

**ONE
NATION.
MANY
DREAMS.**



RAGTIME

★ THE MUSICAL ★

Book by Terrence McNally, Music by Stephen Flaherty, Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Based on the novel "Ragtime" by E. L. Doctorow

Directed by Francine Thomas Reynolds, Music Director Carol Joy Sparkman, Choreographer Tiffany Jefferson

MAY 26 – JUNE 7, 2026

Sponsored by

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NEW STAGE
Theatre

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CHARITABLE TRUST

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Xerron X Mingo

Assistant Music Director
Mary Catherine
Fehrenbacher

Costume Designer
J. Theresa Bush

Lighting Designer
Annalise V. Caudle

Properties Designer
Anna Dunbar

Technical Director
Richard Lawrence

Scenic Designer
Braden Graves

Production Manager
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Stage Manager
Rachel Boudreaux

Sound Designer
/Audio Engineer
Callie Jackson

The New Stage Theatre
Production of

RAGTIME

★ THE MUSICAL ★

Book by Terrence McNally; Music by Stephen Flaherty; Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. Based on the novel "Ragtime" by E. L. Doctorow

Ragtime is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIshows.com

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

WARNING

This performance contains coarse language, theatrical haze, and gunshots.

Ragtime contains historically accurate language, including coarse language, racial slurs, derogatory terms, and moments of violence and prejudice reflective of the early twentieth century. These elements are presented in service of the musical's honest and unflinching examination of America's history, social divisions, and enduring struggles with racism, injustice, and inequality. As required by the licensing agreement, the text of the musical is performed as written by the authors and may not be altered by the producing theatre. The production does not endorse the language or attitudes expressed by its characters.

SETTING

New York City and surrounding areas at the turn of the century

There will be a 15-minute intermission

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue: “Ragtime” The Company

Scene 1: Dock in New York Harbor/At Sea

“Goodbye My Love” Mother

“Journey On” Father, Tateh, and Mother

Scene 2: A Vaudeville Theater, New York City

“The Crime of the Century” . . . Evelyn Nesbit, Mother’s Younger Brother, and Ensemble

Scene 3: Mother’s Garden, New Rochelle

“What Kind of Woman” Mother

Scene 4: Ellis Island/Lower East Side

“A Shtetl Iz Amereke” Tateh, The Little Girl, and Ensemble

“Success” Tateh, J.P. Morgan, Harry Houdini, and Ensemble

Scene 5: The Tempo Club/Harlem/Ford’s assembly line

“His Name Was Coalhouse Walker” Coalhouse Walker Jr. and Ensemble

“Gettin’ Ready Rag” Coalhouse Walker Jr. and Ensemble

“Henry Ford” Henry Ford, Coalhouse Walker Jr., and Ensemble

Scene 6: Trolley Station, New Rochelle

“Nothing Like the City” Tateh, Mother, The Little Boy, and The Little Girl

Scene 7: Emerald Isle Firehouse

Scene 8: Mother’s House, New Rochelle

“Your Daddy’s Son” Sarah

“The Courtship” Coalhouse, Mother, Company

“New Music” Father, Mother, Mother’s Younger Brother,
Coalhouse Walker Jr., Sarah, and Ensemble

Scene 9: A hillside above New Rochelle

“Wheels of a Dream” Coalhouse Walker Jr. and Sarah

Scene 10: A union hall in New York City/Lawrence, Massachusetts/A train

“The Night That Goldman Spoke at Union Square” Mother’s Younger Brother,
Emma Goldman, and Ensemble

“Gliding” Tateh

Scene 11: New Rochelle and New York City

“Justice” Coalhouse Walker, Jr. and Ensemble

“President” Sarah

“Till We Reach That Day” Sarah’s Friend, Coalhouse Walker Jr., Emma Goldman,
Mother’s Younger, Brother, Mother, Tateh, Gospel Soloist, and Ensemble

ACT II

Entr'acte Band

Scene 1: The streets of New Rochelle/Mother's House

"Coalhouse's Soliloquy" Coalhouse Walker, Jr.

"Coalhouse Demands" The Company

Scene 2: The Polo Grounds

"What a Game" Father, The Little Boy, and Ensemble Men

Scene 3: Mother's House

"Atlantic City" Evelyn Nesbit and Harry Houdini

"New Music Reprise" Father

Scene 4: Atlantic City/Boardwalk

"Atlantic City Part II" Evelyn Nesbit, Harry Houdini, and Ensemble

"Buffalo Nickel Photoplay Inc." Tateh

"Our Children" Mother and Tateh

Scene 5: Harlem/Coalhouse's hideout

"Sarah Brown Eyes" Coalhouse Walker, Jr. and Sarah

"He Wanted To Say" Emma Goldman, Mother's Younger Brother,
Coalhouse Walker, Jr., and Coalhouse's Gang

Scene 6: The beach, Atlantic City

"Back to Before" Mother, Ensemble Women

Scene 7: The Morgan Library, New York City

"Look What You've Done" Booker T. Washington,
Coalhouse Walker Jr., and Ensemble

"Make Them Hear You" Coalhouse Walker, Jr.

Epilogue: "Ragtime/Wheels of a Dream Reprise" The Company

CAST

Mother Jamie Shannon Ferguson

Father Andrew Fehrenbacher*

Mother's Younger Brother Sam Lovorn

Coalhouse Walker, Jr John Christopher Adams

Sarah Hillary S. Watkins

Tateh Tyler Bellmon*

Emma Goldman Laura Dixon

Evelyn Nesbit Lauren Parkinson

Grandfather Rick Brooks

Willie Conklin Erick Julian Weeks

Henry Ford/Admiral Peary	Eric Eaton
J.P.Morgan	Darren Dale
Sarah's Friend	Carmen Washington
Harlem Man/Henson	Delvin Kelly
Harlem Man	Tarvorius K. House
Harlem Woman/Gospel Soloist.	Vershaune Stamps
Booker T. Washington	Hosea Griffith
Brigit.	Mandy Kate Myers
Kathleen.	Hannah Beth Rollman
Harry Houdini.	Slade Haney
Baron's Assistant/Harlem Woman	Jayla M. Lomax
Young Boy	Caleb Gilliam
Young Girl	Mary Alden Ratcliff
Coalhouse Walker III	Jasir Turner

ENSEMBLE

Rick Brooks, Darren Dale, Tanner Davis, Eric Eaton, Laura Dixon, Hosea Griffith, Taijha Hackett, Slade Haney, Tarvorius K. House, Delvin Kelly, Jayla M. Lomax, Mandy Kate Myers, Lauren Parkinson, Hannah Beth Rollman, Emily Schulte, Vershaune Stamps, Carmen Washington, Erick Julian Weeks

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of the performance.

