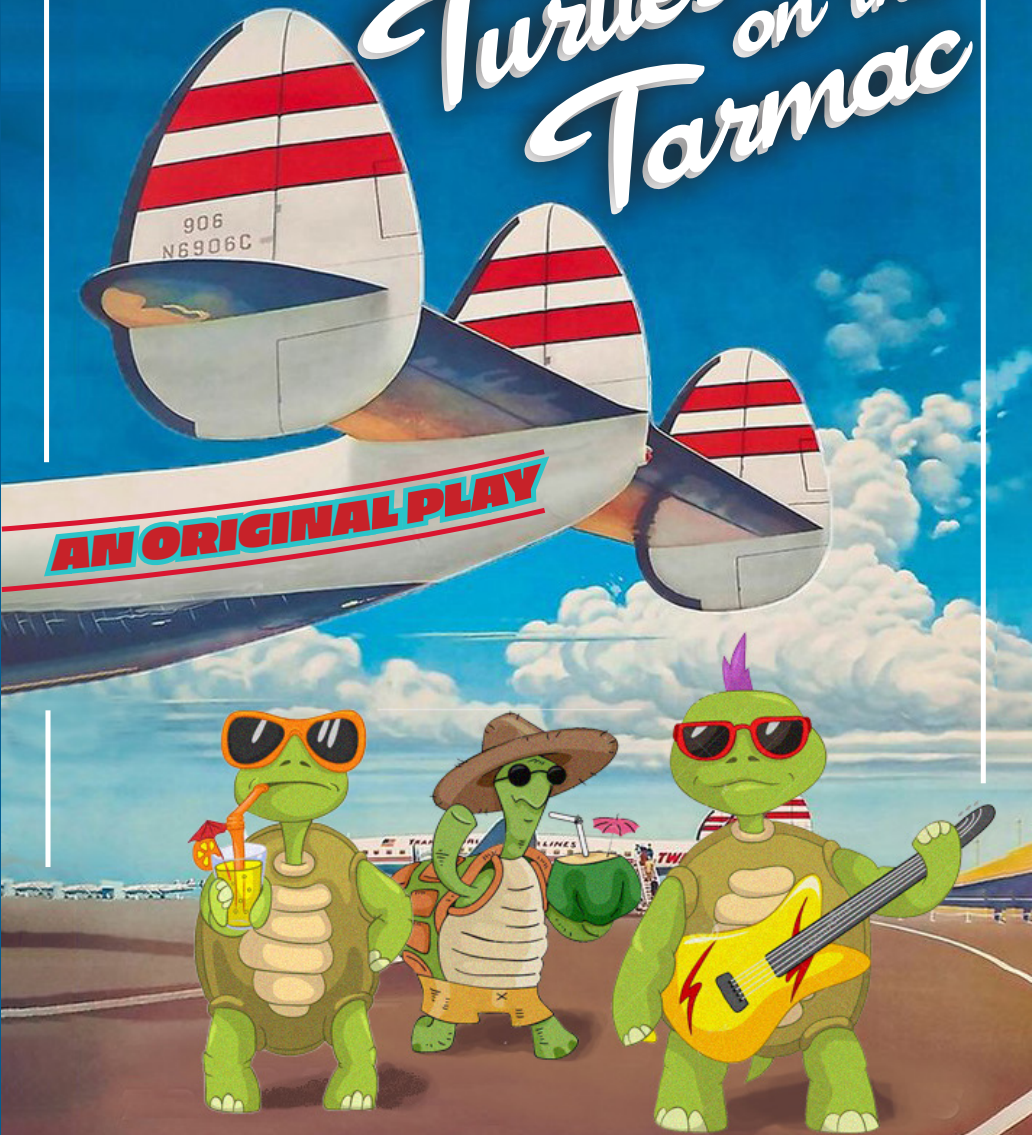


PLAYBILL®

**EAST END
SPECIAL PLAYERS
PRESENTS**

Turtles on the Tarmac



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Composer and Singer

The Board and Staff of the East End Special Players thank you all for joining the Players in their production: *Turtles on the Tarmac*. It has been a while since the group has been on stage. During the shutdown, the Players continued to meet via video conferencing and developed their ideas collaboratively with particular relevance to unfolding real world circumstances. All of us are so proud and grateful for the delight the Players bring to life. We are truly privileged to have them in our lives and to bring this production to all of you.

In Appreciation: **Gabriele T. Raacke**

In 1999 Gabriele Raacke (Gabi) attended the EESP production *Cyrano de Bergerac* and was so moved she reached out and offered her creativity and enthusiasm to the group. Known for her innovative reverse-painting-on-glass pieces, Gabi also has experience as a backdrop painter, set and costume designer, and producer. In 2015, several of her glass paintings formed the basis of *The Fish Juggler* performed by the EESP at the Parrish Art Museum. The actors interpreted her paintings in their own way to produce a truly unique and highly collaborative production. This past year, after over 20 years with the group, Gabi made the difficult decision to step aside to pursue other opportunities. All of us involved with the EESP thank Gabi from the bottom of our hearts for her inspiration, originality, and dedication. Gabi leaves us all with the indelible mark of authenticity and we wish her the greatest of joy in her endeavors. Stay in touch Gabi!

