

Gather Repertory Presents
Thornton Wilder's



*Artwork: Benjamin Cahoon

Chehalem Cultural Center Forecourt
July 29-31; August 5-7
7:30 pm

Our Town

Written by Thornton Wilder
Co-Directed by *JeanneAnn** and *Reid**

Actors

Stage Manager ... *Emi*
George Gibbs ... *Delia*
Emily Webb ... *Reid**
Dr. Gibbs ... *Eric*
Mrs. Gibbs ... *Michael*
Mr. Webb ... *Phil*
Mrs. Webb ... *Cara*
Wally Webb ... *Sophie*
Rebecca Gibbs ... *Sarah*
Simon Stimson ... *Daye*
Howie Newsome / Sam Craig ... *Emma*
Prof. Willard / Joe Stoddard ... *Kathy*
Mrs. Soames ... *Luke*
Si Crowell ... *Noelle*
Joe Crowell ... *Kingston*
Constable Warren ... *Rory*

Designers

Stage Manager ... *Emma*
Assistant Stage Manager ... *Hayley*
Sound / Front of House Manager ... *Cora**
Set & Props ... *Jenny*
Dramaturg ... *Brendan**
Lighting ... *Kacy*
Costumes ... *Hope*
Hair / Makeup... *Gabrielle*

*Gather Repertory Company Member

Our production is made possible by our wonderful and generous supporters:

*The Chehalem Cultural Center,
Ronni Lacroute,
Yamhill County Cultural Coalition,
First Federal,
Portland Awesome Foundation,
Oregon Arts Commission,
Seeding Justice,
Table14,
and Pflag.*

We'd love to offer our special thanks to

*Sean,
Polly,
Jesse,
Benjamin,
Cheri,
Chloe,
Bryan,
Andrea,
Nathanael,
Steve of Table14,
Rebecca and Diane of Pflag,
Jeremi and John of Pollinate,
Amanda of Soul Seeds,
And so many others who have made this possible.*

Producer's Note

Our Town is a play that ultimately celebrates - despite hardship, or heartbreak, or tragedy. One of the repeating hymns Wilder chooses to use and that you'll hear tonight is "Blessed Be the Tie that Binds" which, in one of the verses, says:

*We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.*

It is through this lens of celebration through tragedy, as we have shed quite a few sympathizing tears for each other this past year in our town of Newberg, in which we present our version of *Our Town*. A version which, though all original language has been preserved, highlights the joy of including each other.

To every member of the LGBTQIA+ community here: we want you to know that you are not alone. You are seen. This play, this whole entire thing we made and have been putting together for months, is for you. Tonight, we celebrate you.

We are convinced that the only way forward is to come together and to build bridges. "Our Town" is Gather Repertory's first bridge.

Thank you for being here with us.

- JeanneAnn, Brendan, and Reid

We at Gather Repertory acknowledge that we live and work on the stolen ancestral lands of the Tualatin Kalapuya people. We acknowledge that the seizure of these lands was by armed and forced removal of these Indigenous communities. This acknowledgment does not take the place of authentic relationships with Indigenous communities but instead serves as a first step in honoring the legacy of the land.

ACTORS

Emi Joy (*they/she*) graduated from Newberg High this past June, with all four years of Highschool packed full of the performing arts. They finished off their High School experience with a bang, traveling to compete with a duo musical piece at the International Thespian Festival and receiving a superior score. They are currently assistant directing the upcoming fall musical at Newberg High. They are a passionate advocate for disability rights and accommodations and hope to incorporate that into their future career.

Eric (*he/him*) and his husband of 27 years have been splitting time between their home on Chehalem Mountain and in the San Francisco Bay Area since 2007. An Oregon native, it's long been Eric's dream to one day retire from a career in technology and return to this beautiful state full time to pursue creative passions and to build community. While he's had many opportunities to walk a stage speaking at conferences, serving as emcee, playing in three bands, and singing at community fundraisers; this production of *Our Town* marks the first time in 34 years that he's had the thrill of performing in a theatrical production. It's hard to imagine a better show to mark his return home—one that celebrates the beautiful, diverse community we have here.

Kingston (*he/him*) has been a Newberg resident from birth. Starting theater in 2021 in a high school production of 'Mamma Mia!' He's been in love with theater ever since. Acting and doing tech for shows! He just finished his freshman year of high school and *Our town* is his first non-high school production!

Emma (*she/her*) plays Howie Newsome and Sam Craig in this production and is very excited to be a milkman. She currently attends George Fox University and is pursuing a degree in social work. Most recently, she was in GFU's production of *The Hijabis* and was on the lighting crew for *Godspell* and *The Hijabis*. Emma is an intern for Table 14 and has enjoyed every second of it. She'd like to thank her community at Table 14 and Wayside Friends.

Michael (*he/him*) is honored to be joining Gather Repertory's cast for *Our Town*. More familiar working behind the camera, Michael recently had the privilege of performing as Giles Ralston in Pentacle Theater's production of *The Mousetrap*, which inspired him to jump into the acting community feet-first. By day, you will find Michael working as a video engineer and IT Director at Capital Community Media in Salem. He wants to thank Jo D, David C and Emma T for pushing him to give theatre acting a try, and a special thanks to Sarah, his family, and all of his new found friends in the community for their love, support and encouragement.

