

BREAKING THE SHAKESPEARE CODE

BY JOHN MINIGAN



**DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL MCGARTY**



Black Box Theatre

**377 North Main Street
Mansfield, MA 02048
508-339-2822
MMAS.ORG**

FROM THE DIRECTOR



*"You hedge your bets, Anna.
Do something different today. Go all in."*

Curt, *Breaking the Shakespeare Code*

John Minigan and I have been friends for over 30 years having both directed many shows for the METG's High School Drama Festival. John's playwriting work with Weston High School students inspired me to create new work with my own students at The Bromfield School. When we both retired from teaching and he expanded his writing influence into professional venues, I followed his success, play after play. So, when the opportunity arose to direct a two character play at MMAS, I knew immediately that I wanted to bring one of his scripts to life. After a short conversation, John sent me some great possibilities, but upon reading the first few pages of *Breaking the Shakespeare Code*, I was hooked.

The relationship between a good teacher and a talented theater student is unique. By necessity, it must break the normal student/teacher boundaries if any great work is to be achieved. There must be a high element of trust because of the emotional risks involved. John adds time shifts to the dynamic relationship between Curt and Anna to discover what might happen given a 6 year gap followed by a 10 year gap. The ensuing journey is filled with emotional discoveries that keep an audience wondering what will happen next.

I thank John for trusting me with his work. Thanks also to Joe, Catherine and Katelyn for joining me on another MMAS journey; to Steve, Bruce and Andrew for making the online format happen; and to Ken, Dori and the MMAS family for trusting me with yet another new piece.

Michael McGarty
Director
Breaking the Shakespeare Code



presents

BREAKING THE SHAKESPEARE CODE

WRITTEN BY
JOHN MINIGAN

DIRECTED BY
MICHAEL
MCGARTY



Breaking the Shakespeare Code is produced
by special arrangement with the author.

Breaking the Shakespeare Code was originally produced as a PlayLab Workshop Production at the Orlando-UCF Shakespeare Theater (Jim Helsinger, Artistic Director; Mary Ann Dean, Executive Director) in Orlando Florida.

Breaking the Shakespeare Code original reading by
the Utah Shakespearean Festival, Cedar City, Utah.

The Mass Music & Arts Society (MMAS)
is supported in part by grants from



Becoming
Dr. Ruth
an unexpected journey



by Mark St. Germain

Directed by Ken Butler

Starring
Alice Springer as Dr. Ruth

Becoming Dr. Ruth chronicles the life of noted psychologist Dr. Ruth Westheimer from her early years fleeing Nazi Germany to her time spent as a sniper in Jerusalem and beyond. This illuminating one-woman show from the author of Freud's Last Session is a humorous and heartfelt dramatization of Dr. Ruth's incredible journey to become a pioneer in the psychology of human sexuality and the world's most famous sex therapist.

November 21 & 22 at 8 PM
November 23 at 2 PM

LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCES

Tickets at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/mmas>

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Curt..... Joe Rich
Anna Sommers Catherine Haverkamp

SETTING:

All action takes place in the rehearsal hall
of a women's college in Massachusetts.

TIME:

Scene 1: 2004
Scene 2: 2010
Scene 3: the present

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MMAS programs are supported in part with grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the MCC Cultural Facilities Fund, MassDevelopment and the local cultural councils of Mansfield, Foxboro, and Norton.





Black Box Theatre
Season Event

A Broadway Christmas



Directed by Katia Greene

Come revisit an MMAS favorite: our musical revue of holiday film classics and Broadway shows. We're bringing back your favorite selections from past productions. It's a rumpus holiday party that is fun for the whole family.

December 11 at 8 PM
December 12 at 2 PM

LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCES

Tickets at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/mmas>

MMAS Production Staff

Executive DirectorKen Butler
Artistic DirectorDori Bryan-Ployer

Director Michael McGarty
Assistant Director Katelyn Miller
Sound Design.....Bruce Webster
Zoom Cameras.....Andrew Coutermarsh, Steve Ide, Katelyn Miller
Postproduction/EditingAndrew Coutermarsh
Publicity & Marketing.....Ken Butler
Program Design Michael McGarty
Website/Communications.....Steve Ide



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Black Box Theatre
SPECIAL EVENT!

A Ghost Story of Christmas



based on
A Christmas Carol
by Charles Dickens

Starring Gary Poholek

In this 20th Anniversary special event, Gary Poholek narrates, performs and not only brings to life the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, but the spirit of Charles Dickens himself.

December 18 & 19 at 8 PM
December 20 at 2 PM

LIVE STREAMED PERFORMANCES

Tickets at <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/mmas>

Cast and Crew



Joe Rich (Curt) — Joe is a local ne'er-do-well from Dedham, Massachusetts. He has performed in two previous MMAS productions as Bernard in *Boeing Boeing* and George Pigden in *Out of Order* for which he received the Best Supporting Actor DASH award from EMACT. Most recently, he played Sir Toby Belch in the Dragonfly Theater Company's outdoor presentation of *Twelfth Night*. When he is not performing, he is working at Wayland Middle School as a student supervisor, which fits him well because he has the maturity of a 12 year-old. He thanks Catherine, Katelyn, and Michael for working so hard on this show. Most importantly he thanks his beautiful wife Claire, their wonderful son Emmett, their stupid dog Teddy and their handsome cat Jerome. Please enjoy the show and make sure you turn off your phones.



Catherine Haverkamp (Anna Sommers) — Catherine is delighted to be returning to MMAS after appearing as Gloria in *Boeing Boeing* last fall. A recent transplant to Massachusetts, Catherine has previously been seen in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in productions including *The Underpants* (Gertrude), *Mythology Project* (Psyche/Eurydice), and *Hello, From Berthe* (Goldie).