We are thankful to Artistic Director, **Jacqui Leader**, who has been directing for the East End Special Players going on 30 years. With patience, encouragement, and humor, Ms. Leader brings the actors' stories to life. Her dedication to the group makes them shine. In addition to working with the East End Special Players, Jacqui coordinates the Explorers Program, where people with disabilities explore their community through cooking meals, dancing, and art making.

Please join us in congratulating Jacqui Leader on being honored as a 2023 Woman of Distinction presented by the New York State Senate for making outstanding contributions to her community.

About

Turtles on the Tarmac

Bay Street Theater
Saturday, April 29, at 4 p.m.

Imagine an airport, a storm, canceled flights, characters with names like Rotten Robin and Tammy Tam-Tam, stolen goods, spies, fast-paced slapstick, and a colorful kaleidoscope of mayhem and music. And yes, turtles!

Turtles on the Tarmac is created out of the fertile, often eccentric and always light-hearted imaginations of these seasoned actors, and is a family-friendly romp filled with music, intrigue, and an impromptu talent show.

Scenes

1. Cockpit & TSA Security Line
2. Airport Concourse
3. Starlight Lounge
4. Security Office
5. Ticketing Booth
6. Airport Concourse &
Sammy Sam Sam's Mansion
7. Airport Exterior
8. Cockpit
9. Staff Cafeteria
10. Starlight Lounge
11. Starlight Lounge's Performance Stage
12. Breakroom
13. Gate 28
14. Limo
15. Airport Gate



The Players

Aurore Berty

(Turtle)

I live at L'Arche in Riverhead. It is a group home. I love going home whenever I can because I love relaxing and being with my mother. I am a turtle in the play. I have a lot of friends at East End Special Players. They understand me. Also, my sister just had a baby. I am now an aunt!

Robert Carroll III

(Pilot 2)

I am in a program besides the East End Special Players called RISE. We don't act in it, but we do other activities. We go to shopping malls and I really like that.

Ian DuPree

(Dancer DuPree)

My part is fun. I like to dance with my friends in the play. I hope we have a pizza party!

Lynn Fletcher

(Rosalyn, TSA Agent and Paparazzi)

I like being in the East End Special Players especially when we get to write our own plays. I have developed the character where I play a ticket-taker and a paparazzi!

Julian Garcia

(TSA Agent Renato, second-in-command)

I have gotten really good with my diction and pronunciation. In the beginning of rehearsals, I could not remember my lines but now I'm doing a pretty darn good job.

Lillian Havens

(Shirley Temple, Traveler, Bar Patron)

I get a kick out of being with The Players and in this play. Especially because I play a nervous person that has to have a lot of drinks before she can get on a plane. I live alone. I have my own apartment and I take a Suffolk County Transit bus every Saturday to the East End Special Players.

Rebecca Jansson

(Rotten Robin, world-renowned criminal)

I love that this is my second play with the East End Special Players. I've really come out of my shell! I love how we have many new actors and watching how talented they are! I am performing my own original song which I wrote at Caffeine Academy which is my DJ studio. Just want to add I have enjoyed being with all my friends at East End Special Players!

Collier Lee

(Pilot 1)

I love being in The Players. It's amazing, fun, and very special. At first I didn't know what it was, but as the months went on it became quite a unique experience. This amazing crazy journey that I had no idea would be this big!

Lucy Melville

(Turtle)

I like acting. I get on a Suffolk County Transit bus with my dog Lulu and we come every Saturday. I live in Riverhead in a group home that I like a lot now. I really enjoy making cards that my friends buy.

Timmy Motyka

(Tommy Singer, Newscaster, Ticket Agent, Controller)

I am a very talented guy in many ways. I play the guitar and write my own music. I am quite a good artist, too. I sing and I dance. I enjoy it very much.

Joanna Pizzo

(Rosy Red Cheeks, Actress)

I love being in the East End Special Players. It helps me with my acting career and I love being here because everyone is really nice.

The Players

Phebe Rogers

(Honeymooner)

I was the youngest in the group when I started at age 13. I love to dance and every show I choreograph my own dances. I am now 36 and still dancing away.

Bryan Salton

(Turtle/Honeymooner/Husband/Dancer)

I am new to the theatre group and I love it. I have never acted before but being in the East End Special Players has really brought out my abilities! I love being a turtle in the play and dancing with my bride.

Angela Shipkoski

(Flight Attendant, Country Music Star Sammy Sam Sam)

I was 15 years old when I started the East End Special Players. I am now 33! The East End Special Players has given me a lot of friends and confidence.

Elliot Smith

(TSA Agent Elliot, 1st Flight Attendant)

It has been an honor for me to be in the East End Special Players. I enjoy being in the theater group with everyone. I have also been in several church choirs and it is an honor to be in them. I will be honored on April 22nd for my participation in Ellen's Run.

