



# Harvey

BY Mary Chase

DIRECTOR

Andy Garrison

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Stephanie Laaker

JANUARY  
10-19

[thebarnplayers.org](http://thebarnplayers.org)

THE BLACK BOX THEATRE  
AT THE JOHNSON COUNTY  
ARTS & HERITAGE CENTER

8788 Metcalf Ave. Overland Park, KS

JANUARY 10, 11, 13, 16\*, 17, 18 @ 7:30pm

JANUARY 12 & 19 @ 2pm

\*JANUARY 16 WITH ASL INTERPRETATION

GENERAL ADMISSION - \$22

SENIORS (65+) - \$20

STUDENTS (WITH ID) - \$18

GROUPS (10+) - \$18



THEBARN  
PLAYERS

The Barn Players Present

# Harvey

by Mary Chase

January 10-19, 2025

The Black Box Theatre at The Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, Overland Park, KS

Directed by **Andy Garrison**

Asst. Director/Stage Manager  
**Stephanie Laaker**

Scenic Designer  
**Brandon Scalf**

Scenic Artist  
**Billy Blob**

Lighting Designer  
**Zach Dulny**

Sound Designer  
**Andy Garrison and  
Sean Leistico**

Set Construction  
**Bill Wright**

Costume Designer  
**Elsa Bernauer**

Production Assistant  
**Irene Manning**

Asst. Stage Manager  
**Martha Korhorn**

Portraitist - **Ava Moran**

## Special Thanks to

Ron Worley, Mark Collins, Tristan Stathis,

Shelby Edwards and Inclusive Communication Services

Harvey is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

**There will be TWO Ten-Minute Intermissions.**

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

## Cast

Myrtle Mae Simmons.....	Johanna Quigley
Veta Louise Simmons.....	Jeannie Blau
Elwood P. Dowd.....	Greg Butell
Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet.....	Bonita Hanson
Ruth Kelly, R.N.....	Kisha Henry
Duane Wilson.....	DJ Davis
Lyman Sanderson, M.D.....	Jason Shipp
William R. Chumley, M.D.....	Marshall Rimann
Betty Chumley.....	Valerie Hanna
Judge Omar Gaffney.....	R. Kevan Myers
E.J. Lofgren.....	Josh Jackson



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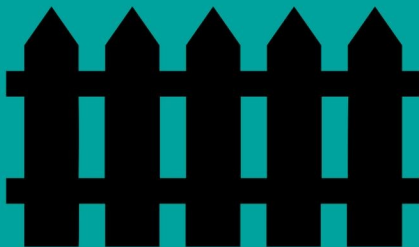
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# CAST



**JEANNIE BLAU (Veta Louise Simmons)** is elated to work again with The Barn Players, having just performed with them in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. Other recent credits include *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (Bell Road Barn); *The Wild Women of Winedale* (The Chestnut Theatre); *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*; (White Theatre); *Deceit* (2019 KC Fringe Festival); *A Flea in Her Ear* (OCTA); *Sense and Sensibility* (OCTA); *The Triangle Factory Fire Project* (STG); *Ghost-Writer* and *Black Pearl Sings!* (Spinning Tree Theatre). Film credits include *The House on Pine Street* (E3W Productions). Enjoy the show!



**GREG BUTELL (Elwood P. Dowd)** excitedly returns to the Barn stage after years away to play this iconic role and reunites with director, Andy Garrison. They performed together in Greg's first show in KC a "few" years ago at the Barn in *On The Razzle*. Other favorites here include *August: Osage County* and *Assassins*. Greg's been seen performing on many KC theatre stages with credits including *Mornings At Seven*, *And Then There Were None* (Kansas City Actors Theatre), *Gypsy* (Music Theatre Heritage), *Catch Me If You Can*, *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *Funny Money* (New Theatre & Restaurant), *Sweat* (Unicorn Theatre), *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (Black Repertory Theatre), *Tree Of Life*, *To Kill A Mockingbird* (JCC White Theatre). Next up this summer - *Clue* at New Theatre & Restaurant.



**DJ DAVIS (Duane Wilson)** moved to Kansas City just over a year ago and this is his second show with the Barn Players. He's very excited for you to see this wonderful show! He thanks his wife Alicia for her love, support, and patience. And he thanks you for being here supporting theater in your community!



