

**BRAZOSPORT
CENTER STAGES**
PRESENTS



mollysweeney
by brian friel

PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

September 18 - 27, 2020
in Clute Municipal Park, Lake Jackson Civic Center
Plaza & the Freeport LNG Theater
of The Center for the Arts & Sciences



THE CENTER
FOR THE ARTS & SCIENCES
400 College Blvd. • Clute TX 77531



DIRECTOR
WESLEY COPELAND

PRODUCER
RACHAEL WELSH

THE CAST

Molly Sweeney..... Elaine Polemenakos
Mr. Rice..... Mitch Levings
Frank Sweeney Craig A. Fritz

THE SETTING

1990s Ballybeg, Ireland

THE STORY

Three points of view are related by three characters addressing the audience directly. Molly, blind since early infancy, describes her world before and after an operation to restore some of her sight. Her husband, Frank, who pushed Molly into this operation, relates his view of his wife's journey into sightedness and his dealings with her doctor. Molly's once-famous eye surgeon, Mr. Rice, watches both Molly and Frank and reveals his opinion of them along with his own fears in handling the operation. Their stories interweave on stage, threading in and around each other's lives, until the unexpected and touching conclusion to this striking tale by one of Ireland's greatest playwrights.



Many Thanks to our presenting sponsor, BASF!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Wesley Copeland
Producers	Rachael Welsh
Tour Manager/Stage Manager	Dennis Ulrich
Costumes	Terri Martin
Set Design	Taylor Dobbs
Properties	Callie Ayers
Props Crew	Charlee Ayers
Light Design	Chuck Courson
Light Board Operation	Chuck Courson
Scenic Painting	Terri Martin
Sound Design	Barry Dunn
Sound Board Operation	Barry Dunn
Archives Photography	Jackie Riggs
House Manager	Dennis Ulrich
Publicity	Callie Ayers, Rachael Welsh
Fliers, Programs	Mary Meyers
Box Office	Brenda Fagan
Volunteer Coordinator	Terri Martin

Set Construction

Bobby Britton, Wes Copeland, Taylor Dobbs, Craig Fuest,
Rachel Courson, Rebekah Courson

Special Thanks

Ron White, Bobby Britton, Katie LeFave, Brazosport Independent School
District, Chapelwood United Methodist Church, The Center Staff,
The Facts, The Source Weekly, The Bulletin



Our Thanks to the Cities who have sponsored our productions!

And our thanks to those who have bought individual or small business sponsorships to help present this show free of charge in our outdoor venues!

Performance Level

Yuri Marques
Tony Stewart & Wes Copeland

Producer Level

Craig Fritz & Devon Smith
Christopher & Lorin Furlow
Marty & Terri Martin
The Wilhelm Living Trust

Director Level

Dale Libby
Paula Matzke
Mary & Bruce Meyers

Playwright Level

Rachael Welsh
Connie Marshall

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The Facts

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MEET THE CAST



ELAINE POLEMENAKOS (Molly Sweeney) Elaine's involvement with Center Stages includes *The Miracle Worker*, *August: Osage County*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and *Moonlight and Magnolias*. A financial advisor at Merrill Lynch, Elaine earned her BA in psychology from Texas A&M University and her J.D. from University of Texas School of Law, putting her in the perfect position to play Molly and understand the characters and their choices.



MITCH LEVINGS (Mr. Rice) Last seen at Center Stages in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, Mitch has a BS in chemical engineering and works as a Performance Engineer at NRG's WA Parish Generating Station. "Given the impacts of COVID-19 on the social scene, it's exciting to be able to present live theater in a way that can be safe for both the actors and the audience. I hope that audiences will find the case study of Molly Sweeney an enjoyable and thought-provoking insight on the fears and expectations of moving from the known to the unknown and to question the difference between seeing and understanding."



CRAIG A. FRITZ (Frank Sweeney) Some of his favorite roles at Center Stages: *Deathtrap*, *Rumors*, *The Last of Mrs. Lincoln*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Foreigner*, and *Dividing the Estate*. Craig says that although the casts rehearsed virtually, there is still a "sense of ensemble and togetherness, even though none of the actors interact with one another whatsoever, it's special in that it's a beautiful blend of monologues that create a whole story." When Craig isn't volunteering at Center Stages, he works as a Specialty Courts Program Supervisor for Brazoria County.



WESLEY COPELAND (Director) Since we got lucky and Wes joined us at Center Stages, he has directed *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Hairspray*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and *Arcadia*, among others. Wes taught theater at Fort Settlement Middle School in Fort Bend ISD, Freeport Intermediate and Clute Intermediate before becoming the Executive Director of The Center for the Arts & Sciences. Wes says that *Molly Sweeney* tells the story of a woman who has been blind for most of her life, meaning she has experienced the world in a way that is different from other people; ultimately, the show reminds us that our differences should be accepted, even celebrated.

