

## Our Mission

Footlights were once used to line the front edge of a theatrical stage, illuminating the action from the ground up. Traditional footlights were set in shells that reflected the candle or gaslight upward. Footlights Theatre Company, started from the ground up, and takes inspiration from these once-necessary pieces of theater equipment. It is our commitment to "shine light" on local issues, local writers, and local actors. It is our hope to educate and start conversations centered on art, culture, and societal issues.



## Thank You!

We must thank Deb Anderson and everyone at the Archives at UWGB. The stories and primary sources housed on the shelves, as well as Deb's suggestions, were invaluable to the writing of this show.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the entire team at The Tarlton and The Premier. Everyone at each venue has been great to work with and we appreciate you opening the space for us.

Footlights would also like to thank all of our actors in this production. We appreciate you for all for your time, talent, and commitment to this work over the past six weeks. We could not do this without you.

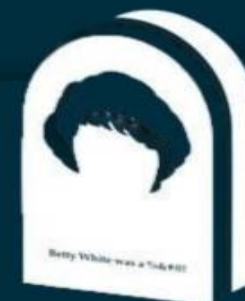
Also, a big thank you to Evergreen Theater. Your help and partnership is much appreciated!



We would also like make a special point to talk about The Canary Fund. They provide seed grants for change-makers in Northeast Wisconsin. These grants are an important way to support individuals and community groups. Please go to their website and see how you can help them to help support groups like us. - [www.thecanaryfund.org](http://www.thecanaryfund.org)

# Footlights Theatre Presents DEAD CELEBRITY MONOLOGUES

Written by: Erin Hunsader,  
Jeremy Pelegrin, and  
Sara Yach



## Our celebrities, local people of interest, and those famous (and infamous) characters you'll hear from today

- John Wilkes Booth** – Assassinated Abraham Lincoln - By Erin Hunsader
- Abraham Lincoln** – Sixteenth president of the United States - By Erin Hunsader
- Cordelia Harvey** – First Lady. Advocate for WI Civil War Soldiers - By Sara Yach
- Freddy Mercury** – Frontman for the rock band Queen - By Erin Hunsader
- Princess Diana** – Mother of Prince William and Harry - By Erin Hunsader
- Elton John** – English piano-playing rockstar - By Jeremy Pelegrin
- Georgia O'Keeffe** – Painter from Sun Prairie, WI By - Erin Hunsader
- Frank Lloyd Wright** – Architect from Spring Green, WI – By Erin Hunsader
- Gene Wilder** – Actor. Born in Milwaukee, WI – By Erin Hunsader
- Orson Welles** – Actor, director. Born in Kenosha, WI – By Sara Yach
- PT Barnum** – American showman and businessman. Circus founder (Thank you to Mike "Giz" for performing this piece last minute)  
By Sara Yach and Jeremy Pelegrin
- Bea Arthur** – American actress and comedian – By Erin Hunsader
- Betty White** – American actress, comedian and producer – By Erin Hunsader

### INTERMISSION

- Dr. William Minahan** – Died on Titanic. Brother, Dr. John R. Minahan, founded St. Vincent Hospital – By Sara Yach
- Mary Cenefelt** – Maid of Dr. J. Minahan – By Sara Yach
- Mollie Bertles Minahan** – Second wife of Dr. J. Minahan – By Sara Yach
- Willard Bent** – Green Bay resident. Sued the Packers and won  
By Sara Yach
- Vince Lombardi** – Former Packer head coach – By Jeremy Pelegrin
- Alfred Hitchcock** – Film director, screenwriter, and producer  
By Jeremy Pelegrin/Erin Hunsader
- Anthony Perkins** – Actor who played Norman Bates in *Psycho*  
By Erin Hunsader
- Ed Gein** – Serial Killer from Plainfield, WI – By Erin Hunsader
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle** – Author of the famed Sherlock Holmes series  
By Sara Yach
- Harry Houdini** – Magician. Immigrated to Appleton, WI from Hungary  
By Sara Yach

Footlights is proud to be a part of a very rich local theater community. Please check out the following organizations to see what they have coming up this holiday season.

### Evergreen Theater

[www.evergreentheater.org](http://www.evergreentheater.org)

#### The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 at 7pm

Dec. 2 & 3 at 1pm & 4pm

The outrageous shenanigans of the Herdmans, "the worst kids in the history of the world." They take over the annual pageant in a hilarious yet heartwarming tale involving Wise Men, a ham and the Angel of the Lord.



#### Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street

Dec. 8-17, 2023

Kris Kringle gets a job working as Santa for Macy's. He has the "audacity" to refer parents elsewhere to find the exact toy their child wants. Macy's vocational counselor plots to have Kris committed to Bellevue Psychiatric and he ends up in a court competency hearing. At stake is one little girl's belief in Santa. Do you Believe?



### Green Bay Community Theater

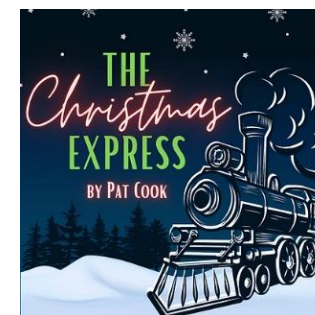
[www.gbcommunitytheater.com](http://www.gbcommunitytheater.com)

#### The Christmas Express

Nov. 24, 29, 30, & Dec. 1 at 7:30pm

Nov. 25, 26 and Dec. 2 & 3 at 4pm

A train station where nothing is as it used to be, and rumors of shutting down are spreading around the town. Hilda and Satch who work at the station keep this dull boring place running. Nothing ever changes until the stranger Leo Tannenbaum arrives at the station the day before Christmas Eve and weird things start happening.



## Footlights Theatre – Coming Next Year

Through a partnership with the Archives at UWGB we hope to bring you:

### **Reflections: Voices of Wisconsin Women**

Taken from their journals, and other firsthand accounts, hear from women, from the late 1800's to the present, as they tell their own stories. Originally written by those in the Archives Department at UWGB, this work was originally done at a student project at UWGB in the 1990's. We'd like to bring this production back for a night not to be forgotten.

### **OUR VOICES – LGBTQ+ Stories of Northeastern Wisconsin**

(A University of Wisconsin – Green Bay Archives Collection)

This production will be a collection of stories and experiences, as collected by the Archives Department at UWGB and presented to you, in a collaboration with Footlights Theatre. - To learn more please contact the UWGB Archives at: 920-465-2539 or email them at archives@uwgb.edu.

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## **Dead Celebrities - Production Team**

**Director** – Sara Yach

**Writers** – Erin Hunsader, Jeremy Pelegrin, Sara Yach

**Slide/Multimedia Presentation** – Sara Yach

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### **Contact Us:**

To keep up to date on what we are working on, please follow us on social media. Also, feel free to reach out. All of our contact information is listed here.



## Cast

**Andrew Delaurel (Freddy Mercury, Anthony Perkins)** - This is Andrew's first show with Footlights. A graduate of the UWGB theatre program, he has been in many productions in the Green Bay area. Recently, he played Max in GBCT's "Things My Mother Taught Me". He can also be seen in the local independent film "Confessions of a Sailor" as Michael. Andrew is very passionate about supporting the arts, and wants to express his gratitude that you've taken the time to see our performance! Without folks like you, the greater Green Bay area would be a lot more dull.

**Cherryl Fonfara (Georgia O'Keeffe)** - Cherryl is a transplant from Chicago. She has made her home in Sturgeon Bay and is thrilled to be making her debut in Green Bay. She has been a professional studio singer, voice over actress, live singer, and stage actress for 45+ years and grateful to still be performing.

**Michael "Gizmo" Gegare (Willard Bent, PT Barnum)** - Michael Gegare aka Gizmo is the manager of Fox Valley Vinyl Graphics in De Pere along with being a part time magician. This is Gizmo's first time on stage with Footlights. His favorite roles, with other theaters, include being the Professor in Gilligan's Island the Musical and portraying Charles Dickens as the narrator in A Christmas Carol, both with Evergreen Productions. Gizmo would like to thank his loving wife and family for all their help in creating the person he is today.

**Katie Guzek (Betty White)** - Katie Guzek is very excited to perform in her first Footlights production! She loves The Golden Girls and is thrilled to honor Betty White. She has performed with Theatre Z, Play-by-Play, Evergreen Theater, ComedyCity, and The Dinner Detective. She wants to thank her friends and family for their love and support

**Matt Hohner (Vince Lombardi)** - After a 30-year hiatus from acting, Matt has been in a few recent plays with Evergreen Productions. His wife and two sons are also performers with Evergreen. Being an avid sports fan and a diehard Packers fan, Matt is very excited to be playing Vince Lombardi.