For Mother: Mandy Kate Myers; For Younger Brother: Slade Haney; For Tateh: Eric Eaton; For Father: Darren Dale; For Emma: Kathlyn Arcemont; For Sarah: Jalysa Jones; For Coalhouse Walker, Jr.: Rene Young; For Booker T. Washington: Xerron X Mingo; For Young Girl: Allie Vandiver; For Young Boy: Jackson Parkinson; For Grandfather: Erick Weeks; For Evelyn: Hannah Beth Rollman; For Sarah's Friend: Jayla M. Lomax; For Baron's Assistant: Vershaune Stamps

* Appears through courtesy of Actors' Equity Association

RAGTIME BAND

Music Director/Piano	Carol Joy Sparkman
Assistant Music Director/Keyboard.	Mary Catherine Fehrenbacher
Drums/Percussion	Paul Heindl
Bass/Tuba.	Ben Williams
Violin	Ty Maisel
Reeds	Dustin Hazlett
Guitar/Banjo/Mandolin.	Taylor Wells

HISTORY OF THE PLAY & AUTHOR

E.L. Doctorow's acclaimed 1975 novel ***Ragtime*** wove together fictional characters and historical figures to create a sweeping portrait of America at the dawn of the twentieth century. Set primarily between 1902 and 1912 during the Progressive Era, the story unfolds in and around New York City amid rapid industrialization, mass immigration, racial conflict, and extraordinary social change. Blending fictional lives with historical figures such as Harry Houdini, Booker T. Washington, Emma Goldman, Henry Ford, and Evelyn Nesbit, Doctorow created a richly layered examination of race, class, power, justice, and the pursuit of the American Dream. The novel quickly became celebrated for its imaginative storytelling, historical insight, and uniquely American scope.

The musical adaptation of ***Ragtime*** premiered in Toronto in 1996 before opening on Broadway in 1998. Featuring a book by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty, and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, the production established itself as one of the landmark American musicals of its era. Directed by Frank Galati, the original Broadway production earned thirteen Tony Award nominations and won four Tony Awards, including Best Original Score, Best Book of a Musical, and Best Orchestrations.

Book writer Terrence McNally was one of America's most celebrated playwrights and librettists, known for his wit, emotional depth, and advocacy for the theatre arts. His distinguished career included acclaimed plays such as ***Love! Valour! Compassion!***, ***Master Class***, and ***Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune***, as well as musical librettos for ***Kiss of the Spider Woman***, ***The Full Monty***, and ***Anastasia***. McNally received multiple Tony Awards and was honored with the Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre in 2019.

Composer Stephen Flaherty and lyricist Lynn Ahrens are among the most acclaimed writing teams in contemporary musical theatre. Their collaborations include ***Once on This Island***, ***Seussical***,

Anastasia, **Rocky**, and **A Man of No Importance**. Together they have received Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and Academy Award nominations, earning recognition for their soaring melodies, emotionally resonant storytelling, and uniquely theatrical style. **Ragtime** is widely considered one of their defining achievements.

Ragtime is an epic American musical that weaves together the lives of three groups searching for hope, justice, and opportunity in a rapidly changing nation: an affluent white family in suburban New Rochelle, Jewish immigrants arriving in America, and Harlem's Black community. The story follows Mother, a woman beginning to question the limitations placed upon her life and society; Tateh, a determined Jewish immigrant striving to build a better future for his daughter; and Coalhouse Walker Jr., a gifted Black pianist whose pursuit of dignity and justice is shattered by racism and violence. As their lives intersect, the musical explores themes of race, immigration, class, family, social change, and the promise—and failures—of the American Dream.

Its soaring score blends ragtime, gospel, jazz, and traditional Broadway storytelling to create one of the most ambitious and emotionally powerful musicals of the modern era. At its heart, **Ragtime** is a story about people fighting to be seen, heard, and valued in a nation struggling to define itself.

The musical has continued to enjoy acclaimed revivals, including the celebrated 2009 Broadway revival and the widely praised 2024 New York City Center gala production, which transferred to Broadway in 2025. Critics have hailed the production as both emotionally stirring and strikingly relevant to modern America.

More than two decades after its premiere, **Ragtime** remains one of the most ambitious and moving works in contemporary musical theatre — a deeply American story whose themes continue to resonate across generations.

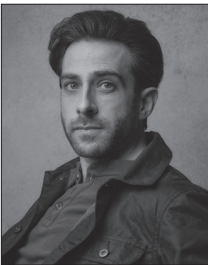
THE CAST



JOHN CHRISTOPHER ADAMS (Coalhouse Walker, Jr.) is a powerhouse performer from Fannin, MS who has performed on the grand stages of the Middle East and Europe. His artistry defies categorization. A true stylistic chameleon, Adams navigates opera, jazz, gospel, and musical theatre with an effortless versatility that has captivated audiences in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Israel, as well as American cultural hubs like Chicago, Houston, and Seattle. His artistry was honed while pursuing advanced degrees in Vocal Performance and Opera from the prestigious University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music (CCM) and Mississippi College. This foundation allows him to deliver performances that are as vocally breathtaking as they are emotionally resonant, whether he is soaring through an operatic aria or delivering a soulful jazz standard. A rare blend of international talent and entrepreneurial leadership, Adams brings a sophisticated, charismatic presence to every stage he touches. When he isn't performing under the spotlights, he serves as Executive Director of Opera Mississippi and CEO of the John C. Adams State Farm Agency in Gadsden, Alabama.



