



POPCORN FALLS

BY JAMES HINDMAN

JULY 28–AUG 8, 2021

ISHAM FAMILY FARM



A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear friends –

After over a year of being unable to gather to experience live theatre, it fills me up with such intense joy to be able to say: Welcome! Glad you are here.

Although we aren't quite back in our theater yet, we have the benefit of performing our play at Isham Family Farm as a part of their "First: Earth" summer series. I want to thank the Isham's for their generosity. They have offered up this beautiful scenic landscape to use as a backdrop to our work and what an inspirational place it is!

As we embark on our reopening, I want to thank you for sticking with us. Your gracious donations of tickets as well as your donations to Vermont Stage this past year -- despite being closed -- have helped keep us alive. We still have a long way to go before we are fully up to speed financially, but today, with this show, we are taking a big leap forward towards that goal. So, from the bottom of my heart: thank you. Vermont Stage would not be here today without your support.

I hope you enjoy the first of our picnic plays called *Popcorn Falls* by James Hindman. When I came across this play, I knew that this was going to be the show to kick off our relaunch. The people in the small town of Popcorn Falls are up against impossible odds and yet they still band together to work towards a better future for their community. They don't give up. They make the seemingly impossible possible. In essence, it is a story about hope. And, boy, couldn't we use more of that these days?

Enjoy the picnic,

Cristina Alicea
Artistic Director

PS. Don't forget to also join us for *Maytag Virgin* playing August 25th-September 5th at Blue Heron Pond in Williston. Maytag is a romantic comedy about finding love again at an unexpected time and place.

OUR MISSION

To create theatre that makes our community a better place.

We do this by:

- Producing plays that show us what we have in common is more powerful than what separates us
- Providing a supportive professional environment in which theatre artists are inspired to perform their best work
- Enhancing the cultural and commercial vitality of our community
- Encouraging the development of Vermont audiences and their love of theatre

MESSAGE FROM THE VERMONT STAGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



The return of arts and entertainment has never mattered more. The arts bring communities together. They raise our spirits and open our minds. We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2021-2022 Vermont Stage Season and the kick-off of our first ever summer season. Contemporary theater tells the stories we are living now, whether it is a romance, a comedy, or the wild ride of a global pandemic. We are grateful to have you back in your seats and willing to take these next steps with us.

This year's program at Vermont Stage will be bold. We are starting with two comedies, because who doesn't need a good laugh right now. *Popcorn Falls* is a laugh-out-loud good time, followed by *Maytag Virgin*, a romantic comedy. We will be returning to our home at Main Street Landing with *Winter Tales* to warm your hearts with some stories and songs. Later this summer, we will announce the rest of the season's shows and hope you will join us.

We know that you make entertainment choices and thank you for choosing Vermont Stage. We count on our audience for support, and ticket sales fund only about 50% of the budget. If you have not done so already, we hope that you will consider making a gift to this year's Annual Fund by clicking <https://www.vermontstage.org/donate.html>.

Please share your thoughts with us anytime or volunteer by contacting us at: vtstage@vtstage.org or 802-862-1497.

Enjoy the show!

Paula Cope, *Chair*

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VERMONT STAGE STAFF

CRISTINA ALICEA (*Producing Artistic Director*) - Cristina Alicea has been Producing Artistic Director of Vermont Stage since 2011. As a director, favorite Vermont Stage credits include the world premieres of *Doublewide* by Stephen Spotswood and *The Quarry* by Greg Pierce (*slowgirl*, *The Landing*), *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl, *Venus In Fur* by David Ives, *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* by Christopher Durang, *Dancing Lessons* by Mark St. Germain, *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall, and *The Call* by Tanya Barfield. Prior to her arrival in Burlington, Cristina spent a year working as Assistant to the Managing Director at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company and 10 years as a freelance director. Over the years, she has had the pleasure of working with The Ensemble Studio Theatre, The Culture Project, Forum Theatre DC, The American Globe Theatre, the FringeNYC Festival, Theatre Rhinoceros, Next Stop Theatre, University of Vermont, and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park. Cristina was a finalist for a Denham fellowship given by the Society of Directors and Choreographers and is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab. Bachelor of Arts, Theatre, George Mason University.

