

**CABARET THEATRE**

RUTGERS • Douglass • Corner of NICHOL and SUYDAM

**AN EVENING OF**

**\$5/\$8**

**original**

**COMEDY**

Written and Directed by Chris Buckley and Jon Matthias

**ACT ONE**

*Merely Players*

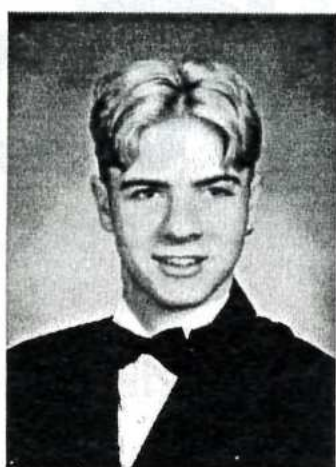
**ACT TWO**

**SANTA'S NOT REAL  
and other fairy tales**

**DECEMBER 1-4, 1999**

**[www.cabarettheatre.org/comedy](http://www.cabarettheatre.org/comedy)**

**To Brian**



**You will always  
be our number  
one fan.**

# FROM THE CREATORS

**We've decided to use this space in the best way we know how, as a dialogue between The Creators.**

**Chris:** Hello Jonathan.

**Jon:** Hello Christopher. (pause)  
Wow, what could we possibly say?

**Chris:** I guess we should say something. (Pause)

**Jon:** Yes, this would be the page to do it, you know, say something.  
(Pause)

**Chris:** Hmmmm...

**Jon:** You sure are good looking in a non sexual way Chris.

**Chris:** Well thank you and likewise.

**Jon:** Don't ever say that I didn't say something nice about you with people around.

**Chris:** So Jon, about the show?

**Tom Cruise:** Hey guys, I gotta get going, but it was great seeing you again. (he leaves)

**Chris:** What a jerk.

**Jon:** Yeah, he really thinks he's all that and a bag of Munchos. Seriously.

**You:** Enough about Tom Cruise, tell us about your play.

**Chris:** Oh yeah the play, I completely forgot. Well the first show of the evening, Merely Players, takes us through the journey of two writers, much like ourselves, trying to write a decent show. In fact this play was selected by the New Jersey Young Playwrights Contest as one of its 1998 winners, and was performed at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

**Jon:** Yes and there were cowboys.

**Chris:** Well Jon, I don't really know what you're talking about..so I'll just move on. Well we all know that all great writers go through an experimental period. After many years in the writing business (note-this is only our second play), we decided that it was time for our period. The second act Santa's Not Real (and other fairy tales) is our experiment.

**Jon:** Raise your hand if you don't think this is funny.

**Chris:** Most directors use this space to talk about the themes of the work, we however, feel that you the viewer should figure out your own themes. And yes, it does have themes, you just might have to look further.

**Jon:** You know how its fun to scare yourself? Just to be scared out of your mind. Have you ever been in a room and went to where the people were laughing? Go there in your mind. (whispering) Free your mind. Everyone clap with me (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap) (clap) Hey, if you did it like me, its got a pretty good sound to it, doesn't it? We can make music together.

Start tapping your feet. Go ahead. Listen to the music, whether you like it or not, it has parts of it that are really good. Listen. Now rock your body. (I hope your singing if you know the words to this song) Dance! (as a matter of fact, if you know the words, get up and sing) Come back to this part after you've danced enough. I'll wait.

(You proceed to dance and get jiggy with it.)

**Chris:** Jon, I don't even know what that means. But I think what you're trying to say is sit back, relax and enjoy the show. And by that you mean really relax, because the world is funny, so don't take everything so seriously.

**Jon:** Except trousers, you really



**Jon Matthias**



**Chris Buckley**

# WHO'S WHO

## In The Cast and Crew

**Christopher Buckley** (*Writer/Director*)- is extremely excited to see his work come to life on the Cabaret stage. Most recently, Christopher could be seen performing in It's Only a Play at Cabaret. Directing Credits include Merely Players (Manalapan Theater) and The Invention (Manalapan Theater). I would like to thank Jon, Eileen, the wonderful Cast, Jason, Sam, Chris, Doug, Michelle, Alexa, Mick Foley, Mom, Dad, Michael, Matthew, Megan, Max, everyone who helped in any way, and most of all Stephanie. Thank you all for helping to make this possible. I would like to dedicate the show to the memory of my cousin Brian who was always our number one fan.

**Jon Matthias** (*Director / Writer*)- is so thrilled to be directing this special project with his buddy Chris again. Jon does not attend RU, however enjoys most of the benefits of actually attending a real school, but he does work as a graphic artist whenever he feels like it. Jon feels that this production would not be possible if it weren't for Eileen, mostly for her spirit and the bitch in her. Thanks to Chris B, Alexa and Michelle, Sam and D, this incredible cast who had no idea what they were getting into but went ahead and joined the team, Jason, Stephanie and the rest of the reading committee for embracing our "project", Dug Green, AdPads, all of my family and friends from home who inspire me daily, my brother Chris, and Mom and Dad for being the most normal people on earth, and finally, this run-on sentence. And also this shorter sentence who feels inadequate for being shorter and because I started it with "and" for which I apologize because, aren't I not supposed to do that?

