

The best way to spread
Christmas cheer is
singing loud for all to hear!

ELF

The Musical

Book by **Thomas Meehan** and **Bob Martin**

Music by **Matthew Sklar**

Lyrics by **Chad Beguelin**

Based upon the New Line Cinema Film

written by **David Berenbaum**

Directed by **Peppy Biddy**

Music Directed by **Carol Joy Sparkman**

Choreographed by **Xerron Mingo**

Nov. 30 - Dec. 21, 2023

Sponsored by



MISSISSIPPI



Trustmark

NEW STAGE
Theatre

Costume Designer
Caleb Blackwell

Lighting Designer
Braden Graves

Technical Director
Richard Lawrence

Production
Stage Manager
Mattea Pierce

Properties Designer
Jenna Kahley

Scenic/Projection Designer
Cody Stockstill

Sound Designer/Audio and
Projection Engineer
Alberto Meza



ELF

The Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan and Bob Martin

Music by Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by Chad Beguelin

Based upon the New Line Cinema Film written by David Berenbaum

Originally produced by Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures in Association with Unique Features

Elf The Musical is presented through special arrangement with Musical 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.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

There will be use of theatrical fog during this production.



ACT 1

The North Pole

Overture

“Happy All the Time” Santa, Buddy, & Company

The North Pole, New York City, & Everywhere in-between

“World’s Greatest Dad” Buddy

Empire State Building, The offices of Greenway Press

“In the Way” Deb, Walter, Emily, Michael, & Company

Macy’s department store

“Sparklejollytwinklejingle” Buddy, Store Manager, & Company

The Hobbs’ apartment

“I’ll Believe in You” Michael & Emily

“In the Way” (Reprise) Emily & Walter

The offices of Greenway Press

“Just Like Him” Buddy, Deb, & Company

Rockefeller Center

“A Christmas Song” Buddy, Jovie, & Company

The streets of New York City

“World’s Greatest Dad” Buddy & Company

ACT 2

Entr’acte

Restaurant

“Nobody Cares About Santa” Fake Santas, Store Manager, & Buddy

The Tavern on the Green

“Never Fall in Love” Jovie

The Hobbs’ apartment

“There Is a Santa Claus” Michael & Emily

The offices of Greenway Press

“The Story of Buddy the Elf” Buddy, Michael, Walter, Mr. Greenway,
Emily, Deb, & Company

Central Park

“Nobody Cares About Santa” (Reprise) Santa

“A Christmas Song” (Reprise) Jovie, Buddy, Emily, Michael, Walter, & Company

Epilogue: The North Pole

“Finale” Company



THE CAST

Buddy Jack Baugh
Walter Hobbs Ray McFarland*
Emily Hobbs Laura Dixon
Michael Hobbs McKellar Goff(t), Cadman McQueen(tt)
Jovie Jaymi Horn
Santa Chris Roebuck
Manager Xerron X Mingo
Mr. Greenway Ben Williams
Deb Ali Dinkins
Chadwick Cameron Pitre
Matthews Simeon Taylor
Kid on Santa's Lap Blaize Sutherland (t), Reginald Jefferson(tt)
Ensemble Jade Krystal Dyer+, Baxter Evans III+, Jamie Ferguson, Leslie Ann Harkins,
Morgan McKay+, Mandy Kate Myers,
Jayla Lomax, Paul Pelletier, Jr.+, Drew Stark, Sarah Wade, Erick Weeks

+Member of the Associate Artist Company

(t) Sparkly

(tt) Jingley

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

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Buddy: Cameron Pitre; For Walter Hobbs: Drew Stark; For Emily Hobbs: Mandy Kate Myers; For Michael Hobbs: Charles Kiser; For Jovie: Lauren Parkinson; For Santa/Manager: Charlton Johnson; For Mr. Greenway: Erick Weeks; For Chadwick/Ensemble: Paul Pelletier, Jr. +; For Matthews/Ensemble: Baxter Evans III+; Swings: Jade Krystal Dyer+ and Morgan McKay+

+Member of the Associate Artist Company

Dates for Sparkley (t):

November 30 and December 1, 7 - 8, 14, 16, and 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm

December 3 and 10, 2023 at 2:00

Dates for Jingley (tt):

December 9, 12, 15, 19, and 21, 2023 at 7:00 pm

December 2 and 17, 2023 at 2:00 pm



THE CAST



JACK BAUGH (Buddy) is so excited to join the amazing team at New Stage Theatre. Most recent credits include *Lend Me a Soprano* (Leo), *Next to Normal* (Henry), *The Pretty Pants Bandit* (Jaye), *High School Musical: On Stage* (Troy), *Here I Am* (Spencer), and *The Office! A Musical Parody* (Dwight and Others). He is a recent graduate of The American Musical and Dramatic Academy where he studied musical theatre. He would like to thank his family and friends for coming out to see him!



