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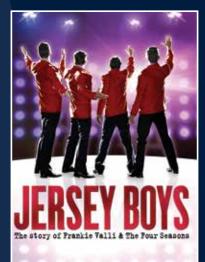
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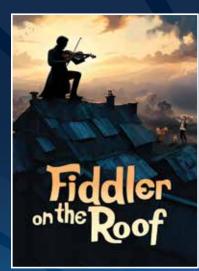
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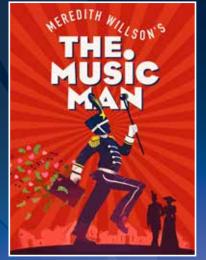




NOV 7TH - JAN 5TH 2025

JAN 23RD - APR 6TH 2025





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PRODUCERS' LETTER

Excitement continues to build at The Argyle! Folks are hungry for the type of entertainment that can only be experienced through live performance. We're concluding our 5th season of incredible theatrical productions and are celebrating the Summer of 2024 with the nostalgic and iconic musical - Bye Bye Birdie. This show will transport you back to the energy of the late 1950s! Take in the excitement and enjoy this spectacular family friendly production that we are proud to produce and present to you.

We at The Argyle continue to be committed to bringing blockbuster productions of the highest quality. Following Bye Bye Birdie, we will be embarking upon significant renovations at The Argyle, both exterior and interior. As part of our ongoing maintenance and restoration of this historic 100-year old building, we have committed significant resources to this Fall's renovation projects. Aided by financial contributions from Suffolk County's JumpSMART program, we will be improving the exterior facade, installing a new marguee, finally re-lighting the iconic blue neon "BABYLON" sign, and sealing the walls of our century-old building. Inside, we'll be further enhancing the comfort and conveniences of the theatre, expanding both the women's and men's restrooms to combat those infamous intermission lines, renovating our first floor bar and lobby space for improved flow and enhanced aesthetics, in addition to significantly expanding our production capabilities to continue bringing these top-notch productions to you and your families!

We have also officially announced our 6th Mainstage Season and are thrilled to bring you another year of iconic musicals. This holiday season we bring you A Christmas Carol The Musical! 2025 kicks off with the perennial favorite, Jersey Boys. Next up will be the iconic musical, Fiddler on The Roof. Finally, this time next year will bring another nostalgic musical hit: The Music Man! Join our Argyle Family and become a season ticket holder. Tickets for our new season are on sale now. After this year's record-breaking box office success, be sure to lock in your favorite seats at the lowest prices all year long!

Our Children's Theatre on weekend mornings continues with Pinkalicious the Musical this Summer. There's still time to enroll your youngsters (ages 4 - 17) in our summer theatre programs, with two 3-week sessions, each culminating in a performance. Imagine seeing your child or loved one performing on The Argyle Stage!

In addition to our Mainstage and Children's theatrical productions, we are also proud of the many concerts, comedy, and special events we bring to our patrons throughout the year. We work hard at bringing quality entertainment from a vast array of musical genres that include rock, folk-rock, country, pop, classical, Broadway, Motown, disco and standards. Our comedy shows



include highly experienced national headliners and young and up-and-coming future stars.

We'd like to express our gratitude to all those who have continued to support The Argyle Theatre over these last few years. It's hard to believe it's been over 5 years since our re-opening of Babylon's former cinema as The Argyle Theatre and we are filled with pride, gratitude, and hope for the future of this anchor on Main Street. We focus on bringing the highest-quality live entertainment to you right here in beautiful Babylon Village, and creating the closest thing to a Broadway experience on Long Island.

We invite you to share with your friends, families, and communities that a wonderful option for live entertainment exists in our nearly 500-seat two-tiered state of the art venue, with plush seating, ample leg room and cup holders for your convenience, a full bar, a top-notch live orchestra, and performers cast directly from the Broadway pool of actors. Our current and future patrons can also take advantage of the wonderful amenities, eateries and shops all within walking distance from the theatre in this incredible, bustling Village of Babylon. With the Babylon LIRR station just minutes away, many major roadways leading right into Babylon, and multiple parking options within blocks of the theatre, it has never been more convenient and reasonably priced to spend a night out at the theatre! We aim to bring you maximum value with top-notch quality, comfort and convenience.

As always, we are incredibly proud of our people; the talented, creative, driven collection of individuals who work tirelessly to bring these amazing experiences to you. We have built a flourishing organization, employing hundreds and entertaining thousands. It has been a great honor and responsibility that we do not take lightly.

Thank you again - to our season ticket holders (who benefit from numerous perks and savings) and our regular theatergoers; our past, current and future sponsors and advertisers; our community and municipal partners - we look forward to seeing you at The Argyle. You all are instrumental in cultivating the culture and energy at this institution. We appreciate your continued commitment to making Long Island the best place to live, work and play. We hope to entertain you all for many years to come. And now - it's time for the show!

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RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located in our lobby and on the balcony level.

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For your convenience, Beer, Wine and Cocktails are available for purchase at two full service bars located in our main lobby and on our balcony level. Snacks and soft drinks are also available.

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Wheel Chair and companion seating is available. Please contact our Box Office for information. A handicap accessible bathroom is located in our main lobby. An assisted Listening System is available free of charge at our Box Office.

FIRE SAFETY

Please note the location of the GREEN EXIT signs throughout the theatre. In case of an emergency, please walk calmly to the nearest exit.



NO SMOKING

The Argyle Theatre is a smoke-free environment. Smoking is not permitted in the building at any time. This includes the use of electronic cigarettes.

AGE RECOMMENDATION

Please call the box office for age recommendations for individual Main Stage and Children's Theatre shows. Booster seats are available for kids and are located in our lobby.

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Discounts are available for groups of 15 or more. Please call our box office and ask for Marty Rubin.

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- TREAT ALL THEATRE STAFF YOU SEE WITH RESPECT AND KINDNESS. THEY WANT YOU TO HAVE A GREAT TIME AND THEY DESERVE RESPECT.
- BE RESPECTFUL OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU AND DO NOT DO ANYTHING TO INTERFERE OR TO DISRUPT THE PERFORMANCE.
- DO NOT SING ALONG WITH THE ACTORS AS IT IS DISTRACTING TO YOUR FELLOW PATRONS.
- DO NOT ENGAGE WITH THE ACTORS OR MUSICIANS WHILE THEY ARE PERFORMING IN THE SHOW. ONLY ENGAGE IF THEY ENCOURAGE YOU TO AS PART OF THE SHOW.
- WHEN DRINKING ALCOHOL, PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY AND LOOK OUT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AS WELL.
- BE PATIENT WITH THE RESTROOM LINES. WE KNOW THEY'RE LONG AND SPACE IS TIGHT. BUT DO NOT BECOME PUSHY OR RUDE. EVERYONE WILL GET THEIR TURN.
- RELAX, SIT BACK , AND ENJOY THE SHOW! ONCE AGAIN, WE WOULD NOT BE HERE WITHOUT YOU.



