

PLAYBILL

CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

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THE ILLUSION

by Tony Kushner

Freely adapted from “L’Illusion Comique”
by Pierre Corneille

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and the Gersh Agency

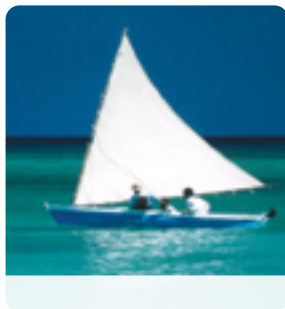
Playing at Prospect Playhouse, Red Bay

February 2020 - 7:30 p.m. - Thu/Fri/Sat 20-22, 27-29
March 2020 - 7:30 p.m. - Thu/Fri/Sat 5-7



Cayman Drama Society

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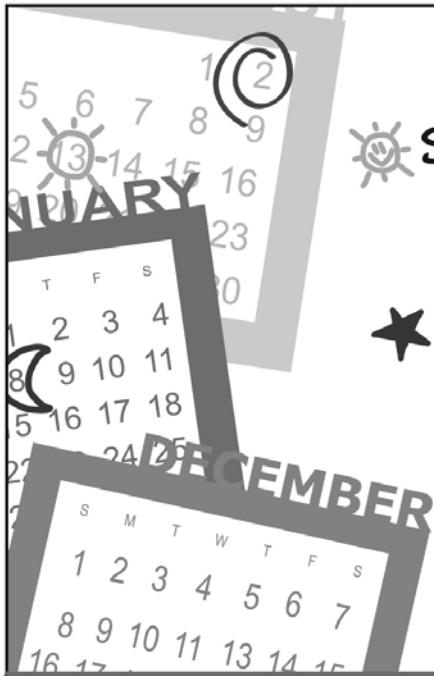
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

In July 1970 - the Cayman Drama Society was finally formed as an informal group. It was agreed "See How They Run" would run for 3 nights - 12/13/14 November 1970. Paul Dyson started as the Director/Producer but quickly passed over the direction to the experienced Val Morgan. Peter Phillips enhanced the lighting that he had already installed for The Cayman Singers and assisted Dennis Smith and John Furze with set building. It was the first full play ever presented in Cayman with scenery, costumes and props. The Town Hall (now the Peace Memorial Hall) was bursting at the seams every night.

On the first night, there was much consternation when the curtains opened to reveal what looked like a house built on the stage - a theatrical illusion many local people had not previously seen. But they all settled down and quickly got on terms with the play, laughing in all the right and even the wrong places. It was really a joyful occasion for everyone and most rewarding for the fledgling Society." - Source: John Shield notes on CDS' formative years. CDS went on that year to formally set up as a not-for-profit with - Stanley Pantone (Chairman), Maureen Moody (Deputy Chairman), John K. Shield (Treasurer), John G. Morgan (Secretary), with John Furze, Valarie Morgan and John Maples as committee members.

With the foresight of these initial pioneers in Cayman, CDS has enjoyed a successful 50 years of presenting the Cayman community with shows ranging from pantomimes, farces, dramas, murder mysteries, musicals and the classics.

We pride ourselves on the level of professionalism both on stage and backstage with hundreds of dedicated volunteers and audiences over the last five decades. We kick off the 2020 season and our 50th anniversary with *The Illusion* freely adapted by award winning playwright Tony Kushner, of Pierre Corneille's neoclassical French comedy, "**L'illusion Comique**." *The Illusion* is an enchanting argument for the power of theatrical imagination over reality, it weaves obsession and caprice, romance and murder, fact and fiction, into an enticing exploration of the greatest illusion of all-love (Good Reads).

Director, Paul DeFreitas is passionate about ensuring diversity in theatre, with the powerful *Sistahs*, and the classic *Proof* and the suspense, drama and bold stagecraft of *Woman in Black*, he has truly brought the world of imagination and theatrical diversity to the Prospect Playhouse stage. With *The Illusion* it is no small feat to ensure that the mystery, imagination and illusion is real for the audience. I would like to thank the talented Paul deFreitas and his production team for creating this show for our stage. Thank you also to our volunteer cast and crew who have worked tirelessly to bring you this performance tonight. Of course, the cast and production team does not a full show make. There are all of our other

volunteers at front of house, bar, lighting crew, sound crew and backstage that complete the full puzzle. Thank you all for your dedication, hours of work and our volunteerism.