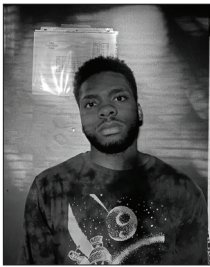
ALI ROGERS DINKINS (Deb) has considered New Stage her theatre home since moving back to Mississippi as a young newlywed. Last spring she performed for sold out audiences in the one-person show *Every Brilliant Thing*. As a mother of four, it's no surprise that her two other favorite New Stage roles were the title characters in *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* and *The Velveteen Rabbit*. New Stage subscribers have seen her in *Morningside*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventures of the Suicide Club*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *All My Sons*, *Boeing! Boeing!*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *First Baptist of Ivy Gap*, *Shiloh Rules*, *Skin of Our Teeth*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *It's a Wonderful Life: Radio Play*. Dinkins completed her undergraduate work at Baylor University and graduate work at Wayne State University, both in acting. She was a member of the Hilberry Acting Company in Detroit, MI for two years. She has spent most of her career teaching students of all ages, using her acting skills in a range of roles from Preschool librarian to Adjunct Theatre Professor at Millsaps College. Outside of the theatre Dinkins loves to take walks, linger over meals, learn new things and travel with her favorite person, John.



LAURA DIXON (Emily Hobbs) is excited to be back at New Stage as part of this wonderful production! Past New Stage credits include: *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*.



JADE KRISTAL DYER (Ensemble/Swing/Acting Associate) is a 2023 graduate of Florida State University with a bachelor of arts in theatre on a performance track. Some of her performance experience includes *Hair the Musical*, *Julius Caesar*, *Sweet Charity*, and *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*. When not on stage, Dyer also enjoys taking on other roles in entertainment, such as writing, producing, and directing an original Choreopoem titled *Dear, [BLANK]; Love, Anonymous* as well as acting as an associate producer and production coordinator on an indie television series called *Tri-County*. As an actor and a person, Dyer prioritizes kindness, respect, and enjoyment for all! She is ecstatic to be a part of the New Stage team, and all of the wonderful things that are yet to come! You can find her on Instagram @jade.krystalll



BAXTER EVANS III (Ensemble/Acting Associate) is actor and combatant from Clinton, Miss where he went to Hinds Community College, and performed in shows called *Water Engine* and *Bus Stop*. Evans then moved to Hattiesburg to study theatre at the University of Southern Mississippi, performing in the shows *Once in a Lifetime*, *She Kills Monsters*, *The Addams Family*, and *Macbeth*. While at USM, Evans received a KCATCF nomination, allowing him to travel to the KCATCF Region IV back in February 2023. He also served in Alpha Psi Omega, Harlem (a BIPOC theatre club), and Skip the Script (an improvisation club). Evans is excited to come back home to learn more and to work for a professional theatre company and is excited for what comes!



JAMIE SHANNON FERGUSON (Ensemble) is thankful to return to New Stage and work with this incredible team. She teaches voice and theatre in Tuscaloosa, AL, and at Mississippi College, where she also directs the musicals. Favorite roles include: Donna in *Mamma Mia*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, and Dorothy in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She holds a B.M. from Mississippi College and an MFA from The Boston Conservatory. jamieshannonferguson.com @beltertrash



McKELLAR GOFF (t) (Michael Hobbs) is in the seventh grade at Madison Middle School and is the son of Preston and Druhan Goff. His most recent roles include Bruce in *Matilda, Jr.* at Rising Stars Theatre Camp and Jack Scott in *High School Musical, Jr.* at MMS. He is in the MMS Kaleidoscope Show Choir and is looking forward to singing with the MMEA All State Honor Choir in January. He also enjoys playing soccer, participating in robotics and playing video games with his friends.