Diane Walderman

(Tammy Tam Tam, Country Singer)

I have two brothers that are very good to me. I live in a group home and they take good care of me as well. I always make sure that I sing in the play because that's very special to me.

Nakowa Weeks

(Dan Douglas, Danny the Dancing King)

I simply like being in the East End Special Players because I like to act. I love being with my buddies Ian, Davy, and Adam. I also like being with Collier and Bryan.

Betsy Weinberger

(Miss Topsy, Waitress)

In the play I am a waitress at the Starlight Lounge. I have been with the group for a long time. I really enjoy acting.

Davy Whelan

(Dancer Davy)

I like coffee, church, and the East End Special Players. I like the dance I have with Nakowa in *Turtles on the Tarmac*.

Bill Wilson

(French Traveler)

I am the oldest member of the East End Special Players. I have been in so many plays. This is the place where I met my best girlfriend Marcia.

Adam Zimmerman

(Dancer Zimmerman)

I love to jump on trampolines. I also love coming to the East End Special Players and saying "chicken nuggets."



About the East End Special Players

The East End Special Players have been creating theater since 1985. Started as a Saturday program for adults with varied needs and abilities by the Towns of East Hampton and Southampton, their first director, Helen Rudman, chose theater as the emphasis of the program. The Players have performed at Bay Street Theater, Parrish Art Museum, Guild Hall, LTV, Dowling College, Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center, Southampton College, in Albany at the Governor's Mansion, at Camp Venture in Westchester, and at the Alliance Francaise in New York City. Their performances garner standing ovations as audiences experience authentic theater and heightened awareness of the Players talents.

There are over 20 actors who comprise the troupe. Some speak, others do not. Some can memorize their lines, others are prompted. Some are natural actors, others have to be coaxed on stage. What they collectively accomplish is astounding. The Players create the plays themselves, developing the story arc and characters, writing the lines, and acting the parts. Their first original play, *You Are A Petunia In My Garden*, was a series of vignettes in exploration of their lives: what they do and feel and wish for as adults with varied needs, abilities and skills. Their more recent productions touch on present-day real-world circumstances.

Jacqui Leader, Artistic Director, and the remarkable support staff, challenge the troupe to reach to the uppermost levels of their abilities and beyond. They all help the Players to enunciate, memorize and improvise, and encourage the players to search inside themselves for emotion and inspiration. It takes more than a year to develop a fully realized theater production, and with each subsequent presentation the actors stretch their abilities with unique theatrical challenges.

Below is a list of productions:

Original Comedy: *Whimsey World*

Original Comedy: *Trouble in Jamaica*

Original Play: *Gigi*

Tableaux vivant: *The Fish Juggler*

African folktales and dance: *Kokrobite Junction*

Ancient Irish myth: *The Legend of Deirdre*

Original play: *You are a Petunia in My Garden*

Romance: *Cyrano de Bergerac*

Commedia de l'Arte: Moliere's *Scams of Scapin*



How You Can Help



With each new production, the Players challenge themselves to develop new material, in their own words, based on their own lives. What is revealed is a deep well of common emotions and life expectations, not to mention an abundance of high-spirited good humor.

Turtles On The Tarmac follows in this tradition from their past hit plays *Whimsy World* and *Trouble In Jamaica*, both staged at Bay Street Theater. The players have been developing this play for two years, despite COVID-19 interference, rehearsing online weekly, fine-tuning their humor and unique vision to bring a full production designed for all ages.

In 2019 Bay Street Theater became the official home of the East End Special Players, formally acknowledging the group as Company-in-Residence. Bay Street's Executive and Artistic Directors believe that the Players should perform on Bay Street's stage. In addition, Bay Street provides technical support and access to other professionals working in the world of theater to support the Players continued development of new artistic works.

\$5,000
Helps to fund a staff person for one year. We serve a population with special needs, and each Player needs personal attention to achieve harmony and productivity during rehearsals and performances.
\$1,000
Funds a Player for one year. East End Special Players is the only program of its kind on the East End. We have over 30 Players who need help to prepare and navigate the details of a production.
\$500
Funds a school performance. East End Special Players has played to a number of high schools to great acclaim. The Players become teachers, showing young people how similar we all are, how we all want the same thing in life: love, purpose, and respect.
\$100
Funds costumes for a show. Help the Players transform into their characters to create the magic of a live performance.
\$50
Helps to support backstage help. Performances by the East End Special Players require the assistance from many people, who help prepare and present the show in its entirety.
\$30
Funds a birthday party for a Player. Help individual players feel special on their birthdays with a celebration during their weekly group.

East End Special Players reaches out to other similarly engaged groups as well as audiences of all kinds to bring more visibility and understanding to the talents in our society.

Through the efforts of the EESP, the Players seek to demonstrate what it means to strive for the best in oneself. Please consider a contribution to help sustain this extraordinary organization.

Thank You

The East End Special Players are indebted to the many people, organizations, and agencies that offer their support.

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