

# PLAYBILL®

JTF 2022 WEST



DIGITAL PROGRAM



The logo for the Junior Theater Festival '22. It features a red square with a white silhouette of three people on a stage with their arms raised, set against a red curtain. Below this are five colored dots (red, orange, yellow, blue, red). To the right, the words "junior theater" are in a black, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below that, "Festival" is written in a large, blue, stylized script font with a registered trademark symbol. At the bottom right, "'22" is in a black, sans-serif font.

# junior theater Festival<sup>®</sup> '22

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**THE JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL WEST  
IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FINE FOLKS AT iTHEATRICS IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH BROADWAY SACRAMENTO**



Timothy Allen McDonald, Susan Fuller, Lindsay Weiner Lupi, Steven G. Kennedy,  
Cindy Ripley, Marty Johnson, Rob Rokicki, Laura Jo Schuster, Daniel J. Mertzlufft, Jiana J. Odland,  
Joseph Ayala, Tammy Dinger, Mary-Catherine Chambliss, Alex Robertson

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**SPECIAL THANKS**

Caley Beretta, Alex Birsh, Philip S. Birsh, Jason Cocovinis, Drew Cohen, Logan Culwell-Block, Carol Edelson,  
Freddie Gershon, Myrna Gershon, Stuart Hendricks, John Higgins, Pearl Hodiwala, Ryan Macaulay, Bryce McDill,  
Matthew McHugh, Matthew Teague Miller, John Prignano, Ann-Marie Pringle, Candace Reeder, Dan Rudin, David R. Scott

Thanks to the students at California State University, Chico and all of our volunteers!



**MUSIC THEATRE  
INTERNATIONAL**

The logo for Playbill, featuring the word "PLAYBILL" in a bold, black, sans-serif font inside a yellow rectangular box with a black border and a registered trademark symbol.

**PLAYBILL<sup>®</sup>**





**We're Back!**  
**Welcome to**  
**JTF West 2022**

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# The Team

Welcome back to JTF West! We are thrilled to be back at The Wells Fargo Pavilion! So many people have been working behind the scenes to ensure this festival is chock-full of musical theatre magic, and we can't wait to share it with you! Before you run off to your pods, jump into your workshops, or try on your MUSICALSINC.com store swag, we thought we would take a moment to introduce ourselves. Say hey and hello to Team iTheatrics!

iTheatrics began in 2006 when fearless leader **Timothy Allen McDonald** (Founder and CEO) put together a core team, including Vice President of Publications **Steven G. Kennedy**, Director of Mainstage Programming **Marty Johnson**, Senior Education Consultant **Cindy Ripley**, and Senior Vice President of Publications **Susan Fuller**. These amazing folks, through hard work, an unwavering commitment to theatre education for young people, and a deep dedication to all things jazz hands, brought Broadway Junior® into the world.

Soon enough, the fabulous **Lindsay Weiner Lupi** joined the team as Vice President of Education and took on the (now colossal) task of JTF Administrator; then, the team gained Copyist and Composer **Rob Rokicki** (ever heard of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*? Rob wrote that!). Creative Media Director and Publications Editor **Laura Jo Schuster** arrived next to help make sure every Broadway Junior ShowKit® is picture perfect. Music Associate and *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical* composer **Daniel J. Mertzluuff** arrived in 2015 and brought a little sparkle to the team, and in 2016 Program Director, DEI Advisor, and Jill-of-all-trades powerhouse **Jiana J. Odland** hopped on board. **Mary-Catherine Chambliss** has joined the team as Education Director after many years of collaborating as a teaching artist.



Last but not least, former JTF kid **Alex Robertson** came onboard in 2021 as Producing Associate.

Since 2006, iTheatrics has been bringing musical theatre to young people everywhere. In a typical year, over 36 million people sit in the audience of one of our adaptations - three times the number of people who see a Broadway show each year. iTheatrics is committed to creating quality musical theatre programs for young people through our partnership with the Shubert Foundation/MTI Broadway Junior Middle School Musical Theater Program, which has built hundreds of musical theater programs in New York City Schools. We partnered with the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities and facilitated programs for Turnaround Arts, which used the arts to build successful schools. With former First Lady Michelle Obama, we presented in the first-ever White House Talent Show.

The Educational Theatre Foundation (ETF), in collaboration with iTheatrics and Music Theatre International (MTI), created JumpStart Theatre (JST), a three-year scalable program designed to create sustainable

theatre arts programs in under-served middle schools where there were none. These programs are active in Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Diego, Atlanta, Frostburg, and Detroit.

iTheatrics celebrates musical theatre education programs through our Junior Theater Celebrations held in New York City, the Blumenthal Center for the Performing Arts in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, New York.

The Junior Theater Festivals are the world's biggest and best festivals exclusively dedicated to musical theatre education. These festivals are held in Atlanta, Sacramento, and also internationally in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

iTheatrics works hard to make the world a better place, one musical at a time. We are committed to making sure every kid has the life-changing opportunity to make a musical. So, what are you waiting for? Rock those wristbands, warm up your voices, mask up, and get ready for even more musical theater magic. Welcome back to the Junior Theater Festival.

**#TeamiTheatrics**

# JTF 2022 Schedule

## Friday, February 18

|                     |  |                              |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Festival Sign-In                       | Convention Center Room 10/11 |
| 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM   | Optional Group Rehearsals              | Convention Center Ballrooms  |
| 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM   | Festival Sign-In                       | Convention Center Room 10/11 |
| 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM   | Professional Development Orientation   | Convention Center Room 6/7   |
| 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM   | <i>Director's Welcome and Workshop</i> | Wells Fargo Pavilion         |

## Saturday, February 19

|                     |                             |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM   | <i>Festival Kick-Off!</i>   | Wells Fargo Pavilion        |
| 8:45 AM – 10:45 AM  | Adjudications               | Convention Center Ballrooms |
| 10:45 AM – 11:15 AM | Snack Break                 | On Your Own                 |
| 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM  | Adjudications               | Convention Center Ballrooms |
| 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM   | Lunch                       | On Your Own                 |
| 3:00 PM – 3:45 PM   | All-Festival Music Workshop | Wells Fargo Pavilion        |
| 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM   | Student Workshops           | Convention Center           |
| 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM   | Teacher Workshops           | Convention Center           |
| 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM   | Dinner                      | On Your Own                 |
| 8:00 PM – 9:15 PM   | <i>New Works Showcase</i>   | Wells Fargo Pavilion        |

## Sunday, February 20

|                     |  |                      |
|---------------------|--|----------------------|
| 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM   | All-Stars Workshop                                   | Convention Center    |
| 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM  | <i>Growin' Up Broadway: LIVE!</i>                    | Wells Fargo Pavilion |
| 11:00 AM – 12:45 PM | Student Workshops                                    | Convention Center    |
| 11:00 AM – 12:45 PM | Teacher Workshops                                    | Convention Center    |
| 11:00 AM – 12:45 PM | Tech Olympics  | Convention Center    |
| 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM  | Lunch  | On Your Own          |
| 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM   | <i>There's A Place For Us</i>                        | Wells Fargo Pavilion |
| 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM   | <i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>                     | Wells Fargo Pavilion |
| 4:30 PM – 7:30 PM   | Dinner   | On Your Own          |
| 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM   | Stephanie J. Block & Sebastian Arcelus<br>In Concert | Wells Fargo Pavilion |



*the*  
★ **iTheatrics** ★  
**Method**

THE QUINTESSENTIAL GUIDE  
TO CREATING QUALITY  
MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMS



TIMOTHY ALLEN McDONALD, CYNTHIA A. RIPLEY & MARTY JOHNSON

**Available where books are sold.**

# 2022 New Works Showcase

This festival-favorite program celebrates brand new titles being released into MTI's Broadway Junior and One-Act Edition catalogues. Pre-selected groups from past Junior Theater Festivals perform selections from these new titles on the mainstage, complete with costumes, props, set pieces, and all the musical theater magic! Hosted by Timothy Allen McDonald, the *New Works Showcase* is not only a sneak peek at new titles and a great way to get excited about future productions, but also a chance to celebrate the fantastic performances of festival showcase groups.



