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THE DANIEL GROUP PRODUCTION OF



TRIPLE ESPRESSO[®]

a highly caffeinated comedy

By Bill Arnold, Michael Pearce Donley
& Bob Stromberg
Directed by William Partlan

Park Square Theatre/Andy Boss Thrust Stage
November 9, 2018 - January 13, 2019

www.tripleespresso.com



A Highly Caffeinated History

“Getting together for pancakes is almost never a bad idea,” says Triple Espresso co-author Bill Arnold. Twenty-plus years ago, while having breakfast with Bob Stromberg and Michael Pearce Donley, the three decided it would be fun to write something they could perform together. As motivation to buckle down and write it, they booked a performance for a few weeks later.

Mike remembers that first show well: “My character, Hugh Butternut, began by walking through the audience greeting people with an over-wide smile. I think I even kissed a baby. I was scared to death.” Bob agrees: “The voice in the back of my head was screaming, ‘May Day! May Day! Grab the life vests. We’re going down!’”

But the audience was having a grand time. Mike remembers seeing people actually falling on the floor laughing. “I’d never seen a response like that before in my life!”

It seemed worth doing again. So the show was honed with the help of Director Bill Partlan at the Cricket Theatre in Minneapolis, and the next year, Dennis Babcock, former General Manager of the Guthrie Theater, came on board as Executive Producer. Over the years, additional actors were trained, allowing the show to be done in several cities at the same time. The show has now entertained over 2 million people in 60 cities in 6 countries in 3 languages!

We’re delighted to perform the show this season at Park Square Theatre in Saint Paul, where great shows and great audiences come together like pancakes and coffee. Simply delicious. Enjoy!



By Bill Arnold, Michael Pearce Donley & Bob Stromberg

“*Butternut & The Beast, Apus No. 1 in C Minor*,” and other original music
by Michael Pearce Donley

Directed by William Partlan*

Scenic/Costume Design Nayna Ramey
Lighting Design Michael Klaers
Technical Sound Design John Markiewicz
Sound Effects Design Rob Barrett, Scott Malchow
Stage Managers Benjamin Netzley, Joelle Coutu
Follow Spot Engineers Heather Jo Raiter, Antonia Perez

Cast

Hugh Butternut Michael Pearce Donley, DaneStauffer**
Bobby Bean Bob Stromberg, John Bush, Brian Kelly
Buzz Maxwell Bill Arnold, Patrick Albanese, Christopher Hart

Setting

Triple Espresso Coffeehouse, St. Paul, the year 2002

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

Executive Producer: Dennis Babcock Associate Producer: Rosalie Miller

Special Thanks to: Kenneth J. Abdo, Jeff Arundel, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres Scene Shop, Keith Harrison, Tim Nyberg, Robert “Eddie” Robinson, Ross D. Willits

*Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society, an independent labor union.

**The Actor appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

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Triple Espresso is produced by The Daniel Group, LLC, a provider of top-quality professional theater and other entertainment, whose mission is to provide excellent, wholesome productions that positively impact audiences. Current productions include *Triple Espresso—a highly caffeinated comedy*, Bob Stromberg’s *That Wonder Boy* and *To Begin With*, a play based on a little-known work of Charles Dickens.

For information on the shows or how you can be a part of this mission, contact Dennis Babcock at 612.874.1100 or dennis@danielgroupentertainment.com.

Authors/Cast

Bill Arnold (*Author/Buzz Maxwell*) started performing in comedy and magic clubs and has stayed busy emceeing and entertaining at corporate events and fundraisers all over the country. You can hear him at myfaithradio.com weekdays from 3-5 PM (Central) on *Afternoons with Bill Arnold* and as host of *Real Recovery*, Sunday nights at 5 PM. He enjoys photography and going to bed early. www.billarnoldcomedian.com

Michael Pearce Donley (*Author/Hugh Butternut*) owned the basement where *Triple Espresso* was written back in 1995. All these years (and a few basements) later, he still loves sharing the show with all the performers, crew, staff and audiences who've invested their hearts in it. Mike has also performed with Park Square Theatre (*2 Pianos 4 Hands*), Ten Thousand Things (*Man of La Mancha, Once On This Island*), Nautilus Music Theater, Bucket Brigade, Front Porch Theatre and others. He works full time at Eagle Brook Church, writing and producing creative media. Mike's married to theater director Joy Donley, and they have two children, Emma and Lewis; and he dedicates the show to the memory of Lew.

