

# The Heidi Chronicles



**110<sup>TH</sup>**  
1916-2026 *Season*

APR. 10 – MAY 3, 2026



VAGABOND PLAYERS



# VAGABOND PLAYERS

*The Best of Broadway on Broadway*

806 South Broadway  
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www.vagabondplayers.org

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Vagabond Players is a founding member of the Baltimore Playwrights Festival. For more information, visit <http://www.baltplayfest.org>.

VAGABOND PLAYERS PRESENT

# The Heidi Chronicles

by Wendy Wasserstein

Directed by Lee Conderacci

## Cast (in Order of Appearance)

Heidi Holland .....	Chelsey Megli
Susan Johnston .....	Aparna Sri
Peter Patrone .....	Colin Tillery
Scoop Rosenbaum .....	William (BJ) Darden
Chris Boxer/Mark/Easter Bunny/Waiter/Ray .....	Nathan Trexler
Jill/Lisa .....	Nava Rastegar
Debbie/Betsy .....	Penelope Chan
Fran/Molly/April .....	Danae Nick
Becky/Clara/Denise .....	Maggie Dennis
Understudy (Heidi) .....	Mira Lamson Klein
Understudy (Peter/Scoop) .....	Rocky Nunzio

## Setting

### Act One

- Prologue: A lecture hall, New York,  
1989
- Scene 1: Chicago, 1965
- Scene 2: Manchester, New Hampshire,  
1968
- Scene 3: Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1970
- Scene 4: Chicago, 1974
- Scene 5: New York, 1977

### Act Two

- All scenes take place in New York.*
- Prologue: A lecture hall, 1989
- Scene 1: An apartment, 1980
- Scene 2: A TV studio, 1982
- Scene 3: A restaurant, 1984
- Scene 4: The Plaza Hotel, 1984
- Scene 5: A pediatrics ward, 1987
- Scene 6: An apartment, 1983

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission.

*The Heidi Chronicles is published by Dramatist Play Service, an imprint of Concord Theatricals Corp. collection ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))*

*The Heidi Chronicles was first presented in New York City by Playwrights Horizons (Andre Bishop, Artistic Director; Paul S. Daniels, Executive Director) on December 12, 1988. The production subsequently transferred to the Plymouth Theatre, on Broadway, on March 9, 1989.*

# The History of VAGABOND PLAYERS

The years that followed the great fire of 1904 were a time of great bustle and activity for Baltimore, and the commencement of World War I in 1914 helped to intensify this mood. During 1915 and 1916, Baltimore's industrial growth surpassed that of any similar period. [Also] during the war, a renaissance in the arts took place, led by Baltimore's mayor, Walter Preston. In 1915 Preston told the city council, "Baltimore's citizens have as much right to organizations that provide for aesthetic development as they do to a sanitation department."

Thus, by 1916 the city had its own symphony and community park concerts, and work had begun on a public art museum. Curiously enough, though, no one had been able to establish any kind of successful, progressive theater. This seems especially odd when one considers the great theatrical ferment that was then sweeping the country. Despite this national movement, however, attempts to organize permanent dramatic groups in Baltimore had failed. In 1916, three people decided to alter this situation: Constance D'Arcy Mackay, a New Yorker who specialized in directing elaborate pageants; Adele Gutman Nathan, a Baltimorean who had directed plays while attending Goucher College; and Carol Sax, a former student of theater and art at Columbia University and teacher at the Maryland Institute of Art.

In 1947, Mrs. Nathan recalled the circumstances that led to the founding of Baltimore's first little theater:

*Constance Mackay, Carol Sax and I were waiting for a streetcar at the corner of Charles and Centre Streets...Wearied from rehearsal, we leaned against a store window while we talked — good talk about the Little Theatre Movement that was spreading across the country...We agreed that Baltimore should have a Little Theatre. The town was loaded with talent. The question was, where to put the playhouse.*

*Carol Sax noticed that Miss Mackay and I were leaning against a store window. Directly above our heads was sign, "For Rent—Apply St. James Hotel." Eagerly the three of us cupped our eyes with our hands and peered through the darkened glass. The store was empty. It was about two stories high, just right for a theatre, and by some miracle there was a raised platform across the back wall...*

*Early the next morning, Carol Sax went to the St. James Hotel and paid the first month's rent. \$19.*

Constance MacKay did not remain in Baltimore to participate in the actual founding of the theater. However, Carol Sax and Mrs. Nathan proceeded enthusiastically with the project, managing to throw Baltimore into a tizzy of excitement with their oblique publicity.

