

Marblehead Little Theatre *presents*

HARVEY

BY MARY CHASE



Produced by
Andrew Hankinson &
Andrew Barnett
Directed by Katie Meuse

April 10-19, 2026

mlt

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A Note from The Director...

From the start of this process I wanted to make one thing clear: Harvey is real. It is easy to go about your life in this often harsh reality we live in and lose your belief in magic. It is easy to lose connection with your inner child, who craves connection with other beings. So while you are in this theatre, and after you leave, I invite you to put reality aside and believe in the unbelievable.

I have struggled with anxiety disorders for most of my life, and nothing has brought me more shame and pain than being met with a reality that was not my own. To be told everything will be fine when I couldn't breathe. And the best salve to that has been acceptance from myself and those closest to me. The acknowledgment that what is "realistic" doesn't matter, my experience mattered more.

In the spirit of Elwood P. Dowd, I have included my friends and family throughout all of this production. The poster, the music, the set, the cast and the infamous portrait of Harvey and Elwood all have been created by or connected to a loved one of mine. In the spirit of Mary Chase, there are also several references to my Irish-American heritage.

So I invite you into a storybook take on Colorado in the 1940s, in another firehouse that Elwood would have adored. And I invite you to have a laugh, make friends, and revel in the sense of community.

"One can't have too many friends." -Elwood P Dowd

Sincerely,

Katie Meuse
Director, Harvey

Harvey

by Mary Chase

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Cast

Elwood P. Dowd	David Foye
Veta Louise Simmons	Susan D. Garvey
Myrtle Mae Simmons	Niko King Mahan
Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet	Trudi Olivetti
Nurse Ruth Kelly	Mary Sapp
Dr Lyman Sanderson	Joshua Marcena
Doctor Chumley	Bill E. Brauner
Betty Chumley	Kristy DiScipio
Duane Wilson	Flynn MacCallum
Judge Gafney	Norman Bendroth
EJ Lofgren	Billy Jenkins

Understudy's

Ms. Johnson	Mary Sapp
Ms. Johnson/Aunt Ethel	Kristy DiScipio

Production Team

Producers	Andrew Barnett & Andrew Hankinsen
Executive Producer	Christopher King
Director	Katie Meuse
Stage Manager	Abbey Ross
Scenic Design	Katie Meuse & Andrew Barnett
Dramaturg / Production Assistant	Olivia Christopher
Sound Design	Elliott Dupcak
Lighting Designer	Greg Mancusi-Ungaro
Costume Designer	Laura Dillon
Technical Director / Facilities Manager	Andrew Barnett
Props / Set Dressing	Lynn Turner
Specialty Painter	Katie Bell
Production Photography	Benjamin Rose Photography
Hair Consultant	Heather Robinson
Set Construction & Painting	Andrew Barnett, Lou Schoenthal

Synopsis of Scenes

The action of the play takes place in a city in the Far West in the library of the old Dowd family mansion and the reception room of Chumley's Rest Home.

Time: mid 1940s

Act I

Scene 1: The Library of the Down Family Mansion, late afternoon

Scene 2: Chumleys Rest, an hour later.

Act II

Scene 1: The Library of the Down Family Mansion, an hour later

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

Act III

Chumley's Rest Home, a few minutes later.

Cast Bios

Norman Bendroth (Judge Gafney) is pleased to appear in his second play at the MLT, the first being *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. He has also been in *Love in an Elevator*, an original play, as the Professor at the Black Box Stage at the Calderwood Pavilion and *ROMEO* as part of a ten play competition at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts. Norman has also been in thirteen short films and is represented by the Swain-Thomas Agency. His website is at normanbendroth.com.

Bill Brauner (Dr. Chumley) couldn't be happier to be performing in his 10th Marblehead Little Theatre production. Some of his favorite previous MLT roles have included Canon Chasuble in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Park Keeper in *Mary Poppins* and Candyman in *Willy Wonka*. Bill lives in Salem with his ever patient wife Holly and faithful dog Mazie.

