

Presenting our 2022 Season at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse

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UP

WRITTEN BY KEN LEVINE & DIRECTED BY ROY STEINBERG

July 13 - August 14 Tuesdays - Sundays at 8 pm





#### BEACHFRONT RESORT



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After these challenging years, Cape May Stage brings you a series of comedies as a balm for our collective souls. The very act of laughter distances the viewer from what is being observed and we aspire that those observations help us navigate our way through some troubling times.

"Fact or fiction" is the theme for our 2022 season and each of our productions question what is real and the role of memory in story telling. Only recently has the phrase "alternative facts" come into our lexicon.

What are the facts about this pandemic, about Ukraine, about our democracy? Serious discussions can be unleashed through comedy so join in the celebration of life that you'll find every time you enter our theatre.

There are so many legends about Satchel Paige "...and some of them are really true" quipped one of his teammates. Eye witnesses are notoriously untrustworthy - we are grateful for the award winning writers who created the texts that we mount for your entertainment.

Together, we sit in the dark and as one we can breathe freely and laugh at the characters we see before us. From the beginning, the theatre has been an art form that brings us all together. In ancient Greece it was Sophocles who said, "one word frees us all of the weight and pain of life. That word is Love".

Welcome to Cape May Stage!

Roy Steinberg

## We just love Cape May's Show Place Don't you



Cape May Stage

capemaymag.com



Many thanks to our "America's Sexiest Couple" producers: Irene Darocha & Michael Picariello, Denise & Vince DeGiaimo, Victor Keen & Jeanne Ruddy, Ken & Elaine Kirby, Jim & Teresa Knipper, Leslie & Myles Martel, Catherine Rein, Steven & Sue Teitelman

## AMERICA'S SEXIEST COUPLE:

(World Premiere) by Ken Levine Directed by Roy B. Steinberg<sup>+</sup>

July 13, 2022 - August 14, 2022

The Otto and Phoebe Haas Stage

### FEATURING:

Karen Ziemba\* as Susan White Bill Tatum\* as Craig McCallister Remy Germinario as the Bellboy

Production Stage Manager Amy Hadam\*

> Set Design Spencer Potter

Costume Designer Beth Tobey-Hillebrecht Lighting Design Zach Weeks

Sound Design Hao Bai

Prop Master & Scenic Charge Leah Nadolski

> Production Manager Amy Hadam

Tech Director Seth Chaffin

Artistic Associate Chris Dolman

Literary Manager Shawn Fisher

Time: Present Day Place: a hotel room in Syracuse, New York There will be no intermission

Special Thanks to: Sea Weeds By the Sea, Joe and Janice Anania, Ken and Elaine Kirby, Trinkets Jewelry, 410 Bank Street

"America's Sexiest Couple" is presented by Theatrical Rights Worldwide

\*Member of Actor's Equity Association. +Member of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. All electronic devices such as beepers, tablets, cell phones, and watch alarms must be turned off prior to the performance.



#### 2022 Producers Circle Members in support of "America's Sexiest Couple"



**Irene Darocha & Michael Picariello** are delighted to support Cape May Stage's productions. We are always impressed with Roy Steinberg's enthusiasm and thematic choices for each successive year. He has an uncanny ability to align topical societal challenges with the timeless expression of live theatrical performance. We are deeply fortunate to be part of a shore community that has artistic riches embodied by the Cape May Stage, beyond the quotidian sun, sand and frosty beverage appeal. We offer congratulations to all collaborators of these performances!



**Denise & Vince DeGiaimo** were born, raised, and met in New York City. They became full-time Cape May residents in April of 2021. Vince is a retired Investment Banker, and Denise recently retired after a long teaching career. They moved here from their primary home in New York's Westchester County. They have long supported non-profit and for-profit theaters in NY. And they have been investors in a number of Off and Off-Off-Broadway productions. Vince is currently serving as a Board member of Cape May Stage. And they are proud members of Cape May Stages' Producers Circle, saying that "being a Producer has been so much fun and has connected us to so many wonderful and talented people."



