



NEW STAGE

Production Stage Manager Clara Seitz

Sound Designer/Engineer Alberto Meza Scenic Designer Dex Edwards

Technical Director Richard Lawrence Lighting Designer Andrew L. Prince

Production Manager Bronwyn Teague Costume Designer Kaite Coffey

Plant Designer/Props RJ Haddy



Book & Lyrics by Howard Ashman Music by Alan Menken

Based on the film by Roger Corman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith
Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)
Originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre,
David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization

Original Vocal Arrangements by Robert Billig New Arrangements by Michael Kosarin

Orchestrations by Danny Troob

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

was originally Directed by Howard Ashman with Musical Staging by Edie Cowan Audrey 2 Plants created by RJ Haddy of RJ Haddy's Rad F/X Co., Properties provided by RJ Haddy's Rad F/X Co.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (BROADWAY VERSION) is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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There will be one 20-minute intermission

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

CHIFFON Erin Morton		
CRYSTAL		
RONNETTE Jayla Lomax		
MR. MUSHNIK		
AUDREY Taylor Galvin*		
SEYMOURTyler Bellmon*		
SKID ROW RESIDENTS Hosea Griffith, Caleb Henry, Devin Hunter,		
Sharon Miles, Mandy Kate Myers		
ORIN, BERNSTEIN, SNIP, LUCE Evan Brechtel		
THE VOICE OF AUDREY II		
AUDREY II (Puppeteers) Hosea Griffith, Caleb Henry,		
Devin Hunter, Mandy Kate Myers		
RADIO VOICE		
Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Mr. Mushnik: Ward Emling; For Seymour/Orin: Sam Lovorn; For Audrey: Natalie Fehrenbacher; For Chiffon/Crystal/Ronnette: Mandy Kate Myers.		

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

MUSICIANS

MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIAN	0	Carol Joy Sparkman
GUITAR/MANDOLIN		Andrew Dillon
DRUMS		Paul Heindl
KEYBOARD/REHEARSAI	L PIANO	Tim Moak
BASS		Ben Williams



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

"Little Shop Of Horrors"			
"Downtown (Skid Row)"			
"Da-Doo"			
"Grow For Me"			
"You Never Know"			
"Somewhere That's Green" Audrey			
"Closed For Renovation"			
"Dentist!" Orin, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette			
"Mushnik & Son"			
"Git It" Seymour, Audrey II, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette			
"Now (It's Just the Gas)" Orin, Seymour			
ACT 2			
"Call Back in the Morning"			
"Suddenly Seymour" Seymour, Audrey, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette			
"Suppertime" Audrey II, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette			
"The Meek Shall Inherit" Seymour, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronnette, Bernstein, Luce, Snip			
"Sominex"/ "Suppertime" (Reprise) Audrey, Audrey II			
"Somewhere That's Green" (Reprise) Audrey			
Finale: "Don't Feed the Plants"			



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We are incredibly appreciative of the Metro Jackson community for the support New Stage Theatre has received during the past 18 months. Thank you for your donations, purchase of tickets to our virtual and streaming events, and your response to our survey questions. At a time when we needed encouragement, it was validating to read comments such as "Our community and state very much need the New Stage offerings. We support you enthusiastically. Our heart aches for what this past year has rendered for New Stage."

We feel the same as the person who commented, "I cannot wait for you to reopen; this is an important part of the Jackson Metro community!"

We, too, have been waiting, somewhat impatiently, for the right time to reopen with a season of shows. That time is now and we are thrilled to welcome back in person audiences this season for musical comedy, tradition, and stories of inspiration and discovery. We look forward to providing the unique experience of live theatre as it uplifts, provides laughter and builds community.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, New Stage Theatre has prioritized the health and safety of our artists, audiences, students, and staff. As we prepared to return to live performances with *Little Shop of Horrors* we continued to upgrade the facility with safety measures while monitoring conditions and recommendations from local and CDC officials. Our goal is to provide as many theatre going options as possible, for varying audience comfort levels, while maintaining a safe environment for all.