Bob Stromberg (*Author/Bobby Bean*) originated the character of Bobby Bean and played the part for *Triple Espresso's* first ten years. He also created the one-man show, *That Wonder Boy*, which premiered in 2008 at the Music Box Theatre in Minneapolis and later played Nelson Hall in Cheshire, CT, The Temple Theater in Des Moines, IA, Theater L'Homme Dieu in Alexandria, MN and the United Solo Theater Festival in NYC, where it won top honors. Bob is the creator of the online course *Mastering the Craft of Creativity* and the podcast *The Wide Eyed Creative*. He lives in Minnesota with his wife Judy, and tours extensively as a featured comedian. Throughout his career, it has been his joy to advocate for impoverished children through the ministry of Compassion International. Please visit www.compassion.com to learn more about this important work and please visit www.bobstromberg.com.

Patrick Albanese (*Buzz Maxwell*) has spent most of his life standing on a stage somewhere. A native Chicagoan, he could be seen regularly on WGN's popular *Bozo's Circus*. In Los Angeles, he was emcee at Hollywood's prestigious Magic Castle, the most successful private entertainment club in the world and has appeared in nearly 100 television commercials over the years. He also did a stint as the TV traffic reporter on KCCI Channel 8, and can be heard filling in on WHO Radio. Multiple cities and over 3,500 performances of *Triple Espresso* have given Patrick many wonderful experiences, but none better than meeting his future wife Janet during the show's initial run in Des Moines, where they now live with their two children, Elena (Ellie) 9 and Evan (EJ) 8.

John Bush (*Bobby Bean*) recently appeared on HULU's *Triumph's Election Special*, AXS TV's *Gotham Comedy Live*, and FOX NEWS Channel's *Red Eye with Tom Shillue*. As an actor he has been seen on TV's *Spin City, Law and Order: Special Victims Unit* and in the film *The Thomas Crown Affair*. John has performed stand-up comedy on HBO, Comedy Central, as well as sketches on *Late Night*

with Conan O'Brien. You can follow John and his comedy videos on Instagram: [@johnbushcomedy](https://www.instagram.com/johnbushcomedy). John tours as a stand-up comedian specializing in events for companies and association meetings. Learn more at: glberg.com/john_bush

Brian Kelly (*Bobby Bean*) is delighted to be back performing with *Triple Espresso* for what will be his 16th season. Brian is the owner and artistic director of The Mystery Cafe, the Twin Cities' original comedy whodunnit dinner theater. This season he's written 2 new shows: *I'll be Homicidal for Christmas*, and *Alma Murder - A Killer Class Reunion* (check them out at www.themysterycafe.com). Brian has also been seen in *Tony & Tina's Wedding, ComedySportz, Flanagan's Wake, The Doyle & Debbie Show*, and numerous TV and radio commercials. He served as Entertainment Director for the Saint Paul Saints from 2013 until 2018, and continues to act as on-field Master of Ceremonies.

Christopher Hart (*Buzz Maxwell*) is said to have the most famous right hand in Hollywood. His hand has appeared as "Thing," the enchanting disembodied hand in three *Addams Family* movies: *The Addams Family, Addams Family Values, and Addams Family Reunion*. Christopher then went on to be cast in the film *Idle Hands*, in which he played an evil disembodied hand on a rampage, expressing a whole new character with his hand. His sleight-of-hand magic has been featured in national television commercials for McDonalds, Honda, RCA, and others. He has twice been awarded "Stage Magician of the Year" by Hollywood's Magic Castle, and Princess Stephanie of Monaco personally awarded him the top prize at the "Grand Prix Magique" held in Monte Carlo. He has performed his magic all over the world, including in Japan, Spain, Germany, Paris, and Las Vegas, and often appears on international television.

Dane Stauffer (*Hugh Butternut*) recently played Scrooge in *Dolly Parton's Smokey Mountain Christmas Carol* at the Ordway, and Roger Caldwell in the IVEY award winning musical *Glensheen*, and made his Park Square debut in the one-man tour-de-force, *Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol*. He has toured Ireland in *Triple Espresso*, in which he also toured around the U.S. and performed for a decade in San Diego. He co-created the smash *When A Man Loves A Diva* at the Lab Theatre in Minneapolis. Dane garnered "Best Actor in a Comedy" from LA Stage Scene for *All in the Timing*, and from Broadway World for *Glensheen*. This year he's directed *Beauty and the Beast* and *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, now playing at Steppingstone Theatre for Youth. Coming up: *The Love Show* at the O'Shaughnessy, Valentines Day with Kevin Kling and company. Dane continues to teach empowerment through storytelling and theatre arts to children and adults in all settings. www.danestauffer.com.

Artistic Staff

William Partlan (Artistic Director) directs each presentation of *Triple Espresso* and collaborates with directors around the world to adapt the play to other languages and cultures. He is an Associate Professor and the Artistic Director and Head of Directing in the School of Film, Dance and Theatre at Arizona State University. He has directed over a hundred off-Broadway, regional and international premieres. Known for his work with new plays, he directed 44 plays at the O'Neill Center Playwrights' Conference, including premieres of August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Fences*. Bill premiered *All God's Dangers*, starring Cleavon Little, at Cricket Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, off-Broadway and for PBS' *American Playhouse*. His American premier production of Hugh Whitmore's *The Best of Friends* was produced off-Broadway by Michael Douglas. Regionally, he has directed at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Alliance Theatre, Florida Stage, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre, New Mexico Repertory Theatre, Philadelphia Festival Theatre, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Trinity Repertory Theatre, Virginia Stage and Yale Repertory Theatre. Bill was the Artistic Director of Cricket Theatre in Minneapolis for nine years, where he premiered over fifty new plays, including *Triple Espresso*.

