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#### Vol. CXI, No. 1 2023-2024 August 18-September 10, 2023

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American Association of Community Theatres ArtsMemphis Southeastern Theatre Conference Tennessee Arts Commission Tennessee Theatre Association

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## Next at Theatre Memphis

In the Next Stage:

*The Crucible* Written by Arthur Miller Directed by John Maness

September 15 – October 1, 2023

**Chilling and Haunting.** Based on events which took place in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, this tragedy tells the story of a village that becomes embroiled in a witch hunt. A group of girls are caught dancing in the forest by the local minister and rumors of witchcraft fill the Puritan town. Deceit, adultery, and fear push the town to the limit and, in the end, the one who tells the truth in hopes of redemption pays the ultimate price.

Adult: \$25Member/Senior/Military: \$20\*Student: \$15

In the Lohrey Theatre:

**Blithe Spirit** Written by Noel Coward Directed by Justin Asher October 13 – 29, 2023

**Farcical and Outrageous.** A crime writer who has been creatively blocked since the death of his first wife is now tensely remarried to a more uptight second wife. He has the idea of putting a spiritualist into a new movie screenplay he's working on so he invites a notorious stage medium to his house to perform a seance as research into the wiles of these confidence tricksters. But, to his astonishment, the séance brings back the ghost of wife number one, who wreaks havoc.

## Single tickets for *Blithe Spirit* go on sale and members may reserve seats as of <u>September 12, 2023</u>.

Adult: \$25 Member/Senior/Military: \$20 \*Student: \$15

\*Student tickets are available to those 18 and under as well as college students with a valid ID.

# Call the Box Office at 901.682.8323 for reservations or order tickets online at www.theatrememphis.org.



## JOIN US FOR OUR 2023-24 SEASON

SISTER ACT AUG 18 - SEPT 10, 2023

SILENT SKY NOV 3 - 18, 2023

FEB 9 - 25, 2024

STEEL MAGNOLIAS APR 26 - MAY 12, 2024



THE CRUCIBLE SEPT 15 - OCT 1, 2023

A CHRISTMAS CAROL \* DEC 1 - 23, 2023

THE GLASS MENAGERIE BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL MAR 8 - 30, 2024



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BLITHE SPIRIT OCT 13 - 29, 2023

A RAISIN IN THE SUN JAN 19 - FEB 4, 2024

> MASTER CLASS APR 5 - 21, 2024

CINDERELLA JUNE 7 - 30, 2024





#### PRODUCTION PHOTOS FROM OUR 2022 - 2023 SEASON.

PHOTO CREDITS : CARLA MCDONALD

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\* NOT PART OF THE SEASON MEMBERSHIP

## From the Executive Producer...



What an amazing 2022-23 season! Thank you for returning to enjoy our outstanding productions. And, last season broke all attendance records in our 102 year history. We are so grateful to you for your amazing support and vote of confidence as we present our shows and programs for YOU and by YOU, our treasured audience and community.

Theatre Memphis has received 59 Memphis Ostrander theatre nominations for outstanding productions, our incredible TM staff designs, direction, choreography, music direction and performances. These nominations include Best Musical nods for MARY POPPINS and the SONDHEIM TRIBUTE REVUE. And, THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG received a nomination for Best Play. We are most appreciative of this recognition.

Since MARY POPPINS closed in early July, we have been busy getting ready for our 2023-24 productions as well as produced our summer camp workshops! We held a three week summer camp and performance of MARY POPPINS, JR. which was outstanding and a meaningful success involving over 70 Memphis youth on our stages and behind the scenes.

The Theatre Memphis - Priscilla Presley Scholarship, established in 2022, is awarded annually to an individual for up to \$2,500 to make an artistic dream come true when the aspiring designee is working to advance an aspect(s) of performance art through education or training, and will, thereby, foster the ongoing growth of community arts in Memphis and the MidSouth. Applications for the scholarship are currently open online at theatrememphis.org/outreach-and-education/grants-scholarships/ with an August 27, 2023 deadline.

