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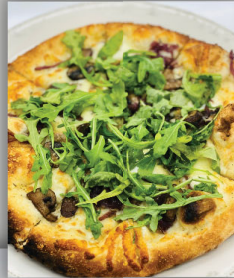
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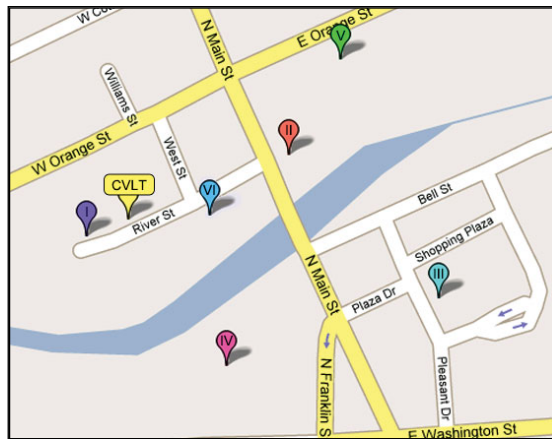
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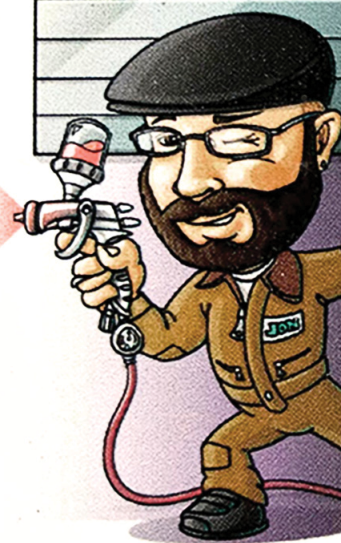
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Box Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

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1970

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THE Prom

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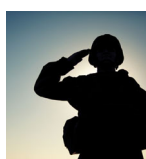
Fri., 4/12/24 - 8pm - Severance



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presents

1970

by

SCOTT LAX

Director

BRIAN WESTERLEY

Producer

CINDEE CATALANO-EDELMAN

Producer

JULIA WOLFF

Scenic Designer

TOM WEST

Stage Manager

JEANIE GAITHER

Stage Manager

ANDREW KARP

Assistant

LYDIA LAX

Assistant

CORA TERRION

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Lighting Operator

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JEAN HOOD

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STEVE M. SAVANYU

Set Construction

DALE HAMMEL

Set Construction

TOD WHITE

Poster Design

JAX JUAREZ

CAST of CHARACTERS

Casey Pedersen.....	KEENAN CAROSIELLI
Helen Kerrigan	ALISON MATAS SMITH
Charlie Kerrigan	BRETT HEIDINGER
Jim "Hairball" Morton	MATTHEW ANDRUS
Phil Rose	ALEX GEORGE
Ernestine Whirly.....	DONNA LONGFELLOW
Jennifer Treman	ERIN MOORE
Johnny Kenston	CORI'EN HARVEY
Wendy Tanaka	ABEGAIL ZEE
Officer Fernandez	BARRY MOSES



AUTHOR'S LETTER



Scott Lax
Author / Playwright

One late August evening in 1993, at sunset, while sitting in the meadow next to the late Robert Frost's writing cabin in Vermont's Green Mountains I was struck by the idea to write a

novel that began and ended in a meadow. A week later, walking down Broadway in Manhattan, a line popped into my mind. I ducked into a deli and wrote it down. It would become the last line of the novel. Later that night, at an Irish pub called Kennedy's on W. 57th St., I wrote down what would remain the first line of the novel. "All I need to do," I told a friend, "is fill them in and I'll have my first novel." Which is what I did.

The working title of my manuscript was "1970," but I would change it to *The Year That Trembled*, a story about war, but also about friendship, love, loss, and forgiveness, among a small group of friends, in the fictional village of Chestnut Falls, Ohio. The first edition was published in 1998.

