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For Immediate Release
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Off Peak arrives at Great Barrington Public Theater. Brenda Withers' buoyant comedy, directed by James Warwick, stars Peggy Pharr Wilson and Kevin O'Rourke as long-lost lovers, bumping into each other on a stalled Metro North train.



Seventeen years after breaking up, Peggy Pharr Wilson as Sarita and Kevin O'Rourke as Martin find themselves stuck on the tracks together. Photo credit GBPT/Kat Humes

Off Peak playing July 6-23rd, in the McConnell Theater, Bard College at Simon's Rock, is a tried-and-true comedy reminiscent of Noel Coward or Nora Ephron, with the spark of Dorothy Parker, by award-winning playwright Brenda Withers. It premiered in 2022 at the venerable Hudson Stage Company, Armonk NY to unanimous delight before moving on to a short run at 59E59 St. Theaters, NYC where it gained more positive notice. *The New Yorker* called it "sly, smart, often very funny... Withers' script provides an abundance of emotional and intellectual twists and turns.", and *The New York Times* said it's "so close to life that you expect a conductor to come in at any second."

Great Barrington Public Theater
P.O. Box 825 • Great Barrington, MA 01230 • GreatBarringtonPublicTheater.org



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GB Public gives audiences another chance to take in this charming, disarming new comedy that plays especially funny for anyone who travels on Hudson Valley trains.



The moment you bump into the one that got away. Photo GBPT/Kat Humes

Sarita and Martin split seventeen years ago. Everything has changed, except their irresistible attraction to each other, and the big question, ‘what if?’.

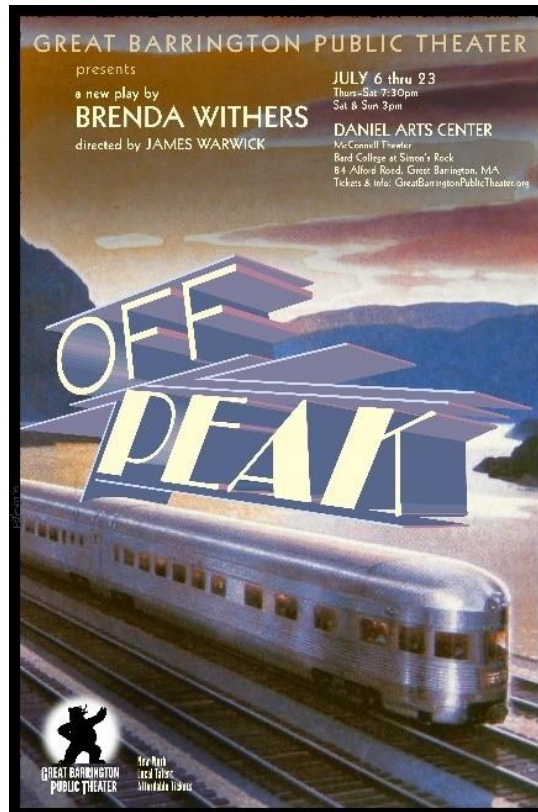
When they find themselves caught together out-of-the-blue on the same train just as it grinds to a dreaded, stuck-on-the-tracks delay, so begins a serendipitous reconnection and reconciliation of a lifetime, the one so many former lovers wish for, so they could end it right, once and for all, without falling for the other’s tricks again. Their delay on the rails becomes a poignant, rich comedy that must arrive at lovers’ resolution before the train rolls on again.

Brenda Withers is a gifted writer for screen and stage. The GB Public’s production of *Off Peak* pairs **Peggy Pharr Wilson** and **Kevin O’Rourke**, two of the Berkshires’ finest comic actors with well-known stage and screen actor **James Warwick** directing, who says, “Their lives have altered course, as has their relationship. They find themselves revealing their conflicted feelings about their past, about their present and with great humor and compassion, discover reconciliation and forgiveness. It’s a heartwarming story told with personal insight about two richly created, recognizable people.”

