

Utilities Included

By Jillian Carter



October 17, 18, and 19 7:30pm and
October 20 at 2:00pm
Johnny Carson Theater
at the Lied Center for Performing Arts

OmniArts Nebraska Presents
UTILITIES INCLUDED

by Jillian Carter

Directed by Jillian Carter
Assistant Director/Stage Manager, Joseph Harper
Technical Director and Scenic Designer, Dustin Witte
Sound Design, Christian Novotny
Intimacy Coordinator, Reed Westerhoff
Properties Artist, Jax Stander

Cast

CHARLIE.....Lane Gibson*
SAM.....Natalie Doering*
RYAN.....Walter McDowell III
BOBBY.....Patty Kuo*
CONSTANCE.....Paige Patton
MARJORIE.....Cecilia Burkhart*
ALEX.....Dustin Witte
CHILD.....Beckett Heffner*
SPENCER.....Penny Carter
MATTHEW.....Erin Mills
A.....Amber Fitzsimmons*
B.....Amy Yungwirth

*New OmniArts Nebraska performer!

Dustin Witte, Managing Artistic Director
Board of Directors

Jillian Carter, President
Erin Mundus, Treasurer
Paige Patton, Secretary
Christian Novotny

Sarah Zulkoski, Graphics and Programs

www.omniartsnebraska.org

Acknowledgements

OmniArts Nebraska acknowledges that the state of Nebraska is the traditional land of many different native people. For generations, these Native Americans have lived, worked, and created art here.

We pay respect to them, as we are about to have a communal experience on their land.

We encourage our audiences to learn more at <http://diversity.unl.edu/recognizing-land>.



Special Thanks:

Bethany Blackman, Melanie Rudy, Raymond Guern, Bill Stephan, and the staff at the Lied Center; St. Paul United Methodist Church, Beatrice Community Players, Lincoln Arts Council, BLIXT, The Mill; Andrew Hamling, Brad Stewart, Eric Morales, Wallace Statmore, and Chuck Morrison; the OmniArts Nebraska Board of Directors; our friends and families, and the too numerous others to name...THANK YOU!

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a show and share, share, share away!**

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A Message From the Director



It's often said that playwrights should never direct their own work, but after the magical experience of directing *Happy Birthday, Lily!* and *Life of the Party* last season, I don't agree. Working with such talented performers, designers, and crew has challenged me more as a playwright than anything else in my life. Actors bring things to the work that could never be captured on the page, but I'll keep trying to lock them down. Designers create a world that defies words, but I'll keep trying to find them. The crew adds more of the community I lack in the lonely process of writing, reminding me why collaboration is so important.

Before I had a story, I had goals. I wanted to write an accessible play for performers with challenges, whether they be physical, mental, scheduling, or any other obstacle to the stage. I also wanted to write a play without a romantic conflict, that featured an aro/ace character. But what was the story? Thankfully, my son Wallace came up with the roommate idea; my kids and their friends plus Erin Mills and their partner Luke helped brainstorm zany characters, and I just had to write it. That deadline came sooner than my procrastinating mind would have liked...

But here we are now, with a fully realized production to share. Accessibility and representation have been key, taking center stage in outreach and casting, as well as in the work of Danielle Reed Westerhoff, our intimacy coordinator and artist advocate. And to work with two of my children and my little brother?! Icing on the cake!

Most importantly, though, Charlie's story is universal. Everyone wants to be significant, needed, and loved. Thankfully, every person (and dog) involved has made me feel all those things, and I hope they all feel it from me as well. And I hope the same for everyone in the audience. Every person in the world (with a few notable exceptions) deserves those three things, hopefully before "we all die someday!"

~Jillian

The Company



Lane Gibson (Charlie) is a wearer of many hats, including librarian, business owner, designer, and actor. Previous roles include Lord Clapham in *Something Rotten* (LCP), The Masked Killer in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* (LCP), and Ensemble in *Young Frankenstein* (NCP). Lane can also be found backstage as a costume designer and stage manager in various venues around Lincoln.



