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# Longwood Opera

Longwood Opera Stage Director: J. Scott Brumit Music Director: Jeffrey Brody

WORLD PREMIERE

## The Picture of Dorian Gray

by Jeffrey Brody and James Saslow  
Based on the story by Oscar Wilde.



*Seeing is Believing*

PROGRAM

Christ Episcopal Church  
1132 Highland Ave., Needham

Friday June 3 at 8:00pm

Sunday June 5 at 2:30pm



This program is sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Longwood Opera | Needham, MA | 781-455-0960 | [www.LongwoodOpera.org](http://www.LongwoodOpera.org)

### Longwood Opera's mission is:

- to prepare trained emerging singers for the next stage in their operatic careers by providing them with the opportunity to practice their art and to polish their performing skills in major roles before live audiences.
- to foster appreciation for opera among individuals from all walks of life in the Greater Boston communities by offering high-quality, accessible and affordable operatic experiences.

Longwood Opera, Inc. was founded in 1986 to fill a void in New England's performing arts network. After students graduate from the universities and conservatories in the Boston area, they have the skills necessary to make careers as opera singers, but they lack the opportunity to utilize their talents. Producing opera is a costly undertaking, and most major companies are reluctant to place unseasoned singers in leading roles. Longwood Opera gives talented Boston-based singers a chance to polish their performing skills so that they may become successful artists. So far, over 700 singers have performed as members of the company. In 1995, we adopted the slogan "Opera For All!" This expresses our goal of making opera accessible to everyone, especially to those who otherwise might not have access to this wonderful art form. We are proud to be reaching a large sector of the public, which can now attend professional-quality performances without the inconveniences of expense or travel. As more people want to pursue performing arts careers in a climate in which opportunities are dwindling, Longwood Opera is successful at its second goal of our mission, and has matured into a growing forum for young, talented artists.

*J. Scott Brumit, General Director*

### Acknowledgments

Longwood Opera would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance:

- Christ Episcopal Church, Needham, its Rector, Robert Windsor, and the congregation for continuing to give us a home for auditions, rehearsals and performances
- Dana Wilson and Landmark Impressions in Burlington for their special and generous donations to help with our printing needs - Contact them at (781) 569-0297
- Linda Hull for the creation of our poster and program cover
- B.J. Comerford, Angela Fiori, Ed Batutis and Landmark Impressions for the creation of the Dorian Gray pictures
- IBM, GE, JP Morgan, Verizon, Home Depot and John Hancock for their gifts of matching grants - Contact J. Scott Brumit at (781) 455-0960 for more information on matching grants
- All of our patrons who responded so generously to our fund raising campaign
- The Christ Church FUNdraiser committee for creating a "Cast Party" for all of us
- Bob Begin and Evan Denmark for their additional assistance with this production
- Our volunteer house staff
- All those who helped with our production but could not be noted by press time

This program is sponsored in part by the Needham Cultural a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

### Cast (in order of appearance)

Basil Hallward	Patrick Massey *
Lord Henry Wotton	Fred Furnari
Butler	Edward Batutis
Dorian Gray	Jonathan Nussman
Sibyl Vane	Alexandra Lang *
Mrs. Vane	Angeliki Theoharis
James Vane	Giovanni Formisano *
Romeo	Edward Batutis
Alan Campbell	Benjamin Clark
Sailor	Edward Batutis
Prostitute	Alexandra Lang *
Bar Maid	Angeliki Theoharis

\* Denotes Longwood Opera debut

**Stage Director**

***J. Scott Brumit***

**Music Director & Pianist**

***Jeffrey Brody***

**Librettist**

***James M. Saslow***

**Asst. Music Director & Keyboard**

***Wayne Ward***

**Costume & Set Coordinator**

***Charlotte Brumit***

**Production Assistant**

***Edward Batutis***

**Production Coordinators**

***Bob and Shelley Monaghan***

**Director Marketing Communications**

***Harding Ounanian, Jr.***

**Web Mistress**

***Marion Leeds Carroll***

## Plot Synopsis

"Lord take pity on the Christian who doubts, on the skeptic who would fain believe, no longer brightened by the consoling beaconfires of the ancient hope."

