

# ACT

AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS

*A love discovered  
one letter at a time*

## *Daddy Long Legs*



Music By  
**Paul Gordon**

*A Musical*  
By  
**John Caird**

November - December  
**22nd - 8th**  
Thursday - Saturday 7:30pm  
Sunday 2pm



**(904) 261-6749**  
AMELIACOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG  
INFO@AMELIACOMMUNITYTHEATRE.ORG  
207 CEDAR ST. FERNANDINA BEACH, FL

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209 Cedar Street, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034  
(904) 261-6749 and [info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org](mailto:info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org)

ACT was chartered by the State of Florida  
in 1981 as a not-for-profit corporation.

Auditions and memberships are open to all.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"To enhance the quality of life of our local (and extended) community by providing excellent, innovative theatrical and artistic experiences through presentation and education."*

### 2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Nicole Perrella
PRESIDENT-ELECT	Joe Zaccaro
TREASURER	Scott Bobeck
SECRETARY	Bruce Gruber
DIRECTORS.....	Renée LaCroix, Linda Loftis, Elizabeth Sawyer, Garland "Trey" Stafford, Peggy Strickland, Jayme Taylor, Missy Tremblay, Shea Zaccaro

### THEATRE STAFF

MANAGING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR.....	Stephen Carver
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR .....	Geoffrey Moss
BOX OFFICE MANAGER .....	Tabitha Mudd



# AMELIA COMMUNITY THEATRE

## PRESENTS

# Daddy Long Legs

**Elizabeth Sawyer**

*Director*

**Tabitha Mudd**

*Musical Director*

**Emma Sawyer**

*Stage Manager*

**MAIN STAGE**

**November 22 - December 8, 2024**

**The video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.**

Orchestrations by Paul Gordon and Brad Haak.

Originally presented Off-Broadway by

Ken Davenport, Michael Jackowitz, Hunter Arold, Peg McFeeley Golden, Tres Rosas, Ben Baily, David Bryant, Caiola Productions, Carl Daikeler, Jeffrey Grave, Marguarite Hoffman.

Originally produced by a consortium that includes Rubicon Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and TheatreWorks Palo Alto the Green Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Skylight Music Theatre, and David Elzer.

# Notes From The Director...

At its heart, *Daddy Long Legs* is a story about falling in love with someone's mind before their face. Jervis Pendleton falls completely and madly in love with Jerusha Abbott's fearless turn of phrase through her letters to him. While Jerusha, an orphan with no wealth or status, might seem like an unlikely match for the wealthy Jervis, what truly connects them is something far more valuable: her intellect and her wit. Throughout this show, we see that true equality in their relationship isn't about social class or money; it's about the connection between two people who respect and understand each other.

As we were going through rehearsals, I couldn't help but think of *Jane Eyre*. *Jane Eyre* is one of the books that speaks to Jerusha's heart while she's at school. To me, there is a clear connection between Jane's moral strength and intelligence making her Rochester's equal and Jerusha's mind and intellectual growth making her Jervis's equal. Like Rochester, Jervis is not Prince Charming rescuing Cinderella from an evil false family. It's not his wealth that makes him the prize in this story; it's her remarkable journey from abandoned orphan to confident woman that transforms their relationship into one of mutual respect and love. This isn't a story about a man saving a woman; it's a story about two people saving each other, one letter at a time.

In the end, *Daddy Long Legs* is a reminder that real connection is built on understanding, not financial or social status. And like this show, real connection is simple at its heart but deeper than it first appears. So sit back, enjoy the letters, and let's see if you can fall in love with someone's mind too!

Elizabeth Sawyer  
*Director*

## Cast of Characters

Jerusha .....Maggie Mellott  
Jervis .....Brad Davis

## Setting

New England in 1908 - 1912.



# Production Team

Director	Elizabeth Sawyer
Musical Director	Tabitha Mudd
Technical Director	Geoffrey Moss
Stage Manager	Emma Sawyer
Set Construction Crew	Bill Bowler, Dean Koepp, Dewain Hanlon, Jamie Morrill, Steve Powers, Wayne Tamme, Ed Spang, Peter Williams
Painting Crew	Anne Foos, Jayne Jeney, Peggy Strickland, Janett Thomas
Light Board Operator	Anne Foos, Jayne Jeney
Costume Crew Chief	Vicki Gibson
Costume Crew	Peggy Strickland
Properties Crew Chief	Isabelle Bournigault
Properties Crew	Linda Loftis, Peter Sawyer

## Musicians

Piano	Tabitha Mudd
Guitar	Brandon Hester
Cello	Carol Smith



# Musical Numbers

## Act One

1. Oldest Orphan
2. Who Is This Man?
3. Mr. Girl Hater
4. She Thinks I'm Old
5. Like Other Girls
6. Freshman Year Studies
7. Things I Didn't Know
8. What Does She Mean by Love?
9. I'm A Beast
10. When Shall We Meet?
11. The Color of Your Eyes
12. Like Other Girls (Reprise)
13. The Secret of Happiness
14. The Color of Your Eyes (Reprise 1)

