

CENTER STAGE 2024-2025 SEASON

Lower Columbia College Department of Drama Presents



DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE

by Sarah Ruhl

directed by
Elizabeth Richard



Performance Dates:

May 30, 31, June 5 & 7
at 7:30pm;
June 1 at 2pm;
June 6 at 11am

Director ~ Elizabeth Richard
Scenic Design ~ Robert Cochran
Costume Design ~ Quinn Perry
Lighting Design ~ Joe Griffith
Sound Design ~ Annika Hartley
Graphic Design ~ Maya Muller

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE Off-Broadway in 2008. Originally produced June 2006 by Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Washington, DC. Howard Shalwitz, Artistic Director; Kevin Moore, Managing Director. DEAD MAN'S CELL PHONE was commissioned by Playwrights Horizons with funds provided by the Harold and Mimi Steinberg Commissioning Program.

Setting: A cafe and other places • Time: The somewhat present
There will be one 10 minute intermission

Cast

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Jean | Remy Viveiros* |
| Gordon | Dean Baker |
| Hermia | Dorian Brickert |
| Mrs. Gottlieb | Susan Donahue |
| Dwight | Matthew Crowe* |
| Other Woman/Stranger | Logan Clark* |
| Ensemble: | Anna Farnham |
| | Quinnlan Hemrich* |
| | Sabine Lepe |
| | Adam Pond |
| | Jordan Ramshaw |
| | Francisco Santana |

Crew

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Stage Manager | Olivia Blunt* |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Jakob Burleson |
| Light-Board Operator | Bran Micheletto |
| Sound-Board Operator | Lucas Boursaw |
| Costume Crew | Estella Hamilton |
| Properties | Jakob Burleson, Bran Micheletto, Annika Anderson |
| RCA Lead Stage Technician | Francisco Santana |
| Production Assistant | Paul Rawlins |
| Scenic Construction | Olivia Blunt*, Logan Clark*, Quinnlan Hemrich*, Matthew Crowe*, Remy Viveiros*, Francisco Santana, Joe Griffith, Robert Cochran |
| House Management | Allegra Taft |

*Terry Reiniger Drama Scholarship Recipient

***If you are interested in joining the volunteer
community here at the Rose Center, please contact
us at 360.442.2512 or rca.events@lowercolumbia.edu***



"Dead Man's Cell Phone" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals
on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com.

Director's Notes

While working on the play, I came across this quote from Sarah Ruhl, our playwright, in a Washington Post interview, "I'm a playwright because many days I think it's important for the cultural health of the world we're living in. Other days I think, 'This is a really useless activity; the world is falling apart—better to be a nurse.' But I really would be a bad nurse."

How lucky for us all that artists and dreamers like Sarah Ruhl continue to do what they do best. Like many of Ruhl's plays, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* is a fairy tale or a dream, filled with magical moments that demand boundless imagination and theatricality. Her characters and their situations are very human and at times almost mundane, but she wraps them up in a mythic world full of fantastic possibilities. The familiar is always just a little bit *more*, inviting us to join her in asking "what if?", the most basic question that every theater maker is well versed in answering. Join us as we step into this fanciful tale and revel in Ruhl's spare, poetic, and surreal language. Allow yourself to embrace "what if" so you may see the wonder and truth of what this play has to share.

Cast, Crew, and Production Biographies

(in alphabetical order)

Dean Baker (Gordon) is a returning actor for Center Stage. In the mid 2010's, Dean was an actor in *Ruby Sunrise*, *A Doll's House*, assistant directed *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and was on the production team for *Antigone*, and *A Piece of My Heart*. He has also been a part of other local theatre at Mainstage (*Footloose*), and Stageworks NW (*9 to 5* & *Secret Garden*). Dean has been a part of theatre his whole life. Ever since he was five years old he continued to seek the stage, whether as an actor, production team member, or as a musician. He has travelled the country in various performances in pursuit of the thrill that only live productions can bring. Currently, Dean is the basketball coach at Mt. Solo and the worship leader for Rivertown Church. He would like to thank all the people in his life that support him. Especially his wife Katie, and daughter Melissa who have always been by his side.

Olivia Blunt (Stage Manager)* is 20 years old and lives in Vancouver with her husband. A Reiniger Scholarship student, this is her fourth production at LCC, including her role as Assistant Stage Manager for *Stop Kiss* last spring, *Daisy in Rhinoceros*, and Stage Manager for last quarter's production of *Blithe Spirit*. She loves acting, reading, and getting outdoors. Olivia is graduating with her General Transfer Degree this spring, and is transferring to WSU Vancouver to pursue her Bachelors in Business Management, where she will greatly miss drama!

