

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Before selecting *I Love You Because*, we went through numerous titles looking for a piece that would complement our previous musical productions, *The Last Five Years* and *John & Jen*. There are well over a hundred small musicals we could have considered, but many of them were missing something important: tuneful music, intelligent lyrics, a relatable subject, or most importantly, a script with the right combination of humor and heart.

A musical may have great dance numbers and catchy songs, but in order to have lasting success, it needs characters we relate to and care about. Regardless of how different from us they may be, something draws us to the contemptible Sweeney Todd and Nellie Lovett; or to Mimi and Roger and their tragic plight in *Rent*.

The characters in *I Love You Because* are more familiar. They're our friends and family members – or possibly even ourselves. This relatability made sitcoms or musicals like *Friends* and *Avenue Q* successful, and explains why New York audiences fell so in love with this particular heartfelt, contemporary love story.

Thank you for being here tonight. We hope you enjoy our production and remember that love can be found in the most unlikely of places.



Michael McKelvey
Director

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Joe Carpenter, Jed Cecil, Anne Phillips and St. Edward's University. We would also like to thank our program print sponsor, Minuteman Press of Round Rock.

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals and businesses for their financial support.

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Penfold Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

ABOUT PENFOLD

Penfold Theatre Company began in the summer of 2007 with a simple purpose: to open and operate a live, professional theatre for the north Austin metro area.

Since that time, Penfold has provided three years of award-winning performances and education programs. *As I Love You Because* rounds out our current season, we're looking ahead to a new line-up in beginning in the fall. 2011-12 promises to be our most ambitious season to date!

In the meantime, our education team is offering an array of summer camps for students grades K-7. If you're still looking for a safe place where your kids can learn and play, stop by our website to see what camp might fit your child the best.

You can always learn more about what's going on at Penfold by visiting us online at www.penfoldtheatre.org.

Thank you for choosing to spend your evening with us. We hope you enjoy the show!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Julie Cowan
Ryan Crowder
Charles Dupre
Darrell Gest
Nathan Jerkins

Cathy Kincaid
Judy McLeod
Ashley Morgan
Lisa Roebuck
Kris Whitfield

Penfold Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to opening and operating a professional theatre in the north Austin metro area. Our mission is to empower artists to create work of the highest caliber and to engage diverse audiences through stories that inspire and impact our community.

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE

BY JOSHUA SALZMAN AND RYAN CUNNINGHAM

CAST

Austin Andrew Cannata
Jeff Tyler Jones
Marcy Haley Smith
Diana Amy Downing
New York City Man Stephen Jack
New York City Woman Sarah Marie Curry

MUSICIANS

Piano Steve Suagey
Percussion Trevor Detling

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Michael McKelvey
Stage Manager Stephanie Delk
Costume Designer Glenda Barnes
Projection Designer Andrew Lazarow
Lighting Designer Monty Taylor
Set Designer David Utley
Technical Director / Props Master Nathan Jerkins
Set Construction Harry Connor, Jay Reese, Katherine Tully
Backstage Crew Hannah Fonder, Caitlyn Jackson

COMPANY

Producing Artistic Director Ryan Crowder
Managing Director Zena Vaughn
Associate Artistic Director Nathan Jerkins
Associate Artistic Director Sean Martin
Production Manager Will Culbertson

ABOUT THE CAST

Andrew Cannata (*Austin*) Penfold: “John” in *John & Jen* - B. Iden Payne Award. Other: “Mark” in *Rent* (Zach Theatre); “Freddy” in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Georgetown Palace); and many others. Andrew has been performing for Austin audiences for the last six years.

Sarah Marie Curry (*New York City Woman*) Penfold: debut. Other: *Company* (Doctuh Mistuh Productions); *Girls Girls Girls*; and many others. Sarah has been performing for over twelve years as an actor, singer and improviser.

Amy Downing (*Diana*) Penfold: debut. Other: *Hairspray*, *Spelling Bee*, *High School Musical* - B. Iden Payne Award (Zach Theatre); *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Austin Playhouse); *Heddatron*, *Black Snow* (Paper Chairs); *Trapped Family Singers*, *Medea Machine* (NYC Fringe Festival); “Sally Bowles” in *Cabaret* (National Tour); Amy studied musical theatre at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and received a BFA in Acting from Ithaca College.

Stephen Jack (*New York City Man*) Penfold: debut. Other: *Rent* (Zach Theatre), “Joseph” in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, “Tom Sawyer” in *Big River*, “Enselmo” in *Man of La Mancha*, “Brad” in *Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Georgetown Palace).

Tyler Jones (*Jeff*) Penfold: debut. Other: *The Lonesome West* (Hyde Park Theatre); *Spirits to Enforce* (Capital T Theatre); *Getting Married*, *The Beard of Avon*, *The Hollow* (Different Stages); *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Music Man* (Zilker Theatre Productions), *Death of a Salesman* - B. Iden Payne Award, *How the Other Half Loves* (City Theatre).

