

# PLAYBILL®

JTF 2023 ATLANTA



YEARS OF JAZZ HANDS

junior theater  
**Festival**<sup>®</sup>  
2023

**JTF ATLANTA 2023  
DIGITAL PROGRAM**



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**THE JUNIOR THEATER FESTIVAL ATLANTA  
IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE FINE FOLKS AT iTHEATRICS:**



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

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**SPECIAL THANKS**

The Civilian Hotel, Caley Beretta, Alex Birsh, Philip S. Birsh, Jason Cocovinis, Drew Cohen,  
Logan Culwell-Block, Eleanor Davis, Carol Edelson, Sandria Effs, Tim Federle, Freddie Gershon, Myrna Gershon,  
Stuart Hendricks, John Higgins, Brian Komatz, Ryan Macaulay, Bert Padovan, Daniela Padovan, Nick Pramik,  
John Prignano, Dan Rudin, David R. Scott

Thanks to the students at Columbus State University Department of Theater and Dance, Savannah College of Art and Design, Troy University Department of Theater and Dance, and all of our volunteers and JTF Interns!

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**MUSIC THEATRE  
INTERNATIONAL**





# Welcome to JTF Atlanta 2023

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## The Team

Welcome to JTF Atlanta! We are thrilled to be back at the Cobb Galleria Centre. 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 a workshop, or try on your [MUSICALSINC.COM](https://www.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 Vice President of Education **Lindsay Weiner Lupi** joined the team as 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® was picture perfect. Music Associate and *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical* composer **Daniel J. Mertzlufft** 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 **Rebecca Marlowe** came on board in 2022 as Education Associate.



From left; Marianne Phelps, Daniel J. Mertzlufft, Cindy Ripley, Steven G. Kennedy, Joseph Ayala, Rob Rokicki, Susan Fuller, Mary-Catherine Chambliss, Timothy Allen McDonald, Lindsay Weiner Lupi, Marty Johnson, Jiana J. Odland, Rebecca Marlowe, Laura Jo Schuster  
Photo: Seth Jolles Photography ©2022

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 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 underserved 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, and get ready for even more musical theater magic. Welcome to the Junior Theater Festival.

**#TeamiTheatrics**



# JTF 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

5:00 PM	Festival Sign-In Opens
6:00 PM	Optional Group Rehearsals Begin

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

9:00 AM	Festival Sign-In Opens
10:00 AM	Optional Group Rehearsals Begin
4:00 PM	Professional Development Sign-In/Orientation
5:30 PM	<i>Festival Kick-Off!</i>
6:30 PM	Adjudications
	iTheatrics Special Project Auditions
	Student Workshops

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00 AM	Adjudications
1:00 PM	Lunch ( <i>on your own</i> )
2:45 PM	<i>Direct From Broadway</i>
4:00 PM	Student Workshops
	Teacher Workshops
6:00 PM	Dinner ( <i>on your own</i> )
8:00 PM	<i>New Works Showcase</i>

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

8:00 AM	iTheatrics Special Project Callbacks
	Tech Olympics
10:00 AM	<i>Growin' Up Broadway: LIVE!</i>
11:15 AM	Student Workshops
	Teacher Workshops
	JTF All-Stars Workshops
1:00 PM	Lunch ( <i>on your own</i> )
3:00 PM	<i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>
5:00 PM	Dinner ( <i>on your own</i> )
8:00 PM	<i>JTF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert</i>



*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.**

# 2023 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 and musical theatre 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 it's also a chance to celebrate the fantastic performances of festival showcase groups.



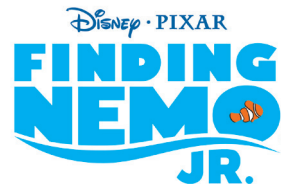
PLAZA ACADEMY  
CLEBURNE, TX

*SOMETHING ROTTEN JR.*



MOUNTAIN CITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
FROSTBURG, MD

*13 JR.*



SMOKE RISE ACADEMY OF ARTS  
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

*DISNEY'S FINDING NEMO JR. & DISNEY'S FINDING NEMO KIDS*



EASTERN SHORE REPERTORY THEATRE  
FAIRHOPE, AL

*DOT AND THE KANGAROO JR.*



CITY SPRINGS THEATRE CONSERVATORY  
SANDY SPRINGS, GA

*MEAN GIRLS JR.*

# Pod Schedule

## BLUE POD | Waverly - Habersham Ballroom

Friday, January 13

6:30 PM	Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation	Disney's <i>Aladdin JR.</i>
7:00 PM	Pace School of the Arts	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
7:30 PM	Oakland Middle School	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
8:00 PM	University School of Nashville	Roald Dahl's <i>Willy Wonka JR.</i>
8:30 PM	Marietta Sixth Grade Academy	Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i>

Saturday, January 14

8:00 AM	Mill Creek Musical Theatre	Disney's <i>Aladdin JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Northwestern Middle School	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Stopher Elementary	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
9:30 AM	C.W. Davis Middle School	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
10:30 AM	BRAVO	<i>Fame JR.</i>
11:00 AM	North Whitfield Middle School	<i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	St. Johns Middle School	Roald Dahl's <i>Willy Wonka JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Center Stage Productions	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
12:30 PM	New Albany Middle School	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>

## YELLOW POD | Waverly - Ballroom I/II

Friday, January 13

6:30 PM	Off Broadway Childrens Theatre	<i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i>
7:00 PM	BAMtheatre	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
7:30 PM	Time to Shine Performing Arts LLC	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Academy Team Rock Hill	<i>Annie KIDS</i>

Saturday, January 14

8:00 AM	Preston Center Dance	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
8:30 AM	NGMSDrama	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Musical Mayhem Productions	<i>Honk! JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Spartan Performing Arts Academy	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Spirit of the Stage	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Marietta Middle School	<i>Legally Blonde The Musical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Center Stage Youth Theatre	<i>Honk! JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Lewisville Arts Conservatory	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
12:30 PM	DMR Adventures	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>





**LIME POD | Waverly - Ballroom III****Friday, January 13**

6:30 PM	The Rose Theater	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
7:00 PM	Showtime Theatre Company	<i>Annie KIDS</i>
7:30 PM	Lopez Studios, Inc.	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
8:00 PM	North Texas Performing Arts - Fairview Youth Theatre	Disney's <i>Aladdin JR.</i>

**Saturday, January 14**

8:00 AM	Stage Center's School of Performing Arts	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Acting Upon Faith Productions	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Spark Theater Company	<i>Children of Eden JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Junior Aussie All-Stars	<i>Sister Act JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Woodford Theatre Young Artists	<i>Singin' In The Rain JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Naples Performing Arts Center	Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Ohlook Performing Arts Center	<i>Honk! JR.</i>
12:00 PM	FRC Acting Up	<i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Snellville Performing Arts	<i>Once On This Island JR.</i>

**MAGENTA POD | Waverly - Ballroom IV****Friday, January 13**

6:30 PM	InnoVATION Arts Academy	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
7:00 PM	The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati	<i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i>
7:30 PM	Spotlight Acting Academy	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Holly Performance Academy	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>

**Saturday, January 14**

8:00 AM	Innovation Drama Academy	<i>The Big One-Oh! JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Stars That Act	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Firefly Theatrical	Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Humphreys School of Musical Theatre	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Smoke Rise Academy of Arts	<i>Oliver! JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Riverside Theatre	<i>Children of Eden JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Caryl Crane Youth Theatre	<i>Annie JR.</i>
12:00 PM	First Stage Theatre Company	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Act3 Arts Academy	<i>Guys and Dolls JR.</i>

# Pod Schedule

## NAVY POD | Waverly - Highlands Ballroom

Friday, January 13

6:30 PM	Moorestown Theater Company	<i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR.</i>
7:00 PM	The PACT Theatre Company	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
7:30 PM	Ignite Theatre Company	<i>Disney's Aladdin JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Treehouse Theater	<i>Once On This Island JR.</i>

Saturday, January 14

8:00 AM	Poison Apple Productions	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Community Theatre of Greensboro	<i>Disney's Newsies JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Myrtle Beach Area Children's Theater	<i>Disney's Frozen JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Final Bow Center For Children's Performing Arts	<i>Singin' In The Rain JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Spotlight Theatre Productions	<i>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Edge Dance & Performing Arts Center	<i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Encore Theatrical Company	<i>Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Red Mountain Theatre Company	<i>Peter Pan JR.</i>
12:30 PM	DM Performance Works	<i>Seussical JR.</i>

