

NEW STAGE THEATRE PRESENTS

# INTO THE BREECHES!

BY GEORGE BRANT

DIRECTED BY FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS

SEPTEMBER 10-22, 2019

THE  
SHOW MUST  
GO ON!

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
CHRISTAN MCLAURINE

SCENIC DESIGNER/  
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
RICHARD LAWRENCE

COSTUME DESIGNER  
CALEB BLACKWELL

SOUND DESIGNER  
KURT DAVIS

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
MICHAEL TOBIN

PROPERTIES DESIGNER  
MARIE VENTERS

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
BRONWYN TEAGUE

**NEW STAGE**  
*Theatre*



# INTO THE BREECHES!

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There will be one 10-minute intermission

## THE SETTING

Time: Fall of 1942

Place: Jackson, Mississippi

## THE CAST

MAGGIE DALTON . . . . .	Jessica Wilkinson
CELESTE FIELDING . . . . .	Emily Wright
ELLSWORTH SNOW . . . . .	Ray McFarland*
WINIFRED SNOW . . . . .	Jo Ann Robinson*
STUART LASKER . . . . .	Evan McCarley
GRACE RICHARDS . . . . .	Annie Cleveland
JUNE BENNETT . . . . .	Sarah Beth Solop
IDA GREEN . . . . .	Jasmine A. Neal

\*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 June/Grace: Ellie Boisseau; For Ida/Maggie:  
Jaymi Horn; For Stuart: Christopher Sferra; For Ellsworth: Kyle Hunter.

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

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I am enthusiastic about bringing this new play to New Stage Theatre's audiences, in part, because we have adapted it to include Mississippi history. ***Into the Breeches!*** was originally set in Providence, Rhode Island but, with permission from the playwright and with a little bit of customization of local and historical references, our production of the play takes place in the Jackson, Mississippi area of 1942. So, for instance, what is the Rhode Island Country Club Clubroom on the page becomes the Jackson Country Club in the New Stage production.

It has been enriching for the ***Into the Breeches!*** company to research the history of Mississippi and the Jackson area during the period of World War II. We discovered that Jackson's Hawkins Field became the Jackson Army Air Base and was used by the United States Army Air Forces' Flying Training Command as a basic flying training airfield. We also learned the University of Mississippi was one of the first sites for Army Administration training during World War II and that a U.S. Army prisoner of war camp for German prisoners was established in Clinton. Camp Clinton was the only US camp that housed German general officers. These, and other historical facts, have been incorporated into our production.

American women played important roles during World War II, both at home and in uniform. Not only did they give their sons, husbands, fathers, and brothers to the war effort, they gave their time, energy, and some even gave their lives. As the men fought abroad, women on the Home Front worked in defense plants, in addition to managing households, and volunteered for war related organizations traditionally led by men, demonstrated by the women in ***Into the Breeches!*** as they step up to mount a play. Public, iconic characters like Rosie the Riveter helped assure that the Allies would have war materials they needed to defeat the Axis.

In Jackson, Junior League volunteers chaired and helped organize the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office. League members also extended hospitality to members of the armed forces in Jackson. JLI helped issue Ration Books, sold War Bonds and Stamps during the Third War Fund Drive and assisted the local Ration Board in a nation-wide check-up of local groceries.

