



A love letter to our constitution!



What the Constitution Means to Me

by
**Heidi
Schreck**



Directed by
Francine Thomas Reynolds

Oct. 24 – Nov. 5, 2023

Sponsored by
**LINDA AND JOHN
SCHMIDT**

NEW STAGE
Theatre

Costume Designer
Caleb Blackwell

Lighting Designer
Matthew McMurtry

Technical Director
& Scenic Designer
Richard Lawrence

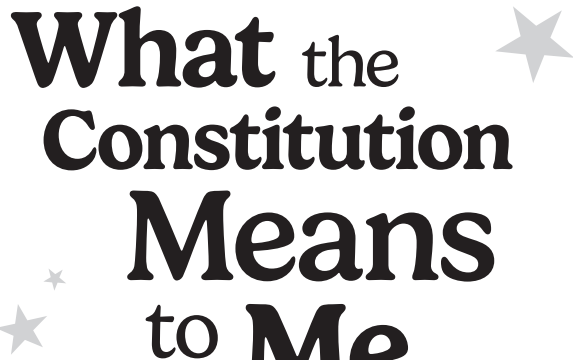
Production Stage Manager
Mattea Pierce

Properties Designer
Jenna Kahley

Sound Designer
Alberto Meza



What the Constitution Means to Me



This production originated as part of Summerworks in June and July 2017,
produced by Clubbed Thumb in partnership with True Love Productions.

West Coast premiere produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA,
Tony Taccone, Artistic Director/Susan Medak, Managing Director.

What the Constitution Means to Me had its Off-Broadway premiere
in New York City at New York Theatre Workshop,

Jim Nicola, Artistic Director, Jeremy Blocker, Managing Director,
2018 Additional material by: Danny Wolohan

“What the Constitution Means to Me” is presented by arrangement with
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WARNING:

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Content Advisory: Topics include discriminatory language and discussion of race, age, gender,
ethnicity, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, abortion, physical and emotional abuse, and mental illness.

SCENE

Post 10 Legion Hall Wenatchee, WA

PERFORMANCE DATES

The House Cast

October 25, 26, 29, and November, 1, 2, 3, 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
October 29 and November 1, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The Senate Cast

October 24, 27, 28, 31 and November 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
October 25, 28 and November 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

THE HOUSE CAST

Jenn Harris Heidi
John Howell..... Mike
Morgan McKay+Debater

THE SENATE CAST

Marci Duncan..... Heidi
Evan McCarley Mike
Rhen TanakaDebater

SUPREME COURT CASES

In order of appearance:

Griswold v. Connecticut (1965) Library of Congress

Justice Potter Stewart
William I. Emerson
Justice Earl Warren

Castle Rock v. Gonzales (2005) Library of Congress

Justice Antonin Scalia
John C. Eastman
Justice Stephen Breyer

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Women in the Criminal Division: (PBS NewsHour, 2015)

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Debater: Lauryn Smith; Stand-in for Heidi: Jade K. Dyer+; Stand-in for Mike: Paul Pelletier, Jr. +

+Member of the Associate Artist Company

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Constitution of the United States of America

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.” – *Preamble to the Constitution*

During the summer of 1787, four years after the end of the Revolutionary War, 55 men gathered in what is now called Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their task, as seen in retrospect, was to create a constitution to define the powers, duties and laws of the U.S. federal government and guarantee certain rights to its people. Since 1781, the law of the land had been defined by the Articles of Confederation. Some delegates went into the Philadelphia meeting with grander ideas than others about what their work could achieve, and it wasn't long before the group realized they needed — and were in fact working to create — an entirely new document.

The issues debated and argued into the wee hours for weeks on end are now legendary, and their legacies are still present today: slavery, states' rights and proportional versus equal representation to a federal government by states of varying sizes. But as imperfect and full of compromise as the result of that summer's work was, the Constitution of the United States of America was a remarkable document that greatly improved on the Articles.

