

- DIRECTOR'S NOTE -

*84 Charing Cross Road* is adapted from a real book of letters. When I first read it, I fell in love with Helene's voice, and how her words spilled uncensored from her typewriter with a casual disregard for capitalization and punctuation; you could see on the page her excitement in sharing making a connection with these kindred souls living in a place she could only dream of.

This story is all about dreams. To a poor self-educated writer, England represents a richness of culture and history, just across an ocean and yet out of reach. To struggling book-shop employees in post-war London, America is a land of plenty, where food is unlimited and the shelves are filled with luxuries. I believe this amazing correspondence went on as long as it did in part because it served to feed those dreams at a time when they were sorely needed. And sometimes the dream is even more important than the reality.

Here's to dreams.

Gilly Rosenthal



**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.

**SUBSCRIBER**—For just \$50 you get free admission to all T@F shows for a full year.

**CONTRIBUTOR**—Support T@F with a tax-deductible donation that you can claim on your tax return. For information about benefits to contributors starting at just \$20 visit [www.theatreatfirst.org](http://www.theatreatfirst.org).

Please see one of our staff to contribute today, or visit our website.

**Thanks for supporting Theatre@First and the arts in Somerville!**

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

# 84 Charing Cross Road

by Helene Hanff

adapted by James Roose-Evans

April 19, 2012 — Unity Somerville

presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

## - CAST -

**LIZ ADAMS** (*Everybody Else*) is thrilled to be playing with Gilly, Andrew, and Karen, and to get to do all of these characters. She was last seen in 2011's *The Big Broadcast of 1954*, as Leslie Drescher's sidekick in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, and will be appearing in the PMRP Spring Sci-Fi Spectacular. She is grateful to her directors for making it possible to rehearse two shows simultaneously, to her beloved Daniel for patiently coming along with all this, her children for being generally awesome, Kamela, Matt, Meaghan, Mom, Dad, and everyone else who's been so supportive and encouraging.

**KAREN FANALE** (*Helene*) is excited to be making her debut with Theatre@First with this play. She recently appeared as Maria in *Lend Me a Tenor* with Longwood Players. Other roles include Maria Callas in *Master Class*, *Tour Guide/Ensemble in Light in the Piazza* (SpeakEasy Stage), and Marthy in a reading of *Anna Christie* with Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. Karen has performed as a soloist with the Coro Dante, NELO and Boston Bel Canto Opera. Thanks to my mom, Arlene, who gave me my first book!

**ANDREW HARRINGTON** (*Frank*) is returning to the world of the footlights after an absence of many years in the greater theater of career changes and parenthood. His previous roles include a philandering critic, the keeper of a madhouse, and Mr. Spock. He once misread a famous line from Shakespeare as "All the world's a stag," which accounts for his confused look.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

Betty Walker and Unity Church and to Eastern Bank for sharing their space with us and to our friends, family and audience members—without your support of the arts, we wouldn't be here.

## - STAFF -

**JO GUTHRIE** (*Chief Technical Consultant & Bottlewasher*) knows where all the light switches are and is happy to use this superpower for good. Technical Director on too many T@F shows to count, Jo has also worn the hats of producer, set designer, and stage manager, as well as directing *'night, Mother* for Bare Bones in 2010.

**BECKIE HUNTER** (*Assistant Program Director*) is the founding President of T@F. She has produced nine shows, most recently including 2012's *Pride & Prejudice*. She helps improve teaching by managing the office at Harvard University's Derek Bok Center for Teaching & Learning, and dotes on her niece.

**ELIZABETH HUNTER** (*Program Director*) is the founding Artistic Director of T@F and has directed ten T@F shows—including *Clubfoot* for Bare Bones in 2011 and *Pride & Prejudice* in 2012—in addition to working with other community and college theatre groups in the Boston area.

**NEIL MARSH** (*Sound*) has helped make more than twenty-five T@F productions sound good, in addition to one starring turn on stage (*The Bakery*). He is also the Artistic Director of T@F's sister organization, the Post-Meridian Radio Players ([pmrp.org](http://pmrp.org)). Look for their Spring Sci-Fi Spectacular, coming in May!

**GILLY ROSENTHOL** (*Director*) makes her directorial debut with T@F, following her first stint at the helm in 2010 with PMRP for *But Oh, What Happened to Hutchings!* in *The Big Broadcast of 1946*. She has acted in numerous T@F shows, including two *Bare Bones*, and is very glad that her relocation to Quincy does not mean the end of all things T@F. Thanks always to Aaron for his love and support, both emotional and technical.

The play will be presented with one 15-minute intermission.

The audience is invited to stay for a conversation with the director and cast after the performance.

Unity Church is a non-smoking facility.

Restrooms are back up the stairs toward the entrance.