

BLITHE SPIRIT



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2023-2024
October 13-29, 2023

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Written by Lauren Gunderson

Directed by Cecelia Wingate

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Adult: \$25

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*Student: \$15

In the Lohrey Theatre:

A Christmas Carol

Based on the novel by Charles Dickens

Presented by AutoZone

Directed and Choreographed by Jordan Nichols and Travis Bradley

Music Direction by Jeffery Brewer

December 1 – 23, 2023

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**A Christmas Carol* is not part of the season membership, but all season members receive a discount on adult full price tickets.

Adult: \$35

Member/Senior/Military: \$30

*Student: \$15

All tickets for *A Christmas Carol* go on sale October 17, 2023.

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SEPT 15 – OCT 1, 2023 | <i>BLITHE SPIRIT</i>
OCT 13 – 29, 2023 |
| <i>SILENT SKY</i>
NOV 3 – 18, 2023 | <i>A CHRISTMAS CAROL*</i>
DEC 1 – 23, 2023 | <i>A RAISIN IN THE SUN</i>
JAN 19 – FEB 4, 2024 |
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From the Executive Producer...



THANK YOU for embracing the first two shows of the season with your enthusiastic attendance. We are so elated that over 6,000 people attended our opening musical, *SISTER ACT*, and *THE CRUCIBLE* sold-out every performance in our Next Stage. And, we have listened to so many of you who have continued to express your great interest and enjoyment of comedies. We are so pleased to present this outstanding production and cast of *BLITHE SPIRIT* which is one of the treasured classic comedies written by Noël Coward.

Once again, it seemed that the Memphis Ostrander Theatre Award judges liked what we presented during the 2022-23 season. We are most grateful that the Ostranders' recognized Theatre Memphis with 21 out of 31 awards including Best Play – *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG*. That incredible “play that went right” garnered 7 awards including Best Play and Best Ensemble and the season ending blockbuster *MARY POPPINS* received 5 awards. All of our TM production designers were awarded Best of Show in their categories which included Jack Netzel-Yates, resident scenic designer; Amie Eoff, resident costume designer; Nicole Northington, resident lighting designer as well as Joe Johnson for sound design and Buddy Hart and Rence Phillips for hair and makeup. So many of our amazing actors also won for their incredible work on our stages.

As I continue to say, while we are most appreciative of the awards committee's recognition of our outstanding directors, actors, music directors, choreographers, designers and overall productions, our continued goal is to produce each show with the highest production and performance values that we possibly can and never take anything for granted so that our audiences will continue to come and enjoy wonderful theatre for and by our Memphis community. CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU to everyone who was nominated and received awards throughout our theatre community. We are so fortunate to have such incredible talent on and off our stages throughout Memphis and Shelby County.

Our 46th annual production of *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* will run from December 1 – 23, 2023. We are absolutely delighted that we can produce this Memphis holiday favorite and tradition live and in person on our Lohrey Stage. Tickets go on sale on October 17, 2023, so get your tickets early by calling our box office at 901.682.8323.

Your safety as well as our actors, crew, staff and volunteers are a top priority at Theatre Memphis. You will have noticed that we have added a gate to our Perkins entrance on the east side. We continue to evaluate and incorporate initiatives to address the safety of all of our patrons, volunteers and staff during this challenging time. We have security patrol at each of our performances and rehearsals to help ensure safety to you and our volunteers and your vehicles.

Enjoy this wonderful, comedy performance by this amazingly talented directing and design team and cast!! And again---

My continued heartfelt thanks to you,

Debbie

THEATRE MEMPHIS
Presents

BLITHE SPIRIT

By **Noël Coward**
Directed by **Justin Asher**

Lighting Design
Nicole Northington

Costume Design
Allison White

Scenic & Properties Design
Jack Netzel-Yates

Sound Design
Jason Eschhofen

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Barbara Sanders

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The taking of photographs and the videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited. Your cooperation is appreciated. Wheelchair accessible restrooms are located off the north and south lobbies. Hearing reinforced headsets are available at the Box Office.
Please ask the House Manager or an Usher for assistance.

