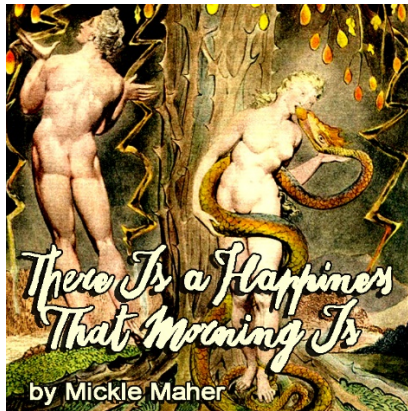




For Immediate Release
August 31 – September 16, 2018

Bridge Street Theatre presents
THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS
by Mickle Maher
with Molly Parker Myers, Brian Petti, & Steven Patterson
Directed & Designed by John Sowle
Costumes by Michelle Rogers
September 6 – 16, 2018
Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage
44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY



Academia Runs Amok in Bridge Street's "There is a Happiness That Morning Is"

An inappropriately public display of affection upends the lives of two William Blake scholars in Mickle Maher's raucous celebration of art, ardor, and academia "There is a Happiness That Morning Is", coming to Catskill's Bridge Street Theatre for eight performances only, Thursdays through Sundays from September 6 - 16, 2018.



Molly Parker Myers and Brian Petti
Photo by John Sowle

For fifteen years, two professors at a crumbling Liberal Arts College in rural New England have been carrying on a clandestine love affair while simultaneously lecturing on the poetry of William Blake – he on ‘Songs of Innocence’, she on ‘Songs of Experience’. But their classes today will be particularly challenging. Last night while conducting an impromptu al fresco lecture on the college quad, the pair became so carried away while reading Blake aloud that they threw off their clothes and made mad, passionate love in full view of all their students as well as the school’s puritanical president. Now, desperate to salvage both their careers and their love, they must convince a scandalized campus community that this ‘public showing’ of their ‘dew-dipped thighs’ was the apotheosis of Blakean ecstasy or lose their jobs. Oh, and did we mention that the play is written, like Blake’s poems, almost entirely in rhymed couplets? This is one set of lectures no student (or audience) in their right mind would want to miss.



Molly Parker Myers and Brian Petti
Photo by John Sowle

Bridge Street Theatre’s production of this word-drunk romp features Molly Parker Myers as Professor Ellen Parker, Brian Petti as Professor Bernard Barrow, and Steven Patterson as President Dean. The play is directed and designed by Bridge Street Theatre Artistic Director John Sowle with costumes by Michelle Rogers and features a song composed especially for this production by Catskill’s Frank Cuthbert. Production Stage Manager is Julia Rothwax.

Reviews of Previous Performances

“A bizarre, brilliant play that is capable of re-ordering your brain ... Fiercely literary, yet wholly accessible ... It’s just so much fun!” Elizabeth Cobbe, *Austin Chronicle*

"Endlessly engaging and frequently hilarious. It's a tantalizing examination of love's dark secrets." Chris Vire, *Time Out Chicago*

"A wacky (yet witty) evening of love and literature." Cate Blouke, *American-Statesman*

"A hilarious must-see ... Will make the audience go berserk in, I assure you, the best of ways ... Get off your butt and see this play." Jeff Davis, *Broadway World*

"There is a happiness in seeing such good theater ... This remarkable work is profoundly, astonishingly entertaining ... See this show and you will find yourself saying along with poet Blake: 'I happy am!'" Joy Campbell, *Chicago Tribune*

"One howl of a good time ... It has a genuine exuberance that sucks the audience in and transports them into a witty, literate world gone amuck." David Siegel, *DC Metro*

"There is a Happiness That Morning is" will be presented Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:00pm from September 6-16 on the Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage, located at 44 West Bridge Street in the Village of Catskill, NY. The Thursday September 6th preview and the Sunday September 9th matinee are both "Pay-What-You-Will" performances ("Pay-What-You-Will" tickets are available only at the door prior to the performance and are subject to availability). Advance tickets are available for \$22 online at thereisahappiness.BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 800-838-3006. Tickets can also be purchased at the door prior to each performance (on a space available basis) for \$25. Students ages 21 and under are always \$10. For more details, visit the theatre online at BridgeSt.org.

Events and performances in Bridge Street Theatre's 2018 Season are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and by Public Funds from the Greene County Legislature through the Greene County Cultural Fund, administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.

Performance Calendar:

Bridge Street Theatre presents

THERE IS A HAPPINESS THAT MORNING IS

by Mickle Maher

with Molly Parker Myers, Brian Petti, and Steven Patterson

Directed & Designed by John Sowle

Costumes by Michelle Rogers

Production Stage Manager: Julia Rothwax

September 6 - 16, 2018

Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage

44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY

Thursday Sept 6 @ 7:30pm ("Pay What You Will" preview)

Friday Sept 7 @ 7:30pm (Opening Night)

Saturday Sept 8 @ 7:30pm

Sunday Sept 9 @ 2:00pm ("Pay What You Will" performance)

Thursday Sept 13 @ 7:30pm

Friday Sept 14 @ 7:30pm

Saturday Sept 15 @ 7:30pm

Sunday Sept 16 @ 2:00pm (Closing Performance)

Tickets:

Advance tickets available at <http://thereisahappiness.brownpapertickets.com> or by calling 800-838-3006

General Admission \$22, \$10 for students age 21 and under

Tickets can also be purchased at the door prior to each performance (on a space available basis) for \$25, \$10 for Students ages 21 & under.

