



The Alban Arts Center

65 Olde Main, St. Albans WV



October
17, 18, 24, 25

8 pm

October
19 & 26

2 pm

David Ives

Venus In Fur



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Warning Adult themes and Language
Parental discretion is strongly advised



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VENUS

in FUR

By David Ives

Directed by Gregory Morris
Assistant Director: Ryan Hardiman
Produced by special arrangement with
Dramatist Play Service

For your own enjoyment and those around you, please turn off all mobile devices and refrain from texting during performance.



**Still photography & video recording
of this production is
strictly prohibited**



**Thank you to; The Greater
Kanawha Valley Foundation,
West Virginia
Commission on the Arts
and West Virginia Division of
Culture and History
for supporting the Alban's
2014-15 Season!**

Originally produced by Classic Stage Company
(Brian Kulick, Artistic Director: Jessica R. Jennen, Executive Director
Originally produced on Broadway by the Manhattan Theatre Club
(Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director: Barry Grove, Executive Producer
By special arrangement with Jon B. Platt, Scott Lanis and Classic Stage Company at
the Samuel J. Friedman Theatre on October 13, 2011

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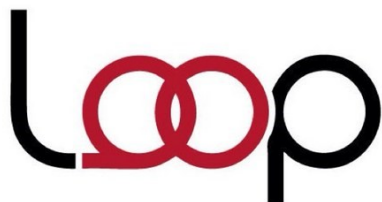
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Notes from the Director:

My friends and I used to canoe to downtown St. Albans, tie off to a convenient pier, climb the muddy bank to a very different (but much the same) Main Street; we'd jump the roofs from building to building, hang out at the Five & Dime and the Variety Stores, share a purloined pack of smokes in the narrow pathway that runs adjacent to the Alban, watch the parading bands with their majorettes in steel-heeled, tasseled boots clicking on the pavement to the sound of brass and woodwinds, borrow a book or two from the library, and maybe see a matinee to kick off the afternoon. Never did I imagine that I might actually return to this building to do something creative. Main Street is back, and it's nice to be home.

As the playwright, David Ives, said "We were making theatre for the best and purest of human reasons: for love. For the hell of it. For fun."

So why chose *Venus in Fur* for a directorial homecoming? For the hell of it. For fun. It would be a mistake to look too closely at this play and its production, despite the richness of dialogue and the layers of intrigue and psychology. For an hour and a half we watch two people struggling to complete something that never will be firmly fixed, and then we move on; hence the "office under construction," which, like Thomas, is usable, but far from complete. The design was motivated by this essential theme, trimmed with set dressing that suggests both a modern city office and an ancient Greek temple, towering and severe, spacious and cramped, old and new, clean and dirty, ambiguous and ambivalent.

If, in the end, the audience is a little uncertain of what's just happened that's perfectly fine. The mold can always be emptied and the piece recast for a second and third try. And this is the way we like it. This is what makes it fun.

Greg Morris

The Place: New York City, a rented office in a warehouse
that is being renovated.

The Time: Today or Tomorrow (Or, maybe, Yesterday)

The Cast:

Thomas Novachek (a playwright)

or **Severin Von Kushemski** (a "cultivated" gentleman)

~Rob Boone~

Vanda Jordan (an actress)

or **Vanda Von Duneyev** (a noblewoman of "professed principals")

~Marlette Carter~



Rob Boone (Thomas) was born in Akron, OH, and grew up in Parkersburg. He left West Virginia at 19 and spent the next four years serving in the United States Navy in Virginia Beach before moving to Florida, splitting time between Fort Myers and Tampa. In 2011, he returned to West Virginia, where his love of theater was reignited.

Since returning, Rob has performed in eight shows, including *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *Much Ado About*

Nothing, *God of Carnage*, *Glass Menagerie*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *A Delicate Balance*, *Antigone*, and *The Nutcracker Story*.

He was attracted to *Venus in Fur* for its naked portrayal of the human experience, which is at turns tragic, hilarious, mysterious, and endearing. Rob is a freelance copywriter who may one day write the Great American Novel. If he doesn't, he will blame it on reality TV and the metric system.