JAMIE L. FORREST (*General Manager*) - Jamien has served as General Manager of Vermont Stage since 2014. For the past fifteen years she has worked for theaters throughout the region in many capacities including production, design, administration, and education. She was stage manager for Vermont Stage way back in 2005 and then again from 2010-2014. In between stints in Burlington, Jamien lived in New York City where she spent over two years working at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts with Lincoln Center Institute (now called Lincoln Center Education) where she served as technical supervisor and rental coordinator for the Clark Studio Theater and Samuel's Teaching Studio. She also worked Off-Broadway at New World Stages as stage manager and licensed laser operator for *The Gazillion Bubble Show*. She was technical director and Youth Theater Director at the Palace Theatre in Manchester, NH, and spent two seasons on tour with American Theater Arts for Youth. As a lighting designer, she has worked for NYCDA and Wallis Knot Theater in NYC, Vermont Stage, Flynn Arts, Middlebury Actors Workshop, and SEABA's Strut! Fashion Show. BA Theatre, The University of Vermont.

ALEXA KARTSCHOKE (*Marketing Assistant*) - Alexa has joined the Vermont Stage team for the summer as the marketing assistant. She is a college student entering her senior year at SUNY Fredonia, pursuing a BFA in acting with minors in creative writing and dance. As a Vermont local, she has performed with many local companies including, Very Merry, Flynn Arts, Stowe Theatre Guild, and Lost Nation. She is primarily a performer and some of her favorite roles include "Emily" in *Our Town*, "#2" in *The Wolves*, "Rosie" in *Cabaret*, and "Hope Cladwell" in *Urinetown*. She has administrative experience from serving as the Assistant Production Manager for her schools student run Performing Arts Company as well as the Publicity chair and President of Fredonia's leading peer education group. She is so excited to be working with Vermont Stage and thanks Cristina and Jamien for the opportunity.



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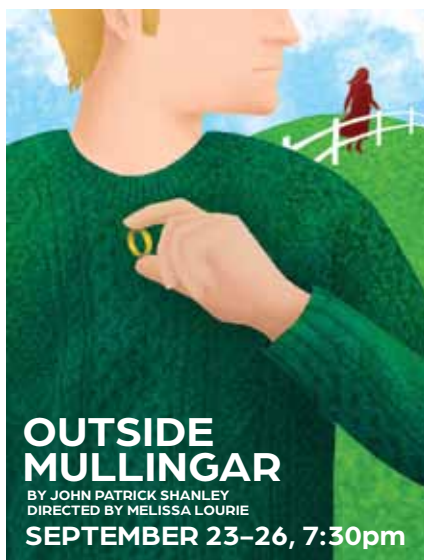




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Presents

Popcorn Falls

By James Hindman

Originally produced Off-Broadway in 2019
by Schondeikkan Productions and D.T.R. Productions

Vermont Stage is an associate member of the National New Play Network.

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Presents

Popcorn Falls

by James Hindman

CAST

Patrick Clow as Actor 1

Sarah Mell as Actor 2

DESIGN AND TECHNICAL STAFF

Director: **Cristina Alicea**

Scenic Designer: **Chuck Padula**

Sound Designer: **Harry Chaikin**

Costume Designer: **Cora Fauser**

Props Master: **Sue Wade**

Technical Director: **Chuck Padula**

Production Stage Manager: **Katelyn Paddock**

Assistant Stage Manager: **Makenzie Wright**

Audio Technician: **Isaak Olson**



BIOGRAPHIES



PATRICK CLOW (*Actor 1*) - Patrick has been acting and directing on area stages for over 25 years. He's performed with Vermont Stage Company, Girls Nite Out Productions, Middlebury Actor's Workshop, Lyric Theatre Company, Saints and Poets Productions, Stowe Theatre Guild, and others. You may have seen him in a handful of VSC Bake-offs or Winter Tales. He directed Lyric's productions of *The Secret Garden*, *The Full Monty*, and *Hairspray*. Other notable roles include Stowe's *Sweeney Todd* as 'Sweeney,' S&P's *O Caligula* as 'Macro,' Lyric's *Oliver* as 'Fagin,' and originating Carole Vasta-Folley's 'Smith' in GNOP's *Sleepover*.

