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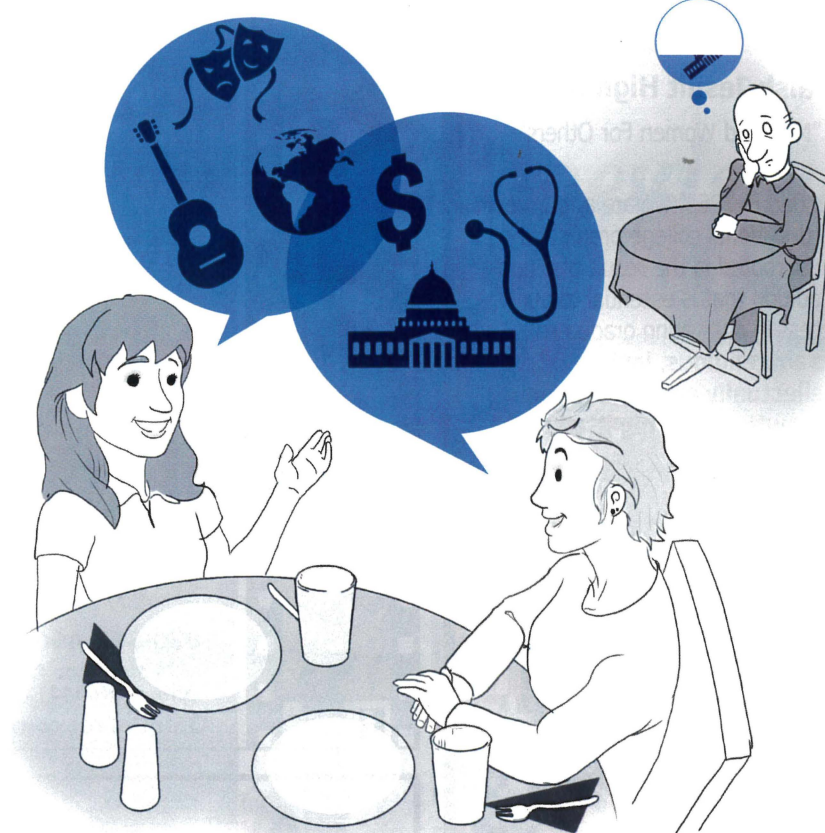


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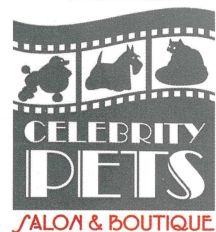
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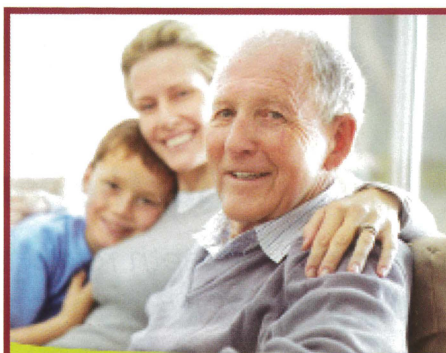


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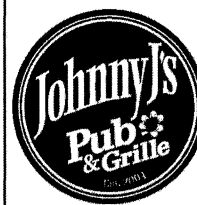
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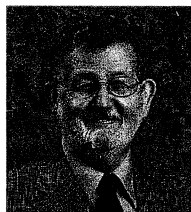
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From the "barn" to Copley Road to the Valley ...

Weathervane Community Playhouse began its run in 1935. Four artistically talented Woman's City Club members – Grace Hower Crawford, Muriel MacLachlan, Laraine Schwan, Helen Troesch – and a core of charter members rented the empty carriage house belonging to Akron's Senator Charles Dick. Their goal was to present a wide spectrum of plays: classics, dramas, comedies, new works – even opera – with casting open to anyone who fit a part.

The women chose a carnival as their fundraiser to start paying the rent. Despite a drenching downpour, they raised \$60. They named their space "Weathervane" after the rooster on the barn's cupola. After cleaning their new home, scrounging for seats, a curtain and a coffee pot, Weathervane opened its first season. During that summer of 1935, the group presented seven fully costumed and staged plays. In 1936, Muriel MacLachlan, with the other founders, offered classes to children and adults, beginning a tradition that has become today's Education Department. In 1938, a Women's Board was formed to offer volunteer financial assistance. This group is now the Volunteer Guild.