## ORANGE POD | Waverly - Kennesaw Ballroom

Friday, January 13

6:30 PM	High Point Community Theatre	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
7:00 PM	CAST Theatre	<i>Disney's Freaky Friday One-Act Edition</i>
7:30 PM	Pittsboro Youth Theater	<i>Peter Pan JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Legacy Theater and Music Company	<i>Guys and Dolls JR.</i>

Saturday, January 14

8:00 AM	SAC Youth Arts Ambassadors	<i>Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Kids On Stage	<i>Disney's Moana JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Broadway Center for the Arts	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Red Phoenix Theatre Company	<i>Disney's Descendants: The Musical One-Act Edition</i>
10:30 AM	The Belle Theatre	<i>Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Center Stage Academy	<i>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Backstage Theater	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
12:00 PM	New Spark Performing Arts	<i>Once On This Island JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Magic Curtain Productions	<i>Disney's Newsies JR.</i>



**GREEN POD | Cobb - Ballroom A/B****Saturday, January 14**

8:00 AM	Eastern Shore Repertory Theatre	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
8:30 AM	SET Studios	Broadway Junior Revue: <i>Raise Your Voice</i>
9:00 AM	Fort Bend Christian Academy	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Masquerade Theatre	<i>Fame JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Folsom Academy Of The Arts	<i>Doctor Dolittle JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Asheville Performing Arts Academy	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Nashville Theatre School	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
12:00 PM	MelloDrama Productions	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Texas Music Theatre Company	<i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>

**PURPLE POD | Cobb - Ballroom C/D****Saturday, January 14**

8:00 AM	Plaza Academy	<i>The Pirates of Penzance JR.</i>
8:30 AM	City Springs Theatre Conservatory	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Florida Repertory Theatre - Education	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Spotlight Players	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Durant Road Musical Theatre	<i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Forefront Arts	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Moving Art	Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Carolina Academy of Performing Arts	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
12:30 PM	The SEED Falcon Theatre	<i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>

# Pod Schedule

## SILVER POD | Cobb - Ballroom E

Friday, January 13

6:30 PM	The Anthony School	Disney's <i>Aladdin JR.</i>
7:00 PM	The Studio of The Sooner Theatre	Disney's <i>High School Musical JR.</i>
7:30 PM	Momentum Arts	<i>Guys and Dolls JR.</i>
8:00 PM	From the Top Theatrics	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
8:30 PM	British Academy of Performing Arts	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>

Saturday, January 14

8:00 AM	Inspiration Stage	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Raleigh Area Children's Theatre	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Wings Performing Arts	<i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Florida Academy of Performing Arts	<i>Children of Eden JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Granbury Theatre Academy	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
11:00 AM	ACTivate LLC	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Studio Bleu Vocal & Theatre Arts	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Jeter Backyard Theater	Broadway Junior Revue: <i>Raise Your Voice</i>
12:30 PM	Northwest Theatre Lab	<i>Peter Pan JR.</i>

## RED POD | Cobb - Ballroom F

Friday, January 13

6:30 PM	Wellesley Theatre Project	<i>Children of Eden JR.</i>
7:00 PM	Purple Box Theater	<i>Annie JR.</i>
7:30 PM	Brylliant Acting Studio	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Apex Performing Arts	<i>Once On This Island JR.</i>
8:30 PM	Olde Towne Hall Theater	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>

Saturday, January 14

8:00 AM	Mountain City Center for the Arts	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
8:30 AM	City Kidz Playhouse	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
9:00 AM	The Biz Academy of Musical Theatre	<i>Fiddler on the Roof JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Forsyth Academy of Performing Arts Company	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Carpe Artista	<i>The Big One-Oh! JR.</i>
11:00 AM	The Actor's Charitable Theatre	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Gypsy Playhouse	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Mrs. Z Performing Arts Studio	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Senior Aussie All-Stars	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</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 up-and-comers, with career conversations, personal stories, the occasional quiz game, and, of course, unforgettable performances.

## Direct From Broadway



JTF is thrilled to welcome back President & Producer of Disney Theatrical Productions Thomas Schumacher to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the festival! Disney has been on board as a JTF sponsor since 2005 and continues to bring magic to the Broadway Junior community. What's in store for this year? Find out on Saturday afternoon!

## Sunday Night Concert



In celebration of the Junior Theater Festival's 20th anniversary, we are thrilled to present an evening of the best of Broadway Junior®. We've reimaged songs and curated a concert specifically for our amazing JTF audience, featuring numbers ranging from the very first Broadway Junior® shows, like *Annie JR.*, to brand-new releases, like *Mean Girls JR.* Music directed by iTheatrics' own Daniel J. Mertzluft, the concert not only showcases incredible talent direct from the Broadway stage, but it also includes some of JTF's oldest friends – and, of course, a surprise or two! Get your jazz hands up and your spirit fingers ready, and let's celebrate 20 years of Junior Theater Festival magic!

### 2023 Junior Theater Festival

# Direct From Broadway



## THOMAS SCHUMACHER

Since 1988, Thomas Schumacher has worked with The Walt Disney Company setting new standards of excellence in film, television and theatre. He serves as President & Producer of Disney Theatrical Productions, where he oversees the development, creation and execution of Disney's legitimate stage entertainment around the globe, including Broadway, touring and licensed productions. The division's Broadway, West End, touring and international production credits include *Beauty and the Beast*, *King David*, *The Lion King*, *Der Glöckner von Notre Dame*, Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida*, *Mary Poppins*, *On the Record*, *TARZAN®*, *High School Musical*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Frozen*. The company has collaborated with the nation's preeminent theatres to develop new stage titles including *The Jungle Book*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Freaky Friday* and *Hercules*. As a part of the recent acquisition of 21st Century Fox, Schumacher also heads the Buena Vista Theatrical banner which licenses Fox titles for stage adaptations including *Anastasia*; *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*; *Mrs. Doubtfire* and *The Devil Wears Prada*.

With more than 28 productions currently produced or licensed, a Disney musical is being performed professionally somewhere on the planet virtually every hour of the day.

With Music Theatre International, Schumacher developed a program to license select Disney theatrical titles for schools and amateur theatres resulting in over 500,000 performance around the world reaching audiences of more than 150 million.

He also oversees *Disney on Ice* productions produced in partnership with Feld Entertainment.

Schumacher's career at Disney began in Walt Disney Feature Animation producing the animated classic *The Rescuers Down Under*. He was ultimately named President of the division and oversaw some 21 animated features, including *The Lion King*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Mulan*, *Tarzan*, *Hercules* and *Lilo & Stitch*, and worked closely with Pixar on their first five films. Additional film projects include the in-cinema Fathom Events release of *Newsies* and serving as Executive Producer for the 2019 remake of *The Lion King*, the live-action *Beauty and the Beast* and the Disney Channel Original Movie *Freaky Friday*.

Prior to joining Disney, he was associate director of the 1987 Los Angeles Festival of Arts, presenting the American premiere of Cirque du Soleil and the English-language premiere of Peter Brook's epic *The Mahabharata*. Before that, he spent five years on staff at the Mark Taper Forum, served as a line producer on the 1984 Olympic Arts Festival, and served as assistant general manager of the Los Angeles Ballet.

Mr. Schumacher is the author of the book "*How Does the Show Go On? An Introduction to the Theater*," which will be released in an updated third edition in November. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the Board of Directors for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Tony® Administration Committee, the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, and was a longtime trustee of the Actors Fund, now serving as a member of the Chairman's Council. He is a former mentor for the TDF Open Doors program and serves as an adjunct professor at Columbia University. He currently serves as the Chairman of The Broadway League.



# JTF 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15  
8:00 PM



HOSTED BY  
LUCA PADOVAN



KRYSTINA ALABADO



KATY GERAGHTY



ERIKA HENNINGSEN



GREY HENSON



CORI JASKIER



TAYLOR IMAN JONES



MCKENNA MICHAEL



BENJ PASEK



JUSTIN PAUL



GRANT REYNOLDS



WREN RIVERA



KATE ROCKWELL



FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ



EVAN RUGGIERO



KYLE SELIG



JOE SERAFINI



MICHAEL WORDLY



DANIEL YEARWOOD

# MUSICALSINC.COM Store

## AN ALL-THINGS-THEATRE SHOP!

At the MUSICALSINC.COM Store, pick up official merchandise from an exciting range of Broadway shows, including *Frozen*, *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Mean Girls*, *The Lion King*, and more. Also available to purchase is special JTF merchandise that you won't be able to get anywhere else!

### WHEN TO SHOP

**Friday, January 13**

5:00pm – 9:00pm

**Saturday, January 14**

9:00am – 4:00pm

6:00pm – 10:00pm

**Sunday, January 15**

9:00am – 3:30pm

5:30pm – 8:00pm



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

## JUMPSTART RAINBOW HEART CROPPED SWEATSHIRT



This limited-edition Junior Theater Festival rainbow cropped sweatshirt will be for sale at the MUSICALSINC.COM Store.

