New Stage
Theatre
Presents

CHRISTMAS

CAROL
A
GHOST STORY

by Charles Dickens adapted by Michael Wilson directed by Peppy Biddy

musical director Carol Joy Sparkman choreographer Drew Stark

> EBENEZER SCROOGE

December 3-22, 2019

Sponsored by



FIRST COMMERCIAL BANK

44 St. Domini

St. Dominic's

NEW STAGE

OF CHRISTMAS

Stage Manager Josh Harris Production Manager / Lighting Designer Bronwyn Teague

Scenic Designer Chris Rich Technical Director Richard Lawrence

Costume Designer Caleb Blackwell Properties Designer Marie Venters

Sound Design and Original Music John Gromada



By Charles Dickens Adapted by Michael Wilson

Originally produced by the Alley Theatre, Houston, Texas, Gregory Boyd, Artistic Director; Paul R. Tetreault, Managing Director

Sound Design and Original Music by John Gromada

"A CHRISTMAS CAROL – A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York."

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Theatrical Fog and Smoke are used in this production

There will be one 15-minute intermission

Please silence your cell phone

THE SETTING

London, 1843

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THE CAST (in order of appearance)

	EBENEZER SCROOGE	Turner Crumbley*	
	MRS. DILBER/PARTY GUEST	Jenn Harris	
	BOB CRATCHIT	Christopher Sferra	
	FRED/YOUNG SCROOGE	Sam Lovorn	
	FIRST SOLICITOR/UNDERTAKER/PARTY GUEST		
	SECOND SOLICITOR/MR. FEZZIWIG	Christan McLaurine	
	DOLL VENDOR (MRS. PIDGEON)/SPIRIT OF CHRISTMA	S PAST Mandy Kate Myers	
	FRUIT VENDOR (BERT)/SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PRES	ENT Joseph Frost	
	CLOCK VENDOR (MR. MARVEL)/PARTY GUEST/		
	SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE		
	THE GHOST OF JACOB MARLEY/OLD JOE	Chris Roebuck	
	MRS. FEZZIWIG/WEALTHY WOMAN		
	BELLE/FRED'S WIFE	Jaymi Horn	
	DICK WILKINS/MR. TOPPER/APPARITION	Kyle Devin Hunter	
	MRS. CRATCHIT/BEGGAR WOMAN/	Malaika Quarterman	
	APPARITION/PARTY GUEST		
	FIDDLER/APPARITION		
	APPARITION/PARTY GUEST		
	APPARITION/PARTY GUEST		
	APPARITION/PARTY GUEST/FRED'S SISTER-IN-LAW.		
	SWING	Avery Stallings	
VOLITH ENCEMBLE			
YOUTH ENSEMBLE			
	APPARITION/CELLIST		
	TINY TIM /BOY SCROOGE		
	URCHIN/WANT/PARTY GUEST	Rivka Quarterman	
	URCHIN/TEEN SCROOGE/ Mars	shall Robertson†, Darby Frost††	
	PETER CRATCHIT/PARTY GUEST		
	URCHIN/FAN/BELINDA/PARTY GUESTKen	dra Quarterman†, Lucy Jones††	
	URCHIN/ SCHOOL BOY/PARTY GUEST Willis	Thigpen†, Jameson Williams††	
	URCHIN/SCHOOL BOY/TURKEY BOY/IGNORANCE	Nehemiah Thompson	

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' 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 Mrs. Dilber/Party Guest/ Doll Vendor (Mrs. Pidgeon)/Spirit of Christmas Past/ Mrs. Cratchit/Beggar Woman/Apparition/Party Guest: Ellie Boisseau; For Fred/Young Scrooge: Cameron Pitre; For Second Solicitor/Mr. Fezziwig/Fruit Vendor (Bert)/Spirit Of Christmas Present: Kyle Devin Hunter; For The Ghost of Jacob Marley/Old Joe: Christopher Sferra; For Mrs. Fezziwig/Wealthy Woman: Jaymi Horn; For Belle/Fred's Wife: Avery Stallings; For Dick Wilkins/Mr. Topper/Apparition: Zion Wood; For Apparition/Party Guest/Fred's Sister-in-law: Jasmine Rivera

†December 5, 6, 7, 11, 15, 19, and 21 • ††December 8, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, and 22

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A HISTORY OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT NEW STAGE THEATRE

This year's production of *A Christmas Carol* will be our 25th season to produce this holiday favorite for our Jackson audiences. New Stage first produced *A Christmas Carol* in 1984; the version was adapted by Peter DeLaurier and was directed by John R. Briggs. Over the years, New Stage has presented five different adaptations of the classic tale. Former Artistic Director Ivan Rider's adaptation has been produced the most with 18 productions, as well as adaptations by Peter DeLaurier (twice), John Jakes (once), Richard Hellensen (twice), and this year's version adapted by Michael Wilson was also produced last season.