Contributions to the **Theatre Memphis Priscilla Presley Scholarship** fund can be made online at theatrememphis.org/donate/theatre-memphis-priscilla-presley-scholarship/, by calling Theatre Memphis at 901.682.8601 or by writing Theatre Memphis, 630 Perkins Ext., Memphis, TN 38117.

If you have purchased an adult single ticket to SISTER ACT, you can redeem the face value of that single ticket and subtract from our already low price of \$150 for a season membership and receive five (5) additional tickets that can be used on any show excluding A CHRISTMAS CAROL. **This offer is good through September 10, 2023.** Our offerings after SISTER ACT include THE CRUCIBLE, BLITHE SPIRIT, SILENT SKY, A RAISIN IN THE SUN, THE GLASS MENAGERIE, BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL, MASTER CLASS, STEEL MAGNOLIAS and Rodgers and Hammerstein's CINDERELLA. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have already purchased a season ticket to another outstanding season we have planned for you.

Once again, I want to extend very special thank you to the Tennessee Arts Commission for the outstanding opportunity to apply and receive a grant 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. We are grateful for this important grant to help support the important and exciting work of Theatre Memphis.

You will notice that I use two vitally important and heartfelt words often and those words are THANK YOU – THANK YOU to our Memphis and Mid-South community for your continued vote of confidence in our work and mission. You are the reason we work tirelessly toward our continued goals of consistent artistic excellence in our productions and outreach and education endeavors. We are so fortunate and blessed to have your friendship and support. WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

Dobbie

### 103<sup>rd</sup> Year

## 640<sup>th</sup> Production



Music by Alan Menken • Lyrics by Glenn Slater Book by Cheri Steinkellner & Bill Steinkellner Additional Book Material by Douglas Carter Beane Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard 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 Original 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 Lyla White, Executive Director Tom Ware, Producing Director Alliance Theatre, Atlanta GA Susan V. Booth, Artistic Director Tom Pechar, Managing Director

Directed by **Ann Marie Hall** Choreographed by **Courtney Oliver** Music Direction by **Jeffery Brewer** 

Lighting Design Nicole Northington Costume Design Amie Eoff

Scenic & Properties Design Jack Netzel-Yates

Sound Design Jason Eschhofen Stage Manager Katie Ogden

Production Manager/Technical Director Michael Compton

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

## **Cast of Characters**

Deloris Van Cartier	Mariah Michelle Stokes
Mother Superior	Tracy Thomas
Sister Mary Robert	Caroline Simpson
Sister Mary Patrick	Liz Pegg
Sister Mary Lazarus	
Monsignor O'Hara / Ernie	John M. Hemphill
Curtis	
Eddie	Trey Oliver
ТЈ	
Joey	Cody Wayne Morris
Pablo	
Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours	Ann Wilson Turpin
Sister Mary Theresa	
Michelle	
Tina	Heather Smith

#### Nun Ensemble

Kathie Alexander, Ciara Campbell, Robbie Comans, Emma Drzycimski, Emily Garrett, Donita Johnson, Mary Helen McCord, Heather Smith, Anna Stewart, Gabrielle Willingham

#### Ensemble

Brandon R. Dickerson, Lindsay Ferreria, Alan Hopkins, Heather Smith, Gabrielle Willingham

#### Understudies

Ciara Campbell (Michelle), Emma Drzycimski (Sister Mary Patrick), Lindsay Ferreria (Nun Ensemble), Emily Garrett (Mother Superior), Donita Johnson (Deloris Van Cartier), Mary Helen McCord (Sister Mary Robert), Anna Stewart (Tina)

A very special thank you to Theatre Under the Stars in Houston, TX (costume rentals) and Colleen Grady (costume rentals Costume Designer), Travis Bradley and Jordan Nichols, and Nathan and Tracy Thomas for their extra music contributions.

