

Merely Players  
presents

# The Children

A drama  
by Lucy Kirkwood

June 10, 11, 16. 17. 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM  
Matinee on June 12 and 19 at 2:00 PM

THE CHILDREN is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,  
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))



BALLANTINE FAMILY FUND  
SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1957



# THE CHILDREN

Rose	Maureen May+
Hazel	Jeannie B. Wheeldon+
Robin	Stephen Bowers+
Director	Liz Gray+
Tech Director/Designer	Charles Ford+
Stage Manager	Natalie Cohn
Assistant Director	Mona Wood-Patterson+
Sound Designer	Anthony Kingsley+
Production Asst/Props Manager	Diane Panelli+

+ Merely Players Artistic Company

*This show will be performed with no intermission.*

Please silence your cell phones. We welcome you to take photos/video in the theatre before and after, **but not during**, the performance. If you post photos of the stage, please be sure to credit Merely Players. Thank you!

## WHO'S WHO

**Stephen Bowers** (*Robin*) takes great satisfaction playing a retired nuclear engineer/farmer after brief flirtations with physics and farming in his youth (he is still working on the retired bit). This is his third Merely Players production as a Brit, beginning with George Banks in *Mary Poppins*, followed by McDuff (more accurately a Scot) in *MacBeth*. He is delighted to share the stage again with radiant Jeannie Wheeldon, having played her brother in Christopher Durang's *Vanya and Sonya* and *Masha and Spike*. Stephen is thrilled to work with the luminous Maureen May and scintillating director Liz Gray for the first time. He thanks his nuclear family, Wendy, Ian, and Rebecca for all their support and binding energy.

**Natalie Cohn** (*Stage Manager*) is excited to be the Stage Manager for *The Children*. She previously worked on *Matilda the Musical* as the Costume Manager, and would like to thank Liz Gray, Charles Ford, and Mona Wood Patterson for getting her more involved in Merely Players. You may have also seen Natalie's work as the Technical Theatre Director with Durango High School's theatre over the past three years.

**Charles Ford** (*Technical Director and Designer*) is a master backstage technician and the Technical Director of Merely Players. It's fun to create.

**Liz Gray** (*Director*) graduated from NYU's Tisch School of Arts (Stella Adler Studio), The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (London), and The Upright Citizens Brigade (NYC). She has worked as an actor, arts educator, improviser, director, coach, and adjudicator in theatres, schools, and competitions across the country. Recent work with Merely includes: *All Together Now!*; Guy in *Wakey, Wakey*; Titania/Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; *Men on Boats* (Co-Director); and *Matilda* (Stage Manager). Liz works as Merely Players' Communications Director and Company Manager; and, as faculty in the Theatre Department at FLC. She heads to Virginia Tech this fall as an MFA Candidate in Arts Leadership. Huge love to Mona, Charles, Anthony, and her family!  
[www.liz-gray.com](http://www.liz-gray.com)

**Anthony Kingsley** (*Sound Design*) is grateful to have the opportunity to collaborate with Merely Players once again. He has previously composed, performed music, and designed sound effects for Merely Players' *Men On Boats*, *Wakey, Wakey*, and *Zoom Alice*. He is a vocalist and electronic musician in the Denver-based group, Pink Mage ([pinkmage.com](http://pinkmage.com)), and has extensive experience as a rock and metal bassist. He is a graduate of Bard College's Electronic Music department, and is a web designer for Psyche Digital Marketing. He is truly thankful for all of the opportunities that have been presented to him by Merely Players and the wonderful town of Durango.

**Maureen May** (*Rose*) has been involved with live theater in Durango since the late 1980s. Some of her favorite past roles with Merely Players have been Ruth Steiner in *Collected Stories*, Polly Wyeth in *Other Desert Cities*, Rose in *Neglect*, and Sister Aloysius in *Doubt*. Other roles she has enjoyed are Agnes in *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Melissa in *Love Letters*, Dotty Otley/Mrs. Clackett in *Noises Off*, and Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*, all with The Durango Repertory Theater Company. Maureen is thrilled to be working with Liz Gray, Jeannie Wheeldon and Stephen Bowers. Though the work is ever challenging, it is always worth the journey! Maureen is also a visual artist and her work can be viewed at [maureenmayart.com](http://maureenmayart.com)

**Diane Panelli** (*Props Master/Production Assistant*) was co-founder of a production company at Sarah Lawrence College. After graduating from cooking school in New York, she went on to own a restaurant in Telluride before moving to Durango. She currently serves on the board for Merely Players and thrives on the "Treasure Hunt" of finding all the little goodies that make a play come to life. Diane loves what she does!!

