

*Footlight Players, Inc.*  
Presents

# ***Rigoletto***

by  
Giuseppe Verdi



Musical Preparation by **Tamara Cashour**  
Directed by **Nathaniel Green**

## **PERFORMANCES**

Fri. March 2 at 7:30PM      Sat. March 3 at 7:30PM  
Fri. March 9 at 7:30 PM      Sat. March 10 at 7:30PM  
Fri. March 16 at 7:30 PM      Sat. March 17 at 7:30 PM

**The Church of The Ascension, Rockville Centre**  
**-2012-**

Footlight Players, Inc.  
118 West Blvd., East Rockaway, NY 11518  
NATHANIEL GREEN, *Artistic Director*  
516-599-8342

*Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi  
CAST (in order of appearance)

Salvatore Cappellino.....The Duke of Mantua  
Georgios Argeratos.....Borsa, a courtier  
Linda Tagliaferro.....The Countess of Ceprano  
Nathaniel Green.....Rigoletto, the buffoon of the Duke  
Linda Byrne.....Marullo, a knight  
Bernie Genzer.....The Count of Ceprano  
Eric Keller.....The Count of Monterone  
Eric Keller.....Sparafucile, assassin  
Gina Haver.....Gilda, daughter of Rigoletto  
Linda Byrne.....Giovanna, maid to Gilda  
Lydia Paulsen.....Courtier  
Linda Tagliaferro.....Page to the Duchess  
Alexandra Woodruff.....Maddalena, sister of Sparafucile

*Intermission after Second Act.*

Artistic director, Set design and Stage director.....Nathaniel Green  
Lighting.....Joe Carly  
Typesetting and Graphics.....Christina Bruno  
Making of Rigoletto's costume.....Lydia Paulsen  
Help with Set, publicity, finances.....William Cooper  
Help with Set.....Joey Bryant

*Mr. Green wishes to thank the Vestry, Father Herrick & all who helped mount this production.*

**Act I. The Renaissance court of the Duke of Mantua.** Rigoletto, who is deformed, is the Duke's jester. Monterone, the father of a young girl, enters denouncing the Duke for having seduced her. Rigoletto, normally a good man, goes too far in mocking Monterone, who curses him and the Duke. Scene 2, a street in front of Rigoletto's house and garden. Rigoletto meets an assassin, who offers to do away with an enemy. Rigoletto says *not now*. He muses on the evil at Court. His young daughter Gilda greets him, who he has kept very sheltered and pure. His emotions with her and mixture of love and his fear of her getting out and corrupted. The Duke gets in by bribing the housemaid Giovanna. At first Gilda is terribly frightened, but when she realizes he is the young man she had admired at church, she falls in love with him. She then sings a beautiful love song, "Caro Nome". The courtiers, who believe that Gilda is Rigoletto's lover, arrive to abduct her. When Rigoletto discovers she is missing, he cries desperately, "the curse!"

**Act II, the court.** The Duke who is a libertine, surprises us by saying that he is almost in love with Gilda. The Courtiers announce that they have abducted her, whereupon the Duke leaves (we learn later) to rape her. Rigoletto arrives, begging for his daughter. The courtiers, who hate him, throw him to the floor. Suddenly Gilda runs into the room in a nightshirt, and Rigoletto orders everyone out. In a moving duet, he says to cry, and let the tears fall on his heart. Suddenly Monterone enters and says with great irony for the Duke to live on happily, since his curse did no good. As he is lead off Rigoletto says, "no you are wrong, you shall be avenged. Gilda pleads with him to do nothing to the Duke.

**Act III. The very run down shack of Sparafucile and his gypsy sister Maddalena.** The Duke sings his aria, "La donna e mobile," woman is fickle. The Duke starts flirting with the attractive Maddalena. Rigoletto and Gilda join in (looking through a hole in the wall) singing the famous quartet. Gilda is heartbroken to see the Duke with another woman, but she still loves him. Rigoletto swears vengeance on the duke. Gilda disobeys her father and comes back to Sparafucile's place, having decided to substitute herself for the Duke, whom Rigoletto had paid Sparafucile to assassinate. Rigoletto comes back to get the dead Duke, when he discovers it is his daughter! The curse has been fulfilled.

**WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST:** **GEORGIOS ARGERATOS** has performed in the New York area as a member of Opera Manhattan's Artist development program and he also participates in various productions of Regina Opera, Capital Heights Lyric Opera, Amore Opera, West Side Opera Society and Dell'Arte Opera. He has also prepared and performed many leading and character roles throughout his career. Some of them are: Monostatos in Zauberfloete, Gastone in La Traviata, Macheath in The Beggar's Opera, Borsa in Rigoletto, Beppe in Pagliacci, Cassio in Otello, Remendado in Carmen, Faust in Gounod's Faust, Duke in Rigoletto, Rodolfo in La Boheme. Georgios also teach music in NYC from 2008 at St. Nicholas School in Bayside..

**LINDA BYRNE** is thrilled to be making her opera soloist debut in this production! She began her training by accident three years ago and has since sung with the St. Stephen's Choir in Port Washington, the Christ Church Festival Chorus in Oyster Bay and in solo recitals. Most recently Linda performed in *Tosca* and *Don Pasquale* with the North Shore Opera Festival. She gives great thanks to Nate and Tamara for their support and faith in her, and big love to Eddie and Laura, who know just why!

**SALVATORE CAPPELLINO**, Tenor, began singing at an early age, joining his school chorus in the fifth grade. He sang in chorus through the end of High School, where he was also part of various ensembles. He continued into college as a member of the Concert Choir. Shortly after graduating from SUNY New Paltz in 2007 with a degree in Visual Arts, Salvatore developed a passion for Opera, and discovered Daniel Ragone for vocal coaching. He has been studying with Daniel Ragone in Port Jefferson, New York since 2008, learning songs and arias from various time periods and languages. He has performed numerous times at "Opera Night" in Northport, New York, as well as "Music on the Sound" in Port Jefferson, New York. Salvatore will be making his operatic debut as the Duke of Mantua in this production of Rigoletto.

**TAMARA CASHOUR** returns this season as Musical Director of The Footlight Player's RIGOLETTO, after serving in the same capacity for TFP's 2011 TRAVIATA. Ms. Cashour has been a musical director/coach-accompanist for US regional opera, including Lake George Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Natchez Opera, and the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. She has also considerable experience as a conductor of musical theatre at: George St. Playhouse, Weinberg Ctr. For the Arts, WOTUTS, and most recently at SOPAC (South Orange Performing Arts Ctr.), where her conducting of Guettel's *The Light in the Piazza* received critical acclaim: [Ms. Cashour conducted]...*a highly creditable musical performance... Kudos are due Ms. Cashour, who did yeoman duty in bringing the musical portion of this production to life*" (South Orange Patch). Ms. Cashour is currently Adjunct Professor of Instrumental Accompanying at William Paterson University, in the Brass, Woodwind and Strings Departments. She has also been a vocal coach/recital accompanist at the Manhattan School of Music (1999-2007) and at the Mannes College of Music (2008-2011).

**BERNIE GENZER** is a retired NYC. High School of Speech Drama teacher after 30 years. He has a Bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College in Speech, and a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from Boston University. Presently his other activities are designing the lighting for Lantern Theatre productions and teaching fencing for the Great Neck Arts Center. He also is involved in singing Barbershop Harmony as a Bass with the Long Island Harmonizers Chorus and his quartet All in A Chord. I would like to thank Bob Heim for steering him to this production, and my love, Beverly for encouragement and support. He has directed musical productions such as *The Pajama Game* and *Annie*, and acted in *Lovers & Other Strangers*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *Fools*.

**NATHANIEL GREEN** is the Footlight Players' founder (1984) and artistic director. This ensemble has brought a large variety of fully staged theatrical productions to the community, including: *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Rigoletto*, *Tosca*, *She Loves Me*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Price*, *Henry IV*, and *Othello* just to name a few. He has also staged original works of his own, such as *This Train of Life*, *The Enchanted Spring*, *Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?*, *Grampa*

*Says Goodbye*, and *The Dancing Monk*, and most recently, the successful Off-Off Broadway productions of *Searching for Hamlet* and *Faust Meets Macbeth*. He has also performed in opera, musical theatre and cabaret. *La Traviata* is the 7<sup>th</sup> production by Nate that the Church of The Ascension has hosted; other performances have been: *Hamlet*, *Our Town*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Arsenic & Old Lace*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *The Tempest*. Nate counts among his favorite Shakespearean roles: *Iago*, *Falstaff*, *Hamlet*, and *Prospero*. He considers himself fortunate to have sufficient interests (art, literature, foreign languages, and travel) to ward off "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune".