Ken & Elaine Kirby reside in Havertown, PA and also have a home in Cape May County. Ken recently retired from a 35 year career in fund raising, public relations and government affairs, having worked for the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, Academy of Natural Sciences, Right Management Consulting, The Franklin Institute, and Main Line Health. Ken currently serves as a consultant to a variety of non-profit organizations. Elaine retired after a 25 year career in special events and marketing for the insurance industry. Ken is a former Trustee of The Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia. They are avid theater buffs - whether it be Broadway or an amateur theater company performing in a local gymnasium. They are longstanding and enthusiastic supporters of Cape May Stage, commenting that "the selection of plays and the quality of the acting and directing at CMS is outstanding and a tremendous enhancement to our summers at the shore!" Other than theater, their largest passion (of course!) is their two grandchildren, Carter and Avery.



Leslie & Myles Martel were inspired by Mel Brooks' iconic line "I want to be a producer" and now legitimately hold claim to the title "Producer" while supporting Cape May Stage's outstanding contributions to the Cape May cultural scene. Leslie, having been born into the world of live theater, developed a love for it at an early age and has continued to enjoy the theater throughout her life. They have a deep respect for all that Cape May Stage does for the area and send their thanks to the hardworking Board of Trustees and Roy Steinberg.



**Steven & Sue Teitelman** were among the first patrons to join the Producers Circle. Susan was a member of the board of Cape May Stage for many years and Steve retired as the President of PSEG Energy, Resource, and Trade Company. Steve grew up in Cape May, where his family owned and operated many businesses dating back to the early 1900's. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

Thank you!

Cape May Stage extends a sincere thank you to all of our 2022 Producers Circle members! Your generosity and commitment to professionally produced live theater helps to make Cape May Stage a success.

#### 2022 Lead Producers

#### Victor Keen & Jeanne Ruddy, Catherine Rein, Jim & Theresa Knipper



Victor Keen & Jeanne Ruddy are long time, enthusiastic patrons and generous supporters of Cape May Stage. Jeanne is a choreographer and Artistic Director of Jeanne Ruddy Dance and the Executive Director/Resident Artist of the Performance Garage, a Philadelphia non-profit dance venue founded and operated by Jeanne, Victor, and the board. She was a principal dancer with the Martha Graham Company and a member of the faculties of the Alvin Ailey and Juilliard School Dance Division for more than a decade. Victor is "of-counsel" at Duane Morris LLP, a 700-attorney international law firm headquartered in Philadelphia. He is currently involved in commercial real estate and various other ventures. He sits on several arts-related boards and enjoys spending time and having visitors to his nationally recognized "Outsider Art" collection housed in a repurposed 1869 Philadelphia Quaker Mission.



Jim & Teresa Knipper are enjoying their 24th summer as part-time residents of Cape May. Longtime supporters of theater, they have seen Cape May Stage grow into an incredible gift for the community and all those who attend shows under the leadership of Roy Steinberg. Jim and Teresa have raised four sones and now enjoy bringing their grandchildren to Cape May. Jim, a publisher and a Catholic Deacon and Teresa, a spiritual director and SoulCollage facilitator, host a world of butterflies and bees in their native wildlife garden in the east end of town.



**Catherine Rein** Catherine serves on the board of directors of The Bank of New York Mellon, First Energy Corp., and is director emeritus of Corning, Inc. Ms. Rein also chairs the MetLife Foundation. She has retired as Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of MetLife, Inc. As Chief Administrative Officer. In addition, under Ms. Rein's leadership, MetLife successfully launched a new consumer advertising campaign, expanded its infrastructure in order to support the company's international expansion, and implemented real estate strategies for MetLife offices around the world. From 1999 - 2004, Ms. Rein was President and Chief Executive Officer of MetLife Auto & Home. Ms. Rein was also a Senior Executive Vice President in charge of the MetLife business services group and a Senior Vice President in charge of various MetLife staff functions. Before joining MetLife, she served as Vice President and General Counsel for The Continental Group, Inc. Prior to that, she was associated with the New York City law firm of Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer & Wood. Ms. Rein received a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University and a J.D. from New York University. She is a member of the board of trustees of New York University Law Center Foundation.