Brenda Withers, James Warwick, Peggy Pharr Wilson and Kevin O’Rourke are available to interview.



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Off Peak runs July 6-July 23, Thurs.- Sat., 7:30pm, Sat. and Sun., 3pm, in the McConnell Mainstage Theater, Daniel Arts Center, Bard College at Simon's Rock, 84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230. More information can be found on the [GBPT website](http://www.GBPT.org) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GreatBarringtonPublicTheater). Tickets to performances are affordable to all, between \$25 and \$50, and are available on the website and by phone 413-372-1980, or GBPTboxoffice@gmail.com.

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Artist Credits and Bios:

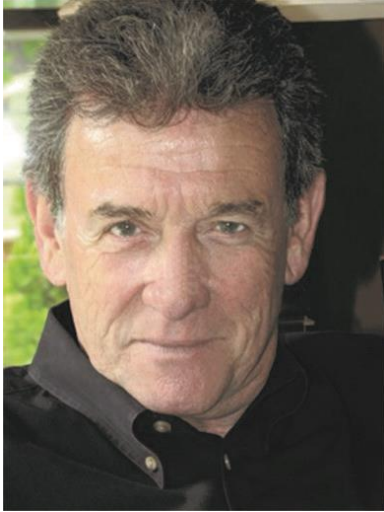


Playwright Brenda Withers

BRENDA WITHERS is a writer, actor, and founding member of the Harbor Stage Company on Cape Cod. Her plays include *The Kritik*, *Matt & Ben*, *JORDAN*, and *Northside Hollow* as well as commissioned adaptations of *Cyrano*, *Ubu Roi*, and *The Lodger*. They have been developed and produced at places like 59E59, Portland Stage (Clauder Prize, Edgerton New Play Award), Northern Stage, the Kitchen, Two River, and Amphibian Stage. Recent onstage credits include the Guthrie, Actors Theatre of Louisville, A.R.T., McCarter Theatre, the Folger, and Hartford Stage. Brenda studied drama and religion at Dartmouth College, is a member of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and was a playwright-producer with The Pool (*The Ding Dongs*). She has enjoyed playwriting residencies with New Georges, the Camargo Foundation, and the Huntington.



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James Warwick-Director

James Warwick has been a resident US theatre director since 2000. He trained in his native England at the Royal Central School in London. James played leading roles in London's West End and on national tour. *The Rocky Horror Show*, *On the Spot*, Mr. D'Arcy in *Pride and Prejudice* at The Old Vic, *The Family Dance*, the title role in Dr. Faustus, Clive Barker's *Secret Life of Cartoons*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, Henry in *The Real Thing* by Tom Stoppard *etc. etc.*

James first came to the US to play Sir Robert Chiltern in *An Ideal Husband* on Broadway. He then played King Arthur in *Camelot* on national tour. He has starred in many TV series including Suggie in *Lillie and Tommy* in Agatha Christie's *Partners in Crime*, both shown on BBC/PBS Masterpiece Theatre. Back in the UK...*Dr. Who* and a four-part series of *The Bell* by Iris Murdoch. In the US, *Murder She Wrote*, *Babylon 5*, *Civil Wars*, *Home Improvement* and the voice of *Qui Jon Jinn* in *Star Wars*. In 2018, he directed *Mothers and Sons* by Terrence McNally for Shakespeare and Company, followed by *The Children* by Lucy Kirkwood, Ionesco's *The Chairs* and Lee Blessing's *A Walk in the Woods* which received *Top Production of the Year* in The Berkshire Eagle. He will direct the world premiere of Donald Margulies new play *Lunar Eclipse* at S&C later this year.