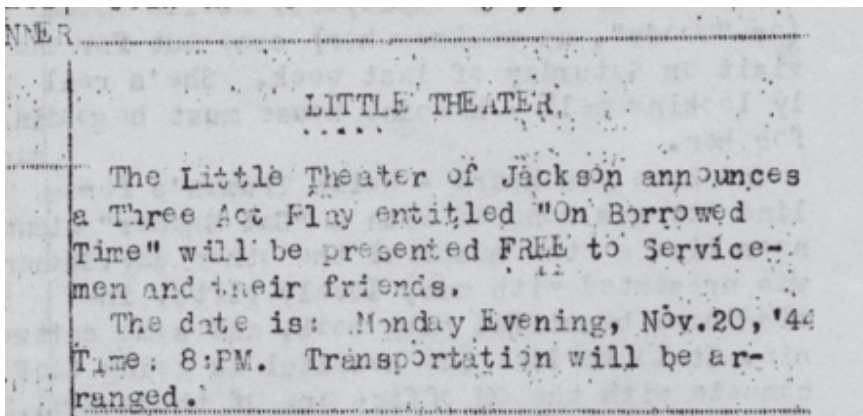




When the U.S. entered a war, the federal government offered women employment opportunities usually reserved for men. These women were welders at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation of Pascagoula, Mississippi, during World War II. (86-WWT-85-35, National Archives Identifier 522890)

In our vision of *Into the Breeches!*, The Oberon Theatre is located at our current address, 1100 Carlisle Street in Jackson, which was the location of Little Theater of Jackson before New Stage Theatre acquired the property.

I was impressed to discover that Little Theater of Jackson did their part for the war effort with special performances for service men stationed at Camp Clinton. The excerpt below is from the Camp Clinton's newsletter P.O.W. Wow.



With its focus on women who are the theatrical version of Rosie the Riveter, I feel the story of *Into the Breeches!* is a love song to the theatre. Through rehearsals, I couldn't help but think of New Stage Theatre's beginnings and its founders. Just like the characters in our play, they were courageous in forging ahead to create a new artistic organization. I think of them as brave warriors for the art of theatre.

When New Stage Theatre opened its doors on January 20, 1966 with *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* a passage from director Ivan Rider's note read, "In 1962, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* opened on Broadway and Edward Albee, then in his early thirties, became, with his first full-length play, the most important American playwright since Tennessee Williams. In the furor of controversy which engulfed the play one fact remained constant: its author was a writer of great force and power. A writer who whether liked or loathed championed or criticized could not be ignored."

I can imagine the audiences in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1966, were just as shocked as the earlier Broadway audiences. I admire Jane Petty, Ivan Rider, Carl Black, Jr., Beth Jones, Patti Carr Black, James Child, Howard Jones, O.C. McDavid, Ford Petty, Kay Fort Child, and Frank Hains—New Stage Theatre's founding Directors and Board Members—for their courage.

Their determination and bravery created something innovative and unique for the cultural life of Jackson. Because of their perseverance and tenacity, New Stage Theatre exists and is able to continue to present both classic and important contemporary challenging works selected for their artistic merit, entertainment value and power to illuminate the human condition.

Perhaps, as they built the legacy we have today, they, as the characters in *Henry V* and *Into the Breeches!* do, found inspiration in the king's "Saint Crispin's Day" speech.

*Let he that hath not stomach to this fight,  
Let him depart; his passport shall be made  
And crowns for convoy put into his purse.  
Then shall our names,  
Familiar in his mouth as household words –  
Be in their flowing cups freshly remembered.*

William Shakespeare

## THE CAST



**ANNIE CLEVELAND** (Grace Richards) is delighted to be returning to New Stage in this wonderful play! Other New Stage roles include Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*, Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, Henrietta in *Silent Sky*, and Devyn in *Morningside*. Select regional: *4,000 Miles* (Bec), *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley* (Jane), *Mad Hip Beat and Gone* (Honey), *The Cherry Orchard* (Dunyasha), *Richard III* (Lady Anne).

Cleveland trained at the University of Southern Mississippi and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. Special thanks to Francine, the cast, and crew! Big love to family, Dave, and Hank.



**EVAN MCCARLEY** (Stuart Lasker) is excited to be joining New Stage for the fifth time. He previously appeared in the 2017-2018 season productions of *Silent Sky* and *Shakespeare in Love*, as well as last season's **Unframed Series** productions of *Gloria* and *Sylvia*. Other notable roles include John Oldman in Fondren Theatre Workshop's production of *The Man From Earth* and Playhouse on the Square's world premiere of *Byhalia, Mississippi*. He wishes

to thank Francine and the entire cast and crew for this incredible experience.



