

SOMEONE'S HABITS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE.

NEW STAGE THEATRE  
PRESENTS

DIVINE  
MUSICAL  
COMEDY

# SISTER ACT™

MUSIC BY  
ALAN MENKEN

LYRICS BY  
GLENN SLATER

BOOK BY  
CHERI STEINKELLNER &  
BILL STEINKELLNER

ADDITIONAL BOOK MATERIAL  
DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

BASED ON THE TOUCHSTONE PICTURES MOTION PICTURE  
"SISTER ACT" WRITTEN BY JOSEPH HOWARD

DIRECTED BY  
PEPPY BIDDY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR  
CAROL JOY SPARKMAN

MAY 29-JUNE 10, 2018

Stage Manager  
Elise McDonald

Production Manager/  
Lighting Designer  
Bronwyn Teague

Scenic Designer  
David Carter

Costume Designer  
Caleb Blackwell

Technical Director  
Richard Lawrence

Choreographer  
Drew Stark

Sound Designer/  
Audio Engineer  
Allan Branson

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**NEW STAGE**  
*Theatre*

# SISTERACT

Orchestrations by Doug Besterman

Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by Michael Kosarin

Dance Music Arrangements by Mark Hummel

Produced on Broadway by Whoopi Goldberg & Stage Entertainment in association with  
The Shubert Organization and Disney Theatrical Productions

Originally Production Developed in Association with Peter Schneider & Michael Reno  
and Produced by Stage Entertainment

World Premiere Produced by

|                                 |     |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
| Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena CA | and | Alliance Theatre, Atlanta GA      |
| Sheldon Epps, Artistic Director |     | Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director |
| Lyla White, Executive Director  |     | Tom Pechar, Managing Director     |
| Tom Ware, Producing Director    |     |                                   |

## SISTER ACT

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, New York, NY.  
Tel: 212-541-4684. Fax: 212-397-4684. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

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There will be one 15-minute intermission

Theatrical fog and haze will be used in this production.

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

## THE CAST

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| DELORIS VAN CARTIER . . . . .         | Kimberly Morgan Myles*                                |
| MOTHER SUPERIOR . . . . .             | Jessica Wilkinson                                     |
| SISTER MARY ROBERT . . . . .          | Taylor Galvin   |
| SISTER MARY PATRICK . . . . .         | Kathlyn Arcemont                                      |
| SISTER MARY LAZARUS. . . . .          | Malaika Quarterman                                    |
| MONSIGNOR O' HARA. . . . .            | Ray McFarland*  |
| CURTIS JACKSON. . . . .               | Andre Dion Wills                                      |
| EDDIE SOUTHER . . . . .               | Andrew Montgomery Coleman                             |
| TJ . . . . .                          | Xerron X. Mingo                                       |
| JOEY. . . . .                         | Cameron Pitre   |
| PABLO. . . . .                        | Hosea Griffith  |
| SISTER MARY MARTIN-OF-TOURS . . . . . | Cynthia Stuart  |
| SISTER MARY THERESA. . . . .          | Jill Penick   |
| TINA/NUN . . . . .                    | Sharon Miles  |
| MICHELLE/NUN . . . . .                | Mandy Kate Myers                                      |
| ENSEMBLE MEN . . . . .                | Andrew Fehrenbacher, Drew Stark, Chris Roebuck        |
| ENSEMBLE/NUNS . . . . .               | Vershaune Stamps, Macey Arrington, Leslie Ann Harkins |

## THE BAND

|                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| MUSIC DIRECTOR/PIANO. . . . . | Carol Joy Sparkman          |
| PIANO. . . . .                | Nancy Cheney                |
| KEYBOARD . . . . .            | Mary Catherine Fehrenbacher |
| LEAD GUITAR. . . . .          | John Jackson                |
| BASS GUITAR . . . . .         | Fritz Martin                |
| PERCUSSION. . . . .           | Paul Heindl                 |

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

# MUSICAL NUMBERS

## ACT ONE

|   |   |
|---|---|
| “Take Me To Heaven” . . . . .           | Deloris, Michelle, Tina                                   |
| “Fabulous, Baby!” . . . . .             | Deloris, Michelle, Tina                                   |
| “Here Within These Walls” . . . . .     | Mother Superior, Deloris, Nuns                            |
| “It’s Good to be a Nun” . . . . .       | Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Lazarus, Nuns                 |
| “When I Find My Baby” . . . . .         | Curtis, Joey, Pablo, TJ                                   |
| “I Could Be That Guy” . . . . .         | Eddie, Ensemble   |
| “Raise Your Voice” . . . . .            | Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,<br>Mary Lazarus, Nuns |
| “Take Me To Heaven” (Reprise) . . . . . | Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,<br>Mary Lazarus, Nuns |

