

The Hit Musical Based on the Remarkable True Story.

WHERE KINDNESS KNOWS NO BORDERS.

COME FROM AWAY

BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY
IRENE SANKOFF AND DAVID HEIN

DIRECTED BY **FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS**

MUSIC DIRECTED BY **CAROL JOY SPARKMAN**

CHOREOGRAPHED BY **XERRON X. MINGO**

**MAY 27 -
JUNE 8, 2025**

NEW STAGE
Theatre

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J. Theresa Bush

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Annalise V. Caudle

Technical Director
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Production Manager
Casey Nelms

Production Stage Manager
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Joey Ford

Co-Properties Designer
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Scenic Designer
Braden Graves

Sound Designer/
Audio Engineer
Alberto Meza

Dramaturg
Elissa Sartwell

COME FROM AWAY

Book, Music, and Lyrics by
Irene Sankoff and David Hein

Original Broadway Production Produced by
Junkyard Dog Productions

Orchestrations by August Eriksmoen
Arrangements by Ian Eisendrath

COME FROM AWAY

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Come From Away was originally co-produced in 2015 by LA Jolla Playhouse and Seattle Repertory Theatre and presented in 2016 by Ford's Theatre.

Come From Away (NAMT Festival 2013) was originally developed at the Canadian Music Theatre Project, Michael Rubinoff Producer, Sheridan College in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, and was further developed at Goodspeed Musicals' Festival of New Artists, in East Haddam, Connecticut. The Canada Council for the Arts, The Ontario Arts Council, and The Fifth Avenue Theatre, Seattle, Washington, also provided development support.

This production acknowledges the creative contributions of original Broadway director Christopher Ashley, choreographer Kelly Devine, and designers Beowulf Boritt (sets), Toni-Leslie James (costumes), Howell Binkley (lighting), and Gareth Owen (sound).



Jacqueline Pinto and others standing with a flight crew at Gander Airport. Collection 9/11 Memorial Museum, Gift of Jacqueline Pinto.

“Lend a Hand, Do What You Can”: Remembering the Generosity of Gander

By Alison Tretter, Exhibition Developer, 9/11 Memorial & Museum

On September 11, 2001, airline passenger Jacqueline Pinto was flying home to New York from a vacation in Italy when her plane was unexpectedly diverted to Gander International Airport in Newfoundland, Canada. Hers was one of more than 250 flights rerouted after U.S. airspace was closed in response to the terrorist attacks. Thirty-eight of those flights landed in Gander.

Initially unaware of the severity of the situation, Pinto and her fellow passengers were confined to their aircraft for more than 24 hours while security protocols were followed. When they were finally cleared to disembark, they faced another challenge: Gander and surrounding towns didn't have enough hotel rooms for the nearly 7,000 unexpected guests. The local population of just under 10,000 responded with remarkable compassion.

Community television issued the call to “lend a hand, do what you can.” Schools and nonessential businesses shut down so that residents—from seniors to schoolchildren—could volunteer. Locals opened churches, schools, and legion halls to serve as makeshift shelters. Some even welcomed passengers into their own homes. Pinto and her fellow travelers were housed in a church in the nearby town of Lewisporte.

The generosity didn't stop at shelter. Pharmacies filled prescriptions free of charge. Toiletries, clothing, and food poured in. A local ice rink was transformed into “the largest walk-in freezer in the country,” according to Gander Mayor Claude Elliott. Locals also worked to entertain the “plane people,” organizing bowling nights, concerts, and town tours—and introducing visitors to Newfoundland specialties like stewed moose.

Despite their own modest means, Newfoundlanders saw their actions as nothing extraordinary. “For us, it was just every day,” said local reporter Janice Goudie. “You don't turn your backs on people in need.”

When U.S. airspace reopened on September 13, tearful goodbyes followed. “We didn't want to leave,” one passenger recalled. Before departing on September 15, Pinto purchased a small tile at the airport as a keepsake of the kindness she experienced.

Many of the stranded passengers remained in touch with their Newfoundland hosts. Some returned for reunions. The passengers of one flight even established a scholarship fund for local students, which has grown from an initial \$15,000 donation to over \$1 million, benefiting more than 200 recipients.

The people of Newfoundland also carry the memory of those days. In Appleton, a Peace Park was built with funds donated by stranded passengers. It includes a monument to first responders and a piece of steel from the World Trade Center. Each year on 9/11, Appleton holds a remembrance ceremony. “There is goodness in the world,” said Appleton Mayor Derm Flynn, “that floats to the top in times of disaster.”

Source: Tretter, Alison. “Lend a Hand, Do What You Can: Remembering the Generosity of Gander.” 9/11 Memorial & Museum, www.911memorial.org.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

“Welcome to the Rock”	Company
“38 Planes”	Company
“Blankets and Bedding”	Company
“28 Hours/Wherever We Are”	Company
“Darkness and Trees”	Company
“Costume Party”	Diane, Hannah, Kevin T., Kevin J., Company
“I Am Here”	Hannah
“Prayer”	Kevin T., Company
“On the Edge”	Company
“Screech In”	Claude, Company
“Me and the Sky”	Beverley, Female Company
“Stop the World”	Nick, Diane, Company
“Somewhere in the Middle of Nowhere”	Company
“Something’s Missing”	Company
“Finale”	Company

COME FROM AWAY

Will Be Performed Without An Intermission.

COME FROM AWAY BAND

Music Director/Piano/Keyboard: Carol Joy Sparkman ; Bodhran/Percussion: Brandon Pratt ; Mandolin/Guitar: Taylor Wells ; Drums: Paul Heindl ; Bass: Ben Williams ; Guitar: Jimmy Turner ; Fiddle: Andrew Dillon

THE CAST

Beverley/Annette & Others	Emily Gardenhire*
Kevin T./Garth & Others	Hosea Griffith
Nick/ Doug & Others	John Howell
Hannah & Others	Mahalia Jackson
Kevin J./ Ali & Others	Gregory Naman
Claude & Others	Ray McFarland*
Bob & Others	Xerron X. Mingo
Beulah & Others	Mandy Kate Myers
Janice & Others	Lauren Parkinson
Bonnie & Others	Jamie Shannon Ferguson
Diane & Others	Jennifer Smith
Oz & Others	Drew Stark

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

STANDBYS

Standbys never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

For Beverley: Brittnye Aven; For Claude/Nick: Rick Brooks; For Hannah: Ebony Cavett; For Kevin T.: Darren Dale; For Diane: Laura Dixon; For Kevin J.: Marquise Hillman; For Bonnie/Beulah: Nora Katz; For Oz/Bob: Madison Upendo; For Janice: Sarah Wade.

