

# UP NEXT!

## NEW STAGE SEASON 57 RING OF FIRE

CREATED BY RICHARD MALTBY, JR.; CONCEIVED BY  
WILLIAM MEADE

From the iconic songbook of Johnny Cash comes this unique musical about love and faith, struggle and success, rowdiness and redemption, and home and family. More than two dozen classic hits—including "I Walk The Line," "A Boy Named Sue," "Folsom Prison Blues," and the title tune—performed by a multi-talented cast, paint a musical portrait of The Man in Black that promises to be a foot-stompin', crowd-pleasin' salute to a unique musical legend! Though he is never impersonated, Johnny Cash's remarkable life story is told through his music, climaxing in a concert that will both move and exhilarate!

New Stage Theatre  
May 30-June 3 and June 6-10, 2023 | 7:30  
June 4 and 11, 2023 | 2:00

For more information on our 57th season, please visit [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com)!

# SPECIAL THANKS!

Unframed would like to thank our run crew - Brandon Grisham, Tim Magee, and RaKaela Thompson. Unframed would also like to give a very special thanks to Mary Frances Dickie, Destin Benford, Ceili Hall, Ben Schexnaydre, Alberto Meza, Richard Lawrence, and Snakebird Productions for their time, effort, and expertise. We would also like to thank CSI for allowing us to use their parking facilities. Without all of their combined efforts, this show would not be possible!

UN  
FRAMED  
© NEW STAGE THEATRE  
NEW. NOW. NEXT.

# ACTS OF CREATION

A PLAY BY  
BRIANNA BARRET

DIRECTED BY LINDSEY NEVILLE  
MAY 5-7

*\*Contains adult language and content. Mature audiences only.*

SCENIC DESIGNER  
DARBY FROST

STAGE MANAGER  
CARLISLE SHELSON

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
CLAIRE JUSTICE PORTER

SOUND DESIGNER  
AUSTIN MICHAEL RUSSELL

PROPS DESIGNER  
JENNA KAHLEY

COSTUME DESIGNER  
DEONICA DAVIS

# CREATIVE TEAM

Director/Directing Associate ..... Lindsey Neville  
Playwright ..... Brianna Barrett  
Stage Manager ..... Carlisle Shelton  
Scenic Designer ..... Darby Frost  
Props Designer ..... Jenna Kahley  
Costume Designer ..... Deonica Davis  
Marketing Coordinator..... Lizzy Delp  
Sound Designer ..... Austin Michael Russell  
Assistant Director ..... Claire Porter  
Unframed General Director ..... Clara Seitz  
Unframed Producing Director ..... Xerron Mingo  
Artistic Director ..... Francine Reynolds

# CAST

Thea ..... Wendie Shepherd  
Reed ..... Kate Woodley  
Francine ..... Nora Katz  
Marigold ..... Rashundra Powell  
Mason ..... Thomas McBride

# AI IN THIS SCRIPT

<intro> How AI Was Used</intro>

<p> A convolutional neural network was designed for the writing of this script using HuggingFace's open source model and trained on a collection of about 800 play scripts. InferKit GPT2 demo was also used to generate text.</p>

# VOLUNTEER WITH US!



<p> Are you interested in volunteering with us next year? Scan the QR Code to get in touch with our Producing Director, Xerron Mingo! Give your name, contact information, and how you would like to get involved with New Stage's Unframed Series!  
</p>



# CREW BIOS

<**LINDSEY NEVILLE=DIRECTOR**> <Lindsey has come from Atlanta, GA to work as New Stage Theatre's 2022/2023 Directing Associate She graduated in 2020 from Clemson University, where she earned a BA in Performing Arts with a Concentration in Theatre and an Emphasis in Directing as well as a BA in Psychology. She gained directing and assistant directing experience both at Clemson and at The Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, SC. Neville has also interned at 7 Stages Theatre in Atlanta, GA, directed at May River Theatre in Bluffton, SC and directed at French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts in Hancock, NY. As a director, she strives to create small yet saliently relatable moments onstage; a look, a breath, or a moment of hesitation can clearly reflect experiences that audiences can identify with. Lindsey is thankful for her fellow associates and the last nine months that's she has spent with them./>

