



MARTHA'S
Vineyard
PLAYHOUSE

MJ Bruder Munafo, Artistic & Executive Director

THE NICETIES

by
Eleanor Burgess

Directed by
Joann Green Breuer

Starring
Amy Brenneman*

with
Tsilala Brock

Live Online Reading October 28, 2020
Streaming October 28 – 31, 2020

THE NICETIES

CAST

JANINE.....Amy Brenneman*
ZOE.....Tsilala Brock

Setting: An elite northeastern college



**Union of Minority
Neighborhoods**

*Partial proceeds from this production
will be donated to the
Movement Voter Project
and the Union of Minority Neighborhoods*

We wish to express our gratitude to the Performers' Unions:

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN GUILD OF MUSICAL ARTISTS
AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS
SAG-AFTRA

through Theatre Authority, Inc. for their cooperation in permitting the
Artists to appear on this program.

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, Michael S. Rosenberg, Managing Director), Princeton, NJ. Originally developed at the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, in July 2017, Ed Herendeen, Producing Director, and Peggy McKowen, Associate Producing Director. Developed in part at PORTLAND STAGE COMPANY, Anita Stewart, Executive & Artistic Director.

THE NICETIES PLAYHOUSE CREW

Director.....Joann Green Breuer
Artistic & Executive Director.....MJ Bruder Munafo
Business Manager.....Geneva Corwin
Literary ManagerJenny Allen
Poster Graphics.....Illumination Design Group

*The Niceties is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com*



**The Actors and Stage Manager are appearing courtesy of
Actors' Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers.*



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

WHO'S WHO



ELEANOR BURGESS (Playwright) Her work has been produced at Manhattan Theatre Club, McCarter Theatre Center, Geffen Playhouse, Huntington Theatre Company, the Alliance Theatre, Writers Theatre, Finborough Theatre, Milwaukee Rep, Geva Theatre Center, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, the Contemporary American Theatre Festival, Portland Stage Company, and Centenary Stage, and developed with The New Group, New York Theatre Workshop, Ensemble Studio

Theatre, Salt Lake Acting Company, the Lark Play Development Center, and the Kennedy Center/NNPN MFA Playwrights Workshop. She has been a member of the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group at Primary Stages, Page 73's writers' group Interstate 73, The Civilians' R&D Group, and New York Theatre Workshop's 2050 Fellowship. She has also been a staff writer for Perry Mason on HBO. Originally from Brookline, Massachusetts, she studied history at Yale College and Dramatic Writing at NYU/Tisch.



AMY BRENNEMAN* (Janine) Amy Brenneman divides her time evenly between acting, producing and political activism. She earned a degree in Comparative Religion at Harvard, with a specialty in Indo-Tibetan Religion, studying sacred dance and indigenous ritual in Kathmandu. She was a founding member of the Cornerstone Theater Company, which specializes in site-specific community-based theater on themes of social justice. Amy performed alongside local performers as (among others): Juliet in *ROMEO & JULIET* (Port

Gibson, Mississippi), Natasha in *THREE SISTERS* (Montgomery, West Virginia), Clytemnestra in *THE OREISTEIA* (Schurz, Nevada), and Solveig in *PEER GYNT* (Eastport, Maine). Other theater: CSC Rep, Lincoln Center Theater, LA Theater Works, LATC, Williamstown Theater Festival, En Garde Arts, Spark, and The American Repertory Theater. She has played Saint Joan at Yale Rep and starred in the world premiere of the Pulitzer Prize nominated *Rapture Blister Burn* at Playwrights Horizons and the Geffen Theater. Most recently she starred in the world premiere of *Rules of Seconds* by John Pollono, directed by Jo Bonney. Amy co-created, wrote and starred in *Mouth Wide Open* (The Yard, American Repertory Theater) and *Overcome* (The Yard). *Overcome* will have its premiere at South Coast Repertory as part of the 2020-2021 season. Amy created, executive produced and starred in *Judging Amy* (two TV Guide Awards, three Golden Globe nominations, Producer's Guild Nomination, three Emmy Award nominations, People's Choice SAG nomination) based on the work of her mother, the Honorable Judge Frederica Brenneman. Other television: *NYPD Blue* (2 Emmy nominations, SAG award), *Frasier*, *Heartbeat* (exec producer), and Shonda Rhimes' *Private Practice*. Amy also starred in *The Leftovers* on HBO (Peabody Award, Critic's Choice nomination.) Upcoming television: *Tell Me Your Secrets* on Amazon and *The Old Man* with Jeff Bridges and John Lithgow on Hulu. Film credits include *Casper*, *Fear*, *Daylight*, *Heat*, *Friends And Neighbors*, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, *Peel*, *The Look Of Love* and *Words And Pictures* opposite Clive Owen. Amy has a long collaboration with Rodrigo Garcia, with whom she worked on *Nine Lives*, *Things You Can Tell Just By Looking At Her*, *Mother And Child* and *60 Second Doc*. Amy produced and directed the documentary *The Way the World Should Be* about the trailblazing work of the CHIME Institute and its mission of inclusive education. As a teacher, she has taught drama and creative process the CHIME Charter school, which specializes in educating children of all abilities. She has also taught at Harvard and UCLA, among others. For her activist work, Amy has been honored by Women in Film, The Brady Center, the League of Women Voters, the California State Assembly, the National Children's Alliance, the Chime Institute, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, the Help Group, the Producer's Guild of America,