Since June, the theatre has had a full vaccine requirement for all artists and staff. For our safety, your safety, and because of mandated requirements from Actors Equity Association, the union for actors, we have required masks to be worn upon entry to the building with expectations for masks to stay on until you exit the building. We will also follow the City of Jackson Executive Orders, as well as recommendations from the MS Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

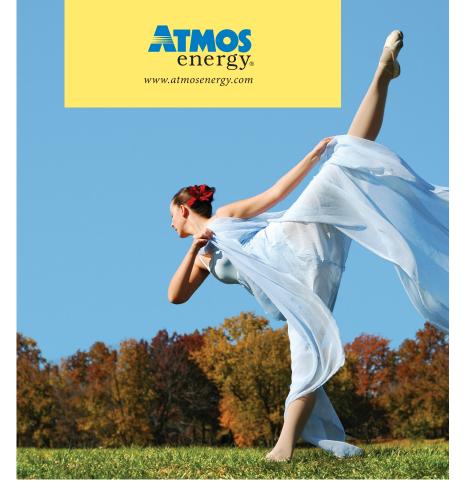
We will continue to update our safety policies as circumstances require. Thank you for your cooperation and for being here! The *Little Shop of Horrors* creative team, fabulous cast and musicians are excited to be back to live performances and the entire New Stage company is happy to welcome you back as we Celebrate Season 56 - Our Next Act!

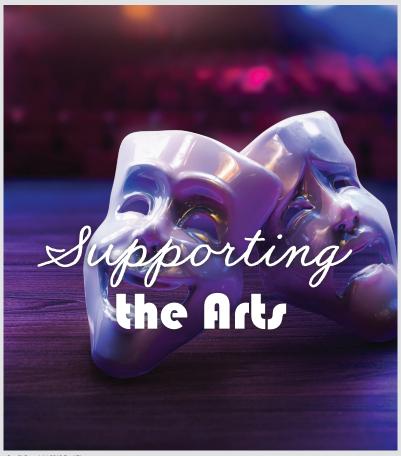
Sincerely, Francine Reynolds Artistic Director



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ABOUT LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Little Shop of Horrors started as a low-budget horror film (released in 1960) written by Charles Griffith and directed by Roger Corman. There were some standing sets about to be torn down at a small rental studio, and Corman asked if he could shoot on it for a few days. He and Griffith wrote the script in ten days in various coffee houses around Hollywood. Working fast with very little money, they shot the film in two days and a night. After it was released, Little Shop of Horrors became a cult classic and a popular midnight movie. Little Shop of Horrors (the musical) was originally produced by the WPA-Theatre, an off-off Broadway theatre founded in 1968. The show ran from May 6 to June 6, 1982 and quickly sold out because of word of mouth. The musical then transferred to the Orpheum Theatre on Second Avenue where it was produced by the WPA Theatre, The Shubert Organization, David Geffen, and Cameron Mackintosh. In 1983, it won the New York Drama Critics Best Musical Award (winning over the Broadway hit, Cats). At the Orpheum, it ran for more than five years and played 2,209 performances. It is the third longest running off-Broadway musical. Little Shop of Horrors closed on November 1, 1987. After Little Shop of Horrors closed, Audrey II was displayed in the Smithsonian Institution for six months as part of a "Search for Life" exhibition. In December 1986, a movie version of the musical based on a movie was released. It starred Rich Moranis, Steve Martin, and Ellen Greene (as Audrey, the role she originated off-Broadway). It was directed by Frank Oz and produced by David Geffen. Although many critics disliked its "happy" ending, the film has gained a cult following in the tradition of the original 1960 Roger Corman classic.

THE CAST



TYLER BELLMON* (Seymour) is thrilled to be returning to New Stage Theatre for one of his favorite musical comedies, *Little Shop of Horrors*. He was last seen at New Stage as Billy Cane in *Bright Star*. Other favorite theatre credits include: *Into The Woods* (Theatre Workshop of Nantucket), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Gretna Theatre), *Brighton Beach Memoirs* (CityRep Theatre), *Biloxi Blues* (Forestburgh Playhouse), *A Christmas Carol* (The Hanover Theatre), and *Oliver!* (Gallery Players). Bellmon holds a BFA in musical theatre from Emerson College, and was once

kicked out of Bravo's Cash Cab a block away from his destination. A huge "Thank you" goes out to New Stage Theatre, his family, friends, and mentors for their constant love, support, and encouragement. Follow and connect with him on all social platforms @ tylerbellmon.



EVAN BRECHTEL (Orin) is thrilled to be back home at New Stage after a ten year absence. He's previously been seen at New Stage in *A Christmas Carol*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and other productions. Brechtel is a proud graduate of the acting program of Fordham College at Lincoln Center. He currently lives in New York, where he writes about politics and LGBTQ history.



