

Pen Pals

Time:

November 10, 2002

Place:

Secaucus, New Jersey and Sheffield, England

SHARNA BURGESS (*Mags*) Sharna has been part of the DWTS family both in the USA and Australia, first as a dancer for 14 seasons, then as a judge. From life partners to dance partners, Sharna took to the stage with Brian Austin Green for Season 30 of DWTS, soon after their elimination, they discovered they were expecting their first child together. In 2018, Sharna took home the coveted Mirror ball trophy alongside radio host Bobby Bones. Sharna also previously placed 2nd with NFL player Josh Norman, Indy Car driver James Hinchcliff and Backstreet Boy Nick Carter. In 2019 she became the sole female judge for *Dancing with the Stars* in Australia on Network Ten for 2 seasons. In 2023 Sharna headed home again to judge DWTS Australia for the Seven Network, also returning in 2024 and 2025. Before her *Dancing With The Stars* fame Sharna was an Australian Champion and represented her country in the World Championships at the young age of 15. At 18 she moved to London and was cast in a UK theatre tour of *Simply Ballroom*, directly followed by a six-year stint in the hit dance sensation *Burn The Floor*. The production's success catapulted it to the West End and to Broadway, where Sharna was an original member of its American cast. In 2012, Sharna moved into the movie industry, choreographing British dance drama film *Street Dance 2: 3D*. Sharna's other credits include choreographing for Shonda Rhimes' award winning series *How To Get Away With Murder*, *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Backstreet Boys Vegas* show, hosting for *Extra TV* and *So You Think You Can Dance* in the US and Australia, *Flirty Dancing*.

PAIGE DAVIS (*Bernie*) Broadway: *Boeing-Boeing* (Gloria), *Chicago* (Roxie). National tours: *Sweet Charity*(Charity), *The Vagina Monologues*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette). Favorite Regional: *An Act Of God* (God) at Arizona Theater Company (Directed by Marsha Mason), *Always, Patsy Cline* (Louise), title role in *Hello, Dolly* at Pioneer Theatre Company, title role in *The Drowsy Chaperone* at Pittsburgh CLO, and the title role in *Mame* at North Shore Music Theater. Senga in the world premiere of *Dancing Lessons* at Barrington Stage Co., *April in Company* at Missouri Repertory Theater, *Val* in *A Chorus Line* at Austin Music Theater, and *Puck* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at

Chicago Cultural Center. Television/Film: Emmy Award-nominated host of Home Made Simple (OWN). Host: Home and Family (Hallmark). Host: Trading Spaces (TLC). FBI: Most Wanted, The Unicorn, Being Michael Madsen. Her book, Paige by Paige spent several weeks on The New York Times Best Seller list.

GAIL WINAR (*u/s Bernie, Mags*) - Acting credits include original roles in *Pen Pals* (NJ Rep); *Trans Scripts, Part I: The Women* (59E59, Edinburgh Festival Fringe); *Missa Solemnis* (Shotgun Productions); *Beyond Gravity* (NJ Rep); and *What I Heard About Iraq* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe), as well as numerous tours throughout the U.S., U.K., and Europe. As a director, producer, and/or creative consultant, Gail has collaborated on 50+ theater projects globally including *Not Another Deaf Story* at the Group Repertory Theatre in LA, *TimeSlips* at HERE Arts Center in NYC, and multiple award-winning productions at the internationally acclaimed Edinburgh Festival Fringe. As an educator, Gail has taught for the Roundabout Theatre Company on Broadway, Kean University, Marymount Manhattan College, NYU/Lee Strasberg Studio, American Globe Theatre, National Shakespeare Company, and Theatre for a New Audience, as well as serving as guest lecturer at Stockholm University in Sweden, Starfish Academy in West Africa, and the Jakarta International School in Indonesia – among others.

