

**H**HIM & HER  
THEATRE COMPANY

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE  
STRAWBERRY THEATRE FESTIVAL  
PRESENT



# The Raven Doesn't Talk

A NEW PLAY BY:  
MICHAEL PERRIE JR.



DIRECTED BY: LACY REILY

So, Poe and Dickens walk into a bar...




**presents**

# *The Raven Doesn't Talk*

**a new play by: Michael Perrie Jr.**

directed by: Lacy Reily

...  
premiering as part of  THE  
RIANT  
THEATRE

Strawberry Theatre Festival - August 24 & 25, 2014

---

## **CAST**

(in order of appearance)

\*\*\*

Eric Cotti.....	EDGAR
Matthew Jeffers.....	OLD MAN
Jennette Nelligan.....	YOUNG WOMAN
Matthew Mitchell.....	CHARLES
Emily Vere Nicoll.....	THE RAVEN

## **CREATIVE TEAM**

\*\*\*

Lacy Reily - Director  
Rachel Music - Stage Manager  
Nicole Slaven - Costume Design  
Michael Perrie Jr. - Sound/Lighting/Original Music  
Jessica Bialczak - Graphic Design

**Him & Her Theatre Company**

*a new york based company hell-bent on making new, bold theatre*  
Eric Cotti, Michael Perrie Jr., Lacy Reily, Emily Vere Nicoll

## About the Play . . .

“The boundaries which divide Life from Death are at best shadowy and vague.  
Who shall say where the one ends, and where the other begins?”

-Edgar Allan Poe

“An idea, like a ghost, must be spoken to a little before it will explain itself.”

-Charles Dickens

### *So, Poe and Dickens walk into a bar...*

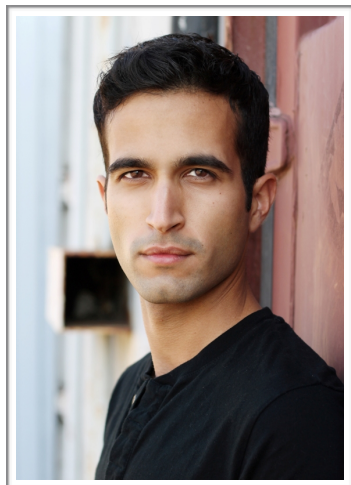
In March 1842, a young **Edgar Allan Poe** really did arrange a meeting with **Charles Dickens**, while Dickens was visiting America for the first time on a reading tour. Dickens agreed to meet with Poe, not only because Poe was a fan and a literary critic at the time, but also because Poe had previously sent a letter to Dickens Publishers in which he correctly solved a serial mystery Dickens had not yet finished writing. Impressed by his poetic mastery, sharp wit, and persistence, Dickens agreed to meet with Poe . . . here's where things get fuzzy. We know they met at the bar, in March of 1842, but we don't really know what they truly discussed or what actually happened. It's believed Poe may have read some poetry to Dickens, and they shared stories . . . it's believed that Poe was supposed to interview Dickens for Graham's Magazine, yet no interview was ever published . . . it's also believed that Poe implored Dickens to find him a publisher in England. These are all hypotheses derived from letters between Poe & Dickens, before and after their meeting. Nothing can truly be concrete, however, because none of us were there. This work is a speculation; a fanciful, comical, dark speculation of what I think might have happened that night, and why the truth is shrouded in so much mystery. Enjoy!

- **Michael Perrie Jr.** (Playwright)



## BIOS

### who's who in "The Raven Doesn't Talk"?



**Eric Cotti (EDGAR)** - Eric was born under an Aquarius sign in the year of the Horse and lived in the white house (not that White House) on Julia Way in Central California, for his first 18 years. At the age of 0 he was named by his sister after Prince Eric from The Little Mermaid. By age 7 he was watching films as often as he could, always getting an extra one in Sunday morning before starting his homework, much to the chagrin of his mother. He saw all the childhood classics: Goodfellas, Die Hard, The Godfather (Part I and II and III), Heat, The Deer Hunter, Jaws, Speed, and even some Disney films. NY Stage: *Or, the Whale* (Strange Harbor), *Death of a Salesman*, *Antigone* (Nash Studios, Columbia University), *The Cherry Orchard* (ArcLight Theatre); Regional: *One Man, Two Guvnors* (HTF); *A Streetcar Named*