## Orchestra

Renee Murray, Keyboard 1 Jennifer Rushton, Keyboard 2 Kenna Chelsoi, Violin Estefan Perez, Cello Pete Vescovo, Bass John Lux, Woodwinds 1 Chelsea Negray, Woodwinds 2 Chris Piecuch, Woodwinds 3 Alex Schuetrumpf, Trumpet Ken Spain, Trombone Ed Richter, Guitar Ed Murray, Percussion Larry Gooch, Drums/Percussion Jeffery Brewer, Music Director/Conductor

#### Sister Act

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

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.

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.



Thedrick Griffin



John M. Hemphill



DuValle Henry Jr.



Justin Raynard Hicks



Missy Hopkins



Donita Johnson



Cody Wayne Morris



Trey Oliver



Liz Pegg



Caroline Simpson



Heather Smith



Mariah Michelle Stokes



Tracy Thomas



Ann Wilson Turpin



Rebecca Winchester



Ann Marie Hall Director



Courtney Oliver Choreographer



Jeffery Brewer Music Director/ Conductor

## **Musical Numbers**

## Act I

Take Me To Heaven (Nightclub)	Deloris, Michelle, Tina
Fabulous, Baby!	Deloris, Michelle, Tina
The Perfect Place	Nuns
Here Within These Walls	Mother Superior, Deloris, Nuns
It's Good to Be a Nun	Nuns, Deloris
When I Find My Baby	Curtis, Joey, TJ, Pablo
I Could Be That Guy	Eddie, Ensemble
Here Within These Walls (Reprise)	Mother Superior, Nuns
Raise Your Voice	Deloris, Nuns
Take Me To Heaven (Nun Choir)	Deloris, Nuns

There will be one 15-minute Intermission.

## Act II

Orchestra
Deloris, Monsignor O'Hara, Nuns,
Eddie, Mother Superior
TJ, Nuns
Joey, TJ, Pablo
Deloris, Nuns
Mother Superior, Nuns
Sister Mary Robert
Eddie, Deloris, Nuns, Ensemble
Deloris
Curtis
Sister Mary Robert
Deloris, Mother Superior, Nuns
Full Company
Full Company

Please be advised that this production contains haze, flashing lights, and gunshot effects.

**Kathie Alexander** (Nun Ensemble) is thrilled to appear "on" the Theatre Memphis stage after previously being part of the Vocal Ensemble in the orchestra pit "under" the stage in 2019's MAMMA MIA! She first performed at Theatre Memphis as the original Annie Cratchit in the 1978 and 1979 productions of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. In addition to enjoying music and Zumba, Kathie has been an extra on YOUNG ROCK, BLUFF CITY LAW, and UNCORKED.

**Jeffery Brewer** (Music Director / Conductor) has had a ball being surrounded by this cast of nuns and thugs! This cast has been such a joy since the first rehearsal, loving, laughing and fully committed to this show. Jeff received both Bachelor and Master degrees in Music Education from Wichita State University and a Doctorate in Choral Conducting and Choral Literature from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Dr. Brewer taught high school and college choral music for 35 years, the last 20 years at Ridgeway High. Jeff is Past President of the Tennessee Music Education Association. He has been nominated for the Ostrander Award, Best Music Direction, every year since he started doing shows at Theatre Memphis in 2012 and has won five times. "Working at TM is so fulfilling. We have such a talented and dedicated staff here and our volunteer casts and crews are amazing. All this is a result of Debbie Litch's inspiring leadership! Hats off to my incredible musicians and friends in the pit!!!"

**Ciara Campbell** (Nun Ensemble / u/s Michelle), also known as Sea Air Rah, started her theatre journey as a little girl. Ciara pursued theatre in school, where she gained knowledge, practiced, and performed. She has also worked with the Blues City Cultural Center, Memphis Black Arts Alliance, Actors Renaissance, and a few traveling independent shows. She took a break and gave birth to a beautiful star, Jahzairah, whose spirit encouraged Ciara to follow her passion. Ciara is thankful to Theatre Memphis for being the catalyst that gave her a chance to continue her theatre career.

**Natalie Chamblin** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back in Memphis and working on a show that eight years of Catholic school (Saint Agnes Academy '05) had her well-prepared for. When she's not backstage, she enjoys books, board games, and her dogs, Thor and Loki. Much love to her TM family, both old and new, for the warm welcome home!