Next, I was a producer of the movie version in 2002. In 2003, I adapted the novel as a high school play, which was produced that year and again in 2013, when the second edition of the novel was also published. I figured I'd had a pretty good run with this story about ordinary people in an extraordinary time.

Then, in early 2020, a world-shaking pandemic, along with jarring social strife, bore down on America. Inspired by the courage and resiliency of my family, school, students, and community, I realized that there were striking parallels between the Vietnam War era and the

brutal realities of our current times. Suddenly the story of *The Year That Trembled* seemed relevant again.

Beginning in March 2020, I began a complete rewrite of the high school play, this time for community and professional theatres. I cut scenes, fixed others, added two new scenes and a new character, and trimmed the cast from 24 to 10. I gave the new play the first title, *1970*.

Two years later, I contacted the one place I most wanted this new play to have its World Premiere, the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, in my beloved hometown. CVLT's answer was yes.

I am deeply appreciative of the of CVLT's hard-working board of directors, the theatre's amazing staff, *1970*'s producers, the talented actors, and the play's director, Brian Westerley. They have all brought this story to life. As well, I am grateful for the support of the Cleveland Institute of Art, where I teach. To my wife, Lydia, and son, Finn, my forever thanks, and love.

I dedicate this play to the 3,403,000 troops and personnel who served in Southeast Asia, of which 58,220 died and 153,303 were wounded in the Vietnam War; to the 2,646 Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA), and to the 1,579 unaccounted for. I also dedicate this play to those who have suffered or died from mental distress, Agent Orange, and other lingering war-related causes; to the untold number of people who lost parents, children, spouses, and friends.* The play is also dedicated to those killed and wounded at Kent State University on May 4, 1970, and at Jackson State College (now University) on May 15, 1970.

– Scott Lax, September 2023

*Sources: Dept. of Veterans Affairs, National Archives, CNN

Special Thanks to Alice Mullins

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WHO'S WHO

Theater Festival. His Cleveland designs have been seen at Blank Canvas, GLTG, BTOTS, CPT, Porthouse, Near West, Lake Erie College, OYES, and HBTI. He also served as Technical Director/Designer at Western Reserve Academy. NYC: Bently Meeker, The Lighting Syndicate, Playwrights Horizons, Barrow Street Theatre, NJ Shakespeare Festival, Fela! The Musical (Off-Broadway). International: *Bodies: The Exhibition*. *Go-To Shoe: Red Wings*.

TOD WHITE (Set Construction) is a CVLT Board member, has been involved with the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre for

several years. Tod is owner/operator of Bob White Associates, an electronic equipment manufacturer's representative in Chagrin Falls.

JULIA WOLFF (Producer) has served in various roles at CVLT for 27 seasons, on stage and off. In addition to her work as producer, props mistress, and set and lighting assistant to her husband Edmond, she served as President of the theater's Executive Board for several years and currently serves on the Production Board. Julia works for the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

SCOTT LAX (Playwright) is a playwright and award-winning novelist and journalist. He works as a full-time Senior Professor of Practice in Creative Writing at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Scott has presented for dozens of schools and organizations.

Scott graduated from Hiram College in English and studied Shakespeare's History Plays at the University of Cambridge, England. He is a recipient of a 1993 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Scholarship in Nonfiction, and the 1998 Sewanee Writers Conference Fellowship in Fiction. In 2002, Scott received a Certificate of Congratulations from the City of Cleveland, and in 2016 was inducted into the Chagrin Falls High School Achievement Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 1970.

The Denver Post wrote of Scott's first novel, *The Year That Trembled*, "A powerful coming-of-age story... captures the mood of the era and tells a strong tale of love, brotherly and otherwise," and named it one of 1998's "milestones in fiction." In 2002, Scott and Tyler Davidson produced the feature film version of *The Year That Trembled*, directed by Jay Craven, for which they were named Midwest Filmmakers of the Year by the 2002 Cleveland International Film Festival. Scott's second novel, *Vengeance Follows*, was called "A minor masterpiece of suspense and human nature," by the *Midwest Book Review*.