**EASTERN SHORE REPERTORY THEATRE**  
FAIRHOPE, AL  
*DISNEY'S THE DESCENDANTS*



**MUSICAL MAYHEM PRODUCTIONS**  
ELK GROVE, CA  
*MTI'S BROADWAY JUNIOR REVUE:  
RAISE YOUR VOICE*



**WILDFISH THEATRE COMPANY**  
HOUSTON, TX  
*THE BIG ONE-OH! JR.*



**OVATION ACADEMY**  
OAK PARK, IL  
*MTI'S BROADWAY JUNIOR REVUE:  
PURE IMAGINATION*



**SPARK OF CREATION STUDIO**  
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
*DISNEY'S FREAKY FRIDAY*

# Pod Schedule

## YELLOW POD | SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 1

|          |                                 |   |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 8:45 AM  | Woodland Opera House            | <i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR.</i>          |
| 9:15 AM  | Hub Performing Arts School      | Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i> |
| 9:45 AM  | Wild Horse Children's Theater   | <i>Oliver! JR.</i>                          |
| 10:15 AM | Eastern Shore Repertory Theatre | <i>Godspell JR.</i>                         |
| 11:15 AM | The PACT Theatre Company        | Disney's <i>The Jungle Book KIDS</i>        |
| 11:45 AM | Starbound Theatre               | Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>                   |
| 12:15 PM | Purple Box Theater              | <i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>                |

## RED POD | SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 2

|          |  |   |
|----------|--|---|
| 8:45 AM  | Auburn Dance Academy                     | Disney's <i>The Jungle Book KIDS</i>                              |
| 9:15 AM  | On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts | <i>Elephant &amp; Piggie's "We Are In A Play!" Online Edition</i> |
| 9:45 AM  | Bay Area Children's Theatre              | Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>                       |
| 10:15 AM | Preston Center Dance                     | Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>                 |
| 11:15 AM | Grandstreet Theatre School               | Roald Dahl's <i>Willy Wonka JR.</i>                               |
| 11:45 AM | Upstart Crow Youth Theatre               | <i>Xanadu JR.</i>   |
| 12:15 PM | Spark Of Creation Studio                 | <i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>                       |

## BLUE POD | SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 3

|          |                                 |   |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| 8:45 AM  | Colorado Children's Theatre     | Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>                        |
| 9:15 AM  | Poison Apple Productions        | Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i>                 |
| 9:45 AM  | Wildfish Theatre Company        | Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i> |
| 11:15 AM | Musical Mayhem Productions      | <i>Dear Edwina JR.</i>                            |
| 11:45 AM | Finale                          | <i>Children of Eden JR.</i>                       |
| 12:15 PM | Barn Theater Children's Program | <i>Annie JR.</i>                                  |

## GREEN POD | SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 4

|          |                                  |   |
|----------|----------------------------------|---|
| 8:45 AM  | Foothill Christian School        | <i>Seussical JR.</i>                              |
| 9:15 AM  | Ovation Academy                  | <i>The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley JR.</i> |
| 9:45 AM  | Kettleworks Performing Arts      | <i>Once On This Island JR.</i>                    |
| 10:15 AM | Seattle's Performers             | Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>            |
| 11:15 AM | Broadway at The Rose             | <i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>       |
| 11:45 AM | BAMtheatre                       | <i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>                      |
| 12:15 PM | Diablo Theatre Company's SingOut | Disney's <i>Frozen KIDS</i>                       |



## Growin' Up Broadway: LIVE!



Want the inside scoop from Broadway professionals? *Growin' Up Broadway: LIVE!* features JTF founder Timothy Allen McDonald and iHeartRadio Broadway's Sarah Jane Arnegger hosting Broadway's brightest, with career conversations, personal stories, the occasional quiz game, and, of course, unforgettable performances.

Catch up with composer/lyricist/actor Rob Rokicki (*The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*), then chat with actress and singer/songwriter Cozi Zuehlendorff about her career from *Dolphin Tale* to Disney Channel, to writing her own pop music and screenplays. Cozi starred as Ellie Blake in the 2018 Disney Channel Original Film *FREAKY FRIDAY* and has lots of great advice to share from her experiences on screen and off.

Get the inside scoop from the writers of new musical *Between the Lines*, Jodi Picoult, Timothy Allen McDonald, Kate Anderson, and Elyssa Samsel. *Between the Lines* will play at the Tony Kiser Theater in New York City from June 14th to October 4th!

It's not *Growin' Up Broadway* without a game – Dean Pitchford (*Footloose*, *The Big One-Oh!*) and Dan Mertzlufft (*Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical*) join the show to chat life, careers, and of course test their musical theatre knowledge. There are always a few surprises in store, so get ready for fun – jazz hands up!

## There's A Place For Us



iTheatrics' Education Programming Director and DEI Advisor Jiana Odland leads a panel of star performers and educators discussing the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the theater – come for the chat, stay for the unforgettable performances! Jiana will be joined by special guests Sonny Ace (Disney California) and McKenna Michael (Disney California's *Frozen Live!*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* national tour). Get ready – you never know who might turn up at the Junior Theater Festival!

The Junior Theater Festival is so excited to give these unique voices a platform, and to support, excite, and educate our wider JTF community. Don't miss these brilliant superstar professionals discuss their personal experiences and ways to build a brighter future for young people in theater.



### STEPHANIE J. BLOCK

Stephanie has established herself as one of the most relevant and versatile voices in contemporary musical theatre. She most recently won the 2019 Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, as well as winning The Drama Desk Award and Outer Critics Award for her STAR turn in THE CHER SHOW. Ms. Block was also recognized for her role of Trina in Lincoln Center Theatre's 2016 revival of FALSETTOS garnering her the Tony Award, Drama Desk and Outer Critics nominations for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. In 2013 she was recognized with both the Drama Desk and TONY Award nomination(s) for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Alice Nutting/Edwin DROOD in The Roundabout Theater's production of THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD. That marks 3 TONY Award nominations in the last 6 years, a feat very few Broadway actors have attained. Other Broadway credits include Reno Sweeney in the

2011 TONY Award winning revival of ANYTHING GOES, 9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL playing the role of Judy Bernly for which she earned a Drama Desk nomination for Best Actress in a Musical. She created the roles of Grace O'Malley in THE PIRATE QUEEN and Liza Minnelli In THE BOY FROM OZ (opposite Hugh Jackman). Ms. Block is best known for her portrayal as Elphaba in the Broadway company of WICKED as well as originating the role in the First National Tour for which she won numerous awards including the prestigious Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actress in a Musical.

Ms. Block has sung with numerous symphony orchestras including the NY Pops at Carnegie Hall, Boston Pops, National Symphony Orchestra (under the baton of Marvin Hamlisch), Dallas Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Columbus Symphony, Charlotte Symphony and the Cleveland Pops among many others. Her solo concert has been critically acclaimed and continues to sell out throughout the US and in London.

Some of her Off-Broadway and regional theatrical credits include LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical), BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK (Drama Desk nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Play), THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG (starring opposite Jason Alexander), CATS (St Louis' Kevin Kline Award Nominee- Best Actress), FUNNY GIRL, CRAZY FOR YOU (L.A. Ovation Award Nominee), OLIVER (Critics Award-Best Actress), James Joyce's THE DEAD, TRIUMPH OF LOVE, THE GRASS HARP, SOUTH PACIFIC, WILL ROGERS FOLLIES and the World Premiere of WICKED.

Stephanie's solo album, THIS PLACE I KNOW has been received with great praise, lauded by critics as "One of the best debut recordings to come out of the Broadway community in quite some time... 6 out of 5 stars". An array of award-winning songwriters assembled to help interpret their music on Stephanie's album. Composers such as Stephen Schwartz, Marvin Hamlisch and the legendary Dolly Parton join forces with Ms. Block to create a thrilling musical experience. Stephanie's voice can be heard on multiple cast recordings, including THE BOY FROM OZ, THE PIRATE QUEEN, WICKED's 5th Anniversary Album and 9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL (Grammy Nomination).

Television credits include: BLUFF CITY LAW (NBC), RISE (upcoming: NBC), MADAME SECRETARY (CBS), ORANGE IS THE NEW BLACK (Netflix), HOMELAND (Showtime), IT COULD BE WORSE (HULU).