Michael McGarty (Director) — Michael McGarty has been active in community, regional, professional and high school theaters in the New York/New England area for 50 years. He served as The Harvard Community Theater's Artistic Director from its inception in 1990 to 2012, directing over 100 plays including four New England premieres of New York composer Jenny Giering's work: *Show*, *Crossing Brooklyn*, *Still Life* and *The Mistress Cycle*. He was named Best Director at the 2012 EMACT festival for *Crossing Brooklyn*, and for both the latter productions at the New England Regional Festivals. In 2002, his production of *'night Mother* won the EMACT Best Production Award. In 2018, he won the DASH Best Director Award for his production of *Out of Order* at MMAS. In 2020, he was presented with an award for Outstanding Direction for his production of *Boeing, Boeing* at MMAS. He thanks his cast and crew for their dedication in this chaotic time and Ken Butler for his passion to continue the incredible work at MMAS. He also thanks his wife Maryellen for putting up with so many rehearsal/production nights for 34 years.

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Cast and Crew



Katelyn Miller (Assistant Director) — Katelyn is so excited to be back for another show with MMAS. Having been a part of the theatrical community in Massachusetts for the past fifteen years she loves having the opportunity to come back and work with this awesome family for yet another wonderful experience after a turbulent and difficult year for the arts. Katelyn is a resident of Raynham, Massachusetts, and holds a Theatre Education degree from Salem State University. She has had the opportunity to perform and stage manage for many local theatres including Norton Singers, FPAC and Applause Academy. She is excited to be back with Michael and the team coming up with new ways to navigate this new normal, its certainly different from the world of *Boeing Boeing* we lived in last fall. Katelyn would like to remind everyone to continue supporting the arts in any way possible. We will see the light at the end of this tunnel! Please support live/ virtual theatre!



John Minigan (Author) - John Minigan is a 2019-2020 Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellow in Dramatic Writing. His plays have been presented in New York by Circle Rep, Urban Stages, Hey Jonte!, Core Artist Ensemble, and Shelter West and around the country and the UK by Centastage, Pegasus, Good Company, YASPLZ and others. He has had new plays developed and workshopped at the New Repertory Theatre, the New American Playwrights Project, Portland Stage Company, Great Plains Theatre Conference, Actors' Repertory Theatre of Vermont, Dayton Playhouse, and the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, selected four times for the Samuel French Off-Off-Broadway Festival, for Orange Tea Theatre (Amsterdam), SoBe Arts, IMPACT 15 International Theatre Festival, BARE Essentials and Best of BARE Essentials (London), the Boston Theater Marathon, Short + Sweet (Dubai, Los Angeles, Sydney, Delhi and Queensland), the Snowdance Comedy Festival, Pick of the Vine, Seoul Players (South Korea), Boston Play Café and the Theatre Nerd podcast. He is a 2020 winner of the New American Voices Festival for full-length plays, a 2019 Clauder Competition Gold Prize winner, a finalist for the 2018 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference and Lark Playwrights' Week, a finalist for the 2014 Heideman Award from the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and a 2015 O'Neill semifinalist. John lives in the Boston area with his wife, the dance scholar, teacher, and choreographer Lynn E. Frederiksen. He is currently on the faculty of The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

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2020-2021 MMAS Season Contributions

During this unprecedented time, The Mass Music and Arts Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the individuals, foundations, corporations, and institutions whose gifts help strengthen the Society's activities each year. MMAS would greatly appreciate your support to keep our community strong and help us mitigate expenses created by these current circumstances. Thank you in advance. We all will get through this and we hope to see you in the Black Box soon.

Our Annual Campaign supports our season & programs.

All donations to our annual campaign are tax-deductible.

Please consider a donation to support our programming!

MMAS is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization.



About the Mass Music and Arts Society

A quarter century ago, eight friends formed a non-profit (501 (c)(3)) organization to support the arts and artists. Today, their brainstorm has grown into a thriving arts organization – the Mass Music & Arts Society, Black Box Theater & Morini Gallery (MMAS) – recognized throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

With an annual operating budget of just over \$500,000, MMAS attracts about 10,000 audience members, patrons and performers from New Hampshire to Rhode Island and Cape Cod. Audiences come to MMAS because they know they will see exceptional productions in the intimate 76-seat Black Box Theater for a fraction of the cost of a ticket in Boston or Providence. MMAS is also home to the Morini Art Gallery which offers exhibitions of works by local and regional artists. The recent addition of the MMAS Arts Academy motivates learners ages 4+, of all abilities, interests, and incomes to participate in our comprehensive performing arts programs and experience the transformative life skills that creative engagement inspires.

The Mansfield Music & Arts Society recently signed an agreement to own 888 South Main St. across from the Xfinity Center. A 250-seat theater and art gallery on three acres on the Norton Reservoir is the vision of the new Arts Center at Great Woods. The nonprofit arts organization plans to renovate and expand the site to continue offering its theatrical productions, exhibits, arts classes and musical performances.

MMAS is a volunteer organization; our actors, and technicians are all volunteers; as is everyone who works the ticket office and concession area for every performance. Each year, volunteers give almost 30,000 hours to MMAS.



MMAS STAFF

Ken Butler, Executive Director
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Abigail B. Young, Development Director

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Vincent Ratsavong
Bobby Zupkofska



STEVE IDE
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The MMAS Academy



OUR MISSION: Changing lives through the arts, one student at a time.

The MMAS Academy is extremely proud of their dedicated and talented faculty. Our diverse teachers are committed to lifelong learning while bringing a wealth of skill, experience, passion, and joy to their students and classrooms.

Imagine life **without** the *Arts*
Neither can we.



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