

# Always a Bridesmaid



THEATRE MEMPHIS presents "ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID"  
By JONES HOPE WOOTEN ▪ Directed by ANITA "JO" LENHART  
Sponsored by THE ESTATE OF RICHARD AND CAROLE BRISCOE  
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# THEATRE MEMPHIS in the NEXT STAGE



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IN THE NEXT STAGE AT THEATRE MEMPHIS

# *Always a Bridesmaid*

by **JONES HOPE WOOTEN**

Directed by **ANITA “JO” LENHART**

Executive Producer **DEBBIE LITCH**

Production Manager/TD  
**MICHAEL COMPTON**

Resident Costume Designer  
**AMIE EOIFF**

Resident Lighting Designer  
**NICOLE NORTHINGTON**

Resident Scenic and Props Designer  
**JACK NETZEL-YATES**

Resident Sound Designer  
**EMILY LUCE**

Assistant Technical Director  
**MAGGIE JACKSON**

Assistant Director  
**ELIZABETH PERKINS**

Costume Shop Manager  
**ASHLEY SELBERG**

Assistant Stage Manager  
**GRACE WILLER**

Stage Manager  
**CHELSEA ROBINSON**

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## CAST

|                        |       |                 |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Libby Ruth Ames        | ..... | JULIE ERVIN     |
| Charlie Collins        | ..... | ROBBIE HENRY    |
| Sedalia Ellicott       | ..... | MARTHA JONES    |
| Kari Ames-Bissette     | ..... | NOLITA PALOMAR  |
| Deedra Wingate         | ..... | KATE PECKHAM    |
| Charlie and Deedra u/s | ..... | MELISSA ROBERTS |
| Monette Gentry         | ..... | TAMARA WRIGHT   |

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## SPECIAL THANKS

**MAGGIE JACKSON (Rehearsal Stage Manager)**

**LISA CHANG (Stage Manager Assistant)**

**LILY MAY CLIPPINGER (Crew)**

**LOUISE LEVIN**

Poster/Program Design by Missy McClendon

Production Photos by Carla McDonald

Program Layout by Michael Gravois

# WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY



**MALLORY BERRY**  
(Kari Understudy) Here comes the bride's understudy! Elated to join this fabulous production, Mallory was last seen on the Next Stage as Amy March in *Little Women* and recently understudied *The*

*Mousetrap*. She tosses a bouquet of thanks to Elizabeth and Jo, and to her husband Bryce for his loving support.



**JULIE ERVIN** (Libby Ruth Ames) is a local actress, singer, and music teacher. Credits include: *Come From Away* (Flight Attendant/ Bonnie US), *Bright Star* (Margo), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Fairy/Singer), *Little Women*

(Meg), *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (Lucy). All my love to my husband Ben and to my four little women, Lucy, Violet, Miony, and Lady. John 10:10



**ROBBIE HENRY** (Charlie Collins) is thrilled to be returning to Theatre Memphis and performing in her first show on the Next Stage! Robbie was most recently seen in *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* at Theatre Memphis. She

plays a speech therapist in real life. Thanks to everyone for their support!



**MARTHA JONES** (Sedalia Ellicott) feels so blessed to have the opportunity to work with multi-talented director Jo Lenhart. She and this phenomenal cast of funny ladies have enjoyed putting this comedy to life on the stage and are excited

that you have decided to join us. Martha recently performed the role of Juror 4 in *12 Angry Jurors* at GCT and before that, the iconic role of Amanda Wingfield in *The Glass Menagerie* at Theatre Memphis. Actress Julie Andrews once said that "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



**ANITA "JO" LENHART** (Director) is honored to be returning to Theatre Memphis to work with such a talented artistic team both on and off stage on *Always A Bridesmaid*. As Professor Emeritus of The Department of Theatre and Dance, Memphians may

have enjoyed her directing in various productions at The University of Memphis, as well as her productions of *Stupid F@& Bird* and *Bad Jews* at Circuit Playhouse, and *King Lear* for New Moon Theatre. Among her favorite Memphis directing projects have been Theatre Memphis' *As You Like It*, *Fences*, and *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*. Jo has had the pleasure of directing at various other venues including Thingamajig Theatre in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, The Chameleon Theatre in San Francisco, Tin Can Alley in Galveston, The Little Colonel Playhouse in Kentucky, and The Barn Theatre in Florida. Jo has won various awards for her productions: her favorites among these include *Big River*, *The African Company Presents Richard III*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Something's Afoot*. Jo also acts and has performed in professional venues such as The Emerald Coast Theatre, The Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival, The Barter Theatre, Mill Mountain Theatre, and Actors Theatre of Louisville.