## ACT TWO

|  |  |
|--|--|
| “Sunday Morning Fever” . . . . .           | Deloris, Mother Superior, Monsignor O’Hara,<br>Eddie, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert,<br>Mary Lazarus, Nuns |
| “Lady in the Long Black Dress” . . . . .   | Joey, Pablo, TJ  |
| “I Haven’t Got a Prayer” . . . . .         | Mother Superior  |
| “Bless Our Show” . . . . .                 | Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Nuns   |
| “The Life I Never Led” . . . . .           | Mary Robert  |
| Fabulous Baby!” (Reprise) . . . . .        | Deloris, Eddie, Nuns, Fantasy Dancers  |
| “Sister Act” . . . . .                     | Deloris  |
| “When I Find My Baby” (Reprise) . . . . .  | Curtis   |
| “The Life I Never Led” (Reprise) . . . . . | Mary Robert  |
| “Sister Act” (Reprise) . . . . .           | Deloris, Mother Superior, Mary Patrick,<br>Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns                             |
| “Spread the Love Around” . . . . .         | The Company  |



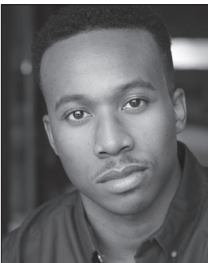
## THE CAST



**KATHLYN ARCEMONT** (Sister Mary Patrick) is excited to be back at New Stage! She will be finishing a music education degree this coming fall at the University of Alabama. Some of her favorite roles include Martha Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* at New Stage, Anna in *Spring Awakening* at Actor's Playhouse, and Madame de la Grande Bouche in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at New Stage. She would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support!



**MACEY ARRINGTON** (Nun) is proud to make her New Stage debut. She is currently enrolled as a junior musical theatre major at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind. Arrington has recently worked with Tony Award winner Sutton Foster in *Shrek the Musical* as the Dragon, and with Emmy Award winner Michael Rafter in the ensemble of *Damn Yankees*. She is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful cast and crew and wants to send special thanks to her Mom, Dad, and Aunt Laura for making all of this possible.



**ANDREW MONTGOMERY COLEMAN** (Eddie Souther) is excited to be playing Sweaty Eddie for his New Stage debut. Hailing from Raleigh, North Carolina, he obtained his BFA in acting from North Carolina A&T State University, and is also an alum of the British American Drama Academy. Coleman currently resides in New York City. Some of his favorite roles include Mitch Mahoney in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Seaweed in *Hairspray*. He'd like to dedicate this performance to Willie O. Jordan, and hopes you get down with all your heart and your soul! @drewboigenius



**ANDREW FEHRENBACHER** (Ensemble) is delighted to return to New Stage Theatre with this talented cast of *Sister Act!* Fehrenbacher was last seen on stage as Male 1 in *Find Me* with the New Stage Unframed Series. His other credits at New Stage are *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere) and a staged reading of the new musical, *Glory, Glory!* (Chorus). Other past musical theatre/opera credits include *Showboat* (Steven Baker), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella's Prince), *Die Fledermaus* (Ensemble) and *Les Miserables* (Jean Prouvaire) at Mississippi College. Fehrenbacher is a former member of the *Mississippi College Singers*, the premier choral ensemble at MC. He is a 2015 graduate of Mississippi College with a B.S. in public relations communication and a minor in music. Classically trained in violin since the age of five, Fehrenbacher regularly sings and plays his violin at churches, weddings, and special events around the state of Mississippi. Love to Mary.



**TAYLOR GALVIN** (Sister Mary Robert) is ecstatic to be returning to New Stage with this fabulous team! She most recently appeared as Vera in *And Then There Were None* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. National tour: *The Marvelous Wonderettes*. Select regional: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Beatrice), *Spamalot* (Lady of the Lake), *Shrek* (Fiona), *Parade* (Ms. Phagan us), *Sweeney Todd* (Johanna). Special thanks to Francine, Peppy, CB, family, and the cast and crew! @tngalvin/www.taylorgalvin.com



**HOSEA GRIFFITH** (Pablo) is a graduate of Mississippi College with a Bachelor of Music in performance. Hosea was last seen in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* at New Stage. He made his debut on the MC music theatre stage playing Stewpot in *South Pacific*. Since, he's played the roles of the Wolf in *Into The Woods* and Joe in *Showboat*. Griffith entered the MC theatre stage playing Philip in a scene from *Noises Off!*. He has also played Fred from *Mirrors* and Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is the son of Virginia Riptoe.



**LESLIE ANN HARKINS** (Nun) is delighted to be back at New Stage working on this production! Harkins graduated from the University of the Arts with a BFA in musical theatre. She has taught theatre and dance at Saint Joseph, in Madison, Miss for three years. She will be moving to Chicago this fall to focus on her career as an actor. New Stage credits: ensemble (Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*). Favorite past roles include: ensemble (*On Your Toes*), Roxie Hart (*Chicago*), and Maggie (*Lend Me a Tenor*). Thanks to her parents, Zach, and Ed for their endless support. #blessed



**RAY MCFARLAND\*** (Monsignor O'Hara) has appeared in numerous national tours and regional theatre productions of plays and musicals across the United States and in over forty productions here at New Stage including: *And Then There Were None*, *Hairspray*; *The Foreigner*; *Forever Plaid*; *Tuna Christmas*; *Red White and Tuna*; *Noises Off*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*; as the title character in *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure*; and *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*. McFarland also works in television commercials and industrial films as an on-camera actor and as a voice-over artist. He teaches acting and theatre tech classes at St. Andrew's Episcopal School where he also directs the Upper School theatre productions.

