



Proudly Presents

# Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot

## STARRING

Rachel Elise, Lauren Fivek, Martha Hansen, Jim LaPietra,  
Rachel Livingston, Frank Menolascino, and Rob Sorensen

*Artistic Director*

**Steve Calzaretta**

*Scenic & Set Design by*

**Michael Nedza**

*Multimedia Design by*

**Micheal A. Kott**

*Lighting Design by*

**Steve Calzaretta**

**Michael Nedza**

*Hair & Makeup by*

**Rachel Elise**

*Costume Design by*

**Matthew Carl**

*Choreography by*

**Rachel Livingston**

*Directed and Produced By*

**Steve Calzaretta**

*The Game's Afoot* is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.,  
at 45 W. 25th Street, New York, NY 10010

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I will start off by saying, "I love Ken Ludwig". From Moon Over Buffalo to Lend Me a Tenor to Crazy for you. He is clever, funny and takes plots for twists and turns. This show is a murder mystery that deals with Sherlock Holmes and set in 1936. The era is fun to play with and these actors are incredible to work with.

Here at the New JPAC, it is my goal to bring you the best entertainment possible. Once again, I will tell you; I want to spread our wings and do the classics as well as the newer shows as we have done this year so far with Those the River Keeps and Nevermore. I am certain you will like this show, and of course....please join us for a Broadway favorite – Gypsy, which closes our 2016-17 season.

I have no doubts that you will love what we have in store for you next season. We will be announcing our next season before Gypsy opens. Stay tuned and thank you for your support and patronage.



Steve Calzaretta  
Artistic Director

## SETTING

In the living room of the home of William Gillette.  
It is early evening on Christmas Eve, 1936.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

The use of flash photography and video recording devices without the written permission of the management is prohibited.

Please remember to silence or turn off your cellular phones and other messaging devices.

## CAST

William Gillette .....	Jim LaPietra
Martha Gillette .....	Martha Hansen
Aggie Wheeler .....	Rachel Elise
Simon Bright .....	Frank Menolascino
Felix Geisel .....	Rob Sorensen
Madge Geisel .....	Lauren Fivek
Daria Chase/Inspector Goring .....	Rachel Livingston

## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



**Jim LaPietra**



**Martha Hansen**



**Rachel Elise**



**Frank  
Menolascino**



**Rob Sorensen**



**Lauren Fivek**



**Rachel  
Livingston**

## CAST PROFILES

**Rachel Elise** (*Aggie Wheeler*) has been performing in Chicago off and on for the past eight years and is excited to be in her first production with JPAC. She has performed in a wide range of roles from the Sour Kangaroo in *Suessical* and Alexi Darling in *Rent* with Big Noise Theater Company, as well as Young Phyllis in Actors Theatre Company's production of *Follies*, *Wicked Witch of the West* in *Oz*, to Irena in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, and Domina in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Rachel is delighted to be a part of such a talented cast and thanks all her friends and family for their support over the years.

**Lauren Fivek** (*Madge Geisel*) Chicago debut! Originally from NJ, Lauren recently graduated from the BFA Musical Theatre program at Ball State University where her credits include *Hairspray* (Prudy Pingleton), *House of Blue Leaves* (Bunny Flingus), *Three*

*Sisters* (Natasha), *The Music Man* (Pick-a-Little Lady) and *Psalms of a Questionable Nature* (Moo). Lauren participated in BSU's first biannual Discovery New Musical Theatre Festival and read for the parts of Edith Liddell in *Mad World*, Myrta in *The White City* and Young Johanna in *The Toymaker*. She also had the opportunity to study musical theatre as part of the Drama Summer School at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. Over the summer, Lauren performed as Mary in *Clearing the Mind* as part of the Midtown International Theatre Festival in NYC. Thanks to Steve Calzaretta for this awesome opportunity. Love to her amazing, supportive friends and her parents who have traveled 775 miles to see this production!

**Martha Hansen** (*Martha Gillette*) has appeared in student productions at Second City, as understudy to *Lady Boyle* in *Superior Donuts* (Mary-Arrchie Theatre), understudy

to Helen in *American Beauty Shop* (Chicago Dramatists), Ethel in *Moon Over Buffalo* and Irene and Helen in *ER* (JPAC Theatre) and as Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias* (Ignite Theatre). She has a high regard for JPAC Theatre and appreciates the opportunity to return for this production.