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s we share with you the last show of our 5th A s we share with you the last show of our Jun Season, the wonderful *Bye Bye Birdie*, I want to thank all of you who are reading this for your continued loyalty and patronage to us here at The Argyle. This past season has seen some of the best theater Long Island has to offer. Those of you who witnessed our holiday spectacular, the dazzling Mary Poppins with it's supercalifragilistic flying and heart-warming storytelling, the iconic and legendary A Chorus Line, a show near and dear to my heart, with it's electrifying dancing and score, and the gritty and honest true story that was A Bronx Tale, you saw some of the finest performers, creative teams, musicians, stage management and crews ever assembled. I am so proud of these "show families" we've been able to bring you. Their artistry and passion for what they do is unsurpassed and I'm a lucky guy to be in a room with every one of them. Let's also mention the fantastic productions of our Children's Theatre! Harry Connick Jr's. The Happy Elf, Seussical, Cinderella, and Pinkalicious delighted families for a whole year!

Also, a huge shout-out to the unsung heroes who try to make every one of you feel as comfortable as possible and that is all of our front of house staff. The House Managers, Ushers, Box Office Staff, Bartenders. They all come to work with a smile on their faces and complete the Argyle package of excellence.

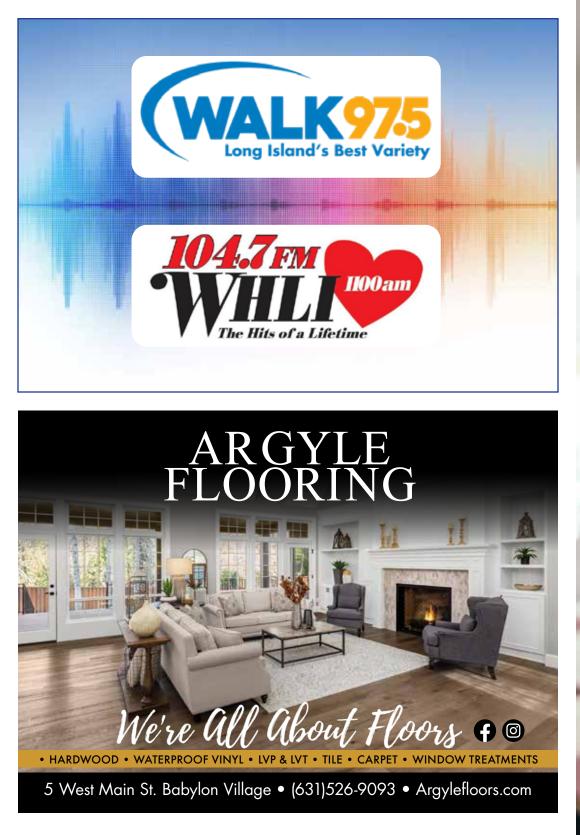
I feel very full when I look back and see how far we've come and how much we've grown

in just 5 years. Not to mention to see how you, our devoted followers, have continued on this journey with us. It makes a guy feel pretty good.

Here's to Season 6 and seeing you all back here for more glorious musicals and live theatre!







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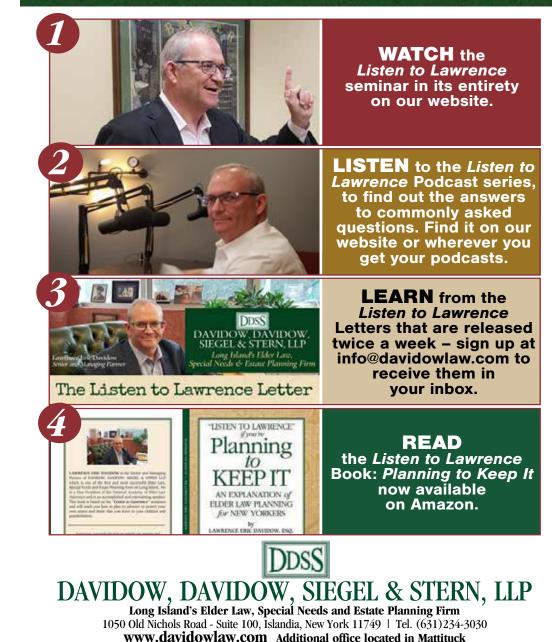
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ROSIE	Sonia Roman*
CONRAD BIRDIE	John Drinkwater
MR. HARRY MACAFEE	Allen Lewis Rickman*
MRS. DORIS MACAFEE	Deb Radloff*
KIM MACAFEE	Haley Root
URSULA MERKLE/SUZIE	Madeline Falco
MRS. MAE PETERSON	Bevin Bell-Hall
RANDOLPH MACAFEE	Oliver Cirelli and Jackson Parker Gill
HUGO PEABODY/KARL/REPORTER	Randie Ford
JAMIE/TRAINMAN/MAYOR	Steven Klenk
HELEN/STAGE MANAGER	Leah Cecillia Wilson
MARGIE/GLORIA RASPUTIN	Amy Smith
DEBORAH SUE/PENELOPE/MRS. MERKLE	Jessie Grimaldo
HARVEY JOHNSON	Ben Marshall
NANCY/MAYOR'S WIFE	Abbs Lyman
ALICE/WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	Kianna Kelly-Futch
TRAVIS/REPORTER/MR. JOHNSON/COP 2	Austin Wicke
JASON/COP 1/CHARLES MAUDE	Mikey Evangelista
FREDDIE/TV DIRECTOR	Mundo Ballejos
ENSEMBLE	Steven Klenk, Leah Cecillia Wilson, Amy Smith, Jessie Grimaldo, Ben Marshall, Abbs Lyman, Kianna Kelly-Futch,Austin Wicke, Mikey Evangelista, Mundo Balejos
SWINGS	Jake Van Eycken, Raffaela Cicchetti
UNDERSTUDIES	Albert - Steven Klenk, Rosie - Leah Cecilia Wils

Brian Owen*

CAST In order of appearance

ALBERT

 Albert - Steven Klenk, Rosie - Leah Cecilia Wilson, Conrad Birdie - Austin Wicke, Mr. Harry MacAfee
Steven Klenk, Mikey Evangelista, Mrs. Doris MacAfee - Amy Smith, Abbs Lyman, Kim MacAfee
Raffaela Cicchetti, Mae Peterson - Abbs Lyman, Hugo Peabody - Ben Marshall, Ursula - Raffaela Cicchetti, Amy Smith