**Robbie Comans** (Nun Ensemble) spends her days as a speech therapist for Shelby County Schools. Her most recent productions include IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE and SPAMALOT. SISTER ACT is her first production at Theatre Memphis, and she is thrilled to join such a stellar cast.

**Brandon R. Dickerson** (Ensemble) is a Memphian born and raised. He is an alumnus of the Soulsville Charter School and Stax Music Academy. His recent credits include MARY POPPINS (Theatre Memphis), FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE (Hattiloo) and THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS (POTS). Brandon hopes to continue to follow his dreams and inspire others along the way.

**Emma Drzycimski** (Nun Ensemble / u/s Sister Mary Patrick) is thrilled to be a part of SISTER ACT! She has been in multiple high school productions including ANASTASIA, LES MISÉRABLES, THE ADDAMS FAMILY, and THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL. She hopes you feel that "Sunday Morning Fever" when watching this fantastic production!

**Lindsay Ferreria** (Ensemble / u/s Nun Ensemble / Dance Captain) is thrilled to be part of this fabulous show. You may have seen her recently in the ensembles of MARY POPPINS and RAGTIME, or as Millie/Mrs. Crowe in A CHRISTMAS CAROL. Other recent credits include INTO THE WOODS (Cinderella) at Kudzu Playhouse and BONNIE & CLYDE (Blanche Barrow) at Panola Playhouse.

**Emily Garrett** (Nun Ensemble / u/s Mother Superior) is glad to be back at TM after a high flying MARY POPPINS run earlier this summer. Some of her favorite credits include ANNIE (Miss Hannigan), SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN (June), JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (Ensemble), THE ODD COUPLE Female Version (Olive), CINDERELLA (Stepmother/Allie Award nomination), and BRIGHT STAR (Darlene/Ostrander Award nomination). Emily works in education and outreach for Davita Healthcare and serves on the board for Forever Young Veterans. She enjoys watching college sports, traveling, thrift shopping, and planning her October wedding! Many thanks to Ann Marie, Jeff, Courtney, and Katie. Emily sends all her love to Mom, Dad, and Corbin.

**Thedrick Griffin** (Pablo) fell in love with musical theatre in 2016. With so many talents and skills, he is very happy to play Pablo to touch up his Spanish and to publicly sing in falsetto range. He hopes to reach Broadway someday.

Ann Marie Hall (Director) After Ann Marie's last directing endeavor leading madcap controlled chaos on this stage with THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, she plans for SISTER ACT to go heavenly. Ms. Hall has directed numerous other productions at TM such as SINGING IN THE RAIN, 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET, RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL, INTO THE WOODS, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, and the awarding winning URINETOWN THE MUSICAL. She looks forward to moving on from the convent to directing REEFER MADNESS at New Moon Theatre in October and POTUS at The Circuit Playhouse in early 2024. This one is for her mom, Mary B., sitting up on a cloud with her purse in her lap, laughing, tapping her foot, and singing along with all the dancing nuns. "Thanks for all you did for me…including 12 years of Catholic education to prepare me for this journey…of theatrical nuns."

**John M. Hemphill** (Monsignor O'Hara / Ernie), a native Memphian, is thrilled to be returning to the Theatre Memphis stage after last season's highly successful MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING and THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG. Favorite local roles include Thurston et al in A TUNA CHRISTMAS, Fester in THE ADDAMS FAMILY, Nicely-Nicely in GUYS AND DOLLS (Ostrander Award), Johnny in FRANKIE AND JOHNNY IN THE CLAIR DE LUNE, and Man 2 in KISS ME KATE (Ostrander Award). Much love to Beau & Bella...and to my beloved Mary - "I do love nothing in the world so well as you."

**Christina Hendricks** (Assistant Stage Manager) is happy to be assistant stage managing SISTER ACT. Her favorite SM/ASM credits include ALTAR BOYZ, THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, THE ADDAMS FAMILY, YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST and most recently MARY POPPINS. In 2020, Chris received the Ostrander Behind the Scenes Award. She would like to thank Ann Marie, Courtney, Jeff, Katie, Natalie, and this amazing cast and crew for the opportunity. Much love goes out to her mom and besties for their constant love and support.