Susan D. Garvey (Veta Simmons) is delighted to appear as Veta Simmons in *Harvey*. A native New Yorker who studied with Herbert Berghof and Uta Hagen, HB Studio, lived at the famed Rehearsal Club in New York City. Some of her favorite roles include Polly Wyeth in *Other Desert Cities*, Marilyn Dunne in *Ripcord*, Myra Bruhl in *Death Trap* and Annie Clarke in *The Calendar Girls*. Susan and her husband Thom returned to Marblehead in 2021 after thirty-one years. She is especially pleased, and only slightly surprised! to be back on the Marblehead Little Theatre stage for the first time since 1983. She is grateful to her castmates for the laughter and camaraderie.

Kristy DiScipio (Mrs. Chumley / Betty Chauvenet, u/s) is thrilled to be making her first non-musical appearance at MLT while covering the role of Betty alongside such an exceptional cast. She holds a B.F.A. from Emerson College and has performed in musical theater productions throughout the New England area. Theater credits include Mrs. Arujo in *Mystic Pizza* (MLT), Mazeppa in *Gypsy* (Hingham Civic Theater), and Hunyak in *Chicago* (Metro Stage). Additional favorite roles include Anytime Annie in *42nd Street* (Winthrop Playmakers), Linda in *The Wedding Singer*, Marty in *Grease*, Cassie in Neil Simon's *Rumors*, Georgie in *The Full Monty*, and June in *Chicago* (Winthrop Playmakers). Kristy has also enjoyed working behind the table, directing and choreographing on both a local and regional level. By day, Kristy serves as Director of Programming and Regional Group Fitness Operations for Equinox—where it's not fitness, it's life!

Dave Foye (Elwood P. Dowd) has been acting and producing shows at MLT since 2019. He enjoyed playing character roles in *Young Frankenstein*, *Gypsy*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *Equivocation*, *Translations*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* and recently in *The Crucible*. Each December, he performs in *A Christmas Carol in Salem*. He is thrilled to have the opportunity to play the lovable Elwood. He has reached the stage of life where he can say, “In this life...you must be oh-so-smart or oh-so-pleasant. For years I was smart. I recommend pleasant.”

Harvey (The Pooka) Harvey, who is making his Marblehead Little Theatre debut, is no ordinary companion—he’s a six-foot-three-and-a-half-inch tall invisible rabbit known as a Pooka, with a personality as delightfully peculiar as his proportions. Equal parts mischief-maker and gentleman, Harvey drifts through life with a fondness for good company, quiet bars, and the occasional existential chuckle. Though unseen by most, his presence is unmistakable: hats tip themselves, doors open politely, books rewrite themselves, and trouble seems to follow just closely enough to keep things interesting. Harvey has a special bond with his best friend Elwood P. Dowd, with whom he shares long conversations, leisurely strolls, and a mutual appreciation for kindness over convention. A creature of Irish folklore, Harvey embodies whimsy and wisdom in equal measure. He’s the kind of “imaginary” friend who might just be more real than everyone else—if only you’re open to seeing him. Harvey would like to thank the entire cast of this production who has made his brief stay in Marblehead truly wonderful! A special thanks to Mary Chase, and Katie Meuse for always believing in him and making him a reality.

Billy Jenkins (E. J. Lofgren) is an actor, writer, and puppeteer. Past theatre credits include: *The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals*, *Puffs*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Theatre Company of Saugus), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Acting Out! Theater Company), *Once Upon A Mattress* (A Common Thread Theatre Company), and *Twelfth Night* (Cape Ann Shakespeare Troupe). He also played Eddy in *Gutterbug*, which is available for streaming on Amazon and iTunes. His one-act, *Of Muppets and Vampires* was selected to be developed and workshopped at the 2019 Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) Conference in Orlando, Florida. He also serves on the board for the Theatre Company of Saugus. He would like to thank his friends and family for their continuing love and support. Enjoy the show!

Niko King-Mahan (Myrtle Mae Simmons) is a Marblehead native, and a junior at Marblehead High School. She has done several productions both in community and school theatre. Some highlights include Into The Woods, Sweeney Todd, The Crucible, It's About Pirates and Nothing Else, The Mender, Beetlejuice, and The Sleepwalker. She is absolutely honored to work with Marblehead Little Theater and the amazing cast and crew of Harvey.

Joshua Marcena (Dr. Lyman Sanderson) is a sophomore at Salem State University. Some of his previous works include, Everybody, The Wizard of Oz, The Heart of Robinhood, and The Phantom of The Opera. He'd like to thank his mom and dad for letting him keep the car on campus.