**Eileen Malone** (*Stage Manager*)- This is Eileen's first show at Cabaret. Many people ask her why they should obey her when she's only a freshman. Her response is always, "Because I said so!" Throughout the show Eileen has gotten various nicknames that begin with "B." In her spare time she sleeps...all the time. She would like to thank Chris and Jon for giving her the opportunity to get back into theater, and being the best directors. She would also like to thank her favorite person from Swarthmore, Sam, for introducing her to the Cabaret Theatre.

**Chris Dingman** (*Sound Design*)- Previous credits include sound design for RCPC's recent production of Cloud Nine and sound board op for last season's original production Museum here at Cabaret.

**Dug Greene** (*Lighting Design*)- is a senior majoring in history/political science at Rutgers College. His lighting designs include A Midsummer Night's Dream, Little Shop of Horrors, Up til Ten, Wolf Lullaby, and The Vagina Monologues. His main ambition in life right now is to finish his thesis and graduate. He would like to send his love to his housemates at 71 Bishop St., the boys on top of the corner tavern, his family and Meghan.

**Michelle Eannuci** (*Lighting*)- Michelle is a freshman at Douglass College. She is excited to be working with such studs as Jon Matthias and Chris Buckley. She has done lighting for Jesus Christ Superstar this past fall here at the Cabaret Theatre and is excited to be helping design the lighting and running the lighting board for Merely Players, and Santa's Not Real. She wants to thank Alexa and Eileen for the mountains of support.

# WHO'S WHO (continued...)

**Alexa Shaughnessy** (*Lighting*)- Alexa is a freshman at Douglass College working on her third production at Cabaret. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to work with geniuses like Chris Buckley and Jon Matthias. She most recently did lighting for Still Life, and is happy to be helping with Santa's Not Real, and Merely Players. She would like to thank the cast for being so damn funny and above all, thanks to her favorite people- Eileen and Michelle.

**Jamieson Bilella** (*Player / Alex*)- This is Jamieson's debut performance with the Cabaret Theatre. He recently completed an independent film Waiting for Turbulence. Jamieson received his MBA from Rutgers and performed in various student productions while an undergraduate at Drew University. He wishes to thank God, his parents and his friends for their confidence and support.

**Ellen Diner** (*Player*)- Ellen is a senior, majoring in psychology, and she is also the secretary of the Cabaret Theatre. Favorite past roles include: Hermia in, A Midsummer Nights Dream, and Nanny in, The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds. Look for her this summer in the indie film, Quotes. Ellen would like to thank the cast and crew, her family and friends, and of course, Andy, for all their love and support.

**Lynda Greene** (*Player*)- Lynda's first stage performances were a candy flute in her second grade Christmas show and later a tree- the mighty oak. She feels that she's come a long way and would like to thank everybody who made it possible. Special thanks to Chris, Jon and Eileen who support her bad dancing- "just keep smiling!"

**Alan Joos** (*Player*)- This is Alan's third play at Cabaret, and he would like to thank everyone involved for making it a great experience. His future projects will include: a stage adaptation of South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut, playing Godot in Waiting for Godot, and loosing his entire college tuition at Blackjack in Atlantic City. He would like to thank his family for their constant support, and to all of his friends who have helped him pursue his one true goal in life- to date a rock star (not Courtney Love). Best wishes for everyone in the New Millennium, and goodnight.

**Chris Matthias** (*Santa Claus*), is very enthused to make his debut appearance on the Cabaret stage. Chris has appeared in The King and I, Evita, Lend Me A Tenor, Sweeney Todd, Romeo and Juliet (Romeo), & West Side Story (Action). Chris gave up acting for a year to pursue a career in graphic design and web development. He is a budding entrepreneur and is constantly searching for the "BIG IDEA." Chris designed the website for the show, [<http://cabaretttheatre.org/comedy>]. He would like dedicate his performance to his parents, Chris Buckley, Jon Matthias and to the love of his life, Kerri Ann. Kerri, thanks for keeping me sane.

**Jeff Magnuson** (*Player*)- Jeff is making his Cabaret debut in Merely Players. He is an Economics major graduating in May. He regrets every minute of being a part of this cast and working in this dungeon of a theater. Although, poor working persisted, Jeff managed to overcome the beatings and put-downs to squeeze out a mediocre performance. "Enjoy!"

**Steve Murphy** (*Brad*)- Steve, imported directly from Tallahassee, Florida, and a sopho-

# WHO'S WHO (continued...)

more at Rutgers College, appears here in his first Rutgers theater production. He has also appeared as Danny Zuko in, Grease!, Conrad Birdie in Bye, Bye Birdie, and as Walter Hollander in Don't Drink the Water. He'd like to thank Chris Buckley for getting him back into theater, and Chandler Bing for providing a way of life. Hilarious, Amazing, etc.