**Poster/Cover Created by Missy McClendon
Promotional Photo by Steve Roberts
Production Photos by Carla McDonald**

Cast of Characters

<i>Ruth Condomine</i>	Lena Wallace Black
<i>Charles Condomine</i>	Adam Remsen
<i>Elvira Condomine</i>	Anna Stewart
<i>Edith</i>	Marianne Orendorff
<i>Dr. George Bradman</i>	Kinon Keplinger
<i>Mrs. Violet Bradman</i>	Melissa Walker
<i>Madame Arcati</i>	Martha Jones

SETTING

The action of the play passes in the living-room
of Charles Condomine's house in Kent.

ACT ONE

Scene I – Before dinner on a summer evening.

Scene II – After dinner.

ACT TWO

Scene I – The next morning.

There will be one 15-minute Intermission.

ACT TWO (cont'd)

Scene II – Late the following afternoon.

Scene III – Early evening. A few days later.

ACT THREE

Scene I – After dinner. A few days later.

Scene II – Several hours later.

Please be advised that this production contains haze effects.

*A very special thank you to Dignity Memorial for providing the opening
night flowers, Bill Andrews' Golden Voice and Margot Anderson.*



Lena Wallace Black



Martha Jones



Kinon Keplinger



Marianne Orendorff



Adam Remsen



Anna Stewart



Melissa Walker



Justin Asher
Director

Who's Who

Justin Asher (Director) is excited to make this directorial debut at Theatre Memphis with this production of *BLITHE SPIRIT*. This year, Justin directed Stephen King's *MISERY* for New Moon Theatre and *TITANIC THE MUSICAL* at The Harrell Theatre, which won multiple awards at this year's Ostrander ceremony including Outstanding Production for Division II.

Lena Wallace Black (Ruth Condomine) is excited to be back at TM in another Noël Coward favorite after *HAY FEVER* in 2016. Other recent credits include *DON'T HYDROPLANE* with *POTS* at the Works, and *THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG*, *ARSENIC AND OLD LACE*, and *THE SECRET GARDEN* at TM. "Love to the Mascara Mob and to Nick who got really sad he wasn't mentioned in the last bio."

Christina Hendricks (Stage Manager) is happy to be stage managing *BLITHE SPIRIT* with this crazy group of amazing actors. Her favorite SM credits include *ALTAR BOYZ*, *THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE*, *ACT OF GOD*, and *IMMEDIATE FAMILY* to name a few. Chris would like to thank Justin and her amazing cast and crew for being so amazing each and every day. "I couldn't be prouder. Much love goes out to my mom and besties for their constant love and support."

Martha Jones (Madame Arcati) feels so blessed to have the opportunity to work with multi-talented director, Justin Asher, and this phenomenal cast and crew. Martha recently performed the roles of Annagram Woodard in *DON'T HYDROPLANE* at TheatreWorks and Martha Brewster in *ARSENIC AND OLD LACE* at Theatre Memphis. Martha wants to thank Irene Crist for her constant encouragement and for selflessly sharing her vast theatrical knowledge. Actress Julie Andrews once said, "The arts make a bridge across this world in ways that nothing else can." Martha is thankful that you are walking across the bridge with us today and hopes that you enjoy the journey! Isaiah 40:31

Who's Who

Kinon Keplinger (Dr. George Bradman) is not really a doctor, but has played one on stage as the title role in DR. JEKYLL & MR. HYDE at Theatre Memphis and in FRANKENSTEIN at New Moon Theatre. Although he is not an attorney, he played one in A FEW GOOD MEN as well as in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF. Neither is he a holy mystic or a preacher, but he played them in TWILIGHT OF THE GODS and in Jane Austen's EMMA. Moreover, as he is not really a playwright or a director, he nevertheless dashingly played them in THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER and THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG. So yes, there is a doctor in the house... but not *that* kind of doctor. Kinon would like to send all his love to the Mascara Mob.

