



**A Note From RTG Director  
Doug Instenes**

One of the things I love about the Racine Theatre Guild is the variety of shows we present. While this past summer we were enjoying the music of Patsy Cline, now we travel to Paris to visit the apartment of a man who thinks he is clever, coordinating three finances at once.

A classical farce, with multiple actors running in and out of doors on stage, is a tried and true laughter-generating comic machine. Think of *Lend Me a Tenor* last season, or even *Don't Dress for Dinner*, another farce by Marc Camoletti, which we presented in 1997 and was one of the earliest plays I directed for the RTG. Its main purpose is to generate laughter, and who doesn't need that these days? I think everyone will enjoy the comedy in *Boeing Boeing*, seeing Bernard's well-laid plans come undone.

I get excited about each new season, and am especially grateful for the many volunteers who keep the RTG going, now in its impressive 80th season. With our 80th birthday comes a exciting new project, the Signature Spotlight Concert Series. Rob Kroes, who you have seen many times on stage, now takes on the role of director. He has three concert planned with some amazing singers. These concerts are one night only, so get your tickets early.

We hope you will come to *Boeing Boeing* for a good laugh, and return all season long, for other musicals and comedies. There still is time to become a season ticket holder, and you can always use Flex Pass tickets for just the shows you want. Come join our theatre family and help us celebrate Season 80.

# CALLBOARD

racine theatre guild **September 2017**

## *Boeing Boeing* Opens September 15

A wildly funny farce opens the 80th season of the Racine Theatre Guild, when *Boeing Boeing* lands on the stage on September 15 and runs three weekends through October 1. The comedy, written by French playwright Marc Camoletti in 1962, was translated into English by Beverly Cross and Francis Evans. A huge hit, it ran for seven years in London in the 60s. It was revived in 2007, again impressing the British public and critics alike. It opened on Broadway in 2008 to great success, winning two Tony Awards, one for Best Revival and one for best actor.

The play is set in Bernard's flat in Paris, near Orly Airport. He is an American playboy, living the life, enjoying being engaged to his three girlfriends, each an air hostess for a different airline. Bernard keeps to a strict timetable, so that one arrives while the others are on the job, flying elsewhere, and the three women never meet. The women are Gloria, the American, who works for TWA; the German, Gretchen, who works for Lufthansa; and Italian Gabriella with Al Italia. Bernard's surly housekeeper, Berthe, helps to keep the ruse going, cooking different foods for each woman.

Things get interesting when Bernard's friend Robert from Wisconsin shows up, and he is amazed and skeptical about how one man can juggle the three women. "In Wisconsin, things are quieter, much quieter." Bernard assures him that it is all mathematical and well organized, living "in a perfect example of international romantic bliss." The comic complications arrive when a faster airplane and weather prob-

Continued on page 4

# Boeing Boeing

Written by

**Marc Camoletti**

Translated by **Beverly Cross**  
and **Francis Evans**

### Cast

Bernard ..... **Matt Specht**  
Robert ..... **Eric Welch**  
Berthe ..... **Laura McDonald**  
Gloria ..... **Megan Seager**  
Gabriella ..... **Julia Jaskulske**  
Gretchen ..... **Katie Kowbel**

### Crew

Director ..... **Amber Smith**  
Set Design ..... **Lizz Otto-Cramer**  
Tech. Director ..... **Chris Reinhardt**  
PSM/Cost. Design ..... **Bob Benson**  
Stage Mgr. .... **Allison Kasprovich**  
Asst. Stage Mgrs. .... **Ericka Wade**  
**Robbyn Wilks**  
Wardrobe ..... **Lauren Haumersen,**  
**Mary Jo Maheras**  
Light Design ..... **Brian Schalk**  
Light Tech. .... **Mary Jean Clark**  
Sound Des./Tech. . . **Davidson Kane**  
Props ..... **Jill Dickert, Lori Russ**  
Hair/Makeup ..... **Eric Welch**

## Sept./Oct. Production Calendar - *Boeing Boeing*

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1						

FRIDAY, Sept. 15	7:30 pm
SATURDAY, Sept. 16	7:30 pm
SUNDAY, Sept. 17	2:00 pm
FRIDAY, Sept. 22	7:30 pm
SATURDAY, Sept. 23	2:00 & 7:30 pm
SUNDAY, Sept. 24	2:00 & 7:00 pm
THURSDAY, Sept. 28	7:00 pm
FRIDAY, Sept. 29	7:30 pm
SATURDAY, Sept. 30	2:00 & 7:30 pm
SUNDAY, Oct. 1	2:00 pm

## Welcome to the new *Signature Spotlight Concert Series*

Rob Kroes, active RTG volunteer and music director at Union Grove High School, is heading a new performance series at the Racine Theatre Guild, called the Signature Spotlight Concert Series. It will be a series of three concerts at the RTG, featuring adult singers and one teenager, singing songs around a theme, in a cabaret or musical revue style.

