

*New Century Players*  
~ presents ~  
*Jane Austen's*

# *Persuasion*

*Adapted by Jennifer LeBlanc*  
*Directed by Craig Williams*

*A heart-touching and insightful  
adaption of love and loss  
in Regency England.*

*May*

*12, 13, 19, 20, 26, & 27*  
*at 7:30pm*

*14 & 21*  
*at 2:00pm*

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(503) 367-2620

POSTER DESIGNED BY JULIE ENE



# **New Century Players Welcomes you to the show!**

The New Century Players is a not-for-profit community theatre company. Our mission is to build community by providing opportunities for artistic expression through live performances.

## **New Century Players Board of Directors**

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Members at Large ..... Ron Palmblad, Kevin Yell, Brandee Leibrand

## **We're Proud!**

New Century Players is proud to partner with the City of Milwaukie and the North Clackamas School District and to be a member of the following organizations:

- ◆ Oregon Cultural Trust
- ◆ American Association of Community Theatres
- ◆ Portland Area Theatre Alliance
- ◆ Oregon Community Theatre Alliance

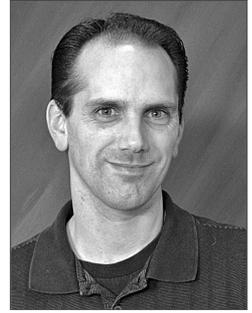
## **Acknowledgements**

Our special thanks to:

- ◆ The City of Milwaukie
- ◆ North Clackamas School District
- ◆ Eric Griswold Photography
- ◆ Rex Putnam High School
- ◆ Clackamas County Arts Alliance
- ◆ Rose Villa Senior Living Community

## From the Director...

*Persuasion* is the last novel fully completed by Jane Austen. It was published at the end of 1817, six months after her death. Nearly 200 years later, actress/playwright, Jennifer Le Blanc, adapted this amazing author's final completed work into a play. Ms. Le Blanc's adaptation has received critical acclaim and is the Winner of the 2013 "Standout New Works Award".



In all honesty, I haven't read many of Jane Austen's books and when asked to direct a play based on an Austen novel, I was a little hesitant. I thought, "Am I the right guy for this?" I read Jennifer Le Blanc's script, and immediately saw some great potential for an amazing show. I held auditions and we had some tremendously talented people come out. This made me even more excited. Ms. Le Blanc's script gave the option of all the actors doubling up on parts (playing two different characters), but since I had so many wonderful people audition, I had to cast as many as I could. By this time, I was ready to hit the ground running with this show.

Seeing the actors bring life to this script has been amazing. We have had so much fun developing this into what it is today. We've worked hard, learned from each other, and even got a visit from Jennifer Le Blanc herself who came and met with the cast and gave us some great insight into Jane Austen's world.

It's a great pleasure to be asked to direct this show and to work with these amazing actors. I can't thank them enough for their dedication to making this production so great. This is why I do theatre – to work with incredible people like this! I also want to thank Jennifer Le Blanc both for writing this funny and heartfelt script, and for her generous support. Sincere thanks to Jane Austen herself for bring us this story and so many other timeless works.

I truly hope you enjoy our presentation of *Persuasion* as much as we all enjoyed preparing it for your viewing pleasure. ENJOY!

**Kraig Williams**

Director

**During the show we ask that you  
please respect the actors and  
your fellow audience members  
by turning off cell phones  
and other electronics.**

**No flash photography or videography please.**

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[www.newcenturyplayers.org](http://www.newcenturyplayers.org)**

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# Benefactor Support Program

Thank you for your support of New Century Players! We are proud to represent the greater Milwaukie and North Clackamas areas by producing quality entertainment at an affordable price!

We are a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this community!

We want to thank the following donors who have contributed greatly to making our season possible.

## **Producer's Circle (\$1,000+)**

Labyrinth Farms

## **Director's Circle (\$500+)**

Bob & Linda Palandech

## **Benefactors (\$250+)**

Deb Barnes  
Rich Denman  
Sonya Fisher  
Brian Harcourt  
Catherine Wille  
Kevin Yell

## **Donors (\$100+)**

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Stephen Young  
Ron & Marylin Palmblad  
Stephen Young

## **Patrons (\$50+)**

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Kevan Anderson  
Dawn Cadwell  
Richard Ferrin  
Greg Prosser  
Christine & John Shields  
Howard Shorr  
Carolyn Tomei  
Barbara & Thor Wegner

