

Season 2026 sponsored in part by **Harry Reagan**
presented by **THE 5 & DIME** in partnership with **BABS'LAB**



I AM MY OWN WIFE

written by **DOUG WRIGHT** | directed by **KRISTEN WALSH**

SEPT 18—26 2026 at BABS'LAB



A thriving creative economy enhances the quality of life for us all. Supported in part by the Merit-Based Cultural Service Grant Program, administered by the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville with funding from the City of Jacksonville and our elected officials, we extend our gratitude to all partners who make this possible.

LIVE THEATRE is the art of now.
What happens tonight will never happen again. Enjoy!



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. **The5andDime.org**

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Fifteen years. More than 90 productions. Hundreds of artists, crews, and volunteers. Thousands of audience members. Generous sponsors who have helped make those productions possible. None of this happens without you.

To every artist who has taken a risk with us, every crew member who has pulled off the impossible, every volunteer who has pitched in, every sponsor who has invested in our work, and every patron who has walked through our doors — thank you.

YOU are The 5 & Dime!

SEASON 2026 sponsored in part by **Harry Reagan**
THE 5 & DIME, in partnership with **BABS'LAB**, presents

I AM MY OWN WIFE

written by **Doug Wright**
directed by **Kristen Walsh**

CHARACTERS

CHARLOTTE VON MAHLSDORF..... Trevor Kluckman
DOUG WRIGHT Jack Permenter
JOHN MARKS, others Benjamin Sandlin
Multiple roles Nathan Dasher

There will be a 15-minute intermission.
Photography, audio, or video recording is strictly prohibited.

"I Am My Own Wife" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Dramatists Play Service Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

SPOTLIGHT SPONSORS

SEPT 18 **Miriam Dillard & Dave Baldwin**
SEPT 19 **Margaret Barton & Tom Kimbrough** and **Holly & Redgie Gutshall**
SEPT 20 **Mary Robison** | SEPT 25 **Dimitri Demopoulos**

LIVE THEATRE. Every performance disappears the
moment it ends. And because of that, it matters.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Kristen Walsh
Stage Manager / Scenic Designer / Set Construction.....	Maya Williams
Technical Director / Production Manager	Ryan Walker
Costume Designer	Shelby Ellis
Prop Master	Shelli D. Long
Lighting Designer	Nicole K. Anderson
Sound Designer	Erik Anderson
Stagehand	Jordan Godkin
Box Office Manager	Krysten Bennett
House & Bar Manager	Christian Cabrera
Production Photographer	Jon Scherf
Promotional Photography / Graphic Design / Webmaster	Caryl Butterley

IMPORTANT DATES & VOCABULARY

Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. Born March 18, 1928. Died April 30, 2002 (age 74)

World War II (1939-1945)

East Germany, GDR (1949-1990). An authoritarian Soviet satellite state.

Berlin Wall (1961-1990). Constructed by the GDR (Communist East Germany) to separate East and West Germany, primarily to prevent East Germans from escaping to the West.

Reunification (1990). East and West Germany united.

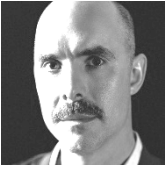
Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935). German physician, sexologist, and author known for groundbreaking work specializing in sexual minorities.

Gründerzeit. Late-19th century German design era encompassing furniture, architecture, and decorative arts.

Mahlsdorf. An area on the east side of Berlin, Germany.

Mahlsdorf Museum. Charlotte transformed this 1815 manor house into a museum in 1963 when it was threatened with demolition. The museum still exists today: gruenderzeitmuseum-mahlsdorf.de

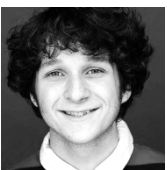
ABOUT THE CAST



TREVOR KLUCKMAN (*Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf*) is proud to be a part of The 5 & Dime's production of *I Am My Own Wife*. Area credits include Katurian in *The Pillowman* at Lumen Rep, Dudard in *Rhinoceros* at Limelight Theatre, and Will in *Mothers & Sons* with A Classic Theatre. Most recently, they appeared as Father Dewis in Sam Shepard's *Buried Child* as part of Shepard Fest in St. Augustine. They have also appeared on ABC's *One Life to Live* and the indie rom-com *April Flowers*, streaming on Apple TV. Trevor is a graduate of Marymount Manhattan College's theatre program. They enjoy Monty Python, cats, and pickleball.



