

CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS
BRENDAN RAGAN & SUMMER WALLACE

**URBANITE
THEATRE**

s a r a s o t a

PRESENT:



THE NICETIES

BY ELEANOR BURGESS | DIRECTED BY NATALIE NOVACEK

MAY 31 - JUNE 30, 2019

A Regional Premiere | Co-Producers: Jack & Priscilla Schlegel

URBANITE
THEATRE
sarasota



THE NICETIES

is made possible
in part by co-producers
Jack & Priscilla Schlegel

“The Niceties” is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

The world premiere of The Niceties was co-produced in the 2018-2019 season by the Huntington Theatre Company (Peter Dubois, Artistic Director Michael Maso, Managing Director), Boston, MA; Manhattan Theatre Club (Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director Barry Grove, Executive Producer), New York, NY; and McCarter Theatre Center (Emily Mann, Artistic Director/Resident Playwright. Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director), Princeton, NJ.

Originally developed at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in July 2017, under the leadership of Ed Herendeen, Producing Director, and Peggy McKowen, Associate Producing Director.

CAST

Kate Young* _____ Janine
Bonita Jackson _____ Zoe

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association*

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS



KATE YOUNG^{*}

Janine

URBANITE CREDITS

Debut

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association*

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

KATE YOUNG*

Janine

Kate Young in her first appearance at Urbanite was last featured at Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando in *The Royal Family* as Fanny Cavendish. Other recent engagements include Orlando Shakespeare (*Jane Burgoyne*), Florida Repertory (*The Mousetrap*, *Unexpected Guest*, and *Lend Me a Tenor*), Miami Theatre Center (*Hedda Gabler*), Gulfshore Playhouse (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, Best Comedy, 2013), American Stage and freeFall Theatre (*Bernarda Alba*, Theatre Tampa Bay Awards nomination, 2013).

Regionally Kate has been featured with ShawChicago, Chicago Shakespeare, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Pittsburgh Public Theatre, Human Race Theatre, Royal George, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Northlight, Light Opera Works, City Theatre, and Pittsburgh Irish and Classical Theatre.

A native San Franciscan now living in Chicago, Kate trained in London at LAMDA, Brown University, the University of Pittsburgh, and New England Conservatory.
(www.kateyoung.biz)

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THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS



BONITA JACKSON

Zoe

URBANITE CREDITS

Debut

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

BONITA JACKSON

Zoe

Bonita is humbly joyous to be making her Urbanite debut! She has had storytelling calling her name since she was a youngin'! Gracing stages across NYC to the Midwest, she is now pursuing her MFA at FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. Recent productions include: *As You Like It* (Asolo Conservatory), *Corey & Vanessa* (The Lark), *This Soil, These Seeds...* (Em Lee Concert Hall), *The Official Adventures of Kieron & Jade* (Bridge Street Theatre). She gives supreme thanks to God, her glorious family (Mom, Dad, Doris, Tari & Terry), her love (Garrett Turner) and her fluffy cat (Dakota) -- for their endless & matchless love and support. Habakkuk 2:2-3.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

ELEANOR BURGESS

Playwright

Eleanor Burgess's work has been produced at the Manhattan Theatre Club, McCarter Theatre, Huntington Theatre Company, the Alliance Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Portland Stage Company, and Centenary Stage. She's currently a 2050 Fellow at New York Theatre Workshop, a part of The Civilians' R&D Group, and a member of Page 73's writers' group, 173. She has previously been the recipient of a Huntington Playwriting Fellowship, the Alliance/Kendeda National Graduate Playwriting Award, an EST/Sloan commission, a Keen Teens Commission, and the Susan Glaspell Award for Women Playwrights. She is currently staffed on HBO's new series PERRY MASON.