## Cast for Persuasion

Sir Walter Elliott.....	James Montgomery
Admiral Croft .....	Ron K. Palmblad
Elizabeth Elliott .....	Sara McNaughton
Henrietta Musgrove .....	Hannah Greenlee
Anne Elliott.....	Carlyn Blount
Mary Musgrove .....	Erin Bickler
Mrs. Smith .....	Carita Louise
Charles Musgrove/Captain Benwick .....	Nate Walker
Lady Russell .....	Mary Weigel
Mrs. Croft.....	Cindy Swager
Mrs. Clay.....	Chelsea Carpenter
Louisa Musgrove .....	Tiffany Dixon
Captain Wentworth .....	Dirk Foley
Captain Harville .....	Mark Milner
Mr. Elliott.....	Mason Vancil
Lady Dalrymple/Mrs. Musgrove.....	Virginia Kincaid
Mr. Shepherd/Valet .....	Greyson Graham-Atkinson
Mr. Elliott (first weekend) .....	Greg Prosser

**Setting:** England, Regency Period (early 1800's)

**Number of Acts:** 2

**Intermission:** There will be one intermission of 15 minutes



## *Production team for Persuasion*

Director .....	Kraig Williams
Stage Manager .....	Spencer Fork
Costumes .....	Mary Weigel
Set Design .....	Kevin Yell
Sound Design/Sound Engineer .....	Isabella Leatham
Technical Crew .....	Lilia Haberlach, Kelsey Kerr
Archival Photography .....	David Bliss
Producers .....	Kelley Marchant, Elisabeth Goebel
Program .....	Greg Prosser
Poster Art .....	Julie Ene

Special thanks to several people who helped us in special ways:

- ◆ Kevin Yell for supplying and helping with costumes
- ◆ Beaverton Civic Theatre for the loan of the piano for our stage
- ◆ John Schallberger, Thyra Harstshorn and Arlie Connor for help with the lighting
- ◆ Rex Putnam High School Drama students for help in constructing the set, running lighting, acting as stage hands
- ◆ Portland Playhouse & RPHS Theatre Department for equipment loans



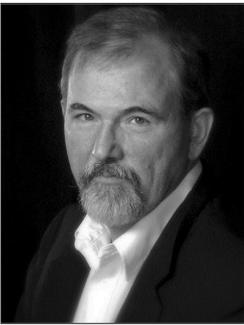


## **James Montgomery**

(Sir Walter Elliott)

James is making his first appearance for New Century. The veteran performer has appeared on many stages across the country, touring in *Once Upon A Mattress*, *Mr. Roberts*, *The Music Man*, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and several others. In Portland, he portrayed the brutal Frank Murrant in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* and has sung in Portland Opera's *Turandot*, *Der Fliegende*

*Hollander* and *Don Carlo*. He has appeared in over seventy area productions at such venues as Lakewood Theater, Broadway Rose, Clackamas Rep, Firehouse Theater, Mt. Hood Rep, Mock's Crest and Musical Theatre Company, among others. He recently played Tom Sawyer in *The Boys in Autumn* for American Reader's Theatre, Dub Dubberly in *Christmas Belles* and Judge Roan/Old Soldier in the acclaimed Staged production of *Parade* as well as The Chairman in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Mr. Lawrence in *Little Women* and Fogarty in *Chicago*.



## **Ron K. Palmblad**

(Admiral Croft)

Ron is happy to be on stage in another New Century production. This is his first time working in the Rose Villa space but his 10th show with NCP! Ron was last seen in *A Midsummer Jersey* as Governor Chris Athens. Ron has worked with several local theatre companies including Nutz N Boltz in Boring, Clackamas Repertory in Oregon City, Stumptown Stages in Portland, Canby Com-

munity Theater in Canby, and Broadway Rose in Tigard. Some of his favorite roles are Tevye in *Fiddler On The Roof*, Sancho in *Man of La Mancha*, Joe in *All My Sons* and Teddy in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. He would like to say thank you to Kraig for this opportunity to work together again! Also, a thank you to Marilyn, Ron's wife of 35 years, for her continued love and patience.

## Sara McNaughton

(Elizabeth Elliott)

Sara is overjoyed to be returning to the stage as the eldest Elliot daughter. Among her favorite previous roles are Reno Sweeney from *Anything Goes*, Annelle from *Steel Magnolias*, and Mother-in-Law from *Blood Wedding*. She continues in her long running role of middle school teacher at Alder Creek Middle School. Thanks to her family for their continued love and support.



## Hannah Greenlee

(Henrietta Musgrove)

Hannah Greenlee is excited about being in her first New Century Players production. She has been involved with community theater for several years and has been most recently seen in the shows *Is He Dead?* and *Hay Fever* at Magenta Theater in Vancouver, WA. She also leads a drama group at her church. Although she is an actress by night, she spends her days as a baby whisperer at a preschool.



