

UNIQUE THEATRE COMPANY In collaboration with STARLIGHT STUDIO AND ART GALLERY presents:

By Dana Graap

Directed by Beth Geyer

**HOT
ROCK
HOTEL**



Alleyway Theatre Inc.

1 Curtain Up Alley
Buffalo, NY 14202

To purchase tickets go to
uniquetheatrecompany.com
Tickets are \$15.00

SHOWINGS:

November 8th, 9th, 10th at 7:30 PM
Sunday Nov. 11th at 2:00 PM
Nov. 15th, 16th, 17th at 7:30 PM
Sunday Nov. 18th at 2:00 PM

"Program is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York."



Unique
Theatre
Company





a company of artists that aspire to promote community integration through the arts

Beth Geyer
Artistic Director

Vienna Haak
Executive Producer

716-243-8889

99 Hartwell Road Buffalo NY 14216

uniquetheatrecompany@gmail.com

OUR MISSION

Unique Theatre Company is a company dedicated to providing a venue where persons with disabilities can learn and express themselves through playwriting and acting as well as acquiring skills and participation related to a true theatre experience.

DIRECTORS NOTE

Welcome to Unique Theatre Company in collaboration with Starlight Studio and Gallery. This project has been in the works for a very long time. It began – as most stories do - with the writer - Starlight participant Dana Graap.

I met Dana two years ago as she joined a Starlight Studio sponsored writing group that I was a part of. In that writing group we created what was then titled; The Collective Story. The idea of a collective story is that all writers contribute to parts of the story. It was in that group Rocky was born. In that group there was a strip club located in New Jersey and there was a gun. In January of this year Starlight Studio and Gallery contacted me and told me that Dana wanted to write her own story. I remembered Dana from that first writing group because she had many ideas-some of which were used and others over ruled by the majority of writers. When I met Dana to talk about this collaboration she told me that she liked Rocky but she had other plans for him and that she would like to

fashion her own story. We began to meet regularly and what you are about to see tonight is what Dana wanted to do with Rocky and the dancers at the strip club... and what about that gun?

This collaboration with Dana, the staff and participants at Starlight Studio and Gallery, has been a dream come true for everyone you see on stage as well as those who worked behind the scenes; on costumes, props and set design. You will see many new faces this year as well as some familiar. That is what Unique Theatre is all about: it's about giving everyone a chance to learn. A chance to try. A chance to 'just see what it would be like if I had a part in a play' which is why this production feels the most at home and in concert with our mission statement. With Hot Rock Hotel our theatre company is celebrating 5 years!

Vienna & I thank you for being here and for your constant support of the work we do and the mission we carry.

~ Beth Geyer

Artistic Director

Unique Theatre Company is a non profit 501 (c)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Geyer

Vienna Haak

ADVISORY BOARD

Kim Kadziolka

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Julia Harris

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Lee Allen Hartlieb

Denise Litz

HISTORY

2014 The Process

2015 Face It

2016 What If...

2017 2 Love

HOT ROCK HOTEL

WRITTEN BY

DANA GRAAP

DIRECTED BY

BETH GEYER

PRODUCED BY

**UNIQUE THEATRE COMPANY
STARLIGHT STUDIOS AND ART GALLERY**

ACT ONE

MATTHEW LEN -----ANNOUNCER
-----BREAKER
RON WARD-----VIK
AMY CAVAGNARO-----BETTY
-----KELLY
KRISTIN MOHN -----ASHLEY
NATE HARE -----TIM
CAMMIE STAMP-----AS HERSELF w/ BRIE
STEVEN BALLOW-----CUSTOMER 4
-----SCOTT/COMEDIAN
-----FIREMAN
DONNIS WILLIAMS-----AS HERSELF
CHRIS DEVEALT-----ANNOUNCER

ACT TWO

JULIA HARRIS-----DANA
ADRIEN QUARLES-----ROCKY
NATHANIEL WILKINS-----ANDY

JACOB SIRACUSE -----RICKEY
MATTHEW GARRISON -----MATTHEW
REBECCA LOVERIC -----JEN
BHARANI MUPPAVARAPU-----JOSIE
STEPHANIE EDBAUER-----CUSTOMER 1
-----NIK/POLICEWOMAN
CLAIRE SYRACUSE-----CUSTOMER 2
JORDON DICIOCCIO-----CUSTOMER 3
KYLE TILLEY-----SAM/PRESIDENT
ANDREW CALDERON-----JOE
KELLER VOGELSANG-----SALLY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR -----BETH GEYER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -----VIENNA HAAK
STAGE MANAGERS -----CAROL HEIM
-----DIANE WALKER