ROSE RICCARDI (*Production Stage Manager*) has been a NJ Rep Company member since 1998, contributing to over 100 productions. Her work at NJ Rep includes *The Housewives of Mannheim* (Alan Brody), *The Little Hours* (David Bucknam), *Fern Hill* (Michael Tucker), *Dead Ringer* (Gino Dilorio), *Naked By The River* (Michael Folie), *Adult Fiction* (Brian Mori), *Bookends* (Katharine Houghton, Dianne Adams, James McDowell), *Whores* (Lee Blessing), *Donna Orbits The Moon* (Ian August), and *Find Me A Voice* (SuzAnne Barabas, Gabor Barabas). Off-Broadway credits include: *Songbird* (Michael Kimmel and Lauren Pritchard), *Butler* (Richard Strand), *The Violin* (Dan McCormick), *The Road to Damascus* (Tom Dulack), *Terms of Endearment* (Dan Gordon), *Poetic License* (Jack Canfora), *On a Stool at the End of the Bar* (Robert Callely), *A Better Place* (Wendy Beckett), *Murder in the First* (Dan Gordon), *Martin Luther on Trial* (Chris Cragin-Day), *Phoenix* (Scott Organ), and *In the Pocket: A Sideman's Tale* (James Manos Jr. and Mark Rivera). Rose has been a proud member of Actors' Equity since 1999.

MICHAEL GRIFFO (*Playwright*) is overjoyed to bring Bernie & Mags to NYC! Other plays include *9th Street Water*, *The Date*, *No More Sundays* – NJ Perry Award Best Original Play, *Can Dina Even Spell Afghanistan?* – Reva Shiner Comedy Award finalist. His High School plays – *Material Girls* and *Promapocalypse!* – are licensed by TheatricalRights.com. He has published 15 novels including *Unnatural*, *Moonglow*, and The Ferrara Family Mysteries. His new series set in Positano, Italy includes *Murder In An Italian Village* and *Murder In An Italian Café*. Screenplays include *THE SILVER REINDEER* and *HOLIDAY HIGH SCHOOL REUNION*. For Mom and Sheila.

SUZANNE BARABAS (*Director*) is the Artistic Director of New Jersey Rep. For NJ Rep, SuzAnne directed *Two-Hander* (premiere), *Find Me a Voice*, *North Fork* (premiere), *Immortal Interlude* (premiere), *Octet* (premiere), *Till Morning Comes* (premiere), *Maggie Rose*, *Getting in Touch With My Inner B*tch* (starring Christine

Lavin, premiere), *The Adjustment*, *10% of Molly Snyder*, *Romulus Linney's Klonsky & Schwartz*, *Apostasy* (premiere), *Women Who Steal*, *Apple*, *The Housewives of Mannheim* (premiere), *Evie's Waltz*, *Dead Ringer* (premiere), *Steven Dietz's Yankee Tavern*, *Puma* (premiere), *Night Train* (premiere), *Just In Time: The Judy Holliday Story*, *Bakersfield Mist*, *Annapurna*, *Happy*, *Broomstick* (premiere), *Lucky Me* (premiere), *Swimming at the Ritz* (US premiere), and *The Realization of Emily Linder* (premiere). SuzAnne directed productions of *The Housewives of Mannheim* at 59E59 Theater (NYC), Ensemble Theater of Santa Barbara (CA), and Phoenix Theater (Indianapolis). In addition, she directed regional productions of *Ibsen's A Doll's House*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Roar of the Greasepaint the Smell of the Crowd*, *Cabaret*, *Shaw's Heartbreak House*, *A.R. Gurney's The Perfect Party*, *Marsha Norman's 'Night Mother*, *Philip Barry's The Philadelphia Story*, *Christopher Durang's Beyond Therapy*, *Mark Dunn's Belles*, *Lee Blessing's Down the Road* among others. She is a member of Actors Equity Association, BMI, the Dramatists Guild, SDC, and LPTW.