**DuValle Henry Jr.** (TJ) has not been in a musical since 2015. DuValle enjoys singing an array of music genres. Being multi-talented, he enjoys singing the most. His gift of singing was enhanced in high school with show choir and musical theatre performances. He is excited to be making his debut in the Memphis theatre community with SISTER ACT. While he plans to continue his full time job in the hospitality industry and as an entrepreneur, he plans to be part of more theatre productions. DuValle thanks Theatre Memphis for the opportunity.

**Justin Raynard Hicks** (Curtis) was born on January 2, 1995 in Dallas, TX. After moving to Memphis, TN at the age of 7, Justin began studying voice, acting, and dance. At the age of 15, Justin performed Isaac Hayes' Oscar Award winning hit "Theme from Shaft" at the 2011 TvOne Trumpet Awards in Atlanta, GA in honor of Richard Roundtree for his role in the 1971 film. Since then, the Stax Music Academy alum has performed both nationally and internationally at venues such as the Apollo Theater, Lincoln Center, Smithsonian Folklife Festival, The Kennedy Center, and The Gibson Showcase Museum in Berlin, Germany. Since 2012, Justin has starred in over 30 regional/community theatre productions including 10 productions at Hattiloo Theatre, THE SCOTTSBORO BOYS (Haywood Patterson) at Playhouse on the Square, and FENCES (Ostrander Award nomination) at Theatre Memphis. In July 2021, Justin as (JUSTINRAYNARD.) released his debut independent album, WHO DO U THINK U R ?, written by himself and produced by Albren "AlleeoMuzik" Spears. With consistency, hard work, and a new album this winter, Justin hopes to prove to the world that he is a true triple threat entertainer.

Alan Hopkins (Ensemble) is grateful to be in this cast and make his debut on the TM stage. Alan was last seen in CINDERELLA at Crosstown High School and THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL at Kudzu Playhouse. Other favorite roles include Michael Wormwood in MATILDA THE MUSICAL JR. and Sundeep Padamadan in LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL JR. at DeSoto Family Theatre, Little Jake Oakley in ANNIE GET YOUR GUN at GCT, and Pugsley in THE ADDAMS FAMILY at Panola Playhouse. Alan is a rising sophomore at Crosstown High School. "Normalize telling your friends you love them." Quoted from Wesley Williamson who will forever be a primary influence in Alan's theatre experience.

**Missy Hopkins** (Sister Mary Theresa) is honored to be on the TM stage for the first time. Recent credits include BRIGHT STAR and WIT at GCT. Other roles include Violet Newstead in 9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL and Miss Hannigan in ANNIE at Panola Playhouse, as well as productions at DeSoto Family Theatre and Kudzu Playhouse. "Thank you to my husband and son for keeping all things 'life' in order during rehearsals and performances – you are

the loves of my life." "Normalize telling your friends you love them. Tell them a lot. Make it weird." Quoted from Wesley Williamson (1993-2021), a friend many were lucky enough to know through theatre.

**Donita Johnson** (Michelle / Nun Ensemble / u/s Deloris Van Cartier) is extremely excited to be a part of this production as she has not been in a musical in 17 years! As a proud Ostrander Award winner, her most recent productions include AFRICAN MEAN GIRLS and ECLIPSED at Hattiloo Theatre, as well as MACBETH and YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU at Theatre Memphis. Donita would like to thank her family, friends, cast and crew for all of their support!

**Mary Helen McCord** (Nun Ensemble / u/s Sister Mary Robert) is excited to be making her Theatre Memphis debut! Some of her favorite credits include MAMMA MIA! (Sophie), THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES (Cindy Lou), BYE BYE BIRDIE (Kim McAfee), and THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Sister Sophia, u/s Maria Rainer). Mary Helen is an alumna from Belmont University and the Office Manager at DeSoto Family Theatre. "Thank you to Ann Marie, Courtney, and Jeff for this opportunity. Lots of love to my family and friends for their support and all the glory to God for his many blessings!"