<**BRIANNA BARRETT=PLAYWRIGHT**> <Brianna Barrett is a writer and performer fascinated with identity crises, double lives, mortality, grief, dick jokes with heart, and the forgotten history of stuff that happened surprisingly-not-that-long-ago. Recipient of the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize in Comic Playwriting and twice-voted Portland's Best Storyteller in Willamette Week, her short plays are published by Samuel French/Concord Theatricals and Applause Books. She has an MFA in Playwriting from UCLA./>

<**CARLISLE SHELSON=STAGE MANAGER**> <Carlisle Shelson is a lawyer by day and a theatre artist by night. She is excited to continue her work with New Stage Theatre's Unframed series after previously stage managing **What Every Girl Should Know**. Many thanks to New Stage, the cast, and the production team!/>

<**DARBY FROST=SCENIC DESIGNER**> <Frost is a 2021 homeschool graduate. He is currently attending Hinds Community College, and studies welding and carpentry. Frost has enjoyed his many years of involvement in New Stage's Youth Acting Troupe, summer camps, volunteering backstage, and working on running crews. He was involved with the Belhaven University Arts Camp for many years and has performed in five **Christmas Carols** at New Stage Theatre, **Matilda the Musical**, **Peter Pan**, **Legally Blonde Jr.**, **Singin' in the Rain Jr.**, **Once on this Island Jr.**, **Aladdin Jr.**, and **Frozen Jr.** He enjoys gaming and DND in his spare time./>

<**JENNA KAHLEY=PROPS DESIGNER**> <Jenna is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.F.A. in Creative Writing, a B.A. in Theatre, and a minor in graphic design. She is currently a Production Assistant with an emphasis in prop design at New Stage Theatre. Prior to working at New Stage, Jenna worked as a props designer and actor for a haunted house in New York./>

# CAST BIOS

<**RASHUNDRA POWELL=MARIGOLD**> <Rashundra Powell was born August 2, 1996, in Jackson Mississippi. At The age of 22, she received a dual degree of Mass Communication & Theatre Arts at Jackson State University. Powell had her stage debut in Theatre her freshman year at JSU, in a play written by Professor Prince Duren called, **Caught In The Net**. From that moment forward, Rashundra has done a series of dramas, comedies, musicals & independent films. In 2018, Rashundra was a nominated to compete at KCACTF, for the acting role of Kimber in **Stick Fly**, & for her dramaturgy work on, **The Drums Of Sweet Water**. She scored her first role for Newstage-Unframed as Verity 5, in the play **Find Me**, by Olwen Wymark. Rashundra is currently casted & filming for an independent film called **Ruined**, by Tymika Williams, continuing to build her YouTube channel, & expanding her talents into voice acting./>

<**NORA KATZ=FRANCINE**> <Nora Katz is a public historian, writer, theatre-maker, and proud Jackson transplant. Originally from rural Pennsylvania, Nora holds a Master's degree in Public History and Cultural Heritage from Trinity College Dublin and co-authored the humor book **Literary Starbucks**. Nora recently designed the set for Unframed's production of **What Every Girl Should Know**. Favorite roles include Inez in **No Exit** and Mistress Ford in **The Merry Wives of Windsor** with Uproar Theatre, E.B. in **Of My Dreams** at Black Rose Theatre, **Perpetrators** (an original devised production) and **Machinal** at Carleton College, and the Queen of Hearts in **Alice in Wonderland** with Flying Foot Forum. Nora would like to dedicate this production to her favorite artist: her mom. Learn more at [norakatz.com](http://norakatz.com)./>

<**THOMAS MCBRIDE=MASON**> <Thomas is thrilled to be a part of **Acts of Creation**, his first production with New Stage's Unframed. A Jackson native and recent graduate of Mississippi State University, Thomas has dabbled in theatre throughout college, participating in anything he could fit (or cram) into his schedule. Currently Thomas spends his free time mountain biking and doing improv, and hopes to combine the two to make an avant-garde BMX clown act. If you have any experience with extreme sports or clowning, feel free to contact him. Thomas would like to thank his family for always being supportive of his hobbies however strange or dangerous they may be./>



