



Lowell Arts Theatre Presents

Playbytes  
by **Playwrights**

“No Idea Is a Bad Idea”

Directed by Zack Conrad,
Stage Managed by Pyper Gordon



October 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

Congratulations
and best wishes to
Lowell Arts Theatre
from



KING MILLING COMPANY
LOWELL, MICHIGAN

kingflour.com

Lowell Arts Theatre Presents

Playbytes by Playwrights

Playbytes by Playwrights is presented through special arrangement with the playwrights who submitted their script for the competition.

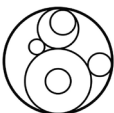
About the Play

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.

The competition was open to any playwright 18-years and older, and plays submitted could be drama or comedy. From over 100 entries submitted by playwrights from across the country and internationally, nine were chosen to be performed.

The original works performed will be judged by a panel of experts. These judges will select two plays to be awarded for Excellence in Playwriting. The first place prize will receive \$500 cash award, and the second place prize receives a \$200 cash award. A People's Choice Award will be voted on by attendees. Award winners will be announced in person following the final performance, as well as on the Lowell Arts website and social media the following week.

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.



MICHIGAN
ARTS &
CULTURE
COUNCIL

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

arts.gov



LOWELL AREA
COMMUNITY FUND
Grand Rapids Community Foundation

B.C. PIZZA



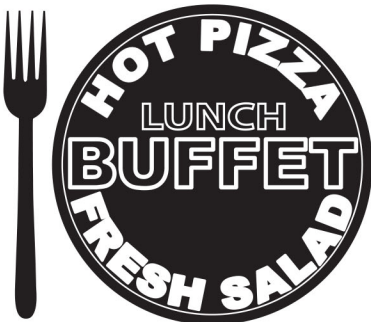
LOWELL

**Congrats to the
Cast and Crew!**

The **HOMETOWN HANDMADE GOURMET** Pizza

616-897-9776

1335 W. MAIN ST.
orderBC.com



**Order Online
For
Delivery
Tonight!**

Production Crew

Director	ZACK CONRAD
Stage Manager	PYPER GORDON
Technical Director	SAM VANDERVEEN
Panel of Judges	EIRANN BETKA-POPE TRINITY BIRD MARY BETH QUILLIN

Production Notes

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:

- Strong profane language
- Discussion of death and dying
- Discussion of consensual sexual activity

Viewer discretion is advised.

People's Choice Award

Vote for your favorite 10-minute play to be awarded the People's Choice Award!
Voting ballots are available at the Information Desk.

Rules:

- One vote per person.
- Your first and last name are required to validate your vote.
- Vote for only one play. Voting for multiple plays will void your ballot.

Don't forget to submit your ballot after the show.

Thank you for your participation!



3175 Segwun Ave • Lowell, MI 49331

616-897-9032

www.TimpsonTransport.com

Our knowledgeable staff is available to assist you with quotes, scheduling, and questions!

- Specialized trucking
- Multi-axle flatbeds
- Oversized loads
- Wholesale supplier
- Sand, crushed concrete, & topsoil



Perry Beachum

924 Riverside Dr • Lowell, MI 49331

616.460.3943

Over 35 years of experience!

Carpet • Hardwood • Laminate • Tile • Vinyl

Edward Jones®

Member SIPC

Enjoy the play!

Christopher C Godbold, AAMS™

Financial Advisor

christopher.godbold@edwardjones.com

MKT-5894P-A AECSPAD

> edwardjones.com



heatingcoolingonline.com

616-897-4123 • info@heatingcoolingonline.com

A Letter from the Director

I sat down to write this letter a handful of times, but I could never decide on a direction to go that I liked. It took far too many attempts at writing it before I finally realized the irony in struggling to label any of the concepts I had as “good enough” to be featured in the playbill.

After all, “No Idea Is a Bad Idea.”

