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T@F is Somerville's largest community theatre and part of the Massachusetts Community Theatre Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation.

Our mission is to work together to provide a fun, friendly, and creative theater experience for cast, crew, and audience alike. We welcome volunteers at all levels of experience, without regard to race, color, religion, ethnicity, ancestry, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, national origin, body type, age or

disability. We encourage a supportive environment in which to work, play, grow, and explore new areas of the theatre arts. We offer affordable and eclectic performances to the community, aiming to surprise, delight, entertain, and educate our audiences.

As an all-volunteer organization, we depend on our audience for support. Please consider becoming a subscriber to T@F and supporting our work as a contributor.

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CONTRIBUTOR—Support T@F with a tax-deductible donation that you can claim on your tax return.

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BARE STAGE
BARE SOULS
BARE WORKS
BARE WORDS
BARE BONES
STAGED READINGS AT THEATRE@FIRST

PROOF

by David Auburn

Thursday, October 8th at 8pm

presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My favorite fictional character once said that logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end. What started as an attempt to solve an algorithm turned into an in-depth analysis of every character in this play, including how it resonated with my childhood and adolescence. The family strife. The history of mental illness. The fear of what characteristics are inherited traits. The fear of mediocrity. The escape into the world of mathematics early in my life. (I learned algebra at age 9, statistics by 10, and calculus by 12.) It seems more and more fitting that I am directing David Auburn's "Proof" as I officially celebrate 10 years with Theatre@First.

One of the key themes is Blind Faith versus Logic. Nothing speaks pure logic like the world of mathematics. As someone who is more comfortable with numbers and words, it's easier to understand the equations than the people around me. Math is perfect; people aren't. So, it's hard to have faith in people.

Mathematics and faith have an interesting relationship. It is essentially the most solitary field. (Theoretical physics comes at a close second.) It's just you and something to write with/on, preferably with four walls and nothing else. Just you and the math which has been described by Galileo as the language in which God wrote the universe. It's no surprise that, among scientists, the highest proportion of religious believers is found among mathematicians. You can believe in a higher power that designed the perfection of the math and not the people associated with a given religion. You have the means to understand the universe, and whether there is a higher power, through pure logic. However, pure logic may not be enough. How does one fill in the blanks when using logic to analyze a world with illogical people?

Maybe that's how the madness began.

Santiago Rivas
October 2015

CAST

Sara Burd (*Claire*) is happy to be acting again with T@F- even if just for one night! She was previously seen in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Rimers of Eldrich*, *Never After*, *Lysistrata*, and a little PMRP action back in the day with *Carmilla*. With much love to her tremendous husband and thrilling two-year old, Sara feels every show should rehearse once a week for a month.

Jenn Giorno (*Catherine*) is honored to be in her second T@F show, after 2012's *Pride and Prejudice*. Also previously seen in *Mrs. Hawking* with Chameleon's Dish, she's confused to be in a show wearing clothes from this century. Jenn is thrilled to play a bitter, sarcastic nerd, because art imitates life. Much love to fiancé John, and to Shaughn, Nuance, Phoebe, and the rest of her friends and family for their support.

Dave Policar (*Robert*) is neither a mathematician, nor a genius, nor a ghost. Opinions vary on his sanity. Let X equal the quantity of all quantities of X. Let X equal the shows Dave has previously done with Theatre@First. The months of being too oversubscribed for theatre equal November through October. In September Santiago is directing Proof. I will never be as oversubscribed now as I will be in the future.

Adam Strandberg (*Hal*) is making his debut performance with T@F. Favorite roles include Tupolski in *The Pillowman* and Astrov in *Uncle Vanya* (MIT Dramashop). Adam recently assistant directed for Thomas Derrah on *God's Ear* (Actors Shakespeare Project) and David Gammons on *Necessary Monsters* (SpeakEasy). He is currently working on *Mytho; Or, the Lure of Wildness*, a devised piece by Anna Kohler performing in NYC this spring.

STAFF

Jaie Deschene (*Program Director*) has managed *Bare Bones* since 2013. Familiar to T@F audiences as Greta (*Bent*) and Lady Catherine (*Pride & Prejudice*), Jaie will give her Lady Bracknell next month in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She is also currently rehearsing *The Gondoliers* with MITG&SP and directing as part of OTP's SLAM Boston Diverse Voices in Theatre.

Santiago Rivas (*Director*) is happy to direct his third show with Bare Bones. In the ten years since he started with T@F's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, he has tackled jurors, transcendentalists, hippophiles, Greeks, and now a preschooler. He is ready to go behind the scenes once again to face the complexities of mathematics and mental illness. When not in the theatre, he is immersed in the logic of SQA Engineering, the warmth of his Fabulous Redhead, and a son who has to learn subtraction before going straight to game theory.