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- [Public Art »](#)
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## Spotlight on 'It's Only a Play' directors and crew

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*It's Only a Play* is on stage now through August 26 at Lab Theater. Co-directed by Lucy Sundby and Scott Carpenter, the production stars Scott Carpenter, Danielle Channell, Aricka Shuck, Dave Chesebro, John David Streatly, Todd Lyman and Cameron Rogers.

Sundby is making her directorial debut ... although she humbly demurs that she is merely co-directing with Scott Carpenter. It makes no difference. It's always good when smart, passionate creative types like Sundby



expand and extend their skill sets by doing something new out of their comfort zone.

and

In case you're not familiar with Sundby's body of work, she wowed Lab Theater audiences with stellar performances as Lenny McGrath in *Crimes of the Heart* and Nicky in *The Smell of the Kill*. Her other theatrical credits include *Cabaret*, *The Altruists*, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *In The Next Room or The Vibrator Play*, *Picasso at The Lapine Agile*, *Mame*, *Nunsense*, *Steel Magnolias* and numerous productions for The Naples Players at The Sugden Theatre, where she also performed with Stage 2 Improv for 16 years.



“Theater people!

laughing till you cry!”

Am I right?” Sundby coaxes. “This quick-witted and hilarious show was fabulously cast and a joy to direct! It’s terribly enjoyable and will have you

The play is billed as an peek behind the curtain that provides an inside look at Broadway. No doubt! The play is a laugh riot for anyone possessing even a cursory connection to the topsy-turvy world of live theater. But it isn’t necessary to have any familiarity with theater or its various denizens to enjoy this fast-paced foray.



We’ve all grown up

pieces following withering criticisms leveled by parents, siblings, teachers, peers, employers and co-workers. So it’s easy to identify with the anxiety being experienced by producer Julia Budder (Danielle Channelle), director Sir Frank Finger (John Daniel Streaty), playwright Peter Austin (Dave Chesebro) and actors Virginia Noyes (Aricka Shuck) and James Wicker (Scott Carpenter) as they wait for a play’s opening night reviews. And we’ve all encountered folks with inflated egos, suffocating insecurity, rampant narcissism and

craving the approval and picking up the



addictive personalities. In fact, some of us may even possess one or more of these traits ourselves.

Be that as it may, part of the fun in watching the action unfold inheres in the unapologetic namedropping that occurs from start to finish compliments of playwright Terrence McNally's sprightly script. Hell, celebs such



as Oprah, Josh Groban, Ellen Degeneres and Ryan Seacrest are mentioned within minutes of the opening scene, which has Kelly Ripa heading for the emergency room after being bitten in the face by Julia Budder's dog, who can be heard snarling on the other side of her master bathroom door.

Scott Carpenter does dual duty as both the show's co-director and the snarky two-faced James Wicker. Carpenter has a B.A. in Theater from the William Paterson University and is a member of SAG/AFTA. Scott



has directed numerous productions, including *Same Time, Next Year*, *Jekyll & Hyde, the Musical*, *South Pacific*, *Mame*, and *Steel Magnolias*. His recent acting credits include *33 Variations* (for Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance), William Russell's campaign manager, Dick Jensen, in Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*, *Art* and *Cabaret* (all for Lab Theater). Other roles include George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and Roma in *Glengarry Glen Ross*.

Scott also had a hand in the sound design for the show, with the ineffable Rosie DeLeon handling lighting design and tech. An immense and well-deserved shout-out also goes to Stage Manager



Sage Meyers and Production Manager Terry Tinchler, as well as set designers and builders Michael Eyth, Abe Hernandez, Eren Sisk and Cameron Rogers. The latter truly conjured the opulence and elegance one would expect to find in a multi-million-dollar Manhattan townhouse.

*It's Only a Play* appeals for myriad reasons. But don't rely on anything a reviewer or theater critic tells you!



Go see the play and make up your own mind. (lol)

August 5, 2018.

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## About the Author



Tom Hall is both an amateur artist and aspiring novelist who writes art quest thrillers. He is in the final stages of completing his debut novel titled "Art Detective," a story that fictionalizes the discovery of the fabled billion-dollar Impressionist collection of Parisian art dealer Josse Bernheim-Jeune, thought by many to have perished during World War II when the collection's hiding place, Castle de Rastignac in southern France, was destroyed by the Wehrmacht in reprisal for attacks made by members of the Resistance operating in the area. A former tax attorney, Tom holds a bachelor's degree as well as both a juris doctorate and masters of laws in taxation from the University of Florida. Tom lives in Estero, Florida with his fiancée, Connie, and their four cats.