JESSICA PARKS (*NJ Rep Scene Design*) has been a professional theater designer since 2003 and has served as the resident scenic designer at New Jersey Repertory Company since 2010. NYC credits include *Fern Hill* (Michael Tucker), *Butler*, *The Housewives of Mannheim*, *Jericho*, and *Poetic License* at 59E59 Theaters; *The End of Hester* at The Lion Theatre at Theatre Row (upcoming November production); *Brecht: Call & Respond* at Paradise Factory Theatre; and Dan Lauria's *Dinner with the Boys* at The Acorn Theater. New Jersey Repertory Company designs include *Your Name Means Dream*, *Memoirs of a Forgotten Man*, *Wolf at the Door*, *The Jag*, *Swimming at the Ritz*, *Happy*, and *Broomstick*. Jessica continues to bring her innovative artistry to stages across New York and New Jersey.

DAVID C. WOOLARD (*Costume Consultant*) received Tony Award nominations for *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Who's Tommy*. He has designed over 20 shows on Broadway and over 200 shows around the world, including *West Side Story*, *Damn Yankees*, the operas *Diving Bell*, *Cold Mountain*, *Everest*. In addition to his Tony nominations, Mr. Woolard has won a Drama Desk Award, the Henry Hewes Design Awards and was nominated for an Olivier Award. For additional credits, please visit <http://davidcwoolard.com>.

JILL NAGLE (*NJ Rep Lighting Design*) New York City credits include designs at Theatre Row, 59E59, The Westside Arts, La Mama, Bank Street, The School of Dramatic Arts, The Pulse, and the NY Shakespeare Festival. Jill is the Resident Lighting Designer at NJ Repertory Company and Technical Director at Montclair Kimberly Academy. Jill has also designed numerous shows for Chester Theater, Luna Stage, Dreamcatcher Repertory, The Theater Project, Montclair State University, and New Jersey City University.

NICHOLAS SIMONE (*NJ Rep Sound Design*) NJ Rep resident sound designer and chief audio engineer for Fenix Studios in Staten Island. Shows include *A Progressive Love Story*, *The Norwegians*, *North to Maine*, *IYOM*, *Wild Children*, *Time Travelers Trip to Niagara*, *The Diorama*, *Shakespeare's Hamlet at Bryant Park*, *Extreme Weather*, *Don't Dress for Dinner*, *Villainous Company*, *Capone*, & *Romantic Trapezoid*. Teaching Artist: Roundabout Theatre Company, Apollo Theater, and Sundog Theatre specializing in sound design and musical disciplines. He has credits on multiple albums, films, broadcasts, streaming, music videos, and mobile apps and has worked with up-and-coming talent and platinum-selling artists in different genres, from Lorde to Coldplay.

RED RISING (*Marketing Management*) develops campaigns for live entertainment and events. Select current/past clients include *A Guide for the Homesick*, *Mama I'm A Big Girl Now*, *A Guide for the Homesick*, *Kowalski*, *Katsura Sunshine's Rakugo*, *Okuni*, *The Life and Slimes of Marc Summers*, *Tennessee Williams's The Night of the Iguana*, *Anthony Rapp's Without You*, *Jersey Boys*, *Emergence*, *Tripping On Life*, *Love + Science*, *Little Girl Blue*, *A Bronx Tale*, *Summer: The Donna Summer Musical*, *Showstoppers!* and *A Letter to Harvey Milk*. 25 years in, Michael Redman has worked on over 400 theatrical projects. www.redrisingnyc.com.

JT PUBLIC RELATIONS (*Publicity/Co-Producer*) was founded by Joe Trentacosta in 2014 and represents projects on and Off-Broadway, National Tours, as well as developmental and industry presentations, film releases, special events, and non-profit organizations. Recent/ current projects include *A Guide for The Homesick*, *Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now!*, *Godless* (Film), *Pen Pals* (co-producer), *Katsura Sunshine's Rakugo* (Executive Producer), *Okuni*, *The Life and Slimes of Marc Summers*, *Tennessee Williams's The Night of the Iguana*, *Anthony Rapp's Without You*. Theatre companies Urban Stages, Theatre Breaking Through Barriers, Houses on the Moon, NJ Rep, Argyle Theatre, and SAY. He is currently in development for the new musical *Six Triple Eight*.

