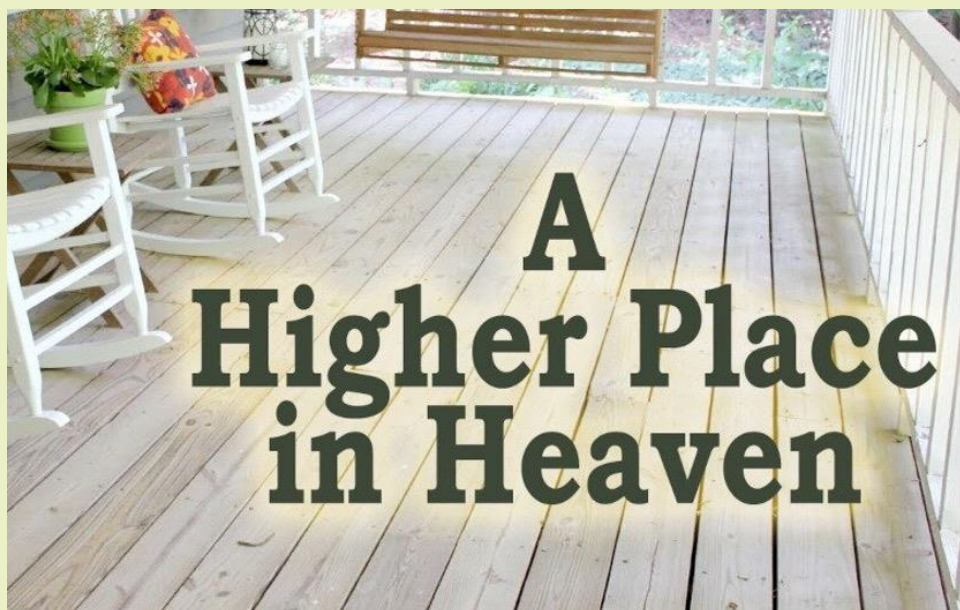


 **ACT1** THEATER
PRESENTS





Written by:
Pamela Parker

Directed by:
J. Blair Sanders

Stage Manager
Christopher Voss

Costume Design
Jessica Williams

Set Design
**Randy Bampfield &
Becca Parker**

Lighting and Sound Design
**Murray Mann
Andre Eaton, Jr. &
Scott Piehler**

Fight Choreographer
Becca Parker

A Higher Place in Heaven is presented through special arrangement with the author.

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



180 Academy St., Alpharetta, GA 30009

act1theater.org

A Higher Place in Heaven

Scenes

ACT ONE

Scene OneFront Porch of Old Mansion. 1925

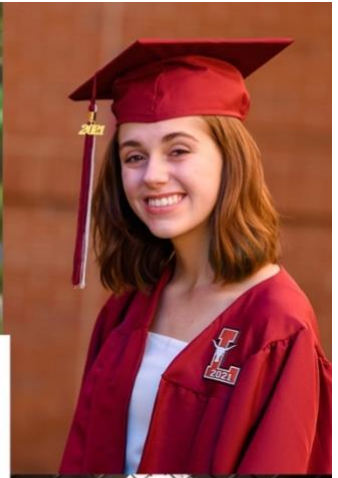
Scene Two.....A few hours later

THERE IS ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

ACT TWO

Scene One.....The next morning

Scene Two.....Later that afternoon



robyn.guy photography

www.robbynguy.com
robbyn@robbynguy.com
770-331-1924

your Alpharetta photographer
for children, families,
seniors, sports/dance, & headshots



A Higher Place in Heaven

Cast

Danon Dastugue.....Ms. Madison
Alex
Duarte.....Ulysses
Sarah Fechter.....Billie Augusta
Maya Garner.....Ms. Simpson
Geoff Goff.....Frisky
Michael Masi.....Son

Production Team

Director.....J. Blair Sanders
Stage Manager.....Christopher Voss
Lighting and Sound Design.....Murray Mann & Andre Eaton, Jr. &
Scott Piehler
Set Design.....Randy Bampffield & Becca Parker
Set Construction.....Randy Bampffield,
Becca Parker, J. Blair Sanders,
Christopher Voss, and the entire cast.
Costume Design.....Jessica Williams

Special thanks to Lauren Tully for the use of her rocking chairs and glider!

Special thanks to David Charvet of Charvet Classic Cars for the recording of the 1925 Pierce Arrow, and to Freesound user se2001.

Special thanks to audionautix.com for the use of royalty free music

Cast Bios



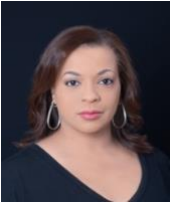
Danon Dastugue: Ms. Madison- Danon was last seen in OnStage Atlanta's *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Previous productions in Chicago, Los Angeles, and New Orleans include *A Christmas Story*, *Pygmalion*, *Enchanted April*, *Into the Woods*, *Noises Off*, *Red Herring*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *On Golden Pond*. For Jessica, Madison, and Ella.



Alex Duarte: Ulysses- This is Alexander's very first onstage role and he has absolutely loved the experience. He is an 11th grader at Chattahoochee School and his favorite subjects are Orchestra, Forensics and Theater. In his free time, he enjoys running, playing double bass, and hanging with friends. Thanks to Blair and the cast for teaching him so much!



