



BRACE FOR

IMPACT

PLAY BY VINCENT DESTEFANO
DIRECTED BY MIKE DOBEN



OCTOBER 27-29 & NOVEMBER 3-5, 2022 • 7:30PM, DOORS AT 7:00
OCTOBER 29, 2022 • 3PM, DOORS AT 2:30

Canisius College: Marie Maday Theatre
Lyons Hall: 2048 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14208

Tickets: Presale: \$25 • Student: \$15 at the door with ID

Industry: \$20 at the door • General Admission: \$30

Viewer Discretion Advised

BellissimaProductions.com • bellissimaproductions1@gmail.com • 716-218-8530



**Content Warning:
Simulated Sexual Acts,
Strong Language, Alcoholism,
Drug Use, Guns.**

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BRACE FOR IMPACT

Original Play by Vincent DeStefano
Directed by Mike Doben

October 27-29 & November 3-5,
2022

Produced by Bellissima Productions

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

About the Show

Five long time friends gather one last time in a North Buffalo apartment as an asteroid hurtles towards earth. Faced with their untimely ends, and aided by various vices, they confront their life regrets, what could've been, and their deepest secrets.

Cast

Logan.....	Vincent DeStefano
Lily.....	Taylor Lee Hall
Julia.....	Colleen Pine
Trevor.....	Sean Patrick Ryan
Brad.....	Andrew Brown



Crew

Director.....	Mike Doben
Assistant Director.....	Zach Thomas
Playwright.....	Vincent DeStefano
Stage Manager.....	Callie Keavey
Light Design.....	Katie Gaisser Rowan Giblin
Light Operation.....	Rowan Giblin
Sound Design.....	Tyler Rahner
Fight Choreographer.....	Callie Keavey
Intimacy Director.....	Nicolette Navarro
Costumes/Property Manager.....	Callie Keavey
Set Design.....	Callie Keavey
Set Build.....	Callie Keavey Madeline Rehm
Posters and Programs.....	Emily Sellitto



Cast Bios

Andrew Brown (Brad) is so excited to make his debut with Bellissima Productions. He is currently working towards obtaining his A.S in Theatre Arts at Niagara County Community College. His credits include: Death By Design (Jack) with the Tonawanda Towne Players, and Almost, Maine (Chad) and The Diary of Anne Frank (Otto) with NCCC Theatre. Andrew has enjoyed showcasing DeStefano's brilliant new work for the Buffalo area. He would like to thank his friends, family, and colleagues for their constant unending support!

Vincent DeStefano (Logan) is elated to be starring in his playwright debut! He most recently performed in Ujima's curtain up show; Church & State (Tom/Marshal), and previously teamed up with director Mike Doben in Mercury Fur (Party Guest) at the Subversive Theatre which received an Artie nomination for best ensemble. A graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts (NYC), most of his professional credits come from Off-Broadway. Favorite roles include: Punk Rock (Chadwick Meade) (NYC debut), The Seagull (Konstantin), and Veronica's Room (The Man). He has also appeared in numerous independent films. Vincent would like to thank his family, friends, and Jess, for their continued love and support.

Taylor Lee Hall (Lily) was recently seen as Marcy in Bellissima Productions' Dogfight. Other credits include: The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (Jenny) and Somebody (Everybody) with University at Buffalo, Footloose with the Lockport Palace, and Beauty and the Beast with the Rome Capitol Theatre. Taylor is a Groom Tech at The Laundromutt in Kenmore. Taylor holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University at Buffalo. She has enjoyed working on this collaborative process! She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support, as well as her castmates and production team for such a wonderful experience.

Colleen Pine (Julia) is thrilled to be making her Bellissima Productions debut! Colleen was most recently seen as Gloria Thorpe in O’Connell & Company’s *Damn Yankees*, for which she received an Artie Award nomination. Other Buffalo credits: *Buffalo Quickies* (Company), *Killer Rack* (Shelly/Nose Job Girl) at Alleyway, *The End: Amen* (Jade/Nina) with Alleyway Playwrights Circle, *Fahrenheit 451* (Clarisse) with Subversive Theatre, and *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (Frieda) with Theatre of Youth. Colleen would like to thank her family, friends, and Eric for their unwavering love and support.

Sean Patrick Ryan (Trevor) is making his Bellissima debut! His previous credits include: *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Nat’l Tour), *Raisin in The Sun* (Nat’l Tour), *Fun Home*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Dead Man’s Cell Phone*, and *Urinetown*. Sean graduated from SUNY Oswego with a BA in Theatre. He enjoyed getting to work on a show rooted in his hometown. Sean would like to thank his family, friends, and incredible partner. “You are what you is.” Frank Zappa



Playwright's Note

I am so ecstatic to share this story with you all! This show is the result of three years of hard work, and I am honored it is with such a fantastic cast and creative team.

Brace for Impact deals with real issues while centered around the alternative reality of the end of the world. I hope you can connect with each character in some fashion, and maybe they make you laugh along the way too. Regret can be dangerous, and as the great Ferris Buller once said: "Life moves pretty fast. If you do not stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it".

Thanks to Mike for helping me build this show from the ground up, everyone else who read the script and offered suggestions, and most importantly, thank you all for immersing yourselves in this experience!

—Vincent DeStefano

Thank you!

Canisius College Little Theatre

Canisius College

Connie Pileri & Rich Kennedy

Peter Hall & M.E. O'Leary

Tony Spina

Director's Note

Hello everyone, thank you for attending today's performance of "Brace for Impact" written by Vincent DeStefano, whom I met while directing Mercury Fur for Subversive Theatre Collective in 2019. This project has been in the works for a few years dating back to the earliest days of the COVID shutdown. Vinnie approached me during the writing process and asked if I could help him develop the script. Over the course of several socially distanced meetings, the story was fine tuned to get it to the place it is today. It was (against all odds) an afternoon Zoom reading (everyone hates Zoom readings!) of an early draft that ultimately gave me the confidence to help Vinnie get the play produced. I would like to give a special shout out to my friend and colleague Colleen Pine for being along for the entire ride as Julia, from the first zoom reading to the production you are about to enjoy.

Enter Nicolette and Bellissima Productions, who after reading the script decided to take a chance on a first-time local playwright and myself. I'm thankful to Bellissima and Vinnie for affording me this opportunity. Having directed almost exclusively dramas, it was nice to dive into a piece that contains quite a bit of comedy and I feel confident that you will relate in some capacity to these North Buffalo-based characters. Whether that be at their lowest moments of paranoia or the peaks of their euphoria. The cast and crew have had a ton of fun throughout the rehearsal process and I'm so proud of their collective artistry. The camaraderie of these fictional friends shines brightly and is truly authentic to the offstage chemistry of this acting ensemble. Special thanks are owed to Callie Keavey who has worn many hats on this production and Zachary Thomas who is making his first foray to the other side of the table as my Assistant Director.

Now sit back, relax, and get ready for everyone's last night on Earth... Buffalo style.

-Mike Doben





Bellissima Board

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