

PLAYBILL®

Athens High School
Troy, MI

Athens Theatre Company
Presents...



Friday, April 8, 2022 8:01 p.m.
Saturday, April 9, 2022 8:01 p.m.
Sunday, April 10, 2022 2:01 p.m.

Athens Theatre Company
4333 John R Road
Troy, MI 48085
Attn: Krista Manfredi

AMDA

College of the Performing Arts
NEW YORK CITY • LOS ANGELES

AUDITIONS

**FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS**

to study in New York City
and Los Angeles

**Bachelor's and Associate's
Degrees available in:**

Acting
Musical Theatre
Dance Theatre
Performing Arts

**Master's Degrees
available in:**

Theatre
Writing for Theatre
and Media



**Schedule Your
Audition Now:**

amda.edu/auditions
call/text: (323) 490-1284

PAST PRODUCTIONS

You Can't Take it With You (1973)
Night of January 16th (1974)
Night of One Acts (1975)
Red, White & Blue Dinner (1976)
Two by Two (Dinner Theatre 1977)
The Man Who Came to Dinner (1977)
Bye Bye Birdie (1978)
The Crucible (1978)
Don't Drink the Water (Fall 1978)
Dinner Theatre (1979)
Guys & Dolls (1979)
Simon Scenes (Dinner Theatre 1980)
The Wizard of Oz (1980)
Couples Dinner Theatre (1981)
Anything Goes (1981)
Night of One Acts (Fall 1981)
Oliver (1982)
Illusions (1982)
Bad Seed (Fall 1983)
Peter Pan (1984)
Grease (1985)
Pippin (1986)
Dracula (Fall 1986)
My Fair Lady (1987)
Dinner Theatre (Fall 1987)
Singin' in the Rain (1988)
A Chorus Line (1989)
The Fantasticks (1990)
Little Shop of Horrors (1990)
Senior Sqaure (Fall 1990)
Bye Bye Birdie (1991)
Robin Hood (Fall 1991)
Fame (1992)
Don't Drink the Water (Fall 1992)
Godspell (1993)
You Can't Take it With You (Fall 1993)
Mad Forest (Fall 1994)
Peter Pan (1995)
Servant of Two Masters (Fall 1995)
The Wizard of Oz (1996)
Rumors (Fall 1996)
Brigadoon (1997)
The Crucible (1997)
The Wiz (1998)
Romeo & Juliet (Fall 1998)
Grease (1999)
God's Favorite (Fall 1999)
West Side Story (2000)
You Can't Take it With You (Fall 2000)
Into the Woods (2001)
Our Town (Fall 2001)
Oklahoma (2002)
Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 (Fall 2002)
Man of La Mancha (2003)
Blithe Spirit (Fall 2003)
Les Miserables (2004)
Arsenic and Old Lace (Fall 2004)
Godspell (2005)
The Man Who Came to Dinner (Fall 2006)
Little Shop of Horrors (2006)
Miracle on 34th Street (Winter 2006)
Once Upon a Mattress (2007)
Rumors (Fall 2007)
Disney's High School Musical (2008)
Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 (Fall 2008)
Oliver (2009)
A Christmas Carol (Winter 2009)
Disney's Beauty and the Beast (2010)
The Crucible (Fall 2010)
The Wizard of Oz (2011)
Into the Woods (Summer 2011)
Lend Me A Tenor (Fall 2012)
Little Shop of Horrors (2012)
You Can't Take it With You (2012)
Bye Bye Birdie (2013)
Willy Wonka (Summer 2013)
Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 (Fall 2013)
Seussical (2014)
Emma! A Pop Musical (2014)
Cinderella (2015)
Hairspray (Summer 2015)
Arsenic & Old Lace (2015)
Oliver (2016)
The Outsiders (2016)
Disney's High School Musical (2017)
The Three Musketeers (2017)
Night of January 16th (2017)
Once Upon a Mattress (2018)
Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 (2018)
West Side Story (2019)
Newsies (2019)
The Crucible (2020)
How to Survive a Pandemic (2020)
Elf the Musical (2021)
RUMORS (2022)