## Do You Want to be a Producer?

Join the Producers Circle and experience Cape May Stage like never before.

Get the inside scoop on each season's new productions, help support professional Equity theater in Cape May, and enjoy exclusive member benefits, including:

Private Producers Circle events throughout the season. Two complimentary tickets to opening night of the show you produce. Acknowledgment as Producer on the program's Title Page for produced play. Acknowledgment as Producer on the program's donor list and Cape May Stage website. Six "anytime" tickets to all shows and up to ten discounted \$25 tickets to all shows. \*

\*Subject to availability and can not be used for opening night performances.

For more information about becoming a Producer, please contact development@capemaystage.org.



livectors

#### By Roy B. Steinberg

Perhaps the first couple in the Judeo-Christian tradition was Adam and Eve who John Milton wrote about in "Paradise Lost" as "imparadis't in one another's arms" in Eden, enjoying "bliss on bliss". That didn't turn out well and they were expelled from Paradise.

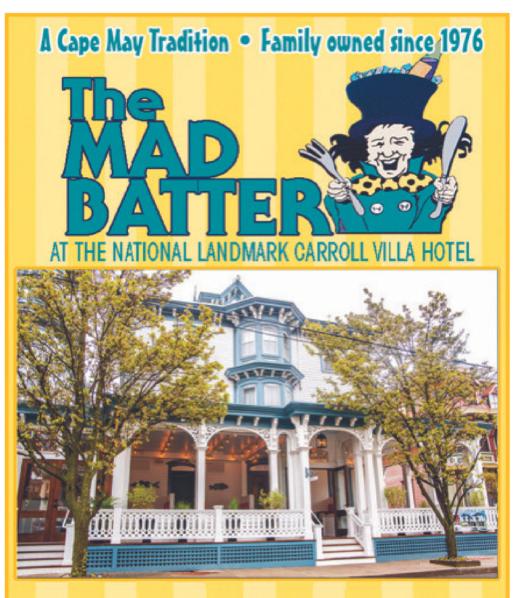
Most recently, the Johnny Depp-Amber Heard trial has captured the imagination as some watched "America's sexiest couple" devolve into a lurid spectacle of violence, excess and over-indulgence.

In between, we have watched Lucy and Ricky on "I Love Lucy", Daphne and Niles on "Frasier", Sam and Diane on "Cheers", Doug and Carol on "ER", David and Keith on "Six Feet Under", Carrie and Mr. Big on "Sex and the City", Simon and Daphne on "Bridgerton", Derek and Meredith on "Grey's Anatomy", David and Maddie on "Moonlighting", David and Patrick on "Schitt's Creek", and of course, Ross and Rachel on "Friends".

Ken Levine, the playwright of this production, was the Emmy Award winning writer on several of those shows and many others. He knows a bit about writing for television and the fragile egos of the actors who play in these romantic comedies. Is it all acting? Some of the hottest scenes on camera were performed by actors who hated each other. What is fact and what is fiction.

We have characters who have convinced themselves they are still sexy and are trying to decide whether to re-sign for a reboot of their old hit show. When they ask the bellboy his opinion of the show that was shot prior to him being conceived, reality comes crushing down as he responds, "you never think of your grandparents having sex, but why not?".

And that's a fact.



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#### **CREATIVE & PRODUCTION STAFF**

Director	.Roy B. Steinberg+
Production Stage Manager	.Amy Hadam*
Tech Director	. Seth Chaffin
Set Design	Spencer Potter
Costume Designer	. Beth Tobey-Hillebrecht

Lighting Design	Zach Weeks
Sound Design	Hao Bai
Prop Master/Scenic Charge	Leah Nadolski
Artistic Associate	Chris Dolman
Literary Manager	Shawn Fisher

\*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. +Member of Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers



We know what art can do — how it can change perspectives, and even change lives. That's why the PNC Foundation developed PNC Arts Alive, a multi-year, multi-million-dollar initiative that supports the arts in local communities. Through this initiative, we continue to challenge visual and performing arts organizations to put forth their best, most original thinking while expanding audience participation and engagement. Because when art thrives, everybody benefits. **To learn more, go to pncartsalive.com** 