### Act 1

Scene 1: (Basil Hallward's studio) Lord Henry Wotton, a cynical and decadent hedonist, observes his artist friend Basil completing a portrait of a strikingly handsome aristocrat, Dorian Gray. When Dorian arrives, Lord Henry fascinates him with his seductive worship of youth, beauty, and pleasure, leading the young man to blurt out a wish to remain forever as beautiful as his picture.

Scene 2: (Backstage at a shabby theater, some weeks later) The young actress, Sibyl Vane, excitedly tells her mother about her affair with a dashing, but anonymous gentleman, who is bringing his friends to see her perform. Mrs. Vane is ambivalent about mixing with the upper class, and Sibyl's brother James, leaving for Australia, warns her about him; but Dorian arrives and asks Sibyl to marry him.

Scene 3: (Inside the theater auditorium) Dorian and friends watch as Sibyl, distracted by her love, ruins the performance, to the audience's consternation.

Scene 4: (Backstage again) The humiliated Dorian insults Sibyl, then rejects her.

Scene 5: (Dorian's library, later that evening) Dorian notices that his portrait has changed slightly, as if reflecting his harshness toward Sibyl -- but his own face has not. Taking this as a moral omen, he writes her an apology, then falls asleep.

## INTERMISSION

### Act 2

Scene 1: (Dorian's library, the next morning) Lord Henry awakens Dorian with the news that Sibyl, grief-stricken, has killed herself. Basil arrives, asking to borrow the portrait for an exhibition; when Dorian refuses, he is hurt and suspicious. Dorian banishes the painting to his attic.

Scene 2: (Orchestral interlude, during which 18 years pass) Dorian, protected by his mysteriously decaying portrait from any signs of age or debauchery, descends from mindless hedonism to callous depravity with both sexes.

Scene 3: (Dorian's sitting room, early evening) Basil demands the truth about Dorian's disgraced reputation. Dorian takes him to the attic and reveals the now hideous portrait, a record of all his selfish cruelty, then kills Basil out of anger and fear. Back in the sitting room, he summons a former lover, Alan Campbell, and blackmails him in order to get him to dispose of the body.

Scene 4: (A dockside bar, later that evening) Seeking oblivion in his underworld haunts, Dorian is accosted by James Vane, recently returned from Australia and seeking revenge for his sister Sibyl's death. Thanks to the portrait's preserving effect, Dorian convinces Vane that he is too young to have been a grown man so long ago.

Scene 5: (Dorian's attic, immediately following) Disgusted and repentant, Dorian vows to reform, and stabs the now even more hideous picture of himself, but it is too late.

-James M. Saslow

## Director's Note

Some of you may have heard me tell this story before, but I believe it is worth repeating here. In the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a young and daring composer who created radically different musical presentations than did other composers of his time. Many people did not care for his music nor his style. His name was W. A. Mozart. No one today can predict who will be recognized as a great composer two hundred years from now, but if contemporary composers are not given an opportunity to have their works heard today, they will certainly not be recognized nor remembered at all. A major mission of Longwood Opera has always been to support contemporary composers and librettists. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is our 3<sup>rd</sup> world premiere that we have commissioned in the 25 years we have been providing operatic performances to the Greater Boston area. Not very many other opera companies can boast of these achievements.

As you can imagine, this is a great and costly challenge for a small company in terms of the efforts involved. As our production progressed, music, text and actions needed to be added or changed for us to tell the story in the way we have been creating it for you. Musical scores cannot be borrowed, rented or purchased. They had to be created, printed and then updated with any changes we made and printed again. Likewise, sets, props, costumes, lighting and special effects to enhance this production had to be created for the very first time. The rehearsal period has been considerably longer, as we needed the time to learn, create, examine, evaluate, re-evaluate and determine all the aspects of the production large and small. There have been no precedents or guidelines to help us, as are sometimes available for existing works. No videos, recordings or articles exist. We are the first, and we are setting the precedent for all future productions. What an accomplishment! What fun!