All profits from this sweatshirt will be donated to JumpStart Theatre.

For more information regarding JumpStart Theatre, visit [schooltheatre.org/programs/jumpstart-theatre](http://schooltheatre.org/programs/jumpstart-theatre).



# 2023 Junior Theater Festival iTheatrics



## Timothy Allen McDonald

*Founder and Executive Producer*

Hi! I'm Tim, the Founder and Executive Producer of Junior Theater Festivals Worldwide. We serve over 15,000 musical theatre makers annually. I'm also the Founder and CEO of iTheatrics where I've had the honor of adapting over 125 musicals ranging from *Xanadu JR.* to *Annie JR.* An estimated 36 million people attend one of these productions annually, which is three times the number of people who see a Broadway show each year. That's pretty cool.

In 1997, I moved to New York City from Northern California hoping to become a musical theatre librettist. Thanks to hard work and a little bit of luck I've been able to write shows like 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 also reimaged as the world's first "Zoomsical" and one of the most produced musicals during the 2020-2021 pandemic.

I've also penned *Hans Christian Andersen* (Frank Loesser), which opened at Nashville Children's Theater February 20, 2020 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 and is now available on Audible.

In the 2021-2022 season I had one of the most remarkable professional years of my life. I produced Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* at NYC's famed New Victory theatre, *Between The Lines* opened Off-Broadway at the Tony Kiser Theatre, and *The Book Thief* debuted at the Octagon Theatre in the U.K. That's a lot of theatre in one season. Fortunately, people seemed to like the shows, even the critics.

I should also mention I'm 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. I'm dedicating this festival to our theatre teachers. Thank you for continuing to make the world a better place one musical at a time. Oh! Don't forget to follow me on Insta: TimMcDonaldNYC.



## Susan Fuller

*Production Manager*

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 is the mom of two school-agedingers, Beckett and Gus.



## Lindsay Weiner Lupi

*Festival Administrator*

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. Lindsay is a fitness enthusiast and breast cancer advocate. Proud mom of seven-year-old Tucker and five-year-old Talia! @lindsayariennelupi



## Steven G. Kennedy

*Director of Choreography*

I have done some interesting stuff (don't ask me about the 90s), taught some cool people (do ask me about teaching Alfre Woodard how to dance!), and traveled to some wacky places (however, my home in NYC will always be my favorite place). I am the proud husband of Tim McDonald and honored to be the caretaker of a pretty cool pup named Duch. I'd like to dedicate this 20th Anniversary festival in loving memory of my dear friend and mother-in-law, Marjorie McDonald, who treasured celebrating the magic of JTF with so many of you.



## 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 18 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 pursued a career in Theater Education with a Bachelor of Science in Theater Education from Troy University and continued pursuing a Master's in Theatre Education from Columbus State University. During her time at Troy, she served on the founding staff of Summer Spotlight. 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 Musical Theatre Intensive. She became Manhattan Youth's Education Director serving The Professional Performing Arts High School, Simon Baruch Junior High School, Yorkville East Middle School, and The Anderson School. Mary-Catherine is thrilled to have found her way back to iTheatrics as the Education Director. At iTheatrics, she works with various educational partnerships such as the Shubert Foundation/NYC Department of Education and Jumpstart Theatre; choreographs and adapts for the iTheatrics Academy; produces the iTheatrics Summer Teaching Intensive; develops curriculum connections, community connections, and additional educational resources for published ShowKits and Production Guides; and constructs the educational curriculum, workshops, experiences, and professional development track for the Junior Theater Festivals worldwide as well as the Junior Theater Celebrations. Mary-Catherine is grateful for the opportunity to help make the world a better place one musical at a time!



## 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

*Mainstage Director*

Named by Playbill.com as one of the top ten educators who are shaping Broadway, Marty is currently working as an Education Consultant with Simon Fuller's XIX Entertainment, iTheatrics, and the Junior Theatre Group. Marty served as the iTheatrics Director of Education for 15 years where he had the honor of developing and directing over 60 new educational titles throughout the world, including projects in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, China, and the United States. He holds a graduate degree in Theatre for Youth from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and is the co-author of the book, *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*.



## Richard Frazier

*Assistant Mainstage Director*

Richard graduated from Columbus State University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Theatre Education. He is currently the Artistic Director of Theatre Macon (Georgia) where he recently launched their Education brand which provides theatre and arts education opportunities to youth and adults in his community. Before Theatre Macon, Richard worked as a high school Theatre and Dance educator for 7 years. He serves as the Assistant Chapter Director of Georgia Thespians, in addition to working with JumpStart Theatre as the professional development liaison between iTheatrics and the Alliance Theatre here in Atlanta.



## Joseph Ayala

*Director of Information Technology*

Joseph began his career 27 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 the proud uncle of Nat and AJ!



## Rob Rokicki

*Music Associate*

Rob Rokicki is a NYC based artist & educator. He is the composer/lyricist & orchestrator of the Broadway musical, *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*

(Lortel, Off-Broadway Alliance, and three Drama Desk nominations, book by Joe Tracz). Projects: the graphic novel musical, *Monstersongs* (NAMT); *Experience Marianas* (O'Neill semi-finalist). *Punk Rock Girl* (with Joe Iconis); *The Real Gemma Jordan* (with Anna K. Jacobs); *Strange Tails* (Ars Nova); *Breathe* (book by Timothy McDonald & Jodi Picoult). He is a two-time Larson Award finalist & BMI writing workshop alum. He believes in accessibility for creators & audiences. [robokicki.com](http://robokicki.com), @rrokicks



## Laura Jo Schuster

*Special Teams Coordinator*

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 Mertzlufft is a NYC based composer/arranger most known for his viral sensations *The Thanksgiving Musical* on *The Late Late Show* with James Corden, launching the

TikTok *Ratatouille* musical movement, and was the Executive Producer, Composer and Music Supervisor, composer and arranger for *For You, Paige*, the world's first TikTok commissioned musical, and *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical*. Daniel also wrote "The Meaning Of Pride (Be True To You)" for Nickelodeon's *Pride 2021* collection performed by drag queen and activist Nina West. Original works include: *Fashion Show*, *Breathe*, and *Dot and the Kangaroo*, commissioned by MTI Australasia and iTheatrics.



## Jiana J. Odland

*Company Manager, Director of Programming*

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. 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 produces the Junior Theater Celebrations. As the DEI Advisor, Jiana produces, writes, and hosts events 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 more inclusive and accessible theater and is committed to creating equitable space for young theatre artists, and is studying diversity, equity, and inclusion with Cornell University. In 2018, Jiana choreographed a 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, 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

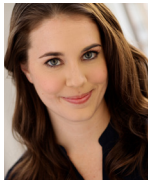


## Tammy Dinger

*Hotel Coordinator*

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.



## Marianne Phelps

*General Manager*

Marianne is the associate editor for, and longtime lover of, iTheatrics! This is her fourth 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 at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY.



## Rebecca Marlowe

*Administrative Associate*

Rebecca Marlowe is thrilled to be back at JTF for the 20th Anniversary Celebration! National Tour: *Billy Elliot: The Musical* (Swing/Tracy Atkinson) Favorite performances: *Anything Goes* (Mrs. Harcourt), *Small Town Story* (Gwen), *Urinetown* (Little Sally), *A Little Night Music* (Frederika) *The Pirates of Penzance* (Isabel/Dance Captain), *Sister Act* (Sister Mary Lazarus). Huge thanks to the full iTheatrics team for letting her be a part of such a special workplace and family.



The good folks who make the world a better place, one musical at a time!  
From left; Marianne Phelps, Daniel J. Mertzlufft, Cindy Ripley, Steven G. Kennedy, Joseph Ayala, Rob Rokicki, Susan Fuller, Mary-Catherine Chambliss, Timothy Allen McDonald, Lindsay Weiner Lupi, Marty Johnson, Jiana J. Odland, Rebecca Marlowe, Laura Jo Schuster (missing, Tammy Dinger and Richard Frazier)  
Photo: Seth Jolles Photography ©2022

## 2023 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 and Sacramento. He is one of the key supervisors on the Apiac 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 10th 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.



### Ruth Hutson

#### Lighting Designer

Favorite companies for opera designs include Washington National, San Diego, Virginia, Amarillo, Indianapolis, Opera Company of Philadelphia, and Spoleto Festival, USA. Recently, Ruth enjoyed designing at London's O2 Arena for *The Gift of Music*. Previously, the show (a collaboration with Dame Julie Andrews) enjoyed great success in a national tour culminating at the Hollywood Bowl. Ruth makes her home in Savannah, GA, where she is on faculty with the Savannah College of Art and Design.