WARD EMLING (Understudy) is absolutely thrilled to be once again involved in a musical at New Stage, the last one being the World Premiere production of the folk opera of Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart* in 1982. Prior to that, on this stage, he was in *The Pirates of Penzance* (1982) and The Little Theatre of Jackson's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum* (1973). A 1976 graduate of Millsaps College, he trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. With the Millsaps Players under the direction of Lance Goss, he appeared

in the musicals *Robert and Elizabeth* and *Ben Franklin in Paris*, in addition to many other productions. He was also a member of the Millsaps Singers (1973-74) and the Millsaps Troubadours (1974-76), under the direction of Lynne Pickett. Previous New Stage productions include *Peg O My Heart*, *The Little Foxes*, *What The Butler Saw*, *As You Like It*, *The Diviners*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *Sweat*, and *Murder on The Orient Express*. In addition to this thrill, he is thankful for your support of New Stage Theatre and for getting out of the house to watch actors sing and dance and get eaten by a plant.



NATALIE FEHRENBACHER (Understudy) is excited to be joining New Stage for the first time. She is originally from Brandon and is a recent graduate of Mississippi College, where she earned a B.M. in piano performance. Fehrenbacher currently serves as the middle school show choir accompanist at Jackson Academy. Favorite roles include Amalia in *She Loves Me*, Hero in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and Kim in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Love and thanks to the fam!



JOSEPH FROST (Mr. Mushnik) lives in Jackson, with his wife Shannon, and their children Nina, Darby, Emory, Beau, and Violet. He has previously appeared in over 20 New Stage Theatre productions including *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



Stay and meet the cast after *Little Shop of Horrors* following the show on Wednesday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 13.

Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.

country, including the premieres in Jackson of the comedies *The Mayfair Affair* and *Mayfair Ma Chére*, as well as *Big Mama's Kitchen*, which was commissioned by Hearth and Mantel Theatre and received a virtual reading with New Stage in fall of 2020. Frost is currently the arts coordinator for Ida B Wells APAC, and is the artistic director of **the floodlight theatre company.**



TAYLOR GALVIN* (Audrey) is ecstatic to be returning to her New Stage family in what feels like a celebration of theatre's return. She also appeared at New Stage as Sister Mary Robert in Sister Act, Fiona in Shrek the Musical, Annelle in Steel Magnolias, and Vera in And Then There Were None. National tour: The Marvelous Wonderettes. Other credits include: A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, Much Ado About Nothing, Spamalot, Parade, Sweeney Todd. Special thanks to Francine, Peppy, MR, BJ & the Headline team, Mom, Mr. Frank

and the cast/crew! Instagram: @tngalvin



HOSEA GRIFFITH (Puppeteer/Skid Row Resident/Understudy) is a current graduate student at the University of Mobile, obtaining a M.M. in vocal performance. Griffith enjoys performing music whenever the chance arises, both musical theater and opera. A native of Jackson, he had the pleasure of portraying many roles in Jackson and the surrounding areas, including the roles of Pablo in *Sister Act*, Joe in *Show Boat*, and Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. While pursuing graduate studies, Griffith was granted multiple performance opportunities, his

favorites being Friar Laurent in *Roméo et Juliet* and Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte*. Griffith is excited to be back in Mississippi for the summer.



CALEB HENRY (Puppeteer/Skid Row Resident) is excited to join this wonderful cast at New Stage. Henry is a recent graduate of Belhaven University's Theatre Department, where you might have seen him perform in shows such as *The Fantasticks* (Matt), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Demetrius), and *The Women of Lockerbie* (Bill). He also performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for New Stage education department's virtual tour this past December. He is originally from a small town in Texas and is currently an admission counselor for Belhaven University. He has

enjoyed working with this cast of lovely and talented people, and is glad to be back doing live theatre!



JAYMI HORN (Crystal/Dance Captain) was last seen at New Stage as a member of the 2019-2020 apprentice company and she is very excited to return. She is a resident of Reynoldsburg, Ohio. Horn attended Ohio Northern University where she received a BFA in musical theatre. Some of her notable credits include, Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar, Esmeralda in The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Chiffon in Little Shop of Horrors, and Jasmine in Pipeline. Horn was also seen in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Ring of Fire, Matilda the Musical, and

A Christmas Carol. She is thankful for the unwavering support of her family and friends and she is very grateful for all those at New Stage who allowed her to return!