Everyone's favorite Dickensian miser, Ebenezer Scrooge, has been played by only a few New Stage familiar actors: Bill Hill (nine times), Jay Unger (eight times), Bill Ford Campbell (three times), David Spencer (twice), and Terry Sneed (once). This will be Turner Crumbley's second time playing Scrooge. The show has been directed by 13 different directors; Ivan Rider (five times), Patrick Benton (four times), Chris Roebuck (two times), Francine Reynolds (two times), Samual Sparks (two times), and once each for John Briggs, Peter DeLaurier, Denise Halbach, Russell Luke, Kate Roselle, Marianne Savell, and Turner Crumbley. Peppy Biddy is the 14th director and this is his second time to direct the show.

We would love to hear your *A Christmas Carol* stories! Please post to our Facebook, Twitter, and/or Instagram.

THE CAST



ELLIE BOISSEAU (Apparition/Party Guest/Fred's Sister-in-law) is a graduate of University of Memphis with a BFA in theatre with a concentration in musical theatre. She is excited to be a part of this theatre community, and to be an apprentice at New Stage Theatre. Favorite credits include: *The Sparrow* (Emily Book), *Nine* (Luisa Contini), *Othello* (Desdemona), *The Servant of Two Masters* (Clarice), and *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel). She gives thanks to her family for their everlasting

support, to Blake and his unwavering love, and all her friends who've lifted her up through thick and thin.

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JEFFREY CORNELIUS (Apparition/Cellist) is currently a junior at Murrah High School. He is excited to be returning to the company of *A Christmas Carol* this holiday season! Cornelius was most recently seen as Aladdin in *Aladdin, Jr.* Other favorite roles at New Stage include Wally Webb (*Our Town*), Jojo (*Seussical*), Tootles (*Peter Pan*), and Young Scrooge/Edward Cratchit (*A Christmas Carol*). Outside of theatre, he enjoys doing several activities such as speech and

debate, APAC orchestra as a cellist, and choir. Cornelius would like to thank his family for all their support and sacrifice.



TURNER CRUMBLEY* (Ebenezer Scrooge) Previous New Stage credits: over two dozen productions, including *The 39 Steps, Dracula, To Kill a Mockingbird, 33 Variations, Red, White & Tuna,* and *Gutenberg! The Musical!* Further acting work includes *Big River* (Mill Mountain Theatre), *Beauty and the Beast* (Jefferson Perf. Arts), *Unnecessary Farce* (St. Michael's Playhouse), *A Tuna Christmas* (Cape May Stage), *The Minute Men* (Great American Melodrama), and *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Stage One). Movie

Credits: *Bad Moms*, *21 Jump Street*, *Contraband*, and *Strange Weather*. Crumbley also directed New Stage's 2016 production of *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, the theatre's 50th Anniversary production of *A Christmas Carol*, and the Unframed productions *The Good Thief* and *Welcome to the Moon*. Laurel, Miss. native. USM graduate. For my family. turnercrumbley.com



ANDREW FEHRENBACHER (Fiddler/Apparition) is delighted to return to New Stage for *A Christmas Carol*! Credits include: *Bright Star* (Dr. Norquist), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), *A Christmas Carol* (Fiddler/Apparition), and *Sister Act* at New Stage Theatre; *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), *Les Miserables* (Jean Prouvaire), *Showboat* (Steven Baker), and *Die Fledermaus* at Mississippi College Opera & Music Theatre; *Find Me*

(Male 1) at New Stage Unframed, and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Fiddler) at Jackson Academy. A classically trained violinist since the age of five, Fehrenbacher regularly plays at weddings, churches, and special events around Mississippi. Love to Mary.

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DARBY FROST (Urchin/Teen Scrooge/Peter Cratchit/Party Guest) is the son of Joe and Shannon Frost and the brother of Nina, Emory, Beau, and Violet. Frost is an 11th grade homeschool student (taking academic classes with ReACHE) and enjoys involvement in New Stage's Youth Acting Troupe and summer camps. He was involved with the Belhaven University Arts Camp for many years and has performed in four Christmas Carols at New Stage Theatre,

Peter Pan, Legally Blonde, Jr., Singin' in the Rain, Jr., Once on this Island, Jr., Aladdin, Jr., and Frozen, Jr. He enjoys YouTube and DND in his spare time.



JOSEPH FROST (Fruit Vendor, Bert/Spirit of Christmas Present) lives in Jackson, with his wife Shannon, and their children Nina, Darby, Emory, Beau, and Violet. He has previously appeared at New Stage Theatre in *Million Dollar Quartet*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Peter Pan*, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Hell in High Water*, and *A Christmas Carol*, as well as the UnFramed productions of *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, *Betrayal*, and *White Rabbit Red Rabbit*. As a

writer, Frost's plays have been staged around the country, including the premieres in Jackson of the comedies *The Mayfair Affair* and *Mayfair Ma Chére* and soon *Big Mama's Kitchen* with Hearth and Mantel Theatre in February 2020. He has been the chair of the board of directors of Christians in Theatre Arts, serves on the Playwriting Committee of the Southeastern Theatre Conference, and is interim co-chair and Professor of Theatre at Belhaven University.