**NOLITA PALOMAR** (Kari Ames-Bissette) is a recent Rhodes College grad and is thrilled to be making her Theatre Memphis debut! Recent performance credits: Queen of Hearts in *Alice by Heart* (RTG) — Ostrander Winner: Best Ensemble, Sister Amnesia in *Nunsense* (GCT), and Alice in *The Drowning Girls* (New Moon). She's deeply grateful to Jo, Liz, the cast, and TM for welcoming her in with open arms. She sends all her love to her mom, her biggest fan, and dedicates this performance to her father—who she knows will always have the best seat in the house. Get ready to catch the bouquet! @nolitapalomar

# WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY (cont.)



## KATE PECKHAM

(Deedra Wingate) is absolutely delighted to be performing in the Next Stage for the first time! She was last seen at Theatre Memphis in *La Cage aux Folles* in 2022. She was most recently seen as Bessie in

*The Drowning Girls* with New Moon Theatre Company. Big love and thanks to mom, dad, Christopher, and the cats for their love and support!



## ELIZABETH PERKINS

(Assistant Director) began her career as the Production Stage Manager at Theatre Memphis and in the 20 years since has worked on over 100 productions across Memphis: on-stage, backstage, and occasionally from the church basement. Recent credits include directing *Nunsense* (GCT), *Guys and Dolls* (New Day), and *Dracula: The Bloody Truth* (GCT), assistant directing *Master Class* (Theatre Memphis) and *Hain't* (GCT), dramaturgy for *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Theatre Memphis), and stage managing *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Theatre Memphis) and *Les Misérables* (New Day). She currently serves as Executive Director of the Memphis Ostrander Awards, a judge for the Orpheum's High School Musical Theatre Awards, and sits on the Board of Directors at Theatre Memphis. Whether in a school boardroom or a theatre rehearsal hall, Elizabeth is passionate about building community, telling stories, and helping others shine in the spotlight.



## MELISSA ROBERTS

(Charlie and Deedra Understudy) is over the moon for the opportunity to work with these beautiful people. She is a native of Jackson, TN and has been doing community theatre for the past 10 years. Her

dream of being on the Theatre Memphis stage is finally coming true.



## CHELSEA ROBINSON

(Stage Manager) Recent credits include *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940* (Stage Manager), *Tragedy Sound at POTS (Swing)*, *A Particle of Dread* (*Oedipus Variations*) at New Moon Theatre (*Jocasta/Jocelyn*), and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* at Theatre Memphis (Stage Manager). You can see her next in *Noises Off* this spring! She would like to thank Jo Lenhart, Liz Perkins, Maggie Jackson, and the cast and crew, the Theatre Memphis Staff, and all of the volunteers who made this production possible. Enjoy the show!

**GRACE WILLER** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful show! Most recent credits as an ASM include *Crazy For You*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Guys And Dolls*, and *Newspaper Boys* at New Day Children's Theatre; and *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* (2024), *The Fantasticks*, and *Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer* (2025) at Collierville Arts Council. She is so grateful to the production team for such a lovely experience!



**TAMARA WRIGHT** (Monette Gentry) Fresh off an Ostrander win (Leading Actress) for Quark's *Chicken*, Tamara is thrilled to be a part of this gaggle of "gals who get 'er done." Other nominated roles: Margaret in *9 to 5* at POTS, Lane in *The Clean House* at TM,

Sheila in *The Boys Next Door* and Vernadette in *Dixie Swim Club* at GCT. Love and gratitude to the whole company. Now, where's MY Gavin, y'all?

Coming soon  
**MAMMA MIA!**  
**FEB27 - MAR29**