

Lowell Arts Theatre Presents:

Lowell Arts



12
**ANGRY
JURORS**

BY REGINALD ROSE
ADAPTED BY SHERMAN L. SERGEL

JANUARY 31

FEBRUARY 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

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Lowell Arts Theatre Presents



ANGRY JURORS

BY REGINALD ROSE

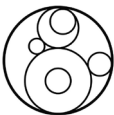
ADAPTED BY SHERMAN L. SERGEL

About the Play

A 19-year-old man has just stood trial for the fatal stabbing of his father. “He doesn’t stand a chance,” mutters the guard as the 12 jurors are taken into the bleak jury room. It looks like an open-and-shut case—until one of the jurors begins opening the others’ eyes to the facts. With each juror revealing his or her own character as the various testimonies are re-examined, the murder is re-enacted, and a new murder threat is born before their eyes! Tempers get short, arguments grow heated, and the group become twelve angry jurors.

Twelve Angry Jurors is produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois.

This program is made possible with the support of the Michigan Arts and Culture Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Lowell Area Community Fund, Business Sponsors, and Individuals.



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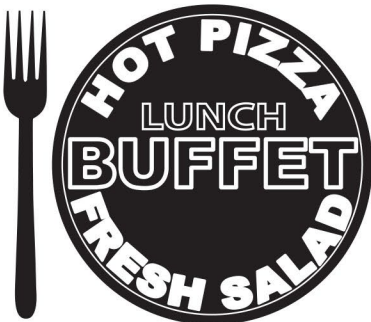
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Production Crew

DIRECTOR	Sandy Kirchinger
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	Lyssara Ford
STAGE MANAGER	Karen George
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Sam VanderVeen
COSTUME DESIGNER	Vickie St. John
COSTUME ASSISTANTS	Martha Hayden, Sandy Kirchinger
PROPERTIES MASTER	Martha Hayden
COMBAT CONSULTANT	Matthew McKay

Special thank you to Kettle Lake Elementary (Caledonia Community Schools) and Steven Schwall at Oakenhearth Armory.

Cast

FOREMAN	Robb Lamer
JUROR 2	Mark Stoll
JUROR 3	Emily Suchowolec
JUROR 4	Martha Hayden
JUROR 5	Sam VanderVeen
JUROR 6	Emily Snyder
JUROR 7	Laurel Conrad
JUROR 8	Bob Troszok
JUROR 9	John Grima
JUROR 10	Mike Golczynski
JUROR 11	Laurie Kuna
JUROR 12	Debra Canfield
GUARD	Patrice Conrad

Production Notes

Setting: Summer, mid-1970's, after all 50 states passed legislation allowing women to serve on federal juries. A jury room in a New York courthouse.

There will be a 15-minute intermission during the performance. Please turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices. Photography and video recording of any kind are not permitted.

Content Disclosure: This play has been rated PG-13 with recommended ages of 13+ for discussion of murder, racist language, and threats of violence.

Viewer discretion is advised.



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A Letter from the Director

This production is based on the classic movie, *12 Angry Men*, which premiered first as a teleplay and then as a film in 1957 and 1997. The script was released for amateur performance in the early 1960s. The all-male version has played on countless stages across the US and Canada.

Recently, however, the publisher has granted permission to cast both men and women, and to use the title *Twelve Angry Jurors*. Set in a New York jury room on a hot summer day, twelve individuals with various personalities and backgrounds must decide the fate of a 19-year-old man accused of stabbing his father.

The historic presentation of an all-male, all-white jury and an African American dependant certainly lends itself to tense and dramatic conclusions. The addition of women provides an additional and exciting challenge. This cast meets that challenge with sensitivity and insight. It is one of those rare combinations of talents that tells this story the way it was meant to be told. I feel very lucky to have worked with them.

We have also chosen to set our production in the 1970s. By 1958, most states could allow women to legally serve on a jury. However, discriminatory practices were widespread. It was not until 1975 that the US Supreme Court declared that jury selection could no longer discriminate on the basis of sex.

