



PROLOGUE

October 2017

The Light in the Piazza

Shines at AFD October 13–29

The Light in the Piazza holds all the promise of a rollicking good time at a Broadway musical: soaring melodies, romantic chemistry between two charming lovers, a sun-soaked setting in a foreign land, and some beguiling misunderstandings.

But a few bars in, it is quickly apparent how much more is at play. The music is complex and layered, the two lovers may not be destined for each other, and the mix-ups are more than comic.

There is dark to the light, atonality to the melodies, and rich, deep history to the characters, no matter how comic.

When **The Light in the Piazza** opens the new season at AFD Theatre on October 13, it will explore the nuances, as well as the humor and the delight.

Director Ryan Began notes that the story appealed to him because of its deceptive simplicity.

“The sweeping, romantic nature of the show is unlike anything I have had the opportunity to direct before,” he says. “All the characters are complicated. They’re real people with relationships and past lives. Life has gotten in the way and taken them down paths they didn’t expect, but they’re coping with it as best they can.”

The unusual complexity of the story may stem from its origins as a novella by Elizabeth Spencer.

Set in the early 1950s, the plot revolves around Clara Johnson, a lovely, innocent young woman who is on holiday in Florence with her mother.

When a gust of wind lifts Clara’s hat, it sparks a string of events that lands her in the arms of a charming young Italian man named Fabrizio. Clara’s mother, Margaret, has to struggle with the pains and joys of letting go and moving on.

In 1962, the novella was made into a movie. In 2005, this musical version of the story opened on Broadway starring Kelli O’Hara as Clara Johnson.

The musical won five Tony Awards and the acclaim of critics and audiences.

The Light in the Piazza runs three weekends in October at AFD Theatre. Visit www.afdtheatre.org for tickets.

Arlington Friends of the Drama
presents

the Light in the Piazza

book by
Craig Lucas

music & lyrics by
Adam Guettel

stage director
Ryan Began

choreographer
Daisy Giunta




musical director
John Eldridge

presented by
R&H Theatricals Inc

performances
Friday Oct 13, 20 & 27 @ 8pm
Saturday Oct 14, 21 & 28 @ 8pm
Sunday Oct 15, 22 & 29 @ 4pm

tickets \$25
22 Academy Street
Arlington MA
Wheelchair accessible

www.afdtheatre.org
781-646-5922



The Light in the Piazza

Show Dates

Friday, October 13, 20, & 27 at 8 PM

Saturday, October 14, 21, & 28 at 8 PM

Sunday, October 15, 22, & 29 at 4 PM

Champagne reception after the opening night performance.

Talkback after the first Sunday show.

Tickets On Sale Now

Cast



Margaret Johnson: Karen Fanale

Clara Johnson: Suzanne Reese-Mills

Fabrizio Naccarelli: Gary Ames

Signora Naccarelli: Stephanie Mann

Signor Naccarelli: Dan Moore

Franca Naccarelli: Emma Boroson

Giuseppe Naccarelli: Tom Kelleher

Roy Johnson/Priest: Tom Richardson

Ensemble: Charlie Carr, Sydney Hermanson,

Megan McCormick, Dan Murray,

Philip Paquet, Phyllis Uloth

Production Team

Director: Ryan Began

Music Director: John Eldridge

Choreographer: Daisy Giunta

Producer: Sandy Armstrong

Assistant Producers: Susan Harrington and
Donna Rebibo

Stage Manager: Sarah O'Neill

Assistant Stage Manager: Mary Babic

Set Designers: Greg Mancusi-Ungaro and Ryan Began

Set Tech: David Splaine

Set Crew: Mark Bastoni, Charlie Carr, Brien Higgins,
Don Richardson, Carol Splaine, David Splaine,
Gareth Williams

Costume Designers: Andrea Goodman and
Lindsay Hurley

Lighting Designer: Greg Mancusi-Ungaro

Assistant Lighting Designer: Eleanor Mancusi-Ungaro

Sound Designer: Ed Council

Makeup and Hair Designer: Jake Egan O'Hara

Props and Set Dressing: Evelyn Corsini Alcorn

Italian Dialect Coach: Michelle Youell

Piazza Profiles: Karen Fanale and Charlie Carr

Karen Fanale Finds the Beauty in Piazza

Born and bred in a stage family, Arlington resident Karen Fanale has been a natural star since the very beginning—more or less. Her mother owned a children’s theater company in Rochester, NY, where she had her first role—as Nana in a production of **Peter Pan**—when she was three or four. It wasn’t an unmitigated success, as she notes, “A few times I was too scared to come out of the dog house.”

Since then, she has reveled in the spotlight, using her acting and singing skills on stage and screen in many contexts. In October, she will light up the stage at AFD Theatre, where she will star as Margaret Johnson in the lushly romantic and melodic musical **The Light in the Piazza**.

