



Academy of Holy Angels Starlight Productions
Presents

The Nerd
by
Larry Shue

4 November- 17 November 2023

With

Joe Haeg • Giada Alexander • Thomas Rise • Landon Stenger •
Tessa Reiter • Jake Alexander • Liam Jo

Scenic Designer

Kurt Gough

Lighting Designer

Brian Bjorklund

Technical Director

Michael Gough

Costume Designer

Laurie Dimond

Wardrobe Supervisor

Mona Myott

Rick's Halloween Costume

Kae Roloff

Sound Design

Jerry Stenger
Landon Stenger

Assistant to the Director

Kat Kuffel

Stage Manager

Marina Amigon

Artistic Director

Gregg M. Sawyer

Thank you for coming to THE NERD.

The audience is reminded that the use of any recording device
or the taking of photographs is strictly prohibited by Federal copyright law.

No food or drink is allowed in the theater.

Restrooms are located on the first floor near the gym.

Audience members are not allowed backstage
and are welcome to greet company members in the lobby once they are out of costume.

We very much appreciate you joining us tonight.

Thank you for supporting the arts at Academy of Holy Angels.

Cast of Characters

Willam Cubbert	Joe Haeg
Tansy McGinnis	Giada Alexander*
Axel Hammond	Thomas Rise*
Warnock Walgrave	Landon Stenger
Clelia Walgrave	Tessa Reiter
Thor Walgrave	Jake Alexander+
Rick Steadman	Liam Jo *

*denotes members of the AHA Theater School

+ denotes guest artist

The Year: 1984

The Place: Upper duplex home of Willam Cubbert
Terre Haute, Indiana

Act 1

November 4

Act 2 Scene 1

Six Days Later

Act 2 Scene 2

The Following Day

There is a fifteen minute intermission between Acts
and a brief interlude between Act 2 Scenes 1 and 2.

Larry Shue's *The Nerd* is produced by arrangements with Dramatist Play Service, New York

The smoking called for in the script is done by the use of Puff Cigarettes; no actual smoke is emitted. The lighters used on stage are LED lights. The drinking called for onstage is colored water; no actual alcohol is consumed. The audience is asked to accept the illusion of theater. No animals or trees were harmed in the making of this production. Thank you.

Production Staff

Props Kat Kuffel
Lighting Eddie Amigon
Sound Edward Lang
Costumes Kae Roloff • Anna Ross

Scenic Crew

Giada Alexander • Eddie Amigon • Marina Amigon • Max Boerboom • Audrey Castro
Cate Cline • Alaina DeCrans • Liam Jo • Hannah Maiser • Ella Northrup • Tommy Pollack
Tessa Reiter • Ava Welter

Costume Crew

Max Boerboom • Kat Kuffel • Anna Ross • Kae Roloff • Pearl Simmons

Acknowledgements

Dan Keller • Holy Angels Maintenance Staff • Quentin Padratzick '23 • Tyler Weiland '23
Melanie Rise '90 • Gina Alexander

Director's Note

I fell in love with this script in 1987, when I saw the original production of *The Nerd* on Broadway. We then went on to present it here at AHA in 1989. (Interestingly, that production was designed by Kurt Gough, who has returned to AHA as Scenic Designer and has designed this production)

It is rare that I repeat shows at AHA. But when you have a senior whose mother worked on the '89 production ask "Would you ever do *The Nerd* again?" and I found myself instantly replying "YES! I love that show!" And so, here we are.

How do I love *The Nerd*...let me count the ways.

1. I find the premise hilarious.
2. I love Larry Shue's writing. His dialogue is clever and fast paced. It is a shame he died so young and left the world with only four titles. (His other brilliant farce, *The Foreigner*, we did in 1990)
3. I love Axel's character. His sarcasm and wit aside, he truly cares for his best friend, Willam. Besides, a drama critic in Terre Haute, Indiana is just ripe for bitter humor.
4. The bit with the Cornish game hen is too rich not to love. The fact that Tansy prepares Cornish game hens for what is essentially a picnic in the living room is truly comic genius.
5. Clelia's way of dealing with stress...well, you'll see. Brilliant.

Farce comedy has three main components:

1. The play must be rooted in reality, and we must recognize the characters as people about whom we care.
2. Built-in irony. We know as an audience we are being told a lie, and we wait for it.
3. Comic treatment; how the actors, design teams, and the director interpret the play for the sake of making the audience laugh.

Oh, and there always at least five doors onstage. (Next time you see a farce, count the doors. You'll see)

I also love *The Nerd* because it is Farce. I hope you do, to.

Gregg

1980s Cultural References in The Nerd

Marjorie Main - American Film Actress
known for playing characters with gumption



Woolworths - Rival to Walgreens

Rick's Impressions:

Steve Martin



Jimmy Durante



Jimmy Stewart



James Cagney



Hugh Downs

Original host of the game show Concentration



Mr. Microphone

Battery operated microphone with built-in speaker

Cira 1980



Nancy

American comic strip from 1922-1980



"Rinty's laughing too"

Refers to Rin Tin Tin

Famous Movie and Television German Shepherd

1922-1959