## Act Two

15. Sophomore Year Studies
16. My Manhattan
17. I Couldn't Know Someone Less
18. The Man I'll Never Be
19. The Secret of Happiness (Reprise 1)
20. Christmas in Manhattan
21. Humble Pie
- 21b. Senior Year Studies
22. Graduation Day
23. Charity
24. I Have Torn You From My Heart
25. My Manhattan (Reprise)
26. The Color of Your Eyes (Reprise 2)
27. The Secret of Happiness (Reprise 2)
28. I'm A Beast (Reprise)
29. All This Time

# Cast Biographies



## **Brad Davis (*Jervis Pendleton*)**

Brad says working with a new company is exciting, but sharing the stage with his wife has been such a fun experience. Brad felt it was fate to be in this show from the time he read the line where Jervis calls himself “Dear Friend” because “Dear Friend” was Brad’s role in *She Loves Me* when he met his wife in 2019. Brad has a master’s degree in Project Management and serves in the United States Navy as a Submarine Ordnance Officer. Outside work and theatre, Brad is a Star Wars super fan and has quite a memorabilia collection. Brad’s eight-year-old son Declan keeps him on his toes, and he and his new wife Maggie love to travel and play video games.



## **Maggie Mellott (*Jerusha Abbott*)**

Maggie says getting to fall in love with her real-life husband on stage every day has been the best part of this show. She thanks him for helping her be the best version of herself and her parents for instilling and cultivating her love for live theatre. With multiple degrees, Maggie works remotely for her alma mater, Loyola University Maryland, as a graduate admission counselor. When she’s not working or at rehearsal, she loves to read, watch movies, and play video games. Right now, she’s on a suspense-thriller reading kick and is playing *Luigi’s Mansion 2*. Maggie has always loved the notion of “life is about the journey, not the destination,” and believes we need to “just enjoy the ride.”

## Musicians



Tabitha Mudd, Brandon Hester, Carol Smith



# Production Biographies



## **Elizabeth Sawyer (Director)**

Elizabeth loved the book *Daddy Long Legs* as a teenager, so when she read this terrific adaptation, she jumped at the opportunity to direct for the first time at ACT. Elizabeth believes that what sets this show apart from other musicals which feature a grand romance is that Jerusha's love story is created through her letters to Jervis; and they emphasize Jerusha's intelligence, wit, and fearless turn of phrase. Elizabeth wants to thank Peggy Strickland, Jennifer Webber, and Marylee Long for giving her a strong production foundation and Steve Carver for giving her the chance to direct. In her fifteenth year working at Robison Jewelry, Elizabeth's biggest hobby is volunteering, and she is very active in her community.



## **Tabitha Mudd (Musical Director)**

Tabitha's roles as Box Office Manager for ACT, a piano teacher at Amelia Music Studio, and a financial manager at Axia Public Relations emphasize her diversity. However, when you add her hobbies of crocheting, Korean Culture (TV/film entertainment and food), studying multiple languages, and trying to finish her certification as a Therapist/Counselor, ACT is fortunate she agreed to be the Musical Director for this wonderful show. She loves hearing the beautiful music and having the cast serenade her every night. With live music, she also loves the use of the simile mark, which allows the musician to repeat or improvise while actors have to maneuver or perform until they are ready to sing. For the record, Tabitha hates green peas.