LDK PRODUCTIONS (*General Manager*) is a NYC-based theatrical general management and production firm founded in 2007. Select recent/upcoming credits include *Pen Pals*, *A Guide for the Homesick*, *Cellino v. Barnes*, *The Life and Slimes of Marc Summers*, *White Rose: The Musical*, *The Night of the Iguana* (directed by Emily Mann), Patrick Olson's *Emergence: Things Are Not As They Seem*, *Anthony Rapp's Without You*, *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, *Little Girl Blue*, *Katsura Sunshine's Rakugo*, *Be More Chill*, the immersive theatrical adaptation of the film *Sideways*, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, and *A Letter to Harvey Milk*. LDKProductions.com

LISA DOZIER SHACKET (*Producer*) founded LDK Productions, a NYC-based theatrical management and producing firm, in 2007. Select recent credits: *Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now!*, *The Life and Slimes of Marc Summers*, *Anthony Rapp's Without You* (US and Japan), *Tennessee Williams's The Night of the Iguana*, *White Rose the Musical*, *Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground*, *Little Girl Blue*, *Katsura Sunshine's Rakugo*, *Be More Chill* (Off-Broadway, Broadway, West End), the immersive theatrical adaptation of the film *Sideways*, *A Lovely Sunday for Creve Coeur*, *A Letter to Harvey Milk* (NY and UK). Lisa was the founding producing director of the regional theatre

Miami New Drama and was the general manager of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre's Festival of New Musicals for eleven years. LDKProductions.com.

RACHEL STANGE (Co-Producer) began her career as a reporter for CBS News affiliate KWTX 10 in Waco, Texas. She made the move to New York working there with high-profile news organizations: CBS News, Entertainment Tonight and CBS Entertainment. She is also a two-time Telly Award winner for her work as writer and producer on cable show *Jamie deRoy & friends*. Rachel's passion for the arts led her to a career change to theater. She is proud to be the conceiver and lead producer of the new musical *Esther*, which had its regional premier in Houston, Texas last year. Other theater credits include: *Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now!*, *Chasing Jack* and *Godspell* (Broadway). In film she is a producer on the documentary *Broadway: Beyond the Golden Age* which aired on PBS' Great Performances. She is a member of The League of Professional Theatre Women, T.R.U. Producers and sits on the board of the Abingdon Theatre Company in New York.

LOGAN DEWITT (*Associate Producer*) Assistant General Manager at LDK Productions. LIU Post Alumni. "We were girls together".

ANTHONY HAZZARD and SCOTT STOLZENBERG (*Co- Producers*) Proud sponsors of the arts! Theater: *Godspell* (Circle in the Square), *Pen Pals* (Theater at St. Clement's), *Roundabout Theatre Company*, *Manhattan Theatre Club*, *Lincoln Center Theater*, *Encores*. Film: *Broadway Beyond the Golden Age*, *Elaine Stritch*, *Sesame Street*. TV: *Reading Rainbow*. Music: *Pippin*-revival, *Lea DeLaria*, *Aaron Lazar*, *Marin Mazzie* and *Jason Danieley*.

HOLLY GARMAN (Co-Producer) is thrilled to be working on this beautiful production with such an incredible team! With an exceptionally diverse background both as a theater producer and a press representative, Holly has worked with *La Mama Experimental Theater Club*, *McCarter Theatre Center*, *George Street Playhouse*, *Long Wharf Theatre* and *Arena Stage* to name a few. Broadway: *Just In Time* (Circle in the Square). Off Broadway: *American Dreams*, *Border People* (Working Theater), *Miracle in Rwanda* (Theatre Row), *Lightweight* (SoHo Rep). Non-Profit: *The Eliza Project* (*Hamilton & Graham Windham* partnership), the documentary film *Sharing Our Stories*, *The Broadway Brews Project* (featuring the casts of *Hamilton*, *Waitress & Come From Away*) and *Arts in the Armed Forces* with founder Adam Driver. She is the proud co-conceiver and lead producer of *Six Triple Eight: A New Musical*.

