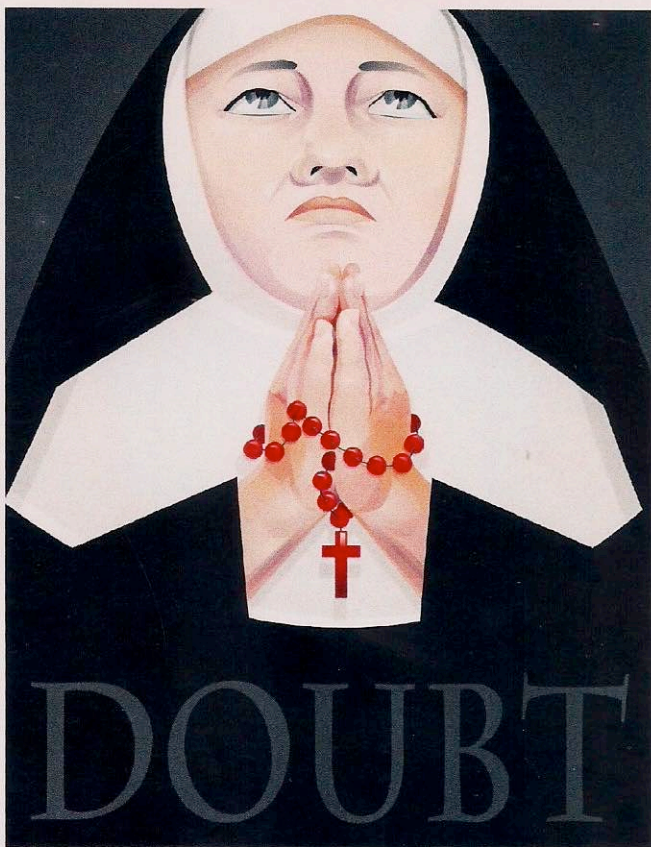


**Possum Point Players  
presents  
DOUBT: A PARABLE**

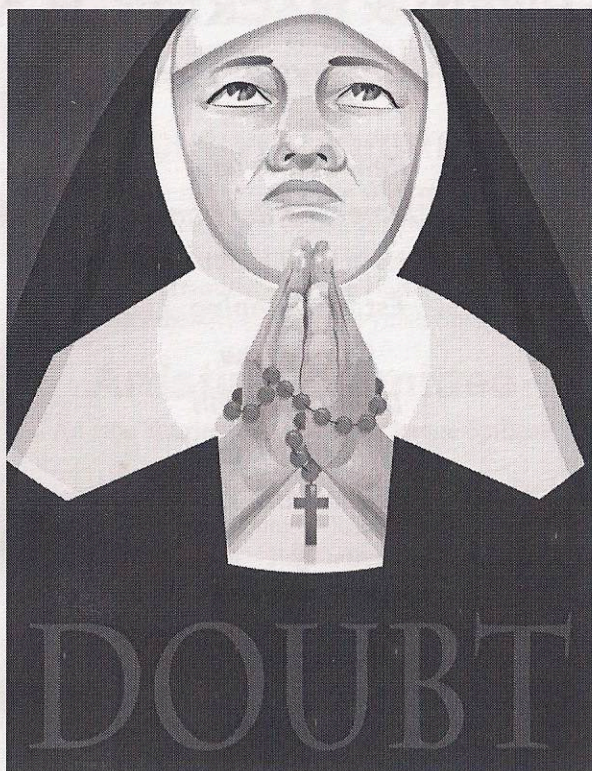


**by  
JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY  
Directed by:  
J. DENISE BAKER**

**March 25, 26, 27, April 1, 2, & 3, 2011  
Possum Hall  
Georgetown, DE**



Possum Point Players  
*presents*  
**DOUBT: A PARABLE**



by  
**JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY**

**Directed by:**  
**J. DENISE BAKER**

*Presented with special permission by Dramatists Play Service, Inc.*

**Delaware**  
**Division of the**  
**Arts**

*This program is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.*

Videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.



