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NORTHVILLE
101 East Main Street at Center
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OrinJewelers.com

TRACY JONES

Stephen Kaplan

a co-production with Williamston Theatre

Tracy Jones is having a major life crisis. Her job at the bank is taking her nowhere, her panic attacks are getting worse, and having such a common name is giving her an identity crisis. With everything spiraling out of control around her, it's time to find something she can control. That's when it hits her; she's going to throw a party to celebrate every woman named Tracy Jones. After an extensive marketing campaign that included tracking down others by the same name, posters and a Facebook event, the party is finally here. The Funtime Party Zone at the Jones Street Bar & Grill is all set up, and Tracy is eagerly awaiting her guests.

There will be no intermission during this performance.

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Welcome to TIPPING POINT THEATRE



"Life is a wild party indeed."

I have revealed a lot of strange things about myself over the years in program letters. So, it may not be surprising to learn that one of my greatest fears is throwing a party and no one showing up. I also have a fear of being decapitated by papercut, but that isn't nearly as relatable to *Tracy Jones*.

However, *Tracy Jones* isn't just a play about a failed party. It is the backdrop to what I see as the real beauty of the play: tremendous courage. *Tracy Jones* is a play about a unique woman who finds the courage to try to change. Tracy makes the choice to tackle a task that is personally very difficult and scary for her to accomplish. She creates an overly specific and complicated plan (again...I relate) in order to make a

connection with another human being that she believes will understand her. Her plan is flawed, however, in that her idea is that only "single women named Tracy Jones" could possibly understand what it is like to experience the world as she does. It is a fairly silly and limiting premise for a party to think only one demographic would truly understand her. But how often have we looked at another person and thought, they couldn't possibly understand me or what I am going through because of a superficial judgment? Tracy Jones makes clear what this limited thinking often causes us to miss. We have the potential to find a human connection if we just have the courage to open ourselves to experience it.

This is something that I have felt firsthand through my own 13-year 'party' at Tipping Point. Like Jillie in the play, running a theatre has often felt like being the 24/7 "Personal-Party-host-with-the-most." As I close out my final season as Producing Artistic Director, the things that I will cherish most are the human connections. The artists and patrons of Tipping Point have shared their personal journeys with me, graciously revealing eccentric and loving experiences on par with my program letters, and it emphasizes the importance of places like Tipping Point. We need places where we can see ourselves represented, places that can validate our own experiences, and places where we can learn about journeys that differ from our own. Life is a wild party indeed.

Thank you to everyone that continues to accept the open invitation Tipping Point Theatre puts into the world. We do not have the budget for blimps carrying banners or skywriting, like Tracy, so we must rely on individuals like you. Advocates for the arts that have the courage to try something new and unknown. Those who accept the invitation and show up to explore the beautiful and complex realities of being human.

Onwards and Upwards.

James R Kuhl Producting Artistic Director

Cast

Tracy Jones Emily Sutton-Smith*

Tracy "Mackenzie" Jones Steve DeBruyne

Jillie Allison Megroet

Tracy "Eleanor" Jones Madelyn Porter*

*member, Actors' Equity Association

Setting

Place **here** Time **now**

Production Team

Director Tony Caselli

Scenic Design Zech Saenz

Properties Design / Set Dressing

Michelle Raymond

Costume Design Karen Kangas-Preston

Lighting Design Shannon Schweitzer

Sound Design Brian Cole

Technical Director Monica Spencer

Fight / Movement Consultant Alexis Black

Stage Manager Nyah Pierson

Assistant Stage Manager Andy Gaitens

Assistant Costume Designer

Bria Morgan Dinkins

Assistant Lighting Designer Madison Ramsey

Health & Safety Manager Vincent Ford, Jr.

Tipping Point Staff

Producing Artistic Director **James R. Kuhl**Company Manager **Natalie LaCroix-Tann**Associate Artists **Vincent Ford, Jr. | Nyah Pierson**Apprentice **Ezra Korycinski**

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The Tipping Point Theatre 2021/22 Season is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council and the National Endowment for the Arts.