AUTHORS

IRENE SANKOFF AND DAVID HEIN (Book, Music, Lyrics): Irene Sankoff and David Hein are a Canadian married writing team. Their first show, *My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding* (based on David's mother's true story) was the hit of the Toronto Fringe Festival, and then picked up for a commercial run by Mirvish Productions. It has now played and won best musical awards in the New York Musical Theatre Festival and across North America, with Sankoff and Hein performing in most productions. *Come From Away* was developed at the Canadian Music Theatre Project and Goodspeed Musicals' Festival of New Artists, showcased at the NAMT Festival of New Works and enjoyed a record setting world premiere at the La Jolla Playhouse and Seattle Repertory, followed by Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto and the Gander Community Centre Hockey Rink. *Come From Away* won three 2017 Dora Mavor Moore Awards, four Helen Hayes Awards, five Outer Critics Circle Awards and three Drama Desk Awards including Best Musical, as well as four 2019 Olivier Awards including Best Score and Best Musical. David and Irene were nominated for Tony® Awards for Best Book and Score and won the 2017 Outer Critics Circle and Drama Desk awards for Best Book. Irene and David are proud members of the Dramatists Guild and ASCAP. Immeasurable thanks to all of Molly's People, to everyone who helped us on this journey and to our extraordinary friends from Away and in Newfoundland for inspiring and trusting us to tell your story. @SankoffAndHein.

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide. MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre, and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australasia).

THE CAST



BRITTYNYE AVEN (Beverley/Annette & Others U. S.) is thrilled to make her New Stage debut as Beverly's understudy in ***Come From Away***. Brittnye graduated from Mississippi College where she got her degree in Music Education with a vocal emphasis. She was last seen on the stage as The Witch in ***Into the Woods*** with Center Players Community Theatre. Mrs. Aven is the Director of Performing Arts at Madison Ridgeland Academy where she lives her dream of instilling a passion for theatre and performing in her students. Brittnye lives in Gluckstadt with her husband Ross, two children Ro and Rayley, and her fur baby Reggie.



RICK BROOKS (Claude/Nick/Doug U.S.) a native of Raymond, Mississippi, recently retired after serving 36 years as a United Methodist pastor serving churches across the state in places including Bay St. Louis, Tupelo, Ocean Springs, and Meridian. Along the way he performed in community theater roles that included Fagin in ***Oliver***, Sir Harry in ***Once Upon a Mattress***, Professor Harold Hill in ***The Music Man***, Burl in ***Smoke on the Mountain***, Jesus in ***Godspell***, Billy Bigelow in ***Carousel***, and El Gallo in ***The Fantastiks***. Rick is married to Lynn Loflin Brooks, and they have two grown children, Catherine and John Wesley.



EBONY CAVETT (Hannah & Others U.S.) is thrilled to make her professional debut with New Stage Theatre. An eager performer, her past stage experience includes chorus work with Opera Mississippi and community productions of ***Seussical the Musical*** and ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee***. A high school choral director by day, she finds great joy in connecting with others through music and live performance. She is grateful to family, friends, and students for their support, encouragement and inspiration.



DARREN DALE (Kevin T. / Garth & Others U.S.) is thrilled to return to New Stage after making his debut in ***Beautiful***. A Clinton, Mississippi native, Darren discovered his love for music and the spotlight early on—thankfully, before TikTok. He holds degrees in marketing and music education from Mississippi College, and a Master's in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi. After 18 years of shaping young voices in the choral classroom (most recently in Jackson Public Schools), Darren is proud not only of the performers his students have become, but more so the kind, thoughtful, and resilient humans they are today. He recently made a career change and took his talents from the podium to the world of healthcare

actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after ***Come From Away*** following the show on Thursday, May 29 and Thursday, June 5, after the evening performance. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.

administration at UMMC. Endless thanks to his parents for their steadfast love and support—and for enduring years of school concerts and recitals with a smile. Darren lives in the beautiful Fondren neighborhood of Jackson, and he is looking forward to many more New Stage productions.



LAURA DIXON (Diane & Others U.S.) is so excited to be a part of this incredible production! Past New Stage credits include: ***Elf: The Musical*** (Emily Hobbs); ***The Sound of Music*** (Frau Schmidt/Nun); ***Matilda the Musical*** (Miss Honey); and ***A Christmas Carol*** (Ms. Dilber). Other favorite roles include: ***Man of La Mancha*** (Aldonza); ***The Secret Garden*** (Martha); ***The Member of the Wedding*** (Frankie); and ***Noises Off!*** (Poppy). Additional stage credits: ***Bye Bye Birdie***; ***Annie Get Your Gun***; ***Working: The Robber Bridegroom***; and ***Peter Pan***.



JAMIE SHANNON FERGUSON (Bonnie & Others/Dialect Coach) is thankful to return to New Stage and work with this incredible team. She teaches voice and directs the musicals at Mississippi College. Past credits include: Poppy in ***Noises Off***, Martha in ***The Secret Garden***, Donna in ***Mamma Mia***, Diana in ***Next to Normal***. She holds degrees in music and theatre from Mississippi College and The Boston Conservatory. jamieshannonferguson.com @beltertrash



EMILY GARDENHIRE* (Beverley/Annette & Others) is so happy to be back at NST, where she was last seen as Carole in ***Beautiful: The Carole King Musical***. She is a North Carolina native now based in Philadelphia, PA. Regional Credits include: ***Beautiful*** and ***Rudolph*** (Tuacahn Center for the Arts), National Touring Company of ***Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*** (Mom Tiger, Fred Rogers Productions/Mills Entertainment), ***We Will Rock You*** (Scaramouche, Theatre Workshop of Nantucket), ***Billy Elliot*** and ***Elf*** (North Carolina Theatre), ***Annie*** (Grace, Maples

Repertory). NYC: ***Secondhand Lions The Musical*** original cast recording (Broadway Records). Education: NYU, UNC Greensboro. "Immense thanks to Mom, Tine, Kait, Whit, Connie, & Yis for their support. Dedicated to my Daddy."