Eleanor grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts, studied history at Yale College, and recently completed the MFA in Dramatic Writing at NYU/Tisch.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

CREATIVE TEAM

Co-Artistic Director_____ Brendan Ragan

Co-Artistic Director_____ Summer Wallace

Playwright_____ Eleanor Burgess

Director_____ Natalie Novacek[^]

Production Manager_____ Ryan E. Finzelber

[^]Denotes Associate Member of SDC,
The Stage Directors & Choreographers Society

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

CREATIVE TEAM

Production Stage Manager__ Amanda LaForge*

Scenic/Lighting Designer_____ Ryan E. Finzelber

Costume Designer_____ Sofia Gonzalez

Sound Designer_____ Daniel Kelly

Properties Designer/Scenic Charge__ Sandra Davis

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity Association*

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

CREATIVE TEAM

Fight Director _____ Dan Granke
Assistant Stage Manager _____ Roxanne Smith
Production Assistant _____ Nick Catanzaro
Master Carpenter _____ Gene Alcorn
Production Electrician _____ Chris Baldwin
Assistant Choreographer _____ Sarah Berland

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Lupita Susarrey
Cole Finzelber
Corinne Proctor
Asolo Rep Scenic Studio



We heard you!
The Loop
will be coming
to Urbanite
this July!

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

BRENDAN RAGAN

Co-Artistic Director

As a founder and Artistic Director of Urbanite Theatre, Brendan has directed the regional premiere productions of *Wakey, Wakey*; *The Drowning Girls*, *Echoes* and *Breadcrumbs*. Regionally, he has directed for the Odyssey Play Festival (2018 Festival Winner), the Hermitage Artist Retreat and American Stage. For Single Carrot Theatre in Baltimore, Brendan lead the world premiere productions of *La Muñeca*, *Illuminocem*, and *A Short Reunion*. Recently, Brendan directed the FSU/Asolo Conservatory's production of *Reckless*.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

SUMMER WALLACE

Co-Artistic Director

Summer Wallace has been seen on the Urbanite Stage as Fiona in *In a Word*, Hannah in *Ideation*, Georgie in *Freak*, Mash in *Stupid Fucking Bird*, and off-stage as director for *Northside Hollow*, *Dry Land*, costume designer for *Lungs*, and properties designer for *Reborn*, *Chicken Shop*, *My Barking Dog*, *Bo-Nita*. Regional credits include Asolo Rep, Mad Cow Theatre, Stage Door Theatre, Lagniappe Theatre, Cumberland County Playhouse (company member), and the list goes on. Summer is a proud member of AEA, Sag-Aftra and is an Adjunct Professor of Theatre at the New College of Florida. Summer would like to thank her amazing husband, Grant Herren, for all of his dedication to the Urbanite and for making the dream possible.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

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NATALIE NOVACEK

Director

Natalie Novacek is a freelance director based in Minneapolis, MN. Her intimate productions have garnered critical acclaim for their precise balance of humor and heart. Her interpretive work thrives in contemporary American texts as well as firmly established texts in the theatrical canon.


Natalie was a 2005 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival National Selection Team Directing Fellow in Washington D.C. and a 2016-2017 Directing Fellow at Asolo Rep in Sarasota, FL. She is an alum of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and the SDCF Observership Program.

Natalie received her MFA in Directing from the University of Texas at Austin and her BA in Theatre Arts from Minnesota State University Moorhead. Natalie is a proud Associate Member of the Stage Director and Choreographers Society.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

