



WordPlayers  
Theatre  
Company

*presents....*

# The Refugee King

a play with music  
by Ethan Norman

*Sponsored by...*



This project is supported by the TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION  
through an Arts Builds Communities grant.

[www.wordplayers.org](http://www.wordplayers.org)



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Theatre  
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## *Board of Directors*

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Artistic Director – Terry Weber

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Artistic Associate – Ethan Norman

Graphic Designer – Terri Lloyd

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Our 2022-23 Season is being supported, in part,  
by federal award number 21.027 awarded to Knox  
County by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and  
the Arts & Culture Alliance.

# Director's Notes

Rehearsing THE REFUGEE KING has forced me to ponder a few things.

HOME. Close your eyes and whisper "home" a couple of times to yourself. What images come to mind? With eyes still shut, put voice to the word, saying it aloud a couple of times. Say it slowly. Feel all the sounds in the word. Do the images change? Who is there with you in your imagination? Who isn't there? What emotions are evoked? Have you ever felt as if you have no home? "Home" is a powerful word.

Have you ever been in a conversation with one other person, then suddenly thought to yourself, "Wait, this isn't just a normal conversation?" In a moment like that, does it seem like there's another presence or another voice or another spirit there with you? People call these events by various terms: a "God wink," a "divine appointment," or a "holy conversation." I'm not sure I like them, because in them, I feel like I am expected to ask questions I am afraid to ask. I am expected to be vulnerable and reveal something about myself which makes me uncomfortable. The ramifications of these conversations are sure to be disruptive to my routine. And yet, some of them lead to unexpected and beautiful blessings; therefore, maybe I do like them.

In the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus told a parable in which a "King" famously said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." A few verses later in the story, the "King" explains, "whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

Assuming that, through his parables, Jesus is trying to teach me how to live righteously and abundantly, and if I try to practice what Jesus teaches, how do these verses actually play out in my life? What are the ramifications for my financial health, my emotional health, my relational health, my spiritual health? In short, what will it cost me? And what blessings will come my way? Should I even be asking these questions, or should I simply follow the teaching of Jesus without question?

Remember those billboards from "God" several years back, the ones with black backgrounds and big white letters with messages purportedly from God? One of them said, "That love your neighbor thing? I meant that." That billboard didn't include any mention of what loving my neighbor might cost, but our play certainly wrestles with the question.

Thank you for joining us. - Terry Weber

# Cast

SHE - Jeannine Brown  
HE -Graham Case  
JAMES - Mark Palmer  
ANGEL - Amy Coleman Ruby  
PIZZA GUY/MUSICIAN - Ethan Norman

# Scenes

TIME: one week in the present day  
SETTING: a modest home, and a neighborhood pizza restaurant  
(The show is performed without an intermission.)

Prologue: Next Saturday night (flash forward)  
Scene 1: Sunday morning  
Scene 2: Monday evening  
Scene 3: Tuesday evening  
Scene 4: Wednesday morning, then evening  
Scene 5: Thursday morning, then evening  
Scene 6: Friday evening  
Scene 7: Saturday morning, then evening  
Scene 8: Sunday morning

There will be a post-show discussion on  
Sunday, April 16.

# *Production Team*

Director - Terry Weber

Stage Manager - Joe Jaynes

Props Coordinator - Terry Weber

Scenic Designer/TD - Steve Krempasky

Lighting Designer - Liv Jin

# *Special Thanks*

Central Bearden, Erin Presbyterian,  
Masskus Productions, Bearden High School Drama Dept,  
Long's Drug Store, South Coast Pizza, All Occasion Party  
Rentals, Mariellen Amber, Jack Hopkins, Michael Case

# The Artists



**Jeannine Brown (SHE)** loves to act and is grateful to The WordPlayers for another opportunity to do so. When she isn't on the stage, she enjoys serving in the music ministry at church, running her family's small farm, and homeschooling her two handsome children.