**Jeannie B. Wheeldon** (*Hazel*) loves to perform! Thank you for attending this performance so that she can revive her soul! She has been seen on the Merely Players' stage in *All Together Now!*, as Deirdre in *The Humans*, and as Sonia in *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike*. Other roles include Narrator in *Beehive--The 60s Musical*, Fraulein Schneider in *Cabaret*, and Audrey Williams in *Mrs. Hank*. After Jeannie received a BA in Theatre Arts from Stanford University, she returned to Durango and

performed in classic Melodrama and Vaudeville reviews at the Diamond Circle Melodrama. She went on to become the owner/artistic director of the theatre for 27 years. Jeannie also plays keyboard and is a vocalist with Animas Jam, a Stillwater Music eclectic eight-member band.

**Mona Wood-Patterson** (*Assistant Director*) is the Artistic Director of Merely Players. She's created a lot of theatre, and she loves her job.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We offer our sincere gratitude to those who helped us with this show. Many hands and kind hearts help us to do our work:

Charlie Grice	Deborah Heath	Durango Herald
Heather Howe	JoAnn Nevils	Michael Lee
Sadie Hanson	Tami Hanson	Jeff Widen
Jessica Jane Harris	Community Foundation	Serving SW Colorado

## SUPPORTERS/DONORS WHO HELP MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

Mere words cannot describe how honoured we are by your support. We encourage our audience members to solicit these businesses and to tell the individuals that they are grand!

## ARTISTIC

Sharon Abshagen	Douglas and Beverly	Ann Green
Luann Andrew	Capelin	David and Carol
Stella Best	Kara Cavalca	Grenoble
Lillian Boe	Robbin and Dan Clark	Jay Grob and Valerie
Judy Bolen	Deanna Collins	Schwiderski
Kip and Nellie Boyd	John Condie and	George Gross
Lisa Breed	Wanda Ellingson	Tami Hanson
Christi Brennan	Barbara Conn	Jessica Jane and
Marjorie Brinton	Cathy Crum and Mike	Jacob Harris
Terra Brooke	Field	Satoko Harris
Sandra Bruce	Nona Dale	Jessie Harrison and
Helen and Greg	Jonathan and Alicia	Donald Archuleta
Bruckbauer	DeLacey	Donald and Wendy
Amy Buchanan	Brian Devine	Hassemer
Gwen Buchanan	Sydney Dion	Diana Hassett
Jon and Cindy	Suzy DiSanto	Shelby Hieb
Buccowich	Ann Duft	Wendy Hillmer
Sandy and Michael	Durango Institute	Susan Hillmeyer
Burke	Barbara Elliott	Maureen Keilty
Sue Burke	Sarah Fischer	Marti and Steve Kiely
Chris Burnett	Nancy Fisher	Darlen Koontz
Deborah and Patrick	Debra Galbraith	Barbara Kooy
Callahan	Sandra Gilpin	Tom Kyser
Sandra Campbell	Jennifer Goodwin	Donna Kirby
Ann Casler	Helen Gregory	Caitlyn Kneller

## MORE ARTISTIC

Stephen Krest  
Teresa Lashley  
Michael Lee  
Trish Lemke  
Wendy Ludgewait  
Veronica Lowrey  
Priscilla Lukens and  
Tammy Hoier  
Nicki Massieon  
The Matheson Family  
Maureen May  
Brian McAleer and  
Carol Shepard  
Anna McBrayer  
Marianne McClain  
Jessica McCallum  
Peggy McCulloch  
Dawn McDermond  
Susan McGinness  
Barbara McLachlan  
Jim and Karen  
McManus  
Laurie Meininger

Laura Miller  
Charlotte Miller  
Jim and Sue Mooney  
Jeff and Brenda Nelson  
JoAnn Nevils  
Lindsey Nicholson  
Betsey Nord  
Barbara O'Connor  
The Oury Family  
Dallas Padoven  
The Patterson -  
Kriekhaus Family  
Jill Patton  
Mike and Christine  
Phillips  
Robert Phippen  
Claire Raines  
Patricia Redding  
John Redemske  
Honor Reynolds  
George L. Richardson  
Greta Richter  
Marcia Sabeti