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to locate your nearest
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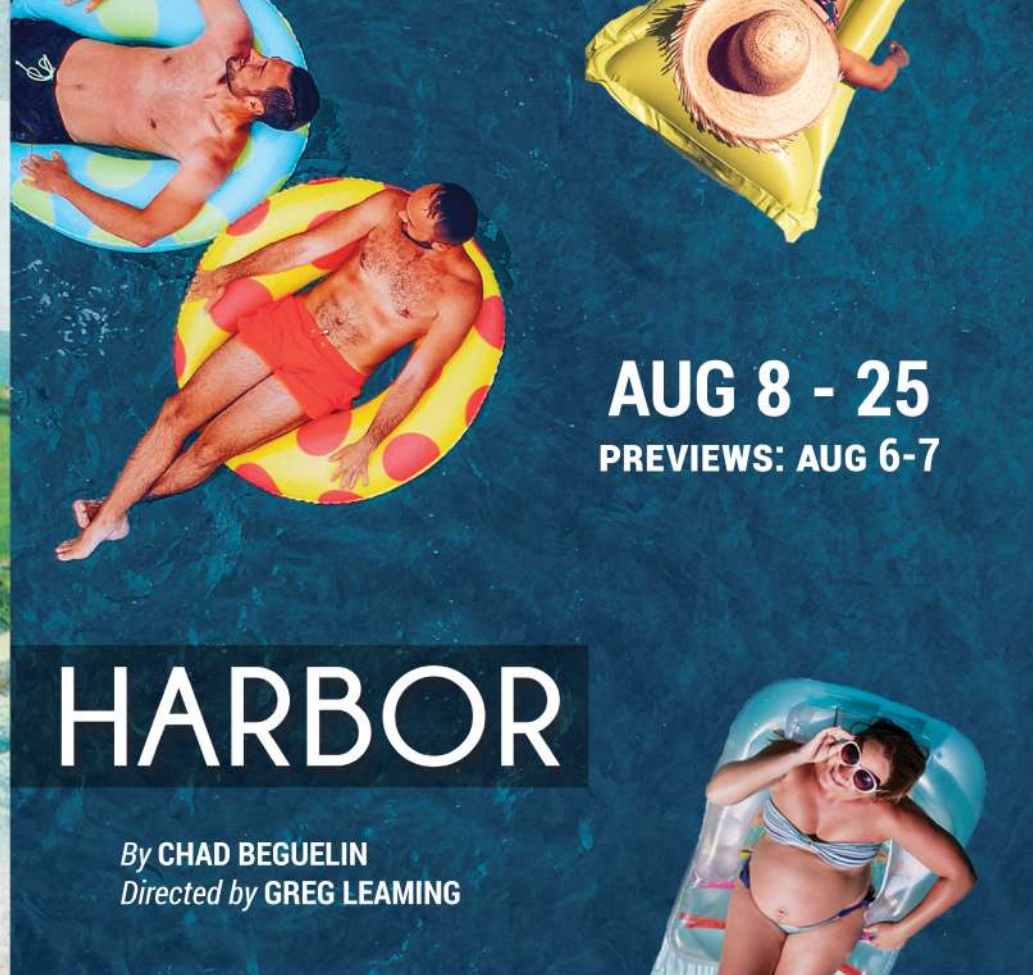
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AMANDA LAFORGE*

Production Stage Manager

Amanda LaForge graduated from Ithaca College and is co-founder of Performing Arts for Social Change in Ithaca, NY. She has been stage managing for Urbanite Theatre since July 2015. Other work has included American Stage, Asolo Rep and PURE Sarasota; Whistler in the Dark, Imaginary Beasts and Company One in Boston; the University of Yaounde One in Cameroon, West Africa; and Volunteer Program Associate at The Ringling.

**Denotes member of Actors' Equity*

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

HARRY LIPSTEIN

Founder & Ensemble Member

Harry has appeared on Urbanite's stage in *Stupid Fucking Bird*, *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*, and as part of the Urbanite's Reading Series in *Bright New Boise*, *Poison*, and *Boy*. He served as assistant director for *Echoes*. New York credits include *Bury The Hatchet*, *12 Angry Men*, and *The Seagull*. He is the Founder and Producing Artistic Director of Denizen Theatre in New Paltz, NY. He received a Professional Architecture Degree from Syracuse University. Actor Training: William Esper Studio, New York City; Howard Meyer Master Acting Program, New York. Proud member of AEA.

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RYAN E. FINZELBER

Scenic & Lighting Designer

Ryan E. Finzelber is a local scenic and lighting designer working in the Sarasota area. Recent scenic and lighting credits include *Incognito*, *Echoes* (Urbanite Theatre), *Companion Piece*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Arsonists*, *Adaptive Radiation* (Denizen Theatre), *Hir*, *The Threepenny Opera* (Jobsite Theatre). Recent awards: Theatre Tampa Bay – Outstanding Lighting Design, *A Skull in Connemara* (2017), *Imagining Madoff* (2015), *The Threepenny Opera* (nominated, 2018), *Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (nominated, 2016), Creative Loafing Best of the Bay – Lighting Designer (runner up, 2017). Visit www.finzelberdesign.com for information and production photos!

