

Red Mask Players  
Present

# VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE



**By Christopher Durang**

**Directed by Darren Kilbury**

**October 27-29 & November 3-5, 2023**

**Kathryn Randolph Theater**

**FLP**

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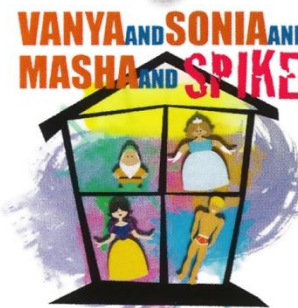
Bill Lucas/Carmack Car Capitol

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

I can't believe I was given the opportunity to direct two plays this season! I love Red Mask and the history of Kathryn Randolph and would basically do anything to be involved in any production here. Having performed the role of Vanya previously, I was excited to bring something new to the play as a director. This play has brought a lot of firsts for me and Red Mask--my first set designed and built by me (with occasional help from cast and crew, especially Roger Mertens), first time working with four actors that are new to the Red Mask Stage, and the first time I told someone to curse less (the script is "adult").

But the biggest change this year is in me. I have been through radiation and chemo twice since last February for two different cancers. Directing and serving on the Red Mask Board have been lifesavers for me. I have a reason to get up, shake off the body aches, and get my butt moving. No one here will ever know how much they have meant during my health journey, and how these last two years will be forever positive in my mind, because of this theater. Here's a life hack. When you feel horrible, work on a show, build a set, redo a ticket booth, or do something that gives you purpose. I won't remember this time period as the years I had cancer. I'll remember it as the years I got to make people laugh.

*Darren Kilbury, Director*



By Christopher Durang

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service.

Originally produced on Broadway by:

Joey Parnes, Larry Hirschhorn, Joan Raffe/Jhett Tolentino, Martin Platt & David Elliot, Pat Flicker Addiss, Catherine Adler, John O'Boyle, Joshua Goodman, Jamie deRoy/Richard Winkler, Cricket Hooper, Jiranek/Michael Palitz, Mark S. Golub & David S. Golub, Radio Mouse Entertainment, Shawdowncatcher Entertainment, Mary Cossett/Barbara Manocherian, Megan Savage/Meredith Lynsey Schade, Hugh Hysell/Richard Jordan, Cheryl Wiesenfeld/Ron Simons, S.D. Wagner, John Johnson in association with McCarter Theatre Center and Lincoln Center Theater

Originally commissioned and produced by McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, N.J.

Emily Mann, Artistic Director;

Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director;

Mara Isaacs, Producing Director;

and produced by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City under the direction of Andre Bishop and Bernard Gersten in 2012.

"Here Comes the Sun"

Written by George Harrison

Published by Harrisons, Ltd. (ASCAP)

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Vanya - Tony Kortas  
 Sonia - Alexandra Kortas  
 Masha - Barb Whaling  
 Spike - Douglas Malcolm  
 Nina - Meredith Black  
 Cassandra – Susan Reid

## SETTING

A lovely farmhouse in Bucks County.

## TIME

Set in the present.

There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts 1 & 2.

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Our 87th season opens with a bang! *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* is a hilarious comedy, sure to make you laugh. We welcome some new faces to the Red Mask stage, which is always exciting. If you have ever entertained the notion of auditioning for one of our shows, you should give it a whirl! We will hold auditions for *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* on November 6th & 7th.

*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* will open in late January, sponsored by Vermilion River Beer Company, and directed by yours truly. Steve Martin, the famous actor, writer and musician penned this clever comedy that imagines Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso meeting in a Parisian bar in 1904.

In the Spring, Red Mask will present *Lost in Yonkers*. In 1942, Eddie drops his two young sons on his mother's doorstep. The boys are left to contend with stern Grandma Kurnitz, and other eccentric family members in a strange new world called Yonkers. Neil Simon won a Pulitzer Prize for this "warm-edy" and rightfully so.

Three different types of comedies that offer something for everyone. I can already hear you laughing!

*Lisa Lovelace  
 President, Red Mask Players*

**dlo**  
 musical theatre  
 www.DLO.theater

Wishes the Red Mask Players a wonderful season!

*Every seat's a good seat when you support the arts.*

Join DLO for their 2023-2024 season!  
 A Christmas Story: the Musical November 17-19, 2023  
 Evolution of Broadway February 16-18, 2024  
 Godspell date TBD





## THE COMPANY



**RACHELLE ABNER (Stage Manager and Assistant Director)**. Rachelle is mom to two amazing kids: Trey McIntosh and Taelor Abner. She cherishes time spent with her family. Rachelle became part of the Red Mask theater family after appearing in *The Graduate* and working backstage on *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Humble Boy*, *Vanya* is the first time Rachelle has served as both Stage Manager and Assistant Director, but she has proved up for the challenge!

**MEREDITH BLACK (Nina)** All roads lead home... or, in Meredith's case, back to Red Mask. She grew up performing on this stage. Her most recent appearance was in *The Miss Firecracker Contest* in 2016. Almost eight years later, she is thrilled to return for *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike*. This is a wonderful show that allows Meredith to come back to her roots and channel her inner fangirl as Nina. She would like to thank Darren, Rachelle, and the cast for welcoming her home, her family for pushing her to pursue the stage again, and her friends for reminding her to always have hope.



**DARREN KILBURY (Director)** After his wild success directing and acting in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Darren is back to bring audiences another comedy with a little bit of drama. He is honored to be a part of Kathryn Randolph history and has literally been living at the theater while building his first set and making updates to the building. Darren wants to thank his fellow Board members for their support and encouragement.



**ALEXANDRA KORTAS (Sonia)** Alexandra is excited to make her Red Mask debut in this wonderful show and for the opportunity to share the stage with her best friend, her rock, and the love of her life, Tony. She earned a degree in theater from Illinois State University and has worked on stage and backstage in numerous productions. Alex would like to dedicate her performance to her late parents, Tom and Joyce. "This is for you!"



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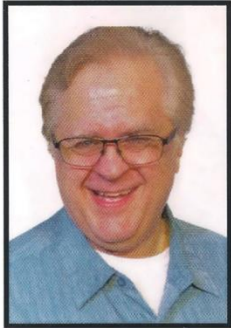
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## THE COMPANY



**TONY KORTAS (Vanya)** Tony is thrilled to return to the Red Mask stage where he was last seen as the judge in *A Few Good Men*. Tony is even more excited to share the stage with his talented wife, Alexandra. Some of his favorite credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Foreigner*, and *1776*. By day, Tony is an English, Speech, and Drama teacher at Danville High School. He lives in Danville with Alex and their two cats, Midnight and Juliet.

**LISA LOVELACE (Producer)** Lisa has acted, stage managed, and produced. She has wrangled props, constructed sets, decorated sets, and run lights and sound. And she just happens to be the President of the Red Mask Board of Directors. Queen of Everything!



**DOUGLAS MALCOLM (Spike)** is honored to make his Red Mask Players debut. By day, Douglas masquerades as a humdrum government attorney, but at night he transforms into The Caped Community Theatre Crusader! He is forever indebted to his wife and best friend, Courtney, and his toddling mini-me, Findlay, for their love and support. Recent credits include *Blithe Spirit* (Charles Condomine), and *A Christmas Story* (Adult Ralph/Narrator) for Parkland Theatre and *Come before Winter* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) for Life Together House.

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THE COMPANY



**SUSAN REID (Cassandra)** Susan made her theatrical debut at age 5, in the non-speaking, but riveting, role of Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz*. She has joined the *Vanya* cast for what is now her second theatrical performance. Unless Susan is discovered and moved to Hollywood for her portrayal of the prophetic cleaning lady, Cassandra, she will continue to live in Danville, working at Blue Cross Blue Shield. Susan is mom to three beautiful and talented kids; adults Michael and Sarabian, and 12-year-old Elise. It was Elise's performance in the Red Mask children's theater production of *Treasure Island*, along with Elise's encouragement that led her mother to audition for *Vanya*. Susan is excited to join the Red Mask family and looks forward to a long-term relationship with Red Mask.

**BARB WHALING (Masha)** Barb has appeared on most theater stages in the Danville area and is excited to play a role she never expected--the beauty! As a character actor, Barb has not had the chance to dress up, put on some heels, and be the bombshell. She thanks Darren for the opportunity to become the Sexy Killer.



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DSO 2023-2024

- 12.2.23 *Nothin' But the Blues*  
*Christmas* with Vocalist Shayna Steele
- 3.9.24 *Noche Hispana!*  
with Rochelle Sennet, Piano
- 5.4.24 *Beatles & Bach*  
with Brandon Ridenour, Trumpet



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## COMING ATTRACTIONS

### Red Mask Players

Auditions for

#### *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

November 6 & 7, 2023 at 7 pm

### DLO MUSICAL THEATRE

#### *A Christmas Story: the Musical*

November 17-19, 2023

### DSO

#### *Nothin' But the Blues Christmas*

December 2, 2023

### Red Mask Players

#### *It's a Wonderful Life:*

#### *A Live Radio Play*

December 2-3, 2023

### Red Mask Players and Vermilion River Beer Company

#### *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*

January 26-28, February 2-4, 2024

### Red Mask Players

#### *Lost in Yonkers*

April 5-7, April 12-14, 2024



**Red Mask**  
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*You*

We understand that in today's world, you have many options for your entertainment needs. We are thrilled that you chose us. Our community only works when we support one another. We are honored to be a part of Danville Area community and from the bottom of our heart, thank you for joining us today. It will always be our pleasure to entertain you. Thank you for your loyal support!

“Live theater to me is much more free than the movies or television.” — Eartha Kitt



**BEHIND THE SCENES**

Director.....Darren Kilbury  
 Assistant Director & Stage Manager..... Rachele Abner  
 Producer.....Lisa Lovelace  
 Set Design .....Darren Kilbury  
 Set Construction ..... Darren Kilbury, Roger Mertens  
 Lights and sound .....Taelor Abner  
 Program Design & Printing..... Kelly Printing Co., Inc.

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**RED MASK BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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