We have gathered some of the finest Boston based talent for this production. Everyone involved has gone well beyond what is normally called upon them, when creating an opera. Many extra hours of rehearsals, as well as changes in blocking, text and music have all been met with great enthusiasm in order for us to accomplish our goal of presenting the finest, first ever performances for you.

You, as the audience, are also an important component of this gigantic puzzle. You are witnessing something which has never been presented until now. Your presence here tells us that you, too, understand the importance of contemporary works and we thank you for this support. We hope you will enjoy experiencing this unique opportunity and that you will share your responses with us and with others.

- J. Scott Brumit

**PLEASE JOIN US!**

**LONGWOOD OPERA 21<sup>st</sup> Summer Concert Series**

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**1132 Highland Avenue, Needham**

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## Meet the Artists



**Jeffrey Brody**  
Composer & Music Director

A finalist in the 1999 European International Composers Competition and winner of numerous ASCAP awards, longtime Longwood Opera Music Director Jeffrey Brody has earned international acclaim for his compositions. His output, including two operas and works for chorus, orchestra, chamber ensemble, solo voice and organ, has been performed in some of the world's most prestigious venues, among them Boston's Symphony Hall, Jordan Hall, the Washington National Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and the Vienna Konzerthaus. One of Boston's most respected coaches and collaborative pianists, he was appointed Music Director and Organist of Park Avenue Congregational Church in 2007, and serves as Principal Accompanist of the Paul Madore Chorale Music Advisor for the Boston Wagner Society, and is a staff collaborative pianist at NEC. The present season brings the world premiere of his second opera, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, as well as the premiere of his Second Essay for Orchestra, *Pezzo Serioso*, by the Salem Philharmonic under his direction. Mr. Brody's works are published exclusively by Ashbrook Music and also appear on YouTube, as well as on AFKA and SPC compact discs. Mr. Brody is a member of the International Siegfried Wagner Society; the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; the National Association of Teachers of Singing; the American Guild of Organists, and is a founding member of Boston Singers Resource, for which he has served as audition adjudicator. In honor of the many years of his artistic collaboration with the late Boston Symphony Orchestra Organist, Dr. Berj Zamkochian, the Gomidas Organ Fund presented Mr. Brody with the baton used by Dr. Charles Munch, Music Director and Conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1949-1962. For more information, kindly refer to [www.jeffreybrody.com](http://www.jeffreybrody.com).



**J. Scott Brumit**  
General Director

For more than 35 years, J. Scott Brumit has been evangelizing opera and musical theatre as culturally vital and unique art forms. Since 1971, he has been performing, directing and producing opera throughout the United States. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is the 3rd opera he has commissioned and is his 160<sup>th</sup> production. He received his undergraduate degree from Occidental College in Los Angeles and his graduate degree from the New England Conservatory in Boston. He taught at the Boston Conservatory for five years as the assistant director of the Opera Department, under the direction of John Moriarty. He then served as artistic administrator for the Opera Company of Boston for Sarah Caldwell. In 1986, he co-founded Longwood Opera with John Balme and is currently the company's General Director. He has over 100 operatic roles in his repertoire. He is the narrator and tutorial voice for the computer game release of "Empire Earth II". In 1984, he received the Jacopo Peri award from the New England Opera Club. In 2008, he was initiated as a National Arts Associate of Sigma Alpha Iota. He is an accomplished martial artist and teaches classes in Tai Chi and Qigong.

