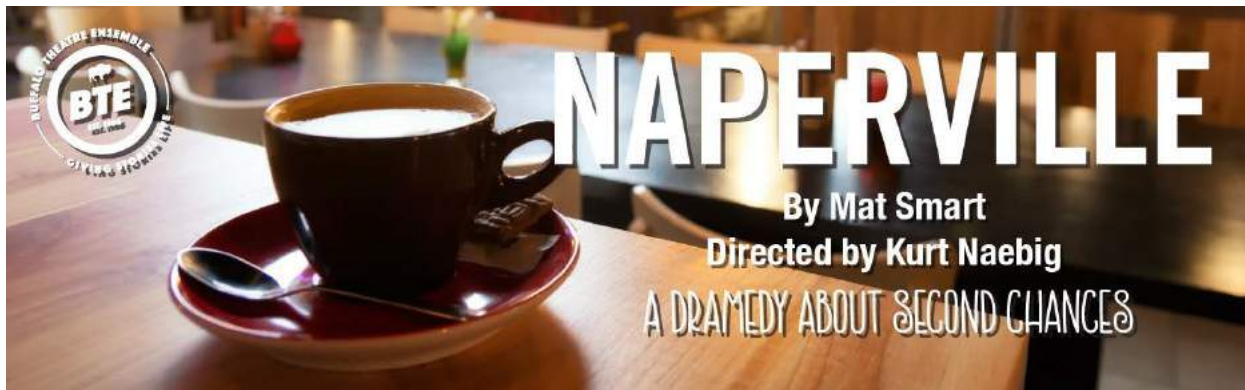


# Buffalo Theatre Ensemble Presents:



**April 28 - May 29 | Thu-Sat, 8p • Sun, 3p**

For all 2021-2022 Buffalo Theatre Ensemble productions, audience members must wear a mask and provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

It's Naperville, 2012. Anne works on a new project, T.C. is working her first shift as a new manager and Candice and son Howard are back from Seattle, arriving at her favorite spot: Caribou Coffee. What follows is a day full of cups of coffee with eccentricity. Conversations create a turning point which reveals how much community adds to her life. *Play contains adult themes and language.*

## Time and Place

2012, Naperville, Illinois. In a Caribou Coffee shop.

## Characters

CANDICE, Female, blind

HOWARD, Male, Candice's son

ANNE, Female, a high school classmate of Howard's

ROY, Male, a coffee shop regular

T.C., any gender, the manager of the coffee shop

## Notes

NAPERVILLE is to be performed without an intermission

## Director's note

When I was asked to direct *Naperville*, I was excited. In addition to the fact that the play had a great title, the name of a place most of us who live in the area know. It was also the kind of play that I love. A warmhearted dramedy about nice and likable people. People who are all a bit of a mess...have some problems...but are well intentioned.

In a time when so much of what we watch is about people with no compassion who are only working in manipulative ways, it is refreshing to see folks like us. People trying to work out their issues...sometimes succeeding and sometimes falling short. But always with love in their hearts. KN

## Playwright's Bio

<https://www.dramaticpublishing.com/authors/profile/view/url/mat-smart>



Mat Smart's plays include *Kill Local* (La Jolla Playhouse, nominated for Outstanding New Play by the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle), *The Agitators*:

*The Story of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass* (Geva Theatre Center; Park Square Theatre; Gloucester Stage Company; Mosaic Theater Company; PURE Theatre; West of Lenin; upcoming at Remy Bumppo; Phoenix Theatre; Theatre Horizon; Riverside Theatre; Falcon Theatre), *The Royal Society of Antarctica* (The Gift Theatre, 2015 Jeff Award for Best New Work; Stage West), *Samuel J. and K.* (Williamstown Theatre Festival; Steppenwolf; Passage Theatre Company; upcoming at Gremlin Theatre), *The Hopper Collection* (Magic Theatre; Huntington Theatre Company), *Naperville* (Slant Theatre Project, Critics' Pick in *The New York Times*; Theatre Wit) and *Tinker to Evers to Chance* (Geva Theatre Center; Merrimack Repertory Theatre; Artistry). Upcoming world premieres include *Eden Prairie, 1971* at Raven Theatre. Smart has received two Jerome Fellowships, a McKnight Advancement Grant, two Edgerton Foundation New Play Awards and was the recipient of the 2014 Otis L. Guernsey New Voices in the American Theater Award from the William Inge Center for the Arts. An avid traveler and baseball fan, he has been to all 50 states, all seven continents and all of the current MLB stadiums. Smart earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Evansville and his master's degree at the University of California, San Diego.

## **May 2020 Naperville Magazine Spotlight Interview with MAT SMART by Mark Loehrke**

### **Love for the burbs**

[The dramedy] *Naperville* is my love letter to the suburbs, and a chance to push back against the attitude that they're all the same. I wanted to show that there's more to the suburbs than a lot of people think, and that there are plenty of people living rich, interesting, spiritual lives in the suburbs. The best reactions I get are when people from Naperville tell me that the play helped them appreciate their town in a new way—that's really special to me.

### **Close to home**

*Naperville* was first done in New York City, where everyone thought the suburbs were kind of exotic. So when the play was produced closer to

home (at Chicago's Theater Wit in 2016), it was interesting to see how everyone seemed to have very distinct opinions about Naperville—both good and bad.

## Lessons from the past

I find it fascinating to look at our current times through the lens of history. That's what I was trying to do in *Naperville*, which ties back to the founding of the town by Joseph Naper, and that's what I'm doing again with my new play *Eden Prairie, 1971*, which asks what I think are timeless questions about what it means to be an American.