JENN HARRIS (Mrs. Dilber/Party Guest) is ecstatic to join this phenomenal company! Locally, Harris has appeared in *A Christmas Story: The Musical* (Miss Shields), *Madagascar* (Mason/Maurice), and *The Robber Bridegroom* at New Stage; *The Music Man* (Marian Paroo), 12 Angry Jurors (Juror 7) and Crazy for You (Irene) at Black Rose Theatre; and Avenue Q (Christmas Eve) with Fondren Theatre Workshop. Other favorites from other

parts of the country include *Miss Saigon* (Kim), *Oliver!* (Nancy), *The Secret Garden* (Martha), *Assassins* (Sara Jane Moore), *A Chorus Line* (Diana Morales), *Brigadoon* (Meg Brockie), *Oklahoma!* (Ado Annie), and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Marcy Park). Harris holds a BFA in musical theatre from the University of Northern Colorado.

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ETHAN HARTFIELD (Tiny Tim/Boy Scrooge) is very excited to be reprising his role as Tiny Tim and returning to New Stage with such an amazing cast. Hartfield began acting at the age of six when he appeared in the Northwest Rankin Elementary production of *Three Piggy Opera* as The Big Bad Wolf. He has appeared in several other productions at NWRE and other venues including playing Commander Clawhands in a Drama Kids International

production of *Bold Buccaneers*, a juggler in *Aladdin, Kids*, Green Bird in *Winnie the Pooh, Kids*, and *Sneetches* as Thing One. Hartfield loves reading, writing, Presidential history, and comics. He would like to thank his mom and dad for their encouragement and support.



JAYMI HORN (Belle/Fred's Wife) is a recent graduate of Ohio Northern University where she received a BFA in musical theatre. She is extremely excited about the opportunity to work at New Stage Theatre. Some of her favorite theatrical roles include Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar, Lucy in Elysium, and #2 in The Wolves. Other theatrical credits include Romeo and Juliet, Young Frankenstein, and Lysistrata. She would like to thank her

family for their unwavering support and she would also like to thank the members of MT19 for their never-ending encouragement.



KYLE DEVIN HUNTER (Dick Wilkins/Mr. Topper/Apparition) is from Tallahassee, Fla. and graduated from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) with a BFA in theatre arts with a minor in philosophy and religion. Hunter made his Essential Theatre debut in *Dumb Waiter* (Gus). He has since been seen in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Gooper), *Akeelah and The Bee* (JT), *Change It Up! Live Out Loud* (Ensemble), and *Sing on Ms. Griot*

(Kimathi). Hunter was also cast in *In the Red and Brown Water* (Ogun Size) and nominated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival competition. He has also been a reoccurring ensemble member in the 32nd, 33rd, and 34th Edition of The FAMU Connection.

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LUCY JONES (Urchin/Fan/Belinda Cratchit/Party Guest) is excited to return to New Stage in her second season of *A Christmas Carol*. Jones is a sixth grade honor student at Germantown Middle School, where she is a member of the choir and Beta Club. Recently, Jones appeared in *Dorothy in Wonderland* (Cowardly Lion) with Mississippi Children's Musical Theatre. When she is not on stage, Jones enjoys creative writing, photography, art and playing

guitar. She would like to thank her family for all the love, laughs, support, and fun adventures.



SAM LOVORN (Fred Scrooge/Young Scrooge) is thrilled to be returning to New Stage. He was last seen as Max in *Bright Star*. 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* and the Mississippi High School Premiere of *Disney's Newsies*.

Some of his most recent roles include 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*. He would like to thank his family, friends, and students for their unending love and support.



OLIVIA MATHEWS (Urchin/Wendy Fezziwig) is a freshman homeschool student. She enjoys singing, drawing, playing the piano, and anything musical. Mathews was most recently seen in *The Music Man* at Black Rose Theatre. Her favorite roles include Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* and Rajah in *Aladdin, Jr.* She made her professional acting debut in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage Theatre, last year. Mathews has also been in *Frozen*,

Jr. as Middle Elsa and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* as Alonzo. She is an active member of New Stage Theatre's Youth Acting Troupe and Youth Council. Mathews would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support (and being her dedicated chauffeurs). 1 Corinthians 16:14.

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CHRISTAN MCLAURINE (Second Solicitor/Mr. Fezziwig) is an actor and educator based out of Nashville, Tenn. and is very excited to be returning to New Stage to perform in *A Christmas Carol*. His past credits at New Stage includes: *Our Town, Madagascar, The Musical Adventure, A Christmas Story: The Musical, The Selfish Giant,* and *Oh, Freedom! The Story of the Underground Railroad*. During his leave from New Stage, he served as the education coordinator at Hattiloo Theatre (Memphis, Tenn.), and as a traveling teaching artist at

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse (Auburn, NY) where he directed, choreographed, designed, company managed, and taught theatre for schools throughout the respected areas. "Arts Education is so valuable in a child's life because it helps build self-esteem, enhances creativity, and devolves life skills one will use the rest of their life." Thank you!