Sari Salisbury  
Peggy Schroder  
Peggy Sharp  
Kati Sieger  
Tierney Skahill  
Kathy Stottlemeyer  
Kathleen Streid Noe  
John Thomas  
Anne and Steve \  
Swisher  
Kathy and Mike Switzer  
Dene Thomas  
The Thompsons  
Krista Vandiver  
Voss-Patterson Family  
Carol Wehner  
Susan Weirather  
Greg Weiss  
Stella Welcher  
Jeff Widen  
Charles Williams  
Kristine Williams

## DYNAMIC

Nancy and Alan  
Andrews  
Gayle and Wayne  
Bedor  
Ginny Brown  
Susan Brown  
Kathy Bulow-Cohen  
Sharyn Butler and Ted  
Hall  
Sue Corwin  
Janet DeFratus  
Dave and Glenda Ehrig

Ron and Jan Enge  
Lani Graham  
Missy and Travis  
Grigsby  
Lee Hagar  
Jesse Hutt and Brenda  
Huffman  
Patricia and Jay Joy  
Nancy Mace  
Rochelle Mann  
Sabrina Motta  
Kay Neal  
Mary Anne Nelson

Liz Oetter  
Lissa Paak and Gordon  
Henriksen  
Ray and Brenda Sima  
Pamela Smith  
Karen Spickard  
Sandhya Tillotson  
Susie and Jasper  
Welch  
Suzanne Zerbe-  
Erickson

## IMAGINATIVE

Wendy Barney  
Dan and Jane Doty  
Kim Eisner  
Joyce Erickson  
Judi Fitts  
Beverly Graham  
Tara Haller  
Julie Hartman and Jim  
Forleo  
Kurt and Diane Hillman  
Heather Howe

Lindie and Daniel Hunt  
Tami and Pete Joslin  
Kate Kearns  
Liese Krauser  
Ed and Julie Ward  
Lehner  
Ljuba Lemke  
Dell Manners and Burt  
Coleman  
Pamela Moreno  
Renae and Gary Muller  
Betsy Norton

Susan Ristow  
Mike Rustad  
Georgeann and Dick  
Reitz  
John and Aline Schwob  
Frank and Kathy Sinton  
Martha Stewart  
Ron and Jan Turner  
Mike and Caroline  
Todd  
Laura Webb  
Gretchen Wilson

## **CREATIVE**

Sue Agranoff  
Carrie and Eric Allen  
Annette Angst  
Linda Bellush  
In Memory of Tyler  
Black  
The Scooter and Judy  
Bolton Family  
Dwight and Katherine  
Burgess  
Diane Campagna  
Tom Campbell  
Dee Dee Carlson  
Ted and Nancy Carr  
Mimi and Bob Chaput  
Bethiah Crane  
Shari Duhaime  
Catherine Dunbar  
Bill and Kim Fisher  
Jay and Chessa Gill  
Gaines L. Godfrey  
Lisa Govreau/Remax  
Susan and Scott  
Graham  
Richard and Gail  
Grossman

Stephen and Sheryl  
Guy  
Kristi Horvath  
Barb Gysel and Frank  
Viehmann  
Michelle, Will, and  
Isabelle Herringer  
Ann Flower and  
Thomas Hill  
Suzy and Roy Horvath  
Ann and Rick Huttner  
Doug Jacober  
Connie Jacobs and  
Tekla Miller  
Jodie and Jack  
Klumpenhower  
Susan Koonce and  
John Lyons  
Jill Langoni  
Jeff Londa  
Linda Mack and Wynn  
Berven  
Thane Malison  
Phyllis Max  
Lynn May and Don May  
Janis and Charlie Milliet  
Russ and Janet Monell

Shawna Off and Kent  
Ford  
Meredith and Carlisle  
Page  
Ellen and Ross Park  
Karen Peterson  
Jan and Greg Phillips  
Jerry and Kristine Poer  
Katy Pytte and Beach  
Edwards  
Pat Rustad  
Marilyn Sandstrom  
Peppi Sanders  
Jeff and Lori Schell  
Deb Schultz  
Faye Schrater and Dick  
White  
Ann Schwarz  
Carol and Bob Simmons  
Ken and Jan Smith .  
Tom and Susie Stuber  
Marilyn Swanson  
Mimi Thurston  
Barbara and Bill Voss  
Devon Wayne  
Ann Willard  
Briggen Wrinkle  
Bob and Lynn Wynn

## **INNOVATIVE**

Jennie Albert  
Linda Barnes and  
Katherine Barr  
Sheila and Gerard  
Berger  
Debbie and Joe Bishop  
Mandy Irons Gardner

Robert Bowie and Vicki  
Vandegrift  
Leela Gill  
Ruth Guarino  
Holly Hatch  
Deb and Bern Heath  
Teresa Lashley  
Karren Little

