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The Armonk Players Presents



MUSIC & BOOK BY **JAMES VALCQ**
LYRICS & BOOK BY **FRED ALLEY**
BASED ON THE FILM BY **LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF**

DIRECTED BY **PIA HAAS**
MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **WILL RICH**



JUNE 5 - JUNE 13

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

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THE SPITFIRE GRILL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

The Armonk Players

PRESENTS

THE Spitfire GRILL

A Musical

MUSIC AND BOOK BY JAMES VALCQ BOOK & LYRICS BY FRED ALLEY BASED ON THE FILM BY LEE DAVID ZLOTOFF

FEATURING

Percy Talbott DOMINIQUE KARANFILIAN
Hannah Ferguson ANN ALFORD
Shelby Thorpe JENNIFER WALLACE
Sheriff Joe Sutter ANTHONY MALCHAR
Caleb Thorpe MICHAEL MORIARITY
Effy Krayneck LORI SKJEVELAND
The Visitor / Eli STEVEN ESTRADA

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director PIA HAAS
Musical Director WILL RICH
Stage Manager VERONICA HUDAK
Assistant Stage Manager KRISTA GAFFNEY
Co-Producers DENNY NIKOLOPOULOS & MATTHEW SPAIN
Casting Director ANTHONY MALCHAR
Technical Director & Lighting Operator DANIEL SCHERER
Lighting Design ANTHONY SANTORA
Sound Design JESSE MELITO
Costumer COLLEEN AMMIRATO
Props VIVIEN CORD, SASHA JACOBS, & PHYLLIS SEDERBAUM
Set Construction TOM AMMIRATO & LUDDY MALCHAR
Playbill & Instagram REBECCA TOOLSIDASS
Publicity & Promotion KIM SINISTORE
Promotion VIVIEN CORD & TAMARA SILBERMAN
Treasurer BARBARA VIRCILO
Production Assistants ... SASHA JACOBS, SAM RUDY, & CARL WEINBERG
Website RON AARONSON
Front of House VIVIEN CORD, SUSAN GEFFEN, & ED MCCLURE
Orchestra..... WILL RICH (Conductor/Keyboard), GILLIAN KROLL (Guitar/
Mandolin), DON GERUNDO (Accordion), KAREN CHALIF (Cello),
JANE LEE (Violin)

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of *The Spitfire Grill* Off-Broadway in 2001.

The Spitfire Grill received its World Premiere production by the George Street Playhouse on November 5, 2000, David Saint (Artistic Director) / Michael Stotts (Managing Director).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As we began working on *The Spitfire Grill*, I kept returning to the idea that we all live within our own prison. For some, that prison is grief, regret, loneliness, fear, or disappointment. At its heart, this story is about hope, redemption, and lost dreams resurrected through the power of community, our chosen family.

We are living in a time that can feel increasingly fractured and uncertain. Politically and culturally, division is often what we see first. And yet, I believe we are not meant to surrender to that. The human spirit is too resilient, too determined to connect, to heal, and to begin again.

We also wanted to celebrate strong female voices and characters at a time when conversations around women's rights and equity feel especially urgent. Through its gorgeous folk-inspired score and the quiet beauty of small-town Wisconsin, *The Spitfire Grill* offers a needed respite from the constant noise and anxieties of modern life. Like Percy, who discovers that the natural world is "better than any picture," we are reminded of what stillness, kindness, and community can restore within us.

Ultimately, *The Spitfire Grill* is about the strength we find in one another. And most importantly, we are reminded that redemption rarely arrives loudly, but quietly, in the moment we are fully seen, and choose to see one another in return.

– PIA HAAS

SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Rodd Berro
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Actors Conservatory Theatre
Bradsell Contracting
John Arco

DeCicco & Sons in Armonk
Judy Willsey at Framings in Armonk,
for framing our show posters!
All Star Beverages in Yonkers
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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: *I Love You Because*, *Desperate Measures*, *The Foreigner*, *Something's Afoot*, *A Flea In Her Ear*, *Fools*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, 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, conductor, educator and vocal coach from Rockland County, NY. He has music directed, played in pit orchestras, and accompanied singers and instrumentalists throughout Westchester, Rockland, NYC, and northern NJ. This is his third production with The Armonk Players, and the third show in a row he has done with the Players where he knew next to nothing about the show but ended up loving it immensely. Thanks to the rest of the creative team, cast, crew and pit musicians. Will currently resides in Stamford, CT and teaches K-5 music in Port Chester, NY.

Veronica Hudak (Stage Manager): Veronica is excited for her Armonk Players debut and to be working on her first musical production outside of a school setting. Previous theatre experience in recent years includes playing Ursula Borne and Margot in YCP's *Alibi* and being Assistant Director for seven shows (plays and musicals) at Rye Neck High School (2023-2026). She would like to thank her family, friends, and God for being the best support system ever. Thanks as well to the cast and crew for being such dedicated, talented, and wonderful people. Break a leg and "Shine!"