MANDY KATE MYERS (Doll Vendor, Mrs. Pidgeon/Spirit of Christmas Past) is thrilled to be back with New Stage Theatre this Christmas season! Some of her New Stage credits include Babette in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, Jonnie Pat Satin in *Glory! Glory!*, 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*. 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 also recently appeared in 54/54/54 at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York. 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, and also works as workshops and talent coordinator for BroadwayCon in New York.



DE-DE ODOM (Mrs. Fezziwig/Wealthy Woman) comes from a gospel, blues, and jazz background; however, she was trained in classical voice at the University of Southern Mississippi where she received a BA in voice performance along with a theater minor. Some of her most memorable roles include Madam C.J. Walker in *We Can Do It: Women in History*, Wilma Rudolph in *The Greatest Sports Heroes*, Lady Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Annie in *Misery*, and Sitting Bull in

Annie Get Your Gun. Other professional theater credits include musicals and operas such as, La Boheme, Bullied, The Tortoise vs The Hare, and Buy One Get One Free. Odom is an Equity Membership Candidate, and she thanks her friends and family for their never ending support.

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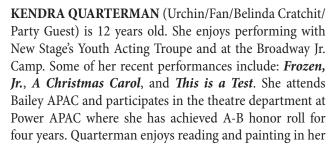


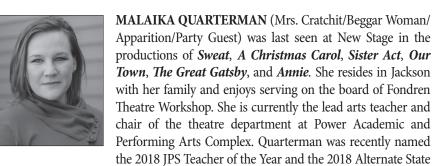
CAMERON PITRE (Clock Vendor, Mr. Marvel/Party Guest/Spirit of Christmas Future) is incredibly excited to be back in his second production of *A Christmas Carol*, here at New Stage Theatre. Pitre is a Jackson, Mississippi native and a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a BFA in theatre performance. Musical theatre credits include Uncle Max in *The Sound of Music*, Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Bert Healy in *Annie*, Otto/Ulbrecht in *Spring Awakening*, Preacher in *Violet*, Doctor

Madden in *Next to Normal*, Skipper in *Madagascar the Musical*, Joe in *Sister Act*, and Lefou in *Disney's Beauty & The Beast*. Other theatrical credits include Robert Rabbit in *The Wind in the Willows*, Shamrayev in *The Seagull*, and Soul in *Vigils*. Pitre would like to thank his friends and family for their continued love and support, as well as his fellow cast mates and crew for a terrific production of *A Christmas Carol*.



spare time.





Teacher of the Year for Mississippi. She is thankful for how supportive her family is as she pursues her interests and dreams.

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Stay and meet the cast after *A Christmas Carol* following the show on Wednesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 18. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



RIVKA QUARTERMAN (Urchin/Want/Party Guest) is a creative ten year old that attends Power APAC. She is an active member of the APAC theatre department and loves to learn to sing all the songs she discovers. Quarterman was last seen at New Stage in the productions of *A Christmas Carol*, *Aladdin*, *Kids*, and *Lion King*, *Kids*.



JASMINE RIVERA (Apparition/Party Guest) is a graduate student of Jackson State University where she earned a B.A. in speech communication and theatre. Rivera's performance credits include *A Christmas Carol, Sister Circle, Steal Away, As Much as I Can, Goodnight Moon*, and *The Color Purple*. Last Season, she appeared as Nana Pearson in New Stage's *Hell in High Water*. Rivera is also a former intern at New Stage Theatre. She is excited to make a return to the theatre's

main stage and celebrate in the joy and fun of *A Christmas Carol* again.



MARSHALL ROBERTSON (Urchin/Teen Scrooge/Peter Cratchit/Party Guest) is a ninth grade honor roll student at Leake Academy where he plays both junior varsity and varsity football and tennis and is a member of the Junior Christian Organization. At New Stage he is a four year performer in the Youth Acting Troupe and a member of the Youth Council. He has also participated in numerous acting classes at New Stage and four Broadway Jr. productions.

Robertson made his debut at New Stage in the 2015 production of *A Christmas Carol*. Other performances include *A Christmas Story: The Musical*, *A Christmas Story* (Meridian Little Theater), and various productions at Newton Little Theater and Leake Academy. Robertson would like to take this opportunity to thank Peppy Biddy and Francine Thomas Reynolds for giving him another opportunity to perform at New Stage and pursue his acting aspirations.

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CHRIS ROEBUCK (The Ghost of Jacob Marley/Old Joe) is thrilled to make his return to New Stage, as he is a former education director and resident teaching artist at New Stage. Roebuck was also an acting intern at New Stage Theatre, working with four other interns to take three touring shows across the state. Among his numerous professional acting credits, Roebuck has appeared in *Bright Star*, *Sister Act*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Shrek*, *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 and American Buffalo and Dinner with Friends with Fondren Theatre Workshop.