LESLIE ANN HARKINS (Ensemble) is excited to return to the New Stage Theatre stage after a five-year stint in Chicago as a professional actor/choreographer. A native Jacksonian, Harkins is the theatre director at St. Joseph Catholic School and the Spirit Stepper coach. She was last seen at NST in the ensemble for *Sister Act: The Musical*. All my love to Zach, Ed, and the fam! Thank you, Francine, Peppy, Carol Joy, and Xerron for giving me the opportunity to be happy all the time on stage this holiday season.



JAYMI HORN (Jovie) is incredibly excited to return to New Stage Theatre for this production of *Elf The Musical*. She is a New York based actor originally from Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She attended Ohio Northern University where she received her BFA in musical theatre. After graduating, she completed her internship at New Stage Theatre in Jackson, Mississippi. Some of her notable credits include, Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Esmeralda in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Diana in *Next to Normal*, Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Jasmine in *Pipeline* and Althea Gibson in *Althea and Angela*. She was also seen in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Ring of Fire*, and *A Christmas Carol*, and *Matilda*. She is thankful for the unwavering support of her family and friends.



REGINALD JEFFERSON (tt) (Kid on Santa's Lap) is very excited to be cast in his first main stage show at New State Theatre! Reginald is currently a fifth grade student at Barack Obama IB Magnet Elementary School. He is the son of Reginald and Janelle Jefferson. Previous to this role, Jefferson has been cast in *Pirates Past Noon*, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, and most recently, was cast in a lead role in *Seussical KIDS* as Horton for New Stage's First Stage's Summer Camp. Reggie, as his family affectionately calls him, enjoys playing competitive chess, swimming, singing, and playing video games. He would like to thank his family for supporting him in all of his endeavors.



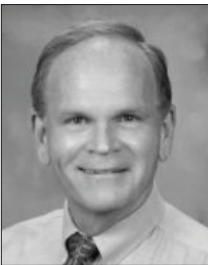
CHARLTON L. JOHNSON (Santa/Manager U.S.) is excited to make his return to live theatre with this incredible team of creatives at New Stage Theater. A native of Greenville, MS where he performed his acting debut as Lion in *The Wiz* (Hattiloo), as Scroo in *If Scrooge Was a Brother* (Hattiloo), as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in *Blueprints to Freedom: An Ode to Bayard Rustin* (Hattiloo), and as Rev. Booker in *Hell in High Water* (New Stage Theater). Johnson holds a Master of Divinity degree and serves as pastor of Sweetwater CME Church (Bassfield, MS) and Chaplain with UMMC.



CHARLES KISER (Michael U.S.) is a seventh grader at Madison Middle School and is the son of Jonathan & Tatia Kiser. He is a member of the MMS Kaleidoscope Show Choir and was most recently in the MMS production of *High School Musical, Jr.* as Zeke. He has been selected for the MMEA All State Honor Choir, plays piano, enjoys gaming on his Xbox, & hanging out with the family dog, Gus.



JAYLA M. LOMAX (Ensemble) is a native of Jackson, Miss. She holds a B.S. in speech communication from Jackson State University where she gained a lot of experience from mentors about theatre. She has appeared in *Black Nativity*, *Mama I Want to Sing*, and *Livin Fat*. She made her New Stage debut in *Little Shop Of Horrors* and since then she has appeared in *9 to 5 The Musical*, *Slippin Thru The Cracks (Blues Journey of Bobby Rush)*, *The Sound of Music* and *Ring of Fire*. She's had the opportunity to tour with Bright Star Children's Theatre. She recently participated in *The Color Purple* at Jackson State which was a record-breaking show in the university's history. She is very appreciative of her family, friends, and anyone who supports the fine arts. @__ jayymonique



RAY MCFARLAND* (Walter Hobbs) has appeared in numerous national tours and regional theatre productions of plays and musicals across the United States and in over forty productions here at New Stage including: *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. He recently retired from teaching acting and technical theatre classes for twenty-three years at St. Andrew's Episcopal School where he also directed the Upper School theatre productions and served as the director of the Center for the Performing Arts.



MORGAN MCKAY (Ensemble/Acting Associate) was most recently seen at New Stage Theatre as Debater in *What the Constitution Means to Me*. She is a recent graduate from Liberty University with a BFA in musical theatre, where some of her roles included Harriet Smith in the musical *Emma*, Charlotte in *Oliver!*, and Rebecca Gibbs in *Our Town*. She would like to thank God, her parents, and everyone at New Stage for their love and support.