### Matt Kraus

#### Sound Designer

Broadway: *Liza's at 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 2008-2023. 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.

## Meet the Team



### 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 10 years, and she is the office manager for the company. Jay is proud to have two grandchildren from his oldest daughter, Payton: Mason (9) and Brynlee (7). Jay's youngest daughter, Jaycie, is 25 and is newly engaged to be married.



### Marion Ayers

*A2/Audio SM*

Marion (she/her) is a freelance sound engineer based in NYC where she works primarily on new works. Past productions include: *Once Upon A One More Time* (Shakespeare Theater Company), *How To Defend Yourself* (Humana Festival, 2019), *Evocation to Visible Appearance* (Humana Festival, 2018). She holds a BFA in Sound Design from the Peter Sargent Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. In her spare time she enjoys finding 24 hour diners, perusing modern art museums, and film photography.



### William Brown

*Associate Lighting Designer*

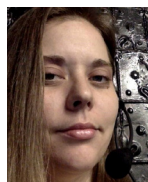
William Brown is a Lighting Designer for theatre, dance, opera, and live events. He's excited to return to JTF for his 7th year. Recently he has designed *Dogfight*; *Steel Magnolias*; *The Little Mermaid* (Sierra Rep); *A Chorus Line* (New London Barn Playhouse); *Orfeo* (Limón Dance Company). In addition to design he's a frequent Associate and Assistant Designer having worked both Off-Broadway and at regional theatre companies. Most recently he worked on CompanyXIV's *Nutcracker Rouge*, Chase Brock's *Big Shot*, and Master Voice's *Carmen* directed Sammi Cannold. BFA, SCAD; MFA, Boston University. You can view his work at [williambrownlighting.com](http://williambrownlighting.com) IG: @william.mbrown



### 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.



### Alison Carroll

*Lead A2*

Alison has been a working member of the NYC theater community for over a decade. She is currently Head Electrician for "The Play That Goes Wrong" and has been since its move in 2019.



### Alyssa Cooper

*Assistant Event Manager*

Alyssa Cooper is a proud graduate of Columbus State University, where she has received her B.S.Ed and MEd in Theatre Education. Outside of JTF, Alyssa is a high school theatre teacher at Peach County High School in Fort Valley, Georgia and is a Chapter Board Member of Georgia Thespians. Recently, Alyssa has worked on *White Christmas*, *Bystander 9/11*, *Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, *Something Rotten!*, and *Bright Star*. Outside of working on shows, Alyssa has enjoyed working at local theatre summer camps where she gets to focus on her first love, technical theatre. She is absolutely over the moon to be working with the Junior Theatre Festival this year and hope that everyone has a chance to learn something new!



### Tyler Crow

*Assistant Event Manager*

Tyler Crow (he/him) is an AEA Stage Manager based in New York City and is thrilled to be returning to JTF! Off-Broadway: *Good Enemy*, *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas*. National Tour: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Prom*. Regional: *JOY The Musical* (World Premier - George Street Playhouse), as well as projects with the Alliance Theatre, Theatre Aspen, and Boston Ballet. Love to Maddy, my family, and those who have taught me, always.



## MK Flynt

*Assistant Event Manager*

Mary Kathryn has had the great pleasure to work on 11 Broadway shows – including *Spamalot*, *Billy Elliot*, *Les Miserables*, and *Annie*. She has stage managed many off-Broadway shows, workshops, and events. She is the proud Mom to Sam, Sarah, and Maribee. And grew up in Atlanta!

## Tommy Hague

*Lighting Programmer*



## Michael Herwitz

*Script Supervisor*

Michael Herwitz is living the dream being back at JTF, after first attending the festival as a student with iTheatrics in 2007. Back then, he was Thomas O'Malley in *Aristocrats KIDS* in the Orange Pod. Now, he is a director, producer, and general manager of new plays and musicals in New York. He is forever grateful to his friends, teachers, and mentors, past and present, who showed him that a life in the theater was possible.



## Shirlee Idzakovich

*MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate*

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

## Andrew Kutrufis

*Production Assistant for Carpenters*



## 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 EA, Local 764, and SITI Company.



## Chris Luner

*Assistant Event Manager*

Chris Luner is thrilled to join JTF for their 20th Anniversary! Chris is the Artistic Director of Upper Darby Summer Stage, one of the nation's oldest youth theatre programs. Outside Summer Stage, Chris is a Production Manager. Credits include Broadway; Ivo Van Hove's *West Side Story*, *Pretty Woman*, *Indecent*, *The Illusionists: Witness The Impossible*. National Tours; *On Beckett*, *The King & I*. Regional; *Becoming Nancy*, *Roman Holiday*. Off-Broadway; *A Commercial Jingle For Regina Comet*, *Imogen Says Nothing*, *Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Accidentally Brave*. Chris produced *Ranch Water*, an Indie award-winning film. [www.chrisluner.com](http://www.chrisluner.com)



## Don Martin

*Head Carpenter*

Don Martin has been a Stagehand since 1966.



## Kyle Brewster McGinley

*Merchandise Director*

Kyle 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, The McKittrick Hotel and luxury NYC real estate. This is his 8th year managing operations and designing merchandise for the JTF Pop-up Store!



## Justin G. Nelson

*MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate*

Justin G. Nelson is a successful performer and creative based in New York City. He was recently seen in the concert reading of *Jelly's Last Jam* at Long Wharf Theatre. When he's not on stage or auditioning, he's running his brand agency, Nelson Design Lab, or blogging about plant based nutrition with his brand Earthy and Cultured. Justin is what you would consider a multi-hyphenate. [www.justingnelson.com](http://www.justingnelson.com)

## Meet the Team



### **Brenda Newman**

#### *Information Booth Specialist*

Brenda has been associated with JTF since 2007. She has worked in community and professional theatre in Georgia and Kentucky as a director, producer, and business manager. Currently, she serves as a finance technician for the City of Dahlonega in the North Georgia Mountains. She is excited to be returning to JTF and looks forward to seeing everyone at the Info Booth.



### **Sean Newman**

#### *Information Booth Specialist*

Sean Newman has been working in theatre for 23 years. In that time, he has been involved with companies across the North Georgia area, in Atlanta, and in New York City. Since receiving his B.F.A. in Design and Technology for Theatre, Sean has spent his time producing work independently and working as a Technical Director and Designer at several schools across North Georgia. This is his 16th year at JTF and 4th festival working as part of the Info Booth team.



### **Jason O'Neal**

#### *Sound Engineer Associate*

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.



### **Troy Parker**

#### *House Manager*

Troy Parker is an Atlanta based actor, creative and performance driven Marketing, Communications, and Development professional. He received his BFA in Musical Theatre Performance from Reinhardt University. Locally in Atlanta, he has performed at The Atlanta Lyric Theatre, 7 Stages, Fabrefaction Theater, The Wallace Buice Theatre Company, Stone Mountain Park and Telltale Children's Theatre. He has over eighteen years of Administrative and Management experience along with nine years of Marketing, Public Relations and Development/Sales experience. He has worked as the Marketing Coordinator and Filming Liaison for Herschend Family Entertainment's Stone Mountain Park, the Office Manager for the Department of Theatre and Performance Studies at Kennesaw State University, and as the Assistant General Manager of the Mable House Barnes Amphitheatre. Currently he works full time as the Director of Corporate Relations for United Way of Greater Atlanta. At The Lyric, he also worked as a Stage Manager before transitioning over to serving the fan-FREAKIN-tastic and delightful patrons of the theater as the House Manager.

### **Honor Honziali Pickering**

#### *MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate*

My name is Honor Honziali, I am a 20 year old artist from New York, and I am studying Fashion Design.



### **Tim Prestridge**

#### *VIP Coordinator*

Tim is currently the Senior Executive Director, Development at National Public Radio (NPR). Prior to NPR, he spent 10 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.





## David Reingold

*Assistant Lighting Designer*

David Reingold is thrilled to be back at JTF. He attended the tech track at JTF for six years before aging out of the Festival, at which point he went off to get his BFA in Lighting Design from Penn State. He is now back home in Atlanta and working around town with companies including Georgia Ensemble, Out Front, and Atlanta Lyric. Many thanks to his mentors Ruth and Tommy, and to all the folks at the Festival for creating such a marvelous weekend.