"I am really enthusiastic about this new way to showcase the singers we have in our area," Rob says. "Many people have wonderful singing voices but can't appear in an RTG musical, either because of the time commitment or the demands of the acting as well as the singing. This series will pull those people onto our stage for three fabulous one-time-only concerts. Each one will have a theme, with the first one October 15, a Sunday, at 2:00, featuring popular cinema songs, called 'Let's Go to the Movies.' We've had successful auditions and are forming a great group of talented singers. We'll have voice coaching and



a limited number of rehearsals before giving each Spotlight concert."

A pianist will accompany the singers, and the actors will be either in costume or evening dress, reflecting a very upscale presentation of the songs. Rob plans a variety of songs and styles for each concert, sometimes featuring soloists, duets, trios, and full chorale groups. Each concert will showcase one high school singer, joining in with the adult singers, and will also feature a choir. The Union Grove High School choir will display its talents in the October 15 concert.

"I'm so excited to highlight these singers with such talent," Rob says. "We hope audiences will be thrilled with the variety and ability of the singers and the material at each concert."

Tickets for the Spotlight Series are available at the RTG box office. For further information or to buy tickets, call 262-633-4218 or check the web site at [racinetheatre.org](http://racinetheatre.org).

## Signature SPOTLIGHT Concert Series

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15  
2PM

*Let's Go to  
the Movies*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31  
2PM

*80 Years of Song*

New Year's Celebration  
9PM

Concert with champagne,  
sparkling juice, hor d'oeuvres,  
music, and dancing

SUNDAY, APRIL 22  
2PM

*An Evening with  
Rodgers and  
Hammerstein*

2PM CONCERTS  
\$15 Adults  
\$13 Seniors & Students

NEW YEAR'S CONCERT  
\$30 Adults, \$25 Seniors,  
& \$15 Students

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## Getting to Know Guest Director, Amber Smith

Amber Smith, a Milwaukee area actress and director, is thrilled to be directing *Boeing, Boeing* at the Racine Theatre Guild. She was in the cast, playing Gabriella, when the show was part of the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's season in 2015.

"I really love this show," Amber says. "It has no serious message, but is totally silly, a little bit over the top. It is humor for the sake of humor, and I think the audiences can come and laugh until their sides hurt and have a totally enjoyable time."

Amber is happy to be working with the volunteers in cast and crew at the RTG. A native of Racine, she has appeared in *Godspell*, *Scrooge*, and *Chicago* on our stage. "I am so impressed with all of the volunteers here," she says. "Everyone is so excited and prepared and bonding into a tight-knit group. They are so invested in making the best theatre possible, and to present a top-quality production. Doug nurtures that family feeling, which is so unique to community theatre, not always found in professional organizations."

One of the things Amber likes about *Boeing Boeing* is that since it was written and set in the 1960s, it allows a chance to poke a little fun at the stereotypes of the time. "It's really fun to look at what was thought as normal back then, from the ethnicities to the glorifying of the job of being a flight attendant, or what was called 'air hostess' back then. The physical comedy is something I am treating like choreography, with precise movements of each actor and each entrance on and off stage. The cast is having great fun in mastering that part of the humor. One of the purposes of theatre is to entertain, and that is what this play is all about – laughter, pure and simple. I think we need more of that at this time!"



## RTG Honors Volunteers

The banquet celebrating the end of Season 79 was held June 16, and all RTG volunteers were invited. RTG board vice president Bob Benson served as the host, and he kicked off welcoming the guests with a version of a song from *Joseph*, with new lyrics about the Theatre Guild. Board President Steen Sanderhoff also welcomed the group.

Awards were given for volunteers reaching milestones in their volunteering, with 20-year volunteers being **Russ Blaha** and **Kate Potter-Barrow**. Those who have volunteered for the RTG for 30 years received plaques, and those included **Ron Halvorsen**, **Fran Maccanelli**, and **Jay Warner**. Ron was the only one able to attend the banquet, and he spoke of his early years volunteering, playing the father of Mona Lewis in *Summer and Smoke* in 1988. Later he played Mona's love interest in *Mixed Emotions* (2006) and *Be My Baby* (2013). A 2004 winner of the Maccanelli Award, Ron has devoted much time in many positions over the years to the RTG, both on stage and off.

### Volunteer of the Year

#### Mike Kishline

Recipient of last year's Maccanelli Award, Frank Russ, presented the award to this year's winner, Mike Kishline. The Award honors a volunteer who in the past season has devoted time to the RTG in a variety of ways. Extremely honored and overcome with emotion, Mike thanked the group, and called the RTG volunteers his "extended family."

