



NEWSTAGEED

Touring Productions 2025-2026

**Don't Let**  
**THE PiGEON**  
**Drive the Bus**  
**THE MUSICAL!**  
**Study Guide**

This tour is sponsored by:

THE CHISHOLM  
FOUNDATION



The  
Phil Hardin  
FOUNDATION

Directed and Choreographed  
by Xerron X Mingo  
Music Director Henry Waters

**NEW STAGE**  
*Theatre*

[newstagetheatre.com/educate](http://newstagetheatre.com/educate)



1100 Carlisle  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202



# What's inside

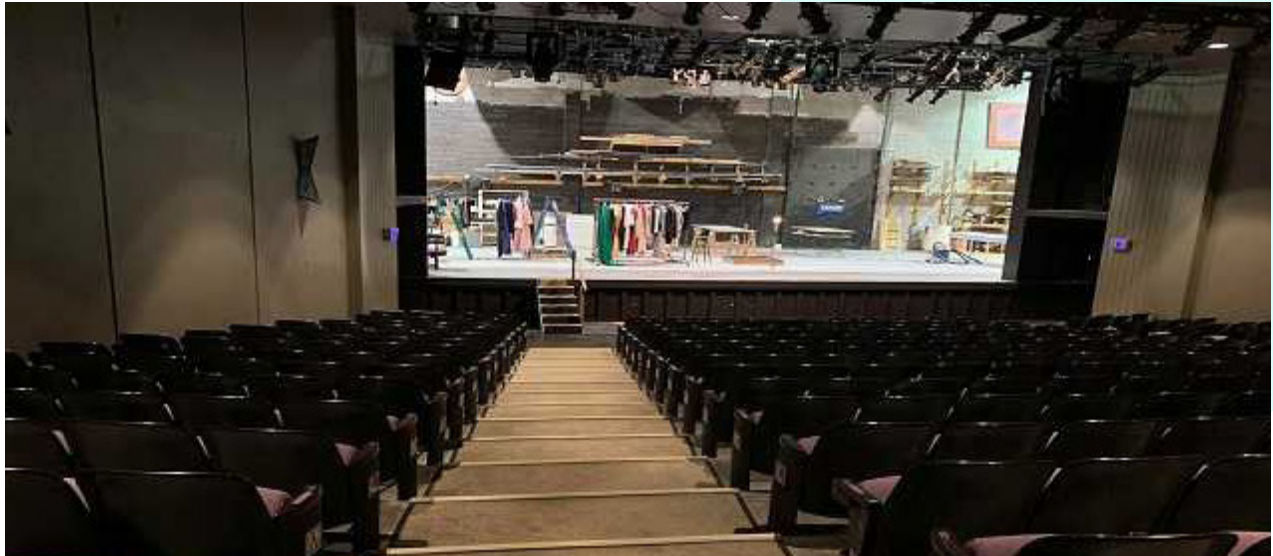
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It's not easy being the Pigeon-you never get to do ANYTHING! But when the Bus Driver has a crisis that threatens to make her passengers (gasp!) late, maybe that wily bird CAN do something.



# Audience Etiquette



For many of your students, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!* may be their first live theatre experience. It may be helpful to discuss with them the expected behavior of an audience. New Stage asks that prior to the performance, students are made aware of the following:

- Stay with your group at all times and pay attention to your teachers and chaperones.
- Be sure to go to the bathroom before the performance begins. It is hard to leave once the performance begins.
- Make yourself comfortable while keeping movement to a minimum.
- Please do not stand up, walk around or put your feet on the seat in front of you.
- Absolutely no gum chewing, eating or drinking during the performance.

## Noise

Live theatre means live actors who can hear not only what is happening on the stage, but in the audience as well. While laughter and applause at appropriate time are appreciated by the actors, excessive noise and talking is not. Even whispering voices can be distracting to the actors and others in the audience.

- Do not talk during the performance.
- Cell phones are prohibited. If you have one, turn it off and put it away and do not bring it out during the performance.

## Applause

Applause is used to acknowledge the performers and to voice appreciation or approval. Traditionally, applause comes before intermission and during curtain call which happens at the end of a performance when the cast returns to the stage for bows.