————— *THE NICETIES* BY ELEANOR BURGESS

DANIEL KELLY

Sound Designer & Artistic Associate

As Artistic Associate of Urbanite Theatre, Daniel has supported the artistic vision of Urbanite productions in a variety of functions. As director, he helmed last summer's production of *Incognito*. Last season, he helped develop and direct the regional premiere of *Incognitio*. In addition to directing previous Urbanite productions of *My Barking Dog* and *Lungs*, Daniel has also served as sound designer (*Echoes*) and video/projection designer (*Women Laughing Alone with Salad*). Assistant directing credits include *Asolo Rep*, *Goodspeed Musicals*, *The Muny*, and *Georgia Shakespeare*. He is a proud alumnus of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

Please **silence**
your phones.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

SANDRA DAVIS

Properties Designer & Scenic Charge

Sandra Davis is excited to join Urbanite Theatre for the first time as the Properties Designer and Scenic Charge for *The Niceties*. Sandra lives in Orlando, Florida with her trusty pal and best friend, Pokey the Little Puppy. She graduated from The University of the Ozarks with a BA in Theatre. As a graduate, Sandra pursued a job with the Walt Disney Company and soon went to refurbish their props for the classic production of *FANTASMIC!* You can see more of her recent work in St. Petersburg, Florida while visiting the St. Pete Opera for their upcoming season. Sandra enjoys practicing her inexperienced golf stroke, eating tacos, and traveling as often as possible.

— *THE NICETIES* BY ELEANOR BURGESS

SOFIA GONZALEZ

Costume Designer

Sofia Gonzalez is excited to be a part of Urbanite's production of *The Niceties*. She graduated in 2016 with a BFA in Costume Design and Technology from UNC School of the Arts. The past two years she's worked as the FSU/Asolo Conservatory Season Costume Designer. Other credits include: *W;t* (Triad Stage) and *The Learned Ladies* (UNC CSA).

CHRIS BALDWIN

Production Electrician

A Lighting Designer/Programmer/Technician from Nashville, currently living in Tampa, Chris has been turning on lights across many venues and industries in Central Florida over the last 5 years. Most recently designing *Pipeline*, *Strait of Gibraltar*, *Marjorie Prime* (American Stage), *Lillette Jenkins*, *Cash on Delivery* (Hat Trick Theatre), *Gideon's Knot* (Florida Studio Theatre). A jack of all, Chris is often hired as a Master Electrician/Programmer on special productions and events such as *Insomnia* (Busch Gardens HOS), *Oh, Wonderous Life* (Sea World San Diego), *Keith Urban* (Home Shopping Network). Live production can be stressful at times, so when there's time to unwind Chris rides his motorcycle to Zephyrhills, and skydives till the sun goes down!

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GENE ALCORN

Master Carpenter

Gene Alcorn recently joined the Urbanite Theatre. Her served as master carpenter for last season's *In a Word*. Gene is also a performing Magician and builds magic for other magicians all over the world. His skills are somewhat unique, yet combined are an asset to Urbanite Theatre.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

