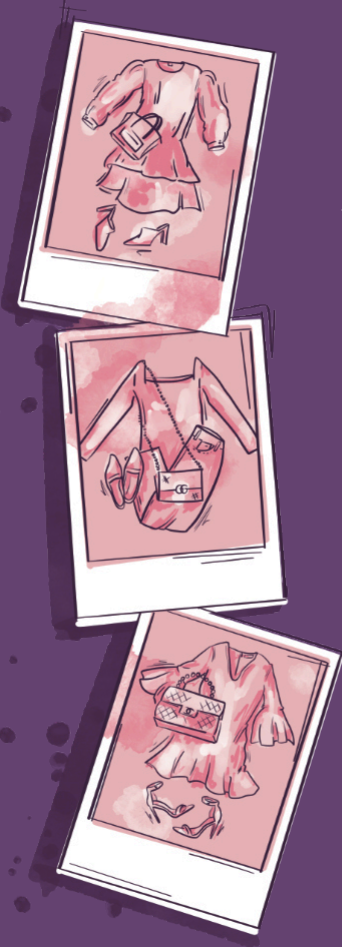


108th Season



LOVE, LOSS,

AND *What I
Were*

MAY 17 – JUN. 9, 2024



VAGABOND PLAYERS



VAGABOND PLAYERS

The Best of Broadway on Broadway

806 South Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21231
410-563-9135
www.vagabondplayers.org

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Please silence all cell phones and electronic devices during the performance.

No food or drinks are allowed in the theatre.

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**baltimore
playwrights
festival**

Vagabond Players is a founding member of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. For more information, visit <http://www.baltplayfest.org>.

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT

LOVE, LOSS AND *What I Wore*

by Nora Ephron and Delia Ephron
Based on the book by Ilene Beckerman
Directed by Belle Burr

Cast

Gingy	Najah S. Bayyan
Gingy's Mother / Holly / Lynne / Lisa	Jenelle Brown
Alex / Annie / Eve / Geralyn / Liz	Morgan Wenerick
Alex's Mother / Liz's Older Sister / Mary / Stephanie / Heather ..	Rebecca Ellis
Liz's Younger Sister / Nora / Rosie / Pam	Lydia Newman
Eve's Shrink / Mary's Mother / Meryl	Andrea Staats
Amanda / Dora / Nancy / Doctor	Emma Staisloff
Nancy's Mother	Melissa Banister
Woman in Doctor's Office	Mira Lamson Klein
Ensemble / Alternate	Rachel Demma
Ensemble	Jess Corso

Setting

Post-1940s to now

Love, Loss and What I Wore is performed without an intermission.

Original New York Production produced by Daryl Roth.

The English language stock and amateur stage performance rights in the United States, its territories, possessions and Canada for LOVE, LOSS, AND WHAT I WORE are controlled exclusively by Dramatists Play Service, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY10016. No professional or nonprofessional performance of the play may be given without obtaining in advance the written permission of Dramatists Play Service and paying the requisite fee.