The playwrights whose works you will see tonight are immensely talented. Turning any idea into 10 minutes of stage time is something that, once attempted, would prove Herculean to most. Writing something so compelling as to be selected from a pool of over 100 plays, as our playwrights tonight have, is even harder. But playwrights are some of the greatest believers in ideas. They understand that no idea is a bad one with the right amount of hard work and refinement.

The characters you will watch on stage tonight will all, in their own way, throw caution to the wind, and hoping that their newest idea is their best, regardless of its starting point. I cannot thank the cast enough for just how well they embody the spirit of adventure and bravery that trust in one’s ideas requires.

Here goes nothing!

– Zack Conrad

Meet the Director



ZACK CONRAD (*Director*) (he/him) is proud to be making his directorial debut with this incredible group. While this is his second straight foray into work behind the scenes, he typically appears on stage, having performed in previous Lowell Arts productions, including *Almost, Maine* (Steve/Lendall/Randy), *Playbytes by Playwrights* (Johnny Crews/The Intruder/Dave), and *Our Time* (Alan). Zack would like to thank the cast for all the wonderful work they’ve put in, and his wife, Laurel, for being his greatest inspiration and mentor. Enjoy the show!

SHOWSTOPPING Products and Services



Sunday Worship Services:
Traditional 9am in Sanctuary
Contemporary 10:45am in Sound Check

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

G

Roth-Gerst
Funeral Home

305 N Hudson St. SE
Lowell, MI 49331
gerstfuneralhomes.com



GLENN MORRIS & ASSOCIATES

Insurance Services

A proud supporter of
the arts in Lowell

Congrats to the cast and crew!

Home | Business | Auto | Life | Pet

Request a Quote today!

www.gma-insurance.com

Act I

The Appointment

by Bruce Deveau (Amesbury, MA)

Mrs. D'Aangelo	LYSSARA FORD
Dr. Davis	ROB FREUND
Dr. Faynsilberg	AMANDA FORD

Just an Idea

by Dan Borengasser (Springdale, AR)

Emma Barnes	McKENZIE PASTOR
Jason Adams	BRIAN RACE

Second Skin

by Yu-Li Alice Shen (Evansville, IN)

May	LYSSARA FORD
Stella	MARIAN WARD KING
Kerry	AMANDA FORD

Speed Dating

by Curt Stickland (Stoughton, MA)

Jesse	PAT HOBBS
Sara	SANDY KIRCHINGER

Meet at the Restaurant

by Brandon Hicks (St. Stephen, New Brunswick)

Man	BRENT ALLES
Lady	LYSSARA FORD

Act II

Better Than, I Do

by Sophie Goldstein (Altadena, CA)

Sam	ROB FREUND
Ricki	CJ RAHN
Lee	EVAN JONES

Amusing Willie

by Donald Loftus (New York, NY)

Willie	MIKE GOLCZYNSKI
Calliope	LYSSARA FORD
Thalia	McKENZIE PASTOR
Erato	MARIAN WARD KING

Far From the Tree

by Pete Mergel (Iselin, NJ)

Leo	DAVE BENSON
Michael	BRIAN RACE

Why Women Live Longer Than Men

by Marjorie Williamson (Saint Louis, MO)

Frankie	YVONNE ALLES
Charlene	SANDY KIRCHINGER
Peg	LORI JACOBS



An artist cooperative gallery featuring fine art and gifts for you and your home.

219 W Main St. Lowell, MI
616.987.6737
flatrivergalleryandframing.com

MARY L. BENEDICT, P.C.
Attorney at Law

4519 Cascade Rd SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
(616) 942-0020



BERNARD'S **ACE** HARDWARE

1601 West Main Street
Lowell, MI

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm | Sat 8am-6pm | Sun 10am-4pm



We're the Image Experts

- Printing
- Signs
- Banners
- Vinyl Graphics
- Forms
- Labels
- Booklets
- Graphic Design
- Promotional Products

Helping You Stand Out

616.897.6719
www.hooperprinting.com

Proud to support the neighborhood

As your local State Farm® agent, I'll be there whenever you need me with Good Neighbor service you can count on. Give me a call.