It would be reticent of me not to recognise our pioneers and our hundreds of volunteers who have brought CDS to where it is today, some 50 years later. These volunteers rallied together to not only build the Prospect Playhouse, but to rebuild it after it was demolished in 2004 in the wake of Hurricane Ivan. Thank you for the amazing little theatre that has been our home since the early '90s. We thank all of the committee members past and present who have guided and led the CDS to where it is today, a successful and respected community theatre. The standards our members set was high, and through the years these standards have been maintained and processes put in place. Today the CDS is an efficient, and sustainable society where we continue to enrich, educate, entertain and engage.

In following the vision of our pioneers, CDS expanded its offering to the community by offering drama classes in late 2016. What is now under the umbrella of CayStage, our Head of Education, Kirsty O'Sullivan has already led over 700 classes, from workshops to one-on-one training. These workshops and classes are an added value in bringing new talent to CDS in the form of technical operators, actors and directors. Kirsty's diversity in her teachings, her depth of knowledge and love of theatre has certainly enhanced what we have been offering. CDS is proud this year to be working with the Royal Shakespeare Company who will be visiting Cayman (their first time in the region!) and offering workshops to students and staff on the studying of Shakespeare. This is one of the added values that CDS brings, especially since our public schools have reintroduced Shakespeare into the curriculum.

So what else is happening for our birthday? Please note we will be holding a 50th Anniversary Gala on June 19th, so please save the date. The event will feature our own students performing as we walk down memory lane. *Noises Off* will open on May 21st for four weeks and of course, our 50th anniversary would not be complete without the much loved *Playhouse Family Christmas*.

To our dedicated volunteers, audiences and members, thank you for your on-going support. We continue to seek volunteers for all of the above. Please email chairman@cds.ky or sign up on our website at www.cds.ky. We really do need you.

So now we invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy *The Illusion* and please do, Share The Show!

Sheree Ebanks
Chairman 2019/2020



THEATRE MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Welcome to THE ILLUSION. Tonight you will see a phantasm set in black – very dark green floor, black drapes, black borders overhead, more black drapes to form curves, platforms to raise the floor, toblerones (3-sided periactoids) to provide structure. It is a simple cave. The setting allows you to hang your vision of a cave onto what you are seeing and being prompted by. Careful use of lighting and sounds enhances the scene and provides further visual and audible cueing. Contrast that with our second play of our 50th year – the comedy NOISES OFF – acknowledged by the acting community as being the funniest play ever written and performed about acting. It requires a giant 28'x16' set which can be revolved to display the reverse during Act Two. It is expensive but absolutely necessary for the show. The Producer (who is the CEO of the production) must look at budget,

manpower, timescales, and sharing the theatre with others during rehearsals.

There is nothing AMATEUR about amateur theatre – and most certainly not at the Cayman Drama Society. The budget and production processes which we go through are mirrored for every professional production. But professionals get paid whereas our performers, our set builders, our crew, our bar and front-of-house are all volunteer. Celebrate 50 years of CDS involvement in the dramatic arts in the Cayman Islands with us. During this year, pledge to volunteer to assist on at least one of the many events.

Enjoy the Show!

Paul de Freitas
Theatre Manager



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to an evening of mystery, where we join a father's quest to find the son he drove away from his home when a young boy. Set in the 17th century in a cave near Remulac, a small town in the south of France, we experience the illusions through which magic reintroduces the father to his son. But is all as it seems? Who is pulling the strings in that cave? Who is the son hiding from with all of his changing names? Why is it necessary for the magician's secretarial assistant (the Amanuensis) to enter into the illusions from time to time?

The play is the work of award winning playwright Tony Kushner who freely adapted "L'Illusion Comique", a 17th century French play by Pierre Corneille. The adaptation was written for a production directed by Brian Kulick, who brought the play to Kushner's attention and asked him to adapt it. It has been subsequently performed widely in the USA and around the world.

