



Amelia Community Theatre Presents



# *the Sweet Delilah Swim Club*

by Jones Hope Wooten

*August 8th–23rd, 2025*

*Production Sponsors*

**June Burks**

**Revelation Design**

**The Claudia Watts Team**



209 Cedar Street, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034  
(904) 261-6749 and [info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org](mailto:info@AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org)

ACT was chartered by the State of Florida in 1981 as a not-for-profit corporation.

Auditions and memberships are open to all.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*"To enhance the quality of life of our local (and extended) community by providing excellent, innovative theatrical and artistic experiences through presentation and education."*

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## THE SWEET DELILAH SWIM CLUB

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*Any video or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.*



# We are Grateful to Our Production Sponsors

## June Burks

“Remembering all of our dear old friends”



# Notes From The Director..

Welcome to *The Sweet Delilah Swim Club*, a heartwarming comedy that celebrates friendship, resilience, and the enduring bonds formed in the most unexpected places. As a director, my goal has been to bring to life the warmth, humor, and genuine connection among these five women, each with their own stories and quirks, united by their annual getaway at the Sweet Delilah.

This play is set in the intimacy of a small beachside cottage, where five women—Sheree, Lexi, Dinah, Jeri Neal, and Vernadette—gather one weekend every summer for their cherished retreat. Through a series of hilarious and heartfelt scenes, we witness their evolving relationships, personal struggles, and moments of revelation that resonate long after the curtain falls. It's a story about the importance of friendship and the ways in which women support and uplift each other through life's many challenges.

Visually, I wanted to create a warm, inviting space that evokes the nostalgic charm of a seaside retreat. The set design reflects the simplicity and comfort of the cottage, with vibrant colors and beach-themed accents that evoke a sense of escape and relaxation. Lighting plays a crucial role in highlighting the intimacy of these moments, shifting from bright daytime scenes to more reflective, subdued evening conversations.

Casting was integral to capturing the humor and depth of each character. The women's personalities—ranging from the spirited and humorous, to the reflective and nurturing—are essential to the play's dynamic. My approach was to encourage authentic performances that showcase each character's unique voice, allowing their bonds to feel genuine and relatable.

In rehearsals, I emphasized the importance of timing and physicality to enhance the comedy, while also allowing space for the emotional beats that give the play its heart. The rhythm of the scenes flows naturally when the actors listen and respond sincerely, creating moments of genuine connection that invite the audience into their world.

Ultimately, this production aims to remind audiences of the enduring power of friendship and the importance of taking time for oneself and others. It celebrates the simple joys found in shared experiences. I hope viewers leave feeling inspired, uplifted, and reminded of the value of community and camaraderie.

Thank you for joining us in this journey. I am grateful to share this story with you and hope you enjoy the show as much as we enjoyed creating it.

**Joseph Stearman, Director**





# Cast Bios



## **Jen DeGroff** (*Sheree Hollinger*)

Jen is thrilled to be in her first ACT production with an incredibly talented and supportive director, cast, and crew. Jen retired from her role as Deputy Chief of Staff with the Indiana State Senate and moved to Amelia Island three years ago with her husband, Dave. As a group exercise instructor, Jen shares Sheree's passion for health and fitness. She is happy to help bring to life the heart and humor of strong female friendships.



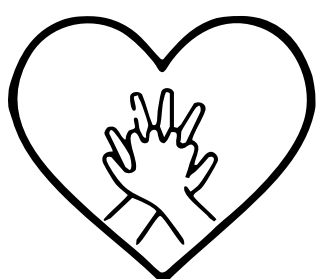
## **Starr Duvall** (*Dinah Grayson*)

Starr is fulfilling her acting dreams as a first timer on the ACT stage! Starr has loved the outpouring of support, the faith the director has had in the newcomers, and the amazing friendships formed. Starr is most grateful for her husband, Kevin, and daughter Keegan who, without complaint, have had to fend for themselves during rehearsals and performances. Starr sends a special shout out to her parents, in-laws, sister, and friends who traveled to see her acting debut!



## **Jennifer Jaress** (*Lexie Richards*)

Jennifer ("JJ") is elated to be a part of another ACT production and delighted to be back on stage. She has been a part of the theatre community, in various theatres, for over thirty years. This is Jennifer's fifth production here at ACT, and she is thrilled to be working on this beautiful show with such a closely knit cast and crew. Big shout out to her husband and daughters for their unconditional love and support!



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**Jayme Taylor** (*Jeri Neal McFeeley*)

Jayme is overjoyed to be back on the ACT stage! While her last performance was in *Radium Girls*, Jayme supports ACT in so many ways including as part of the ACTed team and the ACT Board of Directors. Jayme has loved getting to know this wonderful cast of women and to work with Joseph as a director. Jayme is especially grateful for her family and friends who have helped her juggle everything she chooses to do at once!



**Martha McDowell** (*Vernadette Simms*)

Martha was seen on the ACT stage as Aida in *Over the River and Through the Woods* and played Mykayla in *Return to Sunset Village* (AMP). Twenty-five years of Waldorf class teaching gave Martha most of her theater experience, by writing, directing and producing two annual performances with grades 1-8. Martha is a Restorative Yoga/Meditation teacher, Reiki Energy Practitioner, and owner of Chrysalis Healing in Fernandina Beach. She loves her garden, sourdough baking, raising butterflies & especially her fabulous grandchildren.