Daniel Scherer (Technical Director / Lighting Operator): Dan has an extensive history in theatrical work. He was with Bedford Community Theatre for over 17 years. He was also Technical Director for Crime & Merriment, a Murder Mystery troupe based in Danbury, CT. He has worked with several performing arts schools, like N.Y. All-Stars (*Jungle Book*, *Frozen Jr.*), and other theatre groups, including State of Play Productions (*Two Junes and No July*). His favorite tech efforts for The Armonk Players have been *Something's Afoot*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Foreigner*, *The 39 Steps*, *Tuesdays With Morrie*, *Desperate Measures*, *The Haunted Word: Tales of Edgar Allan Poe* and *Forever Yours, Olive Thomas*.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

"A Ring Around the Moon"	Percy
"Something's Cooking at the Spitfire Grill"	Company
"Out of the Frying Pan"	Percy
"When Hope Goes"	Shelby
"Ice and Snow"	Caleb, Joe and Effy
"The Colors of Paradise"	Percy and Shelby
"Digging Stone"	Caleb
"This Wide Woods"	Joe and Percy
"Forgotten Lullaby"	Hannah
"Shoot the Moon"	Hannah and Company

ACT II

"Come Alive Again"	Hannah and Company
"Forest for the Trees"	Joe
"Wild Bird"	Shelby
"Shine"	Percy
"Way Back Home"	Hannah
"Finale"	Company

SETTING

Time: 1996

Place: Rural Wisconsin

RUNTIME

Approximately two hours.

THERE WILL BE ONE 10-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

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The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, tablets and watches.

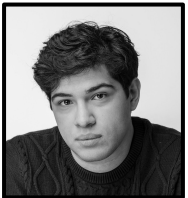
CAST BIOGRAPHIES



**Ann Alford
(Hannah):**

Ann is immensely excited to make her debut with

The Armonk Players. She has appeared in various productions in Connecticut, most recently as the Dowager Empress in *Anastasia*. Other favorite roles include Aunt Martha (*Arsenic and Old Lace*), Miss Marple (*A Murder is Announced*), Lucille (*The Cemetery Club*), Mrs. Hubbard (*Murder on the Orient Express*), Reverend Mother (*Nunsense*), Miss Shingle (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), and Annie (*Calendar Girls*). Many thanks to Pia, Will, Anthony, Veronica and to the entire cast and crew for this amazing opportunity!



**Steven Estrada
(The Visitor / Eli):**

Steven is excited to be joining the cast of *The Spitfire Grill*!

Previous shows include *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* (Monsieur Jourdain), *Something Rotten!* (Robin), *Pippin* (Charlemagne), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho). Instagram: @steven.a.estrada



**Dominique Karanfilian
(Percy):**

Dominique makes her Armonk Players

debut after spending the past 6 years living in Florida where she graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from the University of Miami, and where she proceeded to work for Walt Disney World Live Entertainment. As a local graduate of Byram Hills High School in 2018, she was active in its theatre department and she is beyond grateful and excited to be re-entering Armonk's theatre-sphere. Previous favorite roles include Gwendolyn Fairfax in UMiami's *The Importance of Being Ernest* and Eponine in The Varley Players' *Les Miserables*. She'd like to thank her father for being a constant inspiration to her, and most of all her mom, Norma, not just for always cheering her on from the wings of her life, but for time and time again, giving her wings to fly with at all.



**Anthony Malchar
(Joe):**

Anthony is happy to be back here with The Armonk

Players! You adored him as Johnny Blood, the lovable outlaw, in *Desperate Measures* and as the

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

straight-laced Austin in *I Love You Because!* You may recognize him from the holiday shows and *Next to Normal* back in 2018. Some favorite credits include *Something Rotten!* (Shakespeare), *Evita* (Che), *Rock of Ages* (Stacey Jaxx), *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! Thank you to Pia, Will, & everyone involved! – @balloonsbyanthony



**Michael Moriarity
(Caleb):**

Michael is a graduate of The American Academy

of Dramatic Arts and Western Connecticut State University. He is excited for his first time performing with The Armonk Players. His previous roles include the recent Antrim Playhouse production of *Avenue Q* as Trekkie Monster, as well as in many Shakespeare companies in roles such as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He would like to extend thanks to everyone involved in *The Spitfire Grill* and hopes the audience enjoys the show.



**Lori Skjeveland
(Effy):**

Lori is thrilled to be making her debut with The Armonk

Players and to share the stage with such a talented cast. She discovered her love of singing and acting in high school and college, and spent 17 years as a vocalist with The UnInvited cover band. Lori returned to the stage after her family joined community theater shows. Her favorite roles include Donna Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!*, Nun Ensemble in *Sister Act*, Claire Holmes in *The Secret Garden*, and *Matilda* (Ensemble). Recently retired from a career in business, Lori now enjoys traveling, boating, learning jewelry-making, and relaxing.



**Jennifer Wallace
(Shelby):**

Jennifer is delighted to be making her debut

with The Armonk Players. Selected credits include *Camelot* (Guenevere), *Antigone* (title role), *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (Olivia Darnell), *Twelfth Night* (Viola), *The Revolutionists* (Charlotte Corday), *Hamlet* (Ophelia), and *West Side Story* (Somewhere Soloist). Many thanks to Pia, Will, and Veronica, and all of our wonderful cast and production team.