

FLORIDA REPERTORY THEATRE

.....

2015-2016 SEASON

HISTORIC ARCADE THEATRE • FORT MYERS RIVER DISTRICT
ROBERT CACIOPPO, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

PRESENTS

THE DINGDONG

BY MARK SHANAHAN

ADAPTED FROM GEORGES FEYDEAU'S LE DINDON

DIRECTED BY ROBERT CACIOPPO**
ensemble member

SPONSORED BY DR. ALEXANDER M. EATON & HUSSEIN WAFAPOOR OF
THE RETINA HEALTH CENTER AND NU IMAGE CLEANERS

STARRING

Ensemble Members

MICHELLE DAMATO* • JASON PARRISH*

and

SETH ANDREW BRIDGES* • CLAIRE BROWNELL* • JOE DELAFIELD*

SET DESIGNER
CHARLES MURDOCK LUCAS***

COSTUME DESIGNER
ALEXANDRIA VAZQUEZ

LIGHTING DESIGNER
JIM HUNTER***
ensemble member

SOUND DESIGNER
JOHN KISELICA

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
AMY L. MASSARI*
ensemble member

ASST. STAGE MANAGERS
GRACIE DOD
KATINA WHITE

THE DINGDONG received its first public reading at Florida Repertory Theatre (Robert Cacioppo, Artistic Director), was workshopped at Theatre Squared (Robert Ford, Artistic Director) and received its world premiere at The Pearl Theatre (Hal Brooks, Artistic Director.)

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2015-16 GRAND SEASON SPONSORS



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This entire season sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Florida Repertory Theatre is a fully professional non-profit LOA/LORT Theatre company on contract with the Actors' Equity Association that proudly employs members of the national theatrical labor unions. *Member of Actors' Equity Association. **Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society. ***Member of United Scenic Artists.

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Lucy Vatelín.....	MICHELLE DAMATO*
Pontegnac.....	JASON PARRISH*
Vatelín.....	JOE DELAFIELD*
Redillon.....	SETH ANDREW BRIDGES*
Madame Pontegnac.....	CLAIRE BROWNELL*
Fabiola.....	CLAIRE BROWNELL*
Soldignac.....	JASON PARRISH*
Bellboy.....	SETH ANDREW BRIDGES*
Mandy.....	CLAIRE BROWNELL*
Dr. Pinchard.....	JASON PARRISH*
Madame Pinchard.....	MICHELLE DAMATO*
Policeman.....	SETH ANDREW BRIDGES*
Maid.....	CLAIRE BROWNELL*

TIME & PLACE

Paris, 1938. Springtime.

ACT I: Charles and Lucy Vatelín's townhouse.

ACT II Scene i: The Hotel Ultimus, that night.

ACT II Scene ii: The Honeymoon Suite of The Hotel Rue Cromartin, the next morning.

THE DINGDONG will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

Understudies: Caroline Clay, Dillion Everett, Ryan Gallerani, Haley Ondrejka, Kyle Ashe Wilkinson
Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe: Meredith Hubbard • **Wardrobe Supervisor:** Courtney Rigdon
Wig Head: Camille Lerner • **Lighting & Sound Board Operator:** Jared Loeb

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



MARK SHANAHAN (Playwright) returns to Florida Rep, having previously directed *Around the World in 80 Days* and *Hound of the Baskervilles*. In 2014, he directed the World Premiere of Mark Brown's *Tom Jones* at Florida Studio Theatre. Additional directing credits include The Alley Theatre (*Sherlock Holmes And The Suicide Club*, *The 39 Steps*, *Around the World in 80 Days*), The Hangar Theatre (*Other Desert Cities*), Theatre Squared (*Around the World In 80 Days*), Penguin Rep (*The Savannah Disputation*, *The Farm: A Spook Story*, *The Woman In Black*, *Hound Of The Baskervilles*), Merrimack Rep (*Mrs. Mannerly*), The Cape Playhouse (*Hound Of The Baskervilles*, *No Way To Treat A Lady*, *Some Enchanted Evening*, *The 39 Steps*), and The Westport Country