MICHAEL GRAF (Co-Producer) has contributed to a range of acclaimed productions across stage and screen. With a career rooted in entertainment and a passion for storytelling, *Pen Pals* marks another step in a journey dedicated to dynamic and diverse artistic expression. Recent projects include *The Roommate* and *Reincarnation Blues* (a new musical in development). Thank you to my daughters for inspiring me to stay curious and take chances - I love you so much.

CHERIE LINDLEY (Co- Producer) Proud to be a first time off Broadway producer. Also involved in a new musical entitled *Esther*, which had its premiere in Houston, Texas last fall.

NEW JERSEY REPERTORY COMPANY (*Producer*) was founded in 1997 by SuzAnne and Gabor Barabas. Its current central headquarters is the Lumia Theater, located on lower Broadway in Long Branch. The theater's mission is to develop and produce new plays and to make a lasting contribution to the American Stage. Over two decades, NJ Rep has produced 152 plays, of which 128 have been world premieres. The theater has the additional distinction of having had many of its plays produced by other theaters around the country, totaling over 200 subsequent productions in the US and overseas. In 2012 and 2018, NJ Rep was the recipient of a National Theater Company Grant from the American Theater Wing that sponsors the annual Tony Awards for Broadway in recognition of its contribution to the repertoire of the American Stage. Only seven theaters have had this distinction. In addition, the theater has presented over 400 developmental readings as well as introduced 136 new works through its Theatre Brut Short-Play Festivals that focus on visionary and avant-garde works. NJRep acquired a new property, a 28,000 square foot school situated on 2 ½ acres and located just five minutes from its Main Stage Lumia Theater and two blocks from the Jersey Shore. The theater plans on gradually transforming the school in stages into a cultural center that will house additional performance spaces, an art cinema, an art museum, a rooftop café, an arts education wing, and residences for out-of-town actors and playwrights. When completed, the center will present a wide array of programs in acting, playwriting, art, sculpture, poetry, music, and photography and will serve as a catalyst for economic development and as the foundation for the cultural renaissance of the community.

HEIRESS PRODUCTIONS, INC. (Producer) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization founded in 2006 by Laura Faith and Mary Willis White as a bold fusion of their passion for theatre and their mission to support the cancer community. Prior to *Pen Pals*, Heiress produced seven off-Broadway productions in the heart of NYC's theatre district. In addition to their work on stage, Heiress recently produced their first short film, HOLD. HOLD stars Emmy and Tony Award winner Debra Monk, and is currently garnering awards and acclaim on the film festival circuit. At Heiress Productions, we're proud to be "*fighting cancer, one show at a time...*"
heiressproductions.com

Staff for *PEN PALS*

Opening Night December 11, 2024

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

LDK PRODUCTIONS

Lisa Dozier Shacket

Michael Shannon

Logan DeWitt Jonathan Amable
Paul Bakey Rian Buksbaze
Cecilia Bracey

COMPANY MANAGEMENT
LDK Productions

GENERAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

JT PUBLIC RELATIONS

Joe Trentacosta

MARKETING MANAGEMENT

RED RISING MARKETING

Michael Redman

DIGITAL ADVERTISING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Andy Drachenberg

Production Stages ManagerRose Riccardi
Assistant Stage ManagerLouis B Crocco
Assistant Lighting DesignerJaney Huber
Production Electrician.....Tom Dyer

Banking.....City National Bank/Roberto Larrinaga Yocom
Production Photographer.....Russ Rowland
Payroll Service.....Checks&Balances/Sarah Galbraith
Jennifer Kemp
Bookkeeper.....LDK Productions/Jonathan Amable
Insurance..... Risk Strategies/Dewitt Stern Entertainment/Anthony Pittari

CREDITS

Additional Lighting instruments provided by Hayden Production Services

Prop Rentals by NJ Repertory Company

Curtains by Rosebrand

SPECIAL THANKS

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THE ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS EMPLOYED IN THIS PRODUCTION ARE MEMBERS OF ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION, THE UNION OF PROFESSIONAL ACTORS AND STAGE MANAGERS IN THE UNITED STATES.



The Director is a member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.