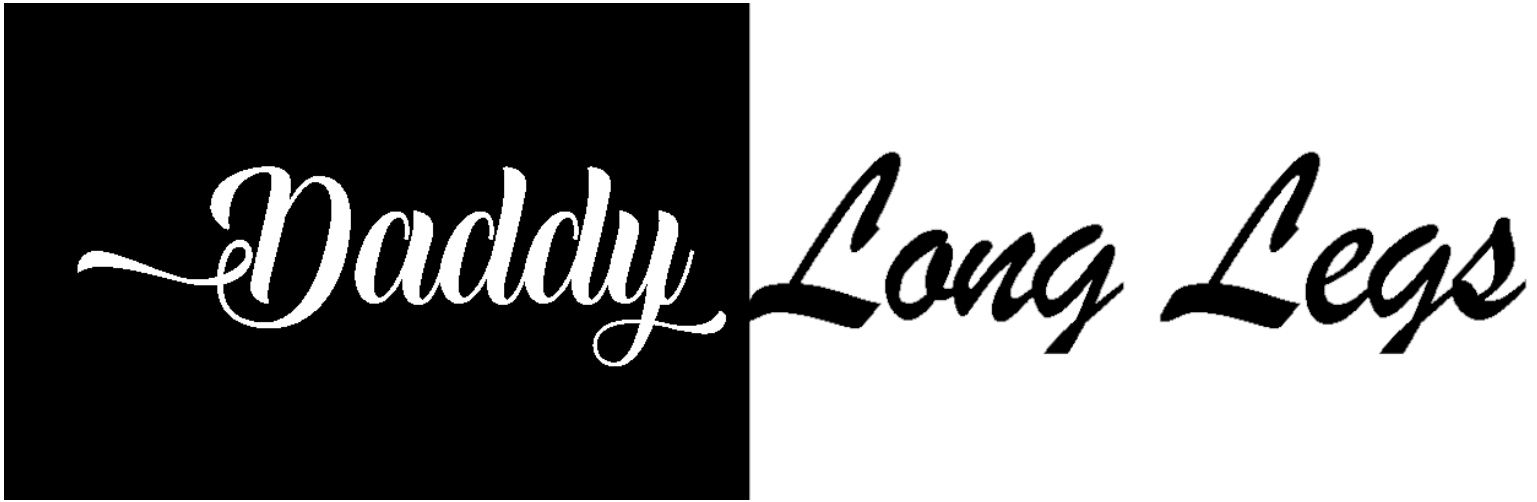
## **Emma Sawyer (Stage Manager)**

Emma's favorite line from *Jerusha* is, "Some of the girls sell their textbooks when they're through with them, but I intend to keep mine." With her books from school all in a row on a bookshelf, Emma identifies with *Jerusha* and has loved getting to see one of her favorite musicals get rehearsed and hammered out right in front of her eyes. She's thankful to her brother for singing duets, her sister for trusting her to stage manage, and her parents for giving her an education that makes the world into verse. With a degree in classical liberal arts, Emma works as a retail associate at Robison Jewelry, is a freelance copyeditor/writer, and a birth doula who enjoys reading and traveling.



# Ovations

We thank the following businesses and individuals who helped us present...



- Amelia Island Museum of History
- Amelia Music Studio
- Dickie Anderson
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- Fernandina Observer
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- Ron Kirkpatrick
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- News-Leader
- Mouth of Amelia
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- The Tom Nehl Fund of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

## Special Thanks To...

Our friends and families who have been our support.

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Arthur Nichols

# Volunteer of the Year

## Bruce Gruber

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, 2024-2025



Bruce Gruber is a loyal, hardworking, and dedicated volunteer who is involved in many aspects of our theatre. He knows ACT from every view: acting, leadership roles, recruiting new volunteers, rewriting our bylaws, play reading for new season selection, long range planning, ushering, and even parking cars.

Bruce has very high standards for himself and the work he produces for our theatre. He is a mature and sage voice of reason whom other volunteers look up to, listen to, and respect. The role of mentor comes naturally to Bruce, and he has given guidance and served as a role model to many in a variety of roles.

Bruce worked tirelessly on our volunteer recruitment program. Originally, he was handed a large and rambling mass of names on an ancient mailing list and he never felt overwhelmed or defeated by the massive project. He recently handed over a well-thought-out, developed, and finished volunteer recruitment and tracking program. Bruce also calls prospective volunteers who have expressed an interest in our theatre. His enthusiasm, warmth, and graciousness has turned many potential volunteers into new members of our volunteer family.

Bruce promotes ACT in our community including the Men's Newcomer Club, the Council on Aging, and various bridge groups where his persuasive, fun personality has single handedly sold many tickets to our performances- especially shows he's in! You may have seen him last February with roles in *Billy Elliot: The Musical*.

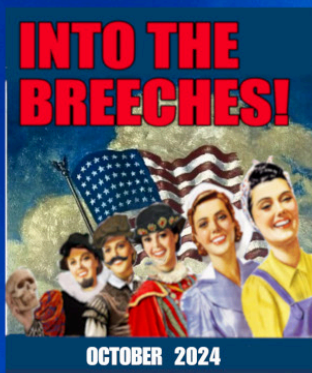
The epitome of a dependable volunteer, Bruce consistently produces excellent results drawing on his life experience in business and his long-time love for community theatre. As secretary to the ACT board, he works to insure the continued smooth running of board business. He also oversees the implementation of our long-range plan, and chaired the momentous task of by-laws revision to create our current by-laws that now reflect ACT's purpose and operations.

Bruce's wisdom, kindness, ethical standards, and stalwart stewardship helped ACT thrive during our 43rd season. Each and every day, he remains easy going and kind to all who volunteer alongside him. We think Bruce is the gold standard bearer for these traits in a volunteer, and we are all enriched by his presence at ACT. We are proud to honor Bruce Gruber as ACT Volunteer of the Year!

# Amelia Community Theatre

*Proudly presents*

## 2024/2025 SEASON 44



Amelia Island is Your Theatre Destination. Our premier, community theatre brings people together to share fun and moving stories we know you will enjoy. It's a warm and welcoming environment where you can be a part of a dynamic and friendly community. Our mission is to bring the world of theatre to this beautiful location with unique, high-quality productions that are simply outstanding. We believe this season we have something for everyone, from big Broadway musicals, to hysterical comedies, to the classic murder mystery. It's a dynamic season you won't want to miss.