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NEWS

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Laine Henry, Dutch Apple 'pie-maker'

Lititz resident helps dinner theatre serve up 'Waitress'

By Michael C. Upton

Sugar. Butter. Flour.

This pie ingredient mantra repeats throughout "Waitress," the hit Broadway musical, which opened Feb. 28 at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. But those ingredients do not go into Props Designer Laine Henry's pies.

"We put the spackle in a whipped cream piping bag and each pie took about three days to seal," said Henry, who—

working with fellow backstage theatre member Brandon T. Miller—"baked" almost 60 pies for the five-week run of "Waitress" at the Lancaster dinner theatre.

"They were definitely interesting to create. Sometimes we were able to use simple things like pie tins, and we played around with spray foam, paint, squishy gel, and spackle. The cookies and cream pie has real Oreos, but they have been

sealed with acrylic."

"Waitress" features pies with creative and zany names; for her creations, Henry referenced the "Sugar, Butter, Flour: The Waitress Pie Cookbook," which is an official show tie-in.

Henry, who grew up and still lives in Lititz, is a professional Prop Designer. Her responsibilities vary from production to production, but basically "anything that can be picked up by an actor on stage is my domain," she said. She works together with the Scenic Designer. "For 'Waitress' it is a lot of baking supplies, pie racks, bowls, and we have a lot of real props for this show, which is interesting. I go out to a grocery store every week and buy real flour, sugar, milk.... Our side stage space is filled with so many different things."

Henry got her first experience with live theatre at Kissel Hill Elementary and realized she liked the creative, backstage experience. Encouraged by Aimee Ketchum and Trac-



Photos courtesy Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre

Waitress cast surrounds Jenna played by Paula Figueroa Caunedo with pies.



"Waitress" pies backstage of Dutch Apple Theatre.

ey Davis, she quickly realized she fit well as a stage manager. In middle school, she teamed up with Dale Kline who became one of her "biggest men-

tors." She also met Dean and Lauren L. Sobon who were both employed by Prather Productions, the parent company of Dutch Apple Dinner The-

atre. "They took me under their wing and brought me to Dutch Apple when I was young, like PIES, continued on A8

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Pies

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13 or 14," Henry said. "I got to shadow the national tour of 'Oz' and then started working on a tour of 'Finding Neverland.'"

She graduated high school early to work in theatre, and when she turned 18 moved to NYC to attend Pace University where she earned a BA in Stage Management.

"It's full circle, and it is wonderful to be back," Henry said, about working on the regional premiere of "Waitress."

Directed by Amy Marie McCleary, "Waitress" follows Jenna (Paula Figueroa Caunedo), a waitress and expert pie baker at Joe's Pie Diner in the American South. Jenna

uses baking to escape her unhappy marriage to her abusive husband, Earl (Andrew Bitenbender). One morning, her coworkers Becky (Jasmine Lacy Young) and Dawn (Kali Clougherty) encourage her to take a pregnancy test, which she is dismayed to find positive. At her first OB/GYN appointment, Jenna meets Dr. Jim Pomatter (Austin Anderson) who eventually becomes a love interest. The diner's owner, Joe (Marc Lubbers), encourages Jenna to enter a pie-baking contest with a \$20,000 prize, which could help her leave Earl. Personal relationships do not make a fairytale ending easy. And the show is filled with ups and downs, songs of love and celebration, and a ton of comedic respite from the rest of the

cast.

"Waitress" was written by Jessie Nelson and features music and lyrics by Sara Bareilles—known for the Grammy-nominated hit "Love Song" and "Brave."

"The audience has been loving the show," Henry said. FYI, her bucket list show to stage manage is "Hadestown," and her favorite pie is the pineapple upside-down pie.

"Waitress" runs now through April 5 at the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre. Showtimes, dinner menus, and more information can be found at dutchapple.com.

Michael C. Upton is a freelance writer specializing in arts and leisure. He welcomes comments at somepromcu@gmail.com and [facebook.com/SomebodiesProductions](https://www.facebook.com/SomebodiesProductions).



Photo courtesy Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre
Waitresses (left to right) Dawn played by Kali Clougherty; Jenna played by Paula Figueroa Caunedo; and Becky played by Jasmine Lacy Young making pies.