### SEBASTIAN ARCELUS

Sebastian Arcelus was most recently seen as ‘Jay Whitman’ on the long-running CBS hit series MADAM SECRETARY opposite Téa Leoni. Arcelus is also known for his memorable role as ‘Lucas Goodwin’ on the critically acclaimed Netflix original series HOUSE OF CARDS and recently starred in a recurring role on the second season of HBO’s THE DEUCE, created by David Simon and George Pelecanos. Additional television credits include

stints on HBO’s THE LEFTOVERS and on FBI and PERSON OF INTEREST for CBS. On the big screen, Arcelus was most recently seen in the M. Night Shyamalan feature SPLIT with James McAvoy. He was featured in the Universal Pictures hit TED 2 opposite Mark Wahlberg and directed by Seth MacFarlane. He also starred in THE BEST OF ME (Relativity) opposite Michelle Monaghan and the independent feature THE LAST DAY OF AUGUST, for which he also served as co-producer.

On stage, Arcelus most recently starred on Broadway in the stage adaptation of John Grisham’s A TIME TO KILL. His additional Broadway credits include ELF, JERSEY BOYS, WICKED, RENT, and GOOD VIBRATIONS. Off-Broadway credits include HAPPINESS (Lincoln Center Theater), THE BLUE FLOWER (Second Stage), and WHERE’S CHARLEY? (Encores! at City Center). He has also appeared in numerous regional and international productions, including the world premiere of William Finn’s SONGS OF INNOCENCE AND EXPERIENCE. His voice has also been heard over the years on many television commercials and animated programs.



### ANDREW RESNICK

Andrew Resnick is a New York based music director, conductor, pianist, and composer. He was most recently the music director for *The Cher Show* at the Neil Simon Theatre. He was the conductor for Lincoln Center Theatre’s *The King and I* and the conductor/pianist for the Second Stage Theatre revival of *The Last Five Years*. Broadway credits include conducting *Mean Girls*, *War Paint*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and playing keyboards for *The Book of Mormon*, and *Wicked*.

He was the associate music director to Gustavo Dudamel for the Los Angeles Philharmonic production of *Sondheim on Sondheim* at the Hollywood Bowl and is currently working with San Francisco Music Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas on a program of the conductor’s songs. He music directed, conducted, and contributed arrangements to the 5th Avenue Theatre production of *Bliss*. Other piano/conducting credits *Far From Heaven* (Playwrights Horizons), *A Civil War Christmas* (NYTW) and *Sycamore Trees* (Signature Theatre). He has music directed concerts for Jonathan Groff, Kelli O’Hara, and Betsy Wolfe and often serves as Patti Lupone’s pianist. He is currently composing a musical adaptation of Lois Lowry’s *The Giver* for producer Marc Platt. Andrew is a graduate of Yale University.

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**WHEN TO SHOP**

**Friday, February 18**  
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Saturday, February 19**  
8:30 AM – 1:15 PM  
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, February 20**  
8:15 AM – 1:00 PM

All merch ordered on MusicalsInc.com prior to JTF will be distributed to directors at Festival Sign-In.



Please note that stock is limited, so we strongly suggest shopping at your earliest convenience. Merchandise design and availability are subject to change.

# 2022 Junior Theater Festival iTheatrics



## Timothy Allen McDonald

*Founder and Executive Producer*

Tim is the Founder and Producer of Junior Theater Festivals Worldwide, serving over 15,000 musical theatre makers annually, and the Founder and CEO of iTheatrics. Tim has adapted over 125 musicals for the education market, ranging from *Xanadu JR.* to *Annie JR.* An estimated 36 million people attend one of these productions annually, which prior to the pandemic, was three times the number of people who attend a show on Broadway each year.

In 1997, Tim moved to New York City from Northern California to become a musical theatre librettist. Credits include Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* (Pasek and Paul), Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* (Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley), and *The Big One-Oh!* (Doug Besterman, Dean Pitchford), which was reimagined as the world's first "Zoomsical" and one of the most produced musicals during the 2020-2021 pandemic. In addition, McDonald penned *Hans Christian Andersen* (Frank Loesser), which opened at Nashville Children's Theater February 20, 2020; *Between The Lines* (Samsel and Anderson) which will open Off-Broadway in June of 2022, *The Book Thief* (Samsel and Anderson), opening in the U.K. fall 2022, and *Breathe* written with Jodi Picoult and five songwriting teams (Rob Rokicki and Rebecca Murillo, Daniel J. Mertzlufft and Kate Leonard, Doug Besterman and Sharon Vaughn, Douglas Lyons and Ethan Pakchar, Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich) which has been inducted into the Library of Congress. The cast album is available from Broadway Records featuring a star-studded cast including Broadway royalty Brian Stokes Mitchell and Kelli O'Hara. In December of 2021 Tim opened Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* at the New Victory Theatre in the Broadway Box. The New York Times hailed the show as "superb," "heart-whole beautiful," and a "message that celebrates fellow feeling and mutual care"... which "is especially welcome right now."

Tim is the co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*, the world's first-ever educational musical theatre textbook (GIA Publications, Inc.), which is available everywhere books are sold. Tim dedicates this festival to our teachers, who continue to make the world a better place one musical at a time, despite the odds.



## Susan Fuller

*Director of Production*

Susan's theatre career began in the third grade when she starred as the title character in *Miss Louisa and The Outlaws*. It wasn't until her sophomore year of high school when her drama teacher made her the stage manager of the spring musical that she realized (for her) backstage is where the theatre magic really happens. Susan is an Equity Stage Manager with a BFA in Theatre Design and Production from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Her involvement with Broadway Junior® started in 2001 when she served as Production Stage Manager for the pilot of *Les Misérables School Edition*. Susan has been a part of iTheatrics from day one (although how many summers that includes is the topic of some debate), where she is the Senior Managing Editor, overseeing the publication process for all materials released by iTheatrics, from adapted titles to study guides and educational materials currently circulating in classrooms worldwide. She is married to a ridiculous man who thinks she's hysterically funny and the mom of two school-aged gingers, Beckett and Gus.



## Lindsay Weiner Lupi

*Director of Festival Administration*

Lindsay (she/her) was part of the first generation of young people to experience the transformative power of the arts through Broadway Junior®. She made her theatrical debut as a seven-year-old with no front teeth, playing the role of Molly in *Annie*. Subsequently, she played the role of Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof JR.* and then continued her work with Broadway Junior® as the Music Director of multiple pilot productions at North Shore Music Theatre. It was there she met Marty Johnson, which led her to join the iTheatrics team after receiving her BFA in drama from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. At iTheatrics, Lindsay serves as the Vice President of Education and as the Music Supervisor, where she has music directed, musically adapted, and/or helped creatively shape over 90 adaptations for Music Theatre International, Disney Theatricals, Tams-Witmark, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, and Samuel French. Additional music directing credits include the Disney+ series *Encore!*, NYMF, multiple national tours, and *The Sign of the Seahorse* and *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley JR.* for the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center. She holds an MA in Music and Music Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. Proud mom of six-year-old Tucker and four-year-old Talia! @lindsayariennelupi



## Steven G. Kennedy

*Director of Choreography Videos*

Steven has done some stuff, taught some people, and traveled to some places, but by far one of his greatest joys was performing in the ensemble of musicals all over the world.

To all of you wonderfully talented young performers, teachers, directors, and especially parents, please remember that being in the ensemble of a show is a life-changing and powerful experience – never to be discredited or discounted, but celebrated! Steven is the proud husband of Timothy Allen McDonald and is honored to be the caretaker of a pretty cool puppy named Duch.



## Cindy Ripley

*Director of Professional Development*

Cindy is the Senior Educational Consultant for iTheatrics, leading workshops for kids and teachers across the country. She is the “go to” guru for MTIs online Show Support and

Cindy Says for the Broadway Junior Collection. Cindy piloted the first Broadway Junior production of *Annie JR.*, and developed the first Broadway Junior Director’s Guide. She was proud to be selected for USA Today’s All-Star Teacher Team and most recently has served as a teaching artist for the Kennedy Center and the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities. Cindy is a co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs* published by GIA Publications, Inc. and finds the recipe comprised of young people, teachers, parents, musical theatre and enthusiasm priceless!



