

ACC DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Presents

Augustin Daly's

Under The Gaslight

Directed by
Shelby Brammer

Music by
Billy Wolfe

Lighting & Set Design Peter Sukovaty
Costume Designer Laura Del Villaggio

Props Mistress Tara Powers
Technical Director W.T. Bryant

Setting

The play takes place in New York City, 1867

List of Scenes

Act I

Scene I Parlor at the Courtlands

Scene II Gentlemen's coat room at Delmonico's

Scene III The Blue Room at Delmonico's

Act II

Scene I Basement apartment

Act III

Scene I The Tombs Police Court

Scene II Exterior of the Tombs

Scene III Pier 30, North River

INTERMISSION

Act IV

Scene I Long Branch – Courtland's country home

Scene II Woods near Shrewsbury Train Station

Scene III Railroad Station at Shrewsbury Bend

Act V

Scene I Boudoir at Long Branch – Courtland's country home

About the Playwright

Augustin Daly, Theater Critic, Playwright, and Theatrical Manager, held a life-long interest in the stage. When he was a young man, he joined amateur theatrical

productions in New York, and by the age of twenty, he had staged a production in a rented hall in Brooklyn.

Following his early involvement in theater management, he spent ten years as a drama critic for several periodicals where he honed his writing skills and immersed himself in New York City's theater life.

Daly also enjoyed developing and nurturing new actors, whereas other managers sought out accomplished and well established actors for their shows. Many performers were trained in Daly's company, some with names still recognizable in the 21st century.

Daly had great success adapting German and French plays prior to *Under the Gaslight*, the first play he wrote from his own concept. Its success on Broadway further established his reputation as a playwright.

In 1869, Daly leased the Fifth Avenue Theater and established his own acting company. He operated this theater to critical success until it burned down in 1871. He moved to the New York Theater and continued to manage productions and write plays until his death in 1899.

The Cast

Anna McConnell (Laura) Anna Marcella McConnell is happy to be returning to the Mainstage Theater at Austin Community College. Anna is a drama major, and is currently in her third semester and second production at ACC. She is grateful for the opportunity she has received in working with such a wonderful production cast and crew. Anna would like to send her love and gratitude to her family and friends for their undying love

and support. Without them, she would not be the person she is today.

Enoch Tamez (Ray) Enoch Tamez has always been interested in theatrical arts. From a young age he has always acted, but this is Enoch's first on-stage production. He would like to thank his parents and family for their support through the good times and the bad. Without them he could not be where he is today. On a personal note, Enoch enjoys eating food and watching the rain, when it decides to show up in Texas.

Rae Petersen (Old Judas) Currently a drama student at ACC, Rae has been active in Austin area theatre since 2007. She's appeared in *Dream Sequence*, *Bloomingdale's Elephants*, *Christmas Belles*, *Red Balloon*, *Necessary Targets*, *Betty's Summer Vacation*, *Oedipus*, *Circus Absurdist* and *Blithe Spirit*. After *Gaslight*, Rae's next project is *Night, Mother* with Way Off Broadway Community Players in February in Leander. Rae is grateful for the opportunity to work with this talented cast and crew. She would like to say thank you to family and friends for their encouragement and to dedicate this performance to her sister, Sheryl.

Paul Wright (Byke) was last seen onstage in Zachary Scott Theatre's production of *The Grapes of Wrath* (Uncle John). Before that, in ACC's production of *Proof* (Robert), directed by Shelby Brammer. Other favorite roles include Monika Bustamonte's *Stillborn* (Clay) at Hyde Park Theatre, *How I Learned to Drive* (Uncle Peck), *You Can't*

Take it With You (Mr. DePinna), *That Championship Season* (Phil Romano), *Well of the Saints* (Martin Doull), *Our Town* (Doc Gibbs), *The Crucible* (Giles Corey), *Macbeth* (Banquo) for ASF, *Uncle Vanya* (Serebryakov), *The Seagull* (Shamraev), *Down the Road* (Dan Henniman), and *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (Senator Wingwoah) for Austin Musical Theatre. Other theatre acting credits include *A Ballad of the West* (Nat Fitzgerald) in Wyoming and *Dead Innocence* (Samuel Smith) at the Cambridge Drama Centre, England. Some of his Film acting credits include *Rock Opera*, James Michenor's *Texas*, *The Underneath*, *Ballad of the Sad Cafe*, *American Outlaws*, *The Wendell Baker Story*, *Friday Night Lights*, and *Infamous*. Television credits include three episodes of *Walker Texas Ranger* and *Prison Break*. Mr. Wright received his training at The University of Houston, under the direction of Cecil Pickett. He is thrilled to be able to play with such a talented group of actors and designers.