KATHLYN ARCEMONT (Emma U.S.) is so happy to be back with New Stage Theatre! Most recently, she has been seen on the New Stage Theatre stage as Betty in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, Margot in *Bright Star*, Sister Mary Patrick in *Sister Act*, and Madame de la Grand Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast*. In her daily life, Arcemont is the current director of the award-winning pop a cappella groups at Brandon High School and Brandon Middle School. As a native of Mississippi, she has received a bachelor's degree in Music Education, emphasis in voice, from the University of Southern Mississippi. At USM, Arcemont was a member of Spirit of Southern and the Southern Chorale with whom she's premiered original choral works in South Korea, Spain, Estonia, and Latvia. In 2024 and 2025, she studied musical theatre abroad in Bavaria, Germany with the International Performing Arts Institute as a young artist and a teaching fellow. She is grateful to be even a small part of this fabulous show!



TYLER BELLMON* (Tateh) is excited to return to New Stage Theatre for *Ragtime*. Favorite credits include Elin Hilderbrand's *Winter Street* (Kevin Quinn; Theater Workshop of Nantucket), *Little Women* (Bhaer; New Stage Theatre), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Seymour; New Stage Theatre, Gretna Theatre), *Bright Star* (Billy Cane; New Stage Theatre), *Into The Woods* (The Baker; Theatre Workshop of Nantucket), *A Christmas Carol* (Cratchit/Fred; The Hanover Theater), and *Biloxi Blues* (Eugene; Forestburgh Playhouse). Bellmon holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Emerson College. Thanks to the HTA team, who saw him on this very stage and have been

his champions since. For mom and her love of art, dad and his hard work and sacrifice, and Ahren and his passion for films and storytelling. You are all at the very heart of who Tateh is. Connect with him on social media @tylerbellmon.



RICK BROOKS (Grandfather/Ensemble) is a retired United Methodist pastor and native of Raymond, Mississippi. Brooks has performed in theater roles through the years including Fagin in *Oliver*, Professor Harold Hill in *The Music Man*, Burl in *Smoke on the Mountain*, Jesus in *Godspell*, Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*, and El Gallo in *The Fantasticks*, and recently as a New Stage understudy for the roles of Claude and Nick in *Come From Away*. He is excited to work with this talented cast and crew of *Ragtime*, reexamining the important themes and struggles of this

American experiment near the 250th anniversary of its beginning. He currently enjoys sharing his baritone voice in an array of venues, including choral and ensemble groups and his own song programs featuring standards from the Sinatra era. Always ready for coffee and conversation, he lives nearby in Belhaven with his wife Lynn, son John Wesley, dog Mack, and cat Rosie. On Facebook and Instagram (rvrbrooks). Grace and peace!



DARREN DALE (J.P. Morgan/Father U.S./Ensemble) is thrilled to return to New Stage Theatre after making his debut in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*. A proud Clinton, Mississippi native, Dale holds degrees in marketing and music education from Mississippi College and a master's degree in music education from The University of Southern Mississippi. After 18 years as a choral music educator, most recently in Jackson Public Schools, he transitioned to healthcare administration at University of Mississippi Medical Center. When he's not on stage, Dale

volunteers with CASA of Hinds County, advocating for children in the foster care system. A lifelong lover of game shows and random trivia, he recently appeared on *The Greatest Average American* with host Nate Bargatze, fulfilling a lifelong dream of being confidently average on national television. Dale lives in Jackson's Fondren neighborhood and would like to thank his family, friends, and New Stage community for all of the love and support.



TANNER DAVIS (Ensemble) is a high school graduate who will be attending Mississippi College this fall, with his major currently undecided. *Ragtime* is his first production with New Stage Theatre. His previous roles include Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Corny Collins in *Hairspray*. Davis is thankful to God, family, friends, and teachers who have graciously supported him (and sometimes given him a necessary kick in the pants.)

actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *Ragtime* following the show on Wednesday, May 27 and Thursday, June 4, after the evening performance. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, directors and designers in an informal setting.



LAURA DIXON (Emma Goldman/Ensemble) is beyond thrilled to be back at New Stage Theatre, telling this incredible story with such a remarkable cast and crew. Most recently appearing as Emily in the New Stage production of *Elf The Musical*, other New Stage credits include *Matilda the Musical* (Miss Honey); *The Sound of Music* (Frau Schmidt/Nun); and *A Christmas Carol* (Ms. Dilber). Lawyer by day and mom of two, Dixon could not do this without the unwavering support of her husband, Joe. She hopes you love this show as much as she does, and sincerely

thanks Francine, Carol Joy, and the entire New Stage production staff for making a high school dream come true.



ERIC EATON (Henry Ford/Admiral Peary/Tateh U.S./Ensemble) is thrilled to return to the main stage at New Stage Theatre. He was last seen here 10 years ago as Marley in *A Christmas Carol*, and has also appeared in the New Stage Toast to Broadway Gala multiple times over the years. In his acting career, Eaton has performed in more than 10 stage productions and has lent his voice as a SAG-AFTRA eligible actor to over 30 professional radio and television spots. He especially enjoys character roles and is grateful to Francine for the opportunity to portray Henry Ford

alongside such a talented company. Eaton is incredibly proud of his two teenage sons, Banks and Hayes, who are actively involved in Thespian Society, Youth Legislature, football team, and Model United Nations. He is also proud to be the great-grandson of Lebanese immigrants on his mother's side who came to the United States around the time *Ragtime* is set. Eaton dedicates this performance to his beloved parents, Christine and Emmett, and sends his love to all his family and friends. #okay



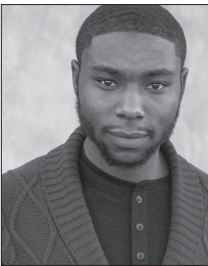
ANDREW FEHRENBACHER* (Father) is so honored to be here! A New York based actor, Fehrenbacher grew up in Brandon, went to college at MC, and started his professional acting career at New Stage as Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*. Since then, he has performed on the national tour of Lincoln Center's *My Fair Lady* and the international tour of *The Sound of Music*, in addition to numerous regional theatres around the country. He is so grateful to Francine, Carol Joy, his colleagues in this show, and Dr. Perna, and is excited to be sharing this project with his wife, Mary Catherine.