One of the things I really enjoy about working in theatre is that we are constantly asking questions and tackling new ideas. Doors to new topics are continually being opened. The *What the Constitution Means to Me* company and I have learned much while working on Heidi Shreck's play. I have become very curious about the consequences of historical decisions influencing us all. Although the play examines our country's history with a critical eye, I do not believe it is a political diatribe. Shreck's story reveals her great love for the Constitution and our country. Although the title of the play is a statement, it also holds questions for the curious. What does the constitution mean to you? To all of us? In her play, Heidi Shreck invites us to be curious about some of the most essential questions we face as citizens of United States and about our democracy. It is an invitation to engage in vital conversation. *What the Constitution Means to Me* leaves me with hope that even in this country, with its very diverse citizenry; we can agree that everyone deserves equal love, respect, protection and affirmation of our basic human rights. To quote Shreck herself, that “We the People” all belong in the preamble.

Sincerely,
Francine Thomas Reynolds
Artistic Director

The Constitution itself provides for the circumstances under which it can be amended. An amendment may be proposed by Congress and submitted to the states if it is approved by two-thirds of both houses of Congress. Or, if two-thirds of state legislatures propose a convention to amend the Constitution, Congress must call that convention. Either way, an approved amendment needs to be ratified by three-fourths of state legislatures to take effect.

The first 10 amendments, called the Bill of Rights, were proposed by Congress in September 1789 and certified in December 1791. The Constitution has been amended 27 times; the most recent amendment was ratified in May 1992.

Heidi Schreck's *What the Constitution Means to Me* focuses particularly on the Ninth Amendment, part of the Bill of Rights, and the Fourteenth Amendment, ratified after the Civil War.

MEET THE PLAYWRIGHT: HEIDI SCHRECK



Heidi: “I started with an idea: to recreate the contest, and my 15-year-old self. That just seemed like a fun, juicy premise for a play. I had no idea where it would go – I mean, I had an inkling of how my rapid optimism as a 15-year-old would compare to my realism in my 30s, when I started writing the play, I knew that I loved extemporaneous speaking, so a lot of the show was developed extemporaneously. I knew I loved the challenge of the contest, which was to figure out how to find personal anecdotes in story and memoir that actually connected with the Constitution. I knew how difficult that was.

Then I really followed the premise as far as I could go. In the process, I ended up unearthing a lot of new stuff about my family and revisiting a lot of old trauma, particularly with my mom. The conversations between my mom and I have been fascinating and, I think, pretty transformative. Our relationship, has transformed because of it.

So I really was just following that question: What would it mean to make the Constitution personal for myself now?

Creating the show was a way for me to understand how the Constitution affected my life, the lives of people I love and my family... I realized that in order to take the prompt seriously, I would need to talk about things that were difficult for me. It got a little bit scary when I realized that I would have to explore those things.. It's obviously been amended many times, although it hasn't been since (1992).. It's difficult to get an amendment passed, but I do think if people understood more deeply how their human rights were affected by Supreme Court cases that maybe there would be a bigger movement to pass amendments.

Excerpts From

“How to write an angry, hopeful play about the Constitution.” *Vox*, Oct 16, 2018, www.vox.com/culture/2018/10/16/17942312/what-constitution-means-to-me-heidi-schreck-interview

“What Pulitzer-finalist Heidi Schreck wishes people knew about the Constitution.” *Today*, November 23, 2020, www.today.com/tmrw/what-heidi-schreck-wishes-people-knew-about-constitution-t199637



THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members and more than 12,000 posts in communities throughout America. The American Legion was established by an act of Congress in 1919.