I hope you enjoy our interpretation of this classic. I am grateful for the amazing production team; Karen George, who has always kept me on track, as well as Sam Vanderveen and Laurel Conrad who have served double duty.

Thankfully yours,
Sandy Graham Kirchinger

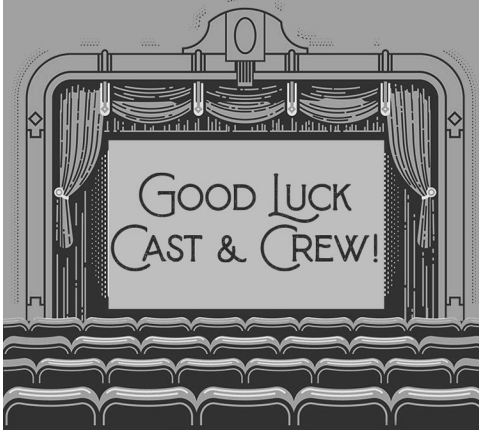
Meet the Director



Sandy Kirchinger (DIRECTOR)

Sandy Kirchinger (she/her) is thrilled to be directing *Twelve Angry Jurors*. She has appeared on the Lowell Arts stage in *Playbytes by Playwrights*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *The Cemetery Club*. She has also performed at many area community theatres; The Circle Theatre, Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, Heritage Theatre, Shadblow Theatre, and both Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids Civic Theatres. Directing has always been Sandy's passion. In addition to many short works, she directed full length productions with Holland Community Theatre and the Village Players of Middleville.

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Meet the Cast & Crew



Debra Canfield (JUROR 12)

Debra Canfield's most recent stage credits include *Carbon Dating* at Kent Theatre, *The Cemetery Club* at Lowell Arts, *Superior Donuts* at The Circle Theatre, *Tony & Tina's Wedding* at Lowell Arts, and *Sex Please We're Sixty* at Lowell Arts. She also works for The Murder Mystery Company, loves to travel, play pickleball, and spend time with her granddaughters and all five of her amazing, supportive adult children.



Laurel Conrad (JUROR 7)

Laurel Conrad (she/her) is a 2018 graduate of Adrian College where she earned her BA in Theatre. She began working at Lowell Arts in early 2021 and is very excited to be putting her degree to good use. Laurel's most recent stage credits include Ginnette/Gayle in *Almost, Maine* (2023), Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2018), Agnes in *Agnes of God* (2017), and Older Elizabeth Law in *When the Rain Stops Falling* (2016). In her spare time, Laurel enjoys video games, reading, and playing Dungeons & Dragons with her husband, Zack, and friends.



Patrice Conrad (GUARD)

Patrice Conrad (she/her) is making her theatrical debut! After watching her son, Zack, on stage for 20 years, she decided to give it a try. Patrice retired in 2024 after 43 years working in nursing and diabetes education. She has really enjoyed learning about how productions come together, and very much appreciates the cast and leadership for their experience and guidance. Patrice would like to specially thank her husband, Brian, for his support - especially since he's been on "puppy duty" while she's been at rehearsals!



Lyssara Ford (ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)

Lyssara Ford (she/her) is a stay-at-home mom of four kids from Ionia. She is very excited to be working with Lowell Arts Theatre again, especially for her first time assistant directing. Lyssara has been seen on stage most recently portraying multiple roles in *Playbytes by Playwrights*, Emily in *Mayhem at Camp Marigold*, and Gebzad in *The Last Kid in the Universe*. Lyssara was also previously a Featured Player in The Public Domain Comedy Spectacular. She enjoys all things purple, good conversations, science fiction, purple, shopping for anything but groceries, getting her nails done, and purple.



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Meet the Cast & Crew



Karen George (STAGE MANAGER)

Karen George graduated from Albion College with a BA in Theatre and Economics in 2021. Until her 2024 move to Grand Rapids, she was working as Stage Manager at the Purple Rose Theatre Company in Chelsea, MI. Credits include *Diva Royale*, *Pickleball*, *A Jukebox for the Algonquin*, and *In Common*. She is delighted to now find herself at Lowell Arts with her fiancé, Sam VanderVeen. In her spare time, Karen is often found with her cats and a craft. She would like to thank Lowell Arts for the opportunity, and all her family and friends for their support.



