

chapel street players 2025 – 2026



AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

written by Tracy Letts
directed by Marsha Amato Greenspan

9/19 - 9/27 2025

RUMORS



written by Neil Simon
directed by Michelle Cullen

11/7 - 11/15 2025



PYGMALION

written by George Bernard Shaw
directed by Gwen Armstrong-Barker

2/20 - 2/28 2026

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE



written by Joseph Kesselring
directed by Kathleen Mooney

4/17 - 4/25 2026



the
George Gope



PLAYWRITING FESTIVAL

3/6 - 3/7 2026

Reneé G. O'Leary FUNdraiser

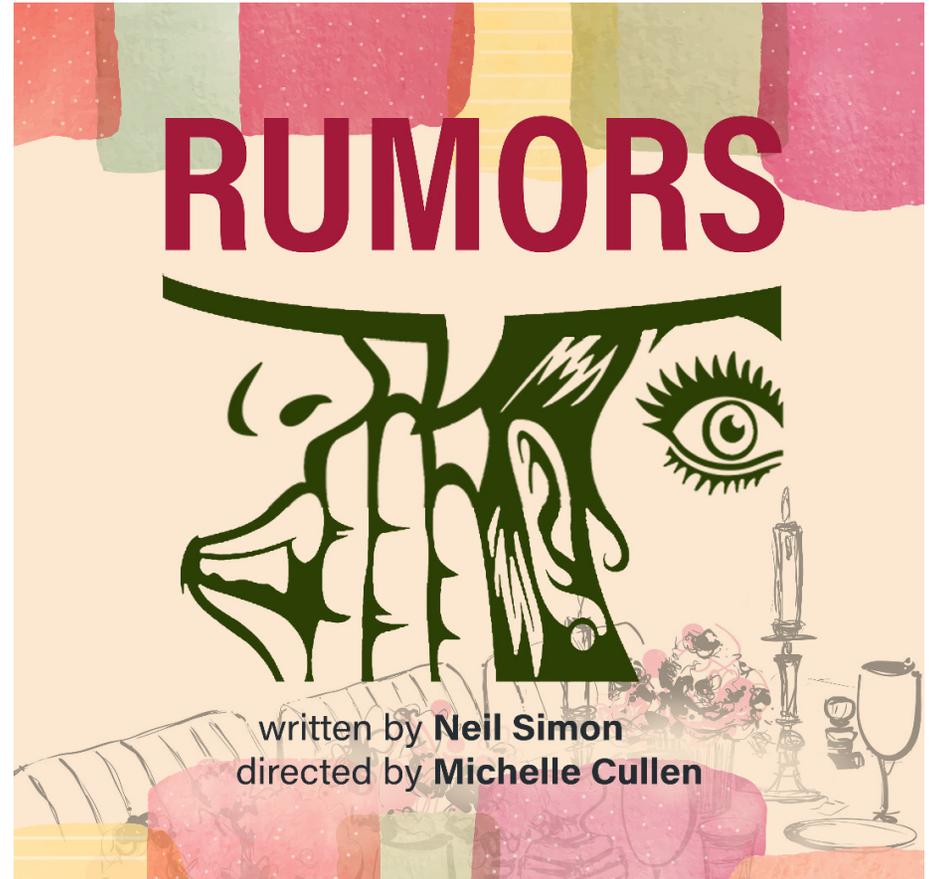


book by Chris D'Arienz
arrangements/orchestrations by Ethan Popp
directed by Jeff Robleto
music directed by Jessica Lorin Tanner

6/12 - 6/27 2026



SCAN TO PURCHASE SEASON PACKAGES
OR INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ONLINE TODAY!



RUMORS

written by Neil Simon
directed by Michelle Cullen

November 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 2025 @ 8:00 p.m.
November 9, 15 Matinee @ 2:00 p.m.

Delaware
Division of the
Arts
This is supported, in part,
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President's Note

Dear Chapel Street Players Patrons

Welcome or welcome back to Chapel Street Players! We are thrilled that you have joined us for the second show of our 91st season! I am amazed that we celebrated our first full year in this amazing space just a week before opening night of *RUMORS!* In that time, we have staged five regular season shows, one musical FUNdraiser, two showcases with partners, partnered with the Forgetful Squirrels and had three improv nights, held auditions, rehearsals, planning meetings, board meetings, became the new home for the Newark Independent Film Festival and hosted a Spooky Film weekend. Whew! This group and this community never cease to amaze me! To our returning patrons, thank you for your continuing support; if you are a new patron-welcome! We hope we entice you to stay with us for the next 91 seasons!

I know first hand the level of production you are about to experience. As a member of this terrific cast, I can say that Michelle as our director and the cast and crew have dedicated substantial time, effort, and passion to bring this Neil Simon comedy to the stage. We really had fun doing it and I think you will see that come through in the performances.