Meet The Cast



Tracy Jones | Emily Sutton-Smith

Emily is the Executive Director and a co-Founder of the Williamston Theatre. She's very excited to be back on stage after the long Covid intermission. Recent appearances on the Williamston Theatre stage include *These Mortal Hosts, Out of Orbit,* and *Doublewide*. She's appeared on many stages around the state including Tipping Point Theatre, Purple Rose Theatre,

Meadowbrook Theatre, Detroit Rep, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, and Performance Network. A native New Yorker, Emily is also the narrator of over 200 audiobooks, a classically trained pastry chef, and has an Master of Fine Arts from Michigan State University. A proud member of Actors' Equity Association and SAG/AFTRA, she lives in Williamston with her husband, son, and dog. emilysuttonsmith.com



Tracy "Mackenzie" Jones | Steve DeBruyne

Steve is a graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City and the co-founder of The Dio - Dining & Entertainment, an intimate dinner theatre company located in Pinckney, Michigan, now in its ninth season. For two years and 433 performances, Steve was seen as Malcolm on the national tour of the Broadway musical, *The Full Monty*. He originated the role of Clarence,

the bumbling Guardian Angel, in Kathie Lee Gifford's original musical version of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Other favorite credits include Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* at The Encore, Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten* at The Croswell Opera House, and Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at The Dio, for which Steve received the 2019 Wilde Award for Best Actor in a Musical. Steve would like to thank the fantastic Tipping Point Theatre team for a wonderful experience.

Meet The Cast



Jillie | Allison Megroet

Allison is honored to be performing in her first show at Tipping Point Theatre. She has been involved in Michigan theatre for nearly 20 years, working with several companies including Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Roustabout Theatre, and Open Book. Since the return of live theatre, she appeared in The Penny Seats' outdoor musical, *Summer of Love*, and gained directing experience with the Rosedale

Community Players' production of *Making God Laugh*. She offers her gratitude to Tony and the Williamston Theatre for this experience. She also thanks her partner, Jake, for inspiring her to pursue her passions.



Tracy "Eleanor" Jones | Madelyn Porter

Madelyn is making her first appearance with Tipping Point Theatre. She has worked as a professional actor for over 40 years. Madelyn is a member of Actors' Equity Association and recipient of the 2019 Kresge Arts in Detroit - Literary Arts Award. She also performs *Storyliving* at the Detroit Historical Museum, The Henry Ford/ Greenfield Village, and Troy Historical

Village. She is the Connectivity and Engagement Manager for Detroit Public Theatre, lead drama instructor for Michigan Opera Theatre's Create and Perform, Writer in Residence/drama instructor for InsideOut Literary Arts/Youth Arts Alliance, Board member of Carrie Morris Arts Production, and director of Hamtramck Public School District – Cultural Awareness Through the Arts Program. An Associate Artist with Flint Repertory Theatre, Madelyn appeared in their 2022 production of *The Wrong River*.

Production Team

Stephen Kaplan | Playwright

Stephen's recent productions include a NNPN Rolling World Premiere of Tracy Jones with Williamston Theatre, Tipping Point, CenterStage, and Island City Stage (Winner: Chameleon Theatre: Finalist: B Street New Comedies Festival, ScreenCraft Stage Play Contest, Trustus Playwrights Festival) and Branwell (and other Brontës): An Autobiography Edited by Charlotte Brontë at Loft Ensemble (Semi-Finalist: O'Neill). Other plays have been produced off-Broadway at 59E59 and regionally around the country. Stephen is a 2021 Individual Artist Fellowship winner in playwriting from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and his plays have also been finalists for Seven Devils and the Woodward/Newman Award, semifinalists for PlayPenn and FutureFest, and been published by Dramatists Play Service. He earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University - Playwrights Horizons Theatre School and his Master of Fine Arts from Point Park University. He is a member of the Dramatists Guild and serves as Northeastern Regional Representative on the DG National Council. Visit bystephenkaplan.com for more information.

Tony Caselli | Director

Tony is Artistic Director of Williamston Theatre and has been honored to direct over 70 professional productions at wonderful places such as the Williamston Theatre, City Theatre, Tipping Point Theatre, Performance Network Theatre, Meadow Brook Theatre, Gem Theatre, The Purple Rose Theatre Company, Jewish Ensemble Theatre, Urban Stages (Manhattan), and Studio Arena Theatre (Buffalo, New York). Other notable credits include serving as Associate Artistic Director for The Purple Rose Theatre Company and directing the World Premiere of Mitch Albom's play Ernie, at the City Theatre in Detroit. He's been named Best Director for various productions by several publications including the Lansing State Journal, Detroit Free Press and Ann Arbor News, and has won Wilde Awards for directing 1984, boom, Oedipus, It Came From Mars, Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol, Take Me Out and 900 Miles to International Falls. A Michigan native, Tony received his degree in Theatre from Eastern Michigan University, is a member of Stage Directors and Choreographers, the union for professional stage directors. He lives in Williamston with his wife Jeanne, children Max and Maggie, and their schnoodle dog FlipFlop. tonycaselli.com