**Jim LaPietra** (*William Gillette*) was last seen on the JPAC stage in last season's production of *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis). He is thrilled to make his return this season in *The Game's Afoot*. Other favorite productions include *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge), *Reefer Madness: The Musical* (Lecturer), *The Tempest* (Stephano), *Hairspray* (Edna), *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Jake), and *Cabaret* (Emcee). Much thanks and appreciation to Steve for this incredible opportunity. Enjoy the show!

**Rachel Livingston** (*Daria Chase/Inspector Goring*) is thrilled to be making her Jedlicka Performing Arts Center debut! After honing her comedy chops at Second City Chicago, Rachel won a 'Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation' award for her portrayal of Inga in Ensemble Theatre Company's *Young Frankenstein* the Musical last October. Recent Chicagoland productions include *Big Noise Theatre's Seussical the Musical* and *Oil Lamp Theater's It's a Wonderful Life*. Some of her favorite roles include *Maureen* (*Rent*), *Diwata* (*Speech & Debate*), *Logainne* (*Spelling Bee*), and *Suzy* (*Marvelous Wonerettes*). You can see Rachel this April in JPAC's upcoming production of *Gypsy*. She would like to thank her parents, Zach, and this "deathly" funny cast and crew.

**Frank Menolascino** (*Simon Bright*) is thrilled to return to JPAC Theater for the third time, once again working with the incomparable Steve Calzaretta and a bubbly cast. Frank has been a part of the Chicagoland industry since earning his Bachelor's degree in Communications from Elmhurst College; both training and working on a never ending basis. In addition to his Lead and Supporting role stints at JPAC, stage credits include: MadKap Productions, Broken Nose Theater's Jeff recommended "The Human Terrain," Evergreen Theater, Open Door Repertory Theater, Brightside Theater, and Gorilla Tango Theater. Frank also has experience in front of the camera, shooting many independent Chicago short films. He is repped by Gill Hayes talent. You can find his actor reel and full history at [www.frankmenolascino.com](http://www.frankmenolascino.com), where he also hosts his own podcast "Let me be Frank," available on iTunes as well. Lastly, you can find Frank giving wise guy guidance at Unotouchable Gangster Tours Chicago! "Thanks to family, friends, and colleagues for the continuous support."

**Rob Sorensen** (*Felix Geisel*) is so relieved to be invited back to JPAC after dying repeatedly on stage as *Burton Surath* in last season's hit comedy *E.R.* He's also been seen recently as *King Arthur* in *Monty Python's Spamalot* and as *Jean Valjean* in *Les Miserables*. Thanks to Steve, for the chance to return in this terrific show with such a wonderful cast, staff, and crew. Thanks to Mom and Sharon for the baking and the support. And thanks to you for supporting live theater. I hope we can keep you guessing. And laughing!

## CREATIVE STAFF PROFILES

**Steve Calzaretta** (Director/Artistic Director) over the past 26 years, has performed on this stage in many productions here at JPAC. He's directed past shows such as Dial M for Murder, Aladdin (TYA), The Good Doctor, Moon Over Buffalo and Asst. Directed Return to the Forbidden Planet. Last season he directed The Rainmaker and E/R and performed in the Big Band Show. Steve toured with country legend Kenny Rogers as asst. tour manager and featured vocalist, toured with the Paul Chapman Project (former lead guitarist for multiplatinum band UFO) as tour manager and vocalist. As an actor Steve performed in regional theatre throughout the United States including Chicago's Marriott's Lincolnshire Theatre and Drury Lane Oak Brook Theatre and had four great months on Broadway. Steve has done many voice overs and been in several television shows and movies. Most recently he was the Company Manager and Casting Director at the historic Fulton Theatre in Lancaster PA.