Athens High School

PRESENTS

RUMORS

by

Neil Simon

with

Julian Kirchler
Katie Redmond
Cassandra Wilson

Cole VanAmbeg
Sophia Keil
Jerrel Willis
Sydney Richardson

Grace Cafagna
Troy Fulkerson
Grace Maurer

Directed by
Krista Manfredi

Rumors is presented by special arrangement with
[Samuel French, Inc.](#), a Concord Theatricals Company | 250 West 57th Street, 6th Floor New
York, NY 10107-0102

At a large, tastefully-appointed Sneden's Landing townhouse, the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of Farce. Gathering for their tenth wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in the other room, and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer, Ken, and wife, Chris, must get "the story" straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusions and mis-communications mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

**THIS SHOW IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
GENE BRUNE**

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome to RUMORS by Neil Simon.

Neil Simon wrote about the everyday lives and domestic problems of ordinary middle-class people and examined his character's marital and other dilemmas for comic effect. He used the incongruity of their situations to bring smiles and laughter to the audience. He was nominated for Tony Awards 17 times and won for three of his plays. THE ODD COUPLE is probably his most famous Tony winning play. RUMORS did not win a Tony but was still written in the inimitable comic style of the only playwright to have a Broadway theatre named for him.

It has been a difficult year transitioning back to the new normal. Wearing masks in rehearsal was the “norm” to staying healthy through the winter and now spring. Our musical “Elf” brought joy, smiles, and laughter to many in December. Buddy has moved on to Lenny Gantz who still provides smiles and laughter but now to an adult audience.

It has also been a sad year with the loss of members of our production team. This show is dedicated to the memory of our good friend **Gene Brune**. I met Gene in 1986 as a parent but in the last 15 years he has designed show shirts, picture boards, and incredible programs. Gene was a kind, caring, and wonderful human being. He was an important member of the ATC production staff, we miss him greatly. His legacy with the Athens Theatre Company lives on in his poster designs hanging in the hallway. Thank you, Gene, for all of your incredible work, your laugh, your support, and most of all your friendship.

So let us celebrate Gene and being back in the theatre.

Enjoy the show,
Krista Manfredi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Patrons

Athens Administration
Athens PTO
Athens Secretaries
Dr. Lara Dixon
Steve & Jennifer Gottlieb
Kent & Karen Klitzke
Jennifer & Joe Redmond
Tom & Nicole Wilson
Mary J. Zegers

Special Thanks

Athens Administrators & Faculty
Athens Secretaries
Thomas Butcher
Dr. Lara Dixon
Dinner Moms & Dads
Bob Dowd
Kally Harris
Gerald & Nancy Hurl
Karen & Ken Klitzke
Dr. Rich Machesky
Logan Manfredi
Jeanne Miller
Gino Minchella
Claudia Moffett
National Honor Society
Parent Volunteers
Marilyn Persichetti
Yvonne Persichetti
Patrice Rowbal
Roseanne Sparbeck
E.W. Wetzel

PRODUCTION

Production Staff

Producer/Director	Krista Manfredi**
Assistant Director	Jimmy Morang*
Student Producers	Elise Kilbride*, Cassandra Wilson*
Tech Director	Gino Minchella
Business Manager	Marilyn Perischetti
Stage Manager	Addison Parsell*
Assistant Stage Managers	Keegan Parsell, Derek Dunneback
Lighting, Set, & Sound Design	Gino Minchella
Sound Tech	Maaz Ali
Media Tech	Kate Myke
Set Construction/Carpenter	Steve Dunneback
Costumer	Karen Klitzke
Costume Assistants	Madeline Paige, Chelsea Laskowski, Rihanna Turolli
Program, Promo Video, & Photography	Thomas Butcher*
Poster & Shirt Design, Ticket Form	Roseanne Sparbeck
Property Master	Conner Creech
Prop Crew	Vanessa Hunt, Cienna Lenz
Box Office	Karen Klitzke, Marilyn Perischetti
Concessions	Karie & Steve Dunneback, Janie Kirchler
House Managers	Nicole Wilson, Claire Kilbride
Dinner Coordinator	Marilyn Perischetti
Dinner Catered by	Lukich's Family Dining
Flowers	Abby Claire Soriano, Cienna Lenz
Web Master	Gino Minchella
(www.athenstheatrecompany.weebly.com)	
Set & Strike Crew	Matteo Candelieli, Cienna Lenz, Abby Claire Soriano, Chelsea Laskowski, Claire Kilbride, Derek Dunneback