## 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.



## Kevin Semancik

*Sound/Outbound Mixer*

Kevin is a Sound Designer and Audio Engineer from Cincinnati, OH. He currently serves as Production Supervisor for Memorial Hall OTR, a historic music venue in the heart of Cincinnati. He works regularly as a Sound Designer for the theatre program at Xavier University and the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company. Kevin is thrilled to be returning to JTF Atlanta!



## Kushal Shankar

*Auditions Manager and Discussion Leader*

Kush Shankar is a New York City-based comedian, singer, scientist, and JTF Alumnus. Kush is so excited to be returning for his tenth year of Junior Theater Festival! In JTFs past, Kush has been a participant, volunteer, intern, pod leader, production assistant, discussion leader, and COVID-19 Safety Consultant. If you see him running around, say hi! @kushkushshankar



## Sara Sonnier

*Assistant Event Manager*

Sara is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music where she studied Stage Management. Her favorite shows at CCM were *Our Town* (Stage Manager), *The Magic Flute* (Stage Manager), and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Asst. Stage Manager). This is her fourth JTF and has spent two summers working on the Choreography Video Shoot. She is now attending the University of Cincinnati Law School, and she is excited for a break to be at JTF. Happy 20 years of JTF and jazz hands!



## Alexandra Valley

*Social Media Content Specialist*

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.



## Amy Valley

*Volunteer Coordinator*

Amy, returning to JTF for her eleventh year, has extensive experience in community theater as a production assistant and volunteer coordinator. Amy credits her years of experience at Walt Disney World for fostering her knack for organization, efficiency, and audience management. Amy holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of South Florida. Thanks to all the friends, kids' friends, and family that come back year after year and make this the best weekend of the year.



## Katie Valley

*Assistant Facilities Director*

Katie Valley is serving as Assistant Facilities Director at this year's festival. She's currently studying Hospitality Business at Michigan State University to prepare for a career in Event Planning. From her first on-stage role in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at age 7 to her most recent role in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, Katie has always had a love for musical theater and the theater community. She is excited to return this year for her 10th Junior Theater Festival!

## Meet the Team



### Allison Van Etten

#### Publicist

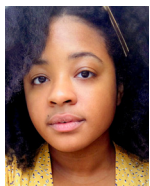
Allison Van Etten is principal at Ravenscroft Public Relations (RPR), a public relations firm with a focus on the arts. This season, in addition to its work with iTheatrics and the Junior Theater Festivals, RPR has led campaigns for classical clarinetist Anthony McGill, violinist Rachel Barton Pine,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



### Andrew Volzer

#### Event Manager

Andrew is thrilled to be returning to JTF! He is currently on the 1st National Tour of *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*. Graduated from the University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) with a BFA in Stage Management. Previous iTheatrics credits include: Choreography Video Shoots, Freddie G. Fellowship, and the Summer Academy. Other credits include: Kentucky Opera and *America's Got Talent*. Member of AEA.



### Sajda Waite

#### MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate

Sajda is a born and raised NY theatre artist with a Masters in Thespianage and purveyor of black excellence. She is a co-founder and media producer of the media company Showdogs, which is committed to creating accessible art that showcases the diversity in storytelling. You can catch Showdog's latest award winning web-series *Wormholes*, on Youtube at wormholes.tv

### Mike Wood

#### Master Electrician

An accomplished designer, educator, and technician, Mike's work has been seen on countless stages, screens, and in classrooms throughout the United States. Mike has served on the design and technology facilities of Marymount Manhattan College, The Collegiate School NYC, Hillsborough Community College, and Howard W. Blake School of the Arts. MFA: University of Memphis; BA: University of South Florida. He currently works as the Director of Production and Resident Lighting Designer at City Springs Theatre in Atlanta, GA. Mike is a proud member of United Scenic Artists Local USA829. [www.mikewoodld.com](http://www.mikewoodld.com) // @mikewoodld



### Marcus Woollen

#### Festival Photographer

Former actor + singer, now happily working at MTI, 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 he is thrilled to have seen so many wonderful performances through his camera lenses over the years.





**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 • Cody Denson • Ben Crews • Jeremy Barfield • Brandon Lamons • Soloman King • Cameron Perry



**RPM** (Social Media/Marketing) is a full-service agency tailored for live entertainment and experiences.

Our team works directly with clients on campaigns that are effective and progressive in both strategy and creativity.

Clients include the Broadway shows *Hamilton*, *Chicago*, *Moulin Rouge!*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, and also Madison Square Garden Entertainment, and others.

**RPM Team:**

Social Media Director – Caitlyn Gallip • Content Director – Avery Brunkus



**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: *Annie*; *Blippi! The Wonderful World Tour*; *Cocomelon Live!*; *Fat Ham*; *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*; *Monet’s Garden: The Immersive Experience*; *New York, New York: A New Musical*; *Ohio State Murders*; *Pictures from Home*; *Pixar Putt*; *RiseNY*; *Sesame Street the Musical*; *Water for Elephants*; *Wollman Rink NYC*; and many more.

**Super Awesome Friends:**

Director of Video Production – Scott Lupi • Switchers – Nicholas Guldner, Scott Lupi • Line Producers – Jason Noricks, Kayla Williamson • Camera Operators – Jensen Chambers, David Anthony Hall, Aaron Leong, Giovanni Enrique Quintanar, Kristina R. Rodriguez, Hai-Tao Wu • Editors – Jensen Chambers, Nicholas Guldner, Kayla Williamson • Virtual Experience Community Managers – Rebecca Prowler, Holly Wasson, Daniela Leguisamo

## 2023 Junior Theater Festival

# Adjudicators, Workshop Leaders, & Special Guests



### Krystina Alabado

Krystina Alabado was last seen on Broadway starring as Gretchen Wieners in *Mean Girls*. Additional Broadway credits include *American Psycho* and Green Day's *American Idiot*. National Tours: *Evita* (The Mistress), *American Idiot*, and *Spring Awakening*. Off-Broadway: *The Mad Ones* (Samantha Brown), *This Ain't No Disco* (Atlantic Theatre Company), David Bowie's *Lazarus* (NYTW), *Camp Wanatachi* (La MaMa). Selected Regional: *Kiss My Aztec* (Hartford Stage), *Miss You Like Hell* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Mystic Pizza* (Ogunquit Playhouse), *Burn All Night* (A.R.T.), *Songs For A New World* (NCT). TV/Film: *Better Nate Than Ever* (Disney+), *First Reformed* (A24), "God Friend Me" (CBS), "Mecha Builders" (HBOMax), "Tyrant" (FX), "Voltron" (Netflix). Cast Albums: *The Mad Ones*, *A Killer Party*, *Goosebumps the Musical*, *Star Crossed* and more! Listen on Spotify and follow Krystina on all social media platforms @krystinaalabado



### 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



### 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 faculty member at the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.



### Kikau Alvaro

Kikau Alvaro (he/him) is an Associate Professor of Musical Theatre and the Dean of the Ira Brind School of Theater Arts at University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Kikau received his MFA in Musical Theatre from San Diego State University. He has been a JTF Workshop Leader/Adjudicator since 2013 at West, Texas, and Atlanta. Kikau lives in Philadelphia with his husband Derrick, and their puppy, Boggnes (named after Sierra Boggess and Laura Osnes). Follow his journey on Instagram @kikautown



### Lindsay Anderson

Lindsay Erin Anderson is a New York City based lyricist and book writer. Recent credits include script adaptation for Disney Theatrical Group and MTI's *Finding Nemo Jr.* and *Finding Nemo KIDS*. Off-Broadway: co-writer of *A Never-Ending Line* (Players Theatre). Other writing credits include *Down Under Rescue Sanctuary* and *The Game Room* (Brooklyn Children's Theatre); *The Jane Goodall: Experience*, and *Branded* (Philadelphia Fringe Festival). She is a graduate of Dickinson College and Headlong Performance Institute and a proud member of the Tony-honored BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop, The Dramatist's Guild, and Maestra Music Inc. Lindsay was the recipient of the 2018 BMI Foundation Jean Banks Award for her musical, *One Swipe Away*.



## Peter Avery

A theater artist educator for over 25 years, Peter is the Director of Theater for the NYC Department of Education, overseeing all aspects of theater education for the largest school system in the country. Avery creates teacher training PDs and produces student initiatives, including the Broadway League Teen Diversity Theatre Management Initiative and the Digital Theatre Project. Last year, he launched the first-ever innovative All-In(clusive) All City Teen Theatre Ensemble. The All-city musical theater company – comprised of diverse public school students of all races, gender identities, abilities, and disabilities – collaborate, generate, and perform an original devised musical. He founded the Education Department for Disney Theatrical and worked as a teaching artist back in the day in Washington, DC, and NYC. Avery continues to present and guest lecture on theater education internationally and received a Fellowship to work with Russian artists in St. Petersburg in 2017.



