

The Golden Girls

The Last Episodes VIII

BY DAVID CERDA



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CAST

Rose Nylund.....**JOEY BUCHEKER**
 Blanche Devereaux.....**MICHAEL "BEBE" BLASDELL**
 Dorothy Zbornak.....**BRYAN SHARRY**
 Sophia Petrillo.....**MATT RITTLER**
 Stan Zbornak.....**ADAM BEAM**
 Madame Zuhara.....**MATTI LaVIGNE**
 Inga Ostekongen.....**LEN MENDEZ**



CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....**TODD WARFIELD**
 Stage Manager.....**LAUREN BINDER**
 Scenic Designer.....**TODD WARFIELD**
 Costume Designer.....**JOEY BUCHEKER**
 Lighting Designer.....**JAY MARKS**
 Scenic Construction.....**DAVID HAEFNER**

WHO'S WHO

JOEY BUCHEKER (Rose Nylund) is thrilled to be back for his eighth season as everyone's favorite delightfully naïve St. Olaf storyteller. His adventures in sensible shoes and Scandinavian nonsense have earned him the BroadwayWorld Regional Award for Best Performer in a Play 3 years in a row. Joey is also a 2026 Artie Award winner for his portrayal of Lord Farquaad in SHREK. A performer, director, choreographer, playwright, and producer, Joey's performance credits include TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING (Off-Broadway), HELLO, DOLLY! starring Carole Cook, THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Gomez), YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (Igor), CABARET (Emcee), A CHORUS LINE (Greg), ART (Yvan), THE PAJAMA GAME (Hines), IT SHOULD BEEN YOU (Albert), REEFER MADNESS (Ralph), KHAN!!! (Chekov), KILLER RACK (Candida), and the title role in AN ACT OF GOD. Joey holds a BFA from Niagara University. He has received the Key to the City of Buffalo and even had a day named in his honor—which, as Rose would probably tell you, is almost as prestigious as being named St. Olaf's Butter Queen.

MICHAEL "BEBE" BLASDELL (Blanche Devereaux) comes fresh off his 2026 Artie Award-nominated performance in 2nd Generation Theatre's PURE GLITTER and sashays back onto the stage as the one, the only, Blanche Devereaux. Having spent years perfecting the art of delivering a devastating one-liner and accepting compliments as his God-given right, BeBe feels perfectly at home in Blanche's high heels. A veteran of the stage for more than 20 years and a familiar face in Buffalo nightlife, BeBe believes every problem can be solved with a strong cocktail, a good wig, and a dramatic exit. When not charming audiences, he can be found spreading sass throughout Western New York and reminding everyone that "being jealous is a very unattractive quality." BeBe thanks the cast, crew, and everyone who helped him fit into a dress again. He dedicates this performance to his mother Mary, his partner Jason, the CHOWS, Evergreen Health, Buffalo Tap House, and all the *Golden Girls* fans. Remember: Blanche never tells her real age...and neither does BeBe.

MATT RITTLER (Sophia Petrillo) is thrilled to return as everyone's favorite purse-carrying, Sicily-storytelling matriarch in THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES, a role for which he has twice received the BroadwayWorld Regional Award for Best Supporting Performer in a Play. Picture it: Buffalo, New York. A young man earns his BFA in Musical Theatre from the University at Buffalo, never dreaming that one day his greatest triumphs would come in a wig, glasses, and orthopedic shoes. And yet, here we are. You may have seen him previously as Harry in LUCKY STIFF, Carmen Ghia in THE PRODUCERS, Prancer in THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS with Lancaster Opera House, Crutchie in NEWSIES (Artie Nomination) with Kavinoky Theatre at Shea's 710, Corduroy in CORDUROY with Theatre of Youth, Victor and Others in YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, with Starring Buffalo, and Sparky in PLAID TIDINGS with O'Connell & Company, and Jr. Congressman Sullivan in KRAGTAR! THE MONSTER MUSICAL with Alleyway Theatre. Follow his adventures, and possible Sicilian vendettas, at [@mattchrisritt](#).

WHO'S WHO

BRYAN SHARRY (Dorothy Zbornak) is thrilled to make his debut as the quick-witted, perpetually exasperated Dorothy Zbornak in *THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES*. After years of waiting patiently for his turn in the sensible boots, Bryan has finally made it to the lanai. No stranger to the *Golden Girls* universe, Bryan has previously appeared as Lily Lindstrom (Rose's sister), Sylvia Martinelli (Sophia's nemesis), a Russian mobster inmate, and even Mrs. Roper in past incarnations. Yes, all of those roles eventually led to Dorothy. Don't question it, it's theatre. Bryan's other O'Connell & Company credits include *CURTAINS* (Randy Dexter), *CHICAGO* (Fred Casely), *PIPPIN* (Talking Head/Player), *OKLAHOMA!* (Cord Elam), and *GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL* (Stan). He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued love and support and reminds audiences that if you have a problem with his Dorothy, you can always go hug a landmine.