JAMIE SHANNON FERGUSON (Mother/Dialect Coach) is thankful to return to New Stage and work with this incredible team. She is Assistant Professor of Music and Theater and Director of Lyric Stage at Mississippi College. Past New Stage credits include Bonnie in *Come From Away*, Poppy in *Noises Off*, and Martha in *The Secret Garden*. She holds degrees in music and theatre from Mississippi College and The Boston Conservatory. jamieshannonferguson.com @beltertrash



CALEB GILLIAM (Young Boy) is excited to make his New Stage debut in this amazing production. He is 11 years old and attends Eastside Elementary School in Clinton, MS. He has been in Broadway JR. shows such as *Frozen, JR.* as Hans and *Lion King, JR.* as Pumba. He has also been a part of Clinton Brickstreet Players' production of *Into the Woods* as the Narrator. He is thankful to New Stage for giving him this opportunity and to his teachers and family for encouraging him to pursue his interests in theater.



HOSEA GRIFFITH (Booker T. Washington/Ensemble) is a proud graduate of the University of Mobile (M.M.) and Mississippi College (B.M.). He has appeared in numerous productions across Jackson and beyond, including *Sister Act*, *Bright Star*, and *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage Theatre. Recent credits include Songs for a New World (Uproar Theatre), *Come From Away*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Chicken and Biscuits*, and *Wait Until Dark* (New Stage Theatre). Hosea has also performed in various workshops and concert readings of the new musical *Slippin' Through the Cracks* in Jackson (New Stage Theatre), New York, and Chicago (Goodman Theatre).



TAIJHA HACKETT (Ensemble) is a graduating senior from Clinton High School and is thrilled to be part of *Ragtime!* She was recently seen as Ali in Pearl Community Theatre's *Mamma Mia!* Her favorite past roles include *Children of Eden, JR.*, *Mean Girls, JR.*, and *Sister Act, JR.* Offstage, she enjoys pickleball, volunteering, and rewatching early 2000s rom-coms. Hackett plans to attend Mississippi State University to major in Elementary Education and dreams of one day performing on Broadway in New York City. She thanks God, her family, and her friends for their endless love and support!



SLADE HANEY (Harry Houdini/Mother's Younger Brother U.S./ Ensemble) is honored to return to New Stage Theatre for **Ragtime!** He is a recent graduate of Mississippi College where he studied Biology: Pre-Medicine. This is Haney's fourth production with New Stage after performing as Pabbie/Kristoff U.S. in **Frozen**, Trevor in **The Play That Goes Wrong**, Rodrigo/Laurie U.S. in **Little Women**. He would like to thank his friends and family for their ongoing encouragement of his performance pursuits. Matthew 28:20



TARVORIUS K. HOUSE (Harlem Man/Ensemble) is an actor, singer, and director from Lowndes County, Alabama. In Spring 2024, he earned his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Performance from Alabama State University. During his time there, House appeared in productions including **Dreamgirls** (C.C. White), **The Wiz** (Tinman), and **Blues for an Alabama Sky** (Sam Thomas). As an Acting Associate with New Stage Theatre, House continued expanding his theatrical experience through productions such as **Frozen**, **Tambo & Bones** (Unframed), and **Wit** (Unframed). He is grateful for every opportunity to share his artistry and is excited to continue growing with his New Stage family.



JALYSSA JONES (Sarah U.S.) is so excited to be a part New Stage for the first time! She is a native of Jackson, MS and the music teacher and choir director at Eastside Elementary in Clinton, MS. She has performed as Queenie in **Show Boat**, First Lady in **The Magic Flute**, and The Dew Fairy in **Hansel and Gretel**. She hopes to spread joy and touch hearts using her musical gifts, and to continue to teach others to do the same!



DELVIN KELLY (Harlem Man/Hensen/Ensemble) is a resident of Brandon, MS and currently serves as the Warren Central Jr. High Choir Director. He has performed in **Beautiful: The Carole King Musical** and has been the Assistant Choreographer at New Stage's Broadway Jr. summer camp since 2022. He has choreographed for the Hattiesburg Choral Program, is an alumnus of Montage Theatre of Dance at Hinds Community College, performing at the Jackson Film, Music, and Gospel Music Awards in 2023 and 2024. His most recent performance was **The Magic Flute** with the MS Opera Chorus in Spring 2025. He is ecstatic to be back on the stage.



JAYLA M. LOMAX (Baron's Assistant/ Harlem Woman/Sarah's Friend U.S./Ensemble) is delighted to return to the cherished venue, New Stage Theatre. She earned her B.S in Speech Communication from Jackson State University, where she nurtured her passion for theatre. Her New Stage credits encompass a diverse range of productions, including *Frozen The Broadway Musical*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Is God Is* (Unframed Series), *Elf the Musical*, *Ring of Fire*, *The Sound of Music*, *Slippin' Through the Cracks: The Blues Journey of Bobby Rush*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*. She expresses her profound gratitude to the dedicated staff and patrons of New Stage, as well as her friends and family for their unwavering support.



SAM LOVORN (Mother's Younger Brother) is ecstatic to return to New Stage Theatre. He is a 2017 graduate of Mississippi College and is the Director of Choirs at Sumner Hill Junior High in Clinton, MS. Past New Stage credits include Bob in *9 to 5*, Seymour/Orin U.S. in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Fred Scrooge/Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, and Max in *Bright Star*. He has also been seen as Prince Eric in *The Little Mermaid*, Race in *Newsies*, and Lord Farquaad in *Shrek* in local productions. He serves on the board of Brick Street Players where he recently directed *Into the Woods*. Other directing credits include *James & the Giant Peach*, *Hairspray*, *Disney's Newsies*, *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *The Spongebob Musical*.



