



For Immediate Release

October 15 – October 27, 2019

Bridge Street Theatre presents

THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES

by Frank D. Gilroy

with Lora Lee Ecobelli*, Ron Komora*, and Caleb John Cushing

Directed by Flo Hayle

Sets and Lights by John Sowle

Costumes by Michelle Rogers

Sound by Carmen Borgia

Production Stage Manager: Joshua Martin

October 17 - 27, 2019

Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage

44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY

**Frank D. Gilroy's THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES Comes to Catskill's
Bridge Street Theatre October 17 – 27**

For the final production in its 2019 Subscription Season, Catskill's Bridge Street Theatre presents a genuine American classic – Frank D. Gilroy's heartwarming 1965 Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy/drama THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES, coming to the theatre's Mainstage for eight performances only, October 17-27.



THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES. From left: Caleb John Cushing, Ron Komora, and Lora Lee Ecobelli. Photo: John Sowle

When 20-year-old Timmy Cleary returns from service in WWII, he finds himself in the middle of another war at home. Trapped in a troubled marriage, his mother and father each try to enlist him in their on-going battle against one another. Small acts of kindness and cruelty take on huge implications in this quietly devastating comedy-drama of familial conflict – and love. Bridge Street Theatre's production will be directed by Flo Hayle, and features actors Lora Lee Ecobelli as Nettie Cleary, Ron Komora as her husband John, and Caleb John Cushing as their son, Timmy, with sets and lighting designed by Bridge Street Artistic Director John Sowle, costumes by Michelle Rogers, and sound by Carmen Borgia. Production Stage Manager is Joshua Martin.



THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES. From left: Caleb John Cushing, Ron Komora, and Lora Lee Ecobelli. Photo: John Sowle

“At first glance, *THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES* looks like a pretty conventional choice for our admittedly adventurous theatre,” says BST Associate Director Steven Patterson. “On the surface, it appears to be heir to a long line of naturalistic classics, complete with a dysfunctional family at its center and a kitchen sink. It got the Pulitzer, the Tony, and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play back in 1965. But several factors led to our desire to present it as part of our season this year. Number one, although incredibly popular in the first decade after its original Broadway production – hey, I played Timmy in college back in 1971 - it’s a play that’s more-or-less fallen off the radar recently and, despite its worth, is seldom produced these days. Number two, while it seems to travel a well-worn path initially, toward the end of the first act, there’s a slightly surreal scene where the family returns from a night on the town, and the inebriated son suddenly breaks the fourth wall and begins addressing the audience directly, launching into a paean to his love of vaudeville. Then he and his father begin to drunkenly re-create several famous routines and you realize, “Wait a second! From the git-go, Gilroy has been using the classic rhythms and routines of vaudeville to shape and comment on the routines that trap this tragi-comic American family. And number three, like another American classic everyone thinks they know – Thornton Wilder’s *OUR TOWN* – it’s a play that sneaks up on you. You think it’s simple and sentimental (and maybe even a bit corny), and then a tiny gesture or a small act of kindness or cruelty happens and – wham – the bottom drops out and suddenly this simple family drama takes on deep, universal implications. I think it’s a story anyone who’s ever been part of a family can relate to. And, of course, with its post-WWII setting, it’s a natural for director Flo Hayle. She knows whereof she speaks.”



THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES. From left: Lora Lee Ecobelli, Caleb John Cushing, and Ron Komora. Photo: John Sowle

THE SUBJECT WAS ROSES plays Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2:00pm from October 17 – 27, 2019 on the Bridge Street Theatre Mainstage, located at 44 West Bridge Street, in Catskill, NY, just a block and a half west of Main Street across the Uncle Sam Bridge, which spans Catskill Creek. Eight performances only. General Admission is \$25, Students 21 and under are only \$10. Discounted advance tickets are available at subject.brownpapertickets.com or by calling 800-838-3006. Tickets will also be sold at the door one half hour prior to each performance on a space available basis. “Pay What You Will” performances will be held on Thursday evening October 17 and Sunday afternoon October 20 (“Pay What You Will” tickets are available only at the door one half hour prior to those performances). For more information, visit the theatre online at bridgest.org/the-subject-was-roses/. Don’t pass up the chance to experience this rarely-produced jewel in the American dramatic canon.