## actor chat

Stay and meet the cast after *Sister Act* following the show on Wednesday, May 30 and Wednesday, June 6. Audience members may ask questions of the actors, director and designers in an informal setting.



**SHARON MILES** (Tina/Nun) received her theatre training from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss. Some of her favorite theatrical roles include: Gwen in *A Time to Kill*, Fannie Lou Hamer in *All The Way*, Motormouth Maybelle in *Hairspray*, Miss Nelson in the children's musical *Miss Nelson is Missing*, Winnifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*, and Nella in Elyzabeth Gregory Wilder's play *Gee's Bend*. Other professional theatre credits include: *The Robber Bridegroom*, *It Ain't Nothing but the Blues*, *The Ponder Heart*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Goodnight*

*Moon*, and *The Miracle Worker*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless support and encouragement.



**XERRON X. MINGO** (TJ) is a graduate of Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fla. He was born in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. He has worked professionally at a plethora of regional theatres. Mingo was most recently seen in New Stage Theatre's *Shakespeare in Love* as Wabash/Frees. He also appeared in Disney's *Beauty and The Beast* as (Monsieur Dar'que), *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) and *JazzLinks Tour* at Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe. Mingo

was a part of *The Great Society* at Asolo Rep and *Hairspray* (Gilbert) at American Stage. He just recently completed the acting apprenticeship with New Stage! IG-Xerron\_m



**KIMBERLY MORGAN MYLES\*** (Deloris Van Cartier) is the former Miss Mississippi 2007 and a semi-finalist in 2008 Miss America Pageant. She's worked professionally in film and regional theatres across the US and has performed in London, Scotland, and France. She has performed in numerous shows such as *It Ain't Nothin' but the Blues*, *Oliver*, *Ragtime*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Learned Ladies*, *Fences*, *Hairspray*, and more. She also loves directing plays and musical, as well. Myles has an MFA in acting from University of Southern Mississippi and a B.S. in vocal

music from Alcorn State University. She currently is an assistant professor in theatre and creative writing at Tougaloo College. She is the proud wife of theatre and film actor and JSU professor, Yohance Myles. She is the mother of two year old Bella Grace and eleven month old Jackson Myles.



**MANDY KATE MYERS** (Michelle/Nun) was most recently seen at New Stage as Babette in *Beauty and The Beast* and as Latrelle in Fondren Theatre Workshop's 2017 production of *Sordid Lives*. Some of her New Stage credits include *It Ain't Nothin' but the Blues*, Mrs. Darling in *Peter Pan*, Mama Bear in *Shrek the Musical*, Old Lady in *Goodnight Moon*, Cindy Lou in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* and Star-To-Be in *Annie*. Other favorite roles include Kate Monster in *Avenue Q* (FTW), CB's Sister in *Dog Sees God* (NST Unframed Series), Amy in *Company* (FTW), June in *Musical of Musicals: The Musical* (NST Unframed Series) and Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd* (Center Players). A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Myers also serves on the Board of Directors for Fondren Theatre Workshop and Cheshire Abbey Animal Rescue.



**JILL PENICK** (Sister Mary Theresa) is incredibly excited to be making her New Stage Theatre debut with this exceptional cast! She graduated from Mississippi College with a B.A. in English. While at Mississippi College, Penick appeared as Emilia in *Othello* and Maurya in the one act *Riders to the Sea*. She has completed her ninth year at Clinton Junior High, where she teaches eighth grade Honors English, assists with many theatre productions, and has co-sponsored Drama Club. More than anything, Penick enjoys getting in front of her students each day and putting on a "show" to make learning interesting and fun. She would like to thank her family for all of the sacrifices and love they have given!!



**CAMERON PITRE** (Joey) is a Mississippi native and graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi with a BFA in theatre performance. He was last seen on the New Stage Theatre mainstage as Nol in *Shakespeare in Love*. Other musical theatre credits include Uncle Max (*The Sound of Music*), Anthony (*Sweeney Todd*), Bert Healy (*Annie*), Otto/Ulbrecht (*Spring Awakening*), Preacher (*Violet*), Doctor Madden (*Next to Normal*), LeFou in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and Skipper in *Madagascar the Musical*. Other theatrical credits include Robert Rabbit (*The Wind in the Willows*), Shamrayev (*The Seagull*), and Soul (*Vigils*). Pitre would like to thank his loved ones for their continued love and support, as well as his fellow castmates and crew for a terrific production of *Sister Act*.