Scott adapted *The Year That Trembled* first as a high school play, which was produced at University School in 2003 and 2013, directed by Carol Jaffee Pribble. During the pandemic, Scott rewrote the play for community and professional theatres and retitled it *1970*, which makes its World Premiere at the Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, directed by Brian Westerley.

A member of the Authors Guild and the Dramatists Guild, Scott is also a professional drummer who has performed with many musicians around the country, including Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Bo Diddley. He lives in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, with his wife Lydia and son Finn.

WHO'S WHO

(in alphabetical order)

MATTHEW ANDRUS (Jim "Hairball" Morton) is very excited to make his debut appearance on the stage of CVLT. He has experience with acting from his time as a student at Cleveland State University where he learned techniques from professionals and garnered on-stage experience from productions staged by the college, including: *Skin of Our Teeth* (Mammoth/Hour of the Night), *Blithe Spirit* (Male Understudy), *Polaroid Stories* (G) along with experience in various roles and jobs in other organizations. This will be his first show since his recent graduation from CSU. He is honored to be a part of this premiere production.

KEENAN JOHN CAROSIELLI (Casey Pedersen) is eager to make his first appearance on the CVLT stage. Recently, Keenan had the pleasure of appearing in *Cyrano de Bergerac* as an ensemble member. He would like to thank August Scarpelli for giving him an opportunity at Western Reserve Playhouse in Bath. Keenan would not be here without his loved ones and would like to thank his brother, sister, Aunt Tee, grandmother, father, and mom for all of their love. Lastly, Keenan dedicates this performance to his grandfather, John Anthony Carosielli. "Older men declare the war. But it is the youth that must fight and die." — Herbert Hoover

ALEXANDER GEORGE (Phil Rose) is making his debut at CVLT. Alex has performed in several shows including *First Date* (Aaron, Ashtabula Art Center), *The Little Mermaid* (Prince Eric, Ashtabula Art Center), and *She Kills Monsters* (Chuck Biggs, Allegheny College). Alex lives in Ashtabula and would like to shout out the Ashtabula Arts Center for being a loving and supportive community. Alex would also like to shout out his friends, family, and girlfriend for helping him and supporting him during this play.

CORI'EN HARVEY (Johnny Kenston) is making his debut stage performance as 'Johnny Kenston' in *1970* at CVLT. His most recent work is a short film made in Detroit, Michigan called *Lottery* (Ben). He has also appeared in a commercial for 'Rigid' Pipe Inspection Camera Monitor (Power Tool User). He has accredited training from programs in TALENT INC. USA, Manakin Talent Agency and AMDA (American Musical and Dramatic Academy) NY/LA. Cori'en lives in Akron, OH and works as a commercial/residential mover. "Excelsior"

BRETT HEIDINGER (Charlie Kerrigan) is excited to be making his debut at CVLT. He was most recently seen as 'Budgie' in *Barbecuing Hamlet* and 'Pinocchio' in *Shrek the Musical*. Other credits: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio), *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Mortimer Brewster), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Snoopy), and *Boeing Boeing* (Robert Lambert). Brett would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support, and his grandfather for providing the initial "theatre spark."

DONNA RIZOR LONGFELLOW (Ernestine Whirly) is making her first appearance on the CVLT stage. Donna is 'all things Wolf Creek Players' in her hometown of Norton, Ohio since 2005. Other favorites over the years: *Annie* (Miss Hannigan, Goodyear Community Theater & Canton Players Guild), *Babes in Toyland* (Widow Piper, Goodyear), *Oliver* (Widow Corney, Canton Players Guild), *Gypsy* (Mama Rose, KATFISH Productions), *The Vagina Monologues* (The Flood, various venues). Donna works at UBS Financial Services in Akron, Ohio, and resides in Norton with musician husband, Tim, and "fur family" Uma, Peter, Lynn, Lucy, Onyx and Viola. Much love to her family, Tim and Gray!