JACK PERMENTER (*Doug Wright*) is a Jacksonville native and a graduate of Douglas Anderson School of the Arts theater program. After taking a break from acting during college, he returned to theater in 2017 in *Players by the Sea's Eurydice*, where he performed alongside his present-day fiancée (and this play's director), Kristen Walsh, who has assured him over and over and over again that he was cast in this play for his ability, and not nepotism. Sure. Since then, he has gone on to work with various theaters around Jacksonville, both as an actor and director. You may have seen him as Gary/Roger in *Noises Off* at Phase Eight Theater Company, as The White Rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland* at ABET, or as the Jack in the Box in *Little Toy Shoppe* during the Dickens on Centre Festival in Fernandina Beach.



BENJAMIN SANDLIN (*John Marks, others*) is pleased to be making his debut at The 5 & Dime with this amazing cast and crew! He attended Douglas Anderson, where he received an Applause Award nomination for his role as Zach in *A Chorus Line*. In 2022, he graduated with his Arts Seal in Musical Theatre. As a UNF student, Benjamin has also been involved with UNF Shakespeare, where he played Macbeth in *Macbeth* and Orlando in *As You Like It*.



NATHAN DASHER (*multiple roles*) is excited to be a part of The 5 & Dime's production of *I Am My Own Wife*. This is his first community theatre role after recently graduating from high school, where he frequently took part in the International Thespians Society and his school's productions. He is currently enrolled at the University of North Florida where he is pursuing a Bachelor of

Science in Nursing. He spends his free time simulation racing, painting miniatures for Dungeons & Dragons, and playing his guitars.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

DOUG WRIGHT (*Playwright*) is an award-winning American playwright, screenwriter, and librettist whose work has been produced on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and across the country. He is the author of *I Am My Own Wife*, which earned the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and Tony Award for Best Play. He previously won an Obie Award and the Kesselring Award for his play *Quills*, which he later adapted into an Oscar-nominated screenplay. Wright has also written the books for the Broadway musicals *Grey Gardens*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Hands on a Hardbody*, earning Tony and Drama Desk nominations for his work. His other plays include *The Stonewater Rapture*, *Unwrap Your Candy*, and *Posterity*. Wright is a graduate of Yale University and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is a former president of the Dramatists Guild of America.

KRISTEN WALSH (*Director*) is no stranger to The 5 & Dime, having worked both onstage and offstage in numerous productions over the years. She previously co-directed *Clyde's* and appeared in *The Baltimore Waltz*, *The Harvest*, *Cock*, *33 Variations*, and *The Pitmen Painters*. This will be her fourth time in the director's chair having also directed *Emma* at Artist Connection Theater and *Lifespan of a Fact* at ABET. You may also have 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 is incredibly thankful to be working with such a talented cast and crew to bring this beautiful show to life.

MAYA WILLIAMS (*Stage Manager, Scenic Designer, Set Construction*) is excited to return to stage managing after primarily focusing on lighting and scenic design for the better part of this season. She has worked in theatres from NE FL, all the way to NE PA. Outside of her work at The 5 & Dime, she is a proud member of IATSE Local 115! Maya spends most of her time working on something theatre-related. Just a few of her previous credits include production stage manager for *Julius Caesar* at the Scranton Shakespeare Fest, Megan Jones in *Puffs*, scenic designer for *Body Awareness*, co-lighting designer for *The 5 & Dime Songbook*, and assistant technical director for *American Son*, all at The 5 & Dime. She looks forward to whatever comes next in her busy theatre career. She would like to thank everyone at The 5 & Dime

for supporting (tolerating) her this season! She'd also like to give a shout out to Ethan, her friends, and her family for supporting her, but especially her mom.

RYAN WALKER (*Technical Director, Production Manager*) is a Jacksonville native who has worked for local community theatres and performance venues in the region over the last ten years. He has experience working in every role in theatre that doesn't involve being on stage and is fully enjoying putting his mixed skill set to good use while serving as The 5 & Dime's Technical Director. This is Ryan's third season working with The 5 & Dime but you may have previously seen him working events for Limelight Theatre, Sing Out Loud, Tale Tellers, and various other organizations in the Northeast Florida area.

SHELBY ELLIS (*Costume Designer*) is delighted to help honor the legacy of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf. She has designed costumes for several shows at Artist Connection Theatre and Greenwood School, where she works. She also regularly directs, acts, and leads set and lighting design. Most recently, she starred as Abby Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace* (A.C.T.).

SHELLI D. LONG (*Prop Master*) is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in music education, specializing in conducting, voice, and piano performance. Graduate conducting studies continued at the University of South Florida. She served as the Music Director for the Limelight Theatre for 18 years. In addition to her work as MD, she served as stage director for approximately two shows a season while also being the props supervisor for all shows. Prior to her position at Limelight, She worked in area theatres, including Players by the Sea, ABET, Alhambra Dinner Theatre, and Amelia Community Theatre. She consults and is in demand as a collaborative pianist for area schools, an adjudicator, and adjudicator trainer for the Florida Vocal Association and the International Thespians Society. Her "real" job is to assist schools in reaching their educational goals by providing fundraising opportunities through innovativefundraisers.net.