CAST

Cast Members

Chris Gorman	Katie Redmond*
Ken Gorman	Julian Kirchler*
Claire Ganz	Sophia Keil*
Lenny Ganz	Cole VanAmberg*
Ernie Cusack	Troy Fulkerson
Cookie Cusack	Grace Cafagna*
Glenn Cooper	Jerrel Willis
Cassie Cooper	Sydney Richardson*
Officer Welch	Grace Maurer*
Officer Pudney	Cassandra Wilson*
Myra	Addison Parsell

* Members of Thespians Troupe #3729

** Member of Thespians Troupe #1005

Athens Theatre Company Officers

Presidents

Cole VanAmberg

Grace Maurer

Vice Presidents

Sophia Keil

Elise Kilbride



WHO'S WHO



Katie Redmond*

as Chris Gorman

Katie is a junior this year and super excited to be playing the very stressed, Chris Gorman. Katie has been performing in youth and community theatre since she was 7 years old. Rumors will be her fifth show with the Athens Theatre Company. She is very happy to have been given the opportunity to appear on the ATC stage once again! She would like to thank Ms. Manfredi, Mr. Morang and the entire cast, production team, crew and volunteers for being so supportive and for working hard to make this performance possible. Please enjoy the show!



Julian Kirchler*

as Ken Gorman

Julian Kirchler is ecstatic to be playing the role of Ken in the Athens Theatre Company's production of Rumors. This makes Julian's fourth in-person show with the ATC and he hopes you all enjoy! He would like to thank his mother for always being his inspiration and getting him into theater in the first place. Enjoy the show!



Sophia Keil*

as Claire Ganz

This is Sophia's 5th show as a member of the Athens Theatre Company and she couldn't be more excited! In her free time, she enjoys long walks on the beach, women, wearing all black, contemplating the inevitability of death, and listening to "I Am the Walrus" by The Beatles. She hopes you enjoy watching the yassification of the wonderful gorgeous Claire and Leonard Ganz in Neil Simon's "Rumors"! <3



Cole VanAmberg*

as Lenny Ganz

This is (probably) Cole's last show on the ATC stage, and he will be so sad to say goodbye. In his nonexistent free time, Cole dabbles in amateur piano, wall-contemplating, and staring into the void. He loves his dog, and his cat is on thin ice. He has a family. He hopes to hear your thorough reviews of the show and not because he doesn't understand it or anything.

WHO'S WHO



Troy Fulkerson

as Ernie Cusack

Troy is excited to be performing in his second production with the Athens Theatre Company after previously featuring in *Elf*. He would like to thank his family, Mr. Morang for not giving him too much homework to do at rehearsal, and Ms. Manfredi for giving him the opportunity to grow and have fun on stage.



Grace Cafagna*

as Cookie Cusack

Grace Cafagna is a junior at Athens High School and is so excited to be in her first ATC PLAY! Grace loves to write, sing, act, and get driven around like a leech everyday by the seniors of the cast! Please also notice how many times Grace is blinking. She would like her friends and family to know that she is being forced to roll on the ground for profit. Why couldn't we have done Sweeney Todd?