HOSEA GRIFFITH (Kevin T. / Garth & Others) is a graduate of the University of Mobile (M.M.) and Mississippi College (B.M.). He has had the pleasure of portraying many roles in Jackson and the surrounding areas, including *Sister Act*, *Bright Star*, and *A Christmas Carol* (New Stage Theatre). Recently, Hosea was seen in *Songs of a New World* (Uproar Theatre), *The Color Purple* (Jackson State University), *9 to 5*, *Chicken and Biscuits*, *Beautiful* (New Stage Theatre), and *Little Women*, *The Broadway Musical* (New Stage Theatre) as well as various workshops and concert

readings of the musical play *Slippin' Through the Cracks* in Jackson (New Stage Theatre), New York, and Chicago (Goodman Theatre).



MARQUISE HILLMAN (Kevin J./Ali & Others U.S.) is a native of Madison, MS. After graduating from the University of Southern Mississippi, they moved to Orlando, FL where they performed in multiple theme parks and theatre companies in and around the Central Florida area. Past credits include: Asaka (*Once on this Island*), Tenorio (*Man of La Mancha*), Guy (*Blues for an Alabama Sky*), and The Witch (*Into the Woods*). Marquise is a 2022 BroadwayWorld nominee (Asaka) and the inaugural Golden Apple Awards recipient for Best Supporting Actor (Teen Angel).

They are a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. and will be pursuing an MFA in Performance at the University of Louisville in the fall. "Working with New Stage has been a goal of mine for many years and I am so elated to finally have this opportunity. Much gratitude to those who have supported me throughout my time back in MS. May this show bring light and love to all who experience it."



JOHN HOWELL (Nick/Doug & Others) appeared as Frederick in *Noises Off* this season at New Stage. Other New Stage credits include *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Clue*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *And Then There Were None*, *All the Way*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*, *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, *Mrs. Mannerly*, and *Twelfth Night*. He and his wife Diana are co-founders of Fondren Theatre Workshop, with whom he most recently appeared as Michael in *God of Carnage* and

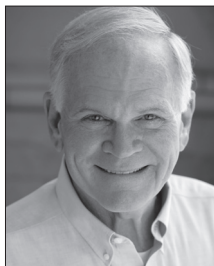
directed the world premiere of *The Invention of Language* at Millsaps College. Other favorite FTW credits include writing, directing, or acting in *Through the Looking-Glass*, *The Lion in Winter*, *The Monster Monologues*, *Poetry in Motion*, and *The Winter's Tale*. Howell was the arts coordinator and drama teacher at Casey Elementary School from 1997-2022.



MAHALIA JACKSON (Hannah & Others) has an extensive theatre resume that includes over fifty professional stage productions. Best known for portraying her namesake, gospel great Mahalia Jackson, in *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*, at numerous theatre houses across the country, including right here at New Stage Theatre, in 2013. She has also been nominated for numerous theatre awards portraying the same role. Some of Mahalia's other memorable roles include Medda Larkin in *Newsies*, Asaka in *Once On This Island*, Darlene (Church Lady) in *The Color Purple*, Miss Poppenghul in *Moonlight and Magnolias*, Mrs. Murphy in *The Harvey Milk Show*, The Mayor of Bikini Bottom, in *SpongeBob The Musical*, and Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*. Memorable touring credits include *"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story, Walk On: The Rosa Parks Story, and Almost Elton John*, as a singer with The Rocket Band. Film and TV credits include "Let's Stay Together" and "House of Payne". Jackson is an accomplished pianist, musical director, songwriter, youth acting teacher, and coach. Deeply dedicated to her family, Mahalia credits her success to guidance from God, wisdom from her ancestors, hard work, the love and support of her husband & children, her mother & late grandmother, and her close-knit circle of friends.



NORA KATZ (Bonnie/Beulah U.S.) is thrilled and honored to be making her New Stage Theatre mainstage debut! Favorite roles include Bar/Golden Rose/Gomez (*The Invention of Language*) with Fondren Theatre Workshop, Francine (*Acts of Creation*) and Anna (*The Coast Starlight*) with Unframed at New Stage Theatre, Inez (*No Exit*) and Mistress Ford (*The Merry Wives of Windsor*) with Uproar Theatre, *Perpetrators* (an original devised production) and *Machinal* at Carleton College, and the Queen of Hearts (*Alice in Wonderland*) with Flying Foot Forum. She also designed sets for Unframed's productions of *What Every Girl Should Know* and *Fairview*. Nora serves on the board of New Stage Theatre, and she hopes that you'll purchase a season subscription to continue to support live theatre in Mississippi. This one is for Dad.



RAY MCFARLAND* (Claude & Others) has appeared in numerous national tours and regional theatre productions of plays and musicals across the United States and in fifty productions here at New Stage including: *Elf, Every Brilliant Thing, Clue, Sister Act, And Then There Were None, Hairspray, The Foreigner, Bright Star, Forever Plaid, Tuna Christmas, Red White and Tuna, Driving Miss Daisy, The Robber Bridegroom*, as the title character in *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*, and *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*. McFarland also works in television commercials and industrial films as an on-camera actor and as a voice-over artist.



XERRON X. MINGO (Bob & Others/Choreographer/ Education Director) is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Born and raised in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. While living in New York City, he worked as a health & safety manager for Apple TV and HGTV productions. He also worked as a testing secretary and production coordinator for television shows with LIONSGATE and Apple Music Reviews. For the past ten summers, Mingo has worked at Raquette Lake Camps teaching musical theatre to students from all across the world. Mingo could not be more

blessed to continue teaching, coaching, and mentoring in his third season as Education Director at New Stage Theatre. Mingo also serves as the Middle School Drama Teacher at Saint Andrews Episcopal School. On our mainstage, he directed *The Mountaintop*, *Chicken & Biscuits*, *Mean Girls, Jr.* and *Sister Act, Jr.* Mingo also directed the touring productions of *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Hamlet*, *Junie B. Jones*, *The Musical*, *Anne & Emmett & Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Unframed). Mingo played the Macy's Store Manager in *Elf*, *The Musical* and served as the choreographer for the production. Mingo also played the role of Gabriel in *Fences* and Fezzwig in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theaters in a handful of states. Mingo continues to live in the light and encourages everyone else to do the same.