## Erin Bickler

(Mary Musgrove)

Erin makes her debut at New Century Players having previously performed at Beaverton Civic Theatre and Twilight Theatre in roles such as Tracy Lord in *The Philadelphia Story*, Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing*, and Natalie in *Sorry! Wrong Chimney!*. Having previously performed on stage in Colorado and California, other theater credits include roles in *Harvey*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Dracula*. She would like to give a special thanks to director Kraig Williams for this wonderful opportunity and sends warm hugs to Mom, Dad, and sister Kelly for putting up with her thespian insanity.





## **Carlyn Blount**

(Anne Elliott)

Carlyn Blount is thrilled to be in her first PDX play with such talented, warm, funny, and lovely humans. She is also very excited to be working with Jane Austen, whose worlds have always been a much-beloved escape when nursing her own broken heart and inevitable spinsterhood. Carlyn is one (very late) paper away from obtaining her BFA in Theatre at Southern Oregon

University, in Ashland, Oregon, where she was lucky enough to have one season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, getting knifed in the face in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other credits include a bunch of sweet roles in various new works at random theatres in LA, a handful of other fun stuff at SOU, and such very serious works as Pinocchio at Enchanted Forest. Look for her as Camillo in this summer's PAE production of *The Winter's Tale*!



## **Nate Walker**

(Charles Musgrove/Captain Benwick)

This will be Nate's debut performance with New Century Players. He is absolutely thrilled to be working with such a talented cast and crew for *Persuasion*. Nate has been seen in many other shows—as Macaulay Connor in *A Philadelphia Story*, as an ensemble member in *The Laramie Project* and as Reverend Hale in *The Crucible*. He falls deeper in love with the stage with every per-

formance and will continue to pursue his passion at Southern Oregon University. Mr. Walker would like to thank his ever supporting family for inspiring him to keep running down a dream. Lastly, but most importantly, he would like to thank his wonderful future wife, Allie, for all the love and support she gives him every day. Nate invites you to sit back and enjoy the hard work of this stellar cast.

## Carita Louise

(Mrs. Smith)

Carita is making her debut with New Century Players and is thankful for the opportunity. She is truly grateful and excited to be working with such a wonderful cast, crew and director. She has been in several plays at Hope Theatre, Sandy Actors Theatre, and her church Resurrection Lutheran in Portland. She has been in numerous movies in Portland as an extra and principal. She loves theatre.



## Mary Weigel

(Lady Russell)

Mary is thrilled to once again be appearing in a production with New Century Players. Since 2007 she has had the privilege of performing in *Steel Magnolias* (Ouiser), *A Murder is Announced* (Mitzi), *Moon Over Buffalo* (Ethel), *Bad Seed* (Miss Fern), *The Odd Couple* (Renee) and musical's *Hairspray* (PE Teacher) and *Footloose* (Ethel McCormick). Most recently, she has appeared in *Suite Surrender* (Claudia McFadden) at Sandy Actors Theatre and again on-stage with New Century Players in *Play On!* (Tina Larsen, prompter) and in *Glorious!* (Dorothy). Mary has worked for the North Clackamas School District since 1999 and is currently the Principal's Secretary at Ardenwald Elementary School. She wishes to thank her family and friends for their unconditional love and support .





## **Cindy Swager**

(Mrs. Croft)

On her off time, Cindy enjoys Tole painting, Counted Cross Stitch and has just taken up knitting. She has two cats, Harley and Luke. Recently, Cindy joined a Meetup to play cards and other games, and realized again how much she enjoys them. Some shows in which she has really enjoyed the characters are *Christmas Belles* where she played Geneva, *Death Trap* in which she has played both Myra and Mrs Porter (two different productions), *Steel Magnolias*, playing Truvy, *The Crazy Quilt Club* as Matilda, *Daddy's Dying Who's Got the Will* as Marline, *Murder at the Howard Johnson's* as Arlene and so many more! Cindy has a lot of fun with every production, making it really hard to pull out a few that were the most enjoyable. Now, sit back and relax and enjoy the play!



## **Chelsea Carpenter**

(Mrs. Clay)

This is Chelsea's first production with New Century Players. Favorite roles include Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night*, the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and Elma in *Bus Stop*. The theater is more than just a hobby, it's her home away from home. She hopes to run her own children's theater one day---stay tuned!