"Break a leg" Lowell Arts on your 2024-25 theatre season!



Deborah Wilks Ins Agency Inc
Deborah Wilks, Agent
11827 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331-9427

Bus: 616-897-9237
www.deborahwilks.com



State Farm
Bloomington, IL

Meet the Cast & Crew



BRENT ALLES (*Man*) (he/him) is a graduate of Syracuse University, Central Michigan University, and Capella University. Since his Lowell Arts debut in 1999, he has directed 14 plays and acted in many others. As a playwright, he has written multiple full-length plays, one-acts, and 10-minute plays, winning Lowell Arts' 2018 *Playbytes by Playwrights* with his entry, *Swipe Left, Swipe Right*. Brent is a member of the sketch comedy group, Public Domain, with Rob Freund and Jeff Stacer. He is a Senior Client Administrator at CompHealth Medical Staffing and an adjunct faculty member with Grand Rapids Community College. As always, he thanks his lovely wife Camille for putting up with all this right nonsense.



YVONNE ALLES (*Frankie*) is very excited to be a part of Playbytes again this year. While she has spent many years supporting and encouraging her son Brent in his multiple endeavors, she also enjoys stretching her own acting skills in small ways. She has done a few parts with youth theatre class *On With the Show* when needed and was Queen Star in Brent's recent podcast adventure. When Yvonne is not on stage, she is hanging out with her wonderful family and working as a professor for Davenport University. She wants to thank her mom for the help with her lines and her son Brent for the transportation to and from Lowell for practice. As a final thought she wants to remind the audience that Frankie Says Relax!



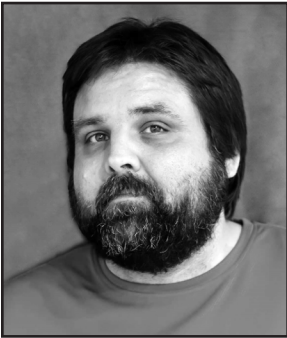
DAVE BENSON (*Leo*) (he/him) is very excited to be back performing once again! He has recently been seen on the Lowell Arts stage as Craig McAllister in *America's Sexiest Couple*. Since 2010, you may have also seen Dave at Grand Rapids Civic Theater, Actor's Theater, Jewish Theater Grand Rapids, University Wits, and Ebony Road Players. His favorite roles (so far) are Editor Webb in *Our Town*, a very small but rewarding part as the Sheriff in *August: Osage County*, and Hubert Humphrey in *All the Way*. Thank you for coming to the show and supporting your local theatre! Enjoy!



AMANDA FORD (*Dr. Faynsilberg / Kerry*) (she/her) is a wife and mother of four. She is happy to be working with Lowell Arts again, having played Liz in *The Whale* (2023) and worked crew on *The Last Kid in the Universe* (2023). She is happy to be involved in the theatre opportunities here at Lowell Arts and would like to thank her family for all their support.



LYSSARA FORD (*Mrs. D'Angelo / May / Lady / Calliope*) (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, having previously portrayed 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.



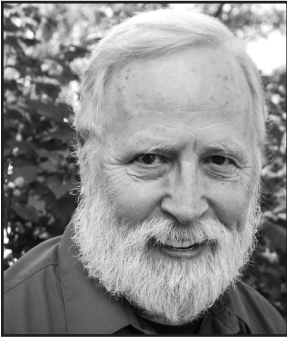
ROB FREUND (*Dr. Davis / Sam*) (he/him) has been active with Lowell Arts theater as an actor, director, stagehand, teacher, or well-wisher since 2005. Along the way he has made many memories and friendships that he cherishes to this day. Every production brings the opportunity to work with such talented people, and this year's Playbytes has been no exception. Collaborating with such an amazing cast and crew has ensured more fond memories to be filed away. Rob would like to thank his fancy feline, Cat Stevens, for peacefully napping while he practiced his lines at home. And of course, his amazingly delightful wife, Nichole, for all her support while he pursues this hobby of his.



