

PRESENTED BY THE BELLINGHAM THEATRE GUILD


KEN LUDWIG'S

THE GAME'S AFOOT

OR HOLMES
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

DIRECTED BY
TERI GRIMES

NOV. 24-
DEC. 10,
2023



"From the intriguing opening mini play within a play to the surprise last scene a split second before final curtain, *The Game's Afoot* gives you everything you love about great live theatre.

Billed as a comedy thriller you will find yourself swept along for a wild and funny ride."

Cleveland Examiner

360-733-1811
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Produced by Special Arrangement with Concord Theatricals

Bellingham Theatre Guild presents

Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot

By Ken Ludwig

Directed by Teri Grimes

November 24 – December 10, 2023

“Ken Ludwig's The Game's Afoot” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

Originally Produced by Cleveland Play House; Michael Bloom, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director

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Warnings:

Gun shots, blood, knives, garottes, flashing lights and general mayhem

Director's Note

Welcome to *The Game's Afoot or Holmes for the Holidays*, Ken Ludwig's brilliant and entertaining murder mystery. For those of us who are puzzle freaks, there is no more satisfying theatrical experience than a mystery. When Inspector Goring says, "Order from chaos. Order from chaos. It's what I do," she essentially identifies what mysteries do. They fit the pieces of the puzzle together, leaving the audience with a sense that justice prevails, that good triumphs over evil and that order prevails. Add to this Ludwig's deft comedic touch, and we have a mystery/comedy to delight us all. I hope you enjoy putting the puzzle together!

—Teri Grimes

Author's Note

William Gillette was a star of the American stage during the early part of the 20th century. He wrote the play *Sherlock Holmes* in collaboration with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and he starred in it with enormous success in both New York and London for a total of 1,300 performances spread over thirty years. He became associated with Holmes in the public's imagination; and with his royalties from this and other plays, he built a replica of a medieval castle on the Connecticut River filled with gadgets representing the latest technology. It was here that he entertained the casts of his latest New York hits, and he remained beloved to his fans until his death in his eighties. Gillette Castle is open to the public to this day.

—Ken Ludwig

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the following businesses and individuals who helped with this production: Doug Starcher, Ann Smith, Joe Urdiales, Christy Ham, Mish Kriz, Genny Cohn, Genny's Costume Closet, Jeff Braswell, Shawn Fuller, and all those who came to help us after the program went to press.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Teri Grimes
Ass't Director / Dramaturge	Veronica Crommett
Stage Manager	Allissa Flood
Assistant Stage Managers	Lily Furlong, Ashley Bugge
Set and Special Effects	Russ Nelson
Lighting Design	Danielle Pekus
Costume Design	Rylan MacDonald
Costume Assistants	Ali Salvino, Olivia Wise
Sound Design	Daniel Gross
Voice Over	Jeffrey B. Stiglitz
Properties Builder	Jeff Eastman
Art Director	Tom Roberts
Properties	Leslie Glen
Light/Sound/Operator	Ali Salvino
Lighting Crew	Dani Pekus, Kyle Johnson, Ryan Goelzenleuchter, Ali Salvino
Photographer	David Cohn

Production Supervisor:

Ryan Goelzenleuchter

Set Construction Crew:

Ryan Goelzenleuchter, Teri Grimes, Russ Nelson, David Cohn, Daniel Gross, Jeff Eastman, Anne-Marie Beaulieu, Tom Roberts, Veronica Crommett, Bridget Hardy, Joe Urdiales, Robert Phillips, Ian Phillips, Ann Smith, Pete Tryon, Isabella Jones, Paulette Petersen, Sean McMullen, Danielle Pekus, Joan Prinz, Kathryn Atwood, Ryan Duke, Russell Chan, Jenessa Hubbard, Sevi Senter, Kyle Kahklen, AnnElise Kahklen

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CHARACTERS

William Gillette	Matt Twining
Martha Gillette	Joan Prinz
Aggie Wheeler	Lauren Brigolin
Simon Bright	Ryan Duke
Felix Geisel	Kyle Kahklen
Madge Geisel	Carmen Souza
Daria Chase	Willow Rae
Inspector Goring	Danielle Lily Shaw
Understudy Simon*/Gillette*/Felix	Matthew Hull
Understudy Inspector Goring*/ Madge/Martha	Rachel Sullivan
Understudy Aggie*/Daria	Jenessa Hubbard

*Understudy performances: November 21, 25 and Dec. 1

SETTING

Act I, Scene 1	The Palace Theatre, New York City December 1936
Act I, Scene 2 & 3	The living room in the home of William Gillette – A castle on the Connecticut River, Christmas Eve 1936
Intermission	15 minutes
Act II, Scene 1	A moment later
Act II, Scene 2	Five minutes later

CAST AND CREW BIOS



Lauren Brigolin (Aggie Wheeler)

This is Lauren's 10th production on a Bellingham stage and FIRST performance at BTG! She is a 2017 WWU Theatre and Journalism alumna, currently working in real estate marketing. Thank you and enjoy the show!