## Meet the Artists



**Benjamin Clark**  
*Alan Campbell*

Benjamin Clark is happy to return to Longwood Opera. He has previously appeared in the title role of *Don Pasquale*, as the Sacrestan in *Tosca*, and as Alberich, Fafner, and Gunther in last year's *Ring Cycle*. In the past year, he has appeared in *Iolanthe* and *La Bohème* with Mass Theatrica, *The Magic Flute* and *Cendrillon* with MetroWest Opera, and *Die Fledermaus* and *Trial by Jury* with Friends of Performing Arts Concord. Other roles have included The Four Villains in *Tales of Hoffmann*, Plutone/Apollo in *L'Orfeo*, Prunier in *La Rondine*, Scratch in *The Devil and Daniel Webster*, Top in *The Tender Land*, and Lockit in *The Beggar's Opera*.



**Giovanni Formisano**  
*James Vane*

This will be Mr. Formisano's debut with Longwood Opera. His past roles include, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus* with the Riverside Theatre Works, Nemorino in Donizetti's *Elisir D'amore* with Center City Opera in Philadelphia and Opera del West, Arturo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Commonwealth Opera, Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca* with the Lowell House Opera, Pong in Puccini's *Turandot* with the Connecticut Grand Opera and Lowell House Opera, Spoletta in Puccini's *Tosca* with the Cape Cod Opera and the role of Ruggero in Puccini's *La Rondine* with the Longy School of Music. Mr. Formisano has participated in programs such as, the Key West Symphony program directed by Donna Roll, the New York summer opera scenes directed by Joshua Greene (assistant director of the Metropolitan Opera House) and the Richard Crittenden Opera Program. Mr. Formisano would like to thank everyone here at Longwood Opera for this great opportunity— his family, Francisco Casanova, Donna Roll, Anton Belov and Noriko Yasuda.



**Fred Furnari**  
*Lord Henry Wotton*

Mr. Furnari began voice studies with mentor and vocal teacher Daniel Sullivan. He went on to pursue an Artist Diploma at the Hartt School on a full scholarship. Notable performances in the 2010-2011 season include Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* and Betto in *Gianni Schicchi* with St Petersburg Opera, The Bass Soloist in Mahler's 8th Symphony, and Alcindo/Benoit in *Breasted Butte*. Fred resides in Andover, MA. He studies with Dan Sullivan, and works with coaches Jeffrey Brody, Michelle Alexander, Steven Steiner, and Laurent Philippe.

## Meet the Artists



**Alexandra Lang**  
*Sibyl Vane*

Alexandra Lang, soprano, is recognized for her integrity as a musician, warm vocal color and versatility as a singing-actress. A native of Atlanta, she joined Longwood Opera as a soloist for several concerts on its 18th Annual Summer Concert Series, where the *Needham Times* took note of her "opera-ready voice cascading throughout the church." Ms. Lang made her operatic debut in 2009 in the title role of Massenet's *Manon* with Opera in the Ozarks. Last summer she performed abroad in Périgueux, France where she sang Eurydice in Jacques Offenbach's *Orphée aux Enfers* with Opera du Périgord. Committed to nurturing her love of French music here at

home, Ms. Lang was a finalist in the Grand Concours de Chant 2011, a competition dedicated to French opera. This season Alexandra joins Longwood Opera once again to create a role written for her: Sibyl Vane in Jeffrey Brody's world premiere: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.



**Patrick Massey**  
*Basil Hallward*

Tenor Patrick Massey is a North Carolina native and recent graduate of the Master's program at The Boston Conservatory. His time in Boston has been fruitful with performances ranging from the World Premiere of Matthew Vest's opera, *The Hour Glass* with the Juventas New Music Ensemble to Prunier in Puccini's *La Rondine* and *The Three Little Pigs* Children's Opera at TBC. Patrick recently finished performing the role of the Assistant Rudolph Rojahn's critically acclaimed chamber opera, *Heart of a Dog* with Guerilla Opera. Patrick's other notable roles include Camille in *The Merry*

*Widow*, *Candide* in *Candide*, *Basilio* in *Figaro*, *Grosvenor* in *Patience*, and *Ferrando* in *Così fan tutte*.