The "barn" was home until it was sold. In 1951 the Playhouse purchased a cement block building at 1474 Copley Road and renovated it for a theater with seating capacity of 125. The all-volunteer organization hired its first employee, Nora Scott, as custodian/ticket manager. Actual management of the Playhouse was handled by the Operating Board, which reported to the Board of Trustees. Because directors were becoming scarce, the Board hired Bob Belfance as full-time Manager/Director. He held the position from 1961-1969 and from 1974-1992. During the Copley Road days, plays were presented six days a week. Because of their popularity, not everyone who wanted to see a show could be accommodated. A new home was planned.

During the 1960s, the membership's plans came together in June 1970 with the opening of *Dark of the Moon* here on Weathervane Lane. Longtime friend and founder Grace Hower Crawford died in 1971, remembering the Playhouse in her will. Her money enabled the Board to pare down the mortgage and set up an Endowment Fund. The last mortgage payment was made in 1974 through a contribution of the Women's Board. Three major additions followed: these included first-floor restrooms, classrooms, a costume shop, fly gallery and elevator. The former scene shop became the John L. Dietz Theater/Classroom in 2005 and the lobby project was completed in 2009 in time for the opening of the 75<sup>th</sup> season. Weathervane is proud to celebrate its 81<sup>st</sup> Season.

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Weathervane Playhouse is pleased and excited to feature students from Firestone High School in the Harris Family Gallery during the run of *Clybourne Park* and *The Lyons*. Firestone High School, Campus for International Baccalaureate and Visual & Performing Arts, is a one-of-a-kind program in the area. It is designed for students interested in drama, dance, visual arts, or vocal/instrumental music who plan a career in an arts profession. The International Baccalaureate program is in its 14<sup>th</sup> year and has a very rigorous series of courses. During those fourteen years, 82% of students earned the prestigious I.B. diploma; the world average for this period was 79%.

All the students participating in this exhibit are from Mr. Patrick Dougherty's Portfolio Class. Eight of these students are juniors in the VPA (Visual and Performing Arts) program and art is their main focus. The rest of the students are seniors in advanced classes, having taken Drawing I & II, and, in some cases, painting. There are also two students from the International Baccalaureate Program who are in the Art Studio Program.

Each student chose the medium in which he or she wanted to work. The theme for the exhibit is "Family: A Narrative." The students discussed the play *Clybourne Park*. The art they've created reflects their thoughts and feelings as they relate to their own families and the families portrayed onstage.

Nathaniel Duvuvuei, Learning Specialist of the APS (Akron Public Schools) Fine Arts Department, approved funding for the materials needed for this important project. Weathervane would like to thank him for supporting this special exhibit. We are delighted to have this opportunity to feature the talents of these gifted students in The Harris Family Gallery.

Marci Paolucci  
Gallery Curator



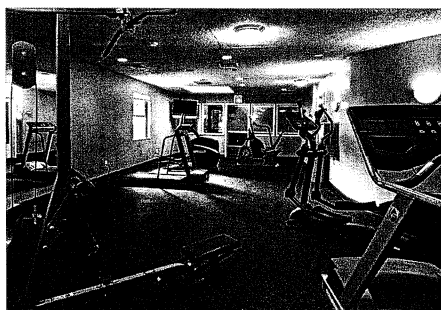
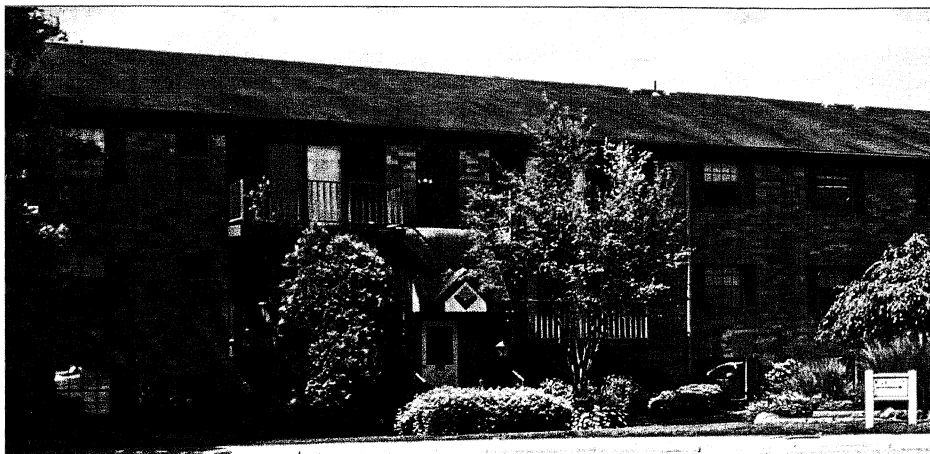
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# The LYONS