MARKETING-----VIENNA HAAK
-----STARLIGHT STUDIO AND ART GALLERY

VOLUNTEERS-----ILENE GARRISON
-----KATHY CAVAGNARO

LIGHTING/SOUND-----RON WALKER
-----LEE HARTLEIB

SET DESIGN/POSTER DESIGN/PROPS

-----ARTISTS AT STARLIGHT STUDIO AND
ART GALLERY

Dana Graap (Playwright) started thinking about committing a story to paper after working with playwright Beth Geyer in a writer's workshop at Starlight Studio and Art Gallery in 2015. The characters for Hot Rock Hotel were born in this workshop and as Dana says, "I couldn't get them out of my mind". Dana mentions character development as what excites her most in playwriting. She likes when a character does something unexpected and surprises the audience. Dana envisions Hot Rock Hotel becoming first a Broadway musical then a full-length animated feature. When not writing plays, Dana creates detailed paintings and drawings at Starlight Studio and Art Gallery where she focuses on modern renditions of classic art & historical paintings.

Matthew Len (Announcer & Breaker) is thrilled to be joining the cast of Hot Rock Hotel! Matthew began his love of theater when he saw Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera at Shea's Performing Arts Center when he was ten. After seeing this magnificent show he longed to pursue an acting career in musical theater. He furthered this when he volunteered as a stagehand in his high school production of Ragtime The Musical in 2013. Besides Phantom some of his favorite musicals include Les Miserables and Wicked. Matthew has been a volunteer at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda since July of 2014. His future goals are to continue to build his acting resume and to perhaps one day perform on a professional level. Matthew would like to thank Beth and Vienna for this exciting opportunity and his friends and family for their support. To the audience, he hopes you enjoy the show!

Ron Ward (Vik) graduated from Amherst High School. He has an older brother and sister and lots of nieces and nephews. Ron has worked at Canterbury Woods Adult Residence in Williamsville for many years as a cafe attendant. He enjoys providing services for seniors and has made many friends with the residents that live there. Ron likes to bowl and enjoys video games, scary movies, and amusement parks. He takes part in Special Olympics baseball, basketball, and track & field events. Ron has always wanted to be an actor and joining Unique Theatre Company has been a dream come true! After four years now with the company he has watched the company grow and mature and he couldn't be prouder. Ron would like to thank Beth, Vienna, and especially Nick for getting him into theatre. He would also like to thank all his loyal fans who like him on Facebook and he thanks you all for coming to watch!

Amy Cavagnaro (Betty & Kelly) loves acting in the Unique Theatre Company performances with her friends. This is her 4th year as a cast member. Amy also enjoys singing the National Anthem for the Step Up For Down Syndrome Walk almost every year, bowling with Special Olympics, playing Sled Hockey with the Buffalo Sabres Int. C Team, playing Challenger baseball, singing, dancing, and hanging out with many friends. Amy continues to attend the Daemen YALT Program. Amy would like to thank her parents, family and friends for all their support. A very special "thank you" to Beth and Vienna for all that you do for us!

Kristin Mohn (Ashley) is a Western New York native who has been singing all her life. She sings solos regularly in church, and is thrilled to have this wonderful opportunity with the Unique Theatre Company. Kristin lives in a People, Inc. home in Depew and works for Cantalician in the Tri-Main building. Besides singing, she enjoys coloring and reading, hanging out with her roommates and her stuffed animals, watching TV and videos, and vacationing with her family.

Nate Hare (Tim aka 'Tree') is returning to Unique Theatre Company in his third performance. He is a 2015 graduate of Amherst High School and is currently continuing his education with the Canisius Yalt program. Nate has a black belt in Taekwondo and enjoys playing as well as watching most sports. Nate loves music and acting. He lives with his Mom, Dad, his sister Ana, and his two dogs Chew and Jules. Nate enjoys his work in Hot Rock hotel and wants to thank his parents, his sisters Ana and Alex, and his good friend Kaz for all of their support in helping make his dreams come true.