CHRISTOPHER SFERRA (Bob Cratchit) is excited and thankful to be in another production at New Stage! He was recently in *Murder on the Orient Express*. Sferra is currently an apprentice at New Stage and is a graduate of Sothern Methodist University with a BFA in theatre. At SMU, he played such roles as Trouble/Doctor from *In the Blood* and Adult Male from *Spring Awakening*. Professionally, he has played such roles as Dr. Watson from

The Hound of the Baskervilles (Jean's Playhouse) and Bruce Ismay from *Titanic: The Musical* (Jean's Playhouse). Sferra would like to thank his mother for her love and support! Lastly, he would like to thank his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



AVERY STALLINGS (Swing) is a tenth grader at St. Andrew's Episcopal school. She has participated in New Stage's Broadway Junior Camp Intensive, where she was in *Once on this Island, Jr.* (Ensemble), *Aladdin, Jr.* (Omar), and *Frozen, Jr.* (Elsa). Other shows she has been in at her school are *A Murder is Announced* (Ms. Marple), *Peter and the Star Catcher* (Ted), and *Guys and Dolls* (Agatha/Ensemble). She is extremely excited to be returning to this

production of *A Christmas Carol*. Stallings would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support and love.

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DREW STARK (First Solicitor/Undertaker/Party Guest/Choreographer) New Stage productions include *Murder on the Orient Express* (Michel), *Sweet Potato Queens, The Musical* (George), *A Christmas Carol* (Solicitor/Choreographer), *Bright Star* (Daryl Ames/Choreographer), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Mr. van Daan), *Sister Act* (Ensemble/Choreographer), *Shakespeare in Love* (Marlowe/Choreographer), *A Time to Kill* (Musgrove/Fight Choreographer), and *33 Variations* (Mike Clark). Other

New Stage credits include his performance in the Eudora Welty New Play Series premiere staged reading of *Glory, Glory!* with Leslie Jordan and the Mississippi Play Series *Perfect Arrangement* by Topher Payne. A Mississippi native, he received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary. A trained dancer in NYC and professional fight choreographer, Stark is currently serving as New Stage's Education Associate. Some of his favorite musical credits include: *Young Frankenstein* (Frederick Frankenstein), *Damn Yankees* (Applegate), *CATS* (Rum Tum Tugger), and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Benjamin/Fight Choreographer). Hugs to his family! Romans 8:28



WILLIS THIGPEN (Urchin/School Boy/Party Guest) is excited to return to New Stage as part of the ensemble in the cast of *A Christmas Carol*! Thigpen lives in Jackson with his family and attends Jackson Academy. He is in the seventh grade, and his favorite subjects are math and reading. Thigpen first appeared in local theatre in the role of Curly the Lost Boy in the New Stage production of *Peter Pan*. Other recent credits include: Michael Banks in *Mary Poppins* (Jackson Academy); a member of the ensemble in

Beauty and The Beast (New Stage); Flick in *A Christmas Story* (New Stage); and the father in the musical *Tilly the Trickster* (Actor's Playhouse). Thigpen also enjoys playing tennis, ping pong, and football. He would like to thank his mom, dad, brother, sister, and grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Coppenbarger, and Dr. and Mrs. Tate Thigpen, for their continued love and support. Merry Christmas, and God bless us, everyone!



NEHEMIAH THOMPSON (Urchin/School Boy/Turkey Boy/Ignorance) is 14 years-old and is a ninth grader at St Andrews. His passion for acting started at the age of six when he was selected to participate in the Zachary Louisiana Public School talented curriculum for acting. He further developed his talents by performing in *Shrek the Musical*, *Tom Sawyer*, and *Madeline and the Gypsies* with

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the Playmakers of Baton Rouge Youth acting group. Since moving to Jackson, Miss. he has been a regular attendee of New Stage's Broadway Junior Summer Camp Intensive and Youth Acting Troupe. Thompson made his professional acting debut as Chip in the *Beauty and the Beast* with New Stage. Thompson enjoys being an actor and is proud to be a part of *A Christmas Carol*.



CHLOE VIZIER (Urchin/Martha Cratchit/Party Guest) is honored to be performing in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage this holiday season. You may have seen Vizier on the stage before as Tiny Tim in 2015, and as an urchin in the 2018 production of *A Christmas Carol*. She also enjoyed performing in the New Stage productions of *Singing in the Rain, Jr., Once on this Island, Jr.*, and *Frozen, Jr.* Vizier is a tenth grader at Germantown High School where she is on

the swim team, involved with the World Culture Club, and maintains an A average. When she is not on stage she enjoys reading, drawing, listening to music, and laughing with friends. Vizier thanks her parents for always helping her pursue her dreams, and Peppy Biddy for his faith in her on this production!