MANDY KATE MYERS (Beulah) is excited to be back with New Stage Theatre! She was most recently seen as Marilyn Wald in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. Additional New Stage credits include Mrs. Medlock in *The Secret Garden: Spring Version*, Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*, Roz in *9 To 5: The Musical*, Babette in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, Ghost of Christmas Past in *A Christmas Carol*, Mrs. Darling in *Peter Pan*, Mama Bear in *Shrek the Musical*, Cindy Lou in *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, Audrey II Puppeteer in

Little Shop of Horrors, and *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*. Myers also worked as New Stage's musical director/instructor for First Stages and Broadway Jr. Summer Camps for several years. Other favorite performances are *54/54/54* at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York, Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, Kate Keller (Mother) in *All My Sons*, Latrelle in *Sordid Lives*, CB's Sister in *Dog Sees God*, Amy in *Company*, and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Myers serves on the Board of Directors for both Fondren Theatre Workshop and Cheshire Abbey canine rescue. She also works as an Assistant Show Choir Director and Theatre Instructor at Jackson Academy, and as talent coordinator and workshops coordinator for BroadwayCon in New York.



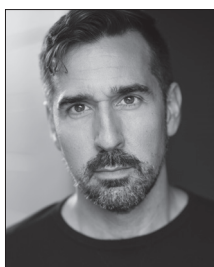
GREGORY NAMAN (Kevin J./Ali & Others) is so excited to make his NST debut and tell this beautiful story with this incredible cast and crew! He is an Alabama-based performer and recent graduate of the University of Mobile, receiving a BFA in Acting Performance and a BS in Communications in Advertising and Public Relations. Recent credits include *Pirates Of Penzance* (Frederic/Dance Captain), *Miracle On 34th Street* (Marvin Shellhammer), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), *Texas! Outdoor Musical* (Featured Dancer), *Funny Girl* (Eddie Ryan), and *Little Women: The Musical* (Laurie Laurence). Gregory would like to thank all his family and friends for their love and support! :) IG: @gregoryxnaman www.gregorynaman.com



LAUREN PARKINSON (Janice & Others) is thrilled to return for her 7th production here at New Stage Theatre in this beautiful show. Some of her previous New Stage roles include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Cynthia Weil), *The Sound of Music* (Sister Margaretta), *Clue* (Cook, Yvette u/s), and *9 to 5: The Musical* (Ensemble, Judy Bernly u/s). Most recently, Lauren portrayed the role of Alicia in Perseverance Theatre's production of *The Thanksgiving Play* in Juneau, Alaska. She has studied Theatre, Film, and English literature, and she even spent a term at the University of Oxford in England where she studied Shakespearean tragedy. Lauren would like to thank her entire family for their overwhelming love and encouragement.



JENNIFER SMITH (Diane & Others) is grateful to be back at New Stage to share this amazing story! Favorite NST roles: Marmee March (*Little Women*), Featured Performer (*Ring of Fire*), Mrs. White (*Clue: On Stage*), and Creda (Leslie Jordan's *Glory! Glory!*). Jennifer has enjoyed working with Uproar Theatre Company, The Center Players, and FishTale Group Theatre in the Jackson Metro area. Other favorite roles: Nancy Baxter (*'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, Dollywood); Mrs. Potts (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, international tour); and Bank Manager (*Once*, Casa Mañana). Jennifer's EP, *Inside Out*, takes an intimate look at loss and grief. Special thanks to Chris, Dylan, and my family for their love and support!



DREW STARK (Oz & Others) is thrilled to return to New Stage after receiving his MFA in theatre at the University of Central Florida. A Mississippi native, he holds a B.A. from the College of William and Mary. Previous New Stage performance credits include: *Gaslight*, *Noises Off*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Don Kirschner), *The Secret Garden*, *Elf*, *Bright Star* (Daryl Ames), *Sweet Potato Queens* (George), *Murder in the Orient Express* (Michel), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mr. van

Daan), *Shakespeare in Love* (Marlowe), and *33 Variations* (Mike). Regional credits include: *CATS*, *Legally Blonde*, *Joseph*, *42nd Street*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Prather Productions), *Young Frankenstein*, *Damn Yankees*, *Annie* (Little Theatre on the Square), *Kinky Boots*, *Henry V*, *Henry VI, Part One: Joan of Arc*, *Christmas Carol*, *Charlotte's Web*, and the world premiere of *A Big Day for Baseball: A Magic Treehouse Adventure* (Orlando Shakes). Drew is a theatre educator and professional fight director/choreographer. Instagram: @drewstarkactor Website: drewstarkactor.com.



MADISON UPENDO (Oz/Bob & Others U.S.) is a Jackson, MS native, seasoned teaching artist, and proud husband and father. He holds theatre degrees from Hinds Community College and Belhaven University, and has performed powerful roles such as Booth (*Topdog/Underdog*), Big Chief Bromden (*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*), and Olin Britt (*The Music Man*). Most recently, he portrayed Dayton (*Fairview*) as part of New Stage Theatre's Unframed series. His screen and voice work includes *Freaks*, *That Call*, *The Look of Innocence*, and the *Deep Space*

Podcast. As a theatre educator and director at Ida B. Wells APAC, Madison co-leads the internationally recognized Troupe 4909, cultivating the next generation of artists. He is honored to share in the story of *Come From Away* and gives deepest thanks to God, his wife Sara, and their daughters, Noah-Imani and Selah, who are the heart behind the work.



SARAH WADE (Janice & Others U.S.) is excited to be returning to New Stage theatre! Favorite roles include *Lily in The Secret Garden*, Frau Zeller/Nun in *The Sound of Music*, and Lala in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*. A native of Jackson, Sarah holds a B.S. in Anthropology and Sociology from Millsaps College and an MSc in Medical Anthropology from the University of Edinburgh. Love and thanks to her family and friends!

THE BAND

ANDREW DILLON (Fiddle) was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. He received a B.A. in music education with a concentration in strings K-12 from Jackson State University. A few summers ago, Dillon received a M.A. in teaching from Longy School of Music at Bard College. He believes all children should have access to a robust, active music life and he strives to ensure all children have access to classical music education. When Dillon is not teaching music, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Chelsea and their two children, Mendelssohn & Lazarus.

PAUL HEINDL (Drums) received B.M. and M.M. performance degrees from The University of Mississippi where he was active in many of the university instrumental

ensembles. He is an active clinician, adjudicator, and performer and has played with the Corinth, Meridian, and Mississippi Symphony Orchestras as well as the Mississippi Wind Symphony. Heindl performs regularly with jazz, country, and rock acts locally and regionally and has recorded with Tom Edwards, Katie Heckle, Beth Stapleton, Jason Turner, and many others. He also performs musicals regularly at high schools, colleges and at New Stage Theatre. He has performed at several area churches and currently plays drum set for Countrywoods Baptist Church in Byram. Heindl is a full-time instructor of percussion at Hinds Community College, is an adjunct professor at Mississippi College, and teaches privately in the Jackson area. He lives in Clinton with his wife, Adriana, and he is the proud father of Annelise, Kali, Haddie, Esli, and Ashlyn.