**Graham Case (HE)** is humbled at the opportunity to work with The WordPlayers as a member of this amazing cast. Previous shows in the Knoxville area include *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *You Can't Take It With You*, *The Fantasticks*, *Grease*, *The Diviners* and many more. These performances, as well as the incredible 6 years spent training with, and working for, The New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, shaped his life. However, his greatest, and most proud, achievement is being a father to four outstanding kids and a husband to an incredible wife. Graham is very thankful for the support of his family and friends.



**Mark Palmer (JAMES)** is honored to once again portray James, and especially excited to work with awesome friends both old and new in this cast! Huge thanks to SM Joe for keeping us on task and to director Terry for the chance to play this part and for helping him see inside James' world. Mark's favorite previous roles include Joe in *Heaven Can Wait*, Don in *Butterflies are Free*, and Jack in *The Outgoing Tide*. Huge thanks to Windie for her love and support. To the audience, I hope this experience is both enjoyable and thought-provoking!



**Amy Coleman Ruby (ANGEL)** is thrilled to portray "Angel" in her tenth stage production and her second performance with The WordPlayers. Amy is a wife and mother and has worked in childcare for over 10 years. She also performs and leads worship

around Knoxville and with the youth ministry in her church. She is honored to be a part of this production and looks forward to many more years of performing with The WordPlayers.



**Ethan Norman (PIZZA GUY, musician, playwright)** is a

local writer, musician, actor, director, and odd job aficionado. He has been working with The WordPlayers for the past decade, appearing in all of the last sixteen touring productions, and writing

ten of them. He has an insatiable itch to use anything he can to make the world better around him, be it art or taking out the trash. *The Refugee King* is his first full-length play, and he is humbled by the talent involved with this production. He is indebted and grateful to his little boys for being okay with babysitters, and his brilliant wife ... for being a brilliant wife. He is also incredibly grateful for the man, Terry Weber, for his trust, friendship, mentorship, and all around coolness; there really are no words.





**Terry Weber (Director)** is the Artistic Director of The WordPlayers and Professor Emeritus of Theatre at UT (retired after 31 years). Mainstage shows directed for The WordPlayers: *Big Mama's Kitchen*, *Over the River and Through the Woods*, *A Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*, *Walking*

*Across Egypt*, and *Junie B. in Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells*. Terry has worked as voice/text/dialect coach at PlayMakers Rep, Round House Theatre, Great River Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, North Carolina Stage Company, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Clarence Brown Theatre, and the Vermont Stage Company. Terry's acting career has taken him to theatres in New York, Seattle, Milwaukee, Louisville, Chicago, Kansas City, Montgomery, Knoxville, Toronto, Orlando, Charleston, Asheville, Cincinnati, & Avignon (France).



**Joe Jaynes (Stage Manager)** has appeared as an actor in 50+ stage, TV, and film productions. He performs regularly with The WordPlayers, Oak Ridge Playhouse, Theatre Knoxville Downtown, and other regional theaters. Stage management flexes different

muscles, and this cast and crew has made the experience a real treat.

**Stephen F. Krempasky (Scenic Designer) -**

Steve is the Executive Director of the Farragut Business Alliance, promoting retailers, restaurants and service providers in the Town of Farragut. Additionally, he is President of MASSKUS Productions, a special events consulting agency. Steve has designed over 320 theatrical and corporate productions and is currently designing *The Crucible* at Bearden High School, *Anything Goes* at Hardin Valley Academy and this summer's Wordplayers Production of *FOOTLOOSE*. Steve is a "Fellow" of the American Association of Community Theatre with over 36 years of industry service.

**Liv Jin (Lighting Designer)** is a recent graduate of the University of Tennessee and now works as a local lighting designer and electrician for theatre, dance, opera, and TV. They recently designed *The Infinite Energy of Ada Lovelace* for Marble City Opera and *The Andersonville Trial* for Webb School of Knoxville. They are delighted to work with The WordPlayers for the first time, and their next project will be *An Evening of Dance* for Dancers Studio at the Clarence Brown Theatre.