XERRON X MINGO (Education Director/Assistant Director/ Booker T. Washinton U.S.) is a graduate of Florida A&M University. Born and raised in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. While living in New York City, he worked as a health & safety manager for Apple TV and HGTV productions. He also worked as a testing secretary and production coordinator for television shows with LIONSGATE and Apple Music Reviews. For the past ten summers, Mingo has worked at Raquette Lake Camps teaching musical theatre to students from across the world. Mingo could not be more blessed to continue teaching, coaching, and mentoring in his fourth season as Education Director at New Stage Theatre. Mingo most recently served as Choreographer for the production of *Disney's Frozen*. On New Stage's main stage, he directed *Chicken & Biscuits*, *The Mountaintop*, *The Lion King Jr*, *Sister Act, Jr* and *Mean Girls, Jr*. Mingo also directed the touring productions of *Junie B. Jones, The Musical*, *Anne & Emmett, A Year with Frog & Toad*, *Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! The Musical!*, and *Blues for an Alabama Sky* (Unframed). Mingo played BOB in *Come From Away* and Macy's Store Manager in *ELF The Musical* and served as the choreographer for the productions. He also played the role of Gabriel in *Fences* and served as choreographer while playing the role of Fezzwig in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage in 2021. He has worked professionally at a

plethora of regional theatres in a handful of states. Some of his past credits include *Matilda* (Rudolpho/Choreographer), *Hell In High Water* (Cephus), *Sister Act* (TJ), *Shakespeare in Love* (Wabash/Frees), and *Disney's Beauty & The Beast* (Monsieur Dar'que). Moreover, *The Wiz* (The Lion) and *The Hot Mikado* (Pooh-Bah) at the GLOW Lyric Theatre in Greenville, S.C. He was in *Black Nativity* (Narrator) at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, *The Great Society* at Asolo Rep, and *Hairspray* (Gilbert) at American Stage. Mingo continues to live in the light and encourages everyone else to do the same.



MANDY KATE MYERS (Brigit/Mother U.S./Ensemble) is delighted to return to New Stage Theatre, where audiences last saw her in *Disney's Frozen*. Other notable New Stage appearances include Beulah in *Come From Away*, Marilyn Wald in *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, Mrs. Peacock in *Clue*, and Babette in *Disney's Beauty & The Beast*. Additional favorite credits include *54/54/54* at Feinstein's/54 Below in New York, The Witch in *Into the Woods*, Kate Monster in *Avenue Q*, Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, Amy in *Company*, and Kate in *All My Sons*. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Myers serves on the boards of Fondren Theatre Workshop and Cheshire Abbey. She also works as Assistant Show Choir Director and Theatre Instructor at Jackson Academy, and as Talent Coordinator/Workshops Coordinator for BroadwayCon in New York.



JACKSON PARKINSON (Young Boy U.S.) is a Jackson, Mississippi native making his professional stage debut with *Ragtime*. A proud Jackson Public School student, he has performed in several productions, including New Stage Theatre's *The Lion King Kids*. This fall, Parkinson will join the theatre department at Wells Performing Arts Complex, where he looks forward to continuing to grow as a performer. He is thrilled to be part of this production and grateful for the opportunity to share the stage with such a talented company.



LAUREN PARKINSON (Evelyn Nesbit/Ensemble) is ecstatic to be returning for her 10th production here at New Stage Theatre. Some of her previous roles have included *Disney's Frozen* (Anna), *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Sandra), *Come From Away* (Janice & Others), *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* (Cynthia Weil), and at Perseverance Theatre in Juneau, Alaska: *The Thanksgiving Play* (Alicia). Parkinson has studied theatre, film, and English literature, and she even spent a term at the University of Oxford in England where she studied Shakespearean tragedy.



MARY ALDEN RATCLIFF (Young Girl) is making her New Stage debut and is thrilled to do so! She is a rising 6th grader at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland, MS and has appeared in productions of *Frozen, JR.* as Anna, as Meg in *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Rock of Ages*. She enjoys singing and playing the violin and spends much of her time involved with Northminster Baptist Church's children's ministry. Ratcliff dreams of performing on Broadway one day and is grateful for her family and friends who come to support her in all the ways they do!



HANNAH BETH ROLLMAN (Kathleen/Evelyn Nesbit U.S./Ensemble) has just completed her New Stage acting associateship and is thrilled to continue her artistry here! Originally a Birmingham native, she has previously performed at New Stage in *Frozen* (Ensemble/Queen U.S.) and *Little Women* (Troll/Amy U.S.), as well as in the Unframed shows *Wit* (Susie), *Fairview* (Suze) and *The Grown-Ups* (Maeve). She received her BA in Theatre Performance from Belhaven University, where she also earned her BS in Biology. Her favorite roles from Belhaven include

Susy in *Glimpses of the Moon* and the Stepmother in *Cinderella*. Rollman would like to thank her ever-supportive husband and family! Philippians 1:6.



EMILY SCHULTE (Ensemble) just finished her 9th grade year at Christ Covenant School. She was recently in *Bye Bye Birdie* as Mae Peterson, which was one of her favorite roles ever. This summer, she will be going to Interlochen Summer Arts Camp and can't wait. She has had so much fun with this show and hopes to keep performing with New Stage in the future!



VERSHAUNE STAMPS (Harlem Woman/Gospel Soloist/Baron's Assistant U.S./Ensemble) is a native of Jackson, MS. In 2018, she graduated from Tougaloo College with a Bachelor's in Music Performance. Although teaching voice to young artists has become a deep passion of hers, theater performance has always had her heart. Her first show at New Stage was in 2018 in *Sister Act: The Musical*. She continued to participate in *Rising Towards a New Day*, a celebration of a return to theater after the pandemic. She also participated in the stage reading of *Slippin' through the*

Cracks, the musical telling of the life story of Bobby Rush. She is excited to return to New Stage Theatre in *Ragtime*.



JASIR TURNER (Coalhouse Walker III) is 3 years old and was born September 11th in Dallas, TX. He enjoys playing with his sister, and spending time with family. His favorite character is Miles Morales of the Spider-Verse series.