BRANDON PRATT (Bodhran/Percussion) holds a degree in Music Education from Mississippi College, where he was actively involved in the Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Symphonic Winds. He is a dedicated educator and performer, with musical theater credits that include productions with Jackson Academy, Pearl High School, and Meridian Little Theater. Brandon has also contributed as a percussionist to notable documentaries, including *Eudora* and the Emmy Award-winning *Walter Anderson: The Extraordinary Life and Art of the Islander*. Currently, he serves as the Elementary Music Teacher at Beechwood Elementary in Vicksburg, works as an adjunct instructor with the Clinton High School Band, and offers private lessons in the Clinton area. Brandon lives in Clinton with his wife, Kali, and their daughter, Rosie.

JIMMY TURNER (Guitar) earned a B.M. and M.M. in guitar performance degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi. He maintains an active private studio and performance schedule, and serves as an adjunct faculty member at Millsaps College and teaches guitar at Mississippi College. Turner has played in New Stage productions of *The Robber Bridegroom*, *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*, *Breaking Up is Hard to Do*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *Hairspray*, *Shrek The Musical*, *One Man, Two Guvnors*, *Sweet Potato Queens*, *9 to 5*, and *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical*.

TAYLOR WELLS (Mandolin/Guitar) is a multi-instrumentalist from Ridgeland, Mississippi. He is currently studying Mechanical Engineering at The University of Mississippi, where he plays guitar with the Mississippians Jazz Ensemble. He has performed in musicals since his time at Ridgeland High School and, throughout college, has continued by supporting UM Theatre, as well as Oxford High School productions. He regularly plays on Sunday mornings at Parkway Baptist Church in Clinton and with local groups around Jackson and Oxford.

BEN WILLIAMS (Bass) is a Professor of Music Composition at Mississippi College where he is the Chair of the Department of Music. Raised in Northeast Ohio, Williams earned degrees from The University of Akron (B.M and M.M.) and The Ohio State University (D.M.A.). Williams has previously played bass in the pit orchestra of *Beautiful: the Carole King Musical*, *9 to 5*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* with New Stage Theatre and banjo in their production of *Bright Star* in addition to performing as Mr. Greenway in *Elf* and Mister in

their stage reading of Antoinette Nwandu's *Pass Over*.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director/ Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 37 years. She recently directed *Noises Off*, *Gaslight*, *Beautiful*, *The Carole King Musical*, *The Secret Garden*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *I Just Stopped By to See the Man*, *The Debate for Democracy*, *Pipeline*, *Bright Star*, *Hell in High Water*, *Sweat*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Silent Sky*, and *Best of Enemies*. Favorite acting roles include Dr. Katherine Brandt in *33 Variations*, Polly in *Other Desert Cities*, Lucille in *Dividing the Estate*, and Edna Earle in Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart*. She has directed a variety of shows including *All The Way*, *The Whipping Man*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Our Town*, *Red*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Hairspray*, *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Lombardi*, *Boeing, Boeing*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Gee's Bend*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Annie*, *A Soldier's Play*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Reynolds is a 2022 recipient of a Directing Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission. She served three terms on the board of directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and several terms on the Mississippi Theatre Association Board of Directors. Reynolds has served on grant panels for the National Endowment of the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission and has enjoyed adjudicating for Poetry Out Loud and the Southeastern Theatre Conference. She was a speaker for the 2021 Story State, www.storystate.msstate.edu, produced by Mississippi State University. Originally, from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

CAROL JOY SPARKMAN (Music Director/Piano/ Keyboard) is the Director of choral music at Clinton High School in Clinton, Miss., where she directs four choirs and two pop-a-capella ensembles. Sparkman also arranges and directs the instrumental pit for the Clinton Junior High Ambassadors show choir. She began her career as a member of the Mississippi College music faculty where she was the collaborative pianist, directed a vocal jazz ensemble, and was musical director for The Mississippi College Opera/Musical Theater. Sparkman received a Bachelor of music education/piano and a Master of music in vocal coaching/accompanying degrees from Mississippi College. Her choirs have consistently received Superior ratings and her students have received top scores in Solo and Ensemble Festival and All-State auditions. She served on the MS ACDA Board as Repertoire and Resource Chair for Contemporary and Commercial and was the Southeast Regional Director for the A Cappella Education Association. Sparkman is involved in her community and serves on the board of Clinton's Brick Street Players. She is active as a vocal coach and collaborative pianist and has been the musical director for numerous past New Stage Theatre productions including *Beautiful: The Carol King Musical*, *Elf The Musical*, *The Sound of Music*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *9-5: The Musical*.

ELISSA SARTWELL (Dramaturg) is a director, teacher, dramaturg, and theatre historian. She currently serves as Chair of Theatre at Belhaven University, where she

teaches courses in theatre history, script analysis, directing, and dramaturgy. She also directs in the department's theatre season and serves as the Artistic Director for Belhaven Theatre. As a director, Dr. Sartwell is drawn to plays that reflect the power of forgiveness and reconciliation. She has been recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for direction, ensemble devising, and dramaturgy. She was the recipient of a 2024 Humanities Teacher Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Belhaven directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *The White Snake*, *Eurydice*, and *Doubt*. Dramaturgy credits include *Silent Sky*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Morningside*, and *Sweat* (all at New Stage Theatre, Jackson, MS) and *The Laramie Project*, *Shiloh Rules*, and *The Exonerated* (all at Swine Palace, Baton Rouge, LA). Dr. Sartwell is happiest when she is in the mountains. She enjoys reading novels and visiting museums. If she were not a theatre professor, she would like to work in an enormous archive of historic artifacts. Or she would be a professional dog-walker.

BRADEN GRAVES (Scenic Designer) is a scenic and lighting designer and technical director. He teaches theatre design at Belhaven University and has previously collaborated with New Stage Theatre on *Elf the Musical*, *Beautiful*, *the Carole King Musical*, *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas* and *The Mountaintop*. Braden earned his BA in theatre from George Fox University and his MFA from The Ohio State University. His past work includes designing and constructing productions for Broadway Rose Theatre Company, Actors Theatre Columbus, and The Contemporary Theatre Co., as well as serving as a designer and fabricator for Curtis Elliott Design Ltd. His designs have been recognized by the Kennedy Center, USITT, and SETC, and he was featured in the 2023 USITT Emerging Artist Showcase.