Alan Menken (Composer) Theater: GOD BLESS YOU MR ROSEWATER, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, REAL LIFE FUNNIES, ATINA: EVIL QUEEN OF THE GALAXY, KICKS, THE APPRENTICESHIP OF DUDDY KRAVITZ, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, WEIRD ROMANCE, KING DAVID, DER GLÖCKNER VON NOTRE DAME, THE LITTLE MERMAID, SISTER ACT, LEAP OF FAITH, ALADDIN and NEWSIES. Film: LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, THE LITTLE MERMAID, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, NEWSIES, ALADDIN, POCAHONTAS, THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME, HERCULES, LIFE WITH MIKEY, LINCOLN, HOME ON THE RANGE, NOEL, ENCHANTED, SHAGGY DOG, TANGLED and MIRROR MIRROR. Songs: ROCKY V, HOME ALONE 2 and CAPTAIN AMERICA. Awards: 8 Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), 7 Golden Globes, Tony® (plus 4 nominations), Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier and London's Evening Standard Award, Drama League. Honors: Songwriter's Hall of Fame, Doctorates from New York University and University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**Cody Wayne Morris** (Joey) is so excited to be back on the Theatre Memphis stage! Some of his favorite roles include Jake in EVIL DEAD THE MUSICAL and Robin in SOMETHING ROTTEN!. He would like to thank the production team and AMH for the opportunity and his cast for the constant laughs on and off stage! Next, you can find Cody in REEFER MADNESS playing Ralph at TheatreWorks on the Square!

Katie Ogden (Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back stage managing in the Lohrey Theatre with this amazing cast. She has previously stage managed URINETOWN THE MUSICAL, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, and ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. Some of her other TM credits include HAIRSPRAY, 1776, MARY POPPINS, HEISENBERG, and A CHRISTMAS CAROL. When she is not at Theatre Memphis, Katie can be found stage managing at other local theatres, on the Executive Board with Germantown Community Theatre, or at her home with her

pittie party. She is incredibly grateful to be working with AMH and Courtney Oliver again, and is thrilled to be working with Jeff Brewer for the first time. Much love to her incredible ASM's and the amazing cast and crew.

**Courtney Oliver** (Choreographer) is Playhouse on the Square's Director of Auditions and Special Events, as well as a Resident Company Member. She has been working with Ann Marie for a number of years at Theatre Memphis, collaborating on such shows as THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG, URINETOWN THE MUSICAL, SIDE SHOW, RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL, and INTO THE WOODS. Choreography credits with Playhouse include the Ostrander Award winning PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT, as well as Ostrander nominated shows: SISTERS OF SWING, REEFER MADNESS, and MAN OF LA MANCHA. As an actress she was most recently seen this past holiday season as Cindy Lou Who in WHO'S HOLIDAY at The Circuit Playhouse. "Thanks always and giant love to the cast, crew, and staff of Theatre Memphis - and to Ann Marie for the last 25 years of friendship. 'I'll love you forever.' And lastly, to the audience, thank you for enjoying our ridiculousness."

**Trey Oliver** (Eddie) is a native of Memphis. Most recently, he was seen in IF PEKIN IS A DUCK, WHY AM I IN CHICAGO at TheatreWorks.

**Liz Pegg** (Sister Mary Patrick) is thrilled and honored to be here! Most recently, Liz appeared as Cheryl in EVIL DEAD THE MUSICAL with New Moon Theatre. Other favorite credits include HAIRSPRAY (Penny), THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE (Schwartzy), COMPANY (Marta), and LA CAGE AUX FOLLES at Theatre Memphis. Check her out at lizpegg.com

**Caroline Simpson** (Sister Mary Robert / Dance Captain) Regional credits include: MACBETH (Lady Macduff/Ostrander Award nomination), WIZARD OF OZ (Wicked Witch/Ostrander Award nomination), PETER PAN (Peter Pan), URINETOWN THE MUSICAL (Hope Cladwell/Ostrander Award nomination), DAYS OF RAGE (Peggy), WHEN WE GET GOOD AGAIN (Nadiya/Ostrander Award nomination), HAIRSPRAY (Penny/Ostrander Award nomination), THE DROWSY CHAPERONE (Kitty), and CATS THE MUSICAL (Rumpleteazer). Caroline is an alumna of Belmont University and has toured with ArtSpot Educational Theatre in Mexico, Bahrain, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Argentina, and Uruguay. Caroline wishes to thank her family, friends, and her cats, Roman and Leaf, for always supporting her. "Let the Sunshine In."

