



presents



Friday October 13, 2023 at 7:30
Saturday October 14, 2023 at 7:30
Sunday October 15, 2023 at 2:00

Writers:

Carolyn English and Royal Crane

Directors:

Guy Zachary Gardner and Carolyn English

Synopsis:

On a hot summer day on a dirt road in South Dakota, two young adults almost home, pass a slow-moving tractor. Their head-on collision with another vehicle on the other side of the road and the resulting four deaths isn't uncommon. It happens with regularity on the two-lane dirt highways of rural America. But in that event are all of life's unanswered questions. Why do these things happen? What if they had had one more cup of coffee to drink that day? What if they had had one less cup of coffee? Why do the "good" ones have to die and who gets to decide who the "good" ones are anyway? With the metaphor of a church softball game, a game that everyone understands, we explore the profound questions of life and death and look for understanding. It is simple story; a loyal group of fans hoping for something so small as their church winning a game. Yet, exploring deeper, we see a woman desperately searching for meaning, a group of people searching for community, and a young girl searching for a connection.

Setting:

Softball field in Creedence South Dakota, present day

Act 1:

Late afternoon. Bleachers of the softball field

INTERMISSION

Act 2:

A few minutes later. Bleachers of the softball field

The Cast

Actors listed in alphabetical order

Hali Burton (**Dot**), Sami Cavestani (**Elizabeth**), Chris Edsey (**LuAnn**), Eddie Frierson (**Skipper**), Guy Zachary Gardner (**The Man**), Jen Hasty (**Marlys**), M'Lisa MacLaren (**Nancy**), Franny McCartney (**Grandma Fette**), Chris Wiebler (**Pastor Crank**), Vivian Wiebler (**Ellie**) and Will Wiebler (**Jimmy**).

Hali Burton SAG/AFTRA

(Dot Tobin) On stage, Hali has had leads in *West Side Story*, *Carnival*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Look Back in Anger*, *The Attempted Murder of Peggy Sweetwater*, *Firebugs*, etc. TV – *The Andy Kaufman Special*, *Onstage*, *Mike Douglas Show* and several Norman Lear sitcoms. Singing: *Frankie Valli World Tour*, Barbara Streisand, *Sisterella*, supper clubs, weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, military bases, etc. After a long hiatus, Hali is very excited to be in a play!!!!



Sami Cavestani SAG/AFTRA



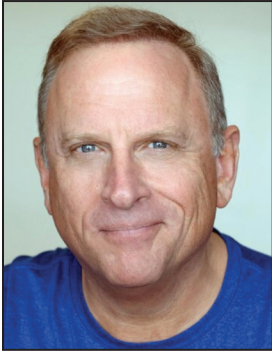
(Elizabeth) Sami Cavestani is an LA native, NYU grad, and active member of the Echo Theater Company. Recently, she was featured in Season 2 of *Minx* on Starz. She is excited to be a part of *Holy Cows*!

Chris Edsey SAG/AFTRA • AEA

(Luann Tobin) Chris moved to LA from Chicago many years ago as a founding member of the acclaimed Los Angeles Repertory Theatre, where she acted with fellow cast member, Hali, and playwright, Carolyn. Chris has performed at many venues including dinner theater, summer stock, commercials, TV, film, and most recently, comedy clubs. It is a pleasure to be in the cast of *Holy Cows* with so many old and new friends!



Eddie Frierson
AEA



(Skipper LaRue) A native of Nashville, Tennessee, Eddie helped pitch his Hillwood High School baseball team to a State Championship then went on to throw collegiately for the UCLA Bruins where he obtained a degree in Theatre Arts. He has, literally, hundreds of acting credits so if you have a curiosity it is probably best to Google or Wiki or IMDB him to learn more! But Eddie is perhaps best known for his acclaimed play **MATTY: An Evening With Christy Mathewson** (www.matty.org) Frierson has always remained close to his athletic roots. He coached 8 seasons at Santa Monica High School and is the current pitching coach at Saugus (CA) High School.

