

Coming Up Next

Auditions!



Lucia, a Mexican-born novelist, gets her first TV writing job and quickly becomes friends with the only other Latino around, a janitor named Abel. As Abel shares his stories with Lucia, similar plots begin to find their way into her TV scripts.

A two-person play: Lucia, 28, Mexican-born, acculturated.
Abel, early 30s, born in the US, Mexican-American, proud of his Mexican heritage.

Sides will be at <https://www.dragonflyartsnj.org/auditions> July 15.
Auditions Sunday, July 28 at 3pm and Monday, July 29 at 7pm.



**Auditions will be held the first week in September.
Watch our website for more details.**



Produced & Directed by Catherine LaMoreaux

Starring

Elena Marie Abdou	Jim Barnish	PJ Campacci
David Clarke	Golan Mandel	Merav Mandel
Hedi Molnar	Nirupama Rajadhyaksha-Nadkarni	
Liz Rapelye	Susan Roberts	Andrew Rodriguez
Gianna Spano	Jon Turner	Amelie Vasquez
Annick Vasquez	Emmeline Vasquez	Gabriel Vasquez

**Backstage Manager
& Props Master**
Vicki Cardona

**Stage Manager
& Sound Design**
Jada Davis

Light Design & Run
Aidan O'Rourke

Costume Design
David Clarke

Vocal Captain
Elena Marie Abdou

Stage Crew
Andrew Rodriguez

Artistic Director & Founder
Catherine LaMoreaux

Artistic Associate & Founder
Anna Paone



This production co-sponsored by
Friends of Metuchen Arts, a 501(C)(3)
registered nonprofit organization.

DragonflyArtsNJ.org

2024-25 Donors

Dragonfly is a nonprofit performing arts organization and relies on its donors for support. We are incredibly grateful for the contributions and support of all of our donors listed below. If you are willing to help us in any way, please contact us through email at DragonflyArtsNJ@gmail.com or by calling 908-930-3210. All contributions are tax-deductible. If your company matches your gift, let us know so you can multiply your contribution.

ANGELS -- \$1,000+

Friends of Metuchen Arts	David and Linda LaMoreaux
Lawrence Paone	Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission
Plainfield Foundation	Union County Board of County Commissioners
The Westfield Foundation	

SUPERSTARS -- \$500-\$999

Anne Newman Charitable Fund in Memory of Vera Mowry Roberts

DIRECTORS --- \$250-\$499

Michael Dancho & Mead Winters	Jeanne Johnston	
Patti Geruc Klimashousky	Matt Levy	Richard Loosli
Angela Pineiro	Kathy & Neil Ryan	Harry Schultz
Blue Parachute Printing		

FEATURED STARS -- \$100-\$249

Elena Marie Abdou in memory of Vivian Trovato Edwards		
Debjani Banerjee	Susan Cain McQuilkin	Jyoti & Murtaza Presswala
Alexis Jaffe	Therese Jaffe	Anil Joseph
Barry Leonard	Sham Ramai	Neil & Kathy Ryan
Annette & Dave Satkowski	Annabeth Sloan	Matt Sylvester
Turner Family Foundation		

SPOTLIGHTERS -- \$50-\$99

Christine Comercei	Marsha Jewczyn	Sanjay Kripalani
Benjamin Marshall	Hedi Molnar	Maureen Nulty
Anna Paone	Laura Paone	Ellen & Bruce Simmons

FRIENDS – Up to \$49

Jol� Antoine�ette	Peter Arriaga	Joseph Binenesztok
Maureen Dolan	Ian Henderson	Matt Holbert
Barry Leonard	NDUMC Yayas	Annick Vasquez

Ways to Support Dragonfly

Donate through Venmo: @DragonflyArtsNJ

Donate through PayPal: DragonflyArtsNJ@gmail.com

Donate by Check: Mail to Dragonfly, 2 Cliffwood Pl., Metuchen, 08840

Volunteer to help backstage or assist in other ways

Come see our shows and tell your friends about them!