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Production Team

Nyah Pierson | Stage Manager + Associate Artist

A Metro Detroit native, Nyah is an Associate Artist at Tipping Point Theatre. She recently graduated from the University of Michigan - Theatre & Drama and LSA departments. During her time at Michigan, she worked on various productions within the program and the surrounding community. She has mentored youth in the Metro Detroit and Ypsilanti areas by directing, teaching, and performing. She continues to teach youth in the Metro Detroit areas through the non-profit organization, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, of which she is also an alum ('16). Outside of TPT, Nyah is focusing on her music, co-hosting the podcast Rant Much???, and diving deeper into the surrounding artistic community.

Zech Saenz | Scenic Designer

Zech is a third-year theatrical design Master of Fine Arts candidate at Michigan State University. He received his Bachelor of Science in theatre from the University of Indianapolis. He previously was the assistant scenic designer for A Christmas Carol: the Radio Play at Williamston Theatre. Some of his accolades include placing second in Costume Design at The National Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival after winning at Regionals for Marion, or the True Tale of Robin Hood, which also won the regional student award at The United States Institute for Theatre Technology. Also via KCACTF, Zech won the inaugural Crafts, Engineering, and Management award for the Love Talker; won best director in Design Storm! for Most Wretched Deathbed Fever Dreams of Edgar Allan Poe; and received a certificate of merit for props on The Complete Works of William Shakespeare. At MSU, he recently received the Gretel Geigst Design Excellence Award for his work on Grads in Drag.

Michelle Raymond | Properties Designer + Set Dresser

Michelle Raymond is pleased to be working at Tipping Point Theatre Theatre. Michelle's property designs have been featured at Williamston Theatre; notable productions include Silent Sky (2019 Wilde Award and Thespie Award winner), To Quiet The Quiet (2019 Pulsar Award winner), Summer Retreat (2017 Pulsar Award winner), Frankie and Johnny in the Clare de Lune, The Woman in Black, Miracle on South Division Street, Murder for Two, 1984, Pulp, Rounding Third, Blue Door, and Five Course Love (Subscriber's Choice Award for Best Property Design). Other property and set dressing designs include Underneath the Lintel (BoarsHead Theater, Chicago's First Folio Theatre, and City Lit Theater, IL). Michelle has created props, sound, and scenic designs for several productions at Performance Network, Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., Lansing Community College, Stormfield Theatre and BoarsHead Theater.

Production Team

Karen Kangas-Preston | Costume Designer

Karen is the Senior Academic Specialist, instructor of costume design and technology, and Head of Design at Michigan State University. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in costume design and technology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and her Master of Fine Arts in costume design from Illinois State University. Karen's designs have been seen around Michigan at Williamston Theatre (selected: 9 Parts of Desire, 900 Miles to International Falls, Silent Sky, Our Lady of Poison, Decade Dance, and the Greater Tuna series), Meadow Brook Theatre (Pin Up Girls, Writing Kevin Taylor, Fancy a Country Jukebox Musical, The Marvelous Wonderettes, Stick Fly, and Mom's Gift), Summer Circle Theatre (Fallen Angels, Mr. Burns a Post-Electric Play, and The Drunken City), and MSU's Department of Theatre (UrineTown, Oklahoma!, Cyrano De Bergerac, and Stage Door). karenkangaspreston.com

Bria Morgan Dinkins | Assistant Costume Designer

Bria started theater as a young child and acted in productions through high school. When they had the opportunity to assist with costumes for their school's production of *Into the Woods* their junior year, they realized their interest in fashion history and the exploration of characters through clothing. Bria graduated from Swarthmore College outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Anthropology, and Art History. Currently, they are Academic Programs Coordinator at the Michigan State University Broad Art Museum and spend their free time working with local community theaters as a design assistant.

Shannon Schweitzer | Lighting Designer

Shannon is Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at Michigan State University. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Mount Union College and Master of Fine Arts in Production Design from MSU. He has served as the Resident Lighting Designer for the Ohio Light Opera for ten years and also served as the Resident Lighting Designer for Theater of Youth in Buffalo. In New York City, Shannon has worked with Playwrights Horizons, The Public Theatre, Theatre Ten Ten, and The Zipper Theatre and has worked with Broadway legends Donald Holder, Kevin Adams, Howell Binkley, and Jennifer Tipton, all Tony Award winners. Most recently, he was the light board programmer for NBC coverage of the Beijing Olympics. Shannon received American College Theatre Festival awards in Lighting Design for Tea and Sympathy and The Children's Hour, The Lansing State Journal award for Best Set Design for The House of Blue Leaves and Best Lighting Design for Pulp (Williamston Theater) and Into the Woods (MSU) along with Lansing City Pulse Pulsar nominations for Best Lighting Designs for Tea and Sympathy, Hair, Thus with a Kiss I Die, Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol and Peter Pan.