To learn more about our history, check out ***The Vagabonds: America's Oldest Little Theatre*** by Linda Lee Koenig or visit our website:  
<https://www.vagabondplayers.org/history/>

# Cast Biographies



**Penelope Chan** (Debbie/Betsy) has performed various onstage and backstage roles since 2006 and currently serves as Board Secretary for FPCT. She moved to Baltimore from Los Angeles in 2019 and has been working with Baltimore theaters since 2022. Previous experiences with Vagabond Players include designing wigs for *HAIR* and *The Shark is Broken*. This is her first time acting with Vagabonds! Past favorite roles include Carlotta in *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (FPCT), Marmee in *Little Women* (Strand Theater), and Penny Sycamore in *You Can't Take it With You* (Extracurricular Players at Caltech). Huge love and thanks to her parents, her theater family, and her loving husband Mark.

**William "BJ" Darden** (Scoop Rosenbaum) is returning to Vagabond Players after previously appearing in *Witness for the Prosecution*. He has previously appeared in *Hamlet* (Baltimore Shakespeare Factory), *Murder on The Orient Express* (Manor Mill Playhouse), *Miss Holmes*, and *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Fells Point Corner Theater), among others.



**Maggie Dennis** (Becky/Clara/Denise) is excited to make her Vagabond Players debut with *The Heidi Chronicles*! Previous credits include Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Portia in *Something Rotten*, Emily in *Our Town*, and Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing*.

**Mira Lamson Klein** (Understudy for Heidi) is an actor, writer, and director with a passion for comedy and the development of new theatre. She was previously in *Love, Loss, and What I Wore* (ensemble, u/s various) at Vagabond Players. She has performed locally at Manor Mill Playhouse, Fells Point Corner Theatre, and Rorschach Theatre. Selected credits include: *The Most Massive Woman Wins* (Sabine), *Henry V* (Exeter), *Romeo & Juliet* (Lady Capulet), *Antigone* (Kreon), and *As You Like It* (Celia).



**Chelsey Megli** (Heidi Holland) is thrilled to be in her first production with Vagabond Players. Favorite previous credits include *Melancholy Play* (Tilly), *The Wickams*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Treehouse (World Premier)*, and *The Children's Hour* (Martha). She would like to thank Lee, the cast and crew and all the amazing women who have shaped her life: Cheri, Crissy, Cassie, Tara, Jo, Flora (x2), Inga, Paula, and Jane.

# Cast Biographies

**Danae Nick** (Fran/Molly/April) (she/her) is thrilled to be returning to the Vagabond Players' stage. Most recently, she was featured as Ronny in *HAIR* to open the Vagabond Players' season, but audiences may have also seen her in *The Gospel at Colonus* (Arena Players), *The Brown Sugar Bake-Off*, *Rarefied Air* (The Strand Theater), *It's Showdown Time* (Arena Players), and *Laughing Stock* (Spotlighters Theatre). Danae is thankful for her family, friends, and the entire creative team of this production for their love and support.



**Rocky Nunzio** (Understudy for Peter/Scoop) is excited for his first production with Vagabond Players. Acting: *Columbinus* (Helen Hayes Award Nomination-best ensemble) (1st Stage); *King Lear* (Baltimore Shakespeare Factory); *Lempira*, *Garbage Quest DX* (Baltimore Rock Opera Society), *Wannabe* (Best of Fringe-Winner) (Capital Fringe); *On The Farce Day of Christmas*, *Rapunzarella White* (Best Medicine Rep); *A Christmas Carol for Edgar Allan Poe* (National Edgar Allan Poe Theatre). Directing: *Dreamer/Seeker* (Capital Fringe), *Fiveplay* (Greenbelt Art Center). Writing: *Reflection of a Shadow* (New York Summer Theatre Festival), *A Very Apocalyptic Christmas* (Rapid Lemon Productions). Assistant Director: *Swimming With Whales*, *Civil War Christmas*, *Well* (1st Stage).

**Nava Rastegar** (Jill/Lisa) is excited to be making her formal debut here at Vagabond Players, after appearing in *Room Service* as an understudy. You may also have seen her in the staged readings of Cat Chupein's original work, *Patterns and Petunias*. She would like to thank her family and the cast for all of their support.



**Aparna Sri** (Susan Johnston) is happy to make her debut with Vagabond Players! She adores her talented director and feels at home with this wonderful cast and crew. Favorite roles: Mrs. Cheveley in *An Ideal Husband*, Siobhan in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (The Colonial Players); Rachel Crabbe in *One Man, Two Guvnors* (The British Players), Myra Bruhl in *Deathtrap* (Spotlighters Theatre); Ellen Rometsch in *That Woman - The Monologue Show* (Charm City Fringe Festival); Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* adaptation (The Rude Mechanicals); Elizabeth Darcy in *Miss Bennet - Christmas at Pemberley* (The Montgomery Playhouse); Sandra in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Heather Clark in *Gideon's Knot*, Kay Strange in *Towards Zero* (Laurel Mill Playhouse), Mrs. Alfieri in *A View from the Bridge* (Upstage Artists). She draws enormous strength from her Renaissance man, who manages the circus of bipeds at home to enable her to share her love for storytelling through community theatre.