Dragonfly's Name

The dragonfly symbolizes, for the LaMoreaux family, Catherine's nephew Cristoffer, who died when he was ten years old. Cristoffer was a dynamic, intelligent, kind young man with a multicultural heritage. Dragonflies also stand for going beyond the surface and looking deeper into the meaning of life. Dragonflies represent change and self-realization. Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center hopes to be able to give performers chances to find their voices and express themselves through dramatic arts. Additionally, the iridescent rainbow colors of the dragonfly illustrate the theater's commitment to the celebration of diversity and multiculturalism.

Dragonfly's Mission Statement

Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center is dedicated to celebrating diversity through arts education, dramatic performances, and creation of new works. Dragonfly is committed to reaching all the diverse communities of Central New Jersey with performances that enlighten, entertain, and educate, as well as offering opportunities for development of new works. Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center is a nonprofit, cultural organization recognized by the IRS as a 501(C)(3) charity.

Dragonfly is in residence at duCret School of Art

duCret School of the Arts is the oldest arts school in the state of New Jersey. Founded in 1926 by artist and teacher Marjorie Van Emburgh, the school was originally located in a large carriage house in a residential area of Plainfield. By 1936 it had outgrown its original quarters and moved to the Babcock Building in the Plainfield business district. Over the next two decades, the school continued to build a reputation for excellence in art education. It is the school's mission to prepare students for successful careers in the arts. duCret brings together masters and students to study specific mediums and understand how to further individual artistic expression. The school fosters community pride through creative events, lectures, workshops, and more.

Dragonfly's History

Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center was formed in the spring of 2014 by Catherine LaMoreaux and Anna Paone. Catherine and Anna saw the need for a community theatre in the area that incorporated affirming theatre education. Anna, a recent college graduate, believed that aspiring actors and directors needed an artistic outlet beyond the crowded New York City theatre scene. Catherine had long wanted to do performances geared toward diverse audiences with diversity in casting. The two unified their years of theatre and arts administration experience along with their creative mindsets to start Dragonfly. Since then, Dragonfly has presented 37 productions, three traveling shows, 47 Zoom shows during quarantine, and numerous educational work-shops.

Thank you

The Cast and Crew are grateful to the following:
The Westfield Foundation
Tim O'Connor and duCret School of the Arts
Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center Board Members
Kat Davis and Friends of Metuchen Arts
Susan and Stu Schnitzer
Mirian Drehmer, Wardens, Vestry and
The Rev. Dr. Todd Foster of St. Luke's Church

Director's Notes

I have seen *Our Town* performed many times – on Broadway, at Metuchen High School, and at the Player's Guild of Leonia (with my daughter playing Emily). I had a small part in a production at The Brook that my daughters were in, and I directed the play for Dragonfly in Woodbridge. All of these productions were incredibly moving, and I took something new away from every one. *Our Town* demonstrates the importance of community and family, while teaching us to value the small things in life and look at each new day as a gift.

This production feels especially meaningful today. The play takes place around between 1901 and 1913 and therefore offers a glimpse into what life was like in Plainfield at the turn of the last century: a time without social media and cell phones. The simplicity of Thornton Wilder's staging invites us to imagine freely and reflect deeply. There are no elaborate sets or props to distract us; instead, we focus on the words, the relationships, and the timeless truths about how fleeting—and how precious—life is.

Our Town demonstrates the importance of community, and in order to put on a play, a director needs to create a community among the cast and crew. I hope I have done that. The actors in *Our Town* come from different towns, backgrounds, and professions. Our cast includes teachers, therapists, students, realtors, retirees, and more. Throughout the six weeks we rehearsed together, we got to know each other and came to value each other's talents, strengths, and viewpoints. The cast you will see on stage is strong, cooperative, talented, and incredibly hard-working. I feel lucky to have been able to get to know them.

Directing *Our Town* has served to remind me to slow down, to appreciate morning coffee, shared glances, and quiet moments. I hope you leave tonight's performance with a renewed appreciation for your own town, your own daily rituals, and the people who walk alongside you. Thank you for joining us.