Ashley Bugge (Assistant Stage Manager)

Ashley has bounced in and out of theaters since childhood (thanks mom!), and is very excited to be here for her second show at BTG! She gives big thanks to Marcus for supporting her always.



Veronica Crommett (Assistant Director/Dramaturge)

Veronica's very excited to be back for her 3rd show at BTG. She's had lots of fun working in this show. And she hopes to do many more here in the future!



Ryan Duke (Simon Bright)

Ryan is delighted to be in his first production at Bellingham Theatre Guild. He is graduating from WWU in the spring with a BA in Theatre Performance and looks forward to pursuing a career within the industry. Big love to Mom, Dad, and Carmen.



Jeff Eastman (Properties Builder)

Jeff likes to build unique props such as weapons as wall decorations and a remote control for this show. Why not let your creativity express itself by becoming a member of the BTG set construction and paint crew?



Allissa Flood (Stage Manager)

This is Allissa's 6th show at BTG, and she's not planing on leaving anytime soon! She is a third year student at WWU who loves to do theatre any and every chance that she can get! When she isn't at BTG, she can be found at school pretending to do her homework for class or sleeping in her comfy bed.



Lilian Furlong (Assistant Stage Manager)

Lily is thrilled to be back for her fifth show at the Bellingham Theatre Guild! So much love to this team, and endless thanks to Teri for another wonderful show.



Ryan Goelzenleuchter (Production Supervisor/Lighting Crew)

After 18 years, Ryan still enjoys working with all the rad folks on the set build team - and you will too! He also thanks Kaitlin for being Super Awesome!



Leslie Glen (Properties)

This is Leslie's second play with the Guild. Before moving back to Bellingham she co-owned a properties warehouse for amateur dramatics companies and has always enjoyed the hunt for the perfect piece.



Teri Grimes (Director)

Teri is happy to be directing once again. She's been an actor, director for many years and always enjoys her times at BTG. Teri would like to thank her wonderful cast and crew for bringing this delightful comedy/mystery to life!



Daniel Gross (Sound Design)

Daniel Gross comes from Los Angeles where he made a career as a film and trailer editor, which he still does remotely from Bellingham. This is his second outing at BTG.



Jenessa Hubbard (Understudy for Daria & Aggie)

After stage managing at BTG for several years Jenessa is excited to return to the stage! It has been quite some time since she's seen the light. She would like to thank Teri for the opportunity and the cast & crew for all the encouragement along the way.



Matthew Hull (Understudy for Simon/Gillette/Felix)

This is Matthew's first non-musical play with BTG and second show with Teri. He would like to thank the company and his lovely wife.



Kyle Kahklen (Felix Geisel)

A recent transfer from Spokane, Kyle has been acting since high school. He is thrilled to be part of his second BTG production; his first was *Pride and Prejudice*. Many thanks go out to his wife, AnnElise, for her endless support and love.



Rylan MacDonald (Costume Design)

Rylan is so excited to be working at BTG again! He graduated from WWU in 2022 with a Bachelors in Theatre Design and Technology. Previous credits include *Dead Man's Cellphone* (WWU) and *She Loves Me* (BTG).



Russ Nelson (Set Design and Special Effects)

Russ thinks he's been participating at BTG since 2001; "Is that when we did *Best Christmas Pageant Ever?* - a 23-foot revolving set... He says he likes to build stuff. He's glad people let him build wacky stuff at BTG. Plus he thinks theatre's pretty cool. Oh, and a shout out to Carl.



Danielle Pekus (Lighting Design/Lighting Crew)

Danielle's been volunteering at BTG for five years backstage. As this is her second show for lights, she's excited to illuminate the stage. She's thankful for the support from her partner Brian and BTG friends.



Joan Prinz (Martha Gillette)

Joan is thrilled to be back on the BTG stage, especially in this hilarious farce by Ken Ludwig. With Teri's spotless direction and this wonderful cast, I guarantee a good time will be had by all.



Willow Rae (Daria Chase)

Willow is beyond honored to have been cast in this role and would like to thank her entire cast and crew for their endless support, kindness, and talent.