The American Legion's mission state is: To enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness. The American Legion's motto is "The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America."
<https://www.legion.org/mission>

THE AMERICAN LEGION ORATORIAL CONTEST

– “A CONSTITUTIONAL SPEECH CONTEST”

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship. Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarship, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on assigned topic also are part of the contest.
<https://www.legion.org/oratorical/about>

THE CAST



MARCI J. DUNCAN (Heidi) earned a BA in performance at Florida A&M University and her masters in acting at the University of Florida. She studied television and film acting with Evonne Suhor at Orlando's Art Sake Acting Studio. Marci's film work includes *(Just) Another Day* co-starring with Jamie Hectar from HBO's *The Wire* and *Life is not a Fairytale: The Fantasia Barrino Story*, working with Debbie Allen and Fantasia Barrino. Marci just completed the ABC network series, *What Would You Do* and *What the Constitution Means to Me* at New Stage

Theatre. Marci is currently on tour with her new original play, *DISSONANCE* that she wrote and co produced. Marci serves as the Florida Theatre Conference President and is also the audition coordinator for the Southeastern Theatre Conference.



JENN HARRIS (Heidi) is excited to return to New Stage to work on this amazing project! At NST, she was last seen as Elsa Schraeder in *The Sound of Music*, and before that as Miss Scarlet in *Clue*, Mrs. Wormwood in *Matilda*, Miss Shields in *A Christmas Story*, Mason/Maurice in *Madagascar*, and *The Robber Bridegroom*. She has performed in a myriad of locales throughout the country. Locally, Jenn has been seen in FTW's *A Very Sordid Wedding* as Sissy and *Avenue Q* as Christmas Eve, BRTC's *Crazy for You* as Irene, *Smokey Joe's Café* at Actor's Playhouse, *The*

Rocky Horror Show with FTW, and New Stage Unframed's *A Mouth Full of Birds* and *Smart People*. Favorites elsewhere include *Miss Saigon* (Kim), *Oliver!* (Nancy), *The Secret Garden* (Martha), *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales), *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marcy Park), and *Brigadoon* (Meg Brockie). Harris holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theatre from the University of Northern Colorado. Many thanks to my civics nerd husband Josh for helping me understand the Constitution!



JOHN HOWELL (Mike) most recently appeared at New Stage as Mr. Green in *Clue* and Ed in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. He played Henslowe in *Shakespeare in Love*, Mr. Blore in *And Then There Were None*, Hubert Humphrey in *All the Way*, and Dr. Watson in both *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club* and *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*. Other NST credits include *Mrs. Mannerly*, *All My Sons*, *The Crucible*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Noises Off*. He and his wife Diana are co-founders of Fondren Theatre Workshop, where

his credits include *Through the Looking-Glass* (writer/director/actor), *The Monster Monologues* (co-writer/actor), and *The Winter's Tale* (director/actor). His favorite non-New Stage roles were George in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Henry in *The Lion in Winter*, and Elwood Dowd in *Harvey*. Howell has recently retired from Casey Elementary School, where he was the arts coordinator and drama teacher for 25 years.

actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *What the Constitution Means to Me* following the show on Wednesday, October 25, Friday, Oct.27, and Wednesday, November 1, after the evening performances. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



EVAN McCARLEY (Mike) is thrilled to be re-joining New Stage. He previously appeared in the 2019-2020 season's production of *Into the Breeches*, the 2017-2018 season's productions of *Silent Sky* and *Shakespeare in Love*, as well as that season's Unframed Series productions of *Gloria and Sylvia*. He wishes to thank Francine and the entire cast and crew for this incredible experience.



MORGAN MCKAY+ (Debater/Acting Associate) is a recent graduate from Liberty University with a BFA in musical theatre, where some of her favorite roles included Harriet Smith in the musical *Emma*, Charlotte in *Oliver!*, and Rebecca Gibbs in *Our Town*. In 2022, she was the co-director of creative and performing arts at Sandy Hill Summer Camp, and this past summer she was an actor and improv teacher at WinShape Camps for Girls in Georgia. She is looking forward to working with such a wonderful group of artists at New Stage Theatre. She would like to thank her parents for all of their love and support, and God for His unconditional love and the gifts and passion He has given her.