**RAY MCFARLAND\*** (Ellsworth Snow) has appeared in numerous national tours and regional theatre productions of plays and musicals across the United States and in over forty productions here at New Stage including: *Bright Star*, *Sister Act*, *And Then There Were None*, *Hairspray*, *The Foreigner*, *Forever Plaid*, *Tuna Christmas*, *Red White and Tuna*, *Noises Off*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, 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.



**JASMINE A. NEAL** (Ida Green) is excited to make her New Stage Theatre debut! She has worked professionally as an actor, director, teaching artist, and educator across the South and Midwest. Neal received an MFA in performance from the University of Southern Mississippi and a BA in speech and theatre from Jackson State University. Recent credits include: *Go, Dog, Go!* and *Peter Pan*.



**JO ANN ROBINSON\*** (Winifred Snow) has worked professionally for more than 35 years in television, film, and regional theatres across the U.S. From 1978-1989, she was based out of Los Angeles where credits included co-starring roles in *The New Love American Style* and the nationally syndicated *Comedy of Comedies*. She appeared as a stand-up comedienne at Hollywood's Laugh Factory and The Ice House, famous for featuring headliners such as Jay Leno and Joan Rivers. She was also a founding member of the comedy group Half-A-Deck, named as 'Best Bet' by the *LA Times*. Robinson has been a regular at New Stage since 1990. Some show credits include *Sweat, Morningside, Silent Sky, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *A Time to Kill, The Grapes of Wrath, Lombardi, First Baptist of Ivy Gap, The Trip to Bountiful, Idols of the King, Don't Dress for Dinner, Marvin's Room, Grace & Glorie, Misery*, and *Rumors*. Other regional theatre credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire, Angels in America I and II, Lips Together, Teeth Apart*, and *Always Patsy Cline*. Robinson has most recently had featured roles on *NCIS New Orleans* and the feature film, *Shapeless*. Robinson was nominated for Best Actress for the prestigious B. Iden Award given by the Austin, Texas Critics Circle.



**SARAH BETH SOLOP** (June Bennett) is honored to be making her New Stage Theatre debut! A Jackson native, Solop received her BFA in Acting from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music Drama Conservatory program, as well as graduated from American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Los Angeles. Her favorite nationwide professional theater credits include: Essie Carmichael in *You Can't Take It With You*, June Carter in *Ring of Fire the Musical*, Audrey in *As You Like It*, Rory in *Bare: A Pop Opera*, and Helen in *Anon(ymous)*. You can currently catch Solop in her Comedy Web Series on YouTube, *Molly and Charlotte: So Famous!* She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support. Solop is also a military spouse and married to the love of her life, Harper. To their children Ava and Wilder, I love you and this is always all for you!

## actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *Into the Breeches!* following the show on Wednesday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 18. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



**JESSICA WILKINSON** (Maggie Dalton) was last seen at New Stage in *Bright Star*. 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 *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 master's degree in English and taught high school English and theatre arts for four years at Florence High. During that time, she was awarded Distinguished Arts Educator in Theatre Arts by the MS Alliance for Arts Education. She is now Director of Senior High Theatre at Jackson Prep. She is also a mom to Belle Grace, 16, and Noble, 12, and a wife to Lenny. She is very grateful to her family for all their support. [www.imdb.me/JessicaLemonWilkinson](http://www.imdb.me/JessicaLemonWilkinson)



**EMILY WRIGHT** (Celeste Fielding) is ecstatic to be returning to New Stage, and is thrilled to be working with this great cast! Wright has appeared in *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Edith), *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* (Maggie), *Boeing Boeing* (Jacqueline), *Don't Dress for Dinner* (Suzanne), and *Hank Williams Lost Highway* (Audrey). A theatre teacher at Northwest Rankin Middle School, Wright sends a special thanks to her students past and present for keeping

her inspired with their creativity and bravery, and she is forever grateful to her amazing family! This show is dedicated to her Nanny, one of the "greatest" from the Greatest Generation.



## THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**GEORGE BRANT** (Playwright) plays include *Grounded*, *Marie and Rosetta*, *Elephant's Graveyard*, *The Mourners' Bench*, *Any Other Name*, *Salvage*, *Grizzly Mama*, *Three Voyages of the Lobotomobile*, and *Dark Room*. An Affiliate Writer at the Playwrights' Center, his scripts have been produced internationally by the Public Theater, the Atlantic Theater Company, Cleveland Play House, the Alley Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, the Studio Theatre, City Theatre, the Gate Theatre of London, Page 73, and the Traverse Theatre, among others. His plays have received a Lucille Lortel Award, an Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, a Kennedy Center National Playwriting Award, the Smith Prize, an Edinburgh Fringe First Award, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, three OAC Individual Excellence Awards, and the Keene Prize for Literature. Brant has been awarded writing fellowships from the MacDowell Colony, the McCarter Theatre Center, Blue Mountain Center, Hermitage Artists' Retreat, the Djerassi Resident Artist's Program, and the Michener Center for Writers. Brant is published by Samuel French, Oberon Books, and Smith & Kraus.

**FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS** (Artistic Director/Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 31 years. She recently directed *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.

**CHRISTAN MCLAURINE** (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be returning and making his professional stage managing debut at New Stage. He was an Acting Intern at New Stage during the 2016-17 Season, where some of his favorite productions included: *Our Town*, *Madagascar- The Musical Adventure*, *The Selfish Giant*, and *OH! Freedom!* During his leave from New Stage, he served as the education coordinator at Hattiloo Theatre (Memphis, TN), 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. "Art Education is so valuable in a child's life because it helps builds self-esteem, enhances creativity, and devolves life skills one will use the rest of their life." Thank you!

**RICHARD LAWRENCE** (Technical Director) serves as the vice president of Fondren Theatre Workshop and has appeared in *A Christmas Memory* at New Stage, FTW's *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Buck Nekkid for Jesus*, directed FTW's *Every Christmas Story Ever Told*, and most recently appeared as Trekkie Monster in *Avenue Q*. He was also the director of the widely successful productions of *Cabaret* and *Company*, which were joint productions of FTW and Actor's Playhouse of Pearl, with support from New Stage. Lawrence has been seen in New Stage productions of *The Trip to Bountiful* and UnFramed's *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*, *How I Learned to Drive*, *The Weir*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, and *Dublin Carol*. Lawrence has won three Best Set awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences, and has also won Best Set at Southeastern Theatre Conference.

**CALEB BLACKWELL** (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.

**MICHAEL TOBIN** (Lighting Designer/Asst. Technical Director) graduated from Belhaven University with a B. A. in English and minors in creative writing and theatre. He spent the year after his graduation working at New Stage Theatre as a production assistant. This past year, he was the Visiting Technical Director for Belhaven University. Currently he is a freelance theatre artist in the Jackson area. His previous design credits include set and lighting design for *Ezekiel*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Building the Wall*, *Find Me*, and *Boy*, and lighting design for *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *White Christmas*, *After We Become Rain*, *Little Women*, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, and *If I Had Wings*. In his free time, he works with Hearth and Mantel Theatre Company where his play *The Dying of Ida Greene* premiered. He would like to thank his wife—Hannah—for her support and encouragement.

**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.

**KURT DAVIS** (Sound Designer) 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.

Stage Combat..... Drew Stark  
Master Carpenter ..... Jimmy “JR” Robertson  
Carpenter.....Chace Giadrosich  
Costume Assistant ..... Lydia Lyppincot  
Running Crew/Light Board Operator/Sound Board Operator..... Ellie Boisseau,  
Jaymi Horn, Devin Hunter, Christopher Sfera  
Wig Stylists ..... Lynn Evans and Sarah Proctor  
Box Office Associates ..... Nina Frost, Kerri Puckett, Amy Smith

## 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. 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 in 2009 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.

