Jen Ingulli - Secretary

Latuan Dannis, Mitch Katzman, Dan Levine, Rob Mann

Steve Vernon - Artistic Director

Donna Troy - Technical Director

Vet Techs (Our amazing volunteers who help make things happen)

Susan Auten, Paula Davis, Sean Binkley

Get Involved

If you are interested in becoming a board member of Big Dawg Productions send a message to BigDawgPro@gmail.com

A BIG THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Big Dawg Productions extends its sincere thanks to all those who donated to us this season.

Director's Circle (\$500 and above)

Griffin & Rowan Davis, Dawg Lovers - a group of dedicated followers, Lorraine O. Hiester, Michael Lauricella & Andy McVey, Nancy Nail, Steve Rassin

Benefactor (\$250-\$499)

Jon Fycyk & Zach Peschl, Bobby & Mitch Katzman, Judi Mack, Jeff Loy, Kathleen & Captain Rick Morrison, Printworks

Patron (\$100-\$249)

Donna C. Coulson, Don Fried, Karl Hess & Camille Kurtz, Judy & Bob Porter, Mary & Stanley Shelton, Ed Wagonseller

Friend (\$50-\$99)

Susan Auten, Allison Callahan, Anabela Freeland, Michelle & Clark Wheeler

AND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to the various government and non-governmental agencies for their grants and loans that helped sustain us through the pandemic.

BIG DAWG PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY ANNOUNCES OUR 2023 SEASON!

All productions will take place here, in The Ruth & Bucky Stein Studio Theatre, at Historic Thalian Hall. All plays and dates subject to change.

TWO JEWS, TALKING by Ed. Weinberger

March 2-5 and March 9-12

AN EXCLUSIVE PREMIERE

Fresh from it's successful Off-Broadway opening run and with exclusive performance rights and the kind permission of Bialystock & Bloom and Friends LLC.

Two Jews, Talking takes us on a hilarious romp through time! Two one-act plays bring Lou and Bud together in the Biblical past, and Phil and Marty together in contemporary Long Island. They philosophize about women, sex, food, the divine, and destiny in this tale of companionship and friendship. The show's humor evokes a sense of nostalgia for simpler times - when comedy was rooted in pure fun.

Written by Emmy, Peabody, and Golden Globe winning writer Ed. Weinberger.
Originally directed by OBIE Award-winning director Dan Wackerman.

WOMEN PLAYING HAMLET by William Missouri Downs

March 30-April 2 and April 6-9

Hamlet is a challenge for any actor, but when Jessica is cast as the titular character, it sends her into an existential tailspin. It doesn't help that her acting coach is borderline abusive, or that every Starbucks barista with an MFA tells her she's too young for the role. Or that she's somehow managed to make Sir Patrick Stewart her nemesis. Or that she's a woman. How can Jessica figure out "to be or not to be," when she can't even figure out herself? Featuring an all-female cast performing multiple roles.

THE CHINESE LADY by Lloyd Suh

June 8-11 and 15-18

Inspired by a true story, 14-year-old Afong May is brought to America in 1834, the first Chinese woman to set foot on U.S. soil. She is put on display for the paying public, who are mesmerized by her exotic ways, and unnerved by her bound feet. As the decades wear on, her celebrated sideshow comes to define and challenge her very sense of identity. The Chinese Lady is a dark, poetic, yet whimsical portrait of America, unearthing our hidden history with humor and insight.

THE DOG LOGS by CJ Johnson

August 10-13 and 17-20

From a tough Rottweiler with neighbor problems to an aging mongrel who discovers love late in life, this collection of hilarious and heartbreaking monologues examines the lives of dogs from every breed, age, and situation. Telling stories of friendship, romance, and revenge, THE DOG LOGS is a refreshing take on canine life that is touching and surprisingly human.

****All dogs will be portrayed by humans. No actual dogs will be forced to get jobs waiting tables or made to disappoint their parents by entering the Arts.**

WAITING FOR GODOT by Samuel Beckett

October 12-15 and 19-22

The story revolves around two seemingly homeless men waiting for someone—or something—named Godot. Vladimir and Estragon wait near a tree, inhabiting a drama spun of their own consciousness. The result is a comical wordplay of poetry, dreamscapes, and nonsense, which has been interpreted as mankind's inexhaustible search for meaning. Beckett's language pioneered an expressionistic minimalism that captured the existential post-World War II Europe. His play remains one of the most magical and beautiful allegories of our time.

BAD JEWS by Joshua Harmon

December 7-10 and 14-17

Set in Manhattan, the night after their grandfather's funeral, a family's younger generation battles over a precious heirloom, with intense debates over who is most deserving of the inheritance. Will it be volatile and self-assured Daphna, who considers herself a "real" Jew, with an Israeli boyfriend to prove it; or cousin Liam, who Daphna calls a "bad" Jew, with his secular ways and non-Jewish girlfriend? Stuck in the middle is Liam's brother, Jonah, who desperately tries to stay out of the fray. The vicious and occasionally hilarious brawl over family, faith and legacy is must-see theater.

ANNOUNCING THE RETURN OF THE FLEX PASS

Do you love community theater and want to support Big Dawg Productions? Our **FLEX PASS** is ideal for the theater lover, and will save you a few dollars as well. Here's how it works:

Big Dawg will place 6 or 12 vouchers in your name with the Thalian Hall Box Office to be used for any of Big Dawg play(s) in our 2023 Season. To redeem your vouchers, call the Box Office (910-632-2285; M - F: 2PM - 5PM) or log in to your Thalian Hall account at thalianhall.org/login using the email where you received your tickets for today's show. Please allow 2-3 business days from the time of purchase for the Thalian Hall Box Office to update your account.

Use your **FLEX PASS** vouchers any way you please, use them for 2 vouchers for 3 shows, one voucher for every show, it's **FLEXible**!

FLEX 6: \$194 (fees included) - a 7% discount ... you save the sales tax!

FLEX 12: \$372 (fees included) - another 5% off ... we appreciate your loyalty!

Get your **FLEX 6** or **FLEX 12** online today at: bigdawgproductions.org/shop or you can mail a check to:

Big Dawg Productions, 432 Landmark Drive Suite 1, Wilmington, NC 28412
(Please include **FLEX 6** or **FLEX 12** in the memo line)

If you'd like to add a Donation to your **FLEX 6** or **FLEX 12** purchase, we thank you most sincerely.



Shades of
*Publè*SM
Feb 16th
7:30pm
ThalianHall.org

PNC PRESENTS

Greetings from
BROADWAY!
at the
WILSON CENTER

Tootsie OCT. 18, 2022	ANASTASIA NOV. 4-5, 2022	LET'S GET IT ON YOUR FEET! NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 2022
Annie JAN. 28-29, 2023	THE BOOK OF MORMON FEB. 7-9, 2023	25 YEARS OF RAZZLE DAZZLE CHICAGO MAR. 4-5, 2023
LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL MAR. 21-22, 2023	THE FIVE YEAR SUPERSTAR APR. 18-19, 2023	MY FAIR LADY MAY 6-7, 2023

WILSON CENTER PRESENTS WilsonCenterTickets.com 910.362.7999

In The Ruth & Bucky Stein Studio Theatre

TWO JEWS, TALKING
The Hilarious New Comedy, Written By Ed. Weinberger

March 2-12

EXCLUSIVE PREMIERE
Fresh from a successful Off-Broadway run

BIG DAWG PRODUCTIONS

PRODUCED WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF BIALYSTOCK & BLOOM AND FRIENDS, LLC