David Yeakle (Snorkey) has been the Producing Artistic Director of Tongue and Groove Theatre in Austin since 1995 and for fifteen years he was artist-in-residence with Fort Worth's innovative Hip Pocket Theatre. For 23 years, he has been on the Texas Commission on the Arts Artist-in-Education roster. Currently, he is a lecturer in the Theatre and Dance Department at the University of Texas at Austin and an adjunct associate professor in the Drama department at Austin Community College. Since 1973, David has performed in, choreographed, or directed over a hundred productions throughout the U.S. and Great Britain. Last summer, David directed Bill Irwin's adaptation of *The Three Cuckolds* at The Warehouse

Theatre in Greenville, South Carolina while his stage adaptation of *The Red Balloon*, presented by Tongue and Groove, received 5 B. Iden Payne awards in 2008, plus a special citation for outstanding achievement in original animation. Last semester, David played the part of "Prologue" in the ACC production of *The Flu Season* and performed in Rubber Repertory's notorious *Mr. Z Loves Company*. This summer he costarred in Hip Pocket Theatre's *The Ugly Brothers Present a Perfectly Lovely Play Featuring the Quiver Sisters and Their Pretty Little Ways* in Fort Worth. David has studied commedia dell'arte at the Dell Arte School of Physical Theatre in California and Mask technique with Donato Sartori at Centro Maschere in Abano Terme, Italy. An associate member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, David holds a BFA in modern dance from Texas Christian University and an MFA in directing from the University of Texas.

Gillian Corcoran (Mrs. Van Dam) has just recently moved to Austin from her native Ireland. She has been interested in theatre and performing from an early age, experiences including recitation in both English and her native Irish language, Irish dance, singing and acting. Most of Gillian's stage experience has been in Ireland and she is excited to have this opportunity to perform in the US. Gillian would like to thank you for attending our stage production and invites you to suspend your disbelief for the next two hours and join us for this journey into other times.

Senait Fessahaye (Peachblossom) is an actor from Houston who resides in Austin. A recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, she has been performing theatre in Austin for almost two years. Past performances from this year include *Br'er Wood* (as "Noone") and *Love Me* (as "Melusine"). She would like to thank Shelby for this lovely opportunity and Marcus for his continued support.

Hailey Tuck (Pearl) an Austin native, is so pleased to be returning to work with Shelby and former fellow cast members from *Proof*, Emily Robinson and Paul Wright! You can see her again as a soloist in the ACC musical *1940's Radio Hour* which will open at the One World Theatre in November, and in the ACC college choir performing in Carnegie Hall in April. In other big news, this semester she is preparing for her January audition into Juilliard Drama program, so wish her luck!

Arthur Adair (Judge Bowling) at ACC serves as an adjunct professor of theatre, department production coordinator, technical staff assistant, and founding member/advisor to the Experimental Student Performance Lab at ACC. For the Arts and Humanities Division, Mr. Adair serves as project manager to Carnival ah!, and director of ACC at The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, to which he is also the present Region VI, vice-coordinator of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society Student Directing Initiative. In his spare time he presides over a courtroom in 1867 NYC.

Sebastian Garcia (Splinter/Samuel) Sebastian is happy to be a part of this production, and would like to thank the ACC community of students, staff, and faculty for the opportunity to participate.

McAllen Halsey (Windell/Raffardi) was born with a script in his hand and a gleam in his eye. He's been involved in several drama productions throughout his life. His favorite role so far has been Mercutio in a 2001 production of *Romeo and Juliet*. McAllen does the most outstanding voice impersonations this side of the Colorado River. He's involved with ACC's Experimental Student Performance Lab, where he plans to write and perform scenes, monologues, and produce his own full-length musical drama.

Emily Robinson (Sue Earlie) Emily is majoring in Drama and Psychology. She has been acting for 6 years, most recently appearing in *What the Bellhop Saw* and *Grease*. She would like to dedicate this performance to Irene Robinson.

