

COLLEGE THEATER
PRESENTS

DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

By Sarah Ruhl | Directed by Daniel Millhouse





Photo by Jason Adams, courtesy of Spartan Living Magazine

Welcome to the MAC! Our entire staff is thrilled to have you here and we are grateful that you have chosen to invest your time in live entertainment and world-class culture in our community. We want to offer you a space to unwind and enjoy an evening filled with laughter, music, dance, or theatre. Our aim is to provide you with unique and inspiring opportunities to engage more deeply with the arts. Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, and offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Fridays at Noon and our free international global film series, Global Flicks in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (www.AtTheMAC.org). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theater Ensemble play. Or join us this summer for the Lakeside Summer Series. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We hope you have a wonderful time and look forward to entertaining you.

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center



“Great theater is about challenging how we think and encouraging us to fantasize about a world we aspire to.”

—Willem Dafoe

renowned American actor

Welcome to College Theater at the MAC

From the inception of planning College Theater productions, each season is built with the idea that both escapism and engagement theater are important for students to experience and our audiences to enjoy. Escapism theater allows us to escape from our daily turmoil and daily life, offering pure entertainment. Engagement theater focuses on the human condition and the burning quest for a solution—it is theater we do not easily forget and that changes us in some way, forever.

The mission of both escapism and engagement theater is to expose everyone to the great theater of the past as well as important theater of today. We’ve chosen an eclectic season including both escapism and engagement theater, culled after considering countless titles and varied genres. Above all, we’re most interested in training our students as artists, both on the stage and behind the curtain, engaging with students and community in our audience, as well. That is the power of live theater, which does not exist except in this live, ephemeral moment—it is an art that celebrates interaction—on stage, but also between stage and audience.

The 2023–2024 College Theater season is a perfect example of this exciting mix: *Dead Man’s Cell Phone*, *Twelfth Night*, *Good Kids*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

Thank you so much for supporting the voices of our talented students and power of live theater. We hope you join us again and again.

The Theater Faculty at College of DuPage

College Theater Presents

Dead Man's Cell Phone

by **Sarah Ruhl**

Director

Daniel Millhouse

Scenic, Lighting & Projections Design

Richard Arnold, Jr.

Costume, Hair & Make-up Design

Kimberly G. Morris

Sound Design

Fisher Parsons

Properties Design

Sabrina Zeidler

Theater Department Chair

Amelia Barrett

Produced by special arrangement with **Samuel French, Inc.**

Playwrights Horizons, Inc. New York City, produced the New York Premiere of
"Dead Man's Cell Phone" Off-Broadway in 2008.

Originally produced June 2006

by Wolly Mammouth Theatre Company, Washington, DC,
Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director.

"Dead Man's Cell Phone" was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds
provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program.

The use of recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs,
either with or without a flash is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic
devices, such as cell phones and watches.

Please note: Adult themes and language.

This production has a simulated firearm. Actors will use the aisles.

Support is made possible by a generous gift from the College of DuPage Foundation's
Dr. Donald and Helen (Gum) Westlake Fund for Student Productions.

Oct. 5 - 15, 2023 | Playhouse Theatre

CAST LISTING (in order of appearance)

A Woman, Jean	Nola Helms
A Dead Man, Gordon	Nicholas Washington#
Gordon's Mother, Mrs. Gottlieb	Jackie Schiro+
Gordon's Widow, Hermia	Lilly Zúñiga
Gordon's Brother, Dwight	John McNamara
The Other Woman/The Stranger	Molly Heideman
Ensemble.....	Breanna Auriemme, Ryan Castiglia+, Jenna Cima, Morgan Erickson, Spencer Fenner, Alexis Schiro

+ 2023 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient

2023 BTE Stage Management Scholarship recipient

Time and Place: Timeless. Placeless.

There will be a 15-minute intermission

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	Ashley Chavez*
Assistant Stage Managers	Ryan Castiglia+, Molly Heideman, Morgan Erickson
Fight/Intimacy Director	Michael Dias
Fight Captain	Ryan Castiglia+
Technical Director/Scene Shop Manager.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Scene Shop Crew.....	Gail Creighton, Mack Lechtenberg, Vinny Scanio, Bill Schumacher, Emily Sheehan, Harry Smith, Jillian Todd, Kaden Van Lerberghe
Board Operator	Francesca Butera, Vinny Scanio
Costume Shop Manager.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Shop Manager	Gretchen Woodley
Costume Shop Assistants	Lynn Borge, Francesca Butera, Eleanor Evans, Christine Kinge, Courtney Lilly, Meri Nushi
Wardrobe	Francesca Butera

* 2023 John Belushi/Second City Theater Scholarship recipient

+ 2023 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

In a world dominated by technology, where ringing cell phones seem to hold the answers to our every need, it is easy to forget the profound depth of human connection that lies beyond the screen.

This play delves into the paradoxical nature of technology, which both brings us together and drives us further apart. How well do we know the person on the other end of the line? Despite our constant connectivity, many of us still grapple with feelings of isolation and solitude. *Dead Man's Cell Phone* takes us on a journey where characters discover themselves through unexpected and often absurd situations, reminding us that personal growth often emerges from life's most unforeseen twists.

