

NEW STAGE THEATRE PRESENTS

Agatha Christie
**MURDER ON THE
ORIENT EXPRESS**

ADAPTED BY KEN LUDWIG

DIRECTED BY PEPPY BIDDY

OCTOBER 22-NOVEMBER 3, 2019

SPONSORED BY



Trustmark

NEW STAGE
Theatre

PRODUCTION
STAGE MANAGER
CHRISTAN MCLAURINE

SCENIC/PROJECTION
DESIGNER
DEX EDWARDS

COSTUME DESIGNER
CALEB BLACKWELL

SOUND DESIGNER
KURT DAVIS

LIGHTING DESIGNER
BRONWYN
TEAGUE

PROPERTIES DESIGNER
MARIE VENTERS

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
RICHARD
LAWRENCE

MURDER ON THE ORIENT† EXPRESS

Agatha Christie's
Murder on the Orient Express
adapted by Ken Ludwig

was originally staged by McCarter Theatre Center, Princeton, NJ
Emily Mann, Artistic Director, Timothy J. Shields, Managing Director.
The production subsequently transferred to Hartford Stage, Hartford, CT
Darko Tresnjak, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director

“Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express” is presented by special arrangement
with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

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There will be one 10-minute intermission

THE SETTING

The principal action of the play takes place aboard the
Orient Express as it travels from Istanbul to Western Europe

Time

1934

Act I

Mid-day to morning

Act II

Morning to mid-day

THE CAST

HERCULE POIROT	Bill Ford Campbell*
HEAD WAITER	Christopher Sferra
COLONEL ARBUTHNOT	Jonathan C. Whitney*
MARY DEBENHAM	Chesley McKissack
HELEN HUBBARD	Laurie Pascale*
HECTOR MACQUEEN	Jeremy Cooper
MONSIEUR BOUC.	Ward Emling
MICHEL THE CONDUCTOR	Drew Stark
PRINCESS DRAGOMIROFF	Viola Dacus
GRETA OHLSSON	Keri Grayson Horn
SAMUEL RATCHETT	Larry Wells
COUNTESS ANDRENYI	Audrey Bennett

VOICES

MOTHER	Malaika Quarterman
LITTLE GIRL	Rivka Quarterman
FATHER	Christopher Sferra
THE NANNY	Jaymi Horn
TRAIN STATION ANNOUNCER	John Howell
DISPATCH ANNOUNCER	Joseph Frost

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance. For Monsieur Bouc/Colonel Arbuthnot: Kyle Devin Hunter; For Princess Dragomiroff/Greta Ohlsson: Ellie Boisseau; For Mary Debenham/Countess Andrenyi: Jaymi Horn; Hercule Poirot/Hector MacQueen/Michel: Christopher Sferra

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NEW STAGE THEATRE'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Welcome to the production of *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*. We are delighted to have you in the audience. Our success is due to you and your continued support over the past 53 seasons. I would like to thank the wonderful professional staff, guest artists, and volunteers who give so freely of their talent for every performance. The sets and costumes always amaze me.

I look forward to working with the staff and Board of Trustees this season as we bring you productions that illuminate the human spirit through storytelling and song. If you have not already purchased a season ticket, I encourage you to do so. The theatre relies on your contributions to continue the wonderful programming not only on the main stage but with our educational programs which include classes, workshops, residencies and touring productions throughout the state. Through our educational outreach programs, we want to build future audiences for the theatre—one student at a time.

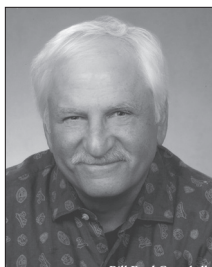
Thank you for your support.

Stacey Gaines

THE CAST



AUDREY BENNETT (Countess Andrenyi) is thrilled to be making her debut at New Stage Theatre alongside this brilliant cast! Bennett is a Mississippi College graduate with a degree in vocal performance. During her time at the university, she studied opera but participated in both the classical and music theatre repertoires. Her favorite moments on stage include *Shrek the Musical* (Princess Fiona), *Show Boat* (Julie LaVerne), *Die Zauberflöte* (Dritte Dame), as well as *Hansel and Gretel* (Hansel). She is eternally grateful for the loving support of her sister and mother as she makes her way to the professional stage!