## Michael J. Bobbitt

Michael J. Bobbitt is an award-winning theater director, choreographer, and playwright. He is the Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council, the highest-ranking government official for arts and culture in Massachusetts. He is the former Artistic Director of New Repertory Theater and Adventure Theater in Maryland. Bobbitt trained at Harvard Business School's Executive Education, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, and National Arts Strategies. As a director and choreographer, he has worked nationally and internationally. As a writer his plays have been published by Concord Theatricals, Broadway Publishing, and Plays for Young Audiences.



## Derek Bowley

Having been a part of the JTF family since the first festival in 2003, Derek is ecstatic to be celebrating the 20th anniversary! Derek has worked all over the country with iTheatrics on innumerable projects as a music director, teaching artist, and writer. In 2022, Derek shifted gears in his full-time work, following his passion for food. He is now a Lead Teacher with the FRESHFARM FoodPrints program in Washington, DC, and he appeared in an episode of Food Network's *Outchefs'd*.



## Jacob Brent

Jacob Brent is the Interim Musical Theatre Program Director at the University of the Arts. Before life in academia, he spent ten years as a Broadway performer, a professional director and choreographer, and a teacher. Jacob holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts and Dance and a M.F.A. in Musical Theatre from San Diego State University. Jacob is best known for his portrayal of Mr. Mistoffelees in the Broadway, London and DVD productions of CATS. He adapted the high school editions of CHICAGO and A CHORUS LINE and has directed the premiere productions of LEGALLY BLONDE JR., RENT school edition, and AVENUE Q school edition as well as many other iTheatrics productions.



## Jeff Calhoun

Broadway: Disney's *Newsies* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Director), *Bonnie & Clyde*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Grey Gardens*, Deaf West's *Big River* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Revival of a Musical), *Brooklyn*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Grease* (Tony Award Nomination for Best Choreography), *Tommy Tune Tonight*, and *The Will Rogers Follies*. Tours, Off-Broadway, and International: *Between The Lines*, Dolly Parton's *9 to 5* (US National Tour, London, and Australia) and Disney's *High School Musical 1 & 2*. Mr. Calhoun is an Associate Artist at The Ford's Theater in Washington D.C. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Covenant House International. He recently directed *A Night of Covenant House Stars* (2020 and 2021) on AmazonPrime. Twitter and Instagram: @thejeffcalhoun



## Paul Brewster McGinley

Paul Brewster McGinley is a New York City based theatre artist, educator, and administrator driven to create aesthetic and educational experiences for youth and families. He is Director of Teaching & Learning for Roundabout Theatre Company ([roundabouttheatre.org/education](http://roundabouttheatre.org/education)) and Managing Director of Trusty Sidekick Theater Company ([trustysidekick.org](http://trustysidekick.org)). He has also taught at City College of New York and as a teaching artist for Disney Theatrical Group. Paul has numerous producing, directing and stage management credits at regional and off-Broadway theatres. BFA, NYU Tisch. MA, NYU Steinhardt.

## Meet the Team



### Matt Hagmeier Curtis

Matt Hagmeier Curtis is the Content & Marketing Director at the Educational Theatre Association. Over the past decade, he has contributed to the development of over 50 plays and musicals through his work with Disney Theatrical Productions and iTheatrics. Matt received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of Northern Colorado, where he is currently on the remote staff of the graduate school. Matt is honored to have worked on President Obama's Committee of the Arts and the Humanities' Turnaround Arts program.



### Frank DiLella

Since joining NY1 in 2004, DiLella has interviewed many legendary artists including Tom Hanks, Vanessa Redgrave, Bono, Nathan Lane, Elton John, Liza Minnelli, Patti LuPone, Bette Midler, Bernadette Peters, Hugh Jackman, Tom Stoppard, Lin-Manuel Miranda, James Earl Jones, Chita Rivera, Jane Fonda, Ben Vereen, Angela Lansbury, Lady Gaga, Tony Kushner and Andrew Lloyd Webber. In the spring of 2018, DiLella was honored with his first of 8 Emmy Awards in the category - best News Magazine Program for his Special on the Broadway musical "Come From Away." In the fall of 2021, DiLella was awarded 2 more Emmys – 1 for a documentary special he hosted about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the other for hosting and producing the 2020 Roger Rees Awards during the COVID-19 pandemic. And in 2022, DiLella received 5 additional Emmys - all for his work with ON STAGE and his reopening of Broadway coverage. He's the recipient of 6 New York Press Club Awards including 1 in 2019 for his Special on the Broadway revival of "Angels in America" starring Nathan Lane and Andrew Garfield – and another in 2020 for his Special on "Network" starring Bryan Cranston. In addition to filing reports on the Broadway and off-Broadway scenes, DiLella has traveled internationally to cover theater in the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany and Canada. Over the years, DiLella has acted as a contributing correspondent for the Tony Awards, the Olivier Awards at London's Royal Albert Hall, Playbill, MANHATTAN Magazine and Broadway Direct, and has given lectures on entertainment and journalism at Hofstra University and The American Theatre Wing. He has also appeared as an entertainment correspondent for "Morning Joe", BBC, The Tamron Hall Show, Andy Cohen's "Watch What Happens Live", AOL BUILD Series, Sirius XM, "The Early Show" on CBS, CTV, and Al Jazeera TV. In the spring of 2020, he hosted the 65th Annual Drama Desk Awards. In January of 2022, Frank executive produced and hosted the documentary – "Reopening: The Broadway Revival" for Great Performances on PBS. He's made multiple big and small screen appearances as "himself" including – Ryan Murphy's

"The Prom" – opposite Meryl Streep (NETFLIX), "Smash" (NBC), "The Little Voice" (APPLE TV+), "Gossip Girl" (HBO MAX) and "The Forty Year Old Version" (SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL / NETFLIX). A strong advocate of arts education, DiLella currently serves on the board of The Roger Rees Awards and is a part of the selection committee for the annual Clive Barnes Award and Foundation – which honors talented young professionals in the artistic fields of dance and theater. DiLella received a degree from Fordham University at Lincoln Center and has since returned to his alma mater as an adjunct professor teaching theater journalism.



### 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 [www.khaliadavis.com](http://www.khaliadavis.com)!



### Marissa Davis

Marissa Davis is a New York City-based voice teacher, writer, music director and performer. She currently teaches at Professional Performing Arts School and has worked as a music director/teaching artist at several other children's theatre organizations in Manhattan. She has served as composer/lyricist for several youth-devised musicals such as *smARTS* and *Once Upon a Pandemic*, and has also served as music director, arranger, and creative consultant to several one-woman shows. Most recently, her writing was selected for TMI Project's Stories for Choice event centering on reproductive injustice in marginalized communities.



### Francine Espiritu

Francine (she/her/hers) is excited to be back at JTF! She currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty Member for the Department of Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan College. Recent credits include *Mary Poppins*, *Footloose* (MUNY). *The Tap Dance Kid*, *A Chorus Line* New York City Center, National/International Tour. Choreography credits include *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Assoc. Choreographer for Broadway/National Tour) *Unknown Soldier* (Assoc. Choreographer at

Playwrights Horizons) *A Chorus Line* (Asst. Choreographer for Hollywood Bowl, National Tour), *Guys & Dolls* (Choreographer at Pace University) @francine.espiritu



## Amanda Flynn

Amanda is a voice teacher whose clients have been nominated for Grammy, Tony, Lucille Lortel, Outer Critic Circle, Drama Desk, and Helen Hayes Awards. She is on the voice faculty in the musical theatre program at Pace University where she also serves as the Assistant Program Head. Amanda was the Production Vocal Coach for the Broadway shows *The Lightning Thief* and *Be More Chill*, and was a cast member of the Broadway shows *Wicked* and *Mamma Mia*. She holds an MM in musical theatre as well as an Advanced Certificate in Vocal Pedagogy, both from NYU. She is a PAVA-Recognized Vocologist and the author of the book *So You Want to Sing Musical Theatre, Updated and Expanded Edition*.  
www.amandaflynnvoice.com



## Shantal Francis

Shantal is an Elementary Music Teacher based in Miami, FL. Prior to graduating from Belmont University, she had the privilege of touring internationally with the nonprofit music outreach organization called *The Young Americans*. Shantal also traveled to the *Shanti Bhavan* residential school of Bangalore, India as a teaching artist specializing in Musical Theater. Shantal is passionate about teaching music from a global lens as well as seeing how the arts can transform a student's confidence and self-esteem.