We are thankful for the support of our  
2022-2023 Season Contributing Players!  
(Gifts given between August 1, 2022 and March 24, 2023)

### ALL WORLD PLAYERS (\$1000+)

Jenny Banner  
Shawn & Alice Carson  
Jim & Leann Dickson  
April Ella  
Richard & Lee Graham  
David & Lindsey Harrell  
Oliver Hoig  
Leslie Hull  
Rob & Angie Johnson  
Robert King  
Joe & Carol Ottaviano  
Warren & Kathy Payne  
Lisa Scott  
Ron & Peggy Turner  
Bill & Dotty Vinson  
Bruce & Linda Wheeler

### MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous  
Don & Beth Arnurius  
John & Ce Ce Campbell  
John & Cindy Cannon  
Tom Cervone &  
Susan Creswell  
Brad Croisdale  
John & Patti Frazier  
Don & Carolyn Harrell  
Jill Lagerberg  
Matt & Jamie Straining  
Anna Mae Weber

### ALL STAR PLAYERS (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous  
Anna Bellamy  
Wendell & Rachel Boertje  
Tom & Linda Bolen  
Robert & Lorraine Bowman  
Brittney Davis  
Dean & Mary Farmer  
Stan & Rosalie Hadley  
Chris & LeAnn Hilemon  
Steve & Mary Krempasky  
Dan & Libby McCammon  
Mark & Doris Moreland  
Beth Peters  
Jim & Emily Plemmons  
Kevin & Kimberly Proffitt  
Ernie Roberts  
David & Lisa Stockton  
Terry & Jeni Weber

### MAJOR PLAYERS (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous  
John & Carol Acker  
David & Linda Ackerson  
Greg & Elaine Anderson  
Richard & Margaret  
Ashworth  
Doug & Sandi Banister  
Bob & Annie Bright  
George & Kathy Brooks  
Dorothy Bryson  
Gayle Burnett  
Angela Cannon  
Doug & Karen Collins  
Max & Virginia Conner  
Darrin & Jessica Cross  
Bill & Helen Deitch  
Glen & B.J. Ellington  
Ed & Melissa Flanagan  
Reid & Nancy Gerhardt  
Ken & Lynn Hawkins  
Mark Hedrick  
Greg Helton  
Kathryn Hendrix  
John & Cynthia House  
Kurt Brandt & Dawn Huff  
Jim & Lee Hysmith  
Joe & Kim Jaynes

Stan & Jackie Johnson  
Steve & Anne Jones  
Mark & Anne Kalisek  
Melanie Kirkham  
Joan Webb Knips  
Jay & Susan Kohlbusch  
Rick & Beverly Kuhlman  
Ron & Therese Leadbetter  
Michael & Nancy Lofaro  
Joseph & Ellen Manning  
David & Felecia  
McClanahan  
Victor & Janet McLean  
Joseph McQuighan  
Carolyn Meadows  
Cynthia Morris  
Nancy Morton  
Bill & Sheila Moyer  
Maynard & Linda Nordmoe  
Roy & Linda Painter  
Sonny & Jeana Partin  
Cameron & Emily Puckett  
Charles & Janet Purkey  
John & Anita Randle  
Mike & Nancy Reeves  
Barry & Pam Robertson  
Sherrie Rumbolt  
Zane Scarlett  
Fares & Harriet Schlank  
Judy Shepherd  
Lisa Silverman  
Wayne & Laura Smith  
Charles & Ann Snodgrass  
Jeanette Stevens  
Jane Stroud  
Dick & Irene Townsend  
Al & Pat Wallin  
Dave & Barbara Wasil  
Mark & Sheri Weaver  
Tom & Susan Weber  
Larry G. Welch  
James & Latoya Williams  
Mary Witort  
Deborah Wooten  
Joyce Wyatt  
Stan & Melissa Zachary

### UTILITY PLAYERS (\$20-\$99)

Anonymous  
Paulette Aaron  
Terry Alford  
Maryellen Amber  
James & Diane Bailes  
David & Rachel Ballenger  
James & Debra Bean  
Dan & Marie Carroll  
Joe & Karen Carson  
Carol Ann Casey  
Mike & Pam Davis  
Russ & Tracey Ford  
Brian Fuller  
Jim & Carla Giles  
Cheryl Guilford  
Kathleen Greenwell  
Anna Marie Hughes  
Patricia Jones  
Lou & Kim Kiernan  
Terri King  
Jack & Marjorie  
Lloyd  
Amy Mathews  
John & Susan Miller  
Frank & CeCe Morris  
Harry & Amy Ogden  
Cathy Parrish  
Adele Richardson  
Howard & Marcella Russell  
Nancy Schowalter  
Jeanne Sharp  
Jimmy Sherrod  
Mike & Carol Slavin  
Larry & Amanda Stair  
Ginny Thurston-Bridges  
Janna Waldrupe  
John & Janie Wendelken

