

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF LIVE, ONLINE THEATRE



Greening Zabella

written and directed by
Thomas W. Stephens

Friday, September 17, 2021

at 7:30 PM ET, 6:30 PM CT, 5:30 PM MT, 4:30 PM PT

Saturday, September 18, 2021

at 9:30 PM ET, 8:30 PM CT, 7:30 PM MT, 6:30 PM PT

Jan Carpman and Mary Ann Nichols Hubbard, Producers

Ticketing is on eventbrite

www.playzoomers.org

PLOT SUMMARY

A family Zoom call goes sideways when matriarch Zabella announces an unanticipated change in her final arrangements. Delicate and not-so-delicate negotiations ensue, interwoven with foolishness, Stella Artois celebrations, and the cosmos.

NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT/DIRECTOR

Curiosity may kill the cat, but it often sparks my engine.

Last winter, when signing up for an online presentation on Green Burials, I kinda-sorta figured out what the lecture would be about and immediately began thinking of writing a play with green burial as a central topic. It would be a Zoom play, I decided.

In my planning, the play's opening was easy: it was to be a family Zoom call involving an older woman and her two adult daughters. But as I began writing, Con showed up with the play's first line, and it was no longer a three-character piece. And not many pages further, Robert appeared. And then Xan joined the call. Twice as many characters, multiplied interaction.

Meanwhile, the online Green Burials session I attended in March was wonderfully informative and surprisingly personal. The Washington, DC attorney who conducted the lecture shared the story (and photos) of his father's green burial. It—and additional research—inspired in me a deeper interest and understanding of how consideration for our environment, and indeed for our planet, can, in ways both small and large, affect our better decisions.

The resultant “Greening Zabella”— is an exploration of family and friendship and the opening of minds.

Enjoy!

~ Tom

CAST

VIRGINIA..... Jean Childers-Arnold

CON..... Gary Giurbino

ZABELLA..... Patti Allis Mengers

ANNIS..... Janit Baldwin

ROBERT.....Morry Schorr

XAN.....Christopher DeSantis

CAST BIOS



Jean Childers-Arnold (Virginia) is happy to be performing for the fourth time *with PlayZoomers!* Previous *PZ* roles: Maggie in “Chasing The River;” Younger Mrs. Cheverly in “Me and Mrs. Cheverly,” Blade in “Go Fish!” and she looks forward to performing Lily in “Queen of the Sea” in November 2021! Favorite stage roles include Gertrude in

“Hamlet,” Della in “The Cake,” Pamela Peabody in “The Fox on the Fairway,” and Charlotte Hay in “Moon Over Buffalo.”

<https://jeanacts.com>



Gary Giurbino (Con) is in his third production with *PlayZoomers*. Some of his stage credits include Daddy Cane in “Bright Star,” Sam in “Mamma Mia!,” Mr. Clayton in “Tarzan,” Claude Frollo in “Hunchback,” Charlemagne in “Pippin,” Herbie in “Gypsy,” and Lt. Col. Matthew Andrew Markinson in “A Few Good Men.”

CAST BIOS



Patti Allis Mengers (Zabella) has been a fixture on the Philadelphia area theater scene for nearly 50 years as an actress, director, and playwright. She has worked with *Plays & Players*, *Hedgerow*, *Villanova*, *Players Club of Swarthmore* and *Arden (DE) Shakespeare "Gild,"* among other theaters. She recently directed a *PlayZoomers* Table Read of "The Emperor's New

Clothes: The Rest of the Story." A graduate of the Catholic University of America, she resides in Wilmington, DE with her husband, poet and artist, David P. Kozinski.

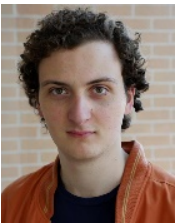


Janit Baldwin (Annis) is pleased to continue with *PlayZoomers* this season, especially on such an original idea created for this new medium. Pulled into the arts at an early age, she continues to be its captive. In the Zoom universe, Janit appeared in several previous PZ productions, including "Reunion," "Kitchen Sink Drama," "Talkback," "Exposure," and "Café Plays."