Karen participated in productions all the way through school, finally pursuing a degree in Theater Arts, and then a Masters in Theater. When she realized she didn’t want to teach, she headed to New York City, where she performed in a few productions.

Finally, she hit the road, and traveled around doing dinner theater in Florida and Maine. “I’d never waitressed before, and it was difficult to be both serving and singing. It was very hard work.”

Eventually she moved to Boston, where she has worked consistently in film and on stage. She was an extra in “Mystic River” and “Pollack,” as well as the television shows “Law and Order SVU” and “Sex and the City.” At AFD, she’s appeared in **A Little Night Music**, and last season she starred as Mrs. Robinson in **The Graduate**.

This season marks the third time she has appeared in **The Light in the Piazza** in the last few years. At SpeakEasy Stage in Boston, she was the tour guide and a member of the ensemble. At Vokes Theatre, she was Signora Nacarelli, the mother of the young male lead.

Ryan Began, the director, expresses his excitement about both the play and Karen’s performance.

“Karen brings a balance and an understatement to the character of Margaret that’s not there in every production. She finds the dark humor in this woman’s life, who’s lived and carried the burden of what happened to her daughter.”

Charlie Carr Wears Many Hats at AFD

He just barely missed boarding the Titanic, was a major movie producer mogul, and got to be one of the last hot lovers. In October, he will be several different denizens of Florence, watching two young people fall madly in love in late summer light while singing in Italian.

Arlington resident Charlie Carr has done all this on the stage at AFD Theatre—but that’s just the beginning. He has also done nearly every job in a theatrical production, and most of it at AFD—from designing sets to pounding nails, from doing makeup to running a spotlight, and, finally, taking the stage.

In fact, these days, AFD Theatre provides a second home, where he has good friends and a whole lot to do. Charlie has been active at the theatre for over 30 years, and lately his commitment has grown even more. Since he retired three years ago, the theater is his main activity and his first love. “You do have to love it,” he says, “Especially at the community level, we’re here because we enjoy it. We all want to be part of an active group of people who are making theater. It’s about companionship and involvement.”

He wasn’t planning to audition for **Piazza**, but when the call came out for male singers, he jumped in—AFTER he’d made sure there’d be no dancing. “I can’t dance at all,” he says. “In one production, I had to move around, and the poor woman who was my partner had to drag me around the stage.”

That said, however, he can sing. “Although I haven’t had any real singing lessons, I can read music and I have a pretty good voice.”

Charlie has been involved with AFD since 1986. He started out in **The Rope Dancers**, directed by Dot Santos. He has stayed active on and off since then, and has done nearly every job in a production. “I usually help build the sets, no matter what,” he says. He witnessed all the changes through the major renovation that transformed the lobby and the workshop. He notes that the technical capabilities have grown more advanced since he began. “Everything is more sophisticated now,” he says. “The lights, the soundboard.”

One of his favorite productions was **Titanic** in 2004, directed by James Grana. “I played about five parts in that one: the guy who runs down the aisle at the beginning and misses the ship, the engineer who builds the ship, a steerage passenger, a gambler, and a blowhard English soldier. It was a tremendous production.”

President's Corner: A Note from David Warnock



Our 95th season is under way! One of our priorities is strengthening AFD into our next hundred years through outreach to new audiences, members, actors, and artists.

We are gaining recognition through our quality productions, social media, website, and events like Arlington Alive!, Town Day, and ArlingTEN.

We are part of the newly designated Arlington Cultural District, along with our new neighbors, the Arlington Center for the Arts.

Most of this season's directors, music directors, and choreographers are new to AFD and bring in new talent.

As part of this outreach effort, let's all introduce a friend (or two or three!) to one of our shows so that they will bring a friend, and so on. We know from experience that once newcomers find us, they return again and again.

See you at the theatre!

David Warnock, President

Friendly

We're delighted to announce that Jim Grana is now the contact for AFD Friendly news. Please send your friendly news to Jim at actorone_2000@yahoo.com.

Long-time AFD member Janet Friedman is presently in a long-term rehab. You may send your good wishes to her at Woburn Nursing Center, 18 Francis Street, Woburn, MA 01801 or call the nurses' station from at 781-862-2465.

BOX OFFICE CORNER

Order your tickets for *The Light in the Piazza* online at <http://www.ticketstage.com/T/AFD>. All ticket exchanges must be made through the Box Office. The easiest way to contact the box office is by email at office@afdtheatre.org.

The cast of *The Light in the Piazza* in rehearsal. Photos by Mary Babic.