## Marty Johnson

*Director of Programming*

Named by Playbill.com as one of the top ten educators who are shaping Broadway, Marty first became involved in the world of musical theatre when he was 10 years old and his

4-H club put on an unforgettable rendition of *Peter Pan* - for which he made his own top hat. Marty has continued his work in the area of Theatre Education for over 25 years and has been fortunate to direct and teach workshops throughout the world including Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, China, and literally across the entire United States. He currently works as an Educational Consultant for such companies as XIX Entertainment, the Junior Theatre Group (producers of the international Junior Theatre Festivals), and iTheatrics, where he has adapted and directed pilot productions of over 50 new educational titles. In 2018, Marty was honored to direct the first Turnaround Arts National Talent Show held at the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. Additional recent credits include the world premiere of two musicals written by Laurie Berkner,

*Interstellar Cinderella* and *The Amazing Adventures of Harvey and the Princess*, for New York Children’s Theater, and the world premiere of the new musical *Llama Llama Live!* for Bay Area Children’s Theater. Marty holds a graduate degree in Theatre for Youth from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and served for nine years as a board member for TYA/USA, the leading organization for the advancement of theatre for young audiences in the world. He is the proud co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*, published by GIA Publications, Inc.



## Rob Rokicki

*Music Associate*

Rob Rokicki is a New York based writer, performer and composer/lyricist. He wrote the music, lyrics and co-orchestrated the Broadway show, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy*

*Jackson Musical* (book by Joe Tracz). The piece was nominated for Lortel, Off-Broadway Alliance, and three Drama Desk Awards, including Outstanding Musical, before touring across North America. He’s had a wide variety of collaborators and projects including the graphic novel musical, *Monstersongs*, with award-winning illustrator David O’Neill (World Premiere Recording from Broadway Records, selected for the National Alliance for Musical Theatre, played London and Japan, and is in development as a Virtual Reality video game). His immersive musical, *Experience Marianas*, was developed at Cap21/Molloy College, a semi-finalist for the O’Neill National Musical Theatre Conference, and workshopped in the UK with Grace Taylor (*Six*). He is co-arranging and orchestrating *Punk Rock Girl* (book by Joe Iconis), and was a writer on the streaming musical *Breathe*, with book by Timothy McDonald and New York Times Best Selling novelist Jodi Picoult. Rob’s been commissioned to write pieces for The Kennedy Center, Bay Area Children’s Theater, along with scoring the films *The Real Gemma Jordan* (with Anna K. Jakobs), *Dividends*, and *Gingerbread House*. Other credits include: *Strange Tails* (with Michael Ruby); *Eleven Eleven* (The Pitch & USC); *The Listing* (horror/comedy radio play); *Love NY* (American Harmony Award). Rob is a two-time Larson Award finalist, alum of the Tony Award winning BMI writing workshop and graduate of the University of Michigan. Rob is a proud educator and believes in accessibility for creators and audiences.

robertrokicki.com @rrokicks



## Laura Jo Schuster

*Director of Volunteers and Interns*

Laura Jo's love for musical theater began in the sixth grade after being cast as an orphan in the school production of *Annie*. She eventually chose to pursue a career in theater and received a BS from the University of Evansville, then promptly moved to New York City. Laura Jo freelanced as a writer, editor, proofreader, and a transcriptionist before joining iTheatrics in 2012. As Associate Editor, Laura Jo helped publish more than 60 shows for young people. She is delighted to be back at JTF helping make musical theater magic!



## Daniel J. Mertzlufft

*Mainstage Music Supervisor*

Daniel (he/him) is a NYC based composer, arranger, and music director, best known for his viral sensations *The Thanksgiving Musical* on *The Late Late Show with James Corden*, and serving as Music Supervisor, Arranger and Songwriter for *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical*, after launching the movement on TikTok with Emily Jacobson. Original works: *Breathe: A New Musical*, *Dot and The Kangaroo*, far memory, commissioned by Fall Island Vocal Arts Seminar, and *Construction Site on Christmas Night*, commissioned by Bay Area Children's Theatre. He is a member of the advanced class of the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. Music Direction credits: Off-Broadway: *Sistas*, *54 Below Sings - ABBA*, *Ariana Grande*, *Pop Hits of the 2000s*, *The Jonas Brothers*. Readings: *Monstersongs* (NAMT), *The Big One-Oh!* TYA, and *Hans Christian Anderson TYA* (The Kennedy Center's New Visions, New Voices). iTheatrics Workshops: *Heathers HSE*, *Chicago HSE*, *Mary Poppins JR.*, *G2K... Footloose*, *Newsies JR.*, *Sister Act JR.*, *The Drowsy Chaperone JR.*, *My Fair Lady School Edition*, *Finding Nemo JR.* As an educator, he leads workshops at the international Junior Theater Festivals, Junior Theater Celebrations throughout the United States, and specialized music workshops for the Shubert Foundation and the NYC Department of Education. @danieljmertzlufft



## Jiana J. Odland

*Company Manager*

Jiana Odland (she/her) grew up just outside of Chicago, Illinois and was immediately absorbed into the world of musical theatre at the age of six. Ten years later, she met the fine folks at iTheatrics when she stage managed one of their pilot workshops. After school, she joined the international music theatre outreach organization *The Young Americans* and spent four years touring North America, Europe, and Asia as a performer, lighting designer, business manager, and musical theatre educator. She has helped produce live events across America for major companies such as Nike, Toyota, and Sonos Digital. Jiana is thrilled to have found her way back to iTheatrics as the Program Director and the DEI Advisor. At iTheatrics, she produces, directs, and choreographs for the iTheatrics Academy; works with various educational partnerships such as the Shubert Foundation/NYC Department of Education, Turnaround Arts, and Jumpstart Theater; and manages the Junior Theater Festivals worldwide as well as the Junior Theater Celebrations. As the DEI Advisor, Jiana produces, writes, and hosts panels on diversity, equity, and inclusion. She conceives, and creates content for the iTheatrics and Junior Theater Festival social media channels, as well as writes material for the published ShowKits and Production Guides. Jiana is passionate about driving initiatives for a more inclusive theater and committed to creating equitable space for young theatre artists. In 2018, Jiana choreographed a nationwide music video for Turnaround Arts, working with Misty Copeland, Jason Mraz, and Paula Abdul. When not working at the i, you can catch Jiana producing and performing in the New York City cabaret circuit, or playing with her best friend, Chicago the Doggo. Jiana is so grateful for the opportunity to keep sharing musical theatre with the world! @jianaodd



## Joseph Ayala

*Director of Information Technology*

Joseph began his career 25 years ago at Music Theatre International. He has been working at iTheatrics since its beginning. He is the owner of the IT company Artisan Systems and the online store MusicalsInc.com. Joseph holds a BFA from The School of Visual Arts. He's proudest of his niece Natalie and nephew A.J. and beyond proud of his sister Tanya who is a nurse and has been working tirelessly during the pandemic.



## Tammy Dinger

*Director of Hotels*

Tammy was formerly a member of the executive team of Pratt and Whitney in Texas. She spent her childhood being coerced to perform in musical extravaganzas by her brother Tim. Sadly, their variety show, “The Tim and Tammy Cavalcade of Stars,” never materialized. But a cooking channel show is in the works. Tammy lives and works remotely from rural Northern California but visits crazy New York City whenever possible.



## Mary-Catherine Chambliss

*Director of Education*

Mary-Catherine grew up with iTheatrics after meeting the team in 6th grade at the first Junior Theater Festival. Over 17 years, she has worked with iTheatrics as an adjudicator, teaching artist, and associate choreographer for Choreography Videos. The iTheatrics team laid the foundation for her interest in Musical Theater Education. She decided to pursue a career in Theater Education with a Bachelor of Science in Theater Education from Troy University. During her time at Troy, she served on the founding staff of Summer Spotlight, a series of intensives each year for creative people of all ages looking to grow and develop their interests and talents in and through the Arts. Following her education, Mary-Catherine served as an Associate Teaching Artist at Lexington Children’s Theatre performing in *The Cat in the Hat*, *Seussical*, and *Shrek the Musical*. She developed theatre curriculum and Student Growth Measurements for the Muscogee County Board of Education while serving as the Director of Blackmon Road Middle School, where she was named New Teacher of the Year. During her time in Muscogee County, she performed with the Springer Opera House, Georgia’s State Theater in *A Chorus Line*, *The Who’s Tommy*, and Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*. Mary-Catherine made a move to New York City to act as Program Director for The Anderson School and develop curriculum for Manhattan Youth’s Summer Theatre Intensive. She most recently served Manhattan Youth as Education Director for The Professional Performing Arts High School, Simon Baruch Junior High School, Yorkville East Middle School, and The Anderson School.