**MALAIKA QUARTERMAN** (Sister Mary Lazarus) was last seen at New Stage in the production of *Our Town*, *The Great Gatsby*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Annie*. She resides in Jackson with her family and enjoys serving on the board of Fondren Theatre Workshop. Quarterman is currently the Lead Arts Teacher and Chair of the theatre department at Power Academic and Performing Arts Complex. She was recently named the 2018 JPS Teacher of the Year and the 2018 Alternate State Teacher of the Year for Mississippi. Quarterman is thankful for how supportive her family is as she pursues her interests and dreams.





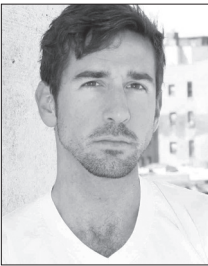
**CHRIS ROEBUCK** (Ensemble) graduated from Mississippi College with a B.A. in History. He taught for two years at Madison Central High School, where among other responsibilities he assisted with the Drama Club. Roebuck was an acting intern at New Stage Theatre, working with four other interns to take three touring shows across the state. Among his numerous professional acting credits, Roebuck has appeared in *Shakespeare in Love*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, *Shrek*, *The Foreigner*, and *The 39 Steps*. In addition to the education

touring shows, his directing credits include *A Wrinkle in Time*, *Goodnight, Moon*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*, *The Weir*, *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone* at New Stage and *American Buffalo* and *Dinner with Friends* with Fondren Theatre Workshop.



**VERSHAUNE STAMPS** (Nun) is elated to be performing in her New Stage Theatre debut with such a dynamic and talented cast. She is a recent graduate of Tougaloo College, where she majored in music performance. Although most of her training consists of classical music, acting has always been a passion of hers. Her theatre experience includes playing Big Mama in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and Alberta/Catherine in *Colored People's Time*, both being performed with Tougaloo College's Performance Ensemble, Encore, under the direction of Kimberly Morgan-Myles. Stamps

credits her older sister Victoria for giving her the "acting bug" and would like to thank her family and friends for pushing her toward her dreams.



**DREW STARK** (Ensemble/Choreographer): Last seen onstage as Marlowe in *Shakespeare in Love*, *A Time to Kill*, *33 Variations*, the Eudora Welty New Play Series premiere staged reading of *Glory! Glory!* and Mississippi Play Series *Perfect Arrangement*. A Mississippi native, B.A. College of William and Mary. Prather Production Tours: *CATS*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Anything Goes*, *Legally Blonde*, *Funny Girl*, *Evita*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Phantom*, *42nd Street*, *South Pacific*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Swing!*,

*Brigadoon*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *A Wonderful Life*, and *White Christmas*. This summer, Stark will return to The Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Ill. to perform Applegate in *Damn Yankees* and Frederick Frankenstein in *Young Frankenstein*. He would like to thank Peppy, Francine, and hugs to his family, especially his nephew, Will. Romans 8:28





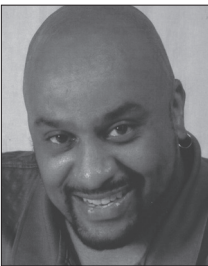
**CYNTHIA STUART** (Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours) is delighted to perform at New Stage for a third time, having played the role of Sook in *A Christmas Memory* and Miss Stephanie in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She has worked with summer camps at New Stage and served as musical director/accompanist for shows at New Stage including *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *Annie*, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, and *Guys and Dolls, Jr.* Some other favorite show credits are: *Hello Dolly*, *Hats*, *The Foreigner*, *The Dixie Swim Club*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, and *Daughters of the Lone Star*

*State*. Stuart is married to Rev. Donnie Stuart and they reside in Pelahatchie.



**JESSICA WILKINSON** (Mother Superior) was last seen at New Stage in *Best of Enemies*. A SAG-AFTRA actor from the Jackson area, some favorite New Stage credits include *Steel Magnolias*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*, *Hairspray*, *The Foreigner*, *Boeing Boeing*, *The 39 Steps*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Spitfire Grill*, *The Miracle Worker*, and *Annie*. Select feature film credits include *The Livingston Gardener*, *Starve*, *As I Lay Dying*, *Joe Dirt 2*, and *I Killed My BFF*, working with actors such as James Franco, James Kyson, Tim Blake Nelson, James Caan, and

David Spade. Wilkinson has a master's degree in English and taught high school English and theatre arts for four years at Florence High. During that time, she was awarded Distinguished Arts Educator in Theatre Arts by the MS Alliance for Arts Education. She now teaches high school English at Jackson Prep and is thankful for her Prep family. She is also a mom to Belle Grace and Noble and a wife to Lenny. Wilkinson is grateful to her family for all their support. [www.imdb.me/JessicaLemonWilkinson](http://www.imdb.me/JessicaLemonWilkinson)