MIKE GOLCZYNSKI (*Willie*) is a Branch Librarian for the Kent District Library. His theater experience includes 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.



PYPER GORDON (*Stage Manager*) (she/her) is currently a student at Lowell High School. This is her 5th production at Lowell Arts. Pyper has acted and been on the crew for the last few youth plays. Most recently, she was a Stage Manager of *Mayhem at Camp Marigold* this past spring. In her free time outside of theatre, she enjoys photography and many other art forms. She wants to thank everyone who makes the Lowell Arts productions possible. Enjoy the show!



PAT HOBBS (*Jesse*) is a graduate of Lowell High School and studied theater at Eastern Michigan. His first stage production with Lowell Arts, *Don't Drink the Water*, took place more than thirty-five years ago. He has been involved in a dozen productions at Lowell Arts over the years.



LORI JACOBS (*Peg*) is an actor, playwright, singer, songwriter, and musician. While still teaching, Lori started singing in local venues in the Detroit area around 1965. Following the 1973 Capitol Records' release of "Free," her first album of original songs, Lori toured the country as a wandering troubadour singing her songs at colleges and coffee houses. Her second album, "Everything's Jake," was released in 1983. Lori was also involved in community theater stage and improv productions in the Detroit area. Lori relocated to Grand Rapids 25 years ago and became involved in community theater, receiving three Grand Award nominations over the years. Her original musical, *Little Red Riding Hood*, was presented in 2004 at the Sons and Daughters Family Club. Her musical, *Esther, The Musical*, was world premiered by Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids in June 2006, and presented again in 2009. Lori is thrilled to announce that *Esther, the Musical* will be presented once again by JTGR. It will open on January 30, 2025, and run for two weekends. Lori hopes that many of you will audition.

DRIVEN TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

BAKER LOWELL



Congrats to the cast & crew...

Two great dealerships in one great town!



**FROM
FLAT RIVER**
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Providing more than a dozen programs focusing in the areas of:
Family Support, Connections to Resources, Healthy Food and Housing

connect with us
616.897-8260
www.fromlowell.org



Make a difference today!



donate
finances, food, items



volunteer
a few hours a month



shop
at Treasures Thrift Store

GRAND RIVER ORTHODONTICS

Heather Gietzen DMD, MS

Your smile is our top priority!

1335 W. Main St., Suite D
Lowell, MI 49331
616-897-0200
www.gorthodontics.com

Thank you to our 2024-25 sponsors!

Arctic Heating and Cooling | B.C. Pizza
Beaucham Flooring | Bernard's Ace Hardware
Betten Baker Buick Chrysler Dodge
Edward Jones - Chris Godbold | Flat River
Gallery and Framing | Flat River Outreach
Ministries | Glenn Morris & Associates
Grand River Orthodontics | Hooper Printing
Key Heights Village/Key Vista | King Milling Co.
Little Ceasars Pizza | Lowell United Methodist
Church | Mary Benedict P.C., Attorney at Law
Metric Manufacturing | PFCU | Roth Gerst
Funeral Home | State Farm - Deborah Wilks
Timpson Transport, Inc.



EVAN JONES (*Lee*) (he/him) is a 2019 graduate from Miami University of Ohio. While Evan's formal studies focused in French and International Studies, he maintained regular participation in and patronage of musical and theatrical extra-curricular activities, including several years of membership in the Miami Men's Glee Club. Evan has been seen on the Lowell Arts stage recently in *Almost, Maine* (2023) and *Playbytes by Playwrights* (2022).



SANDY KIRCHINGER (*Sara / Charlene*) (she/her) lives in Middleville and has graced stages throughout west Michigan. She performed with Lowell Arts in *Steel Magnolias* as M'Lynn (2014) and most recently as Lucille in *The Cemetery Club* (2022). You may have also seen her in Grand Rapids & Kalamazoo Civic productions, *Shadblow*, and Jewish Theatre. She was especially thrilled to play Madame Arcati in Circle Theatre's production of *Blithe Spirit*.



