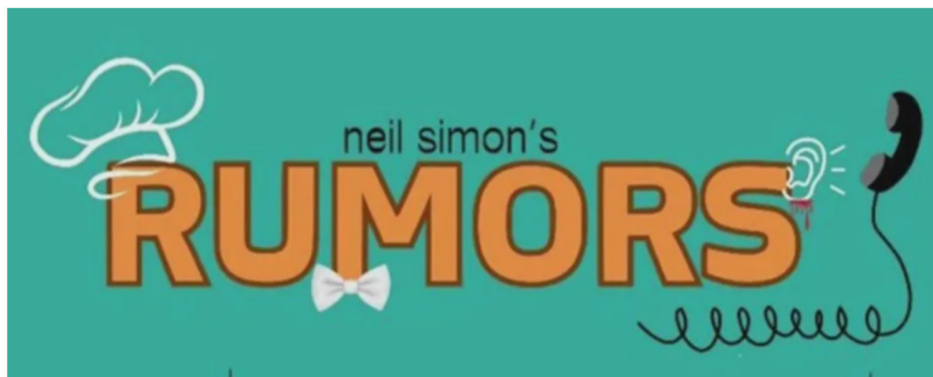


APOLLOBILL

Apollo Civic Theatre Presents



Written by
NEIL SIMON

Originally produced by: the Old Globe Theatre

A SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. TITLE

October 3 & 4, 2025 @ 8:00PM

October 5, 2025 @ 2:30PM

October 10 & 11, 2025 @ 8:00PM

October 12, 2025 @ 2:30PM

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The Apollo Civic Theatre is a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, partially funded by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows, and are always appreciated.

Please silence all electrical devices.

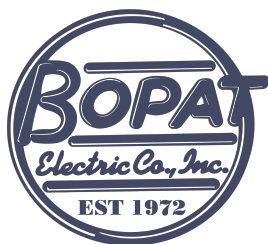
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Please leave it at the concession stand
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Production Team

Director.....Sarah Celec
Stage Manager.....Maedene Piper
Technical Director /Sound.....Jae Smitherman
Lighting DesignCharles Devine
Scenic Design and Master Builder.....Charles Boyce
Lighting Operators:.....Charles Devine and John Glymph
Props Mistresses.....Miriam Mazariegos and Chelsea Kross
Costume Design.....Myles Hairston
Social Media Marketing.....Morgan Miller
Backstage Crew:
Chelsea Kross, Briana Celec, and Miriam Mazariegos
Set-Build Crew:
Andrew King, Laura Richards Bakin, Alan Harner, Rhonda
Markland, Adam Blackstock, Sherry Logsdon, Charles Boyce,
Matthan Elijah, Frank Segal, Maedene Piper, Myles Hairston,
Sarah Celec, Jae Smitherman, Miriam Mazariegos, Chelsea
Kross, and Charles Devine

Special Thanks



Bopat Electric Co. Inc.'s generous sponsorship for the doors on the set of Rumors is deeply appreciated. Your support is instrumental in bringing our production to life and helps us create a realistic and professional setting. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to the arts and your contribution to the Apollo Civic Theatre.

MEET THE CAST



Andrew King (Ken Gorman)

Andrew has loved the play, "Rumors" since first reading it aloud with his older sister, Kiki, over 20 years ago. Almost a decade ago, he got the chance to play Lenny Ganz in the Potomac Playmakers production of "Rumors". He is thrilled to change things up and play Ken Gorman this time around. Favorite past roles include Rod in "Avenue Q", Mr. Green in "Clue", Victor Velasco in "Barefoot in the Park", Brian Runnicles in "No Sex Please, We're British", and Jack in "Death by Design". Much love and gratitude to Nic, his family, and friends.



Laura Richards Bakin (Chris Gorman)

Laura is honored to return to the Apollo stage surrounded by this stellar group of artists. Over the years she's enjoyed playing roles as diverse as Charity in Sweet Charity and Mother Superior in Agnes of God. Other favorite appearances include Sally Talley in Talley's Folly; Stella Kowalski in Streetcar Named Desire; Elizabeth Proctor in The Crucible; Eleanor of Aquitaine in Lion in Winter; and Queen Margaret in Richard III. Laura is also a director, playwright, producer, and award-winning author of fiction. Looking for a new adventure after retiring as the managing artistic director of the Black Box in Shepherdstown, she opened Game Knights of Shepherdstown with her son and can often be found knee deep in board and card games. She's grateful to Sarah for giving her the opportunity to work with so many talented colleagues and for the chance to channel her inner Chris Gorman -- which, as it turned out, was fairly close to the surface.



