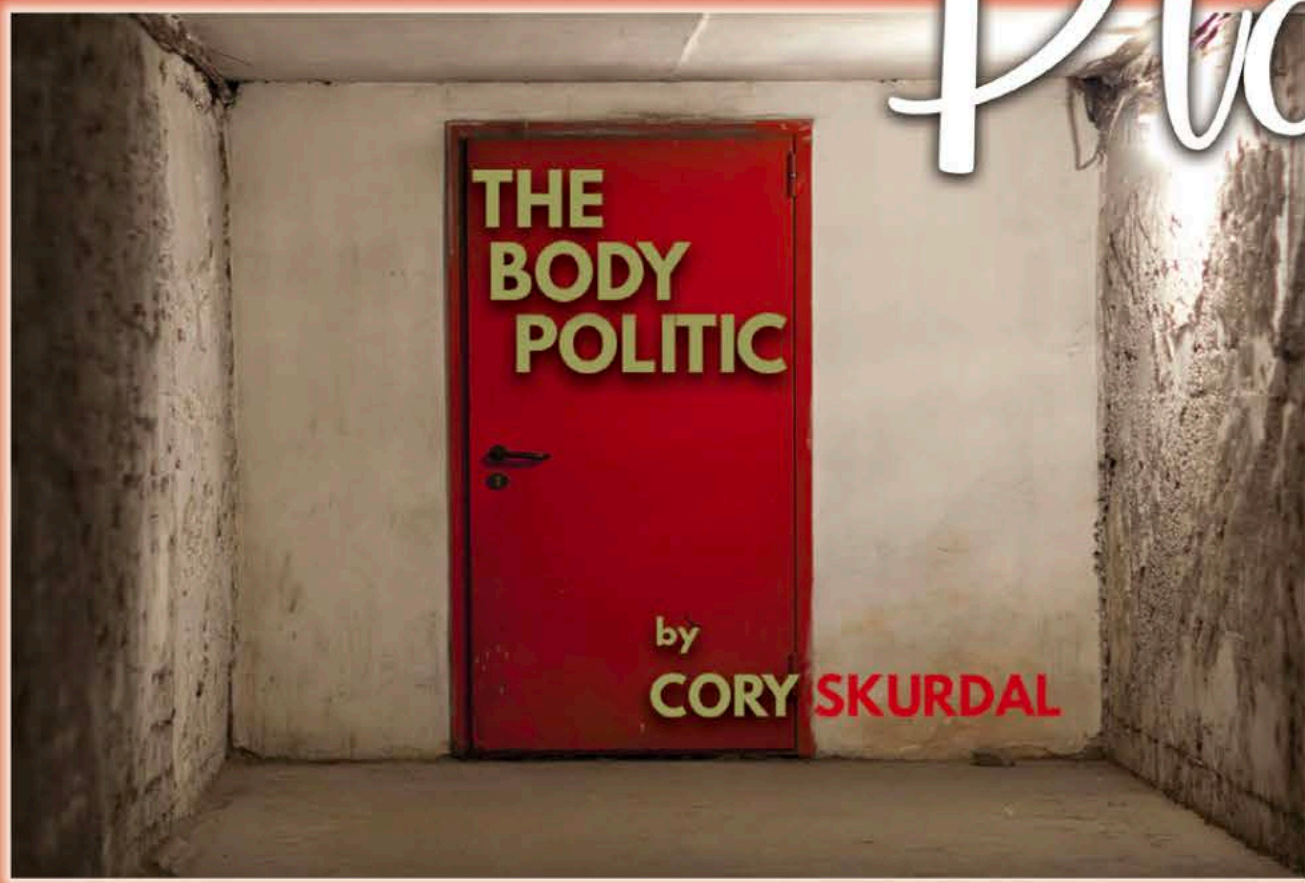




# One Show Two Plays



**JULY 20 - 29**

**TICKETS: [EVOLUTIONTHEATRE.ORG](http://EVOLUTIONTHEATRE.ORG) OR 614.233.1124**





# EVOLUTION THEATRE COMPANY

presents

AN EVENING OF ONE ACTS

## ONE SHOW / TWO PLAYS

directed by David Allen Vargo and Pamela Hill

### THE \$5000 CHALLENGE

by Douglas Whaley

directed by David Allen Vargo

### THE BODY POLITIC

by Cory Skurdal

directed by Pamela Hill

featuring

DAVE MORGAN

TOM HOLLIDAY

SCOTT CLAY

BILL HAFNER

LORRIE LATEK

VICKY WELSH BRAGG

LESLIE ROBINSON

SU VON TOUCH

MARK PHILLIPS SCHWAMBERGER\*

Production Manager

AARON MENDOZA

AEA Stage Manager

DAVID ALLEN VARGO\*

Producer and Executive Artistic Director

MARK PHILLIPS SCHWAMBERGER\*

\* Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Evolution Theatre Company, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Denotes Member in good standing.



# THE \$5000 CHALLENGE

ANNOUNCER.....	Mark Phillips Schwamberger*
JIMMY BALL.....	Bill Hafner
PROFESSOR HUNTER JOHNS.....	Dave Morgan
THE REVEREND ARTHUR KEATON.....	Tom Holliday
ANITA RAMIREZ / MADAME SOLANGE.....	Lorri Latek
CHARLES STONE.....	Scott Raymond Clay

## THE BODY POLITIC

AUDRA SHARPE, Chief of Staff.....	Vicky Welsh Bragg
POLLY SUE PRESCOTT, Campaign Manager.....	Leslie Robinson
VERONICA JACKSON, Press Secretary.....	Su Von Touch

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Director/ THE \$5000 CHALLENGE.....	David Allen Vargo
Director/ THE BODY POLITIC.....	Pamela Hill
AEA Stage Manager.....	David Allen Vargo*
Production Manager.....	Aaron Mendoza
Lighting Designer.....	Iz Nichols
Sound & Video Engineer .....	David Crone
Box Office.....	Sue Rapier, Leslie Robinson, Lauren Wong, Barry Bates
Marketing Communications, Graphics & Program.....	David Allen Vargo
Producer / Executive Artistic Director.....	Mark Phillips Schwamberger

. \* Appearing through an Agreement between this theatre, Evolution Theatre Company, and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. Denotes Member in good standing.

The production runs 90 minutes with no intermission.



