



presents



**GUESS WHO'S  
COMING TO  
DINNER**

**By Todd Kreidler**

*Based on the screenplay by William Rose*



Welcome to ACT1 Theater!

## **Our Mission Statement:**

ACT1 Theater is an all-volunteer outreach of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church that produces high-quality and entertaining theatrical experiences and drama education. ACT1 Theater welcomes people of all backgrounds to an inclusive, loving, supportive and joyful environment in keeping with Christian values. We encourage growth and development as individuals and fellowship among all participants.

## **Connect with Us:**

(770) 663-8989



<http://www.act1theater.org/>

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***ACT1 Theater is proud to celebrate its ~~25<sup>th</sup>~~ 26<sup>th</sup> season in  
2020 2021!***

Born of the love of theater, ACT1 was lovingly guided for years by Founder Moira Thornett. The first of many theatrical productions at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church (“APC”) was *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* in 1995. ACT1 Theater was officially organized in 1997 and the first public production of the theater group was *The Littlest Angel*. Early productions were held in the old APC sanctuary using temporary curtains, with no sound or lighting. With the construction of the present APC sanctuary, ACT1 converted the old sanctuary in 1998 to a dedicated theater space, which hosts as many as four mainstage shows per year, and specialty events such as cabarets and dinner theater.

ACT1 Theater has gone from plays put on by church members for church members, to a recognized outreach in the Alpharetta area and vibrant member of the Metro Atlanta theater community. The quality of productions has grown over the years, resulting in several Metropolitan Atlanta Theater Awards since their inception in 2006.

In 2018, ACT1 Theater was approached by the City of Alpharetta as Alpharetta’s only operating theater group to form a partnership with the City and the theater arts organization under the umbrella of Arts Alpharetta. As part of that partnership with the City, ACT1 Theater has produced cabarets in Brooke Street Park, Shakespeare productions in Wills Park, and performances in the Alpharetta Arts Center Black Box Theater. ACT1 is proud to contribute to Alpharetta’s art scene and quality of life for its residents and visitors!

ACT1 planned a big year in 2020 to celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Unfortunately, ACT1’s 25<sup>th</sup> season, like nearly everything else in the world, was derailed by the pandemic. So we are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary a year late!

Dear Friend of ACT1 Theater:

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner opened for a single night on March 6, 2020 – then the theater went dark. When deciding what our first live mainstage show would be coming back from that dark time, we knew this fabulous cast needed a chance to shine again and, given the events of the last 18 months, the subject matter is more relevant than ever. We appreciate your presence here and hope we provide you with a brief respite and food for thought. Our cast and crew are hungry to perform their craft for live audiences, though we appreciate those that supported our efforts to entertain during the pandemic with on-demand performances of *“It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play”* in December, *“Gee's Bend”* in February, and live Shakespeare in the Park in October. Many thanks to the City of Alpharetta for letting us rehearse and film in the Alpharetta Arts Center, and to our casts and crews who endured safety protocols so we could bring you some small distraction. We are moving forward with hope, passion and a fabulous season!

We wish you health and happiness, and we hope to see you at our future productions! In closing, I will reiterate part of my address to the audience appearing in the 2020 program for *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. It sums up who we are and what we strive to be. And that is what the world needs more of right about now. Bless us all.

Melody Cookson  
Managing Director, ACT1 Theater

*From March 2020: “ACT1 is black, white, brown, and yellow. We are gay and straight. We are male, female, and transgender. We are married, single, and divorced. We are both young and old and attract dozens of young adults. We involve more than 150 people to produce shows that attract nearly 3000 audience members. About 75% of both groups were from outside APC. But how did ACCEPTANCE in the community affect lives? Every year, ACT1 impacts individuals and 2019 was no different. Getting specific, ACCEPTANCE means that we helped multiple families in crisis, and those with wonderful life changes, to find fellowship and support in their demanding times. We saw several healthy love relationships develop for young adults in the program; extensions of the dozens of healthy, supportive friendships we've fostered among adults who were lonely. We worked with families to involve adults with mental health issues in our productions. We found opportunities to put senior performers on stage again. We helped people of all ages to gain confidence and self-esteem by giving them roles and new opportunities that challenged them. We reminded folks who have left the church that church is not like TV portrayals. For the community and for individuals, we embody ACCEPTANCE. And we remain an all-volunteer program. Our actors and crew don't pay to participate. Our Managing Director and Board members are volunteers. We fund all of our programs through ticket sales and the generous donation of theater space by Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, for which we are a community outreach. We'd love to have you be more involved! Our program includes people from all walks of life and levels of experience: This is the purpose and essence of community theater. We provide a place where people can be part of something bigger than themselves, learn new things, and make friends. There are lots of ways to get involved: Volunteer, volunteer, volunteer: We need everything from set builders to seamstresses to box office staff to marketers. You can be completely inexperienced or have limited time: We can find something big or small, onsite or remote that you can do to help. Contact me if you'd like to get involved with any aspect of ACT1 Theater. Appear on stage: Don't be shy and don't be discouraged. You'll never know when a director will think you're perfect for a role and here you can learn the craft and improve. Be in the audience: Talk about us. Tell your friends. Post on Facebook!”*