BUT – It has never been performed in the manner presented before you here tonight. In the manner in which it is generally staged, there are no questions except "Why does the son's name keep changing?". In our presentation, we raise questions about the magician, Alcandre, and his relationship to his servile secretary, the Amanuensis. Alcandre's final words declare himself to be "a tired old fake". As in all illusions, we are permitted to

believe as much as we wish to and to decide the manner in which we see the illusion – possibly quite differently to the next person. It is, after all, an illusion.

Paul de Freitas
Director

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THE CAYMAN DRAMA SOCIETY

Presents

The Illusion

by **Tony Kushner**

**Freely adapted from Pierre Corneille's
L'ILLUSION COMIQUE**

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THE ILLUSION was first presented by New York Theater Workshop in October 1988. It was directed by Brian Kulick for whom it was written by Tony Kushner. The play was subsequently performed, in the current expanded version, at Hartford Stage Company in January 1990, directed by Mark Lamos. It was next produced at the Los Angeles Theater Center in April 1990, directed by David Schweitzer. It is still performed around the world in schools, colleges, and in amateur and professional productions.

*Produced and Directed for the Cayman Drama Society by Paul de Freitas
Staged at the Prospect Playhouse, Grand Cayman - February 20 to March 7, 2020*

PLEASE NOTE

The videotaping or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited



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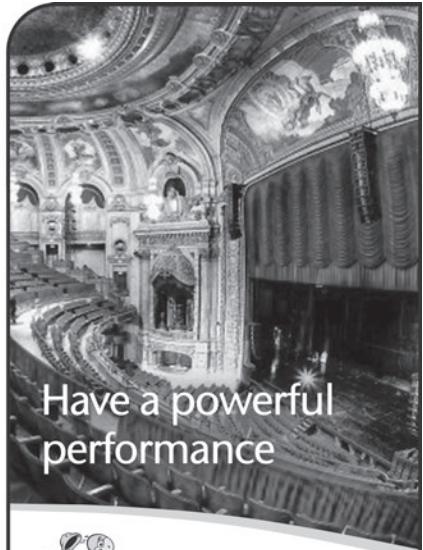
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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

PRIDAMANT, a father	Stephen Wise
THE AMANUENSIS, a magician's secretary	Gerardo Ochoa-Vargas
ALCANDRE, a magician	Martin Campion
CALISTO	Dante Bilchuris
ELICIA/GERONTE	Tamarra Davis
MELIBEA/ISABELLE/HIPPOLYTA	Miriam El-Madany
ADRASTE/FLORINAME	Nicolas Picard
PLERIBO/MATAMORE	Liam Oko
CLINDOR/THEOGENES	Ben Tatum
LYSE/CLARINA	Melanie Ebanks

CREW

PRODUCER / DIRECTOR	Paul de Freitas
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR / STAGE MANAGER	Erica Ebanks
COSTUMES/PROPS	Fay Anne de Freitas
SOUND DESIGN AND TECH	James Gibb
LIGHTS AND SET	Paul de Freitas
SET CONSTRUCTION	Paul de Freitas, Bill Mervyn, Peter Pasold
CHARACTER WORKSHOP	Kirsty O'Sullivan (CDS CayStage)
STAGE CREW	Tracey Burns, Gill McDonald, Simone Middleton



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CAST

PridamantSTEPHEN WISE

Alcandre MARTIN CAMPION

The Amanuansis GERARDO OCHOA-VARGAS

Calisto DANTE BILCHURIS

Melibea / Isabelle / Hippolyta MIRIAM EL-MADANY

Lyse / Geronte TAMARRA DAVIS

Adraste / Floriname NICOLAS PICARD

Pleribo / Matamore LIAM OKO

Clindor / Theogenes BEN TATUM

Lyse / Clarina MELANIE EBANKS

BIOGRAPHY



STEPHEN WISE - Stephen is the IB Diploma Literature teacher at CIS, Camana Bay and has been involved in drama since age eight. Most recently as Mr. Dussel in the CDS production of *Diary Of Anne Frank*, he brings with him a lifetime in drama and literature as teacher, producer, stage manager, set designer, director, and actor in a diverse range of productions from Dick Whittington’s *Cat to Macbeth and Othello*; from *Waiting For Godot to Noises Off!*



MARTIN CAMPION - I started trying out for parts in amateur productions after emigrating from Ireland to Luxembourg in 2011. Among my favourites were Manus in Brian Friel’s *Translations* and Ariel in Martin McDonagh’s *The Pillowman*. This is my third play at the Prospect Playhouse. My role in *On Golden Pond* was very challenging and fun for me. And in *The Illusion* I hope to continue the “magic”.



