

A ONE-NIGHT ONLY DRIVE-IN

UNION CATHOLIC PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

LOVE

*(awkwardly)
& Virtually*

JOHN
ROTONDO
MARYANN
CAROLAN

OCTOBER 24, 2020

CAST

Eddie – Danny Jaworski '21
Wendy – Isabella DelNegro '21
Randy – Benjamin Cook '24
Charlotte – Addy Chelak '22
George – Kevin Caffrey '23
Laura – Paris Townsell '21
Luke – Noah Lytle '21
Roxanne – Ava Pickering '24
Jack – Sean Machado '21
Jessica – Christina DeLucca '22

Understudies

Sean Machado '21 & Katharine Walto '24

Monologists

Nicole Ciuba '24, Christina DeLucca '22, Sean Machado '21, Clare McGuinness '21, Jennifer Mejia '21, Katherine Petrick '21, Xavier Santangelo '23, Katharine Walto '24

CREW

Web Design

Elijah Chisolm '22
Sam Deering '23
Mallory Fella '23
Tyler Martin '23
George Miller '23
Olivia Patikowski '22
Kandice Rodriguez-
Hernandez '23
Luis Alejandro Ruiz '23
Kristen Valendo '24

Research

Sam Deering '23
Mallory Fella '23
Tyler Martin '23
Kandice Rodriguez-
Hernandez '23

Editor

Nicolette Jimenez '22

Assistant Editors

Joseph Paglia '21
Kaya Rexford '21

Social Media

Luis Alejandro Ruiz '23
Kenneth Doherty '22
Sam Deering '23
Erick Guaman '21
Olivia Patikowski '22
Kristen Valendo '24

Graphic Design

Kristen Valendo '24
Sophia Patikowski '22

Outreach

Elijah Chisolm '22
Sam Deering '23
Kenneth Doherty '22
Mallory Fella '23
Erick Guaman '21
Tyler Martin '23
George Miller '23
Olivia Patikowski '22
Kandice Rodriguez-
Hernandez '23
Luis Alejandro Ruiz '23
Kristen Valendo '24

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"Wherever you are, it is your friends who make your world." -William James

Sometimes, in the darkest and most uncertain times, our old friends show up to remind us of all the reasons we should have hope in our hearts. In March, our performing arts season came to a screeching halt. The lights dimmed, the set was left unfinished and props and costumes were left unused. We knew the show had to go on but we weren't sure how or when. When it came time to mount our annual fall play, the obstacles at once seemed insurmountable. But then we remembered our old friends: Eddie, Wendy, Randy, Charlotte, Laura, George, Luke and Roxanne. The characters that were brought to life back in 2009 in our original play, *Love (Awkwardly)*. Since then, the characters and the actors who portrayed them, travelled to the New York City stage, and around the world in places as far as Australia. They went off to college, grew up, broke up, made up, became closer or drifted apart. They started families and careers of their own. But their memories remained. We got reacquainted with our old friends over the summer and imagined what their stories would be like today, during this pandemic of 2020, having to deal with all of the wonderful, painful, exhilarating and awkward moments of high school relationships. As we all know, the pandemic doesn't take away these moments, it amplifies their obstacles and makes us realize that true human connection is more important than ever. Our old friends welcomed us back with open arms and *Love (Awkwardly)* and *(Virtually)* was born. Theatre is a collaborative process. It is not just talent, passion and dedication that make a show happen. Instead, a show's success is measured by how well a group of people can work together. We made it happen with a little help from our friends. We are incredibly grateful to work with such a wonderful staff, cast, crew and administration. It is their unwavering support that has made this show possible. Their acts of kindness have made this process worthwhile. While we cannot be physically together to watch this show live, as we have for so many years before, it is our hope that this show serves as a beacon of light in the darkest of times and a reminder that no matter what life may throw at you, love will always prevail. Even if it's a little (awkward).

PRODUCTION STAFF

WRITTEN BY John Rotondo '07 & Maryann Carolan '86

DIRECTED BY Maryann Carolan '86 & John Rotondo '07

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR + DRAMATURG Emily Dzioba '14

TECHNICAL DIRECTORS Tracy Doherty '93

Nick Kraus '02

Corey Barnwell '15

TICKETING Meg Nuwer '98

PRODUCTION THANKS

Sister Percylee Hart, RSM

The UC Administration

and

the members of the UC community who
contributed material to the production

CREDITS

Love (Awkwardly) & (Virtually)

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DRAMATURG'S NOTE

I think it's fair to say that we as a creative team have been thinking a lot about definitions as we've made this show for you.

Let's start with unpacking a simple definition: actor. What does an actor do? Well, they act! Actors become someone else - literally. And isn't that appropriate for this process, where our stellar student actors recorded takes, self-directed their scene Zoom rooms, learned how to light and dress and set themselves to be on laptop-camera acting? Our students have had the chance to completely create new meaning to their jobs as actors, AND still deliver incredible performances.

Let's look to our crew members as another example. Building sets, painting backdrops, sewing costumes, hanging lights: all things that need tactile, hands-on artistry from our student team. How do we redefine crew for a digital space? We have seen master editors come out of the woodworks; graphic designers, budding marketing agents, website builders. It always takes a village to make a show happen, but now the village needs to have an incredibly new skill set. And did they deliver, too.

Another definition- a dramaturg. (Hi! That's me. Nice to meet you.) Perhaps a more unfamiliar word. Dramaturgs work to contextualize the world of a play, making connections between the play, actors, directors, and audiences. They make things like program notes and lobby displays and lead talks before the show. They get the artistic company and the community excited and in touch with the work. I have had to reevaluate my own work significantly, too, for this new world, as have Mrs. Carolan, Mr. Rotondo, Ms. Doherty, and the rest of the staff. But I am definitely better for it.

How would you define theatre? Usually, people say it's people meeting in a space to watch a play or a musical. Obviously that's really oversimplified, because we all know experiencing theatre is so much more than that. We wouldn't be here reading this if theatre wasn't meaningful to us. But over the past months, the question has become: How do you take an art form that relies on gathering and experiencing and communing in person, and translate all of that visceral humanity into a digital space? Theatre is theatre because it does things in such a way that is, in a word, unique; it does things that film and tv can't. Our concept of theatre now demands redefinition for now and the future. How can we redefine theatre, while keeping the core things that make it special?

As we watch a newly-defined piece of theatre, in a newly-defined format, made with immense love by a team with newly-defined responsibilities, may we all be excited for the chance, amid all uncertainty, to redefine ourselves for the better.