

The NoneSuch Playmakers present

The
Velvet Dagger

an Iris Ford mystery by Brack Llewellyn



October 4-6 2024

The Cast

(in order of appearance))

Captain Daniel Cahill: BRIAN GREENE
Detective Sergeant Michael Pierce: CHRIS POWELL
Detective Cate Poppadopalous: ANGELA BRYANT
Mina Mishkin: MADISON MALLORY
Officer Bradley: BRADLEY TATE*
Martin Demarest: ROY FLINCHUM
Special Agent Iris Ford: OLIVIA JESSUP
Leona Leichenburg: HEATHER ELLIOTT
Artie Glass: ROWAN BUNTON
Madilyn Katz: KEZIA BRYANT
Rita Morris, M.E.: BILLIE SMITH
John Kelleher: DAVID NIELSEN
Colleen Burgess: JANELLE NIELSEN
Arthur Glass: TOBY BUNTON
Anne Rierson: BRISTOL MITCHEM

Special appearance by John Lazaro, (deceased): JONAS BRYANT
Special appearance by BETHANY BLAKE, Waitress Deluxe

* denotes a newcomer to the *NoneSuch Playmakers*

The Crew

Stage Manager: JESSICA LLEWELLYN WOOD
Costume Coordinator: ANGELA BRYANT
Properties: THE CAST
Specialty Props for this Production:
ROY FLINCHUM and JANELLE NIELSEN
Lighting Operator: SEAN WOOD
Sound Operator: BRACK LLEWELLYN
Running Crew: JESSICA LLEWELLYN WOOD,
BETHANY BLAKE, BRADLEY TATE, JONAS BRYANT
and THE CAST
Special Rehearsal Assistance: SUSAN LAWRENCE



*This production is dedicated to the memory of actor, director,
playwright, costumer and NoneSuch Co-Founder*

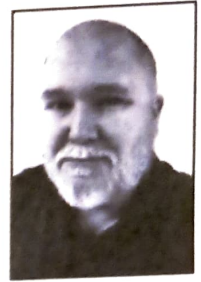
Angela Hudson Llewellyn

(1965-2023)



Bristol Mitchem (*Anne Rierson*) is new to the stage but she has been a supporter of the NoneSuch Playmakers for several years. She is excited to join this amazing cast. Originally from the mountains of West Virginia, Bristol moved to Mount Airy as a senior in high school. She is the mother of a teenager daughter and two grown sons. In addition, she is the proud grandparent of four wonderful grandchildren.

Toby Bunton (*Arthur Glass*) was born in North Carolina, but has deep roots in the mountains of Eastern Tennessee. As a poet his poems reflect his mountain heritage and blue-collar upbringing. Toby loves writing about tin roofs, rusty chains, and his family. Toby also loves to act and perform with NoneSuch Playmakers when they will have him! He has been in several plays over the years. Toby is a graduate of UNCG with a degree in English and resides with his family in Mt. Airy, NC.



THE VELVET DAGGER

Scenes

The action takes place over six days in October, present day.

ACT I

- Scene 1: The lobby of the Lansing Hotel, Troy, New York; An early morning in autumn
- Scene 2: The Troy Police Department Squad Room, the next morning
- Scene 3: The Lansing lobby, that afternoon
- Scene 4: The Coroner's Office, later that same day
- Scene 5: The Squad Room, late that afternoon
- Scene 6: The Lighthouse Diner in Troy; The next day, about noon
- Scene 7: The Squad Room, later that day
- Scene 8: The Lansing Hotel Restaurant, the next morning
- Scene 9: Colleen Burgess' suite at the Lansing Hotel, that same day
- Scene 10: The Squad Room, that evening

There will be a TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION between Act I and Act II

ACT II

- Scene 1: The Lansing lobby, later that same evening (from Act I, Sc. 10)
- Scene 2: Anne Rierson's office in Rochester, NY; The next morning
- Scene 3: The Squad Room, that afternoon
- Scene 4: The Troy P.D. Interview Room, immediately following
- Scene 5: The Lansing lobby, the next evening

The NoneSuch Playmakers'

"Cheaper Than Therapy" 2024 Tour

November 22-24

80s Hits...without a
prescription

Meet the Cast of “The Velvet Dagger”

Brian Greene (*Captain Daniel Cahill*) has been acting (if you can call it that) with the Llewellyn clan for 30 years. He’s pleased to be back on the boards in another Iris Ford mystery in the role of “Daniel Cahill.” Brian is the webmaster for the group at **NonesuchPlaymakers.com**. He sends his best wishes to the cast for a great performance. By the way, if Brian starts rambling about things being “very bad,” that means he forgot his lines!!



Dr. Chris Powell (*Detective Sergeant Michael Pierce*) has been a proud NoneSucher for 22 years. He was raised in Surry County where he practices pharmacy and performs with his band Pen-N-Carol. He’d like to thank his mother Diane, his daughter Kayleigh, his girlfriend Krista, his friends, and his fellow NoneSuchers for their incredible support and challenging opportunities.

Angela Bryant (“OA”) (*Detective Cate Poppadopolous/ Costume Coordinator*) is the proud mother of five very talented and wonderful children and the wife of the equally talented and wonderful Lane Bryant. She’s thrilled to be doing another show with her NoneSuch family. While not performing, you may find OA with her head in a book, chasing the aforementioned children, or running around like a chicken with no head at Lowe’s.