## Alex Robertson

*Script Supervisor*

Alex is a NYC-based creative and independently produces for Broadway/Off-Broadway. He is a co-producer of Douglas Carter Beane’s new comedy, *Fairycakes*, and Associate Producer of Jim Henson’s *Emmet Otter’s Jug-Band Christmas*. Alex graduated from The Hartt School, University of Hartford with a BFA in Music Theatre and minor in Performing Arts Management. Alex hopes to continue bringing a positive and unique perspective to the ever-evolving entertainment industry. A-Robertson.com @AlexanderERobertson



## 2022 Junior Theater Festival Production & Design



### John Edkins

*Technical Director*

John is the owner of JE Scenic Technologies, Inc., a theatrical scenic production services and storage company specializing in Broadway traveling productions and a wide range of projects, from sets for television newsrooms to operas. He has built scenery for the Pittsburgh CLO for 30 years and has been their Production Supervisor for the past 25 years. John heads the JTF and MYI Awards held yearly in Atlanta. He is one of the key supervisors on the Apic Convention held yearly in Washington, DC. He has since become one of the top Production Supervisors in the country. His credits as Technical Supervisor include *The Phantom of the Opera*. International productions include *Cabaret*, *Big River*, *West Side Story*, *Annie*, and *The Sound of Music*, along with *Rent*. John has been involved with the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the past 10 years in development and construction of the Millennium Crèche, the only existing replica of the Crèche that is displayed at the Vatican in Rome. Presently, John is the Production Supervisor for Civic Light Opera in Pittsburgh, overseeing a rigorous seven-show summer season. He recently built and did Production for the national tour of 9-5 for Dolly Parton and the national tour of *Fela*. John has also been associated with numerous Broadway productions, including *High School Musical*, *Putting it Together* with Carol Burnett, and the national tours of Disney's *The Little Mermaid* and Disney's *Mary Poppins*. Presently, John is the Production Supervisor on *An American in Paris* (International China Tour) and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (US Tour). John resides in Pittsburgh with his wife, Ronda, and four sons.



### Jordan M. Edkins

*Associate Carpenter*

Jordan is the Foreman for the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera's Construction Center for the Arts. He primarily works on planning and building for a wide variety of theatrical productions. This is Jordan's 9th year as the Associate Carpenter for the Junior Theater Festival. Jordan has worked as a carpenter on the national tours of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and the Asia tour of *An American In Paris*.



### Lori Holt

*Director of Facilities*

Lori began her career as an event manager after completing her degree at the University of Georgia. With over 20 years of experience in the event industry and working coast to coast, her keen eye for detail, great logistical prowess, and operational expertise have made her a leader in the field. This will be her fifteenth year working with the Junior Theater Festival.

### Stephen C. Jones

*Lighting Designer*



### Matt Kraus

*Sound Designer*

Broadway: *Liza's and the Palace...*, *Kristin Chenoweth: My Love Letter to Broadway*, *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony*. Off Broadway: *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *50 Shades! The Musical*, *Fat Camp*, *Lone Star Love*, *Cam Jansen*, *Voca People*. Audio Coordinator for remote shoots of *The Tonight Show*, and *NBAs 2020 Bubble*. Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Walnut Street, Ogunquit Playhouse, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Sound Designer for the iTheatrics Junior Theatre Festival 2008-2022. Matt has won an Emmy Award for his work as Sound Designer on Disney's *Broadway Hits* at Royal Hall which he has toured around the world.

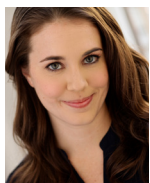


### Jay Rabbitt

*Audio Coordinator/CEO of ICP*

Jay is the CEO and owner of In Concert Productions, Inc., JTF's supplier of audio, video, and staging, and he is one of the festival's project managers. Since 1980, Jay and his company have provided production services for Fortune 500 companies, from Coca-Cola to Toyota; Olympics and Super Bowl events; concerts, special events, and festivals; along with proudly working and growing with our favorite client, iTheatrics and JTF, for over 10 years. Jay has been married to the love of his life, Maria, for 9 years, and she is the office manager for the company. Jay is proud to have two grandchildren from his oldest daughter, Payton: Mason (8) and Brynlee (6). Jay's youngest daughter, Jaycie, is 24 and is newly engaged to be married.

## Meet the Team



### Marianne Phelps

*General Manager*

Marianne is a contributing editor for, and longtime lover of, iTheatrics! This is her third year at the Junior Theater Festival, and she's thrilled to be participating. When she's not working for iTheatrics, Marianne is a professional AEA actor who teaches acting and serves as the associate producer for AthensWest Theatre Company. She also spends time in Lexington, KY, singing show tunes to her little ones, husband, and dachshund, all of whom she loves very much!



### Lyn Alessandra

*Assistant Event Manager*

Lyn Alessandra graduated from UC Davis in 2016 with a B.A. in Dramatic Arts and minors in Managerial Economics and French. She has stage managed in various cities, including in Dallas, Los Angeles, and Sacramento, and has also toured as a union stage hand on Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. She is a proud member of Actor's Equity Association. She currently is the Education and Production Coordinator at Sacramento Theatre Company. Lyn has a passion for theatre, and loves to share it with students of all ages. She enjoys teaching and inspiring students to delve into every area theater can offer them.



### Kim Carbone

*Production Sound Engineer*

Kim has been a sound engineer since high school when she first fell in love with theatre. Kim has her bachelor's degree from Southern Oregon University in Theatre Arts and her master's degree from UNCSA in Sound Design. She has had the opportunity to create sound all over the world and is extremely proud to be part of the JTF team. Kim currently resides in Oregon, where she designs, engineers, and teaches.



### Tyler Crow

*Assistant Event Manager*

Tyler Crow (he/him) is a Stage Manager based in New York. Off-Broadway: *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*. National Tour: *The Prom*. Regional: *Guys and Dolls*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Theatre Aspen); *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Slur* (Alliance Theatre); *Coppélia* (Boston Ballet). Love to Maddy, my family, and those who have taught me, always.

### Adam Flemming

*Video Screen Design*

Adam is thrilled to join iTheatrics Junior Theater Festival West for a third season and welcomes all attendees back to the stage after our hiatus. He is a Visual Effects Imagineer for the Walt Disney Company and has been honored to bring to life exciting magic around the globe. Adam is a recipient of and four time nominee of the L.A. Ovation Award, he's also received the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award and the L.A. Weekly Theatre Award for best projection designs. He is an M.F.A. graduate of CalArts and a Projection Category member of USA 829. [adamflemmingdesign.com](http://adamflemmingdesign.com)



### Kathleen Flint

*Information Booth*

Kathleen has been involved with theater one way or another since 4th grade. She has been onstage, behind the scenes (props coordinator), front of house with box office and ticket sales and producer and director of Storybook Theater until 2012. She works with Musical Mayhem Theater in Elk Grove, CA as a Director and Level 1 and 2 Acting Teacher. Working with children has been the greatest joy these past few years, getting to pay my theater knowledge forward and share ways to build a strong foundation and a lifetime love of theater is always a win!



### Shirlee Idzakovich

*MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate*

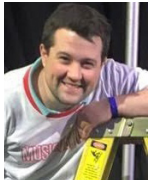
Shirlee is a professional costumer from NYC. A proud Freddie G Fellowship winner.



### Ellen Mezzera Lavaia

*Event Manager*

Originally from San Francisco, Mrs. Lavaia now resides in New York City. Broadway: *The Lion King*, *Annie*, *Les Misérables*, *Matilda*. New York: *Gentlemen Prefer Blonde*; *Macbeth* and *A Man's a Man*; *Shen Wei Dance Arts* at the Park Avenue Armory. With SITI Company, *Steel Hammer*, *Persians*, *Café Variations*, *Radio Macbeth*, *the theater is a blank page*, *Bob, Hanjo*, *Chess Match No. 5*, and *The Bacchae*. Lavaia has toured internationally through China, The Republic of Georgia, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. Additional Credits: *The Sound of Music Live!* (NBC Universal) and the 2013 Tony Awards. Education: MFA, Columbia University. BA, Gonzaga University. Member of AEA, Local 764, and SITI Company.