As you likely know, CSP is an completely volunteer organization, from the great folks that welcomed you, sold you a ticket, snack or beverage to the many members of the cast and crew that bring the production to life on stage. It is an amazing group of volunteers and I am proud to be a part of this vibrant arts community. I invite you to join us in any capacity that works for you! If you are interested, please talk with the Board Member on Duty at intermission or following the show. You can also go to www.chapelstreetplayers.org/joinCSP to find out more about volunteering.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

— Frank Newton, President

Director's Note

Welcome to an evening of delightful mayhem! Neil Simon's *Rumors* is a hilarious play with quick wit and loads of physical comedy, but while you're laughing you may miss its underlying commentary on appearances, status and the lengths people will go to preserve their reputations.

Directing this show for CSP has been a true joy. I have always been a collaborative director, benefiting from the cast and crew's ideas to make the show better. This play is no different. From the characterizations and movement to the set design and build to the lighting, crew, props, and costumes, their contributions have elevated every moment. I couldn't be prouder of the incredible talent, dedication, and heart that everyone has poured into this show.

As the show begins and the chaos unfolds, I invite you to lean into the laughter, embrace the absurdity, and enjoy every twist and turn. Whether you're here for the belly laughs or playing sleuth to uncover what really happened, we're thrilled to share this unforgettable evening of theater with you. Thank you for supporting local arts.

With gratitude,

— Michelle Cullen, Director

[TAKE A SEAT]

Buy A Seat Today,
Be A Part of CSP Forever!



For more information or making donation, visit
<https://chapelstreetplayers.org/take-a-seat/>



Guest Artist on Gallery Wall

Abdul Alghali is a self-taught, multi-disciplined artist. He earned both an A.S. and a B.S. in Graphic Design. Abdul lives in Middletown, DE, and is a member of the Newark Arts Alliance.

STRIKE BUILD

Our next strike build is **Sunday, November 16, 1:00 pm.** Bring your power screwdrivers, painter's clothes, or whatever skills you have! Strike builds are for everyone, and if you have an interest in learning, this is an excellent opportunity. Coffee and some light snacks will be provided. This is a terrific opportunity to help the arts in your community and meet some new people!



Production Staff/Crew

Director Michelle Cullen
Stage Manager Callie Ann Marsalisi
Props Manager Pam Huxtable
Stage Hands Holly Baggett and Sophia Marianiello
Costumes Ann Matthews and Sarah Nathan
Specialty Costume Designer Jamie Foskett
Light Designer Chuck Auer
Light Operator Judy David
Sound Designer and Operator Alex Bock
Set Design Gary Kirchhof
Set Decoration Michelle Cullen
Strike/Build Cast/Crews of August: Osage County and Rumors
Set Construction Gary Kirchhof, Aaron Sherman, Shane Sherman
..... Doug Nichol, Ryan Troutman, Tom McCarty,
..... Dennis Merkle, Cast/Crew of Rumors
Set Painting Lydia MacMurray, Cast/Crew of Rumors
Technical Consultants Chuck Auer and Brian M. Touchette
Publicity Matt Ford
Program Cindy Starcher
Program Printing RCI Printing & Graphics
Box Office Peter Kuo & Friends of CSP
Ushers/Concessions Friends of CSP

Special Thanks

Marise Allen (Lenny's robe), Formal Affairs (tuxedos)
Peter Matthews (set furniture assistance)



Chapel Street Players Present

RUMORS

written by: **Neil Simon**

directed by: **Michelle Cullen**

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Chris Gorman **Kelley Bielewicz**
Ken Gorman **Christopher James**
Claire Ganz **Heather Ferrel**
Lenny Ganz **Frank Newton**
Ernie Cusack **Alan Harbaugh**
Cookie Cusack **Heather McCarty**
Glenn Cooper **C. Ryan Troutman**
Cassie Cooper **Katie Gorman**
Officer Welch **Shawn Kline**
Officer Pudney **Manthan Mehta**

Setting:

A house in Sneden's Landing, New York. An evening in June.

~ One fifteen-minute intermission ~

Who's Who

Kelley Bielewicz (*Chris Gorman*) was last seen on CSP's stage as Ollie Plunkett in *The Foxy Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh*. Previous CSP shows included *Come Back To The Five and Dime Jimmy Dean* (Edna Louise), and *Night Watch* (Blanche). She thanks her family for indulging her in this madness.

Heather Ferrel (*Claire Ganz*) returns to CSP after an 11 year hiatus, and has had nothing short of absolute fun with this production. She was last seen at CSP as Merteuil in *Les Liasons Dangeureses*. Other favorite roles include Sister Aloysius in *Doubt: A Parable*, Agnes White in *Bug*, Gabriella in *Boeing Boeing*, and Matilde in *The Clean House*. She thanks every member of the cast and crew for all the work and support given to each other. Glad to be back!