J. THERESA BUSH (Costume Designer) USA Local 829, This is Theresa's (she/they) second show with New Stage Theatre, designing *Beautiful the Carole King Musical* in 2024. Credits include Broadway associate: *A Wonderful World* for Broadway in New Orleans at the historic Saenger Theatre, *Flying Over Sunset* at Lincoln Center's Vivian Beaumont Theatre, *Come From Away* at the Shubert. Off-Broadway affiliate: *Elephant Man*, *Far From Heaven* for Playwright's Horizons. Regional: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Berkley Repertory Theatre, Pasadena Playhouse, Florida Studio Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Warehouse Theatre and others. Theresa is an Affiliate Faculty with Theatrical Intimacy Education and Associate Professor of Costume Design and Technology at University of Southern Mississippi. jtbcostumedesign.com

ANNALISE V. CAUDLE (Light Designer) is a lighting designer based in OK but originally from DeSoto, TX. Some of her regional design credits include: *Every Brilliant Thing* (Florida Rep), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, *Bye Bye Birdie* (Maine State Music Theatre), *Rep Lab* (Milwaukee Rep), and *Elephant and Piggie* (ZACH Theatre) *A Christmas Carol*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *Ring of Fire* (New Stage Theatre). Some of her regional ALD credits include: *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Paramount Theatre), *Winter's Tale* (The Goodman Theatre), *Things I Know to be True*, *The Chinese Lady*, *In the Heights* (Milwaukee Rep). Her commercial credits include: associate lighting designer for the Goodman's production of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and ALD Intern

for the Broadway production ***Prince of Broadway***. Annalise currently serves the School of Theatre at the Oklahoma City University as an Assistant Professor of Lighting Design. annalisecaudle.com

ALBERTO MEZA (Sound Designer & Engineer/Company Liason) is a graduate of Belhaven University with a BFA in Theatre. He is from Brandon, MS and is grateful to work in the only professional regional theatre in Mississippi. He began working with New Stage Theatre in 2020 and has continued to work in multiple positions over the recent years. Some of his regional design credits for both Sound and Projections include: ***Pipeline, Little Shop of Horrors, A Christmas Carol, A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Clue, Every Brilliant Thing, Ring of Fire, Elf The Musical, Chicken and Biscuits, Beautiful, Gaslight, Million Dollar Quartet Christmas, The Mountaintop***, and ***Little Women, The Broadway Musical***. He worked with Belhaven University Theatre as their professional guest artist as the Sound Engineer/Designer for their main stage productions, ***Wizard of Oz, The Spitfire Grill***, and ***Cinderella***. He also had the opportunity to be the Lighting Designer in New Stage Theatre's recent production of ***Gaslight***. He was able to Light Design with Hinds CC on their show ***Radium Girls*** and was able to work as a guest Technical Director at Wells APAC for their recent dance program, ***Rodeo***. Meza was the streamer and editor behind the Thursday Night Virtual Plays, Conversations, & Cocktails that was presented over the virtual season at New Stage Theatre. This is Meza's last show here at New Stage Theatre, he will terribly miss all of his co-workers and friends he has gotten to know over the last 5 years at NST. He is grateful that he has been able to design and collaborate with so many talented artists and provide excellent high-quality shows to the community of Jackson and to MS. He is happy to be passing the torch to Callie Jackson, who will do a phenomenal job in this role. He will always cherish and remember his time here at NST and wants to personally thank Francine Reynolds for everything she has done for him over the years. "Thank you everyone for making my time here unforgettable, I will truly miss the incredible audience we got every show and the people who put on the shows for this incredible audience. Wish me luck as I move on to my next big adventure in Florida! Alberto Signing out. It's been real everyone. Peace!" - Alberto Meza.

MATTEA PIERCE (Production Stage Manager) is a graduate of Belhaven University with degrees in both theatre and graphic design. Past New Stage credits for Stage Management include: ***Million Dollar Quartet Christmas, Gaslight, Noises Off, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Lend Me a Soprano, What the Constitution Means to Me, Elf The Musical, The Secret Garden, Chicken & Biscuits, Ring of Fire (ASM), The Mountaintop*** and ***Little Women, The Broadway Musical***. She is excited to be a part of New Stage's 59th Season – Your Place for Broadway Shows.

CASEY NELMS (Production Manager) is a proud Mississippian born and raised in Pearl, Miss. She received her Bachelor of social work from Belhaven University followed by her master's of social work from the University of Southern California. While living in Los Angeles, she transitioned from a robust therapy career to producing and supervising productions in the film industry. Nelms has been fortunate enough to work with companies

such as Lionsgate, Patriot Pictures, and Convoke Media, as well as many others, and now happily serves as production manager at New Stage Theatre. She lives on the Ross Barnett Reservoir with her husband and their two droopy-faced beagles, Olive and Mabel.

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director) serves as the parliamentarian of Fondren Theatre Workshop and has appeared in *A Christmas Memory* at New Stage, FTW's *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Buck Nekkid for Jesus*, directed FTW's *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, and most recently appeared as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. He was also the director of the widely successful productions of *Cabaret* and *Company*, which were joint productions of FTW and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence has been seen in New Stage productions of *The Trip to Bountiful* and UnFramed's *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Weir*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Dublin Carol*. Lawrence has won three Best Set awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences, and has also won Best Set at Southeastern Theatre Conference.

JOEY FORD (Co-Properties Designer) was born in Atlanta and raised in Salt Lake City UT. He is a born problem solver and a maker by trade. In addition to fabricating sets and props for New Stage, Joey works as a prop maker and production assistant on high-definition film shoots and has solid computer and audio/video skills. When not at New Stage, he is a practiced fire breather and bakes apple pies from scratch.

MICHAEL MONTGOMERY (Co-Properties Designer) is originally an artist and actor from Mobile, AL. He moved to Jackson to receive a BA from Millsaps College where he studied Studio Art, Music and Creative Writing. There, he performed in multiple shows, his favorite production being David Ives's *All in the Timing: Sure Thing and The Universal Language* which was directed by Sam Sparks. His more recent performances come from the New Stage's Unframed Series, most recently the role of Mack from *Fairview*. His most recent role on the New Stage mainstage would be his reading as Zeus in *Sons of Levi*. He has primarily served as a set painter for New Stage since 2023 which has included the following shows: *Johnny Cash*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, *What The Constitution Means to Me*, *Elf The Musical*, *The Secret Garden: Spring Version*, *Chicken & Biscuits*, *Junie B. Jones the Musical*, *Noises Off*, *Gaslight*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *The Mountaintop*, and Unframed's *Is God Is*, *The Grown Ups*, and *The Moors*. He is currently creating his personal art exhibition that will be displayed in the Art Center of Mississippi this December.

