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**A NEW PLAY ABOUT THE COURTS BY
BALTIMORE SUN COLUMNIST DAN RODRICKS**

February 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 2024
Meyerhoff Auditorium at the Baltimore Museum of Art

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A Note from Dan Rodricks



Reporters spend a lot of time in courtrooms and, when I first arrived in Baltimore, in 1976 to work for The Evening Sun, it was a daily ritual. Each morning shift

started with a visit to one of the old District Courts. Back then, courtrooms were attached to police stations — not a good look; it gave the appearance of an alignment of the police and the judiciary. Eventually, new courthouses and police districts were separately constructed. I visited district courts in all corners of Baltimore and

Baltimore County, as well as the city and county circuit courts, in my efforts to make the criminal justice system real to readers. The dockets in District Court provided a street-level view of life in Baltimore’s neighborhoods; the trials in Circuit Court told of Baltimore’s long struggle with drugs and violence. The cases dramatized in “Baltimore Docket” are all real, observed from the gallery, described in dispatches on deadline. Thank you for supporting our play.

DAN RODRICKS

Cast (in order of appearance)

- Dan Rodricks** Himself
- John Dignam** Judge Gerstung; Dave Ruppert; Judge
- Dwight Weems**Officer Daniels, Judge Cox, Sal Spinnato
- Kay-Megan Washington** Charlene Savage; Rachel Rogers; Elizabeth Adams; Cynthia Kemp
- Vanessa Eskridge** Claire, public defender; Ann Brobst, prosecutor; Judge Rasin
- Linda Foy** Waxman, prosecutor; Louise Lee; Assistant prosecutor; Renee Hutchins
- Kevin Richardson** Clerk; Jerome Anderson; Mark “Farley” Grant
- Nick Rodricks** Don Giblin, prosecutor; Frank
- David Blumberg** Shure, prosecutor; Judge Levitz
- Gina Richardson** Henrietta Blake; Victoria Wallace; Angela Gunthrop
- Brian Wendell Morton** Blatchley, public defender; Nathan Holly; Defense counsel; Mardell Brawner
- Jim Bigwood** Tad Stevens, Howard Bloom; Mr. Nance; Clerk
- Milton Kent** Warren Little, Adam Phillips; Damon Lawson; Clarence Pratt
- Tracy McCracken** Barbara Hallquist; Lara Ditwell; Andrea Mason
- Sophie Isbell** Georgia Fisher; Rhonda Anderson
- Charlene Gross** Rita’s mom
- Lydia Newman** Rosie
- Toby Hessenauer** Al Hutchins; Paul Gray; Butch Hodgson

Baltimore Docket

DIRECTORS

Dan Rodricks, Vanessa Eskridge and Thomas “Toby” Hessenauer

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mat Lane

CELLIST

Kirsten Walsh

STAGE MANAGER

Taryn Comizio

LIGHTING AND AUDIO

Natasha Tylea

VIDEO PRODUCTION

Will Schwarz, Pennant Productions

SCENERY

Gary Flowers

Christopher Winslow

COSTUMES

Mary Bova

GRAPHIC DESIGN AND WEBSITE

Todd Douglas

Acknowledgments

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The Baltimore Sun

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Brian S. Goodman, Young Victorian Theatre Company

Second Chance

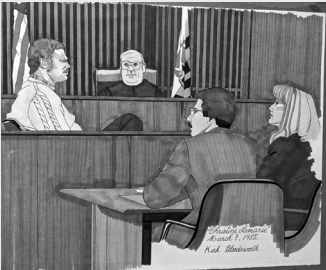
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Friends School of Baltimore

Julia Rodricks, Brenna Blount, Camryn DeLucie, Mika Van Hendricks

Frank Slade



Drawn on Deadline: The Courtroom Art of Christine Lemarié

From the mid-1970s to 1990, Christine Lemarié sat in Maryland courtrooms for WBAL-TV and WJZ-TV to capture scenes from trials for the evening news. Cameras were not allowed in Maryland courtrooms –

they are still prohibited – so it was left to Christine Lemarié and other artists to sketch from the front row of the gallery (or sometimes an empty jury box) to give television viewers a sense of the scene in trials of all types, from homicides to political corruption cases. Now, dozens of Christine’s original drawings are for sale. To view her work and get more information about purchasing one, please click the link in our website store at YouHaveNoIdea.org/shop or contact info@YouHaveNoIdea.org.

Did you miss Dan’s first play “Baltimore, You Have No Idea”?

Sign up to receive email announcements of future shows:

YouHaveNoIdea.org/signup

The Company

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. His first play was *Baltimore, You Have No Idea* (BYHNI).

Mat Lane (*Music Director*) 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 and has taught at Goucher College and Notre Dame of Maryland University. He lives in Towson with his wife, soprano Rebecca Rossello, and their two children, Ana and Nicholas.

Kirsten Walsh (*Cellist*) While most of her work has been in classical music, Kirsten Walsh plays in rock, jazz and folk groups. She is head of the Performing Arts Department and Orchestra Director at Friends School of Baltimore and loves to share her passion for music with students. Her longest musical partner is her husband, Lucien Walsh, and they have two children.

Jim Bigwood has show business in his DNA. His grand aunt Irene was a circus lion tamer in the late 19th century. And when he trod the stage as Aladdin in 4th grade, he was bitten by the bug. A heralded audio engineer, Jim has played 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. These days Jim is seen periodically on Maryland Public Television as a pledge drive host.