**ANDRE' DION WILLS** (Curtis Jackson) is thrilled to be making his New Stage Theatre debut! He holds a B.A. in theatre arts/performance from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania with a minor in American Sign Language. Favorite roles include Old Deuteronomy in *Cats*, Horse in *The Full Monty*, Joe in *Show Boat*, The Voice of Audrey II in *Little Shop of Horrors*, John Utterson in *Jekyll & Hyde*, Ken in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and Fred in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*. Next, he will be performing the role of Pontius Pilate in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at SurfFlight Theatre in Beach Haven New Jersey

through July. Wills is native to Norristown, Pennsylvania, but has resided in Wilmington, Delaware for some time spending several years performing at The Three Little Bakers Dinner Theatre. He is also a staff singer/section leader at Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware and is a songwriter/producer operating his own production company JBST Productions/Lyrical Records. His self-produced Christmas album *What Child Is This?* can be heard on [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com), [spotify](https://open.spotify.com/), and [rhapsody](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...). Wills extends sincere gratitude to the staff, crew and amazing performers here at New Stage, and would humbly like to dedicate his performances to his sister LaVon.

## MUSICIANS

**NANCY CHENEY** (Piano) is pleased to be making her debut at New Stage Theatre with the *Sister Act* band. She currently works at Jackson Academy as the Performing Arts Assistant / Upper School Accompanist. Her stage work includes playing the role of Jack's Mother in *Into the Woods* as well as serving as show pianist for musicals including *Mary Poppins*, *42nd Street*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. She lives in Jackson with her husband and two sons.

**MARY CATHERINE FEHRENBACHER** (Keyboard) is a graduate student in Piano Performance at Mississippi College. She is the pianist for MC Singers and the MS Youth Chorale, and serves as the organist for Raymond First Baptist Church. Fehrenbacher has had the privilege of performing collaborative and solo piano in Mississippi, Austria, and Germany. She is originally from Cumberland, Miss. and now lives in Clinton with her husband, Andrew.

**PAUL HEINDL** (Percussion) received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in percussion performance from the University of Mississippi. He is an active clinician, adjudicator and performer and has played with the Corinth, Meridian and Mississippi Symphony Orchestras as well as the Mississippi Wind Symphony. Heindl is also active in the musical theatre world and has played in over 20 musicals including four in 2017. He is the percussion instructor at Hinds Community College and an adjunct professor with Mississippi College. He also teaches privately in the Jackson area and lives in Clinton with his wife, Adriana and five daughters Annelise, Kali, Haddie, Esli and Ashlyn.

**JOHN JACKSON** (Lead Guitar) graduated Magna Cum Laude earning both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Guitar Performance from The University of Georgia. He has won several awards as a guitar performer, and has taught multiple competition winning students. Mr. Jackson currently teaches guitar as a member of the music faculty at Hinds Community College, and performs regularly in classical, jazz, and popular styles. To read more about Mr. Jackson, please visit his website at [www.jjacksonguitar.com](http://www.jjacksonguitar.com).

**FRITZ MARTIN** (Bass Guitar) is a composer, bassist, and teacher living in Madison, Mississippi. He is a professor at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi. Fritz holds degrees in music composition and music theory from the University of North Texas. He recently spent 5 years living in Shanghai, China as a touring jazz bassist.

**CAROL JOY SPARKMAN** (Music Director/Piano) is the Director of Choral Music at Clinton High School in Clinton, Miss., where she directs four choirs and two pop a cappella ensembles. She began her career as a member of the Mississippi College music faculty where she was the collaborative pianist, directed Mixed Company, a vocal jazz ensemble, and was Musical Director for The Mississippi College Opera/Musical Theater. Sparkman received the Bachelor of Music in education and a Master of Music in vocal coaching/accompanying degrees from Mississippi College. Sparkman is a founding member of a collaborative national team who has established Service-Learning partnerships for continuing education in choral music. The partnership travels each summer to South Africa to work with music educators and choirs. She serves on the MS ACDA Board as Repertoire and Resource Chair for Contemporary and Commercial and is the Southeast

Regional Director for the A Cappella Education Association. Sparkman is a frequent accompanist for choral festivals, international conductors and performing artists across the country. She is also a vocal coach for both professional and amateur singers in the Southeast Region. Sparkman is excited to collaborate with New Stage Theatre for this magical production and work with such talented performers and production staff.

## THE PRODUCTION STAFF

**ALAN MENKEN** (Music) Stage musicals: *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater*; *Little Shop of Horrors*; *Beauty and The Beast*; *A Christmas Carol*; *The Little Mermaid*; *Sister Act*; *Leap of Faith*; *Newsies*; *Aladdin*; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*; and *A Bronx Tale*. Film work: *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and The Beast* (animated), *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Hercules*, *Enchanted*, *Tangled*, *Sausage Party*, *Beauty and the Beast* (live version). Television credits: “Sesame Street,” “Lincoln,” “The Neighbors,” “Galavant,” “Tangled.” Awards: 2012 Tony®, Drama Desk, 8 Oscars®, 11 Grammy® Awards, 7 Golden Globes®, London’s Evening Standard, the Olivier and Outer Critics Circle. Other: Songwriters Hall of Fame, Billboard’s #1 single and album, Disney Legend, star on Hollywood Walk of Fame. Doctorates from NYU and the North Carolina School of the Arts.