TREASURE WHITE (Spoiled Child/Claire Fezziwig) is a 15 year-old student, actor, and musician attending Murrah High School and Power APAC. She is excited to be a part of *A Christmas Carol* for the second year in a row! She was recently seen in *The Laramie Project*, which was selected to represent Mississippi at the International Thespian Festival. Along with acting, White spends her time playing multiple instruments including violin, alto and bari saxophone, and

guitar. She also enjoys playing in her school's marching, jazz, and symphonic bands.



JAMESON WILLIAMS (Urchin/School Boy/Party Guest), is ecstatic to be back at New Stage. Some of his favorite stage performances include *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Scuttle) at Black Rose Theatre, *The Music Man* (Winthrop Paroo) at Belhaven University, and *Willy Wonka, Kids* (Willy Wonka) at Rising Stars Theatre Camp. Williams is also an active member of BRYTE (Black Rose Youth Theatre Ensemble). He would like to thank Peppy Biddy and the production team for giving him this wonderful opportunity.

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ZION WOOD (Apparition/Party Guest) is a recent graduate of McLaurin High School. He has been acting and dancing over the past seven years. Favorite experiences include *Ten Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse* and *A Seuss-ified Christmas Carol*. When not on stage, Wood enjoys running, cycling, swimming, and triathlon. He is a former member of Youth Leadership Jackson. Heartfelt thanks to Peppy, Carol Joy, and Drew for this opportunity. For Mom and the family;

thanks for your unwavering support.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

MICHAEL WILSON (Playwright) has directed over twenty productions for Hartford Stage, including *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Dividing The Estate*, *Zerline's Tale* (starring Elizabeth Ashley), *The Milk Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore*, and *Summer And Smoke* (starring Amanda Plummer). Wilson also directed *Enchanted April* on Broadway and *The Carpetbagger's Children*, *The Learned Ladies of Park Avenue*, and *Necessary Targets* Off-Broadway. His other productions include David Hare's *The Bay at Nice*, *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *Macbeth*, and fourteen plays by Tennessee Williams as part of the theatre's nine-year Tennessee Williams Marathon. He has been a resident at the Alley Theatre (Associate Director, 1990-98), American Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Rep, Goodman, Guthrie, Long Wharf, New York Stage & Film, and Philadelphia Theatre Company, among others. He has won the Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award (Lincoln Center Theater), Princess Grace Foundation Statue Award, Edward Albee Foundation Fellowship, Elliot Norton Award, and the Tom Killen Award for Outstanding Contribution to Connecticut Theatre.

PEPPY BIDDY (Director) returns to New Stage Theatre after directing last month's Murder on the Orient Express. Biddy is a Professor Emeritus of Mississippi University for Women where he served 31 years and directed over 40 productions. During his tenure at "The W", Biddy received the Kossen Award for Faculty Excellence, the Lowndes County Educator of the Year Award, IHL's HEADWAE award, and The Cowboy Maloney Award by the Mississippi Theatre Association, its highest honor, for outstanding contribution to theatre arts in the state. Biddy 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). Biddy is a member of Actors Equity Association. He served as the production manager for the Sundance Institute's Theatre Lab 2001-2017. New Stage audiences may have seen Biddy in the roles of Robert in **Boeing-Boeing** and Wilber in **Hairspray**, where he has also directed a number of plays and musicals including: 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, Sister Act, and last season's A Christmas Carol. www.peppybiddy.com

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CAROL JOY SPARKMAN (Musical Director) is the director of choral music at Clinton High School. Before teaching at CHS, she was a member of the faculty at Mississippi College, where she was the collaborative pianist, and was musical director for opera/musical theater. Sparkman received the B.M.Ed. and a M.M. in vocal coaching/accompanying degrees from Mississippi College. Sparkman is a founding member of a collaborative national team who has established Service-Learning partnerships for continuing education in choral music. The partnership travels each summer to South Africa to work with 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. Sparkman is a frequent accompanist for choral festivals, international conductors, and performing artists across the country. She is also a vocal coach for both professional and amateur singers in the southeast region. Sparkman was the musical director for the New Stage productions of *Beauty and the Beast, Sister Act, Sweet Potato Queens: The Musical* and *A Toast to Broadway*.

JOSH HARRIS (Stage Manager) has performed and directed across the U.S. and elsewhere for the past 30 years. His local directing experiences include Black Rose Theatre's *The Music Man* and Fondren Theatre Workshop's *Avenue Q*, and he was most recently seen in BRTC's 12 Angry Jurors as Juror 3. Other favorites as a director include *Miss Saigon*, *Legally Blonde*, *You're A Good Man*, *Charlie Brown!*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *Songs for a New World*. Other favorites as a performer include New Stage's *Madagascar* (Kowalski/Foosa Leader), FTW's *The Rocky Horror Show* (Brad), *Next to Normal* (Dan Goodman), *Assassins* (Proprietor), *Annie* (Warbucks), *Oklahoma!* (Curly and Jud), *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Gaston), *The Baltimore Waltz* (Carl), and *Burn This* (Burton).