Love to Elliott and Katrina for sooooo much support in these theatrical endeavors. And thanks to Cristina for this amazing opportunity!



SARAH MELL (*Actor 2*) - Sarah Mell has been active in the Vermont theatre scene since 2005, performing with Waterbury Festival Playhouse, Saints & Poets Production Company, Middlebury Actors Workshop, Lyric Theatre Company, Vermont Shakespeare Festival, and Vermont Stage Company. Over the course of their acting career thus far, Sarah's most memorable roles include a goat, a unicorn, and an egret - all roles that were written outside the confines of gender. When Sarah does play a human role, they advocate for casting beyond gendered expectations. They are elated by the challenge and jubilation offered in *Popcorn Falls* and determined that this small town will be saved

(and their true talents discovered) by this opportunity to play with VT Stage. Sarah is indebted to her talented and patient sibling who has always encouraged her to explore the characters living in her head - here are about 12 for you, Heather.

PRODUCTION TEAM

CRISTINA ALICEA (*Director*) - See artistic director bio.

HARRY CHAIKIN (*Sound Designer*) - Harry Chaikin has been a musician and sound guy around Burlington for over forty years!

CORA FAUSER (*Costume Designer*) - Cora Fauser first pricked her costume finger at UVM's Arena Theater when it was in the basement of the Fleming Museum. She followed her costume and set designer husband for 20 years, backing up his inspired work whenever there was a special project. She has been privileged to costume productions on her own (always in collaboration with many supportive friends, of course!!) since 1994 for Burlington High School, Champlain College, Lost Nation Theater, Theatre Kavanah, Shelburne Players, Monteverdi Music School, and Vermont Stage. She even dressed our versatile Sarah Mell's Egret in *Blackberry Winter*. She has very much enjoyed the process of costuming this deceptively minimal, home-made *Popcorn Falls*.

BIOGRAPHIES (CONTINUED)

JAMES HINDMAN (*Playwright*) - James Hindman is an award-winning playwright and actor. As a writer, his New York credits include: *Popcorn Falls*, directed by two-time Tony Award Winner Christian Borle (Top Twenty Theatrical Moments of 2018); *Pete 'n' Keely* (Outer Critics Award nomination, two Drama Desk nominations); *The Audience* (Drama Desk nomination); *Being Audrey* (Transport Group, NEA Grant recipient); *A Christmas Survival Guide*; *The Gorges Motel* (NYFringe Festival 2016) and his one-man show, *What Doesn't Kill You*. His plays have been developed at Second Stage, The Vineyard, The Barrow Group, The Lark and Transport Group.

His other work includes *Multiple Family Dwelling* (New Jersey Rep, chosen "Top 10 New Jersey Productions of 2017"); *The Bikinis* (Long Wharf, Goodspeed Musicals); *The Drama Department* (Terrence McNally Award finalist) and *Heaven Help Us* (Denver Center, Carbonell Award nomination). Many of his ten-minute plays and monologues have been published in anthologies. He is a member of The Dramatist Guild of America and a substitute teacher for Playwriting at The Barrow Group.

As a performer: *Oceans 8*, *Marvel's Iron Fist*, *The Americans*, recurring role on Steven Spielberg's *Public Morals*, *Madam Secretary*, *Forever*, *Believe*, *Person of Interest*, *Hospital*, *House of Cards*, *Henry's Crime*, *The Sopranos*, *Law and Order*, *SVU*, *CI*, *Rescue Me* and *The Blacklist*. Broadway and tours: *Mary Poppins*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *1776*, *City of Angels*, *A Grand Night For Singing*, *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Falsettos* and *Dancing At Lughnasa*.

