

There will be a brief 15-minute intermission after Act I.



Theatre renovations generously supported through a grant award from Erie County.

Sponsored by:

Frank J. Todaro

Erie County Legislator



Inclusive Theater of WNY (ITOWNY) is a performing and visual arts company dedicated to advancing artists at all levels including artists with disabilities and addressing misconceptions that exist of people from diverse backgrounds.

Inclusive Theater of WNY in collaboration with St. Mary's High School, proudly presents

Tom Griffin's
The Boys Next Door



starring

Steven Bench as Norman Dan Barone as Barry Dallas Taylor as Lucien
Bob Bozek as Arnold Jason Gonsier as Jack Penny Striker as Sheila

Tony Shannon as Mr. Klemper

Stacy Kowal as "The Women" Bill Baldwin as "The Men"

Directed by Matt Boyle

Produced by Inclusive Theater of WNY in collaboration with St. Mary's High School

Performance Dates

APRIL 13th, 14th, 15th, 21st and 22nd 7:30pm 16th and 23rd 2pm

St. Mary's High School 142 Laverack Ave. Lancaster



TICKETS (\$10 - \$15) AVAILABLE AT
ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL
<http://inclusivetheaterofwny.com>

POSTER CREATED BY RICK MANZONE

Director's Note

The 2 keys to successfully directing a play are: choosing a great play and casting it well. I think I have done both. Casting, in my mind, is more than 90% of the job of directing. This ensemble cast is one of the best casts I have ever had the pleasure of collaborating with!

You can't however skip the first step; namely choosing a great play. Tom Griffin wrote the Boys Next Door (TBND) in the late 1980's. In an interview once, Mr. Griffin said, "I write serious plays that are funny." TBND is a well-written, funny, poignant, heart-warming, and heart-breaking, important play. I think Tom Griffin would be greatly saddened, that over thirty years since his play had its world premiere, the problems that the play addresses, we as a society are still dealing with in our treatment of the mentally challenged.

TBND deals with the fundamental human rights of the mentally challenged. TBND is the story of four housemates living in a group home and the increasingly burned-out social worker who cares for them. Three of the housemates (Arnold, Lucien and Norman) are mentally challenged to varying degrees and the fourth (Barry) is schizophrenic. They ARE a family. They don't always get along or like each other, but they always love and care for each other.

The play is a series of vignettes that will have you laughing at one moment and crying tears of sadness and compassion the next. Hopefully you'll leave the theater with a new understanding of the plight of mentally challenged people in our society.

No spoilers here! I'll let the playwright tell the men's stories through our actors' performances.

Here's Norman to invite you into their home:

"Hello, my name is Norman Bulansky. Welcome to my home. Won't you take a seat?"

Matt Boyle, Director

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us July 14-16, 2023 at St. Mary's High School
(142 Laverack Ave, Lancaster, NY 14086) for *Shakespeare in the Parking Lot* -

12th Night. More information coming soon at

www.inclusivetheaterofwny.com.

Cast Of Performers

*Cast Bios and Photos Can Be Found Online
www.inclusivetheaterofwny.com*

Bob Bozek – Arnold Wiggins

Steven Bench – Norman Bulansky

Dan Barone – Barry Klemper

Dallas Taylor – Lucien P. Smith

Jason Gonser – Jack Palmer

Penny Striker – Sheila

Tony Shannon – Mr. Klemper

Stacy Kowal – Mrs. Fremus/Mrs. Warren/Clara

Bill Baldwin - Mr. Hedges/Mr. Corbin/Senator Clarke

Directed by Matt Boyle

Produced by Inclusive Theater of WNY, in collaboration with St. Mary's High School, Lancaster

Production Assistant - Brennan Storey

Stage Manager/Props – Jessica Levesque

Special Thanks to:

Mark Tramont

Daniel Rosati

Kevin Kujawa

Tom Durham

Rick Manzone

WBFO

The Boys Next Door is presented through special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service. 440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016; Phone: 212-683-8960; Fax: 212-213-1539; www.Dramatists.com



Thanks to Paula's Donuts for the t-shirt and Norman's donut boxes!