



First Stop, Wilmington

The Off-Broadway Express



WINDOWS

Our quarantine days in perspective

A breathtaking new play
by Tawni O'Dell

April 18-28, 2024

In The Ruth & Bucky Stein Studio Theatre at Thalian Hall

Big Dawg Productions
is proud to present
WINDOWS
OUR QUARANTINE IN PERSPECTIVE
By Tawni O'Dell

Holli Saperstein.....Director
Jennifer Opresnick....Assistant Director
Terri Hsu....Stage Manager, Backstage Magician
Chad Hsu....Visual Design, Sound Design, Baker of Stress Cookies, Board Operator
Cole Marquis.....Lighting Design
Terry Collins.....Set Design
Terry Collins, Shelby Collins....Set Construction

Starring:

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Meagan Golden.....The Wife
Beth Corvino.....The Fledgling
Anne O'Shea.....The Neighbor
Bradley Coxe.....The Writer
Terri Hsu.....Sam
Kevin Lee-Y Green.....The Performer
Kent West.....The Soldier
Nick Smith.....The Drinker
Paula Davis.....The Bubbeh
Yeavonne Cox.....The Owner
Craig Myers.....The Protestor
Krista Rivenbark.....The Mommy

Setting: Various Locations, Time: The Year 2020

Act I

Scene One: Being Seen (The Wife)
Scene Two: Windows (The Fledgling, The Neighbor)
Scene Three: The Man Who Couldn't Google (The Writer)
Scene Four: Thank You for Your Service (The Performer, The Soldier)

INTERMISSION

Act II

Scene Five: Second Thoughts (The Drinker)
Scene Six: Nurse #5 (The Bubbeh)
Scene Seven: National Pastime (The Owner, The Protester)
Scene Eight: Working From Home (The Mommy)

Windows made its world debut on March 25th of 2024 at The Town Hall, in New York City. The production was directed by Mitchell Maxwell and starred Avantika, Craig Bierko, Tony Danza, Jeffrey Donovan, Erin Darke, Tovah Feldshuh, Adam Kantor, Carolyn McCormick, Jesse Nager and Tonya Pinkens.

Windows is being presented by special arrangement with the play's author, Ms. Tawni O'Dell. Big Dawg Productions is the first company to present *Windows* outside of that run, and presently the only company in the country to hold production rights, due to our financial support for the play's premier.

We are most grateful to Ms. O'Dell for her reciprocating our support of her work and allowing Big Dawg to deliver a first look to our audience.

Bios

Tawni O'Dell (Playwright) is a critically acclaimed, New York Times bestselling novelist who opened her first play, *When It Happens to You*, to strong reviews off-Broadway in 2019. She's the author of six novels including *Back Roads*, which was an Oprah Winfrey Book Club selection and a motion picture that premiered at the 2018 TriBeCa Film Festival with a screenplay adapted by Tawni. She also wrote and co-produced the popular audio drama, *Rewrites*. Her highly acclaimed podcast *Closing the Distance* featuring Kathleen Turner, William Hurt, Tony Danza, Jason Alexander, and Kelli O' Hara is in pre-production for a Broadway engagement in 2022-2025 retitled *Windows*. Her novels have been published in over thirty countries and her writing has appeared in anthologies, magazines, and newspapers throughout the world. She's the mother of two, a native of western Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Northwestern University.

Holli Saperstein (Director) is an actor, director and producer. She has been seen on stage in *Misery*, *Funny Girl*, *Becoming Dr. Ruth*, *Erma Bombeck: At Wits End*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Parallel Lives*, *The Laramie Project*, *Night Mother*, *The Diviners*, *Vanya*, *Sonya*, *Masha and Spike*, *Good People*, and *The Guys*. She was the Director of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Crimes of the Heart*, *The Explorers Club*, and *The Cake*. Her production company, Panache Productions, has won awards for their outstanding productions in Wilmington including *Fun Home* and *Lizzie*. Holli has appeared on film and television in *Are You There God, It's me Margaret*, *Stranger Things*, *Halloween Kills*, *The Act*, *Vice Principals*, as well as other upcoming roles.

Jennifer Opresnick (Assistant Director) is excited to be shadowing Director, Holli Saperstein in Big Dawg's presentation of *Windows*. Jennifer has also shadowed Director Steve Vernon on *Waiting for Godot* and was involved with Big Dawg on *The Chinese Lady*. Jennifer has worked in the film industry in Wilmington for 20 years and is grateful for the opportunity to also be involved in Wilmington's theater community.