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#### CAPE MAY STAGE

Birectors



Roy Steinberg (Director) has directed classical and contemporary plays as well as world premieres all over the United States. He directed Ann Jackson, Kim Hunter, and Alvin Epstein in *The Madwoman of Chaillot* at the Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. As a member of Circle Repertory Company, he developed and directed *The Marriage Fool* with Lynn Cohen and Farley Granger. His production of *Othello* played at the Intar Theatre on Theatre Row in New York and he directed Joan Copeland in a new play called Second Summer for the Colleagues Theatre Company. He was the Artistic Director of Theatre Matrix in New York and the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin. He has directed touring companies of bilingual productions of Moliere's *The Miser* and *The Bourgeois Gentleman*. As a Guest Artist he has directed college students throughout our nation in plays like *American Buffalo*,

Our Town, The Importance of Being Earnest, and A Midsummer Night's Dream. Mr. Steinberg has also produced and directed film and television including Guiding Light, One Life To Live, Days Of Our Lives, Forensic Files, and Scandalous Art. He has four Emmy nominations for his work. He directed Jo Beth Williams in Life In General on strike.tv, which won five Spirit Awards. At Cape May Stage, Mr. Steinberg has directed Souvenir, Moon Over Buffalo, Blithe Spirit, How to Make a Rope Swing, Say Goodnight Gracie, Social Security, Visiting Mr. Green, Proof, Class, Steel Magnolias, The Understudy, I Hate Hamlet, Boeing Boeing, Happy Days, Freud's Last Session, The Santaland Diaries, The Woolgatherer, Mistakes Were Made, This Wonderful Life, The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe, Dead Man's Cell Phone, Disgraced, Buyer and Cellar, The Tale of the Allergist's Wife, The Gin Game, Outside Mullingar, The Ultimate Christmas Show, Chapter Two, The Shuck, An Actor's Carol, Heisenberg, Sylvia, Sidekicked, Last of the Red Hot Lovers, and most recently Double Play. Roy Steinberg has an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He also functions as the Producing Artistic Director. His production is his daughter, Alexa Catherine.

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Ken Levine (playwright) is an Emmy winning writer/director/ playwright/major league baseball announcer/ cartoonist. Ken has written over 200 episodes of television for such shows as MASH, Cheers, Frasier, the Simpsons, and Wings. He has directed over 60 TV episodes and has co-written the movie, VOLUNTEERS starring Tom Hanks and John Candy. He has been the play-byplay voice of the Baltimore Orioles, Seattle Mariners, and San Diego Padres and hosted Dodger Talk for eight seasons. He has eight published full-length stage plays that have been performed in New York, Los Angeles, and is thrilled to now include the Cape May Stage. Ken has won a primetime Emmy, two Writers Guild Awards, a Peoples' Choice Award, Peabody and Humanities recognition. Currently Ken hosts a podcast, Hollywood & Levine, writes a blog, byKenLevine.com, and is a contributing cartoonist to the New Yorker Magazine. He hasn't slept since 1994.



ast Biss



#### Bill Tatum (Craig McCallister)

Bill has been a New York actor and proud member of Actors' Equity Association for 50 years. He has appeared on this stage in *The Shuck, The Gin Game, Moon Over Buffalo* and *Mary, Mary.* In the city Bill appeared in *In White America,* which was a top ten in Deadline., *Court Marshall* At Fort Devens (New Federal Theatre), *The Chosen Wife* (Altered Stages), *Jeffery Sweet's Bluff* (78th Street Theatre Lab), *Who Killed Jonny Hanson* (ATA, Jean Dalrymple Award), *Angel Wings* by Murray Schisgal (Neighborhood Playhouse), *The Last Girl Singer* by Deborah Grace Winer (Woman's Project), *Stormbound* and *Fair Weather Friends* (Playwrights Horizons). Bill has worked 18 seasons at the Oldcastle Theatre in *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?, The Odd Couple, Night And Her Stars, Sherlock Holmes, Knights Gambit, City Of Conversation,* and many more. Also in Vermont, *The Subject was Roses* and *Sylvia* (Dorset Theatre). His TV appearances Include As The World Turns, Law and Order, The Office Party and On the Water.