Playhouse (*The Greatest Gift*, Script-in-Hand Series of *Butterflies Are Free* with Blythe Danner), as well as at The George Street Playhouse, The Depot Theatre, The Weston Playhouse, and the Fulton Opera House. New York acting credits include *Checkers* (The Vineyard Theatre, directed by Terry Kinney), *Tryst*, *The Shaughraun* (The Irish Repertory Theatre), the original Broadway company of *The 39 Steps* (American Airlines and The Cort Theatre, directed by Maria Aitken), *As Bees In Honey Drown* (Lucille Lortel Theatre), *Philadelphia, Here I Come!* (Roundabout), *The Internationalist* (45 Bleeker and Fairfield Theatre Company), *Downwinders*, *Lake Wanaga Macbeth*, (Soho Rep), *Madame Killer*, *Demon Baby* (Ohio Theatre). Regional theatre appearances include *Tryst* (WCP, Merrimack Rep, Hartford Theatreworks), *Journey's End* (directed by Gregory Boyd), *Sedition*, *Around the World In 80 Days* (Westport CountryPlayhouse), *David Copperfield* (directed by Joanne Woodward and Anne Keefe), *The Hollow*, *Harvey*, *Hitchcock Blonde*, *Tryst*, *Treasure Island*, *Witness for the Prosecution*, and *Journey's End* (The Alley Theatre), *Dial M For Murder* (The Fulton Opera House), *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Hartford Theatreworks), *The West End Horror* (Bay Street Theatre, Pioneer Theatre), *One Foot On The Floor* (Denver Center Theatre), *Andromeda Shack* (The Kennedy Center), *Augusta* (Merrimack Rep), *Noises Off!*, *Bus Stop*, *Picasso at The Lapin Agile*, and others. Film includes *Safe Men*, *Bug*, *Kinsey Three*, *Endsville*, *Mad About Harry*. On television, Mark has appeared on *David Letterman* and *All My Children*. Mark is a graduate of Brown University, and holds an MA from Fordham University where he serves on the faculty. Mark is an award-winning voice-over artist and Edgar Award-nominated playwright. www.mark-shanahan.net

* Member of Florida Repertory Theatre's Ensemble of Theatre Artists. See page 23 for the entire ensemble.



The Actors & Stage Manager employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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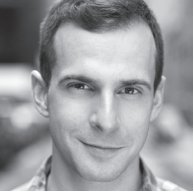


The Director is a member of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.



The Designers at this Theatre are represented by United Scenic Artists - Local USA 829 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees

CREATIVE TEAM



SETH ANDREW BRIDGES*
(Redillon, Bellboy, Policeman)

is a NYC based actor and stuntman, and proudly makes his Florida Rep debut! NY Theatre: *The Time of Your Life*, *Friend of the Devil* (Attic Theatre

Company, company member), *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Henry VI Pt. 1* (NY Neo-Classical Ensemble). Regional Theatre: *Alabama Story* (Pioneer Theatre Company, world premiere), *Twelfth Night*, *Macbeth*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre / TheatreSquared), *Proof*, *One Man Two Guvnors* (TheatreSquared), *The Liar* (Gulfshore Playhouse), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Lake George Theatre Lab). As a stuntman, his credits include *Boardwalk Empire* (HBO), *The Blacklist* (NBC), *Law & Order: SVU* (NBC), *Elementary* (CBS), *Gotham* (FOX), *Royal Pains* (USA), numerous feature and indie films, and an upcoming title from Rockstar Games. BFA from NYU. www.sethandrewbridges.com



CLAIRE BROWNELL*
(Madame Pontagnac, Fabiola, Mandy, Maid)

is thrilled to make her Florida Rep debut. Credits include: Broadway & National Tour: *The 39 Steps*; Off Broadway: *Indian Ink* (with Rosemary

Harris); Off-off Broadway: *The King's Whore*; Regional Theatre: Shakespeare Theatre Company: *An Ideal Husband* and *The Government Inspector*, Hartford Stage: *Boeing-Boeing!* (Connecticut Critics Circle Award), American Conservatory Theatre: *The Rivals*, Gulfshore Playhouse, Palm Beach Dramaworks, Maltz Jupiter Theater, Pioneer Theatre Company, Guthrie Lab, La Jolla Playhouse, Seattle Rep, and Shakespeare on the Sound. Television: *Inside Amy Schumer*, *The Knick* and *Jessica Jones*; Film: *The Inspector the Lady & the Thief*, *BFF*, *This is the Story of Ted and Alice*. MFA from ACT.