**GLENN SLATER** (Lyrics) co-created Disney’s 2010 worldwide smash *Tangled* (2011 Grammy Winner, 2010 Oscar and Golden Globe nominee), as well as the Broadway and international hit musicals *Sister Act* (2011 Tony nominee - Best Score) and *The Little Mermaid* (2008 Tony nominee - Best Score, Grammy nominee - Best Cast Album), and, most recently *School of Rock* (2015). With longtime collaborator Alan Menken, he is Executive Producer and Lyricist for the ABC-TV musical comedy series “Galavant”, and has also written songs for the Disney animated film *Home On The Range* (2004) and the Broadway musical *Leap of Faith* (Tony nominee - Best Musical, 2012). In the West End, Glenn provided both book and lyrics for Andrew Lloyd Webber’s *Love Never Dies* (2010 Olivier nominee - Best Musical), the sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*. Other work includes an Emmy-nominated song for the ABC-TV comedy “The Neighbors” (2013), and the stage revue *Newyorkers* at The Manhattan Theatre Club (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle nominations). Slater is the recipient of the prestigious Kleban Award for Lyrics, the ASCAP/Richard Rogers New Horizons Award, and the Jonathan Larson Award. He is an alumnus of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and a member of both ASCAP and the Dramatists’ Guild.

**BILL STEINKELLNER** (Book) Award-winning television and screen writer: “Cheers” and Disney’s “Teacher’s Pet” (Emmys, Golden Globes, BAFTAS, Writers Guild and People’s Choice Awards). Book writer (with wife, Cherri): *Sister Act* the Musical (London Palladium, Hamburg, Broadway 2011), *Princesses* (Goodspeed, 5th Avenue). Writer/director (with Paul Reubens): the original “Pee-wee Herman Show” (Groundlings, Roxy Theatre, HBO). Creator/director: *Instaplay*, L.A.’s first all-improvised musical-comedy. Author: the L.A. Times bestseller “Postcards from the Moon”.

**CHERI STEINKELLNER** (Book) has won four Emmy Awards, two Golden Globes, The People's Choice, BAFTA, Writers Guild Award, Parents Choice and TV-Land Legend Awards, for writing and producing "Cheers" (recently named one of the Top 10 Best Written Comedies in TV history), and "The Jeffersons", "Facts of Life", "Family Ties" and "Who's The Boss", and for creating the acclaimed Disney animated Saturday morning TV series and feature film, "Teacher's Pet". A 2011 Tony-nominee for *Sister Act* (with husband Bill Steinkellner, Alan Menken and Glenn Slater); Steinkellner has also written *Princesses* (with Bill, David Zippel and Matthew Wilder); and book and lyrics for *Mosaic* (with Georgia Stitt), and *Jailbirds on Broadway* (with Bill and Jeff Rizzo). Other stage includes *Our Place*, and *Instaplay* - L.A.'s original - and longest-running - improvised musical-comedy. An Indy Award winner and Ovation nominee for *Hello! My Baby*, Steinkellner currently teaches writing at Stanford and UCSB and directs youth theatre in beautiful Santa Barbara, where she and Bill raised their three favorite children/writers/artists: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

**PEPPY BIDDY** (Director) returns to New Stage Theatre after directing last year's *Vanya, Sonia, Masha, and Spike*. The big news is that last month Bidy retired from Mississippi University for Women after 31 years of service to the university and to the department of theatre where he has directed over 40 shows. During his tenure at "The W", Bidy 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. Bidy 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, Mill Mountain Theatre (Roanoke, VA), and New Stage Theatre (Jackson, MS). Bidy is a member of Actors Equity Association. He has served as the production manager for the Sundance Institute's Theatre Lab since the year 2000. New Stage audiences may have seen Bidy 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*, and *The Robber Bridegroom*. [www.peppybiddy.com](http://www.peppybiddy.com)

**BRIANNA HILL** (Assistant Director) is excited to start her professional career with New Stage Theatre. She is a proud Florida native and graduated from Florida Southern College with a BFA in theatre performance and B.S. in business administration with a focus in theatre management. Some of her favorite credits from college include Olive in *Odd Couple* (Female Version), Queen Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Florence in *Poof*. Recently, Hill finished a house management internship with Playhouse on the Square in Memphis and received the opportunity to be in FEMMemphis's inaugural performance as Betty 5 in *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties*.