## **Tiffany Dixon**

(Louisa Musgrove)

Tiffany has loved performing on the stage ever since she was cast as lead snowman in her 5th grade play. Favorite roles include Brooke in *Noises Off*, Meg in *A Wrinkle in Time*, and Matt Damon in *Matt and Ben*. This is her first production with New Century Players. Many thanks to the cast, crew, and director for making it such a fun experience.

## Dirk Foley

(Captain Wentworth)

You may have seen Dirk most recently in the New Century Players production of *Stairway to Paradise* and he is excited to be returning in this more "dramatic" role. Other roles include Robert Browning in *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*, Philostrate in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Jeep in Sam Shepard's *Action*.

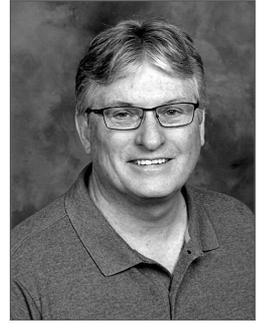
Away from the theater he is a baritone with the Portland Gay Men's Chorus and an active jazz vocalist. He loves movies, cats and Monty Python.



## Mark Milner

(Captain Harville)

Mark is thrilled to be in a New Century Players production, especially this newly adapted play from Jane Austen's last novel. In the Midwest, he became active in theater watching his kids perform. His part in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* motivated him to seek small roles in the national 48 Hour Film Projects in Iowa and Portland. In Portland, roles in *Dearly Departed* for Twilight Theatre, *Continuing Education* at Hart Theatre and Beaverton Civic Theatre's *Barefoot in the Park* provided him wonderful experiences on stage. Mark would like to thank his wife, Chris, and family for their support.





## Mason Vancil

(Mr. Elliott)

Mason is a senior at Rex Putnam High School and is proud to be among this group of talented artists. Recently, he played Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, produced as a collaboration between New Century Players and the Portland Shakespeare Project. Currently, Mason is serving as a State Thespian Officer, working to improve theatre opportunities at both the high school and

middle school levels across the state of Oregon. After graduating, he plans on studying stage management and set design at Southern Oregon University.



## Virginia Kincaid

(Lady Dalrymple/Mrs. Musgrove)

Virginia has pretended to be someone else on-stage in four states for over 45 years. In Oregon, since 2012, she has driven scores of miles chasing plum roles, having performed for Beaverton Civic Theatre, Gallery Theater, Lakewood Theatre for the Performing Arts, Lumiere Players, Mask and Mirror, New Century Players, STAGES Performing Arts Youth Academy,

Theatre in the Grove and Valley Repertory Theatre. Her latest brave accomplishment was a nude scene for Gallery's *Calendar Girls* during the coldest, snowiest Oregon winter in years. This time she's bundling up in very modest – and warm - Victorian attire. Her favorite past roles are too numerous to list. A would-be film star, she's in Colin Hanks' dark comedy *Lucky* (you can see her beige jacket sleeve and open mouth in the trailer) . Virginia enjoys retirement from a (perfectly) legal career, spending time with friends and family – which features 8 perfect grandchildren – and fulfilling her bliss by making you laugh if the script is funny or cry if it is sad. Hopefully, not the other way around.

## Greyson Graham-Atkinson

(Mr. Shepherd/Valet)

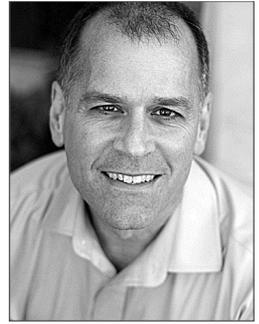
Greyson is excited to be back on the stage after a long hiatus from 'proper' theater. This is not to say he has not been busy over the past few years; if you have found yourself meandering to see the local midnight *Rocky Horror* shadowcast, you may have seen Greyson as Brad Majors. He hopes to continue performing on both varieties of stages for years to come, and is thrilled that you chose to come out to this production! Special thanks to Kristen, the Rocky Community, and all his family.



## Greg Prosser

(Mr. Elliott— Understudy)

Over the past 8 years Greg has been a prince, senator, composer, sheriff, doctor, reverend, socialite, actor, baker, architect, banker, Queen's Counsel and a mysterious man... and had a great time doing it all. Greg is thrilled to be back with New Century Players having been in five previous NCP productions. Some past favorite roles include Salieri in *Amadeus* at HART, the Narrator/Mysterious Man in *Into the Woods* at BCT, Sir Wilfred Robards in *Witness for the Prosecution* with NCP and Canon Pennefather in *Murder on the Nile* at Lakewood Theatre. Greg also loves to sing and is a member of Oregon Repertory Singers. He wants to thank Kraig for the opportunity to join in this production and the cast and crew who have made this a wonderful experience.



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