MICHELLE DAMATO** (Lucy Vatelín, Madame Pinchard)

is returning for her 12th show with Florida Rep where she is an ensemble member. Audiences will remember her from her roles in *I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti*, *Miracle*

on *South Division Street* for which she won Best Featured Actress in a Play from BroadwayWorld.com Fort Myers/Naples, as well as *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, *Heart Song*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Rumors*, *Sylvia*, *Rabbit Hole*, *Almost, Maine*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. She is a graduate of Circle in the Square Theatre School in NYC and came to Florida by way of Louisville, KY, where she was a company member with Stage One for four years. Some of her favorite roles include *Oliver Twist* off-Broadway at the Promenade Theatre and the voice of Shawna in MTV's *Daria: Is It College Yet?* As a voice-over artist Michelle has done over fifty commercials and audio books. She was a founding member of the Circle Players and the Daughters of Monty, both New York City-based improv companies. Michelle is a proud member of Actors' Equity.



JOE DELAFIELD*

(Vatelín) has performed on Broadway as Damis in *Tartuffe* (Roundabout) and off-Broadway in *Fashions For Men* (Mint), *Outward Bound*, *The Breadwinner* and *Theophilus North* (Keen

Company). Regional: *Ah, Wilderness!*, *Da* (both at the Guthrie), *Journey's End* (Alley Theatre), *School for Husbands* (Westport Playhouse), *The Subject Was Roses* (Pittsburgh Public), *Romeo and Juliet* (Virginia Stage Company), *The Glass Menagerie* (Ensemble Theatre Co.), *Noises Off* (La Mirada), *Juno and the Paycock* (Odyssey), *Photograph 51* (Fountain Theater). Joe is a member of LA's Antaeus Company, where he was seen in *The Autumn Garden*, *The Seagull*, *Macbeth*, *The Crucible*, and *The Liar* (Ovation Award nom., Best Supporting Actor). TV/Film credits include *The Sopranos*, *All My Children*, *Filmic Achievement*, and *Company K*. Joe holds a BA from Columbia University and an MFA from NYU.



JASON PARRISH*
(Pontagnac, Soldignac, Dr. Pinchard)

is in his 11th season with Florida Rep where he is proud to be an ensemble member and the company's Associate Director. His over 30

appearances with the company include: six seasons in David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Around the World in 80 Days*, *Dividing the Estate*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Clybourne*

CREATIVE TEAM

Park, and 2014's nationally-acclaimed production of *Arsenic and Old Lace*. His directing credits with Florida Rep include *A Christmas Story*, *The Fantasticks*, *Tru*, [title of show], and *The Shape of Things*, as well as *A Year with Frog and Toad*, the world premiere of *Journey to Oz*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live*, *How I Became a Pirate*, *The New Kid*, and *The Mischief Makers* for the Rep's Theatre for Young Audiences Series. His work with other theatres includes Actors' Playhouse (Miami), Riverside Theatre (Vero Beach), Theatre by the Sea/Ocean State Theatre Company (Rhode Island), and guest appearances with the New York Philharmonic's Young People's Concert Series. Jason is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

GRACIE DOD (Asst. Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from Samford University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and a concentration in stage management. While studying at Samford, she stage managed many shows including *Macbeth*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Moon Over Buffalo*. Over the past two summers, Gracie has worked with The Berkshire Theatre Group in Massachusetts where she worked on shows such as *Mary Poppins*, *Cedars*, *Seussical*, and *A Hatful of Rain*. She also stage managed *Shrek* and *The Little Mermaid* in her hometown at Suwanee Academy of the Arts.

JIM HUNTER** (Lighting Designer)** has been lighting and designing set at Florida Repertory Theatre since 2000. Designs include *A Christmas Story*, *August: Osage County*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Amy's View*, and *Noises Off*. Folger Theatre: *Julius Caesar*, *Richard III*. Phoenix Theatre: *Man of La Mancha*, *The Full Monty*, *Applause*, *Tintypes*. Charlotte Repertory Theatre: *Jar the Floor*, *Other People's Money*. Theatre Virginia: *Lost in Yonkers*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Sunshine Boys*. Arizona Broadway Theatre: *The King and I*. Florida Stage: *Goldie*, *Max*, and *Milk*, *Some Kind of Wonderful*. Arkansas Repertory Theatre: *Talley's Folly*, *Foxfire*. Orlando Shakespeare: *The 39 Steps*. Florida Studio Theatre: *Spamalot*. The Lost Colony: *The Lost Colony*. Drury Lane (Chicago): *La Cage Aux Folles*. Tours: Clear Channel: *Veggie Tales Live* (National) and Wall Street Danceworks. AriZoni Awards in Scene Design for *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Picnic*. Jim is a Professor of Theatre Design at the University of South Carolina and serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Schools of Theatre and Chairs the NAST Commission on Accreditation. jimhunterdesigns.com.