Marianne Orendorff (Edith) was most recently seen in the Ostrander Award-winning regional premiere of TITANIC THE MUSICAL at the Harrell Theatre. She has played such roles as the Lady of the Lake in SPAMALOT, Alice Beineke in THE ADDAMS FAMILY, Tanya in MAMMA MIA!, and Hold-Me-Touch-Me in THE PRODUCERS, as well as many roles in several productions of A CHRISTMAS CAROL at Theatre Memphis. She is thrilled to be back at TM and to work with this phenomenal cast and director!

Adam Remsen (Charles Condomine) is elated to be back on the TM stage. He is a cofounder of Quark Theatre, and recently won the Ostrander Award for Best Actor in Quark's WAKEY, WAKEY (Division II, 2022). He sends infinite love and gratitude to his wife, Louisa, and their son, Felix.

Anna Stewart (Elvira Condomine), a native Memphian, is thrilled to be back on the Theatre Memphis stage. Anna is the Event Manager for the K-LOVE Fan Awards by day and an avid reader by night. She was most recently seen on the TM stage in SISTER ACT (Nun Ensemble, u/s Tina). Other previous stage productions include IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (Mary Bailey) at BPACC and MAMMA MIA! (Ensemble) at TM. Anna would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support. "To Jesus Christ be the glory."

Who's Who

Julia Truelove (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to make her Theatre Memphis debut with *BLITHE SPIRIT!* A recent transplant from Northeast Georgia, her previous technical credits include productions of *BIG FISH*, *A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE*, *SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER*, and *SHREK THE MUSICAL*. Julia would like to thank Chelsea and Becky for the opportunity.

Melissa Walker (Mrs. Violet Bradman) has been previously seen at Theatre Memphis in *MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING*, *HAY FEVER*, *NOISES OFF*, Jane Austen's *EMMA*, *PICNIC*, *BUFFALO GAL*, *THE COUNTRY CLUB*, and *DRACULA*. She was on the winning team of Food Network's *HOLIDAY BAKING CHAMPIONSHIP GINGERBREAD SHOWDOWN* (Ep. 201).

Allison White (Costume Designer) is a costume designer currently based in Memphis, TN. She has an MFA in Theatre from The University of Florida and a BFA in Costume Design and Technology from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Design credits include *MARY POPPINS, JR.*, *YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU* (Theatre Memphis); *CYRANO*, *MACBETH*, *THE TROUBLE BEGINS AT EIGHT*, *ADA AND THE ENGINE*, *HENRY VI: THE WAR OF THE ROSES* (Tennessee Shakespeare Company); *PIPPIN*, *BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY*, *THE DAY IS LONG TO END* (University of Florida); *CAROLINE, OR CHANGE* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre); *THE SECRET WORLD OF OG* (Sarasota Opera Youth Program); *SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ*, *ALL MY SONS*, *THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD* (Theatre Raleigh).

Theatre Memphis has received special funding from the TN Nonprofit Arts & Culture Recovery Fund. Several of our projects are being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number SLFRP5534 awarded to the State of Tennessee by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Theatre Memphis is grateful for this outstanding aforementioned grant administered by the Tennessee Arts Commission.

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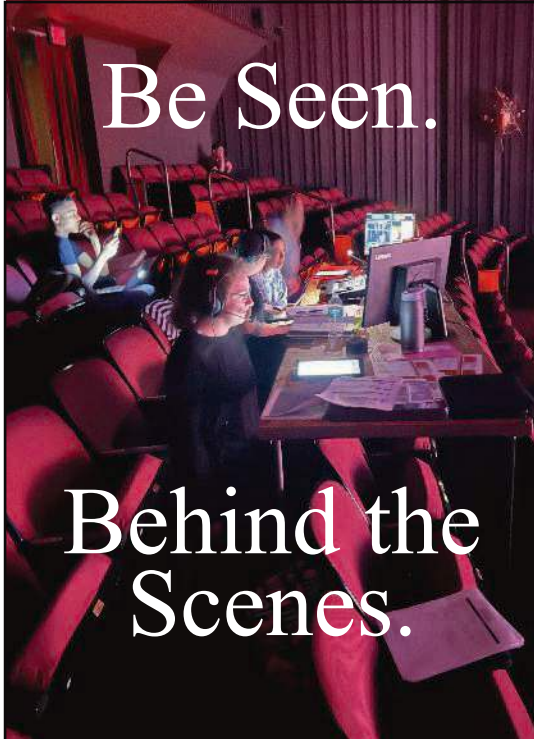
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Stage Manager