by Nicky Silver

Directed by **FRED GLOOR**

Stage Manager  
**DENISE ELETICH**

Properties Designer  
**SUSAN RUSINOFF**

Scenic/Lighting Designer  
**JONATHON HUNTER**

Sound Designer  
**IAN HABERMAN**

Costume Designer  
**JASEN J. SMITH**

Assistant Technical Director  
**KATHY KOHL**

THE LYONS was produced by the Vineyard Theatre  
(Douglas Aibel, Artistic Director; Jennifer Garvey-Blackwell, Executive Producer), New York City, 2011.  
Original Broadway production produced by Kathleen K. Johnson.



WM-CedarwoodVillage.com



## ABOUT THE SHOW AND ITS CREATORS

A dark comedy about living and dying, *The Lyons* tells the scathingly hilarious tale of a dysfunctional family's sudden arrival at a major crossroad in life.

When patriarch Ben Lyons tells his family that he is dying, the family's rotten core is revealed. Tempers flare and brutal allegations replace sweetly sentimental memories. Even in the face of her husband's terminal diagnosis, the indomitable Rita Lyons seems a tad more worried about completing the new design of her living room. And don't get Rita started about her adult children, Curtis and Lisa!

Reunited to say goodbye to their father, Rita and her children are suddenly struck with the realization that their armor of solitude and isolation have given them no tools to connect as a family. Father, mother and children discover that they

must travel to an emotional destination they've never known before: human connection.

A funny and edgy play, *The Lyons* demonstrates that laughter might be the only medicine to soothe a family's fractured faultlines.

*The Lyons* received its world premiere at The Vineyard Theatre in New York City on Oct. 11, 2011. The show opened on Broadway at the Cort Theatre on April 23, 2012, where it ran for 80 performances before closing on July 1, 2012. *The Lyons* was nominated for the 2012 Drama Desk Award for outstanding play. Linda Lavin, who played Rita Lyons in both the Off-Broadway and Broadway production, was nominated for the 2012 Tony Award for best performance by an actress in a leading role.

## ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

**NICKY SILVER** is a playwright who lives in New York City, where he has enjoyed a long-standing relationship with The Vineyard Theatre, a non-profit Off-Broadway company where most of his plays have been nurtured and produced. In addition to *The Lyons*, his plays include *Too Much Sun*, *Three Changes*, *Beautiful Child*, *The Altruists*, *The Eros Trilogy*, *The Maiden's Prayer*, *Fit to Be Tied*, *The Food Chain*, *Raised in Captivity*, *Fat Men in Skirts* and *Pterodactyls*. A graduate of New

York University's Tisch School of the Arts, he is the recipient of the Oppenheimer Award, the Kesselring Prize, the Helen Hayes Award and three nominations each from the Drama Desk and the Outer Critics Circle. Follow him on Twitter: @thenycwriter.

Sources: *The Internet Broadway Database*, *The Internet Off-Broadway Database*, *Playbill.com* and *Wikipedia*.



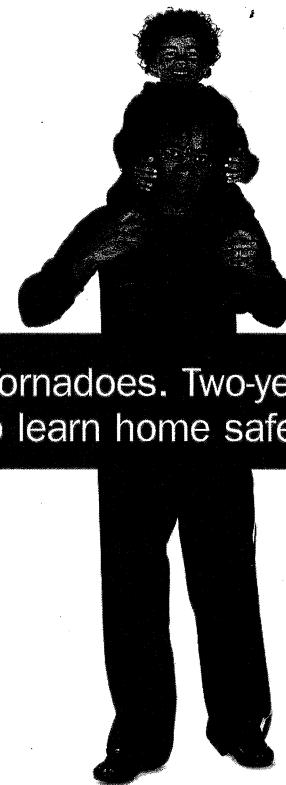
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## SETTING

## Act One

"The Lyons"

One evening in a Manhattan hospital room.

There will be a 15-minute intermission.

## Act Two

Scene 1: "Location, Location, Location"

One week later, a vacant studio apartment.

