

BALTIMORE

You Have No Idea



A PLAY BY BALTIMORE SUN COLUMNIST DAN RODRICKS

Stories from the hard streets and sweet spots of Baltimore

December 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 2023

Meyerhoff Auditorium at the Baltimore Museum of Art

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A Note from Dan Rodricks



I truly had no idea that “Baltimore, You Have No Idea” would be so well received by our audiences in 2022. It was a delightful surprise and a great encouragement. If you were in the house last year, thank you.

If this is your first experience with the play, my idea was this: Dramatize some of the many columns I have written as an *Evening Sun* and *Sun* columnist. All stories and roles, with one exception — the Boss Polyester character — are drawn from my published work. I have been able to keep

the column going since 1979 because Baltimore and Maryland are rich with interesting people and good stories, no embellishments necessary.

I hope that’s reflected in BYHNI and in my next play, “Baltimore Docket,” on stage in February. We hope you enjoy this “one-man play with a cast of seven,” or maybe it’s eight now. Thank you for coming.

DAN RODRICKS

Cast (in order of appearance)

- Dan Rodricks** Himself
- Vanessa Eskridge** Jeanie Comi and Margaret Kreiner
- Jim Bigwood** Boss Polyester
- John Dignam** Jerome Thompson and Ralph Fisher
- Kay-Megan Washington** Lula Key and Margaret Kreiner
- Dwight Weems** Harry Calloway
- Kevin Richardson** Linwood Taylor
- Nick Rodricks and Garrett Case** Soldiers



From the Editor's Desk

Dan Rodricks and *The Baltimore Sun* have long shared an unwavering love for this remarkable region we call home. He has been providing commentary for our news organization for more than 44 years, making his one of the longest-running news columns in the nation.

He's been a witness to our local history, from the birth of Harborplace to the collapse of Bethlehem Steel to the important issues of our region today. He often serves as our guiding light, illuminating both Baltimore's triumphs and tribulations.

Dan is more than a journalist; he is a gifted storyteller, a chronicler of our lives who inspires us to think, even if we disagree with him. Few cities are fortunate to boast a columnist like Dan. In fact, we can't think of another news organization with a columnist of his longevity.

We are immensely proud to have Dan as both a stalwart member of our team and a devoted advocate for the city of Baltimore. This play celebrates his remarkable journey, and we look forward to the stories he will weave for years to come.

TRIFFON G. ALATZAS
PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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COSTUMES

Mary Bova

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND WEBSITE

Todd Douglas

In Memoriam

The play is dedicated to the memory of Ed Rodricks and Takeyia "Precious" Fraling

The Company

Dan Rodricks

Dan Rodricks is a long-time columnist for *The Baltimore Sun* and a former local radio and television host who has won several national and regional journalism awards over a reporting, writing and broadcast career spanning five decades.



Will Schwarz –

Artistic Director

Will Schwarz is a Baltimore-based independent television producer, writer and director

with over 30 years of experience creating original non-fiction programs for broadcast, government and corporate clients. He has received Emmy and Telly awards and worked on high-profile broadcasts, including the Olympics. He is proud of helping create the acclaimed *Rodricks for Breakfast* show as its first producer. Will is founder and president of the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project, a 501(c)(3) that advances racial reconciliation in the state by documenting the history of racial terror lynchings, advocating for public acknowledgment of these murders and working to honor and dignify the lives of the victims. *Baltimore, You Have No Idea* (BYHNI) is his debut as director of theatre.



Mat Lane – *Music Director*

Mathew Lane has worked for Friends School of Baltimore since 2001, managing the after-school

music program and accompanying all choral concerts and musical theatre shows in the Middle and Upper Schools. He is also Director of Music at the St. Jude Shrine in Baltimore. He has taught piano, class piano and musicianship at Goucher College and Notre Dame of Maryland University.

He has performed extensively with the Maryland State Boychoir and was Music Director for Young Actors Theatre in Owings Mills, directing Lin Manuel-Miranda's "In the Heights," among other productions. Other credits include pit piano for the Baltimore Municipal Opera's production of Bizet's *Carmen*, as well as *Amahl and the Night Visitors* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, also at Municipal. Mat lives in Towson with his wife, soprano Rebecca Rossello, and their two children, Ana and Nicholas.