**Michael Nedza** (Set Designer/Scenic Designer/Props Master) is a full-time faculty member at Morton College, and has been designing throughout the Midwest for over 25 years. He has designed over 75 shows here at the JPAC. Some of the designs he is most proud of include, Sunset Boulevard, Phantom of the Opera, Hairspray, In My Life, We Will Rock You, Jekyll and Hyde, and 1776. Michael has been recognized twice with the "Award of Merit" from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

**Micheal Kott** (Multimedia Director) has directed numerous plays and musicals both stateside and in Europe, including his critically acclaimed production of Murderer, by Anthony Shaffer. His JPAC directing credits include Doubt, Lilies of the Field and The Boys Next Door. Michael is also a veteran performer at the JPAC having been involved in 18 shows over the last 12 years. Among his favorites are Blood

Brothers, Moonlight and Magnolias, Peter Pan, and Tuesdays with Morrie. He is very grateful to Dante Orfei for his friendship, support, encouragement and trust. Micheal played the scene-stealing Psychic in Brain Damaged Film's 2008 release Secrets of the Clown, available at [www.blockbuster.com](http://www.blockbuster.com)! Micheal is the founding director of the Green Door Theatre in Garlstedt, West Germany. Currently he is the Artistic Director of Master's Backstage Players in Carol Stream, Illinois. Micheal was also an ensemble member of Cenacle Theatre in Chicago, where he acted and directed numerous productions. Mike is the multimedia specialist for Morton College by day and at night divides his time among the various theatres in the Western Suburbs of Chicago. He is very thankful to Dr. Felicity for her guidance and direction. She is a wonderful director and I thank her for her knowledge.

**Matthew Carl** (Costume Designer) is a recent graduate of Columbia College Chicago, and is excited to be designing at Jedlicka for a second time. He is the assistant to the costume shop manager at The Paramount Theater (Aurora, IL). Recent design credits include, M. Butterfly (CCC), Love Song (CCC), and Leap fest (Stage Left).

**Margaret Bystrek** (Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of the next season at JPAC and is thrilled to be stage managing The Game's Afoot. Margaret has been a part of the tech crew at JPAC since 2014 and has done a little bit of everything such as set building, stage crew, sound, lights, and assistant stage managing. She would like to thank everyone at JPAC for giving her the opportunity to do what she loves while surrounded by amazing people and talent! She hopes you enjoy The Game's Afoot and the rest of our season!

## CREATIVE STAFF PROFILES CONT.

**Samantha Nieves** (Assistant Theatre Manager) graduated with an Associates in Arts from Morton College the year 2015 and continues her studies at Northeastern Illinois University in Communications/Media/Theatre. For all you loyal JPAC patrons you might recognize Samantha as the “girl in the box office” as well as the “girl at the concessions counter.” That being said, Samantha is a versatile employee of the Jedlicka Performing Arts Center. She has stage managed, assistant directed,

and performed in a number of theatrical productions here at the JPAC theatre. Past JPAC credits include: assistant director for E/R, ensemble in Miss Saigon, assistant director for Moon Over Buffalo, Savannah in How Can You Run with a Shell on Your Back for JPAC’s TYA Program, ensemble in Evita, and assistant director/swing for Love Story. Samantha holds her JPAC family very close to her heart for the support and opportunities they have given her.

## THEATRE STAFF

Artistic Director ..... Steve Calzaretta  
Set Designer/Scenic Designer/Props Master.....Michael Nedza  
Multimedia Director ..... Micheal A. Kott  
Assistant Theatre Manager .....Samantha Nieves  
Public Relations.....Blanca Jara  
Theatre Crew/Set Construction..... Margaret Bystrek

## SPECIAL THANKS

\*Special thanks to The Saints for their support\*



### **Jack and the Beanstalk March 8 thru 18, 2017**

This one-hour musical will have you laughing and singing along with this very talented Cast! Join Jack and his dancing Spanish Cow Carmelita, as they try to save their village from a crazy Giant. Along the way you'll meet Jack's Mom, a Magic Bean Salesman, a Singing Harp, a Goose that lays Golden Eggs, and a very silly Giant. One of the great songs in "Jack and the Beanstalk" is The Counting Song, where the audience helps out the Giant count his gold coins. You'll also be amazed at how we grow the 20-foot Beanstalk live on stage!

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QUEEN OF THE DESERT

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# GYPSEY

*Book By:* Arthur Laurents

*Music By:* Jule Styne

*Lyrics By:* Stephen Sondheim

*Loosely based on the memoirs of Gypsy Rose Lee, the famous striptease artist, and her mother, Rose, the ultimate show business mother. Mama Rose is determined that her younger daughter June will have a successful career, but after June elopes, Mama turns all her attention on her older, less talented daughter, Louise, who eventually becomes a burlesque stripper named Gypsy Rose Lee.*





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