ISAAK OLSON (*Audio Technician*) - Isaak is a theater technician with expertise in Lighting and Audio. He is currently a rising Junior at the Boston University School of Theatre, where he is pursuing a BFA in Lighting Design. His credits there include Lighting Designer for *Far Away*, Master Electrician for *Mansfield Park*, and Co-Master Electrician for *Walking the Tightrope*. In addition to his studies, he also works as an IT Support Specialist and Event Technician for the University's IT Department. He has worn a variety of other hats throughout the years, including Audio-Visual Assistant at Essex High School (EHS), Student Tech Director for the Vermont State One-Act Festival, and Calling Stage Manager for EHS's productions of *Les Misérables*, *Urinetown*, *Frankenstein*, and *Big Fish*.

KATELYN PADDOCK (*Production Stage Manager*) - Katelyn is happy to be back for her third show with Vermont Stage, having previously worked on *The Legend of Georgia McBride* (PSM) and the Bake-Off of *Private Lives* (Victor). She would like to thank the entire cast and creative team for their warmth and humor, Cristina and Jamien for bringing her on to the team again, and Kenzie for the sheer effort she's put in these past few weeks. Recent credits include *Hamlet* (PSM, Foul Contending Rebels Theatre Cooperative), *A Year with Frog and Toad* (TD/Properties Master, Lyric Theatre Company), *Pizzas and Zombies* (Noelle/Officer, The Off-Center), *Shakespeare in Love* (PSM, UVM Theatre), *Godspell* (ASM, St. Michael's Playhouse), *I Love You You're Perfect Now Change* (ASM, St. Michael's Playhouse), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (ASM, Vermont Shakespeare Festival).

BIOGRAPHIES (CONTINUED)

CHUCK PADULA (*Technical Director/Scenic Designer*) - This is Chuck Padula's eighth show with Vermont Stage. He has previously been the Designer and Technical Director for *Fun Home*, *Curious Incident*, *The Roommate* and *Marie & Rosetta*. Chuck has worked as the TD at Mount Mansfield Union HS for the last 10 years. He has also TD'd at Champlain Valley Union HS, Theatre Factory in Burlington, at Brown Ledge Camp in Colchester, as well as several theatres in the Boston area. When not working in theatre, Chuck runs Professional Home Detail, a small construction company, specializing in bathroom and kitchen remodeling.

SUE WADE (*Props Master*) – Sue Wade is delighted to be working on another wonderful show with Vermont Stage. This last year and however many months forced her to come to terms with whether she was just a hoarder, or maybe all this stuff would be useful for props someday. Two full dumpsters later, the answer is clear.

MAKENZIE WRIGHT (*Assistant Stage Manager*) - Makenzie is so excited to be a part of her first Vermont Stage show and thanks the team for their work!

WANT TO HEAR MORE OF THE ACTORS PERSPECTIVES ON THE SHOW?

Click below to head over to our YouTube Channel and check out interviews from Patrick Clow and Sarah Mell about the process of re-turning live to the stage in this heartwarming comedy!





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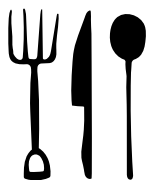
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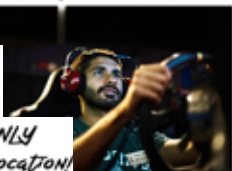
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Vermont Stage bumper sticker
Invitation to preview party
Listing in playbill

CONTRIBUTOR (\$50-\$124)

Vermont Stage bumper sticker
Invitation to preview party
Listing in playbill

FRIEND (UP TO \$49)

Invitation to preview party
Listing in playbill



**VERMONT
STAGE**
presents

Maytag Virgin
by Audrey Cefaly

Up Next!

Aug. 25-Sept 5
Blue Heron Pond
Williston, VT

Info & tickets: vermontstage.org

The poster features two ceramic house figurines, one red and one grey, both with white window cutouts, set against a dark, textured background. The Vermont Stage logo is in the top left corner.