Jim Bigwood

Show business runs in Jim's DNA. His grand aunt Irene was a circus lion tamer in the late 19th century. When

he trod the stage as Aladdin in 4th grade, he was bitten by the bug and hooked when the audience laughed at his lines. A heralded audio engineer, Jim was recruited to play radio comic characters for the *Jones & West Show* on WBAL AM and for *Courduff and Lopez* on 98 Rock. In the early 1990s he was the announcer for Dan Rodricks' nightly WBAL radio show. In the 1980's, Jim did commercial voice-overs in Baltimore and Washington. He also played an uncredited police officer in Robert Townsend's movie *Meteor Man*; Jim was paid handsomely to shave off his mustache for the part. These days Jim is seen periodically on Maryland Public Television as a pledge drive host.



John Dignam

John is thrilled to appear again in this revival of BYHNI. He has worked happily in Baltimore theatre

since his retirement from federal service eight years ago with many local groups,

The Company (continued)

including Vagabond Players, Cockpit in Court Summer Theatre, Salem Players, Woodbrook Players, Stand Up For Theatre, Dundalk Community Theatre, Fells Point Corner Theatre, Strand Theatre Company, Spotlighters Theatre, Memorial Players, Laurel Mill Playhouse, and Just Off Broadway.



Vanessa Eskridge

Vanessa Eskridge is happy to return to BYHNI after its successful run last year. Locally, she also

appeared in *Variations on The End* with Rapid Lemon Productions, as Orange Girl in *Shout! The Mod Musical* and as Veronica in *God of Carnage* (Vagabond Players), and as Dr. Ashford in *Wit* (Fells Point Corner Theatre), as well as numerous New York City productions. Previously Vanessa produced Dan's WYPR *Midday* radio show. A transplant like Dan, she has always appreciated his clear-eyed affection for (and championing of) Baltimore and is honored to be a part of a show that celebrates the city's spirit.



Kevin Richardson

Kevin Richardson has acted for several years in theatre and movies. In the HBO mini-series, *We Own This City*, he portrayed a TV news reporter and recently starred in a short film, *The Road Not Taken*, as a father raising six children in a rough section of Baltimore. He also starred as Marley's ghost in *A Christmas Story*. Kevin is a visual journalist and editor at *The Baltimore Sun*. With a passion for creative storytelling, he can be found with his gear at many of the area's biggest stories and has turned his camera on NFL games, the

Super Bowl, Preakness, Orioles and the case of "Serial" figure Adnan Syed. His award-winning videos, photos and stories have run in *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, CNN and ABC News. Working with this cast has been amazing! Thanks for supporting live theatre.



Kay-Megan Washington

Kay-Megan Washington is excited to be back in BYHNI. Active in the area theatre scene for the last ten years,

her favorite roles include Dorothy and Carol in *Do It Now!*, a new musical about William Donald Schaefer; Madame de Volanges in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*; Grandma in *Fabulation...or the Re-education of Undine*; and a trio of Sondheim divas: Joanne in *Company*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*. In film and TV, she appeared in *Our Kind of People* (Fox), *The Christmas Lottery* (BET), and *City on a Hill* (Showtime), as well as the "Suspiciously Low Prices" commercial campaign for Lidl.



Dwight Weems

Dwight Weems is a veteran of live musical entertainment, a founding member and lead vocalist of GAZZE, "The Fun Band!" Since the 1970s, GAZZE has performed over 3,000 live musical events and one of the area's best regarded party bands. Dwight is making his theatrical reprise in BYHNI since his last theatrical role was in *Bye Bye Birdie* more than 50 years ago in high school. "I love being surrounded by theatrical veterans who can make me look good!" he says. "I look forward to hearing the thunderous applause for my fellow actors! Thanks for coming and enjoy the show!"

A New Play by Dan Rodricks

Premieres
February 2024

BALTIMORE DOCKET

While observing and chronicling hundreds of trials and courtroom scenes over the last 44 years as a columnist for *The Sun*, Dan Rodricks discovered a rich source of stories describing the human condition, and life, in Baltimore. From these courtroom experiences, he brings seven stories to life on stage, from the tragic to comic.

PERFORMANCES

Friday, February 9 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 pm
Saturday, February 10 at 7:30 pm
Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 pm
Friday, February 16 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, February 17 at 2:00 pm

LOCATION

Meyerhoff Auditorium at the
Baltimore Museum of Art

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