

Little Theatre of  
**VIRGINIA BEACH**  
*The Beach's Playhouse since 1948*

# THE REMAINS

**BY ANDREW FORTMAN**

Directed by Robert Shirley  
January 29 – February 21, 2021



## WARNING

Little Theatre of Virginia Beach is providing the following caution statements regarding the viewing of *The Remains*

Please be advised, this production includes adult language and references to traumatic and violent acts. It may not be suitable for young children.

Trauma, by its very nature is a sensitive and difficult topic that may remind anyone of their own experiences, and trigger various responses during the session, moments, or even weeks after. It is not uncommon for individuals to be deeply impacted by newfound knowledge related to the pervasiveness or impact of trauma, or by related discussions. Remember to give yourself grace. Self-care is important, and this play viewing is no exception. As needed, pause the viewing, take a step away, and take a moment. If you need immediate support, consider reaching out to:

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## Playwright's Note

In his suicide note, a famed poet wrote: "They tried to get me; I got them first!" The truth is, I've never been a direct victim of the circumstances the characters in this script experience, nor do I claim to know or even slightly understand the chaos and madness that follows such an event. I've only observed the fallout of these acts - from many miles away, with the benefits of a television screen as a filter. And as I've passively watched coverage of strangers cope with the unthinkable, I've often wondered what their world looks like days, months, and years down the road. This is where the story of *The Remains* is born - after all of the questions have been asked, and yet so many of the answers have yet to be discovered. In the end, what I hope this story and these characters offer is an opportunity for all of us to consider: How does trauma change us, and how do we evolve within it and alongside it? How responsible are we for the lives – the joys, the fears, the secrets, the memories – of those who have been lost? And just how far away are any of us, in any given moment, from doing the thing we always thought we were incapable of doing?

**Andrew Fortman, Playwright**

*Special Thanks to....*

*Our generous patrons and volunteers who continue to support us during these unprecedented times. Although we are not yet open for live performances, your involvement has significantly contributed to our ability to produce this show in a virtual format. We look forward to bringing you back into our theater later this year.*

## Director's Note

I first learned of *The Remains* in a casual discussion with the author, Andrew Fortman. He agreed to forward a working draft of the play for me to read. I found it to be compelling and well-written. During the summer of 2019, I was invited to a reading of the script at the Live Arts in Charlottesville, Virginia. I was intrigued by the depth of the characters drawn by the author and the raw humanity brought to life in an honest dialogue. When COVID-19 brought live theatre to a screeching halt and caused theatres everywhere to reexamine their offerings, I again contacted Mr. Fortman and requested permission to share his script with our play reading committee. He agreed, we read, and we are pleased to bring this script to life at the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach. In a time of stress and angst, we can offer the world premiere of a wonderful piece of literature to our patrons. It is exciting to give legs to a script that has not been previously produced. With degrees in theatre from The Ohio State University and University of Virginia, Mr. Fortman is an accomplished actor. I was thrilled that he accepted my invitation to come to Virginia Beach to create the role of the coach in his work's maiden production. To balance his acting chops, I leaned on one of Tidewater's best actresses, Kathy Taylor Hinson, to create the role of the mother. It was a marriage made in heaven! The two create a powerful and poignant theatrical experience. We were challenged with presenting this performance directly to film for online distribution. Our videographer, Jeffrey Seneca, has graciously accepted the task of creating that final cut. To create the proper environment for the production, I was fortunate to rely upon the brilliant stage dressing of Sandy Lawrence and the exceptional lighting design of Sherry Forbes, who also serves as Assistant Director and Producer for this production. There are many questions raised by an event like that which *The Remains* considers. I think the dialogue that ensues becomes profound when considering the why's and wherefores of motivation and the purposefully unanswered questions in the text. The cathartic effect of such a discussion proves to be consequential. *The Remains* does not attempt to provide concrete answers to questions that will likely never be fully answered or issues that will not be fully resolved. It does, however, provide food for thought. I hope the viewing audience will find both the subject matter and its treatment as compelling as I have found it to be.