Mike Golczynski (JUROR 10)

Mike Golczynski is a Branch Librarian for the Kent District Library. His theater experience includes Willie in *Playbytes by Playwrights* (2024), Mr. Marigold in *Mayhem at Camp Marigold* (2024), Jimmy McIntyre/Jerry in *Playbytes by Playwrights* (2022), and Joe Bricker/Fibber McGee in *Don't Touch That Dial!* (2021). Mike enjoys painting, disc golf, tabletop RPGs, video games, and horror novels. Don't forget the obligatory tacos.



John Grima (JUROR 9)

John Grima is new to Lowell Arts. His stage credits include two different roles in *Orphan Train*, and four different roles in *Leaving Iowa*, both in 2019. In March of 2024, John performed the role of Victor Velasco in *Barefoot in the Park*. John is retired from professional life with a publishing company and enjoys traveling with his wife and spending time with their new grandson. He very much appreciates and enjoys his experiences with Lowell Arts.



Martha Hayden (JUROR 4)

Martha Hayden (she/her) is honored to return to the Lowell Arts stage with such a talented cast and crew! Martha's favorite role was the Wicked Witch of the West. Her acting credits include *Best Kept Secrets* (Helen), *The Cemetery Club* (Ida), *The Dixie Swim Club* (Jeri Neal), *A Tomb with a View* (Anne), *The Wedding of the Year* (Peggy) and several children's shows. She wanted to thank you for supporting Lowell Arts by attending this performance. She encourages you to check out the variety of artistic opportunities here! Martha wanted to give a shout out to her supportive husband, Chuck, and her kids, Charlotte, and Noah.

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Meet the Cast & Crew



Laurie Kuna (JUROR 11)

Laurie Kuna (she/her) was last seen on stage in April 2024 as part of Public Domain's Comedy Spectacular, and she is glad to return to the Lowell Arts stage in a full-length production. Some of her previous roles include *The Dixie Swim Club* (Dinah); *Steel Magnolias* (Miss Clairee); *Moll* (Director; Moll); *The Mousetrap* (Miss Casewell); *A Tomb with a View* (Agatha Hammond, Freda Mountjoy) and *Sing On* (Geraldine "Gerry" Dunbar). Laurie also performed in past *Playbytes* by *Playwrights* productions, and was one of the judges for the inaugural *Playbytes* show. Laurie would like to dedicate this performance to her fraternal grandmother who, in 1919 at age 18, came here from Czechoslovakia to make a life in a country safe from war. Let's work to assure that, over 100 years later, the United States lives up to its promise of freedom and justice for all. Enjoy the show!



Robb Lamer (FOREMAN)

Robb Lamer would like to thank you for joining us in the deliberation room. Although the title of the play assumes that he is angry, please understand that Robb just wants to get this right. Robb started performing on community theatre's stages in 2009. Some of his favorite roles have been Don in *Leaving Iowa* (Holland Community Theatre), Grandpa Joe in *Willy Wonka* (Master Arts / Van Singel), Matthew in *Anne of Green Gables* (Master Arts), a papa in *Fiddler on the Roof* (both Grand Rapids Civic and Master Arts Theatre), ensemble in *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Master Arts Theatre), Marvin in *California Suite* (Holland Community Theatre), Tim in *Noises Off* (Holland Community Theatre), and the Bank Chairman in *Mary Poppins* (Van Singel). Acting is his hobby, and he is always looking for the next show. Robb is a professional engineer for Exxel Engineering, where he designs roads and parking lots, water main, sanitary and storm sewer. His favorite design is stormwater.



Emily Snyder (JUROR 6)

Emily Snyder (she/her) found her love for theatre in high school. She reconnected with the theatre again when her oldest child tried out for his first play. Since then, Emily has helped direct for the Hans Anderson Christian Theatre in Greenville. She makes her way back onto the stage in her role as Juror #6 in Lowell Arts presentation of *Twelve Angry Jurors*. Off the stage, Emily enjoys her role as a substitute teacher, spending time with her husband and three kids, and crafting.