**Erin Hunsader (Abraham Lincoln, Princess Di, Bea Arthur)** - Erin Hunsader is a writer, publisher, and performer. Her first book, *Dorothy Never Got Down Like This*, is a comedic memoir about her move from Appleton to the Big Apple. She is working on her second book along with developing her publishing company, Penbird Press. Her musical, *OUT OF THE BLUE*, co-written with composer, Haesun Suh was selected for World Premiere Wisconsin and premiered at the Weidner Center in June. She continues to perform her play, *Dead Celebrity Monologues* (co-written with Jeremy Pelegrin and Sara Yach). She holds a master's degree from Tisch School of the Arts (NYU) and hopes one day to play her violin without her cats hiding under the bed. She resides in Appleton.

**Gus Kroenke (Ed Gein – Saturday and Sunday)** - Gus is excited to be part of his first show with Footlights Theater! Gus has always been fascinated by Ed Gein and the movies and stories he inspired. He is thrilled for a chance to portray him. Previous shows Gus has been a part of include "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change!" (Man 1), "Murder by Misadventure" (Paul Riggs), "The Crucible" (John Proctor) and "Little Shop of Horrors" (Seymour).

**Deborah Oettinger (Mary Cenefelt, Frank Lloyd Wright)** - Deborah (Deb) Oettinger was born in California to parents who loved to roam and as a result lived on the east coast, west coast and now in the middle. She is a Realtor, wife, mom, "Oma " and is prone to hugging random trees. She first fell in love with the stage in 8th grade when she got the lead in a one act play called "The Ghost Wore White" and is now following her lifelong dream of pursuing acting as her passion and vocation. She is co-founder of Footlights and has directed 2 of our shows but, this is the 1st one she is performing in! She hopes that you are as fascinated with these stories as she is!

**Bob Pekol (John Wilkes Booth, Gene Wilder)** - This is Bob's first show with Footlights. He recently performed as Marcellus Washburn in *The Music Man* for Saint Norbert Music Theatre. He also played the dedicated Tom Donahue in *These Shining Lives* for Green Bay Community Theater. When Bob is not acting, Bob spends his time camping with his wife Mary, playing in a polka band, writing reviews for [Broadwayworld.com](http://Broadwayworld.com), and playing with his dog, Bud.

**Jeremy Pelegrin (Elton John, Ed Gein – Wednesday and Friday)** - Jeremy is thrilled to be joining *Dead Celebrity Monologues* again, this time under the Footlights Theatre Company banner. Jeremy's previous local appearances have been with Daddy D Productions, Birder Players, SNC Music Theater, The Forst Inn, Theatre Z, and Evergreen Productions. Florida credits include Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, and Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. Jeremy currently works with PMI Entertainment Group, recruiting nonprofit groups to fundraise at the Resch and Lambeau Field. Jeremy would like to thank his family and his partner, Bob, for their unconditional love and support through life's many unexpected twists and turns.

**Norm Shonkwiler (William Minahan, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)** - Norm has done several productions with Evergreen Theater, including *It's A Wonderful Life*, where he first worked with director Sara Yach. He has always been fascinated by the Titanic sinking, and the personalities that were associated with it. This makes him especially excited to play William Minahan.

**Vicki Svacina (Mollie Minahan, Cordelia Harvey)** - This is Vicki's second performance at The Tarlton with Footlights Theatre. She appeared in *The Laramie Project* this past June. She has been active in community theater for the past 17 years and has recently begun doing commercials.

**Vance Toivonen (Alfred Hitchcock, Orson Welles)** - Coming off his performance as Bauer in Lauren Gunderson's play of the same name Vance is currently working on portraying Martini in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* in Sturgeon Bay at the D.C. Arts Center (Nov. 30-December 3rd) and performing as Kaspar Gutman in *Bayside Reader's Theater's* Radio play *The Maltese Falcon* (7 PM October 27th at Articipation in Sturgeon Bay). He is grateful to Sara and the rest of the cast and crew for being included in this production and playing such well-respected characters.

**Dan Yach (Harry Houdini)** - This is Dan's first performance with Footlights Theatre. Dan is a professional master magician, known as Danny Dane. Dan believes that being on stage with his son, Lukas, is the real magic.

**Lukas Yach (Houdini's Barker)** - I am in first grade. This is my first show with Footlights. My first show ever was last year with Evergreen Theater and I was in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. I would like to thank mom for making this happen.