NICOLE K. ANDERSON (*Lighting Designer*) is honored to have the opportunity to light the stage for this production of *I Am My Own Wife*. You may know her from her previous work as lighting designer for *the ripple, the wave that carried me home; Twilight; POTUS; Sweat; The Harvest; SEX a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs; The Clean House; Hir; 'night, Mother; Shipwrecked!; The Comparables; Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike; and A Lesson Before Dying*.

ERIK ANDERSON (*Sound Designer*) is thrilled to be back designing sound for his 10th show (!) at The 5 & Dime. Having previously designed for multiple shows here as well as performing in ASJ's production of *SEX a.k.a. Wieners and Boobs*, his return began with The 5 & Dime's 2023 season including *Assassins* and *Clyde's*. He hopes to continue working with this amazing team for years to come!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Charlotte Von Mahlsdorf died at the age of 74, she left behind an impressive collection of late 19th-century furniture, a museum she had built with her own hands, a documentary and book about her life, and a deeply complicated legacy. By some she was seen as a survivor — a trans woman who lived defiantly in the face of two oppressive regimes, the Nazis and the Communists. By others she was seen as a liar and a collaborator, a woman who survived by selling out those closest to her and constructed an elaborate life story to hide it.

The playwright, Doug Wright, doesn't offer an answer to Charlotte. He doesn't tell you to believe her or not. All this play asks is that you see her, all of her, for who she is and was: a flawed human being who, despite all odds, built a space for herself and others. When the Nazis burned homes, she saved what she could from the fires. When the Stasi shut down the last gay bar in Berlin, she rebuilt it in her basement. When there were no safe spaces for gay and lesbian couples to meet, she opened her attic.

I don't know if I believe every part of Charlotte's story. But what I do believe is that she, a self-proclaimed collector of "old junk," cared for all of the things — and people — discarded by society. With this production, I didn't set out to tell the story of one of history's heroes or villains; I sought to present a singular human being, who, as Doug says, "navigated a path between the two most repressive regimes the Western World has ever known in a pair of heels."

— Kristen Walsh

THEATRE is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.

— Augusto Boal

RESOURCES

JASMYN.org • PFLAG.org • TheTrevorProject.org • TransEquality.org

If you are interested in further exploring the themes addressed in this production, we suggest the following:

Non-Fiction and Memoir

I Am My Own Wife: The True Story of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf by Charlotte von Mahlsdorf

Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us by Kate Bornstein

Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg

Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and their Families
by Peggy Gillespie

Becoming a Visible Man by Jamison Green

States of Liberation: Gay Men Between Dictatorship and Democracy in Cold War Germany
by Samuel Clowes Huneke

He's My Daughter: A Mother's Journey to Acceptance by Eve Langley

Adult Fiction

Nevada by Imogen Binnie

Detransition, Baby by Torrey Peters

A Safe Girl to Love by Casey Plett

Confessions of the Fox by Jordy Rosenberg

Manywhere: Stories by Morgan Thomas

Young Adult Fiction

Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender

Pet by Akwaeke Emezi

Melissa (originally published as George) by Alex Gino

Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff

Gracefully Grayson by Ami Polonsky

Young Adult Non-Fiction

This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson

Films

Boys Don't Cry • *Breakfast on Pluto* • *Cabaret* • *The Danish Girl*
The Einstein of Sex • *Eldorado: Everything the Nazis Hate (Documentary)*

Podcast

Bad Gays Podcast: BadGaysPod.com

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.



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

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Jack Meeks
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Marlene & Marvin
Watkins
Laylon Webb
Helene & Kathy
Weldon
Paula & Eric Wester
Bill White

** List reflects contributions received September 1, 2025 — August 31, 2026.*

_____**NEXT AT THE 5 & DIME**_____

CARRIE

THE MUSICAL



music by **Michael Gore** ♦ lyrics by **Dean Pitchford**
book by **Lawrence D. Cohen** ♦ based on the novel by **Stephen King**
directed by **Caryl Butterley**
music direction by **Erin Barnes** ♦ choreographed by **Terry Star**

Join us OCT 23 — NOV 7 for this rock-driven musical that cranks the horror of teen angst to eleven, with a mother and daughter locked in a bond that is as tender as it is terrifying. This iconic story, first brought to life as a novel by Stephen King more than 50 years ago (!!!), remains messy, unflinching, and chillingly relevant!

“Carrie is edge-of-your-seat all-out entertainment.” — The Monitor



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JACKSONVILLE

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www.FloridaBallet.org