### OTHER SUPPORT

ACA ARP Grant – Arts &  
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The WordPlayers is impacting the greater Knoxville community for the  
Kingdom of Christ! Your support is needed and greatly appreciated!  
The WordPlayers is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) organization.

Please send your tax deductible gifts to P.O. Box 53717, Knoxville, TN, 37950-3717.

*Now Enrolling...*



## *Shakespeare Workshops!*



**3-Hour Deep Text Shakespeare Workshops:**  
Hamlet monologues (April 18, 6-9 PM)  
Romeo & Juliet monologues (April 25, 6-9 PM)  
Midsummer monologues (May 2, 6-9 PM)

## *Summer Theatre Camp*

**Grades:** Rising 3rd to 6th graders

**Dates:** June 26 – 30, 2023 from 9am – 2pm daily

**End of Camp Showcase:** Friday, June 30 @ 2pm

**Cost:** \$250, \$200 sibling (one per full price enrollment)

**Location:** Erin Presbyterian Church,  
200 Lockett Rd., in West Knoxville

**Registration:** Email [wordplayers@comcast.net](mailto:wordplayers@comcast.net) or  
call 865-539-2490 to receive registration form

**Focus:** Improv, Vocal Projection, Dance & Acting Basics,  
Musical Performance, and Set Production

*Upcoming Productions...*



# *Staged Reading Series*



## **STAGED READING SERIES**

7:00 pm at The Square Room, 4 Market Square, Knoxville

**Admission is Free**

### **April 17 – WALTER CRONKITE IS DEAD, by Joe Calarco**

Two women, who appear to have nothing in common, are stuck in a waiting area at Reagan National Airport. A fierce thunderstorm has shut down airports up and down the East Coast. Patty (Leann Dickson) is a chatty southerner—a blue-collar woman from a red state—who is almost physically unable to tolerate silence. Margaret (Nancy Duckles) is a Washingtonian, reserved, educated, liberal and not interested in sharing her thoughts, or her table, with Patty.

Forced together for a long night in a public place, the two strangers have no choice but to share a bottle of wine and begin to talk...and to listen. Their conversation is funny, deeply revealing and astonishingly frank. Patty and Margaret share details of their lives that lead them to a place of kinship neither of them could have imagined.

**May 15 – PERFECT, QUIET PLACE, by Tom Eubanks**

**June 12 – THE EXPLORERS CLUB, by Nell Benjamin**

# Upcoming Productions...



## SUMMER MUSICAL

July 14 & 15 @7:30,  
July 15 & 16 @2:30  
at the Bijou Theatre,  
803 S. Gay St., Knoxville

Stage Adaptation by DEAN PITCHFORD  
and WALTER BOBBIE

Based on the original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford

Music by TOM SNOW, Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD

Additional Music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN

Directed by Leann Dickson

Music Direction by Sheryl Lawrence Howard

Choreography by Michael Galyean

The explosive movie musical bursts onto the live stage!  
With dynamic new songs augmenting the powerhouse  
hits from its bestselling Oscar-nominated score,  
Footloose celebrates the exhilaration of youth,  
the wisdom of listening to one another,  
and the power of forgiveness.

Suggested for ages 12+. Parents/guardians are always in charge of  
deciding whether or not a child is too young to attend the theater,  
but we do not allow children under the age of 5 to attend.

Footloose is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals: [concordtheatricals.com](http://concordtheatricals.com)

For more information regarding our season, please visit our website: [www.wordplayers.org](http://www.wordplayers.org)  
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Facebook (The WordPlayers), Twitter (@wordplayers) and Instagram (wordplayers)