BILL FORD CAMPBELL* (Hercule Poirot) is pleased to be back at New Stage in this exciting production. Over the past 41 seasons, some of his favorite roles are Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Lombardi in *Lombardi*, Nixon in *Nixon's Nixon*, Uncle Daniel in *The Ponder Heart*, Tito in *Lend Me A Tenor*, Ben Hecht in *Moonlight and Magnolias*, and Paul in *Misery*. His musical credits include El Gallo in *The Fantastiks*; The Pirate King in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and

Dorris R. Gladney in the world premiere of the musical based on Eudora Welty's *The Ponder Heart*. Campbell also has appeared at St. Petersburg's American Stage, Little Rock's Arkansas Repertory Theatre, the Hippodrome in Gainesville, Fla. and Mill Mountain Theatre in Roanoke, Va.

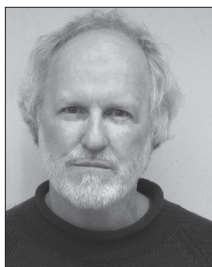


JEREMY COOPER (Hector MacQueen) is thrilled to return to New Stage Theatre! He was last seen as Jimmy Ray in *Bright Star*. Currently residing in Pearl, Cooper moved back home after a few years working as an actor and director in Atlanta, GA. Atlanta credits include *Assassins*, *Urinetown the Musical*, and the MAT-award winning productions of *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Dogfight*, and *Violet the Musical*. He would like to thank his wife, family, and friends for their incredible support and encouragement over the years.



VIOLA DACUS (Princess Dragomiroff) was most recently seen at New Stage Theatre as Mrs. Van Daan in *Diary of Anne Frank*. She has also appeared with New Stage as Emily Brent in *And Then There Were None*, Ouiser Boudreaux in *Steel Magnolias*, Lady Bird Johnson in *All the Way*, Mrs. Hudson/Lucy O'Malley/Old Woman in *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*, Perkins in *Annie*, and Aunt Ev in *The Miracle Worker*. During high school, she was passionately involved in community theatre and she

began college as a theatre major. During that time she appeared as Liesel in *The Sound of Music*, Luisa in *The Fantasticks*, Annie in *The Miracle Worker*, and Sister Helena in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* among other roles. Since then she has established herself as an art song recitalist as well as soloist in both opera and concert venues, performing throughout the Southeastern U.S., New York, and London, as well as cities in Israel, Jordan, and Greece. Dacus' home is Clinton, where she works as Assistant Professor of Music and Voice Area Coordinator at Mississippi College, and lives with her husband, Ed Dacus, and their children Emily Katherine and Jonathan.



WARD EMLING (Monsieur Bouc) was last seen at New Stage as Stan in *Sweat*. A 1976 graduate of Millsaps College, he trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He made his debut appearance on this stage in 1973 in *Jimmy Shine*, followed by *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. With the Millsaps Players under the direction of Lance Goss, he appeared in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Vivat! Vivat Regina!*, *Conduct Unbecoming*, *Hamlet*, *Robert and Elizabeth*, *Hotel Universe*, *The Lady's Not for Burning*, and others. In Los Angeles, he appeared in *Sand Mountain* at the Back Alley Theatre, and in several series from the ancient age of television: *Beulah Land*, *The Mississippi*, *Matt Houston*, *St. Elsewhere*, *Knot's Landing*, *Our House*, and *Matlock*. Previous New Stage productions include *Peg O My Heart*, *The Little Foxes*, *What The Butler Saw*, *The Diviners*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, the folk opera *The Ponder Heart*, *Shakespeare in Love*, and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.



KERI GRAYSON HORN (Greta Ohlsson) graduated with highest honors from the University of Southern Mississippi with a BFA in theatre, and was last seen at New Stage as Flick's Mom in *A Christmas Story*, *The Musical*. Recently, she has been performing with Jackson's newest Improv Group, The Royal Y'all, and has enjoyed making stuff up with them for good causes throughout the metro area. Horn is a producer, voice over artist, puppeteer and closed captioner at Mississippi Public Broadcasting, and is proud to have been there for almost 20 years! Through all of the craziness, she has always had the love and support of her friends and family, and for that, she is truly grateful. www.VoicesKeri.com