**ELISE MCDONALD** (Stage Manager) is a graduate of The University of Southern Mississippi with a B.A. in Theatre. She began stage management while at Southern and was able to work on shows such as *Light Up the Sky*, *A Lesson From Aloes*, *Fallen Angels*, *The Good Doctor*, *Big Love*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Electra*. She worked as a Production Assistant in Stage Management at the Arkansas Repertory Theatre and was backstage for several shows such as *Les Miserable*, *The Foreigner*, *The Elephant Man* and *The Who's Tommy*. Elise begins her seventh season at New Stage. Some of her favorite past productions include: *Dracula*, *The Foreigner*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Hairspray*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Whipping Man*, *All The Way*, *Peter Pan*, *One Man Two Guvnors*, *Crimes of the Heart*, and *The Robber Bridegroom*. She is excited to be working with New Stage and would like to thank her family and friends for their unending support!

**DAVID CARTER** (Scenic Designer) has been designing sets for New Stage since *Hank Williams: Lost Highway* in 2007. He is currently the Chair of the Theatre Department at Mississippi University for Women. Previous design credits at New Stage include, *Doubt*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Boeing Boeing*, and *Hairspray*. He originally hails from North Carolina where he obtained an MFA in scene design from North Carolina School of the Arts. Carter draws inspiration from his beloved wife, Madelon.

**ALLAN BRANSON** (Sound Designer/Audio Engineer) is thrilled to make his debut at New Stage as the sound designer and engineer for *Sister Act*. Branson spent the last six seasons at The Arkansas Repertory Theatre as their resident sound designer, where he designed four world premiere musicals and worked with some incredible teams. Branson hails from Lubbock, Texas, where he studied sound technology at South Plains College and worked with numerous companies providing theatrical sound design as well as live sound reinforcement.

**BRONWYN TEAGUE** (Production Manager/Lighting Designer) has recently completed working on her 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 BA 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*. Last summer Teague was technical director and lighting designer for Carey Dinner Theatre. 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.

**CALEB BLACKWELL** (Costume Designer) is a native of Magee, Miss., but now calls Memphis home. By day, Blackwell is delighted to be the Resident Costume Designer for The Circuit Playhouse. New Stage is and will always be a great place to come and be collaborate with wonderful theatre artists. Many thanks to Lesley for keeping him in coffee and all the hard work, Elise for moral support, and Amy for being Amy. Favorite past designs include *Mary Poppins* (Playhouse on the Square), *The Diary of Anne Frank* (Playhouse on the Square), *Hairspray* (New Stage) and *The Fantasticks* (Circuit).

**RICHART SCHUG** (Resident Scenic Designer) is in his fifth season with New Stage where he has designed sets for *Red*, *All The Way*, *Mrs. Mannerly*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club*, *A Christmas Story*, *Best of Enemies*, and others. He has also worked as a



scenic painter and designer in New York at Purchase College SUNY where he received a BFA in theatre design/technology. He would like to thank the very talented staff of New Stage and his family.

**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 two "Best Set" awards at Mississippi Theatre Association conferences.

**MICHAEL TOBIN** (Production Associate) graduated from Belhaven University with a B.A. in English and minors in creative writing and theatre. This is his first season at New Stage Theatre. Some of his previous credits include lighting design and assistant technical direction for *The 39 Steps*, lighting design and technical direction for *Sketching the Soul*, dramaturg for *Mayfair Ma Chere*, master electrician for *The White Snake* and *Big Fish the Musical*, and stage management for *Little Shop of Horrors*.

**LESLEY RAYBON** (Resident Costume Designer) joined New Stage in 2004 as an acting intern and since then has worked both onstage and off. She has found her place as the resident costume designer and has enjoyed designing shows, and working with guest designers and costume shop assistants. Some of her favorite shows include: *The Grapes of Wrath*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Goodnight Moon*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*. When not at New Stage, she is a barista at Starbucks, a puppeteer with Puppet Arts Theatre, wife to her wonderful husband Lawrence, and mother to her daughter EV.

**KRISTIN JOHNSON** (Assistant Costumer) is very excited to be in her first official season at New Stage Theatre. She studied fashion merchandising at Delta State University where she also costumed for The Delta Players. Some of her favorite shows from her time there are *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, *These Shining Lives*, and *The Bald Soprano*. After a summer internship, she started unofficially helping in the costume shop at New Stage with the show *It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*. Since then, she's worked on numerous shows such as *Crimes of the Heart*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Robber Bridegroom*, and *Madagascar- A Musical Adventure*. Johnson also designed New Stage's Arts in Education Touring Productions of *Oh, Freedom!* and *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*, and does design work for the Unframed Series at New Stage Theatre.