DEVIN HUNTER (Puppeteer/Skid Row Resident) is a Tallahassee, Fla. native who graduated from Florida A&M University. Recently, Hunter appeared in *The Debate for Democracy* as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and *Hands Up! 7 Testament 7 Playwrights* as Holes in My Identity. He was also a Professional Acting Apprentice at New Stage Theatre, where he not only toured Mississippi performing three productions for grade school students, but also performed in main stage productions of *A Christmas Carol*, *Matilda the Musical*, and *Pipeline* where he

was mentioned in the American Theatre Magazine. Hunter performed in New Stage's virtual production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* that was filmed for distribution to schools around the state during the 2020-2021 school year.



JAYLA LOMAX (Ronnette) is elated to be in her first show with New Stage. She holds a B.S. in speech communication from Jackson State University where she gained a lot of experience from mentors about theatre. Lomax has been in *Black Nativity*, *Mama I Want to Sing*, and *Livin' Fat*. Lomax thanks her family, friends, and anyone who support the fine arts during these trying times.



SAM LOVORN (Understudy) is ecstatic to be a part of the first returning, full musical at New Stage after COVID. He was last seen in *Rising Toward a New Day Musical Revue* in June. Lovorn is a graduate of Mississippi College with a Bachelor's in music education with an emphasis in voice and is currently the assistant choir director at Warren Central High School in Vicksburg. At Warren Central, Lovorn has had the privilege to help direct *Hairspray*, Disney's *Newsies*, *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and Disney's *Descendants* this past

March. Some of his most recent roles include Fred Scrooge/Young Scrooge in A Christmas

Carol, Max in *Bright Star*, Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, Race in *Newsies*, 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*. Let this time without theatre go to show that the Arts will never die; they will only come back stronger than before.



SHARON MILES (Voice of Audrey II/Skid Row Resident) is an actor, singer, director, educator, and playwright. Her original script, *If Not Us Then Who: Freedom Rides to Freedom Summer*, toured throughout the state of Mississippi through New Stage's award-winning education program. Born and raised in Mississippi, Miles is an avid lover of Mississippi history and seeks to use theatre arts to teach character development, youth empowerment, and empathy. Additional original scripts include: *Who Are You Calling Ugly: A Modern Duck Tale, The Middle*

Passage, Andrea, and the Lion: A Gratitude Story, and most recently The Debate for Democracy. Miles is excited to welcome audiences back to New Stage for Little Shop of Horrors! "Oh, how we have missed you!"

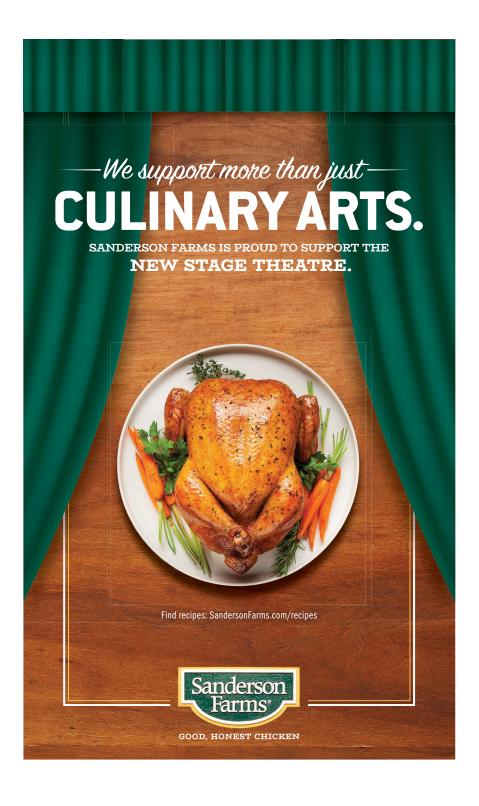


ERIN MORTON (Chiffon) is 17 years-old and from Ridgeland. She has participated in New Stage's Broadway Jr. Summer Camp, where she has gotten to play Pabbie in *Frozen*, *Jr.* and Fiona in *Shrek the Musical*, *Jr.* Some of her other favorite roles include Charlie Blossom in *Working: The Musical* and Asaka in *Once on This Island*. Morton is extremely grateful for the support of her friends and family!