Alan Harner (Lenny Ganz)

Alan has been involved in various aspects of community theatre for the past 30+ years. Previous acting credits include Snoopy in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Sir Denis Galahad in Spamalat, Inspector Andre in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, King Triton in Disney's A Little Mermaid, Frederick in Pirate of Penzance, Phil Davis in White Christmas, and Albert Peterson in Bye Bye Birdie. Directing credits here at the Apollo include Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express and Kodachrome. He will be directing the Apollo's upcoming production of All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten opening in February 2026. He would like to thank his wife, Jill, for all of her support and encouragement and his two Bichons, Azzy and Kory, for their great cuddles.



Rhonda Markland (Claire Ganz)

Rhonda is thrilled to be making her Apollo Civic Theatre debut as Claire in Rumors. Her love for community theatre and desire to be on stage started at the Apollo approximately 15 years ago when she saw Grease. Inspired by the incredible performances, she began auditioning and was cast in her first show in late 2010. A huge thank you to Sarah for giving her the opportunity to finally come full circle and perform on this stage. Rhonda's favorite roles at other area theatres include Claudia in Nuts, Judy in The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Florence in The Odd Couple (Female Version), and Becca in Rabbit Hole. She sends lots of love to her husband, Pat, and their kids for always supporting her theatre habit. Enjoy the show!



Adam Blackstock (Ernie Cusack)

Adam is happy to return to the Apollo stage, having most recently appeared in ALMOST, MAINE. A big fan of Neil Simon's comedic genius, he's also appeared as Paul Bratter in BAREFOOT IN THE PARK (Apollo Civic Theatre), Elliot Garfield in THE GOODBYE GIRL (Robinwood Players), Murray in THE ODD COUPLE (Other Voices Theatre), and Ben Benjamin in GOD'S FAVORITE (Washington County Playhouse). Having been performing for nearly 30 years, he's also been in SWEET CHARITY, FOOLS, and RUMORS.

MEET THE CAST



Sherry Logsdon (Cookie Cusack)

Twenty eight years ago three life changing things happened to me. I got married. I had my first child. And I auditioned for a community theatre production. Much to my surprise I was cast in the show and that was all it took. I was hooked. Through the years I have done many productions for many different theatre groups. I have met so many wonderful people who understand my urge to "ham it up" on stage. Theatre is my outlet. It is my "thing". I want to thank all the cast and crew of this show for letting me "play" with them. It has been a blast. I also want to thank my family and friends for supporting me and loving me just as I am. My only wish would be that my Momma could be here with me. I can only hope that she is watching over me and is proud of me and is giving me a standing ovation.

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."



Charles Boyce (Glenn Cooper)

Charles is very happy to be teamed up with Sara Celec again. This makes five shows that they have worked on including KODACHROME, YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN. They go all the way back to Kindergarten. Charles is happy to be back on the Apollo stage. Charles not only is trying his best at playing in this production but has collaborated on the design and building of the set. He would like to thank his family and friends for all of their love and support during this production. You know who you are. Thanks to the cast and crew of RUMORS for all of the hard work and devotion to this endeavor. Love you all.



Tabitha Jablonski (Cassie Cooper)

Tabitha is excited to be making her Apollo debut in one of her favorite plays. She was lucky enough to play Cookie in high school. Other favorite credits include Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz, Rosie in Bye Bye Birdie, Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof, Little Red Ridinghood in Into the Woods, Lucy in Avenue Q, Shelby in Steel Magnolias, and Laura in The Glass Menagerie. Tabitha is a high school theatre teacher and director. Favorite directing credits include Chicago: Teen Edition, Hello Dolly!, and The Mousetrap. Tabitha has also directed "You Can't Take it With You" with Theater Shenandoah, "Doubt" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream" with Selah Theatre Project. Her favorite roles are wife to Joe, and mommy to Hero and Anya. Many thanks to her husband for driving her to auditions 4 days after Anya was born!