Christina Hendricks

Assistant Stage Managers

Julia Truelove

Stage Crew

Rylee Riegel

Set & Properties Construction

Michael Compton,
Jason Eschhofen,
David Horne, Maggie Jackson,
Mark Kimberling, Doug Laurie,
Jack Netzel-Yates,
Nicole Northington

Costume Construction

Cathy Bascom, Connie Douglass,
Amie Eoff, Julia Horne,
Brigette Hutchison,
Pam Johnson, Ashley Selberg

Additional Crew

Natalie Chamblin, David Gross,
Olivia Mittag, Mary Grace
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David L. Allen, Lisa Chang,
Amy Mulroy, Jeffrey Posson,
Cathy Richardson

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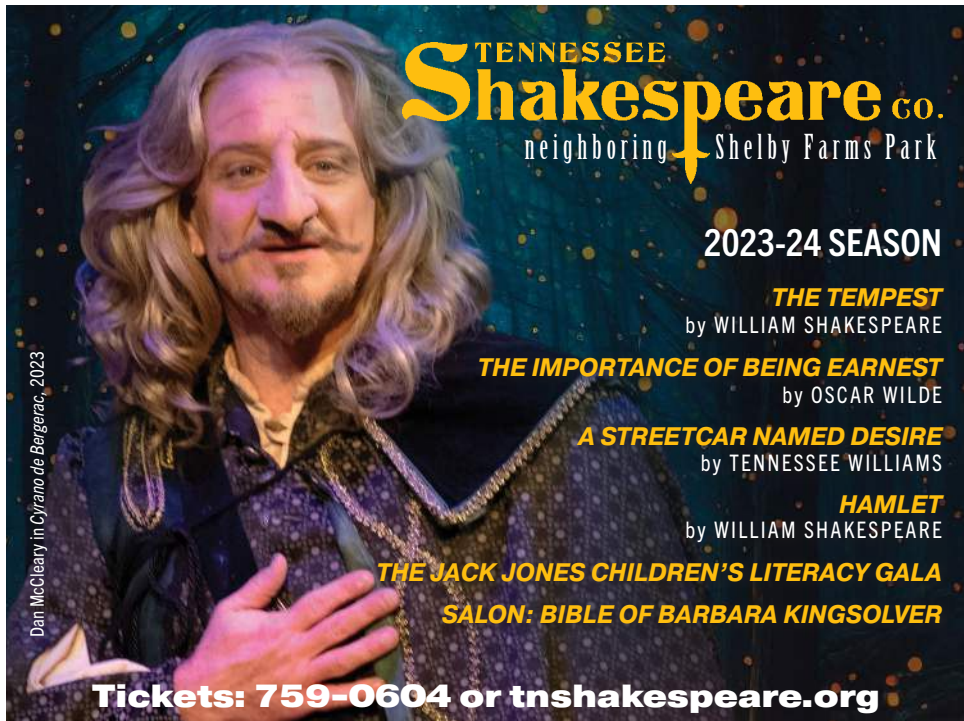
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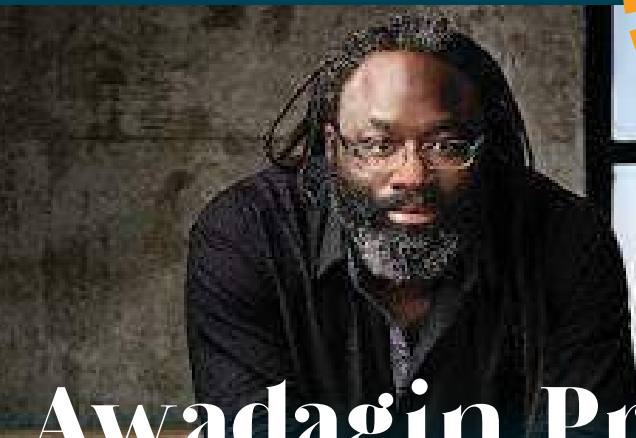
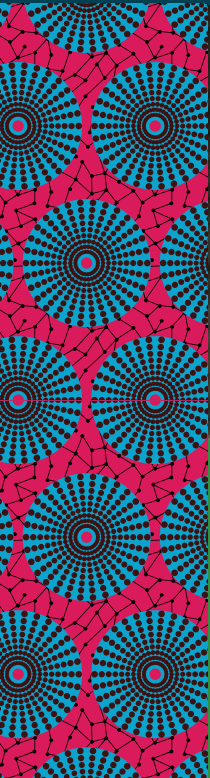
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THEATRE MEMPHIS ARTISTIC STAFF