Cara (*she/her*) has called Newberg her home since 1999. In that time, she has worked at George Fox and A Family Place Relief Nursery. She currently fills her days serving at a nonprofit to strengthen young families across Oregon. Acting has been on the back burner while she has invested in her career and raising her family for the last 22 years, but she's thrilled to be back on stage. Her work as an ally started in the 1990s but it has taken on more intentionality recently through her volunteer work with Safe Families and Wayside Friends Church. She is excited to be a part of telling meaningful stories in this community and hopes it will spark curiosity in those who come to see it. She is grateful for the unwavering support of her husband, Andy and her three fantastic children, Jack, Henry, and Lily.

Delia (*they/them*) has only lived in Newberg for 10 months, but has been actively working in and supporting students in the community for nearly two years. They graduated from Bushnell University in 2017 with a degree in Music Industry with a focus in audio engineering, and worked in Nashville in live sound, studio sound, and business marketing. Between working full time for the Newberg School District and running an elaborate Dungeons and Dragons campaign, has been partnering with a local church to put into practice the work of anti-racism, justice and equity. They are proud to continue working in and for this community they've grown to be part of.

Sara (*she/her*) made her stage debut at age 4 as Mary in a Christmas pageant and has loved performing ever since. She also loves sports and her pets. She is inspired to write poetry by Amanda Gorman and she loves hanging out with her friends. She is delighted to be in *Our Town* with such amazing people and is thankful to the artistic staff and her family and friends for their love and support.

Sophie (*she/her*) is excited to be reuniting with some of her George Fox friends and playing Wally Webb in this production of *Our Town*. Sophie has performed in numerous shows in the area including Annie in SFA's *Annie*, Olaf in VPA's *Frozen Jr.* and as Adele in George Fox's *Jane Eyre*. Sophie has been singing and acting since the age of 8. She will be a Freshman this fall and looks forward to more acting opportunities coming her way. She plans to study Musical Theater after high school. She would like to thank all of her friends and family for their support and all of her teachers and mentors who have helped guide her and grow as an actress.

Reid* (*he/him*) has been a member of the Newberg community since 2016 and recently graduated with his bachelor's degree in theatre with a concentration in acting/directing at George Fox University. A performer at heart, he's appeared in shows at George Fox, Portland, and Florida, where he performed in shows and parades at Walt Disney World. In 2019 he came out publicly as gay during GFU's annual lip sync competition—the resulting visibility allowed him to meet, connect and grow with the queer community in Newberg and has given him the privilege of working with organizations like Table 14 and Pflag that strive to serve the LGBTQIA+ community.

Noelle (*she/they*) was born and raised in Newberg and attended school in the Newberg School District every year from kindergarten to 12th grade. They have had a love for the performing arts from a very young age. She started playing the violin at age eleven, branched out into choir, and then theater during sophomore year of high school. They were very active in the Newberg High School Theater Department appearing in many shows over the past few years, some of her favorites being playing Tanya in *Mamma Mia The Musical*, and Maria in *Twelfth Night*. In the fall, Noelle will be attending University of Portland to study music education and theater.

Kathy (*she/her*) is an emeritus professor of English and Women's Studies from George Fox University. Despite having taught drama for decades, despite having seen too many plays to count, despite having written a book on Irish drama, despite having read every play written in Ireland in the 20th century, she has never before acted in a play, and is really enjoying this experience! She would like to thank her husband, Ken, for encouraging her to try something new, and her dog, Roscoe, for tolerating her absence during prime ball-throwing hours.

Phil (*he/him*) has lived in the Newberg area since 2016. When not working as the tasting room manager at Eminent Domaine, he can be found around Yamhill County leading wine tours by bike with his wife Lisa and their tour company, Wine de Roads. Phil auditioned for *Our Town* after some encouragement from Lisa and co-worker Camille S. He sent a last minute email to the Gather Repertory team the day of the audition and they seemed happy to give him a chance. With all the talented actors he has worked with in this production, Phil feels lucky that they needed a 55 year old to play the role of an old dad. Phil believes Newberg is a great community full of caring and diverse people. The arts have always been a means to express important sentiments and he hopes that this production can help bring some healing and positive focus to “Our Town”

Daye (*they/them*) has been in the Newberg community for the last 6+ years and graduated from GFU with a BS in Mechanical Engineering with independent studies in Theatre. As a first-gen university student with a passion for equity and intersectionality, Daye performed in two GFU mainstages while in school, and post-grad has been in Portland acting with PCS, AGE, and other various multicultural projects emphasizing marginalized voices. Daye had the privilege of being in queer leadership at Fox and transitioned into helping form Table14 and continuing to serve the LGBTQ+ community in Newberg and surrounding areas over the last few years, most recently helping host the 2nd annual Lavender Graduation for T14/Common Ground. Whilst busy with engineering work, they are thankful for the unending support of their loved ones in the area (Grace, Cory, Carmine, and JM to name a few) as they pursue their various passions wholeheartedly.