# Pre-play Discussion

Read *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus!* out loud with your class. After reading it through, turn through the pages and:

- In this case, the author is also the illustrator. You can explain what that means.
- Point out that words in all capital letters and the use of exclamation points tell the reader to read those parts with more excitement and intensity.
- Look at the different faces that Pigeon makes. Ask the children what the different faces mean. Have them explain how they can tell.
- Ask the children how it made them feel that pigeon wanted them to help him do something that the grown up in the story didn't want him to do because it was not safe
- What are your responsibilities at home? How about at school? Do other kids have different responsibilities than you?
- Why does the driver say "no" to the pigeon? If the driver had let the pigeon drive, what might have happened?



# The Cast of Don't Let The Pigeon Drive the Bus!

Associate Artists 2025-2026

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**KYMBRIANNA GRIGGS (City Worker, Teenager, The Bus)** is a recent BFA acting graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi. Their USM performance credits include *Sense and Sensibility* (Fanny), *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* (Shea), *Is God Is* (Racine), and more. Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Kymbrianna is deeply grateful to their family and friends for their continued support and wisdom as they begin this new journey!



**SETH RODIVICH (The Pigeon)** is a 2025 graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi with a B.F.A. in theatre performance. He was born and raised in southern Louisiana. Seth's previous performance roles include *Big Fish* (Will) and *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (Christy/James) at USM. He is the co-founder of the Hattiesburg theater company, *The New Era Theatre* (Instagram: @the\_ne\_t). Seth is pursuing a career in artistic direction and theatre acting. Seth would like to thank all friends and family for their continued support.



**MICHAELA WILLIAMS (Bus Driver)** is an actor from Columbus, Georgia, with a passion for fashion and a flair for the dramatic! She is a 2025 graduate of Auburn University with a BFA in musical theatre. Her previous roles include *Ordinary Days* (Deb), *Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* (Fedya Dolokhov), *Barbecue* (Marie), *The Wolves* (#00), *Violet* (Lula Buffington), and more! Michaela's artistry also includes draping in the costume shop, writing new works, and exploring various styles of dance. When she's not performing, she enjoys reading and relaxing with a cup of coffee. She is so excited to begin her professional career at New Stage, and to embrace all of the opportunities yet to come!



**TARVORIUS K. HOUSE (Hot Dog Vendor/ Business Man/ Engine)** is an actor, singer, and director from Lowndes County, Alabama. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in theatre arts with a concentration in performance from Alabama State University in Spring 2024. While at ASU, Tarvorius performed in several mainstage productions, including *Dreamgirls* (C.C. White), *The Wiz* (Tin Man), and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Sam Thomas). Expanding his artistry beyond the stage, he served as musical director for *Little Shop of Horrors* at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School, director of the short play *Smoke Scenes* by Nick Zagone, and stage manager for *Vonnie*, an original work by Michaela "Mikki" McKenzie. Tarvorius is honored to continue sharing his passion for storytelling with his new artistic home at New Stage Theatre.



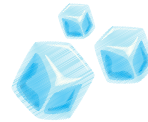
**HANNAH BETH ROLLMAN (Little Old Lady/ Duckling)** is a graduate of Belhaven University, where she earned her BA in theatre performance and her BS in biology. Her favorite roles from Belhaven include Susy in *Glimpses of the Moon*, Gwendolen in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and Guard in *The Burial at Thebes*. She has also previously performed at New Stage in *Little Women* (Troll/Amy U.S.) as well as in the Unframed shows *The Grown-Ups* (Maeve) and *Fairview* (Suze). Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Hannah Beth finds joy outside of the theater in creating digital collages, finding new favorite songs, and playing a nice session of D&D. She is thrilled to join the team at New Stage and plans to use the knowledge and experience she accumulates to pursue a career in film acting. Philippians 1:6.