Becky Caspersen (Director of Stage Management, Outreach and Volunteer Engagement), a native of St. Louis, was transplanted in Memphis circa 2012 and has never looked back. After 25 years as a free-lance lighting designer/stage manager, 5 years as Production Manager for Opera Memphis, and a 3-time complete failure at retirement, she found a soft landing here at TM in April 2022. She is the wife of one amazing jazz bassist/music director (Carl), mother of three fierce (and artsy) women warriors (Gigi, Anneka, and Via), and the caretaker of 2 Great Pyrenees (which keep her well stocked in lint rollers). Becky is thankful to Theatre Memphis for providing her with a wonderful theatre “work family” and a safe place to hide her chocolate.

Michael Compton (Production Manager/Technical Director) This is Mr. Compton’s 20th season as Production Manager for TM. He earned his BS in Technical Theatre from Illinois State University and was previously the Technical Director for the Players Theatre in Sarasota, FL. Ostrander Awards include lighting design for THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE, the Behind the Scenes Award for the 2006-2007 season, and the 2021 Janie McCrary Putting it Together Award.

Amie Eoff (Resident Costume Designer) is pleased to be the Resident Costume Designer at TM. From 2012-2014, she served as the Costume Shop Supervisor at Rhodes College, and in 2012, she completed her fourth season as the Resident Costume Designer for Circuit Playhouse. During her career, Amie has been nominated for several Ostrander Awards for Best Costumes and won for PRESENT LAUGHTER; BLOODY, BLOODY, ANDREW JACKSON; THE PRODUCERS; 1776; SHREK THE MUSICAL; SIDE SHOW; CATS; and RAGTIME. She holds an MFA in Costume Design from the University of Southern Mississippi. She has also worked on cruise ships with Jean Ann Ryan Productions and has designed for the Hangar Theatre in New York.

Jason Eschhofen (Resident Sound Designer) has a BA in Voice Performance and Studio Recording Technology from Bowling Green State University and an MM in Voice Performance from the University of Memphis. Some of his favorite credits include THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE (Theatre Memphis, music direction); RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL (Theatre Memphis, music direction); DAYS OF RAGE (Playhouse on the Square, sound design); and MURDER FOR TWO (Playhouse on the Square, Marcus Moscowicz, co-music direction, sound design/recording/engineering). Additionally, Jason has been the Music Director for the High School Musical Theatre Awards at the Orpheum since 2017 and the Music Director for the Ostrander Awards since 2019. He has won Ostrander Awards for Best Musical Direction (NINE, University of Memphis), Best Sound Design (URINETOWN THE MUSICAL, Theatre Memphis), and the Larry Riley Rising Star award.