*Desire*, *Smash*, *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays*, *The Hour We Knew Nothing of Each Other*, *Small Things* (Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo). He has also appeared in nearly a dozen commercial campaigns in NYC for brands such as: Amazon, Intel, Bloomingdale's, IBM, and Nike. Eric is a founding member of Him & Her Theatre Company. [www.ericcotti.com](http://www.ericcotti.com)

**Matthew Jeffers (OLD MAN)** - Matthew was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. After his plans of becoming an NBA player fell through when he was diagnosed with dwarfism, he decided to take the safe route, pursuing the financially secure and emotionally stable career of a professional actor. He attended Towson University and received the ever-marketable Bachelors of Science degree in Theater...Matthew was most recently seen as God in the New York Times Critic's Pick production of *The Mysteries* at The Flea Theater, which received a Drama Desk Special Award on behalf of the director. He supplements his budding acting career by being a Motivational Speaker (long story) and enjoys playing basketball, golf, and the piano during his down time. He is thrilled he gets to do this show with his close friends.



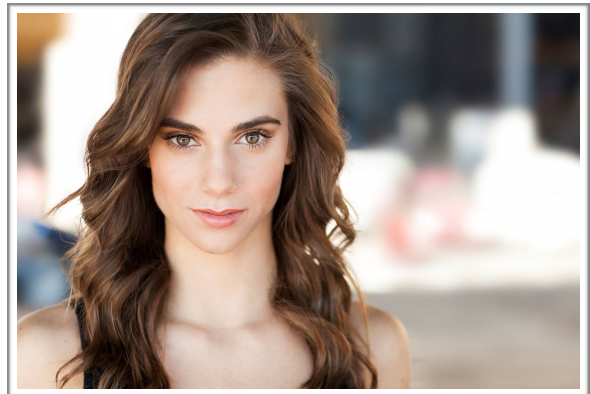


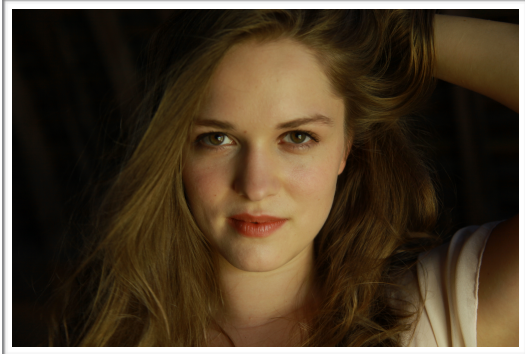
**Matthew Mitchell** (CHARLES)- Matthew is a recent transplant to NYC from Richmond VA where he received his BFA in theatre at VCU. Outside of acting Matt loves comedy and has an unhealthy obsession with SNL. He likes to write and perform in comedy sketches, and has written and performed an auto-biographical one man show called, *Space-boy...man*. Matt has also written many many stand-up routines that he has yet to perform, because he's a scaredy cat, and is too afraid to get up and perform them. What a wuss. To make money for food and shelter Matt sells computers and does the voices of the scary animatronics at the Jekyll and Hyde club in Times Square. So the next time you go to the Jekyll and Hyde Club and the big gargoyle statue starts talking and

scares the crap out of your five year old daughter- that's probably him having a laugh at your expense. [www.castmattmitchell.com](http://www.castmattmitchell.com)

**Jennette Nelligan** (YOUNG WOMAN) -

Jennette currently resides in Brooklyn, and like other talented friends in this production, she also hails from Towson University, where she secured her degree in Acting. Theatre was, of course, the first love that led her to bring out her passion and dedication, a beauty that she cultivates every day in her auditions and work for television and film. She also enjoys yoga, rock climbing and horseback riding to keep her sane. To get a better picture of her spirit think of a doe in a field —wide eyed and always on the move.