Tom Roberts (Art Director)

A local artist, Tom retired from advertising to pursue his passion of painting. I love to help. I help paint the sets. I help build the sets and I help watch the plays.



Ali Salvino (Light Op/Assistant Costumer)

This is Ali's ninth show at the Guild, and fourth time in the booth. Congrats to the cast and crew on this incredible show, and Rylan on the wonderful costumes!



Danielle Shaw (Inspector Goring)

Danielle is excited to be playing Inspector Goring in her first production with the Bellingham Theatre Guild. This is also Danielle's first production in the PNW since moving to Bellingham with her family 3 years ago. She is very grateful for the love and support of her family and friends who encouraged her to return to her acting.



Carmen Souza (Madge Geisel)

Carmen is more than excited to be a part of this hilarious production but is still wondering when she'll get to start singing. She would like to thank her family, friends and partner for always supporting her dreams.



Jeffrey B. Stiglitz (Voice Over)

Long time actor/knuckledragger JBStiglitz continues to show up in plays. He says he most loved being Patsy in Spamalot. Don't blink in TGA or you may miss him! Big thanks to Teri.



Rachel Sullivan (Understudy for Inspector Goring, Martha, Madge)

Rachel is back for one night only! Hopefully you came on that night. Huge thanks to Teri, the cast and crew, and all her friends and family for their endless supply of love, patience, and support!



Matthew Twining (William Gillette)

This is Matthew's second BTG show in the 21st century and he's stoked to again be tolerated by Teri Grimes. Thanks to this inspired cast and crew--let's go yard.



Olivia Wise (Costume Assistant)

This is Olivia's fourth show at Bellingham Theatre Guild. Previously she was lead costumer for *She Loves Me* and a dresser for *Casa Valentina* and *Pride & Prejudice*. She wants to thank the entire fabulous cast and crew! Enjoy the show!



Ken Ludwig has had six productions on Broadway and eight in London's West End. His 34 plays and musicals are staged around the world and throughout the United States every night of the year.

His first play, *Lend Me a Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by The Washington Post. *Crazy For You* is currently running on London's West End. It was previously on Broadway for five years, on the West End for three, and won the Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical.

In addition, he has won the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theatre, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Helen Hayes Awards, the Charles MacArthur Award, and the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year. His other plays include *Moon Over Buffalo*, *Leading Ladies*, *Baskerville*, *Sherwood*, *Twentieth Century*, *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise*, *A Fox on the Fairway*, *A Comedy of Tenors*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Shakespeare in Hollywood* and *Murder on the Orient Express*. They have starred, among others, Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Kristen Bell, Tony Shaloub, Joan Collins and Henry Goodman.

His book *How to Teach Your Children Shakespeare*, published by Penguin Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays on theatre are published in the Yale Review. He gives the Annual Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, and he served on the Board of Governors for the Folger Shakespeare Library for ten years. His first opera, *Tenor Overboard*, opened at the Glimmerglass Festival in July 2022. His most recent world premieres were *Lend Me A Soprano* and *Moriarty*, and his newest plays and musicals include *Pride and Prejudice Part 2: Napoleon at Pemberley* and *Lady Molly of Scotland Yard*.

His plays include commissions from the Agatha Christie Estate, the Royal Shakespeare Company, The Old Globe Theatre, and the Bristol Old Vic. For more information visit www.kenludwig.com.



Please join us for open auditions for:

Twilight Bowl

By Rebecca Gilman

Auditions: December 3 and 4, 2023

Performances: January 26 – February 11, 2024

Director: Dee Dee O'Connor

About the show: In a stirring portrayal of a cross-section of rural America, a very real group of young women struggle with the pressure to

“make something” of themselves while navigating their own and one another’s evolutions. As they face adulthood, the bowling alley becomes a place to celebrate triumphs, confront challenges, and forge new identities. *Twilight Bowl* questions the blueprint for a successful life and embraces the unknown of the road ahead.

No. of Women: 6 | Age Range: 18-22

For the auditions, we will do cold readings from the script. Ages listed are acting ages. This play has adult language, mature subject matter and sexually suggestive material. Be prepared! Dress comfortably.

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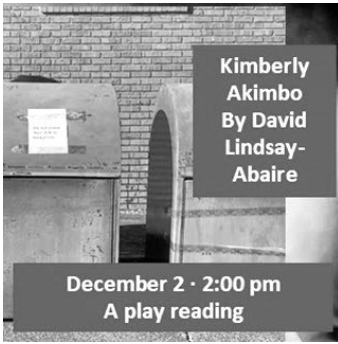
Dawn Posey
violin

Byron Schenkman
harpsichord

Maya Kherani
soprano

Featuring less often heard voices from the baroque and early classical periods!

