

# 'T WAS THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS

A COMEDY BY  
DOUG JARECKI



The story of the most anticipated due date ever.

DECEMBER 15-23, 2017

DIRECTED BY JIM FLETCHER

Co-produced by Alleycat Enterprises, Inc.

## SETTING

Nazareth, Persia, Bethlehem.....you know, Biblical places

## CAST - IN ORDER OF HEIGHT

Joe, Melchior .....	Doug Jarecki
Steve, Gaspar, Charles .....	Mitch Weindorf
Bartender, Balthasar, Innkeeper .....	John Cramer*
Helen, Sarah .....	Lindsey Gagliano
Mary, Miriam, Muffy .....	Sara Zientek

\*Appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....	James Fletcher
Lighting Design .....	Mike Van Dreser
Set Design/Construction.....	John Zientek
Stage Manager/Crew.....	Jessica Kennedy

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

Waukesha Civic Theatre  
Next Act Theatre  
Sharon Sohner

Becky Moder  
David Ceccarini  
Marcus Promotions

## BIOGRAPHIES



**John Cramer** (Bartender, Balthasar, Innkeeper)  
John is a producer, director, choreographer, designer, actor, singer, dancer, administrator, and teacher, and has worked on more than 400

professional, educational, corporate, and community theatre productions. He is currently the Managing Artistic Director of the Waukesha Civic Theatre. Favorite roles include Harold Hill in *The Music Man* and Matthew in *Cotton Patch Gospel*. He is married to the amazing Kelli Cramer, and they have two exceptional children, Elena and Jude.



**James Fletcher** (Director)  
Fletcher couldn't be more pleased to have the whole gang back again for this project. He is a theatre professional who wears many hats in the city of Milwaukee. He received

his BA in Theatre from UW-La Crosse, and his MFA in Acting from the Professional Theatre Training Program at UWM. In Los Angeles, he was a member of the Sacred Fools Theatre Company where his play, *The Big Schlep* was produced. Other plays include *Losers*, *Give Until It Hurts*, *Blue Stella*, *Sweet Dreams*, and *The Four Hamlets*. Upon moving back to Milwaukee, he founded The

## BIOGRAPHIES CONT.

Bunny Gumbo Theatre Company and continues to serve as Artistic Director. He has taught at all levels, from Movement to Shakespeare, is an SAFD certified actor/combatant, and acts and directs throughout the area. In the spring he teams up with Doug once again to direct *One Knight in Poland*. Enjoy the show!



**Lindsey L. Gagliano** (Helen, Sarah) Lindsey L. Gagliano is thrilled to be back for TTMBBC with this crazy team! A huge thank you to Doug for bringing it back. You may have seen Lindsey

perform around town at such companies as Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, InTandem, Milwaukee Irish Arts, Youngblood (RIP), Bunny Gumbo's Combat, The Alchemist, and Kohl's Wild Theatre at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Lindsey is excited to marry her real-life and on-stage Gaspar this summer in her parents' backyard. Tanto amore alla mia familia!



**Doug Jarecki** (Joe, Melchior) Doug is the Education and Outreach Administrator at the Waukesha Civic Theatre. He is co-founder of the children's theatre company Kidsplay. And

he wants you to know that he brought this show back because of the loving support from his beautiful wife, Logan. That's right. Logan not only pushed Doug to bring it back, but to spend even more rehearsal time away from home making sure it was perfect. Most wives would miss their husbands too much, but not Logan. Nope. She was so strong for Doug, even threatening to change the locks if he tried to come home during the *This Is Us* fall finale. Yeah, she's his rock, and she is already looking for his next time consuming project.



**Jessica Kennedy** (Stage Manager) This is Jessica's first experience as a stage manager and she is grateful to have a hand in this heart-warming production! She was last seen onstage in

SummerStage of Delafield's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, and in *Bare: A Pop Opera* with Outskirts Theatre Co. Thanks for coming, and enjoy the show!



**Mitch Weindorf** (Steve, Gaspar, Charles) Mitch is delighted that Doug didn't cut out all of his parts in this iteration of the show! Recent acting credits include Harold "Stinker" Pinker (By Jeeves *Windfall*

*Theatre*), Burrs (The Wild Party *All-In Productions*), and Mr. Smith (The Bald Soprano *Boulevard Theatre*). Up next, he is directing *Constellations* with *All-In Productions* playing January 12-20 at the 10th Street Theatre. Mitch would like to thank Lindsey, his family, friends and mentors for their continued love and support.



**Sara Zientek** (Mary, Miriam, Muffy) Sara is thrilled to be working with this cast and crew again! She was last seen as Boris in CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG at First Stage. She has

worked with many theatre companies in Milwaukee. She was an intern with First Stage and in The Milwaukee Repertory Emerging Professional Residency. Sara has taught for First Stage, Waukesha Civic Theatre, Next Actors, and was also a part of an educational tour of *Romeo and Juliet* with Utah Shakespeare Festival. She received her BA in acting from UW-Milwaukee. A big thank you to her family, friends and teachers. [www.sarazientek.com](http://www.sarazientek.com)

## JUST SOME THOUGHTS

Here we go again!

It's hard to believe two years have flown by since we last did this show. If you are returning to see it again, welcome back. If this is your first time seeing the show, what took you so long?!?

I get very sentimental around this time of year, as a lot of us do, and I started thinking about some of my favorite gifts over the years. The one I kept coming back to was the Blackstone Magic Kit I got when I was 7. I was obsessed with magic as a kid for one very simple reason—I thought I could get rich by pulling coins out of people's ears, like I had seen magicians do a hundred times before. After all, why get a real job when people are walking around with coins in their ears just waiting to be pulled out? When my dad heard this, I think he knew little Dougie wasn't going to be a financial planner when he grew up.

But even with that revelation, that Christmas is still one of my favorites. I performed what family members lovingly describe as the worst magic show of all time. And I have four brothers, who even at an early age, showed great skill in the art of heckling. I can tell you they honed their craft that night. I remember laughing until my sides hurt, laying in a pile of wrapping paper, and everyone being together. What I *don't* remember is anything happening anywhere else in the world that night. We were all exactly where we wanted to be, with the people we wanted to be with, and it was an amazing gift.

One more gift I need to mention is the group of people involved in making this show happen, particularly Jim Fletcher. He has been instrumental in developing this story with me. I won't call him a 'gift' to his face because I don't want to make it weird between us, but people should know how good this guy is. And I am grateful to him and the cast and crew, even Zientek, for making this show happen again.

Thank you for being here and supporting the show. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Doug



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