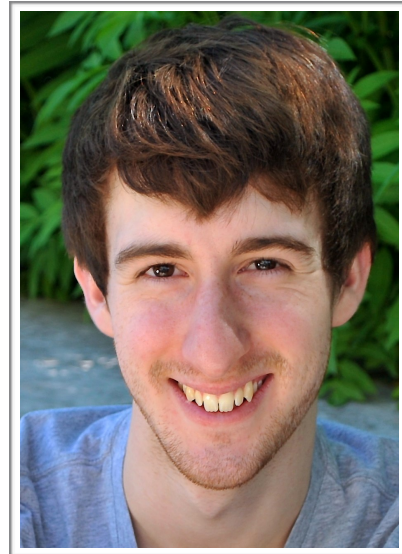




**Emily Vere Nicoll** (The Raven) - Emily hails from central Virginia where she grew up among the ruins at Barboursville Vineyards and first hit the stage, at age 7, to play a fairy in Four County Players' production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Bitten by the Shakespeare bug, Emily thenceforth, avidly pursued acting, dancing and singing at the Orange School of Performing Arts. She continues to train and study with the best

teachers in acting, dance and voice technique all over North America. Some of her most recent roles in theatre include: Rachel Crabbe in *One Man, Two Guvnors*; Irene in *The Dresser*; Hermione in *The Winter's Tale*; and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*. Her most recent roles in film include: Donna Abbott in "Experimenter" and June in "Hell of a View." When not on stage or on set or in the practice room, Emily can be found creating and cooking something magical in the kitchen. Emily is a founding member of Him & Her Theatre Company. [www.emilyverenicoll.com](http://www.emilyverenicoll.com)

**Michael Perrie Jr.** (Playwright) - Michael is a New York based Actor/Playwright/Musician and graduate of Baltimore's Towson University, where he earned his degree in Acting with Honors. During his time in the theatre department, Michael found his love for playwriting while working on New Play Development workshops like WordBRIDGE Play Lab and Towson's New Russian Drama Season. He has often been called, the "Shakespeare" of his time, by no one. Michael, has a fondness for wine, cooking, tea and video games. As an actor, he's been seen in Theatre all over the East Coast, and internationally as Charles DeGaulle on History Channel's "The World Wars". As a writer he has completed over 30 plays, and 3 musicals. Upcoming productions include; *A Sample of: The Un-Authorized Biographie of Billy Shakespeare* (Stillpointe Theatre), *An Evening With The World's Greatest Actor* (Boulder Fringe Sept 2014), *Lenny Was Here* (M.E.T. Oct 2014). Michael is a founding member of Him & Her Theatre company. [www.michaelperriejr.com](http://www.michaelperriejr.com)





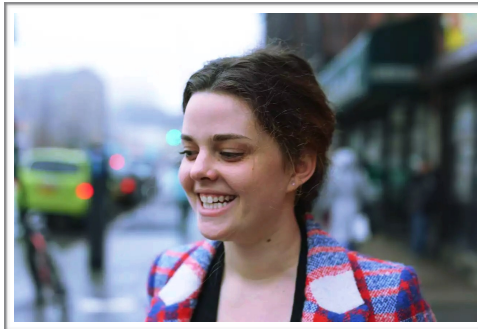


**Lacy Reilly** (Director) - Lacy is a NYC based Stage Director and New Play Guru, originally from Maryland where she attended Towson University. Lacy fell in love with Directing while studying Acting, after realizing that she didn't really enjoy being on stage in front of large audiences after all. Lacy feels far more at home taking new works, digging into them, revealing their potential, and watching them grow into beautiful new plays. When she's not directing she loves interior design, watching too much HGTV, good food, reading, and puppies. Her previous directing work includes; *Sweet Painted Lady* (DC Fringe), *A Soldier Went To War* (WordBRIDGE PlayLab), *Casabarka* (Staged Reading, Dreamcatcher), and *Songs Stuck Together* (West End Cabaret). This is

the 5th project she's directed with Michael Perrie Jr. Upcoming projects include; *Down Among the Vultures* with Green Hill Theatre Collective, and *Lenny Was Here* at M.E.T. Lacy is a founding member of Him & Her Theatre Company.