**Jonathan Nussman**  
*Dorian Gray*

Jonathan Nussman is a baritone from Charlotte, North Carolina. He received his B.M. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his M.M. from the Boston Conservatory. His interests include opera, musical theater, and art song, with a special emphasis on music from the 20th and 21st centuries. In the Boston area Jonathan has appeared with Guerilla Opera, Opera Boston, Longwood Opera, MetroWest Opera, Boston Opera Collaborative, Opera del West, the MIT Gilbert and Sullivan Players, and OperaHub. In addition to premiering the title role in Jeffrey Brody's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, he has also performed premier performances of works by composers Rudolph

Rojahn, John Murphree, Allan Cohen and Marti Epstein. Notable roles in his repertoire include Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Bluff in *The Impresario*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, Larry Foreman *The Cradle Will Rock*, John Brooke in *Little Women* and Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*. In the summer of 2011, he will appear as the recipient of the Fellowship in Voice at the soundSCAPE New Music Festival in Maccagno, Italy. Jonathan is a student of Dr. Rebecca Folsom.  
[www.jonathannussman.com](http://www.jonathannussman.com).

## Meet the Artists



**James M. Saslow**  
Librettist

James M. Saslow is professor of art history, theater, and Renaissance studies at City University of New York, and an author and arts journalist. His work focuses on the Italian Renaissance, particularly gender and homosexuality and the visual aspects of theater. He translated the poetry of Michelangelo, and has written and designed stage presentations in period style; his book on performance at *The Medici Wedding of 1589* received the Renaissance Society of America's annual prize. He previously arranged texts for Jeffrey Brody's chorale, "The Song of Songs." He lives in New York with his partner of 21 years, Steve Goldstein.



**Angeliki Theoharis**  
*Mrs. Vane*

Angeliki Theoharis performed throughout the US, including Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall and CAMI Hall. Critics proclaim: "None can match the sheer vocal prowess of Theoharis, whose voice can only be compared to a racing waterfall: at once stunning and incredibly, frighteningly powerful." *Review Fix (NYC)*.

"Angeliki Theoharis boasts distinctive timbre, steadiness of tone, and considerable power." *Boston Globe*. "As Azucena, the gifted mezzo, Angeliki Theoharis, ground out her hair-raising chest notes and nailed her top ones with courage and thrilling beauty." *Boston Globe* "As Santuzza, Theoharis displayed a voice like a canon, capable of launching one big, solid note after another." *Boston Herald*. Roles included Amneris, Baba, Witch, *Carmen* and Eboli (with Jerome Hines).



**Wayne Ward**  
Assistant Music Director & Keyboard

A professor of music education at Berklee College of Music since 1975, Wayne Ward has been with Longwood Opera for over 16 years and Music Director for a number of Longwood productions including *The Elixir of Love*, *Don Pasquale*, *The Telephone*, *The Tales of Hoffmann* and *La Traviata*; and Assistant Music Director for *Falstaff*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Carmen*, *The Magic Flute*, *Susannah*, *La Bohème*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Traviata*, *Tosca* and *Don Pasquale*. He is a graduate of Tufts University and the Eastman School of Music, serving as opera coach under Edwin McArthur. Wayne has also been music director at the Turtle Lane Playhouse in Newton for more than 25 years and has received kudos for *Follies*, *1776*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Sweet Charity*, *Nunsense*, *Miss Saigon* (an area premier), *Damn Yankees*, *Pippin*, *The Full Monty*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, *Songs for a New World*, *The Secret Garden* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. In the 2008-09 at Turtle Lane, Wayne was music Director for *The Falsettos* (nominated for an IRNE award for music direction). He has also led the orchestra for *Into the Woods* and was music director for the Turtle Lane's production of *The Producers*. In the spring of 2011, Wayne became the accompanist for the Greater Milford Community Chorus. He is also organist/choir director for Union Evangelical Church in Hopedale, MA.

