

# "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark"

## Cast Biographies (in alphabetical order)

**Xander Boots** (The Creeper) is making his fourth appearance on the Red Barn stage, having appeared in the 2019 productions of *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Here Lies Jeremy Troy*. He was also in the 2019 production of *Scary Musical* at the Iron Horse Theater, playing the role of the flamboyant Mr. MacGuffin. In July of this year, Xander was delighted to play Conrad Birdie in the Red Barn's *Bye Bye Birdie*. His highlight of the show was being able to belch on stage every show.

**John Brenner** (Skull) has been a member of the Red Barn Players since 2007. His most recent roles here have been as Charlie Bickel in *Here Lies Jeremy Troy*, Mr. Pippet in *Suite Surrender*, and, one of his favorites, Cameron in *The Foursome*. But with the stage dark recently, he has been relishing the role of Grandpa to his only grandchild, Bailey, for the past 17 months. John lives in North Sewickley Township with his wife, Susan, and works as a commercial credit analyst for Resco Products in Robinson Township.

**Lynne O'Meara** (Mrs. Bones) is thrilled to be in her first Red Barn production and working with such a talented and welcoming cast and production team. A recent transplant (along with her daughter) from southern Maryland, where she was actively involved with several theaters, Lynne appeared locally as Juror #7 in *12 Angry Men* at Butler Little Theatre. Lynne caught the theater bug in the fall of 2007, and since then has appeared in over 25 productions. She has also performed in one-act plays, dinner/mystery theater, and minor roles in film/television. She thanks her family and friends for their ongoing support.

**Andy Ludwig** (Zip Whittle) makes his Red Barn Theatre debut in *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* after a stint in New Brighton High School theater productions and four Alpha Chi Rho Fraternity "air bands." Andy would like to thank his friends, family, the cast and crew of the show, and his lovely girlfriend, Payton, for encouraging him to return to the stage. Also, special thanks to Allison Dalcamo and Vickie DeLo for supporting him in his first shows!

**Alena Kucan** (Lilac Cooper) returns to our stage after a great run playing Kim McAfee in *Bye Bye Birdie*. A Duquesne University graduate with a master's degree in communications, she is the director of communications at Divine Grace Parish (serving Cranberry Township, Ellwood City and Zelienople). From 2015 to 2020, Alena was a contract performer with the Tamburitzans. Her first performance at the Red Barn was in 2003, at age 6, in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, followed by *The Music Man*, and *The Sound of Music* -- all with her parents. Alena would like to thank her parents for supporting her from Day One.

**Kevin B. McGuire** (Ralph) is thrilled and honored to be performing at The Red Barn again with another super talented cast and crew. A local performer since the early 1990s, one of his favorite roles was as Oscar Madison in *The Odd Couple* at Comtra Theatre in 2013. Kevin has also performed with Iron Horse, R-Act, Bobcat Players and New Castle theater groups. Kevin lives in North Sewickley Township with his much better half, Pauline, who he would like to thank for taking on the role of all the other characters in the many plays he has performed in to help him prepare for his roles.

**Stephanie Cameron** (Miranda Winkler) makes her way to the theatrical stage for the first time ever. She is immensely grateful to the director and cast for allowing her this opportunity to learn and try something new. When Stephanie is not making herself a nuisance on stage, she spends her days at Wilmington Area Elementary School where she's been a teacher for over 20 years. Stephanie hopes this venture reminds her children that every journey begins with a single step.

**Courtney McNamara** (Velma Cringe) is making her Red Barn debut, though she has been performing for several years. She last appeared in another Tim Kelly production as Miss Maple in *The Butler Did It*, as well as *Steel Magnolias*, *Fools*, and *Miracle on 34th Street*. She is often cast as a slightly crazy and eccentric older woman and she's not sure how she feels about this. Courtney is a portrait artist and children's book author and illustrator. She lives on a small hobby farm with her husband, two daughters, and their many animals, including her donkey, Ernesto, who is the love of her life (though he doesn't know it yet).

**Andrea Cary** (Gloria Parr) is excited to be returning to the Red Barn stage after years of being sidelined by the pandemic. Andrea has worked on many shows with the Red Barn both on stage and backstage. You may have seen her on stage in recent years in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Hilda's Yard*, and *Suite Surrender*. She also assisted in this season's *Whose Wives Are They Anyway?* as the stage manager. She is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in musical theater and currently works as an operations supervisor at PNC Bank.

**Joe Sible** (Deputy Graves) is excited to be performing in his first show with the Red Barn Players. His past shows include *The Audition* (The Artist Formerly Known As Question Mark) at the Iron Horse Theatre, *Murder at the Movies* (Kip Stewart) with R-ACT, *Godspell* (ensemble) with the Assumption Theatre Guild, *The Drowsy Chaperone* (ensemble) with the Pelican Players, *The Long Christmas Dinner* (Cousin Brandon) at Robert Morris University, and *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play* (Ned Flanders/musician) at Robert Morris University.

**Danielle Jacobson** (Sylvia Frye) returns to the Red Barn stage after her 2022 debut in *Whose Wives Are They Anyway?* She has been involved with the Red Barn for the past eight years, performing in shows including *I Hate Hamlet*, *The Up and Down Detective Agency*, *Moon Over Buffalo* and *Old Love*. Danielle works in human resources in Pittsburgh, and lives in Portersville with her husband and daughter.

**Mary Cameron** (Molly Devine) has appeared on the Red Barn stage in a number of productions over the past 20 years, and worked backstage just as often. Most recently, she was the nurse in *The Sunshine Boys*; played multiple characters in *Shipwrecked*; and sang and danced in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (secretary/ensemble) and *Jerry's Girls* (ensemble). She feels blessed to be a part of the Red Barn family. A Zelienople resident and retired professor, Mary stays active with local history, hiking, pickleball, house remodeling and gardening.

**Dee Eppihimer** (Director) has been a member of the Red Barn for thirty-nine years. During that time, she has been on stage, was vocal director, played second keyboard, and directed such successful shows as *Forever Plaid*, *The Taffetas*, and *Nunsensations*. She co-directed *Drinking Habits* with Mary Jane Tillia. At Blackhawk High School, she served as vocal director for *Les Miserables* and music director for *The Little Mermaid*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. As a vocal teacher and coach, several of her students have gotten lead roles in their high school musicals, including those who played the roles of The Phantom and Christine in Blackhawk's *Phantom of the Opera*. Some have gone on to pursue music careers. Her greatest achievement at the Red Barn was meeting and marrying her husband and best friend, Amos. She would like to thank her cast and crew for all of their hard work in making this show a success.