Events at Bridge Street Theatre are supported 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 Cultural Fund administered in Greene County by the Greene County Council on the Arts.

Performance Calendar:

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44 West Bridge Street, Catskill, NY

Thursday October 17 @ 7:30pm ("Pay What You Will" preview)
Friday October 18 @ 7:30pm (Opening Night, with reception to follow)
Saturday October 19 @ 7:30pm
Sunday October 20 @ 2:00pm ("Pay What You Will" performance)
Thursday October 24 @ 7:30pm
Friday October 25 @ 7:30pm
Saturday October 26 @ 7:30pm
Sunday October 27 @ 2:00pm (Closing performance)

Tickets:

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

General Admission \$22, \$10 for students ages 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.

"Pay What You Will" tickets are available only on the day of performance and go on sale at the door one half hour before curtain time.

Bios:



LORA LEE ECOBELLI* (Nettie Cleary) has been a professional actress, writer, director and teacher for 30 years. She has performed both On and Off-Broadway and in regional theatre's and can be seen in many independent films. She was last seen at Bridge Street Theatre in "Driving Miss Daisy". As a writer, she has several published plays and screenplays and an heirloom cookbook co-authored with her brother Tom Ecobelli. She recently directed her screenplay "La Transazione (The Transaction)" which is currently premiering at film festivals. Lora Lee teaches theatre at The Theatre Institute at Sage College and is the Artistic Director of the Blue Horse Repertory Company.



RON KOMORA* (John Cleary). Bridge Street Theatre debut. Recent theatrical credits: "Outside Mullingar" at Majestic Theatre, the world premiere of "The Empaths" at Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theatre, "Southern Comforts" at the Lake George Dinner Theatre, "The Crucible" at Hubbard Hall, "Holy Laughter" at WAM, and "Unnecessary Farce" at Chenango River Theatre, in addition to fifteen seasons at the New York State Theatre Institute in roles ranging from Dickinson in "1776," to Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol." Television: "Cars That Made America" on the History Channel, and "Romance at Reindeer Lodge" on the Hallmark Channel. Film: "Tom's Dilemma," "The Thing on the Doorstep," and "Deep in the Darkness" on the Chiller Network. 2004 Audie Award for excellence in Audiobook Narration. Visit his page on the International Movie Database (IMDB). Proud member of Actors' Equity and SAG-AFTRA.



CALEB JOHN CUSHING (Timmy Cleary) is a Brooklyn-based actor and writer, as well as MFA Graduate of The Actors Studio. He has also studied acting, writing, theater, and literature at Ithaca College, Imperial College of London, and The National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. He has interned with the New York Neo Futurists and Glass Eye Pix. His favorite credits include Konstantin in "The Seagull", Eric in "Columbinus", Louis in "Angels in America: Perestroika", and Mozart in "Amadeus". Other theater credits include Alan Strang in "Equus", Howard in "Moon Over Buffalo", and Bob the Weasel in the New York premiere of "Uncle Rooster". His one-act play "Birdsong" premiered at Three Legged Dog in March 2019. Thanks to friends and family for their endless love and support. www.CalebJohnCushing.com

FLORENCE HAYLE (Director). Flo went to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, where one of her classmates was Grace Kelly. Her introduction to TV was in 1950 at WPIX in NY. She started producing and directing plays in coffee houses long before there was an Off-Broadway. She was in the Broadway musical "Sophie" by Steve Allen.

She also appeared in the commercials for Total Cereal, Volkswagen, Show Boat Casino, and nasal spray. As a casting director, she cast commercials for Coppertone, Maybelline, and many more. Flo has appeared in night clubs in NYC (The Ball Room, Freddy's, The 5's, Don't Tell MaMa) as well as on stage. She has a radio show on I Hearts Radio.98.5 and 93.5. Flo has also appeared at the Fort Salem Theater and their cabaret room. In addition to presenting annual cabaret acts at Bridge Street, this is the fourth show that she has directed here and says "I have found a great home."

* Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union for Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Further Information:

To contact Bridge Street Theatre directly, email contact@bridgest.org or call their offices at 518-943-3894. For more information on Bridge Street Theatre visit BridgeSt.org.

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