MATELYN HILL (Assistant Director) is proud to be working on her first production with New Stage Theatre! She is an upcoming junior pursuing a BFA in Acting for Stage and Screen at the University of Mississippi. Most recently, she performed as Cicero in *Julius Caesar*. Additional university credits include *Everybody* and *Head Over Heels*. Matelyn first discovered her love for the theatre at New Stage Summer camps, and she's thrilled to now contribute to the theatre that helped shape her.

RACHEL BOUDREAUX (Assistant Stage Manager) is from Baton Rouge, LA, and is a recent graduate from The University of Southern Mississippi with a BA in Theatre. She has worked on many shows at USM as a stage manager, and is excited for her New Stage debut!

CALLIE JACKSON (Production Associate/Assistant Sound) is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a B.A. in Political Science and is from Madison, MS. She began working with New Stage Theatre in 2024 as a sound board operator and is now working Little Women as a full time production staff member. Her regional credits include: **Noises Off**, **Million Dollar Quartet Christmas**, and **The Mountaintop**. She worked with Center Players Community Theatre as the Sound Designer/Engineer for 6 years. Some of those shows include; **Oklahoma**, **Bye Bye Birdie**, **Newsies**, **Into the Woods**, **Clue**, and **Grease**. She is excited to be continuing her passion of theatre with New Stage Theatre and is grateful for the opportunity. She will be taking over as the resident Sound Designer and Engineer in the next season. She would like to thank Alberto Meza for taking the time to train her and prepare her to take over.

PEYTON RUCKER (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a Senior Student of Lighting Design at Oklahoma City University. His past credits include, **Legacy of Light** (Lighting Designer, Oklahoma City University) **Fiddler on the Roof** (Associate Lighting Designer, Tulsa Performing Art Center), **The Cat in the Hat** (Lighting Designer, Oklahoma Children's Theatre), He would like to give thanks to all his friends and family and especially his girlfriend, Arielle. He would not be where he is today without them. He would like to thank his past mentors, John Grimmett, Aaron Mooney, and Carson Decker, and his current mentor Annalise V. Caudle, for giving him this opportunity.

ALLISON THARP (Assistant Costume Designer) of Mobile, AL, has just finished her third year at the University of Southern Mississippi pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and theatre as a minor area of study as an honors college student. She has served as Assistant Costume Designer for USM's production of Kate Hamill's adaptation of Jane Austen's **Sense and Sensibility** in the Spring of 2025 and will serve as Costume Designer for USM's upcoming Fall 2025 production of Lisa D'Amour's **Anna Bella Eema**. Allison served as a section leader during her third year as a member of USM's Concert Choir and also sings in USM's Madrigals ensemble. She performed as a member of Mobile Ballet's Company for six years.

NOELLE RILEY (Costume Apprentice) is from Kosciusko MS and she graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi where she obtained a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre. Her credits at Southern Miss included assistant stage managing **The Lieutenant of Inishmore** and designing hair and makeup for **Big Fish**. She's so thrilled to be working at New Stage as a costume apprentice!

MATTHEW MCMURTRY (Lead Electrician) is a recent graduate of Belhaven University. His recent work with New Stage includes **Every Brilliant Thing**, **The Glass Menagerie**, **Clue**, and **9 to 5: The Musical**. He served as the lighting designer for New Stage's summer camp productions of **Frog and Toad, Kids** and **Children of Eden, Jr**. McMurtry has also served as lighting designer for Belhaven University's productions of **Steel Magnolias** and **The Burial at Thebes**.

CREW

Lead Electrician	Matthew McMurtry
Assistant Stage Manager/Light Board Operator	Rachel Boudraux
Assistant Director/ Running Crew.....	Matelyn Hill
Assistant Lighting Designer	Peyton Rucker
Assistant Costume Designer	Allison Tharp
Assistant Sound/Costume Assistant/Revolve Computer Operator	Callie Jackson
Costume Apprentice/Wardrobe.....	Noelle Riley
Master Carpenter.....	Jimmy Robertson
Carpenters and Welders.....	Dave Ellis, Darby Frost, Ness Koegel, and Antonio Juarez
Painters	Shawn Barrick, Michael Montgomery, and Braden Graves
Running Crew	Anna Dunbar and Antonio Juarez

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

DAWN BUCK (Managing Director) has worked on staff at New Stage for more than 20 years. She began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time, she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Buck's other professional artistic credits include the USA International Ballet Competition, the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation – World Performance Series presenting a series of performing artists including American Ballet Theatre, Aquila Theatre of London, Joshua Bell, Alvin Ailey, Cirque Eloize, Wynton Marsalis, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She attended Belhaven University and is an alumnus of Leadership Jackson and a graduate of Dale Carnegie. Buck also completed a residency on theatre management at the Eugene O'Neill Center through a grant from the Foundation for the Extension and Development of Professional American Theatre (FEDAPT). Prior to serving on the staff of the USA International Ballet Competition, she worked with America Reads - Mississippi overseeing and training 270 AmeriCorps members who provided one-on-one tutoring in reading for students in primary K through the 3rd grade across the state. Buck also worked with Imageworks - Films for Business, assisting with the production of commercials, documentaries and training videos. She resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood with her husband David and has two sons who live in the big "N" cities of New York and Nashville.

BILL MCCARTY III (General Manager), a graduate of the University of Mississippi, has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain. The company was founded by his Grandfather Will McCarty and two Holman cousins in 1919. The families grew the business into a profitable billion dollar Mississippi-based company led by Bill McCarty Jr, his father, Henry Holman and many talented associates which sold in 1996. During his grocery career, Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider recruited Bill in 1973 to run a follow-spotlight for *The Gershwin Show* at the theatre's original Gallatin Street location. He has continued to volunteer with New Stage for more than 51 years in all areas including production, lighting and sound design, back-stage, and for New Stage fundraising events. He is involved in the day-to-day management, maintenance, and production for the theatre and serves on the Board of Trustees as a lifetime member. His favorite design credits are *A Christmas Carol* (1984), *Greater Tuna* (1986), *The Gin Game* (1987), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1990).