As you take your seat, you may notice that our production draws inspiration from the works of the renowned artist Edward Hopper. Hopper's art often captures the yearning of individuals trying to connect with one another, reflecting and heightening one of the core themes of this play.

As entrepreneur Matt Mullenweg said, "Technology is best when it brings people together." We invite you to journey with us as we explore the power of genuine human connection, the magic of self-discovery, and the art of embracing the unknown.

Thank you for joining us on this enduring quest for connection.

~DM

AUDITIONS – AUDITIONS – AUDITIONS

College of DuPage Theater is holding auditions for spring productions:

Good Kids (Feb. 29-Mar. 17)

by Naomi Iizuka | Directed by Amelia Barrett

Arsenic and Old Lace (April 4-14)

by Joseph Kesselring | Directed by Daniel Millhouse

Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 19 at 1 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 20 at 12 p.m. (callbacks, if necessary)

For more information, see AtTheMAC.org/auditions

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CAST PROFILES

Breanna Auriemme (Ensemble) First COD production. Favorite credits include *The Hobbit* (Goblin King), *Chicago* (Ensemble) and *Pumpkin about It* (Gladys) all at Lake Park High School. Nominated for most comedic performance at Lake Park's Thespian Awards.

Ryan Castiglia+ (Ensemble/Assistant Stage Manager) Seventh COD production; *War of the Worlds: the Panic Broadcast* (Harry Haywood/Ensemble); *Badger* (Newsreel Voice/Chorus); *Ocean: 9-1-1: Big Blue Rescue* (Boy Rory & Tori); *A Christmas Carol* (Chestnut Seller); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Reverend Peters) and *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (The Roaches/Stage Manager). Favorite credits include *Love/Sick* (Man), *Matilda* (Michael Wormwood) and *One Lane Bridge* (Eli). +Castiglia is a 2023 John Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient.

Jenna Cima (Ensemble) Second COD production; *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Farrah the Fox). Favorite credits include *The Lion King* (Lioness) and *Catch Me If You Can* (Ensemble), at Butler High School.

Morgan Erickson (Ensemble/Assistant Stage Manager) Third COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Mrs. Alexander) and *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Principal Who).

Spencer Fenner (Ensemble) Third COD production; *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Information) and *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Bethany Bunny). Favorite credits include *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Bethany Bunny); Downers Grove South Orchesis Dance Company's Momentum 2020 and *James & the Giant Peach* (Grasshopper) at Jefferson Junior High School.

Molly Heideman (The Other Woman/The Stranger/Assistant Stage Manager) Third COD production; *The Uninvited* (Wendy) and *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow* (Brittany Bunny). Favorite credits include *Almost, Maine* (Marvalyn); *The Blueberry Hill Accord* (Lindsay) and *The Women of Troy* (Helen) all at Glenbard North High School.

CAST PROFILES

Nola Helms (A Woman, Jean) First COD production. Favorite credits include *Almost, Maine* (Gayle/Hope); *Puffs* (Narrator) and *Monty Python Skits* (Various Characters) at McKinney High School and Teen Voices. Helms was one of the recipients of a senior acting scholarship from her high school.

John McNamara (Gordon's Brother, Dwight) First COD production. Favorite credits include *All Shook Up* (Denis), *1984* (O' Brian), and *Holy Darkness* (Frank) at Montini Catholic High School.

Alexis Schiro (Ensemble) Third COD production; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Posh Woman), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Skullery Maid/Lady).

Jackie Schiro+ (Gordon's Mother, Mrs. Gottlieb) Sixth COD production; *Badger* (Irene), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Pearl), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Present), *The Uninvited* (Stage Manager), *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Mabel). Favorite credits include *Mean Girls* (Janis) and *Antigone Now* (Chorus) performed at Willowbrook High School. +Schiro is a state qualifier for *Antigone Now* and a 2023 Belushi Stage Management Scholarship recipient.

Nicholas Washington# (A Dead Man, Gordon) Fourth COD production; *Born Yesterday* (Sen. Norval Hedges), *The SpongeBob Musical* (Larry The Lobster, Gary Snail, Sponges, S Devotee, Pirates, Anemones), *The Dining Room* (Howard, Ted, Paul, Chris, Standish, Guest). #Washington is a recipient of the 2023 BTE Stage Management Scholarship.

Lilly Zúñiga (Gordon's Widow, Hermia) Fifth COD production; *The Dining Room* (Ensemble), *Born Yesterday* (Mrs. Hedges), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Judy), *Hare Today Tortoise Tomorrow* (Heather Hare). Favorite credits include *All my Sons* (Annie Deever) and *Romeo and Juliet* (Tybalt) at Glenbard East High School.