— Catherine LaMoreaux, Director

CAST

(In order of appearance)

Stage Manager.....	David Clarke
Joe Crowell, Jr.	Gianna Spano
Dr. Gibbs.....	Jim Barnish
Howie Newsome	Merav Mandel
Mrs. Gibbs	Elena Marie Abdou
Mrs. Webb	Annick Vasquez
Rebecca Gibbs.....	Emmeline Vasquez
Wally Webb	Gabriel Vasquez
George Gibbs	Golan Mandel
Emily Webb	Ameline Vasquez
Professor Willard	Liz Rapelye
Audience Woman, Dead Person.	Nirupama Rajadhyaksha-Nadkarni
Lady in the Audience	Susan Roberts
Mr. Webb.....	Andrew Rodriguez
Simon Stimson.....	Jon Turner
Mrs. Soames.....	Liz Rapelye
Constable Warren.....	PJ Campacci
Si Crowell	Gianna Spano
Baseball Players	PJ Campacci, Merav Mandel, Gianna Spano
Sam Craig (Samantha).....	Susan Roberts
Joe Stoddard.....	Hedi Molnar
Mourner #7	Vicki Cardona

Setting: The play takes place in Grover's Corners, NH between 1901 and 1913.

There will be two short intermissions.

Behind the Scenes

Producer, Director & Artistic Director	Catherine LaMoreaux
Artistic Associate	Anna Paone
Stage Manager & Sound Design	Jada Davis
Backstage Manager & Props Handling.....	Vicki Cardona
Light Design & Run	Aidan O'Rourke
Stage Crew	Andrew Rodriguez
Vocal Coach	Elena Marie Abdou
Costume Design	David Clarke

The Cast



Elena Marie Abdou (Mrs. Gibbs, Vocal Captain) is pleased to be with Dragonfly for her fifth show. 2024 saw two of her biggest acting challenges yet: Norma in *The Diviners*, and Nancy French in *Grand Horizons*. No stranger to area stages, she has been nominated by Broadway World for her portrayal of Mrs. Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* with Dragonfly, and by NJAct for Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* with Main Street Theatre. Other favorite roles include Ida Straus (*Titanic*), Woman #1 (*Putting It Together*), and Signora Naccarelli (*A Light in the Piazza*). She is a rep member at Playhouse 22, a Cantor at St. Bartholomew's Church, Adjunct Faculty at Middlesex College, can boast an MFA in Acting—but most importantly, proud Nonna to Felicity and Octavia, and loving mom to Christopher. *Deo Gratias e in bocca al lupo!*



Jim Barnish (Mr. Gibbs) Jim is thrilled to be performing at Dragonfly for the first time. Other recent productions include *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Charlotte's Web* and *Night of the Living Dead*. He has also performed in musicals such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Anything Goes* and *West Side Story*. Special thanks to the staff and cast for making this an enjoyable experience.



PJ Campacci (Constable Warren) PJ is happy to return to the stage and work with Dragonfly for the first time. Previous credits include John (*Lion in Winter/Villagers Theater*), Potiphar (*Joseph/Dreamcoat* at SVP), and Ed (*You Can't Take it With You* at Westfields). PJ is thrilled to work with the cast and production staff. Thank you to my family and friends for support and love.



David Clarke (Stage Manager, Costume Designer) While this is David's first show with Dragonfly Multicultural Art Center he is no stranger to community theater, having served on the board of the Sayreville Main Street Theater Company, GB productions, and Spotlight Productions. Favorite roles include Barney in *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, Ralph/Narrator in *Christmas Story*, and Hysterium in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He wants to thank Catherine for the opportunity to participate with this talented group, his wife Kim for permission to participate in this talented group, and his friends and family for their support.