## Kyle Brewster McGinley

*MUSICALSINC.COM Store Manager*

Kyle Brewster McGinley spent 15 years supervising merchandise operations and building retail displays for over 150 Broadway, touring and international productions. Select career highlights include *Wicked* (Tokyo), *Hamilton*, *The Pee-wee Herman Show*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*. Currently he is a Production Coordinator for New World Group, a creative agency specializing in promotional marketing for clients including Disney, Marvel, and highend NYC real estate. This is his 7th year managing operations and designing merchandise for the JTF Store!



## Jason O'Neal

*Audio Assistant*

Jason O'Neal is a New York City based Sound Designer and Audio Engineer. He mostly works on off-Broadway productions with a little bit of work on touring productions.



## Tim Prestridge

*VIP Coordinator*

Tim is currently the Senior Executive Director, Development at National Public Radio (NPR). Prior to NPR, he spent 9 years at two arts institutions, Kennedy Center and Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, DC with a focus on creating unique music experiences through strategic partnerships including donor opportunities. Before moving to DC, he worked in development, marketing, and production positions with two theaters in Massachusetts. He holds a masters in arts administration from Boston University and a bachelors in theater from Jacksonville State University in Alabama.



## Al Ripley

*MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate*

Al taught instrumental music for 33 years in the Grand Island, NY School District. He currently serves as Chair of the Education Committee of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and recently as Executive Director of the Erie County Music Educators Association (ECMEA) where his duties included overseeing the membership, publications, staff development, board meetings, and budget of the 500 member professional organization of Western New York State music teachers. ECMEA sponsors All-County festivals involving auditions and performance of over 6000 music students in grades 4-12.

## Caitlin Sapunor-Davis

*Assistant Event Manager*

Caitlin Sapunor-Davis has worked as a stage manager in the Sacramento area for over 20 years. Some of her favorite past productions with the Broadway Sacramento/Sacramento Music Circus include *Big River*, *Hair*, *Gypsy* and *In the Heights*. Caitlin has also stage managed for New Helvetia Theatre, Sacramento Ballet (including a tour to China in 2007) and the UC Davis Department of Music, where she is currently on staff.



## Kush Shankar

*COVID-19 Protocol Advisor*

Kush is a Pharmaceutical Engineer, grownup JTF Alum, and musical theater fanatic who is excited to return for his 11th Junior Theater Festival! Kush has been an attendee, volunteer, intern, Production Assistant, Discussion Leader, and COVID-19 Advisor for past festivals. This time, he's returning as a COVID-19 Advisor and Teacher Workshop Leader. Kush thrives in environments like JTF where he can blend the worlds of biology and musical theater. He wishes you a happy festival! Follow him on Instagram at: @kushkushinsta



## Alexandra Valley

*Social Media Coordinator*

Alexandra has been attending Junior Theater Festival since 2009 and has served many roles such as Participant, Volunteer, Intern, Associate Publicist, and now Social Media Specialist. Alexandra holds a BFA in Production and Design from Pace University with a concentration in Audio Engineering and is all around happy with any and all things musical theater related. She is thrilled to continue to be part of the JTF family, where every theater kid can find their home.

## Meet the Team



### Allison Van Etten

*Publicist*

Allison Van Etten is principal at Ravenscroft Public Relations (RPR), a public relations firm with a focus on the arts. This season, in addition to its work with iTheatrics and the Junior Theater Festivals, RPR has led campaigns for classical clarinetist Anthony McGill, violinist Rachel Barton Pine, Rosanna Gamson World Wide, and Invertigo Dance Theatre. Allison was part of the original Broadway Junior PR team led by Linda Dozoretz at Linda Dozoretz Communications. She dedicates her work at the festival to Linda Dozoretz and Stephen Sondheim.



### Marcus Woollen

*Festival Photographer*

Former actor + singer, now happily working at MTI, helping to bring theatre to the! Marcus grew up in Washington State, California, Belgium and New Hampshire, and has lived in New York City since 1993. He spends his evenings and weekends either in a theatre seat or training/competing in bike, swim or running events. His favorite lyric is, "Look - I made a hat. Where there never was a hat." His first JTF was in 2007, and is thrilled to have seen so many wonderful performances through his camera lenses over the years.



## BROADWAY SACRAMENTO



Broadway Sacramento is Northern California's premiere producer and presenter of musical theatre, and the largest nonprofit musical theatre in California. Since the inception of Broadway At Music Circus in 1951 under an open-air, circus-style big top, Broadway Sacramento has grown to become the most successful nonprofit performing arts organization in Northern California. Between Broadway At Music Circus and Broadway On Tour, Broadway Sacramento entertains over 250,000 patrons every year.

### Executive Team

**RICHARD LEWIS** | *PRESIDENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*  
**SCOTT KLIER** | *PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER*  
**STEPHANIE TABOR** | *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER*

### Production & Operations

**BENJAMIN MACIAS** | *DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS*  
**Patrick Burns** | *Production Manager*  
**Christian Johnson** | *Technical Director*  
**Joel Virgen** | *Casting Coordinator*

### JTF Event Team

**Stephen Jones** | *Lighting Designer*  
**Adam Flemming** | *Projections Designer*  
**Julie Stephens** | *House Manager*  
**Megan Kimura** | *Sound Assistant*  
**Emma St. James** | *Sound Assistant*  
**Panagiotis Roditis** | *Production Assistant*

### Administrative & Finance

**Corinne Wihl** | *Accountant & Human Resources Manager*  
**Dori Gough** | *Executive Assistant to the President*  
**Andrea Izumi** | *Senior Accountant*  
**Seth Minnihan** | *IT Manager*  
**Jouni Kirjola** | *Office Supervisor*

### Marketing & Public Relations

**MATT HESSBURG** | *DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS*  
**SARA HANSON** | *ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS*  
**Gina Harrower** | *Database Administrator*  
**Caleb Larrosa-Colombo** | *Creative Project Manager*  
**Brian Peebles Kameoka** | *Digital Marketing Manager*  
**Melissa Gandy** | *Group Sales Manager*  
**Daniela Fajardo** | *Group Sales Coordinator*  
**Kathi Roelofs** | *Group Sales Assistant*

### Development

**KAREN MCCLAF LIN** | *DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT*  
**Michelle Hollis** | *Development Associate*  
**Yvonne Wrobel** | *Development Database Coordinator*

### Education and Community Engagement

**JACKIE VANDERBECK** | *DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT*

### Box Office

**SALLY SLOCUM** | *DIRECTOR OF TICKETING & ANALYTICS*  
**Susie Evon** | *Box Office Manager*  
**Joy Eakin** | *Subscriber Services Manager*  
**Blair Hartman** | *Assistant Box Office Supervisor*  
**Rachel Armour** | *Subscriber Services Lead*  
**Shayla Macias** | *Customer Service Lead*



### **In Concert Productions, Inc** (Audio, Video Projection, and Staging Services)

For over 40 years, Atlanta's In Concert Productions (ICP) has supplied state-of-the-art sound, staging, lighting, and video equipment services to TV broadcast, film, corporate, theatrical, and special events across the USA. A partial list of recent projects include: audio services for TV's *Family Feud*, NBC's *The Titan Games*, and *The Go-Big Show* on TBS; Films ranging from *The Hunger Games*, *Anchorman 2*, and numerous Netflix productions; to corporate and special events from Microsoft, Porsche and Mercedes-Benz, Coca-Cola, and the NBA.

#### **ICP Crew:**

Jay Rabbitt – Production Manager  
Ben Crews – Audio Systems Tech & RF Coordinator  
Chad Prater – A2  
Paul Fehling – Audio Technician & CDL-A Transportation



**SUPER AWESOME FRIENDS** (Video Production) is a full service digital content and marketing agency dedicated to building strategic and meaningful social experiences that strengthen relationships with audiences. Current client highlights: *American Buffalo*; *Annie*; *Black Theatre Coalition*; *Company*; *Girl from the North Country*; *Lego Awesome Exhibition*; *The Minutes*; *Officer and a Gentleman: The Musical*; *Oklahoma!*; *Pixar Putt*; *Plaza Suite*; *The Producers: 20th Anniversary Documentary*; *RiseNY Experience*; *Water for Elephants*; *Disney's Winnie the Pooh*; and many more.