Flynn MacCallum (Duane Wilson) is a senior at St. John's Preparatory High school in Danvers Massachusetts and has acted for the past 6 years. His favorite show he's performed in is The Crucible, and his favorite show he's seen is Gatsby: An American Myth. He is very excited to work with Marblehead Little Theater again.

Trudi Olivetti (Mrs. Ethel Chauvenet) is a 15 year veteran of Marblehead Little Theatre and serves on the Board of Directors. She has served the theater in a number of capacities, including actor, producer and director. Favorite roles both for MLT and for other companies include The Scarecrow Wizard of Oz, Mrs. Mayor Seussical, Ann Putnam The Crucible, First Witch Macbeth, Granny Into the Woods, Violet August, Osage County, Gert The Porch, and Martha Arsenic and Old Lace. So happy to have a small part in this cast. And thanks from the bottom of my heart to Jim for everything.

Mary Sapp (Nurse Kelly/Mrs. Johnson Understudy) is excited to be working with Marblehead a little Theatre for the first time. Some of her previous acting credits include Bottom in Midsummer Night's Dream with Acting Out!, Alice in The Importance of Being Earnest with Castle Hill Productions, Sister James in Doubt, Olympe de Gouges in The Revolutionists, and Officer Pudney in Rumors, all at The Firehouse Center for the Arts. She would like to thank everyone involved in this production for being so welcoming and kind!

Production Team Bios

Andrew Barnett (Technical Director/Producer) designed and built his first set at the Marblehead Middle (Village) School in 1992. Since then, he has built sets for Marblehead Middle School, Saugus Middle School, Rebel Shakespeare Company, Endicott College, Gordon College, Opera Boston, Gloucester Stage, Roxbury Center for the Arts, MassJam, Perkins School for the Blind, Boston Center for the Arts, Mssng Lnks, and Marblehead Little Theatre. Andy was a member of the production team as master carpenter, designer and technical director Revels Inc., for more than 25 years, creating *The Summer Revels*, *Riversing*, and *The Christmas Revels*. His work is dedicated to his wife Jessica, sons Nick and Jeremy and their spouses, and grandchildren Jacob, Vivienne, and Rose, and to Marblehead Little Theatre for providing great live theatre to patrons of all ages.

Kate Bell (Scenic Painter) is a scenic artist based in the greater Boston area. Originally from south eastern Mass, she studied theatre at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, VT. Recent works include *Charlotte's Web* at Wheelock Family Theater, *Wait Until Dark* at Greater Boston Stage Company, and *Something Rotten* at Landmark School. Kate has always had a soft spot for Harvey, and is excited to make her Marblehead Little Theater debut with such an oh so pleasant show.

Olivia Christopher (Dramaturg / Production Assistant) Olivia is happy to make her return to MLT on its production team after playing Meg in last year's *Little Women*. While most of her show experience has been on stage, she started her production journey running super titles for opera companies in Boston and NYC. With a passion for history, it's been a joy for Olivia to go back in time into Chase's world and help bring it to life for a modern audience.

Laura Dillon (Costume Design) is thrilled to be working with this talented cast and crew. She grew up in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and has also lived in Hawaii and Japan. She originally moved to Massachusetts to attend college where she specialized in 17th and 18th century Literature, Celtic Archaeology and other forms of not making money. She further honed this last skill while studying medieval labor law in law school. She has costumed many shows including *A Few Good Men*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Crucible*, *Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (DASH nomination), *Something Rotten* (DASH award), *Mother of the Maid* (DASH nomination),

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder (Broadway World nomination), The Great Gatsby (DASH nomination), Plaza Suite, Tuck Everlasting, and Pirates Of Penzance (Marblehead Little Theatre), Sense and Sensibility, Ada and the Engine, As You Like It, The Importance of Being Ernestine, Romeo and Juliet, Arcadia (Castle Hill) A Little Women Christmas, First Date, Barefoot In The Park (Colonial Chorus Players), Ada and the Engine (Burlington Players), Show Me Eternity (Culture Lab and New York Theatre Festival - NY Broadway World nomination), Rocky Horror, Into the Woods (DASH nomination), Mamma Mia, To Kill A Mockingbird, Titanic (Stage 284). She lives in Lynnfield with her husband and African Grey parrot and often visits her children in NYC