Natalie Doering (Sam) is ecstatic to be making her stage debut with OmniArts, after participating in the first reading of *Utilities Included* and working behind the scenes on *An Iliad*. She is active in the Lincoln theater community. Before shows, she listens to the *Challengers* soundtrack. "Dad, your perseverance this year has been my inspiration. I love you."



Walter McDowell III (Ryan) is in his fifth show with OmniArts Nebraska. Previous roles include Tierney in *The Birds* and PTA President in *Happy Birthday Lily/Life of the Party*. Other roles include Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* (LCP) and Professor Plum in *Clue: On Stage* (BCP). He would like to thank this cast and crew for a wonderful run! He would also like to thank you, the audience, for supporting community theatre. "Be good, don't suck!" - Scott Glen



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The Company



Patty Kuo (Bobby) is excited to be making her OmniArts debut! Previous credits include Connie in *The Great Leap* (BLUEBARN Theatre), Masha/ensemble in *Young Frankenstein* (Nebraska Communities Playhouse), and ensemble in *Something Rotten!* (Lincoln Community Playhouse). Patty received acting training from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Outside of theatre, Patty is a professor at UNL, where she teaches and conducts research on family and child development.



Paige Patton (Constance) is excited to perform again with OmniArts Nebraska! Recent credits include Rosaline in *Love's Labor's Lost* with Flatwater Shakespeare, Voice/Foley Artist in *The Birds*, and Cinderella in *Life of the Party*, all in collaboration with OmniArts Nebraska, as well as several productions with Beatrice Community Players. Paige holds a Bachelor's degree in Theatre from Doane University and currently works as the Program & Events Specialist for the Lied Center for Performing Arts. "Thank you to Jillian, and the entire cast and crew for making this another wonderful experience. I'm especially grateful to my partner, Christian, and my family for their unwavering support—I love you! And a special shoutout to Dr. Pepper for fueling my energy!"



Cecilia Burkhart (Marjorie) is so happy to be doing this show for Omni Arts. Her last performances were "Mix and Machinate" at the First Flight Festival 2023 and in *Calendar girls* 2021. In the meantime, she has kept busy with readings in the Salon Reading Series and writing short plays and monologues. She dedicates this performance to her supportive and loving husband, John.

The Company



Dustin Witte (Alex, Technical Director, and Scenic Designer) has worked as an actor, designer, painter, performer, poet, director, baker, and basket weaver and is the Managing Artistic Director of OmniArts. Since moving to Lincoln, Dustin has designed, built, or painted scenery for over 80 productions with OmniArts, LCP, Nebraska Wesleyan, TADA, Haymarket Theatre, and Flatwater Shakespeare. As an actor, some past performance credits with OmniArts include Bette Davis in *Me & Jezebel*, Louis De Rougemont in *Shipwrecked!*, Clov in *Endgame*, Tom in *Hunter Gatherers*, Quincy in *Happy Birthday Lily*, and The Poet in *An Iliad*. He's looking forward to another season of fantastic shows with wonderful people!



Beckett Heffner (Child) is making his stage debut, after much acclaim when he played the same role in the public readings of *Utilities Included* last year. He is currently a second-grader and the recipient of TWO Calvert Elementary Effort Awards. Beckett's eighth birthday is opening night, so make sure you wish him a happy birthday when you see him in the lobby!



Penny Carter (Spencer) is proud to be performing in her second OmniArts production, after playing Clem in *Life of the Party*. She is an eighth-grader, currently starring in an original musical at her middle school. Penny hopes everyone has fun tonight and remembers, "We all die someday!"



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The Company



Erin Mills (Matthew) has made theatre their playground, onstage and off, for almost 30 years. Starting at LCP, Nebraska Theatre Caravan, UNL, Angels, OmniArts, as well as the Omaha burlesque scene. Stay kind. Stay curious. Stay weird.