CREATIVE PROFILES

Daniel Millhouse (Director) is thrilled to be continuing his position at the College of DuPage as an Assistant Professor. Recent directing credits for College Theater include *Born Yesterday*; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; and *Hare Today, Tortoise Tomorrow*. Previously, Millhouse worked as an Adjunct Professor at the College of DuPage, the CCPA at Roosevelt University, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison (where he was awarded the University Housing Honored Instructor Award). Along with teaching and directing, Millhouse has worked as a professional actor throughout the world. His primary theater credits include shows with Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Great Lakes Theater, Idaho Shakespeare Festival, and the Shakespeare Project of Chicago. You may have also seen him on an episode of *Chicago Fire* or in the *Call of Duty* video game franchise. You can hear his voice on podcasts as well, including *The Vanishing Act* and The Onion's *The Topical*. He received his MFA in Acting/Directing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his BS in Theater Arts from Eastern Michigan University. Millhouse is grateful for this opportunity to work and collaborate with everyone here at the College of DuPage.

Richard Arnold, Jr. (Scenic, Lighting & Projections Design) is excited to join the creative team at the College of DuPage. Prior to coming to COD, he spent 15 years teaching Theatre Design and Technology at Elmhurst University. Beyond teaching, he has designed over 100 theatre productions around the Midwest. Additionally, he spent several years working in other areas of the entertainment industry, designing and producing corporate events, concerts, television commercials, as well as exhibits for several Chicagoland museums. He is a member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and the Illinois Theatre Association.

Kimberly G. Morris (Costume, Hair and Make-up Design) is pleased to continue her work at College of DuPage. Prior to joining the crew at COD she spent 13 years as a freelance costume, makeup, wig and properties designer throughout Chicago and the east coast. She is a company member of Babes with Blades Theatre Company where she has designed for many of their productions. She has also designed for Stage Left Theatre, Fox Valley Repertory, Ball State University, American Shakespeare Center, Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, Heritage Repertory Theatre, Tecumseh!, Wilmette Arts Center, NWHS and MEHS.

CREATIVE PROFILES

Fisher Parsons (Sound Design) is an Audio Production Specialist for the McAninch Arts Center. Before making the jump to working at College of DuPage, he was a Production Manager and Audio Engineer at Evanston Rocks and the Arcada Theater where he engineered sound for various artist. When not mixing audio or recording, you can find him on stage at The Second City or in the pit orchestra on guitar for various theatrical productions throughout the Chicagoland area. Parsons has most recently been on mixing and recording duties for The New Philharmonic's 2020-2021 season, as well as mixing front of house and monitors for various MAC events.

Sabrina Zeidler (Properties Design, Technical Director) is thrilled to be working with the MAC as the Technical Director of College Theater. Her previous work at COD has been seen as the Technical Director and Properties Designer for the DuPage Opera Theatre, Technical Director for Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, and various design roles for College Theater. She is the former Stage Manager for the New Philharmonic Orchestra. Zeidler was previously the Technical Director and a resident designer for Hinsdale South High School. She is a graduate of Elmhurst University with a BA in Theatre - Stage Management, Design and Technology, and Theatre Arts Administration.

Amelia Barrett (Theater Department Chair) is a professor of theater at College of DuPage. Barrett has most recently directed COD productions of *The Uninvited* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. Professionally, she has directed multiple Buffalo Theatre Ensemble productions, where she is Associate Artistic Director and a member of the acting ensemble. As an actor, she has appeared with other local, regional, and international companies. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association as well as the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Radio and Television Artists. She holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in acting and a Graduate Certificate in Laban Movement Analysis.

Ashley Chavez* (Stage Manager) First COD production. Favorite credits include *Snoopy* (Lucy), *It Can't Happen Here* (Assistant Director), and *Chicago* (Dancer) at Downers Grove North High School, as well as *The Bombitty of Errors* (DJ), performed at Illinois High School Theatre Festival. *Chavez is a recipient of the John Belushi/Second City Theatre Scholarship.

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but we can't do it without you!



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Friends of the MAC

The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

Arts Center and MAC-tastic Treat Seats Endowments

Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-2462 or foundation@codfound.org.

College of DuPage
FOUNDATION 

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- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

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Director of the McAninch Arts Center.....	Diana Martinez
Business Manager.....	Ellen McGowan
Assistant Business Manager.....	Brianna Garcia
<i>Andy Warhol</i> Project Manager.....	Kari Schoettle
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art.....	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator.....	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant.....	Maria VanDyken Li
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator.....	Janey Sarther
Education and Engagement Coordinator.....	Dawn Smith
Director of Development for Cultural Arts.....	Janie Oldfield
Administrative Assistant.....	Mandy Rakow
Student Clerical Assistant.....	Blake Lietz

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Box Office Manager.....	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors.....	Jim Gosling, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants.....	Patrick Garon, Tatia Hegrans
Patron Services Manager.....	Tom Murray
Assistant Patron Services Supervisor.....	Deborah Kolek
Front of House Manager.....	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Artistic Director.....	Connie Canaday Howard
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Associate Artistic Director.....	Amelia Barrett
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager.....	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor.....	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian.....	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager.....	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager.....	Karen Dickelman

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator.....	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Assistant Coordinator.....	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator.....	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher.....	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager.....	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist.....	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist.....	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist.....	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE.....	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands.....	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka

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