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Light Board Operator . . . . . Jax Rasmussen  
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## THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**FRANCINE THOMAS REYNOLDS** (Artistic Director) has been the artistic director at New Stage since 2006 and has worked as a theatre artist for 29 years. She recently directed *Shakespeare in Love*, *Silent Sky*, Disney's *Beauty and The Beast*, *Best of Enemies*, *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure*, *Our Town*, *Red*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, and *A Time To Kill*. Recent portrayals 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*, *Hairspray*, *Mahalia: A Gospel Musical*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Lombardi*, *Boeing, Boeing*, *Gee's Bend*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Annie*, *A Soldier's Play*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Reynolds is serving her second 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 panelist for the 2017 and 2016 TCG National Conferences and the 2016 Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association Contest. Other associations include Leadership Mississippi Class of 2014, National Endowment for the Arts grants review 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 20 years. She began her career at New Stage in the fall of 1981 as a box office assistant. Since that time, she has worked as box office manager, audience services director, house manager, bookkeeper, business manager and marketing director. Buck's other professional artistic credits include the USA International Ballet Competition, the Thalia Mara Arts International Foundation - World Performance Series presenting a series of performing artists including American Ballet Theatre, Aquila Theatre of London, Joshua Bell, Alvin Ailey, Cirque Eloize, Wynton Marsalis, and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. She attended Belhaven University and is an alumnus of Leadership Jackson and a graduate of Dale Carnegie. Buck also completed a residency on theatre management at the Eugene O'Neill Center through a grant from the Foundation for the Extension and Development of Professional American Theatre (FEDAPT). Prior to serving on the staff of the USA International Ballet Competition, she worked with America Reads - Mississippi overseeing and training 270 AmeriCorps members who provided one-on-one tutoring in reading for students in primary K through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade across the state. In 1990, she served as vice president of administration and finance for Imageworks - Films for Business. She helped produce commercials, documentaries and training videos. Buck resides in the Heatherwood neighborhood in Jackson with her husband David, who retired in 2009 after a 26 year military career with the U. S. Air Force and the Mississippi Air National Guard. He has recently initiated beekeeping as a new hobby.

**BILL MCCARTY III** (General Manager) is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and has extensive background in wholesale and retail sales and real estate property management with the Jitney Jungle stores. McCarty has volunteered with New Stage for more than 40 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 Directors. His favorite design credits are *Greater Tuna* 1986 production, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Gin Game* and *A Christmas Carol* 1984 production.

**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*. Her most recent work includes *Noye's Fludd* and *La Boheme* with the Mississippi Opera. She is a member of Metro Jackson Attractions Association and recently served as the treasurer for the organization. This is Tillman's twelfth season with New Stage. She currently resides in Madison with her husband, Kyle and their son, River.

**GINNY HOLLADAY JESSEE** (Marketing Associate) is an arts administration professional with a background in theatre and collaborative arts. She received her BA in theatre performance from Belhaven University, completed the acting intensive at the Stella Adler Summer Conservatory in New York City and received her MFA in arts leadership from Seattle University. Holladay has worked with Taproot Theatre, On the Boards and the Pacific Northwest Ballet, finding her passion lies with the internal operations of arts organizations and the pursuit of healthy, sustainable non-profit culture. Holladay has lived in Lithuania, Germany, Seattle, Washington and now calls Jackson home.

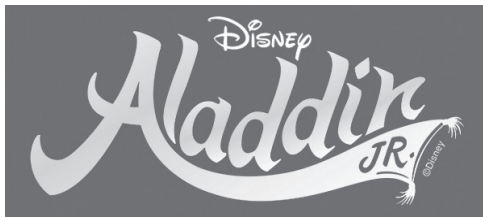
**ALISA PRICE** (Box Office Manager) has a B.A. in theatre arts from High Point University, and is a former intern of New Stage Theatre. As an intern she performed in *Death of a Salesman*, *Charlotte's Web*, and *A Christmas Carol*. She also toured with her intern cast in a montage of Tennessee Williams, Shakespeare, and Chekov one-act plays, and has been in productions for several theatre companies in Virginia, including Swift Creek Mill Theatre, Theatre IV, and Richmond Theatre Company for Children, where she later became the marketing & sales director. She most recently worked in higher education, and for the State of Mississippi. She is a member of the Jackson Revival Center, and an active part of their theatre ministry. New Stage Theatre will always hold a special place in Price's heart because it is where she first met her husband, Hillery. They now have three beautiful children, Darryn, Gabriel, and Elijah, aka "The Three Fusskateers."

**BETTY WONG** (Box Office Assistant/Education Assistant) begins her twelfth season at New Stage. She enjoys traveling to schools throughout the state with the Professional Intern Company to provide live theatre experiences for students 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 has contributed to the growth and expansion of New Stage's Educational 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, and a M.Ed. from Delta State University.

**BARBARA MARTIN** (Box Office/Business Office Assistant) is in her 22nd season at New Stage. First joining the staff in 1997, she has served as box office assistant for 19 years and as box office manager for the two years before and during the Intermission Season. She also assists with development, reviews and maintains theater 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 fourteenth season. Marsh is employed full time with the Hinds County Sheriff's office.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### There is bound to be a job for YOU!

Check out our website at [www.newstagetheatre.com/about/volunteers](http://www.newstagetheatre.com/about/volunteers) or contact our volunteer coordinator Stacey Gaines at [gainesfamilyfun2@gmail.com](mailto:gainesfamilyfun2@gmail.com) for more information.





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**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!**

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Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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