Elliot Dupcak (Sound Designer) is delighted to return to Marblehead Little Theater for Harvey! A graduate of Boston University's School of Theatre (BFA '23), Elliot works as sound designer and engineer for MockingBird Music. Previous sound design and engineering credits include A Little Night Music (Marblehead Little Theater), Cabaret, Beehive: The 60s Musical (Mass Arts Center), Eurydice, Phantom of the Opera, The Little Mermaid (Weston Drama Workshop), Stage Kiss (Psych Drama), and Opera Inferno (Boston Opera Collaborative). Thanks so much to mom, dad, JJ, Adrian, and Katie.

Andrew Hankinson (Producer) originally hails from northern Vermont. He studied at Oberlin College before moving back east to find his calling. Andrew has spent a great deal of his life involved with local theater though this is his first time producing. He has performed all over New England and central Pennsylvania. Some of his favorites include A Little Night Music, Little Women, Chicago, Tuck Everlasting, Pirates of Penzance, Mamma Mia, Titanic, 1776, Wonderful Town, The Secret Garden, The Mystery of Edwin Drood and Cabaret, and he is excited, as always, to work with Marblehead Little Theater.

Christopher King (Executive Producer) joined Marblehead Little Theatre as the Executive Producer about a year ago and has had a fun time jumping into the production side of things working on recent MLT shows A View from the Bridge, Little Women, Mystic Pizza, The Crucible, A Little Night Music, and A Few Good Men. However, he is no stranger to the performing side of things, having appeared in MLT's 2011 production of Hairspray as Corny Collins. Other Regional theater credits include Fiddlehead Theatre's Show Boat, Reagle Music Theater's Guys and Dolls (Benny Southstreet), Wonderful Town (Officer Lonigan), Singin' in the Rain (Production Tenor),

The Music Man (Jacey Squires/Ewart Dunlop), Les Mis, Fiddler, Mame, Joseph...Dreamcoat, Bye Bye Birdie, Annie, Carousel, My Fair Lady, and as a soloist in ChristmasTime. Chris is a graduate of The Boston Conservatory Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theater program and appeared in Boston Conservatory's mainstage productions of The Pajama Game (Mr. Hassler/Pop), and Assassins (Giuseppe Zangara).

Greg Mancusi-Ungaro (Lighting Design) works at theatres from Providence to Gloucester, as a producer, designer, and director, but most frequently, he creates theatre here at MLT. He is a past DASH award winner and many times DASH award nominee. This season, Greg created the scenic and lighting designer for MLT's productions of The Crucible and A Few Good Men. Last season he produced, directed, and designed MLT's acclaimed production of Bertolt Brecht's The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui.

Katie Meuse (Director) is a Salem State University alumni with the class of 2020, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Arts. She's been working with Marblehead Little Theatre's Children's program since her time at SSU. Katie is thrilled to be directing at MLT again after directing Something Rotten! In 2024. She has worked on other MLT productions such as A Little Night Music, The Crucible, Mystic Pizza, Little Women, A Gentleman's Guide To Love And Murder, Plaza Suite and Gypsy. She is grateful to her family, friends and MLT family for their continuous support.

Abbey Ross (Stage Manager) Has been cherishing her return to MLT. Her past productions include A Few Good Men, Mystic Pizza, A View from the Bridge, Rock of Ages and American Idiot the Musical. On her horizon is MLT's Jagged Little Pill. Abbey is incredibly grateful to return to theater, with so many passionate, lovely individuals. Abbey would like to thank her mother, Brenda for her never ending support, her dearest friend Max for cheering her on each day and her colleagues for showing up consistently and supporting live theater. The magic could not be done without the support of her loved ones.

Lynn Turner (Prop Maven) is a retired Public Health Nurse. She is grateful to MLT for their support and mentoring for this second stage of life. She could not succeed without the love and support of her daughter, Erin, grandchildren, Noah and Ida, son-in-law and especially her husband Stephen. She is always in awe of the amazing talent of both cast and crew. She is happy to be working with Katie, who is thoughtful, caring and supportive in guiding both cast and crew in this fun, yet contemplative

production. Her experience with MLT as Prop Maven includes: A Few Good Men, The Crucible, Mystic Pizza, A View from the Bridge (DASH Nominee), The Resistible Rise of Arturo UI, Arsenic and Old Lace, Mother of the Maid, Tuck Everlasting (DASH Nominee) and Equivocation (DASH Nominee).