CADMAN McQUEEN(t) (Michael Hobbs) is excited to be a part of his first main stage production at New Stage. His experience on stage includes playing an Electric Skate in *The Spongebob Musical* and ensemble roles in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Big Mystery Under the Big Top*, and *Storyland Idol*. He's also appeared on film as Young Lee in *A Love Letter from Heaven* and as an extra in *About My Father*. McQueen is a native of Madison, Miss., where he is in fifth grade. For fun, he likes to play baseball, golf, hunt, and draw. He would like to thank his family for all of their support.



XERRON XMINGO (Manager/Choreographer/Education Director) is a Graduate of Florida A&M University. Born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Mingo 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. Most recently, Mingo played the role of Gabriel in *Fences* at New Stage Theatre. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theatres in a handful of states. Mingo continues to live in the Light and could not be more blessed to do so as he embarks on his journey as education director at New Stage Theatre.



MANDY KATE MYERS (Ensemble/Emily Hobbs U.S.) is excited to be back with New Stage Theatre! She was most recently seen as Mother Abbess in New Stage's 2022 production of *The Sound of Music*. Additional New Stage credits include 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*. 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*. Myers has acted as New Stage's musical director and instructor for the First Stages and Broadway, Jr. Summer Camps for several years. 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 talent coordinator and workshops coordinator for BroadwayCon in New York.

actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *Elf The Musical* following the show on Wednesday, December 20 after the evening performance. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



LAUREN PARKINSON (Jovie U.S.) is thrilled to be joining her fourth production with New Stage after previously appearing in *9 to 5: The Musical*, *Clue*, and *The Sound of Music*. Although she usually works behind the scenes in film production, Parkinson has been involved in theatre since her undergraduate days at Georgetown College in Kentucky, where she played roles such as Caroline in *I and You*, Major John Wesley Powell in *Men on Boats*, and Catherine Donahue in *These Shining Lives*. She would like to thank her dad for always encouraging her.



PAUL PELLETIER JR (Ensemble/Chadwick U.S./Acting Associate) is an actor, singer, playwright, and combatant. Pelletier is also a graduate of The University of Central Florida, having graduated with a BFA in acting in 2023. Over the course of his 7+ year career in the theater, Pelletier has been a part of several fantastic productions. Ranging from spectacular musicals like *RENT*, *Little Women the Musical*, and *Into The Woods*, to classic pieces such as *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Indecent*.

Pelletier is also a huge advocate for new voices and pieces in the theater, having been both a playwright and actor for companies such as Project Spotlight and The Orlando Fringe Festival, organizations that help produce first time playwrights and independent company's works. Paul seeks to bring laughter to those he meets, both on stage and off it, with a quick joke and chipper outlook on life. When not on the stage, Pelletier is an avid Dungeons & Dragons player, having been in games lasting over 4 years. He also enjoys drawing, video games, swimming, and cooking. Paul is incredibly grateful to be a part of the New Stage Artist Associate program, and can't wait to make new and exciting art with such amazing individuals! www.paulpelletierjr.com



CAMERON PITRE (Chadwick/Buddy U.S.) is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi where he received his BFA in theatre performance in 2016. Pitre is very excited to be returning home to the main stage of New Stage Theatre for this performance, and hopes you enjoy the show! Previous New Stage credits include: *Madagascar the Musical* (Skipper), *Disney's Beauty & The Beast* (Lefou/Beast U.S.), *Sister Act, the Musical* (Joey), *A Christmas Carol* (Christmas Future), and most recently, *Clue* (Professor Plum).



CHRIS ROEBUCK (Santa) is a former education director and resident teaching artist at New Stage. Roebuck was last seen in Fondren Theatre Workshop's production of *A Very Sordid Wedding*. At New Stage, Roebuck has appeared in *A Christmas Carol*, *Bright Star*, *Sister Act*, *Shakespeare In Love*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Shrek the Musical*, *The Foreigner*, and *The 39 Steps*. His directing credits include *A Wrinkle in Time*; *Goodnight, Moon*; *The Cat in the Hat*; *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*; *The Weir*; *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*; and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at New Stage; *Into the Woods*; *Anne of Green Gables* and *Elf the Musical* at Brookhaven Little Theatre; and *American Buffalo* and *Dinner with Friends* with Fondren Theatre Workshop.