Maggie Jackson (Assistant Technical Director) is excited to be joining Theatre Memphis for its 101st season. After the honor of being Stage Manager for RAGTIME, she is thrilled to continue her work with this wonderful community as the Assistant Technical Director. She would like to thank the TM staff, directors, and the cast and crew for the opportunity to be a part of such an amazing production and season. Lastly, she would like to thank her family and friends for all their love and support.

Jack Netzel-Yates (Resident Scenic Designer/Properties Master) received his BFA in Theatrical Design and Production from Oklahoma City University in 2010. Now entering his tenth year with TM, he has previously worked for venues such as The Kalamazoo Civic Theatre, Light Opera Oklahoma, Oklahoma Shakespeare in the Park, City Rep., Ballet Memphis, and Tennessee Shakespeare Company. Jack has designed over 67 productions for TM, received 49 Ostrander Award nominations, and won Best Scenic Design for his work on THE HEIRESS (2014), THE PRODUCERS (2015), BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (2016), HAIRSPRAY (2018), CATS (2019), THE SECRET GARDEN (2021), and URINETOWN THE MUSICAL (2021). Most recently, Jack received the American Association of Community Theatre Award for Scenic Design of the Decade for THE DROWSY CHAPERONE (2018). He would like to thank his friends and family for all of their continued love and support, especially his husband, Terry.

Nicole Northington (Resident Lighting Designer) is excited to join Theatre Memphis for her first season as the Resident Lighting Designer. She began participating in technical theatre as a freshman in high school and went on to receive her BA in Dramatic Arts in 2019 from Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee. During her time in Nashville, she worked with many organizations including Nashville Children’s Theatre, TPAC, Nashville Opera, and more. After graduating, she moved to Memphis in August 2019 to complete three seasons at the Circuit Playhouse. Some of her favorite designs include TORCH SONG, SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD, THE GOODBYE LEEVEE, and NAT TURNER IN JERUSALEM. This and every show she does is dedicated to her late father, LJ Northington. For every day he drove her to play rehearsal to every show he saw, his support is what got her here today.

THEATRE MEMPHIS ARTISTIC STAFF

Chelsea Robinson (Stage Management, Outreach and Volunteer Engagement Manager) has been part of the Theatre Memphis family since 2008 where she has been stage managing, working backstage, volunteering, and performing for many years and was a member of the ShoWagon acting troupe during the 2012-2013 season. She received her BFA in Design and Technical Production from The University of Memphis and received the Larry Riley Rising Star Award at the 2015 Ostrander Theatre Awards in Memphis. Chelsea is so excited to work with the incredible staff at Theatre Memphis and all of the amazing casts, crews, stage managers, and volunteers for the upcoming seasons.

Ashley Selberg (Costume Shop Manager) was born and raised outside of Memphis, TN. She attended O'More College of Design and received a BFA in Fashion Design. While in college, she interned at Nashville Repertory Theatre and fell in love with costuming. After graduating, she became a costume technician for Ballet Memphis under head designer Bruce Bui. Since then, she has worked for other theatres and film production companies on shows like BLUFF CITY LAW and WOMEN OF THE MOVEMENT. In 2022, she won the Ostrander Award for Best Costumes and Best Wig and Makeup for THE SECRET GARDEN at Theatre Memphis. She also competes in Cosplay, winning Best in Show at MTAC 2018 and Best Group at MTAC 2022. "Costuming is my passion; there is just something magical about helping an actor, dancer, or everyday person feel special by creating the perfect costume that brings everything together."

Abi Walker (Stage Management, Outreach & Volunteer Engagement Assistant) Having always been dramatic, Abi surprised no one when she chose to study theatre, first at Northwest Community College and then Mississippi University for Women. She worked summers at Carey Dinner Theatre, was a carpentry intern at Playhouse on the Square, and recently produced a feature film with her husband. Some of her favorite credits include backstage crew for PRISCILLA: QUEEN OF THE DESERT (Playhouse on the Square), Juliet in ROMEO AND JULIET (NWCC), Assistant Director for WAKERS: AN AUDIO DRAMA (Bedrock Productions), and Executive Producer for TWENTIES (Clandestine Pictures).