Interview from Naperville Magazine



**Joseph Naper**, also known as "**Joe Naper**" and "**Captain Joseph Naper**" (1798–1862), was an early Illinois pioneer, ship captain, shipbuilder, businessman, surveyor, state militia officer, soldier, politician, and city planner. In 1831, Naper and his brother John were credited with founding Naper's Settlement, the oldest Illinois community to be established west of Fort Dearborn,

now Chicago. Naper's Settlement would be renamed Naperville, becoming the oldest town and first county seat of DuPage County, Illinois, later moved by county vote in 1868 and displaced by Wheaton.

Joseph Naper was born in Bennington, Vermont and traveled west with his parents during his youth to Ashtabula, Ohio, where he learned to be a ship builder from his father, Robert Naper, of Alwyn, Scotland. In 1809, Joseph Naper's sister Amy Naper married John Murray of Ashtabula, Ohio, who would later become one of the founding settlers of Naperville, Illinois. The Naper family ships traded goods on the Great Lakes, frequently stopping at Fort Dearborn on Lake Michigan. On an early trip, Naper acquired lots near the fort, as did many of the first settlers to reach the Chicago River port.

## Town builder and politician

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On a later trip in 1831, on the *Telegraph*, a ship built by Joseph Naper, he was joined by his brother John Naper. The Naper families and five other families settled in the area, first known as Naper's Settlement, which later would become a part of DuPage County. Joseph Naper platted the town of Naperville, surveying the property and was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives for the first time in 1836. Here, Naper laid the groundwork and supervised passage of the 1839 bill which separated DuPage County from Cook County. Joseph Naper also served on the same committee with Abraham Lincoln, then a newly elected legislator from the Springfield area.

## Military service

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Joseph Naper served as an Illinois Militia captain in the Black Hawk War of 1832 and was one of the many DuPage County men who served in the Mexican War of 1846.

## Businessman and village president

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In the 1850s, Joseph Naper was one of the founding stockholders for the short-lived "Southwest Plank Road", now Ogden Avenue/U.S. Route 34, which



improved transportation between Aurora, Illinois and Chicago. Another major plank road stockholder was Colonel Julius M. Warren of nearby Warrenville. Joseph Naper returned to the Illinois General Assembly in 1852. His aggressive actions again provided a means for establishing new communities within the state of Illinois. In 1857, Naper became the first village president of Naperville. As many early settlers had done, Naper engaged in a number of trades and businesses as he helped to develop Naperville and Dupage County.

Excerpts from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Naper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Naper)

**Neuqua Valley High School (NVHS)** is a public four-year high school located near the corner of Illinois Route 59 and 95th Street in Naperville, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago, Illinois, in the United States. Neuqua Valley is the counterpart to Waubonsie Valley High School and Metea Valley High School, in Indian Prairie School District 204.

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuqua\\_Valley\\_High\\_School](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neuqua_Valley_High_School)



## The Caribou Coffee on 95th in Naperville

[https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm6ZJH\\_Caribou\\_Coffee\\_Naperville\\_IL](https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm6ZJH_Caribou_Coffee_Naperville_IL)

This is a photo of the actual Caribou Coffee shop where the play *Naperville* is set.



**Evan Frank Lysacek** (/ˈlaɪsətʃɛk/; born June 4, 1985) is an American retired figure skater. He is the 2010 Olympic Champion, the 2009 World Champion, a two-time (2005, 2007) Four Continents Champion, the 2009 Grand Prix Finals Champion, and a two-time (2007, 2008) U.S. National champion. Lysacek was the 2010 United States Olympic Committee's SportsMan of the Year, and the winner of the James E. Sullivan Award as the top U.S. amateur athlete of 2010. On January 22, 2016, he was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Lysacek is the last American male figure skater to win an individual Olympic medal.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evan\\_Lysacek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evan_Lysacek)



## Naperville Model and Rendering by Set Designer Sarah Lewis



## **Things to think about prior to the performance:**

- Do plays need a hero or villain?
- Is there anything you've had trouble forgiving yourself about?
- Why might a playwright choose a coffee shop to set their play?

## **Things to watch for in performance:**

- What was most surprising and or interesting about the designs for this production?
- How do the lights, sound and set make you feel?
- Do all the characters talk about their regrets? What are those regrets?

## **Things to think about/discuss after the performance:**

- Do any of the characters change over the course of the play? If so, who? And how?
- Is there a character that you relate to? Why?
- What moment or event in the play most surprised or shocked you? Why?

## **Other Analysis Tools:**

- What happens in the very last moments of the play? Certainly, the last few minutes, but, more importantly, the last thirty seconds? In that time, what happens or is said, and what does that say about what the play is 'about?' In a nutshell, how does the writer drive their point(s) home?
- And what is the significance of the title? Considering that this play has and will be produced in places that aren't in such close proximity to the title city, why did the writer decide that this was the most quintessential title for his work, do you think?

The running time for this production is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. There will not be an intermission. Please join us for a pre-show discussion Thursday, April 28th at 6:45p.m in MAC 140 preceding the preview performance.

Note that pre-show discussions will include the director and designers, and will be a discussion of the approach to this production.

We will be joined by Jeanne Schultz Angel, Associate Vice President of Naper Settlement, and Andrea Field, Curator of Research of Naper Settlement, following the opening night performance, April 29, in a discussion about Naperville's history.

There will be a post-show discussion following the Friday, May 6th performance. The post-show will be with the director, cast and crew, and we will be fielding questions from the audience.

Please join us!