DANCE CAPTAIN/FIGHT CAPTAIN

MUSICIANS

Amy Smith Music Director / Keys 1 - Jonathan Brenner Guitars - Eitan Prouser Bass - Pete Averso Drums - Andrew Warren

Music Coordinator - Russell Brown

ACTI

An English Teacher Rosie
The Telephone HourTeen Ensemble
How Lovely to Be a WomanKim
Put On a Happy FaceAlbert and Sad Girls
A Healthy, Normal, American Boy Albert, Rosie, Teen & Adult Ensemble
One Boy Kim, Ursula, Penelope & Rosie
Honestly Sincere Conrad & Teen Ensemble
Hymn for a Sunday Evening The MacAfees, Teen & Adult Ensemble
One Last KissConrad, The MacAfees, Albert, Teen & Adult Ensemble

ACT II

	What Did I Ever See in Him Rosie & Kim
	A Lot of Livin' to Do Conrad, Kim, & Teen Ensemble
	Kids Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee
	Spanish RoseRosie
,	Baby, Talk to MeAlbert & Quartet
e	A Mother Doesn't Matter Anymore Mae Peterson
	Kids (Reprise) Mr. and Mrs. MacAfee, Randolph & Adult Ensemble
,	RosieAlbert & Rosie
e	Finale: Bye Bye Birdie Company

There will be one 15 minute intermission









RAFFAELA CICCHETTI

OLIVER CIRELLI

JOHN DRINKWATER

ABBS LYMAN







MIKEY EVANGELISTA JAKE VAN EYCKEN MADELINE FALCO





JESSIE GRIMALDO

KIANNA KELLY-FUTCH





BEN MARSHALL



SONIA ROMAN*



BRIAN OWEN*

HALEY ROOT

AUSTIN WICKE

DEB RADLOFF*



LEAH CECILIA WILSON

MUNDO BALLEJOS

(Freddie/TV Director) (he/him/his) Mundo is thrilled to be making his NY debut with Argyle! Recent credits include: Emcee in Cabaret, Rigoberto in The Day You Begin (West Coast Premiere), Jean-Michel in R+H's Cinderella, and Squidward Q. Tentacles in Spongebob the Musical. A never ending amount of gratitude goes out to his family, friends, and mentors for the continuous love and support! Chico State MT '22. IG: @mundoballejos

BEVIN BELL-HALL

(Mrs. Mae Peterson)

Bevin is thrilled for her Argyle debut! NYC: Swingtime Canteen at Cherry Lane, Everyone's a Hero... at Theatre Row, and original musicals at TNC. Regional: Man of La Mancha at Asolo Rep, A Doll's House, Part 2 (Nora) at CRT, Way of the World (Wishfort) available at Lincoln Center Library. She holds an MFA from Wayne State, is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, and puppetmaster at Shadow Box Theatre in Brooklyn. For Eleanor. bevinbellhall.com

RAFFAELA CICCHETTI

(Swing, U/S Kim MacAfee, Ursula) Raffaela is thrilled to be returning to the Argyle Theatre! She is a proud graduate of Manhattan School of Music's Musical Theatre program. Some of her most recent credits include Ensemble (A Bronx Tale), Luisa (The Fantasticks!), Louise (Sunday in the Park with George), Gabriella (Fall Risk) and Thea (Fiorello!). She sends loads of hugs and kisses to her parents, sisters, and friends for their constant love and support!

OLIVER CIRELLI

(Randolph MacAfee)

Oliver is so excited to be back at the Argyle Theatre, this time as Randolph MacAfee. Oliver most recently portrayed Young C in A Bronx Tale at The Argyle and Kurt Von Trapp in The Sound of Music at The Engeman Theatre. He is so thankful to his friends and family for all their love, support, and encouragement. And to his agent, David Doan at CESD. IG: @ollie cirelli

JOHN DRINKWATER

(Conrad Birdie)

John is an actor and musician who is thrilled to be back at The Argyle! Select regional credits include HAIR (Berger), A Little Night Music (Carl Magnus), As You Like It (Silvius/Amiens). He also performs regularly at 54 Below and Birdland in New York City. John can be seen on this season of I Can See Your Voice on Fox! (Streaming now on Hulu) Wagner College Theatre! This is dedicated to Yi, Pop, Grandpa and Nicole. Instagram: @johndh20 @thedrinkwaterbrothers

MIKEY EVANGELISTA

(Jason/Cop 1/Charles Maude, Ensemble, U/S Mr. Harry MacAfee) Michael is very excited to be returning to the Main Stage at The Argyle Theatre in this production of *Bve* Bye Birdie! Michael has been a part of several shows at the Argyle such as A Bronx Tale (Frankie Coffecake U/S Lorenzo and Sonny), You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown (Schroeder), Seussical (Wickersham) and The Happy Elf (Eubie). Other credits include Spring Awakening (Melchior), Rent (Mark), Rock of Ages (Drew Boley) and Into the Woods (Cinderella's Prince/Wolf) at various theatres on Long Island. Michael would like to thank his family and friends for their endless support as well as all of you for coming and hopes that you enjoy the show!

JAKE VAN EYCKEN

(Swing)

Jake is a rising sophomore Music Theatre major at Baldwin Wallace University. This is Jake's Argyle debut, and he is thrilled to be a part of this company. Credits include, Pippin and the world premiere of Star Machine (Baldwin Wallace Mainstage), Les Miserables, Anastasia, Chicago, Into The Woods and more. This past summer, Jake was awarded the Long Island Scholar Artist award in Music Theatre, and the Emerging Artists Grant at Stage 74 where he directed and produced the LI premiere of Alice By Heart. Jake thanks the audience for their continuous support in the arts. Insta: @JakeVanEvcken

MADELINE FALCO

(Ursula Merkle/Suzie)

Madeline is thrilled to be making her Argyle Theatre debut! Favorite credits include: The King and I (Topsy, Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre), A Chorus Line (Connie, Lauderhill Performing Arts Center & Titusville Playhouse), Pete the Cat (Olive, TheaterworksUSA), Chicago (Muhlenberg College). Much love to her family and friends for their endless support! IG: @maddie.falco

RANDIE FORD

(Hugo Peabody/Karl/Reporter)

Randie is very excited to be making his Argyle debut! He has recently been seen in White Plains Performing Arts' production of : The Carole King Musical, Black RockTheatre's production of *Cinderella* at Westport Country Playhouse. He recently graduated from The Boston Conservatory for Musical Theatre, and is an alumnus of The Interlochen Arts Academy theatre program. @randieford



RANDIE FORD

STEVEN KLENK





JACKSON PARKER GILL

(Randolph MacAfee)