# **DOUBT: A PARABLE**

**Place:** St. Nicholas, a Catholic church and school  
in the Bronx, New York

**Time:** 1964

## **CHARACTERS**

(in order of appearance)

Father Brendan Flynn .....Michael J. Murnin  
Sister Aloysius Beauvier .....Liz Roe  
Sister James .....Susannah Griffin  
Mrs. Muller .....Rosa Barnes

## **Synopsis of Scenes**

Scene 1: Sunday Mass at St. Nicholas Church  
Scene 2: Sister Aloysius's office at St. Nicholas School  
Scene 3: Courtyard between the church and the school  
Scene 4: Courtyard  
Scene 5: Sister Aloysius's office  
Scene 6: Sunday Mass at St. Nicholas Church  
Scene 7: Courtyard  
Scene 8: Sister Aloysius's office  
Scene 9: Courtyard

This play will be performed without an intermission.

*You are invited to join the cast in the Green Room  
afterward to discuss "Did he?" or "Didn't he?"*



# **DOUBT: A PARABLE**

## **PRODUCTION CREW**

Director ..... J. Denise Baker  
Ass't to the Director & Stage Manager ..... Karen Bryan Smith  
Set Crew ..... Denise Baker, Jim DeBastiani,  
Rob Baker, Ken Jester, Mary Ann Lalave,  
John Lalave, E.J. Panico, Fred Dean, Jim Hartzell,  
Louise Hartzell, Donna Flomp, Bill Walton,  
Adam Boving, Eric Boving  
Lighting ..... Jim DeBastiani, Conor Small  
Sound ..... Michael Phillips, Logan Lynch  
Makeup ..... Mary Boucher, Cast  
Program ..... Mary Cahill  
Ushers and Tickets ..... Family and Friends of Cast Members  
and Possum Point Players  
Props ..... Donna Flomp  
Costumes ..... Marsha Shull, Rosa Barnes  
Stained Glass Cross construction ..... Donna Flomp,  
Jim Hartzell, Louise Hartzell  
Set Design ..... J. Denise Baker, Nina Galerstein  
Bar ..... Nita Gary  
Publicity ..... Cassandra Peterson, Jim Hartzell

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

**Pat O'Brien**  
**Maureen & Paul Stiller**  
**Nina Galerstein**  
**Bill Walton**  
**Possum Point Players'**  
**Artistic and Executive Committee Members**  
**Delaware Division of the Arts**  
**Jeff Rettig**

Interiors By (302) 422-7323  
*Draperies Etc., Inc* Milford, DE 19963

**Karen Massey**

## **Director's Note:**

*Doubt: A Parable* is about doubt and the lack of certainty.

It has been a true pleasure working on this show. John Patrick Shanley is a genius with words, conflicts, and characterizations. The more we studied the script, the greater our appreciation of his talent grew. The lack of trust, the systematic oppression of women, the ambiguity of black and white, and the abuse by those in power are some of Shanley's themes where "doubt" is present.

Shanley was originally inspired to write this play, set in 1964, because of the United State's doubt about who killed Kennedy, the social changes taking place in the '60's, and the increasing awareness of sexual abuse in the Catholic church. Things haven't changed much; today the country is still in doubt about many issues including Iraq, Pakistan, health reform, Social Security, and even why the cost of gas goes up on the already- filled gas pumps the same day an increase in oil is announced.

A great deal of gratitude goes out to Mrs. Pat O'Brien, an actual Sister of Charity nun who graciously visited us from New York – thanks to my delightful neighbors, Maureen and Paul Stiller. The bond that evolved through e-mails helped guide us to an authentic pathway of art. The dedication of my cast as they went through this metamorphosis truly makes me proud.

Does "doubt" make someone weak or strong? Shanley shares, "Doubt is the sign of sophistication and strength." Shanley himself strongly states that the last act of the play takes place on the ride home after the show. I know some of you will want a definitive answer, but the playwright purposefully leaves it ambiguous because he wants the answer to come from the individual ... "Did he or didn't he? What do you think?"