#### **Super Awesome Friends:**

Director of Video Production ... Scott Lupi  
Content Manager ... Leah Vicencio  
Camera Operators ... Aaron Leong, Jason Noricks  
Editors ... Jensen Chambers, Nicholas Guldner



2022 Junior Theater Festival

# Adjudicators & Workshop Leaders



**Sonny Ace**

Sonny Ace is a Los Angeles based actor and pastry chef. Sonny has graduated and toured all over America with his performing arts college, The Young Americans, as well as appeared in

several commercials and print ads (Disney, Care Credit, RomperJack). He currently works as a freelance cake artist and performs for The Walt Disney Company in numerous shows such as: *Newsboys*, *Disney Junior Dance Party*, *Jammin' Chefs*, and *Mickey's Trick and Treat* to name a few. IG: @sonny\_ace



**Kate Anderson**

Kate Anderson is a lyricist/performer and half of the Songwriting team Samsel/Anderson. Together, Samsel/Anderson are the in-house songwriters behind Apple TV's *Central Park*, and the composing

team behind the off-Broadway bound musical "Between the Lines" (Second Stage 2022) and UK bound "The Book Thief" (The Octagon 2022). Their songs can also be heard in the Disney Holiday Special, "Olaf's Frozen Adventure." Additionally, Kate is an improviser/sketch comedy writer who has studied extensively with Upright Citizens Brigade in NY and LA.



**Tali Allen**

Tali has worked in performing arts education for the past 20 years, and has taught musical theatre and voice on all academic levels. She has B.M. degrees in Music Education and Piano and a B.A.

degree in Musical Theatre. She has directed and/or music directed an enumerable amount of award-winning professional and youth theatrical productions across the country. Tali is currently the Director of Education at The Muny, where she also serves as the Artistic Director of the Muny Kids and Teens performance troupes. In addition, she teaches private voice, directs/music directs several youth theatre productions in St. Louis area schools, and is an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.



**Sarah Jane Arnegger**

Sarah Jane (SJ) Arnegger (Director, iHeartRadio Broadway) began her career working within the Broadway community in 2001 with positions at some of the most prestigious firms – Douglas & Kopelman,

Disney Theatrical Group, Boneau/Bryan-Brown, The Karpel Group and Playbill and in 2018 Sarah Jane joined iHeartMedia to launch the new iHeartRadio Broadway platform. SJ oversees the growing streaming radio station, serves as the executive producer for all digital content/podcasts and is the on-camera host for the iHeartRadio Broadway Mercedes-Benz Interview Lounge and the co-host for the 'Growin' Up Broadway' podcast. @sjarnegger



**Kikau Alvaro**

Kikau Alvaro (he/him) is an Associate Professor Musical Theatre and the Interim Dean of the Ira Brind School of Theater Arts at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA. He holds his MFA in

Musical Theatre from San Diego State University. He has been a JTF Workshop Leader/Adjudicator since 2013 at Atlanta, West, and Texas. He is originally from San Jose, CA, and currently lives in Philadelphia, PA, with his husband Derrick, and their puppy, Boggnes. Follow his journey on Instagram @kikautown.



**Derek Bowley**

Derek has been a part of the JTF family since the very first festival in 2003, and he is thrilled to be back in Sacramento! Derek has worked all over the country with iTheatrics on innumerable projects as a

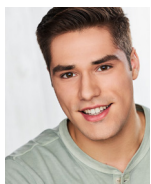
teaching artist, music director, and writer, but his "day job" is teaching Speech and Drama at Congressional School in Falls Church, Virginia, where he is in the middle of rehearsals for *Mary Poppins JR*. When not working with young people, Derek can be found in his kitchen, exploring his passion for food.

## Meet the Team



### Khalia Davis

Khalia Davis (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist and Artistic Director of Bay Area Children's Theatre where she recently led the premiere of *A Kids Play About Racism*. Directed and devised other new works with prominent theaters such as Bay Area Children's Theater, Atlantic Theater Company's Atlantic for Kids, New York City Children's Theater, Disney Theatrical Group, The Story Pirates and more. Awards: 2019 Emerging Leader Fellowship-TYA/USA, 2019 NYCCT Leader Fellowship, 2021 Corey Medallion Award-Children's Theatre Foundation of America. BA in Theater Arts from the University of Southern California.



### Max Gonzalez

Max Gonzalez is an Actor, Singer, Dancer, and Choreographer based in New York City. He is a graduate from the New Studio on Broadway at NYU Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Drama.

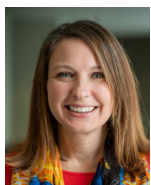
Credits: *Cinderella* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *The Fantasticks*, *West Side Story*, *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (Tibbits Opera House), and *The Wild Party* (NYU Tisch). Max is so excited to attend his first JTF West!



### Cori Jaskier

Cori is so excited to be at JTF West! She is a graduate of NYU/Tisch School of the Arts. Most recently seen in the ensemble of *Ratatouille the TikTok Musical*. Other projects include: TheaterWorksUSA's

*Charlotte's Web* (Charlotte), the Off-Broadway premiere of *The Scarlet Savior* (Emma), new musicals entitled *The Valley* (Colby), *America Project* (Madison) and *Rapture* (Vickie), and Ray Evans Seneca Theater's productions of *Avenue Q* (Kate Monster), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), and *Rent* (Maureen). She would like to thank her family, friends, and iTheatrics for their constant love and support.



### Kelby McIntyre-Martinez

Kelby McIntyre-Martinez is currently the Assistant Dean for Arts Education and Community Engagement, Director, Fine Arts, Master of Arts in Teaching Program, and Director of the Beverley Taylor

Sorenson Arts Program at the University of Utah. Kelby is passionate about establishing pathways to higher education through sustainable arts programming that allows university and school-aged youth opportunities

to create new artistic works alongside cultural workers, artists, organizations, and arts advocates to encourage cultural democracy, ways of knowing, and the generation of new knowledge. She values the mutual exchange of creativity and the reciprocal benefits this research and learning model creates for all participants and the field of arts education.



### Nina Meehan

Nina Meehan inspires creativity and imagination in the broader community as a skilled theatre producer, award-winning director, and dedicated arts educator, with expertise in youth development.

Nina's award-winning theatrical work for young people as CEO and Founder of Bay Area Children's Theatre has reached more than 1 million kids and adults and has toured nationally and internationally. She is also an internationally recognized arts educator and youth theatre specialist. As president of the board of directors of TYA/USA, the national organization of theatres for young audiences, she actively engages in outreach and advocacy on behalf of the profession and the issues it embraces. Nina speaks and writes frequently about creativity, arts education, nonprofit management, and theatre for young audiences (TYA) and she is the host of the Creative Parenting Podcast.



### McKenna Michael

McKenna Michael is a non-binary LA/Orange County based actor, musician, and teacher. They have been teaching ages 4-18 across the US, Europe, and the UK for over 10 years. McKenna

was previously seen performing at Disney's California Adventure in *Frozen Live!* at the Hyperon and *Red Car Newsboys*. Most recently, they could be seen in the National Tour of *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*. Their passion lies in teaching youth theatre back in Orange County, and they are so thrilled to be joining the JTF team this year!



### Jodi Picoult

Jodi Picoult is the author of 27 novels, with 40 million copies sold worldwide. More than a dozen have debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list, including her most recent, *WISH YOU*

*WERE HERE*, soon to be a Netflix film. *BETWEEN THE LINES* (co-written with daughter Samantha van Leer) has been adapted as a musical opening off-Broadway in



June 2022. She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Alex Award from YALSA, and the NH Literary Award for Outstanding Literary Merit. She is also, with Timothy Allen McDonald, the co-librettist for the musical BREATHE, and the upcoming musical THE BOOK THIEF. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband.



## Dean Pitchford

Hawai'i-born and Yale-educated, Dean Pitchford acted, sang and danced off- and on-Broadway (*Godspell*, *Pippin*) and in over 100 commercials before turning to songwriting (*Fame*, *Let's Hear It for the*

*Boy*, *Footloose*), screenwriting (*Footloose*, *Sing*) and directing (HBO's *Bloodbrothers*). He has been nominated for 4 Oscars (winning for *Fame*), 8 Grammys, and 2 Tonys. His songs have been recorded by artists as diverse as Whitney Houston, Barbra Streisand, Cher, Hugh Jackman, Dolly Parton and L.L. Cool J. On- and off-Broadway his work has appeared in *Footloose*; *Carrie, the Musical*; and *The Boy From Oz*, among others. His novels *The Big One-Oh*, *Captain Nobody* and *Nickel Bay Nick* have been published by Putnam/Penguin; his performances of the audiobooks of the first two titles were both nominated for Grammys. The musical adaptation of *The Big One-Oh!* - with lyrics by Dean - premiered in 2019 at NY's Atlantic Theater. To date, Dean's songs have sold over 70 million records.



