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PRESENTS

The Belle of Amherst

BY WILLIAM LUCE

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101st
Season

Theatre Jacksonville presents

3rd
Production

The
Belle of
Amherst

BY WILLIAM LUCE

Supported by the
Delores Barr Weaver
FOREVER
EVENT FUND EST. 2015



CAST

EMILY DICKINSON SINDA NICHOLS

PLACE

The Dickinson household in Amherst, Massachusetts

TIME

1845-1886

Presented On Demand with one intermission.

The Belle of Amherst is produced by special arrangement
with Dramatist Play Services Inc., NYC.

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WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

SINDA NICHOLS (Emily Dickinson) is a stage, film, and voiceover actor based out of northern Florida. Frequently seen on stage in area theatres, she has enjoyed the opportunity to perform in *A Doll's House, Part 2, Year of Magical Thinking, The Walls, Women's Work, On The Verge, Stupid Fcnkg Bird, August: Osage County, 33 Variations, The Night of the Iguana*, as well as performing *The Belle of Amherst* and *The Lady with All the Answers* both locally, regionally and at theatres throughout Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ireland. The founder and artistic director of Live Ink Theatre, Sinda is thrilled to have the opportunity to bring "Belle" back to the stage and into the homes of Emily fans, old and new, everywhere.

SINDA & EMILY

It was my mother who first introduced me to Emily Dickinson. It must have been around 1975 when she and my father saw Julie Harris perform the role of Emily Dickinson in *The Belle of Amherst*. That evening when they returned home my mother announced to me, "you have to do this role someday, you're just like her". Now, whether my mother meant Julie or Emily, I'm not sure, but she planted a seed I dreamed about for the next thirty-five years. So what an amazing gift in 2010 to meet the fabulous director, Ron Kurtz, who also had a dream of doing *The Belle of Amherst*.



Now all we needed was a theatre. Good fortune came our way, when The Friends of Amelia Community Theatre offered to produce the show as a benefit. And the rest as they say is history. It has been a glorious journey to "Dwell in Possibility" and an honor to bring Emily's voice and heart to so many audiences over the years.

I dedicate this show to the memory of my mother, Onalee Cheetwood and my father Carrol Nichols - thanks for always believing in me. Special thanks to Will Howery for his constant and unwavering support of the theatrical journey, Jessica Appel for being a "Zoom Rehearsal Partner Extraordinaire", and to all the dear souls who have encouraged me to not give up and to "keep singing".

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY CONTINUED

JOHN BOSWELL (Incidental Music) has served as musical director for Judy Collins, Andy Williams, Bob Newhart, Jason Graae, Faith Prince, Linda Purl, Maude Maggart, Carmen Cusack, Babbie Green, Scott Coulter and a host of other fine talents. John played the role of "Moose" in the national tour of *Crazy for You* and has appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *Today Show*, *CBS This Morning*, *Regis And Kathie Lee*, *General Hospital* and was the piano playing hands of Nancy McKeon on the sit-com *The Facts Of Life*. John has been heard singing in the shows *Three Men and A Baby...Grand*, *Cinema Toast*, *Broadway Today*, *Wiseguys* and the New York cult hit *Cashino*. Broadway/Off Broadway credits include *Crazy for You*, *The Secret Garden*, *LIZA! Steppin' Out at Radio City Music Hall*, *Back to Bacharach* and *David and The Kathy and Mo Show: Parallel Lives*. John has nine CDs of original piano music, the most recent being *NIGHT MAGIC* in 2019.

SARAH BOONE (Director of Adaptation) has had a diverse career in television, radio and theatre across the country as a performer, director, producer and manager. She graduated from Florida State University with a BA in Theatre and continued her theatrical training at HB Studio in NYC. Following a Rotary Foundation graduate scholarship in Scotland, Sarah was honored to win a theatre teaching fellowship at American University in Washington, DC where she earned an MA in Arts Management and Communications. She has held management positions at LA's Geffen Playhouse and New York's Westside Theatre off-Broadway and was a Consulting Producer with the California International Theatre Festival. As Executive Director of Theatre Jacksonville, she has overseen the production of more than 125 plays, musicals and concerts. In addition to her producing credits, Sarah has enjoyed continued success as a cabaret artist with appearances in Florida (including the *Happily Red* concert series she created at Theatre Jacksonville), Los Angeles (*First and Hope Supper Club*, *Upstairs at Vitello's*) and in New York (*The Duplex*, *Don't Tell Mama*, *The Triad*, *The Metropolitan Room*).

RON SHREVE (Production Manager) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Production and Performance from the University of Florida. He has worked as an instructor at Pine Forest School of the Arts in their advanced, after school theatre program. Ron has also served as a production manager, stage manager and director of local performance venues throughout Jacksonville. As the theatre's full time education director, Ron oversees all educational programs including the summer creative arts camp, year round classes for adults, and after school classes for children as well as our Theatre for Babies program.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Ron Kurtz, director of *The Belle of Amherst* 2010 - 2017 for his artistic vision, passion for poetry, and ability to discover new depths.

Mary Cillo for the loan of her beautiful furniture pieces.

Wayne Wood for the loan of the stereoscope and vintage photo cards
and

Jon Curtis, Ross Carvalho and the Minuteman Press Downtown Jacksonville Team

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