Terri Hsu (Backstage Superhero and Sam's Voice) is jazzed about *Windows*. She's directed and managed stages from Savannah to Wilmington, including a double take on *Every Christmas Story Ever Told* with Big Dawg Productions. She also directed *The Chinese Lady* for Big Dawg. Big thanks to Holli Saperstein for the wisdom, Steve Vernon for the gig, and her hubby Chad for being the ultimate theatre plus-one.

Chad Hsu (Projections/Sounds/Tech) is elated to have the opportunity to participate in this production showing us different perspectives of our very recent history. I hope that the content helps remind us of how precious and fragile our lives are and for us to live every minute to the fullest. I would like to thank Steve, Holly, and my lovely wife, Terri, for involving me in this show.

Meagan Golden (The Wife) is excited to be doing her first show with Big Dawg. Some of her previous Wilmington credits include *Beehive*, *Lizzie*, and *Matilda*. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Windows* and everyone that bought a ticket. Thank you for supporting local theatre! ...she also really hopes that she got this bio turned in on time.

Beth Corvino (The Fledgling) is happy to spend her annual play allowance on Big Dawg! She was last seen in Thalian Association's *The Philadelphia Story* and *Urinetown*, and Pineapple-Shaped Lamps' production of *Puffs*. She is very excited to be working with Holli Saperstein and the whole cast and crew, and hopes Steve will always roast her when she shows up late.

Anne O'Shea (The Neighbor) is delighted and grateful to be back on stage in Wilmington! Past ILM appearances include roles in *Gypsy*, *Chicago*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Look Homeward Angel* to name a few. She is proud to be working for Big Dawg Productions and has enjoyed the opportunity to be directed by the incomparable Holli Saperstein. She totally appreciates the acknowledgment that she's not dead yet. A special shout out to Brian and her sister Christy for their support!

Bradley Coxe (The Writer) is a native of Wilmington, an attorney in the law firm, Hodges & Coxe LLP, and the President of Thalian Association Community Theatre. Favorite performances include *Crimes of the Heart* for Big Dawg Productions, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* for Panache Theatrical Productions, *The Real Thing*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Noises Off!*, *Rumors*, *Sleuth*, and most recently *The Philadelphia Story* for Thalian Association. He would like to thank his wife Julie for her support, and his children and former line coaches, Ella and Gavin.

Kevin Lee-Y Green (The Performer) is an award winning Dancer, Director and Choreographer, as well as the founder of Techmoja Dance and Theatre Company, along with his late mother Donna Green. He has produced, directed and choreographed numerous productions for Techmoja, including *The Color Purple*, *Dreamgirls* and the original work *Quiet as it's Kept*.

Kent West (The Solider) was born and raised, (as we say down south) in Durham, NC, but has spent more than half his life in Wilmington, he's starting to feel like a local. He was only able to join the Wilmington Theater Community 8 years ago after wrapping his previous 36 year (day job) career. Previous credits include *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *What The River Knows*, and *The Philadelphia Story*. Kent is proud to share the first staging of *Windows* outside of it's New York debut last month with this cast, crew and audience. To be one of eleven chosen out Wilmington's deep pool of actors is an honor for all of us. Lastly, Kent is both excited and honored to share the stage with his scene partner, Kevin Green, one of the first names he heard when joining the community and a driving force of Wilmington Theater.

Nick Smith (The Drinker) is thrilled to return to the theater after a COVID-fueled 5-year sabbatical. He's been onstage in *Sides*, *Inherit the Stars*, and *Django Salvatori's Awe-Inspiring Death-Defying Big Top Spectacuganza*, featuring Ralph as a porn producer, George Lucas, and a clown, respectively - arguably the same character. He can normally be found off-stage directing shows, with *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* and *She Kills Monsters* being his most recent. Many thanks to Holli & Steve for this opportunity to play, to Terri, Chad and the rest of the crew for getting us here, and to my infinitely understanding wife Andi and infinitely curious son Mason for being the reasons I do what I do.

Paula Davis (The Bubbeh) is honored to be the second actor to perform this role. Most recently she portrayed Marguerite in Big Dawg's *Dearly Departed* and has accumulated numerous theater, TV, and film credits over the years. Thanks to Holli for such a unique acting opportunity and to her fiancé Jim for putting up with her talking to herself around the house since rehearsals started.