Mike's varied volunteering through the 79th season included coordinating usher crews and ushering for the Comedy Tonight series, working opening night receptions, helping with the annual clean-up day and attending nearly every strike. (These activities Mike shared with his wife Rebecca.) Mike was seen as the evil dentist Orin Scrivello in *Little Shop of Horrors*; served as PSM and assistant to the lighting designer for *Kitchen Witches*; appeared in the Racine Children's Theatre's *Let Down Your Hair, Rapunzel*; played the Park Keeper,

Von Hussler and was in the ensemble for *Mary Poppins*; and played about 20 different characters in *The Illiad*, *The Odyssey* and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*.



"I have always admired imagination and story-telling," Mike says, "and theater is a wonderful medium to explore both. Being able to embark on that exploration with such an immensely and diversely talented group of people who genuinely love one another has been a gift for the last 10 years and one I will continue to cherish for years to come."

Mike credited his wife Rebecca at the banquet, as a helper, fellow volunteer and actress. He said that being part of the RTG family would help to prepare him for fatherhood. He said receiving the Maccanelli Award was a great honor, and it was humbling for him to stand among the past winners, many of whom have become close friends.

### State of the Union

Doug Instenes, Managing/Artistic Director of the RTG, gave a talk about the state of the RTG and what this organization and group of volunteers meant to him and to the community. He said he was thinking of history a lot, with the remounting of *Mary Poppins*, *Lend Me a Tenor* and *Joseph*, all big hits from the past. In addition, he went on the RTG trip to see *Hamilton*. In that show, they ask the question "Who will tell your story."

"As I get older I seem to tell more stories," Doug said. "I have become the 'old timer' talking about the Theatre Guild's history and volunteers. And it occurs to me that I've been able to share many of your joys and

sorrows. You have become important to the RTG and have allowed me to become part of your lives.

"It's the people who make this place work. In theatre we tell stories, to the audience and to each other. I will continue to tell everyone what an amazing group of people you are and how proud I am to be part of this organization.

"So let's continue to tell the stories, on stage and about the people who have made the RTG such a wonderful place."

### In Memoriam

A slide show tribute honored a couple of RTG volunteers who passed away this past year: **Cindy David** and **Dick (Tink) Cyenas**. Cindy was a board member and backstage volunteer, and Dick's claim to fame was running the Tinkerbell light for *Peter Pan*. Doug mentioned that in the stories we tell, we will pass on memories of these wonderful volunteers to the next generations.



2017 - 2018 Season

Sponsored by



A FAMILY COMPANY

**Curious George**

October 6, 7, & 8 2017

**Ever After**

November 10, 11, 12, 2017

**Caps For Sale**

February 2, 3, 4, 2018

**Peter Pan**

March 16, 17, 18, 2018

**Season Ticket \$18**  
or [www.racinetheatre.org](http://www.racinetheatre.org)

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2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine, WI 53404  
**Box Office 262-633-4218**  
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to read the **Callboard** online.

Continued from page 1

lems throw the airline schedules into chaos. How will Bernard handle the three women arriving at his flat at the same time? Will confused, yet supportive, Robert help or hinder the plans? Since it is a farce, the set has multiple doors, and with split-second timing, the traffic on and off stage keeps a flying pace.

A 2008 New York Times review said of the show, "It soars right out of its time zone and into some unpolluted stratosphere of classic physical comedy... Cast members cut loose like preschoolers on the playground of their dreams."

A 2015 production of *Boeing Boeing* was presented by the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel critic wrote, "It is among the funniest plays I've seen anywhere this year... a delightful and hilarious production."

If what you need is a few hours of total laughter from a fast-moving farce, then *Boeing Boeing* is the comedy for you. It is interesting to note that Mark Rylance, an esteemed British actor known for his work with Shakespeare and the classics, was born in Wisconsin, and that he won a Tony for this modern farce. His enjoyment in the role of Robert was obvious, and he played it both in London and New York.

Be sure to get your tickets early for *Boeing Boeing*, running September 15 through October 1. Call the box office at 633-4218 to order tickets or for further information. Or visit the RTG web site at [racinetheatre.org](http://racinetheatre.org). Come join in the laughter!

RACINE THEATRE GUILD  
**ANNOUNCING  
2017 - 2018  
SEASON**  
**SEASON TICKETS  
&  
FLEX PASSES  
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**Auditions for  
Vanya Sonia Masha and Spike**  
**7 pm, Nov. 6 & 7**  
This comedy by Christopher Durang has roles for: 2 Men;  
4 Women. Auditions are held in the RTG lobby and will be  
readings from the script. Scripts can be checked out from the  
box office. Performances are weekends. Jan 12 - Jan 28, 2018.