

Master Class



THEATRE MEMPHIS presents "MASTER CLASS"

By **TERRENCE McNALLY** ■ Directed by **KELL CHRISTIE**

Music Direction by **GARY BEARD** ■ Sponsored by **DR. THOMAS RATLIFF**

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THEATRE MEMPHIS *in the* **NEXT STAGE**



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IN THE NEXT STAGE AT THEATRE MEMPHIS

Master Class

by **TERRENCE McNALLY**

Directed by **KELL CHRISTIE**

Music Director **GARY BEARD**

Executive Producer **DEBBIE LITCH**

Production Manager/Tech Director

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Assistant Stage Manager

MARIAH CHASE

Assistant Director

ELIZABETH SHELLY PERKINS

CAST

Manny Weinstock **GARY BEARD**
Maria Callas **SUSAN BRINDLEY**
Stagehand **BRIAN HELM**
Sophie de Palma **SHELBI SELLERS**
Anthony Candolini **JOHN BRENTON STRAUSS**
Sharon Graham **TANISHA WARD**

MASTER CLASS is presented by special arrangement
with **Broadway Licensing, LLC**, servicing
the **Dramatists Play Service** collection. (www.dramatists.com)

This performance contains strong language.

Special Thanks to Geri Meltzer, Louise Levin and Opera Memphis

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WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



GARY BEARD (Manny Weinstock) has performed as organ, piano and tenor soloist, conductor and accompanist at some of the world's renowned music centers, including New York's Carnegie and Town Halls, Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris), The Spoleto Festival USA, and with numerous opera companies, orchestras and festivals under such conductors as Robert Shaw, Charles Detroit, James Conlon, and Thomas Schippers. He was the longtime Artist-in-Residence at Lindenwood Church in Memphis, continues as Music Consultant at Theatre Memphis, and is the recipient of numerous local theatre awards. He performs frequently as accompanist for operatic soprano Kallen Esperian, and traveled the world for many years with trumpet virtuoso Ryan Anthony as "Anthony and Beard". His 'other musical life' includes appearances as Liberace in his biographical cabaret, *Life Is A Bench*; he was longtime District Director of The Metropolitan Opera Auditions; and was honored with the Germantown, TN Arts Alliance Arts and Humanities Award.



SUSAN BRINDLEY (Maria Callas) is delighted and grateful to be a part of *Master Class!* This Ostrander Award winner (and actress of a certain age) has performed on many stages in Memphis, and has music directed for

New Moon Theatre (*Reefer Madness* and *Evil Dead the Musical*), POTS (*Something Rotten!*), as well as at Grace-St. Luke's School, Lausanne Collegiate School, The Hutchison School, & Houston High School. Just remember Maria Callas would have despised cell phones going off in her audiences! susanbrindley.com



MARIAH CHASE (Understudy: Sophie/Sharon/Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back at Theatre Memphis with this wonderful and gracious team. Most recently she appeared in ...*Spelling Bee* at GCT as Olive Ostrovsky. Other Memphis credits: *Agnes of God* (Agnes), *Titanic* (Kate Murphey), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Past), *I Love You Because* (Director), *The 24HR Plays* (Producer/ Director). Thanks and love to Javier, friends, family and God.



KELL CHRISTIE (Director) is an award-winning educator, actor, and director in Memphis.

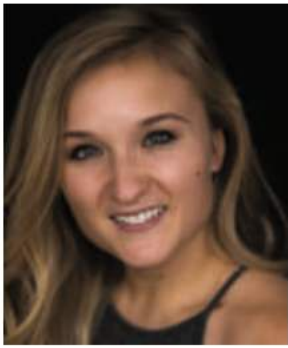


BRIAN HELM he/him (Stagehand) is excited to share the stage again (if only briefly) with his lovely wife, Susan. Past Theatre Memphis credits are *1776*, *Our Town*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, and *You Can't Take It With You*. Member of SAG-AFTRA and represented by Colors Talent Agency.



ELIZABETH SHELLY PERKINS (Assistant Director) specializes in enrollment marketing for independent schools, but began her career as the Production Stage Manager here at TM. In the twenty years since, she has been involved in over 100 productions, on and off stage. Elizabeth serves as the Director for the Memphis Ostrander awards (Memphis' awards for collegiate, community, and professional theatre), as a judge for the Orpheum's High School Musical Theatre Awards, on the Board of Directors at TM, and leads workshops on stage management.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (continued)



SHELBI SELLERS (Sophie de Palma) is an actress, singer, dancer, and choreographer from Memphis, Tennessee. She holds a Bachelor and a Master of Music with a minor in theatre from the University of Memphis.

Past credits include *Something Rotten!*, *Great Comet* at POTS, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Ruddigore*, *Oklahoma!* at the University of Memphis, *Mamma Mia!* at Theatre Memphis, and more. She is currently the Director of Partnerships at Opera Memphis. Micah 6:8



JULIA TRUELOVE (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of *Master Class*. Her previous technical credits include productions of *Blithe Spirit*, *Twelfth Night*, *Big Fish*, and *Shrek: The Musical*. Julia would like to thank Becky and Chelsea for the opportunity.



JOHN BRENTON STRAUSS he/him (Anthony Candolini) is thrilled to be singing opera again in *Master Class*. He was most recently seen as Pierre in *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812*. Some of his favorite roles include

Jean Valjean in *Les Miserables*, Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and Jaime in *The Last Five Years*. He would like to thank his wonderful wife Morgan for always supporting him and for being the inspiration for his best art.



TANISHA WARD (Sharon Graham) has been heard in a variety of venues in her native Memphis, Tennessee, and beyond. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Memphis and the Master of Music degree in Vocal

Performance from the University of Mississippi. When Ms. Ward is not performing, she is working tirelessly with her nonprofit Classical Melodies, Inc. Its primary focus is sharing Classical Vocal music with underserved/underrepresented communities of color. www.classicalmelodies.org

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