

TBTA

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts

presents



Dog ^{Sees} God

CAST

Sarah Belanger
Michael Bobenhausen
Bennett Cognata
DJ Deboben
Kristin Hoose
Sara Mariano
Ben Panzarino
Nicholas Panzarino
Christopher Sumrell
Kira Wallace

[www.
BrookfieldTheatre
.org](http://www.BrookfieldTheatre.org)

Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead

by Bert V. Royal
directed by Michael Burnett
Produced by Stephanie Daniels

Fri. & Sat. @ 8pm
March. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19
Sunday Matinee: March 13 @ 2pm

FREE PREVIEW for High School students only
Thurs., March 3 @ 8PM. Bring your student ID.

Mature Content: Recommended for High School and Older.

Doors open 1 hour before curtain. All performances at the theatre, Rte. 25 behind the Library.

RESERVATIONS: **800-838-3006**

The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts, Inc.

March 2011

Dear TBTA Family,

There are some shows that feel like they come in the form of gifts, shows that pick you rather than the reverse. I always know I will end up staging such shows when the time is right. Immediately after deciding to stage *Dog Sees God*, the flood gate seemed to open with a rush of news stories about youth suicides in the LGBTQ community as the result of bullying. The time was not only right, but acutely necessary. When the statistics are consistently clear that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students are at least four times more likely to attempt suicide than their heterosexual peers, the issue cannot be ignored. Ultimately this is not a “gay issue”, but more an issue of very clearly looking at how we treat others, how we are willing to allow others to be treated in our presence, the language we use and the things we are willing to allow to be the punch line of a joke.

I am once again thankful that our community has shown such overwhelming support in our continued mission to use theatre, at least in some small way, to create positive change. The outpouring of compassion that we experienced in response to our production of *The Laramie Project* has fueled our commitment to continue to present thought provoking work.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the amazing cast and crew of *Dog Sees God* for their dedication, trust and spirit. It is an honor to get to work so closely with a group of people with such passion, talent and heart, who are all so keenly aware of the impact the arts can have on our culture. I am blessed to have shared this experience with such a beautiful group.

We look forward to seeing you for the exciting 2011 season we have planned here at The Brookfield Theatre for the Arts.

Peace,

Michael Burnett
President, TBTA

For the safety of the performers and the courtesy of fellow patrons, the taking of photos of any kind is strictly forbidden. Copyright laws prohibit the recording of sound and video. Please turn off all phones, pagers, computer games and other electronic devices as they may interfere with our technical systems. Please unwrap candies before the show begins. This is LIVE theatre.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sarah D. M. Belanger (TRICIA) This is Sarah's first show at TBTA and she is thrilled to be working with such a wonderful cast! Sarah grew up in Bridgewater and is now living with her husband in Bantam, working in Danbury as a legal secretary for Atty. Deborah Grover. Sarah attended Shepaug Valley High School and then went onto the Theatre program at WestConn, graduating in 2008 with a degree in Performing Arts. Sarah was most recently seen as a Showgirl dancer in the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's *POPS! Goes Vegas* concert and at the Black Box Theatre in *All That Jazz—A Kander and Ebb Review*. Some other roles include Gloria in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Seven Angels Theatre), *Broadway Wax Museum Cabaret* (Featured Performer, Co-Director, Choreographer), *Kiss Me, Kate* (WCSU), *The Vagina Monologues* (WCSU), *Footloose* (SVHS), *42nd Street* (SVHS). Sarah would like to thank her family, and especially her husband, James, for always being so supportive of everything she does. To the cast and Michael—this has been such a wonderful experience, thank you to all. And of course to Christopher—thank you for convincing me to do this show...I owe you one!

Michael Bobenhausen (MATT) is thrilled to be back on the TBTA stage!!! *Dog Sees God* is his third show with TBTA and he hopes it will not be his last. Michael was seen last year year in *The Laramie Project* where he played several characters, most notably "Fred Phelps." He he also appeared as "Tonton Julian" in last summer's *Once On This Island*. Each show that Michael has been a part of has been life changing. TBTA is like a family to him and will always be remembered. Michael also appeared as "Sitting Bull" in the 2010 DHS production *Annie Get Your Gun*, where he also was student director. He attends Quinnipiac University, and was blessed with the opportunity to play "Johnny Johnson" in the Quinnipiac Theater's production of *Johnny Johnson*, at The Long Wharf Theater in New Haven. He was also a member of *The Antigone Project Revisted* that went up at The Abingdon Theatre in New York City. Thank you to Michael Burnett for all the support and love he has given him. Thank you to his family for loving him and coming to every show he has been in. Much love to all. Peace.

