



Jennifer Mathews

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Height: 5 ft, 9 in • Weight: 195 lbs • Hair: Auburn/Red • Eyes: Hazel

THEATER

HEDDATRON ⁽¹⁾	Mrs. Ibsen	Sideshow Theatre Company/d. Jonathan L. Green
THE CRUCIBLE	Elizabeth Proctor	Infamous Commonwealth Theatre/d. Chris Maher
ESCAPE FROM HAPPINESS	Elizabeth	Infamous Commonwealth/d. Genevieve Thompson
THE GRAPES OF WRATH	Ma Joad	Infamous Commonwealth/d. Genevieve Thompson
STONE COLD DEAD SERIOUS	Linda/Snake Lady	Circle Theatre/d. Joanie Schultz
BETTY'S SUMMER VACATION ⁽²⁾	Mrs. Siezmagraff	Infamous Commonwealth/d. Joanie Schultz
THE KENTUCKY CYCLE ⁽³⁾	Mary Anne Rowen	Infamous Commonwealth/d. G. Thompson, Jason Kae
MY THING OF LOVE ⁽⁴⁾	Elly	Infamous Commonwealth/d. Genevieve Thompson
STRONGER THAN SILENCE	Sarah	Erasing the Distance/d. Brighid O'Shaughnessy
FINDING PEACE IN THIS HOUSE	Deb	Erasing the Distance/d. Brighid O'Shaughnessy
THE PEOPLE I KNOW	Cassie/Lisa	Erasing the Distance/d. Brighid O'Shaughnessy
TITANIC	Victoria	Open Eye Productions/d. Chris Maher
THE MEMORY OF WATER	Mary	Will Act For Food
VIEUX CARRÉ	Mrs. Wire	Will Act For Food
SYLVIA	Kate	Will Act For Food
7 BLOWJOBS	Eileen	Hi-Volt Theatre
CALGONY SPRINGS	Jean Sparks	Hi-Volt Theatre
BABY WITH THE BATHWATER	Cynthia/ensemble	Actors Renaissance Theatre
NEVER IN MY LIFETIME	Wife	Actors Renaissance Theatre
DANCING AT LUGHNASA	Chris	Kirkwood Theater Company
HIPPOLYTUS	Phaedra	'B' Side Theater Company
BRIDE OF THE MONSTER	Janet	Magic Smoking Monkey Theatre

(1) Part of **Steppenwolf Theatre's Garage Rep; Jeff Recommended**

(2) **N-E Jeff Award Nominee**, Supporting Actress

(2) **N-E Jeff Award & After Dark Award**, Ensemble & Production

(3) **Chicago Reader Best of Year Critics' Pick**, Performance

TRAINING

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

Bachelor of Arts, Theatre and Drama

THE AUDITION STUDIO, CHICAGO

Monologue, Cold Reading: Brighid O'Shaughnessy; Voiceover: Deb Doetzer, Jeff Lupetin

ARTISTIC AFFILIATIONS

INFAMOUS COMMONWEALTH THEATRE

Company Member

ADVENTURE STAGE CHICAGO

Director of Advertising and Public Relations

ERASING THE DISTANCE

Resident Artistic Ensemble Member

SAG/AFTRA

Member

SPECIAL SKILLS

Singing: Soprano. Arts PR/Mktg. Dialects: Irish, French Cajun, Standard British, Cockney, KY/OK Southern onstage; quick study for all. Read music. Type 80 wpm. Excellent screamer. Good with kids (at least my daughters think so).

CRITICAL PRAISE FOR JENNIFER MATHEWS

ESCAPE FROM HAPPINESS

"Once the story shifts to **Jennifer Mathews** as the eldest sister, the production becomes insanely focused. Mathews has a very clear and precise idea of how to make this hair-trigger personality believable. When she spits out her dialogue, the words that emerge might as well be sharp, tiny, angular sculptures covered in glossy black lacquer."