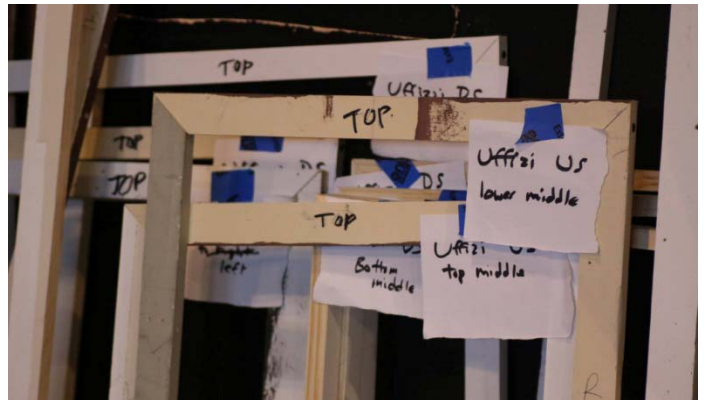


House Director's Report: Summer Cleanup

Many thanks to Don and Nancie Richardson, Mark Bastoni, Gareth Williams, David Warnock, Dave Splaine, Evelyn Corsini Alcorn, and Charlotte Kelley for clearing out the no-longer-useful "stuff" from the stage, scene shop, paint shop, furnace room, and other "let's stick it here for now" spaces in the building.

Thanks also to Evelyn, Mark, and Mark's friend Mike Cunningham for retrieving various goodies that had been stored in Dick Rubinstein's basement and Gareth and Cyn's garage. All in all, a big job well and cheerfully done!

Charlie Carr, House Director



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When you shop at smile.amazon.com, it's the same thing as shopping on Amazon with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to AFD Theatre. On your first visit to smile.amazon.com, select Arlington Friends of the Drama Inc before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at will result in a donation to AFD Theatre.

The Fine Print

The Prologue is a publication of Arlington Friends of the Drama, published four to five times a year. Submissions of articles, information, ideas, and feedback are welcome from members, and may be submitted to Nancy Rogier, Prologue Editor, at nancyrogier95@gmail.com or by calling 781-863-1186. Annual membership/subscription to AFD is \$70. Membership includes a ticket to each show, opportunities to get involved in all aspects of the theater, The Prologue, and various social activities.

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for our 94th season!

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Behind the Scenes: The Light in the Piazza



**Choreographer Daisy Giunta
and Director Ryan Began**



Gary Ames as Fabrizio Naccarelli



Stephanie Mann as Signora Naccarelli



Dan Moore as Signor Naccarelli



**Suzanne Reese-Mills as Clara Johnson
and Karen Fanale as Margaret Johnson**



**Emma Boroson as Franca Naccarelli
and Gary Ames as Fabrizio Naccarelli**

Photos by Mary Babic. See more at [Even the orchestra is beautiful!](#)

Our 2017–2018 AFD Season

The Light in the Piazza

October 13–29, 2017

Music, Lyrics, and Book by William Finn and Rachel Sheinkin

Book by Craig Lucas

Music and Lyrics by Adam Guettel

Stage Director, Ryan Began

Musical Director, John Eldridge

Choreographer, Daisy Giunta

Soaring melodies fill this romantic musical about young love and family secrets revealed against the backdrop of 1950s Italy.



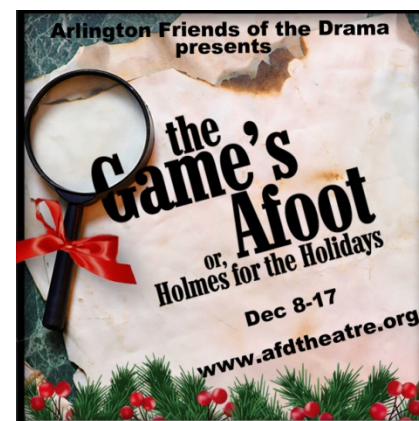
The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays

December 8–17, 2017

By Ken Ludwig

Stage Director, J. Deschene

It's December 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for his role as Sherlock Holmes, has invited his fellow cast-members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. The danger and hilarity are nonstop in this glittering whodunit set during the Christmas holidays.



9 to 5: The Musical

March 9–26, 2018

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton

Book by Patricia Resnick

Stage Director, Allison Mosier Sheff

Musical Director, Anthony Sacco

Choreographer, Bradford Robinson

Three unlikely friends conspire to take control of their company and learn that there's nothing they can't do—even in a "man's world."



Unnecessary Farce

May 11–20, 2018

By Paul Slade Smith

Director, Stephen Rourke

Two cops. Three crooks. Eight doors. Go. A comedy that pairs classic farce with a contemporary American plot. Dazzlingly funny!



A Company of Friends
22 Academy Street
Arlington MA 02476
Phone: 781-646-9337
Ticket line: 781-646-5922
Web Address: www.afdtheatre.org



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Tickets on Sale Now