ERIN MOORE (Jennifer Treman) is excited to be making her CVLT debut! Previous credits include: *The Elephant Man* (Nurse Snork et Al), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Harvey* (Myrtle Mae Simmons), *The Beverly Hillbillies* (Elle May), *The*



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WHO'S WHO

Comedy of Errors (Adriana), *And Then There Were None* (Vera), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* (Nina), *Murder on the Nile* (Louise), *Blithe Spirit* (Edith), *Life With Father* (Mary Skinner), *Charley's Aunt* (Amy), *August: Osage County* (Jean), as well as various staged readings and virtual performances. "Love and thanks to Alex and Peewee."

BARRY MOSES (Officer Fernandez) is honored to be back at CVLT, where he's appeared as 'Theo Maske' in *The Underpants* and as 'Quartet Villager/Count Dracula' in *Young Frankenstein*. Also, as 'Lt. Brannigan' and 'Matthew Harrison Brady' (with fabulous costar Brian Westerly), both at Happy Ending Lyrical Players, First Baptist Church. Nearly 20 years ago to the day, Barry's son Peter played the role of 'Casey' in University School's production of *1970's* earlier version, entitled "The Year that Trembled". Keeping the Moses-Lax-Moses connection, he's expecting Peter's two-year-old old son Charlie to be headlining Scott's off-Broadway production of *1970...* in the year 2043.

ALISON MATAS SMITH (Helen Kerrigan) is thrilled to make her first appearance on the CVLT stage! Favorite area credits include *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo, Carnation City Players and Dynamics Community Theater), *Bright Star* (Margo, Carnation City Players), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (Honey, Avenue Arts), and *The Crucible* (Elizabeth Proctor, Avenue Arts). Off stage, Alison is the director of communications for risk management advisory firm Schauer Group. She grew up in Kent and now lives in Jackson Township with her husband, Ryan, and their (perfect) dog, Kozmo. "Enjoy the show!"

ABEGAIL ZEE (Wendy Tanaka) is thrilled to be making her Chagrin Valley Little Theatre debut. She has appeared in film, television, commercial, and theater productions including her most recent regional theatre credits: *The Great Leap* at Cleveland Play House, *Aponibolinayen* in

the Sky at Talespinner Children's Theatre, Marilyn Bianchi Kids' Playwriting Festival at Dobama Theatre, and *Laws of Affection* at Tri-C. Her film credits include *Someday*, *Emerging*, and *Listen Closely*. Abegail would like to thank her family, Mike and Aidan, for their love and support.

PRODUCTION TEAM

CINDEE CATALANO-EDELMAN (Producer) started at CVLT as Props Mistress and worked her way up to Stage Manager, Producer, Actor (Grandma Georgina, *Willy Wonka*) and eventually Director. She has directed one-acts in *The 10-10 Festival* as well as *The Last Romance* and *The Price*. Cindee produced CVLT's collaborations with Chagrin Studio Orchestra and has been involved with CVLT's annual fundraiser, *Murder by the Falls*. She serves on the Production Board and Play Study Committee.

JEANIE GAITHER (Stage Manager) was raised in Cleveland Heights and had the opportunity to study theatre as a Curtain Puller at the Cleveland Playhouse. She studied theatre and English in college with the idea that she would become a teacher. However, finding a theatre job in the schools at that time was not possible. Luckily, she found a job teaching people with vision impairments. She continued in that field, earning a Masters in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling which gave her the opportunity to work with a variety of people with different skills and abilities. She is retired and has returned to the theatre to watch and learn. "Thank you!"

DALE HAMMEL (Set Construction) has extensive technical theater experience, having designed and built sets for over 200 productions throughout his career. When not doing sound contracting or other projects, Dale trains hunter and jumper horses at his barn in Pittsburgh.



