

THEATRE JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS

KEN LUDWIG'S

*Dear Jack,
Dear Louise*



Directed by
Roxanna Lewis

"An affecting love letter to unlikely romance ...
a poignant, funny tribute to the enduring power
of human connection." - The Washington Post

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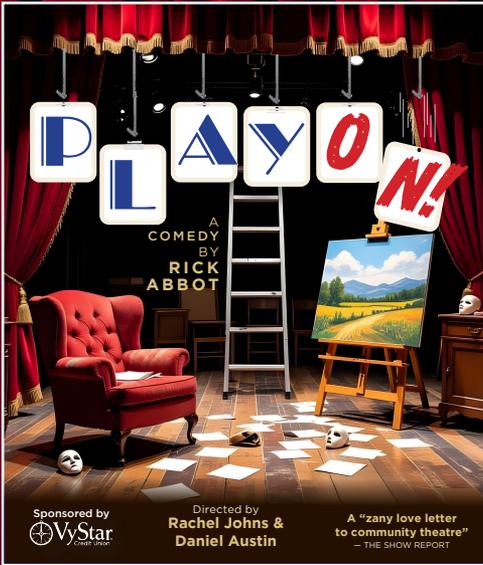
FEB. 27 - MARCH 15, 2026



SEASON 106

3rd PRODUCTION

Season 106 Concludes with **Two Great Shows!**



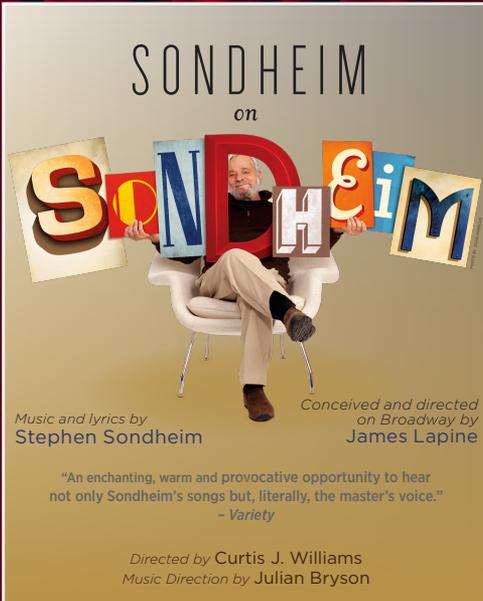
Play On!

By Rick Abbot

April 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26*, 30,
May 1, 2*, 3*, 2026

In this hilarious comedy of a play within a play, a theatre group is trying and failing in different ways to put on a play despite the haughty author who keeps revising the script. Act I is a rehearsal of the dreadful show, Act II is the near disastrous dress rehearsal, and the final act is the actual performance, in which everything goes wrong. When the author decides to give a speech on the state of modern theatre during the curtain call, the audience is treated to a madcap climax and a thoroughly hysterical romp.

A "zany love letter to community theatre..." – *The Show Report*



Sondheim on Sondheim Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Conceived and directed on Broadway by James Lapine

June 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14*, 18, 19,
20*, 21*, 2026

An intimate portrait of famed songwriter Stephen Sondheim in his own words...and music. His story. His inspiration. His genius. Ranging from the beloved to the obscure, the carefully selected songs hang from a framework of exclusive and in-depth video interviews with Sondheim that provide an inside look into his personal life and his artistic process.

"An enchanting, warm and provocative opportunity to hear not only Sondheim's songs but, literally, the master's voice." – *Variety*

KEN LUDWIG'S

Dear Jack, Dear Louise

Sponsored by Delegal
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Underkofler P.A.

Directed by Roxanna Lewis

CAST

JACK LUDWIG..... Kyle Blumenthal
LOUISE RABINERAshlyn Brown

TIME: June 1942 - May 1945

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

Ken Ludwig's Dear Jack, Dear Louise is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc.
(www.concordtheatricals.com)

Dear Jack, Dear Louise premiered at Arena Stage (Washington, DC) Molly Smith,
Artistic Director and Edgar Dobie, Executive Producer November 21-December 29, 2019.