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Lend Us Your Ears reading series presents

Kimberly Akimbo

By David Lindsay-Abaire

Directed by Les Campbell

Saturday December 2 · 2:00 pm

This is a pay-what-you-will performance, no tickets necessary. General seating.

LEND US YOUR EARS, the reading series at the Bellingham Theatre Guild, unfolds the play *Kimberly Akimbo*, the esoteric comedy

from David Lindsay-Abaire that spawned the latest Tony-winning Broadway musical. Kimberly's awkward challenges in a family that does the wrong thing for the right reasons performs on Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

The Pay-What-You-Will performance, directed by Les Campbell, follows Kimberly, a teenager who suffers from a disease that ages her rapidly; her dysfunctional parents who hide their denial in bad choices, self-harm, or drinking; her hilariously larcenous aunt; and the boy she likes who likes her back. As Kimberly realizes time to live life fully is growing short, she's driven to find a way to free herself from time-wasting and embrace the moments she has and the moments she needs. Lindsay-Abaire's wildly anarchic actions and vibrantly bizarre characters, which propel *Kimberly Akimbo* in comic and heart-felt ways, will be performed by talented local actors, and contains adult language and adult situations. And is not, repeat NOT, the musical.



Welcome to our 2023-2024 Season

Welcome to another great season! We are so glad you're here ready to experience live theatre. The Bellingham Theatre Guild has been exciting our audiences for over 90 years with shows that engage, delight, and wow. Whether you laugh, cry, or leave the theatre humming a show tune, we are thrilled to bring you an experience you can't get in front of a TV or at the movies.

We're proud to admit that BTG is special. We're a group of volunteers who are good at what we do because we love what we do. You, our audience, are also unique and every year we strive to do shows that appeal to your different tastes. Thank you profusely for our continued support through patronage and donations. They are essential for us to be able to bring our shows to life.

And now on with the show. Sit back (turn your phones off!) and enjoy your evening of live theatre.

Dee Dee O'Connor
President

2023 – 2024 BTG Board of Directors

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The Board of Directors helps to set direction for BTG as well as provide for the future of the organization from a financial standpoint. Your energy and talent are needed at the Board level: contact BTG and lend your expertise in an official capacity.

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Ticket Office Hours

The Ticket Office is open Tuesday through Thursday Noon – 4:00 pm starting 10 days before each show's first performance and is also open 2 hours before the start of each performance. Email: ticketing@bellinghamtheatreguild.com

Ticketing Policies

The Guild accepts MasterCard, VISA, local checks, and cash. As always at BTG: No online ticketing fees!

All purchases are final. No refunds. Given adequate notice, the BTG Ticket Office is happy to exchange tickets when seats are available at another performance. Exchanges can also be made online at your convenience prior to the performance date/time shown on your ticket. No exchanges will be made at the door or after the performance date/time shown on your ticket.

- Thursday through Saturday shows are at 7:30 pm. Sunday matinees are at 2:00 pm. Doors open an hour before curtain. Please arrive at the Playhouse at least 15 minutes before curtain.
- All patrons must have a ticket; no shared seats, no babes in arms.
- Electronic devices must be on silent mode. Do not view screens during performance.
- No video capture or photos of any kind are allowed during shows.
- Shows are not suitable for children 5 and under, unless advertised as such. Some productions may not be suitable for older children or may contain adult language or themes. Contact Ticket Office for further information.

Assistive Listening Devices

Assistive Listening Devices are available to any audience member. These devices cannot be used in conjunction with hearing aids. You must leave an ID as security for the device, claimable after the performance. Contact an usher to arrange usage.

Accessibility and Wheelchair Seating

Our building is widely accessible via elevator. Wheelchair and companion seats can be purchased online or by contacting the ticket office. For those with walkers and similar mobility devices that need storage during the performance, the elevator hallway is set up for that purpose; consult an usher for assistance.

Covid and Safety Policies

The safety of our audience and volunteers is paramount—see website for current Covid policies and other safety requirements.

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We appreciate your generous gifts to the Guild.

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During the summer of 2024 the playhouse will be refurbished with new seats, fresh paint, and new carpeting. It will be exciting for playgoers to enjoy new surroundings and a comfortable place to sit!

We invite you to join in shaping the new look for our theatre by “sponsoring” a seat, or two, or more. Each donation of \$250—the cost to buy and install one seat—will help make the playhouse a thing of beauty. For each gift of \$250 we will install a nameplate on a new seat to recognize your support.

Learn more and make a donation:

<https://bellinghamtheatreguild.com/donations/>