**Gwendolyn O'Herron** (*Player / Susie Shephard Moore*) - is proud to make her theatrical debut here at the Cabaret Theatre. A newcomer to the Rutgers scene, hailing from Mt. Holly, NJ. Gwen adds a sensuous look and a sassy attitude to the cast of both these shows. She would like to thank the cast, crew and especially the directors who slaved away to make her the up and coming star that she is. In addition, Gwen would like to give a special thanks to her employer, Kathy Lee Gifford, who taught her the benefits of back-breaking labor at such an early age.

**Jamie Rivera** (*Cuba*)- Jamie Rivera was the darkest person to audition for the show, making him a shoo-in for the part of Cuba. This quality also helped him get into college and hopefully it will get him back in. Jamie would like to thank the Cabaret Improv Troupe for their support while he was in jail. Speaking of jail, much love to IOH. Try not to get in anymore trouble. Also he thanks those who've attended **Jamie Screenings**, and extra special thanks to The Eight, wherever you are.

**Dan Shaivitz** (*Player / Chuck*)- has done nothing exceptional in his short-lived life. Nor will he ever. He is a Rutgers College junior, a newcomer to the Cabaret Theatre, who aspires to one day manage a pet food store called "Knick-knack, Patty-Whack, Give-A-Dog-A-Bone." Currently he is unemployed and from Baltimore, Maryland. He wishes to thank the lord for the gift of virility. And, believe it or not, ladies, this gem is single.

**Brielle Silvestri** (*Player*)- Brielle is thrilled to be a part of this wacky, zany show. This has been an extremely challenging role for her considering she is not too fond of apples. She would like to thank Jon and Chris for making this experience so enjoyable, Eileen (or is it Elaine?) for holding everything together and this and this insane crew for keeping rehearsals so...interesting- "You're all fabulous." -Cabaret credits include: Six Degrees of Separation (Tess); Museum (Marie-Therese Wlaters). Other favorite credits include: Junior and Senior corps at The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival and Lucy in, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!

**Shane Smith** (*James/ Player*)- Shane is proud to be a part of his third cabaret production. He'd like to thank the wonderful cast and crew for a great time. Thanks to Jon and Chris for a great opportunity, and the swell striped shirt. Love to Mom, the Hurts, da Bretto (and all its extensions.) Oh, by the way, Lauren Sterling says hello. And I just have one question; What time does rehearsal start anyway? Here's to another TEN F-ING YEARS BABY!

**Rob Warren** (*Player*)- Rob, a sophomore at Rutgers College makes his college theater debut here at the Cabaret. He would just like to say how excited he is to be part of this "INCREDIBLE" group of talented individuals. He feels that every cast member adds a unique twist to this already insane comedy. Rob spends most of his time cow tipping and eating Funions. He would like to thank Jon Matthias for all of the good times...and Chris Buckley for shooting down all of the good times. He offers special thanks to his family for their patience and support his friends for keeping it real. "AMAZING!!!"

**Marissa Wolf** (*Gina*)- Marissa is ecstatic to be performing in, Santa's Not Real, as her first college theater experience. She has performed in, A Bunch of Crap from Home, as the third tree to the left, or her most recent portrayal of the lamp post in Guys and Dolls. Marissa would like to thank her family, friends, Steve (for all the rides), and Shane for "Avogadro's number." Special thanks to Chris and Jon for being pals and casting me! Amen.

# CABARET THEATRE

Producer Samantha Shechtman

Associate Producer Stephanie Nichols

Artistic Director Ian August

Technical Director Chris Dingman

Secretary Ellen Diner

Box Office Stephanie Wolf

Business Manager Karen Zee

Coffeehouses Alexis Boyd

Director's Program Kelly George & Alexis Lucas

House Manager Kenneth Lew & Abby Meisterman

Publicity Alan Joos

Public Relations Sean "Tommy" Morris

Improv Troupe Liz Bolton

Special Projects Coordinator Jason Twomey

Writer's Program Kim Thompson

General Staff- Kerri Allen, Mike Brown,

Christopher Buckley, Tony Cohen, Michelle

Eaunnucci, Jason Fiorello, Dug Greene,

Taryn Lennon, Eileen Malone, Abby Meisterman,

Alexa Shaughnessy, Ken Urban, Becky Wirth,

& Mark Urtula

## Mission Statement

The Cabaret Theatre is a non-profit organization located on the Douglass Campus of Rutgers University. Entirely student managed, the Cabaret Theater receives no financial assistance from the University, and is dependant on receipts from previous events to fund its new productions. Since 1975, the Cabaret Theatre has been committed to providing the University and its surrounding communtiy with a wide variety of theatrical experiences, as well as offering a forum for students to learn about acting, directing, writing, business management, design, and construction through various workshops and hands on experiences.

# **SPECIAL THANKS**

Dug Green

AdPads Marketing Co.

Englishtown Antiques

The Cast of Still Life

Chris Dingman

Ken Lew

Dean Meehan

Rob Warren

Tim Novembre

Greg Soroka & Party Warehouse

Santa Suit and All Other  
Costumes Provided by

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