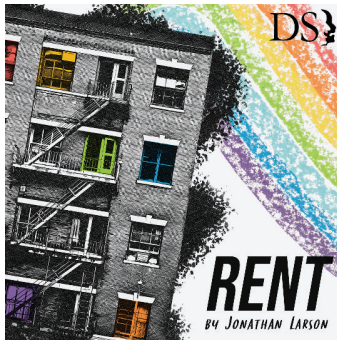


*Coming this Spring from Dominion Stage*



**DOMINIONSTAGE.ORG**

Dominion Stage is an all-volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 organization and is a member of the American Association of Community Theatre (AACT) and Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH).

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anything but predictable

# Torch Song



*By Hawley Fierstein*

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DOMINION STAGE PRESENTS

# Torch Song (2018)

By Harvey Fierstein

TORCH SONG was initially produced by Second Stage Theater in New York, October 2017, and then in November 2018 at the Helen Hayes Theater on Broadway by Richie Jackson, Eric Kuhn & Justin Mikita, Stephanie P. McClelland, Ken Fakler, David Mirvish, Lassen Blume/Karmen Boyz Productions, CJC & Priest/Judith Ann Abrams, Burnt Umber/True Love Productions, Caiola Productions/Torchbearers and Jujamcyn Theaters, Second Stage Theater, and Donald Tick.

Torch Song (2018) is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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## Dominion Stage

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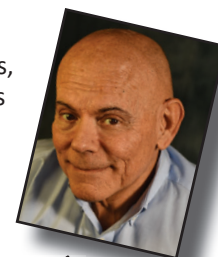
## Director's Notes

Don't we all have a little bit of Arnold in us? Aren't we ultimately looking for happiness and acceptance? And, for some of us "of a certain age", did we or did we not pull the "Oh, did you just call me?" phone routine as part of our dating repertoire? Guilty as charged!

Having lived in NYC in the 70s and 80s for most of my youth and early adulthood, I remember vividly the club and nightlife scene as well as the wild joys and disappointments of life back then. Oddly, as I look back, it was an innocent time – many of the challenges LGBTQ+ folks have faced and continue to face had not reared their ugly heads yet. Fast forward almost 50 years: we're STILL looking for acceptance and happiness.

I present Torch Song as a tribute to our universal truths, regardless of sexual identity or orientation – Arnold is everyman. Arnold is us. Arnold is me.

Sooooooooo, sit back, relax, smile, recognize familiar moments, laugh, and cry – it's good for you.



Mario

PS: And revel in the avocado green and earthy brown!

Love! Valour! Compassion!



The Boys In The Band

Brute Force





## Setting the Scene

### TIME

Late 1970s Act 1 | Early 1980s Act 2

### PLACE

Various locations in Manhattan and upstate New York

### CAST

in order of appearance

*Arnold* ..... Gary Bernard DiNardo  
*Ed* ..... Joey Pierce  
*Laurel* ..... Melanie Kurstin  
*Alan* ..... Erik Wells  
*David* ..... Joshua Horvath  
*Ma* ..... Janice Zucker

*Ed/Arnold* understudy ..... Jack Schillaci  
*Alan/David* understudy ..... James Storen

*Torch Song* is presented in two Acts with a 15 minute intermission

Thank you for silencing your mobile devices.

The unauthorized use of flash photography and recording devices is prohibited.



## Production Team

Executive Producer ..... Matthew Randall  
Producer ..... Jason Damaso  
Director ..... Mario Font  
Assistant Director/Co-Stage Manager ..... Paul Di Salvo  
Co-Stage Manager ..... Todd Paul  
Lighting Design ..... Ken and Patti Crowley  
Sound Design ..... Alan Wray  
Special Effects/Projections ..... Chip Gertzog  
Set Design ..... Bill Brown  
Set Painting ..... Edith Eshleman and Carol Zirkle  
Set Dressing ..... Charles Dragonette  
Properties ..... Helen Bard-Sobola  
Master Carpenters ..... Edith Eshleman and Carol Zirkle  
Costume Design ..... Tracey Froelich  
Hair & Makeup Design ..... Rebecca Harris  
Set Construction, Painting and Load-in Crew .....  
Dave Correia, Jason Damaso, Edith Eshleman,  
Rebecca Harris, Bruce Herr, Jr., Carol Zirkle  
Photography ..... Matthew Randall  
Graphic Design ..... Brittany Washington (season logo)  
Show Campaign Graphics and Playbill Support ..... David Moretti

### SPECIAL THANKS

Dominion Stage would like to thank David Moretti, Mary Veit,  
Patrick Doneghy, Arlington Heights Neighborhood, BN Columbia Pike,  
the 3700 Staff, the Little Theatre of Alexandria,  
and those names not available when we went to press.