#### Karen Ziemba (Susan White)

KAREN ZIEMBA last appeared on the Cape May Stage as M'Lynn in STEEL MAGNOLIAS. She received the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her performance in CONTACT at Lincoln Center Theatre. Other select theatre credits include CURTAINS (Outer Critics Circle Award, Tony nom.), STEEL PIER (Tony nom.), AND THE WORLD GOES 'ROUND (Drama Desk Award), NEVER GONNA DANCE (Outer Critics Circle Award, Tony nom.), KID VICTORY (Lortel nom.), CRAZY FOR YOU (Jeff Award), BULLETS OVER BROADWAY, CHICAGO, 110 IN THE SHADE, DO I HEAR A WALTZ, SWEENEY TODD, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, GYPSY, PRINCE OF BROADWAY, SYLVIA, OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION, SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION, BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS and BROADWAY BOUND. TV: Madam Secretary, The Good Wife, Elementary, Scrubs, Law and Order S.V.U./C.I, The Kennedy Center Honors and PBS' Great Performances.



Actors' Equity Association (AEA) was founded in 1913 as the first of the American actors unions. Equity's mission is to advance, promote, and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers, and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org

#### CAPE MAY STAGE

ast Bios



#### Remy Germinario (Bellboy)

Remy is a NYC based actor, comedian and writer. New York Theatre: *More Than All The World* (Theatre For The New City), *Boys Who Tricked Me* (MT Factory), *Bradley Cole* (Fringe NYC Award Winner), *When I Started Dating Men* (Dixon Place), The *Paige Turner* Holiday Shows (Laurie Beechman Theatre). Regional: *Buyer and Cellar* (Florida Studio Theatre, Riverside Theatre, Cardinal Stage Company), *Caveman Play* (ArtHouse). Film/TV: *The Feast of Stephen* (dir. James Franco), *Synonymous With, An Actor Unprepared* and *Livin' the Dream*. Voiceover: Peter in the hit musical video game *Peter Panic*(Adult Swim Games) and Jasper in *The World To Come* musical podcast (dir. Rachel Klein). Remy is also a stand up/sketch comic (formerly on Maude Night at UCB NY) and can be seen at comedy clubs all over the city and is the co-host of *My Broadway Memory* on Broadway Podcast Network. He is also known on TikTok with 38K followers and Instagram with 17K followers for his impressions of Food Network Chefs and more! BFA NYU (CAP21/Strasberg Studios). Thanks to Mom, Dad, Michael, Roy and Carole!

TikTok/Instagram @RemyGerminario.www.remygerminario.com

## America's Sexiest Couples Take the Quiz to Win!



Test your knowledge about some of America's Sexiest Couples from TV and film. Answer all ten questions correctly to be entered into a drawing to win a night on the town with dinner from 410 Bank Street, a bottle of wine from Cape May Stage, and a beautiful piece of jewelry from Trinkets. The drawing will be held at the final performance of "America's Sexist Couple" on Sunday, August 14. Just scan this QR code to begin, or go to https://tinyurl.com/2seb46ex



If you would prefer a paper copy of the quiz, just ask our box office associates or ushers.



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**Amy Hadam** (*Production Stage Manager*) is so thrilled to be back for her fifth-ish season! Past Cape May Stage credits begin with *The Whipping Man* in 2016 all the through *Murder For Two: The Holiday Edition* in 2019. Amy has also been the Stage Manager for Dreamcatcher Repertory Theatre (Summit, NJ) since 2013; recent virtual credits with them include *Everything Is Super Great* and *Holiday Bite's*, and the most recent in-person production with them was Be Here Now in early 2020. Other credits include: 21: The Musical (NYC), Jekyll & Hyde and Spamalot at Surflight Theatre (Beach Haven, NJ), A Piece of My Heart and Janey Miller's World Tour at Speranza Theatre Company (Jersey City, NJ), Miss Witherspoon and The Further Adventures of Hedda Gabler at The Theater Project (Maplewood, NJ), and Talking to Westfield and At Liberty Hall at Premiere Stages (Union, NJ). Amy is a member of Actors' Equity Association.