Production Team

Brian Cole | Sound Designer

Brian is a Detroit native who holds a Bachelor of Science with a major in Sound Recording Technology from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. While pursuing his degree, Brian gained his technical experience from working not only as a sound and lighting technician at Interlochen Center for the Arts but also as a stagehand on national tour stops of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Sheryl Crow, Darius Rucker, and many more. Before joining Wayne State University as a lighting and sound technician, he served as a technical coordinator at Bethesda Christian Church and as a audio visual technician at PSAV at the Renaissance Center. Prior to his technical career, Brian grew up as a musician which led him to play in several churches, bands, and orchestras as a percussionist and a keyboardist. He graduated from the Detroit School of Arts which sparked his craft in the arts. His love for Detroit and the arts is what keeps him striving to cultivate the community.

Monica Spencer | Technical Director

Monica attended the Young Americans College of the Performing Arts, continued studying musical theatre at the New York Film Academy, and recently graduated from Eastern Michigan University with degrees in Art and Media Broadcast Journalism. Monica's love for theatre has led her to work both on and off the stage. She has designed, built, and painted sets for The Flint Rep, Theatre Nova, Oakland Community College, The Encore Musical Theatre Company, Black and Brown Theatre Company, Northern Stage, and The Detroit Opera House. Monica previously ran Bella Fortuna's Dinner Theatre and has entertained guests with Carnival Cruise Line. She is currently playing Siobhan in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at the Dio Dining & Entertainment. Check out MonicaSpencer.weebly.com for future performances and other artistic endeavors.

Vincent Ford, Jr. | Health & Safety Manager

Vincent is from Anguilla, Mississippi. He attended Tri-Cities High School in Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated from their Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Drama Department. Vincent is an actor, director, and fight choreographer. He is a University of Michigan Acting alumni and recently graduated from Northwestern University School of Communication with a Master of Science in Leadership for Creative Enterprises. Vincent is always thrilled to share pieces of African American Theatre and grateful for every opportunity to share stories of color. He believes that our art heals, and the best way to get on one accord is to learn each other's experiences.

Tipping Point Staff

James R. Kuhl | Producing Artistic Director

James has been Tipping Point Theatre's Producing Artistic Director since 2009. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Alma College and his Master of Fine Arts in Acting from Wayne State University. He completed The Purple Rose Theatre Apprentice Program, as well as a two-year internship with Alma College, where he helped teach classes. James learned set carpentry while working at Interlochen Fine Arts Camp and is a past winner of the Heck Rabi Playwriting Competition for The Kings of Unionville, which was later performed at Tipping Point as its first world premiere play. James recently won a Wilde Award for his performance of Every Brilliant Thing, which he now tours to local organizations as one of TPT's central Outreach Programs. Tipping Point acting credits include: Starbuck in The Rainmaker, Austin in True West, Ernest in The Importance of Being Earnest, and the one person show of Every Brilliant Thing. At Tipping Point he has directed The Last of the Red Hot Lovers, The Cocktail Hour, The Mystery of Irma Vep, Fiction, I Hate Hamlet, Murder at The Howard Johnsons, Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, The Outgoing Tide, Stella and Lou, American Wee-Pie, Don't Dress for Dinner, Ripcord, Funnyman, and The 39 Steps. James has worked as an area actor with The Purple Rose Theatre, Williamston Theatre, The Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Boarshead Theatre, Spotlight Theatre, Croswell Opera House, and the Summer Studio Theatre in Illinois. He has also been a member of The Detroit Public Theatre's Advisory Board since its inception in 2015. James has served as an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University, and is currently a Part Time Faculty member at Wayne State University in the Department of Theatre and Dance, where he has also directed productions of Blithe Spirit and August: Osage County. James is a proud father of 3 and loving partner of 20 years to his wonderful wife Hallie. James is committed to a lifelong career of supporting and advocating for the wellbeing of artists and the art of theatre

Natalie LaCroix-Tann | Company Manager

Natalie's passion for theatre started in 7th grade, and she's been hooked ever since. Her involvement in theatre has taken many forms through the years including: acting, directing, stage managing, and designing props. With an interest in learning all aspects of theatre, she graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a major in Theatre Arts in 2015. After completing the TPT Apprentice Program in 2017, she's excited to continue to help promote and grow the theatre. Interested in seeing her work and what's new at The Point? Check out our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages! "Thank you to our patrons, my family, and Malik! We couldn't do it without you!"