Urinetown - The Musical

## About the Cast



**GARY BERNARD DINARDO** (*Arnold*, he/him/speaker's preference) is honored to play this iconic character. He received his BA in Theatre from University of Pittsburgh, his BSN from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and his MSHSA from Strayer University. Gary was last seen onstage playing Hedwig in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (DS). Some of his other favorite roles include Hunter in DS's *[title of show]*, Emory in *The Boys in the Band* (DS, WATCH Nominee), Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (MCP, WATCH Award) and Max in *Bent* (HBP, WATCH Award). Thanks to Gary's parents and his spouse, Ed, for their support, which could have bolstered the Titanic.



**JOSHUA HORVATH** (*David*, they/them) is a DC native and is excited to be returning to acting after a long stint away with such an amazing cast, crew, and show. Most recently, they have acted in a series of short films by Chloe Abbott (*The Storeroom*, *The Wet Slap*) while studying at Virginia Commonwealth University. Their most recent credits include Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Dmitri in *Anastasia*, Simon in *The Real Inspector Hound*, and Tiny Tom in *Urinetown*.



**MELANIE KURSTIN** (*Laurel*, she/her) is thrilled to be back at Dominion Stage! Melanie was most recently seen in TAP's production of *Into the Woods* (The Witch). Other favorite/notable credits include NYC: *American Idiot* (Whatsername), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Yitzhak); REGIONAL: *Head Over Heels* (Mopsa), *Firebringer* (Emberly), *Hurricane Diane* (Pam), *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (The Storyteller), *PUFFS* (Megan Jones), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Magenta), *The Wild Party* (Kate), *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* (Georgeanne), and *The Revolutionists* (Charlotte Corday). She's performed as part of the choir honoring Billy Joel at the 2014 Kennedy Center Honors, several award-winning short films with SHRUG Productions, and has worked on the Grammy Awards, and Sundance Film Festival. Love to her family, friends, and her partner, Adam, for their never-ending support. Instagram: @MelanieQuinn13

## About the Cast



**JOEY PIERCE** (*Ed*, he/him) is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and is excited to join the northern Virginia theatre community. After studying theatre at Nicholls State University and performing with the American Theatre Wing's SpringboardNYC program, Joey began his career in marketing, currently working for Visit Prince William County. Previous stage credits include Tom in *Prelude to a Kiss* (LTA), Jim in the Tennessee Williams Festival's *The Glass Menagerie*, and Max in Thibodaux Playhouse's *Lend Me a Tenor*. Special thanks to his husband, Christopher, for being more than enough.



**JACK SCHILLACI** (*Ed/Arnold* understudy) is thrilled to be making his Dominion Stage debut with this amazing cast and creative team. He did community theater in New York City before recently moving to the DMV area and immersing himself in this amazing theater community. Favorite recent performances include *Into the Woods*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *Pippin*. Thanks to family and the AWT gang for their love and support.



**JAMES STOREN** (*Alan/David* understudy) is thrilled to be making his debut with Dominion Stage in *Torch Song*. Returning to the theater world after moving to DC in 2023, he previously performed as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and Sheriff Wood in *Holy Toledo!* (both with NNS), in addition to two staged readings. He would like to thank the cast and crew for making this a memorable experience, and his family and friends for their support. Special shout out to the many people who have generously shuttled him back and forth from the Metro.

Heathers - The Musical



Reefer Madness - The Musical



## About the Cast



**ERIK WELLS** (Alan) is thrilled to be making his Dominion Stage debut with *Torch Song!* A recent William & Mary graduate, his credits include Jedediah, Aaron, and others in *The Laramie Project* (LTA), King of France in *Henry V* (SitD), and Lenny in *The Paper Copy*, which he wrote and directed (now on YouTube!). Erik has also directed *Et Tu, Rob?* and its film adaptation *Et Tu, Rob?: The Play: The Movie* (also on YouTube!). He thanks his family, friends, and *Torch Song* collaborators for all their support, and Rupert Graves in *A Room With A View* for inspiring him during audition prep.