GERARDO OCHOA-VARGAS - A physician (MD) for the National University of Mexico, he currently works as Cell Biology and Histology professor at the school of medicine of St. Matthew University in Grand Cayman. He has appeared in a handful of commercials and a couple of plays during secondary school. This challenging role is his first attempt at treading the boards in an adult production.



BIOGRAPHY (CONTINUED)



DANTE BILCHURIS - 13 years old, born in Grand Cayman. Theatre is something I enjoy very much and I have attended Ms Kirsty's drama classes at the Prospect Playhouse since they first began. I recently experienced being backstage crew, I have acted in smaller productions related to CDS drama classes. *The Illusion* is my first major production.



MIRIAM EL-MADANY - An MD and professor whose love for the stage was born at an early age. Growing up in Ireland she engaged in everything she could from primary school performances to Irish dance classes and also singing in the shower. This is her first return to the stage since high school and she is VERY excited.



TAMARRA DAVIS - Tamarra has been a part of the Cayman Drama society for many years. Her love for the stage is apparent and is willing to play any role that required. Her roles in *Little Shop Of Horrors*, *Hairspray* and *Jekyll And Hyde*, to name a few, are ones to be remembered and she enjoyed every moment of them.



NICOLAS PICARD - Joining us this year for his second CDS production Nicolas has been on stage from an early age, performing in numerous plays from Shakespeare, Schisgal, Racine, Musset... He also studied classical singing and performed in few operas production like *Don Giovanni* and *Carmen* and lately the CDS musical *Into the woods*.



LIAM OKO - Liam has acted since a young boy including numerous productions at the Bauer Theater in Antigonish, Nova Scotia with lead roles in *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Honk The Musical*, and *Shout The Musical*. He attended Stratford Shakespeare school in Stratford, Ontario. Locally he has appeared in *Playhouse Family Christmas*, *Not Now Darling*, *Footloose*, *Barefoot In The Park* and *Dairy Of Anne Frank*.



BEN TATUM - Ben is a 19 year old Caymanian. In 2018, he built up the courage to go on stage for the first time in *Grease*. He discovered a love and passion for acting. He went on to perform in *Diary Of Anne Frank*, and *Playhouse Family Christmas*. He has also experienced and enjoyed other aspects of theatre - backstage in *Educating Rita*, lights in *On Golden Pond*, and lights/sound in *Proof*.



MELANIE EBANKS - Melanie is thrilled to return to the Prospect Playhouse stage to participate in *The Illusion*. She has performed in a number of CDS productions, and others internationally which included *39 Steps*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling B*, *Cymbaline*, *As You Like It* and *Tartuffe*. She has performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has appeared in a number of films. Melanie spends most of her time in London as an actor having trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.



ACTS / SCENES

ACT ONE

A magician's cave - a father searches for his son

ILLUSION ONE

Calisto, Melibea, Elicea and Pleribo

ILLUSION TWO

Clindor, Matamore, Adraste, Isabelle and Lyse

--CURTAIN--

ACT TWO

ILLUSION TWO (CONTINUED)

Lyse, Matamore, Isabelle, Geronte, Clindor and Adraste

ILLUSION THREE

Clarina, Hippolyta, Theogenes, Prince Floriname

--CURTAIN--



THE CHARACTERS

PRIDAMANT: The father of Calisto / Clindor / Theogenes, who he drove away from home at a young age. He seeks out Alcandre, a magician, so that he can discover what happened to his son since he ran away from home years ago. A rich lawyer, in his old age Pridamant has become ill and knows that this may be the last chance he has to reconnect with his son.

ALCANDRE: A sorcerer who allows people to live vicariously through the illusions that he creates by dark magic. Alcandre never enters the visions himself, instead preferring to watch the reactions of his clients as they view the lives of others unfold before them.

THE AMANUENSIS: Secretary and slave to Alcandre. Seemingly brutalized by his master, he enters the illusions apparently for his master's benefit, which appears to cause him great physical pain and psychological duress. But is he really a puppet, or rather the puppet master..