DREW STARK (Ensemble/Walter U.S.) is thrilled to return to New Stage after receiving his MFA in theatre at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Fla. Drew recently completed his teaching residency at Orlando Shakes with performances in *Kinky Boots*, *Henry V*, *Christmas Carol*, *Charlotte's Web*, and the world premiere of *A Big Day for Baseball: A Magic Treehouse Adventure*. Stark holds a B.A. from the College of William and Mary. Previous New Stage performance credits include *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). Drew is a theatre educator and professional fight director/choreographer. Instagram: @drewstarkactor Website: drewstarkactor.com



BLAIZE SUTHERLAND (tt) (Kid on Santa's Lap) is excited to join the cast of *Elf the Musical*! He is a ten-year-old from Terry, Miss. Sutherland is a fifth grader at Heritage Baptist Academy. He enjoys dancing and has taken tumble and musical theatre classes at Lindsey Claire Dance Studio, where he also competed with their Guns and Roses dance team. Past New Stage credits include Turtle Ensemble in *A Year with Frog and Toad*, and most recently Horton in *Seussical KIDS*. Sutherland hopes you enjoy the show!



SIMEON TAYLOR (Matthews) is an enthusiastic performer born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. He first discovered his love for singing at a very young age. Taylor is the youngest of 10 siblings, so inevitably he was always around music, singing, dancing, and the best "artistic chaos." Taylor is new to the theatre world, and most of his performing experience comes from singing in church or as an independent music artist. His recent stage credits include *Best of Broadway: Big City Dreams* (The

Strand Theatre) and *Dr. Fright's Dead Man's Party* (Six Flags Over Georgia). He also competed in the fourth season of *American Idol* on ABC. Taylor is beyond excited to be a part of his debut show with New Stage! You can follow him @simeontaylormusic.



SARAH WADE (Ensemble) is excited to be returning to New Stage theatre! A native of Jackson, Wade graduated from Millsaps College in 2017 with a B.S. in anthropology and the University of Edinburgh in 2018 with an MSc in medical anthropology. Favorite roles include Ida in *Die Fledermaus*, Frau Zeller/Nun in *The Sound of Music*, the Chanteuse in *Hell in High Water*, M'Lynn in *Steel Magnolias*, Lala in *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*, Rosie DeLeon in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Mayzie in *Seussical*, and Dolly Tate in *Annie Get Your Gun*. Special thanks to her

supportive and loving family and friends!



ERICK J. WEEKS (Ensemble/Mr. Greenway U.S.) is a native of Pearl, Miss, and is currently working with the LGBTQ Fund of MS. Prior to his work with the Fund, he served as the Theatre Director at Pearl High School for 10 years where he was the proud sponsor of Thespian Troupe 4537 and was recognized as a national EdTA Volunteer of the year in 2018. Erick was last seen on stage in Fondtren Theatre Workshop's production *Sordid Wedding* as well as Pearl Community Theatre's Production *The Drowsy Chaperone* as Aldopho. Other credits include *Second,*

Samuel, A Charlie Brown Christmas, and New Stage's production of *Bright Star*. His favorite directing credits include *The Addam's Family, Rumors, 39 Steps, Grease, High School Musical, Jr.*, and *Seussical, Jr.* He would like to thank his parents, twin brother, and sister for their continued support and send his well wishes to the incredible cast and crew of *Elf The Musical*.



BEN WILLIAMS (Mr. Greenway/Ensemble) is a professor of music theory and composition at Mississippi College where he is the chair of the department of music. Raised in Northeast Ohio, Williams earned degrees in music composition from The University of Akron (B.M. and M.M.) and The Ohio State University (DMA). Williams has previously played electric bass in the pit orchestra of *9 to 5* and *Little Shop of Horrors* with New Stage and banjo in their production of *Bright Star*.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