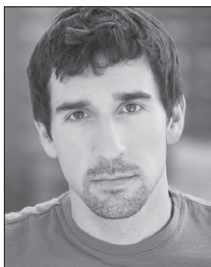
CHESLEY MCKISSACK (Mary Debenham) began her acting career very early. She kept herself busy with school drama and local little theatre throughout the first 16 years of her life. From there, she decided to attend the Mississippi School of the Arts where she majored in, you guessed it, theatre. She just couldn't get enough. After graduating, McKissack continued to study acting at the University of Southern Mississippi. She has performed in shows such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Forbidden Broadway*, and *MacBeth*. Sure, pursuing an acting career can be a rocky road at times but... what's the expression? "All's well that ends well."



LAURIE PASCALE* (Helen Hubbard) is thrilled to be back in Jackson and working with friends at New Stage! Ms. Pascale last appeared at New Stage as Clairee in *Steel Magnolias*. You might remember her in *A Christmas Carol* and as Kate in *All My Sons*. Ms. Pascale continues practicing her craft, splitting her time between Northwest Arkansas and the DFW area. She has appeared in several films in the past few years, notably the coming of age film, *F.R.E.D.I.*, available on Netflix and Amazon Prime. Thank you, Francine and Peppy, for inviting me back! Ms. Pascale is a member of Actors Equity.



CHRISTOPHER SFERRA (Head Waiter) is excited and thankful to be making his New Stage debut! He recently graduated from SMU with a BFA in theatre. He is currently an acting apprentice at New Stage. At Southern Methodist University, he played such roles as Trouble/Doctor (*In the Blood*) and Adult Male (*Spring Awakening*). Professionally, he has played such roles as Dr. Watson (*The Hound of the Baskervilles* Jean's Playhouse) and Bruce Ismay (*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!



DREW STARK (Michel the Conductor) New Stage productions include: *Bright Star* (Daryl Ames), *Sweet Potato Queens*, *The Musical* (George), *A Christmas Carol* (Solicitor), *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 staged readings of *Perfect Arrangement* and *The Only Light in Reno* by Topher Payne, and *Sons of Levi* by Randy Redd. 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 serving currently as New Stage's Education Associate. Hugs to his family! Romans 8:28



Goss. He has served as company armorer for a number of productions at New Stage and Millsaps.

LARRY WELLS (Samuel Ratchett) appeared last season as Otto Frank in New Stage's production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In recent seasons, he has acted the roles of Sir Robert de Lesseps in *Shakespeare in Love*, Doc Gibbs in *Our Town*, Ludwig van Beethoven in *33 Variations*, Van Helsing in *Dracula*, Pa Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, Lyman Wyeth in *Other Desert Cities*, and Judge Taylor in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Wells is a theatre graduate of Millsaps College, where he studied under the late Lance



(Petruchio); *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde* (Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde); *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* (Sherlock Holmes); He has also appeared in several web series, music videos, video games, and advertisements. Many thanks to his family and friends. BFA, acting: Ball State University. JonathanCWhitney.com

JONATHAN C. WHITNEY* (Colonel Arbuthnot) is extremely happy to be back at New Stage Theatre, first appearing here as Philip Lombard in *And Then There Were None*. From southern Ohio, Whitney now lives in New York City and has since appeared in several collegiate, regional, and NYC productions including: *Sex Tips for Straight Women From a Gay Man*, Off-Broadway (Stefan); *The Video Games*, Off-Broadway (Scorpion/DK swing); *Henry V* (Henry V); *Taming of the Shrew*



love, and all her friends who've lifted her up her through thick and thin.

ELLIE BOISSEAU (Princess Dragomiroff/Greta Ohlsson US) 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

actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express* following the show on Wednesday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 30. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



JAYMI HORN (Mary Debenham/Countess Andrenyi US) 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 (Monsieur Bouc/Colonel Arbuthnot US) 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.

