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THE ARMONK PLAYERS PRESENTS

DESPERATE MEASURES

A MUSICAL COMEDY GONE WILD

BOOK & LYRICS BY
PETER KELLOGG

MUSIC BY
DAVID FRIEDMAN

June 7, 8, 13, 14 & 15
at 8pm

June 9 at 4pm



DIRECTOR
PIA HAAS

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
WILL RICH

CHOREOGRAPHER
JILL PAGANELLI

Whippoorwill Hall • 19 Whippoorwill Road East • Armonk, NY • armonkplayers.org

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THE ARMONK PLAYERS

PRESENTS



BOOK & LYRICS BY
PETER KELLOGG

MUSIC BY
DAVID FRIEDMAN

FEATURING

(in order of appearance)

Johnny Blood ANTHONY MALCHAR
Father Morse TOM AMMIRATO
Sheriff Martin Green ROBERT AGIS
Susanna (aka Sister Mary Jo) MICHELLE FOARD
Governor Von Richterhenkenpflichtgetruber STEVE TAYLOR
Bella Rose ANNIE FITZGERALD

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director PIA HAAS
Musical Director WILL RICH
Choreographer JILL PAGANELLI
Stage Manager LAURA GROVEN
Assistant Director JESS REED
Technical Director & Sound FX DANIEL SCHERER
Lighting Design ANTHONY SANTORA
Light Board Operator HANNAH KELLY
Sound Design JOSEPH CAROZZA
Costumer COLLEEN AMMIRATO
Props VIVIEN CORD & PHYLLIS SEDERBAUM
Set Construction LOU SIMMONS
Scenic Designer & Set Decorator ANTHONY VALBIRO
Backstage KRIS BANKS, BRETT CHIN & ANGIE JOACHIM
Graphics RICHARD FERRANTE & REBECCA TOOLSIDASS
Program ANGIE JOACHIM & REBECCA TOOLSIDASS
Publicity KIM SINISTORE
Promotion RODD BERRO
Producer SAM RUDY
Casting & Co-Producer ANTHONY MALCHAR
Treasurer CHRIS RUDY

**DESPERATE
MEASURES
ORCHESTRA**

Conductor / Keyboard WILL RICH
Double Bass ADAM AUSTERLITZ
Violin / Mandolin MEL PASSLER
Guitar / Banjo PETER HUNTER

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The original Off-Broadway production of *Desperate Measures* premiered at the York Theatre in NYC in 2017. The show won the Drama Desk Awards for Outstanding Musical and for Outstanding Lyrics; the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical, and the Off Broadway Alliance Award for Best New Musical. It was also nominated for several Lucille Lortel Awards.

The Wild West was dangerous, lawless, and tough, which allows for a thrilling backdrop for this clever spoof of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* by Peter Kellogg and David Friedman. The show's themes of love, virtue, mercy, morality, and hypocrisy are as relevant today as they were in Shakespeare's era. *Desperate Measures* is about fighting to stay alive against all odds. It's about seeing injustice in the world and wanting to change it. It asks if there is a right kind of justice and a wrong kind, and whether seeking justice is always...just. Yup, all of this in a humorous, rollicking romp! And in rhymed couplets to boot! The Bard would approve, we reckon!

As Lyricist / Librettist Peter Kellogg wrote:

"It was adapted for your pleasure,
From somethin' called *Measure for Measure*.
I read the piece. Took me a week.
It's nothing like real people speak.
It's what they call a problem play.
I saw the problem right away.
Can't understand half what they say.

So we fixed up the words a lot,
Plus we threw out half the plot:
The storyline was too complex.
But we kept all the parts with...sex.
So if that offends unduly,
Blame Will Shakespeare, not yours truly."

– PIA HAAS

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Beyond Costumes
Diane Bradsell
Bradsell Contracting
Dawn Davison
Suzanne Hall-Fritsch
Hergenhan Community Center
Luddy Malchar



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Please visit armonkplayers.org for information about our history and past productions, upcoming shows and events, and to add your name to our mailing list. We welcome all actors, directors, producers, and technicians who are interested in volunteering!



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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Pia Haas (Director): Most recently, Pia was the Director of Press and Public Relations at Westchester Broadway Theatre. Currently, she is Artistic Director of The Armonk Players. Her favorite directorial efforts for the players: *Something's Afoot*, *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Fools*, *The Liar*, *The Foreigner*, and *Time Stands Still*. Many thanks to the cast and crew for their generosity in sharing their extraordinary talents with us. Kudos to all the dedicated volunteers who make theatre magic at The Armonk Players!

Will Rich (Musical Director): Will is a music director, pianist, and vocal coach from Rockland County. Recent credits include Bergen County Players (MD for *Rent*, *Godspell*), Star Royale Theatre (MD for *Rock of Ages*, *Spamalot*), and Iona University (Keyboardist for *Twelfth Night*). He has performed in pit orchestras and accompanied singers and instrumentalists throughout Rockland, Westchester, NYC, and NJ. This summer, he will be the primary accompanist for Taconic Opera's summer workshop series in Croton-on-Hudson. This production of *Desperate Measures* is his first with Armonk Players and he has greatly enjoyed working with such a fantastic creative team and cast. Will currently resides in Nyack, NY.

Jill Paganelli (Choreographer): Jill is thrilled to make her debut with Armonk Players. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Actors Conservatory Theatre, where she is the Choreography Assistant & Dance Captain for the Main Stage & Jr. Troupe productions. Dance training includes Sleepy Hollow Performing Artists, Westchester Dance Academy, and Muhlenberg College. Other choreography & Dance Captain credits include Croton Youth Summer Theater, Local Celebrity Theater's *Newsies*, Broadway Bodies. Jill is grateful to Anthony, Pia, Will, and this wildly talented cast and crew for their trust and support. This is for, and because of, her trailblazer grandmother, Arlene Wendt, and her mom, Janice, who infused choreography into every magical car ride & corner of her life.