Guy Zachary Gardner
Co-Director

(The Man) Guy Zachary is a Burbank native and child of the BMC whose theatre education progressed from JMMS and BHS to a BA in theatre arts from UC Santa Cruz in 2010. He's worked as an actor, writer, music composer, sound designer, teacher, director, videographer and tech hand in both school and various local and professional organizations including Showcamp, Colony Theatre Company, and Shakespeare Santa Cruz. As there are too many mentors for him to thank to list all of them here, some local ones will suffice: Lynn and Rod Rothacher, Guy Brooks Gardner, and Ann O'Donnell Gardner, eternal gratitude to you all, and a special thanks to Carolyn English for seeing more in him than he sometimes might and all but insistently bringing him onboard. It's good to be back.



Jennifer Hasty
SAG/AFTRA•AEA



(Marlys Brooks) Jen is delighted to be a part of this production of "Holy Cows". She has been a stage and TV/Film actor for many years having Guest Starred on numerous TV shows such as **Breaking Bad, Mad Men, Better Call Saul** and **Criminal Minds**. She has also had several recurring roles on notable shows such as **Bosch** and **True Blood**. Jen is a classically trained singer as well and proudly uses this skill to work with Parkinson's patients to help them keep their voices strong. She is a Personal Trainer and teaches a variety of fitness classes at the Burbank YMCA. The best thing in her life is her husband Pete and their extraordinary 15 year-old daughter Jane. Go Holy Cows!!! Moooo!

M'Lisa MacLaren
SAG/AFTRA • AEA



(Nancy) M'Lisa received her training at the theatre departments of Los Angeles City College and Carnegie Mellon University. Some of her favorite roles over the years are Phyllis Rogers Stone in *Follies*, Philia in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Cherie in *Bus Stop*, and Hodel in *Fiddler on the Roof* (with Hali Burton), as well as appearing in original productions of *The Golden Porcupine*, *M'Lord & Lady*, *Stages*, *It Happened in Hollywood*, and *Death Defying Acts*. As the producing director of L.A. Stock Company, The Actors' Company, and Strut'N Partners, she has overseen the production of plays and musicals for over 40 years.

Franny McCartney
SAG/AFTRA • AEA

(Grandma Fette) Franny was born in a small, obscure town called Brooklyn, New York. She began her professional show-biz career when a band she was in was signed to a recording contract. Franny has performed around the world and on Broadway as one of Bette Midler's adored Harlettes and with, to name drop a few, Bob Dylan, Tanya Tucker, Glen Campbell, Luther Vandross, and Barbra Streisand. Going back to her theatre roots, she has appeared in plays from California to New York and Toronto (garnering rave reviews, of course!). Currently, she loves singing, recording, and emceeing with *The Randy Van Horne Singers* of *Flintstones* fame. She also performs her one-woman show. Franny has released a solo CD, "As Is". She is thrilled and grateful to be a part of the Holy Cows team. GO COWS!!
www.frannymccartney.com



Vivian Wiebler



(Ellie) Vivian is a First grader at Providencia Elementary School. Her past shows include *Zombie Skool The Musical*, *Finding Wonderland*, and *Step in Time*. She enjoys taking dance classes and does tap, ballet, and hip-hop. In her free time she enjoys relaxing and watching her tablet.

Wil Wiebler

(Jimmy) Wil is a Third grader at Providencia Elementary School. His past shows include **Zombie Skool The Musical, Finding Wonderland,** and **Step in Time.** He enjoys taking hip-hop dance class and is looking forward to trying out ballet and tap in the fall. If he is not performing, he also enjoys playing sports. He is currently on a fall baseball team and will start basketball in the winter. In his free time enjoys playing video games.