Madison Mallory (*Mina Mishkin*) started her theatre career in 2014 as a Dewey Decimal Player, and has been with the NoneSuch Playmakers since 2015. She minored in Theatre at NC State University, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Communications with a concentration in digital media in 2020. A few of her favorite roles over the years being with the Deweys and NoneSuch are “Stevil” from *How to Make Monsters and Friends*, One of Dracula’s Wives in *Dracula*, “Audrey Quick” in *Hicksville*, and “Sophie Reinhardt” in *Stop the Press*. She sends all the love to her family, and the family she has found with the NoneSuch Playmakers.

Roy Flinchum (*Martin Demarest*) was rocketed to Earth from the doomed planet Th’ ayter. Roy’s small rocket crashed to earth and was found by the NoneSuch Playmakers. Raised by a group of Thespians, Roy grew very old and uses his minimal powers to fight for Comedy, Drama and Pathos.



Olivia Jessup (*Special Agent Iris Ford*) returns for her second outing as Troy, New York crimefighter Iris Ford. Olivia has been active in local theatre with the Dewey Decimal Players and the NoneSuch Playmakers for more than a decade. Some of her favorite roles include “Shelby” in *Steel Magnolias*, “Sarah Finch” in *Charlie America* and “Iris Ford” in *2124*. She sends her best wishes to the cast and crew for a great weekend of performances. Olivia would like to dedicate this production to Angela Llewellyn-her mentor, her director for many shows and, most importantly, her friend.

Learn more about upcoming NoneSuch Playmakers productions and our 24 years of theatrical magic at our website:

www.nonesuchplaymakers.com

Heather Elliott (*Leona Lichenburg*) has been doing shows since her middle school days and is proud to be a founding member of the NoneSuch Playmakers. When not in rehearsals for this show, she has been busy preparing for NoneSuch's next concert event, The "Cheaper Than Therapy Tour" in November. She would like to thank the cast and crew for being so helpful (and so much fun, as always) and those of you reading this for being here. Your support is very much appreciated!



Kezia Bryant (*Madilyn Katz*) is an aspiring author and artist who made her NoneSuch debut in *Uncle Charlie's Christmas Carol* as "Belinda Cratchit." Like any girl her age, Kezia enjoys Tom Lehrer, crepes, tea parties and intense philosophical psychological and historical debates on such random topics as whether there is any "right and wrong."

Rowan Bunton (*Artie Glass*) is a sophomore at Mt. Airy High School. Among his other accomplishments, Rowan is cofounder of the Mt. Airy Chess Club at the Mount Airy Public Library. He has participated in local theatre as a member of the ALways Deweys and the NoneSuch Playmakers since 2019.



Billie Smith (*Rita Morris, M.E.*) has been a member of the NoneSuch Playmakers for over a decade. Some of her favorite roles include "Truvy" of *Steel Magnolias*, "Karen" from *Charlie America* and "Nina" from *The Christmas House*. She wants to thank her husband Darren and daughter Adella for putting up with her crazy schedule and all her hobbies like theater, collecting farm animals and volunteering for everything. Thanks to Brack for all his dedication to this group and keeping theater alive in our community.

When **David Nielsen** (*John Kelleher*) first saw The NoneSuch Playmakers perform their Ceildh, he knew he wanted to join these cool kids. From his first role in 2016 in the play *On Golden Pond* to the present, David has performed in 8 productions. Not only has he made life-long friends, but found his lovely wife, Janelle, in this company.



Janelle Nielsen (*Colleen Burgess*) was born in California and has lived in seven different countries and five different states. Her professional life includes careers in telecommunication, education, and the United States Peace Corps. Currently she teaches for Surry Community College and enjoys participating in community theater.

A Brief History of the Iris Ford Mysteries

Iris Ford is a fictional police detective based in the real-life city of Troy, New York. She is also an author who turns her cases into bestselling novels. Iris loves any case that involves the supernatural, and Troy seems to have more than its share of what her captain, Daniel Cahill, calls “bizarro” mysteries.

The character first appeared in the 1990s in a one-act play entitled *The Once and Future Murders*. The story takes place at a crumbling estate outside Troy and involves a missing person who may literally have traveled through time. At the end of the play Iris is stabbed by the missing person’s niece as a sort of sacrifice to bring the him back to the present.

So Iris was dead?

No. The resilient detective would return in 2010 in *The Morrigan Society*, a tale of murder among a mysterious group of professionals with dangerous avocations. Investigating the killing, Iris and Pierce find themselves at the mercy of a perverse cult involving the Morrigan Society’s members. The setting: a private island in the middle of the vast Hudson River.

She’d be back in 2013 for *The Year of the Dagger*, where she and her partner Michael Pierce would pursue a being of pure evil, which may have been the twisted spirit of Jack the Ripper. (Iris would get an assist in this case from a disheveled British police inspector, who turned out to be a ghost himself!)

Iris’ most recent appearance was in 2019’s production of *Two One Two Four*, a two-act thriller in which a young college professor dies violently, but mysteriously. Iris’ investigation snowballs into a journey that leads down the rabbit hole of politics, global conspiracy and a literal plot to take over the world—all built around the numbers 2-1-2-4. This play could well have been the end for Iris, when the conspirators arranged for her to be shot *nine* times!

Which brings us to tonight’s production. As you can see, Detective (now Agent) Iris Ford is no stranger to the paranormal. Her penchant for these “bizarro” cases now continues, this time in true *film noir* fashion, as she reunites with her former partner to solve the mystery of *The Velvet Dagger!*

Iris Ford Fun Fact: Over the past 27 years the role has been played by only two actors, both valued members of the None-Such Playmakers: Rachel Miller Macie (left), who originated the role, and Olivia Jessup (right) who assumed the part with *Two One Two Four*.

Could there be a future Iris Ford script involving *both* Irises? Stay tuned....

