



Prelude
TO A KISS

BY CRAIG LUCAS

MARCH 14-16, & 21-23, 2024 • 7:30PM, DOORS AT 7:15

MARCH 17, & 24, 2024 • 3PM, DOORS AT 2:45

Theatre of Youth

203 Allen Street Buffalo, NY 14201

Tickets: Presale: \$25 • Student: \$20 at the door with ID

Industry: \$20 at the door • General Admission: \$30

Viewer Discretion Advised



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Content Warning:
Sexual References,
Simulated Use of Alcohol

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Prelude
TO A **KISS**
BY CRAIG LUCAS

March 14-17 & 21-24, 2024

Directed by Bella Poynton • Produced by Bellissima Productions

"Prelude to a Kiss" is presented by special arrangement with
Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Christopher Gould, Suzanne Golden and Dodger Productions presented The Circle Repertory Company Production of PRELUDE TO A KISS on Broadway. Original New York City production by Circle Repertory Company. Commissioned and originally produced by South Coast Repertory with support from The National Endowment for the Arts.

ABOUT THE SHOW

At Peter and Rita's wedding, a mysterious old man insists on kissing the bride. While honeymooning, Peter gradually realizes that the woman by his side is not his wife. The wedding kiss caused Rita's soul and the old man's to change places. Peter must track down the old man and free his young love's spirit trapped in an aging and diseased body before it's too late.



CAST

Peter.....	Kevin Deese
Rita.....	Colleen Pine
Old Man.....	Brendan Cunningham
Taylor.....	Reumann
Mrs. Boyle.....	Kathy Recchione
Dr. Boyle.....	Steve Abbott
Tom/Minister.....	Viktor Khorvelt
Aunt Dorothy/Leah.....	Callie Keavey
Uncle Fred/Waiter.....	Chris Briggs

CREW

Director.....	Bella Poynton
Intimacy Director.....	Nicolette Navarro
Costume Designer.....	Reumann
Property Master.....	Callie Keavey
Set Designer.....	Callie Keavey
Sound Designer/Operator.....	Tyler Rahner
Lighting Designer.....	Callie Keavey
Poster & Program Design.....	Emily Sellitto
Promotional & Show Photos.....	Callie Keavey

BIOS

Steve Abbott (Dr. Boyle) is making his Bellissima debut! He studies theatre at UCLA and is thrilled to be working again in his hometown of Buffalo, NY. Special thank you to Bella Poynton, Bellissima, and the wonderful cast.

Chris Briggs (Uncle Fred/Waiter) is making his Bellissima debut! In elementary school, he participated in numerous school productions. He started acting professionally at age 21. He has worked as an extra on numerous short films & commercials. The production of Prelude To A Kiss marks his first professional experience within the theatre. When he is not working in the theatre, he works with adolescents with substance use disorders.

Brendan Cunningham (Old Man) is making his Bellissima debut! Brendan was most recently seen at the Paul Robeson Theater in the Artie Award winning playwright, Gary Earl Ross', nifty whodunit Spill-Wit. It was his second collaboration with him - his first being The Mark of Cain at the Manny Fried Theater. He is a proud member of First Look Buffalo's Theater Company Ensemble, and he just finished their initial run of HELL-OWEEN where he played "God Almighty" himself. His gray hair indicates that he has been "treading the boards" for over 40 years. You might have caught him last season at Desiderios's Dinner theater in the smash comedy hit It Runs in the Family, or in Mousetrap (Mr. Pavavicini) with HARP Productions. Or, perhaps prior to that, you may have gotten a little misty watching him perform in Rocking Horse's holiday production of Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus. He's a familiar face in many of the theaters in downtown Buffalo, including Irish Classical, the New Phoenix, and has performed in eight productions of Shakespeare in Delaware Park. He has also appeared in numerous films, commercials and "soaps." Brendan is currently studying and hopes to be fluent in Italian someday, and is an accomplished author and is currently working on his 5th book.

Charlie Brown Christmas (Frieda); Theatre of Youth, Killer Rack (Shelly/Nose Job Girl); Alleyway. Colleen has a BFA in Theater Performance from Niagara University. Colleen would like to thank her family, friends, and Eric for their unwavering love and support.