Chris Wiebler



(Deacon Crank) Chris does not attend Providencia Elementary School, but almost everyone in his family does. He is a father of 3 and is happily married to his amazing wife Megan. It's been a while since Chris has been in a stage production. Most of his performances have been in front of a camera as of late. He can be seen in commercials for Sling TV and CMG Financial and he has done various shorts for the Dhar Mann YouTube channel. In his free time...what is free time?

(Costumes & Props) Donna has had a love for fashion, clothing design and construction, and costuming her entire life. Her professional career from 1980 - 2020 was as an educator in the Arts at John Muir Middle School in Burbank. Having a desire to teach sewing, and seeing a need for costumes at school plays and events, Donna, along with Muir's drama teacher, created the Costume Design Class. This program served the school and community for decades, and launched some of Ms. Collier's students into very successful costuming and design careers! Currently, Donna is involved in costuming community theatre, quilting for charity, creating her own line of jewelry, organizing neighborhood events, gardening, entertaining and travel.

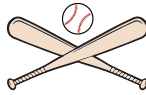
Donna Collier



Carolyn English - Writer, Producer, Co-Director
SAG/AFTRA, AEA



Known for her wacky off-beat blonds, awakened ingenues and excellent comic timing, Carolyn English is a force in the L.A. theatre scene. She earned her M.F.A. in acting at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. As Vice President of English Productions in Los Angeles CA, Carolyn manages communication between writers and actors, creates and edits scripts, and leads social outreach efforts. Carolyn also served on the SAG nominating committee for films. Working with her writing partner, Royal Crane, she is also a published playwright. Carolyn & Royal have been writing for television, radio, stand-up comedians and the stage for 30 years. The two writers and performers met while part of a comedy troupe appearing at the Improvisation and Comedy Store in Los Angeles. Royal, who recently passed, will be laughing and watching from the best seat in the house.



All monetary donations collected at each performance go for promoting the arts here at Burbank First United Methodist Church. We seek to inspire artists and audiences both creatively and fundamentally in a joyful atmosphere. At the “heart of our art” are like-minded individuals striving to create professional, meaningful theatre while supporting the church which gives back to the community at large.

Writers:

Carolyn English and Royal Crane

Directors:

Guy Zachary Gardner and Carolyn English

Costume/Prop Design: Donna Collier

Assistant Director: Karen Kulus

Lighting Design: Derrick Kulus

Graphic Designer: Laurie Sidis

Sound Design: Michael English

Video: Rocky Cascolan

Box Office/Hosting: Donna Michel

Produced for UMC
by Carolyn & Michael English

Thank you to:

The cast and crew. Stephen James, Robert Sidis. Our hosts: Shaaron Casey, Joan Chandler, Ellie English, Mike & Sue Everhart, Evan Swiech and Chris Welker. Cyndee Kelly, video. Mike Everhart for stage management. Food Craft Services by Donna Collier. Katie Trimble, singing our national anthem

Special Thanks to:

Cinelease, Inc. and Jorge Mendoza
for the donation of lights and equipment.

Mark West, Doug Fregolle Promotions, Los Angeles, CA.

Pat and Laurie Patterson @ Patterson Graphics.

Maggie Hall and the Joslyn Center senior
volunteers for the donation of five quilts.

**Welcome to the Burbank First
United Methodist Church. We believe
that the arts help bring out the best in
humankind and we are excited to have
you join us for Carolyn English's play, "Holy
Cows". In this inaugural production, we
explore our faith, our community, and our
relationships with the divine.**

**"Holy Cows" is a compelling story of softball
and faith, about a woman who is down for
the count, but finds hope to declare,
"It ain't over till it's over."**

**Along with this show our church offers
many opportunities to explore music,
dance, theatre, and various creative
expressions. If you feel the urge to lean into
your creative side and join a program like
this play we highly encourage you
to inquire within!**

Thank you for coming,

Pastors Sam Kim and Elisha Davis

info@bfumc.net

 **BURBANK FIRST**
united methodist church