J. Denise Baker



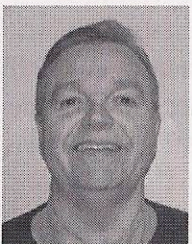
## WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW



**ROSA BARNES** (Mrs. Muller) – remembers when candy bars were a nickel, penny cookies were a penny, when there were “colored only” signs over the water fountains and doors, and President Kennedy died. She has been involved in many art activities including acting, speaking and singing from a young age. She developed a love for acting in high school and continues to love it. She has performed in *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men*, *Contribution*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Cinderella* and *You Can't Take It With You*. It has been wonderful to be on stage in many of this community's theatres. She is an avid reader. Since one of her hobbies is sewing, she has assisted with costumes when not on stage. She is the owner and a clinician at Barnes and Associates in Millsboro, Delaware.



**SUSANNAH GRIFFIN** — (Sr. James) — first appeared on the Possum stage as the Balloon Girl in *Gypsy* back in 1976. She then spent much of her childhood at Possum Hall, performing in such shows as *Winnie the Pooh*, *Camelot*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Butterflies Are Free*. Since then she has gone on to do theatre, film and television work in New York as a member of the Screen Actors Guild appearing in “*Law and Order*” and “*Sex and the City*,” and films including *For Love of the Game* and *28 Days*. She returned to Delaware in 2002 and reconnected with community theater, performing in *The Dinner Party*, *Cabaret* and *Chicago*. Susannah sells real estate for Long and Foster in Rehoboth Beach. She enjoys life at the beach with her family and friends and her menagerie of creatures including three pugs, two cats and a English Shepherd. She has loved the intensity (and fun!) of working on *Doubt: A Parable* and feels a special connection to the Sisters of Charity and especially former Sister Patricia O'Brien, who so generously shared her time and enthusiasm with all of us.



**MICHAEL MURNIN** (Fr. Flynn) – recently relocated to Delaware from New York City, where he acted and directed for On Wheels Productions, The Theatre Company, Broadway Arts Theatre for Young Audiences, The Roundabout Theatre Ensemble, Playwrights Horizons, Picture This, and the Westside Repertory Theatre, where he served as Artistic Director during four seasons. Michael received the Jean Dalrymple Award for best Off-Broadway director for the play, *Scrapbooks*. He was most recently seen on the Possums' stage as the adult Ralphie/Narrator in *A Christmas Story*.

## WHO'S WHO IN CAST & CREW



**LIZ ROE (Sr. Aloysius)** – is very happy to return to the Possum stage after a brief hiatus from theatre. Previous plays here include *An Inspector Calls*, *Funny Money*, *Bedroom Farce*, and *Noises Off*. She has enjoyed the process of seeing *Doubt: A Parable* develop over the past few weeks. For a play that deals with uncomfortable topics and dark suggestions, it has been tremendous fun rehearsing especially with this tightknit cast and crew. In real life, she is a therapist in private practice and an avid athlete. Due to time constraints, she has to choose between theatre and her other passions of triathlon and crossfit. She completed an Ironman last November and is planning another in 2012. She sends many thanks to her wonderful husband and children for their unflinching support in all her pursuits.

## WHO'S WHO IN PRODUCTION CREW



**J. DENISE BAKER** — (Director) – is thrilled to be doing one of her favorite plays with Possum Point Players. Frankly, it's like “old home week” to her because during the first 28 years of her life, she both lived in Georgetown and attended Sussex Central High School where she was first bitten by the theater bug during her Junior year in *The Bat*, a play directed by a PPP veteran, Jim Hartzell, and where she shared the stage with Kenney Workman, the current president of Possums. She went on to get a Bachelor's Degree in Speech & Drama from Greensboro, North Carolina, and a Master's Degree from Adelphi University in New York. After teaching at Indian River, Cape Henlopen, and Capital Districts, she settled down for the next 23 years to teach Drama & English at Lake Forest High School where the cherubs still hold a piece of her heart. Many community theatre groups (especially Second Street Players) have kept her busy over the years too. Two years ago, she retired and has kept quite busy doing the things she loves – theater and traveling.



**KAREN BRYAN SMITH (Asst. Director/Stage Manager)** – is making her theatre premier experience. She grew up in Georgetown and has happily remained in the area with a wonderful son and husband. She has worked with the intellectually disabled for 27 years within state government and the private sector. She is excited to be a part of *Doubt: A Parable* and finds the commitment from the director and cast to provide a quality theatrical production unsurpassable. This is a thought-provoking play on many levels and watching this delightfully talented cast perform has been a treat!