Matthan Elijah (Officer Welch)

Matthan is a recent graduate of West Virginia University's BFA Acting program. WVU credits include 9 to 5, Thank You for Shopping, Liam in Phoebe in Winter, Henry in The Book of Will, John Ortiz and Mark Ferreira in Sonnets for an Old Century, Ensemble in Bright Star, Guard and Lover in The Misanthrope, Cool Friend in Jump (Lab Theatre), and Narrator in One Lane Bridge (Advanced Directing). He also performed in a staged reading/workshop of Thank You for Shopping. Matthan is excited to continue pursuing theatre and film/TV and thanks his parents and friends for their constant support throughout his artistic journey.



Frank Segal (Officer Pudney)

Frank was born and raised in South Philadelphia. After graduating, he enlisted in the Army where he served 5 years stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Heidelberg and Vilseck, Germany. After the army, he studied at Pennsylvania State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Administration of Justice. This is also where he met his wife. After graduation, Frank moved to Maryland where he continued his studies at Mount Saint Mary's University and earned a Master's degree in Business. He always had a passion for music and acting. Frank has participated in many choirs, but this is his first acting gig. Frank currently lives in West Virginia, with his wife, Cristina, and two sons, aged 12 and 16.

Check out these upcoming events at the Apollo!

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A note from our Executive Director

Hi there,

We are so happy to see you here at The Apollo!

As the new Executive Director, I am excited to share my vision for our theatre as we embark on a journey of growth and transformation. Our community deserves a vibrant cultural hub that not only showcases talent but also fosters creativity, inclusivity, and connection.

At the Apollo Civic Theatre, we believe that the arts should be accessible to everyone. We are committed to creating a safe and welcoming space where individuals of all backgrounds can express themselves, collaborate, and find joy in the performing arts. This vision includes expanding our programming to ensure that every member of our community feels represented and valued.

One of our primary goals is to enhance our offerings for youth. We understand that engaging young people in the arts can inspire creativity and confidence, and we are eager to develop new programs tailored to their interests and needs. From workshops and mentorships to full-scale productions, we want to empower the next generation of artists and audience members.

To achieve these goals, we invite your support and collaboration. We believe that by working together with local organizations, schools, and community leaders, we can create a rich tapestry of programming that reflects the diverse voices of our community. Whether through partnerships, sponsorships, or volunteer opportunities, your involvement can make a significant impact.

I am eager to hear your thoughts and explore how we can collaborate to enhance our offerings. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at aubrey@apollocivictheatre.org



I look forward to the possibility of working together to cultivate a thriving artistic environment in our community.

Thank you for visiting us. Together, let's make our beautiful Apollo be a beacon of creativity, inspiration, inclusivity, and joy for all.

I hope our paths cross again soon,

Aubrey M. Ervin

Director's Note

Welcome, everyone, and thank you for joining us for our Main Stage season opener of the 2025/2026 season.

There is a singular kind of energy that buzzes in a theater on opening night. It's a blend of breathless anticipation, nervous excitement, and pure, unadulterated joy. For us, this evening marks not just the beginning of a show, but the beginning of a brand-new season of storytelling, and there is no better way to kick it off than with Neil Simon's brilliant and uproarious *Rumors*.

This play is a gift—a meticulously crafted machine of comedic chaos. It demands split-second timing, sharp wit, and a level of trust that can only be built through months of hard work. I am in awe of the dedication of this incredible cast and crew. Every performer on that stage has thrown themselves into this world of mistaken identity and social panic, and their commitment to finding the heart and humor in every single line is nothing short of inspiring.

Behind the scenes, our crew has worked tirelessly to build a world where the absurd can flourish. From the intricate set that serves as the backdrop for all the mayhem, to the precise lighting and sound cues that punctuate every joke, their talent and attention to detail are the invisible threads that hold this production together. This show is a testament to the power of collaboration, and I am deeply grateful to every single person who has poured their heart and soul into this production.

To you, our audience, I extend my deepest gratitude. You are an essential part of the magic that happens here. The shared experience of live theater—the collective laughter, the communal intake of breath—is what makes this art form so vital. In a world that often feels fractured and disconnected, the arts serve as a powerful force for unity. They invite us into new worlds, challenge our perspectives, and remind us of our shared humanity. They provide us with a space to laugh together, to cry together, and to reflect on what it means to be human.

Tonight, I hope you leave your worries at the door and allow yourself to be swept up in the delightful pandemonium. Thank you for your support, and enjoy the show!

gratitude abounds,

Sarah



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