

Providing quality local community theatre since 1984, the all-volunteer Prince William Little Theatre is partly funded by grants from the Prince William County Park Authority, the City of Manassas, and private contributions. PWLT has won NVT A One Act Festival Awards, Virginia Theatre Association awards, and Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) awards.

Sister Act - A Year Later



Ashley Williams
Photo by Ashley Williams

Hell week is usually the most challenging time of any show, but the effort is worth it because at the end of Hell week comes opening night. Except it didn't in this case. *Sister Act* closed the day before our first show. Yes, it was heartbreaking, but the ties the cast and crew made were enduring. So much in fact, that *Sister Act* will be performed in March 2022 – two years later. I touched base with a few members of the cast and crew for their insights as to why they remain committed to this show.

Ashley Williams who plays Deloris Van Cartier said she remains committed because of the people. The case was a diverse group of people working together and that unity needs to be seen by an audience. Kareem Taylor



Kareem Taylor
Photo by Kareem Taylor

who plays Curtis Jackson loathes leaving a project unfinished. Every part he has performed gave him a lesson he can apply – on and off stage. Luis Vasquez who played Pablo really appreciated the chemistry with the people from the production, calling it “magical”. He said it was meant for him to be a part of this show. Nicholas Mastrangelo who was our set designer mentioned how much we had gone through to get it ready for our patrons. “It was a celebration of perseverance of PWLT and the *Sister Act* family and we need to celebrate that achievement.” Michelle Matthews who was our costume designer has a more realistic reason – “the costumes are piled up in my house and I need to get rid of them somehow – haha”. Sharon Veselic, our director, wants to finish. “Finishing means handing it to an audience. As a director you hand the show over opening night and then get to watch the magic of the cast on stage.”



Luis Vasquez



Michelle Matthews
Photo by David Harback

Each person feels something unique to them regarding the message of the show. “Change, redemption, sisterhood and that sisterhood isn't shared by blood but by bonds that are formed” was Ashley's take. Kareem pointed out the lyrics to “Spread the Love Around”, friendship and affection, real connection, it's a gift from above is what carries the message of the musical. To Luis, the message was spiritual, “God uses us for all his purposes. Everyone ends up bringing their talent and spirit to create new friendships and everyone needs each other.” “It's about sisterhood and the bonding these women experience with laughter, tears and turmoil. All the characters evolve into more thoughtful, hopeful and generous people” is what Sharon sees as the focus. Nicholas brings the experience into our current situation of 2020. “It's about getting through tough times. The pandemic showed us we can't do it alone. We all need help to get where we want to be in life.”



Sharon Veselic
Photo by DaylonWaltonProtrography

I found it interesting that each person interviewed had a different take on their favorite part. Ashley loved “Lady in the Long Black Dress”. Why?

“The gangsters are singing and dancing their hearts out”.

Kareem said the sisters performing “Raise your Voice”

warmed his heart. Luis pointed out that Deloris goes into the music room for

rehearsals with

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Nick Mastrangelo
Photo by David Harback

Chrissy's Corner



Photo by Mark Moorstein

Happy Spring Everyone! It's hard to believe that a year ago this month, we had to close the curtain on our production of *Sister Act*, before it even had a chance to premier. It was definitely an emotional time for all of us, as well as, an uncertain time. We had no idea when we would be back. Even though we're still not certain, we continue to hope and look forward.

This year has been quite a ride. It gave PWLT a chance to regroup and explore other options. Thanks to technology, we were able to participate in a theatrical telethon premier an original musical, bring a vocal health master class, and most recently, present an original cabaret with *Relationships in Covid Times*. These virtual presentations will be something we will continue to offer, even after the theater doors open.

Look for upcoming news on our Original Works presentation. We've received so many original works for our review. Our committee is currently reviewing and will present those chosen in a series of online presentations. Our community is so full of great talent. We're so thankful for all the great submissions.

Let us know if you have any ideas. What would you like to see? We'd love to hear from you. Reach out to us at info@pwlt.org.

Thank you for keeping up with PWLT.

Stay safe, take care, and keep performing.

See you at the theatre! (soon)

Chrissy Mastrangelo, PWLT President

Sister Act - A Year Later

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the nuns and takes over. "She made the nuns see their potential". Seeing how the set can help transform the performance was what Nicholas mentioned. "Here Within These Walls" was beautifully sung while illuminated by 14 stained glass windows (created by Rose Charboneau) showing the stations of the cross. Michelle's favorite part was Sweaty Eddie's number. It was a costume challenge that she was eager to see on stage with the audience's reaction. Sharon summed it up, "the Nuns! – watching them in musical numbers."