Scene 2: "Most Poor Sons of Bitches"

Three days later in a hospital room.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

## Set Construction

David Deming  
Roger Dieringer  
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## Costumes

Loretta Brinton  
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See your playbill insert for Sound, Lights and Properties Crew Lists and other acknowledgements.

## THANKS TO OUR HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS

The following are the dedicated volunteers who have assisted us recently.

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Jenny Banker	Scott Davis	Meg Hopp	Bess Raines
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Wendy Cooley	Shaneen Harris	Megan Nelson	Scott Thanasiu
Leslie Corrigan	Chuck Hass	Patty Obenour	Verna Vander Kooi



**FRED GLOOR** (Director) is very excited to be back at Weathervane after directing last season's *4000 Miles*. He is a theater faculty member at Baldwin Wallace University

and Tri-C West, and was the lead instructor for the "alphabet" and writing programs at The Second City, Cleveland. A graduate of Kent State University, Fred's directing credits include Cleveland Public Theatre, Dobama Theatre, TitleWave, Charenton Theater Company, The Second City Cleveland, Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, TrueNorth, Clague Playhouse, and Tri-C West. As an actor, he has performed at The Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theater, Dobama Theatre, The Beck Center, Cain Park, The Second City Cleveland, The Ensemble Theatre, and as a cast member of Something Dada. A member of AEA and SAG-AFTRA, he has appeared in numerous commercials and such films as *The Dream Catcher*, and *Pirates* with Leslie Nielsen, Eric Idle, and Rodney Dangerfield. He would like to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and talents, Melanie and the Weathervane staff and volunteers for all they do, and his lovely wife, Liz, and daughter, Olivia, for their constant love and support.



**DENISE ELETICH** (Stage Manager) is a freelance Video Producer in the Cleveland area. Her recent theater credits include lighting technician for *Seussical* at Brecksville Little Theatre and *Dracula* at Weathervane. She is thrilled to be making her Stage Manager debut and wishes to thank her friends and family for their support.



**SUSAN RUSINOFF** (Properties Designer) is proud to be joining Weathervane for this production. Recent performance credit includes *Stepmother White in Forgiveness* with ANTIC Theatre. Susan is actively involved with Dynamics Community Theater of Tallmadge, serving as a trustee on their board, assisting with props and costumes and performing. Some of her favorite roles at Dynamics Community Theater include *The Littlest Angel* (The Divine Music Director), *Shrek the Musical* (ensemble) and most recently *A Christmas Carol* (The Ghost of Christmas's To Come, The Raucous Lady and a party guest). Susan is a behavior interventionist with children on the autism spectrum. Susan wishes to thank everyone at Weathervane for this opportunity and her family and friends for their love, encouragement and support.



**JONATHON HUNTER** (Lighting and Scenic Designer) has designed lighting for Weathervane productions including *Clybourne Park*, *A Christmas Carol: The Musical*, *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Peter Pan*, *Oklahoma!* (for which he won a Chanticleer Award), *A Delicate Balance*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint — The Smell of the Crowd*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *The Music Man*, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella* and *Pippin*. He holds an M.F.A. in lighting design from the University of Virginia and is currently Weathervane's Technical Director. Jonathon's other Weathervane credits include properties designer for *A View from the Bridge*, *Breaking the Code* and *The Sum of Us* and stage manager for *They're Playing Our Song* and scenic design for *Peter Pan* and *A Christmas Carol: The Musical* and scenic co-design for *Dracula*.



**IAN S. HABERMAN** (Sound Designer) has designed sound for Weathervane's productions of *Amadeus* (Chanticleer Award), *Breaking the Code*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Chanticleer Award). His recent on-stage credits include Mayor Shinn in *The Music Man* (Chanticleer Award), *See How They Run*, and Uncle Adolph in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* (Chanticleer Award). Ian is currently on our Board of Trustees, has been President of the Board, and during the 2014-2015 season served as Weathervane's Interim Artistic Director. He has twice received the Trustees Award for his service to Weathervane.



**JASEN J. SMITH** (Costume Designer) joined the Weathervane professional staff in August 2008. Since then, he's designed costumes for dozens of Weathervane productions. As a co-designer, he and Hedy Jones took home Weathervane's Chanticleer Award for best costume design for *Man of La Mancha* in 2009. He also won a Marquee Award from the Youngstown Area Community Theatre Association for his work on *Children of Eden*. Elsewhere, his design work has been seen on the stages of Porthouse Theatre, Case Western Reserve University and Ohio Light Opera.



