

Barefoot in the Park

By Neil Simon

Directed by

Karen Lund

Associate directed by

Aaron Lamb

August 21 – September 6, 2026

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Welcome—or welcome back—to Harlequin! Tonight, we invite you into one of theatre's great laugh-out-loud love stories: a comedy about newlyweds, tight quarters, big personalities, and the wonderfully ridiculous things human beings do when we are trying to love each other well.

I love romantic comedies because they let us laugh at the most serious thing we do: love. There is something irresistible about watching two people full of hope, confidence, and absolutely no idea what they are getting themselves into.

A good love story gives us the whole human range: vulnerability, joy, sorrow, petty frustrations, and the just-plain-ridiculousness of trying to share a life with another

person. Humans are funny—and we are especially funny when we are figuring out love.

Neil Simon's classic comedy *Barefoot in the Park* drops us into the first breathless days of a marriage, when romance is high, patience is low, and every tiny problem feels like a test of destiny.

In this play, love has to survive stairs, neighbors, in-laws, expectations, exhaustion, and the great marital question of whether two very different people can build a life without driving each other completely mad.

Beginnings are exhilarating—and often hilarious. They are especially funny when two people are trying to launch something they hope will last a lifetime while still learning where the furniture goes, what each other needs, and how much compromise love actually requires.

When I think back to the beginning of my own marriage, I laugh at our youthful certainty and admire the courage it took to begin—to choose one another, again and again, even when life became less tidy than we imagined.

So this show is presented as a tribute to lovers young and old: to all the “foolish” people brave enough to love, laugh, stumble, forgive, and build something real and lasting.

Here’s to the young person who still lives in each of us, whatever age we are.

May tonight remind you of the joy, absurdity, courage, and comedy of choosing love—and may you laugh loudly along the way.

Enjoy the show,

Karen

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

American playwright and screenwriter Neil Simon (1927-2018) is widely regarded as one of the most successful, prolific and performed playwrights in theatre history. In addition to *Lost In Yonkers*, which won a Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize, his plays and musicals include *Come Blow Your Horn*, *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *The Odd Couple*, *Sweet Charity*, *The Star-Spangled Girl*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *The Gingerbread Lady*, *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Good Doctor*, *God's Favorite*, *California Suite*, *Chapter Two*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *I Ought to be in Pictures*, *Fools*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Biloxi Blues*, *The Odd Couple* (female version), *Broadway Bound*, *Rumors*, *Jake's Women*, *The Goodbye Girl*,

Laughter on the 23rd Floor, London Suite, Proposals, Hotel Suite, The Dinner Party, 45 Seconds from Broadway, Oscar and Felix, and Rose's Dilemma. In addition to the film adaptations he wrote of many of his plays, his screenplay credits include *After the Fox, The Out-Of-Towners, The Heartbreak Kid* (original 1973 version), *Murder by Death, The Cheap Detective, Seems Like Old Times, Only When I Laugh, Max Dugan Returns, The Slugger's Wife, The Marrying Man* and *The Odd Couple II*. Other motion pictures based on stage plays include *Come Blow Your Horn, Sweet Charity* and *The Star-Spangled Girl*. For television, Mr. Simon wrote series, teleplays and motion pictures, including *The Tallulah Bankhead Show, The Sid Caesar Show, The Phil Silvers Arrow Show, The Phil Silvers Show, The Garry Moore Show, The Trouble with People, ABC's Broadway Bound* and *Jake's Women*.

Books by Neil Simon include Rewrites, A Memoir, The Play Goes On, four omnibus collections of Neil Simon's plays (The Comedy of Neil Simon, The Collected Plays of Neil Simon, Vol. II, The Collected Plays of Neil Simon, Vol. 3, The Collected Plays of Neil Simon, Vol. 4) and *Lost In Yonkers* (screenplay). Mr. Simon received more Academy and Tony nominations than any other writer. Awards he received include the Pulitzer Prize for *Lost In Yonkers*, Emmy Awards for *The Sid Caesar Show* and *The Phil Silvers Show*, Tony Awards for *The Odd Couple*, *Biloxi Blues*, *Lost In Yonkers* and a special Tony Award For Overall Contribution To The Theatre. His nominations include Tony Award Nominations for *Little Me*, *Barefoot in the Park*, *Plaza Suite*, *Promises, Promises*, *The Last of the Red Hot Lovers*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, *Broadway Bound*, *Lost in Yonkers* and *The Goodbye Girl* (musical).

