

FOR THE
Whim
PRODUCTIONS

April 12-20, 2024
Bridgeton, NJ

Harvey

by Mary Chase

"Harvey" is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists
Play Service, Inc., New York. <https://www.dramatists.com/>

For the Whim Productions

MISSION STATEMENT

For the Whim is committed to creating opportunities for local artists, playwrights, thespians, and the like to cultivate and share their work with a larger audience in a culturally diverse and respectable manner representative of all walks of life.

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Heidi Dugan - Executive Officer

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For the Whim is proud to work with the organizations & individuals featured in this program. Please patronize these small businesses, local artists, and nonprofits.

Let's work together to keep arts & culture alive in South Jersey!

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About the Playwright

Mary Coyle Chase (1907-1981) was born in Denver, Colorado to Irish immigrant parents. She began her career writing for the newspaper before switching to short stories and plays. Chase's most prominent work is "Harvey" – winning her the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1945. Among her many accomplishments, she was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 1985.



Colorado Women's Hall of Fame

Director's Note

Originally written in the mid-20th century, Mary Chase's *Harvey* has charmed audiences for generations with its whimsy, humor, and its exploration of the nature of reality and sanity. However, its themes have taken on new significance today.

In a world where reality seems to be increasingly shaped by perception and where the line between what is real and what is imagined blurs, *Harvey* invites us to examine the consequences of our beliefs and the way we choose to interact with those who may not conform to societal norms. The story of Elwood P. Dowd and his loyal companion, a 6-foot-tall invisible rabbit named Harvey, reminds us to see beauty and wisdom in the unconventional.

While we grapple with complex issues like mental health, acceptance, and the quest for connection in a digital world, *Harvey* offers a poignant perspective. Elwood's unwavering belief in Harvey reminds us of the importance of empathy and understanding in our relationships. His insistence on treating Harvey as real, even when others don't, underscores the power of compassion and the need to respect the experiences and perspectives of those who may see the world differently.

The play also speaks to the value of laughter and humor, especially in challenging times. The ability to find joy and whimsy in the midst of chaos and confusion is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. *Harvey* encourages us to embrace the absurdities of life, just as Elwood does with his invisible companion.

At the heart of *Harvey* lies a message of acceptance and tolerance that resonates strongly with the mission of diversity and inclusion at FTW's core. We all must reconsider social conformity and expectations that exclude those who are seen as different. We are given an opportunity to reevaluate our own biases and judgments.

As we bring *Harvey* to life on our stage, I encourage you to reflect on these themes and consider their relevance to the world we live in today. Let this production not only entertain, but also inspire you to approach life with an open heart, a generous mind, and an unwavering willingness to embrace the extraordinary and unconventional.

Thank you for joining us on this journey, and I hope *Harvey* will remind you of the power of kindness, the beauty in our differences, and the healing potential of laughter.

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ABOUT US

Book Two Productions LLC is a media production company based in New Jersey catering to New York and other surrounding areas, specializing in photography, videography and other forms of creative content.

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Cast

ELWOOD P. DOWD.....David J. Fusco
VETA LOUISE SIMMONS.....Maura Mather Jarve
DR. WILLIAM R. CHUMLEY.....Hank Chandless
DR. LYMAN SANDERSON.....Brian Danner
NURSE RUTH KELLY.....Desiree Lara
MYRTLE MAE SIMMONS.....Ash Kotter
DUANE WILSON.....Tanner Cossaboon
JUDGE OMAR GAFFNEY.....Richard Mooney
MRS. ETHEL CHAUVENET.....April Johnson
MRS. BETTY CHUMLEY.....Silvia Darpino
CAB DRIVER / MAID.....Maria Canino





CHANDLESS

PHOTOGRAPHY

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Photographer

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 hank@chandless.net

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Cast Bios

April Johnson (MRS. ETHEL CHAUVENET) - Glassboro, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Justice (*Rock of Ages*), Sarah's Friend (*Ragtime*), and Sylvia (*All Shook Up*). "Thank you to the cast and crew of "Harvey" and my supportive family."

Ash Kotter (MYRTLE MAE SIMMONS) - Medford, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Marta (*Company*), Hero (*Much Ado About Nothing*), and Gloria Thorpe (*Damn Yankees*). Special thanks to her family for all of their support, and to her old friends and new friends for encouraging her to get back in the saddle!

Brian Danner (DR. LYMAN SANDERSON) - Swedesboro, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Chris Keller (*All My Sons*), Ernie Mac (*PUFFS*), and MacDuff (*MacBeth*). Brian would like to thank his friends, family, and endlessly supportive girlfriend.

David J. Fusco (ELWOOD P. DOWD) - Willingboro, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Tateh (*Ragtime*), Fester (*The Addams Family*), and Mr. Krabs (*The SpongeBob Musical*). "Special thanks to Heidi, Ryan, Tim, Jason, and the rest of the Harvey cast and crew! Shoutout to Cumberland County community theaters and theater-goers for your love and support through the years!"