**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*.

**DREW STARK** (Education Associate) a Mississippi native, Stark received his B.A. from the College of William and Mary. A trained dancer in NYC and professional fight choreographer, Stark is serving currently as New Stage's education associate. Some of his favorite musical credits include: *Young Frankenstein*, *Damn Yankees*, *CATS*, and *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*. Some New Stage productions include *A Christmas Carol*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Sister Act*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *A Time to Kill*, and *33 Variations*.

**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 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 Assistant/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/Business Office Assistant) 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.

Beacon Supply

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Polk Interiors

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## PROFESSIONAL ACTING APPRENTICE COMPANY

New Stage Theatre's Professional Acting Apprentice Company is a primary component of the theatre's commitment to arts education. Apprentices tour the entire state to present plays and conduct workshops for students who would not otherwise have access to professional theatre. In addition to their touring schedule, apprentices also assist with the general operation of the theatre.

**ELLIE BOISSEAU** 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 her through thick and thin.

**JAYMI HORN** 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** 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.

**CHRISTOPHER SFERRA** is super excited and thankful to be at New Stage this season as A 2019-20 Apprentice! He recently graduated from SMU 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!



# AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

COMING  
NEXT

By Ken Ludwig

Based on the novel by Agatha Christie

Directed by Peppy Biddy

**October 22 – November 3, 2019**

Classic Mystery | Regional Premiere

“We seek the truth from within, not without.”—Hercule Poirot

The exotic Orient Express is about to go off the rails! A luxury train struggles westward from Istanbul, getting stuck in the snow somewhere near Belgrade, when something terrible happens. Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is on board and takes up the case — one that challenged every value he holds as a lawman. With a locomotive full of suspects and an alibi for each one, it's the perfect mystery for detective Monsieur Poirot, n'est-ce pas? Wax your mustache and hold on to your passport for a thrilling ride aboard the legendary Orient Express!

## About the Artist in the Hewes Room

Kit Whitsett Fields, a native of Jackson Mississippi, paints in watercolor, oils, and acrylic. She began painting professionally in 1995 and has since studied with many renowned and accomplished artists.

Kit's work has been juried into, and received awards in multiple local and regional shows, including the Southern Watercolor Society, Mississippi Grand National Exhibition, and the Mississippi Watercolor Society. She is a signature member of the Mississippi Watercolor Society and Southern Watercolor Society, as well as a member of the Jackson Watercolor Group and the Gaddis Group. Kit was chosen as 2018 Poster Artist by USA International Ballet Competition.

Kit's works, which often depict scenes of everyday life in the South, have become a favorite with collectors and are displayed in public, corporate, and private collections. For more about Kit and her art, see [www.kitfieldsart.com](http://www.kitfieldsart.com).

Kit is married to Mark Fields and they have two sons, Markwood and Gavin.

# COMING SOON

## A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Adapted from Charles Dickens by Michael Wilson

Directed by Peppy Biddy

**December 3-22, 2019**

Holiday Classic

*A ghost story for Christmas*

New Stage Theatre returns with a holiday tradition! Ebenezer Scrooge is a wealthy man, rich in money and poor in spirit. He's locked his solitary heart into a cashbox and forgotten where he's put the key. Haunted by specters and visited by spirits of his past, present, and future, he journeys from the painful losses of his youth to the human kindness and deep joy of a glorious Christmas morning. Dicken's classic tale reawakens the true spirit of Christmas in a heart-stirring Carol of profound beauty and redemption.

Season ticket subscribers can purchase discounted tickets for this show starting September 23. Tickets will go on sale to the public on September 30.

## ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL

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**

Children's Musical

*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!

Season ticket subscribers can purchase discounted tickets for this show starting October 7. Tickets will go on sale to the public on October 14.

## **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](http://www.newstagetheatre.com/about/volunteers)



# Saturday AM KIDS! Classes

## The Littles for 1st - 3rd Graders

**When:** Meets Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (September 14th – November 9th)\*\*

**Who:** Students currently enrolled in 1st – 3rd Grade

**What:** Students will be guided through the building blocks of theatre technique by building a script from scratch. Source material will be *Thank You, Omu!*, written by Caldecott Honor winner Oge Mora. Classes will be structured to work on character development, acting technique, and storytelling to create a showcase of an original script.