PLEASE NOTE: The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of the production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author's rights and actionable under United States copyright law.



# THE CAST of THE \$5000 CHALLENGE

**DAVE MORGAN** (PROFESSOR HUNTER JOHNS) Started his theatrical journey in Columbus in 1968 and has turned up in shows locally off and on ever since. He attended Ohio State University and received both theatre BA and MFA degrees there. He was president of the Los Angeles Actor's Alley Rep at the El Portal Theatre 1983-1986. His two most recent roles were in the Evolution/Catco production of **BREAKING THE CODE** (Delwyn Knox), and **OUTGOING TIDE** (Gunnar) at Curtain Players in 2018 and 2015 respectively.

**TOM HOLLIDAY** (THE REVEREND ARTHUR KEATON) Tom is pleased to be back on stage with Evolution Theatre. A former member of Actors' Equity, Tom has appeared locally with CATCO, Abbey Theatre of Dublin, Original Productions Theatre, and Gallery Players, among others. Favorite credits include: **WHITE GUY ON THE BUS** (Ray), **THE FINAL TABLE** (Warren Harding), **THE PRICE OF POWER** (Clyde Tolson), and **WHAT THE BUTLER SAW** (Sgt. Match). Tom has also voiced, or appeared in, numerous commercial/industrial video productions, and was previously a semi-finalist in the annual "Audition Spotlight" competition sponsored by the "That's Voiceover!" career expo in Los Angeles, CA. Love to Janet for her unwavering support. Thank you to Douglas and David for bringing us this thought-provoking play.

**SCOTT CLAY** (CHARLES STONE) is honored to be working with Evolution Theatre in this thoughtful and moving original play. Douglas Whaley's remarkable piece has resonated in a very personal way and has a great deal of truth to Scott's own experiences growing up in a very religious home where conversion therapy was a way to fix him and bring him back to the path of righteousness. Scott hopes to bring a sincere portrayal of someone who is caught between being honest with himself and meeting the expectations of his family. Thank you David Allen Vargo and Douglas Whaley for trusting me with this role and this talented cast to work with.