## Opposite Words

Pigeon has many feelings during the story Don't Let the Pigeon the Bus.  
Can you draw a line to match each picture with its opposite trait?

fast



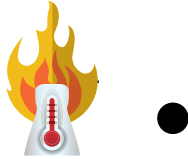
cold

long



back

hot



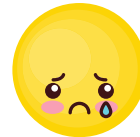
night

front



slow

full



sad

day



short

happy



empty

# Draw Me! FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

**1.** Start with a big letter O.  
(It appears in words like "Mo"!)

**2.** Now draw a smaller letter O inside of it.  
(You've drawn a doughnut!)

**3.** Next, you have a choice between two letters—M or W— but draw the letter on its side.  
(You made a beak!)

**4.** We're going to place the eye next, which is the most important part of the drawing, because the eye shows how the character is feeling. Make sure to darken it in.  
(You always look at the darkest part of a drawing first!)

**5.** Draw two lines going straight down for the neck.

**6.** Next, draw two lines across the neck for the collar.

**7.** The body is a circ-angle—a triangle and a circle combined.  
(It kind of looks like an ice cream cone that's fallen over.)

**8.** The legs are two more lines straight down from the body.  
(Just like the neck!)

**9.** Almost done! Draw the letter V three times. The first two are upside down for the feet. The third is on its side in the body for the wing.

## FINISHED!

**Great job! That's an awesome Pigeon!**

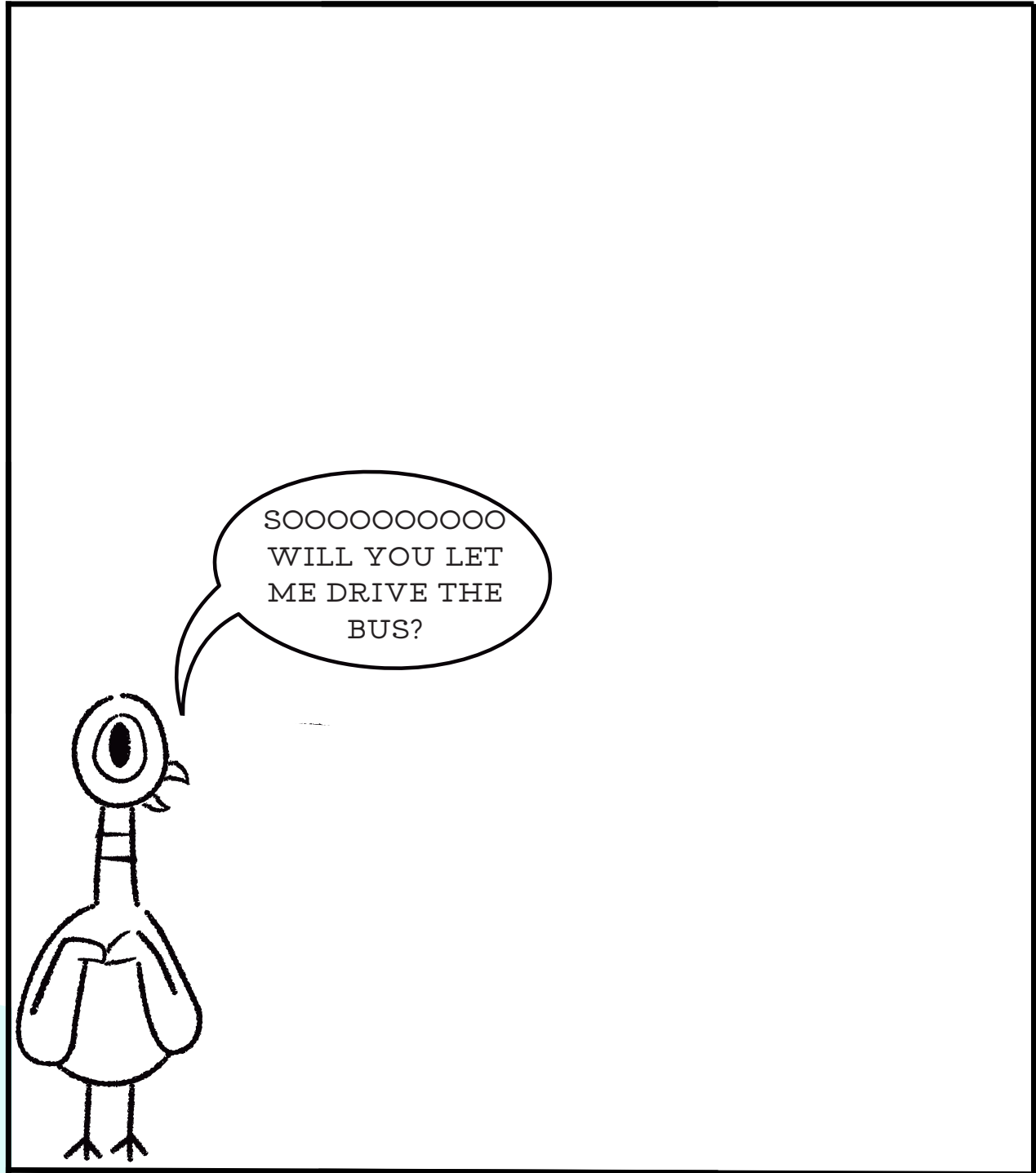
Once you've gotten the basic drawing down, mix it up. Move The Pigeon's beak, wings, eye, or legs to create lots of funny poses!



