

## Who's Who in the *When We Were Young and Unafraid*



**Rhen Tanaka (Penny)** is thrilled to be joining New Stage Theatre's Unframed season again! She is currently a senior at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Her credits include *Sister Act Jr.*, *As You Like It*, *The Secret Garden: Spring Version*, *What the Constitution Means to Me*, and *The Sound of Music* at New Stage and its various opportunities. At school, she has been in *Eurydice*, *The Addams Family*, *Fin and Euba*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*. She gives all of her love and thanks to the cast and crew of this show, and to her family and friends for their endless support and belief in her.



**Gwyn Weber (Hannah)** is a Drawing/ Painting Major at USM, and they are also a Theater minor! They are currently taking a gap year in order to study and act on their own time. They last performed as Lady Montague/Apothecary/Friar John in *Romeo and Juliet are Drunk* with Hattiesburg Community Theater. This is their New Stage debut, and they couldn't be more excited to perform with us! Gwyn thanks their family, their friends, and their loving partner for being so supportive!

UP NEXT IN NEW STAGE'S 59TH SEASON:

*Million Dollar Quartet Christmas* by Colin Escott

December 4-23

UP NEXT IN THE UNFRAMED SERIES:

*Fairview* by Jackie Sibblies Drury

January 24-26

UNFRAMED AT NEW STAGE THEATRE PRESENTS:

# WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND UNAFRAID

*By Sarah Treem*

Directed by Ashlyn Pinkerton

NOVEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> & 23<sup>RD</sup> 7:30pm

NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> 2:00pm, 2024

NEW STAGE'S WAREHOUSE THEATRE  
1000 MONROE ST. JACKSON, MS

TICKETS ONLINE OR BY PHONE \$10

TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$15

[WWW.NEWSTAGETHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.NEWSTAGETHEATRE.COM)

601.948.3533 EXT 222

WARNING: ADULT THEMES, LANGUAGE, AND CONTENT



# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I was introduced to *When We Were Young and Unafraid* during college in a contemporary scene study class. From the beginning, I was intrigued by the show's simple and naturalistic dialogue and its honest portrayal of the intense content and themes of the story. Throughout the past few years, the play has stayed with me. Initially it was due to the great selection of audition monologues to choose from, but then I noticed the empathy that envelops the story.

When I was preparing to direct this play, it was very important to me that these characters were treated with as much compassion possible despite any of their choices. These five characters lead very separate lives with different ideologies. We see them make choices and mistakes and discover who they are. We watch all of these women affect one another and challenge each other. In an era of history where independence, autonomy, protection, and the power and confidence to speak your mind were not given to women, their actions and decisions are a direct and indirect response to this oppression. Hannah's response is aggressive, violent, and forceful, while Mary Anne's is submissive, passive, and seemingly amicable. I hope that as you watch the story that you do not judge or condemn these characters but rather empathize with them and see yourself and the women you love through them.

I am grateful to New Stage for giving me this opportunity to put on this show, and I am so appreciative to this hardworking cast and crew. Directing this show has been a challenge I have welcomed and learned immensely from as an artist. Shows like this are why I want to be a storyteller, to give a voice to the voiceless and to show things that are important. I thank God, my family, and friends who have lovingly supported me in my work!

Now watch and listen and let yourself cry.

Warm regards,  
Ashlyn

WHEN WE WERE  
YOUNG AND  
UNAFRAID  
BY SARAH TREEM

*Directed by Ashlyn Pinkerton*

*Original Song by Sarah Treem and Patch Darragh*

Originally produced by the Manhattan Theatre Club,  
Lynne Meadow, Artistic Director, Barry Grove,  
Executive Producer on May 21, 2014.

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG AND UNAFRAID is presented by  
special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,  
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection.  
([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

# CAST

Agnes.....DeShadrian Hopkins  
Penny.....Rhen Tanaka  
Mary Anne.....Mahri McLean  
Paul.....Jacob Heuer  
Hannah.....Gwyn Weber

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Ashlyn Pinkerton  
Stage Manager.....Tatiana Grace  
Dramaturg.....Tessa Bierle  
Co-Scenic Designer.....Darby Frost  
Co-Scenic Designer.....Nessa Koegal  
Sound Designer.....Keith Allen Davis, Jr.  
Light Designer.....Jacob Heuer  
Properties.....Cameron Vipperman  
Poster Design.....Mattea Pierce  
Marketing.....Casey Nelms  
Sound Board Operator.....Keith Allen Davis, Jr.  
Light Board Operator.....Tatiana Grace  
Light/Sound Consultant.....Alberto Meza

# NEW STAGE STAFF

Artistic Director.....Francine Reynolds  
Unframed Producer/Education Director.....Xerron Mingo  
Production Manager.....Casey Nelms  
Technical Director.....Richard Lawrence





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**Jacob Heuer (Paul)** graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BFA in Acting for the Stage and Screen. In college, he starred in a number of UM Theatre productions, including performing as Mr. Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors*, The Baker in *Into the Woods*, G/Zeus in *Polaroid Stories*, Mr. Callahan in *Legally Blonde*, Robert in *Boeing Boeing*, and Mr. Laurence in *Little Women the Musical*. In the summer seasons of 2023 and 2024, he performed professionally as Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma!* and as Oliver Hix in *The Music Man* at the Gertrude C. Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Jacob has spent the last year working as an acting intern at the Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers, Florida, and is looking forward to working with a new group of artists at New Stage Theatre.



**DeShadrian Hopkins (Agnes)**, a Mississippi native, has lit up stages with her enthusiasm at JSU, Hattiloo, and beyond. Her favorite roles so far have been Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and Gloria in *Building The Wall*. DeShadrian is excited to be back on stage and to be working with such a talented cast! When she's not acting or on interesting adventures (like jumping out of planes), you can find her tucked away with her comfort shows, hot tea, and her kitties.



**Mahri Emma McLean (Mary Anne)** is a 2023 graduate of Belhaven University's theatre performance program. Recent credits include *The Secret Garden* (Lily u/s), *Cinderella* (Fairy Godmother), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel, Cinderella's Mother), and *The Spitfire Grill* (Shelby Thorpe). Mahri currently works here at New Stage Theatre as the Box Office Manager, and is eternally grateful for the opportunity to both work in and perform in live theatre full time. To the women in the audience-- "Never be so polite you forget your power." - Taylor Swift.