# PRODUCTION TEAM

**Pam Duncan**  
**Director**

**Chris Voss**  
**Stage Manager**

**Teresa Edwards**  
**Production Manager**

## CREW

**(The unseen heart of our production; our appreciation is unbounded!)**

*Lighting/Sound Design* ..... **Murray Mann**  
*Lighting Assistant* . . . . . **Scott Hoffman**  
*Costumes* .. . . . **Jessica Williams**  
*Set Design* .. . . . **Randy Bampfield and Pam Duncan**  
*Construction Team* ..... **Randy Bampfield, Bob  
Cookson, Pam Duncan, Chris  
Voss and our wonderful cast.**  
*Box Office Manager* ..... **Randy Bampfield**  
*Front of House Manager* ..... **Sally Caudle**  
*Photographer* ..... **Robyn Guy**

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# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

## CAST



**Rahshaun Comier - *John Prentice*:** Rahshaun is excited to be making his debut with the ACT1 Theater as John. Rahshaun has previously performed in several shows at Lionheart Theater in Norcross including *A Raisin In the Sun* (Walker Lee), and *Intimate Apparel* (George Armstrong). Rahshaun also appeared in *Native Son* (The Black Rat) at Theater on the Square in Marietta. LORD bless you, thanks for coming and enjoy the show!



**Maya Garner - *Mary Prentice*:** Maya is thrilled to be returning for her second show with ACT1. She was last seen in ACT1's *Six Degrees of Separation*. Other theatrical credits include *The Gospel at Colonus* (Singer Ismene), *The Wiz* (The Wiz), *Valaida*, and *Romeo & Juliet*. Following graduation from the University of Georgia with a minor in Theatre, Maya embarked upon a professional career in Marketing & Advertising. However, she has remained closely connected to the arts through involvement in sketch comedy, Latin dance, cosplay, and a small number of television and film productions. She would like to thank cherished family and friends for their incredible support, and the amazing cast and crew for a warm welcome back to the stage.



**Meagan Graham - *Joanna Drayton*:** Meagan is ecstatic that ACT1 decided to bring this show back to life after it previously being cancelled due to Covid. Meagan has been a part of the ACT1 community for over 5 years and has been acting since the age of 4. She loves to be creative, and in her free time she enjoys playing guitar, writing songs, painting, and decorating her home. Meagan wants to thank ACT1 for letting her be a part of such a fun and supportive community.



**Linda Hodge-McCloud - *Matilda Binks ("Tillie")*:** Linda is excited about her ACT1 debut! Originally from Buffalo, NY, she moved to Atlanta from Dayton, OH in 2007. She enjoys performing in community theatre and has appeared in many shows, including *The Piano Lesson*, *Fences* (Linda won the Blackburn Award of Excellence for her portrayal of "Rose"), *For Colored Girls Who have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Miracle Worker*. Her several film credits include *Brothers of the Borderland*, in which she was the stand-in body double for Oprah Winfrey, who narrated this documentary film for The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. She is a volunteer reader for GPB's reading service for the visually impaired. Linda continues to train in order to perfect her craft.



**Lauren Quesnel - *Hilary St. George (Sept 10-19)*:** Lauren is so thrilled to be reprising the role of Hilary! It is so exciting to be able to do this show once again, and theater is BACK! She would like to thank Pam Duncan, Chris Voss, Melody Cookson, as well as the entire cast and crew. Special shoutout to Alyssa Wright, thank you for being the double cast "stunt double" (love you boo). Thank you to all her friends and family for their constant love and support. She would like to dedicate this show to her magnificent grandmother, Gladys Calcagni.