Cammie Stamp and Brie (as themselves) are overjoyed to be in their first production with Unique Theatre Company. Cammie has performed in Time Travel, Scrooge Christmas with People, Inc. Art Experience as well as in the Oddyssey at Art Park. She loves being on stage and showing the world what she can do. In her free time she likes dancing with Moving Miracles and singing with Momentum of Western New York. She also likes to watch Ghost Adventures and Cooking Shows.

Stephen Ballow (Scott, Fireman, & Customer 4)

This is Steven's 4th performance with Unique Theatre Company. He is looking forward to expanding his theatre work with Beth Geyer. Stephen will be finishing his YALT program with People, Inc. this December, and is still working at Rocco's. He is dedicating this performance to his friend Julia Harris and his family.

Donnis Williams (as herself) is thrilled to be hitting the stage this year with Unique Theatre Company and looks forward to many more years with Vienna & Beth and all of her new friends! Donnis works full time at People, Inc. in the residential department, and is also an EMT. She would like to thank the entire cast and crew for being so welcoming and hopes the audience enjoys the show!

Chris Devealt (Announcer) is a 27 year old who loves to act. He is very excited to be a part of Unique Theatre Company as this is his first performance with this company. He is a graduate of Cheektowaga Central and also the UB YALT Program at People, Inc. where he is also employed.

AUTOGRAPHS.....

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Julia Harris (Dana) is thrilled to be involved in her second season with UTCO. Last year she was the playwright and actress for the play *Love (The Contest)*. Julia's life has been one in which she has demonstrated a great deal of self motivation and perseverance while overcoming obstacles along the way. Recently she founded her own company, License 2 Smile, to help motivate others by sharing her personal story and the keys to living life with a smile. Julia has spoken with diverse groups including community organizations, corporate staff and leadership, conference attendees, students, educators, and medical professionals. She lives in Lancaster NY, and is a graduate of Lancaster High & the ECC South YALT program. Julia enjoys writing, singing, reading, swimming, watching movies and of course shopping! She loves spending time with her boyfriend Al. Julia's favorite saying is, "Miracles Happen When You Believe!". She has always believed in herself with her determination and positive attitude. Julia wants to thank the Unique Theatre Company for this amazing opportunity. She has enjoyed making so many new friends. She would like to dedicate this play to her family and her boyfriend Al; I love you very much. Thank you to everyone for coming and she hopes you enjoy the HOT ROCK HOTEL!

Adrien Quarles (Rocky) Adrien loves to act and this is his first appearance with Unique Theatre Company. Adrien would like to thank his staff and his family for supporting him in this role!

Nathaniel William Wilkins (Andy) Nathaniel is an American actor, voice actor, and puppeteer. He started acting in the summer of 2012 as a puppeteer for The Kids on the Block Educational Puppets. Since then Nathaniel's been in several plays and movies including: Always October, The Process, FACE IT, What if...? 2 Love, Looney Bananas, One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest, and S.T.A.R.

Some of Nathaniel's inspirations are Frank Welker, Mike Yurchak, Denyse Tontz, Brian Donovan and Erin Sanders. In fact, it was Erin who got Nathaniel into doing yoga, which he enjoys and practices every day. Mike helped him with his voiceovers and Denyse has given him advice and words of encouragement to help improve his acting.

Jacob Siracuse (Rickey) Jacob is very glad to be participating in his 4th Unique Theatre Company Production, "Hot Rock Hotel" as Rickey. His previous roles include title character, Dylan in "Day Tripper", along with 2 characters in "What if...", Brad from "The Affair" and Randy in "Bug Out Bag", and last year he played Joe in the first act of "2 Love". While aspiring to become a recognized voice actor and animation studio owner, he spends his free time diligently working on his other interests like storyboarding, singing, and sound editing. His pursuit to be famous is never ending along with his determination to never let his disability of Autism interfere with achieving his future. Jacob would like to thank his family, friends, service providers, and organizations like Unique Theatre Company that help him and others reach their goals.