MELISSA TILLMAN (Director of Business Services) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in technical theatre. She served as the audience services director and marketing director at New Stage, has worked as a box office associate at Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada, and assisted with many box office activities at Belhaven University. Tillman has stage managed many shows in several parts of the country, including Las Vegas and Tennessee. Her stage managing credits include *Oklahoma!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Love's Labours Lost*; and *Noye's Fludd* and *La Boheme* with the Mississippi Opera. This is Tillman's nineteenth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

MIA MCELROY (Marketing Director) is from Jackson, Mississippi. She has a BFA in acting and certification in film & TV production management. Her career journey includes performance, event coordinating, film production, and marketing/ promotions. Although this is her first year working at New Stage as an adult, she has many fond memories of being in different New Stage holiday and summer productions as a child. She is elated to be joining the New Stage family once again and is super excited for this amazing season.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her 18th season at New Stage. She continues to enjoy traveling to schools and towns throughout the state with the Associate Artists Company to provide live theatre experiences for students and adults of all ages. When not on the road, you can find her in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Her professional work experiences in education and her passion for live theatre have contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Education Department. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. in educational psychology from Mississippi State University, a M.Ed. from Delta State University, and recently won the 2019 Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

MAHRI MCLEAN (Box Office Manager) graduated in 2023 from Belhaven University with a BA in Theatre Performance. This is her third season working with Newstage in various capacities, and she is so grateful for the opportunity to work in live theatre every day. Previous acting and production credits include *When We Were Young and Unafraid* (Mary Anne, Costume Designer), *A Lovely Sunday For Creve Coeur* (Costume Designer), *The Spitfire Grill* (Shelby Thorpe), *The Burial at Thebes* (House Manager), and most recently, *The Moors* (Emilie). Mahri is originally from the outskirts of Denver, Colorado, and loves to brag about her five siblings back home, and her wonderful partner Corey.

CARLA MARSH (House Manager) received her B.A. in criminal justice with an emphasis in juvenile justice from Jackson State University. She is pleased to be returning to New Stage for her twenty-first season. Marsh is employed full-time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Belhaven University	Poppy Pies	Jimmye Sweat
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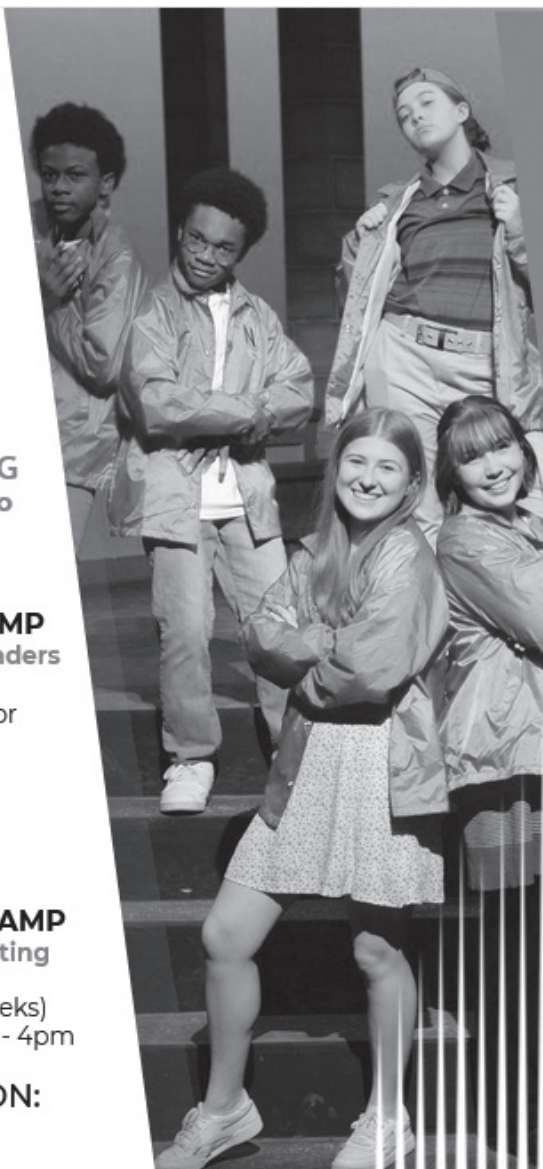
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Jimmye and Andy Sweat
Carol Taff
Rosie Tominello
Holly Wagner
Carla and Randall Wall
Cecile Wardlaw

In Honor of Dawn Buck:
Modena Martin
Julia Young

In Honor of Barbara Austin:
David and Katie Blount
Dawn and David Buck
Alfreda Spell
Helen and Jim Turner

In Memory of Foye Bycofski:
Al and Billie Green
Susan and Macy Hart
Bill McCarty
Mary and Chico Taylor

In Memory of C.B. Carroll:
Barbara Austin

**In Memory of Lester Senter
Wilson:**
Barbara Austin
Dawn and David Buck

In Memory of Shirley Simpson:
Barbara Austin
Dawn and David Buck
Francine Reynolds

In Memory of David E. Dyess:
The Play Readers of Jackson

**In Memory of Iva O'Quinn
Stewart:**
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In Memory of Andy Reynolds:
Susan and Macy Hart

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Joe Morris

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Betty and Dudley Marble
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Oliver Nash
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Jo Ann Robinson and Bill Ford
Campbell
Holly Wagner

In Memory of Pat Krakos:
Kathleen Ambre
Barbara Austin
Dawn and David Buck
Stacey and Earnest Gaines
Polly Hammett
Susan and Macy Hart
Joshua Krakos
Bill McCarty
Margaret and Brad Pigott
Francine and Chuck Reynolds
Sandra and Charles West
Julia Young

**In Memory of Alison "Tippy"
Lyll:**
The Play Readers of Jackson

In Memory of Michael McNally:
Ann McNally

In Memory of Jack McDaniel:
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Karen Redhead
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Judy Bernal Varner and Charles
Varner

In Memory of Fred Mann:
Judy Bernal Varner and Charles
Varner

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BOX OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*During performances, will remain
open until 7:00 AND box office hours on
Saturdays to be open until 7:00*

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Saturday and Sunday hours only apply
during the run of a show.*

TELEPHONE/WEBSITE

Main Number: (601) 948-3533

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Artistic Director: ext. 224

Managing Director: ext. 246

Marketing Director: ext. 225

Education Director: ext. 232

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