

Rising Toward a New Day

A Musical Revue

June 4 & 5, 2021 at 7 p.m.

ACT ONE BACK TO THE STAGE

- AS IF WE NEVER SAID GOODBYE COMPANY
From *Sunset Boulevard*
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber; Lyrics by Don Black, Christopher Hampton and Amy Powers
- ASTONISHING Kathlyn Arcemont
From *Little Women*
Music by Jason Howland; Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein
- THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM Ray McFarland
From *Man of La Mancha*
Music by Mitch Leigh; Lyrics by Joe Darion
- SHOW PEOPLE COMPANY
From *Curtains*
Music by John Kander; Lyrics by Fred Ebb
- FINISHING THE HAT Nick Perna
From *Sunday in the Park with George*
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
- OPPORTUNITY Oluchi Nwaokorie
From *Annie*
Music and Lyrics by Greg Kurstin, Sia Furiere, and William Gluck
- ONE MOMENT IN TIME Jamie Shannon Ferguson Ertle
From *The Bodyguard: The Musical*
Music and Lyrics by Albert Hammond and John Bettis
- ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN Jessica Wilkinson/COMPANY
From *Mary Poppins*
Music and Lyrics by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
- MAKE SOMEONE HAPPY Ray McFarland & Jessica Wilkinson
From *Do Re Mi*
Music by Jule Styne, Lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green
- IF I SING Sam Lovorn
From *Closer than Ever*
Music by David Shire; Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.
- YOU WILL BE FOUND COMPANY
From *Dear Evan Hansen*
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
- MAKE THEM HEAR YOU Hosea Griffith/COMPANY
From *Ragtime*
Music by Stephen Flaherty; Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens

ACT TWO HOPE FOR A NEW DAY

- COMEDY TONIGHT COMPANY
From *A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum*
Music and Lyrics Stephen Sondheim
- MAMA SAYS MEN
From *Footloose*
Music is by Tom Snow; Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
- SEASONS OF LOVE COMPANY
From *Rent*
Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson
- I GOT LOVE Vershaune Stamps
From *Purlie*
Music by Gary Geld; Lyrics by Peter Udell
- YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE HEART MEN
From *Damn Yankees*
Music by Richard Adler, Lyrics by Jerry Ross
- BEAUTIFUL Jamie Shannon Ferguson Ertle/
WOMEN
From *Beautiful*
Music and Lyrics by Carole King and Gerry Goffin
- CORNER OF THE SKY Jeffrey Cornelius/COMPANY
From *Pippin*
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz
- EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES Mandy Kate Myers/COMPANY
From *Gypsy*
Music by Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim
- BELIEVE IN YOURSELF Oluchi Nwaokorie
From *The Wiz*
Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls
- EVERYBODY REJOICE COMPANY
From *The Wiz*
Music and Lyrics by Luther Vandross

INTERMISSION

THE END

New Stage would like to thank:

Madison Central High School Band | Jackson Preparatory School and the Reveillon Show Choir | Clinton High School Arrow Singers Boosters | Tuxedo Junction
Diana Howell | Jimmy Robertson | Bronwyn Teague | Joe Frost

THE COMPANY

Director...Francine Thomas Reynolds | Music Director...Carol Joy Sparkman | Choreographer...Malaika Quarterman
Scenic Designer...Richard Lawrence | Sound Designer/Projections...Alberto Meza | Lighting Designer...Paul Sullivan
Stage Manager...Clara Seitz | Running Crew...Caleb Devaul and Nina Frost

THE SINGERS

KATHLYN ARCEMONT is originally from Madison, but is currently residing in Hattiesburg where she's pursuing a degree in music education from the University of Southern Mississippi. At USM Arcemont is a member of the Southern Chorale, the Southern Belletones, and the Southern Miss Opera and Musical Theatre Company. She also competed at the Regional Southern NATS competition where she placed 2nd in her division. Some of her favorite roles at New Stage include: Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*, Madame de la Grande Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast*, Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act*, and Margo Crawford in *Bright Star*.