Matthew Scott Garrison (Matthew) currently attends North Tonawanda High School (NTHS), and is 19 Yrs. old. This is Matthew's 5th season with Unique Theatre Company and is playing his namesake in this year's production of HOT ROCK HOTEL (2018). Acting Roles: 2 LOVE (2017) Pete in Lament of Joe and Brian in the Contest; WHAT IF (2016) Stick-Up Guy; FACE IT (2015) Chuck Chattanooga, Street Magician and an extra in the Work Out and Party scenes; THE PROCESS (2014) Minestrone, Benny, and The Rock Star; NTHS: "THE MUSICAL 9 to 5" (2013); The 2014 Kenny Awards -- NTHS nominated, Shea's Theater, Buffalo, NY In the Beginning and Ending (Dancing & Singing), as well as a bit part as the "Mail Guy." SABAH: SOLOIST SKATER (2013/2014 Season) in SABAH's "2014 Celebration on Ice" at the First Niagara Center. "I love being an actor, I love to fit in! I want to be an actor forever! Beth gives me the opportunity to be an actor; I hope it will be a job for me someday!"
~Matthew

Rebecca Loveric (Jen) is over the moon to be in her first performance with Unique Theatre Company. Rebecca lives with her mom, dad, and brother Thomas in Lockport. She just graduated from Lockport H.S. and is currently in the NCC YALT program with People, Inc. Rebecca loves to sing and dance and was involved in 2 plays in middle school. She loves horses and goes to High Hurdles to learn about them. Rebecca loves to meet new people and try new experiences. Her dream came true in September when she finally saw the Cinderella Castle in person while vacationing in Florida with her family! Rebecca would like to thank Beth and Vienna for giving her this amazing opportunity.

Bharani Muppavarapu (Josie) was introduced to theatre in college, where she was a writer at the dramatics club, VIT University, Vellore, India. After completing her Masters in Biotechnology, she moved to the US to start working towards her PhD in experimental therapeutics at Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo NY. She serendipitously met the director of the play, 'Hot Rock Hotel', through her PhD advisor. One afternoon, as she was lamenting her lack of involvement in the theatre community, her advisor who is as kind as she is wise, introduced her to Beth Geyer and thus began her adventures with Unique Theatre Company. She is ever grateful to Beth, Vienna and her advisor for the opportunity and is excited to learn all about acting. During her free time, she watches a lot of plays, listens to World War 2 podcasts and loves going to Delaware Park (to dogwatch).

Stephanie Edbauer (Customer 1 & Policewoman) is excited to be in her 4th production with Unique Theatre Company. Stephanie can be seen in the play as customer 1 and the policewoman. She has enjoyed her roles and working with all her friends. Stephanie is a graduate of Williamsville East and the Daemen YALT. She currently attends Lincoln CAPP and works with Personal Touch in the cafe there. Stephanie would like to thank her mom, dad, sister and staff for supporting her on this adventure.

Jordon DiCioccio (Customer 3) is excited to be involved in her first Unique Theatre Company production playing the role of Customer 3 in “Hot Rock Hotel.” She lives in Elma, NY with her Mom, Dad and brothers. Jordan is a graduate of Iroquois High School. She is a volunteer at the SPCA of Erie County and a member of the Momentum WNY Choir. Jordan is President of the Elma, Marilla, Wales Kiwanis Aktion Club and a member of the East Aurora Kiwanis Aktion Club. She enjoys reading, art, cooking, singing, and participating in Aktion Club baseball. Jordan wants to thank Beth and Vienna for including her in this year’s production. She has enjoyed participating in this new role and meeting new friends. Thank you to everyone for supporting Unique Theatre Company.

Claire Syracuse (Customer 2) is very excited to be performing in this year’s production of Hot Rock Hotel. She loves being on stage and has several years of dance recitals under her belt. Performing with The Unique Theatre Company has been an incredible growth experience for her. Claire is very active in the community and enjoys exercise class, Zumba, dance and piano lessons. She is a senior at Williamsville South HS and is on the varsity bowling team. Claire was also named this year’s homecoming queen.

Kyle Tilley (Sam, President) is 22 yrs old & joined The Unique Theatre Company this year. He has been involved in many theatrical productions throughout his schooling. From 2013-2017, Kyle welcomed the audience and introduced the Eden High School play. He acted in Step Into a Story, The Wedding Singer,

Beauty and the Beast, Fiddler on the Roof, Hello Dolly and Shrek the Musical. In addition to his acting, Kyle was a featured model in the Buffalo Fashion Show 2015. Kyle has enjoyed participating in Boy Scouts, Top Soccer, Unified Basketball, Miracle League Baseball and being the assistant coach/water engineer for the Eden Football and Frontier Football teams. Kyle loves to sing, dance, play sports and greet guests at SunCliff on the Lake. He is currently attending Cooking School through the Department of Labor and the Salvation Army. He hopes to secure employment in a restaurant while waiting for his big break in Hollywood. Kyle appreciates the opportunity to work with Beth, Vienna and all of the talented actors at Unique Theatre Company.