**JANICE ZUCKER** (Ma) was in *A Fine and Private Place* (DS) in 2007 and is thrilled to be back with such a talented cast and crew! Favorite roles include Doris in *The Cemetery Club* and Aunt Iney in *Southern Hospitality* (ACCT), Abby in *Ripcord*, Hucklebee in *The Fantasticks* and Frieda in *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (LTA), Yente in *Fiddler on the Roof* and Elsa in *The Sound of Music* (SMP), Mary Meekly/Big Mac in *Unnecessary Farce*, and Bubbie in *Crossing Delancey* (VTC). She's a teaching artist for Wolf Trap. Love to Paul and as always Mom, this one's for you!

## Organizations

2FT – 2nd Flight Theatre Company  
AB – Avant Bard  
ACCT – Aldersgate Church Comm Thtr  
BST – Brave Spirits Theatre  
CP – Colonial Players of Annapolis  
DS – Dominion Stage  
DTC – Damascus Theatre Company  
ESP – Elden Street Players  
EP – Erie Playhouse  
FCT – Fauquier Community Theatre  
HBP – Hard Bargain Players  
KAT – Kensington Arts Theatre  
LTA – Little Theatre of Alexandria  
MCP – McLean Community Players  
NNS – NoVa NightSky

NS – Nextstop Theatre Company  
PCP – Port City Playhouse  
RCP – Reston Community Players  
RP – Rooftop Productions  
SitD – Shakespeare in the Dark  
SMP – Saint Mark's Players  
SP – Sterling Playmakers  
SSS – Silver Spring Stage  
TAP – The Arlington Players  
WAC – Workhouse Arts Center  
  
WATCH –  
Washington Area Theatre  
Community Honors

## About the Team

**HELEN BARD-SOBOLA** (Properties) last worked on *Brute Farce* at DS, where she has worked on many productions. She also works at LTA in many capacities, but mostly props where she is also co-chair. Break legs to cast and crew. As always, my family is my life and my love. Support Local Theatre.

**BILL BROWN** (Set Design) is excited to be working with Mario and the team on *Torch Song!* Past local designs include *Cabaret*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A View From the Bridge*, *She Loves Me* (WATCH nomination), and *My Fair Lady* (WATCH award). Enjoy!

**KEN AND PATTI CROWLEY** (Lighting Design) are excited to be working at Dominion Stage again, and are looking forward to working here later this year on *Rent*. Their most recent designs include DS's *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove* and *Brute Farce*, LTA's *Young Frankenstein*, *2 on the Aisle*, *3 in the Van*, *Sister Act*, and *Something Rotten*, RCP's *Avenue Q*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Aida*, PWLT's *Oliver!* and *The Sound of Music*, TAP's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other noteworthy designs include *Curtains*, *Picnic*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Will Rogers Follies*, *Widdershins*, *Das Barbecu*, *The Teahouse of the August Moon*, and *I Hate Hamlet*. They are the recipients of numerous awards including LTA, RCP, FCT, and WATCH Awards for their Lighting Design.

**JASON DAMASO** (Producer) is the co-president of Dominion Stage and has worked on numerous Dominion productions as Producer (*Firebringer*), Executive Producer (*Boston Marriage*, *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*), Costume Designer (*P.S. Your Cat Is Dead!*) and box office manager. He has also produced *My Fair Lady* (DTC) and directed *Head Over Heels* (DTC) in 2022. Next up – Jason will be directing *RENT* at Dominion in June 2024! Special thanks and love to Mario who makes this, and everything else, possible.

**PAUL DI SALVO** (Assistant Director/Co-Stage Manager) is a wildlife biologist by day and stagehand by night. He studied directing, technical theater, and environmental studies at Gettysburg College and has a Masters in Conservation Biology from SUNY-ESF. Previous local directing credits include *The American Plan and Collapse* (NNS) and *The Laramie Project* and *The Precious Scars* (LTA). Upcoming productions include *Love's Labour's Lost The Musical* (SMP) in May 2024. He thanks the cast, production team, and his friends and family for their support.

**CHARLES DRAGONETTE** (Set Dressing) is thrilled to be invited back to the scene of the crime to work with DS and the cast and crew for this show, his fifth for DS. He is a willing fixture at ACCT and also designs for LTA and VTC. Shame on you if you don't weep a little and laugh a lot tonight.



## About the Team

**EDITH ESHLEMAN** (Master Carpenter, Set Painting) is a retired Battalion Chief and part-time woodworker. After retiring from Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, Edith devotes much of her time to woodworking. She has a full shop in her basement and enjoys creating. Her other hobbies include cooking, spending time on her boat, bowling, learning Spanish and playing with her dog Lucy. *Torch Song* is her first set build. She enjoyed the challenge and adding to her skill set. Thank you to Mario Font for the opportunity!