JOHN KISELICA (Sound Designer) is a graduate of West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in lighting and sound design. He is the Resident Sound and Lighting Designer for Endstation Theatre Company in Central VA and acts as the Lighting and Sound Supervisor for year round consultation and project specific work. He has worked on a national tour, *Buddy: the Buddy Holly Musical*, as the master electrician after a contract with Royal Caribbean International as a stage technician. Commercial theatrical work includes installing Prodigy Hoists, an automated rigging system from Electronic Theatre Controls. John is excited to be here for his second year as the Resident Sound Designer and Master Electrician at Florida Repertory Theatre. John continues to freelance in addition to his seasonal position with Florida Rep in the professional, academic, and community theatre circles.

CHARLES MURDOCK LUCAS* (Set Designer)** is a scenic designer working for theatre and opera companies across the United States. He is thrilled to join Florida Repertory Theatre for this production. Recent productions: *Peter and the Starcatcher* (freeFall Theatre), *The Royal Family* (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), *Suor Angelica*, (Eastman Opera Theatre) *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (The Warehouse Theatre), *An Enemy of the People* (Gulfshore Playhouse), and *Curtains* (Barter Theatre). Upcoming productions include *The Light in the Piazza* (freeFall Theatre), *Mamma Mia!* (Barter Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet*, and *West Side Story* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). He received his Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Design from University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he was the A. J. Fletcher Opera Fellow in Scene Design. He received the 2012 USITT Scene Design Award Sponsored by Rose Brand. He is a proud member of USA 829. www.charlesmurdocklucas.com Twitter and Instagram: @CMLSceneDesign

AMY L. MASSARI* (Production Stage Manager) is pleased to be returning for her seventh season as Florida Rep's resident stage manager and ensemble member. Amy has been a proud member of Actor's Equity Association for the past 26 years, working in some of the country's finest regional theatres: the Alley Theatre (Houston, TX), the Dallas Theatre Center (Dallas, TX), Stage-West (Springfield, MA), the Pioneer Memorial (Salt Lake City, UT), and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (Boulder, CO). Among her favorite

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

They say that “when one door closes, another one opens.”

In the world of farce, when one door slams, it often means a good laugh.

Georges Feydeau was the master of the sex farce, entertaining fin-de-siècle audiences with his door slamming comedies and outrageous sense of humor. Born in 1862, he decided as a child to make a life in the theatre, scribbling plays when he should have been doing homework. By 30, he was not only a successful actor but also the author of competing smash hits on the Paris stage. One critic, who bemoaned that Feydeau was wasting his “truly remarkable talents” on a career devoted to silly vaudeville sex comedies remarked, “how can you win out against someone who makes you laugh so hard?”



Georges Feydeau, writer of *LE DINDON*

Of course, delivering those laughs was hard work, requiring immense artistry. Feydeau explained, “When two of my characters absolutely must not meet, I bring them together as soon as possible.” His plays constantly poked fun at bourgeois sensibilities and irrepressible egos, deriving comedy from outrageous scenarios and classic stock characters. Feydeau reveled in exposing the indiscretions of those who thought themselves beyond reproach and untouchable. He presided over the mechanics of his plots like the architect of a particularly nightmarish and ludicrous roller coaster.

While *Le Dindon* (“The Turkey”), may not be as well-known as his famous plays *A Flea In Her Ear* or *The Paradise Hotel*, it is no less masterful. First performed in 1896, the play enjoyed a successful run at the Theatre Du Palias-Royal. *Le Dindon*, filled with mistaken identities, indiscreet liaisons and hotel door slamming, presents Feydeau at his anarchic best. With a meticulously crafted plot which artfully careens out of control, the author is at times both cruel and sympathetic to his characters’ plights.

Though his plays were filled with humor, Feydeau, like so many great comic minds, was desperately unhappy in his personal life. The loneliness and restlessness which dominated his life was reflected in his plays. Though he loved large, he battled debt, divorce and dementia, ultimately passing away due to syphilis. In his wake, he left behind a catalogue of plays which define the very best of farce.

And yet, Feydeau has often struggled to find his audience outside of France. The British and American stages have flirted with him, but varying success with translations and large cast sizes often left him sidelined. After all, how many theatres are able to take a chance on a little known play over a century old and with so many actors to employ?

