

PLAYBILL

THE ZAIDI THEATRE - VILLAGERS THEATRE

Remembering Sharon



Special Event - Fundraiser
Aug 26 & 27 2023

Directed By: Marie Fiorello

WRITTEN BY NICHOLAS PELINO, JR

Presented At

Villagers
theatre

www.villagerstheatre.org/sharon



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CAST

Mrs. Thor – Alison Byrne
Narrator/Nicky – Danielle Fiorello
Frankie Thor – Frank Resta
Interpreter – Marian Braverman
Ensemble – Mary Kate Bozinta
Ensemble – David Hampson
Ensemble – Allison Schaechter
Ensemble – Richard Siegel
Samantha – Tehya Matthews
Ballerina – Madison Scheideler

CREW

Producer – Darren Nye
Director – Marie Fiorello
Lighting/Sound Designer – Paul Carver
Lighting/Sound Op – Jack Bozinta
Set Painting – Danielle Fiorello and Jack Bozinta

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Thor Family

Frank Resta

The Franklin Reporter and Advocate

Mary Henning

Suzanne Russell

The Board of Villagers Theatre

And the Villagers Patrons who have donated to this cause!

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

While scrolling through Facebook on a hot lazy afternoon this summer, I came upon a video interview of local businessman, Frank Resta, which was conducted by The Franklin Reporter and Advocate. Frank, who was born and raised in Franklin Township, was discussing his recent experience as a student of a community policing program and hearing once again about the only unsolved homicide in Franklin of Sharon Thor. Frank seemed so passionate and determined to solve this cold case that he offered a \$500.00 reward to anyone who would lead to the apprehension of the responsible party. I immediately became intrigued and called him. I told him that I have a script of a play about Sharon which I felt could assist him in his hope of solving the case. I have a dear friend, Nicholas Pelino, Jr., who was a friend and neighbor of the Thors and who in 2003 caused the case to be reopened and an investigation to commence 20 years after the incident. When he ran into roadblocks in this investigation, he did what he does best, he wrote a play. Nick passed away in 2014 and Remembering Sharon was the very last play he penned. Before his passing, he gave me all of his theatre scripts and told me if I was ever to do any one of them, it would be his wish that it be Remembering Sharon in a venue located in Franklin Township. At his memorial celebration, I did present Act 2 of the play to his friends and family, but I see this Staged Reading as a fulfillment of a promise I made to my friend and I dedicate it to him. It is my wish that the reward coupled with this performance will lead to a final resolution of the case and closure for the Thor family.

Working with this incredibly talented cast in this hybrid of a Staged Reading is a dream come true. Every person in this group from a local businessman making his stage debut to the graceful ballerina who twirls about the stage has unified passion for the work and the serious nature and import of this case. It is their wish to honor Sharon and her family with the respect and empathy they deserve. Although there were some obstacles along the way, these actors came together with very few rehearsals and did the work necessary to bring this script to life. The result is so poignant and beautiful that many of us can be found crying during the rehearsals. Nick would approve and be so proud of each of them as am I. There are some negative remarks about the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and Franklin Township Police Department. I would ask the patrons to keep in mind that this case occurred 41 years ago and protocol and procedures were much different then. The delays and mistakes that might have been made at that time would be unlikely to occur in this day and age. I must reveal here that I am very familiar with the workings of the local police department and have great respect for our fine men and women in blue as I presently work as a civilian Confidential Aide across the street at the Public Safety Building and see them in action every day. They are truly here to serve, protect and defend the citizens of our town. It is my hope that we as a company and you as an audience share in this real-life experience and my prayer that someone comes forward to finally solve this crime and bring justice to Sharon and her family. They deserve it. Justice for Sharon is justice for all.

Marie Fiorello

The show is about 1 hour. No intermission.

AFTER THE SHOW WE WILL HAVE A SHORT BREAK

THEN PLEASE JOIN US FOR A TALK-BACK WITH THE CAST/CREW

BIOGRAPHIES

Marie Fiorello (Director) – Marie is a former Board Member at Villagers Theatre of many years and a Board Member for New Jersey Association of Community Theatres – The Perry Awards. She thanks Frank, Darren and this amazing cast and crew for joining her in this labor of love. She dedicates this Staged Reading to her dear friend, Nicholas Pelino, Jr., the author of this play. She also prays for the resolution of this case and closure for the Thor Family. Justice for Sharon is justice for all.

Alison Byrne (Mrs. Thor) is extremely proud to be in the company of Remembering Sharon. Her favorite activity is time spent in a theatre in the company of seriously talented people bringing a play to life. It inspires everyday. A great play is a snapshot of the soul and this beautiful depiction of Sharon's brief life is no exception. Alison is grateful to the entire creative team at Villagers Theatre for their work on this project because every day you wake up with the chance to share your art with someone is a win.

Danielle Fiorello (Narrator/Nicky) - Danielle is a resident of Somerset and a long-time community theater performer which she started here at Villagers Theater. She has played roles such as Maria in West Side Story and Rizzo in Grease. The author of Remembering Sharon was a dear friend and Danielle performed in many of the shows he directed. She is honored to be a part of this reading and bring Nick's words to life that meant so much to him. Nick is still working from beyond to help others and bring awareness to his friend Sharon's case. She thanks everyone who has given of their time and energy to this project.