Other nominations include a Writers Guild Screen Award for *The Odd Couple* and *The Out-Of Towners*, a Writers Guild Laurel Award, an American Comedy Award for Lifetime Achievement and a Writers Guild Screen Award Nomination for *Barefoot in the Park*, as well as an Oscar Nomination for *The Odd Couple*, an Evening Standard Award, a Sam S. Shubert Foundation Award, Kennedy Center Honors, a UCLA Medal, a Peggy V. Helmerich Distinguished Author Award and a William Inge Theater Festival Award for Distinguished Achievement in the American Theater.

FEATURED GALLERY ARTIST RAVENNA BECK

Ravenna Beck is an Olympia, Washington–based artist working primarily in oil, acrylic, and mixed media. Her contemporary impressionistic and semi-abstract work explores the emotional undercurrents of everyday life through expressive color, layered surfaces, and symbolic imagery. She has exhibited throughout the Pacific Northwest and is an Olympia ArtSpace Alliance grant recipient. In addition to her studio practice, Beck is a meditation teacher, recovery advocate, government bureaucrat, and parent.

Artist's Statement: “I use textured oil and acrylic paints and a vibrant color palette to make intimate-feeling modern impressionistic and semi-abstract depictions of people, objects, and places that communicate the familiar

experiences of life's melodrama. I prefer the surfaces of my paintings to look like they've got a checkered past. Each piece begins with several layers of paint, creating unique scars and baggage that ultimately make for a more interesting final outcome. My reference photos typically come from ordinary moments that grab my attention, and I frequently photograph myself to work through figure poses. Making art is my practice of authenticity and audacity. I'm drawn to the impossible task of transforming inherently meaningless materials into something emotionally recognizable, trusting that public embarrassment is a small price to pay for making something honest."

Barefoot in the Park

By Neil Simon

Directed by Karen Lund

CAST

Corie Bratter.....Kate Anders

Paul Bratter.....Christian Bolduc

Ethel Banks.....Kim Holm

Victor Velasco.....Russ Holm

Telephone Repair Man.....Andy Gordon

Delivery Man.....Special Appearances as Announced

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....Karen Lund**

Associate Director.....Aaron Lamb**

Scenic & Sound Design.....Mark Lund

Costume Design.....Nanette Acosta

Lighting Design.....Mark Thomason

Wig Design.....Joyce Degenfelder

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager.....Ashley Winrod

Assistant Stage Manager.....Tommy McGee

Light/Sound Board Operator.....Blake Becker

Taproot Properties Manager.....Jaiden Clarke

Harlequin Properties Manager.....Dan Wolff

Wardrobe Manager.....Kenzie Stewart

TIME & PLACE: 1963. The top floor of a brownstone on East 48th Street, New York City

SHOW LENGTH: Two hours and 15 minutes with one 20-minute intermission

SPECIAL THANKS to Taproot Theatre Company

“Barefoot in the Park” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

www.concordtheatricals.com

**The Director and Associate Director are members of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, a national theatrical labor union

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CAST

Kate Anders (she/her) - *Corie Bratter*

Kate is simply delighted to return to the State Theater for *Barefoot in the Park*! Kate attended Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts in the acting BFA program. She was most recently seen as Lizzy in Kate Hamill's *Pride and Prejudice* (Harlequin Productions) and Alice Heminges in *The Book of Will* (South Puget Sound Theater Collective). She adores this story and hopes we can all take a bit of Corie's optimism and wonder with us as we go on our way. Thank you for supporting real live theater. For Papa.

Christian Bolduc (he/him) - *Paul Bratter*

Christian is over the moon to return to Harlequin and *Barefoot*, after closing a Seattle run of this show in the

spring! Recent work: *Barefoot in the Park* (Taproot Theatre); *The Foreigner*, *Cabaret*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Harlequin); Charley in *Merrily We Roll Along* (Secondstory Repertory); *Dracula* (Tacoma Arts Live); *Holiday Inn*, Danny Zuko in *Grease* (Tacoma Musical Playhouse); *Anastasia*, *Hello, Dolly!* (Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre). 2025 WA & PNW AACT Outstanding Actor Winner for TMP's *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Offstage Christian enjoys teaching, cooking, and is a friend to most coffee products. Tiktok/IG: @christian.boldly.

Kim Holm (she/her) - *Ethel Banks*

The first time on stage together at Harlequin, this marks Kim's 17th production with Russ since they first kissed and met as ingénues in *Something's Afoot* just 34 years ago. A

founding member of Theater Artists Olympia & Olympia Audition League, Kim has dabbled on the stages of 14 local theater groups where fave credits include Maureen in *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Barbara Ann/Wanda in *6 Women With Brain Death*, Rebecca in *Book of Will*, Reba in *Last Night at Ballyhoo*, Dog in *Goodnight Moon*, Leanne in *Cannibal! The Musical*, Daisy Mae in *Lil' Abner*, and Sister Mary Leo in *Nunsense*. Offstage, you'll find this native Olympian helping folks buy and sell real estate when she isn't at the dog park, parenting with panache or stuck in a chair with a black cat on her lap. Love to Max & Kinsley for letting Mom and Dad go play. Special thanks to Brian, Jana & Helen for the nod and Aaron & Karen for this opportunity.

