

# A Marriage Proposal

Written by **Anton Chekhov**

Directed by Roerick Sweeney

**Setting: The Olden Time**

## Cast

Ivan Vassilevitch – Matt LaSalle

Natalya Stepanovna – Shawna L. Durney

Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov – Tyler Weil

## Director's Note

I first saw Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal* in 8th grade, and I worked as set crew. I was a middle school kid, and I had volunteered as crew for a high school Vaudeville production. I loved the karmic humor, the characters, and the relentlessly hilarious plot. I wanted to direct the play as a senior in high school, but didn't have the time, mostly due to the extremely lengthy application process at Montana State University.

In retrospect, I'm very glad I waited until now. Open Door has been an organization very dear to my heart - I'm not sure I would be acting or directing without them. I think I've grown so much as a person and an artist during that time, and there's no other venue I'd rather make my "directorial debut."

I am so privileged to work with such a wonderful cast. My actors are the most consummate of professionals, have been tremendously reliable, and have humored me completely as I have been an absolute fascist in the director's chair. Danielle, our stage manager, might be the most talented production crew member I've ever met, and I'm so very grateful for her.

I hope you love our presentation of Anton Chekhov's *The Proposal* as much as I do. I'm very proud of the work these fine folks have done. Thank you for supporting community theater.

## Who's Who of Actors and Directors

**Dylan Albans**, a student at MSU's School of Film and Photography, has appeared in plays there and other Bozeman venues. A member of Something Funny Improv, he is currently working at Bridger Brewing.

**Halley Bennett**, a freshman at MSU majoring in computer science, was involved in Theater through high school, and was the musical director in most of those shows. She is excited to expand her acting horizon and has had a blast doing this show.

**Lane Bennett**, a junior at Bozeman High School, is heavily involved with the theatre department, including holding a leadership role. He's very grateful to be doing more theatre in our community and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Shawna L. Durney** grew up in Arizona, but didn't find her way to the stage until 2009 at UM Western in Dillon. Her favorite roles include Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*, Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Thenardier's Gang in *Les Misérables*. Schedule conflicts forced a personally draining hiatus from the stage. "I hope you all enjoy my return as much as I have."

**Kalen Grinnell** Since 6th grade, Kalen has been in every theatrical opportunity he could find in school and community productions. As a true puppet maker, he brought the role of Geppetto alive last spring at his high school performance of Pinocchio and loved being Peter Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* at The Ellen last winter. A student of Kaleidoscope Theatre and TATE Academy, Kalen is considering Theatre as a major in college next year.

**Erica Johnson**, performing with Open Door for the first time, has done shows at The Ellen and Bozeman High School where she is a sophomore. A member of the BHS Theatre Leadership Team, she enjoys getting experience wherever she can, and thanks Mary for being so amazing during this whole process.

**Matt LaSalle**, appearing for the first time with Open Door, has been performing in various roles since the fourth grade including last year's *A Christmas Carol* at The Ellen. He enjoys singing and dancing, and playing the drums in his free time. He can also be seen telling jokes in Bozeman's open mic circuit.

**Duncan Mattingly**, a senior at MSU in philosophy and physics, is always open to majors with a lower earning potential. He does not ski and has never climbed a rock larger than ten feet. Originally from north of Seattle, he enjoys Bozeman as his new home, even if it is short an ocean. Despite what his director Liz says, he is not simply doing this to get a date, and he doesn't actually like gum.