CHRIS RICH (Scenic Designer) is a theatre designer and technical director with over twenty years' professional and academic experience. He was an associate professor of design and technology at Troy University in Alabama for sixteen years, where he oversaw over a hundred productions of theatre, dance, and community works. He is the recipient of the Marian Galloway Award for Contributions to Theatre in Alabama and the national winner of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Special Achievement Recognition for Lighting and Sound Design for his work on Troy University's *Two Rooms*. He is currently based out of Iowa City, Iowa working as a freelance designer, www.chrisrichdesign.com

BRONWYN TEAGUE (Production Manager/Resident Lighting Designer) completed an MFA in lighting design at the University of Southern Mississippi. While at Southern, she designed lights for several productions including *Peer Gynt*, *The Seagull*, *The Matchmaker*, and *Machinal*. Prior to Southern she earned a B.A. in theatre from Mississippi University for Women. Credits from the W include lighting design for *Stuart Little*, *When Night Falls*, and special effects design for *Blythe Spirit*. Teague has worked on numerous productions with Tupelo Community Theatre as lighting designer, scenic artist or technical advisor. Immediately prior to New Stage, she was technical director for Carey Dinner Theatre in Hattiesburg. Teague also spent several years working for different theaters in the Salt Lake City area including Desert Star Playhouse, Hale Center Theatre, and Utah Contemporary Theatre.

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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 ILearned 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 (Resident Costume Designer) is native of Magee and is thrilled to return close to home to join 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 54 will mark the eighth season he has teamed up with New Stage, only this time, not as a guest. Past favorite credits include *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.

KURT DAVIS (Additional Sound Design/Audio Engineer) is a Jackson area native and graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he earned a BFA in theatre design and technology. While there, he designed and engineered multiple Ole Miss Theatre productions, and was awarded second place for sound designs for *Marisol* and *Oedipus Rex* at the Southeastern Theatre Conference. After graduation, he moved to Washington, D.C. and worked as a sound operator at The Shakespeare Theatre Company for two-and-a-half years. While there, he got the opportunity to work directly with Broadway-based sound designers on multiple STC productions. Davis is excited to be furthering his theatre career at New Stage.

MARIE VENTERS (Properties Designer) is a recent graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in theatre with an emphasis in dramatic writing. Her stage managing credits include: 'Night Mother and Into the Woods.' Venters also worked as a scenic painter on most shows during her time in Belhaven's theatre department, including: Doubt, Shrek: The Musical, Doctor Faustus, Little Shop of Horrors, Big Fish: The Musical, Mayfair Ma Chere, The Music Man, The Glass Menagerie, and others. She was also nominated for Best Sound Design by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in 2017 for Big Fish: The Musical. When Venters is not at New Stage, she enjoys writing and spending time with her husband, Hunter.

LAZERRICK TRAVIS (Production Associate) is a native of Canton and graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2016 with a B.A. in scenic design. After graduation he went to Florida Studio Theatre in Sarasota for a production internship. Travis came back to Mississippi in 2017 and had been employed by Nissan in Canton, before coming to work at New Stage. His other interests are acting within the film industry.

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Assistant Music Director	Mandy Kate Myers
Instrument Arrangements	Andrew Fehrenbacher
Youth Mentors	Ellie Boisseau, Jaymi Horn,
	Kyle Devin Hunter, Christopher Sferra
Christmas Yet to Come Design	Dex Edwards
Running Crew	Ivy Graham, Samual McFatridge,
	Jory Tanaka, Marie Venters
Audio Engineer	Kurt Davis
Light Board Operator	
Sound Board Operator	Emily Barret
Box Office Associates	Nina Frost, Denise Halbach,
	Kerri Puckett, Amy Smith

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 31 years. She recently directed *Into the Breeches!*, *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, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, A Soldier's Play, and I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. Reynolds is serving her third term on the Board of Directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre and is on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Theatre Association. She was a session leader for the 2018 & 2017 TCG National Conventions and panelist for the 2016 TCG National Conference *Theatre Nation* and the 2016 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest. Other associations include Leadership Mississippi Class of 2014; 2017 & 2014 National Endowment for the Arts grants panel; Mississippi Arts Commission grants panel; Poetry Outloud adjudicator; Southeastern Theatre Conference adjudicator; Mississippi High School Drama Festival adjudicator; South Atlantic Modern Language Association national conference presenter; and Mississippi's English Speaking Union Shakespeare Competition judge. Reynolds worked as a locations casting director in film and television for several years. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

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DAWN BUCK (Managing Director) has worked on staff at New Stage for more than 25 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. In 1990, she served as vice president of administration and finance for Imageworks - Films for Business. She helped produce commercials, documentaries and training videos. Buck resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood in Jackson with her husband David, who retired after a 26 year military career with the U. S. Air Force and the Mississippi Air National Guard. He has recently initiated beekeeping as a new hobby.