Jackson is SO EXCITED to be returning to the Argyle after appearing in Seussical! Regional: Beauty and the Beast (Chip), A Christmas Story (Randy). He is a proud competition dancer at Broadway Dance Theatre. Favorite theater credits include: Finding Nemo (Nemo), A Bronx Tale (Young C), Tommy (Tommy at 4 & 10), Willy Wonka (Mike TeeVee). TV/Film credits include: "Impractical Jokers", "The Lady of the Lake". Love and thanks to Mom, Dad and all the BDT Teachers! Instagram: @jacksonparkergill

JESSIE GRIMALDO

(Deborah Sue/Penelope/Mrs. Merkle/Parent, Ensemble) (she/her) Jessie is thrilled to be making her New York debut at the Argyle Theatre! Jessie proudly earned her BFA in Musical Theatre with a Dance minor from Chico State! Her recent credits include Ella in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, and Sandy Cheeks in *SpongeBob: The Musical!* Jessie would love to thank her family, friends and incredible mentors for all of their endless support! Jessiegrimaldo.com @Jessiegrimaldo

KIANNA KELLY-FUTCH

(Alice/Wardrobe Supervisor, Ensemble) Kianna is excited to make her second debut at the Argyle Theatre in Bye Bye Birdie! Kianna is a crossover BIPOC artist with former pageantry experience. Her credits include A Bronx Tale (U/S Denise & Freida**), Nine (Liliane La Fleur), Forget Me Not (Nia Banks), Don't Stop Me (Royshanna). Iron John (Lucas Harper-Barnes), The Wizard of Oz (Dorothy Gale), Bible Stories: The "Real" Wiz (Melody North), Shrek (Princess Fiona), Black Broadway revue (Sweet Georgia Brown), Amahl & The Night Visitors (The Mother). She is a proud graduate of Manhattan School of Music (B.M Musical Theatre) and has worked with Duke Ellington School of the Arts, Divine Dance Institute, Urban Change Theatre, and Washington National Opera in Washington, DC. She thanks God, Mom, Evan Pappas, MSM, and family and friends for supporting her artistic journey! IG: @kiannakellyfutch

STEVEN KLENK

(Jamie/Trainman/Mayor, Ensemble, U/S Albert, Mr. Harry MacAfee)

He/Him. Off-Broadway: Scouts the Musical. National Tour: Emojiland the Musical. Regional: Little Shop Of Horrors (Seymour); Something Rotten! (Brother Jeremiah). Millikin University, BA Theatre. Deep gratitude to Michael Cassara, the creatives, and his stellar team at DDO for this opportunity. Love to his friends and family, and his momma for her unwavering encouragement. This one's for you, Uncle Jamie. @stevenklenk

ABBS LYMAN

(Nancy/Mayor's Wife/Parent, Ensemble, U/S Mae Peterson, Mrs. Doris MacAfee) Abbs is thrilled to be making her regional theatre debut in *Bye Bye Birdie*. She is a recent graduate of Manhattan School of Music (BM Musical Theatre.) When not on stage she can be found working on directing and dramaturgy. She would like to thank her parents, Jen and Marty, for their unconditional support. She dedicates this performance, as with all, to her sister Caroline. A huge thank you to The Argyle for this opportunity! @ .abbs www.abbslyman.com

BEN MARSHALL

(Harvey Johnson, Ensemble, U/S Hugo Peabody) Ben is thrilled to be making his Argyle debut in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Ben graduated from Western Michigan University, originally from Arlington Heights, Illinois, he first began performing when he was six years old. Ben's previous off-broadway credits include: *Fire Island, Pinkalicious, & Flight School*. Ben would like to thank his reps Lisa & Andrew at The Price Group, as well as his friends and family (especially his cat Barb) for supporting him along his fabulous adventures.

BRIAN OWEN^{*} (Albert)

Brian is thrilled and grateful to be back at the Argyle after two trips to their Kit Kat Club. Selected Credits: Sesame Street, the premieres of Dog Man: The Musical and Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical, Sweeney Todd, The 39 Steps, Chains, Peter and the Starcatcher, five times riding the hurricane of Ken Ludwig's Baskerville, and too many productions of A Midsummer Night's Dream to count. His favorite roles are husband to his wife Nicole and official bellyscratcher of Ms. Starbara Miriam Stanwyck. Wineman Rep Company Forever. Proud member of Team BWA. IG: @difficultlemondesigns

DEB RADLOFF

(Mrs. Doris MacAfee)

Deb is thrilled to join the Argyle Theatre's production of *Bye Bye Birdie*. NYC CREDITS: OFF-BROADWAY: *Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Classic Stage Company) OFF-OFF: *The Winter's Tale* and *Twelfth Night* (Rude Grooms), *"Mother Knows Best"* (Best Emerging solo artist at the United Solo Theatre festival) REGIONAL: *Last of the Red Hot Lovers* (Northern Stage). *Richard III*, and *Death of a Salesman* (The Old Globe). FILM/TV: *God Friended Me, For Life, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel* S.4, *Evil* S. 5, *Wrath/Mercy* (Oxford Film Festival short 2024). NEW MEDIA: Micro musical show: *The New Peggy* by Drew Larimore and J. O'conor Navarro. M.F.A The Old Globe/USD. Rep. by the amazing folx at MKM management. IG: @debfindingherwin

ALLEN LEWIS RICKMAN[•] (Mr. Harry MacAfee)

(Win Harry MacAlee) Stage: Relatively Speaking (Broadway), Mack & Mabel (Encores!), So Help Me God! (Mint), the Yiddish Pirates of Penzance (also co-adapted and directed), Victor/ Victoria (Paper Mill), Waiting For Godot (Two River), plus work at the Royal National Theater (Stockholm), the International Samuel Beckett Festival (Ireland), the Dresden Staatsschauspiel, and Carnegie Hall. Film/TV: A Serious Man (Coen brothers), Boardwalk Empire (recurring), You Don't Know Jack (with Al Pacino), The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (as Red Skelton).