Rory (*he/him*) graduated from George Fox University in 2017 with his B.A. in English Literature and Writing, and has remained present and active in the Newberg community since then, both professionally and creatively. He has been acting since 2007, and taking on the role of Constable Warren (amongst other minor roles) will mark his return to the stage in several years. He has been a champion of the arts as a way to sustain and heal communities and is deeply thankful for his cast, crew, and audience for supporting the community's need for artistic expression during trying times in our world.

Luke (he/him) graduated with a BA in theater in 2022 and is thrilled to be a part of this show. Having been a part of many shows at George Fox, he is excited to be involved in this inclusive production that can have such a positive impact in the area. He would love to thank all of the amazing people he has met in this community, and how they have loved, supported, and encouraged them to grow through all of life's changes and hardships. He hopes that the love and belonging he has felt being a part of this process will reach our audiences, and the area as a whole.

PRODUCTION TEAM

JeanneAnn* (she/her) is the Artistic Director of Gather Repertory. She completed her bachelor's degree in theatre at George Fox University and has Portland-area theatre credits at companies including Third Rail Repertory Theatre, Penguin Productions, Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble, Profile Theatre, and CoHo Productions. She currently works in arts administration as the Community Development Coordinator at The Chehalem Cultural Center in Newberg. She is also the director of George Fox University's touring music and theatre group "Epiphany". She is proud to be Lebanese, an LGBTQIA+ ally, and married to Brendan.

Emma (she/her) Recently graduated from George Fox University with her BA in Studio Art . Emma has recently exhibited as a visual artist at her alma mater, George Fox University, and Black Fish Gallery in Portland, OR. Emma has a passion for community engagement and activism through the arts. She is excited to work with Gather Repertory in their mission to create inclusive spaces through arts. Emma would like to thank her friends and family for their support as she launches her career and her partner Hannah for being her constant cheerleader and encouragement throughout it all.

Hayley (she/her) recently graduated from George Fox University with a BA in Theatre and writing. She found her love for Stage Managing by working on the shows *Godspell* and *Much Ado About Nothing*, both performed at George Fox. After many years of being involved in theatre productions, she is thrilled to be serving the community of Newberg through this production *Our Town*. There have been many shows that have been vital in forming who she is, but none as important to her as this one.

Brendan* (*he/him*) is a writer, a playwright, and a poet. He graduated George Fox University with a bachelors in English and Communication (19') and went on to complete a Master of Arts in Teaching the following year (20'). He is the resident dramaturg of Gather Repertory, and currently works at the Chehalem Cultural Center. He is grateful to be a part of this production and is ever thankful for his parents, and for all the new people he's met because of this show.

Cora* (*she/they*) is a company member and the resident sound designer of Gather Repertory. Cora graduated from George Fox University in 2019 with a degree in Theatre Design/Tech and Acting/Directing. Since then she has gone on to sound design in the greater Portland area including assistant sound designing for PETE's *Cherry Orchard* and sound designing for Theatre Berk's *Professer Jekyll and Ms. Hyde*. Cora would love to thank Jesse Groat, JeanneAnn, Brendan, and Reid, and everyone else who has supported her throughout this process. Welcome to *Our Town*.

Jenny (*they/them*) moved to Newberg in 2018 to pursue their bachelor's degree in theatre and recently graduated from George Fox in April 2022 after studying theatre design & acting. After designing multiple productions for Fox, they are excited to continue their work with "Our Town". They've spent their time in Newberg building their identity as a queer person, and finding ways to express their gender identity through their art. They have been thankful to have such a supportive community to be upheld by, and the opportunity to work with this production that highlights LGBTQ identities.

Kacy (*she/her*) is a theater artist currently located in Woodburn, OR. She is currently the technical director for Woodburn Highschool, the resident lighting designer for Wilsonville Highschool, and does various other local theater work. She was previously the technical director at George Fox University and continues to enjoy designing lights for their annual music department Christmas Concert. In her spare time she is a wonderful wife and mother of two beautiful daughters.

Gabrielle (*she/her*) has lived in Newberg since 2018, her freshman year at George Fox University. Having just graduated with her bachelor's degree in theatre and a minor in art, she has already found herself on a journey using her skillset to serve others. With a love for stories, she is honored to be a part of this one and is excited for what more awaits her.

Hope (*she/her*) settled in the Newberg area after obtaining her bachelor's degree in theatre from George Fox University. Hope's credits span many areas of theatre, including directing, acting, design, and writing. For all her varied interests, however, she prefers to simply refer to herself as a collaborator. Her current projects include *Average Folks*, a narrative podcast about fantastic creatures and government-sanctioned prophets, and *Hope Finds Kierkegaard*, a new play about an encounter between an autistic Sunday school teacher and the philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. Hope has loved engaging and investing in her community through this work and is so grateful for all the people she's had the privilege of collaborating with!

Gather Repertory aims to **bring the community together through sharing purposeful stories that foster equity, develop curiosity, and celebrate life.**

Help us achieve our mission at Gatherrepertory.org



“Our Town” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com