

CASCADES THEATRICAL COMPANY PRESENTS

GRAND HORIZONS

By

BESS WOHL

*Tony
Nominated!*



Feb 14 – Mar 2, 2025

THUR-SAT 7:30PM & SUN 2PM

148 NW GREENWOOD AVE, BEND

541.389.0803



Cascades Theatrical Company is a 504(c)(3) non-profit organization

46 CELEBRATED SEASONS

About the Writer: Bess Wohl

Bess Wohl's plays have been produced or developed at theaters around the country, including the Williamstown Theatre Festival, People's Light and Theatre Company, Center Theatre Group, the Contemporary American Theater Festival, the Pioneer Theatre, the Pittsburgh Public Theater, the Northlight Theater, TheaterWorks New Works Festival, the Geffen Playhouse, the Vineyard Arts Project, Ojai Playwright's Conference, the Cape Cod Theatre Project and the New York International Fringe Festival. Her play *American Hero* had its world premiere at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, directed by Leigh Silverman. She also worked on *Pretty Filthy*, an original musical about the adult entertainment industry, in collaboration with the composer / lyricist Michael Friedman and the Civilians. Her other plays include *Cats Talk Back*, *In, Barcelona*, and *Touched*. Her work has been supported by the MacDowell Fellowship, PlayPenn, and the Sewanee Writer's Conference. She is a member of the Ars Nova Play Group, and has been the recipient of new play commissions from Manhattan Theatre Club and Center Theatre Group. She also writes for film and television. She completed an adaptation of the bestselling novel "The Luxe" for Paramount Pictures and has developed original television pilots for Fox, HBO, and USA.

Bess is a graduate of Harvard, magna cum laude, where she studied with Seamus Heaney and Jamaica Kincaid, and was awarded the Rona Jaffe Writing Prize and the Tennessee Williams Scholarship. She earned her MFA from the Yale School of Drama, where she was a recipient of the Rebecca West Scholarship. She is originally from Brooklyn, New York, and divides her time between New York and Los Angeles.



Director's Notes

There is a growing cultural phenomenon in this country called “grey divorce” - married couples divorcing after the age of 65. Since 2010, the rate of grey divorce has more than tripled. Bess Wohl, in her play *Grand Horizons* explores the cause of this trend with a perfect mix of awkward comedy and interpersonal drama through the French family. Over dinner one evening, Nancy announces to her husband, Bill, that she would like a divorce after over 45 years of marriage. While Nancy feels liberated and Bill seems unfazed and nonchalant, their adult sons Brian and Ben, and daughter-in-law, Jess, don't exactly take it well. As the “kids” descend on the *Grand Horizons* senior living community to mediate, everything they thought they knew about their parents comes crashing down.

In the beginning, the story's characters compartmentalize the way they see each other as parents or children, brothers or sisters. Through their narrow view, the adult children's behavior reverts back to adolescence, complete with sibling rivalry surfacing all over again. At certain points, everyone behaves like a child. As the family navigates their new reality, each must update their idea of what loving each other looks like. They must realize that people have inner lives that delve beyond the one-dimensional roles of “Mom,” “Dad,” “sensible older brother,” “sensitive little brother,” and “dutiful daughter-in-law” that everyone else has put upon them. Each one redefines love, commitment, and most importantly, communication.

This cast of brilliant actors, skillfully mine both the comedy and the tragedy of the story. They have taken these characters and made them authentic and genuine. I believe the audience will find similarities in these characters with people they know, or even in themselves. In the end, each character comes to new understandings about who each other really is below the surface, and strive for a new, greater acceptance in their relationships. Even though the topic of the story is serious and somewhat dire, it is hysterical, witty, poignant, and, in the end, hopeful. I hope you enjoy watching this production as much as I enjoyed directing it.

Desi Thrower
Director

Play Synopsis

It's out with the old and in with the new (sort of).

Over a quiet dinner for two, Bill and Nancy serenely decide to divorce after fifty years of marriage. While Nancy feels liberated and Bill seems unfazed, their adult sons Brian and Ben don't exactly take it well. As the "kids" descend on the Grand Horizons senior living community to mediate, everything they thought they knew about their parents comes crashing down.

Bess Wohl's Tony nominated comedy is a hilarious, heartbreaking commentary on marriage, family, and the wisdom that comes with age—or not.

Setting

Grand Horizons Senior Living Community,
Present Day

Runtime

Approximately 2 hours 10 minutes,
including one intermission.

The Cast

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Nancy French.....Tracy Miller
Bill French.....Perry Scott Schwarz
Brian French.....Donovan Kelly
Ben French.....Mark Baron
Jess.....Whitney Garner
Tommy.....Nathan Linares
Carla.....Laura Lee Coffman

Production Team

Executive Producer.....Christine Mehner
Show Director.....Desi Thrower
Assistant Director.....Jeremy Higgs
Stage Manager.....Sam Simonich
Master Carpenter.....Cclub
Asst. Carpenter.....Bryan Bliss
Set Design & Dress.....Desi, Cclub
Painters.....Debby Benson, Kylee Purcell
Props.....Kylee Purcell
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Meet the Cast



Tracy Miller as Nancy French

A member of the Central Oregon Theatre Community since 2009: set design, construction/painting, running crew, costumer - (2nd St: *Young Frankenstein*/ *Sweeney Todd*; a steel "tin man" TMP's *Wizard of Oz*; CTC: *Noises Off*, *She Loves Me*, *Lost in Yonkers*, *Arcadia*...). 2024 added Actor (DTC's *Women in Jeopardy*, *Jo*) and Director (*Crimson Eyes* for SETC). Grateful to play Nancy with this cast, she dedicates her performance to her parents Dot and Tuggs. To Roy, Bill, Derek and his Orion's belt and Pooter, her wonder cat.