**BILL HAFNER** (JIMMY BALL) is pleased to perform in his first project with Evolution Theatre Company. Mr. Hafner has been performing in the Columbus area for the past 10 years, appearing in musicals (**LES MISERABLES**, **SWEENEY TODD**, **THE MUSIC MAN**, **THE LITTLE MERMAID**, **ANNIE**, **TITANIC THE MUSICAL**, **The BRIDGES of Madison COUNTY**, **HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS....**) and plays (**AUGUST**, **OSAGE COUNTY**, **SHAKESPEARE'S BLOODY DEED**, **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE**). Bill has enjoyed the process of working on some amazing productions, yet even more he is thankful for the many relationships he has developed in this wonderful community. This may very well be his final production - at least for a while (never say never). He would like to have more freedom to spend time with his kids and two (soon to be three) grandchildren. He also would like to continue his quest to visit every retro tiki bar in the country, and, as a dedicated DeadHead, see more live bands at the many venues around town. It has been a fun ride! Hope you enjoy the play!

**LORRI LATEK** (ANITA RAMIREZ / MADAME SOLANGE) is delighted to be making her first appearance with Evolution as part of such a talented cast. Some of her favorite roles include **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** (Ouiser Boudreaux), **THE FOREIGNER** (Betty Meeks), and **PLAY ON!** (Polly/Lady Margaret). She has designed props for numerous shows and is a former board member of Worthington Community Theatre. Lorri would like to thank Art for his unwavering support, and her friends for always coming to see her perform.



# THE CAST of THE BODY POLITIC

**VICKY WELSH BRAGGH** (AUDRA SHARPE) is happy to be returning to Evolution Theatre. Previously seen at Evolution Theatre in **SORDID LIVES** (Juanita Bartlett), **LOOPED** (Tallulah Bankhead). She was a member of Actors' Theater for many years. Some favorite stage credits include: **TAMING OF THE SHREW** (Katherine), **TITUS ANDRONICUS** (Tamora), **MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM** (Titania), among others. Many thanks to Evolution, Cory Skurdal, Pam Hill, Aaron, and my cast mates for making this an "enriching exploration."

**LESLIE ROBINSON** (POLLY SUE PRESCOTT) is happy to return to the stage of Evolution Theatre Company. She was last seen at ETC in the reprisal of **DEVIL BOYS FROM BEYOND** (Florence Wexler). This year marks her 20th year doing theatre in central Ohio and in April of this year she won a Jebby Award for supporting actor for her role in **INTO THE BREECHES** (Winifred Snow). Thanks to everyone for your help and support!

**SU VON TOUCH** (VERONICA JACKSON) started her acting career on film and has ventured out to acting on stage. She has worked with various theater companies in the Columbus area, and is excited to be in her very first Evolution Theatre production. Some of her performances include **ONCE UPON A RECIPE** (Maria), **ONION DOMES** (Matushka Olga), **VOICE OF THE NET** (Tarantula/Detective Martinez), and **THE MOMENT MUSICAL** (Frida). Many thanks to my family, friends, and Bob for their endless support.

## THE PRODUCTION CREW

**AARON MENDOZA** (Production Manager) is originally from the colorful state of Colorado. He is pursuing his BA in Theatre at Otterbein University, focusing in Directing and Stage Management, and recently had the opportunity to study at the National Theater Institute for their Advanced Directing program. He is extremely excited to be working on these beautiful plays and got the chance to be a part of their development. He would like to thank the casts and teams for both plays for their fantastic work in this wonderful experience. He would like to thank his family, partner, and friends for their support and love.

**PAMELA HILL** (Director - **THE BODY POLITIC**) is excited to be making her debut at Evolution Theatre Company. She has directed over 120 productions across the country. Her recent favorites include **LEND ME A TENOR** for Music Theatre of Connecticut (Best Plays in Connecticut 2022 winner), **THE GYPSY WOMAN** for Muskingum University (2021 Kennedy Center ACTF Certificate of Merit winner) and **SHE LOVES ME** for Gallery Players (Columbus Dispatch Top 10 Cultural Events 2000 winner). Thank you to Cory and everyone who worked on this production!