Cast Gallery



Najah S.
Bayyan



Jenelle
Brown



Morgan
Wenerick



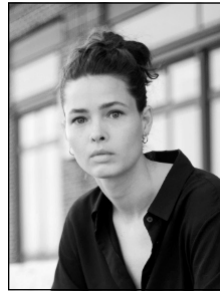
Rebecca
Ellis



Lydia
Newman



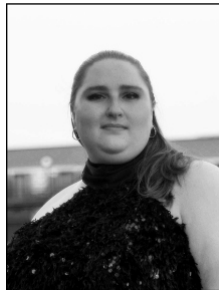
Andrea
Staats



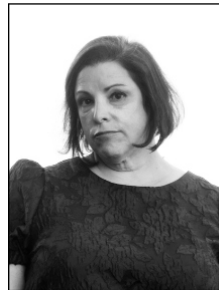
Emma
Staisloff



Melissa
Banister



Mira
Lamson Klein



Rachel
Demma



Jess
Corso

Cast and Crew Biographies

Melissa Banister (Nancy's Mother) was most recently seen as Female Greek Chorus in Vagabond Players' production of *How I Learned to Drive* and Cassandra in Spotlighters' *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*. Additional select credits include: *Three Sisters*, *Dr. Charcot's Hysteria Shows*, *The Great Fury of Phillip Hotz*, and *The Firebugs*. Look for Melissa in the upcoming local film, *Glove Match*. When not on stage, Melissa supports BCPS students and staff as a theatre arts teacher and instructional coach. She appreciates the cast, crew, and Belle for this experience. Melissa is forever grateful to Nicholas and Matthew for their constant support, inspiration, and love.

Najah S. Bayyan (aka NajahBNajah) (Gingy) is a featured spoken word artist, vocalist, author, and former open mic host. Raised with an appreciation for the performing arts, Najah has performed recently as Mayme in Lynn Nottage's *Intimate Apparel* at Fells Point Corner Theater. She is honored to be working with such an amazing cast and crew.

Jenelle Brown (Gingy's Mother/Holly/Lynne/Lisa) is a senior engineering major at Morgan State University and a Baltimore native. She is super excited to have *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* as her Vagabond Players debut! Before this, she appeared as Mrs. Dickson in *Intimate Apparel* at Fells Point Corner Theater and several Morgan Theater productions. Jenelle is also proud to have been a member of the Morgan State University Choir (2nd Alto). She wishes to thank her family for their continued love and support. Break a leg everyone!

Rachel Demma (Ensemble/Alternate) is thrilled to be making her debut with Vagabond Players after a long hiatus from theater. Her last role was as Poopay in Silver Spring Stage's 2008 production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Communicating Doors*, for which she was nominated as Best Lead Actress in the 2009 Silver Spring Stage Awards. She is so happy to have been welcomed into the Vagabond community by this amazing director, cast, and crew!

Rebecca Ellis (Alex's Mother/Liz's Older Sister/Mary/Stephanie/Heather) is originally from Chicago, where she received her BFA in Acting from NIU. Since moving to Maryland, Rebecca has appeared with Peter's Alley (Sally Talley, *Talley's Folly*; Becca, *Rabbit Hole*; Callie, *Stop Kiss*), LiveArtDC (Yelena, *Drunkle Vanya*; Clara Bow, *Becoming IT*), CSC (Ophelia, *Hamlet*; Margery Pinchwife, *The Country Wife*; Celia, *As You Like It*), BCT (Catherine Sloper, *The Heiress*; Becky, *Becky's New Car*), and Colonial Players (Lusia, *A Shayna Maidel*; Mrs. DeWinter, *Rebecca*; Lucrece, *The Liar*), among others. Rebecca recently won a WATCH Award for her cameo performance of Emilia Bassano Lanier in *The Book of Will* with Colonial Players.

Mira Lamson Klein (Woman in Doctor's Office) is an actor, writer, and director with a passion for the development of new theatre. She is thrilled to make her Vagabond Players debut! Previous DMV credits include the *10x10x10 Play Festival* at Fells Point Corner Theatre and *American Dream* at Rorschach Theatre. Other credits: *Henry V* (Exeter, various), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Capulet), *Why the World Would End Without Pomegranates* (Hecate), and *Antigone* (Kreon). Mira holds a Bachelor of Science in Theatre from Skidmore College and studied Commedia dell'Arte at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. Love always to my deeply supportive friends and to Mom and Dad. @miralamsonklein on Instagram.

Lydia Newman (Liz's Younger Sister/Nora/Rosie/Pam) is thrilled to be making her Vagabond Players debut in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*. She is a recent graduate of the University of Virginia, where she graduated with a B.A. in Drama and Media Studies. Past credits include Rosie in *Baltimore Docket* (You Have No Idea, LLC), Deb in *Elf the Musical* (Wayne Theatre), Feste in *Twelfth Night the Musical* (UVA Drama), and Thomas/Betsy in *Sense and Sensibility* (UVA Drama). Much love to family and friends!