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*Donations listed on this and
other pages reflect the period
Feb. 22, 2025–Feb. 22, 2026.*

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I first read the script for *Dear Jack, Dear Louise*, I felt an immediate connection to the characters. I, too, was once an ambitious performer with proverbial horse blinders taped to the sides of my head, certain I would never leave my NYC life. And yet, somehow, I found myself unexpectedly introduced to someone I never imagined I'd spend my life with—a Naval Officer with two feet planted in Jacksonville, FL! At first glance, it might've seemed we had little, if anything, of real substance in common. And this is where most stories would typically end ... but we somehow started exchanging letters on/off for years, and eventually, one particular letter landed at my W. 88th St stoop in NYC—on 9/11—I realized we'd been writing love letters all along. Many years later, here we are ;)

Forging a meaningful connection at any age, under any circumstance, is no small feat. We tend to fixate on the differences, the inconveniences, the minor annoyances—often superficial things that unsettle us because growth is uncomfortable and change can feel downright terrifying. What I love so deeply about *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* is that it invites us to look beyond those surface-level fears. Based on the real-life courtship of playwright Ken Ludwig's parents, the story welcomes us into two separate worlds and allows us to witness what happens when two people choose to engage fully, listen thoughtfully, and take brave risks—again and again.

Set against the backdrop of World War II, we're transported to a time when airplane tickets were a luxury few could access, when paper and pen carried extraordinary power, and when words—carefully chosen and sincerely offered—mattered deeply. Jack and Louise's story is one of profound human connection, meaningful in both the smallest, most intimate exchanges and the broader sweep of history.

A few years ago, I survived a near-death experience. What I carry forward from that season is this: love is not always sexy, tender, convenient, or even sweet. While it may encompass those qualities, love itself is something steadier and far more enduring. It is unconditional, it transcends time and circumstance.

Choose love...write a letter...and enjoy the show ;)
-Roxanna Lewis

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COMPANY BIOS

KYLE BLUMENTHAL (Jack Ludwig) is delighted to be making his Theatre Jacksonville debut. Born and raised in Philadelphia, he has performed on stage, in movie theaters, and in living rooms across the country. Theatre credits include *#HERETOO* with Tectonic Theater Projects, *Sea Wall* by Simon Stephens, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. On camera, appearances include *Monsters* (Netflix), *Dave* (Hulu), and *Melt Show* (YouTube TV). You can catch him in the upcoming feature film *Obsession*, in theaters everywhere this May. A proud graduate of Penn State University's B.F.A. Acting, Kyle spends most days running a chain of coffee shops in North Florida. When not performing or making coffee, he enjoys feeding the lizards in his backyard, picking up litter, and discussing philosophical topics with strangers. You can keep up with Kyle on Instagram using @ky.blum. He's incredibly grateful that you've taken the time out of your day to watch this urgently important piece of theatre. He hopes it moves you to spread peace, love, and understanding throughout your own communities.

ASHLYN BROWN (Louise Rabiner) is an actress, singer, and dancer based in Jacksonville, Florida, and is thrilled to be making her Theatre Jacksonville debut alongside such an incredibly talented company! Theatre credits include Lily St. Regis (*Annie*), Shelby (*Steel Magnolias*), Ella (*Cinderella*), and Nora (*Brighton Beach Memoirs*). Offstage, she is a lover of thrifting and antiquing, and has a large collection of CD's, records, and cassette tapes of many different genres. She loves dancing in the rain and enjoying the presence of any ladybugs that decide to land on her. She would like to thank Roxanna and Theatre Jacksonville for giving her this wonderful opportunity, and you, for taking the time to watch this incredibly important show. This specific piece of theatre is more important than ever before, and Ashlyn hopes it encourages you to connect with others and spread positivity wherever you go.