LAURYN SMITH (Debater U.S.) is a 13 year old actress from Jackson, Miss. She has participated in Broadway Jr. Camp since 2022 and has been in *Mean Girls, Jr.* and *Children of Eden, Jr.* During the 2022- 2023 school year, she directed a musical for her school called *Willy Wonka, Jr.* She is a part of the Wells APAC theater program and enjoys it very much. She attends Bailey APAC Middle School and aspires to direct more and more in the future.

Mini-Flexi Passes make great
Christmas presents.



RHEN TANAKA (Debater) is overjoyed to return to the main stage! They are 16-years-old and a junior at St. Andrew's. Recently, they have been in *Mean Girls, Jr.* (Cady Heron), *The Sound of Music* (Young Nun), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), and *A Christmas Carol* (Suzanne Cratchit) at New Stage, and *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow) and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Anne) at St. Andrew's. Tanaka has attended New Stage camps and classes since 2012 and is excited to reunite with familiar faces and meet fantastic new ones! Thank you to my

parents for always believing in me.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Director/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 *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.

MATTEA PIERCE (Production Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from Belhaven University with a BFA in acting and a B.A. in graphic design. Some past Belhaven production credits include: *The Spitfire Grill* (Stage Manager), *The Wizard of Oz* (Projections Design), and *Steel Magnolias* (Hair and Makeup Design).

RICHARD LAWRENCE (Technical Director/Scenic 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 (Resident Sound Designer/Lead Electrician/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 projections 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.

MATTHEW MCMURTRY (Lighting Designer) is a recent graduate at 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 (Assistant Costumer) 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 Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre’s production of *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.

CREW

Lead Electrician/Covid Safety Manager	Alberto Meza
Assistant Director	Vern Allen+
Assistant Technical Director	Antonio Juarez
Costume Assistant	Nina Frost
Production Assistant	Darby Frost
Carpenters.....	Jimmy ‘JR’ Robertson
Running Crew.....	Jade K. Dyer+, Baxter Evans III+, Paul Pelletier, Jr., Lizzy Peltó++
Painter	Michael Montgomery

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

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 48 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!

XERRON MINGO (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.

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.

A special thank you to Post 79 in Wesson, MS! Thank you for your service!

Charles Langley
Gale Gordon
R.V. Martin
Boots Box
Johnny Bracey
Robert Gosa
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James Shannon

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Jimmy Smith
John Smith
Mitchell Smith
Keith Souther
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Clark Stafford
Bateman Stilley
Charles Swaney
William Sweatman
Bobby Tanksley
Melissa Tanksley
Donald Thedford
Eugene Therrell
Paul Thornhill
Bobby Thornton
Kenneth Thornton
George Upton

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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.

ACLU of MS

Sonya White Cowen

Hannah Fields

Sharon Langley

League of Women Voters –

Jackson

Mahri McLean

MS Votes

Amy Smith

ACLU
Mississippi

Thank you to the ACLU of Mississippi for providing all of the pocket-sized Constitutions for this production!

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*
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lwv-ms.org/jackson-area-mississippi

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to spread
Christmas Cheer
is singing loud
for all to hear!

— Buddy

November 30
— December 21, 2023

NEW STAGE
Theatre



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New Stage depends on the support of volunteers to keep the curtain rising.

You can make a difference by giving a few hours of your time. Some jobs require a regular commitment throughout the season, say once or twice per show; others are assigned “as needed.” If you have a little free time and want to get involved, there are many opportunities available from ushering to scenic painting, poster hanging to ticket taking.

There is bound to be a job for YOU!

Check out our website at www.newstagetheatre.com/about/volunteers



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THE JANE REID PETTY THEATRE CENTER

1100 Carlisle • Jackson, Mississippi 39202

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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

Box Office: ext. 222

Artistic Director: ext. 224

Managing Director: ext. 246

Marketing Director: ext. 225

Education Director: ext. 232

Website: www.newstagetheatre.com

Email: mail@newstagetheatre.com

New Stage Theatre is a Constituent of Theatre Communication Group (TCG),
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