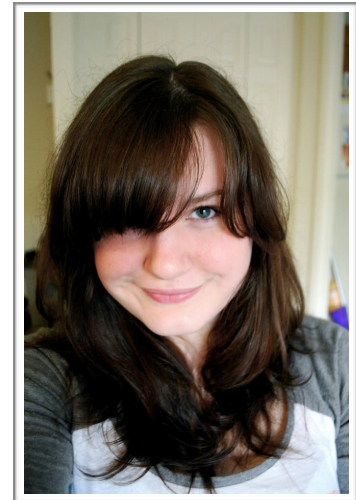
**Rachel Music** (Stage Manager) - Rachel holds a BFA from NYU (2013), in Theatre and Creative Writing. Stella Adler Studio alumnus. Playwright: *Last Exit No Toll* (Kraime Theatre, 2011, also dir.), *The Letterbox Plays* (Stella Adler Studio, 2012). Actress: *Passion Play* (Elizabeth, Hitler, & Reagan), *The Madras House* (Miss Chancellor), *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Dr. Caius, Pistol), and others. Upcoming projects include a workshop of a new trans-humanist melodrama and a thriller set in Arkham Asylum. Thanks Him & Her Theatre Company for the opportunity, and love to my Eric!





**Nicole Slaven** (Costume Designer) - Nicole is a New York based freelance costume designer. Recent design credits include productions of *Three Sisters* (Fractured Atlas), *After the Fire* (Monarch Theatre), *Opal Ann Meets the Fabulous Kit Kat* (Royal Family Productions), *L'contes d'Hoffmann*, *Iolanta* and *Gianni Schicchi* (Westminster Choir College), *Dracula* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *Emily's Gift* (Princeton University Intime), *Lord of the Flies* (Henley Street Theatre), and the *WordPlay Shakespeare film Romeo and Juliet* (The New Book Press). She is also currently designing *Circus Circus* (New York Fringe Festival).  
[www.nicoleslaven.com](http://www.nicoleslaven.com)

**Jessica Bialczak** (Graphic Designer)- Jessica is a Freelance Graphic Designer based out of Baltimore, MD. She attended the Maryland Institute College of Art, and specializes in branding and advertising. Currently, she has advertisements featured in both *Baltimore Magazine* and *Home & Design Magazine*. This is her fifth project working with Michael Perrie Jr. and Lacy Reily, and her first with Him & Her Theatre Company. She has formerly worked on *Sweet Painted Lady*, *Minutes Till Lumber*, and *Songs Stuck Together*, as well as the branding for the Him & Her Theatre Company. When not designing, Jessica enjoys free time with her husband and two dogs.  
<http://www.jessicabialczak.com/>



\*\*\*

**Thanks to:**

Towson University Costume Shop  
 Julie Potter  
 Princeton University Costume Shop  
 Shetler Studios  
 and  
 The Riant Theatre



# Special thanks to all our campaign supporters on:



Tommy & Summer Barnes  
Rachel Caplan  
Carol Clarke  
Kara Cutruzzula  
Lois Anne DeLong  
Diana  
Ashton & Caryl Fletcher  
Amy Snyder & Clayton Fletcher  
Michael Greene  
Kevin P. Joyce  
Vincent LaBarbera  
Paula May  
Bill & Lizzie McCowen  
Betty Perrie  
Michael & Jeannie Perrie  
Jean Ashley Perrie  
Brian Reily  
Dan & Leah Reily  
Mark Shearer  
Victoria Spain  
Hamid Tabatabai  
Jeannette Whitehouse Thouron  
John R. Thouron  
Jamie & Rachel Vere Nicoll  
Rodney Walker  
Selina Zhg

Thank you all so very much, we couldn't have done it without you!

-Him & Her Theatre Company

**On behalf of Mike, Lacy, Eric and Emily;  
Thank you for coming to our very first production  
and for supporting new plays!**

\*\*\*

To learn more about our company, or to work with us:

Find us on [FACEBOOK](#)

Follow us on [TWITTER](#)

See us on [INSTAGRAM](#)

or email us at: [himandhertheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:himandhertheatrecompany@gmail.com)



Logo by: Jessica Bialczak

...

“The Raven Doesn’t Talk” is the sole intellectual and creative property of  
Michael Perrie Jr. © 2014

**Program Designed by: Michael Perrie Jr.**