among others. She traveled to Peru as an ambassador for CARE and was elected to the Screen Actors Guild Board of Directors. In 2016, she was part of the amicus brief for the Supreme Court case *Whole Women's v. Hellerstedt*, ensuring that abortion clinics remained open in Texas and elsewhere; she received the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from The Feminist Majority for her ongoing commitment to reproductive rights. In 2019 Amy received the Change Agent Award from En Garde Arts in New York. She has served as keynote speaker for NARAL, Cal-Tash, The Council for Exceptional Children and on the steps Supreme Court. Amy splits her time between Los Angeles and West Tisbury, MA. She is married to writer/director Brad Silberling and has two children, Charlotte and Bodhi.



JOANN GREEN BREUER (Director) is a longtime Artistic Associate at Martha's Vineyard Playhouse where she has directed over twenty productions, including *Dear Elizabeth*, *Tennessee Williams: Original Acts*, *Faith Healer* and many more. She was co-founder and Artistic Director of the annually multi-award-winning Cambridge Ensemble. Joann taught acting at Harvard University

where she was faculty adviser to the student Experimental Theatre. She has been a contributing writer to artsfuse.org, and an Associate of the North American Actors' Association (London). Joann is author of *THE SMALL THEATRE HANDBOOK*. She is a recipient of the Boston critics' Eliot Norton Award for Continuous Excellence in Directing.



TSILALA BROCK (Zoe) Grateful for any chance to work with Martha's Vineyard Playhouse! Tsilala recently completed a two-year position as Assistant Dance Captain/Swing with *THE BOOK OF MORMON* 2nd National Tour. Currently she's producing and co-hosting a new podcast called 'UNCK! Getting comfortable with uncomfortable conversations'. Other theater credits include: *PARABLE OF THE SOWER* (The Public Theater), *SACHEL PAIGE AND THE KANSAS CITY SWING*

(Cincinnati Playhouse/STLRep), *THE COLOR PURPLE* (Troika Bermuda), and *TWELFTH NIGHT* and *ROMEO & JULIET* (Martha's Vineyard Playhouse). TV/Film credits: *Mysteries of Laura*, *Happyish*, *Broad City*, *Canaries* and *Bushwick Beats*. Visit www.Tsilala.com for more!



MJ BRUDER MUNAFO (Artistic & Executive Director) MJ has served for 25 years as the Artistic and Executive Director of Martha's Vineyard Playhouse. Her work as a stage director spans over 30 years, including 2019 productions of Christopher Durang's *VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE* and Thornton Wilder's *OUR TOWN*. She is a member of SDC.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD PLAYHOUSE is operating virtually in 2020. The theater usually operates year-round, performing a wide selection of contemporary and classic plays; nurturing and developing new plays through staged readings, professional workshops and world premieres on our intimate Patricia Neal Stage; and presenting music, poetry and art exhibits. We teach drama classes for children, adults, and adults with disabilities. Many community events are held in our historic theater in downtown Vineyard Haven. Each summer we also present vibrant Shakespeare productions and highly imaginative original plays for children outdoors in the Tisbury Amphitheater, as well as our Summer Stars Children's Theater Camp. For 38 years, the Playhouse has served as an artistic beacon in the cultural life of Martha's Vineyard. www.mvplayhouse.org



Stand Against Racism

Original painting by Vineyard artist / Playhouse scenic artist, Basia Jaworska
Prints available online at mvplayhouse.org

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