Zach Leos (Martin) This is Zach's first ACC production. One day he hopes to win an Oscar for his performances in either Best Actor category or Best Supporting Actor. He'd like to dedicate this performance to his mom, Cynthia Leos, and brother, Justin Leos, for always believing in him. He also wants to thank Shelby for giving him the opportunity.

Evan Avery (Demilt/9-9-9) Evan is happy to be a part of this production, and would like to extend special thanks to his friends and family for their encouragement throughout this process.

Joshua Mayes (Bermudas) "was born and the earth stood still." He has been performing all his life and was in numerous productions during his high school career. This is his debut at the ACC Theater and is happy he got a chance to be a part of such a fantastic cast. He would like to thank his mother and Beyonce for being his inspirations.

Peg Patrone (Belva/Ensemble) Peg's debut on the ACC stage as Marion the Librarian in the 2009 production of *In 2 the West*, encouraged her to make theater her next career. Peg is delighted to be playing Suffragette Belva Rickman in *Under the Gaslight*. She'd like to thank her almost-grandpa Gabby Hayes for his inspiration and her husband Phil for his enthusiasm and support.

Te'Juana Mae Johnson (Carlotta/Ensemble) This is Tey's second year at ACC. She is ecstatic to have the opportunity to be in this production. Her recent work includes the movie *Conflict of Interest* and *Friday Night Lights*. She would like to thank her ACC teachers for always bringing out the best in her, and, of course, her parents— especially her mom for the encouraging words to her when she wanted to give up.

Andrew Petry (Signal Man) Andrew is deeply grateful to our audiences for their continued support of the ACC drama program.

Amanda Forsyth (Ensemble) Amanda is happy to be a part of this production, and would like to thank the ACC community for the opportunity to participate.

Irvin Lewis (Ensemble) "I am a sophomore at ACC, originally from New Orleans, LA. It is my first ever stage production and I am very excited about it. I give much thanks to ACC for the opportunity, and hope it leads to many more productions. I'm sure I'll get a lead role one day. I will stop talking now because I know you came here to see *Under The Gaslight*. But in case you were wondering, my major is Business Administration. Maybe I should minor in this..."

Lizzy Gonzalez (Ensemble) Lizzy would like to thank the ACC community of students, staff, and faculty for the opportunity to participate.

Spirit Mauge (Ensemble) Spirit is a freshman at ACC from Plano, Texas. She just started actively pursuing her acting goals, having previously appeared in only two other shows. She is very excited to be a part of this production. She is dedicating this performance to her sister, without whom she would not push herself.

Victoria Broughton (Ensemble) Victoria is a sophomore at ACC from Galveston, TX. She has been involved in theater and singing since she was a little girl. She was in One Act plays at Ranchview High School and is very happy to be a part of this production! She would like to dedicate this performance to her grandmother, Jacqueline.

The Production Team

Shelby Brammer (Director) After working as an actress, Shelby started writing, directing, and producing in NYC and later attended the Playwrights Workshop at the University of Iowa, receiving her MFA in playwriting and directing in 1995. Now Department Chair for the ACC Drama Department, she has directed *The Lucky Spot*, *Lysistrata*, *Celebration*, *Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, *A Phoenix Too Frequent*, *Suburbia*, *The Avant-Garde Event*, *Hair*, *Anything Goes*, *Blood Wedding* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, and *Proof* at ACC. Shelby recently returned from sabbatical after having written *Liz Estrada*, a screenplay based on Aristophanes' play, *Lysistrata*, and writing/producing/ directing a film, *The Flea Circus*, based on the novel, *The Gay Place*.

Billy Wolfe (Musical Direction) is back for more musical direction with the ACC Drama Department after previously musically directing *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum* (2006), *Anything Goes* (2005), and *Celebration* (2001). Billy currently works with Michael McKelvey's Performers Workshop, a college-prep course for high school students applying for admission to

performing arts programs across the country. He wrote the music and lyrics to last year's smash hit *Go Lysistrata* at University of Colorado, Boulder. Billy is also the music director at Ballet Austin, where he has worked since 1988. He has taught music at St. Michael's Academy, and currently gives private piano lessons. He also works as a freelance pianist, composer and accompanist all over Austin.