Previous experience with the Arts includes many years of being a backstage Dance Mom/Grandmother and backstage seamstress at Paulette's Dance and Urban Nutcracker. So many feathers and sequins! Supported CAST tour in London (Anna Christie) with set painting. Set Nurse for PBS's 1995 documentary You Don't Have to Ride Jim Crow.

Mary Chase (Playwright) Mary Coyle Chase was born on February 25, 1907, in Denver, Colorado. Her parents, Frank and Mary (McDonough) Coyle, were both Irish-born and emigrated to the United States at the end of the nineteenth century. At the age of fourteen, Mary got a place at the University of Denver, where she studied for two-and-a-half years, and then, in 1923, she transferred to the University of Colorado for a further year, but she graduated from neither. With no specific qualifications other than an interest in writing, she became a reporter for various local newspapers in 1924 and went on to join "The Rocky Mountain News" in June 1928. That same year, she married Robert Lamont Chase whom she had met on the paper. Four years later, Mary decided to give up her newspaper job, but continued to do freelance journalistic work for the International News Service and the United Press. She also began to write short stories and plays, as well as a radio programs for the Teamsters' Union. Her first play to be professionally staged was ME THIRD (written in 1936), which was produced by the Federal Theatre Project, first in Denver and then the following year in New York, directed by Brock Pemberton under the title NOW I'VE DONE IT. Her next play, A SLIP OF A GIRL (1941), folded on tryout, and other plays of that time, including BANSHEE, similarly got nowhere. Between 1941 and 1944 she became publicity director for the National Youth Administration in Denver, and then for the Teamsters' Union. Nothing daunted, Brock Pemberton was so confident of Mrs. Chase's ability that he undertook to produce a piece called THE WHITE RABBIT, on the condition that its title be changed to HARVEY. Its opening in November 1944 became history. The play was an immediate hit and won its astonished author the Pulitzer Prize for 1944-45. Ironically, after the triumph of HARVEY, Mary had to wait until 1952 for her next success, when Helen Hayes starred in MRS. McTHING. This was another bit of whimsical fantasy in which, with the help of a spot of witchcraft, a snobbish

woman is made to accept the qualities of her roughneck son rather than trying to idealize him as the prissy brat she really wanted. "The Saturday Review" remarked: "It is exciting to find how the charm and originality of MRS. McTHING come out in the printed play almost as vividly as they do on the stage... Here is a fantasy that is also convincing realism." She had another success the following year with BERNADINE, a play about Wromy, an ineffectual teenage boy who tries to translate his gang's fantasies about the ideal woman into everyday life, with ridiculous results. BERNADINE was later turned into a successful Hollywood movie starring Pat Boone. Mary Chase's last play to reach new York was MIDGE PURVIS (1961), in which Tallulah Bankhead played a rich matron who passes as a doddering crone. In addition to plays and films, Mary Chase wrote two children's novels. Reviewing the first of these, "Loretta Mason Potts," "The Chicago Tribune" observed: "How right and natural that the creator of HARVEY and MRS. McTHING should now write a magical tale for boys and girls. Surely Loretta Mason Potts will take her place among the memorable characters of children's literature and her story should be a favorite for a long time to come." Almost all of Mary Chase's work was humane and comic, informed by her love of Irish folklore. Her delicate fantasies, with their innate charm and lightness of touch, are often compounded the most unlikely people in the most improbable of situations. Her sense of internal reality often slips gently into the playfully surreal—a quality which guaranteed her, through HARVEY at least, enduring acclaim. She always attributed her interest in fantasy to the stories recounted to her by an uncle who introduced her to pookas, banshees, and other willful fairy folk. Mary Chase was a member of the Dramatists Guild and was given the William MacLeod Raine Award from the Colorado Authors' League in 1944. In 1947 the University of Denver honored her with the degree of doctor of letters. She died in October 1981 at her home in Denver, where she had lived for virtually the whole of her adult life, survived by her three sons, Michael, Colin, and Barry.

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