Haley Smith (*Marcy*) Penfold: *A Marvelous Party!* Other: *Company* (Doctuh Mistuh Productions); *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Urinetown*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Zach Theatre); *The Music Man*, *Into the Woods* (Zilker Theatre Productions); *A Funny Thing...Forum*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Austin Playhouse). Haley has a BA in theatre and dance and an MA in Speech Language Pathology from UT.

Introducing our 2011-12 Season!

SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS, *August 4-21*. Filled with plot twists and Marx brothers-style slapstick, this laugh-out-loud comedy for all ages is based on the beloved characters of commedia dell'arte. With nightly pre-shows by other Austin performing arts groups, this free outdoor performance is our second annual “Penfold in the Park” show at the Round Rock Amphitheater.

GHOSTS, *October 13 – November 5*. Tomorrow, a new orphanage will be dedicated in honor of the late Captain Alving, but his widow is haunted by the ghosts of family secrets. Keeping these secrets may prove an impossible burden, but exposing them could spell ruin for the entire family. This masterpiece of modern drama is produced in partnership with Breaking String Theatre.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO SHOW, *December 2-17*. On Christmas Eve 1946, members of the WBFR radio station are coming together for a live radio performance of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Five actors and one foley artist bring the entire story to life before your eyes. In this imaginative re-incarnation of a cherished holiday tradition, you'll fall in love with George Bailey and his timeless tale of despair, redemption and hope all over again.

THE PAVILION, *Late Spring 2012*. It's been twenty years since Peter and Kari stared at each other from across the dance floor of the old pavilion. Navigating through a sea of friends at their high school reunion (all played by a single omniscient Narrator), they make the painful journey to rediscover each other and what time may yet have in store for them. Often hailed as the *Our Town* of our day, *The Pavilion* is an award-winning chamber drama rife with poetry, humor, depth and romance.

Sign up today for a season ticket package and enjoy all the year's offerings at a fraction of the cost!
To get started, visit www.penfoldtheatre.org.

Abilene Shakespeare Festival, Abilene Christian University, Ballet Austin, and Zachary Scott Theatre, among others.

Sean Martin (*Associate Artistic Director*) is an actor and director who has collaborated on over 30 theatrical and film productions worldwide in places like New York, Chicago, London, and Mexico. Before co-founding Penfold Theatre Company, Sean trained at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) and earned the Silver Medal from the British Academy for Dramatic Combat, in recognition for his accomplishment as a stage combatant. He has returned to LAMDA, where he is currently pursuing a post-graduate certificate in directing.

Zena Vaughn (*Managing Director*) While in Chicago, Zena served as the Managing Director of the Raven Theatre Company. She oversaw a 1000% increase in season ticket holders and executed the highest grossing production in the organizations' 27-year history. During her tenure, Raven received top honors from the Joseph Jefferson Committee, Chicago's body that celebrates excellence in theatre. Prior to her stint in Chicago, Zena was a company member of Austin's Coda Theatre Project, which was named in the top ten companies that are "charging up Austin theatre" by the Austin Chronicle in 2006. Zena holds a Masters Degree in Non Profit Management from DePaul University in Chicago, a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre from Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, and is a 2001 Round Rock High School graduate.

Thank you to our advertising partners

Sam Bass Community Theatre, presenting
The Tempest Project, May 20th – June 11th
Youth Guild Performance, coming in July and August
www.sambasstheatre.org

Way Off Broadway Community Players, presenting
Sin, Sex and the CIA, June 3rd – 25th
www.wobcp.org

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Glenda Barnes (*Costume Designer*) is proud to be working on her fifth production with Penfold! Happily homegrown in Texas, she received her BFA in Costume Design at Texas State University and currently teaches 16 two year olds in Cedar Park, TX. Glenda previously designed *Going With Jenny*, *John & Jen*, *Three Days of Rain* and *The Last 5 Years* for Penfold. Other credits include costume design for *The 39 Steps*, *Frost / Nixon* and *Heroes* for Austin Playhouse and makeup design for Doctuh Mistuh's *Evil Dead: the Musical*. Her next project will be designing costumes for Summer Stock's *Urinetown*.

Stephanie Delk (*Stage Manager*) is very happy to be working with such a talented cast and crew on her first Penfold show. She has stage managed for Hidden Room Theatre and Scottish Rite Children's Theatre and has been involved with such works as *You Wouldn't Know Her*, *Parlour of the Brothers Grimm*, and *Taming of the Shrew*. She is a graduate of Berklee College of Music's Business Management Program.