**Vicky Ryden - Christina Drayton:** This is Vicky's 1st show with ACT1, having most recently played Madge in the Players Guild @Sugar Hill production of *The Game's Afoot*. Before 2019, her artistic efforts were varied: 20-plus years of teaching drama and directing middle schoolers, various projects with North Point Ministry's 3D Players (along with hilarious husband Paul), Tripp & Tyler and Daws Brothers projects, roles such as Julia in *Sabrina Fair* and the title role in *Christmas with Grace*. Her all-time faves include the title role in *Medea* and singing the role of Violetta in *La Traviata*. She's delighted to be mom to Lindsay and hopes everyone enjoys the show as much as she has!



**Paul Ryden - Matt Drayton:** Most of Paul's performing career has been in front of the camera, first as a sports and feature reporter (Turner Sports, ESPN) and now as an actor in commercials, TV shows, and movies—often playing (naturally) reporters, as he did in the Oscar-nominated *Hidden Figures*. As a twelve year-old he appeared with Hugh O'Brian in *The Music Man* in 1965 but, as he's much taller now, has moved on to adult roles on stage. Paul is making his ACT1 Theater debut and is delighted to share the stage with his favorite actress and biggest supporter, his wife of 40 years, Vicky.



**Timothy Scott - Monsignor Ryan:** Tim is a SAG-AFTRA actor and stunt driver who has been away from the stage for far too long. He is excited to make his return to the stage in his first production at ACT1 Theater. Past shows in which he has appeared include *Guys and Dolls*, *The Sound of Music*, *Kismet*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Dracula*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Tim is thankful for the love and support from his family: Melanie, Ashley, Grace, and Alyssa.



**George Thomas - John Prentice, Sr.:** George is a native of Ocala, Florida. He recently retired after a 30-year career in the Nuclear Power Industry. George made his theatrical debut in 2019 as The Priest in *The Strong Breed*. He has a BS degree in Nuclear Technology from Excelsior College. He spends his free time volunteering at a local elementary school.



**Alyssa Wright - Hilary St. George (Sept 24-26):** Alyssa is so pleased to be welcomed to take over this amazing role for the final weekend. Some of her favorite roles include Corie in *Barefoot in the Park* at Acting Up and Mitch Mahone in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Page One Studios. Special thanks goes to Lauren and Pam for trusting me with this role and also to her fiancé Adam for putting up with her INSANE schedule! Catch her soon in *Black Comedy* at The Art Place!



ACT1 Theater is a proud partner and supporter of the North Fulton arts community, and in particular the organizations that support our City of Alpharetta.

**ACT1 Theater is proud to partner with...**



**ACT1 Theater is a Proud Member of:**



**ACT1 Theater appreciates the support of...**







## Become a Member Now!

By becoming a member, you will help ACT1 Theater continue to produce quality theater performances and make capital improvements to enhance the audience experience. We remain an all-volunteer program that offers free participation and is open to anyone regardless of race, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or anything else. Please consider supporting ACT1 Theater and the Arts in Alpharetta! In addition to a possible income tax deduction, you will be entitled to the benefits below based on your membership level.



- Crew Level \$20+
  - Quarterly Newsletter
  - Program acknowledgement throughout the production

- Actor Level \$50+

- Crew Level plus presale ticket window with reserved seats.



- Director Level \$100+

- Actor Level plus 25% discount on all full price tickets.

- Producer Level \$250+

- Director Level plus 2 season tickets for all MainStage shows.



Just want to donate? Set up recurring contributions? Note: donation will be through Alpharetta Presbyterian Church.

[Set Up Donation](#)



## Special Thanks!

The Membership and Leadership of  
Alpharetta Presbyterian Church

Robyn Guy Photography

Synergistic Media

In March of 2021, ACT1 will produce *A Higher Place in Heaven*, by Pamela Parker. *A Higher Place in Heaven* is a prequel to *Second Samuel*, which is running concurrently with *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* at Onstage Atlanta in Decatur. More information on *Second Samuel* below.

## SECOND SAMUEL

written by Pamela Parker  
Directed by Barry N. West  
September 10 - 26  
Friday & Saturday at 8:00 pm &  
Sunday at 3:00 pm



It was a simpler time in the late 1940s, especially in South Georgia and specifically in a sleepy little town called Second Samuel. What had been called the Great Depression was quickly fading into memory. The war had been won, the election was now over, and "Give 'em Hell Harry" was still president. It had been an exciting time for sure, but the folks in Second Samuel were ready for things to settle down and get back to normal. Except-this was the summer Miss Gertrude passed away, and deep dark secrets were about to be revealed. Nobody could have imagined how the death of one sweet little old lady would turn the entire town upside down, leaving everybody in Second Samuel wondering if anything would ever be normal again!



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# Second Samuel

A PLAY BY PAMELA PARKER  
DIRECTED BY BARRY N. WEST

"...ever'body's got a secret."