JEFFREY CORNELIUS just finished his first year at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM) working on a BFA in musical theatre. Cornelius has been seen at New Stage in *A Christmas Carol*, *Aladdin, Jr.*, *Legally Blonde, Jr.*, *Singin' in the Rain, Jr.*, *Once on this Island, Jr.*, *High School Musical, Jr.*, *Our Town*, *Seussical*, and *Peter Pan*. Outside of theatre, he continues voice training, and plays the violin, viola, cello, guitar, bass, ukulele, and organ. Cornelius participated in a *SceneBot Stage Live Showcase* in Los Angeles in March 2019 and was featured in the recent HBO Max documentary *Home School Musical Class of 2020*. He looks forward to working in the industry whether it is theatre, film, music or TV.

JAMIE-SHANNON FERGUSON ERTL holds a B.M. from Mississippi College and an MFA from The Boston Conservatory. Favorite roles include: Diana in *Next to Normal*, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, and Dorothy in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. She currently teaches private voice, acting, and piano lessons. jamieshannonferguson.com @belttrash

HOSEA GRIFFITH is a recent graduate of the University of Mobile, obtaining a M.M. in vocal performance. A native of Jackson, he had the pleasure of portraying many roles in Jackson and the surrounding areas, including the roles of Pablo in *Sister Act*, Joe in *Show Boat*, and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. Other performance opportunities include: Friar Laurent in *Roméo et Juliet* and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*.

SAM LOVORN was last seen as Fred Scrooge/Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* in 2019. Lovorn is a graduate of Mississippi College with a B.A. in music education with an emphasis in voice and is currently the assistant choir director at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg. At Warren Central, Lovorn has had the privilege to help direct *Hairspray*, Disney's *Newsies*, *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Disney's *Descendants*. Some of his most recent roles include Max in *Bright Star*, Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, Race in *Newsies*, Joe in *Schoolhouse Rock! Live*, George in *I Love a Piano*, Prince Charming in *Into the Woods*, Luther Billis in *South Pacific*, Lord Farquaad in *Shrek the Musical*, and Joseph in *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

RAY MCFARLAND has appeared in numerous national tours and regional theatre productions of plays and musicals across the United States and in more forty productions here at New Stage including: *Into the Breeches*, *And Then There Were None*, *Hairspray*, *The Foreigner*, *Forever Plaid*, *Tuna Christmas*, *Red White and Tuna*, 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 teaches acting and technical theatre classes at St. Andrew's Episcopal School where he also directs the Upper School theatre productions and serves as the director of the Center for the Performing Arts.

For more staff bios, visit www.newstagetheatre.com/about/staff

MANDY KATE MYERS New Stage credits include 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*, and *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues*. She performed in *54/54/54* at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York and appeared alongside Leslie Jordan and company in New Stage's premiere staged reading of *Glory! Glory!* Other favorite roles include Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, Kate Keller 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 served as New Stage's musical director and assistant for First Stages and Broadway, Jr. Summer Camps. Most recently, she was a part of the JOOKMS workshop of new play, *Natchetoches*, by Seth McNeill. A graduate of the USM, 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.

OLUCHI NWAOKORIE has been in many shows at New Stage Theatre including *Beauty and the Beast*, *Frozen, Jr.*, and *Matilda the Musical*. She recently had the opportunity to be Andrea in the virtual educational production of *Andrea and the Lion: A Gratitude Story*. In 2020, she was named a National YoungArts winner in theatre and recently named a top three finalist in Broadway Worlds Next On Stage competition. This fall she will be attending the University of Michigan and she is very excited to be back doing theatre LIVE AND IN PERSON!