BILL MCCARTY III (General Manager) is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain, that was founded by his Grandfather and two Holman cousins in 1919 who then grew the business into a billion dollar Mississippi-based company that they sold in 1996. McCarty was first recruited in 1973 by Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider 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 46 years in all areas including production, running crews, lighting and sound design, and 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 production, *Greater Tuna* 1986 production, *The Gin Game* in 1987, and *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1990.

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MELISSA TILLMAN (Marketing Director) is a graduate of Belhaven University where she received a B.A. in technical theatre. She served as the audience services 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 fourteenth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

SHANNON FROST (Marketing Associate) received a B.A. in communication/ theatre from Malone University and a M.A. in theatre from Regent University. Previous experience includes: theatre manager at Regent University's Theatre Department, marketing director at Red Clay Theatre, marketing director at New Stage Theatre, and theatre teacher at Christ Covenant School. Frost is currently an adjunct professor of Arts Administration at Belhaven University, and is the financial and membership director for the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education. She resides in Jackson with her husband, Joe and kiddos, Nina, Darby, Emory, Beau, and Violet.

SHARON MILES (Education Director) received her theatre training from the University of Southern Mississippi. Miles has been working as a professional actress for almost twenty years. This is her third year serving as the education director at New Stage. As a true arts and education advocate before joining New Stage, Miles was the director of a non-profit organization that focused on improving academics and incorporating arts in a public school in Hattiesburg for nearly 10 years. As the director of Neighbors at Hawkins, she worked closely with classroom teachers and administrators to coordinate in-school and afterschool tutoring as well as an afterschool arts program. Miles truly believes that helping a child discover one thing that they are good at can build their self-esteem and that confidence can spill over into every aspect of their lives. Discovering theatre at a young age was a game changer in her life and she wants to offer that same experience to students throughout the state of Mississippi. Some of her favorite theatrical roles at New Stage include: Stage Manager in *Our Town*, Gwen in *A Time to Kill*, Fannie Lou Hamer in *All the Way*, Miss Nelson in *Miss Nelson is Missing*, Cassandra in *Vanya*, Sonia, Masha and Spike, and Alex the Lion in Madagascar the Musical.

ALISA PRICE (Box Office Manager) begins her 4th season at New Stage. She is a former intern at New Stage Theatre, and performed in *Death of Salesman*, *Charlotte's Webb*, and *A Christmas Carol*. Most recently, she appeared in New

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Stage's Unframed productions of *Gloria* and *Steal Away*. Price has performed with several theatre companies in Virginia, including Swift Creek Mill Playhouse, Theatre IV, and Richmond Theatre Company for Children, where she later became the marketing and sales director. She is an active member of her church's theatre ministry at Jackson Revival Center. Price resides in Ridgeland with her husband, Hillery, and their children, Darryn, Gabriel, and Elijah.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Associate/Education Consultant) begins her 15th 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.

BARBARA MARTIN (Box Office Associate/Business Office Associate) is in her 24th season at New Stage. First joining the staff in 1997, she has served as box office assistant for 20 years and as box office manager for the two years before and during the Intermission Season. She also assists with development, reviews and maintains theatre insurance coverages, and performs other business office functions.

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 16th 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 54th season.

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Book by Dennis Kelly Music and Lyrics by Tim Minchin Based on the book, *Matilda* by Roald Dahl Directed by Sharon Miles

January 28-February 9, 2020

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The world's biggest little hero

The inspiring story of an extraordinary girl comes to life in *Matilda the Musical*. Based on the beloved Roald Dahl novel, Matilda is the story of the courageous little girl with an unbounded imagination who proves that despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to—and change your destiny. Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by this Broadway hit and winner of 16 Best Musical awards!

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When: Meets Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Winter Session: January 10-February 28, 2020 Spring Session: March 20-May 15, 2020

Who: Students 1st thru 12th Grades

What: These school-day classes are designed to provide a rigorous and fun experience for both the beginner and experienced performer. This NEW arts enrichment program is designed for home school students in the Jackson area seeking theatre arts instruction, outlined by MDE Theatre Arts standards, and taught by local professionals. Our classes will give students the opportunity to develop and expand in three different performance areas: acting, movement, and voice! New Stage's TAC program winter and spring sessions will each span 8 weeks, which includes classwork/rehearsals and an informal showcase performance for family and friend

Cost: \$385 for each session: includes tickets to matinee performances of *Matilda the Musical* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Family discounts are available.

Please contact the Education Department at 601-948-3533 ext 232 or smiles@newstagetheatre.com or education@newstagetheatre.com



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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!

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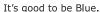
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during the run of a show.

TELEPHONE/WEBSITE

Main Number: (601) 948-3533 Box Office: ext. 222 Artistic Director: ext. 224

Managing Director: ext. 224 Marketing Director: ext. 226

Education Director: ext. 232

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New Stage Theatre is a Constituent of Theatre Communication Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

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