McKENZIE PASTOR (*Emma Barnes / Thalia*) (she/her) graduated from Adrian College in 2020 with a B.A. in Musical Theatre. She started performing in 2009 and has no plans to stop! Most recently she was in the ensemble in *Ragtime* (2024). Some of her favorite roles have been Navigational Officer in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (2022), Lilith/Lily in *She Kills Monsters* (2019) and Mimi in *A New Brain* (2019). Outside of performing, she teaches dance classes at Steph's Steps in Fruitport and also choreographs for a local high school in Muskegon.



BRIAN RACE (*Jason Adams / Michael*) (he/him) is a 2022 Forest Hills Eastern High School graduate, with previous acting credits such as Danny Zuko in *Grease* and Rafiki in *The Lion King*. He's very excited to meet people, try new roles, and make connections in the theatre industry!

**QUALITY PRODUCT
ON TIME
AT A FAIR PRICE**

METRIC MANUFACTURING CO.



Metric Manufacturing Co.
1001 Foreman Rd • Lowell, MI 49331
(616) 897-5959
www.metricmfg.com

**METRIC TAKES QUALITY SERIOUSLY.
A TIER 1 SUPPLIER, AND HAS EARNED
MULTIPLE QUALITY AWARDS.**

BEST WISHES TO THE CAST AND CREW!



CJ RAHN (*Ricki*) (they/them) is a lifelong performer whom you may have seen recently in *The Hatmaker's Wife* at Jewish Theatre Grand Rapids, *Sleepy Hollow* at Dog Story Theater, or they just might have been that person who used to deliver your pizza! They're excited to do their first show with Lowell Arts.



MARIAN WARD KING (*Stella / Erato*) (she/her) has been part of the last two Playbytes festivals and admits that in addition to loving the stage time, she adores making new friends in the Lowell Arts community. When she's not performing, Marian is most likely to be found covered in dog hair at her grooming business The Sassy Pup, where she's spent over two decades specializing in senior and challenging dogs.



505 W Main St
Lowell, MI 49331

616-897-0043

Order Online!
littlecaesars.com



**KEY
HEIGHTS**

11335 Fulton St E
Lowell, MI 49331

keyheightsmhc.com

(616) 897-9749

keyheights@fhmanagement.com



1800 W Main St
Lowell, MI 49331



**KEY
VISTA**

keyvistamhc.com

(616) 897-8427

keyvista@fhmanagement.com

Best of luck to all the performers and crew!

Lowell Arts 2024-25 Theatre Season

Fall 2024

Playbytes by Playwrights: No Idea Is a Bad Idea

October 18, 19, 20 & 25, 26, 27, at Lowell Arts

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.



Winter 2025

Twelve Angry Jurors

by Reginald Rose, adapted by Sherman L. Sergel
January 31, February 1, 2 & 7, 8, at Lowell Arts

A 19-year-old man has just stood trial for fatally stabbing his father. "He doesn't stand a chance," mutters the guard as the 12 jurors enter the bleak jury room. It looks like an open-and-shut case—until one juror begins opening the others' eyes to the facts. As they re-examine testimonies and re-enact the murder, a new murder threat is born before their eyes! Tempers get short, arguments grow heated, and the jurors become 12 angry people.



Spring 2025

Kid Heracles and The Ultimate Pantheon Challenge

by Brent Alles | April 18 & 19
at the Lowell Performing Arts Center

They're the ultimate superstars of Olympus: Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Hades, Hestia, and Demeter. Otherwise known as: The Pantheon! Now seeking a new member through a "reality" TV challenge: "The Ultimate Pantheon Challenge!" Greek mythology meets "America's Got Talent" in this fun youth play exploring what it takes to become the best version of yourself.



Lowell Arts



Connecting artists and bringing audiences together through visual and performing arts.

- Rotating Gallery Exhibitions
- Fallasburg Arts Festival
- Community Theatre
- Lowell Arts at Sound Check
- Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series
- Classes and Workshops



223 W Main St
Lowell, MI 49331

lowellarts.org | 616.897.8545