Sarah Fechter: Billie Augusta- Sarah is excited to be back for her second ACT1 Theater show! Recent favorite roles include Jerri Neal (*Sweet Delilah Swim Club*) and Joanna (*Lower Room*). When not on stage, Sarah enjoys playing music and watching Disney+ with her cat. She thanks God for His blessings, her boyfriend for his love, her family for their support, and Blair and the cast for all the laughs.



Maya Garner: Ms. Simpson- A graduate of the University of Georgia, Maya works in corporate Marketing and enjoys sketch comedy, Latin dance, and cosplay in her spare time. She would like to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support, and the cast and crew for a warm welcome back to the stage.



Geoff Goff: Frisky- Geoff studied for two years at the Studio Acting Conservatory in Washington, D.C. and recently moved to Atlanta. His previous roles include B Flat in *Second Samuel*. He has also performed in *Things That Go Bump* (Onstage Atlanta), *The Homecoming* (Lionheart Theatre) and *Three Seconds to Midnight* (Live Arts Theatre). He is excited to be back in the town of Second Samuel, working with Blair and ACT1 Theater for the first time!



Michael Masi: Son- Michael is a recent graduate of Oglethorpe University where he earned a full tuition scholarship to study theatre. During his college career he performed in *Cabaret* (Ernst Ludwig), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Don Pedro), *The Normal Heart* (Ned Weeks), and many more university productions. He is so excited to be a part of this production and perform in front of an audience again.



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



ACT1theater



www.act1theater.org



@act1theater



2022 ACT1 Theater
Board of Directors

President: Virginia Mann
Treasurer: Arthur Colby • Secretary: Stu Moring

Loren Collins • Teresa Edwards • Christie Lee Fisher
Maya Gardner • Stu Moring • Heather Wagner

Artistic Director.....Jessica Williams
Managing Director.....Randy Bampfield
Company Music Director.....Mark Krohn

Director's Note

When I decided to pursue directing, I wanted to tell powerful stories. Pamela Parker's *A Higher Place in Heaven* definitely fits the bill. As a native Georgian who would make the trek to Waycross, Georgia to see her grandparents once or twice a year, I felt a distinct connection to *Higher Place's* South Georgia roots.

This is a story that deals with race relations and bigotry, but also grace and redemption. And it does so with a large amount of humor and heart. This was a story that I really wanted to tell.

I first directed a staged reading of *Higher Place* in February 2020, right before the pandemic shut things down. Pamela Parker's script came alive on that stage, and I will always remember that night as being magical. This was the first ever time I had directed anything, and that night showed that maybe, just maybe, I should keep doing this directing thing. That was the calm before the pandemic storm. Little did we know what was about to hit live theatre.

Fast forward two years later, and several pandemic-related hiccups, ACT11 Theater allowed me the opportunity to bring southern-fried magic to the stage again, this time as a full production. The cast has worked like crazy to bring this heartwarming and poignant story to life.

Thank you for coming back to live theatre and enjoy the show!

J. Blair Sanders

"Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you." - Ephesians 4:32

Want Your Picture Here? Upcoming Auditions at ACT1 Theater:

We will be announcing our 2022-2023 Theatrical Season very soon! Keep an eye on our social media and act1theater.org for updates about auditions!

Have Stage Fright? Volunteer!



*ACT1 Theater is proud to celebrate its ~~25th~~ 26th season in
2020 2021-2022!*

Born of the love of theater, ACT1 Theater 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 25th anniversary. Unfortunately, ACT1’s 25th season, like nearly everything else in the world, was derailed by the pandemic. So we are celebrating our 25th anniversary a year late!



Our Partnership with the City of Alpharetta

ACT1 Theater and the City of Alpharetta formed a partnership in 2017. 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.



ACT1 Theater is a proud partner and supporter of the North Fulton arts community and 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 season.
- 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

Want to advertise in our Programs?

Program Ads

Sponsorships

Interested in sponsoring a show? A season? Contact Us to learn more.



Holy Week & *Easter* 2022



Children's Easter Egg Hunt & Baby Animal Petting Zoo

Saturday, March 26
10 am—12 pm

Bring your basket for an Easter Egg Hunt on the church grounds. Groups will be divided by age. Come early—the eggs go fast! We will also offer a petting zoo, a bouncy house and face painting.



Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 10
9:30 & 11 am

Join us as we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palm branches. Childcare provided.



Maundy Thursday Dinner & Communion Service

Thursday, April 14, 6:00 pm

We will gather in Fellowship Hall to share a meal and celebrate the Lord's Supper together as a church family.



Good Friday

Friday, April 15, 12 pm

We will contemplate the cross of Christ during our Good Friday worship service at 12 pm.

Easter Services

Easter Sunday, April 17

7:00 am Sunrise Service

Early risers, come to APC's outdoor chapel for an informal service featuring Holy Communion. No childcare.

9:30 and 11 am Easter Worship

Join us in our sanctuary for joyful worship on Easter morning with special music and guest musicians. Nursery will be provided as well as KinderWorship for ages 3-5 during both services.





Welcome to APC

Dear ACT1 Patron,

Welcome to this performance of "A Higher Place in Heaven!" 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, 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



@alpharettapres