**VALERIE HANNA (Betty Chumley)** Valerie has performed with The Barn Players, KC Fringe, Kansas City Public Theatre, OCTA, Lenexa City Arts Council, a national commercial and local films. She extends her sincere gratitude to the talented cast, crew and director, for their dedication and enthusiasm, in bringing the gift that is *Harvey* to life!



**BONITA HANSON (Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet).** Bonita is happy to be working with the Barn's production of *Harvey*. It's great to be able to 'play' with friends on stage. Off-stage conversations in the GreenRoom are always fun. Bonita has been fortunate working in local and regional theatres. Area stages include New Theatre, Coterie, Theatre for Young America. Some of her favorite roles include: Mrs. Clackett in *Noises Off*, Grace in *Grace and Glorie*, Mrs. Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You* at NTR, Hannah in *Spitfire Grill*, Daisy in *Driving Miss Daisy* and Fonsia in *The Gin Game*. Enjoy your time here

with Harvey and all his friends.



**KISHA HENRY (Ruth Kelly, R.N.)** is absolutely thrilled to make her Barn Players debut in one of her favorite plays: *Harvey*. The former news anchor and reporter, turned actor, has filled her resume with local and international commercial projects, including Hallmark, Microsoft and Holiday Inn Vacation Club, as well as a number of short films and web-series. She recently added theatre to her list of passions with the 2024 KC Fringe Festival's *That Woman: The Monologue Show*. She trains at the Actor Training Studio.



**JOSH JACKSON (E.J. Lofgren).** After over 3 years, Josh is returning to The Barn for his 2nd production. \*Hold for Applause\* He previously played Rev. Fred Phelps, along with several other characters, in *The Laramie Project* in 2021. He has also performed at MET, OCTA, RCCP, CTI, STG, Bell Road, Corbin, KC Public Theatre and Brownville Village Theatre. Josh is thrilled to work with this talented cast and crew and wants to thank his family and friends for their constant love and support.



**R. KEVAN MYERS (Judge Gaffney).** Getting his Theatre degree from KU, he appeared in many productions including *Romeo and Juliet*, a world premiere starring George Dzundza, and *You Can't Take It with You* starring Pat Hingle. In the 1980s, he did *Busyboddy* with Billie Bird at Tiffany's Attic and plays with Actor's Ensemble. After a 25-year hiatus, he has appeared at White Theatre JCCC, Just Off Broadway, City Theatre Independence, Bell Road Barn, Metropolitan Ensemble, and Kansas City Actor's Theatre (staged read, understudy). *Harvey* is his fourth

Barn Players show. Financial Advisor. Married to Shannon. Father to Collin and Camron. Granddad to Brett and Sloane.



**JOHANNA QUIGLEY (Myrtle Mae Simmons)** is stoked to join The Barn Players for her second production with the company! She is a native of Prairie Village, and just received her BFA in Acting from Texas Christian University! Most recently, you could find Johanna in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* with The Barn Players, as Benvolio in Courtyard Shakes' production of *Romeo and Juliet*, and over in Prague in Sharon Ott's production of *As You Like It* as Celia! She wants to thank her incredible family for always supporting her theatrical endeavors!



**MARSHALL RIMANN (Dr. William Chumley)** is returning to the Barn Players stage for his third play. He first appeared with the Barn Players in the 2012 production of *Prelude to a Kiss* in the role of “Old Man” and last year he played Justice Wainwright in *Witness for the Prosecution*. He was most recently seen at The White Theatre in the world premier of *Tree of Life*. Other favorite roles have included Jean Shepherd in *A Christmas Story, The Musical* (MTKC-Pro), Norman Thayer in *On Golden Pond* (Paradise Playhouse Dinner Theatre), Reverend Brown in *Inherit the Wind* (White Theatre at the J) and Mr. Simmons in *Memphis* (Black Repertory Theatre of KC/White Theatre). He would like to thank Mary for her continued encouragement and support and to the audiences who keep live theatre happening in Kansas City, he says “Cheers!”