**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). Glenn 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.

**Heather Smith** (Tina / Nun Ensemble / Ensemble) is grateful to return to the TM stage after 27 long years. She has grown up in the Memphis area and is an elementary educator. She was previously seen in RUTHLESS! THE MUSICAL (Louise), participated in the local and national talent competition circuits, and was a lead singer in the 80's tribute band, Weird Science. In her free time, she is passionate about family and being a foster care advocate. She thanks Ann Marie, Jeff, and Courtney for the opportunity to rejoin the TM family, and thanks her husband, family, and friends for their support! "Thank you to the cast and crew for a great experience!"

**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); Cheri 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, Cheri 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.

Anna Stewart (Nun Ensemble / u/s Tina), a native Memphian, is thrilled to be back on the Theatre Memphis stage after a 3-year absence. Anna is an Event Manager for the K-LOVE Fan Awards by day and an avid reader by night. Her most recent stage productions include IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (Mary Bailey) and MAMMA MIA! (Ensemble). You can see her next on the Theatre Memphis stage in BLITHE SPIRIT as Elvira. Anna would like to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support. "To Jesus Christ be the glory."

**Mariah Michelle Stokes** (Deloris Van Cartier) is a singer, actress, counselor, and proud alopecian. Mariah graduated with her Masters in Social Work in May 2023. She has been singing since she was 5 years old, but did not appear in her first play until 2018. Performing and inspiring others are her passions. Mariah wants people to believe in their gifts and continuously cultivate self-love. She is honored and excited to make her debut with Theatre Memphis.

**Tracy Thomas** (Mother Superior) Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre, University of Memphis Department of Theatre & Dance. Guest Entertainer (pianist/vocalist), Holland America. Twenty-one national/international tours as singer/actor/musician, including ONCE (Baruska/Production Musical Supervisor), CHICAGO (Company Manager), THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Mother Abbess/Elsa Cover), FIDDLER ON THE ROOF (Associate Music Director). Regional lead/supporting roles in RAGTIME, TWELFTH NIGHT (Taub musical), ONCE, NEXT TO NORMAL, WEST SIDE STORY, GREASE, GUYS AND DOLLS, JOSEPH...DREAMCOAT, COMPANY, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF. Leading opera/oratorio roles in MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, DON GIOVANNI, AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS, Brahms' REQUIEM, Beethoven'S NINTH SYMPHONY, Mendelssohn'S ELIJAH, Mozart'S MASS IN C (Lincoln Center debut). Opera Memphis company member. Music Director for numerous productions; most recently ORDINARY DAYS, KINKY BOOTS, MATILDA THE MUSICAL, BEEHIVE THE MUSICAL, VIOLET, [TITLE OF SHOW], MAN OF LA MANCHA, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, GODSPELL. Former Presidential Vocal Soloist with many solo appearances on live TV and NPR. Proud graduate of IU Jacobs School of Music and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Ann Wilson Turpin (Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours) is retired from a career in medical sales and is excited to reconnect with the theatre community. Past productions at Theatre Memphis include GUYS AND DOLLS (Hot Box Girl) and ANNIE (Mrs. Greer/Boylan Sister). "I am grateful for the support of my family and friends, especially my beautiful granddaughter, Harper, who inspired me to return to the stage."