Golan Mandel (George) Golan is thrilled to return to Dragonfly after playing Dewey in *The Diviners* last summer. Previous notable credits include *La Belle Et La Bette* (Beast), *Shakespeare in Love* (Burbage), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Perchik), *Children of Eden* (Abel), *Matilda* (Sergei), *Equus* (Dalton), and most recently, *Guys and Dolls* (The Greek). Offstage, Golan is a finance student at Kean University with a background in data analytics.



Summer Sundays with Friends 315 Main Street, 1–3pm, Free

Sunday 7/13–Jo Wymer

co-sponsored with Basecamp

Sunday 7/27–Kim Boyko

sponsored by Community Nursery School

Sunday 8/10–Sarah Teti

co-sponsored with Basecamp

Sunday 8/24–Danny and Kim Adlerman

sponsored by Community Nursery School

Save the date! September 7 at 3pm

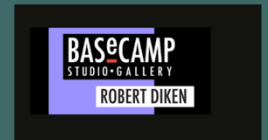
Peter and the Wolf at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Open Gallery Hours

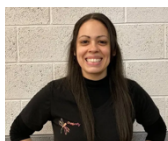
Wednesdays 6–8pm

Sundays 1–3pm

FRIENDS of
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The Crew



Vicki Cardona (Backstage Manager and Prop, Mourner #7) This is Vicki's 15th Dragonfly production as crew member. She is also Dragonfly's dresser, props mistress, set changer, as well as Backstage Manager. Vicki appeared in Dragonfly's 2024 One-Acts in the play *Poetry, Prose....and Pirates*. She played the poet Meg. She is an alumnus of duCret School of Art. Vicki is very excited to be a part of this production and wishes the cast and crew the best of luck!



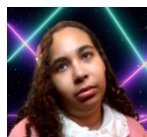
Jada Davis (Stage Manager and Sound Design) (@totallyjada) Jada directed *Jaja's African Hair Braiding*, *Love Letters*, and *Forgiveness*, which was nominated for a Perry Award in 2024. Jada has additionally stage managed every production for Dragonfly since May 2022, and is a Board of Directors member. Outside of theater, she works full time in Marketing and Advertising, and is also an internationally published model, represented by The Round Table Agency. Jada gives her flowers to Catherine, Tim, Vicki, Aidan and the rest of her amazing cast and crew for their endless support. Portfolio: jada-lynn-davis.kavyar.site



Catherine LaMoreaux (Producer, Artistic Director, & Director) Catherine co-founded Dragonfly with her daughter Anna Paone in 2014, fulfilling her lifelong dream. As a child, she forced her many younger siblings to perform in her movies and plays. Catherine earned an undergrad degree in Theater at the University of Michigan. Upon graduation, she moved to NYC for the summer, never having been there before. She liked it so much, she stayed and began a career in arts administration. When she and her husband decided to start a family, they moved to Metuchen, NJ, where she worked for the Forum Theater, then became a high school English, Theater, and Public Speaking teacher. After nine years, she left teaching, and started Dragonfly. Besides directing and producing for Dragonfly, Catherine has performed in *Tenali Raman*, *Tennessee Women for the Vote*, *Love Letters* and Zoom readings. She acted in the web series *Year of the Phoenix* and the short films *In Metuchen* and *The Gun Lap*. She has written plays for Dragonfly including *Black and Blue*, the adaptations of *Cyrano* and *Tenali Raman*, and *The Book Club*. She was nominated for a Perry Award for directing *Popcorn Falls*. Catherine teaches as an adjunct at Middlesex College and works as an IT administrative assistant for Metuchen Schools. She thanks Anna, Laura, Lawrence, Matt, Peter, Jada, Vickie, Tim, Aidan, Andrew, Dragonfly Board Members, the Dragonfly audience, and the wonderful, incredibly talented cast of *Our Town*.



Aidan O'Rourke (Lighting) Aidan has been working on the Dragonfly crew since 2019, but he started with the company before that, taking acting classes with Catherine in Woodbridge. He was promoted to Stage Crew Chief after working through the heat on the summer porch shows. Now Aidan designs lighting for Dragonfly shows and runs the lighting board. He co-directed one of our previous one-acts. Aidan is from Colonia and currently works at The Club at Woodbridge as a Supervisor of the kids' program.