Russ Holm (he/him) - *Victor Velasco*

Russ has appeared in over 50 Harlequin productions dating back to 1994, most recently as Monsieur Bouc in *Murder on the Orient Express* and Capulet/Ensemble in *Romeo & Juliet* (2025) and Sidney Bruhl in *Deathtrap* (2024). For Harlequin, he has played, among other roles: Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, Dr. Rank in *A Doll's House*, the title role in *Cymbeline*, Malvolio in the original *A Rock 'n' Roll Twelfth Night*, Big Daddy in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and Riff Raff in both productions of *The Rocky Horror Show*. Elsewhere some of his favorite roles include: the dual roles of Richard Burbage and William Jaggard in *The Book of Will* (SPSCC), Edmund in *King Lear*, El Gallo in *The Fantasticks* (Electric City Theatre), Charlie in *The Foreigner*, Hines in *The Pajama Game* (Abbey Players),

Kenickie in *Grease*, Arthur in *Camelot* (Summer Showcase), Mr. Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* (Capital Playhouse), Geppetto in *Pinocchio* (Olympia Family Theatre) and Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* (TAO). Russ is grateful for the opportunities to share stories on stage and looks forward to what lies ahead.

Andy Gordon (he/him) - *Telephone Repair Man*

An original company member, Andy is overjoyed to return to the Harlequin stage, where he played Roat in *Wait Until Dark* earlier this season. Favorite roles here include Estragon in *Waiting for Godot*, Sir Toby Belch in *A Rock and Roll Twelfth Night*, Byck in *Assassins* and Clark in *Lewis and Clark at the End of the World*. At other theaters: John Heminges in *The Book of Will* (SPSCC), Richard and Garnet in *Equivocation*, (Saint Martin's) and Lear in *King*

Lear (guest artist, Olympia School District). Directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Sylvia*, *Inspecting Carol* (Harlequin) and *Into the Woods* (Saint Martin's).

CREATIVE TEAM

Karen Lund** (she/her) - *Director*

Karen is thrilled to be making her Harlequin directing debut. Karen is the Producing Artistic Director of Taproot Theatre Company in Seattle, WA where she has been on staff for three decades. Taproot was voted the Seattle Times People's Choice Best of the Northwest for Theatre 2024, received the 2024 Gregory Award for Outstanding Performing Arts Organization, and the 2026 Seattle's Child Family Favorite Reader's Choice award for Day Camps/Classes: Performing Arts. Karen is an award-winning

stage and film director with well over 100 productions to her credit. Recent directing work includes Taproot's *Always Patsy Cline*, *Murder on the Links* and *Barefoot in the Park*, as well as *Brigadoon* for Village Theatre in Issaquah and Everett, WA. Karen has directed at theatres all across the country, is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Union (SDC), and a professional voiceover artist. Karen would like to thank her amazing family, Mark, Jake, and Hannah.

Aaron Lamb** (he/him) - *Associate Director*

Aaron is the Producing Artistic Director of Harlequin Productions. As Artistic Director, he has directed or music directed *The Foreigner*, *Wait Until Dark*, *RENT*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Is This A Room*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *Deathtrap*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Falsettos*, *Hundred Days*,

A Christmas Carol (2021 - 2024), *This Flat Earth*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *The Highest Tide*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol*, *Man of La Mancha*, *A Doll's House*, *Love and Information*, and *The 1940s Radio Hour*. In eleven seasons as an actor and guest director with Harlequin, he also directed *I Am My Own Wife*, *Three Days of Rain*, *Ruthless!*, *August: Osage County*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Time Stands Still*, *Middletown*, and *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*. As an actor, he most recently appeared in the 2021-2022 season as Jacob Marley in *A Christmas Carol*. Lamb has worked in Seattle for Village Theatre, Taproot Theatre, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and Seattle Shakespeare Company, and has worked regionally throughout the country. He holds an MFA in Acting from California State University,

Fullerton, and a BA from Washington State University, and is a member of the Actor's Equity Association.