# CAST BIOS

<WENDIE SHEPHERD=THEA> <Wendie, is excited to be returning to New Stage's *Unframed* where she appeared in *Boy* by Anna Ziegler and *Steal Away* by Ramona King in past performances. Her more recent acting credits include Pat Nixon in the award-winning show, *Tea for Three*, and Elizabeth Taylor in *Aunt Jane of Kentucky*, where she was recognized for an "Outstanding Feature Performance" at the 2023 Mississippi Theater Festival. Her credits include, *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn) and *Red Velvet Cake Wars* (Aunt LeMerle) at Center Players in Madison, and *M\*A\*S\*H\** (Bridgett) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Yente) at Black Rose Theater in Brandon, and *Thea's Turn* with Jackson State University, Jackson. She has been involved with numerous productions, helping in different capacities, including assistant director, stage manager, set designer, and back stage crew. She loves coffee, hiking with her family to beautiful waterfalls, hates spiders, and spends all her free time loving on her grandchildren./>

<KATE WOODLEY=REED> <Kate is thrilled to be back with *Unframed* after performing in *Boy* and *Sylvia*. An actor, director, and mask-maker, Kate worked for Virginia's Wolfbane Productions on such shows as *The Tempest*, *Bare*, *Macbeth*, *Foxfire*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Dark of the Moon*, and *Bat Boy: The Musical*. She has led Theater for Social Change workshops at Millsaps College, the Mississippi Museum of Art, and New Stage Theatre. Additionally at Millsaps, she served as Guest Artist for the Millsaps Players' production of *The Tempest* and as a Teaching Fellow for *How Do You Stage a Shakespeare Play?*. Kate holds a B.A. in Theater and English from the College of William & Mary and has trained at the International School for Physical Theater, Accademia dell'Arte, and the École Philippe Gaulier, as well as with Teatro Punto and Panthéâtre. She maintains a private practice offering therapy, consulting, and creative services./>

# CREW BIOS

<DEONICA DAVIS=COSTUME DESIGNER> <Deonica Davis has a BFA from The University of Southern Mississippi. She is a graphic designer by day and seamstress by night. She makes her own costumes and props for holiday parties and recently brought her talents back to the local theater scene. She has held the position of wardrobe mistress for Pearl Community Theater's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone* and assisted New Stage Theater with costume needs for shows such as *Clue* and *The Sound of Music*. Most recently she completed her first opportunity as a costume designer for the New Stage's touring production of *Anne and Emmett*./>

<LIZZY DELP=MARKETING COORDINATOR> <is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a BFA in acting, a B.A. in English, and a minor in vocal performance. During her last few years of school, Delp served as Belhaven's special events coordinator, an administration/production intern for Opera Mississippi, and the president of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honor society for theatre students. Lizzy is very excited to be a part of *Unframed* this year, and appreciates the hard work of the cast and crew!/>

<AUSTINE MICHAEL RUSSEL=SOUND DESIGNER> <is an Actor, Writer, Combatant, and Director — as well as a alum of the University of Memphis College of Theatre and Dance. He has performed all around the eastern United States professionally, most recently performing in Memphis and Western North Carolina. Some of his favorite roles recently have been — Tony Kirby in *You Can't Take It With You*, Dennis Nedry in *Ju*, and Robin in *Neurochemicals* — a self-written New Work. He performed in the Southeastern Theatre Conference Fringe Festival. He would like to thank this ensemble, his family, the community of Jackson, and God for constantly helping him seek personal happiness, love, and passion in his life./>

<CLAIRE PORTER=ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIALS, INTIMACY DIRECTOR, AND DIRECTOR OF POPCORN> <is so excited to be involved with *Acts of Creation*! She has appeared at *Unframed* previously as Lucy in *What Every Girl Should Know* and Alicia in *Small Mouth Sounds*. She also sound designed for *Sunset Baby*. Porter is currently a member of the New Stage Associate Artist team as the Acting/Directing Associate. She had appeared at New Stage previously in *The Sound of Music*, *9 to 5*, and *Clue*. She is a recent graduate with a BFA from the University of Mississippi, where she was Artist Director Oxford's student run theatre *Ghostlight*. She currently also runs a local improv troupe called *To Kick a Mockingbird*. @clairejusticeporter./>