Nayna Ramey (Scenic Design) has been part of *Triple Espresso's* artistic team from the very beginning. Her regional work also includes twenty seasons at American Players Theatre; resident designer at Chanhassen Theatres; other venues include Great Lakes Theatre Festival/Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Intiman Theatre; Indiana Repertory Theatre; Milwaukee Repertory Theatre; Kansas City Repertory Theatre; Shakespeare Santa Cruz; McKnight Theatre/St Paul; Historic Pantages Theatre/Minneapolis; History Theatre/St Paul; Mixed Blood Theatre/Minneapolis and Actors Theatre of St Paul.

Michael Klaers (Lighting Design) was the lighting designer for the original *Triple Espresso*—a show that was supposed to run eight weeks. A couple years later, he also became the Production Manager. In the rest of his life, he is a lighting designer for theatre and other events. His work has been seen at Idaho Shakespeare Festival, Florida Studio Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Great Lakes Theater Festival, Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Indiana Repertory Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, Madison Repertory Theatre, The Cricket Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre and many others.

John Markiewicz (Technical Sound Design) Performance audio, live broadcast, recording and installations specialist. He is the owner of Audio Logic Systems, located in Eden Prairie, MN, an installation and full service AV & Lighting production and rental company providing audio, video and lighting, set design and acoustic consulting services, as well as planning and consultation.

Benjamin Netzley (Stage Manager) received his B.A. in Theatre Arts from the University of Minnesota in 2003. He joined the *Triple Espresso* team in the fall of 2004. He also works with Hollywood Pyrotechnics as a display operator, setting

up and setting off professional fireworks displays for festivals, celebrations, and stage. In his spare time, he pursues interests in blacksmithing, photography, music and aviation.

Joelle Coutu (Stage Manager) has been working as a Stage Manager in Minneapolis for the last 19 years. She has been involved and traveled with *Triple Espresso* for 15 years. She has worked for local theater companies in Minneapolis including the Guthrie Theater, Theater in the Round, Rene Foss- *Around The World in a Bad Mood*, and many more. When not working you can find her running, reading, or being entertained by her kids.

Producers

Dennis Babcock (Executive Producer) is President/CEO of The Daniel Group, which produces *Triple Espresso*, *To Begin With* and *That Wonder Boy*. His career is a story bursting with fascinating characters he's met or worked with, from a princess of Monaco, to the Queen of England, to the family of Charles Dickens, to a TV icon with pointy ears. He began as an actor at The Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, but soon turned to producing, becoming the Special Events Producer, and later, after a stint as Managing Director of the Pittsburgh Public Theater, returning to the Guthrie as General Manager. In 1986 he formed PalmTree Productions, Inc. which produced *Vincent*, with Leonard Nimoy, and *Grandma Moses—An American Primitive*, with Cloris Leachman. He then served as President/CEO of Christmas Carol, Inc., producing Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in theaters across America, with various celebrities in the role of Scrooge. Since 1996, Dennis has produced *Triple Espresso* in 50 plus cities in the United States and six foreign countries (including translations into German and Flemish). He encouraged Bob Stromberg to write the award-winning *That Wonder Boy*, and he commissioned Jeffrey Hatcher to write *To Begin With*, inspired by a little-known work of Charles Dickens. Dennis has served on the Boards of the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon and Media Fellowship International, a Christian ministry serving professionals in the media and entertainment industries. He loves to teach students at the University of Northwestern - St. Paul about producing, regaling them with stories from the "real" world.

Rosalie Miller (Associate Producer) came to theater by way of radio, where she worked for eight years on the original production of Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. While working with Mr. Keillor, she produced the recording *Prairie Home Comedy* and the Grammy-nominated *More News From Lake Wobegon*. She later produced *The Cedar Social*, an award-winning regional cable television variety show. She served in multiple positions on the staff of the renowned Dale Warland Singers and also of Christmas Carol, Inc., producer of a touring production of (you guessed it) *A Christmas Carol*. Rosalie joined the staff of *Triple Espresso*—a highly caffeinated comedy in its early days. She also works with the Daniel Group productions of *That Wonder Boy* and *To Begin With*. She has the joy of working with wonderful actors, writers, directors, designers, crews and staff, ensuring that everyone is communicating, schedules are meshing, and all unwanted fires are being promptly extinguished. Rosalie doesn't drink coffee, but she loves *Triple Espresso*.