THE PRODUCTION STAFF

KEN LUDWIG (playwright) is a two-time Olivier Award-winning playwright who has written over 26 plays and musicals, including six shows on Broadway and seven in London's West End. His first Broadway play, *Lend Me A Tenor*, won two Tony Awards and was called "one of the classic comedies of the 20th century" by The Washington Post. His other awards include the Helen Hayes Award, the 2017 Samuel French Award for Sustained Excellence in the American Theatre, the Edgar Award for Best Mystery of the Year, and the Edwin Forrest Award for Contributions to the American Theater. His book *How To Teach Your Children*

Shakespeare, published by Penguin/Random House, won the Falstaff Award for Best Shakespeare Book of the Year, and his essays are published by the Yale Review. Ludwig's best known works include *Crazy For You* (5 years on Broadway, Tony and Olivier Awards for Best Musical), *Lend Me A Tenor*, *Moon Over Buffalo*, *The Game's Afoot*, *Baskerville*, *Sherwood*, *A Fox on the Fairway*, and a stage version of *Murder on the Orient Express*, written expressly at the request of the Agatha Christie Estate. His newest play, *The Gods of Comedy*, premieres in 2019 at The McCarter Theater in Princeton and The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. On Broadway and the West End, his plays have starred Alec Baldwin, Carol Burnett, Tony Shalhoub, Lynn Redgrave and Joan Collins. He holds degrees from Harvard, where he studied music with Leonard Bernstein, Haverford College and Cambridge University. His work has been performed in over 30 countries in more than 20 languages, and is produced somewhere in the United States and abroad every night of the year. www.kenludwig.com

PEPPY BIDDY (Director) returns to New Stage Theatre after directing last season's *A Christmas Carol*. 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 the years 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*, *Gutenberg: The Musical!*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Idols of the King*, *The Fantasticks*, *Crowns*, *Hank Williams: Lost Highway*, *A Grand Night For Singing*, *The Marvelous Wonderettes*, *The Foreigner*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Vanya*, *Sonia*, *Masha*, and *Spike*, and *Sister Act*. www.peppybiddy.com

CHRISTAN MCLAURINE (Production Stage Manager) is excited to be stage managing his second show 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!

DEX EDWARDS (Scenic/Projection Designer) serves as the Head of Design at Ole Miss and has spent the last 25 years designing and directing nationally and internationally. During ten years as resident designer at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, his designs won the Critics’ Choice Award four years in a row. Regionally, 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. Outside the US he has designed for the Queen’s Mill Theatre and the Winter Garden, both in Toronto, and at the Berlin Opera House. He served as Design Consultant for the 1996 Olympic Centennial Park and as Concept Designer for the 1994 World Cup Opening Ceremonies in the nation’s capital. Prior to returning to Ole Miss in 1998, he received a Carbonell Award Nomination for designing the world premiere of Jimmy Buffet’s *Don’t Stop the Carnival*. 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. Commercially, his designs have appeared recently in both Las Vegas and Branson.

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.

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

Assistant Stage Manager Ellie Boisseau
Dialect Coach Keri Grayson Horn
Combat Drew Stark
Master Carpenter Jimmy “JR” Robertson
Costume Assistants Lydia Lippincot, Esther Newell
Videographer Michael Tobin
Video Editor Tony King, Rachel Tibbs
Light Board Operator Jeffrey Cornelius
Sound Board Operator Marie Venters
Running Crew Ellie Boisseau, Darby Frost, Kyle Devin Hunter,
Jaymi Horn, Devin Ranftle, Christopher Sferra,
Wendy Sheppard, LaZerrick Travis
Box Office Associates Nina Frost, Kerri Puckett, Amy Smith

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.

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.

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 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.

COMING
NEXT

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.

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.



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

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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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!

Theatre Arts Conservatory

When: Meets Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (October 18 – December 13)

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 fall semester will span 8 weeks, which includes classwork/rehearsals and an informal showcase performance for family and friend

Cost: \$385 for the semester: includes tickets to matinee performances of Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* and Michael Wilson's *A Christmas Carol*. Family discounts are available.

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



A Literary Cabaret: Musical Abstracts from Classical Literature

Please join us for a night of cabaret.

Saturday, November 16, 2019

at 6:30 p.m. at New Stage Theatre

Complimentary wine, hors d'oeuvres, business casual

A Literary Cabaret is a benefit for

New Stage Theatre's Education Department.

Tickets are \$50 per person and are available at
the box office or online.

~ Please RSVP by November 8, 2019 ~

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; 601-948-3533, ext.232



**Find us on Facebook, Twitter,
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receive our newsletter at 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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*During performances, the box office
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Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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