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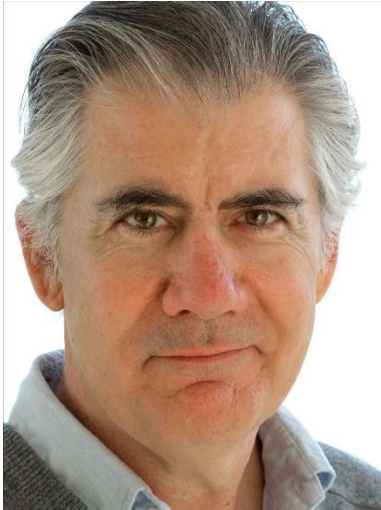


Peggy Pharr Wilson-Plays Sarita

Peggy Pharr Wilson is one of the most recognized and praised actors in the Berkshires. You can read her full bio on [her website](#). She was in the GBPT production of *DAD* in 2021, and in *Public Speaking* in 2022. She is a Barrington Stage Associate Artist, with credits including *America V2.1*, *Gas Light*, *His Girl Friday*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Crucible*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Carousel*, *Laramie Project: Epilogue*, 10x10 Festival ('12-'21) and in *Boca*. BAT: *Doubt* (nominated best actress by Broadway World); SHAKES & CO: *Leap Year*. New York: *Six Women with Brain Death* (co-author, and performed it also in Chicago, Dallas & Kansas City). Regional: 10 seasons with Creede Repertory Theatre in Colorado performing over 50 roles, including Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* (best actress Ovation Award Denver Post), *Shirley Valentine*, *Moon for the Misbegotten* and *3 Viewings*. Several staged readings for BPL. Many regional including: Dallas Theatre Center, Theatre 3, Kansas City Rep, Unicorn, KC Lyric Opera, White River in Vermont and Rose Theatre in Chicago. Peggy is married to GBPT Managing Director Tristan Wilson.



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Kevin O'Rourke-Plays Martin

KEVIN O'ROURKE most recent appearance with GBPT was in *The Christopher Boy's Communion*, 2021. He has performed on Broadway in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Spoils of War*, and *Alone Together*, as well as *The City of Conversation* at Lincoln Center, *Outside Mullingar* at The White Heron, *The Night Alive* at John Drew, and productions at Manhattan Theatre Club, The Public, Second Stage, Playwrights Horizons, Arena Stage, Roundabout, Long Wharf, Primary Stages and Williamstown Theatre Festival. At Barrington Stage Company he appeared in *Camping with Henry and Tom*, *Gaslight*, *Typhoid Mary*, and the staged reading of *Grant and Twain*. He has appeared in numerous TV series including *Madam Secretary*, *Law and Order*, *The Sopranos*, *Outsiders*, *Elementary* and *VEEP*. Kevin won a SAG Award for his role as Edward Bader on *Boardwalk Empire* and was nominated for his starring role on the AMC series *Remember Wenn*. His film credits include *The Irishman* with Robert DiNiro and Al Pacino, *American Pickle*, *Vice Versa*, *The Aviator*, *Tatoo* and *Freeheld*. As a director, Kevin staged the NY premiere of Abi Morgan's *Tender* at the Michael Weller Theatre, Jonathon Draxton's *Soldier* at HERE Arts Center, and *The Physicists* at Williamstown Theatre Festival. In 2005 he founded the WILLIAMS COLLEGE SUMMER THEATRE LAB and for 10 years served as its Artistic Director. He and his wife live in Williamstown.

[Great Barrington Public Theater](#) was founded by Artistic Director Jim Frangione and Executive Director Deann Simmons Halper to create opportunities for theater artists in the Berkshires and neighboring regions. Great Barrington Public Theater recognizes the many excellent playwrights, actors, directors, designers, administrators and technicians living in the Berkshires and surrounding areas. Our objective is to bring a mix of new and contemporary plays to the stage in a variety of formats; to generate and foster creative and rigorous opportunity for local theater artists, while engaging our theatergoing public with new and contemporary readings, workshops, and fully staged productions, involving local talent as often as possible, and always keeping ticket prices affordable.