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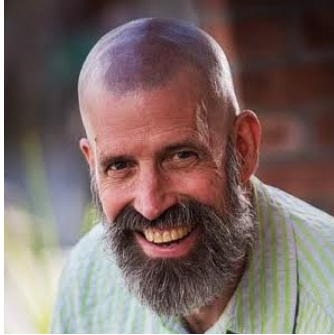
The Cast:



BRIAN PETTI (*Bernard*) is a Hudson Valley-based playwright and actor. His *Echoes of Ireland* had the distinction of being the first play ever staged at Bridge Street Theatre. Acting credits include Septimus in *Arcadia* (Rhinebeck Theatre Society), McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Curtain Call Theatre), and Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Creative Theatre). Brian is overjoyed to be working with John and Steven, in the theater they built out of whole cloth.



MOLLY PARKER MYERS (*Ellen*) returns to Bridge Street Theatre after last season's *Redwood Curtain*. Other work with BST and Kaliyuga Arts includes *Lucky Lindy*, *Lark Eden*, *The Mound Builders*, *True Love Lies*, and *Kill Me Now*. Recent regional credits include *Emilie: La Marquise du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight* and *The House of Blue Leaves* (Wellesley Rep), *The Graduate*, *The Norman Conquests Trilogy*, *Lost in Yonkers*, and *Talley's Folly* (Winnepesaukee Playhouse), *Yours, Anne* (Half Moon Theatre) and *Constellations* (Tangent Theatre). Many thanks to John and Steven for all you do. www.mollyparkermyers.org



STEVEN PATTERSON* (*President Dean*) is co-founder of and an Associate Artist at Bridge Street Theatre. He has performed both Off- and Off-Off-Broadway in NYC, and regionally with such theaters as Kaliyuga Arts (which he founded with his husband, John Sowle, in 1986), South Coast Repertory, Capital Repertory, TheatreWorks, Lexington Conservatory Theatre, Chenango River Theatre, Centenary Stage Company, and the Oregon, Orlando, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Lake Tahoe, and Richmond Shakespeare Festivals. A few of his favorite roles have been Lear in *King Lear*, Jake Sturdy in *Kill Me Now*, Austin Wiggin in *The Shaggs: Philosophy of the World*, David in *Poor Super Man*, Judi Boswell in *How to Pray*, and Jean in *Beauty*, a one-man show inspired by the life and works of Jean Genet which he created, performed, and toured with internationally for four years. He currently resides in Catskill, NY.

The Production Team:

MICKLE MAHER (*Playwright*) is a cofounder of Theater Oobleck and the author of numerous plays, including *There is a Happiness That Morning Is*, *An Apology for the Course and Outcome of Certain Events Delivered by Doctor John Faustus on This His Final Evening*, *The Hunchback Variations*, *The Strangerer*, *Spirits to Enforce*, *The Cabinet*, *Lady Madeline*, and *An Actor Prepares* (an adaptation of Stanislavsky's seminal book). His plays have appeared off-Broadway and in theaters around the world, and have been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation Multi-Arts Production Fund and Creative Capital. He currently teaches play writing and related subjects at the University of Chicago and Columbia College.

JOHN SOWLE (*Director/Designer*) is Artistic and Managing Director of Bridge Street Theatre. He founded Kaliyuga Arts in 1986 with his partner Steven Patterson and has received multiple awards for his directing and design work on their Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York productions. He has directed and designed BST's productions of *Leni*, *Redwood Curtain*, *How to Pray*, *The Official Adventures of Kieron and Jade*, *Frankenstein: The Modern Prometheus*, *Holiday Memories*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Killing & The Love Death* (late plays of William Inge), and *Grinder's Stand* by Oakley Hall III, and designed their productions of *The Tavern*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, and *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*. John has an undergraduate degree in mathematics from M.I.T and a PhD in Dramatic Art from UC Berkeley.

MICHELLE ROGERS (*Costumes*) began costuming plays while in college and continued working on high school productions throughout her teaching career. She's designed costumes for *Marat/Sade*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Oliver!*, and *Pride and Prejudice*, among others. Now retired from education, Michelle is delighted to be working with Bridge Street Theatre. She has been the costume designer for *The Tavern*, *Frankenstein*, *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, *How to Pray*, *Redwood Curtain*, *Frankie & Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, and *Leni*.

JULIA ROTHWAX (*Stage Manager*), Julia steps into a Stage Management role after having appeared as Mrs. Rudich in BST's production of David Mamet's *The Revenge of the Space Pandas* this past summer. During the previous summer, she performed as a refugee in Voice Theatre's production of *The Skin of Our Teeth* in Woodstock. She studies currently with the fabulous acting teachers, Seth Barrish and Lee Brock, at The Barrow Group in NYC. Stage Management is Julia's third "act" – her second being performing and her first as a political operative and campaign communications director for notable Democrats including Bill Clinton and Bill Bradley. Julia is also a Board Member of The Voice Theatre. She splits her time between Woodstock and Brooklyn, NY.

*Denotes membership in Actors' Equity Association, the union for professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

To contact Bridge Street Theatre directly, email contact@bridgest.org or call their offices at 518-943-3894. For more information, visit the theatre's website at BridgeSt.org or call their offices at 518-943-3818.

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