**Colin Tillery** (Peter Patrone) is thrilled to make his acting debut at Vagabond Players! He previously stage managed Vagabond Players' production of *Shakespeare's R&J*. A Baltimore-based actor and playwright, recent credits include: Al Manners in *Trouble in Mind* (Fells Point Corner Theatre), Leo Starr in *Floating Down to Camelot* (Spotlighters), and *Variations on Courage* (Rapid Lemon Productions) as both ensemble actor and playwright of *So Brave*. Many thanks to Lee, NJ, and his fellow cast and crew for all of their amazing work. Much love to his family, friends, dog children, and JT who makes his chronicle complete.

**Nathan Trexler** (Chris Boxer/Mark/Easter Bunny/Waiter/Ray) is excited to make his debut with Vagabond Players in the many roles of *The Heidi Chronicles* as his first straight play in over 10 years. Recent credits: Twin Dad in *Mary Day's The Nutcracker* (CityDance Conservatory), General Lord Glossop in *Jekyll and Hyde* (Just Off Broadway), and Merit/Krater/Cray/Ensemble in a staged reading of *Robert and Company*. He would like to thank this cast and crew for such a wonderful experience and hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has as being part of it.



## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Patron support allows us to offer our artists stipends and has helped us with several major projects over the years including:

- Renovation of our auditorium
- Replacement of the theatre's aging heating and air conditioning systems
- Complete overhaul of our lighting and sound systems, including the installation of hearing assistive technology for our patrons.

Every dollar you contribute goes toward assuring we can continue to bring you high-quality productions and a grand experience at the Vagabond Theatre.

TO MAKE A DONATION, VISIT  
[WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.VAGABONDPLAYERS.ORG/DONATE)



# Crew Biographies

**Lee Conderacci** (Director) thanks Vagabond Players for inviting her on board for this project, her first with the company. Other directing highlights include *Angel Street (Gaslight)* at Fells Point Corner Theatre, *High School Coven* at The Strand, and *The Odd Couple* at Guerrilla Theatre Front. Lee studied English and Theater at Princeton University (B.A.) and University of Delaware (Ph.D.), and she also holds a M.S. in Communications from Towson University. She is the founder of Baltimore Playwrights' Brew, the area's first and only regular open-mic series dedicated to sharing new dramatic works in community. Lee dedicates her work in *The Heidi Chronicles* to her mom, her sister, and her niece, Lucia.

**April Forrer** (Costumer) is thrilled to be back at Vagabond Players costuming *The Heidi Chronicles*. Her other shows at Vagabonds include *Into the Woods*, *Room Service* and *Doubt, a parable*, and she is looking forward to costuming *The Divine Sister!* When April isn't writing she loves to spend time with her three children and her dog.

**TJ Lukacsina** (Lighting Designer) is honored to be working with such a talented and dedicated cast and production team. LIGHTING: *HAIR*, *Puffs*, *The SpongeBob Musical*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *The Color Purple*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Jekyll & Hyde: An Immersive Experience*, *Striking 12*, *Always Patsy Cline*, *Murder Ballad*, *Cabaret*, and *'Night, Mother*. DIRECTING: *HAIR*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Cinderella*, *Hairspray*, *Big Fish*, *Legally Blonde*, *Into the Woods*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *White Christmas*. Many thanks to his friends and family who have continuously inspired him to do and be better.

**NJ Saroff** (Stage Manager) (they/them) is a trans Jewish Baltimore artist/writer and no stranger to Vagabond Players in their fourth production as a stage manager and first on the board. Previous stage manager credits include work with Truepenny, Rapid Lemon, Fells Point Corner Theatre, Single Carrot, Acme, and Spotlighters. They studied theatre and education at CCBC and AADA. When not stage managing, they can be found writing plays or acting for the Baltimore Playwrights Brew, in the woods of Pearlstone teaching art and science, or teaching math and ELA in Baltimore County schools. You can find their plays on new play exchange and their art and poetry on Instagram [nj.saroff](#). This is a play on memory and connection and making time for those you love and who love and support you. During the rehearsal process of the show their amazing great uncle passed who was a great influence on their love of theatre. They are so thankful they spent time with him before his passing, they do this work in honor of him.

**Deanna Stephen** (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to make her production debut at Vagabond Players. Deanna would like to thank her family and friends for their continuous support, as well as *The Heidi Chronicles* team for their guidance and generosity. She looks forward to being a part of many productions in the future.