Lucas Boursaw (Sound Board Operator) is a resident of Rainier, Oregon where he lives with his mother and father. Lucas has been involved in theatre in some way or another for nine years. No stranger to the Center Stage Theater, *Dead Man's Cell Phone* is, in fact, Lucas's twelfth production at Lower Columbia College. Now an alumnus of the college, he is elated to be back as a community volunteer and hopes to keep being in productions as long as possible.

Dorian Brickert (Hermia) is an aspiring author and voice actress. She sometimes wishes she could be a regular actor as well, but changes her mind when she sees the silly and uncomfortable things actors have to do. She doesn't think she'll be able to keep a straight face through most of it. This is her fourth show at LCC, but her tenth show altogether since she started her freshman year in high school. She loves chocolate and ramen, but not together.

Jakob Burleson (Assistant Stage Manager) is a recent graduate of LCC and is now pursuing his BA at WSU-Vancouver. Though he only recently got into theater, he loves doing it, along with writing, reading, and occasionally drawing. He appeared in the LCC's production of *Stop Kiss* as Peter, ran the light board for *Rhinoceros*, and the sound board for *Blithe Spirit*. Jakob is both very proud, and very excited to be a part of this production as Assistant Stage Manager.

Logan Clark (The Other Woman/The Stranger)* is a Reiniger Scholarship student at LCC. She loves video games and theater! She has appeared in Castle Rock high school performances such as *The Stranger in Alibis* and as Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life*. At Lower Columbia College, she played Mr. Papillon in *Rhinoceros* and Violet Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*. This is her third performance at LCC and she is thrilled to return and be a part of this production.

Matthew Crowe (Dwight)* is a Reinger Drama Scholarship freshman attending LCC. This is his second show at Center Stage, but his first time acting here. Matthew is super excited to be acting in a show again! Before attending LCC he was a part of nine shows at Kelso High School, acting in eight of them. A couple of the roles Matthew performed were Lucas in *The Addams Family*, Reverend John Hale in *The Crucible*, and Roger in *Grease*. This is his fourth term at LCC since graduating high school last June. Matthew is incredibly grateful to be able to continue working on shows with Center Stage while he attends LCC.

Susan Donahue (Mrs. Gottlieb) is making her LCC debut with *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Recently retired, she spent most of the last 20 years directing for Mainstage Theatre, Longview School District's HS Theater Program. Most recently, she played Juror #8 in Stageworks Northwest's *12 Angry Jurors*. Susan spent 37 years as a high school teacher, teaching Drama, English, Technical Theater, and Zumba. In addition to her passion for theater, Susan enjoys mini golfing with her husband John, volunteering with the Friends of the Longview Library, serving as secretary/treasurer for The Broad Strokes Project (Longview's Mural Project), doing Zumba, reading, and traveling.

Anna Farnham (Ensemble) has been involved in four productions at LCC. Anna was in charge of the sound queues for the Spring 2024 play *Stop Kiss*; played the Waitress, a Rhino, and was part of the running crew in the Fall 2024 play *Rhinoceros*; and helped with props for the Winter 2025 play *Blithe Spirit*. Anna has been a student since 2023 and plans on graduating this summer. Anna is very excited to be working in another Center Stage production and plans to volunteer in many more Center Stage productions after graduation.

Estella Hamilton (Costume Crew) is a current first year student at LCC working on her general associate's degree. She is assisting with costuming during this production and is looking to study and help with costuming further in the future. In addition to assisting with costuming in prior shows, Estella has also performed in several plays and musicals, as well as choir performances, at Clatskanie Middle/High. She enjoys working on her various hobbies in her free time, such as music, writing, fiber arts, and is a member of LCC's fencing club.

Annika Hartley (Sound Design) is thrilled to be back at LCC Center Stage. This is her first time trying her hand at sound design, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Quinnlan Hemrich (Ensemble)* is a Reininger Scholarship student working on his third show here at LCC. Quinn lives in Longview and began his theatre journey in 4th grade, taking classes and working in shows at the Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts. Quinn trained and participated in 8 shows at Ridgefield High School and was an inducted member in the International Thespian Society. Over the years Quinn has worked on 17 different productions, growing his skills onstage, in set production, stage management, and lighting. He is enthused to continue working in the forth theatre of his acting journey.

Sabine Lepe (Ensemble) is a student at LCC, who has been in theater for six years. This is their first year doing a production with LCC! She is very excited to be in the production with her colleagues. You may have seen Sabine in the Cinema of Horrors Haunted House in Kelso where she works chilling and thrilling participants. Sabine enjoys watching musicals along with singing. They are looking forward to being in more productions here at LCC!

Bran Micheletto-Struble (Light Board Operator) is a 2023 Kelso High School graduate. He recently took his first acting role at Center Stage as Berenger in 'Rhinoceros' by Eugene Ionesco. Previously, he has stage-managed, assistant stage-managed, and been a part of the backstage crew. This summer Bran will be playing euphonium for the Columbians Drum and Bugle Corps.