## Katy Geraghty

Katy Geraghty is an actor in New York City most recently seen as Little Red in "Into The Woods" on Broadway. After graduating from UMass Amherst, Katy made her Broadway debut in the original cast of "Groundhog Day" in 2017. Since then she has worked all over the country and internationally; including a year at Oregon Shakespeare Festival playing Tracy Turnblad in "Hairspray," debuting the new, bound-for-Broadway musical "Bliss" at The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle, and performing in the North American premiere of "& Juliet" at the Princess of Wales in Toronto.



## Max Gonzalez

Max is an actor, singer, and dancer based in Brooklyn. He is a graduate from the New Studio on Broadway at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. National Tour: *Three Musketeers* and *Romeo & Juliet* (The Acting Company)  
Regional: *For You, Paige* (Symphony Space), *Cinderella*

(Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *The Fantasticks*, *West Side Story*, and *Joseph... Dreamcoat* (Tibbits Opera House). Max is thrilled to be back JTF! Socials: @Maxgonzo13 and maxantoniogonzalez.com



## Erika Henningsen

Erika Henningsen was last seen starring as Cady Heron in the original Broadway cast of the Tony nominated musical *Mean Girls*. She debuted on Broadway as Fantine in *Les Miserables* opposite Ramin Karimloo. She is currently starring as Joy Mangano in the original musical *JOY*, premiering at George Street Playhouse this December. Other credits include Beth in the original musical *DINER* with music by Sheryl Crow at Signature Theater and Kim Ravenal in the PBS televised *SHOW BOAT: Live from Lincoln Center* with the New York Philharmonic. She can be seen recurring on the critically acclaimed Peacock series *GIRLS5EVA* as well as the hit Amazon comedy, *HARLEM*. Erika recently debuted her solo show *Raise Your Standards* in a sold out run at The Feinstein's Nikko in San Francisco. Upcoming projects include leading voice work in the popular animation series, *Hazbin Hotel* in production with A24. Broadway.com 2018 Star of the Year and Outer Critics Circle Award Nominee.



## Grey Henson

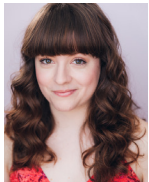
Grey received Tony, Drama Desk, and Helen Hayes Award nominations for his performance as Damian Hubbard in *Mean Girls* on Broadway. He made his Broadway debut playing Elder McKinley in *The Book of Mormon*, having originated the role on the First National Tour. On television he guest-starred in the comedy series "Girls5Eva", and was seen in the feature film, "A Journal for Jordan" directed by Denzel Washington. Grey received his BFA in acting and musical theatre from the Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama in Pittsburgh. He is a Macon, GA native.



## Taylor Iman Jones

Taylor is currently playing Catherine Parr in her third Broadway musical, *SIX*. Last summer she played Andy Sachs in the Broadway bound musical, *The Devil Wears Prada*. Her other credits include *Head over Heels* and *Groundhog Day* on Broadway. The National Tours of *Hamilton*, and *American Idiot*. And Off Broadway and regionally she appeared in *Scotland, PA* at Roundabout, the Golden Globe's *The Tale of Despereaux*, and *The Who's Tommy* at The Kennedy Center. but most importantly She is so excited to be back at JTF!!!

## Meet the Team



### Cori Jaskier

Cori is so excited to be at JTF! She is a graduate of NYU/Tisch School of the Arts. Most recently seen in the ensemble of For You Paige on Tiktok. Past projects: 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.



### Conor Keelan

Conor Keelan is an award-winning orchestrator, music producer, and guitarist. His arrangements have been played by orchestras around the world and sung by Patti LaBelle, Jon Batiste, Harry Connick Jr., and Jessie Mueller, among others. Most recently, Conor orchestrated and associate music supervised the world premier of *Spirited Away* at the Imperial Theatre in Tokyo. Select credits: (Streaming) *Encore!*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *Estella Scrooge* (B'Way) *A Bronx Tale* (Off-B'Way) *The Jury*, *Merrily We Roll Along*. [www.cmkeelan.com](http://www.cmkeelan.com)



### Robert (Bob) Lenzi

Robert Lenzi was most recently on Broadway in *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical*. Past Broadway credits: Miles Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting*, *South Pacific*. Off Broadway: *Dogfight* (Second Stage Theater), *Hello*

*Again* (Transport Group). Regional: *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Guthrie Theater), *Soul* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Assassins* (Yale Repertory Theatre), *A Sign of the Times* (Goodspeed Opera House), *Tuck Everlasting* (Alliance Theater), *Road Show* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), *Into the Woods* (Baltimore Center Stage and Westport Country Playhouse). Film: *The Last Airbender*, *Sex and the City 2*, *The Happening*, *The Village*. Television: "Monsterland", "Orange is the New Black", "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt", "The Good Fight", "Deception", "Blue Bloods", "One Life to Live", "Live From Lincoln Center", "Clubhouse". Robert received a BFA in Acting from Carnegie Mellon University. @bob.lenzi

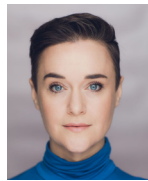


### Kate Leonard

Kate Leonard is a lyricist and librettist whose recent work includes *Dot and the Kangaroo Jr.*, *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical*, and *Breathe*. Kate was a 2022 finalist for the Kleban Prize and Fred Ebb

Award, and her work has premiered at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall Citywide, The Atlantic Festival, and her

friends' living rooms. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and a member of the Dramatists Guild and the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Advanced Workshop. [www.yourfriendkate.com](http://www.yourfriendkate.com)



### Rhyn McLemore

Rhyn McLemore is a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama and has been a proud member of the Actor's Equity Association for over 20 years. Her acting and singing career has taken her all over the world: from off-broadway, to dozens of regional theaters, to Europe and Asia, and ultimately to her current home-base of Atlanta. Select theatrical credits include: Off-Broadway: *Dot* directed by Kenny Leon (The Billie Holiday Theatre) and *A World to Win* (The York Theatre). Regional: *Violet* and *The Crucible* (Gallery Players); *The Sound of Music* (Sierra Repertory Theatre); *The Spitfire Grill* (Cape Fear Regional Theatre); *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Our Town* (West Virginia Public Theatre); *The Crucible* and *The Comedy of Errors* (North Carolina Shakespeare Festival). Atlanta credits: *Ever After*, *Darlin' Cory*, and *A Christmas Carol* (Alliance Theatre); *Roe and The Cake* (Horizon Theatre); *Fun Home*, *Stupid F\*\*king Bird*, and *Company* (Actor's Express); *Cinderella*, *The Bridges of Madison County* and *Split in Three* (Aurora Theatre); *Safety Net* (Theatrical Outfit); *Dot* (Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre). In addition to her performing career, Rhyn is a monologue coach with MTCA ([www.mtcollegeauditions.com](http://www.mtcollegeauditions.com)), specializing in prepping/coaching students for the college audition process. She also works with American Voices, a nonprofit organization that conducts cross-cultural engagement with audiences in over 110 nations worldwide. Through this organization, Rhyn has traveled to Vietnam, where she served as an adjunct professor with the Ho Chi Minh Conservatory. She has also traveled to Pakistan, where she directed (and performed with) a cast of Pakistani artists, touring through Islamabad, Lahore, and Karachi. Upcoming (summer, 2023): *The Humans* at Theatrical Outfit.



### Nina Meehan

Nina Meehan is an award-winning director, playwright and producer, and a dedicated arts educator, with expertise in creativity, youth development and nonprofit management. Nina's theatrical work for young people as founder of the largest TYA company in California has reached more than 1 million kids and adults and toured nationally and internationally. Some of her most recent credits include: the adaptation of Chelsea Clinton's book, "She Persisted," Grace Lin's "Where the Mountain Meets the Moon," and the New York Times bestselling "Goodnight Goodnight Construction Site" series. Meehan also had the honor of being an invited speaker for the National Endowment for the Arts in Partnership with TYA/



USA in 2019, where she served as Board President for 5 years. Nina has been a featured speaker for the Conscious Leadership Group (Guest Speaker with Diana Chapman), EO (Entrepreneur Organization), at Visioni, the largest festival in the world focussed Theatre for the Very Young in Bologna, Italy and many other organizations and podcasts. She works across the country as a communication and creativity coach and speaker. Nina holds a BS in theatre from Northwestern University and a Master's of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco and is currently working on her PhD in Creativity Studies. She is also a certified yoga instructor. Her work has been spotlighted in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, American Theatre Magazine, San Francisco Chronicle, Barron's, Red Tricycle, ABC News, NBC News, and CBS News.