PEPPY BIDDY (Director) is a professor emeritus of Mississippi University for Women where he served 31 years and directed over 40 productions. Bidy earned his MFA in theatre at Trinity University (San Antonio, TX) and has worked as either actor, director, or stage manager at such companies as Dallas Theatre Center, Dallas Summer Musicals, Casa Manana (Ft. Worth, TX), Dallas Children's Theatre, and Mill Mountain Theatre (Roanoke, VA). He served as the production manager for Sundance Institute's Theatre Lab 2001-2017. New Stage audiences may have seen Bidy in the roles of Robert in *Boeing-Boeing* and Wilber in *Hairspray*, where he has also directed a number of plays and musicals including: *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Clue*, *The 39 Steps*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *The Foreigner*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha*, and *Spike*, and *Sister Act*. www.peppybiddy.com

CAROL JOY SPARKMAN (Music Director) is the Director of choral music at Clinton High School in Clinton, Miss., where she directs four choirs and two pop a cappella 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 the Bachelor of music education/piano and a Master of music in vocal voaching/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, as well as shows of the 21-22 season, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *9-5: The Musical*.

CODY STOCKSTILL (Scenic/Projection Designer) is a freelance scenic and projection designer. Recent design credits include *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Elf: The Musical*, and *Ragtime* at Nashville Rep; *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*, and *Romeo and Juliet* at the University of Mississippi. Stockstill has designed scenery and/or projections for *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Hell in High Water*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*, *Peter Pan*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Dracula* at New Stage Theatre. He has an MFA in theatre design and technology from the University of Southern Mississippi.

MATTEA PIERCE (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of her first season here at New Stage Theatre. Past New Stage credits include: *Mean Girls Jr.*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, and *Ring of Fire* (Assistant Stage Manager).

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director) serves as the vice president 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.

CALEB BLACKWELL (Costume Designer) is native of Magee and is excited to return to the New Stage family! Blackwell holds a B.A. in theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi and has worked all over the South and Mid-South, including Wayside Theatre (resident designer) and Playhouse on the Square (designer for the second stage). Season 58 will mark the twelfth season he has teamed up with New Stage. Past favorite credits include *The Sound of Music*, *Hairspray*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Bright Star*. Much love to his family and friends for the love they've shown at the start of this new adventure.

ALBERTO MEZA (Sound Designer/Audio and Projection Engineer/Covid Safety Manager) is a graduate of Belhaven University '19 with a BFA in Theatre. He is from Brandon, Miss. and is excited to work in the only regional theatre near his hometown. He began working with New Stage Theatre since January 2020 and has continued to work here for over the past 3 years. Some of his regional design credits for both sound and projection include: *Pipeline*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Christmas Carol*, *I Just Stopped by to See the Man*, *A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, *9 to 5*, *Clue*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Every Brilliant Thing*. He has also worked with Belhaven University Theatre as their professional guest artist as the sound engineer/designer for their main stage productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Spitfire Grill*. Meza was also the streamer and editor behind the **Thursday Night Virtual Plays, Conversations, & Cocktails** that was presented over the virtual season at New Stage Theatre.

JENNA KAHLEY (Properties Designer) is from Rockford, Ill. She has a Bachelor of Arts in theatre and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing from Belhaven University. She's previously worked for Gateway Playhouse in Bellport, NY.

BRADEN GRAVES (Lighting Designer) is a scenic and lighting designer, technical director, and applied theatre researcher. Graves teaches theatre design at Belhaven University and is thrilled to be collaborating on his first show with New Stage Theatre. He received his undergraduate degree in theatre from George Fox University in Portland, Oregon, and completed his MFA training at The Ohio State University. While in Oregon, he designed and built many shows for Broadway Rose Theatre Company and served as a technical director for Woodburn High School. While in Ohio, Braden designed and built numerous productions for Actors Theatre Columbus, The Sound Company, and The Contemporary Theatre Co. He also served as a designer and fabricator for Curtis Elliott Design Ltd. Graves has received awards for his designs from the Kennedy Center for American College Theatre, the United States Institute for Theatre Technology, and the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Braden was also featured in the Emerging Artist Showcase at the USITT National Convention in 2023.

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*.

NINA FROST (Costume Assistant) is from Jackson and is a recent graduate of Belhaven University with a B.A. in theatre. She has constructed many costumes over the past three years, but her favorite was Dorothy's blue dress in *The Wizard of Oz* at Belhaven. Recently, she spent her summer at the New London Barn Playhouse in New London, N.H. as a stitcher and wardrobe crew. Frost's most recent credit was costume designer for the Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre's production of *What Every Girl Should Know*. Frost is excited to be at New Stage Theatre this season!