## Would you let the Pigeon drive the bus?

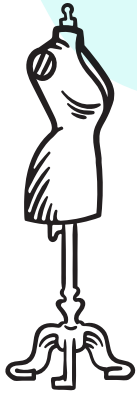


OH, WOWZA! THE PIGEON REALLY, REALLY WANTS TO DRIVE THE BUS? CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? THAT FEATHERED FRIEND HAS SOME WILD IDEAS! IF THE PIGEON ASKED YOU WHAT WOULD YOU SAY? WOULD YOU LET THE PIGEON DRIVE SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD? DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AND YOUR RESPONSE BELOW!



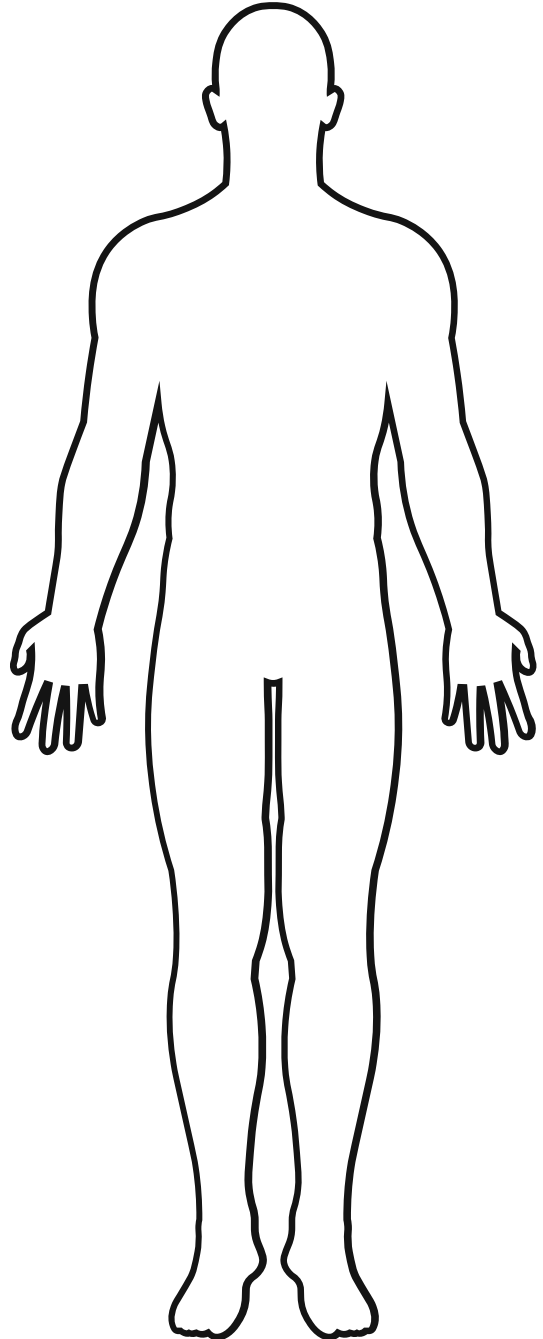
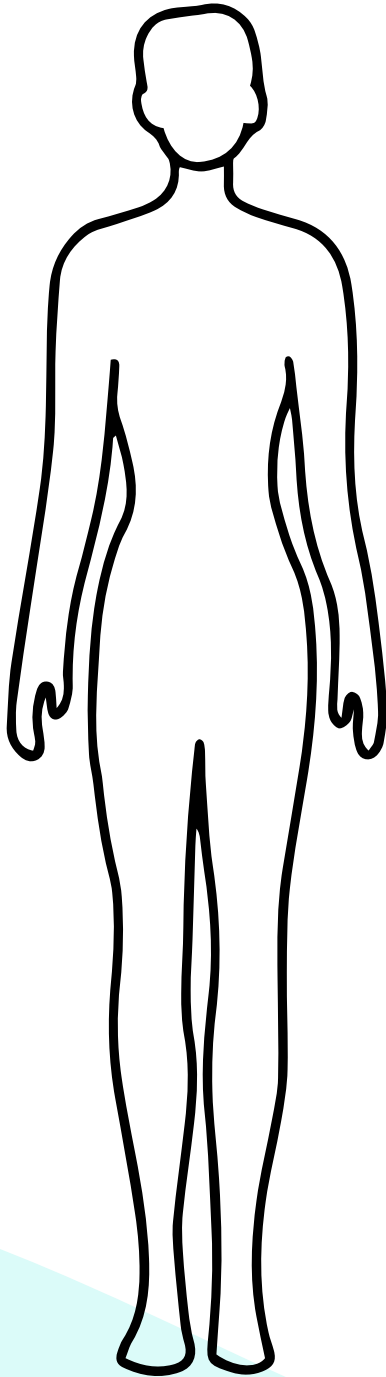