## Shay Rodgers

Shay works as a choreographer with iTheatrics and has created more than 30 instructional choreography videos for MTI, Disney, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Samuel French, and Tams-Witmark. She is

currently on staff at Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Wildfish Theatre. She created the Academy for Theatre Under The Stars in 2003 and managed the program until 2016. Choreography highlights include iTheatrics: *West Side Story School Edition*, *Getting To Know... Footloose*, Disney's *The Jungle Book KIDS*, *Junie B. Jones JR.* Theatre Under The Stars: *Bring It On*, *Heathers*, *The Who's Tommy*, World Premiere of *The Stephen Schwartz Project*. Wildfish Theatre: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *School of Rock*, *Spring Awakening*.



## Elyssa Samsel

Elyssa Samsel is one half of the songwriting team behind Disney Animation's "Olaf's Frozen Adventure" (Annie Nomination), The animated Apple Series "CENTRAL PARK", and the

Broadway bound musical *Between the Lines*. Other musicals by Elyssa Samsel and her writing partner Kate Anderson include; *The Book Thief* (Premiering in the UK in 2022). Please see [samselanderson.com](http://samselanderson.com) for more info!



## David Redman Scott

David Redman Scott currently serves as the Director of Licensing at Disney Theatrical Group based in New York, NY managing the catalog of plays and musicals available for professional,

amateur, and school productions in North America. Prior to Disney, professional credits as a stage manager and technical director include work at The New London Barn Playhouse (New London, NH), Merry-Go-Round Playhouse (Auburn, NY), Virginia Music Theatre (Norfolk, VA), three seasons touring as stage manager of *A Christmas Carol* produced by Troupe America, Inc., *Snoopy Rocks! ON ICE* at Cedar Point Amusement Park and *The Medora Musical* (Medora, ND). Broadway management credits include *Little Shop of Horrors* and the 2005 revival of *Sweeney Todd*.



## Nicholas Sostillio

Nicholas Sostillio graduated from Columbus State University with a Masters in Theatre Education and is currently the director of theatre at Warner Robins High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. His

program produces five productions annually that involve over 300 students. This includes two theatre for youth productions, in which his students perform for more than 4,000 elementary school students. Additionally Nicholas serves on the Educational Theatre Association Georgia Chapter Executive Board, is the Marketing and Communications director for Georgia Thespians, and board members for the Georgia Theatre Educators Conference.

## Meet the Team



### Cozi Zuehlsdorff

Cozi Zuehlsdorff is an LA based actress, screenwriter and singer/songwriter.

In the film world, she is best known for her role as Hazel in the feature films “Dolphin Tale” and “Dolphin Tale 2.” On

the TV side, Zuehlsdorff was a staple on Disney Channel with roles on “Liv & Maddie,” “Mighty Med” and “KC Undercover,” while making guest star appearances on other networks. In 2018, her strength as both an actress and musician garnered her the starring role opposite Broadway star Heidi Blickenstaff as Ellie Blake in the Disney Channel Original Movie “Freaky Friday,” a musical, adapted from the stage version. Strictly as a musician, Zuehlsdorff has experienced success in the pop, singer/songwriter and EDM worlds, both as a writer and artist. Her streams to date total 3.5 Billion. Trained as a classical pianist, Zuehlsdorff writes music for herself, for other artists and for the projects she’s involved with. She has had her songs placed in three films, most notably “Brave Souls,” at the end credits of “Dolphin Tale 2” and “What It’s Like to be Me,” the opening theme song of the Disney Channel Original Movie “Freaky Friday.” Most recently, in July of 2021, she dropped “The Old Me & You,” a duet which she wrote and sang with featured artist Andrew Barth Feldman (Dear Evan Hansen on Broadway and High School Musical: The Musical: The Series). The release was covered by Entertainment Tonight’s music roundup, Just Jared Jr. and BroadwayWorld. Look out for Cozi on a new limited series premiering this Spring. As a screenwriter, Zuehlsdorff has multiple projects in development, including a musical TV series.

# 2022 JTF West Participating Groups



**Auburn Dance Academy  
Auburn, WA**



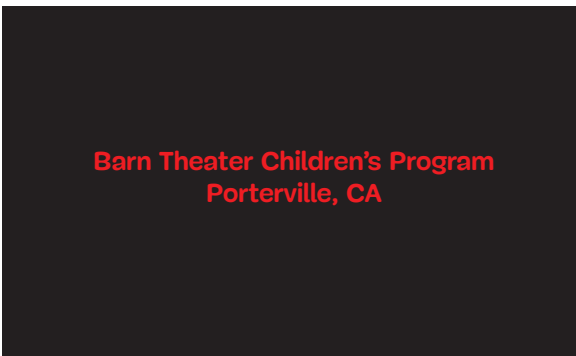
**Broadway at The Rose  
Omaha, NE**



**BAMtheatre  
Hinsdale, IL**



**Colorado Children's Theatre  
Littleton, CO**



**Barn Theater Children's Program  
Porterville, CA**



**Diablo Theatre Company's SingOut  
Walnut Creek, CA**



**Bay Area Children's Theatre  
Oakland, CA**



**Eastern Shore Repertory Theatre  
Fairhope, AL**

# Groups



**Finale  
Edmond, OK**



**Kettleworks Performing Arts  
Renton, WA**



**Foothill Christian School  
Glendora, CA**



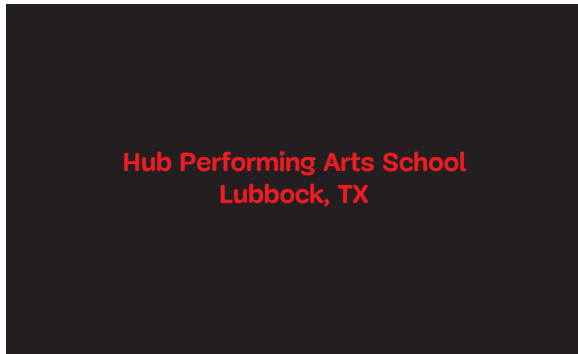
**Musical Mayhem Productions  
Elk Grove, CA**



**Grandstreet Theatre School  
Helena, MT**



**On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts  
Suisun City, CA**



**Hub Performing Arts School  
Lubbock, TX**



**Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts  
Oak Park, IL**

# Groups



**Poison Apple Productions**  
Martinez, CA



**Spark Of Creation Studio**  
South San Francisco, CA



**Preston Center Dance**  
Dallas, TX



**Starbound Theatre**  
Suisun City, CA



**Purple Box Theater**  
Pearland, TX



**The PACT Theatre Company**  
Mobile, AL



**Seattle's Performers**  
Seattle, WA



**Upstart Crow Youth Theatre**  
Eugene, OR

# Groups



**Wild Horse Children's Theater  
Carson City, NV**



**Woodland Opera House  
Woodland, CA**



**Wildfish Theatre Company  
Houston, TX**



# iTheatrics Summer 2022



FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.ITHEATRICS.COM](http://WWW.ITHEATRICS.COM)

## ITHEATRICS ACADEMY

Every summer in New York City, iTheatrics workshops new adaptations of Broadway musicals for young performers. One-week programs run from July 4 - August 12.

Auditions for the summer 2022 programs are by video submission, so students all over the world are welcome to audition!



## ITHEATRICS INTERNS

iTheatrics is looking for interns to join our summer 2022 season! A great candidate is someone interested in theatre education.

Email [jiana@itheatrics.com](mailto:jiana@itheatrics.com) for more information on what it takes and how to apply to be a part of the team!



## TEACHING INTENSIVE

Learn how to teach theatre to young people with the iTheatrics Method! Join iTheatrics in New York City July 13 - July 15 for a weekend-long professional development session in the summer.

Information about the intensive will be made available in the spring.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT [JIANA@ITHEATRICS.COM](mailto:JIANA@ITHEATRICS.COM)