**SEPTEMBER 10 - 26, 2022**

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 - SUNDAY AT 3:00

**OSA**  
onstage atlanta  
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## Our Partnership with the City of Alpharetta

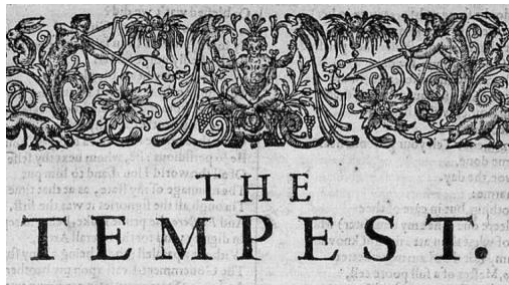
ACT1 Theater and the [City of Alpharetta](#) formed a partnership in 2017, making ACT1 Theater “Alpharetta’s Home for Community Theater.” Working together, we have produced plays and vignettes of William Shakespeare outdoors in [Wills Park](#), a series of songs and scenes for the City’s inaugural Summer Concert Series in [Brooks Street Park](#), and plays in the [Alpharetta Arts Center](#) intimate Black Box Theater.

We are pleased to continue this partnership during ACT1 Theater’s 2021-2022 season and the City of Alpharetta’s 2022 Fiscal Year. As a result of this continuing partnership, we are offering these shows.

### **The Tempest**

October 15-24, 2021

Fri/Sat at 8 pm – Wills Park



Prospero uses magic to conjure a storm and torment the survivors of a shipwreck, including the King of Naples and Prospero’s treacherous brother, Antonio. Prospero’s slave, Caliban, plots to rid himself of his master, but is thwarted by Prospero’s spirit-servant Ariel. The King’s young son Ferdinand, thought to be dead, falls in love with Prospero’s daughter Miranda. Their celebrations are cut short when Prospero confronts his brother and reveals his identity as the usurped Duke of Milan. The families are reunited and all conflict is resolved. Prospero grants Ariel his freedom and prepares to leave the island.

### **Maytag Virgin**

February 11-19, 2022

Fri/Sat at 8 pm

City of Alpharetta Arts Center

Black Box Theater



A classic Southern love story. *Maytag Virgin* follows Alabama school teacher Lizzy Nash and her new neighbor Jack Key over the year following the tragic death of Lizzy’s husband. The play explores the ideas of inertia and self-enlightenment and the bridge between the two.



present

William Shakespeare's



THE  
TEMPEST.

*Wills Park, Grand Pavilion  
behind Alpharetta Community Center  
175 Roswell St. 30009*

*October 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2021 at 7:30 PM*

*Free to Public*



Want Your Picture Here?

**Audition!**

Upcoming Auditions:



September 12 & 14, 2021

Sign Up for an Audition Slot



December 6, 2021

Audition Slots  
Coming Soon!

Have Stage Fright?

Volunteer!





2021 ACT1 Theater  
Board of Directors

President: Randy Bampfield

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# Season Tickets

Season Tickets (\$51 for three remaining Mainstage Shows)

**MainStage Shows:**



September 10-26, 2021



December 3-19, 2021



March 11-27, 2022



June 3-19, 2022

**In Partnership with the City of Alpharetta:**



October 8-16, 2021  
Wills Park, Alpharetta  
(Free)



February 11-19, 2022  
Alpharetta Arts Center  
Black Box Theater  
(Not Included in Season)



# Welcome to APC

Dear ACT1 Patron,

Welcome to this performance of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner!" APC is proud to host the ACT1 Theater drama ministry and support the arts in our community.

I invite you to join us for worship at 9:30 or 11 am on Sunday mornings. We are an accepting faith community that strives to meet people where they are, ask honest and challenging questions about God and the world, and grow together as a dynamic and diverse church family.

Check out APC's website, [www.alpharettapres.com](http://www.alpharettapres.com), to learn more about our family of faith and subscribe to our e-newsletter, "The Good News." Whether through worship, music, APC Dayschool, men's fellowship, Presbyterian Women Circles, service to neighbors in need, book club, Bible study, or mission trips, there are so many ways to build friendships and grow in faith.

Thanks again for supporting our ACT1 Theater drama ministry and enjoy the show!



Alpharetta Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Worship: 9:30 & 11:00 am  
Infant/Toddler Nursery: 9:15am-12:15pm  
Sunday School: 9:30 am

*Ollie*

Rev. Dr. Oliver Wagner  
Senior Pastor

[alpharettapres.com](http://alpharettapres.com)



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