Frank Resta (Frankie) – Frank is respected businessman of many years in Franklin Township. Frank's awards and accolades start in 1983 and include Franklin Township Muscular Dystrophy Committee, United Way Star Award, Businessman of the Year Marconi Foundation. He volunteered for Franklin Township Bicentennial Committee and many more. His latest endeavor is following his passion for this unsolved case and making his acting debut at Villagers Theatre in Remembering Sharon.

David Thomas Hampson (Ensemble) - David returns to the Villager's Zaidi Theatre where he played his favorite role ever as Groom opposite his Bride, the lovely and talented Alison Byrne, (Mrs. Thor). His first production at the Villagers was as Anatoly in Chess on the Main Stage, directed by today's author and good friend, the late Nick Pelino, Jr. Other roles at Villagers, Don Quixote, also opposite Alison as Aldonza, the Narrator in Blood Brothers, also directed by Nick. More recently, Ebenezer Scrooge, (Suessified Christmas Carol), Captain Hook, Julian Marsh. In addition, David served on the Board of Trustees for over 10 years, serving 2 terms as President. He would like to thank Marie and Frank for keeping Nick's passion to find resolution for the Thor family alive, even after 41 years. Remember Sharon!

Mary-Kate Bozinta (Ensemble) - Mary-Kate is very honored to be part of this special performance. She wishes to thank Marie for asking her to be part of this memorable event, as well as the cast and crew for making this a meaningful experience. Special thanks to her family and friends for the support. Let's hope we can truly help and bring justice for Sharon.

Allison Schaechter (Ensemble) Credits include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Asher), Seussical (Ensemble), Much Ado About Nothing (Messenger/Sexton), Guys and Dolls (Mission Band), Annie (Mrs. Pugh/NY Ensemble), and Bye Bye Birdie (Adult Ensemble). Thank you to Marie, the rest of the cast and crew, and everyone else involved in making this event possible.

Richard Siegel (Man #1) is excited to make his Villagers debut! Previous roles include: The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (Leaf Coneybear and Carl Dad), Guys and Dolls (Liver Lips Louie), Annie (Jimmy Johnson and Judge Brandeis), The Mystery of Edwin Drood (Montague Pruitt) and Bye Bye Birdie (Ensemble). Richard has performed stand-up comedy at the Stress Factory. He teaches 6th grade English and likes to play tennis. He would like to thank his friends and family, the cast and crew, and his dog Marzipan.

Marian Braverman (Interpreter) – As a child, Marian entertained as a ventriloquist at school shows and small parties. After marrying husband Mel and raising a family, she worked at the Lakeside School for the Deaf in Mountain Lakes and took evening courses studying sign language at Union County College to become an interpreter eventually becoming an instructor herself in continuing education classes. She went on to receive her BFA in photography at William Paterson College. She began a party service and appeared at “TC” the Clown entertaining with magic, music and balloon twisting. As a retiree, she volunteers her time as a Park Guide at Grounds for Sculpture, volunteers teaching sign language and spends time with her husband, children, grandchildren and great granddaughter, Ava.

Tehya Matthews (Samantha) – Teyha is excited to join the talented cast of “Remembering Sharon” for her first performance at Villagers Theatre. She is 7 years old (almost 8) and has discovered her love of the stage by performing in NJRT’s High School Musical, Jr., this past Spring, as well as two summers of NJRT’s Theatre Camp at The Willows, and a recent role in her summer camp’s production of Spread Your Wings. Tehya dances at CenterStage and is a cheerleader for South Brunswick PAL. She loves her pets, her Nana and Pop Pop, and can’t wait to start 3rd Grade in September.

Madison Scheideler (Ballerina) - Madison earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Rutgers University and is a second-year graduate student in their EdM Dance Education program. She is a member of the National Honor Society for Dance Arts for demonstrating outstanding artistic merit, leadership, and academic achievement in the field of dance. Madison has trained in the Royal Academy of Dance certification program and danced with the World-Famous Donetsk Ballet Company for the Nutcracker. She has also worked with the Ananya Dance Theatre and choreographers such as Pam Tanowitz, Michelle Manzanales from Ballet Hispanico and the late Kim Elliott. She is also a choreographer and teacher and an International Talent Winner for three self-choreographed modern ballet solos. Madison aspires to perform in a dance company or on Broadway after graduation.

TO DONATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS

If you're watching a performance, we encourage you to leave additional cash in the buckets, on your way out. These funds will be donated direct to the Reward.

If you do not have cash and you'd still like to donate, please go to the Villagers "[DONATE](#)" page, but next to "Please select your option for contribution", select "**Sharon Thor**" in the drop-down. Your funds (minus credit card fees) will be donated direct to the Reward. This campaign ends on Sept 30th 2023.

www.villagerstheatre.org/donate

Arroror mi nina—Spanish Lullabye

Arrorró mi niña,
arrorró mi sol,
arrorró pedazo,
de mi corazón.

Este niña lindo
ya quiere dormir;
háganle la cuna
de rosa y jazmín.

Háganle la cama
en el toronjil,
y en la cabecera
pónganle un jazmín
que con su fragancia
me lo haga dormir.

Arrorró mi niña,
arrorró mi sol,
arrorró pedazo,
de mi corazón.

Esta leche linda
que le traigo aquí,
es para este niña
que se va a dormir.

Arrorró mi niña,
arrorró mi sol,
arrorró pedazo,
de mi corazón.

Este lindo niña
se quiere dormir...
cierra los ojitos
y los vuelve a abrir.

Arrorró mi niña,
arrorró mi sol,
duérmase pedazo,
de mi corazón.