ROXANNA LEWIS (Director) is overjoyed to be back directing at Theatre Jacksonville. Previous productions include: *The Triangle Factory Fire Project*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Silent Sky*, and you may even have spotted her in *Love Goes to Press* as Jane. Roxanna has made turkey soup with Dr. Maya Angelou while interviewing her for PBS, written with Emmy-Nominated actor/director Ben Gazzara on his autobiography, and collaborated with acclaimed WGAW writers for "The Writer's Brigade" to make

the world a kinder place. She's worked with Island Records, SONY UK, MPress Records, ABC-TV, CNN. COM, Discovery Channel, Showtime, Mindless Entertainment, DNA Productions, The Revolver Film Co, Birdman Filmworks, A Season of Rain Productions, and Running Woman.

Roxanna entered film/TV through the side door as stage director, choreographer, dancer and actress. As CEO of Roxxiedanz Productions Inc, she continues to helm film and live projects that entertain, defy stereotypes and amplify resilience. Her career has led her to work with remarkable artists of all backgrounds and body types to include performers who identify as paraplegic, wheelchair users, d/Deaf, blind, neurodiverse and neurotypical. She is the recipient of two grants from The Northeast Florida Community Foundation, Community First Cares, and The Flutie Foundation for Rachel Barcellona in her film, Mandy's Voice. Keep an eye out for her latest film Run Wild (shot on 16mm) starring Emmy-nominated child actress, Jophielle Love, and cameo by two-time Emmy-winner, Sally Struthers.

Roxanna recently took the stage at We Believe 2025, captivating 1.6+ million viewers across North America with her transformative presentation on The Healing Powers of Creativity and the Courage to Follow Your Dreams. She is a contributing author for the book Now Act! Insight, Advice and Preparation Processes from Actors, Coaches, and Casting Directors, now on Amazon. Above all else, Roxanna's most cherished creation is the family that she, her husband, and two kids continue to grow together in the midst of an ever-shifting world where care and communication really matter.

www.RoxannaLewis.com

TECHNICAL PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Roxanna Lewis
 Production Manager Michelle Kindy
 Lighting Design Johnny Pettegrew
 Sound Design Brent Mulberry
 Costume Design Classic Costumes
 Graphic Design Green Onion Creative LLC
 Stage Manager Squirrel Pitts
 Assistant Stage Manager Katie Allen
 Sound Board Operator Lourdes Acosta
 Light Board Operator Aspen Krill