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# Production Staff Bios

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**Joseph Stearman** (*Director*)

Joseph is delighted to make his directorial debut here at ACT and grateful to be leading such a talented cast and crew. Joseph has been seen in many ACT productions, including *Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, and *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville* to name a few. Joseph is especially grateful to his wife Lisa, a.k.a. "Tall Girl", and for his long walks on Centre Street before each rehearsal. Joseph is also still shooting for that dream of opening a hotel for homeless puppies.



**Nicole Perrella** (*Stage Manager*)

Nicole is excited to be a part of this production and to support such a brilliant director and cast. As President of the ACT Board of Directors, Nicole is always humbled and amazed at the talent, dedication, and pure joy our community brings to the stage. Discovering Amelia Island and her ACT family is something that she will forever be grateful. Nicole is most thankful for her husband Scott who is the best partner ever.



**Jason Taylor** (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Jason is making his debut as Assistant Stage Manager in this terrific production. Jason was last seen on the stage playing several roles in *Singin' in the Rain* and has also supported productions as a sound technician and backstage crew. Jason is so appreciative for what ACT brings to the area, and that he and his family can spend time together being a part of such a wonderful community theatre.

*All great performances start with a story.*

A stylized illustration on a green background. On the left is a thick book with a spiral binding and some scribbled text on its cover. Two theatrical masks, one smiling (comedy) and one frowning (tragedy), are connected to the book by a thin, winding line. The masks are also connected to each other by a similar line.

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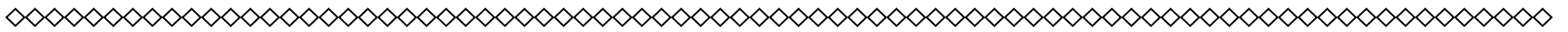
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# Volunteer of the Year, 2024–25



## Bruce Gruber



Bruce Gruber is a loyal, hardworking, and dedicated volunteer who is involved in many aspects of our theatre. He knows ACT from every view: acting, leadership roles, recruiting new volunteers, rewriting our by-laws, play reading for new season selection, long range planning, ushering, and even parking cars.

Bruce has very high standards for himself and the work he produces for our theatre. He is a mature and sage voice of reason whom other volunteers look up to, listen to, and respect. The role of mentor comes naturally to Bruce, and he has given guidance and served as a role model to many in a variety of roles.

Bruce worked tirelessly on our volunteer recruitment program. Originally, he was handed a large and rambling mass of names on an ancient mailing list and he never felt overwhelmed or defeated by the massive project. He recently handed over a well-thought-out, developed, and finished volunteer recruitment and tracking program. Bruce also calls prospective volunteers who have expressed an interest in our theatre. His enthusiasm, warmth, and graciousness has turned many potential volunteers into new members of our volunteer family.

Bruce promotes ACT in our community including the Men's Newcomer Club, the Council on Aging, and various bridge groups where his persuasive, fun personality has single-handedly sold many tickets to our performances — especially shows he's in! You may have seen him onstage in the past year with roles in *Billy Elliot: The Musical* and *Into the Breeches!*.

The epitome of a dependable volunteer, Bruce consistently produces excellent results drawing on his life experience in business and his long-time love for community theatre. As secretary to the ACT board, he works to insure the continued smooth running of board business. He also oversees the implementation of our long-range plan, and chaired the momentous task of by-laws revision to create our current by-laws that now reflect ACT's purpose and operations.

Bruce's wisdom, kindness, ethical standards, and stalwart stewardship helped ACT thrive during our 43rd season. Each and every day, he remains easy going and kind to all who volunteer alongside him. We think Bruce is the gold standard bearer for these traits in a volunteer, and we are all enriched by his presence at ACT. We are proud to honor Bruce Gruber as ACT Volunteer of the Year!

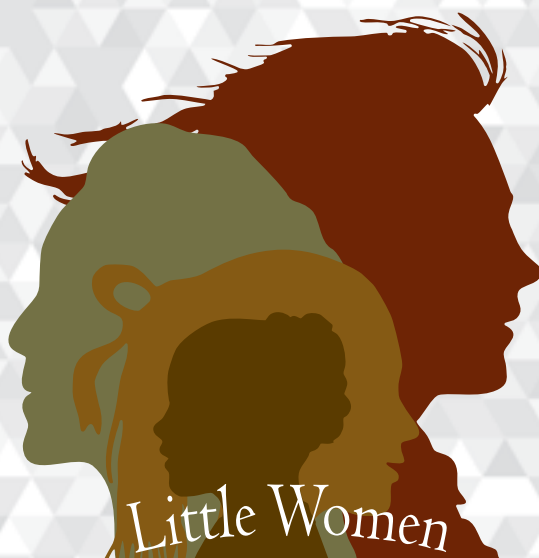




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AUGUST 2026

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### TICKETS:

[AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org/main-stage](https://AmeliaCommunityTheatre.org/main-stage)