**DAVID ALLEN VARGO\*** (Director - **THE \$5000 CHALLENGE** / AEA STAGE MANAGER) This is David's 13th production with Evolution Theatre Company, in either an acting, directing, or stage management role. He also serves on Evolution's Board of Directors. He has performed in or directed over 20 productions since moving to Columbus 10 years ago. David is also an audiobook narrator for Audible, and is currently producing his 15th audiobook in his home studio in Dublin, OH, where he lives with his husband, Douglas Whaley, and 3 cats - Mama, Abigail, and Thor. Thank you for supporting Evolution Theatre Company.



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## **Cast and Production cont.**

**MARK PHILLIPS SCHWAMBERGER\*** (ANNOUNCER in *The \$5000 Challenge* / PRODUCER AND EXECUTIVE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR of Evolution Theatre Company)

After over twenty years in the corporate world Mark returned to The Ohio State University in 2007 to complete his degree majoring in Theatre graduating in 2008. Being no stranger to the struggles of “life in the theatre” Mark spent years in NYC, seasons in summer stock and traveling with various companies in the East, South and Midwest. He is the Executive / Artistic Director for Evolution Theatre Company, a 501 (3) C non-profit corporation and Central Ohio’s only LGBTQQIA theatre company, dedicated exclusively to presenting works that celebrate the Community’s past, present and future as well as presenting works that strive to bring dignity to and tolerance and acceptance for LGBTQQIA individuals.



# THE PLAYWRIGHTS

## **Douglas Whaley, (*THE \$5000 CHALLENGE*)**

professionally is an Emeritus Professor of Law at the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State. He has been in theater most of his life as an actor, director, and, in the past few years, a playwright. *THE TURKEY MEN*, which had its world premiere with Evolution Theatre Theatre Company, was a hit in 2019, playing for two weeks to packed houses. During Covid his one act play *WRONG WHEN DECIDED*, was produced by Evolution on Zoom. Since the early 1980s he has been much involved with gay rights. Whaley was on the founding board of Stonewall Columbus, and did much public speaking about gay rights on local tv, radio, or in live debates before audiences. When organizations or ministers claimed to be able to change gays into straights, Whaley would instantly promise to donate \$5000 to the charity of their choice if they could produce five formerly gay men who were now straight and would submit to testing. No one ever took him up on this challenge, but the play you will see tonight speculates as to what would have happened if someone had. Whaley has been married to the director of this show, David Allen Vargo, for ten years.

**Cory Skurdal (*THE BODY POLITIC*)** has written more than 25 plays. *CATSPAW* (Jewel Box Theatre Playwriting Award) was produced in Oklahoma City in 2001. In 2014, Cory received the CATCO/Greater Columbus Arts Council Playwriting Fellowship for *STICKS & STONES*. Other Columbus productions include *THE PRESENT MOMENT*, *CONSIDER THE SOURCE*, *A POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS*, and *ADESTE FIDELES*. Cory is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the New Play Exchange. Website: [coryskurdal.com](http://coryskurdal.com). Much love to Robert Eblin!