Andrea Staats (Eve's Shrink/Mary's Mother/Meryl) is excited to be making her Baltimore theatre debut with Vagabond Players! Originally from Anchorage, AK, Andrea is a neurodivergent theatre artist, comic, and educator. Her play, *omg we ate a guy!* will be performed at Hunter College this fall. She's currently developing a new comedy solo show called *My Boyfriend's Secret Family*. Career highlights include bursting into tears while performing stand-up at a skate park in rural Alabama and becoming TikTok famous for finding a lizard in her pants.

Emma Staisloff (Amanda/Dora/Nancy/Doctor) is excited to make her Vagabond Players debut and perform for her Fells Point community! She was most recently a part of the Fells Point Corner Theater *10x10x10 Play Festival* this past summer. She'd like to give a shout-out to the cast and crew of *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* as they've been an amazing group to work with. She's sending love to her partner Brett and two cats Jak and Goose; thank you for the support throughout this experience! Enjoy the show!

Morgan Wenerick (Alex/Annie/Eve/Geralyn/Liz) is taking the stage in her fourth production with Vagabond Players, and she couldn't feel more happy or lucky about it. Others include *How I Learned to Drive* (directed by Tessara Morgan Farley), *Witness for the Prosecution* (directed by Robert Opper), and *Stop Kiss* (directed by Belle Burr). Morgan graduated from Towson University in May 2020 with a B.F.A. in Acting and a Minor in Mass Communications. She continues to feel forever grateful to Vags for bringing so many fulfilling opportunities and truly amazing people into her life. Thank you.

Belle Burr (Director) previously directed *Stop Kiss* at Vagabond Players, is an alumni of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and has studied classical theater, Commedia Dell'arte, Dance, and Film. When not directing, Belle combines theater with history to teach children of all backgrounds about the world around them and as an actor she has performed all over the country in various styles of dramatic and comedic theater.

Nichemet Judith "NJ" Saroff (Stage Manager, they/them) is thrilled to be working on another show with Vagabond Players after staging managing *How I Learned To Drive* earlier this season! Previous stage managing credits include *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *Choir Boy*, and *Perfect Arrangement*, among others. NJ is a playwright and poet. Occasionally you may find them on stage instead of trapped in the booth: last seen acting in *High School Coven* and Rapid Lemon's Variations on Change where their play *Daylight Savings* was performed. When they aren't doing theatre, they can be found in the woods of Connecticut or Maryland teaching science and nature arts with ADAMAH. They hope this show brings everyone as much joy as it brought them to work on!

Jess Corso (Ensemble/Assistant Stage Manager) is honored to be back again for her third production at Vagabond Players. After her Vagabond Players debut in *Chess* (ensemble), and a whirlwind run as Stage Manager for *Witness for the Prosecution*, Jess was going to take a break and simply enjoy watching the rest of Vagabond's 108th season. Plans changed when the producers for *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* asked her back; how could she refuse!? Currently working as a Systems Engineer/Flight Test Director, Jess is excited to once again be spending her free time with both familiar and new faces. Her thanks to this group of lovely and wildly talented humans for continuing to give her a place here. To everyone else, enjoy the show!

Jaeden Arrington (Lighting Designer) is ecstatic to be working with Vagabond Players again. This is his second show working with the theatre - he designed lights for *How I Learned to Drive* earlier this season. Jaeden is honored to be working among such talent and given a chance to express his artistic ideas.