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July 26- Presenting Rising Stars  
August 2- Opera Meets Broadway  
August 9- An Evening of Gilbert & Sullivan  
August 16- An Evening of Operatic Scenes  
August 23- More Broadway Melodies  
August 30- An Evening of Opera Arias  
TBD- NEGASS/Longwood Opera Joint Sing Along  
*The Pirates of Penzance*

Visit [longwoodopera.org](http://longwoodopera.org) for ticket information

## Longwood Opera Chronology of Productions

### 1986-87

*La Bohème*  
*Barber of Seville*  
*Madame Butterfly*  
*La Perichole*  
*Der Rosenkavalier*  
*Hansel & Gretel*

### 1987-88

*La Bohème*  
*Hansel & Gretel*  
*Tosca*  
*Barber of Seville*  
*Don Giovanni*  
*Carmen*

### 1988-89

*Elixir of Love*  
*Barber of Seville*  
*Hansel & Gretel*  
*La Traviata*  
*Friends & Dinosaurs* \*  
*La Bohème*  
*The Mikado*

### 1989-90

*Hansel & Gretel*  
*La Traviata*  
*Elixir of Love*  
*Friends & Dinosaurs*  
*La Bohème*  
*The Telephone*  
*Die Fledermaus*

### 1990-91

*Hansel & Gretel*  
*La Traviata*  
*Elixir of Love*  
*The Telephone*  
*Rigoletto*  
*Roméo & Juliette*  
*L'Histoire du Soldat*

### 1991-92

*The Magic Flute*  
*I Pagliacci*  
*La Voix Humaine*  
*The Telephone*  
*L'Histoire du Soldat*  
*Summer concerts*  
*La Bohème*

### 1992-93

*Marriage of Figaro*  
*The Telephone*  
*The Medium*  
*Don Pasquale*  
*Il Tabarro*  
*Suor Angelica*  
*Gianni Schicchi*  
*Summer concerts*

### 1993-94

*Don Giovanni*  
*Hansel & Gretel*  
*The Tales of Hoffmann*  
*Barber of Seville*  
*Summer concerts*

### 1994-95

*Old Maid & The Thief*  
*La Bohème*  
*Così Fan Tutte*  
*La Traviata*  
*Summer concerts*

### 1995-96

*Susannah*  
*Merry Wives of Windsor*  
*Carmen*  
*Summer concerts*

### 1996-97

*Tosca*  
*Cinderella*  
*Summer concerts*

### 1997-98

*Die Fledermaus*  
*Elixir of Love*

### 1998

*Summer concerts*  
*Barber of Seville*  
*Hansel & Gretel*

### 1999

*Mozart and Salieri*  
*The Secret of Susanna*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Don Giovanni*

### 2000

*The Human Voice*  
*The Telephone*  
*Summer concerts*  
*The Marriage of Figaro*

### 2001

*The Impresario*  
*The Measure of Love* \*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Carmen*  
*Hansel & Gretel*

### 2002

*Albert Herring*  
*Summer concerts*  
*The Magic Flute*

### 2003

*Susannah*  
*Summer concerts*  
*The Tales of Hoffmann*

### 2004

*A Tribute to Leonard  
Bernstein*  
*Summer concerts*  
*La Bohème*

### 2005

*A Tribute to Kurt Weill*  
*Summer concerts*  
*La Traviata*

### 2006

*A Tribute to Amadeus*  
*Mozart*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Falstaff*

### 2007

*Hansel & Gretel*  
*The Barber of Seville*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Die Fledermaus*

### 2008

*A Tribute to Rossini*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Don Pasquale*

### 2009

*The Medium*  
*The Old Maid and the Thief*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Tosca*

### 2010

*Tales from Der Ring des  
Nibelungen*  
*Summer concerts*  
*Hansel & Gretel*

### 2011

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* \*  
*Summer concerts*  
*La Bohème*

\*World Premiere



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### • **Make a contribution to Longwood Opera**

Over the past several seasons, Longwood Opera has improved the quality of its productions through costumes, props and set design. All of these enhancements cost money. Depending on tickets sales alone makes it difficult to plan a full season of staged opera.

Writing a check today (remember, donations are always tax-deductible) can make a difference. Your gift, large or small, can help assure Longwood's future productions.

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