Katie Gorman (*Cassie Cooper*) is thrilled to be performing in her first production with CSP. She extends a heartfelt thank you to her family for their constant love and support, as well as to the cast and production team for their dedication and hard work. Katie's previous credits include *I Hate Hamlet* (Deirdre), *The Psychic* (Rita), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel), *Disney's Descendants: The Musical* (Fairy Godmother), and *The Prompt* (Megan), a short film produced at the Everett Theater, where she had the opportunity to bring her passion for storytelling to the screen. She's looking forward to creating even more memorable experiences with this production and is grateful for every moment she gets to share her craft with others.

Alan Harbaugh (*Ernie Cusack*) is excited to be performing in his first show on the new CSP stage in *Rumors*. Alan is a veteran of many CSP shows including the original *Rumors* production. Other favorite CSP shows were *The Nerd* (Rick - the nerd), *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare* (Jess), and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Harding). Other favorite productions are *The Boys Next Door* (Lucien P. Smith), *Moon Over Buffalo* (George), and *Hamlet* (Laertes). Alan also runs CSP's NEXT Playwriting group and the annual 24-Hour Playwriting Festival. If you have any interest in that, check out cspnext.org. Alan appreciates his family's support of his theatre ventures and he looks forward to supporting his wife, Deb, in her first ventures onto the stage as well!

Christopher James (*Ken Gorman*) is honored to return to the stage with CSP after his debut earlier this year as Simon Swallow in *The Foxy Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh*. Chris has wanted to be in *Rumors* ever since seeing it in high school, but other circumstances with earlobes always intervened, so thanks so much to Michelle for this opportunity. Other recent productions include *Angels in America* and *Mary Poppins* at Wilmington Drama League, and *SpongeBob* and *Spookley the Square Pumpkin* at Delaware Children's Theatre, where he can be seen again later this month in their production of *Shrek*. Many thanks to family and friends for their love and support!

Shawn Kline (*Officer Welch*) is excited to return to CSP in a play that took longer than 24 hours to stage. Past credits include *Barefoot in the Park* (Paul), *The Boys Next Door* (Norman), *Avenue Q* (Brian), *Rabbit Hole* (Howie), *An Ideal Husband* (Sir Robert), and *The Full Monty* (Dave). Thanks to Michelle and Callie for their direction and support, the cast and crew for the laughs, and especially Kelly for her love and endless encouragement. No animals were harmed during this production.

Heather McCarty (*Cookie Cusack*) is excited to be performing in the new CSP theater and is honored to take on the role of Cookie. Some of her favorite past roles include Pooty in *Reckless*, Helga in *Night Watch*, and Catherine in *And Miss Reardon Drinks a Little*. Heather thanks her family for their endless support and encouragement as she continues to pursue her dramatic passions. Enjoy the show!

Manthan Mehta (*Officer Pudney*) is thrilled to make his CSP debut! He is deeply grateful to the entire team for this beautiful opportunity. With big dreams and bold ambition, Manthan believes he is Bollywood Bound. He feels most at home on stage, in front of the camera, and immersed in the world of the Hindi Film Industry. He looks forward to continuing his exploration of the limitless art of acting. Recently, Manthan was part of the student ensemble in the REP's *King Lear* and completed a summer intensive at the Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute in NYC. He thanks the higher power, his family and all his loved ones for their unconditional love and support, and embodies the motto: Every day is a great day when I get to act. Love you all!

Frank Newton (*Lennie Ganz*) is excited to be taking the stage for the first time in our new space! Frank has appeared in a number of productions at CSP over the years and is thrilled to be part of this amazing cast and crew. Thanks to all of the group for the laughs and fun along the way. As always, Frank would love to thank his amazingly supporting and loving wife Amy and his children Tom and Abby for always putting up with his theater (and other) shenanigans!

C. Ryan Troutman (*Glenn Cooper*) is making his CSP debut in *Rumors*. Taking the stage continues a familial link to the theater for Ryan, as his grandfather John Devenney built sets and made general improvements at the original CSP building in the 1970's. Ryan is grateful for the opportunity to work with such a talented ensemble and thanks the friends and family who overwhelmingly supported his unforeseen desire to pursue acting. He'd specifically like to acknowledge his wife Michelle for always championing his ambitions...something his character Glenn can't relate to.

Michelle Cullen (*Director*) Over the years, Michelle has done just about every job there is on a show, most recently as backstage crew for *Footlight Frenzy*, stage manager for *Times Square Angel*, and sound operator for *Cabaret*. But you may remember her as *The Foxy Mrs. Bumpstead-Leigh* in the spring show of CSP's inaugural season at the new playhouse. Other directing credits include: *Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean; Fourteen; and Enchanted April*. Michelle is also on the Board of Directors as Executive VP of Administration.

Callie Ann Marsalisi (*Stage Manager*) has been working behind the scenes for 22 years, three of those at CSP. She remains beyond stoked about the new building and has had a blast working with an amazing cast and crew. When she's not at the theater, she can be found staring at a blank word document (she calls it "writing a novel") or taking her dog/pig/land seal, Bo, on walks. She wants to thank her partner Wes for being supportive as always!