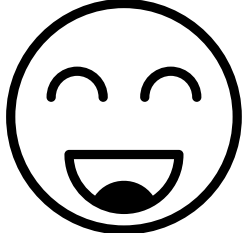




# DESIGN A PASSENGER

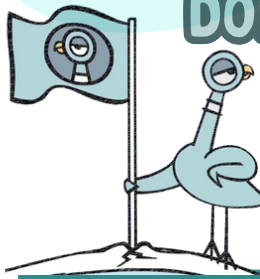
Design two brand-new character costumes for Pigeon's next bus adventure!



## Express your feelings like the PIGEON!

Use your favorite colors to bring these emojis to life! Have fun expressing different feelings through colors. Remember, it's okay to feel all these emotions sometimes, and coloring can help you understand them better.

Emotion	Emoji	When do you feel like this?
Happy (Yellow)		
Sad (Blue)		
Surprised (Purple)		
Angry (Red)		
Calm (Green)		



# DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS

## WORD SEARCH

Look for words that are hidden and circle them.  
Then write the words on the lines below.

E	B	R	P	I	G	E	O	N	P	A
Z	W	T	K	H	E	C	E	F	A	E
B	S	L	M	O	N	G	O	R	N	S
U	Y	R	B	T	I	I	M	A	I	A
S	U	D	R	D	G	E	L	N	C	P
A	D	S	L	O	N	P	K	U	X	F
K	R	R	I	G	E	D	R	I	V	E
V	E	I	C	L	T	D	K	K	L	Y
O	A	S	B	L	L	D	U	C	K	B
D	M	P	H	E	A	Y	K	N	T	A

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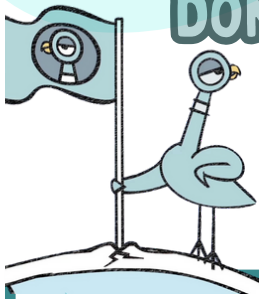
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# DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS

## WORD SEARCH

Look for words that are hidden and circle them.  
Then write the words on the lines below.