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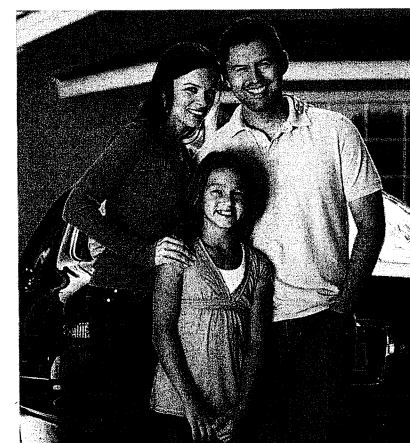
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**LAURA STARNIK** (Rita) is excited for her first onstage appearance at Weathervane and she is delighted to work in this beautiful theater with such a generous and talented team. Her recent credits include *Our Town* at Blank Canvas Theatre; *The Three Sisters* at Cleveland Play House (CWRU/CPH M.F.A. Program); *This is Not The Play* at Cleveland Public Theatre; *Brainpeople*, *The Internationalist* and *Kid Simple: A Radio Play in the Flesh* at convergence-continuum; *Becky Shaw*, *Sons of the Prophet*, *Middletown* and *Humble Boy* at Dobama Theatre; *Prelude To a Kiss* at Ensemble Theatre; and *Come Back, Little Sheba* at Oberlin Summer Theater Festival.



**RON MILLER** (Ben) is thrilled to be back at Weathervane after a 23-year hiatus. Prior credits include portraying Peter Hoskins in *Prelude to a Kiss* and directing Weathervane's production of *I Hate Hamlet*. For the past 18 years he has dedicated himself to the most satisfying task of being a husband and a father. He is proud to be a member of this talented cast and to be directed by his friend of many years, Fred Gloor.



**RACHEL GEHLERT** (Lisa) is thrilled to be back at Weathervane and in the Dietz Theater for the first time! Last season she appeared in *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)* and *Unnecessary Farce*. Other credits; *The Book Club Play* (Actors' Summit Theater), *Move Over, Mrs. Markham* (Stow Players), Eric Coble's premier of *Girl's Guide to Coffee* (Actors' Summit Theater), *Tigers Be Still* (Dobama Theatre), *Mysteries by Moushey*, and several roles in Weathervane's annual 8x10 TheatreFest.



**SCOTT K. DAVIS** (Curtis) has been involved with theatre in some way since the age of 8 when he was cast as Jack in the musical *The Beanstalk and Jack*. He earned his B.A. in theatre and psychology from Muskingum University, where he also served as the Theatre Department costumer for three years. He has since been involved in over 40 productions either onstage or behind the

scenes. Credits include *The 39 Steps* (Clown 1), *Unnecessary Farce* (Eric Sheridan), *Tartuffe* (Orgon) and *Rumors* (Lenny Ganz). Scott also toured Canada in *Heart of Africa* (Guy Johnson). He was most recently seen in *Santa's Spectacles* (Santa's head elf, Jingles) at Stow Players. Scott wishes to thank Fred for the opportunity to tackle this amazing role and his friends and family for their continued love and support.