Adam Pond (Ensemble) has had a love for the theater arts all of his life. He was brought up in the great town of Castle Rock. His lovely wife and he now reside here in Longview. The second greatest town. This is his first play with Lower Columbia College. You will recognize him as the extra tall cast member.

Jordan Ramshaw (Ensemble) is an aspiring actor living in Kelso working on becoming a Comp Sci major. This is his third show, having previously portrayed Dudard in *Rhinoceros* and Dr. Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*. He loves to be over the top and dramatic, unsurprisingly leading him to theater. He is also known to be a mime on occasion.

Paul Rawlins (Production Assistant) is a retired Marketing Director who is returning to the stage after a 50 year hiatus. In high school and college he had considered a stage career but life went a different direction. He caught the acting bug recently and has helped out running lights and sound on a couple of plays at LCC, *Tartuffe* and *Top Girls*. Last fall he played two roles, The Old Gentleman and Botard, in the production of *Rhinoceros*. He looks forward to helping any way he can in this and future productions at LCC.

Allegra Taft (House Manager) is an LCC graduate with a passion for live performance and community involvement. She is proud to bring her skills and enthusiasm to the Rose Center for the Arts, a place she lovingly refers to as her "favorite place on earth." Allegra enjoys engaging with patrons, building connections with students, and sharing her love for the space through tours of the facility.

Remy Viveiros (Jean) is thrilled to take the lead for her last show as a student. She's not sure where to go next but plans to stick around CenterStage for awhile, helping with props, set, or whatever else is needed. She's grateful to be working with so many talented people and hopes to work with them again in the future.

Playwright Biography

Sarah Ruhl's plays include *In the Next Room, or the vibrator play*, *The Clean House*, *Passion Play*, *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Melancholy Play*, *For Peter Pan on her 70th Birthday*, *The Oldest Boy*, *Stage Kiss*, *Dear Elizabeth*, *Eurydice*, *How to Transcend a Happy Marriage*, *Orlando*, *Late: a cowboy song*, and a translation of *Three Sisters*. She has been a two-time Pulitzer prize finalist and a Tony award nominee. Her plays have been produced on and off Broadway, around the country, and internationally, where they have been translated into over fifteen languages.

Originally from Chicago, Ms. Ruhl received her M.F.A. from Brown University, where she studied with Paula Vogel. She has received the Steinberg Award, the Samuel French Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the Whiting Award, the Lily Award, a PEN Award for mid-career playwrights, and the MacArthur Award. You can read more about her work on SarahRuhlplaywright.com. Her new book *100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write* was a *New York Times* notable book of the year, and she most recently published *Letters from Max* with Max Ritvo. She teaches at the Yale School of Drama, and she lives in Brooklyn with her family.

Artistic Staff Biographies

Robert Cochran (Scenic Design) has held the role of technical director of the Rose Center for the Arts since its opening in 2008. He also serves as the instructor of the stage crafts class for the drama program. A Kelso native, Robert graduated from LCC then transferred to the University of Washington School of Drama. He has worked as a scenic and Lighting Designer and served in a multitude of backstage roles including Technical Director at Arts West, Lakeside, Mercer Island High, and Okoboji Summer Theatre at Stevens College. In his free time he enjoys biking, kayaking, and making ice cream.

Joe Griffith (Lighting Design) graduated from Evergreen State College with an emphasis in Entertainment Technology. He is an ETCP Certified Entertainment Electrician and Recognized Electrical Trainer. Joe is an Avixa Live Event Technician and Certified Technology Specialist. He has designed lighting, sound, video, and lasers for events throughout the northwest. His work has been featured as part of Freemont Art Council's Luminata, Burien's Arts-A-Glow, Nordic Av Artist's Tiny Massive, and The Typonex Globalist Series.

Quinn Perry (Costume Design) holds a BFA in Costume Design and Construction from Santa Fe University of Art and Design. Thrilled to be a part of the LCC family, this will be her second production here. Quinn has designed costumes for productions at The University of New Mexico, The Vortex, Shakespeare in the Park, The Santa Fe Playhouse, The National Hispanic Cultural Center, and Aux Dog. Working primarily as a tailor, she has constructed costumes for theater, opera, concerts, film, and television, with projects ranging from Rococo gowns and suits, to medical devices, and activewear. When not sewing, she can be found in the woods, thru-hiking!