ALLIE VANDIVER (Young Girl U.S.) is thrilled to be a part of her first New Stage Theatre Production. Vandiver has earned six stage credits at New Stage through Kids Studio and First Stages and an additional four credits, including her latest role as Kimberly Perry with a solo of the hit song “Hip to My Heart”. She would like to thank her family for always supporting her and New Stage Education for inspiring and helping her grow.



CARMEN WASHINGTON (Sarah’s Friend/Ensemble) is a 25-year-old singer and actor from Ridgeland, MS. Washington is a classically trained soprano and graduate of Tougaloo College. She holds a degree in Vocal Performance with a Pre-Law minor. Her credits include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and *Sister Act 2: The Musical*, where she portrayed Deloris Van Cartier in high school. She also has performed with her sibling singing group, Four Washington, on platforms including the Steve Harvey Show and the Essence Festival. She and her siblings were honored with a Silver National Addy Award for their work on the Visit Mississippi campaign. Washington is currently working on her debut solo EP project.



HILLARY S. WATKINS (Sarah) is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. Watkins is a proud alumna of Jackson State University and Roosevelt University. She debuted in Viterbo, Italy in 2016 as The Queen of The Night in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*. She competed in the 2019 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in Memphis, TN and won the Encouragement Award. She made her debut at Lyric Opera of Chicago as Mariana in *Frida Kahlo* and *The bravest girl in the world* in 2024. Watkins created the Let’s Talk About It Podcast series to discuss music, education, and civil rights. She is also a self-published author, and has released her most recent book, *A Musician’s Devotional*.



ERICK JULIAN WEEKS (Willie Conklin/Grandfather U.S./Ensemble) is thrilled to return to the stage with New Stage Theatre in this production of *Ragtime* as Willie Conklin/Ensemble. A lifelong lover of music and theatre, Weeks holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications from The University of Southern Mississippi and has remained deeply involved in the arts across central Mississippi. Weeks is the co-founder of Pearl Community Theatre, serves on the Board of Directors for Fondren Theatre Workshop, and helped found the Jackson Gay Men's Chorus. He also attends

Galloway United Methodist Church. Outside of theatre, he is currently a stylist apprentice at Watercolor Salon, where he continues to grow creatively both onstage and behind the chair. He would like to thank his friends, family, castmates, and mentors for their constant love and support.



RENE YOUNG (Coalhouse Walker, Jr. U.S.) is a native of New Orleans and a graduate of both New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and Whitehaven High School. He continued his artistic journey at Jackson State University, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in music education with graduate emphasis in musical theater vocal performance. An educator and advocate for the arts, Young has spent several years developing young artists while continuing his own performance career. With additional training in ORFF Schulwerk, he blends vocal artistry, movement,

and storytelling into his continued love for the musical stage and creative expression. Young has also performed in several operatic productions with the Mississippi Opera Chorus and is a former member of the Metro Male Chorus of Jackson.

THE BAND

DUSTIN HAZLETT (Reeds) is originally from Kosciusko, MS where he graduated from Kosciusko High School. He later attended Mississippi State University, where he was a member of the Famous Maroon Band, Wind Ensemble, Clarinet Choir, Flute Choir, MSU Orchestra, Woodwind Quartet, Concert Choir, and MSU Chamber Singers. After obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from MSU in 2013, he began his teaching career in the Clinton Public School District. During that time, he has earned his Master's Degree in Music Education, Specialist in Educational Leadership, and Doctorate in Educational Leadership all from William Carey University. During his 13 years of teaching with the Clinton Band program, he has been a part of all aspects of the program including teaching 6-8th grade woodwind classes, the 2nd HS (Symphonic) band, various woodwind ensembles, and assisting with the indoor percussion program, fall & winter guard programs, marching band, and jazz band. Dr. Hazlett is a member of the American School Band Directors Association, Mississippi Bandmasters Association, East Central Band Directors Association, Mississippi Association of Secondary School Principals, National Association of Secondary School Principals, and Mississippi Professional Educators. He is an active band clinician, judge, and professional musician. He currently resides in Clinton, MS with his cat, Ellie.

PAUL HEINDL (Drums/Percussion) received his Bachelor and Master of Music Performance degrees from The University of Mississippi, where he was active in many of the university instrumental ensembles. Heindl is an active clinician, adjudicator, and performer and has played with the Corinth, Meridian, and Mississippi Symphony Orchestra as well as the Mississippi Wind Symphony. He performs regularly with jazz, country, and rock acts and also performs musicals at high schools, colleges and at professional theaters. Heindl has performed at several area churches and currently plays drum set for Countrywoods Baptist Church in Byram. As a composer, he has been commissioned by high-schools, colleges, the Mississippi Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society, the Mississippi Music Teachers Association, and individuals. He is a full-time instructor of percussion at Hinds Community College and has been honored as the Humanities Teacher of the Year and has also been given the Hinds Community College Idealist award. He lives in Clinton with his wife, Adriana, and is the proud father of Annelise, Kali, Haddie, Esli, and Ashlyn.

TY MAISEL (Violin) is a Jackson native! He began studying the violin through the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra's string education program. After attending Jim Hill High School, he served in the U.S. Navy before pursuing music studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and Florida State University. A core member of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra since 1992, Maisel resides in Ridgeland with his wife, Elaine.

TAYLOR WELLS (Guitar/Banjo) is a multi-instrumentalist from Clinton, Mississippi. He recently graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Mississippi, where he played guitar with the Mississippians Jazz Ensemble and UM Theatre department. He has also performed regularly for local high school productions, and he made his New Stage Theatre debut last season playing mandolin in *Come from Away*. He regularly plays on Sunday mornings at Parkway Baptist Church in Clinton and with local groups around Jackson and Oxford.

BEN WILLIAMS (Bass/Tuba) is a Professor of Music Composition at Mississippi College where he is the Chair of the Department of Music. Raised in Northeast Ohio, Williams earned degrees from The University of Akron (B.M. and M.M.) and The Ohio State University (D.M.A.). Williams has previously played bass in *Come from Away*, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *9 to 5*, and *Little Shop of Horrors* with New Stage Theatre and banjo in *Bright Star*.