Jerrel Willis

as Glenn Cooper

Jerrel Willis is a sophomore at Athens High School and is very excited to be in his first production with the Athens Theatre Company. Aside from Rumors, Jerrel has been in films such as Asbury Park, Sinners and Saint, and numerous stage productions. Jerrel wants to thank his family and the incredible cast and crew of Rumors. Jerrel is grateful for you being a part of Rumors and hopes you enjoy the production! (P.S. no Glens were harmed in the making of this play!)

WHO'S WHO



Sydney Richardson*

as Cassie Cooper

Sydney is a senior at Athens High School, and this will be her last show with the Athens Theatre Company. Her first show at Athens was actually "Seussical the Musical" in 4th grade where she was dressed as a zebra who danced around. Now she is dressed as a middle aged woman with marital issues who hits her husband with a purse...Oh the places you'll go. Anyway, Sydney would like to thank her friends and family for their unwavering support in her involvement in theatre since the young age of 9 years old. She will now force her parents to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to go to University of Michigan for a degree in Cellular and Molecular Biomedical Science. Lol.



Grace Maurer*

as Officer Welch

Grace Maurer is an 18-year-old dual-enrolled student who is excited to be playing the role of Officer Welch in Neil Simon's "Rumors". As this is Grace's last show with ATC, feelings are bittersweet, but nonetheless grateful for the memories made after 3 years of being a part of this company. Please, enjoy the show.



Cassandra Wilson*

as Officer Pudney

Cassandra Wilson is a sophomore and a student producer. She is very excited to get to know the tech side of a show, and also play Officer Pudney, which she found out about a week before tech week.



Elise Kilbride*

Elise Kilbride is thrilled to be a student producer for "Rumors"! She has been in theatre for five years, with memorable roles such as Emily in "Elf", King Julien in "Madagascar", and Glinda in "The Wizard of Oz". She'd like to thank Ms. Manfredi for this opportunity, and hopes the cast will break a leg!

Addison Parsell*

Not one for the spotlight, but with a penchant for organization and management, Addison was attracted to the prospect of crewing a high school show. After one show, she was hooked. 6 Athens shows and 4 years of high school later and she is now the stage manager. She takes her responsibilities seriously, often sounding like a big business CEO as she describes her “day at work” to her family. Still not interested in the stage, she nonetheless found a way to broaden her theatre experience, culminating her high school career as the closing voice in Rumors.

Keegan Parsell

Akin to an apprenticeship, Keegan sat alongside her Stage Manager sister to help crew her first show last fall with Elf. Shaking free of some freshman stigma, she came into her own at the end of that show and carries the same independence and initiative into the current show Rumors. She intends to continue as a member of the Athens Theatre Company and to become a more integral part of the process as she grows.



Maaz Ali

Maaz is a freshman and this is his second theatre production he has been a part of. He works hard during shows, running lights and sound to help do his part to put on a great show. He is excited to be running sound for this show, and is passionate and dedicated to this work.



Kate Myke

Kate is a junior here at Athens who is excited to return to tech crew for their second ATC production, Rumors. Though they worked with media for Elf, they picked up the new skill in camera operation, and according to their mom, “that’s awesome”.

WHO'S WHO



Connor Creech

Connor Creech is a sophomore and happy to be apart of Athens Theatre Company for his second show. He is the property master for this show. In Elf he was the cameraman and also helped with crew. He is very excited for the show.



Claire Kilbride

Claire Kilbride is a freshman at Athens High School, and is excited to be the House Manager in ATC's production of Rumors. She was a Macy's Elf/Office Worker in Elf. As well as theatre, she is also apart of Athens orchestra and choir.

*Biographies are written by students
If a specific biography or picture does not appear, it was not submitted*



Rumor has it you'll surprise and delight
audiences with your performance!
Break a Leg Athens Theater Company!



Athens PTO



**To the Cast, Crew & All the
Supporting Volunteers of
RUMORS**

**“These Kids Are
Up To Something,
I Know It.”
- Ernie Cusack**



**Thank You For All Your Hard Work
~Please Enjoy the Show~
Athens Secretaries
& Administrators**