**GINA HAVER** has a background in theatre, oratorio, sacred music and opera. She's performed as a soloist at Avery Fisher Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, CAMI Hall, 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y, Hecksher-State Park, Northport Theatre, Symphony Space St. Ann-Trinity Church, Brooklyn and Dicapo Opera Young Artist Program. She's performed as a soloist with NY Selan Ensemble, New York Chamber Players, the National Chorale Northport Opera, and NY Choral Society Summersings. Solo work includes: "*Carmina Burana*", "*Israel in Egypt*", *Brahm's "Requiem"*, *Mozart's "Exsultate Jubilate"* and opera roles such as: *Queen of the Night* in *Magic Flute*, *Mimi* and *Musetta* in *La Boheme*, *Lola* in *Cavalleria Rusticana* as well as *Masterclass*, *Amadeus*, *Ladies in Retirement*, *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* and *What Remains*. Gina is also a founding member of OperAlive, the newly formed opera ensemble performing throughout Long Island. She also sings regularly in Northport's Opera Night concert series. Gina is the Soprano soloist at the Church of The Ascension and cantor/pianist at St. Luke's RC Church.

**ERIC KELLER** attended Florida Southern College for his undergraduate degree in Music Education. He then received his graduate degree in Vocal Performance at the St. Petersburg State Conservatoire of Music in St. Petersburg, Russia. His festival credits include the roles of Zuniga in *Carmen* at the Bad Hersfeld Open Air Opera Festival in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, the Commendatore and Don Carlo in Aleksander Dargomyzhsky's opera *The Stone Guest* at the Paley Festival in Richmond, VA, Ben in Menotti's *The Telephone* at the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, and the bass soloist in Bach's *Canata Nos. 208 & 212*, Handel's *Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne* and Purcell's *Come Ye Son's of Art (Birthday Ode to Queen Mary)* at the Wicklow Festival in Wicklow, Ireland. His latest roles were Figaro in *LeNozze di Figaro* at Symphony Space in New York City and as Lord Tonosan in the Japanese opera *Amanjaku* and *Urikohime* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and as the featured soloist of Russian arias with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra and Maestro Alexander Vedernikov in Guangzhou, China. His future engagements will include his debut at Carnegie Hall as the bass soloist in Mozart's *Vesperae solennes de confessore* and in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with L'Orchestre de Bretagne in Rennes, France. Mr. Keller has also performed solo concerts in Russia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Finland, Holland, Ireland and the UK.

**LYDIA PAULSEN** was born in Queens, NY. She has been a Rockville Centre resident & member of the Church of The Ascension since 1986. An art teacher for 35 years, she continues her craft by piecing together elaborate quilts, making delicious jams & building small houses out of gingerbread. In her spare time she enjoys traveling & has been to every continent except Antarctica.

**LINDA TAGLIAFERRO** is a coloratura soprano who has taken classes at the Juilliard School and many opera workshops at Mannes College. She has performed scenes as the Queen of the Night, Lucia di Lammermoor, Violetta, Gilda and others. She sang & danced a flamenco solo in the Footlight Players production of *La Traviata*, and sang in the Amore Opera chorus in *Carmen*.

**ALEXANDRA WOODRUFF** is currently a second-year Resident Artist with Dicapo Opera Theatre in New York City. Ms. Woodruff performs with various opera companies throughout the tri-state area, of which her most recent work includes the roles of Giulietta and The Voice of the Mother in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Hudson Lyric Opera. Previously this season she has performed in Amici Opera's *L'orfeo* as La Musica, *Il Re* as Il Prete, and *Rigoletto* as Maddalena. Ms. Woodruff is currently a student of internationally acclaimed tenor Arturo Spinetti.