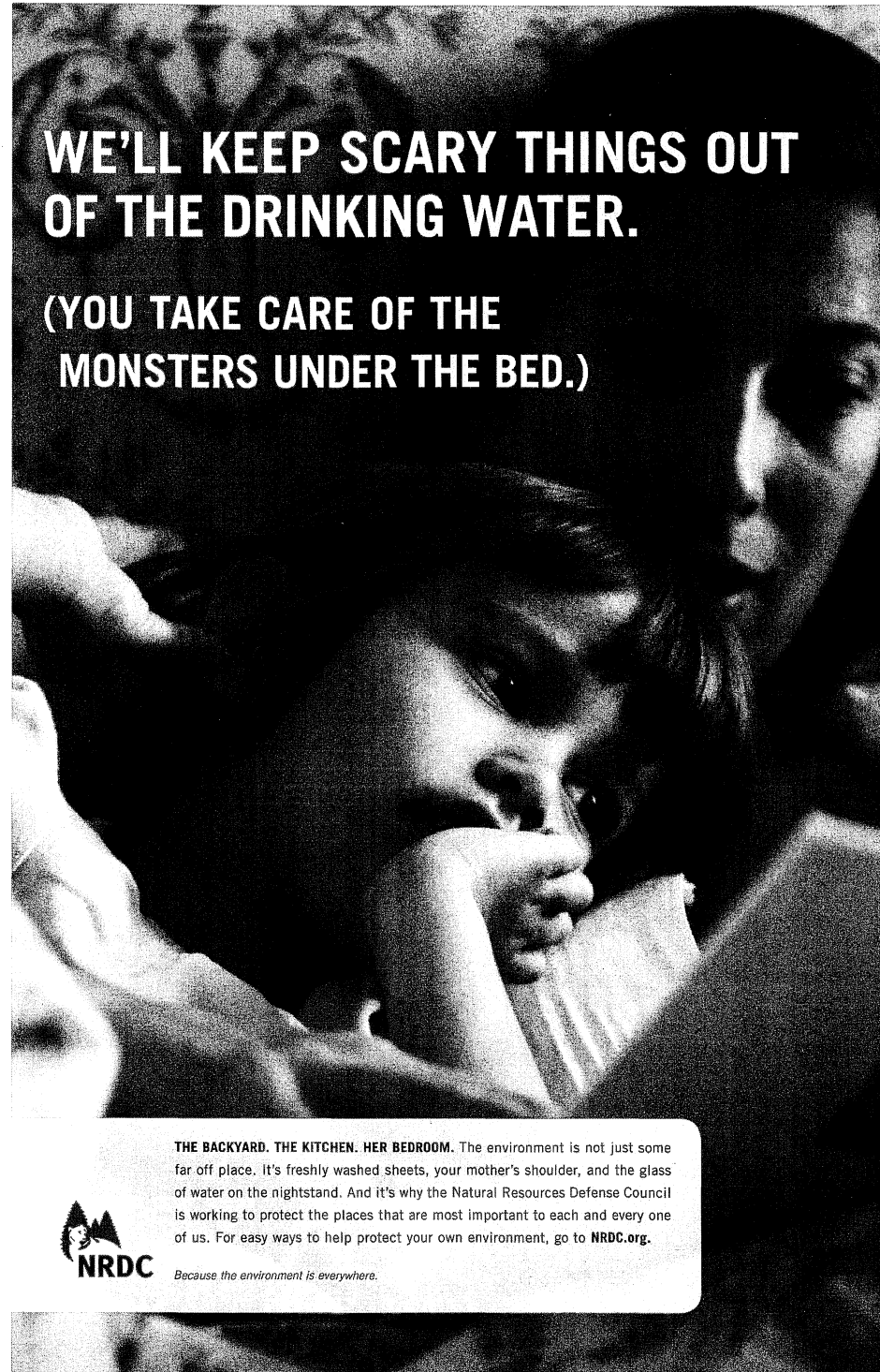
**MARY MYERS** (Nurse) marks her second experience in theater since high school with this production. She is very excited to have been chosen to portray the nurse in this play and she notes there may be a medical career in her future since she played the doctor's assistant recently in *Dracula*. Dr. Myers (Ph.D.) is a licensed psychologist specializing in police officers. She retired in 2001 from her roles of police officer and detective at the Akron Police Department as Captain Myers. She currently plays the role of Dr. Myers, a Professor of Criminal Justice Studies at The University of Akron. At home she plays the role of a single mother of two beautiful and adopted teenagers whom she deeply loves. "Thank you so much for supporting Weathervane!"



**NATE MILLER** (Brian) is a Cleveland-based actor. Regional credits include: *Bad Jews* at Actors' Summit, *Airwaves* and *Orphan Kiss (Left)* at Cleveland Public Theatre, *The Happy Sad* at convergence-continuum, *Farragut North* at Ensemble Theatre, *Three Sisters* (Winner of "Best Drama of 2015"-Bob Ableman) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* at Mamai Theatre Co., and *Loki & Lucy* at Talespinner Children's Theatre. You may remember him from our production of *4000 Miles* last year, also directed by Fred Gloor. Up next you can see him in the Ohio premiere of Robert O'Hara's *Bootycandy* at convergence-continuum. Nate is a proud graduate of Cleveland State University's Department of Theatre & Dance, where he was a directing scholarship recipient. "Much love to Fred Gloor and Weathervane!"

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