Michael Burnett (DIRECTOR) is proud to be serving as president and artistic director here at TBTA where he has had the honor of directing *Seussical the Musical*, *Pippin*, *The Laramie Project* and *Once On This Island*. He has been seen on stage professionally in *42nd Street*, *Mame*, *Sugar Babbies*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *the water falls*. He has been involved in dance and theatre for the deaf at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. Michael has been working with Danbury High School Productions for the last 14 years where he is also an American Sign Language interpreter. He is the owner of Windhorse Acupuncture: Center for Eastern Healing Arts in Danbury. It is not only about H.O.P.E., *IT TRULY DOES GET BETTER!*

Bennett Cognato (VAN) is a junior at DHS, where he will be part of this spring's production of *Urinetown*. *Dog Sees God* is Bennett's first role in a show since elementary school. When not acting, Bennett can be seen with his guitar on stage with his band, "The Sweetheart Deal." He would like to thank Cindy Nejame, DHS speech arts teacher, Steven Cognato, his brother and fellow actor for inspiration. In addition, he wishes to thank friends, family, teachers, the casts of *Dog Sees God* and *Urinetown*, his band-mates, and the shows director, Michael Burnett (whom he prefers to call "Sensei") for their consistent and unconditional love, guidance, and support.

BIOGRAPHIES

Stephanie Daniels (PRODUCER) is thrilled to be working with Michael Burnett and such a talented cast and crew. Previous producing credits at TBTA include *Peter Pan*, *Seussical*, *Little Women*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Pippin*, and *Carnival*. Stephanie and her husband, Mike, are residents of Washington where she has worked at The Glenholme School for the past 11 years. Stephanie would like to thank GMD, the Reverend and JJ for their love, friendship and countless hours of laughter.

DJ Deboen (MUSIC) DJ is thrilled to be back on the TBTA stage. He is a singer-song writer, guitarist, son, brother, and loving boyfriend. Recent credits include *Papa Ge (Once on this Island)*, *The Laramie Project*, Horton (*Seussical the Musical*) all at TBTA. He would like to thank Michael for always keeping him in mind, as well as the cast, crew and production team for such great work! Thank You, Kira. I Love You!

Kristin Hoose (CB'S SISTER) is excited to be back on the TBTA stage in *Dog Sees God*. Kristin currently resides in Danbury and is the communications manager for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's national office in White Plains, NY. Acting credits include: *Whodunnit* (Newtown Town Players) *My First Time* (TheStage Repertory Company), *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Cinderella Goes Disco*, *Little Red and the Hoods*, *Jacques Brel...* and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (TBTA). In addition to acting, Kristin has produced several plays including: *Love Letters*, *Harvey*, *Spoon River Anthology*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beyond Therapy* and *The Food Chain* (TBTA). Kristin is enjoying the opportunity to work with Michael and this talented cast and crew, and would like to thank her family for their love and support.

Sara Mariano (MARCY) is very excited to be back at TBTA in this amazing show. She was last seen in TBTA's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Rona Lisa Peretti). Sara's performance experience also includes *West Side Story* (Margarita), the a capella group Vision, and as a soloist at various weddings. Sara works in the corporate world by day, and is a proud musical theater nerd by night. She lives in Danbury with her husband Joe and their two dogs, Roxie and Mellie. She's proud and honored to work with such an amazing cast and crew and to be a part of TBTA's continued message of acceptance and hope. It Gets Better!

Justin Morgan (LIGHTING DESIGN) *Dog Sees God* marks Justin's fifth design at TBTA. Justin is a graduate of DHS and the University of Connecticut, where he obtained his BFA in design/technical theatre. He worked professionally in technical theatre and live entertainment for several years before becoming a teacher with Danbury Public Schools in 2004. Justin has been Technical Director and Lighting Designer for DHS productions for over 14 musicals. He would like to thank the entire TBTA family for the opportunity to work with such talented people.