Elizabeth Richard (Director) is in her tenth year teaching and directing at LCC! Elizabeth holds a BA from CUNY, an Acting Certificate from The National Shakespeare Conservatory, and an MA from Eastern Michigan University. In the Pacific Northwest she has worked at The Actors Conservatory, ART, Oregon Children's Theatre, Lakewood Theatre, Portland Accessible Theater, and OSF~Portland. Most recently she appeared in *Men, Women and Ghosts* for Cygnet Theater in Portland and as the Narrator for Southwest Washington Symphony's *Ferdinand the Bull*. Elizabeth's passion for Theatre for Social Justice has led to work with Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and Planned Parenthood in addition to facilitator training with Theater for Living in Vancouver BC. Prior to LCC, Elizabeth taught and directed at Central Michigan University and acted for many years in NYC. Favorite directing projects outside of LCC include *Ramona Quimby* (Oregon Children's Theater), *Willy Wonka* (Midland Center for the Arts, MI), and *Race: How Blacks and Whites Think and Feel About the American Obsession* (CMU and Metro Detroit tour).

Acknowledgments

The Drama Department is indebted to the following for their contributions to this production and to our academic program:

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| Act One Drama Club Members | Associated Students of Lower Columbia College |
| The families of the Cast and Crew | Elle Marander and the LCC Print Shop |
| Stefanie Gilberti, Dean of Instruction and Learning Resources | Kristen Finnel, Vice President of Instruction |
| Tamara Boyco, Administrative Assistant | Safety and Security Services: Jason Arrowsmith ~ Director and the entire staff |
| Alyssa Milano-Hightower, Gallery and Programs Director | Nolan Wheeler, Vice President of Administration |
| Richard Arquette, Director of Student Programs and Student Housing | Richard Hamilton, Director of Campus Services |
| | The LCC Foundation |

The Theatre Department extends its deepest gratitude to the LCC Community and the Longview area senior citizen groups and individuals who have honored our drama program and plays with their loyal attendance. We look forward to continuing this relationship and we thank you for your continued support!

LCC Symphonic Band Presents

Music of Song & Dance

Friday, June 6 • 7:30 p.m.



LCC Jazz Ensemble

JAZZ

SPRING CONCERT

Featuring Special NYC-based
Guest Artists Michael Feinberg
and Noah Preminger

Tuesday,
June 10
7:30 p.m.



LCC Choirs Present



The Sound of Movies

Celebrating 100 Years
of Music in Film

Friday, June 13,
7:30 p.m.



Spring 2025 Student Recital

Tuesday, June 17
5:30 & 7 p.m.

lowercolumbia.edu/concerts

Student Art Showcase



June 2-12

Join us for our Spring
Arts Festival on Thursday,
June 5th from 11-7pm

Scan QR code for more details



SCAN ME

THE FORSBERG ART GALLERY

Theatre Arts Classes and Opportunities

Fall Quarter 2025 Drama Classes

Behind the Scenes and Onstage

DRMA 101: Introduction to Theatre is a college transfer course that studies the history, development, and the many areas of theater required to produce a play. In addition to directing, acting, and playwriting, students will learn about set, light, and costume design through the study of the current Center Stage play and other plays from various periods of history. Taught by Betsy Richard.

DRMA 106 & 206: Acting are college transfer classes that study the methods, techniques, and theories of acting as an art form. Taught by Betsy Richard in Center Stage Theater. This course is offered every quarter as DRMA 106/206, 107/207, 108/208 and each quarter focuses on a unique aspect of Acting. Fall Quarter's focus is scene study. The courses do not have to be taken in sequence.

DRMA 116/117/118: Stagecraft are college transfer courses that teach the basic principles of stage design, lighting, and construction of sets for our productions! Enjoy fun, hands-on education taught by our expert technical theater instructor Robert Cochran. This course does not need to be taken in sequence and is offered every quarter

DRMA 196/296: Theater Rehearsal and Performance is a college transfer course that invites you to work on a Center Stage production! Each term LCC does a fully produced, **fully face to face** play. Auditions are the first week of each term, and you can earn credits by working on stage or offstage in the beautiful Center Stage Theatre. Instructor permission required. Betsy Richard directs.

Act One Drama Club produces each quarter's play selection, participates in Campus Culture, and takes field trips to Seattle and Portland to see plays and tour theaters! To become a part of the teamwork and fun, join us in the greenroom and shop of The Rose Center for the Arts Fridays 10AM. From backstage to onstage this group creates community benefitting its members and the entire LCC Campus! Contact Betsy Richard (brichard@lowercolumbia.edu) for more information.

Visit us at lowercolumbia.edu/drama
to learn more about LCC's Drama Program.

FALL 2025 CENTER STAGE

AUDITIONS

Play TBD

Performance Dates:

November 14, 15, 20, 22 at 7:30 pm

November 21 at 11 am

November 16 at 2 pm

Auditions:

**Sept 24 & 25, 3:30-6:30 pm
in Center Stage Theater**

lowercolumbia.edu/drama/auditions

Fund your Education AND do theater!



Scholarship Auditions

2025-26 Terry Reiniger Awards

Auditions on June 12 • 1-3 p.m.

Held in the

Center Stage Theatre, RCA 131