

Mating Dance of the Werewolf By Mark Stein



A Crow City Theatre Production



Mating Dance of the Werewolf runs approximately 2 hours, which includes one 15 minute intermission.

Cast (in order of appearance):

Ken - Ben McRae
Raul - Larry Ploscowe
Abby - Kiyomi Oliver
Allen - Devon Harris
Pam - Andrea Daszkiewicz

Crew:

Director/Producer - Matt Ralyea
Executive Producer - John Lolis
Stage Manager - Wendy Webster
Sound Design/ Voiceovers - Ted Wenskus
Lighting Design - Amanda McFaul
Set - Nick and Andrea Daszkiewicz
Light/ Sound Operator - Kristina Chomiak
Production Assistant - Sue Zuris

Trigger and content warning: Mating Dance of the Werewolf is designed to be a thoughtful evening of immersive entertainment. To tell this unique story, very brief use of pulsing lighting effects, blood effects, and sound effects (including a police siren and one instance of off stage gunfire) are used.

Additional Thanks To:

Mark Stein
The Penfield Players
The Flying Squirrel Community Space
Kevin Indovino
Emily Perry
Mario Savastano
Justin Rielly
Jim Landers
Suzanne Bell
The Velvet Noose
The Rochester Theatre Community

Director's Note:

Noir, a “genre or aesthetic of crime film or fiction characterized by cynicism, fatalism, and moral ambiguity,” is certainly not as popular as it once was. The peak era for the noir cop drama was the 1940’s and 1950’s. We know that the most popular forms of entertainment tend to give the audience easy answers, and for the most part leans into the most basic ideals of the culture it is entertaining. The reason for this is simple. Any ambiguity can make people feel uncomfortable. This discomfort also arises around any sort of change; societal, personal or otherwise. How interesting then is it to express the social challenges of personal identity and acceptance (social issues which our cast feels very strongly about) through a noir story about a werewolf? The werewolf is an ambiguous mixture, they are the very embodiment of the outsider who inflicts change on us.

The world is full of people and creatures just trying to be themselves. Learning to be comfortable with things we don’t understand; full acceptance of that gray space between our polarized ideas of politics, gender, identity, race, and even the space between human and animal...might just be a way forward.

Ben McRae (Ken) is thrilled to help bring Crow City Theater's first production to life! Previous credits include Lendall/Phil in *Almost, Maine* with the Penfield Players, Werner Heisenberg in *Copenhagen* with DC’s Perisphere Theater, and William Marshall in *The Little Foxes* with Maryland’s Rockville Little Theater. Offstage, Ben enjoys running and playing in tabletop RPGs, dabbling in wine and poetry (preferably simultaneously), and crafting delightfully rage-inducing trivia games and puzzles.

Andrea Daszkiewicz (Pam) is thrilled to be playing the role of Pam in Crow City Theatre’s first production! She’s excited to be able to share the stage with such a talented group of actors – who have helped her sink her teeth into this role and really get to know Pam. Favorite roles include Mrs. Montague in the Penfield Players’ *The Haunting of Hill House*, Lisa in *Aspie Works’* production of *Ghost Story*, Susan in *Limelight Productions’* *Funeral Parlor* and Joanie in Karen Culley’s *The Dividing Line*. Andrea would like to thank this awesome cast and our director, Matt, for being so thoughtful, accommodating and helpful through the broken foot ordeal. She would also like to thank her wonderful husband Nick for taking care of her and driving her to and from rehearsal almost every night.

Kiyomi Oliver (Abby) is absolutely moonstruck by this cast, crew, and story in Crow City Theatre's debut show! In their spare time from theatrical work, Kiyomi keeps busy painting commissions for their small visual arts business (IG: @the.edamamenby), working as a Standardized Patient for U of R, shooting local short films/commercials, and is a performance educator for Impact Interactive (www.impactinteractive.org). Recent credits include Jimmy in *Almost, Maine* (Penfield Players), Severin in *The House of Hands* (DVC), Mr. Tumnus in *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* (The Open Road Theatre), and Charlie in *Charlie and the Siberian Monkey Goddess* (Out of Pocket, Inc.).