Ben Panzarino (CB) has appeared in several productions including *Seussical*, *Assassins*, *Grease*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Damn Yankees*. A seasoned international traveler, Ben has visited Amsterdam, Paris, Berlin, Venice, Lithuania, Latvia, Ecuador, Israel. He has worked with some really amazing people including everyone you see on stage today. Ben will graduate from Western Connecticut State University in May 2011. His life plans include traveling, movie-making, and saving the world. Love to family, friends, Roxie, and the cats.

BIOGRAPHIES

Nicholas Paul Panzarino (Music) is happy to make his return to the TBTA stage. His previous shows here include *Seussical the Musical* and *Pippin* as well as spot lights for *Once on this Island*. He would like to thank his family for driving him to/from the train station as well as making the trip to NYC to pick him up.

Christopher Sumrell (BEETHOVEN) is happy to be making his return to the stage after a brief hiatus. After studying theater at WCSU in Danbury he moved to NYC for a brief time to work in the film & television industry where he was able to work on ABC's *Ugly Betty* as well as NBC's *Law & Order: SVU*. Briefly after those projects he was featured in the Nancy Meyer film *It's Complicated*, offering a once in a lifetime experience. While studying at WCSU, Christopher was given the opportunity to perform at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland in a Rock & Roll rendition of *Romeo & Juliet* as well as Off-Broadway in the well received Jason Robert Brown musical: *Songs For A New World*. Christopher has also worked as a dance teacher and choreographer at various schools in Connecticut. Working on this production with TBTA has been an eye opening experience and he hopes to continue working with everyone in the future. Much love to his nutty Peanuts! Some previous productions include: *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Seven Angels Regional Theater), *The Who's Tommy*, *Grease*, *Company*, and *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*.

Kira E. Wallace (VAN'S SISTER) is honored to be back on the TBTA stage with such an amazing group of people! She is a pre-nursing student at NVCC as well as a CT Certified CNA. She is also a board member at the theatre and absolutely loves working with everyone here! Recent performances include *Erzulie* (*Once on this Island*), *The Laramie Project*, *Fastrada* (*Pippin*), *Bird Girl* (*Seussical*) all at TBTA. She would like to thank her family, Mom, Dad, Gwen, David, Levi, Willson, Tatey, and Forest; her beloved best friends and Sensei for providing such constant unconditional love and support. As well as the incredible cast, crew, and production team for DSG! I Love You All! Break A Leg! Last but not least, thank you D—for being you and loving me.

TBTA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Michael Burnett, President & Artistic Director Meg Jones, Vice-President
Jean Jackson, Secretary Carol Hoose, Treasurer
Stephanie Daniels, Ex-Officio

TBTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Brian Casella (Technical Director), Kristin Hoose, Gary Millar, Caitlin Nolan,
Andrew Okell, Lou Okell, Joy Tagliavento, Kira Wallace
Zach Jackson, Junior Board Member

DOG SEES GOD

Written by Bert V. Royal
Directed by Michael Burnett
Produced by Stephanie Daniels

CAST

CB..... Benjamin Panzarino
CB'S SISTER Kristin Hoose
MARCY Sara Mariano
MATT Michael Bobenhausen
TRICIA..... Sarah D. M. Belanger
BEETHOVEN..... Christopher Sumrell
VAN Bennett Cognato
VAN'S SISTER..... Kira Wallace

MUSIC

DJ Deboben • Nicholas Panzarino

Please Note: There will be a 15 minute intermission between Acts I & II.

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR Michael Burnett
MUSICAL DIRECTOR DJ Deboben
PRODUCER..... Stephanie Daniels
STAGE MANAGER Shannon McColgan
SET DESIGN..... Michael Burnett
COSTUMES..... MICHAEL BURNETT, MEG JONES, Cast
LIGHTING DESIGN Justin Morgan
MASTER CARPENTERS Robert Lane, Andrew Okell
SET PAINTING..... Ellen Diker
LIGHTING EXECUTION Victoria Howe
SOUND EXECUTION..... Jamie Bishop
REHEARSAL MANAGER/HOUSE MANAGER..... John Duron
PROPERTIES..... Carol Martino, Sue Murray, Cast
OPENING NIGHT PARTY..... Carol Hoose, Sue Murray

SPECIAL THANKS

A Common Ground (Danbury), Silvestri Fencing,
TK's American Cafe (Danbury), Wines 'n Such (Brookfield)