Desiree Lara (NURSE RUTH KELLY) - Mays Landing, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Annie Sullivan (*The Miracle Worker*), Benedick (*Much Ado About Nothing*), and Betty (*The Sinister Vines of Dr. Thorn*). "To dare is to lose one's footing momentarily. Not to dare is to lose oneself."

Hank Chandless (DR. WILLIAM R. CHUMLEY) - Galloway, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Uncle Louie (*Lost in Yonkers*), Bill (*August: Osage County*), and Ben (*The Normal Heart*). "Life is not a dress rehearsal."

Maria Canino (CAB DRIVER / MAID) - Bridgeton, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Ms. Hannigan (*Annie*) and Ghost of Christmas Past (*A Christmas Carol*). "Special thanks to my son, Franky, and family."

Maura Mather Jarve (VETA LOUISE SIMMONS) - Pittsgrove, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Maggie (*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*), Elizabeth Proctor (*The Crucible*), and Alison (*Fun Home*). "Thanks to Heidi for this opportunity."

Richard Mooney (JUDGE OMAR GAFFNEY) - Salem, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Robert (*Proof*), Victor Velasco (*Barefoot in the Park*), and Lady Augusta Bracknell (*The Importance of Being Earnest*). "All my love to Beverly Joan, whose enthusiastic support lifts me up through all things."

Silvia Darpino (MRS. BETTY CHUMLEY) - Elmer, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Sue Bayliss (*All My Sons*). "When anybody laughs, he has no mind, no thoughts, no problems, no suffering." - Papaji

Tanner Cossaboon (DUANE WILSON) - Millville, NJ - Favorite past roles include: Sound Booth (*Twelfth Night*) and Assistant Stage Manager (*Murder on the Orient Express*). "Thank you to Heidi Dugan for reaching out to me and giving me the wonderful opportunity to join the production, and thanks to the rest of the cast for making my first acting role since middle school both a good learning experience, and an enjoyable one."



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Creative Team & Crew

Director.....	Heidi Dugan
Assistant Director.....	Ryan Dailey
Production Manager.....	Joe Dugan
Assistant Production Manager.....	Tim Pianka
Stage Manager.....	Jason Reynolds
Set Design.....	Heidi Dugan, Joe Dugan, Brian Danner
Costume Design.....	Nerys Muller
Costume Sourcing.....	Nerys Muller, The Cast
Properties Design.....	Melissa Kane
Lighting Design.....	Tyler Davis
Scenic Artist.....	Kelly Williams
Wig Design / Hair & Makeup Consultant.....	John Rattacasa
Set Construction.....	Brian Danner, Heidi Dugan, Joe Dugan, Tim Pianka, Jason Reynolds
Run Crew.....	Anicia Colon, Hend El Bialy, Lea Matarazzo, Julie Morell
Box Office.....	Beverly Beardsley, Katie Fransko, Katie Hughes, Brinah Iglesias, Bobbi Kukal, Carey Walden Pangia, Rachael Smith, Rachel Sneed, Natasha Thompson
Title Artwork & Program Layout.....	Natasha Thompson
Character Headshots & Promo Photos.....	Book Two Productions
Production Support.....	Joe Milam, Bobby Williams

Special Thanks

ESTABLISHED 2001



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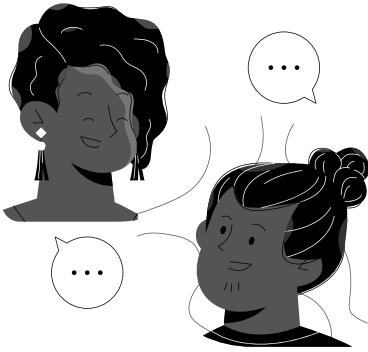
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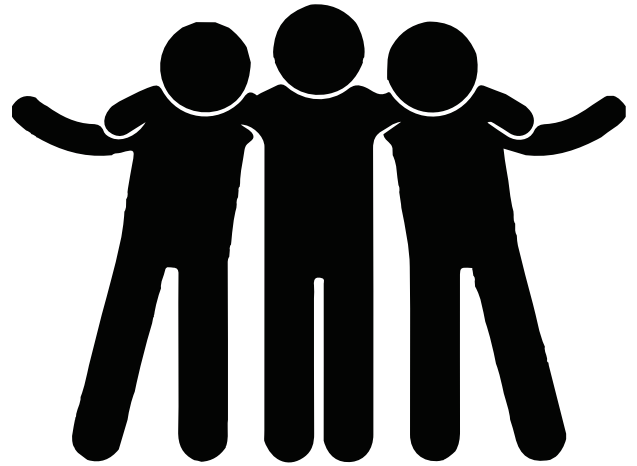
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- Hospitality
- Operations
- Play Reading & Dramaturgy
- Production
- Public Relations & Marketing



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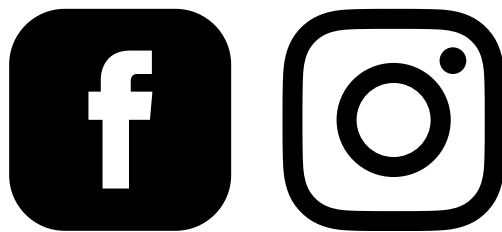
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