SONIA ROMAN[®]

(Rosie)

Sonia Roman (she/her) is delighted to be making her Argyle Theatre Debut! Most recently, you might've spotted her in the Off-Broadway run of *Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical* (Cat Kid), but for six magical years prior to the pandemic, she was a full-time singing fish at *Walt Disney World's Finding Nemo the Musical* (Dory/ Peach). Other favorite regional credits: *Fun Home* (Alison), *Hairspray* (Penny), *Avenue Q* (Mrs. T). The gratitude she feels for her framily & familia is palpable, siempre. She also thanks breakfast, every day. Stay weird & stay you, y'all! Con mucho, mucho amor. Para Mima. ig: @soniarrroman

HALEY ROOT

(Kim MacAfee)

Haley is thrilled to be performing in her first production at the Argyle Theatre! She is a proud graduate of University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music's (CCM) Musical Theatre program. Some of her recent credits include Portia (*Something Rotten*), Ella (*R&H Cinderella*), and Celeste #2 (*Sunday in the Park with George*). Huge thank you to her family, friends, and team at Henderson Hogan for their constant support! @haley.root

AMY SMITH

(Margie/Gloria Rasputin, U/S Mrs Doris MacAfee, Ursula, Dance Captain/Fight Captain) Argyle debut! Broadway National Tour: Anastasia (swing, Odette in *Swan Lake* understudy). Select regional/ New York credits: *Cabaret* (The Old Globe), *The Light Rail* (Feinstein's 54 Below), *The Nutcracker* (The Moscow Ballet), *Tosca* (New York Metropolitan Opera with Las Vegas Opera), Tuacahn Amphitheater, CCAE, North Coast Repertory, Moonlight Amphitheater, Sundance, Hale Center Theater. Feature Film: *Miracle Valley* (Kelly). BFA MT BYU '20 and Broadway Dance Center Professional Semester '21. Represented by Avalon Artists Group. ig: ames smith

AUSTIN WICKE

(Travis/Reporter/Mr. Johnson/Cop 2/Ensemble, U/S Conrad Birdie) Austin is very excited to be making his Argyle Theatre

Debut! Born and bred in Iowa City, Iowa, Austin went to the University of Iowa where he studied Theatre and Music. He's most recently performed in the midwestern premiere of *Natasha*, *Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812* as Dolokhov along with Disney Cruise Line in various roles including Kristoff in *Frozen*. With a knack for spinning tales and a charm as genuine as a Midwest smile, Austin's here to make you laugh, cry, and maybe snort a little. He'd like to thank his Mom and Dad, Baby brother Ryan, and close friends for their continued support and love across the country.

LEAH CECILIA WILSON

(Helen/Stage Manager, Ensemble, U/S Rosie) Leah is making her New York debut with *Bye Bye Birdie*. Theaters: *The Encore Musical Theatre Company*, *Ti Moune*, *Once on This Island*; *Crystal*, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Graduating with a BFA and a Minor in Psychology from Oakland University class of '23. Notable work includes: *Leading Player*, *Pippin*; *Tilly*, *She Kills Monsters*; So much love and thanks to my family, friends, and of course Hudson Artists! @the.leah.cecilia

CREATIVE: MICHAEL STEWART

(Book) scored on Broadway the first time out when he won a Tony[®] for his *Bye Bye Birdie* libretto. He was the librettist for *Carnival!* (Drama Critics Circle Award) and *Hello, Dolly!*, which won him both Tony[®] and Drama Critics prizes. He also wrote the books for *42nd Street* (with Mark Bramble, Tony[®] nomination), *George M!* (with John and Francine Pascal), *Mack and Mabel*, and *The Grand Tour*; both book and lyrics for *I Love My Wife*; and lyrics for *Barnum*. Mr. Stewart, a graduate of the Yale School of Drama, died in 1987.

CHARLES STROUSE

(Music) Broadway: Bye Bye Birde, All American, Golden Boy, It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman, Applause, Annie, Dance a Little Closer, Charlie and Algernon, Rags, and Nick & Nora. Film: Bonnie and Clyde, There Was a Crooked Man, The Night They Raided Minsky's, and All Dogs Go to Heaven. TV: All in the Family ("Those Were the Days"). Strouse has also written numerous orchestral works, chamber music, piano concertos, and opera. Founder of the ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop in NY. Winner of three Tony Awards[®] (six nominations). two Grammy Awards[®], an Emmy, and the Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein Awards. Member of the Theatre Hall of Fame. His book, Put on a Happy Face: a Broadway Memoir, was published by Union Square Press in 2008 in honor of his 80th birthday.



LEE ADAMS

(Lyrics) received two Tony Awards[®] for *Bye Bye Birdie* and *Applause* with Lauren Bacall. Other Broadway: *All American, Golden Boy* with Sammy Davis Jr., *It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman.* With his composercollaborator Charles Strouse, Adams wrote *I and Albert* in London and the film *The Night They Raided Minsky's.* He wrote the lyrics for TV's long-running All in the Family theme, "Those Were the Days." Adams' other awards include an Emmy for "Let's Settle Down" from the TV version of *Bye Bye Birdie*, the ASCAP Richard Rodgers Awards for Outstanding Contributions to the American Musical Theatre, and his induction into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. He has taught seminars on American musical theater at Yale, Columbia, and NYU.

JEN WINEMAN

(Director/Choreographer)

Selected NYC credits: FIVE (Theater 555); Dog Man: The Musical (New World Stages/Lucille Lortel Theatre); Retraction (TheatreRow); Less Than 50% (59E59): My Heart is in the East (La Mama): Fable (NYMF): F#%king Up Everything (Elektra Theater). Selected regional credits: Dangerous Days (Miami New Drama); As You Like It (American Shakespeare Center); Tiny Beautiful Things (Merrimack Rep); Game On (Pittsburgh CLO); Shakespeare in Love (Virginia Rep): Into the West (Tantrum Theater): Baskerville (Dorset Theatre Festival); The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity (Asolo Rep & Miami New Drama); Sweeney *Todd* (Playmakers Rep). Touring productions: *Dog* Man: The Musical (National tours in the US, Canada, and Australia); Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus (TheaterworksUSA): *Twelfth Night* and *Midsummer* (Asolo Rep). Upcoming: the world premiere of *That* Parenting Musical Off Broadway this fall. Education: B.A. Vassar, M.F.A. Yale School of Drama. Much love to Bedirhan, Melik, and Esmeray. jenwineman.com @winemanjen

JONATHAN BRENNER

(Music Director/Conductor/Kev 1) Jonathan is a New York based music director, arranger, pianist and composer. Current music arranger for musicnotes.com Credits as Music Director / Conductor / Key 1 include: National tour: Cirque Music: Holiday Spectacular. Regional/NYC: A Bronx Tale, Chorus Line, Mary Poppins, Grease, Rock of Ages, Beauty & The Beast, Footloose, Mamma Mia, Cabaret, The Little Mermaid, Legally Blonde, Spring Awakening and Hairspray at the Argyle Theatre. Singin' In The Rain and Annie at the John W. Engeman Theatre. Additional Music Director credits include: NYMF; The Runaway Clone, and Shelter; Readings: Fetching Water, Fluffy The Pine, Gun Show, and Convicted Again. Music Director/Arranger for L'Oréal Paris gala performance of One Night Only, featuring Aretha Franklin. Producer, Composer and Music Supervisor for Jordan Roth's: The Birds & The BS. Composer (theatre): Sapien Sapien