Laura Groven (Stage Manager): Laura got her start stage managing almost 10 years ago with Small Town Theatre at the Hergenhan Recreation Center in Armonk and soon started working with Armonk Players and Harrison Players. Freely admitting she has no talent for the stage, she delights in keeping backstage running smoothly for the very talented casts in each new show and perhaps creating a prop or two.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"The Ballad of Johnny Blood"	All
"The Ballad of Johnny Blood (reprise)"	Johnny
"That's Just How It Is"	Sheriff
"Some Day They Will Thank Me"	Governor
"Look in Your Heart"	Susanna and Governor
"It's Good to Be Alive"	Johnny
"It Doesn't Hurt to Try"	Johnny, Sheriff, Susanna, Priest
"It's Getting Hot in Here"	Bella
"The Way That You Feel"	Susanna, Bella, Sheriff
"Stop There"	Sheriff
"In the Dark"	All

ACT II

"What a Night"	Governor
"About Last Night"	Susanna and Governor
"Stop There (reprise)"	Sheriff
"Just for You"	Bella and Johnny
"Just for You (reprise)"	Bella and Johnny
"What Is This Feeling?"	Susanna
"What a Day"	Governor
"Some Day They Will Thank Me (reprise)"	Governor
"Life Takes You by Surprise"	All
"It's Good to Be Alive (reprise)"	Johnny
"It's a Beautiful Day"	Bella and Susanna
"Finale"	All

SETTING

Time: Late 1800s

Place: Somewhere Out West

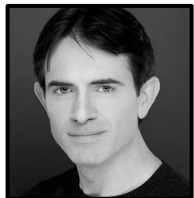
THERE WILL BE ONE 10-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



Robert Agis
(*Sheriff Martin Green*):

Robert has starred in plays and

musicals including *Guys and Dolls* (Sky), *She Loves Me* (Georg), *Oklahoma* (Curly), and *Picnic* (Hal). Robert studied acting at The William Esper Studio and holds degrees in piano performance and music composition. Robert is also an author. Watch for two of his children's books coming soon from Candlewick Press.



Tom Ammirato
(*Father Morse*):

Tom is thrilled to join this amazing cast and The

Armonk Players for a journey into the Wild West. It's been his privilege for the past 30 years to work with so many theater groups throughout Westchester, including Armonk Players in its annual "Looking at Christmas" and "Glimpse of Christmas" readings. Favorite credits: *Big River* (Pap), *The Music Man* (Charlie Cowell) at Westchester Broadway Theatre, *Guys and Dolls* (Sky Masterson), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *Curtains* (Lt. Frank Cioffi), and *Mr. Roberts* (Ensign Pulver). Tom is a Park Supervisor

and Arborist with the New York City Parks, Manhattan Forestry. Tom is also very excited to be working with Colleen, his multi-talented wife and costume designer for this show! Hugs & Kisses COOX, for all your love and support!



Annie Fitzgerald
(*Bella Rose*):

Annie is very excited to be back on stage perform-

ing with The Armonk Players. She was last seen as Violet in *Violet* with the Actors Conservatory Theatre back in 2019. Annie received her BFA in Musical Theatre from Rider University, and most recently, her MS in Music Therapy from Molloy University. She wants to thank the cast/crew for making this experience so great, as well as Pickles and Joe for all of their support!



Michelle Foard
(*Susanna / Sister Mary Jo*):

Michelle is thrilled to be debuting at

Armonk Players! She was last seen as Miss Honey in *Matilda*, Cinderella in *Cinderella*, and Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* at Yorktown Stage. Off-Broadway credits

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

include: *For Goodness Sake* with Musicals Tonight and *Valley Forge* with First Flight Productions. Recent screen credits include *Special Ops: Lioness* on Paramount Plus. Favorite regional roles include Natalie in *All Shook Up*, Serena in *Legally Blonde*, and Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown*. She has also been seen in several recent productions with New Rochelle Opera and Ft. Worth Opera. Michelle teaches music at Shrub Oak International School and holds a Master's of Music from Truman State University. She is also the founder of Capes For A Cos, a nonprofit organization that creates custom adaptive costumes for children with disabilities. A huge thank you to Pia, Will, Jill, Jess, Laura, and the incredible crew and cast of *Desperate Measures*!

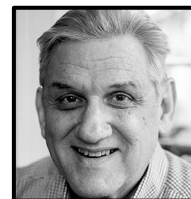


Anthony Malchar
(*Johnny Blood*):

Anthony is thrilled to be back here with The Armonk Players! You may

recognize him from the "Glimpse of Christmas" shows and *Next to Normal* back in 2018. Anthony is not only performing in *Desperate Measures*, but he has also helped as Casting Director and Co-Producer! Recently he played another hot-headed cowboy,

Stacee Jaxx, in *Rock of Ages*. Some favorite credits include *Evita* (Che), *The Who's Tommy* (Tommy), *Big River* (Huck Finn), and his award-winning portrayal of Eugene in *Broadway Bound*, which earned him Best Leading Actor in a Professional Play. He's a full-time balloon artist and enjoys being a Disney fanatic. Thank you to Pia, everyone involved, and his favorite librarian! This production is dedicated "just for you!" @balloonsbyanthony



Steve Taylor
(*Governor*):

Steve has appeared on stages in

Westchester and Rockland for 20 years, in productions including *Shenandoah* (Charlie), *The Will Rogers Follies* (Will), *Closer Than Ever* (Man #2), *The Most Happy Fella* (Tony), *A Man of No Importance* (Alfie), and *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo). He is an active member, former president, and Golden Elm Leaf recipient at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack.