

THE 5 & DIME presents

THE Baltimore Waltz

by Paula Vogel



JUNE 13-21 2025 | directed by **KATE McMANUS**

The 5 & Dime is funded in part by the City of Jacksonville and the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville, Inc.



THE 5 & DIME IS IN RESIDENCY AT
THE FLORIDA BALLET
JACKSONVILLE

SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS

JUNE 13 **The Reagan-Hoogesteger Family** and **Eileen Seuter**

JUNE 14 **Marvin Watkins** | JUNE 15 **Patricia Madden**

JUNE 21 **Dimitri Demopoulos** and **Mark Wieder & Jonathan Reiner**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The following people and organizations helped in ways both large and small, but each has made a significant impact in the quality of this production experience – for the performers and production team, as well as for the audience. To them we offer our most sincere thanks.

Bradley Akers • Katie Allen • Dr. Bethany Atkins • Marlaina Geddes
Holly Gutshall Kacy Hope • Patrick Murphree • Orange Park Community Theatre
Jack Permenter • Limelight Theatre • Niki Stokes • Marianne Tammera
Players By the Sea • Theatre Jacksonville • Josh Waller

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I read *How I Learned to Drive* in college. For those of you who don't know, that's another play by Paula Vogel. It's about pedophilia, incest, misogyny — fun stuff — and I remember being disturbed. And moved. It's powerful (it won a Pulitzer), and surprisingly funny. But it's not the kind of world I'd voluntarily immerse myself in for several months. I don't generally like depressing stuff.

So when Krysten Bennett asked if I'd be interested in directing *The Baltimore Waltz*, I hesitated. I wasn't familiar with the play — just her other work. Would I connect with it? Could I?

At the top of the script, Vogel includes a letter from her brother, Carl. I skipped it. (I often skip prefaces. You might too.) I dove into the play — and was confused. The tone was absurd, the logic dreamlike, the events increasingly surreal. It was funny, but I didn't quite get it. And I usually like weird stuff.

So I started over. This time I read the preface.

We've chosen to include Vogel's dedication and the letter from her brother in the program. Carl's letter is just too good not to share.

It may feel like a spoiler — and in a sense, it is — but *The Baltimore Waltz* isn't about plot twists. Its power lies in the emotional truth behind Anna's imagined journey. I'd rather you walk in with some context than spend the whole play wondering what's going on (though, full disclosure: you still might).

Thank you for coming. I hope this play makes you laugh, makes you think, and most of all, makes you feel the love at its center.

— Kate McManus

THE 5 & DIME presents

THE BALTIMORE WALTZ

by **Paula Vogel**

To the memory of Carl – because I cannot sew.

THE CHARACTERS

ANNA Kristen Walsh
CARL A.J. Heekin
THE THIRD MAN/DOCTOR Sam Cobean

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Kate McManus
Stage Manager Susan Roche
Technical Director Ryan Walker
Set Construction Peter Guadagnino
Costume Design & Prop Master Jenny Tamera
Lighting Design Ben Sparenburg
Sound Design Eric Anderson
Waltz Choreographer Niki Stokes
Stagehands Jillian Cote and Kaleigh Ervin
Box Office Manager Krysten Bennett
House & Bar Manager Cynthia Riegler
Production Photographer Kamajhia | kamajhia.com

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

The use of photography, audio, or video recording is strictly prohibited.

Originally produced by the Circle Repertory Company, New York City,
Tanya Berezin, Artistic Director.

THE BALTIMORE WALTZ is presented by special arrangement with
Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.
(www.dramatists.com)

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

GUTENBERG! THE MUSICAL!
by **Anthony King** and **Scott Brown**
SEPT 12, 13, 14, 18*, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27

PUFFS. or Seven Increasingly Eventful
Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic
by **Matt Cox**
NOV 7, 8, 9, 10*, 13, 14, 15

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

In 1986, my brother Carl invited me to join him in a joint excursion to Europe. Due to pressures of time and money, I declined, never dreaming that he was HIV positive. This is the letter he wrote me after his first bout with pneumonia at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He died on January 9, 1988.

As executor of his estate, I give permission to all future productions to reprint Carl's letter in the accompanying program. I would appreciate letting him speak to us in his own words.

The Baltimore Waltz - a journey with Carl to a Europe that exists only in the imagination — was written during the summer of 1989 at the MacDowell Colony, New Hampshire.

— Paula Vogel

March 1987

Dear Paula:

I thought I would jot down some of my thoughts about the (shall we say) production values of my ceremony. Oh God - I can hear you groaning - everybody wants to direct. Well, I want a good show, even though my role has been reduced involuntarily from player to prop.

First, concerning the choice between a religious ceremony and a memorial service. I know the family considers my Anglican observances as irrelevant as Shinto. However, I wish prayers in some recognizably traditional form to be said prayers that give thanks to the Creator for the gift of life and the hope of reunion. For reasons which you appreciate, I prefer a woman cleric, if possible, to lead the prayers. Here are two names: Phebe Coe, Epiphany Church; the Rev. Doris Mote, Holy Evangelists. Be sure to make a generous contribution from the estate for the cleric.

As for the piece of me I leave behind, here are your options:

- 1) Open casket, full. drag.*
- 2) Open casket, bum up (you'll know where to place the calla lilies, won't you?).*
- 3) Closed casket, interment with the grandparents.*
- 4) Cremation and burial. of my ashes.*
- 5) Cremation and dispersion of my ashes in some sylvan spot.*

I would really like good music. My tastes in these matters run to the highbrow: Fauré's "Pie Jesu" from his Requiem, Gluck's "Dance of the Blessed Spirits" from Orfeo, "La Vergine degli Angeli" from Verdi's Forza. But my favorite song is "I Dream of Jeannie," and I wouldn't mind a spiritual like "Steal Away." Also perhaps "Nearer My God to Thee." Didn't Jeannette MacDonald sing that di-vinely in San Francisco?

Finally, would you read or have read A.E. Housman's "Loveliest of Trees"?

Well, my dear, that's that. Should I be lain with Grandma and Papa Ben, do stop by for a visit from year to year. And feel free to chat. You'll find me a good listener.

Love, Brother

ABOUT THE CAST & CREW



SAM COBEAN (*The Third Man/Doctor/various characters*) was told, “you’re decent at passing for human,” after emerging from his hatch pod beneath Roswell, NM. He’s overjoyed to return to The 5 & Dime for the first time since 2019, when he played several roles in *Silence! The Musical*. Recent theatre credits include Truman Capote at multiple venues in *Tru*, Charlie Brown in AMP’s *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Daddy in Lumen Rep’s *The American Dream*, and Dr. Frank N Furter in AMP’s *The Rocky Horror Show*. He’s immensely grateful to *The Baltimore Waltz* team and his loves, Lisa and Little Bean, for their passion and support.



A.J. HEEKIN (*Carl*) recently returned to Jacksonville after 15 years as an actor, director, and playwright in NYC. He was a regular fixture with Tongue in Cheek Theatre Company, performing in *The Mistakes Madeline Made*, *The Drunken City*, and *Our Town* to name a few of his favorites. You may recognize him from co-starring in HBO’s *Boardwalk Empire*, where he shared the screen with Steve Buscemi and Michael Stuhlbarg. He’s thrilled to be appearing in his first production at The 5 & Dime and would like to give a special thanks to Kate. Here’s to twenty more years making art together.



KRISTEN WALSH (*Anna*) is excited to be back on The 5 & Dime stage having been seen previously in *The Harvest*, *Cock*, *33 Variations*, and *The Pitmen Painters*. You may have also seen her as the Woman in *The Other Place* (ABET), Charlotte Corday in *The Revolutionists* (Actors Collective), Talia in *Women’s Work* (Phase 8), and many other shows, short films, and staged readings. She also directed *The Lifespan of a Fact* at ABET and *Clyde’s* at The 5 & Dime. She is thrilled to be working with such a talented team to bring Anna and Carl’s story to life.

KATE McMANUS (*Director*) is honored to direct *The Baltimore Waltz* at The 5 & Dime, where she previously performed in *The Walls* (2017) and *Let Me Down Easy* (2023). A frequent collaborator with Lumen Repertory Theatre, she was in *No Exit*, *The American Dream*, and most recently *Cadillac Crew*. Kate is represented by J Pervis Talent in Atlanta and spends a lot of time taping auditions — occasionally booking a commercial or TV role. She recently wrapped filming on a feature currently in production in Jacksonville. Kate works at Mayo Clinic’s Simulation Center and finds joy in making art, whether on stage, screen, or in the woods with her husband and her cat.

SUSAN ROCHE (*Stage Manager*), a Jacksonville resident, is thrilled to be back at The 5 & Dime, a theatre she's supported since its inception. With 19 years of experience in Northeast Florida's theatre community, she has contributed as an actor, singer, musician, photographer, videographer, board member, and in various technical roles including stage manager, house manager, and assistant director. She's grateful to this cast and production team for such a fun experience — and, as always, sends heartfelt thanks to her folks.

JENNY TAMMERA (*Prop-Master/Costume Designer*) is excited to be back at The 5 & Dime! You might have seen her daffy dead-legs-in-a-box in *POTUS*, marvelous money-fans in *Urinetown*, amazing afros in *the ripple the wave*, or horrifying headless pigeons in *Lizzie*. She's also previously been involved with six other local theatres in various capacities. She can sling a mean paintbrush, sweet-talk a screw-gun, and build palaces out of hot glue. Congratulations to the cast and crew! Never underestimate the power of glitter, fake mustaches, and determined artists! Thanks for supporting the arts; may the waltzes never stop!



The 5 & Dime tells stories that engage, inspire, entertain, and challenge audiences, nurturing a rich artistic culture in Jacksonville. We believe that now, more than ever, it's important for theatre to be a space for bold and diverse stories — the kind The 5 & Dime has brought to our community since its founding. Learn more at www.the5anddime.org.

STAFF

Interim Managing Director
Krysten Bennett

Technical Director
Ryan Walker

Volunteer Coordinator
Jenny Tammera

THE FOUNDERS

Caryl Butterley
Evan Gould
Judy Gould
Staci Cobb Grant
Lee Hamby
Craig Leavitt
Zeina Salame
Josh Taylor
Josh Waller

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ashli Simmons
Vice President: Mary Robison
Treasurer: Craig Johnson
Secretary: Christopher Collinsworth
Directors-at-Large:
Caryl Butterley
Dimitri Demopoulos
Madelene Skinner

ARTISTIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Caryl Butterley
Christopher Collinsworth
Anvar Gashimov
Kristen Walsh
Kamajhia Williams

SUPPORT THE 5 & DIME

It's support from people like you that allows us to produce quality, thought-provoking theatre, and each and every contribution we receive ensures our ability to continue bringing change-making storytelling to the local stage.

Every dollar counts!



Many Thanks to the Following Individuals and Entities Whose Generous Financial Contributions Have Supported The 5 & Dime in the Past Year

Sharon & Gregg Achatz	Susan Fraser	Shelby Lucik	Ashli Simmons
Elizabeth Affsprung	Givinga Foundation	Patricia Madden	The Sims Family
Anonymous	Caitlin Glynn	James Maher	Margaret Sindel
Bethany Atkins	Dave Gowan	Renee Mauldin	Madelene Skinner & Edison Arnold
Base Camp Theatre Co.	Holly & Redgie Gutshall	Liz McCoy	Sara Sohn & Confident Pelvic Rehab
Martha & Eli Bekkum	Diane Hale	Undine McEvoy	Susie & Charles Starnes
Krysten Bennett	Hardwicks Bar	Michael McKenny	State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts & Culture
Brad & JB Bishop	Brenda Heatwole	Brooks Anne Meierdierks	Kathy & David Stimpson
Diane Brunet-Garcia	Cathy Heffernan	Angela O'Donnell	Elaine Sullivan & Robert Mandzi
Michelle Busby	The Hegeman Family	Shannon O'Leary	Jenny Tammera
Linda Butner	Andrea Holmes	Katelin & Ron Olson	Pamela Telis
Susan Cahn	Kacy Hope & Will Davis	Bethany Paolini & Spot On Creative Studios	Ann Tiefenthaler
Davron & Carlos Cardenas	Jerome Hudson	Toni Philips	Treasure in Heaven Fund
Kathy & Charles Cold	Jeanne Huebner	Ellen Powell	David R. Voss
Phil Collins	In honor of trans youth everywhere	Eric Puestow	Marvin Watkins
Christopher Collinsworth	Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation	Harry Reagan	Stephanie Welchans
Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville	James Weldon Johnson Park	Penny Reid	Eric Wester
Dimitri Demopoulos	Caron & Craig Johnson	Frank Riccardo	Bill White
Gretchen Deters-Murray	Grady Johnson	The Reagan-Hoogesteger Family	Mark Wieder & Jonathan Reiner
Thomas Digan	JP Morgan Chase Employee Giving Fund	Mary Robison	
Scott Dixon	Janice Knapik	Jacqueline Ross	
Kimmi Doctor	Karen Lachut	Myrtice Saffy	
Esther & Cam Estes	Ashley Lake	Jen Schlechte	
Patti Eyler	Randal Lessen	Michele Servais	
First Horizon Foundation		Eileen Seuter	
Virginia Foster		Sara Sierra	
Patricia & Norman Foy			

**List reflects contributions received June 1, 2024-May 31, 2025*



THE **FLORIDA** BALLET
— JACKSONVILLE —

The Florida Ballet enriches and inspires the cultural landscape of our community through the education and art of classical ballet.

www.FloridaBallet.org



2025-2026
season



<https://www.opct.info> 904-276-2599
2900 Moody Ave, Orange Park, FL 32073