Sapien (NY Theatre Barn), A Fully Seasoned Life (Baby Crow Productions), and The Runaway Clone (NYMF). Composer(film/TV): The Filth (Toronto Film Festival). Vocal coach and accompanist at Pace University. Accompanist at New York University. Current Music Supervisor for Broadway Artists Alliance. Music arranger for The Broadway Collective. Music Director/ Arranger for Co/Lab Theatre Group. Additional charity work includes: Gathered NYC: The Broadway Collective, The Easter Bonnet Competition (Minskoff Theatre), Music for Autism NYC, and Chickenshed NYC. A huge thank you to Jen & Evan, and to my best friend and husband, Robert. - jonathanwintonbrenner.com -@jwb33

STEVEN VELASQUEZ

(Scenic Design)

is a New York based Scenic Designer and adjunct professor of theatre. Steven received a B.F.A. in Theatre arts with a concentration in Design/tech from Five Towns College and an M.F.A. in Scene Design from Boston University. His passion is in creating space for live audiences but has seen that grow to include film and tv. He has won the Don Childs and Marvin Simms award for Scenic Design and has been nominated for several Broadway World awards. Recent credits include: *A Bronx Tale, A Chorus Line* (Argyle Theatre) *Matilda* (Forestburgh Playhouse), *Urinetown* (Five Towns College), *Mary Poppins* (Argyle Theatre), *Everyday Life...* (Arts Emerson). Upcoming credits include: *Into the Woods* (Five Towns College) *How I learned to Drive* (Forestburgh Playhouse). Check out his website at Steven-Velasquez.com @Ste Vellie

DAVID A. SEXTON

(Lighting Design)

David A. Sexton is a Brooklyn based designer of live events. Selected theatrical credits include: From The Heart - The Life and Music of Dolly Parton (Dollywood), The Secret Garden (Virgina Music Theater), Written by Phillis. My Fair Lady and The Broken Heart (Quintessence Theater Group), Angels in America Part 1 and Allegro (Western CT University), Fun Home (Cape Rep), In the Heights, Damn Yankees, Ragtime (Park Playhouse), Head Over Heels, Pippin and Sweet Charity (Broadway Workshop), La Cage Aux Folles and A Chorus Line (Cortland Rep). Lighting director with Cirque Mechanics. Current associate company member of The Wooster Group with designs for Nyatt School Redux and The Mother. He's also a frequent collaborator with RWS and David Weiner Design on cruise ship, theme park and music festival entertainment including MSC, Azamara, Disney, Bonnaroo, Outside Lands. Graduate of North Carolina School of the Arts. www.davidasexton.com

AMANDA SCANZE

(Costume Design / Wardrobe Supervisor) Amanda is a New York based costume, handbag and footwear designer. Amanda received a BFA in Accessories Design and certifications in Costume Design and Wardrobe all from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Since graduating she has designed for Kenneth Cole, American Girl, Sam Edelman and for Off-Broadway! Favorite credits include *The Importance of Being Earnestly* (Write Act Repertory & Gatehouse Entertainment), *Muse* (Greenhouse Ensemble), *Frankenstein the Musical* (Tin Mirror Productions) and *Pinkalicious* (Argyle Theater). Thank you to Mom and Dad for your continued support. Portfolio: mandyscanze.carbonmade.com

LILLIAN (LILY AGNES) SCHWEIKERT (Costume Design)

Lily Agnes is thrilled to be doing another costume design at the Argyle Theatre. She joined the Argyle staff last summer after graduating from Montclair State University with a BFA in Theatre Production and Design with concentrations in Costume Design and Stage Management. Property credits include A Bronx Tale (Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor), A Chorus Line (Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe Supervisor), and Grease and Mary Poppins (Interim Wardrobe Supervisor). Lily has costume designed Into the Woods and Elephants Graveyard and stage managed Black Snow at the collegiate level. She wants to thank the production and creative teams for entrusting her with the responsibility to design at the Argyle Theatre. Lilv would also like to thank her family and loved ones for all their support.

SARAH GOODMAN (Sound Design)

(she/her) is a multidisciplinary designer and performer. MA in Creative Media and Technology, Berklee NYC. Sound Design: Kinky Boots (ACT of CT, Connecticut Critics' Circle Nomination for Best Sound Design), A Chorus Line, Beauty and the Beast, West Side Story (The Argyle Theatre), Show Me Eternity (Culture Lab LIC), Sound and Projection Design: Immigrants' Love Stories (Prime Produce), A1: Cowboy Bob (World Premiere, The Alley Theatre). Sound Engineer at Tony Award-Winning 54 Below, Projection Design: Maestra Gala, Amplify 2024 (Sony Hall) and Amplify 2022 (LPR), Ring of Keys' Queering the Canon: Sondheim (Joe's Pub). Sarah is also the Production Manager at the Broadway Podcast *Network*. Producer & Editor for *Singular Sensation* the podcast and GOOD SHOW!, which she co-hosts with her sibling. bpn.fm/goodshow soundsgoodsarahg.com

SAMANTHA NASO

(Wig/Hair & Makeup Design) Celebrating her first full year as the Argyle Theater's Wig/Hair/Makeup Designer, Sam is honored to close out the season with such a vibrant production. This year you have seen her designs in *A Bronx Tale, A Chorus Line, Mary Poppins* and *Grease* along with on our Children's Theater stage for *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown, Seussical The Musical* (twice), *The Happy Elf* and *Cinderella.* She thanks her W/H/MU assistant Nia for being the best teammate she could've asked for. She also sends love to her family and friends who have always supported her and big ideas! @samanthanasomua

CALLIE HESTER

(Props Design)

Callie is thrilled to continue the 2023-2024 season with *Bye Bye Birdie* at the Argyle! Favorite prop design credits include *A Bronx Tale, Legally Blonde, Escape* to Margaritaville, Rock of Ages, Beauty and the Beast, *Grease*, and *A Chorus Line*! Big thanks to Charles and Sally, her number one supporters since day one.

REBECCA FRAZIER

(Associate Director/Choreographer/Additional Choreography)

Recent credits as Director and/or Choreographer: Sierra Repertory Theater, Clinton Area Showboat, Timber Lake Playhouse, Vital Theater, New York Theater Barn, Musical Creators Institute. Associate Director: Theatreworks USA. Rebecca has created choreography for films, music videos, live events and an installation at the Foosaner Art Museum in Melbourne, Florida. Faculty: Steps on Broadway. Guest Faculty: Broadway Dance Center, Marymount Manhattan College, and studios across the country. Thank you Jen for trusting me to create this with you! www.iamrebeccafrazier.com and @beccaa118 on Instagram.