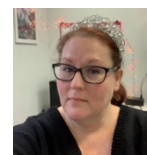
Merav Mandel (Howie Newsome) is excited to make her Dragonfly debut in *Our Town*! Although this is her first time acting with Dragonfly, she has acted in several other shows in the past, including but not limited to *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Intimate Apparel*. She is currently studying theatre performance and writing at Kean University.



Hedi Molnar (Joe Stoddard) Hedi is delighted to be returning to Dragonfly, where she played Julia in *Forgiveness* in the one-act festival that was Nominated for a Perry Award. She also played Vera, a 91-year-old grandmother, in *4000 Miles* (NLT), and Grandma Kurnitz in *Lost in Yonkers* (Pioneer Productions). Big thanks to Catherine, Jada, Vickie and the wonderful cast and crew for creating *Our Town*. Lovingly, she dedicates this performance to her husband Michael and their daughters, Rae and Ren.



Nirupama Rajadhyaksha-Nadkarni (Townswoman, Dead Person, Choir) Nirupama is an avid arts enthusiast with a lifelong interest in music, dance, and drama. Her journey began on stage, acting in plays during her school and college days - a passion that only deepened over the years. She is trained in Indian classical dance and has attended acting workshops in both India and the USA, which strongly shaped her approach to performance. Nirupama has brought characters to life through stage plays and drama, and voice overs. Alongside her artistic pursuits, being an educational psychologist, she complements her creative expression with empathy and insight. Blending creativity, expression, and a love for learning, Nirupama continues to explore the richness of the performing arts.



Liz Rapelye (The Professor and Mrs. Soames) Liz is thrilled to be back with Dragonfly after appearing in *The Chocka*, *Little Women* (NJ Perry Award Nomination) and *Pride and Prejudice*. Memorable roles include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *As You Like It* (Rosalind), *The Tempest* (Trinculo), *Henry V* (Nell/Alice), and *Macbeth* (First Witch/Ross). She's also appeared *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club* (Vernadette), *The Heiress* (Maria), *The Women* (Edith), *Grease* (Marty), among others. Liz recently directed the world premiere of the play *Is This Seat Taken?* A proud second-place finisher on *Jeopardy!*, Liz's favorite role is Mama to her two boys, David and Nate. Thank you to them and to Michael.



Susan Roberts (Sam Craig and Ensemble) Susan is honored to be part of *Our Town*, a timeless piece of classic Americana set in the early 1900s. As an ensemble member, she helps bring Grover's Corners to life, celebrating its quiet joys and deep reflections. Susan has previously performed in 20 local NJ theaters, including 9 Dragonfly productions and 19 Dragonfly Live Radio Plays during lockdown. Beside onstage performances, Susan is an assistant videographer and sometimes backstage helper. Susan's forte is zany and quirky character parts — her last playing Kitty in *Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors* also at Dragonfly. Susan is happy to be back at Dragonfly reuniting with crew as well as familiar and new cast members. Special thanks to director Catherine for this grand opportunity and to hubby Stuart for encouraging Susan in all and many ways.



Andrew Rodriguez (Mr. Webb, Stage Crew) Andrew is back at Dragonfly after appearing as Tony, the lovestruck gym teacher in the one-act play *The Book Club*. This time, Andrew is not just performing, he's also working on the stage crew and helping with ensemble blocking. Andrew is from Woodbridge NJ and likes to write and direct short films, release music, and collaborate with creative people. Find Andrew on instagram (@kyle_xhef).



Gianna Spano (Joe Crowell and Si Crowell) Gianna is thrilled to make her Dragonfly debut! She recently gave a performance as Thing in *The Addams Family*, and has brought to life a wide range of characters in productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, *It's a Wonderful Life* (as Young Mary), *How to Survive a Zombie Apocalypse*, and *Grease*. When she's not on stage, Gianna keeps rhythm as a drummer in the jazz band and sings her heart out in the school choir. She sends a huge thank you to her parents and everyone who's cheered her on over the years.