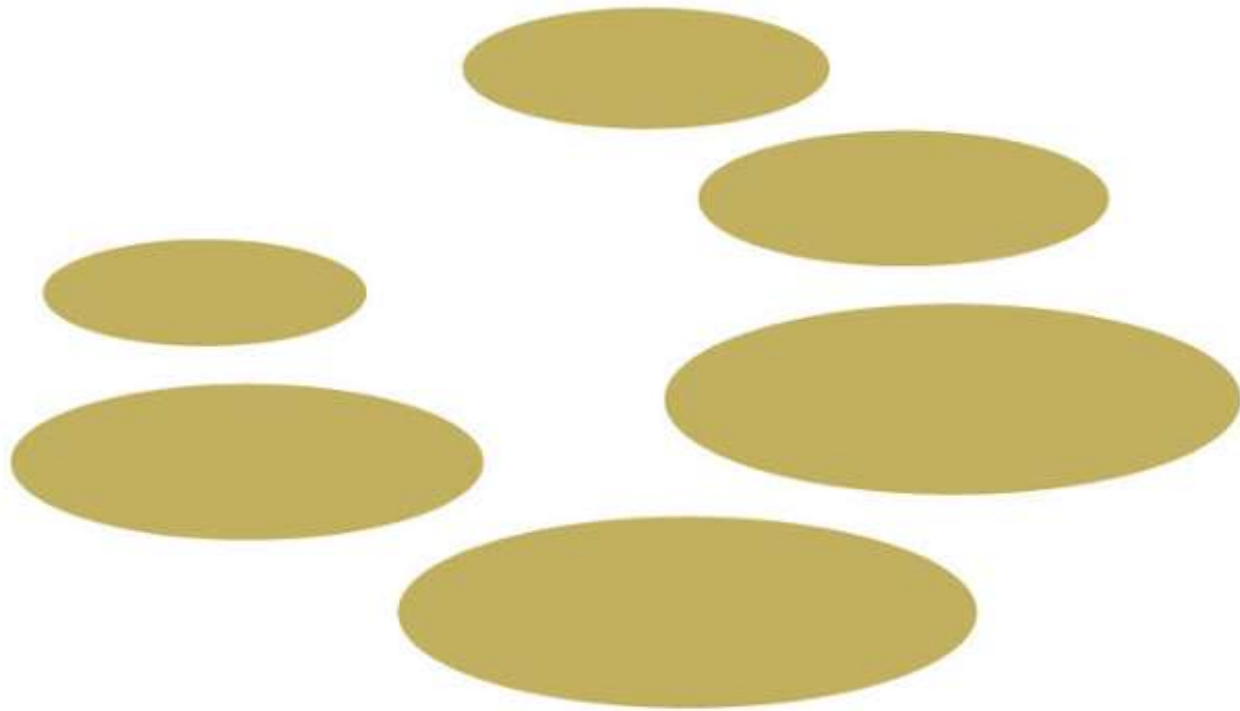
JEANETTE DUDASH

Patron Services Manager

As a second generation Sarasota native, Jeanette has grown up and worked in the local theater community for most of her life. She spent the last 5 seasons as the Assistant Ticket Services Manager at the Asolo Repertory Theatre. She is also a current student at the University of South Florida-Sarasota/Manatee pursuing a degree in Women & Gender Studies. She has previously worked with Urbanite as the Assistant Director for last seasons *Women Laughing Alone With Salad*.

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NICK CATANZARO

Production Assistant

Nick Catanzaro is proud to be listed alongside the great, and far more talented, names you really should be paying more attention to rather than this one. He is currently a film major taking classes at State College of Florida, though theatre is his first love. He hopes you enjoy the production as much as he found its process fulfilling.

THE NICETIES BY ELEANOR BURGESS

ROXANNE SMITH

Assistant Stage Manager

Roxanne Smith is making their Urbanite debut and is super excited to be working alongside such great people. Roxanne is a Theatre Major at the State College of Florida where they stage managed and acted in over 11 shows at the Howard Studio Theatre. Having their first show as a stage manager being *Gaslight* and last acting in *Bob: A Life in Five Acts* portraying Helen. Roxanne plans on going to University of Central Florida in the spring for a degree in House Management and a minor in Stage Management.

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DAN GRANKE

Fight Director

Dan Granke is a Director, Fight Director and Movement Specialist. His work as a Fight Director has appeared at various theatres in New York City including The Public, Write-Act Rep, and Cena/Cenari. In Central Florida his work has appeared with Asolo Rep (*Hamlet*), Florida Studio Theatre (*FLY*), Tampa Rep (*True West*), St. Petersburg Opera (*Carmen, Il Trovatore*), Stage-works (*In the Blood*), Hat Trick (*Unnecessary Farce, Deathtrap*), Theatre USF (*Tale of Two Cities*) and Tampa Shakespeare Festival (*Macbeth, Richard III, and Romeo & Juliet*). Dan also teaches at the University of South Florida, and is a Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, as well as an instructor of Historical Fencing with Kriegsschool Tampa Bay. He also has extensive training in SAMBO and other grappling arts.

SARAH BERLAND

Assistant Choreographer

Sarah S. Berland is a Florida native and holds a Bachelors in Theater Arts. She is currently a Theater Faculty Member for the Patel Conservatory at the Straz Center for the Performing Arts in Tampa, Florida where she is a makeup designer, a director, and a teacher for students ages 3 to adult. Sarah is an advanced actor combat for the SAFD and is gratefully continuing her fight education under the tutelage of Dan Granke as she focuses more on fight choreography. Additionally, she is a free-lance makeup designer and local actor. Some of her recent acting credits include a Jeff Norton Dream Grant sponsored production, *Yellowish Blue & Pink*; and *Rocket Science* with Lab TheaterProject.

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