Yeavonne Cox (The Owner) is a Marine veteran and mom of three. Yeavonne entered the Wilmington theater scene in 2021 and has appeared in *Scotopia: Short Plays to Help You See in The Dark*, *Beehive the Musical*, *Ragtime*, *The Wedding Singer*, and *Wilmington Reconstructed* to name a few. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with Holli Saperstein and Big Dawg Productions.

Craig Myers (The Protestor) Since moving to Wilmington from Albuquerque New Mexico, Craig has been fortunate to work with many great actors, directors and crews at Big Dawg. He is grateful to Holli for giving him the opportunity to work with this very talented group and especially with his so very talented scene partner Yeavonne.

Krista Rivenbark (The Mommy) is thrilled to be back on stage! Favorite roles include: M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias* (Thalian Association), Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid* (OHTC) and Miep Gies in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (OHTC). Krista would like to thank Holli Saperstein, Steve Vernon and the entire Big Dawg Productions team for giving her this wonderful opportunity! She is so thankful to be a part of bringing this special piece of theatre to the stage.

Special Thanks:

Richard Trubia, Steve Rassin, Jason Aycok, Opera House Theatre Company, Thalian Hall Center for the Performing Arts, Inc., Stephanie Scheu Aman, Mitchell Maxwell, Tawni O'Dell, Chris Jarman, YOU (the Audience)!

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.

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. 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.

Grant Sponsors - The Wilson Center at Cape Fear Community College, The Landfall Foundation

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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.

**Keep Big Dawg Thriving And Add Your Name
To The List!**

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BIG DAWG PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR 2024 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.

The Second-to-Last Chance Ladies League

by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten

May 23-26, May 30-June 2

In this hilarious sequel to *Always A Bridesmaid*, four middle aged Southern women who are lifelong best friends go into business together when they purchase a stately wedding venue and ingeniously re-imagine the business as “Occasionally Yours,” an events center for all kinds of celebratory gatherings. They begin throwing themselves into hosting retirement parties, baby showers and even memorial services. With this much creative energy, what could possibly go wrong? Basically, almost everything. They soon find themselves testing the limits of friendship, sanity and good taste!

Big Dawg is excited to bring the North Carolina premiere of *The Second-to-Last Chance Ladies League* to Wilmington, and to be just the fourth company in the country to be licensed to perform the play.

2024 Big Dawg Youth Playwright Festival-Puppy Tales

Jun. 20th-30th

With support from The Landfall Foundation, Big Dawg is proud to bring back this event that focuses on original works written by local youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Works will focus on relationships with pets, and the event will feature partnerships with local animal rescue groups!

July 18-21, 25-28 TBA

Pay the Writer

by Tawni O'Dell

Aug. 29-Sept 1, 5-8

Pay The Writer is a new comedy-drama from New York Times Best Selling Author Tawni O'Dell. Focusing on the complicated relationship between a legendary literary agent and his best friend-turned-most-successful client, this dynamic and socially intuitive play explores how an artist's life is controlled by their calling and talent. Fresh off of the acclaimed Off Broadway debut from 2023!

****Pay the Writer*** is being presented by special arrangement with the author, Tawni O'Dell, due to Big Dawg's support and participation in the NY debut of this play. Presently, Ms. O'Dell is preparing a rewrite of the material you will be seeing in preparation for the play's move to Broadway in the Fall of 2024.

Night of the Living Dead

by George Romero, adapted by Chase Harrison

Oct. 17-20, 24-27

The film that started it all, adapted for the stage! The story follows seven people trapped in a farmhouse in rural Pennsylvania, under assault by reanimated corpses. Multiple critics have voted ***Night of the Living Dead*** as the most influential and groundbreaking pieces of horror of all time!

Dec. 12-15, 19-22 TBA

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.

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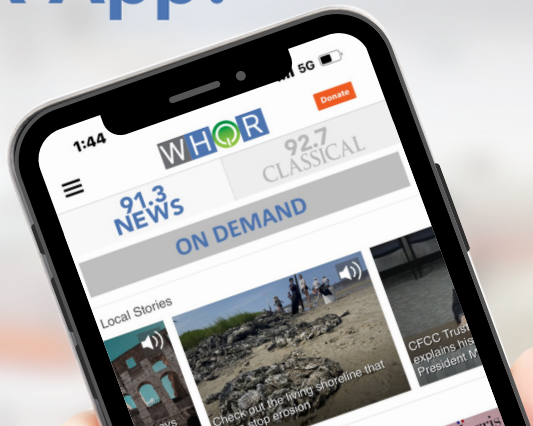
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