Perry Scott Schwarz as Bill French

Acting runs deep. Perry's great-grandfather, Nathan Schwarz (Sarnow), led his theatrical company at court of Nichols II, the last Czar of Russia. WWI forced Sarnow to flee, losing everything. Grandfather, Heinrich Schwarz also Sarnow, a Berlin theater luminary, narrowly escaped Nazis waiting in his dressing room, facing the same fate. Perry earned his SAG card with a recurring role in "Knots Landing." Other credits include "As the World Turns" and film, "To Die Quietly". After a 25-year hiatus, Perry honors his family's legacy, vowing never to leave the theater again.



Donovan Kelly as Brian French

Donovan Kelly has been doing theatre since the age of six. From doing sketches with his friends to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival it has always remained his greatest passion. This is Donovan's third play with CTC this year, and every experience has been challenging and fun in equal measure. He is super excited to share the stage with this amazing cast!

Meet the Cast



Mark Baron as Ben French

Mark Baron is a trained singer, actor, and improviser who's been performing for over 20 years. Most recently, he directed Ellipse Theatre Community's production of *Tuesdays With Morrie* and also played in ETC's productions of *Silent Sky* and *Craig Fox Had A Wife*. His most laughable role was Nick Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Bend's "Guerrilla Shakespeare Company." Prior to moving to Bend, he held several Lead Operatic roles with "The Savoy Company of Philadelphia." Mark is excited to get back on stage after a long Summer break and is happy to have you here. Enjoy the show! Special thanks to all of Mark's biggest supporters in the Bend community and especially to his loving wife, Justine, and fur kids: Luna, Cosmo, Ziggy, & Miles.



Whitney Garner as Jess

Whitney Garner is excited to be working with such an amazing cast and crew on *Grand Horizons*! It's a joy to work with so many talented artists. She's been on stage previously with CTC as Alice in *You Can't Take It With You*, with Ellipse Theatre Community as Veronica in *God of Carnage*, and Silent Echo Theater Company's *Now You're Talking* one acts. Special thanks to her husband for his support and to everyone in attendance for recognizing the importance of theatre in the community.



Nathan Linares as Tommy

Just a young city boy flying his freak flag with purpose. A local thespian in Bend, Oregon who is putting himself first and is not caretaking in relationships. Nathan has moved up a lot in the theater community and is having so much fun getting requested by many directors and play writers in town. Nathan can handle a lot because he is a lot. If you can't go with his roleplay that's fine he can't do yours.



Laura Lee Coffman as Carla

Laura Lee played "ghostly" Grandma Tzeitel in CTC's *Fiddler on the Roof* earlier this year. Goofy offbeat roles (like Carla) are the best! LL loves writing shorts as a hobby & many times she & fellow actor/husband, Dr. Michael Coffman, will team up to act in & direct. Next production will be painting & decorating their new home, Dragonstone Manor, in preparation for a medieval style vow renewal ceremony. Thanks to Desi, Jeremy & this fun group for such a grand time! Spare doughnut, anyone?

Meet the Production Team



Desi Thrower - Director

Desi has been acting, directing, and producing for many years in both community and repertory theatre. As a director, Desi has brought over 35 productions to the stage including *Night Watch*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Miracle Worker*, and most recently at CTC, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Since moving to Bend 4 years ago, Desi jumped right into the Bend theatre scene with acting roles at CTC including *Murder on the Orient Express* (Helen Hubbard), *You Can't Take It With You* (Penny), and *Sylvia* (Phyllis). She was the *Mayor/Ensemble* in Theatre in the Park's production of *Spamalot* and played Mistress Quickly in last summer's *Merry Wives of Windsor* for Guerrilla Shakespeare. In addition, Desi is a featured player in the upcoming film "Bampire." Desi is proud and honored to be directing *Grand Horizons*, especially with this very talented cast, and the support of her Assistant Director Jeremy Hipps. Finally, she's sending a special shout out to her Stallion.



Jeremy Hipps - Assistant Director

Joining Bend's theatre scene in 2024, Jeremy recently had his directing debut (*Canyon's Edge*, SETC One Acts), and his acting debut as The Narrator in *The Ride* at CTC's Cascades 10 Festival. He also worked on the sets for CTC's *Fiddler on the Roof*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Winter Wonderettes* and *The Prom*. He is grateful to Desi, Chris M and Maddie for this learning opportunity as he pursues his dream of directing a full length show. He is thankful for his wife Elizabeth's continued encouragement and support.

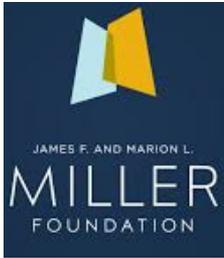
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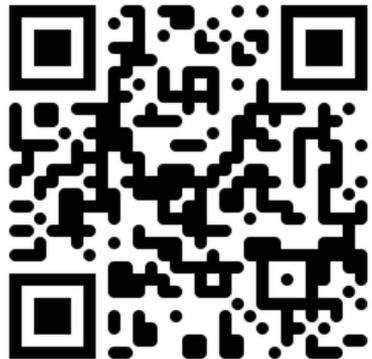


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