ADAM BEAM (Stan Zbornak) is making his WNY theatre debut. Favorite roles include *HAIRSPRAY* (Wilbur), *LEGALLY BLONDE* (Callahan), *INTO THE WOODS* (Jack) and *BEAUTY AND THE BEAST* (The Beast) to name just a few. When not on the stage, you can catch Adam reporting from the Southern Tier for WKBW. He thanks his girlfriend, family and friends for their continued support.

MATTI LaVIGNE (Madame Zuhara) is so proud to be back with O'Connell & Company. He's thrilled to be in Miami where he has been able to work with people he's known for years and further build relationships with them all. Previously he has been seen in *PIPPIN* (Player), *SHREK* (Big Bad Wolf/Thelonious), and *CURTAINS* (Brick, Detective O'Farrell) He wants to thank his late grandmothers who both watched this show with him from when he was young.

LEN MENDEZ (Inga Ostekongen) was last seen with O'Connell & Company in *KHAN!!! THE PARODY TREK-TACULAR* and he is thrilled to be back for his 5th installment of *THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES*. Favorite credits include *FOOTLOOSE* (Lyle), and *THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW* (Phantom) at Lancaster Opera House, *IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY* (Leslie Tate), *JITTERS* (Nick) with Desiderio's Dinner Theater, and *ALICE IN WONDERLAND* (Dormouse) with Aurora Players. Len will be returning to O'Connell & Company this winter as Angel in *RENT*. He would love to thank the company for continuing to shove him into high heels, saving him money on buying an elliptical.

WHO'S WHO

TODD WARFIELD (Director) Crowned the King of Camp by *The Buffalo News*, Todd is a theatre artist whose work spans countless stage productions, commercials, feature films, and television shows. He designed costumes for Shakespeare in Delaware Park's AS YOU LIKE IT, ROMEO AND JULIET, and THE COMEDY OF ERRORS. He was recently nominated for his design work on The Road Less Travelled's much-lauded, BOOK OF WILL. His original, autobiographical musical LOAD MORE GUYS premiered in 2018. Among his most celebrated directing collaborations include BUFFALO ZINGS, REEFER MADNESS, SHADOW SERENADE HELL HOLE HONEYS, THE GRADUATE, RABBIT HOLE, SILENCE! THE MUSICAL, CLEOPATRA, L'IMITATION OF LIFE, THE BIRDS ATTACK, MOMMIE QUEEREST, and THE ABSOLUTE BRIGHTNESS OF LEONARD PELKEY. Todd holds multiple Artie Awards and a 1991 Emmy® for his design work on the Number 1-rated sitcom *Cheers*. His television credits also include *Dear John*, *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and *Buffalo Bills All Access*, and his feature-film credits include *Coneheads*, *Crown Vic*, and *Diary of a Lunatic*. His outrageous interior designs have been featured in *Artvoice* and *Buffalo Spree*. New writing projects include the plays, DADDY ISSUES and BUFFALO GALS, the latter exploring the women who ran Buffalo's Canal District.

DAVID CERDA (Playwright) is the co-founder and Artistic Director of Chicago's acclaimed Hell in a Handbag Productions, a company devoted to celebrating camp, parody, and the gloriously ridiculous side of pop culture. As a playwright, actor, and producer, Cerda has spent decades putting his wonderfully twisted spin on beloved films, television shows, celebrities, and cultural icons. He is the creator and playwright of THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES, the wildly popular stage parody that brings Dorothy, Rose, Blanche, and Sophia back for all-new adventures filled with cheesecake, shoulder pads, St. Olaf stories, and plenty of sass. Cerda's extensive body of work includes CHRISTMAS DEAREST, THE DRAG SEED, POSEIDON! AN UPSIDE DOWN MUSICAL. LADY X: THE MUSICAL, RUDOLPH THE RED-HOSED REINDEER, and numerous other original comedies and musical parodies. His work is known for combining outrageous humor and drag with a genuine affection for the source material and the larger-than-life women who have shaped popular culture. Through Hell in a Handbag Productions, Cerda has become a distinctive voice in Chicago theatre and a longtime champion of LGBTQ+ artists and audiences. His *Golden Girls* "lost episodes" have gone on to delight audiences well beyond Chicago, proving that friendship, cheesecake, and a perfectly timed insult never go out of style.

2026-27
SEASON

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FEBRUARY 19-MARCH 7
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MARCH 5-21
Shea's Smith Theatre



APRIL 23-MAY 9
Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center