NICHOLAS PERNA has appeared multiple times with Opera Mississippi and was a recent finalist for the American Prize for Men in Opera (2020). Operatic credits include Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, The Duke in *Rigoletto*, Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'amore*, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*, and Tamino in *The Magic Flute*. His musical theater roles include Gaylord Ravenal in *Show Boat*, Curly in *Oklahoma*, and Nanki Poo in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*. Symphonic appearances include Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, Beethoven's *Symphony no. 9*, Handel's *Messiah*, & Orff's *Carmina Burana*. Perna holds degrees from the Univ. of Miami and the Univ. of Houston. He is associate professor of voice and voice pedagogy at Miss. College, a Presser Music Foundation awardee, and a voice research associate at UMMC. Perna has presented voice acoustics research on three continents. Publications include articles in *Journal of Singing*, *Journal of Voice*, and *VOICEprints*. He is the creator and co-host of the *VocalFri Podcast*, <http://www.vocalfri.com>.

VERSHAUNE STAMPS is a Jackson native and graduated from Tougaloo College in 2018 with a B.A. in music performance. Her theater experience includes playing Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Alberta/Catherine in *Colored People's Time*, both performed with Tougaloo College's performance ensemble, Encore, under the direction of Kimberly Morgan-Myles. Stamp's first show at New Stage was in *Sister Act: The Musical* in 2018.

JESSICA WILKINSON was last seen at New Stage in *Into the Breeches*. A SAG-AFTRA actor from the Jackson area, some favorite New Stage credits include Mother Superior in *Sister Act*, Truvy in *Steel Magnolias*, Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker*, and Percy in *The Spitfire Grill*. Other favorite shows include *Best of Enemies*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Hairspray*, *The Foreigner*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The 39 Steps*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Annie*. Select feature film credits include *The Livingston Gardener*, *Starve, As I Lay Dying*, *Joe Dirt 2*, and *I Killed My BFF*, working with actors such as James Franco, James Kyson, Tim Blake Nelson, James Caan, and David Spade. Wilkinson has a M.A. in English and previously taught high school English and theatre arts at Florence High. During that time, she was awarded Distinguished Arts Educator in Theatre Arts by the MS Alliance for Arts Education. She now teaches English and public speaking at Jackson Prep. www.imdb.me/JessicaLemonWilkinson

THE BAND

PAUL HEINDL 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.

JOHN JACKSON graduated Magna Cum Laude earning both a B.A. and M.A. in guitar performance from The University of Georgia. He has won several awards as a guitar performer including first prize in The Georgia Music Teachers Association Competition, and has taught multiple competition winning students. Jackson currently teaches guitar as a member of the music faculty at Hinds Community College, serves as chair of the guitar area of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association, and performs regularly around the area.

BEN WILLIAMS is a composer in central Mississippi and the chair of the department of music at Mississippi College where he has been teaching since 2010. Raised in Northeast Ohio, Williams earned degrees in music composition from The Ohio State University (D.M.A.) and The University of Akron (B.M. and M.M.). Williams also performs locally with the jazz ensemble Brick Street Trio and New JXN, a group dedicated to modern classical music performed with local musicians.

TIM MOAK lives in Madison and enjoys playing piano and keyboard for New Stage musicals, productions, and other special events. Moak received a B.M. and M.M. in choral conduction from Mississippi College. He has served as public school music educator, piano teacher, church music minister, accompanist, choral clinician, and adjudicator. Moak is currently a university development counselor for Grand Canyon University, where he loves assisting adults in reaching their educational goals.

CAROL JOY SPARKMAN is the director of choral music at Clinton High School, 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. 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 BMusEd and a M.M. in vocal coaching/accompanying degrees from Mississippi College. She is a founding member of a collaborative national team who has established service-learning partnerships for continuing education in choral music. The team travels each summer to work with South African music educators and choirs. She serves on the MS ACDA board as repertoire and resource chair for contemporary and commercial and is the southeast regional director for the A Cappella Education Association. She is a vocal coach and has been the musical director for numerous past New Stage Theatre productions.