**MARIO FONT** (Director) is thrilled to be back with Dominion Stage, where he performed in *Brute Farce*, stage managed *Boston Marriage*, and did hair/makeup and ran the light board for *Firebringer*. Reaching a bit farther back, Mario performed in *The Boys in the Band* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!* at DS. Prior production efforts include co-directing *Head Over Heels* (DTC). Acting credits include *November* (PPF), *Book of Days* (SMP), *Beauty and the Beast* (DTC), *August*, *Osage County* (CRT), *California Suite* (PPF), *Peter and The Starcatcher* (SMP), *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike* (LTA). Much love and appreciation to an amazing and supportive cast who made my work so easy and my vision a reality. A huge shout out to the production team and major thanks to my very own personal in-house director/producer/HR manager, Jason, for his never-ending love and support.

**TRACEY FROELICH** (Costume Design) *Torch Song* is Tracey's second appearance as a costume designer for community theatre after making her debut with the production of *November* (PPF) in 2022. An aspiring artist and lover of fashion, Tracey is delighted to work with the cast and crew of *Torch Song*! She would like to thank the folks at the Little Theatre of Alexandria and the Providence Players of Fairfax for their help, Matthew Randall for sharing his knowledge and all his help, and Mario Font for having the confidence in her ability to bring his vision to life!

**CHIP GERTZOG** (Special Effects/Projections) has worked on more than 90 community theater productions, primarily for the Providence Players, over the last 25 years and is thrilled to be working with Mario and Dominion Stage on *Torch Song*. Chip has directed 12 productions, designed lights, sound, sets, props and special effects for over 50 shows and has stage managed and produced several shows as well. He is a 22-time WATCH award nominee and eight-time WATCH award winner in a variety of production categories.



## About the Team

**REBECCA HARRIS** (Hair and Makeup Design) is very excited to be designing hair and makeup for *Torch Song*. She has dipped her hands in many productions since moving to the Metro area from Cleveland almost 16 years ago. Special thanks: Director Mario Font for giving her creative freedom with this project, along with the rest of the production team, cast, crew, and friends for their love and continued support. Previous credits: *Brute Farce*, *Boston Marriage*, *Firebringer*, [title of show], *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, *P.S Your Cat Is Dead!*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *Any Given Monday*, *Gilligan's Fire Island*, *Evil Dead the Musical* and *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (WATCH Recipient) all with DS. *Rumors*, *Steel Magnolias*, and *Dirty Blond* (LTA), *Company* (MCP), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (RCP).

**TODD PAUL** (Co-Stage Manager) was last onstage at DS in 2016 as Larry in *The Boys in the Band*, and will be seen in TAP's upcoming production of *The Prom*. Favorite past roles include Sir Bedevere in *Spamalot* (LTA), Kevin/Jason Green in *The Producers* (TAP), Smokey in *Damn Yankees* (MCP), among many others. He has also dabbled in producing and stage management when not performing. Todd is a long-time member of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC and loves spending whatever little free time he has with his two small dogs, Sunna and Satchel.

**MATTHEW RANDALL** (Executive Producer) has appeared in or directed numerous shows in the area at 2FT, DS, ESP, LTA, PCP, PPF, TAP, VTC, and WAC. He recently directed *Boston Marriage* and *Brute Farce* for DS. A multiple WATCH nominee in acting categories, he was last seen as Sidney Bruhl in *Deathtrap* (PPF). He is a photographer, and currently co-President of DS. Congratulations to the cast and production team on a show we are proud to present.

**ALAN WRAY** (Sound Design) is excited to be working with Mario on this production of *Torch Song* as well as the fabulous production team, cast and crew. He most recently designed sound for *Young Frankenstein* (LTA). His last sound design for Dominion Stage was *The Boys in the Band* (WATCH Nomination). Additionally, Alan has worked sound designs for *The Seagull* (TAP, WATCH Nomination), *Silent Sky* (ACCT), and *Doubt* (VTC).

**CAROL ZIRKLE** (Master Carpenter, Set Painting) is a CPA by day, and is making her first foray into the theatre arena. What a fun, challenging and exciting project to be involved with! She assisted Edith Eshleman with the task of bringing to life the Director's vision of the stage set by helping with the design, painting and building of the various pieces. Much appreciation to Arlington Scenery Studio and Jared Davis, Manager, for his time and the utilization of the equipment. Many thanks to Director Mario Font and Producer Jason Damaso for the opportunity to be creative and experience the theatre from behind the curtain. Congratulations, guys, and DS, for a marvelous production.