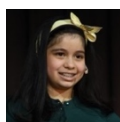
Jon Turner (Simon Stimson) Highland Park resident Jon Turner has appeared in plays for approximately thirty years. Favorite roles of his include Henry Saunders in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Glad Hand in *West Side Story*, various roles in *War of the Worlds*, and rather recently, Mr. Lawrence in Dragonfly's 2023 production of *Little Women*. But that's only a small handful of the thirty-plus shows he has been involved with. In addition to acting, Jon loves playing videogames, viewing movies (particularly fantasy, emotional, and traditional animated ones), and lectures on various Anime at conventions. He works as an assistant at Bartle School's ASP program, has produced projects of his own, and is also currently working on his first novel, a fantasy drama called *The King and Two Brothers*. Jon is thrilled to be making his fifth appearance at Dragonfly Multicultural Arts Center, especially for this particular show, which he saw twice in his lifetime (first by his friends in high school, and last year at Magic Box Theatre in New York). Portraying Simon is also something of a callback to one of his childhood memories. "When I was young, I was into classical music," he says. "And I had initially sought conducting an orchestra, but over the years my interests changed. But doing this role is almost like coming full circle. Not to mention that it's truly a timeless, emotionally haunting tale. I guess it was only a matter of when, not if, I would come into *Our Town* as well." Jon is very grateful to Catherine, Jada, and the entire cast for yet another great experience on the stage — and what is sure to be yet another highlight on his resume.



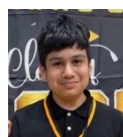
Amelie Vasquez (Emily) Amelie Vasquez is very grateful to be involved in this production of *Our Town*, and for the opportunity to portray Emily Webb. She has played roles such as: Olive Ostrovsky - *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* & Marian Paroo - *The Music Man*. A special thanks to her family and friends for supporting her along the way. A greater thanks to the Dragonfly Community Theatre, everyone involved in the team, and the wonderful director, Catherine LaMoreaux.



Annick Vasquez (Mrs. Webb) Annick Vasquez is overjoyed to be part of her fourth production with Dragonfly. What makes this experience even more special is sharing the stage with most of her family. Music has always been her first love but she caught the theatre bug in college playing Olivia in *Evening Star* and hasn't looked back! Favorite roles have been Abuela Claudia in *In the Heights*, Carmen in *Real Women Have Curves*, and Mrs. Claus in *Christmas Caper*. She also appeared in *Poetry, Prose, and Pirate* with Dragonfly and directed *The Chocka*. Come back in September of this year for *Fade*, which Annick will be directing. Annick would like to thank her family for going on this journey with her.



Emmeline Vasquez (Rebecca Gibbs) is excited to be in her first Dragonfly production as Rebecca. She just completed sixth grade and starred as Matilda in *Matilda* with her school. Past roles include Molly in *Annie*, Beaky in *Honk*, and a Snow Fairy in *The Christmas Caper*.



Gabriel Vasquez (Wally Webb) is honored to be in his first production at Dragonfly as Wally. He is going into ninth grade and is looking forward to High School. Gabriel has worked onstage and as crew in several productions. Past roles include Mr. Wormwood in *Matilda*, President Roosevelt in *Annie*, Turkey in *Honk*, and Snow Prince in *Christmas Caper*.

Dragonfly's Board of Directors

Angela Pineiro, President

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Marilyn Silver, Vice President

Tim O'Connor, Treasurer

Jada Davis

Paul Nadler

Shauni Ramai

Catherine LaMoreaux, Ex Officio and Artistic Director

Do You Have a Creative Side?

Looking to do something creative, but don't want to act?

We're always looking for someone to help with publicity, costumes, backstage work, set construction, etc.

If you're interested see Catherine after the show or email DragonflyArtsNJ@gmail.com

DRAGONFLY ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get the most up-to-the-moment information on our performances and auditions.