Andrew Lazarow (*Projection Designer*) is thrilled to be in Austin, working with Penfold. He has been recognized by Apple for "Outstanding Achievement in Film," and recently contributed to *A Devil Pokes the Actor*, by John Nobbs. Andrew's next project is designing videos for the Dalai Lama and the 2011 Kalachakra for World Peace in Washington DC. He recently moved from Seattle, where he co-founded the Satori Group, to New York, where is pursuing a Masters Degree from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Michael McKelvey (*Stage and Musical Director*). This marks Michael's third collaboration with Penfold. Their previous ventures have yielded two Outstanding Production of a Musical Awards from The Austin Critics' Table (*The Last Five Years* and *John & Jen*). His most recent stage/musical director credits include *Carousel*, *City of Angels*, *The Pajama Game* (Mary Moody Northern

Penfold theatre camps coming this summer!

Find the camp that's right for you

With Pflugerville ISD, Grades K-2, June 6th – 10th
With Pflugerville ISD, Grades 3-6, June 20th – 24th
With Round Rock ISD, Grades 3-5, July 11th – 24th
With Cordovan Art School, Ages 9 – 12, August 8th – 12th

www.penfoldtheatre.org

Theatre); *Annie* (Zilker Theatre Productions), *Sweeney Todd, Assassins* (Summer Stock Austin), *Company* and *Evil Dead: The Musical* (Doctuh Mistuh Productions). He has won numerous awards for stage and music directing and has been honored with the Austin Critics' Table John Bustin Award for his versatility. He is the Artistic Director of Summer Stock Austin, The Performers' Workshop and Doctuh Mistuh Productions; Coordinator of Music and Director of Musical Theatre for St. Edward's University; and an Artistic Associate of Penfold Theatre Company. In the fall, Michael will be moving to Pittsburgh to serve as Head of Voice for Point Park University's nationally renowned Conservatory of Performing Arts. He plans to continue his relationship with Penfold and maintain his own production company in the great city of Austin. Thanks to Nathan, Ryan and Sean for the never wavering support.

Monty Taylor (*Lighting Designer*) is a New York based lighting designer. He, David Utlely and Andrew Lazarow are currently working on developing a multimedia opera with the folk-duo The Bengsons. He is a member of Seattle's Satori Group. Monty is developing an integrated show control and production management system and speaks regularly at Open Source conferences worldwide. He studied in the MFA lighting program at CalArts and got his BFA in directing from Abilene Christian University.

David Utlely (*Set Designer*) is thrilled to be working again with his friends at Penfold Theatre Company. David received his Master of Fine Arts from the University of Texas. He is a member of The Art Director's Guild and his film credits include, *Man of the House*, *Elvis and Anabelle*, *Homo Erectus*, *Rendition*, *The Express*, and *The Proposal*. David designs scenery for theatres around the country and has assisted Tony award winner David Gallo and Emmy award winner John Iaccovelli. David currently and beautiful wife Megan currently live in Los Angeles, where he is Art Director for TV shows like *Men of a Certain Age* (with Ray Romano) and *Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

Next on stage: *Servant of Two Masters*

August 4th – 21st

Filled with disguises, plot twists and Marx brothers-style slapstick, *Servant of Two Masters* is a laugh-out-loud comedy for all ages based on the beloved characters of commedia dell'arte. With nightly pre-shows by other Austin performing arts groups, this free outdoor performance is our second annual "Penfold in the Park" show at the Round Rock Amphitheater.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ryan Crowder (*Producing Artistic Director*) has worked in some of the nation's finest professional theatres. Most recent acting credits include *The Complete Works of Shakespeare Abridged* (Penfold), *Love's Labor's Lost* (Austin Shakespeare) and *Taming of the Shrew* (Hidden Room Theatre), for which he won the Austin Critics' Table and B. Iden Payne Awards for Acting in a Lead Role. Ryan is also a teacher, director and fight choreographer, who has coached performers of every age and education level, from elementary to graduate school. He holds an MFA from the Professional Actor Training Program at Ohio University and a BFA from Abilene Christian University. Beyond that, Ryan has trained with two Tony-Award winning regional theatres, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Will Culbertson (*Production Manager*) joins Penfold with a very diverse background in the performing arts. Most recently, Will served as the Production Manager for *Conspire*, the Grammy-nominated professional choir based here in Austin. Will has also held administrative positions at The Paramount Theatre, The Knox-Galesburg Symphony, and Nova Singers. Will received his BA in Theatre and Music from Knox College, and is a 4th Degree Black Belt and instructor at the Mu Sool Won Martial Arts headquarters in Austin.

Nathan Jerkins (*Associate Artistic Director*) has been a professional actor here in Austin for 6 years and has received multiple awards and nominations for his many roles on stage. In addition to acting, he works as a freelance stage technician. Nathan has also taught theatre in non-profit and public school settings, and prior to becoming a founding member of Penfold Theatre Company, he also participated in the founding of the Itinerate Theatre Company, which performed for audiences in Abilene and Dallas. Recent acting credits include productions at Scottish Rite Children's Theatre, Abilene Shakespeare Festival, Austin Shakespeare, Austin City Theatre, and Itinerate Theatre Company. Design and technical credits include productions at