Ezra Korycinski | Apprentice

Ezra's previous work includes *Don't Talk to the Actors* (Beatrice), *Riding A Mad Horse* (Johnny), directing *You Can't Take It With You*, and writing/co-directing *Dark Roast Comedy*. His favorite show to-date remains adapting and directing *It's A Wonderful Life* with his old theater crew in December 2020. A hearty thanks to his partner, Elliot, for being willing to have dinner at 11pm some nights.

MEMBER REWARDS

Benefits for your yearly donation.

Tipping Point Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and your contribution directly impacts the success of our mission. Because of donors, we're able to enrich the Michigan theatre community by creating over 90 jobs for local artists each season. Through our budget and our audience spending before and after shows, we inject over \$1,000,000 into the local economy on a yearly basis. We also provide staffing for youth theatre through the PUPS program and have a performance partnership with Wayne State University. Thank you for your ongoing financial support of Tipping Point — it makes a tremendous difference!

APPRENTICE \$100-\$249

- · Recognition in each show program
- Invitation to, and opportunity to vote on, our Members' Choice Awards

ACTOR \$250-\$499 | all the Apprentice benefits plus...

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- 1 concession voucher per show* (6)

DIRECTOR \$500-\$749 | all the Actor benefits plus...

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- Purchase tickets or reserve seats 7 days in advance of the general public
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CADY CLUB \$1,250+ | all the Producer benefits plus...

- · First access to all tickets including Opening Night
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- Special personal invitations to mystery Tipping Point events

MEMBERSHIP RUNS JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

Membership rewards valid during our 14th Season. Contribution period is aligned with our fiscal year of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Special benefits are available for those who have provided for Tipping Point Theatre in their will or through our planned giving arrangements. Please contact James Kuhl, TPT Producing Artistic Director, to discuss further.

^{*}Concessions may not be served at every performance due to Covid-19 precautions. Other redeemable item(s) will be available in these instances.

SEASON 14 DONATING MEMBERS

Thank you to these individuals and businesses who have donated to the theatre for Season 14. Season Passes for Season 14 are now on sale in the box office and online. Many supporters choose to make their annual donation at the time of purchase. *Donations received as of May 11, 2022.*

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Schedule, pricing and all the details.

Preview — \$28

Opening Night — \$48

Friday and Saturday Night — \$40

Saturday and Sunday Matinee — \$36

Wednesday Matinee and Thursday Night — \$33

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Military — \$2 off regular ticket price. Senior (62 or older) — \$2 off regular ticket price. Student (up to age 24 with valid ID) — \$10 ticket

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Discounts not applicable for previews, Opening Nights or special events.

PREVIEWS

NO CALL, NO SHOW

See a production before its official opening for just \$28 and share your thoughts at the post-show "talk back" with the producing artistic director. Previews are the first two performances of each production.

All unclaimed ticket reservations will not be refunded and cannot be exchanged for another show once the performance begins. TPT reserves the right to sell empty seats at performance times.

GROUP RESERVATIONS

SEATING

Receive a \$3 per ticket discount with a reservation of 15 or more. Combine this with the senior discount for tickets as low as \$26 each, Contact the Box Office for more information.

Reserved seating begins 20 minutes before the show. Due to the intimacy of our space, late arrivals will be seated at the discretion of the house manager. If your Season Pass tickets are not picked up 10 minutes prior to show time, we reserve the right to sell your seats.

HOW TO ORDER

ACCESSIBILITY

Advanced reservations are recommended and can be made online or by calling our Box Office. Online sales are not eligible for any discounts. Tickets may also be purchased with cash, check or credit card at the Box Office.

All performances are accessible. Please mention special accommodations when making reservations.

EXCHANGE & CANCELLATION POLICIES

Due to COVID-19, our exchange & cancellation policies are currently waived. We are asking artists, audiences, staff, and volunteers to monitor their health and stay home if they are exhibiting any Covid and/or flu-like symptoms. All tickets are refundable and exchangeable up to the day of the performance. As new information regarding the spread of COVID-19 becomes available each day, Tipping Point is committed to adapting our policies and procedures to keep all who enter our doors safe. For up to date information on our COVID-19 policies, visit www.TippingPointTheatre.com.

To purchase tickets, visit TippingPointTheatre.com or call (248) 347-0003



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