Morry Schorr (Robert) returned to acting in 2005 after a quarter-century managing law firms. Since then he has appeared on stage (most recently in "Midnight Requisition"), film (most recently in "The Wandering Day"), TV (most recently in "Modern Family"), and with *PlayZoomers* on Zoom (most recently directing and acting in "I'm Herbert"). He is SAG-AFTRA and

represented by Synergy Talent.

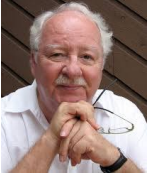


Christopher DeSantis (Xan) is a New York-based actor. *PlayZoomers* credits include "May Tag" (Rudolph) and "Lotto & Raffles" (Toughie Toenails). Other credits include "Twelfth Night" (Sir Andrew, Antonio) with *Columbia University*, "Usus" (Bernard) with *Clubbed Thumb*, "The Debates 2020" (various roles) with

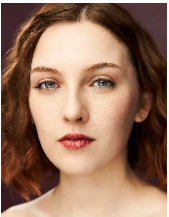
Theater In Asylum, and "Repetition" (Phillie) at *The Secret Theatre*.

www.christopherdesantis.com

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS



Thomas W. Stephens (Playwright, Director) Following a career as an educator (Randolph College, formerly Randolph-Macon Woman’s College), director, regional theatre leader, and award-winning playwright, in retirement, Tom has enjoyed focusing primarily on his writing. Several of his short plays—“May Tag,” “Sketching: 14 April 2020,” “Grandpa is with Jesse,” and “When I Leave This Place Behind”—were previously presented by *PlayZoomers*. “Greening Zabella,” a longer piece, was written specifically with *PlayZoomers* in mind.



Rebecca Wilson (Assistant Director) Rebecca Wilson cannot believe this is her third show with *Playzoomers*, recently serving as AD on “Renewing Vows” and “Microwave and Fridge.” She is a graduate of Hofstra University, where she had the pleasure of directing her favorite play, “Significant Other.”



Doug MacDougall (Technical Director) is a veteran of 30+ years in regional theatre in the Toronto area. Doug hails from Hamilton, Canada. Career highlights include nominated work as Stage/Music Director and more recently, acting in the TV/Film industry. Doug is currently hard at work creating a virtual musical comedy reimagining of “Cinderella” this December!

CREDITS

Board of Directors	Audrey Appleby, Joel Bresler, Jan Carpman, Mary Ann Nichols Hubbard, Tom Stephens
Producers	Jan Carpman, Mary Ann Nichols Hubbard
Production Associate	Taiwo Aloba
Social Media Manager	Taiwo Aloba
Assistant Director	Rebecca Wilson
Graphic Design	Kathleen Murphy
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Promo Video	Kristina Feldesman
Technical Director	Doug MacDougall
Playbill	Jan Carpman

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save the **dates**

**Friday, October 22 and
Saturday, October 23, 2021**



Four Plays About Theatre

***The Actawr & The Directawr* by Art Shulman**

***Curtain Call* by Greg Hatfield**

***Talkback* by Sam Graber**

***Three Characters Figure It Out* by Matthew McLachlan**

Friday at 7:30 PM ET, 6:30 PM CT, 5:30 PM MT, 4:30 PM PT

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About the Company

P	L	A	Y
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PlayZoomers is an online theatre company producing live, monthly performances on Zoom, featuring plays of different genres and lengths. We offer audience members a way to connect with online theatre regardless of the weather, their location, finances, health, or other factors that can make it difficult or impossible to access in-person theatre. We offer opportunities for actors to flex their creative muscles in new ways, for directors to rise to the challenge of online production, and for playwrights to adapt their work to a digital platform while reaching a new audience.

www.playzoomers.org
playzoomers@gmail.com



PlayZoomers relies on audience members, along with playwrights, directors, designers, and actors to help keep the company financially healthy. We are delighted that ticket sales have been robust, but no theatre company can sustain itself through ticketing alone. We are committed to compensating everyone who works for *PlayZoomers* and everyone who participates in our productions.

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Thank you!