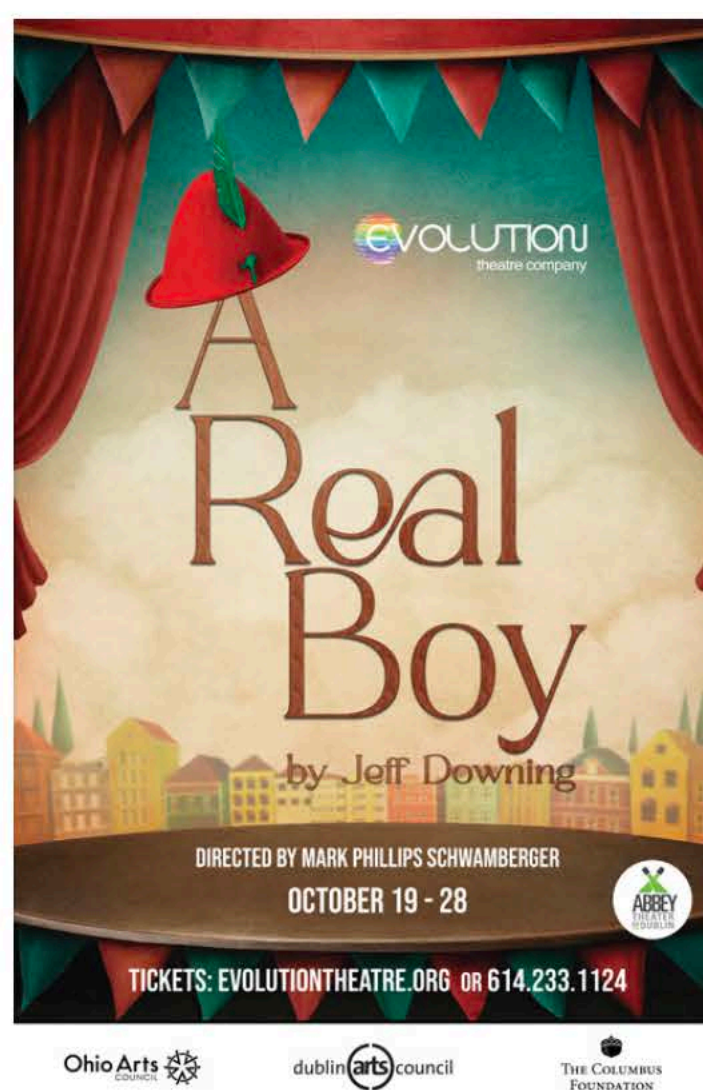
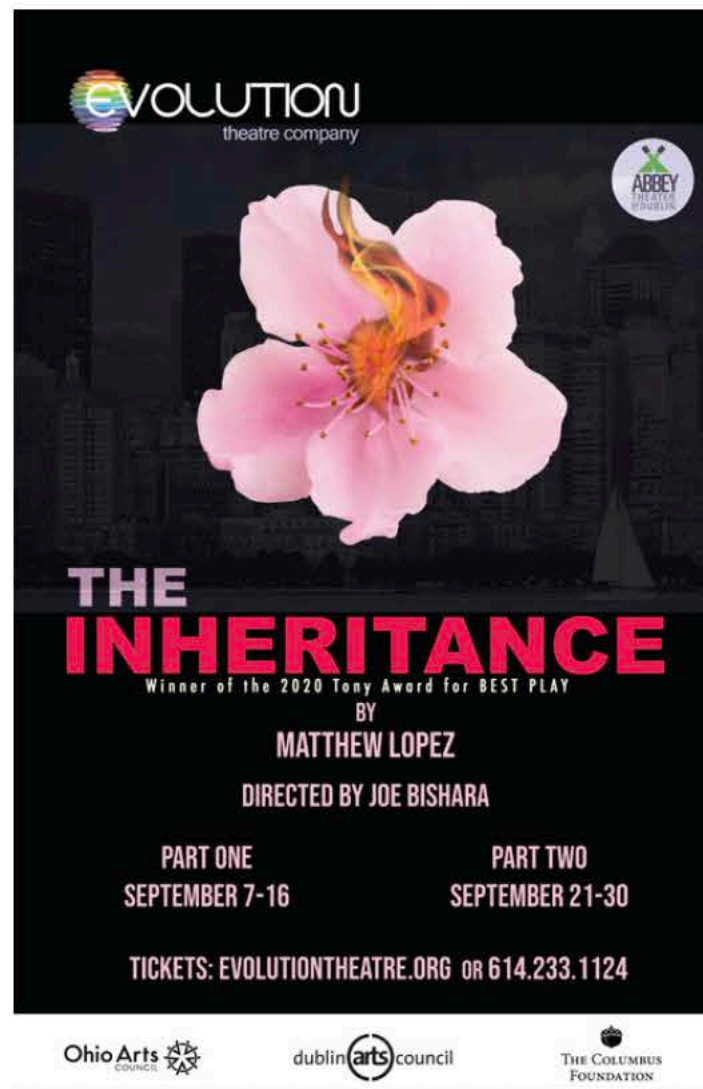




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wishes to express our deepest gratitude  
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Dublin Arts Council partially funded this production through a Community Arts Grant  
to encourage community engagement, cultivate creativity  
and foster life-long learning through the arts.

**Friend: \$1 - \$99**

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David Cox  
Dawn Farrell  
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Charles Giles  
Charlys Henrickson  
Sandra Hope  
Gary Kern  
Kristyn Koczur  
Kathleen Oxner  
Jaron Terry

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Richard Oestreich / Jody Rivers  
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