Cast and Crew Biographies

Britany Marriott-Blount (Costume Designer) is a New York born, Baltimore-based cosplayer, self-published writer, podcaster, artist, and now convention chairwoman of KhromaKon, a new Baltimore-based convention. She's been a featured artist at conventions and in interviews and podcasts. With her motto "Creating Fantasy and Altering Reality," Britany works tirelessly to expand her side of the internet by evolving her cosplay portfolio, increasing the details in her costumes, and showcasing her artwork and cosplay accessories at conventions across the country. Britany is currently working on creating KhromaKon, more episodes on her podcast *Noir Narration*, which focuses on fairytales and folklore from cultures of color and working on costumes for Baltimore-based companies.

Anthony Scimonelli (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be doing sound design for this production of *Love, Loss and What I Wore* at Vagabond Players. Previous sound design favorites include: *The Book of Will* at Colonial Players, *The Corner Creepies* at Fells Point Corner Theater, *Vagina Monologues* at University of Baltimore and Howard Community College, and *Julius Caesar* and *Macbeth* at Baltimore Shakespeare Festival. He would like to thank Rebecca for the creativity, encouragement and love, and his family for their support and love. Cheers.

Heiko Spieker (Projection Design, he/him) is incredibly grateful and excited to be working with Vagabond Players for the first time. In his 20+ years on and off stage, Heiko has worked with virtually every small theatre in the Baltimore area. Personal highlights include operating sound on a moving bus for *Promenade with Single Carrot*, performing countless hours of improvised comedy with The Early Monday Morning Show and Drop Three, portraying Doctor Everett Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and stage managing and sound designing for *Mr Burns: A Post-Electric Play*. Heiko would like to thank the cast and crew for their passion, and his family, both blood and assimilated, and especially Mrs. Awesomesauce, for their constant support.

Production Staff

Director	Belle Burr
Stage Manager	Nichemat Judith "NJ" Saroff
Assistant Stage Manager	Jess Corso
Lighting Design	Jaeden Arrington
Costume Design	Britany Marriott-Blount
Projections Design	Heiko Spieker
Sound Design	Anthony Scimonelli
Set Design	Belle Burr
Set Construction	Jay DeMarco Bruce Kapplin
Photographer	Shaelyn Jae Photography
Marketing/PR	Audra M.Mullen Sydney Marks
Graphic Design	Sarah Hepworth
Box Office/Front of House	Michael Kranick
Producers	Marylee Barnes Anthony Rufo

Special Thanks from the Director

Ron Burr, Jr. for all his support, love and humor.
Faith Gaskin - My inspiration, always.

Vagabond Players is a recipient of grants from the Maryland States Arts Council and Mayor Brandon Scott and the Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts



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COUNCIL**
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Gary Belt

Peter Bodde

Joseph and Sally Bogucki

Candice Chesno

David Graham

Myra Hettleman

Bob and Ginnie Kass

David Lennon

Linda McEwen

One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest

Cast and Crew

Dana Senior

Sheldon Shugarman

Susan Steele

Kimberly Swartz

William Woodward

The History of VAGABOND PLAYERS

The years that followed the great fire of 1904 were a time of great bustle and activity for Baltimore, and the commencement of World War I in 1914 helped to intensify this mood. During 1915 and 1916, Baltimore's industrial growth surpassed that of any similar period. [Also] during the war, a renaissance in the arts took place, led by Baltimore's mayor, Walter Preston. In 1915 Preston told the city council, "Baltimore's citizens have as much right to organizations that provide for aesthetic development as they do to a sanitation department."

Thus, by 1916 the city had its own symphony and community park concerts, and work had begun on a public art museum. Curiously enough, though, no one had been able to establish any kind of successful, progressive theater. This seems especially odd when one considers the great theatrical ferment that was then sweeping the country. Despite this national movement, however, attempts to organize permanent dramatic groups in Baltimore had failed. In 1916, three people decided to alter this situation: Constance D'Arcy Mackay, a New Yorker who specialized in directing elaborate pageants; Adele Gutman Nathan, a Baltimorean who had directed plays while attending Goucher College; and Carol Sax, a former student of theater and art at Columbia University and teacher at the Maryland Institute of Art.