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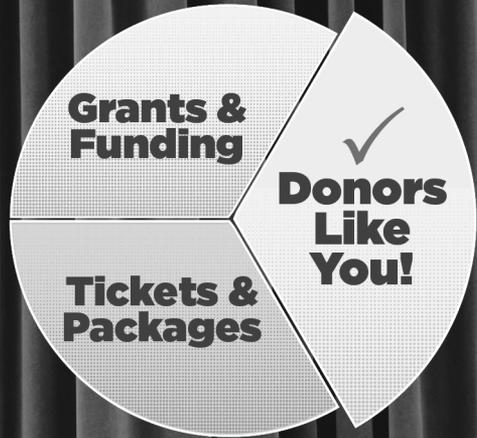
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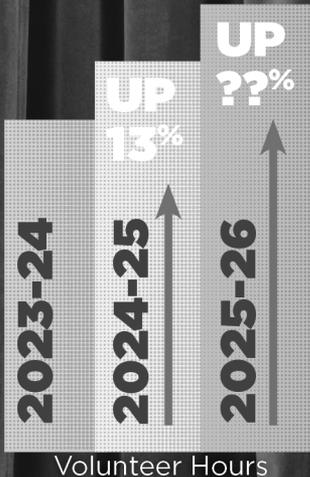
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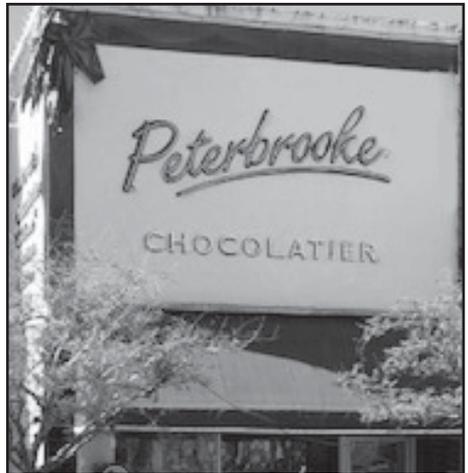
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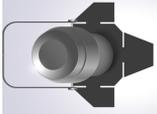
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Performance Dates:
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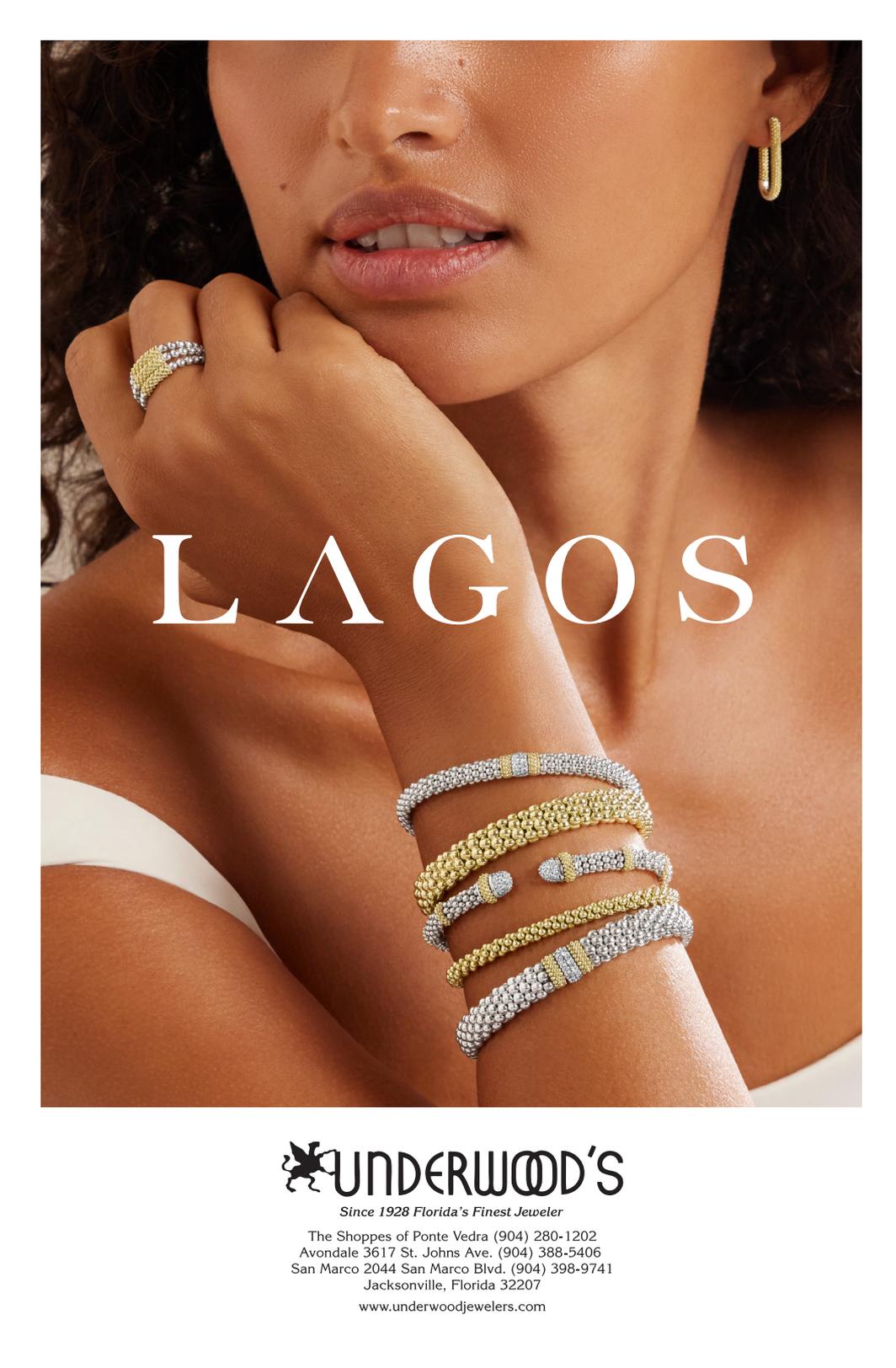
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