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West Michigan Art Competition



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Meet the Cast & Crew



Mark Stoll (JUROR 2)

Mark Stoll (he/him) is thrilled to have this opportunity to perform in one of his all-time favorite plays. He brings 20+ years of acting experience to Lowell Arts. His favorite roles that he has played include Shrek in *Shrek the Musical*, Kyle Williams in *Wedded Abyss*, and Mr. Webb in *Our Town*. He is dedicating his performance in this production to his wife and daughter who will always be his #1 fans.



Emily Suchowolec (JUROR 3)

Emily Suchowolec (she/her) is a lifelong Greenville native; after an almost 20-year acting hiatus, she stepped back on the stage in 2024 and is now thrilled to debut with Lowell Arts! Her most recent productions have been FRCP's *Seussical the Musical* (Mrs. Mayor), HCAT's Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Madame), GARCC's Murder Mystery Dinner Theater *Death of a Hot Sauce Salesman* (Sue Rae DuKane), and FRCP's *A Christmas Carol* (Mrs. Fezziwig/ Party Guest #3). *Twelve Angry Jurors* is one of her ALL-TIME favorite plays and she is thrilled to be part of the cast! She wants to give a shoutout to husband Joe and children Ink, Kate, and JJ, and to thank them for being patient with her after a solid year of non-stop rehearsals and productions (love you guys to the moon and back and around every star).



Bob Troszok (JUROR 8)

Bob Troszok (he/him) is excited to join Lowell Arts for the first time in *Twelve Angry Jurors*. After rekindling his passion for theatre in recent years, Bob has enjoyed diving into a variety of roles, including Wesley in *Carbon Dating* with the Cedar Springs Community Players and Dan in *This Flat Earth* with Actors' Theatre of Grand Rapids. Outside of acting, Bob enjoys playing strategic board games and immersive tabletop RPGs. He's grateful for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew and sends his love and appreciation to his friends and family for their steadfast encouragement.

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Meet the Cast & Crew



Sam VanderVeen (JUROR 5 / TECHNICAL DIRECTOR)

Sam VanderVeen (he/him) is very excited to be back on the Lowell Arts stage! Sam is a Grand Rapids native and graduated from Albion College in 2022 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and History. Sam is an active committee member here at Lowell Arts and has spent a good amount of time as Technical Director, both for *Playbytes by Playwrights* and *Twelve Angry Jurors*. Sam's onstage appearances at Lowell Arts came in the form of Bobby in *Our Time* and as Elder Thomas in *The Whale*. Sam has been in several plays including *Romeo & Juliet* as Romeo, *The Flick* as Sam, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Lysander, and many more. Sam would like to thank his wonderful parents, especially for the past few years. He'd also like to give a special thanks to his fiancée, Karen, who is stage managing her first production here at Lowell Arts! Love you!



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Best of luck to all the performers and crew!

2024-2025 Theatre Season

Playbytes
by **Playwrights**

Playbytes by Playwrights: No Idea Is a Bad Idea

Fall 2024 | October 18, 19, 20 & 25, 26, 27

Every idea is on the table – brainstorm sessions, successes, and follies. Lowell Arts' biennial *Playbytes by Playwrights* is a 10-minute play competition featuring original works that have been juried and selected to be performed. Plays that have been submitted and selected are the playwright's interpretation of this year's theme: No Idea Is a Bad Idea.



Twelve Angry Jurors

by Reginald Rose, adapted by Sherman L. Sergel

Winter 2025 | January 31, February 1, 2 & 7, 8, 9

A 19-year-old man has just stood trial for the fatal stabbing of his father. "He doesn't stand a chance," mutters the guard as the 12 jurors are taken into the bleak jury room. It looks like an open-and-shut case—until one of the jurors begins opening the others' eyes to the facts. With each juror revealing his or her own character as the various testimonies are re-examined, the murder is re-enacted, and a new murder threat is born before their eyes! Tempers get short, arguments grow heated, and the jurors become twelve angry jurors.

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