Andrew Calderon (Joe the Record Guy) a graduate of Bennett High School, is a poet and a visual artist born and raised in Buffalo NY. He calls himself 'The Human Movie Projector' because he 'keeps his eyes open' as he is inspired by pop culture and is influenced by everything and everyone. Some of his accomplishments include being featured in the poetry publication, Starlight's Genesis, 2011. Andy has sold work to Roswell Park Cancer Institution and the Oishei Childrens Hospital. Andy's involvement in the Self Advocacy community and beyond is a major part of his personal mission. His message is: "Ability rather than Disability". Look for Andy's poetry in the new publication, (Dis)integration, 2017.

Keller Vogelsang (Sally) is a very accomplished theatre professional. This is her 4th appearance with

Unique Theatre Company. She is also a playwright having written Donna, a Civil War Opera that was performed right here at the Alleyway theatre many years ago. She has also starred in The Arts Experience production of Wizard of Oz and was part of The Odyssey at Art Park this year. Keller attends many theatre performances in the Buffalo area. Keller is very grateful to all of those who support her love of the theatre especially her step-mom Karen and her Dad, Chris. She thanks her brother and her boyfriend and Unique Theatre Company for always working with her in the theatre.

Diane Walker (stage manager/props/costume) is a kindergarten Teacher Aide at Lindbergh Elementary School in the Ken Ton School district. The actors 'had her at hello'. She is inspired and in awe by the energy of the cast and she has not heard the words "I can't" once. She is amazed at how everyone helps one another. She considers herself fortunate to work among such dedicated actors. Her time working with the cast and crew of HRH will never be forgotten. It is her first experience and she reports that it won't be her last.

Carol Heim (stage manager/props/costume) is a teaching artist at Starlight Studio and Art Gallery. Her theatre experience began many years ago as a stage manager at the Asian American Theatre Workshop in San Francisco California. Working with the Unique Theatre has been truly magical. This cast is never short of surprise or enthusiasm and under Beth's direction they shine! What a gift this theatre group is to our community (ONLY IN BUFFALO!) Welcome to the Hot Rock Hotel!

Beth Geyer (Director) is very happy to be directing this wonderful play. She is amazed at the talent of this very large cast, the largest cast so far! Beth is a Program Director for Day Services at People, Inc. and in her spare time works at Unique Theatre Company. Beth is dedicating this performance to her first Grand Mickey (or?) Grand Minnie, due early 2019, thanks to her son Sam & daughter-in-law Lindsey Geyer! Beth wishes to congratulate and say "thank you" to Dana Graap and the entire cast and crew as she would not have been able to do this without them! Special thanks to Pam King who provided a very good idea that allowed more people to have more opportunities! And of course: VIENNA!

Vienna Haak (Executive Director) is a real estate agent by day, a community activist by night, a veteran thanks to her past life, a wife thanks to her current, and most importantly, Vienna is the mom of the two most fantastic kids a woman could ever dream of! One of her favorite roles in life at this time is as executive director of Unique Theatre Company. The love shared by the cast and crew is unmatched. Vienna wishes to say "Thank you" to all of the parents/ guardians/ staff, and especially to Ilene & Kathy who truly never cease to amaze... and finally, thank you to **BETH** - Sunshine, you make my heart happy!

SPECIAL THANKS

- ARTISTS AT STARLIGHT STUDIO AND ART GALLERY
- PARENTS/LOVED ONES/FRIENDS OF OUR PROJECT
- ALLEYWAY THEATRE
- MAGGIE PARKS
- CARRIE MARCOTTE
- PEOPLE, INC.

AND TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS NOT ALREADY MENTIONED, AGENCY STAFF, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS WHO EACH AND EVERY DAY SUPPORTED THIS PRODUCTION BY PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION, ENDURING LONG WAITS DURING REHEARSALS, REMAINING FLEXIBLE WITH ALL REHEARSAL CHANGES, AND BY SIMPLY BEING THERE TO LEND A HAND & LISTENING EAR.

THANK YOU!

~Beth & Vienna

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