MICHAEL CASSARA, CSA

(Casting Director)

Michael is pleased to return to the Argyle where he and his team have cast all mainstage productions since the theatre's founding. Recent credits include: *An American in Paris* (International Tour, dir. Christopher Wheeldon), *Spamilton* (NYC/Chicago/US tour/album), *Enter Laughing* (York Theatre), *Forbidden Broadway* (numerous editions/ albums), and many more. Resident Casting Director for the New York Musical Festival (2007-2019) and the National Alliance for Musical Theatre since 2013. Native Clevelander, member of the Casting Society of America. BFA, Otterbein University. MichaelCassara.net / @michaelcassara



RUSSELL BROWN

(Music Coordinator)

Russell is delighted to serve as the music coordinator for the Argyle Theatre. In addition to contracting for the Argyle, he contracts for the John W. Engeman Theater in Northport. When not contracting, he can be found playing bass at theaters throughout Long Island and New York City. He has performed with Darlene Love, The Coasters, Michael Amante, and Brigitte Valdez among others. Thank You to my family, especially my wife Alicia, for all of the support. Thank You to the Perlman's for their continued trust in me to find the best musicians for your productions. NYU Stern Graduate and Local 802 Member.

GABRIELLE P. GUAGENTI

(Production Stage Manager)

is excited for her second show at The Argyle. Gabrielle graduated from Adelphi University with her BFA in Theatre Design and Technology in 2023. Her previous credits include *A Bronx Tale* at The Argyle, *Philadelphia Here I Come* at Irish Rep, Multiple Concerts at The Korean Cultural Center NYC, *Billy Elliot, The Impossible Dream*, and *The Great Leap* at the Hangar Theatre along with many more, and *Saw The Musical* at AMT Theatre. She thanks her family and her "One Boy" Juan for their support!

GABBY DUARTE

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Gabby graduated from Suffolk Community College with an Associates Degree in Technical Theatre (Stage Management). Previously they were a dresser for *Beauty and the Beast*. Deckhand for *West Side Story*. Production Assistant/Covid Safety Manager for *Rock* of Ages and Grease. Assistant Stage Manager for You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, The Happy Elf, A Bronx Tale. Fly System Operator for Mary Poppins. Gabby is also Assistant Stage Manager at the Argyle's Children's Theatre production of Pinkalicious! Thank you to all who have believed in me no matter how wild my dreams are.

VICTORIA CLARK

(Assistant Stage Manager)

Victoria started at the Argyle as a deckhand 2 ¹/₂ years ago! She then became a production assistant for the 2022-2023 season. Starting November 2023, she became an assistant stage manager! Previously this season: ASM for *A Bronx Tale*, rehearsal/sub ASM for *A Chorus Line*, ASM for Seussical, and ASM for *Disney's Mary Poppins*. Victoria graduated from Suffolk County Community College with an Associates Degree in Technical Theatre (stage management). Thank you to The Argyle team. Special thank you to my parents, Christopher, Maddie, and Brian for their constant love and support.

MICHAEL KAUFFMAN

(Production Manager/Technical Director) Michael brings his extensive background in production logistics and technologies for the opera, dance, theater, concert, and special event industries to his role as the Production Manager and Technical Director of the Argyle Theatre. A designer, technician, production manager, and educator who has worked countless productions at a myriad of New York venues, Michael initially trained at Bard College, and went on to work professionally at The Fisher Center for The Performing Arts. The Tilles Center, Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, The Landmark on Main Street, The John W. Engeman Theatre, and others. This has also led to his work training the next generation of theater technicians, serving as the head of Design & Technology within the Theatre Arts department at Five Towns College. Michael has also spent several years in the live event technologies industry, working with local specialists such as Bestek Lighting and Staging, Shadowbox Design Management, and Luminous Designs. It has been a complete delight for him to have been involved since the early stages of construction and planning at the Argvle Theatre in the development of a versatile space that has rapidly become a home to scores of great talents.

EVAN PAPPAS

(Artistic Director)

Evan brings nearly four decades of expertise to the Argyle Theatre as its Artistic Director and has directed A Chorus Line, Disney's Mary Poppins, West Side Story, Beauty and the Beast, An American in Paris, Guys and Dolls, Hunchback of Notre Dame, The Producers, The Full Monty, Miracle on 34th Street, Cabaret!, Elf The Musical, *Footloose: The Musical* for the Argyle Theatre. Evan is represented as a director with Off-Broadway's A Letter to Harvey Milk, Liberty, Wonderful Town and DuBarry Was a Lady (both for Musicals Tonight!); Evita, West Side Story, Kiss Me, Kate, The Barber of Seville, The Daughter of the Regiment, Carousel, Into the Woods (Opera North): The Color Purple, Sister Act, Kinky Boots (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); Lucky Stiff (Arizona Broadway Theatre); Murder for Two and My Way (Depot Theatre); Funny Girl and Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (San Francisco's Broadway By the Bay). Both of these last productions garnered Evan a Best Director nomination from the Bay Area Theatre Critics, with Seven Brides winning the award for Best Production. Additionally, Evan has directed many benefits, readings and cabarets in New York City, including the Drama League's benefit honoring Kristin Chenoweth, and several evenings of musical comedy at 54 Below. IG & T: @theevanpappas www.evanpappasdirector.com

PRODUCTION STAFF

Production Stage Manager/Calling SM: Gabrielle P. Guagenti* Assistant Stage Manager/Deckhand: Victoria Clark Assistant Stage Manager/Deckhand: Gabby Duarte Assistant Stage Manager/Deckhand: Catherine Farrell Deckhand: Thomas Kelly Tech Sub Deckhand: Sam Hosler Casting Intern: Shelby Zimmerman Head Electrician and Programmer: Brendan Warner Paint Lead: Elizabeth Olson Head Props / Prop Handler: Callie Hester Wardrobe Supervisor: Amanda Scanze Wig/Hair/MU Supervisor: Samantha Naso Wardrobe & W/H/MU Assistant/Dresser: Nia Guzman Wardrobe Assistant/Dresser: Shannon Tarkington Wardrobe Assistant/Dresser: Olivia Marchese Sound A1: Brian Mucaria Sound A2: Matthew Walsh Follow Spots: David Siegel, Lauren Baker Labor/Install Crew: Andrew Paolillo, Anthony Larkin, Brian Mucaria, Christine Nauheimer, Daniel Broyles, David Dahill, Dominick Broccolo, Giovanni Reres, Grayson Sepulveda, Julia Smith, Matt Kadam, Matt Walsh, Mekavla Sullivan, Nick Savino, Nikki Colaitis, Phoenix-Alexander Turner, Roger Remondino, Ryan Lewis, Samantha Hosler, Chris Lunetta Ushers: Andrew Paolillo, Brianne Laxton, Bailey Hamilton, Dan Caputo, Jeannine Willms, Jonathan Bailey, Josie Grande, June

Tamberelli, Kira VanRiper, Maureen Stockton, Marianne Minasi, Rob Tretola, Ryan Bernstein, Shannon Neenan, Tara Leary, Shayna Carbajal-Stuyvesant, Linda Gramstad Bar Manager: Lena Poli

Bartenders: Lena Poli, Andrew Fox, Cevin Felix, Ana Gallegos, Monica Chayut, Joshua Mathew, Linda Rinaudo-Concessi, Shannon Neenan, Tara Leary, Olivia Marchese

Rehearsal Studio: AMDA Rehearsal Studios

Special Thanks: David Cady

THE ARGYLE THEATRE STAFF

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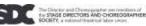
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The Boards and the Babylon Village community: Mayor Mary E. Adams

To our family, co-owner: Kathy Perlman, and Jonathan Perlman Special Thanks: Dr. Barry Perlman







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Meet the Inspiring Director/ Choreographer Jen Wineman



Photo by Erik Pearson

Q: HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN THIS BUSINESS?