Kathy Recchione (Mrs. Boyle) is happy to be back with Bellissima! She previously appeared as Bunny Caldwell in Cruel Intentions: the 90s Musical. She has performed on various stages in the WNY area. Some of her favorite roles are Dolly in Hello, Dolly!, Miss Hannigan in Annie, Edith in The Women, and the Queen and Siren in Artpark's Odyssey with Broadway actors Terrence Archie and Courtney Balan. Kathy has appeared in both national and local commercials, as well as local and feature films including Cold Brook with William Fichtner and Bashira. She works with Dramatic Solutions and WNY Improv. Kathy would like to thank Bellissima Productions and Bella Poynton for the opportunity to be a part of this talented cast. "Thank you to my family for all their support and love, especially my husband Dave."

Reumann (Taylor) is thrilled to join Bellissima Productions for this show! Previous credits include HELL-OWEEN (Producer/Director/Sound Designer), Fursona Non Grata (Assistant Director/Stage Manager/Sound, Costume And Prop Designer), Let's Play House (Director/Sound Designer), and Future Wars with First Look Buffalo (Stage Manager), A Midsummer Night's Dream with Live Literature Co. (Helena), Fall from the Grace of God with American Repertory Theater of WNY (Rose), Sylvia (Director) and Anton in Show Business with Niagara University Theater (Holly Seabe), and Dr. Faustus with Jakespeare Theater Company (Director/Producer). Reumann is an international actor and local director/producer, who can also be found designing sound, costumes, and props. Reumann has a Bachelors of Fine Arts with Honors in Theater Performance and Spanish from Niagara University. Reumann also moonlights as an aerial artist, performing on aerial silks, lyra, hammock, pole, and trapeze. Reumann would like to give a special shoutout to family and Amanda Garry and Madison Sedlor. A big thank you as well to director Bella Poynton for being our fearless leader through this wacky process!

Kevin Deese (Peter) is returning for his second show with Bellissima Productions, having appeared in 2022's Dogfight as Boland. Some favorite recent credits include Jimmy in Reefer Madness and Joe Gillis in Sunset Boulevard with O'Connell & Company, Rocky in The Rocky Horror Show with Lancaster Opera House, and Joe Hardy in Damn Yankees with O'Connell & Company. Kevin earned an MBA and Master's of Public Policy from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. in Chinese from the U.S. Naval Academy. He would like to thank his partner Jake, his parents Bob and Sue, and his whole family for their undying love and support for him, in theatre and in life.

Callie Keavey (Aunt Dorothy/Leah) was recently seen in Bellissima's Head Over Heels (ensemble), Small Mouth Sounds (Judy), Spring Awakening (Anna) and Love/Sick (Sarah/Liz). Favorite additional credits include One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (Nurse Ratched) and Steel Magnolias (Clairee) with Canisius Little Theatre and stage managing A Great Wilderness at Buffalo United Artists. When not onstage, Callie is a science teacher and photographer. She can also frequently be found backstage as an overly involved stage manager/theatre designer. She would like to thank Christine for introducing her to acting and her friends for always coming along for the ride!

Viktor Khorvelt (Minister/Tom) was recently seen in Bellissima's Head Over Heels. Viktor has also done simulated scenes for Dramatic Solutions. Viktor is currently an assistant manager at Nothing Bundt Cakes.

Colleen Pine (Rita) is excited to be back with Bellissima Productions having previously appeared in Brace for Impact (Julia). Buffalo credits include True Identity (Beth) and Let's Hope You Feel Better (Therese); Post-Industrial Productions, The Way It Is (Yasmine); Buffalo Infringement, Damn' Yankees (Gloria Thorpe- Artie nomination); O'Connell & Company. Buffalo Quickies (Company); Alleyway, The End: Amen (Jade & Nina); Alleyway Playwrights Circle, Fahrenheit 451 (Clarisse); Subversive Theatre, 420 The Musical (Happiness); The Francis Bacon Experiment, A

THANK YOU!

Danielle Burning

Marie Janicke

Theatre of Youth



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Bellissima Productions 2023-2024 Season