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WHO'S WHO

JEAN HOOD (Properties Mistress) is returning to production staff for the third time at CVLT. She was a stage manager for *The Country House*, producer for *The Art of Murder*, and now props mistress for *1970*, all shows directed by Brian Westerley and with colleagues Cindee Edelman and Jeannie Gaither. Jean along with *1970* author Scott Lax and CVLT actor Don Edelman served as the members of the inaugural Chagrin Falls Arts Commission. Jean served on the board of directors of CVLT from 2004 - 2016. Jean thanks the CVLT family for all the great years of fun and entertainment.

ANDREW KARP (Stage Manager) is happy to be part of another production at CVLT, his self-proclaimed Home Theatre. Andrew has been part of several shows for CVLT's 93rd season and is excited to open up the 94th. Andrew has over 12 years of Technical Theatre experience and graduated from the Emerging Theatre Technologies program in college. Andrew was the Technical Director of the Hermosa Beach Community Theatre, CA before moving to Bainbridge with his amazing husband, Chris, five cats, and snake. "Thanks for supporting this cast and hope you enjoy the show!"

JACKLYN KRUYNE (Costume Mistress) is thankful to be costuming *1970* for the importance of the story it tells and for the fun era of clothing. Since 2011 she has costumed close to 60 productions at CVLT. She has wonderful memories of sharing her time at the theatre with her children, who were very involved with the Youth Theatre Program. Jackie loves the creative process of developing costumes for each character. She enjoys managing the wardrobe department and getting lost in the amazing vintage collection. As always, she is very thankful for her family, "Love U Jack, Julian, and Jade."

DRU MANGO (Lighting Operator) has been "squirring her way into CVLT's technical theater" for about a year now and is so happy to be here! She has worked on past shows such as CVLT's *Elf* and *Something Rotten*. She looks forward on working on future productions. "Thanks for seeing the show!"

STEVE M. SAVANYU (Set Construction) is CVLT's Executive Board VP, and has been involved with technical theater since the early 70s. Along with carpentry, he has extensive experience in sound and lighting. Currently he operates Buford T. Hedgehog Productions and can be seen at many events in Chagrin Falls.

CORA TERRION (Assistant) is a current Cleveland Institute of Art student and aspiring prop artist. This is the first show Cora has worked on and she is excited to get to see something she worked on come to life.

BRIAN WESTERLEY (Director) has lived and worked in Ohio, Los Angeles and New York. While in L.A., Brian directed and starred in the world premieres of *The Day I Said Goodbye & Shark Tank*, as well as writing and directing *Denial is Not a River in Egypt*. He most recently directed *Walking to Buchenwald* at convergence-continuum and *Big Fish* at HELP. He has also directed *Art of Murder* and *The Country House* at CVLT, *Spring Awakening* at Aurora, *La Cage aux Folles* at the Akron Civic, *Flames* at Clague, *No Exit* at Twin Masks, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike* at Avenue Arts, *Mauritius*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Over the River & through the Woods* at Stow Players, *Tuck Everlasting* at Carnation City Players, *Steel Magnolias* at Wolf Creek Players, *A Few Good Men* at Hudson Players and *bare* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* at Western Reserve Playhouse. He took Wolf Creek's *Other Desert Cities* and *Confessions from the Ladies Room* - along with *Thumbs* from Hudson Players - to the Regional and State OCTA competitions, winning 12 awards. Brian has won numerous other theatrical awards, including trophies for directing (*Aladdin*), Outstanding Supporting Actor (*Twilight of the Golds*) and three in a row as Outstanding Lead Actor (*Butterflies are Free*, *A Christmas Story & Peanutman*).

TOM WEST (Scenic Design) BFA '06 - Ohio University, MFA '16 - Kent State University From 16, Tom started working professionally with CVLT, Beck Center, and Great Lakes