Marlette Carter (Vanda) thinks her boyfriend is sexy, but tells him she likes him for his intelligence. The proud mommy of a giant mouth with four legs and a tail, Marlette enjoys sushi, long walks and starting intergalactic wars. Cleverly masquerading as someone with an actual job in the entertainment industry, she has most recently appeared as Mary in *Detroit* with the Appalachian Artists Collective and as the Train Driver in *Wind in the Willows* at the

Alban. Favorite roles include Bertha Rochester in *Jane Eyre*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and The Fool in *King Lear* with CSC. Her future objective is to reveal herself as a giant, alien strawberry with telepathic powers and rule the planet, but for now is content to study humanity's obsession with social media.

The CREW
Director/Technical Director
Greg Morris
Assistant Director
Ryan Hardiman

The CREW
Costumer
Paige Chapman
Light Board
Andrew Rose



Greg Morris (Director) Artist, actor, and technical director, the St. Albans native is returning home for his main-stage directorial debut.

Greg has always loved play-acting, and credits his mother and father for introducing him to arts and reading, and an appreciation for a life of balance and the rewards of hard work. Just as critical - the parade of great teachers who challenged him to embrace a life of learning, and his old school chums, talented, spirited, clever creatures all, who encouraged his creativity and suffered his idiosyncrasies.

Greg's most recent theatrical projects: the title role in

William Shakespeare's *Macbeth* with Arts Resources for the Tristate, the set engineer for CUPS mind-blowing production of "Avenue Q," and set design for the Appalachian Artist's Collective production of "Voices of the Mountains," a theater outreach program funded by the Clay Center and co-directed by Leah Turley and T. Michael Murdock. A Design Engineer, Project Manager, and Operations Technician in the Gas Measurement and Pressure Regulation Department at Mountaineer Gas Company, Greg lives in Huntington with his most patient, forgiving, and beautiful wife Kate (Go Eagles!), their toddler Cordelia, and mutts Gertie, Brin, and Mr. Murphydog. Greg is also the proud father of four grown daughters who are out making their way in this messy world, and of a beautiful grandson Trail.



Ryan Hardiman (Assistant Director) *Venus in Fur* marks Ryan's first experience in the theatre from the other side of the stage. A mere actor before this joyous day some of his most notable roles include; *Les Miserables* (Jean Valjean) *Next to Normal* (Dan), *Evita*, (Che) and *RENT* (Roger) for Charleston Light Opera Guild. *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus) for Contemporary Youth Arts Company and Trinity Episcopal, *Jekyll & Hyde- The Musical* (Jekyll/Hyde) for ACTC

and ARTS, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (Chauvelin) for ACTC, *HAIR* (Berger) for Marshall University Theatre. With Charleston Stage Company he appeared as; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Hedwig), *Cabaret* (Emcee), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Riff Raff), *Dracula* (Renfield) and *The Pillowman* (Katurian). He played; *Man Of La Mancha* (Cervantes/Don Quixote) for 5th Avenue Theatre Company, *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *The Wedding Singer* (Robbie Hart) for Huntington Outdoor Theatre and *Into The Woods* (Wolf/Cinderella's Prince) for Appalachian Regional Theatre.

Ryan was chosen by popular audience vote and was named the first ever "Symphony Idol" with The West Virginia Symphony Orchestra. He has been a featured vocalist in several concerts with the WVSO, The Huntington Symphony Orchestra, and headlined a series of WVSO Pops concerts at The Clay Center.

Ryan is Art Director with WCHS/FOX11 TV and lives in Huntington, WV with his wife, Jean, and daughters Chloe, Celeste and Chelsea.

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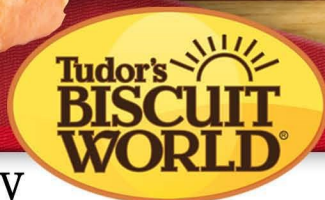
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THEATRE SCHEDULE

The Legend of Sleeping Beauty

August 15, 16, 17 and 22, 23, 24

Venus in Fur

By David Ives

October 17, 18, 19 & 24, 25, 26

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens,
adapted by John Jakes

December 12, 13, 14 and 19, 20, 21

Audition Dates: October 11-12, 2014

Brilliant Traces (2015)

By Cindy Lou Johnson

February 13, 14, 15, and 20, 21, 22

Audition Dates: December 7-8, 2014

Catch and Release (2015)

By Jeremy Richter

April 17, 18, 19 and 24, 25, 26

Audition Dates: February 7-8, 2015

Bell, Book and Candle (2015)

By John Van Druten

June 5, 6, 7 and 12, 13, 14

Auditions Dates: April 11-12, 2014

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