**JASON SHIPPS (Lyman Sanderson, M.D.)** has been acting for over 13 years, and is thrilled to be returning to the Barn after previously participating in the Barn Jr. program his freshman year of high school. He was most recently seen at Main Street Theater and Gladstone Theatre in the Park.



# Hope Is a Thing with Ears

by Allise Garrison



Eighty years ago, the long global nightmare of WWII was nearly at an end when a tall, invisible rabbit first stepped onto the stage, blinking in the glare of the spotlight.

Harvey sprang from the imagination of Mary Coyle Chase, a woman who grew up in a working-class Irish-American household in

Denver, where she heard magical tales of fairy folk, banshees and pookas. As an adult, she turned to writing her own stories, at first in the rough and tumble field of journalism where women were rare. In spite of her talent and hard work, she was soon relegated to the society pages.

Turning to other writing pursuits, Mary decided to try her hand at creative writing. She was living happily with her husband and children, but she often saw her neighbor, a widow woman who would leave her apartment to ride the bus to work every day. Until one day, she wasn't there. Mary learned the woman had just lost her son, a bombardier, over the Pacific. A week later, Mary saw the woman again, leaving her apartment and making her way, much slower now, to the bus. Mary thought, could I ever write something that would give her a reason to laugh again? And Harvey was born.

With 1,775 performances, Harvey was one of the longest running dramas on Broadway and is still one of the most-often produced plays in communities across the country. It won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1945. It has been translated into almost every

language and performed in nearly every country around the world.

One could see Harvey's success as the result of a welcome escape from the trauma of WWII, and today, from the strife we constantly see all around us. But on a deeper level, Harvey asks us to look at our attitudes about difference and how threatened society can feel when someone fails to conform to expectations. Elwood's friends – especially Harvey – are seen as completely inappropriate and profoundly embarrassing, to the point where his family thinks that Elwood shows signs of insanity.

Elwood does see the invisible – people's quirks and foibles, their uniqueness and – in spite of all evidence to the contrary – their fundamental goodness. And he somehow makes the invisible real.

The tale about a tall invisible rabbit and the man who befriends him resonates as strongly today as it did 80 years ago, as society is yet again struggling with persecution of difference and how we should deal with those who are different from the "norm," whether that difference is who we love, what we believe or who we are.

### Settings

A city in the Far West, in the library of the old Dowd family mansion and the reception room of Chumley's Rest. The mid 1940's

#### Act I

Scene 1: The library, late afternoon.

Scene 2: Chumley's Rest, an hour later.

#### Act II

Scene 1: The library, an hour later.

Scene 2: Chumley's Rest, four hours later.

#### Act III

Chumley's Rest, a few minutes later.



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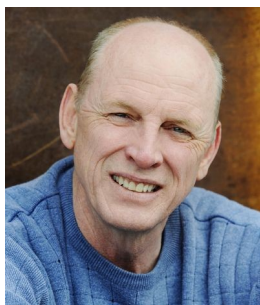


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# CREW



**ANDY GARRISON (Director)** has appeared on most area stages and his acting work has been seen in films, commercials and national TV. Favorites among his dozens of directing credits are *Speed the Plow*, *Three Viewings*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Boys Next Door* (for the Barn Players), *The Gin Game* and several acting showcases. Andy has operated ATS - the Actor Training Studio since 1998, where he teaches workshops and private sessions in acting and voiceover.



**STEPHANIE LAAKER (Stage Manager)** is pleased as punch to be stage managing her second show with The Barn, the last being *First Date* in 2022. As a teenager she worked with Jason Coats on Barn Junior shows, where she found her love of teaching. She now works as the booking coordinator for the Coterie Theatre and has been a teaching artist for other KC theater organizations the last ten years. She is so thankful to her family and friends for their continued support and dedicates these performances to the one who started it all, her great-aunt Ardy Pearson (1933-2024).