Larry Ploscowe (Lt. Raul Suarez) I am thrilled to be a part of Crow City Theatre's production of "Mating Dance of the Werewolf," and Matt Ralyea's directorial debut. Thank you for including me in on this passion project. It has been an absolute pleasure. My favorite roles over the years have included: Dr. Einstein – Penfield Players' "Arsenic and Old Lace;" Igor – Dashboard Dramas / Rochester Fringe Festival "Gentle Weekend;" Marcus – Limelight Productions "Funeral Parlor;" Norman Bulansky – The Blackfriars' "Boys Next Door;" Gale Botswain – Blacksheep Theatre's "Ferryman;" Woody, The Clerk, Herbert & Dr. Kasden – Penfield Players' "Red Herring;" Clayton McCain – Elephant Productions' "The Tale of Clayton McCain, Part One: Odessa;" and Johnny Bubbles – Limelight Productions' "The Psychic."

Devon Harris (Allen) has been acting in Rochester since 2020. Since moving to the city, he's done voice acting work for It's Always the Butler, and has acted in The Art of Murder with Penfield Players and St Joan with Classics Theatre of Rochester. In his spare time, Devon is busy crafting Dungeons and Dragons worlds for his friends, making the perfect music playlist, looking for the perfect hiking spot, finding new vinyls to hang up on his wall, and trying to find the best restaurants in the city. (Tali of India is his current favorite.) He's excited to work with Crow City Theatre's talented cast and wishes them all the best!

Matt Ralyea (Director/Producer) Wore too many wolf t-shirts growing up, and feels grateful beyond words to bring this story to life with so many amazing people. He recently appeared onstage as Geoffrey in Stepping Out with Out of Pocket, Inc., and as Oswald with The Velvet Noose. He has also performed with Classics Theater of Rochester, Everyone's Theater Company, Rochester Community Players and the Bread and Water Theater. In Buffalo he has also worked with Theatre of Youth and Shakespeare in Delaware Park. His technical theater credits include assisting The Velvet Noose and Aspie Works. Matt holds a degree in Theatre Arts from SUNY Fredonia.

Ted Wenskus (Sound Design) is a playwright and theatre/voice actor who has worked on 100+ audio dramas and radio plays, including live staged performances, audio projects for the National Park Service and Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and titles for Audible. His own work has won an Audio Verse Award for Best Writing and national recognition at the HEAR Now Audio Fiction and Arts Festival. His short plays have been produced in England, Dubai, Australia, the Philippines and throughout New York, earning a TANYs award for playwrighting in the process. He is currently on the steering committee for the Atlanta Fringe Festival, where he coordinates their Fringe Audio Award program which recognizes excellence in radio play and podcast production.

Wendy Webster (Stage Manager) has performed frequently with the Penfield Players, also with Classics Theatre of Rochester, Screen Plays, The Dayton Theatre Guild, and the MMB Theatre 1 Project. Her most recent role, Aunt Martha in the Penfield Players' production of "Arsenic and Old Lace," was the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Wendy enjoys spending time with her family and numerous animal companions, crocheting, and trying unsuccessfully to get organized. She sends out special thanks to Matt Ralyea for giving her this opportunity to learn the role of stage managing and to work with this delightful team of actors.

About the Author:

In 1976, Mark Stein became a playwright-in-residence at New Playwrights Theater in Washington, DC. His play *Groves of Academe* won the 1982 Heideman Award at Actors Theater of Louisville and went on to an off-Broadway production at Manhattan Theatre Club. Subsequent play premieres have included *At Long Last Leo* (South Coast Repertory, 1988); *Ghost Dance* (River Stage, 1997); *Direct from Death Row the Scottsboro Boys* (River Stage, 2000; Joseph Jefferson Award, Raven Theater's Chicago production, 2015) and *Mating Dance of the Werewolf* (co-produced by Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre and Rubicon Theater, 2005).

Stein also wrote the screenplay for *Housesitter* (1992), starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn, along with an episode of *Nero Wolfe* (A&E network) and television movies for CBS and NBC.

His book, *How the States Got Their Shapes* (2008) was a New York Times Best Seller and became the basis for a History Channel series by the same name, hosted by Brian Unger. Stein's poetic and hybrid works have appeared in *Moment*, *Michigan Quarterly*, *Nimrod*, *Exposition Review*, *Eclectica*, *Burningword Journal* and *Wraparound South*.