PRODUCTION TEAM

FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS (Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 38 years. She recently directed *Wait Until Dark*, *Come From Away*, *Noises Off*, *Gaslight*, *Beautiful*, *The Carole King Musical*; *The Secret Garden*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*, *I Just Stopped By to See the Man*, *The 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*, *A Soldier's Play*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Reynolds is a 2022 recipient of a Directing Fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission. She served three terms on the board of directors for the Theatre Communications Group (TCG) and several terms on the Mississippi Theatre Association Board of Directors. Reynolds has served on grant panels for the National Endowment of the Arts and the Mississippi Arts Commission and has enjoyed adjudicating for Poetry Out Loud and the Southeastern Theatre Conference. Recently she served as a member of the 2025 Governor's Arts Awards Selection Committee for the Mississippi Arts Commission. Originally, from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Reynolds enjoys living in Jackson with her husband, Chuck.

CAROL JOY SPARKMAN (Music Director) is thrilled to return to New Stage Theatre as Music Director for *Ragtime*. She began her career on the music faculty at Mississippi College and holds both a Bachelor of Music Education in Piano and a Master of Music in Vocal Coaching and Accompanying. Sparkman serves as Co-Director of Choral Music at Clinton High School, where she leads award-winning choirs and a cappella ensembles, and is Music Director at Beth Israel Congregation. A sought-after collaborative pianist, she performs regularly with choirs and soloists throughout the region. She currently serves as Southern Region ACDA Repertoire & Resources Chair for Contemporary and Commercial Music and has held leadership roles with the A Cappella Education Association and Mississippi ACDA. At New Stage Theatre, her music direction credits include the annual New Stage Benefit, *Elf the Musical*, *The Sound of Music*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *9 to 5: The Musical*, and many others. *Ragtime* holds a special place in her heart, and she is honored to be part of this production.

MARY CATHERINE FEHRENBACHER (Assistant Music Director) is a New York City based actor-musician. Originally from Cumberland, MS, Fehrenbacher is delighted to return to her home state to be a part of New Stage's production with her husband, Andrew! Currently serving as a recording artist for *Appcompanist*, previous credits include: the Lincoln Center National Tour of *My Fair Lady*, *Beyond Perfection* at the AMT Theater Off-Broadway, the *Rachel and Friends* cabaret series at the Laurie Beechman Theater, and other regional theatres.

DR. TIFFANY JEFFERSON (Choreographer) is the director of the Hinds Community College Dance Department in Raymond, MS. Her accolades include being named the 2024 Mrs. Mississippi American, Mrs. Fitness American, the 2020 Dell Keiffner Carnegie Hall Director of the Year, a 2020 City with Soul honoree, the 2018 Hinds Hero, the 2013 Humanities Teacher of the Year, and a Hinds Life Star Award Recipient. She is the artistic director and founder of the Montage Theatre of Dance, the founder and director of Jefferson Jones Entertainment, and serves as a lead instructor at Dance Works Studio in Clinton, MS. She shares her talents faith-community wide as the dance minister at New Jerusalem Church in Jackson, MS. Dr. Jefferson earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from

Jackson State University. She also holds a Master's Degree in Dance Education from Wichita State University and an undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University, where she was named the Miss Black Oklahoma and an All-American collegiate cheerleader. Her professional choreography and performance credits span New Stage Theatre, Music Theatre of Wichita, Oklahoma Dance Theatre, Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet, Actor's Playhouse, and Paramount Parks. Dr. Jefferson resides with her husband, Joe, and is the proud mother of three children: Jordan, a Rhodes Scholar Finalist and former Jackson State University SGA President; Jones a future Zoologist and Martial Artist, and Kennedy, Mississippi 4A State Champion in Track and Field.

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.

RACHEL BOUDREAUX (Stage Manager) is thrilled to join New Stage Theatre as their Resident Stage Manager. Rachel is a member of the Stage Managers' Association and received their Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from the University of Southern Mississippi. Past work includes *Frozen*, *Wait Until Dark*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Come From Away*, *Big Fish*, *Into The Woods*, *Is God Is*, and *Macbeth*. Boudreaux is passionate about stage management and theatre education and can often be found monologuing or reading. www.rachelboudreauxsm.com

ANNA DUNBAR (Properties Designer/Lead Electrician) is a performer, theatre/film technician, sketch comedian, and writer originally from Madison, MS. She's worked several shows here at New Stage in many capacities and is so excited and thankful to be a part of this important show! She's studied, performed, and worked at theatres and studios including The Second City, Blue Man Group, Broadway in Chicago, Acting Studio Chicago, iO Chicago, The Annoyance Theatre, and the Neo-Futurists. She's also worked in the UK for a show, *Ubu Cocu*, that was accepted into two London theatre festivals and is now being submitted to fringe festivals around the UK. She's written, produced, designed, and directed multiple independent film projects including two of her very own web series *Scratch That!* (YouTube) and *Bottled Up* (winner of two film festival awards and participant in five film festivals). You are enough. You are loved. You matter.

CALLIE JACKSON (Sound Designer and Engineer) is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a B.A. in Political Science and is from Madison, MS. She began working at New Stage Theatre in 2024 as a board operator and is now the Resident Sound Designer

and Engineer. She enjoys working with different schools and community theaters in her free time. Some of her regional credits include: *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas*, *Little Women*, *Come From Away*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *Frozen*.