MANDY KATE MYERS (Puppeteer/Skid Row Resident/ Understudy) is excited to be back with New Stage Theatre! Some of her New Stage credits include *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, A Christmas Carol, Peter Pan, Shrek the Musical, The Marvelous Wonderettes* and *It Ain't Nothin' But the Blues.* She performed in 54/54/54 at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York and appeared alongside Leslie Jordan in New Stage's premiere staged reading of the new musical, *Glory! Glory!* Other favorites include roles in *Avenue Q, All My Sons*,

Sordid Lives, Dog Sees God, Company, and Sweeney Todd. Most recently, Myers served as musical director for New Stage's First Stages and Broadway, Jr. Summer Camps, and was a part of the Spotlight Reading Series with JOOKMS. 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. She also works as talent coordinator and workshops coordinator for BroadwayCon in New York.



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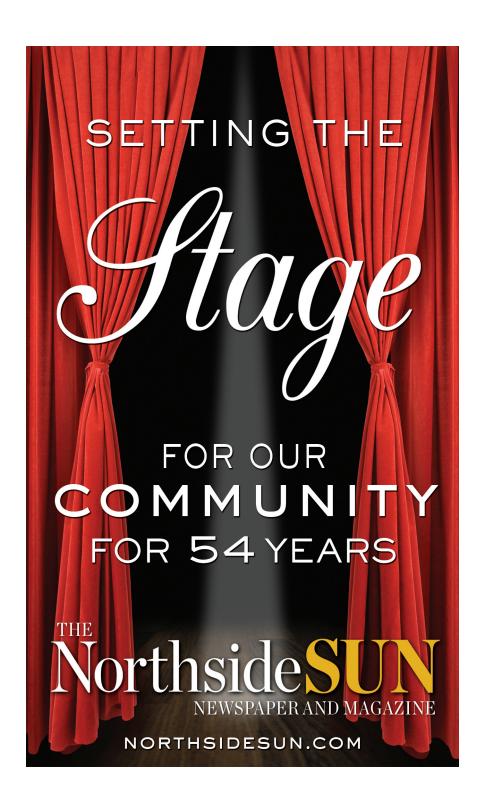


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MUSICIANS

ANDREW DILLON (Guitar/Mandolin) was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. He received a B.A. in music education with a concentration in strings K-12 from Jackson State University. This summer, Dillon received a M.A. in teaching from Longy School of Music at Bard College. He believes all children should have access to a robust, active music life and he strives to ensure all children have access to classical music education. He has four years of experience teaching music education in public schools in Jackson and Raleigh, North Carolina. Previously, Dillon served five and half years as the Mozart Principal Teaching Artist & conducted the Vivaldi Orchestra for the Kidznotes' Raleigh program, where he taught music for social change. He is also a professional musician and gigs as a solo artist under the moniker 'The Amazin' Lazy Boi' - specializing in Top 40 hits playing guitar, bass guitar, and violin. He also plays fiddle and sings blues and bluegrass with his family band, The Dillonaires. When Dillon is not playing music, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Chelsea and their two children, Mendelssohn & Lazarus.

PAUL HEINDL (Drums) received B.M. and M.M. performance degrees from The University of Mississippi where he was active in many of the university instrumental ensembles. He is an active clinician, adjudicator, and performer and has played with the Corinth, Meridian, and Mississippi Symphony Orchestras as well as the Mississippi Wind Symphony. Heindl performs regularly with jazz, country, and rock acts locally and regionally and has recorded with Tom Edwards, Katie Heckle, Beth Stapleton, Jason Turner, and many others. He also performs musicals regularly at high schools, colleges and at New Stage Theatre. He has performed at several area churches and currently plays drum set for Countrywoods Baptist Church in Byram. Heindl is a full-time instructor of percussion at Hinds Community College, is an adjunct professor at Mississippi College, and teaches privately in the Jackson area. He lives in Clinton with his wife, Adriana, and he is the proud father of Annelise, Kali, Haddie, Esli, and Ashlyn.

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

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



THE PRODUCTION STAFF

HOWARD ASHMAN (Book & Lyrics) Best known as a pivotal creative mind behind the renaissance of Disney animation and his work on *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin* and *Beauty and The Beast* (which is dedicated to, "Our friend, Howard Ashman, who gave a Mermaid her voice and a Beast his soul...") Ashman's first love was theater. Ashman was a founder of off Broadway's renowned WPA Theater, where he conceived, wrote and directed *God Bless You*, *Mr. Rosewater*. In 1986, he wrote and directed the Broadway musical *Smile* (music by Marvin Hamlisch). Lamented as a lost treasure of the 1980's theater scene, *Smile* remains popular on High School and College campuses throughout the country. Howard Ashman died in 1991 from complications of AIDS. For more information, please visit howardashman.com.

