

In The Ruth & Bucky Stein Studio Theatre



WAITING FOR GODOT

Written By Samuel Beckett

Directed By
Steve Vernon

Starring
Jon Wallin
Randy Davis
James Bowling
Kevin Wilson
Kevin Williams

October 12th - 22nd 2023
Thursday-Saturday - 7:30 | Sunday Matinée - 3pm

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BigDawgProductions.org

Tickets: \$28
ThalianHall.org

Big Dawg Productions
is proud to present

Waiting For Godot

A Tragicomedy in Two Acts
By Samuel Beckett

Characters:

Estragon - Randy Davis
Vladimir - Jon Wallin
Pozzo - James Bowling
Lucky - Kevin Wilson
A Boy - Kevin Williams

Act 1- A Country Road, Evening.
Act 2- Next Day. Same Time. Same Place.
There will be a 15 minute Intermission.

Director - Steve Vernon
Assistant Director - Jennifer Opresnick
Stage Manager - Riley Farmer
Set Design/Scenic Painting - Donna Troy
Costume Design - Naomi Nason
Sound Design - Steve Vernon
Board Ops - Riley Farmer, Naomi Nason
Light Design - Cole Marquis
Publicity - Jen Ingulli, Zach Peschl, James Bowling

Waiting for Godot is a play by Irish playwright Samuel Beckett in which two characters, Vladimir (Didi) and Estragon (Gogo), engage in a variety of discussions and encounters while awaiting the titular Godot. It is Beckett's translation of his own original French-language play, *En attendant Godot*, and is subtitled (in English only) "a tragicomedy in two acts".

The original French text was composed between 9 October 1948 and 29 January 1949. The premiere, directed by Roger Blin, was on 5 January 1953 at the Théâtre de Babylone, Paris. The English-language version premiered in London in 1955. In a poll conducted by the British Royal National Theatre in 1998/99, it was voted the "most significant English-language play of the 20th century".

The play is the most famous example of Absurdist theatre. Absurdism was an artistic and philosophical movement developed in Europe in the 19th century. Absurdism is the philosophical theory that the universe is irrational and meaningless. It states that trying to find meaning leads people into a conflict with the world. The absurdist movement in the 20th century saw a rise in prominence in response to the horrors inflicted on Humanity by the second World War. The play has multiple themes borrowed from vaudeville, religion, psychoanalysis, class structure, existentialism and other disciplines. It is, therefore, open to a wide array of interpretations.

The play asks more questions than it answers. It does not force an opinion of God or Humanity on the audience so much as it invites the audience to form their own. Complete with silly hats, moments of slapstick and circular conversations.

So, why produce *Godot* now? What present day horrors have we collectively faced, especially in the last three years, that would warrant reflection on the themes of waiting for help or salvation or relief or direction that may or may not ever arrive?

What *Godot* have we been waiting for? More importantly perhaps, why have we chosen to wait?

“Was I sleeping, while the others suffered? Am I sleeping now? Tomorrow, when I wake, or think I do, what shall I say of today?”- Vladimir

BIOS

Steve Vernon (Director) has been producing and directing theatre in Wilmington for 30 years. Sometimes he acts as well. Steve is the Artistic Director of Big Dawg Productions, a position he has held for 11 years. His advice to you is to “Be the *Godot* you’ve been waiting for”.

Riley Farmer (Stage Manager/Board Op) won a patience award in kindergarten for being so good at waiting. She has previously stage managed ***Women Playing Hamlet*** and ***Dog Logs***.

Jennifer Opresnick (Assistant Director) is an episodic television Director who recently joined Big Dawg Productions. She has twenty plus years in production in the New York film community as a script supervisor and started directing in 2019. Jennifer is currently shadowing Director Steve Vernon on ***Waiting for Godot***. She is an alum of Tisch School of the Arts Film program at NYU and is an active member in the DGA’s Women’s Steering Committee, Focus on Women Committee and is grateful for the opportunity to work in the Wilmington Theater Community.

Naomi Nason (Costume Design) is so incredibly grateful to have been given the opportunity to costume her first show for Big Dawg! She has worked mostly backstage doing hair, makeup, costumes, and lighting for numerous theatre groups over the past couple years. She’d like to thank Steve Vernon for trusting her with this project. She would also like to thank Stephanie Aman for assisting her as well as Debbie Scheu, and Dori Nason for helping along the way.

Randy Davis (Estragon) has waited what seemed an eternity to return to the Big Dawg stage. He hasn’t been seen performing with them since their production of *Dog Logs* which was either their last show, 50 years ago, or somewhere in between. He’s trained for this role for decades: for Gogo’s endless, circular conversations with Didi (the only person he really likes being around) by being married to his lovely wife, Vanessa, for the last 17 years, and for the interminable wait for *Godot* by having 2 teen/preteen boys who may or may not have come out of their room in the last few years. Thanks to the cast and crew for being the 2nd best group he’s ever experienced purgatory with. Definitely top 5.

Jon Wallin (Vladimir) has been waiting a long time for an opportunity to work on this play. He would like to thank Steve Vernon and everyone at Big Dawg Productions for this opportunity. Previous roles include, Huck in ***The Fantasticks***, Brother Jeremiah in ***Something Rotten***, and Caldwell B. Cladwell in ***Urinetown*** (Wilmington Star News award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical). He would also like to thank Chandler Davis for everything!