David Blumberg is a native Baltimorean with degrees from Friends School, Loyola

College and the University of Maryland, College Park. His career has been in libraries and prisons. He has never acted previously, even in a school play.

John Dignam previously appeared in both runs of Dan's *BYHNI*. Local theatre credits include Vagabond Players, Cockpit in Court Summer Theatre, Salem Players, Woodbrook Players, Dundalk Community Theatre, Fells Point Corner Theatre, Strand Theatre Company, Spotlighters Theatre, Memorial Players, Laurel Mill Playhouse, and Just Off Broadway.

Vanessa Eskridge appeared in *BYHNI* for both sold out runs and is delighted to return in *Baltimore Docket*. Local acting credits include roles with Rapid Lemon, Vagabonds and Fells Point Corner Theatre. She is founder and host of Play Club, a monthly meet-up examining and celebrating great plays and theatre production. She previously produced Dan's *Midday* radio show on WYPR and thanks him for the opportunity to help tell these stories. And thanks to her family and friends for their love and support.

Linda Foy is grateful to share the stage with veteran actors and learn from them. A communications professional with a background in corporate communications, media relations and broadcast journalism, Linda first worked with Dan at WBAL radio where she was an award-winning anchor reporter. Linda is a proud graduate of Western High School, with her Bachelor's from Towson University and Master's from Loyola University Maryland.

Charlene Gross is a native of Baltimore and recently retired from working in development for United Way. She first met Dan as a production assistant on his WMAR morning television show. In theatre, she has worked in a variety of roles from stage

The Company (continued)

manager, sound engineer and performer for local companies such as Young Vic, Spotlighters and Fells Point Theatre.

Toby Hessenauer is no stranger to the Baltimore/Annapolis theatre scene. This is his 96th production in the region including roles at Vagabonds, Dundalk Community Theatre and Cockpit in Court. He has studied under members of the Royal Shakespeare company and Folger Shakespeare Library. A member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) he was in HBO's *Something the Lord Made*, *The Wire*, *Veep* and Netflix's *House of Cards*.

Sophie Isbell is delighted to be a part of the cast of *Baltimore Docket*. She received her BFA in Acting from Pace University, where she also earned her BA in Women's and Gender Studies and Masters in Public Administration. Sophie is currently a full-time actor, working in both NYC and D.C. When she's not playing with her cat Milo or making pottery for her girlfriend, you can find Sophie recording VoiceOvers for national commercials from her home studio. Sophie would like to give a special thank you to Morgan and Martine for being the best two-woman support system in existence.

Milton Kent is a Maryland native and veteran of Baltimore media, having covered local news, sports and features for the *Evening Sun* and *Baltimore Sun* for 23 years. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Milton currently teaches journalism at Morgan State University, where he is an advisor to the school newspaper, *The MSU Spokesman*. He and his wife live in Baltimore County.

Tracy McCracken is grateful to be invited to do this show. She has done four shows for Memorial Players in Baltimore; she also appeared in roles for Guerilla Theatre Front, Maryland Theatre Collective, Colonial

Players, On the Road Theater, Purple Light Theatre Company, Silhouette Stage and the Baltimore Rock Opera Society. Tracy is thankful to Steve, Maura, India, Kateri, and her family for their love and support.

Brian Wendell Morton has been a professional magician and sleight-of-hand artist for more than 40 years. He has opened for Leon Redbone, performed for Fortune 500 companies and at the Kennedy Center. For 25 years he amazed audiences at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. He has been an award-winning radio journalist, a congressional press secretary, White House staffer, Baltimore City Paper political columnist, and author of *Political Animal: I'd Rather Have A Better Country*. He is thrilled to return to the boards as a member of the cast of *Baltimore Docket*.

Lydia Newman is thrilled to join the cast of *Baltimore Docket*. As a recent graduate of the University of Virginia with a BA in Drama and Media Studies, she has been eager to enter the Baltimore acting scene. Recent roles include Deb in *Elf The Musical* (Wayne Theatre), Feste in *Twelfth Night the Musical* (UVA Drama), and Thomas/Betsy in *Sense & Sensibility* (UVA Drama).

Gina Richardson is excited to be part of the cast of *Baltimore Docket*. As a member of a small local drama team, Gina has previously appeared in several skits and dessert theatre productions and is very thankful to be included in this production.

Kevin Richardson has acted for several years in theatre and movies. In HBO's *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. His award-winning videos, photos and stories have appeared in national media outlets. Working with this cast has been amazing! Thanks for supporting live theatre.

Nick Rodricks is happy to be joining the cast after a number of years without theatre in his life. A Baltimore native, Nick grew up hearing many of these stories and is excited to see them take form on stage. While a far cry from his day job, Nick has loved theatre since his days at the Friends School where he performed in an adaptation of *The Front Page* directed by his father Dan. Immensely proud of his hometown, Nick is thrilled to be a part of this cast, memorializing local stories in a unique and thoughtful way.

Kay-Megan Washington has been active in the area theatre scene for the last ten years; she is thrilled to be able to work with Dan and Company again after being featured as Lula Key in *Baltimore, You Have No Idea*. In addition to stage work, Kay-Megan has appeared in TV and film roles, including *Our Kind of People* (Fox) and *The Christmas Lottery* (BET). kay-meganwashington.com

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 was in *BYHNI*, his first role since high school 50 years ago. "I love being surrounded by theatrical veterans who can make me look good! I look forward to hearing the thunderous applause for my fellow actors! Thanks and enjoy the show!"



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