ALAN MENKEN (Composer) Theater: God Bless You Mr. Rosewater, Real Life Funnies, Atina: Evil Queen Of The Galaxy, Kicks, The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz, Beauty And The Beast, A Christmas Carol, Weird Romance, King David, Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame, The Little Mermaid, Sister Act, Leap Of Faith, Aladdin and Newsies. Film: Little Shop Of Horrors, The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, Newsies, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback Of Notre Dame, Hercules, Life With Mikey, Lincoln, Home On The Range, Noel, Enchanted, Shaggy Dog, Tangled and Mirror Mirror. Songs: Rocky

V, *Home Alone 2* and *Captain America*. Awards: 8 Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), 7 Golden Globes, Tony* (plus 4 nominations), Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier and London's Evening Standard Award, Drama League. Honors: Songwriter's Hall of Fame, Doctorates from New York University and University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

PEPPY BIDDY (Director) is happy to return to New Stage Theatre for this special "reopening" production. Biddy last directed 2019's Murder on the Orient Express and A *Christmas Carol.* He 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 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, and Sister Act. www.peppybiddy.com

CAROL JOY SPARKMAN (Music Director/Piano) is the director of choral music at Clinton High School, where she directs four choirs and two pop a cappella ensembles and teaches a general music class. Sparkman also arranges and directs the instrumental pit for the Clinton Junior High Ambassador show choir. She began her career as a member of the Mississippi College music faculty where she received a B.M. in education and a M.M. in vocal coaching/accompanying. She is a founding member of a collaborative national team who has established Service-Learning Partnerships for continuing education in choral music. The team travels to work with South African music educators and choirs. Sparkman is in demand as a vocal coach for both professional and amateur singers in the Southeast Region. Having first attended New Stage productions as a high school student, she says she is glad to have come full circle to be the music director for benefits, cabarets, and main stage musicals.

MALAIKA QUARTERMAN (Choreographer) had the privilege of choreographing New Stage's *Cabaret Rising Toward a New Day*. She was last seen at New Stage in the productions of *Sweat*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Sister Act*, *Our Town*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Annie*. She resides in Jackson with her family and enjoys serving on the board of Fondren Theatre Workshop. She is currently the lead arts teacher and chair of the theatre department at Wells APAC. She is thankful for how supportive her family is as she pursues her interests and dreams.

CLARA SEITZ (Stage Manager) previously served New Stage as assistant technical director and scenic artist. She left in 2016 to peruse a nomadic lifestyle of working on a cruise ship. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women (and smart men too) where she earned a B.A. in theatre. Her previous New Stage credits include stage management for *Pipeline*; lighting design for *Constellations*, scenic design for *A Wrinkle in Time*, props design for *All the Way*, costume design for *Dog Sees God*, and sound design for *Mrs. Mannerly*. She is excited to be back at New Stage, and working with all these wonderful people on such a brilliant show.

DEX EDWARDS (Scenic Designer) holds a BFA in musical theatre, an MFA in directing from Ole Miss, and an affinity for design. He has spent the last 30+ years designing and directing nationally and internationally. During eight years as resident designer at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, his designs won the Critics' Choice Award three years in a row. He was also named in the Cambridge History of American Theatre as one of the top 35 significant American Scenic Designers of the latter half of the 20th Century. As a director, his work both at the Alliance Theatre and Atlanta's Theatre in the Square received multiple nominations for Atlanta's "Suzi Awards." His direction of the world premiere of Sander's Family Reunion won in the category of Best Ensemble Musical. He has designed for theatres such as Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Long Wharf Theatre, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Merrimack Repertory Theatre, Portland Centre Stage, and the Sacramento Theatre Company. He served as design consultant for the 1996 Olympic Centennial Park. His design of Much Ado About Nothing for Chicago Shakespeare won Chicago's coveted Jefferson Award for best scene design, and he also won the Boston Critic's Circle Award for his design of *Miss Saigon* at the North Shore Music Theatre.