James Bowling (Pozzo) is proud to be working with Big Dawg again. His credits include directing Celia Rivenbark/Kevin Parker's sold out run of *This Hurricane Blows* as well as directing *Barefoot in the Park*. James has appeared in *Rumors* and *The Book of Will* and played Willy Lowman in *Death of A Salesman*. Thanks to Joel and the kids for letting him come out and play.

Kevin Wilson is a native of Wilmington who has been performing on its stages since 1989 when he got his start in Tapestry Theatre Company's *Thy Fearful Symmetry*. He was last seen in Panache Theatre's *Santaland Diaries*. He is thrilled to be working with Big Dawg Productions, who has provided decades of opportunity and support. Special thanks to my mom, dad, and brother for a lifetime of encouragement, Steve and the cast and crew for a beautiful experience, you the audience who have committed themselves to the support of the arts in our city, and mostly to my wife, Amanda and daughter, Paris who inspire me to find the beauty in every day.

Kevin Williams (The Boy) was raised in Wilmington, NC, and has lived there for the past 5 years. Since then, he has performed in *High School Musical Junior*, *Cry Wolf*, *Children of Eden*, *Charlie Brown*, and *Let the Right One In*, to name a few. He is glad to be working under Steve Vernon and Big Dawg Productions, and he is very thankful to be part of such a fun experience!

Special Thanks to the staff and volunteers at the Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Dorothy Rankin and Lee Lowrimore, Bryan Jacobs and Lula's (A Pub), James Bowling, You (yes, YOU), Terry Collins, Paula Davis, Chris Jarman.

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.

First Stop, Wilmington

The Off-Broadway Express



Thanks to a successful partnership with MarMaxMedia, Big Dawg Productions is now an Off-Broadway Producer investing in new shows to bring straight to Wilmington.

Already running Off-Broadway are two plays by New York Times bestselling author, Tawni O'Dell, entitled *Windows* and *Pay the Writer*. *Windows* is a series of monologues that look back at the first few months of the COVID pandemic.

Pay the Writer is a sophisticated comedy-drama that delves into the dynamics of a unique 40-year friendship between a gay literary agent and a world-renowned African American novelist. We look forward to bringing these shows and more from Off-Broadway to Wilmington in the years to come.

A poster for the Thalian Association Community Theatre 2023-24 Season Main Stage. The background is a deep red with a gold border and a spotlight effect in the center. The text is white and gold. At the top left is the Thalian Association logo. At the top right is the text "2023-24 SEASON MAIN STAGE". The main title "Must See Theatre" is in large, bold, white letters. Below it are the following shows and dates:

- A Chorus Line**
SEPT 29 - OCT 8
- Elf The Musical**
DEC 7-17
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES
DEC 14/7:30 PM DEC 16/2:00 PM
- Steel Magnolias**
FEB 9-18
- Disney's Beauty & The Beast**
APR 5-14
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE APR 13/2:00 PM
- The SpongeBob Musical**
MAY 17-26
A WILMINGTON PREMIERE
FRI-SAT 7:30 PM SUN 2:00 PM | THALIAN HALL
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At the bottom, in gold letters, are the names "BRADFORD BROWN/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR" and "SUSAN HABAS/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR".

A BIG THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Big Dawg Productions extends its sincere thanks to all those who donated to us in the last year. Big Dawg Productions is a 501c3 non-profit organization, every dollar supports local theatre, local actors and crews, and allows us to continue bringing unique and thought provoking (or at least funny) theatre to the stage and expand our community impact with new programs.

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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.



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More Information



BIG DAWG PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS THE REST OF 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.

BAD JEWS

A comedy about the complexities of faith, family and cultural identity.

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.

STAY TUNED FOR OUR 2024 SEASON!

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

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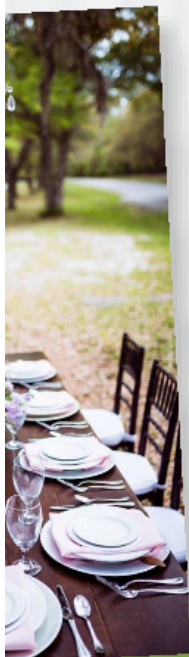
La'Tuan Danns, Dan Levine, Rob Mann, Kari Sea

Steve Vernon - Artistic Director

Donna Troy - Technical Director

Get Involved

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



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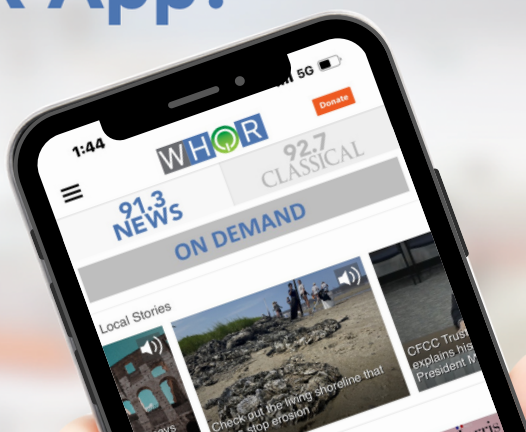
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