—NINA METZ, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

"**Jennifer Mathews** creates a grounding force. She is infinitely present, infinitely compelling and infinitely intelligent as oldest sister Elizabeth. Mathews uncovers the only honest emotional reality of the story, even in the midst of her most insanely explosive scenes. Extraordinary." -VENUS ZARRIS, CHICAGOSTAGEREVIEW.COM

THE CRUCIBLE

"Elizabeth Proctor [is] brilliantly realized by **Jennifer Mathews**. Mathews creates the shocking terror of the times with subtlety and restraint that is lovely, breathtaking and almost poetic." -VENUS ZARRIS, CHICAGOSTAGEREVIEW.COM

"In an unadorned performance as Elizabeth, **Jennifer Mathews** glows with real righteousness, an unforgettable moment of human strength that needs no allusion." -MEGAN POWELL, *TIME OUT CHICAGO*

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

"It is the Ma Joad of **Jennifer Mathews**—an actress of glorious emotional heat and depth—who helms this show as a loving, protective, life-affirming and indomitable matriarch." -HEDY WEISS, *CHICAGO SUN-TIMES*

"Especially rich and moving work from **Jennifer Mathews** and John A.J. O'Lecky as old Ma and Pa Joad, plugging away for their struggling family." -CHRIS JONES, *CHICAGO TRIBUNE*

"Leading the charge, **Jennifer Mathews** gives Ma Joad haunting dignity and humor. She provides a forceful center for the other powerful performers to orbit around." -BRIAN KIRST, *CHICAGO FREE PRESS*

BETTY'S SUMMER VACATION - NON-EQUITY JEFF AWARD NOMINATION, SUPPORTING ACTRESS

"The evening belongs to **Jennifer Mathews** as Mrs. Siezmagraff, the hostess whose maniacal embrace of joie de vivre eclipses rationality." -KRIS VIRE, *TIME OUT CHICAGO*

"**Jennifer Mathews** as a delusional matriarch is totally at home in Durang's world, both hilarious and crazy to the core." -JACK HELBIG, *CHICAGO READER*

"Shining moments delivered from **Jennifer Mathews** as the frenetic, oblivious, narcissistic and sex-charged Mrs. Siezmagraff. Mathews is commanding and explosive in this larger-than-life role." -VENUS ZARRIS, *GAY CHICAGO*

MY THING OF LOVE - CHICAGO READER CRITICS' PICK 2006: THEATER PERFORMANCE (JACK HELBIG)

"**Jennifer Mathews** improved on Laurie Metcalf's performance....Where Metcalf as the beleaguered wife treated her lines as a sitcom audition, Mathews played the character's serious side, turning scenes that at Steppenwolf had been mildly funny into some of the evening's most moving moments." -JACK HELBIG, *CHICAGO READER*

"The central performance of the play is **Jennifer Mathews'** wronged wife Elly. Ferocious and tender, resolute and broken...Mathews conveys an acid resentment so corrosive to make one momentarily sympathetic to [husband] Jack, and then readily switches gears to reveal the devastation his actions have caused her." -JOHN BEER, *NEW CITY*

"**Jennifer Mathews'** fascinating portrayal of Elly elevates this production to a must-see level. Her characterization is filled with unique comic timing that catches you off guard and vicious dramatic moments that remarkably create the range of emotion one is faced with when their foundation is shattered." -VENUS ZARRIS, *GAY CHICAGO*

THE KENTUCKY CYCLE - NON-EQUITY JEFF AWARD & AFTER DARK AWARD, ENSEMBLE

"The acting is on a hugely impressive level throughout, with **Jennifer Mathews** particularly formidable as the woman who stands up for the union." -HEDY WEISS, *CHICAGO SUN-TIMES*

"**Jennifer Mathews** gifts us an impassioned performance." -NOVID PARSI, *TIME OUT CHICAGO*

VIEUX CARRÉ

"As the landlady whose strident voice and fiery temper hide a deep sorrow, **Jennifer Mathews** commands the stage from her first appearance." -MARY SHEN BARNIDGE, *CHICAGO READER*

"The characters are operatic in proportion, especially the landlady, Mrs. Wire (an astute performance by **Jennifer Mathews**), who presides over her mildewed fiefdom with a sharp-edged nuttiness that is both comical and frightening." -NINA METZ, *NEW CITY*

NEVER IN MY LIFETIME

"**Jennifer Mathews** conquers brilliantly one of the toughest challenges a playwright can throw at an actor....She stands alone in a spotlight, getting no help from other actors or from a set or props....But Mathews speaks her character's words with such soul-rooted conviction that her every syllable riveted me. Her face effortlessly shapes itself to the anxiety, bewilderment and sorrow of the soldier's wife. She measures every moment to rhythms that grow from the core of the character." -BOB WILCOX, *RIVERFRONT TIMES (ST. LOUIS)*