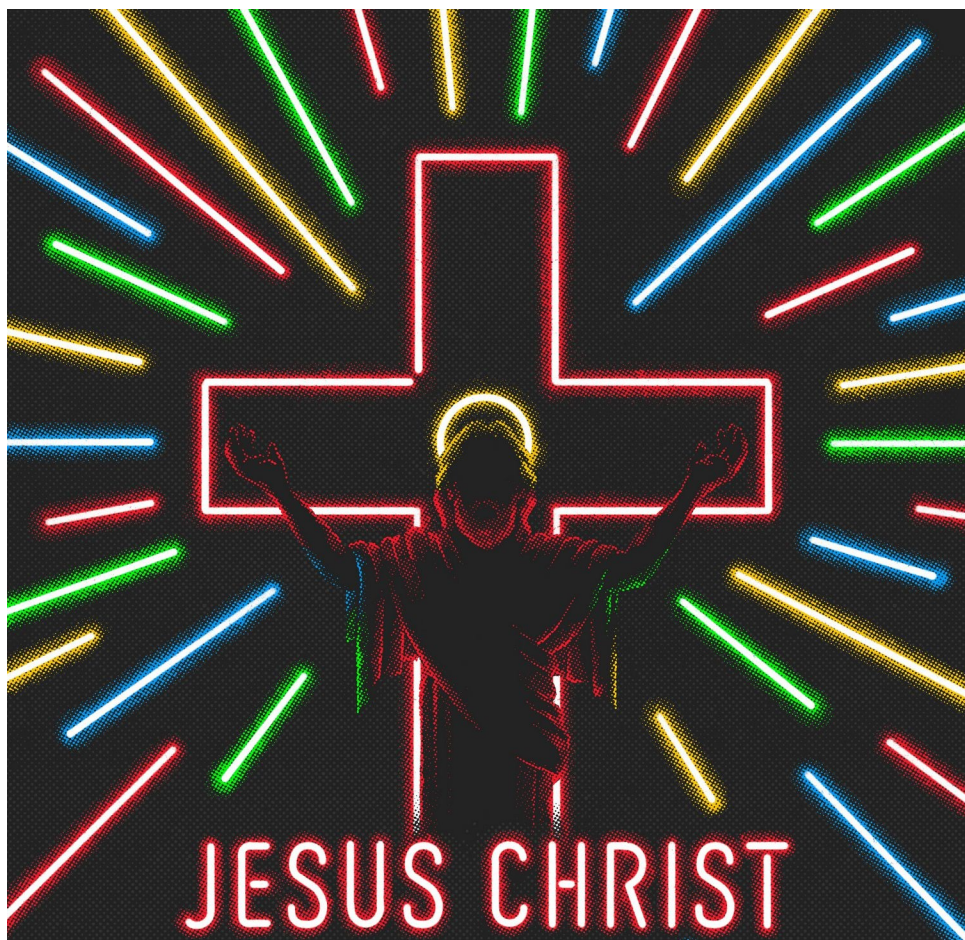
**MARTHA KORHORN (Assistant Stage Manager)** is excited to be a part of her first Barn Players production! Normally on the stage side of things, she's honored to be a part of the crew for this amazing show of *Harvey!* Special thanks to Stephanie and Andy for giving her the opportunity to learn a new side of the amazing art of acting! She hopes you all will enjoy this wonderful story!

**SEAN LEISTICO (Sound Design)** has been working with the Barn Players since 2004, in various capacities as actor, TD, lighting designer, sound designer, and is currently the Operations Manager for the Barn. Also, he is the Scene Shop Foreman and Resident Sound Designer and mentor for the Johnson County Community College Theatre Department. Hi, Mom. Hi Nora ☆☆☆☆☆. Thank you, and enjoy the show!

**IRENE MANNING (Production Assistant)** is delighted to be assisting with *Harvey* and has relished this opportunity to learn more about the behind-the-scenes magic of the stage. (Do not ask her to tell you how the magic works, she doesn't know how to keep a secret.) You can catch her on stage at the Bird Comedy Theater performing improv and sketch comedy. Most recently she appeared in the 2024 Fringe Festival production "2124."



Coming in May to The Barn Players...



# JESUS CHRIST *Superstar*

MUSIC BY **Andrew Lloyd Webber**

LYRICS & BOOK BY **Tim Rice**

DIRECTED BY **Amy Sander**

MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **Matt Richardson**

## MAY 9-18

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MAY 11 & 18 @ 2pm



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SENIORS (65+) - \$20  
STUDENTS (WITH ID) - \$18  
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