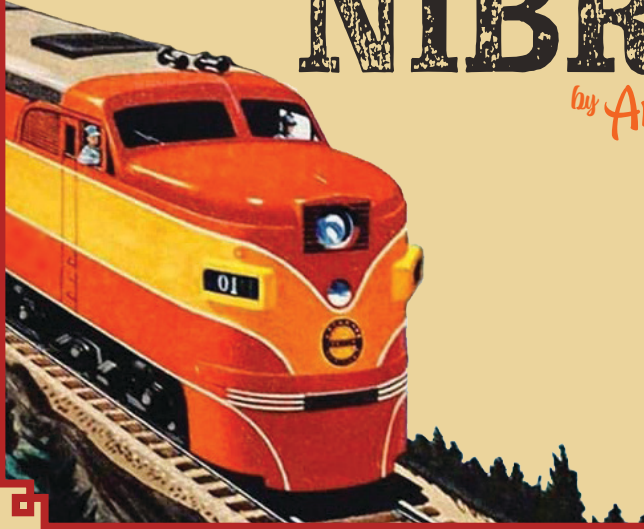


THEATRE JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS

Last Train to NIBROC

by Arlene Hutton



DIRECTED BY
Amy Love

SUPPORTED BY THE
Delores Barr Weaver
FOREVER
EVENT FUND



JANUARY 13-29, 2023





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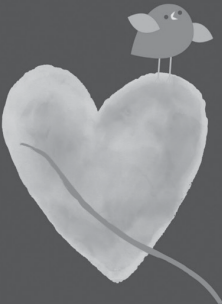
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103rd
Season

Theatre Jacksonville presents

2nd
Production

LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC

BY ARLENE HUTTON

Directed by Amy Love

Supported By The
Delores Barr Weaver

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EVENT FUND



CAST

Raleigh Alec Hadden
MayKelsey Wittig

Time & Place

Scene 1

December 28th, 1940

A train, somewhere west of Chicago

Scene 2

Summer 1942

A park bench near a woods

Scene 3

Spring 1943

May's front porch

There will be **no** intermission.

LAST TRAIN TO NIBROC is produced by special arrangement with DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE INC., New York, NY. THE VIDEOTAPING OR MAKING OF ELECTRONIC OR OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VISUAL RECORDINGS OF THIS PRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTING RECORDINGS ON ANY MEDIUM, INCLUDING THE INTERNET, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED, A VIOLATION OF THE AUTHOR'S RIGHTS, AND ACTIONABLE UNDER UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW.

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Set Design Ben Girvin
Lighting and Project Design Triple O Productions
Costume Design Classic Costumes
Graphic Design Green Onion Creative LLC
Stage Manager Natalie Brown
Scenic Painter Lourdes Acosta Bados
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WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY

ALEC HADDEN (Raleigh) is excited to be back on the Theatre Jacksonville stage after last appearing as Jonathan in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Some of his other Theatre Jacksonville roles include Stephen Gardiner/Eusatche, Chapuys in *Wolf Hall*, Chef Louis in *The Little Mermaid*, and Enjolras in *Les Misérables*. He has performed extensively at The Alhambra Theatre & Dining, most notably as The Narrator in *The Rocky Horror Show Live*, Chris Bean in *The Play that Goes Wrong*, and Rev. Shaw in *Footloose*. You may also have seen him as Lord Farquaad in *Shrek the Musical* at PBTS or as Alan in *One Man, Two Guv'nors* at ABET. When not on stage, Alec is a voice actor and Executive/Artistic Director of JaxTreblemakers, a local acapella music group. He would like to thank his family for their constant love and support.

KELSEY WITTIG (May) is thrilled to be back on stage at Theatre Jacksonville. Her last appearance here was as Suzanne in *Figaro*. She is delighted to be working under the direction of Amy Love once again! Some of her previous credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *Grease* (Miss Lynch), and *Edith Stein* (Hannah). She would like to thank Alec for being the best partner while taking on such a difficult show, Amy for always supporting her, Natalie for being an incredible stage manager and birthday twin, and a special thanks to her family for their constant love and support.

AMY LOVE (Director) is elated to be directing at Theatre Jacksonville again. Her past directorial credits include: *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Figaro*, *Silent Heroes*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Edith Stein* and *High School Musical* to name a few. Amy has her MFA in Acting from UF and finished her degree at Roundabout Theatre Company in NYC, where she had the privilege of being Stephen Sondheim's intern during his Broadway revival of *Follies*. She would like to thank her husband, Thomas, for once again helping to make this opportunity happen.