Mark Lund (he/him) - *Scenic and Sound Design*

Mark Lund is delighted to make his Harlequin design debut. At Taproot Theatre, Mark recently designed for *Barefoot in the Park*, *Til We Have Faces*, *A Sherlock Carol*, *Murder on the Links*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, *The Book of Will*, *The Hello Girls*, and *Black Coffee*. Other design work includes Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-It Repertory Theatre, and multiple award-winning short films. He has voiced many regional and national projects for T-Mobile, The North Face, the NHL, FedEx, Amazon, Super Smash Bros., and Starfox as Falco Lombardi. Love to Karen, Hannah, and Jake.

Nanette Acosta (she/her) - *Costume Design*

Nanette is thrilled to make her Harlequin design debut!

Recent designs include *Brigadoon* (Village Theatre); *Barefoot in the Park*, *Murder on the Links*, *The Book of Will*, *The Hello Girls* (Taproot Theatre); and the world premiere of *Bob and Jean: A Love Story* (Zach Theatre).

For over 25 years, Nanette has been designing award-winning costumes for theatre and film across the country.

Her designs have been seen on stage in Austin, Seattle, Chicago, Los Angeles, St. Paul, Bloomington, and Charleston. She is also an Associate Professor of Practice and the Costume Production Director at The University of Texas in Austin.

Mark Thomason (he/him) - *Lighting Design*

Mark is a local lighting designer based in Tacoma and teaches technical theatre and design at Tacoma School of the Arts and occasionally at the University of Puget Sound, having spent most of the last 20 years as a lighting designer, production manager, and technical director; he also works with Zombie Orpheus Entertainment and much of his film work can be seen at www.ZombieOrpheus.com.

BA in Theatre Production from Bradley University.

Previously at Harlequin Productions: 20 previous shows including most recently: *Murder on the Orient Express*,

Sweeney Todd, *The Complete Works of William*

Shakespeare (abridged), *Falsettos*, *Fun Home*, *Murder for Two*, *Until the Flood*, *Noises Off*, *A Doll's House*, *Dry*

Powder, *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *My Name is Rachel Corrie*, *First Date*, and *The Last Five*

Years. Other recent designs include *Fairview* with

Empathos Theatre Company, *Puget Sound Revels* at the Rialto Theatre, and *Into The Woods* with UPS Opera. Love to Gail and Gabe.

Joyce Degenfelder (she/her) - *Wig Design*

Joyce is an award-winning hair and wig designer based in Seattle, Washington. With over four decades of experience in theatrical production, she is recognized as one of the region's most prolific wigmakers, sharing her love of creating with designers, performers and directors to fulfill their needs on stage. Her extensive career includes designing and handcrafting custom ventilating pieces for Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Opera, A Contemporary Theatre, Intiman theatre and numerous local companies. She was 45 years with Seattle Repertory Theatre as manager of wigs, making theatre has always

been her joy, working with amazing costume designers and exciting directors at Seattle Rep, Alaska Repertory Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, American Players Theatre, Pacific Northwest Ballet and 14 seasons with Seattle Opera.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Ashley Winrod (she/her) - *Stage Manager*

Ashley is ecstatic to return to Harlequin! Select stage management credits include *Wait Until Dark*, *POTUS*, *RENT*, *Is This a Room*, *A Christmas Carol* (2024, 2025), *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Pride and Prejudice* (Harlequin); *Footloose* (Central Theatre Ensemble), being awarded a certificate of merit from The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival; *A Christmas Carol...*

More or Less (Lakewood Playhouse); *Barefoot in the Park* (Taproot Theatre). She holds a BFA in Theatre Design and Production from Central Washington University. She would like to thank her wonderful friends and family for their continued love and support.

Tommy McGee (he/him) - *Assistant Stage Manager*

Tommy is ecstatic to be working for Harlequin once again.

Tommy has been working with Harlequin since 2016 as has been on the backstage of Harlequin doing everything from spotlight, to sound cues, to assistant stage

managing. When Tommy is not backstage at Harlequin, he can be found indulging in his hobbies of writing and creating culinary delights.

Jaiden Clark (he/him) - *Taproot Properties Master*

Jaiden is a prop, scenic, and sound designer and a proud Production Associate at Taproot Theatre. His recent design credits include prop designer for Taproot's Road Company productions, *Til We Have Faces*, and *Murder on the Links*, as well as scenic designer for *Ingvar! A Musical Furniture Saga* at Latitude Theatre and *Hall of Horror* at Dark Council Production.

Dan Wolff (he/him) - *Harlequin Properties Master*

Daniel comes from a background in practical design. He holds a degree in Wooden Furniture Design and a diploma in Fine Arts. His first job upon immigrating to the USA from Australia was as a wooden boat builder, and he still builds boats today. He's excited for his third season working with Harlequin Productions.

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