Peter Sukovaty (Set and Light Design)- Peter holds a B.F.A. from Cal Arts and attended graduate school at the University of Iowa where he designed both sets and lights for many productions. In Austin, he has designed at Zachary Scott theatre, Capital City Playhouse, The Vortex Theatre, and the Scottish Rite Theatre. Currently an ACC instructor in theatre, he has also designed sets and/or lights for ACC's productions of *Angel City*, *The Lucky Spot*, *Lysistrata*, *Locked in the Arms of a Crazy Life*, *Beyond Therapy*, *Our Town*, *Celebration*, *A Phoenix Too Frequent*, *Suburbia*, *The Avant-Garde Event*, *Hair*, *Somewhere West of Love*, *Push-up*, *Anything Goes*, *Blood Wedding*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Funnyhouse of a Negro*.

Laura Del Villaggio (Costume Designer) comes to theater with over 20 years experience in fashion history, design, and construction, including a Master of Arts from FIT in New York. Her theater credits include the touring musical play *A Ride with Bob* featuring Asleep at the Wheel and the latest Tuna installment *Tuna Does Vegas* starring Joe Sears and Jaston Williams. She designed the

costumes for ACC's production of *Proof* in Fall 2008 and is delighted to be back for the 2009-10 productions. When she is not backstage, Laura enjoys making custom hats and headpieces for "Milli Starr" and spending time with her family.

Tara Powers (Property Mistress) Tara graduated from the University of San Diego with a Liberal Arts degree. A few of her credits include *Harvey*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Far Away*, *Funnyhouse of a Negro*, *Suessical the Musical*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Anything Goes*. Tara would like to thank Randy Krall for his guidance and inspiration, and Dennis Whitehead for the nickname "Tenacious T."

W.T.Bryant (Production Specialist) An actor, director, and designer, W.T. serves as both Production Specialist at the ACC Drama Department, and as Drama faculty currently teaching acting. He received an MA from SWT in 1992. For ACC, he has directed *Angel City*, and has appeared in ACC's productions of *The Tempest*, and *Push Up*, both directed by Guy Roberts.

Marcus McQuirter (Producer) is an Assistant Professor in the Drama Department, Arts & Humanities. McQuirter received his B.F.A. in Theatre Arts from Howard University in Washington, DC and an M.A. in Theatre from the University of North Texas. McQuirter is deeply in love with his wife Brandy, and he is crazy about their kids Hannah, Ezra, and Kaia.

Josh McGlasson (Stage Manager) Josh McGlasson is excited to be working with such a talented group of actors. His acting credits include *The White Rabbit* in *Alice in Wonderland* William Henry Blore in *Agatha Christie's Ten Little Indians* and Bassett in D.H. Lawrence's *The Rocking Horse Winner*. Josh's would like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support. Josh would also like to give special thanks to his theatrical mentor, Meg Belanger, for building the foundation of his theatre education.

Miranda Guillory (Assistant Stage Manager) has been an active Thespian since 2001. She has worked in numerous other productions including *Rumors*, *J.B.*, *Servant of Two Masters*, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, *Dark Side of the Moon*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Machinal*, *Edward II*, and *The Laramie Project*.

Paul Horton (Sound Operator) Paul is happy to be a part of this production and would like to thank the ACC community of students, staff, and faculty for the opportunity to participate.

Matt Bencomo (Lightboard Operator) Amazingly, Matt is also happy to be a part of this production and would also like to thank the ACC community of students, staff, and faculty for the opportunity to participate. Josh, I love you man!

**The Austin Community College
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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels. Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for inclusion at the KCACTF regional festival and can also be considered for invitation to the KCACTF national festival at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in the spring of 2010.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide.

By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

Please visit our website for these upcoming events:
<http://www.austincc.edu/drama/>

- **The Fall Choreographer's Showcase**
 - Friday, Dec 5-6th
 - Rio Grande Campus Main Theatre
 - **An Evening of Scenes & Monologues**
 - Tuesday, Dec 8th
 - Rio Grande Campus Gallery Theater
 - **The Spring Choreographer's Showcase**
 - Friday, May 8th – Saturday May 9th
 - Rio Grande Campus Main Theatre
 - **An Evening of Scenes & Monologues**
 - Tuesday, May 11th .
 - Rio Grande Campus Main Theatre
-



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