**Gabrielle Willingham** (Nun Ensemble / Ensemble), the Upper School Vocal Music teacher at St. Agnes Academy, is blessed to be amongst the incredibly talented cast of SISTER ACT. You may have seen her as Sarah's Friend in RAGTIME or as the magical Mrs. Corry in MARY POPPINS. Gabrielle would love to thank her amazing family and friends for supporting her in everything she does and cannot wait to "spread the love around" with audiences in this amazing show!

**Rebecca Winchester** (Sister Mary Lazarus) from Memphis, TN, is thrilled to be making her Theatre Memphis debut! Rebecca graduated from Rhodes College in 2022 and works in PR at Memphis Zoo. She would like to thank her parents, brother, brother-in-law, roommates, and friends for the support. "Papa, this one's for you!"



## SISTER ACT CREW

Stage Manager Katie Ogden

Assistant Stage Managers Natalie Chamblin, Christina Hendricks

**Dance Captains** Lindsay Ferreria, Caroline Simpson

**Stage Crew** Ben Marshall, William McGowan, Celia Poag, Mesha Young

**Pin Rail** Nate Harms, Ben Marshall, Aiden McGuire, Jon Myers-Ray

**Spot Light Operators** Jess Fuller, Amy Settle, Abi Wiggins

**Dressers** Julia Gephart, Valerie Henley, Laney Sayle

**Sound Board Operator** Jason Eschhofen

#### Set & Properties Construction

Adam Blumenthal, Olivia Bondurant, Andrew Christenson, Michael Compton, Jason Eschhofen, Anna Greenberg, Koih Griffin, David Horne, Maggie Jackson, Kennedy Jefferson, 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

**Lighting Crew** Olivia "Via" Caspersen, Olivia Mittag

Additional Crew Abi Walker

Auditions David L. Allen, Lisa Chang, Amy Mulroy, Jeffrey Posson, Cathy Richardson





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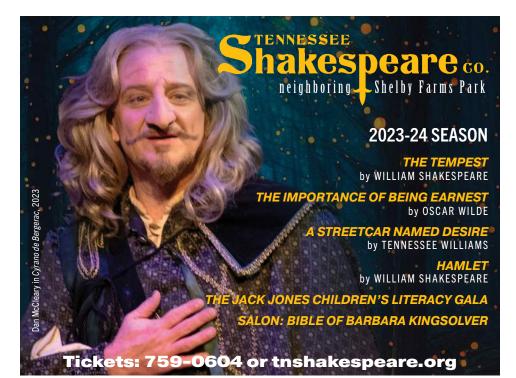


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## THEATRE MEMPHIS ARTISTIC STAFF

**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 LEVEE, 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."

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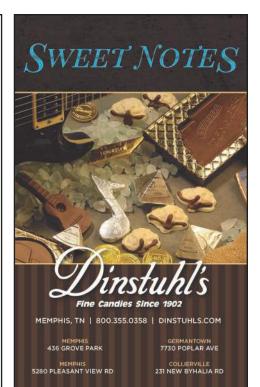
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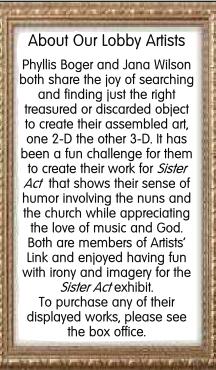
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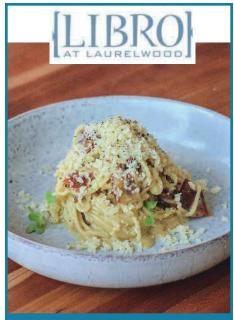


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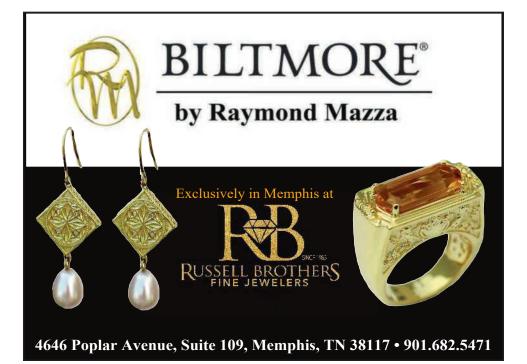
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