**Chris Uehlinger** (Projections/Sound Designer) is a Baltimore-based technical artist and engineer. He recently designed projections for *HAIR* (Vagabond Players), *Rarified Air* (The Strand), *Evita* (Silhouette Stages), *Are You Still Woke?* (Charm City Fringe) and *Machinal* (Fells Point Corner Theatre) and built projection software for *Garbage Quest* and *Lempira* (Baltimore Rock Opera Society). You can see his work in June in Charm City Players' production of *Frozen*. Portfolio: [chrisuehlinger.com](#)

# *Production Staff*

Director .....	Lee Conderacci
Stage Manager .....	NJ Saroff
Lighting Design .....	TJ Lukacsina
Projection Design .....	Chris Uehlinger
Sound Design (Music) .....	Lee Conderacci
Sound Design (Technical) .....	Chris Uehlinger
Costume Design .....	April Forrer
Wig/Makeup Design .....	Penelope Chan
Set Design .....	Lee Conderacci
Set Build .....	Bruce Kapplin Jay Demarco
Intimacy Choreography .....	Lee Conderacci
Dramaturg .....	Lee Conderacci
Photographer .....	Shealyn Jae Photography
Marketing/PR .....	Audra M Mullen Sydney Marks Su Kim
Graphic Design .....	Sarah Hepworth
Box Office/Front of House .....	Michael Kranick
Producers .....	Thomas Peter Anthony Rufo

## *Special Thanks*

**Annie Conderacci for prop support**

**Ric Chiapetta and the Loyola Blakefield Players  
for costume support**



For more than a century, Vagabond Players has been powered by the passion, creativity, and dedication of local artists and audiences. We celebrate the vibrant connection between this historic theatre group and the community that built it — and continues to sustain it

From actors stepping onto our stage for the first time to audience members who have filled our seats for generations, Vagabond Players remains a living testament to Baltimore's artistic spirit. As one of the oldest continuously operating community theatres in the country, we are proud to provide opportunities for local talent while presenting compelling, accessible theatre for our community.

## Shining the spotlight on two extraordinary leaders whose dedication ensured Vagabond Players' survival and growth for nearly a century:

**Helen Penniman** joined the board in 1917 and guided the organization through decades of growth, serving as board president until her retirement in 1961. During a time when many theatre groups transitioned toward professional models, Penniman remained steadfast in her belief that Vagabond Players should remain rooted in community theatre. Her unwavering commitment to showcasing local talent helped establish the artistic foundation that still defines the company today.



Penniman's vision was carried forward by **John Bruce Johnson**, who joined Vagabond Players as an actor in 1960 and soon became one of its most influential leaders. Serving as board president for 30 years, Johnson oversaw the theatre's move to its current historic home in Fells Point and helped define its signature programming style — presenting innovative, popular productions while occasionally introducing bold and adventurous works.

The leadership, passion, and dedication of Penniman and Johnson ensured that community theatre would not only survive in Baltimore — it would thrive.

***We Are Vagabonds. We Are Baltimore.***  
***Share your story with us: [www.WeAreVagabonds.org](http://www.WeAreVagabonds.org)***



# VAGABOND ANGELS

Become an Angel today!  
Support the arts, remember a loved one,  
or honor a fellow theatre lover.

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(Contributions of \$1,000 or more)

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Terry J. Long*  
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Tom Smith and Joann Bodurtha  
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Suzanne Keilson  
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Vagabond Players is a recipient of grants from the  
Abell Foundation and the Maryland State Arts Council.





# JOIN US FOR THE REST OF OUR SEASON!

MAY 29 – JUNE 21, 2026

## *The* **DIVINE SISTER**

Written by Charles Busch

Directed by Steve Goldklang

An outrageously campy satire of nun-themed cinema, this fast-paced, genre-blending farce follows the indomitable Mother Superior as she confronts visions, school scandals, and long-buried secrets. In a world still wrestling with the boundaries of belief, identity, and tradition THE DIVINE SISTER reminds us how humor can be a divine force in itself.

## THINK YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A PART OF OUR PRODUCTIONS?

Visit our website, sign up for our e-newsletter, and follow us on social media to learn about our auditions and behind-the-scenes opportunities.

We welcome artists of all backgrounds and experience levels to join us and be a part of bringing high quality theatre to Baltimore.

## BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Have you been involved in a production for Vagabond Players? Whether on the stage or behind the scenes, once you've participated in a production you are eligible to become a Vagabond Players member.

Visit our Opportunities page to learn more.



Learn more about our  
**110<sup>TH</sup> SEASON**  
at [vagabondplayers.org](http://vagabondplayers.org)



*Celebrate*  
**110** YEARS  
OF BALTIMORE  
THEATRE