NATALIE BROWN (Stage Manager) Natalie "Nellie" Brown: From stage managing *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, acting in *Private Lives*, and now managing *Last Train to Nibroc*, Natalie has had a full year of Theatre Jacksonville shows! It has been an adventure full of joy and surprises working the 2022 shows, learning new things and experiencing memories that she can share for a lifetime and more. Natalie wants to thank Kelsey and Alec for sharing laughs during warmups and congratulate them on this amazing show. She also wants to thank Amy for believing in her and supporting her to become the stage manager she is today. And finally, she dedicates this performance to the love of her life, Sean, her sunrise and sunset. Catch Natalie in the role of Jen in *The Cake* at Players by the Sea opening March 2023.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

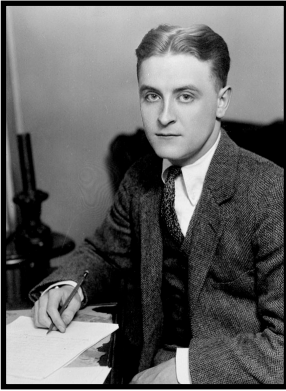
I am so happy to be returning this year to Theatre Jacksonville. Last year I directed *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, and now I am excited to help create a very different experience for you. *Last Train to Nibroc* is a deceptively simple play. The play is carried on the backs of only two characters equally. These characters are the antithesis of two dimensional, so in this sense, it is also the plight and joy of a true studied performer especially one that might have perhaps dabbled indifferent straight acting techniques.

The characters need to also display not only a character arch but also a believable affection for each other. I have watched this small cast become friends and laugh and support each other. This is not only a play about love of another but also self-love, a personal challenge of mine up until not so long ago. It's a universal theme we all can relate to. These simple ideas are some of the most difficult for all of us to accept- that we deserve to be loved and there is nothing wrong with us.

I worked with Kelsey last when I directed *Figaro* here a few years ago and prior to that about 12 years earlier when I directed her in *Edith Stein*—she was in high school. I was her theatre teacher at Bishop Kenny. She is a gem, and I am tickled that I was able to direct her again now as the awesome grownup she has become. Alec has been nothing but a song that keeps getting better and better. He is not only professional but one of the most genuine people I have met, and I am elated to work with him for the first time (hopefully not the last). I am working with Natalie a second time, and as she is an actress and sometimes stage manager, it is almost like there is an assistant director baked in there as well. Her opinion is invaluable, and her company is king. As far as all the others here at this theatre—you know who you are- Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the continued opportunity of self-expression and a place to be authentically myself.

- Amy

ABOUT NATHANAEEL WEST AND F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

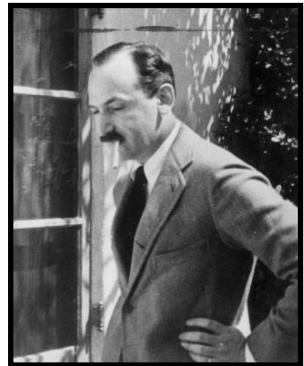


F. Scott Fitzgerald

With backgrounds intermingling in France and New York during an era of literary renaissance, Nathanael West and F. Scott Fitzgerald were authors who criticized the wealthy and frivolous upper class with prose of satire depicting them as human and common as their working-class counterparts. West, (born October 17, 1903) was a Jewish immigrant who graduated from Brown University (1924) and wrote his first novel "The Dream Life of Balso Snell" during a 15-month stay in Paris and then his critically acclaimed "The Day of the Locust" in 1939. West gained recognition throughout France in World War II from French translations of his books. He and his wife tragically passed in an automobile accident on December 22nd, 1940.

Coincidentally, F. Scott Fitzgerald (born September 24, 1896) died of a heart attack a day before, December 21st, 1940. Fitzgerald gained more popularity throughout the states after an adventure in France inspired him to write the world-renowned classic, "The Great Gatsby". Fitzgerald dropped out of Princeton and joined the Army during World War I, which is how he met the love of his life, Zelda Sayre, in Alabama. To try and escape the life of fortune and fame that he so thoroughly, and ironically, romanticized in his works, F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife settled on the French Riviera where Zelda took up ballet and practiced endlessly to the point of a mental breakdown in 1930 from which she never recovered.

Which leads us to our story, *Last Train to Nibroc*. Raleigh and May are riding a train with the coffins of both authors returning home to be buried. Both suffered a period of war and the struggle of pursuing dreams, watching the division of social and economic classes become deeper. But they also enjoyed a time of prosperity and growth never seen before, historically, which will be mirrored in the events that will unfold on stage. As the sun rises on Raleigh and May, they are going to challenge each other to their depths and discover love in unsuspecting moments.



Nathanael West

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