Those teasers certainly are enticements as to why PWLT is committed to bringing this show to our audience. Nicholas remembers watching everyone weep when the show shut down last year and how it shows what community theatre means to those involved. "It's when things are taken away from us when we learn to appreciate them to most. I can honestly say, this pandemic has made many of us appreciate more of what in-person community theatre brings into our lives." PWLT looks forward to seeing you all there next March!

Prince William Little Theatre Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Terri Ritchey

PWLT Board of Directors:

President - Chrissy Mastrangelo
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It's Scholarship Time!



The Susy Moorstein Scholarship is a thousand dollar scholarship awarded to one applicant based on the following criteria.

- Applicant must be a high school senior who will be attending a college/university pursuing an associate or bachelor degree after high school graduation
- Applicant must be a resident of Prince William or City of Manassas
- Applicant must have been involved in high school and/or with community theatre groups
- Applicant must have a love of theatre and wish to continue to pursue a lifelong involvement with theatre throughout their life
- It is not mandatory you major in theatre, but see yourself supporting community theatre endeavors in the future!
- Money may only be used for academic purposes – not on room and board expenses

The deadline to apply is April 15th. Please visit our website for the application and more information. Information and a link to the pdf application form is here: <https://www.pwlt.org/susy-moorstein-scholarship.html>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Prince William Little Theatre is looking to explore and present original narratives to the theatre community.

With our upcoming project, we invite playwrights of all ages, backgrounds and experiences to submit their works to be presented on our virtual stage.

We are seeking submissions of pieces due by March 15th as we look to continue to offer a platform for new playwrights and their original works.

Do you have a piece (play, musical, spoken word, etc.) that you want to share? To do so, submit your original script before March 15th!

Upon submission, our play selection committee will reach out.

Send your works to Becca Harney, PWLT Play Selection Committee Chairwoman at: becca.harney@gmail.com



Member Spotlight: Caty Nicholson

By Becky Gould-Levine

Prince William Little Theatre is proud to spotlight one of our actor members, Caty Nicholson. Caty has participated in many shows with PWLT.

Caty has been doing theatre since as long as she can remember -- her very first role was Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer when she was in preschool. Her 3 year old brain took this role and made Rudy the shyest of all reindeer - unlike the classic story you know. Something clicked when she was 14 though and she became who she is today - an outgoing home body who loves people, pizza and a good winery.

Caty has her BA in theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University and moved to

New York City for a bit to pursue stand up, but ended up finding her way back in Virginia when she realized she really liked the thought of having a dishwasher AND washing machine in the same building as her. Her first show with PWLT was back in 2015 with *The Who's Tommy*, where she gained another theatre family and was officially hooked on them!

Caty is missing theatre, and the outlet it gives her to be a weirdo and not care. She misses making people laugh the most - but she's trying to use her creativity by selling the makeup they use on Broadway, (hello smudge proof lips and anti-aging!) as well as amazing magnetic lashes that will be PERFECT for the stage when we can finally go back!



Caty Nicholson

Photo by Mark Regan

Meet Your Board Members: Nick MacFarlane



Nick MacFarlane proposing to Kristin Leeman.

Nick MacFarlane is serving his first term as a board member. He got involved because he knew everyone and what they were trying to do on the board. Everyone knows Nick too -- he is an easy going guy with a big heart and smile who pitches in at every endeavor. He will work backstage, onstage or even volunteer his family members to help make a show a blockbuster. That's the kind of person you need as a board member.

Nick had lots of experience with high school theatre organization while at Woodbridge High School. He later attended VCU Theatre Program for a semester. At that point he realized he wanted to be a

family man first and a theatre person on the side. That's when he switched his major to business. Like most of us in community theatre -- this is our second job but still our first love.

Since being involved with PWLT, Nick has been in several shows. His first show was *Oklahoma*. He has also been in *9 to 5*, *Barnum*, and *Anne of Green Gables*. Turning his talents to backstage, he has helped with *Annie*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *the Radio Show* and *Sister Act*.

While serving on the board, Nick has been focused on safety. He helped drive our policy of using hard hats and gloves while

working on set construction. He also serves on the scholarship committee. As to being a family man, Nick got engaged to Kristin Leeman on October 3rd. Wanting to share his passion of theatre, before the pandemic hit, he was getting her interested in doing stage makeup. PWLT is made up of many different family connections; parents and kids sharing the experience together, spouses working side by side, and best friends becoming even closer. Good job Nick, pulling Kristin into our circle! Nick sums up his philosophy in life as, "Regardless of what you do in your life, follow your heart and you won't have any regrets in life."



Nick MacFarlane

Photo by David Harback