Amber Fitzsimmons (A) is excited to be making her debut with OmniArts! Amber is relatively new to the Lincoln theatre scene, but can often be found performing in immersive and interactive shows both online and over the phone. She strongly believes in creating experiences that are accessible to audiences wherever they are and loves the ingenuity found in these new spaces. Recent credits include Vic (The Dawson Riddle), ALiCe (Perfect Partner), and Astrid (Space Shipped Online) - all with Phoenix Tears Productions. Amber would like to thank her boyfriend, Austin, for his constant love and support, her amazing friends who always encourage her crazy, and all of you for coming to enjoy the show!



Amy Yungwirth (B) is thrilled to be a part of Utilities Included! You may have seen her recently in Angels Theater's First Flight Festival, as the Child Free Fun Aunt in OmniArts Nebraska's Happy Birthday, Lily!, or performing with Queer Choir LNK and Star City Chorus. She would like to thank her family, biological and chosen, for their continued love and support, especially her kiddo Henry for coming along to rehearsals and being her #1 hype person.



The Production Team

Jillian Carter (Director) is extremely grateful to OmniArts for creating an inclusive and collaborative environment for creativity to thrive, as well as the cast and crew for realizing that safe and healthy community. This is their second original work produced by OmniArts, following Happy Birthday, Lily! and Life of the Party. They couldn't do anything in theatre (or life) without their support system, including their amazing partner, Tony; and kids, Loki, Wallace, Penny, and Beckett; as well as their usual partners in crime, Joseph, Dustin, Erin, Reed, Michele, Rachele, Paige, Christian, and Walter. How awesome it is when you can surround yourself with people who love you, challenge you, and catch your spinning plates when they fall.

Joseph Harper (Assistant Director/Stage Manager) is once again delving deep into the world of theater. However, this is their first time working behind the scenes. There are so many things to learn and improve on, and they are ecstatic to continue to grow and discover the beauty of all aspects of putting on a show. They hope you enjoy this one, come ready to experience something brand new, and find something in it that will stick with you. Finally, they beg you to laugh: the director might cut their career short if you don't!

Christian Novotny (Sound Design) is a Director and Actor native to Lincoln and a graduate of the Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film. Currently, they serve on the Board of Directors for OmniArts NE and have previously served as the Managing Director and Youth Program Coordinator for the Haymarket Theatre and the Artistic Director for Red Theater Lincoln. Some of their most recent work includes directing Cock (OmniArts NE), The Aliens (Haymarket Theatre), Nine Muses Inc., Signs, and Still Strong (ATC's First Flight Festival). You may have also seen them performing as Berowne in Love's Labour's Lost and The Sheppard's Son in The Winter's Tale (Flatwater Shakespeare), Justin in Happy Birthday Lily (OmniArts NE), Wickham/Collins/Miss Bingley in Pride and Prejudice and Lawrence in Calendar Girls (LCP), and Tim Allgood in Noises Off (NCP).

Reed Westerhoff (Intimacy Coordinator, She/Her) is excited to return to OmniArts Nebraska for another production! She is a local Actor and Director, who has previously worked with OmniArts as a Violence & Intimacy Coordinator for Happy Birthday, Lily, Hunter Gatherers, and Chalky White Substance. She has also worked with Flatwater Shakespeare and Angels Theatre Company. "As ever, I do this for my brother. He can't, so I will."

Jax Stander (Properties Artist) is a senior at Doane University and has a passion for the theatre arts. Originally planning on doing props, he found himself interested in all aspects of technical theatre, hoping he can one day become the true 'Jax' of all trades. He really enjoyed making the art pieces that are displayed around Charlie's apartment and hopes to do more work here soon!

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Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Summer Soiree in July and helped us raise \$1,280!

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SCAN ME  

OmniArts Nebraska is a nonprofit arts production company founded in 2010. Its mission is centered on three forms of community interaction, all of equal importance, and inextricably intertwined:
ARTISTIC--ECONOMIC--SOCIAL.

Dustin Witte, Managing Artistic Director

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Sarah Zulkoski, Graphics and Programs

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The logo for OmniArts Nebraska features the words "OmniArts" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "Nebraska" in a smaller, regular sans-serif font directly below it. The text is centered within a circular graphic composed of numerous thin, horizontal lines that create a subtle, textured background.

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