Pigeon

Bus

Drive

Dream

Hotdog

Plane

Duck

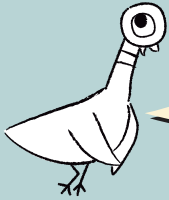
Panic

Silly

Engine

## Set the Scene

LOOK AT THE SPEECH BUBBLES AND PICTURES OF CHARACTER BELOW. CREATE A DIALOGUE WITH A CHARACTER YOU CREATE AND PIGEON IN THE SPACES BELOW!



A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's first line of dialogue.

A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's second line of dialogue.



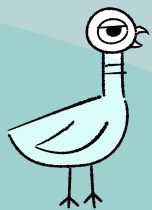
A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's third line of dialogue.

A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's fourth line of dialogue.

A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's fifth line of dialogue.



A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's sixth line of dialogue.



A large, empty, yellow speech bubble with a black outline, intended for writing a response to the pigeon's seventh line of dialogue.



# The Creative Team

## behind Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!

**XERRON X. MINGO (Education Director/Director)** is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and recently resided in New York City where he worked as a health & safety manager for productions on Apple TV and HGTV. 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. He recently made a return to the stage and served as choreographer while playing the role of Fezziwig in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theatres in a handful of states. Some of his past credits include *Matilda* (Rudolpho/Choreographer), *Hell In High Water* (Cephus), *Sister Act* (TJ), *Shakespeare in Love* (Wabash/Frees), and Disney's *Beauty & The Beast* (Monsieur Dar'que). Moreover, *The Wiz* (The Lion) and *The Hot Mikado* (Pooh-Bah) at the GLOW Lyric Theatre in Greenville, S.C. He was in *Black Nativity* (Narrator) at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, *The Great Society* at Asolo Rep, and *Hairspray* (Gilbert) at American Stage. Mingo continues to live in the Light and could not be more blessed to do so as he embarks on this new journey as education director at New Stage Theatre.

**MICHAEL MONTGOMERY (Scenic Designer/Properties Manager/ Charge Artist)** 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*.

**CALLIE JACKSON (Resident Sound Designer Engineer)** 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.

**LESLEY RAYBON (Costume Designer)** received a BFA in theatre from Southwestern University and joined New Stage in 2004 as an acting intern and since then has worked both onstage and off. She previously worked at New Stage as the resident costume designer for eight seasons designing more than 65 productions. She now currently works at Belhaven University as the director of dance costuming. When not at Belhaven or New Stage, she is a barista at Starbucks, a puppeteer with Puppet Arts Theatre, wife to her wonderful husband Lawrence, and mother to her daughter EV.

# Post-Show Discussion

1. Have you ever wanted to do something very badly, but weren't allowed?
2. What were some things that you wanted to do, but weren't allowed to do?
3. How did you feel when you were told, "no?"
4. Why do you think that you're not allowed to do these things that you want to do?
5. What kinds of things do you say or do to try to make your (parent, teacher, babysitter) change their mind?

# Evaluation Form for Students

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Grade\_\_\_\_\_

School\_\_\_\_\_

1. What was your overall reaction to the play?
2. What was your reaction to the acting?
3. What was your reaction to the scenery, costumes, etc. of the play?
4. What was your favorite part of the play?
5. Did you learn anything from this production? If so, what?
6. What other stories would you enjoy seeing staged by live actors?

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**Send us your feedback!**

Please send you feedback and thoughts to us! Return form to:

**New Stage Theatre, ATTN: Education Director, 1100 Carlisle Street, Jackson, MS 39202**

# Evaluation Form for Teachers/Leaders

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was your overall reaction to the play?
2. What was your reaction to the acting?
3. What was your reaction to the scenery, costumes, etc. of the play?
4. Please comment on the educational value of the play.
5. Do you feel this production was age appropriate for your students?
6. What titles or subjects would you like to see staged for student audiences?
6. Do you have other suggestions for future performances?