RJ HADDY (Plant Designer/Props) is a West Virginia based artist who has served as an actor, director, producer, writer, costume/scenic/properties designer, and a puppeteer. He is most widely recognized for several seasons he appeared on the SyFy Reality show, *FACE OFF*. You can visit rjhaddy.com to browse his site, follow some links, and see all the wacky areas of his life and career he's currently promoting.

KAITE COFFEY (Costume Designer) is from Columbus, Miss. and is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women. Her past credits at New Stage include *A Christmas Story*, *Peter Pan*, and *The Grapes of Wrath* as a guest painter. She has since worked at Busch Gardens Williamsburg as a costume shop supervisor, and as a costume designer at Stagedoor Manor in Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. She is excited to be back at New Stage to support and be supported by live professional theatre in her home state.



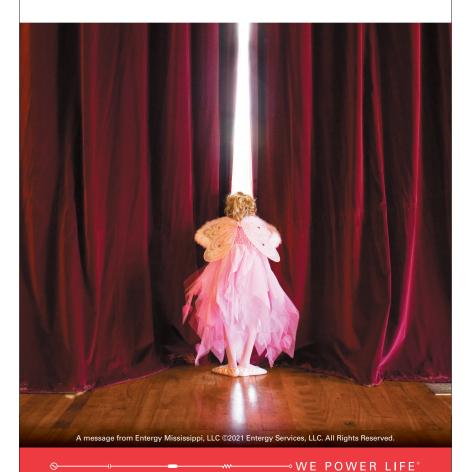
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ANDREW L. PRINCE (Lighting Designer) is the technical director at Jackson Academy Performing Arts Center. He also has a freelance production business and has designed lighting for theatre, musical artists, corporate clients, schools and churches. Prince served eight years in the United States Navy as a nuclear-trained submarine electrician, with additional studies in computer and network engineering. His theatre credits include lighting shows such as **Beauty and the Beast**, **The Little Mermaid**, **Into the Woods**, **Shrek the Musical**, **Newsies**, **Bright Star**, and **Mamma Mia**. Prince is once again honored to be working with the outstanding staff and cast at New Stage Theatre and would like to thank his wife Mary and twin boys Lucas and Owen for their love and support.

ALBERTO MEZA (Sound Designer/Engineer) is a graduate of Belhaven University with a BFA in acting. He is from Brandon and is excited to continue doing theatre near his hometown. He has been with New Stage Theatre since *Matilda The Musical* in January 2020. He has had the chance to work on multiple shows during the pandemic ranging from educational shows to virtual theatre play readings. He is the editor and streamer behind the **Thursday Night Virtual Plays, Conversations, & Cocktails**. Other credits with Belhaven University are lighting designer for *The Secret Garden* and *Don Quixote*; and sound designer for *Little Women the Musical* and *Ezekiel*. Meza has also been live streaming all of the virtual productions New Stage has presented over the last several months.

BRONWYN TEAGUE (Production Manager/COVID Safety Manager) 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.

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.

DARBY FROST (Production Intern) is a recent high school graduate and is excited about his transition from actor to technician to add to the many roles he has played at New Stage

since he was six years old. His past involvement at New Stage include the Youth Acting Troupe, summer camps, backstage crew, and acting roles in five Christmas Carols, *Peter Pan, Legally Blonde, Jr., Singin' in the Rain, Jr., Once on this Island, Jr., Aladdin, Jr., Frozen, Jr., Matilda the Musical*, and *Shrek, Jr.*

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 35 years. She recently directed *Debate* for Democracy, 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 has served three terms 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 and 2017 TCG National Conference Conventions and panelist for the 2020 and 2016 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest. She was a speaker for the 2021 Story State, www. storystate.msstate.edu, produced by Mississippi State University. Originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

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Light Board Operator	Sam Lovorn
Sound Board Operator	Gracie Lunardini
Running Crew	Anna Dunbar, Darby Frost

THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

DAWN BUCK (Managing Director) has worked on staff at New Stage for more than 28 years. She began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time, she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Buck's other professional artistic credits include the USA International Ballet Competition, the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation - World Performance Series presenting a series of performing artists including American Ballet Theatre, Aquila Theatre of London, Joshua Bell, Alvin Ailey, Cirque Eloize, Wynton Marsalis, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She attended Belhaven University and is an alumnus of Leadership Jackson and a graduate of Dale Carnegie. Buck also completed a residency on theatre management at the Eugene O'Neill Center through a grant from the Foundation for the Extension and Development of Professional American Theatre (FEDAPT). Prior to serving on the staff of the USA International Ballet Competition, she worked with America Reads - Mississippi overseeing and training 270 AmeriCorps members who provided one-on-one tutoring in reading for students in primary K through the 3rd grade across the state. Buck also worked with Imageworks - Films for Business, assisting with the production of commercials, documentaries and training videos. She resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood with her husband David and has two sons who live in the big "N" cities of New York and Nashville.