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BRAZOSPORT CENTER STAGES

Proudly Presents the Rest of our
2020-2021 SEASON

AN ILIAD: November 6 - 15, 2020

by Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare

Performance details on page 5.



February 19-28, 2021

SISTAS, THE MUSICAL *by Dorothy Marcic*

The story of African-American women, told through Top-40 music from Bessie Smith to Beyonce. After a matriarch's death, the women in the family clean Grandma's attic and find love and old memories packed away, and in the process, hit tunes that trace the history of black women, from the trials of the 1930s through the Girl Groups of the 60s to the empowerment of the 90s.

Director: Lois Davis

Musical Director: Maurice Williams

Auditions: December 14 & 15, 2020

BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS

by Neil Simon

Here is part one of Neil Simon's autobiographical trilogy: a portrait of the writer as a young teen in 1937 living with his family in a crowded, lower middle-class Brooklyn walk-up. Dreaming of baseball and girls, Eugene, the author's stand-in, must cope with the mundane existence of his family life: a formidable mother, overworked father, and his worldly older brother Stanley. Throw into the mix his widowed Aunt Blanche, her two young (but rapidly aging) daughters and you have a recipe for hilarity, served up Simon-style.



April 23 - May 2, 2021

Director: Judi James

Auditions: March 1 & 2, 2021



July 9-18, 2021

PETER PAN

based on the play by J.M. Barrie; Lyrics by Carolyn Leigh, Music by Morris (Moose) Charlap; additional Lyrics by Betty Comden & Adolph Green; additional Music by Jule Styne
Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick, Tinkerbell, visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey across the stars that none of them will ever forget.

Director: David Hill

Musical Director: Jerry Crummel

Auditions: May 10 & 11, 2021

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CENTER STAGES**
PRESENTS



AN ILLIAD

**BY LISA PETERSON
& DENNIS O'HARE**

PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.

DIRECTOR
SUSAN MOSS

PRODUCER
CONNIE MARSHALL

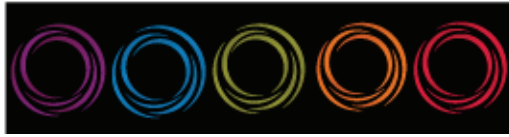
The show is a modern retelling of Homer's *The Iliad*. Having traveled across eons, the seemingly immortal "Poet" transforms into mythical characters found in the ancient story of the battle of Troy. Thought-provoking and often humorous, the production examines the horrors of war throughout history alongside poignant commentary on the hopes and dreams of warriors.

November 6, 7, 13 & 14 at 7:30 p.m.

November 8 & 15 at 2:30 p.m.

**in the Freeport LNG Theater
of The Center for the Arts & Sciences**

As with *Molly Sweeney*, alternate venues or dates may be employed and announced closer to the date. Check our website at www.bcfas.org.



CENTER EVENTS AT A GLANCE September - November 2020

Brazosport Art League

In the Gallery: *“Blood, Sweat & Years”* September 15 - October 18. Featuring artists Jay Loucks, Bill Meek and Jeff Myers. An exhibit of Neo-impressionist painting, glass sculpture & photography, created by a trio of seasoned artists. *“Stacy Jessmer & Raymond Burroughs”* October 20 - November 15. Come see us at intermission! Current Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. Open to the public.

Brazosport Museum of Natural Science

More than 15,000 international and local visitors experience the museum each year. They meet a Dromaeosaur face-to-face as a Pteranodon soars overhead, all under the watchful eyes of a predatory Allosaurus. One of the largest shell collections on display is housed within our walls and folks of all ages delight in the black-light display in the mineral exhibit. Archeology exhibits highlight the history and pre-history of our area. Visit www.bmns.org or call 979-265-7831 for more information. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. **Free admission, but reservations are required at www.bcfas.org.**

BASF Planetarium

Planetarium Show: Short science-related videos *“Hummingbirds, Tiny Navigators, Mars Closest Approach 2020 and Celebrating the Leonid Meteor Shower* will be available on YouTube. Go to www.youtube.com/brazosportplanetarium. Planetarium shows will be virtual until further notice. Check our our website at www.bcfas.org/planetarium. Call 979-265-3376 for more information.

Brazosport Symphony Orchestra

Fall Concert: *“The Music of Friends”* A Celebration of Chamber Music, conducted by Brian Casey. The program features Simone Marshall, winner of the Whit Phillips Young Artists Competition. October 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Lake Jackson. Tickets on sale soon at www.brazosportcenter.org.

Holiday Concert: *“A Chamber Music Christmas”* Holiday favorites in a socially distanced setting. Saturday, December 19 at the First Baptist Church of Lake Jackson. Tickets on sale soon at www.brazosportcenter.org.

Join the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra September 17-20, 2020, for its amazing, magnificent, musical, online fundraising event. *“Keep the Music Playing”!* Register at <https://brazosportsymphony.home.qtgeo.net>.

Come Explore The Center!