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A close-up, side-profile photograph of a woman with glasses playing a piano. She is wearing a black top with gold beaded details on the neckline and sleeves. Her hands are positioned on the piano keys. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights her face and hands. The text 'WE HELP MAKE ART MORE' is overlaid in a light orange, sans-serif font at the top, with the word 'dramatic' written in a large, elegant, light orange script font below it.

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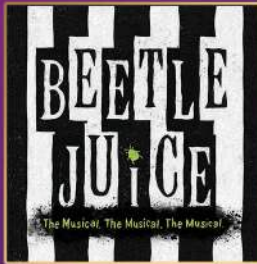
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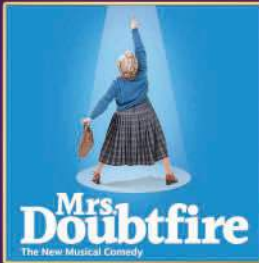
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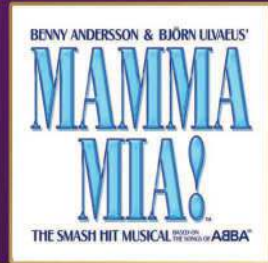
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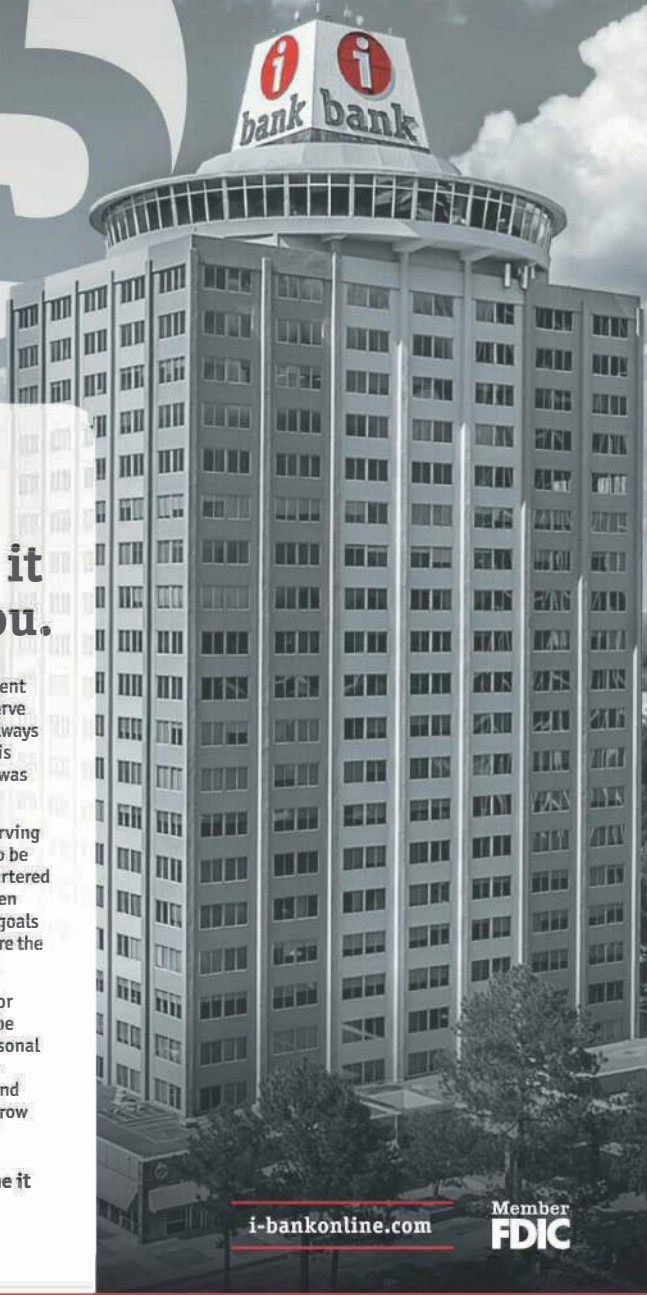
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