BILL MCCARTY III (General Manager), graduate of the University of Mississippi, has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle supermarket chain. The company was founded by his Grandfather Will McCarty and two Holman cousins in 1919. The families grew the business into a profitable billion dollar Mississippi-based company that W. B. McCarty Jr. and W. H. Holman sold in 1996. During his grocery business work efforts, Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider recruited Bill to run a follow-spotlight for *The Gershwin Show* in 1973 at the theatre's original Gallatin Street location. He has continued to volunteer with New Stage for more than 47 years in all areas including production, lighting and sound design, back-stage crews, 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 (Director of Marketing and Box Office) 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 sixteenth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle, their son, River, and their dog Vash.

SHANNON FROST (Associate Director of Marketing) 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, theatre teacher at Christ Covenant School, and adjunct professor of arts administration at Belhaven University. Frost is currently the financial and membership director of the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education. She resides in Jackson with her husband, Joe and kiddos, Nina, Darby, Emory, Beau, and Violet.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her 17th season at New Stage. She continues to enjoy traveling to schools and towns throughout the state with the Professional Apprentice Company to provide live theatre experiences for students and adults of all ages. When not on the road, you can find her in the box office. She has also served for many years as a volunteer in other areas of the theatre. Her professional work experiences in education and her passion for live theatre have contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Education Department. She has served as a consultant to school districts throughout the state of Mississippi. Wong has a B.S. in Educational Psychology from Mississippi State University, a M.Ed. from Delta State University, and recently won the 2019 Exemplary Arts Service Award from the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education.

CARLA MARSH (House Manager) received her B.A. in criminal justice with an emphasis in juvenile justice from Jackson State University. She is pleased to be returning to New Stage for her eighteenth season. Marsh is employed full time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.



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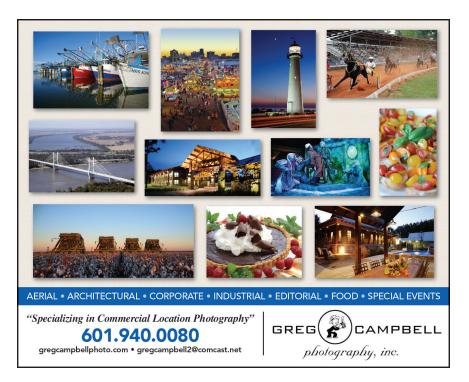
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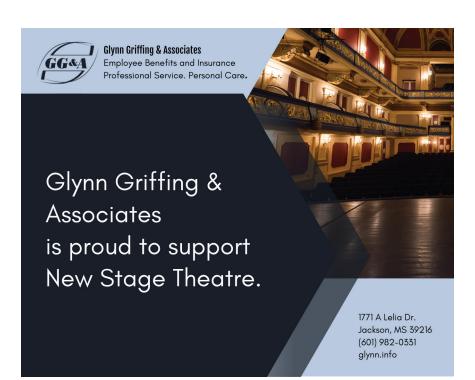
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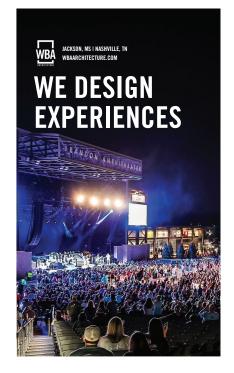
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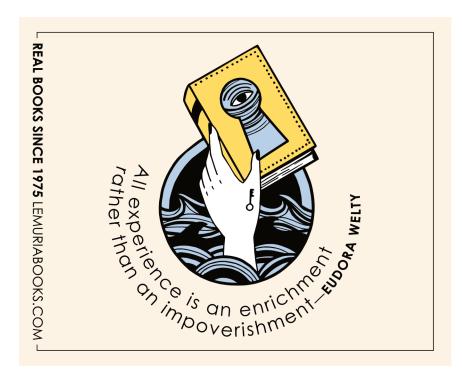
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