In 1947, Mrs. Nathan recalled the circumstances that led to the founding of Baltimore's first little theater:

Constance Mackay, Carol Sax and I were waiting for a streetcar at the corner of Charles and Centre Streets...Weary from rehearsal, we leaned against a store window while we talked — good talk about the Little Theatre Movement that was spreading across the country...We agreed that Baltimore should have a Little Theatre. The town was loaded with talent. The question was, where to put the playhouse.

Carol Sax noticed that Miss Mackay and I were leaning against a store window. Directly above our heads was sign, "For Rent—Apply St. James Hotel." Eagerly the three of us cupped our eyes with our hands and peered through the darkened glass. The store was empty. It was about two stories high, just right for a theatre, and by some miracle there was a raised platform across the back wall...

Early the next morning, Carol Sax went to the St. James Hotel and paid the first month's rent. \$19.

Constance Mackay did not remain in Baltimore to participate in the actual founding of the theater. However, Carol Sax and Mrs. Nathan proceeded enthusiastically with the project, managing to throw Baltimore into a tizzy of excitement with their oblique publicity.

To learn more about our history, check out **The Vagabonds: America's Oldest Little Theatre** by Linda Lee Koenig or visit our website:
<https://www.vagabondplayers.org/history/>

Join Us for Our 109th Season!

INTO THE WOODS

Oct. 18 – Nov. 17, 2024

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine

Directed by Audra Mullen and Kerry Simons

Music Directed by Stephen Deininger

This Tony Award-winning book and score takes everyone's favorite storybook characters and brings them together for a timeless, yet relevant, musical theater modern classic.

"What makes this Stephen Sondheim musical of colliding fairytales so irresistible is its doubleness: playful, quirky and fun, it is also a profound exploration of parental anxiety and loss." – The Guardian

ROOM SERVICE

Jan. 10 – Feb. 2, 2025

By John Murray and Allen Boretz

Directed by Steve Goldklang

A nimble-witted producer, living on credit with several actors in a Broadway hotel, is desperately in need of an angel with \$15,000. The laughs don't stop coming in this great American farce that became an acclaimed Marx Brothers movie.

"Room Service' probably generates more laughs than any nonmusical in town."
– Variety

ART

Feb. 21 – Mar. 16, 2025

By Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Charlie Junkins

How much would you pay for a white painting? Would it matter who the painter was? Would it be art? Lines are drawn and friendships are tested in this Tony Award winner for Best Play.

"Art' sails along, funny, engaging and devilishly efficient."
– The Washington Post

TBD

Apr. 4 – 27, 2025

Directed by Lorraine C. Brooks

We are excited to welcome Lorraine Brooks – making her Vagabond Players directorial debut.

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE

May 30 – Jun. 22, 2025

By Steve Martin

Directed by Stephen Deininger

Martin plays fast and loose with fact, fame, and fortune in this brilliant absurdist comedy that places young Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso in a Parisian cafe in 1904, just before the renowned scientist transformed physics with his theory of relativity and the celebrated painter set the art world afire with cubism.

"... a show that blends philosophy and comedy in a wonderful way ... the strength of the script keeps the audience laughing. Anyone who loves the comedy of Steve Martin will enjoy 'Picasso at the Lapin Agile.'" – BroadwayWorld

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF
OUR 108TH SEASON!**

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AND SIGN-UP FOR OUR MAILING LISTS
TO BE NOTIFIED ABOUT TICKETS FOR
OUR 109TH SEASON!**

**THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE
A PART OF OUR PRODUCTIONS?**

Visit our website, sign up for our e-newsletter,
and follow us on social media to learn about our
auditions and behind-the-scenes opportunities.

We welcome artists of all backgrounds and
experience levels to join us and be a part of
bringing high quality theatre to Baltimore.

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Have you been involved in a production for
Vagabond Players? Whether on the stage or
behind the scenes, once you've participated in a
production you are eligible to become a
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