Susan Merrill  
Martha Tinsley Minot  
Myriam Palmer  
Mike and Teresa  
Sheehan  
Shaila Van Sickle  
Jill and Ted Wright

## **VISIONARY**

Kathleen Adams  
Bartig-Small Fund  
Stephen M. Bowers  
Janet Curry and Peter  
Arcomano  
Jennie Dear  
Jeff Graves and Katie  
McCrea  
Marian Hamlen

Chris and Tony  
Johnson  
Nancy and John Loftis  
Hal and Melanie  
McLean  
Susan Merrill and Mike  
Uhes  
Lynne Murison  
Nancy and Jim Ottman  
Ray and Carol

Schmudde  
Linda Schwinghammer  
and Mick Souder  
Janice Sheftel  
Karen Soltes  
Jeannie and Steve  
Wheeldon  
The Yeargin Family

## **INSPIRING**

Anonymous  
Marc and Pam Arbeeney  
Ballantine Family Fund  
Cheryle Brandsma  
Kim Dalen/In Memory

of Shan Ealey  
Bryan and Jacquelyn  
Dear  
Lou and Joyce Fontana  
Al Harper  
Will Gray and Margie

Deane Gray  
The Halverstadt  
Foundation  
Trisha and William  
Hayes  
Jennifer Carnes-Shimp

### **MORE INSPIRING**

Michelle and Mark  
James  
Ken and Debbie Kurz  
Merely Entourage  
Marcey Olajos and Ron  
Lee

Mary-Catherine and  
David McAlvany  
Mac Patterson  
Bud and Jeani Poe  
Carol Salomon and  
Norman Broad

Bob and Emmy Therrell  
Lucy West and Rhonda  
Eppard  
Bill and Chris Warren  
Rick and Enid Wood

### **EXTRAORDINARY**

Susanne Shutz

### **SUPERLATIVE**

Richard and Mary Lyn Ballantine  
Diane Panelli  
Gary Treat

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Ballantine Family Fund  
Bank of Colorado  
Durango & Silverton  
Narrow Gauge Railroad

Colorado Creative Industries  
DHM Design  
La Plata Electric Round Up  
Foundation

**MERELY PLAYERS** was founded in 1995 and has been bringing theatre to our community ever since. Our vision is to consistently provide quality theatre in this region, while broadening the range of types of experiences available to local theatergoers through relevant, exciting productions. Merely Players is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and we assure you that any money donated will go toward making quality theatre in Durango both now and in the future.

***The Children** was first performed at the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre Downstairs, Sloane Square, London, on November 17, 2016, and was produced on Broadway by the Manhattan Theatre Club (Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director; Barry Grove, Executive Producer) and the Royal Court Theatre on November 28, 2017.*

Thank you for spending your time with us. We would love to know what you thought about the play. Drop us an email at [directors@merelyplayers.org](mailto:directors@merelyplayers.org) or share with us on Facebook at Merely Players – Durango.

# MERELY Players

**We are excited to announce our  
2022-2023 MERELY PLAYERS THEATRE SEASON:**

*Shakespeare's Delightful Comedy*  
**As You Like It**

September 2022

*A Historical Tale of Friendship and Courage*  
**The Half Life of Marie Curie**

November 2022

*Agatha Christie's Famous Whodunit*  
**Murder on the Orient Express**

February 2023

*Steve Martin and Edie Brickell's Acclaimed Bluegrass Musical:*  
**Bright Star**

May 2023

*Season Subscriber Brochures will be mailed this July. Season  
Subscribers get discount prices and the best seats in the  
house. Sign up for our mailing list.*

**For more information on Merely Players, to become a  
Season Subscriber, to buy tickets, to get involved, to  
volunteer, donate, or to be added to our mailing list:**

Website: <http://www.merelyplayers.org>

Telephone: 970.749.8585

Email: [directors@merelyplayers.org](mailto:directors@merelyplayers.org)

Like us on Facebook: Merely Players-Durango

Instagram: Merely\_Players\_Durango

## **MERELY PLAYERS ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Artistic Director

Mona Wood-Patterson+

Technical Director

Charles Ford+

Company Manager

Liz Gray+

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Janet Curry+, President

Heather Howe+

Marc Arbeeney+, Vice-President

Diane Panelli+

Kate Ishay+, Secretary

Deborah Heath+

Jessica Jane Harris+, Treasurer

All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women  
Merely Players" –

William Shakespeare  
As You Like It