ANNALISE V. CAUDLE (Lighting Designer) is a lighting designer originally from DeSoto, Texas. Some of her regional design credits include: *Every Brilliant Thing* (Florida Rep), *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Bye Bye Birdie* (Maine State Music Theatre), *Rep Lab* (Milwaukee Rep), and *Elephant and Piggie* (ZACH Theatre). Some of her regional assistant lighting design credits include *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Paramount Theatre), *Winter's Tale* (The Goodman Theatre), *Things I Know to be True*, *The Chinese Lady*, *In the Heights* (Milwaukee Rep). annalisecaudle.com

BRADEN GRAVES (Scenic Designer) is a scenic and lighting designer, and theatre educator. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Belhaven University, where he teaches design and production and serves as the faculty scenic and lighting designer. Originally from Prineville, Oregon, Braden earned his BA in theatre from George Fox University, where he designed for Broadway Rose Theatre Company and served as technical director for several local companies. He completed his MFA in Scenic Design at The Ohio State University, creating work for Actors Theatre Columbus, The Sound Company, Opera Project Columbus, and The Contemporary Theatre Co. He also worked as a designer and fabricator for Curtis Elliott Design Ltd. At New Stage Theatre, Braden has designed scenery for *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Million Dollar Quartet Christmas*, *The Mountaintop*, *Frozen*, and *Come From Away*. He also served as lighting designer for *Elf the Musical*. Also in Mississippi, he has designed for the University of Southern Mississippi, several local high schools, and recently collaborated with the Mississippi Museum of Art on the *Taking Flight* exhibits. His designs have been recognized by KCACTE, USITT (Ohio Valley), and SETC. He was featured in the 2023 Emerging Artist Showcase at the National USITT Conference in St. Louis.

J. THERESA BUSH (Costume Designer) is an Associate Professor and head of costume design and technology at Southern Miss. They received their B.A. in English and theatre from Sewanee: University of the South and their MFA in costume design from Virginia Commonwealth University. Bush is an Association of College and University Educators Distinguished Teaching Scholar with certification in active and equitable learning strategies. Bush is an Affiliate Faculty member with Theatrical Intimacy Education with focus on consent-based, trauma-informed practices. Recent professional credits include *A Wonderful World* opening at Studio 54 and *Flying Over Sunset* at Lincoln Center.

ANTONIO JUAREZ (Assistant Technical Director) has worked in theatre for 6 years, beginning from when he was the technical director in his senior year for Northwest Rankin's production of *Zombie Prom*. His first professional role was here at New Stage sewing phantom cloaks and board operation for *A Christmas Carol* in 2021. Juarez's favorite shows that he has worked on are *Clue*, *Fences*, *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, and *The Play that Goes Wrong*. Juarez is also pursuing a BFA in theatrical design at the University of Mississippi.

LAMANA STRINGFELLOW (Wardrobe Supervisor) has a B.A. in Theatre Performance



and in Traditional/Digital Art from Belhaven University. Past credits include **Frozen** (Lead Dresser/Costume Assistant) at New Stage Theatre, **Tuck Everlasting** (Director) and **Four Old Broads** (Stage Manager) at Black Rose Theatre, **Seussical** (Director) at Brick Street Players, and **The Wizard of Oz** (Props Designer) and **Silent Sky** (Makeup/Hair Designer) at Belhaven University.

TYLER RUSSELL (Assistant Stage Manager) began his theatre journey when his friend needed a ride to auditions, and he decided to audition with her. Russell got the part and has been sucked into the world of theatre ever since. From acting to working behind the scenes, Russell has worked at multiple theaters and is excited to work again with New Stage!

CASEY NELMS (Production Manager) is a proud Mississippian born and raised in Pearl, MS. She received her Bachelor of social work from Belhaven University followed by her master of social work from the University of Southern California. While living in Los Angeles, she transitioned from a robust therapy career to producing and supervising productions in the film industry. Nelms has been fortunate enough to work with companies such as Lionsgate, Patriot Pictures, and Convoke Media, as well as many others, and now happily serves as production manager at New Stage Theatre, where she has worked on productions such as **Little Women**, **Come From Away**, and **The Play That Goes Wrong**. She lives on the Ross Barnett Reservoir with her husband, Joey, and daughter, Cleopatra, and their two droopy-faced beagles, Olive and Mabel.

CREW

Assistant Technical Director Antonio Juarez
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 Running Crew Caleb Haber, Antonio Juarez, Hannah King, Tyler Russell
 Lead Electrician/Turntable Computer Operator Anna Dunbar
 Properties Assistant/Audio Assistant/Sound Board Operator. Caroline Johnston
 Wardrobe Supervisor Lamana Stringfellow
 Construction.. Dave Ellis, Jimmy Robertson
 Scenic Painter Michael Montgomery, Eli Morgan
 Costume Design Assistants Hannah Smith-Phillips, Allison Tharp
 Lighting Design Assistant Brady J. Hillman
 Assistant Stage Manager Tyler Russell
 Dialect Coach Jamie Shannon Ferguson
 Costume Maintenance Deonica Davis

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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 also worked with America Reads – Mississippi, and with Imageworks – Films for Business, where she assisted 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), a graduate of the University of Mississippi, has an 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 led by Bill McCarty Jr, his father, Henry Holman and many talented associates which sold in 1996. During his grocery career, Jack Stevens and Ivan Rider recruited Bill in 1973 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 51 years in all areas including production, lighting and sound design, backstage, and for 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), *Greater Tuna* (1986), *The Gin Game* (1987), and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1990).

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

MAHRI EMMA MCLEAN (Box Office Manager) is a 2023 graduate of Belhaven University's theatre performance program. Favorite acting credits include *Lost Girl* (Wendy), *The Moors* (Emilie), *Mamma Mia!* (Sophie Sheridan), and *The Spitfire Grill* (Shelby Thorpe). Mahri has worked for New Stage Theatre in various capacities for five seasons, and is now in her second year as Box Office Manager. She is eternally grateful for the opportunity to both work in and perform in live theatre full time.

JERIANNA SHAW (Marketing Director) is a proud 2016 graduate of Mississippi State University with a passion for theatre and a love for good pizza. When she's not at New Stage, you can find her at Poppy Pies—her and her partner's family-run pizza shop located at the Belhaven Town Center named after their daughter Poppy. In 2025, the Shaw-Welch family welcomed their second daughter, Penny, into the world. Shaw believes life is best served with a side of laughter, a dash of drama, and, of course, plenty of pizza.

BETTY WONG (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her 18th 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 experience 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 twenty-first 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 60th season.

Belhaven University Theatre Department	Joey Nelms Amy Smith	University of Southern Mississippi Theatre and Dance Department
Greg Campbell	St. Andrews Episcopal School Theatre Department	University of Mississippi Department of Theatre & Film
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*During performances, will remain
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Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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