Which brings us to tonight and *The Dingdong*. In adapting the original play, I wanted to be truthful to Feydeau’s plot while reinventing the comedy for a cast of only five actors. Having performed and directed such plays as *The 39 Steps* and *Around The World in 80 Days*, I am a true fan of small cast epics which rely on quick change proficiency. With this approach in mind, I figured *Le Dindon* might find a new identity true to its origins while also celebrating the magic of the theatre and the incredible artistry of actors.

For further inspiration, I looked to the screwball comedies of the 1930s. That era’s reliance on fast pace dialogue and double entendres seemed perfectly suited to marry with Feydeau’s devilish wit. With this in mind, I set to work to refashion *Le Dindon* into something new. Characters were discarded, combined and reinvented. Their nationalities and accents were altered and the dialogue was rewritten. *The Dingdong* may now be a kissing cousin to *Le Dindon*, but it is mostly true to Feydeau’s remarkable narrative engine and his madcap scenarios.

When Florida Rep gave the play its first public reading in last year’s PlayLab Festival, it was a thrill to find it delivering laughter and joy to the audience. There is no better sound in the world. Since then, the play has opened Off Broadway and is planned for other productions, but I am ecstatic that it makes its regional theatre debut here, on the Historic Arcade Theatre stage.

My thanks to Florida Rep, Bob, and this outstanding cast and crew for bringing *The Dingdong* to life. Certainly, it is true that dying is easy and comedy is hard. But farce, in the hands of these artists, is pure joy!

—Mark Shanahan, *Playwright*

CREATIVE TEAM

Florida Rep productions are *Split in Three*, *The Fantasticks*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *August: Osage County*, *Sylvia*, and *God of Carnage*. Amy has been happily married to her husband of 19 years, Michael. Michael is a terrific partner and father to their children Jesse Cheyenne and Caleb Dakota.

ALEXANDRIA VAZQUEZ (Costume Designer) was born and raised in Orlando, Florida. She received her Undergraduate BA in Costume Design from Rollins College and MFA in Costume Design and Technology from West Virginia University. She has designed productions at both educational institutions as well as in the community and professionally. This year she is thrilled to be joining the Rep as Costume Shop Manager and

Resident Costume Designer after serving as Assistant Costume Designer/Wig Master for the Ohio Light Opera's 2015 Summer Season. This is Alexandria's second season designing costumes at Florida Rep. She would like to thank her familia, friends, and colleagues for their continuous support. alexandriavazquezcostumedesign.com

KATINA WHITE (Asst. Stage Manager) is thrilled to be interning as an assistant stage manager this season at Florida Rep! As a recent graduate from the University of Florida, she is proud and excited to be a new member of the Florida Rep team. Her previous works include *Tribes*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *The Comedy of Errors*. She would like to thank her parents and David for their love and support.

SPECIAL THANKS:

Ken "Orge" Shaw

Alice Neff

Asolo Repertory Theatre

Riverside Theatre

The author of this adaptation wishes to thank Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Anthony Dodge, Noble Shropshire, Annie Keefe, Jeffrey Hatcher, Gregory Boyd, Bruce Warren, Morgan Hicks, Mark Brown, Jason Parrish, Joe Delafield, Gibson Frazier, Rini and Tom Shanahan.



ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION (AEA) was

founded in 1913 as the first of the American

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an essential component of our society. Today, Equity represents more than 40,000 actors, singers, dancers and stage managers working in hundreds of theatres across the United States. Equity members are dedicated to working in the theatre as a profession, upholding the highest artistic standards. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions and provides a wide range of benefits including health and pension plans for its members. Through its agreement with Equity, this theatre has committed to the fair treatment of the actors and stage managers employed in this production. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. For more information, visit www.actorsequity.org.



FLORIDA PROFESSIONAL THEATRES ASSOCIATION (FPTA) is a statewide

organization of professional theatre companies and theatre professionals

interested in the development and promotion of professional theatre throughout Florida. Florida Repertory Theatre is a proud FPTA member theatre.



THE NATIONAL NEW PLAY

NETWORK is the country's alliance

of nonprofit theaters that champions the development, production, and continued life of new plays. The NNPN strives to pioneer, implement, and disseminate ideas and programs that revolutionize the way theaters collaborate to support new plays and playwrights. Florida Repertory Theatre is proud to be an Associate Member of the National New Play Network.



Florida Repertory Theatre is a member

of THEATRE COMMUNICATIONS

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