A: There was a very strong group of aspiring theater-makers in my year at Vassar. We all moved to New York after graduation and decided to start a theater company called Studio 42.

Our first production was a play our friend Rob had written, which we put up for one weekend in a 35-seat hole-in-the-wall of a theater in midtown. The production cost like \$2000, and we paid for it with some small fundraisers and our own credit cards. The play was called Paper Hearts, and I was the costume designer: a position I never held before or since. Through different iterations and under evolving leadership, Studio 42 produced new plays by emerging playwrights for about 15 years before we closed up shop.

I had no idea at the time, but choosing to help create Studio 42 was the smartest thing I could have done. It made me feel like I was part of something that mattered, like I had an instant community in a giant new city, and most importantly, like I had a place to learn to be a director. Cause ain't nobody gonna pay you to direct anything when you've just gotten out of college. That's the tricky thing about the role of director. You are, by the very nature of your position, the boss. You have to find a way to practice being the boss in a low stakes environment for a while, so that when you get that first real job offer, you're ready.

Q: WHO/WHAT WERE YOUR INSPIRATIONS?

A: I am a potty-mouthed Jewish girl from the suburbs of Philly who grew up obsessed with gymnastics and Hip Hop, raised by goofy, sarcastic parents on a steady diet of The Honeymooners, Monty Python, musicals, and art museums. As a kid, Les Miz was my life, but as a teenager, RENT stole my heart. Looking back, I realize that I didn't fully understand either show or what the characters were going through, but the music and emotion of each grabbed me and wouldn't let go. As a young director, Anne Bogart's work with the SITI Company deeply inspired me and helped me learn that ensemblebased physical approaches to theater are not only valid, but can also lead to extraordinary results.

Q: WHO/WHAT ARE YOUR INSPIRATIONS NOW?

A: Whenever I am asked this question, it always comes back to Christopher Bayes, the renowned clown and commedia dell'arte teacher and director. I was lucky enough to study with him while I was pursuing my MFA in directing at the Yale School of Drama. He allowed me to assistant direct for him both in school and afterwards, which opened up a whole new world of possibility to me. His work is silly and bawdy and witty and over the top, but it is also beautiful and captures a certain type of joy that can only be found when actors allow themselves to follow their impulses without self-censoring. From Chris, I learned how to truly collaborate. He had this way of taking input from everyone while maintaining his directorial leadership. I'd never really witnessed that before. There was no question that he was the captain of the ship, but in his rehearsal room, finding the funny was always more important than where a particular idea came from. Even though he was the expert in what we were doing, it wasn't ever about his ego, but instead it was about teasing out an idea to see how far it could go, and then refining it until the whole room was peeing their collective pants, laughing. Even though it's been more than a decade since our last collaboration, I still find myself accessing the tools he gave me on a daily basis.

Q: WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR WHEN CASTING AN ACTOR?

A: Of course I'm always looking for the basics: do they feel like the character? Do they have the acting chops the role requires? Do they move well? For a musical, is the singing ability there, and is it the type of voice I imagine for the role? After all that, it really comes down to two things. One is kindness. It's pretty easy for me to tell when someone walks into an audition room if we are going to get along well and if they are going to be generous and supportive with their fellow actors. I would always rather cast the person who radiates kindness than the powerhouse singer or dancer who is clearly only focused on themself.

The other thing I look for is if an actor is willing to get weird with me. By this I mean: are they willing to look silly? Will they take risks and try things that might not work so we can find the thing that does? I appreciate actors who are free enough and confident enough with themselves to take big leaps in the rehearsal room and on stage. Being able to persevere through the fear of failure is such a beautiful thing. If I can put together a group of kind and talented weirdos, then I know we will make magic together and have fun doing it.

Q: ANY ADVICE FOR THE ASPIRING DIRECTOR, CHOREOGRAPHER, PERFORMER?

A: Know that everyone in this business is running a different race. Some folks will sprint a few yards and become stars, while most people find themselves in a marathon. Or even an ultra marathon. The impulse to compare yourself to others is very human and impossible to avoid, so it's important to figure out what kind of race you're running and learn how to train for that.

Find day jobs you like (but don't like too much), and create a routine for yourself that allows you to push forward in your career while keeping yourself fed and happy. If you prolong happiness for once you've "made it," you'll find that you are never happy. As artists, it can be very tough not to associate our self worth with our success in the field, but I know from experience that that way lies folly. Surround yourself with other artists who inspire you, and if you aren't getting the opportunities you are hoping for, make work with your peers. Don't feel like you need to wait for someone to give you permission to be a director, choreographer, or performer. Find a way to always be creating. Then when that big (or small) break does come, you're already in shape for that leg of the race.

Photo by Stephen Lovekin

Q: ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR VAST AND VARIED CAREER?

A: I would have to say that it's been directing and choreographing the musical stage adaptation of Dav Pilkey's smash hit book series Dog Man. We've done two successful Off Broadway runs, tours all over the United States and Canada, as well as in Australia, which included a stint at the Sydney Opera House. It's the first show I've ever done that is expressly for family audiences, and I was surprised by how much I've loved doing it. Seeing the joy that our adaptation brings to kids has been such a gift, but I have to be honest and say that it's the grumpy dads I love most. They're easy to spot in the audience. You can tell that maybe they just came to the show because their kids begged them. They'd rather be anywhere else, so they start the performance slumped down in their seats. After just a few minutes, they sit up a little taller, and you can hear their chuckles. Quickly those chuckles become belly laughs. Some small toe-tapping at first becomes full-on dancing to the disco music during the curtain call. It feels amazing to win those dads over.

Q: THE MOST EMBARRASSING THING TO HAPPEN TO YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

A: You mean besides falling down some stairs at a nightclub in Paris and landing at the feet of Sean "Diddy" Combs?

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