**Robert Shirley, Director**

# CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Kevin.....Andrew Fortman  
Andi.....Kathy Hinson  
Offstage Voices.....Jessica Martinez, Jeff Seneca

# PRODUCTION STAFF

Director.....Robert Shirley  
Assistant Director/Lighting Design/Producer.....Sherry Forbes  
Set Design/Set Dressing.....Sandy Lawrence  
Set Painting.....Michael Smiley  
Sound/Videography.....Jeff Seneca  
Cover Art Work.....James Bryan  
Photography.....Melissa Maniglia  
Technical Assistance.....Paul Berryman

Produced by special arrangement with Andrew Fortman



**Many thanks to the local groups who attend LTVB performances regularly:**

Atlantic Shores, Westminster Canterbury  
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## Biographies



**Andrew Fortman** (Kevin, Playwright) is thrilled to be returning to LTVB, following his role as Britt Craig in *Parade*. Other performance credits include *The Frozen on the Square 1982* (Akvavit Theatre), *She Loves Me*, *Spelling Bee*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *The 39 Steps*, *My Fair Lady* (Heritage Theatre Festival), *The Electric Lighthouse* (The Flea Theater), *Human Bond* (Shepard Theatre), *Dead City* (Available Light Theater), *Aster Holger Gunn* (Raconteur Theatre), and *Glass City* (Glass City Productions). His previous writing credits include *Love Christine*, a solo show based on the autobiography of Christine Jorgensen, and *Beyond The Rainbow*, a docudrama examining the impact of "coming out" on loved ones of those who identify as LGBTQ.



**Kathy Hinson** (Andi) has been performing since she was a child, starting with numerous church productions, and Children's Choirs and moving to touring the east coast with an evangelism team while in High School. She studied music and theatre at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN – which allowed her many opportunities to work with amazingly talented artists in various genres. She has had the privilege to perform in Germany, and nearly ten states across the US including Lincoln Center in NYC, and she counts her performances here in Virginia Beach among her favorites. Some of her favorite roles include Violet in *Violet*, Elizabeth in *Young Frankenstein*, Daisy in *Side Show*, and Jenny in *It Shoulda Been You*. She has been honored to be a part of this production and to have the unique opportunity to work alongside Andrew who has been amazingly gracious as both an author and fellow actor. Kathy would like to thank Robert for having faith in her to bring this role to life and Sherry for her attention to detail and help in finding balance. She gives her undying love to her three children, who make her so proud every day, and who are the reason she agreed to take this role on in the first place - and a special thanks to Drew for enduring endless line runs and crying fits, all while encouraging me to keep going. [Photo by Cute E's Photography]

**Sherry Forbes** (Assistant Director/Lighting Design/Producer) is thrilled to work with such an amazingly talented cast and director on this powerful and moving play. Sherry has numerous local theatrical credits from past years both on and off stage. Most recently, she was the lighting designer for *It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* and stage manager for *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, both LTVB productions. Sherry is forever indebted to Robert for believing in her and allowing her to be his assistant director.

**Robert Shirley** (Director) is a former teacher, administrator, and theatre arts director whose roles include Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew* (Portfolio Award), Bill Sykes & Mr. Bumble in *Oliver*, Jigger in *Carousel*, Terry Connor in *Side Show*, Dracula in *Dracula*, Monster in *Young Frankenstein*, Anderson in *Shenandoah*, Nick in *Baby*, Joe in *Shadow Box*, Company in *Side By Side By Sondheim*, Jesus in *Godspell*, Herod in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Carney in *Biloxi Blues*. He directed *The Boyfriend*, *Cinderella*, *Brigadoon*, *Camelot*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *The King and I*, *Olympus On My Mind*, and *It Shoulda Been You*. He designed and built costumes for shows including *The Secret Garden* (world premiere, Virginia Stage Company), *The Nutcracker* (ODU Ballet), *Legends* (Tidewater Dinner Theatre), *Treemonisha* (Hampton University), *Damn Yankees* (Tidewater Dinner Theatre and Little Theatre of Virginia Beach) and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Kempsville Playhouse). He is excited to bring the world premiere of this thought-provoking play to the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach patrons.

## We support Little Theatre of Virginia Beach.

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By Andrew Fortman  
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