**Cost:** \$150

## The Middles for 4th- 6th Graders

**When:** Meets Saturday mornings from 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (September 14th – November 9th)\*\*

**Who:** Students currently enrolled in 4th – 6th Grade

**What:** Students will explore theatre technique through dramatizing story of age-appropriate literary favorites. Source material will be *The New York Times* bestselling series *The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart. After discussing relevant themes and a critical analysis of the literary work, students will create a showcase of an original script through dramatization exercises focusing on character development and storytelling.

**Cost:** \$150

**\*\* Please note:** There will not be Saturday AM KIDS! classes held on Saturday, October 19th.

**Be sure to “like” our Education page on Facebook!** Check our website for updated information about upcoming workshops and Fall 2019 Monday Night Live! Classes.

For more information, contact the New Stage Education Department at 601.948.3533, ext. 232



## Help New Stage Go Green!

Programs can be great souvenirs, but if you are not taking yours home please help New Stage by placing it in the recycle bin in the lobby near the box office. We thank you for your help!



# TURNER CRUMBLEY'S ON-CAMERA ACTING INTENSIVE

**WHEN: NOVEMBER 11, 18, 25 &  
DECEMBER 2, 2019**

**WHERE: NEW STAGE THEATRE**  
1100 Carlisle St, Jackson, MS 39202

## WHAT:

During this four-week-intensive, Turner will address and unmask a variety of aspects regarding the on-camera process.

Topics covered:

- audition prep and script analysis
- live and taped auditions, and necessary equipment
- working with casting directors and agents
- details of the auditioning business
- scene work with and without prep time
- callbacks and how they may differ from initial auditions
- voice and movement

Scripts will be provided prior to classes so that actors have the opportunity to better simulate and audition/work experience. Actors will receive video footage of their work after each class. Space is limited.

**COST: YOUTH CLASS (1 HOUR) \$150**  
**5:15PM - 6:15PM**  
**ADULT CLASS (2 HOURS) \$200**  
**6:45PM - 8:45PM**



Turner Crumbley has spent the last twenty years acting in film, television, and theatre. His movie credits include appearances opposite Academy Award Winner Brie Larson in *21 Jump Street*, Mark Wahlberg in *Contraband*, Academy Award Winner Holly Hunter in *Strange Weather*. Additional credits: *Bad Moms* and the forthcoming *Easy Does It*.

In addition to directing New Stage's *A Christmas Story: The Musical* and its 50th Anniversary production of *A Christmas Carol*, Turner has written, produced, and directed short films, commercials, and instructional videos for companies both in and outside Mississippi.

**NEW STAGE**  
EDUCATION Theatre

For more information, contact:

Sharon Miles, New Stage Education Director,  
[smiles@newstagetheatre.com](mailto:smiles@newstagetheatre.com); 601-948-3533, ext.232



Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram or sign up to receive our newsletter at [newstagetheatre.com](http://newstagetheatre.com) to get updates on events, casting, and more!

# 2019-2020 SEASON CONTRIBUTORS

It all begins here. The following individuals, corporations and foundations have made generous contributions to New Stage Theatre. Their gifts provide a major portion of the funding necessary to present the productions you enjoy on our stages, the educational programs we offer and help the theatre maintain its standing as one of the nation's best professional regional theatres. Please take a moment to read the list. They deserve your recognition.

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If you would like to contribute, contact New Stage Theatre, P.O. Box 4792, Jackson, MS 39296-4792, (601) 948-3533.

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### BOX OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*During performances, the box office  
will remain open until 7:30 p.m.*

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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### TELEPHONE/WEBSITE

Main Number: (601) 948-3533

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Artistic Director: ext. 224

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Education Director: ext. 232

Website: [www.newstagetheatre.com](http://www.newstagetheatre.com)

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