Spencer Potter (Set Design) is a Professor of Design and freelance costume/set designer working between the Western and Mid-Atlantic regions. Spencer's design credits at Cape May Stage include: Ultimate Christmas Story...Abridged! Outside Mullingar, Billy Bishop Goes to War, Buyer and Cellar, The Whipping Man, The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life, Red Hot Patriot, Blithe Spirit, How to Make a Rope Swing, Erma Bombeck: At Wit's End, An Actor's Carol, Heisenberg, Sidekicked, Murder for Two: The Holiday Edition and assistant designer for Time Stands Still. Other design credits include: Costumes- The Roads to Home, Die Fledermaus, The Odd Couple, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. Scenery - Singin' in The Rain, Noises Off, And Then There Were None, Tons of Money, The Woman in Black and Steel Magnolias. In the past, Spencer has also worked as Cape May Stage's Production Manager/Technical Director.



Zach Weeks (He, Him, His) (Lighting Design) is excited to be designing at Cape May Stage. Zach is a New York based designer whose designs have been seen all over New York. Selected credits include Peter and the Starcatcher, Little Shop of Horrors, You're are a good man Charlie Brown, The Tempest, Little Prince (Epic Players), Pushkin (Sheen Center), Fall of the House of Usher (The New School). Regional Credits include Brigadoon & Love and the Law (M(Muhlenberg College), The Producers, Into the Woods, Hairspray, & Legally Blonde (White Plains PAC). Zach has worked as an Assistant Designer at Carnegie Hall, New York City Center, Plaza Hotel, and Theatre Row just to name a few. The Producers, Into the Woods, Hairspray, & Legally Blonde (White Plains PAC). Zach has worked as an Assistant Designer at Carnegie Hall, New York City Center, Plaza Hotel, and Theatre Row just to name a few. To learn more about Zach or to see more of his work please go to <u>zwdesigns.net</u>



**Leah Nadolski** (*Props Director/Scenic Charge*) is a graduate from DeSales University, class of 2017, with her degree in Theatre Tech and Design with a concentration on set design and props. Her past productions at Cape May Stage include Heisenburg, Sidekicked, The Taming, Slyvia, Murder for Two: The Holiday Edition, and Ann. She would like to thank her family and friends for their love and support.



vew Biss



Hao Bai (Sound Designer), a multidisciplinary designer in lighting, sound, and video projection for live and virtual performances. Hao's work has been seen internationally at Asia Culture Center (South Korea), WuZhen Festival (China), in the states at CAC (Cincinnati), Stanford, Jone Hall (Houston), Woolly Mammoth Theatre (DC), and in New York at The Public Theatre, NYU Skirball, The Shed, Bushwick Starr, La MaMa, JACK, Performance Space New York, New Stage Theatre, 59E59, A.R.T/New York Theatres, 14 Street Y, BAAD!, Stella Adler, The Performing Garage, The Gallery Players, The Tank, etc. Recent: Virtual: Final Boarding Call (Ma-Yi Theater+WP Theater); Nocturne in 1200s (Ping Chong). Lighting: Waterboy and the Mighty World (Bushwick Starr & The Public Theatre). Projection: Electronic City (NYIT Awards); Chronicle X (The Shed). Production Design: Where We Belong (Woolly Mammoth Theatre). Upcoming: Lighting: CHINOISERIE (Ping Chong). Production Design: This Isl is all (Harvard); Arden (Flea). Sound: The Lower Depth (NYU); Little Shop of Horrors (St. Louis Rep). https://www.haobaidesign.com



**Beth Tobey-Hillebrecht** (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be joining Cape May Stage for the 2022 season. She completed her internship at The Broadway Theatre of Pitman and has gone on to design several notable plays including *The Producers, Chicago* and the musical version of *Titanic,* to name a few. Now on her 28th show, Beth Hillebrecht is a welcome additon to the Cape May Stage family. Her accomplishments can be found at Bethhillebrechtcostume.com



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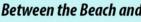


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