**Send us your feedback!**

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# Theatre Vocabulary

1. **Role** The character(s) played by an actor.
2. **Props** Items held by actors such as a rake or a cake.
3. **Script** the written words of a play the actors memorize their lines from.
4. **Climax** the height and “changing point” of the story.
5. **Blocking** the physical movement of actors. Where they stand and when they move.
6. **Costumes** what the actors wear, including accessories such as a hat.
7. **Playwright** the author of the play.
8. **Improvisation** acting without scripted lines. Similar to ad-libbing, meaning to make something up on the spot.
9. **Fourth Wall** the imaginary division between the audience and the actors. When actors speak directly to the audience, it is called “breaking the fourth wall.”
10. **Dialogue** the words spoken between 2 or more characters. A conversation.
11. **Monologue** a series of lines spoken by one actor only. They may be speaking to another on stage character, or may be alone on stage.

# About New Stage Theatre

*Winner of the 2019 Governor Arts Award for Excellence in Theatre, located in the heart of Jackson.*



## The Theatre

New Stage Theatre is located in Jackson, Mississippi. New Stage Theatre was chartered as a nonprofit organization in 1965 and produced its initial season in the winter and spring of 1966. New Stage's first home was an adapted church at the corner of Gallatin and Hooker Streets. The theatre produced 13 seasons in the 150-seat church before moving to its present site in Belhaven in 1978.

Built in 1963 for the Jackson Little Theatre, the 12,000 square foot structure includes the 364-seat Meyer Crystal Auditorium, and a flexible, smaller performing space, the Jimmy Hewes Room. The theatre also owns the five other structures on the site, four of which are used for actors' housing and one for offices. In 1997, the theatre complex was designated as the Jane Reid Petty Theatre Center in recognition of the New Stage founder's contributions to the development of professional theatre in Mississippi.



## The Mission

The mission of New Stage Theatre is to provide professional theatre of the highest quality for the people of Mississippi and the southeast. New Stage is committed to producing important contemporary works and classics, selected for their artistic merit and their power to illuminate the human condition. Challenging new works in development are included through the Eudora Welty New Play Series named for the distinguished writer who helped found New Stage. New in recent years is The Mississippi Plays Series.



# More about **New Stage Theatre**

The theatre is dedicated to cultivating and educating a culturally diverse audience by gathering the finest available resources including playwrights, actors, directors, designers, technicians, administrators, trainees, and board members. Integral to the theatre's total effort, New Stage's Education Department maximizes its impact within our surrounding community, through artistic and technical apprenticeships, which mount touring programs facilitated by our Associate Artists, aided with classroom materials for schools statewide, and developing curricula for and instructing youth classes.



## **Mainstage Productions**

New Stage produces five plays each year in its subscription series, in addition to a holiday show, an annual student matinee, and a musical theatre summer camp featuring local youth. Mainstage productions range from master works to contemporary classics to new plays. All productions carry the mark of professional quality for which the theatre has long been recognized. Additionally, New Stage has a second season called Unframed, overseen by Artistic Director Francine Reynolds and facilitated by our Associate Artists and Education staff, that features contemporary works. New plays are read and developed through the Eudora Welty New Plays Series and the Mississippi Plays Series.



## **The Staff**

The theatre staff is comprised of seven full time administrative and artistic staff members, six full time production staff members, four acting associates, and three part time employees. All actors are paid and typically one to two AEA actors are hired per production.

## Our Staff

### DAWN BUCK

Managing Director  
dbuck@newstagetheatre.com  
601-948-3533, ext 246

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Box Office Assistant/  
Education Assistant  
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601-948-3533, ext 233

### CARLA MARSH

House Manager  
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#### CASEY NELMS

Production Manager  
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601-948-3533

## More shows at New Stage Theatre



For tickets, show times, and more information, visit [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com)  
or contact the Box Office 601-948-3533 ext 222





**Don't Let  
THE PIGEON  
Drive the Bus  
THE MUSICAL!**

## More Education Programs at New Stage Theatre

Our arts in education program is designed to introduce young Mississippians to live theatre of substance and imagination. In addition to touring productions, New Stage Ed offers workshops for both teachers and students, acting classes, summer

camp, and an apprenticeship program. To book a touring performance, class or workshop, fill out the Booking Request Form link on our website or contact our education department at 601.948.3533 ext. 232 / [xmingo@newstagetheatre.com](mailto:xmingo@newstagetheatre.com).