ANTONIO JUAREZ (Assistant Technical Director) is very excited to be taking his first few steps in the world of theatre. He is a recent graduate of Hinds Community College where he studied simulation and animation. He was raised in the Brandon area and first became involved with theatre at Northwest Rankin High School where he created costumes and set design for a production of *The Zombie Prom*. He found working in the theatre environment fulfilling and when he was offered an opportunity to work with New Stage Theatre in November 2021 making the phantom cloaks and working as the sound board operator for *A Christmas Carol*, he didn't hesitate to accept the offer. Juarez most recently designed the set for the New Stage touring production of *Junie B. Jones, The Musical* and the Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre's productions of *Blues for an Alabama Sky* and *Sunset Baby*.

VERN ALLEN+(Assistant Director/Directing Associate) is a New York based producer, director, writer, and stage manager originally born in Mississippi. He's directed and managed two touring shows, Theatre for Young Audiences, community theatre, and collegiate plays, the most recent being *All American Boys* by Jody Alperin and Vicky Crouch. He also served as second AD for Wes Miller's *A Day to Die* starring Bruce Willis and Dallas Jackson's *The System* starring Tyrese Gibson. Allen is an alumnus of Mississippi State University and the Mississippi School of the Arts, and remains a student of the game.

CAMDEN CLEM (Assistant Stage Manager) is a resident of Mississippi and student at Mississippi College where she studies English literature. At Mississippi College, she has stage managed for productions of *Little Women* and *Carmen* and has acted in productions of *Little Women* and *Godspell*. She is incredibly excited and thankful to be making her professional theatre crew debut with this show.

CREW

Lead Electrician/Running Crew	Matthew McMurtry
Assistant Director/Soundboard Operator	Vern Allen+
Assistant Stage Manager/Light Board Operator	Camden Clem
Assistant Technical Director/Running Crew	Antonio Juarez
Costume Assistant/Running Crew	Nina Frost
Production Assistant/Running Crew	Darby Frost
Properties Designer/Running Crew	Jenna Kahley
Carpenters	Dave Ellis, Jimmy 'JR' Robertson, Darby Frost
Painters	Mallory Koegel, Oliver Morgan
Charge Artist	Michael Montgomery
Production Intern	Lizzy Pelto++

+Member of the Associate Artist Company ++Millsaps College Intern

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 36 years. She recently directed *What the Constitution Means to Me*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *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 is 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.

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 50 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 eighteenth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

JERIANNA SHAW (Marketing Director) is a graduate of Mississippi State University where she received a B.A. in communication studies. This is her second season with New Stage Theatre. She currently resides in Jackson with her partner, Gray, their daughter Poppy, and their cats Pepperoni and Salami.

LIZZY DELP (Box Office Manager) 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. During her time at Belhaven, Delp acted in nine productions, including *The Illusion*, *Women of Lockerbie*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. She also directed a short feminist play called *The Twelve Pound Look*. Prior to attending Belhaven, Delp was a pre-professional ballet dancer, teacher, and choreographer. She was the resident choreographer for the Community Learning Project, and assistant to Broadway choreographers Jennifer Paulson Lee and Brandon Powers. In the U.S., she trained at Newtown Centre of Classical Ballet, Open World Dance Foundation, and Broadway Dance Center. Additionally, she trained for one summer at Moscow State Academy of Choreography. Delp is very excited to be with New Stage as box office manager, and is grateful to serve the Jackson community!

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 Professional Apprentice 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.

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 twentieth season. Marsh is employed full time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of New Stage Theatre wishes to thank the following individuals and companies for the generous donation of time and resources to this production and the 58th season.

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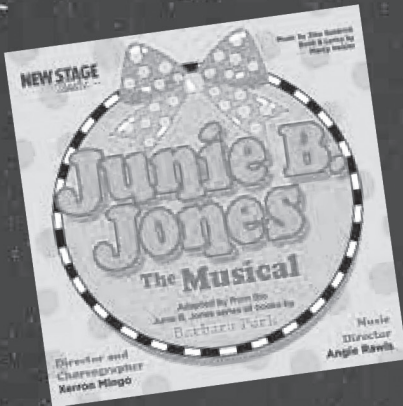
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Education Director: ext. 232

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