CALISTO / CLINDOR / THEOGENES: Son of Pridamant who fled at a very young age to escape his father's tyranny. In the illusions, he is in love with Melibea / Isabelle / Hippolyta, though he lusts for other women. He is a passionate romantic who sometimes gets carried away with his stories, exaggerations, and lyricism.

PLERIBO / ADRASTE / FLORINAME: Rival of Calisto / Clindor / Theogenes and the suitor of Melibea / Isabelle / Hippolyta. His attempts at chivalry fall flat in comparison to his rival, thus causing great jealousy and malicious retaliations.

MELIBEA / ISABELLE / HIPPOLYTA: Lover and later wife of Calisto / Clindor / Theogenes. She is a noblewoman whose dysfunctional relationship with her cruel father mirrors that of Calisto / Clindor / Theogenes and Pridamant. She falls madly in love with Calisto / Clindor / Theogenes, rejecting her other wealthy suitors despite the fact that it is unprecedented for a woman of her class to wed a man of seemingly humble birth. Though her husband is unfaithful, she remains by his side.

ELICIA / LYSE / CLARINA: Maidservant and companion to Melibea / Isabelle / Hippolyta, she is a crafty conniving dreamer who cares for her mistress but will stop at nothing to gain wealth and position.

MATAMORE: An egotistical braggart who is always talking about his military conquests and the women who adore him. He is all bravado, an immense buffoon of a personality with a wealth of stories which are all unbelievable.

GERONTE: Father to Melibea / Isabelle / Hippolyta. He is a loveless character not interested in his daughter's wishes for a marriage based on love, and instead insists on arranging suitors based on their rank in society.

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MESSAGE FROM CURTAIN CALL BAR

A very warm welcome to the Prospect Playhouse and our first production of 2020. As usual, your team of hard-working volunteers behind the Curtain Call bar is here to serve you. We pride ourselves on buying local where possible and are very grateful for the support we get from our suppliers. We consider ourselves the “best little bar” in Cayman, and we are also aiming for the “greenest little bar” in Cayman. We do not supply straws and we encourage you to place empty cans and bottles in our recycling bins next to the theatre doors in the foyer. Please also place empty Cayman Islands Brewery products i.e. Caymanian beers in the CIB crates. If you bring your own bottle/cup we will happily pour your drink into it.

We also have lovely Cayman Drama Society branded cups which you can purchase for CI\$5, fill with the drink of your choice and use at the theatre and beyond. There will be a discount for every drink you have poured into a CDS cup, so bring it to every show.

Please pre-order drinks and snacks for the intermission at the bar and we will have them all ready, labelled and waiting for you around the foyer when you come out from the first half.

There are two special drinks available just for this show - try the ‘Magus Cloak’, a mysterious blue/purple concoction with a zing or the ‘Witches Brew’, fizzing and magical (warning: both contain alcohol). These are \$6 each.

I would just like to thank the Cayman Drama Society for accepting me as their new bar and volunteer team manager. I sincerely hope I can live up to my excellent predecessor Alison Bishop’s high standards and I look forward to a fun and rewarding time working with the brilliant team at CDS at the Prospect Theatre.

Enjoy the show!

Gill McDonald

Bar and Volunteer Team manager
barmanager@cds.ky



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WigglyPen Creative Services

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cayman Drama Society is committed to providing quality live theatre to educate, enrich and entertain, while providing lifelong learning opportunities and fostering creative expression.

The Cayman Drama Society was founded in 1970 and continues to be the leading provider of live theatrical entertainment on Grand Cayman.

Supporting the
Cayman Drama Society since 2009.

AD AGENCY SERVICES
DESIGN
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PROMOTIONAL ITEMS



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SMILE.



Cayman's longest-running theatre group has been delighting audiences with tragedies and comedies alike since its first curtain up. The group's four decades of staying power is a reflection of memorable performances and stellar dedication.

Dart is both a fan and proud supporter.

DART

The Ministry of Culture congratulates the Cayman Drama Society on another great production. The arts connect, unify and inspire both audience and actors and we thank you for serving as an outlet for our people's creativity.



MINISTRY OF
HEALTH & CULTURE
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

We give you
a standing
ovation for
showcasing
our local
talent.