## McKenna Michael

McKenna has been directing and choreographed youth theatre for over 10 years. Currently, McKenna has worked as a adjudicator, performed and was on the DEI panel at Junior Theater Festival Atlanta and Sacramento in 2022. Previously, McKenna performed, taught children, and traveled all around the world. Before the pandemic McKenna worked as featured performer at Disneyland for 6 years. You may have seen them building a snowman as Anna and Elsa, in *Frozen-Live* at the Hyperion Theater, and also selling newspapers with the *Red Car Trolley News Boys* on Buena Vista Street! Most recently, McKenna performed on the national tour of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. You can also catch them on upcoming TV shows on HBO and commercials. McKenna's passion for theater education grows more and more with each show they direct.



## Lisa Mitchell

Lisa Mitchell is the Director of Education & Audience Engagement at Disney Theatrical Group. Current and past field positions include: the Audience Engagement committee of the Broadway League, the Roger Rees Awards advisory board, and the board of directors for both the New York City Arts in Education Roundtable and the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. She has presented at dozens of conferences and institutions, including South by Southwest and Harvard University. Lisa is also teaches research methods and statistical analysis to doctoral students at Johns Hopkins University and is a researcher who has published on a range of topics. Lisa holds a Doctorate in entrepreneurial leadership in education from Johns Hopkins University, an M.S. in Educational Theater from the City College of New York, and a B.A. in Theater from Arizona State University.



## Rosemary Newcott

Rosemary spent twenty years as the Artistic Director of Theatre for Youth and Families at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. There she had the great privilege of directing, and sometimes devising many Theatre for Youth productions and the annual lavish production of A CHRISTMAS CAROL. She also initiated both the Alliance HS Collision Project and the Alliance Theatre for the Very Young. On the National scene, Rosemary has directed premiere TYA productions at the Kennedy Center and LaJolla Playhouse. She recently directed the world premiere of Tim McDonald's HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON at Nashville Children's Theatre and THUMBELINA at Kennesaw University. Upcoming productions include GRANNY'S GARDEN by Pearl Cleage which she is directing at the Alliance and at Metro Theatre in St. Louis. She proudly returns as part of the education team at JTF ATLANTA 2023.



## Luca Padovan

Luca is thrilled to be back at this year's JTF! Luca recently starred in Nickelodeon's reboot of the 90's cult classic *Are You Afraid of the Dark?* playing "Leo", the first openly queer character in the show's 10-season history. TV: *YOU*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *The Magicians*. Theater: *School of Rock: The Musical* (Billy, OBC), *Newsies: The Musical* (Les), *James and the Giant Peach Cast Recording* (James). Other notable performances include Eliza in Miscast's "The Schuyler Sisters" and opening the 2018 Macy's Thanksgiving Day singing "Don't Rain on My Parade". Instagram: @thelucapadovan



## Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Oscar, Grammy, Tony, and Olivier Award-winning songwriters/producers Benj Pasek & Justin Paul are best known for their work on *La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *The Greatest Showman*. Their songs "City of Stars" and "Audition (The Fools Who Dream)" (co-written with Justin Hurwitz) from *La La Land* were both nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song, with "City of Stars" winning the Academy Award as well as the Golden Globe in the same category. The following year, in 2018, Pasek & Paul won their second Golden Globe for Best Original Song for "This Is Me" from *The Greatest Showman*, which was also nominated for the Academy Award for Best Original Song and a Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media. Their previous projects include Sony's live-action hybrid musical *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* starring Shawn Mendes, songs for Disney's live-action movie musical *Aladdin*, Dreamworks Animation's *Trolls*, Amazon's documentary

## Meet the Team

film *Pink: All I Know So Far* (for which they received a Grammy nomination), and Amazon's comedy series *Harlem* (in collaboration with songwriter Sukari Jones). Upcoming films include Disney's live-action musical *Snow White*, and Apple's original live-action musical *Spirited*. Most recently, Benj and Justin were awarded a Tony Award as co-producers of the Pulitzer prize-winning Broadway musical *A Strange Loop*. On Broadway, they composed the score for the six-time Tony Award-winning "Best Musical" *Dear Evan Hansen*, their original musical for which they received an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award, and the Tony Award for Best Score. The show broke box office records at the Music Box Theatre and became the longest-running production to play the venue in Broadway's history. The *Dear Evan Hansen* Original Broadway Cast Recording won the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album and is certified Gold. With the release of the novelization of *Dear Evan Hansen*, Benj and Justin also became New York Times Best-Selling Authors. Their albums for *La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, and *The Greatest Showman* each appeared in the Top 10 of the Billboard 200, with *The Greatest Showman* holding the #1 spot for multiple weeks in a row and eventually named the best-selling album in the world in 2018. *The Greatest Showman* Original Motion Picture Soundtrack won the 2019 Grammy Award for Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media, the 2019 Billboard Music award for Top Soundtrack, and is certified Platinum in 22 countries, including Quadruple Platinum in the US, Australia, and Taiwan, 5x Platinum in China, Hong Kong, and Indonesia, 6x Platinum in the Philippines, 7x Platinum in the UK, 8x Platinum in Singapore, 9x Platinum in Ireland, and 13x Platinum in Korea. Pasek & Paul made their Broadway debut in 2012 with their Tony-nominated score for the Broadway musical *A Christmas Story*, an adaptation of the classic holiday film, further adapted into a live telecast for FOX in 2017. Their new song written for the telecast, "In the Market for a Miracle," was nominated for the 2018 Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Original Music and Lyrics. For television they also contributed several songs to NBC's *Smash*, a song for the CW's musical episode of *The Flash*, and received a Daytime Emmy Award nomination for the song "Unlimited," featured in an Old Navy YouTube campaign. Their theatre careers include the acclaimed 2012 musical *Dogfight* which was awarded the Lucille Lortel Award for Best New Musical. Their earlier theatre credits include the children's musical *James and the Giant Peach* and the popular song cycle *Edges*. Among their numerous honors, in 2007 they became the youngest winners ever of the Jonathan Larson Award for most promising musical theatre songwriters, and in 2019, they became the first writers for stage or screen to be honored with the ASCAP Vanguard Award. They are graduates of the University of Michigan and serve on the board of the Dramatists Guild Foundation.



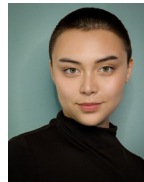
### Jodi Picoult

Jodi Picoult is the award-winning author of 27 novels, with over 40 million copies sold. Twelve books have debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list, five were made into movies, with four more currently in development. She is the recipient of multiple awards, including the Alex Award from YALSA and the NH Literary Award for Outstanding Literary Merit. The musical adaptation of her novel BETWEEN THE LINES premiered off-Broadway in July 2022. She is also co-librettist (with Tim McDonald) of the musicals BREATHE and THE BOOK THIEF.



### Grant James Reynolds

Grant James Reynolds is beyond excited to be returning to JTF for the second year in a row! Growing up a JTF/iTheatrics kid himself, he is so grateful to be a part of the Educational staff that help bring all the magic to life. From Oak Park, Chicago, Grant grew up coming to JTF with his community youth theatre group BRAVO! He continued honing his craft by attending Carnegie Mellon School of Drama for Musical Theatre, where he recently graduated in 2021. He most recently was seen in the MUNY's 2022 season of *The Color Purple*, and *Sweeney Todd* (u/s Anthony); Billy Porter's recent directorial and feature film debut ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE. He is beyond excited to continue grow as an teaching artist to cultivate the skills of the next generation of creatives.



### Wren Rivera

Wren Rivera (they/them) is a non-binary performer from the suburbs of Chicago. They were last seen originating the role of Jules in the effervescent *Between The Lines* adapted by your very own Tim McDonald! Wren has also been seen in *Jagged Little Pill* on Broadway, *WeCrashed* on Apple TV+, and New York City Center's *Bring me To Life* concert. They are represented by KMR and Emery Entertainment. A huge thank you to Tim and the Junior Theater Festival for having me this year!



### Josh Roberts

After moving to NYC and studying Jazz at NYU, Josh quickly established himself in the R&B/Pop/Jazz and Broadway scenes. In 2020 Josh received the 3rd spot in the Up & Coming Drummer in the world award from *Modern Drummer*. Josh has performed and toured with Loren Allred (*Greatest Showman*), Ian Mellencamp, Ana Gasteyer (*SNL*), T.3 (AGT), Dez Duron (*The Voice*), Sam DeRosa (*Songland*) and recently finished the sold out FLETCHER pop tour with VÉRITÉ. Josh has music directed for pop star MaKenzie Thomas and the 2022 Native Son Awards feat. Avery Wilson. Josh is on the sub list for &

Juliet Broadway, *Kinky Boots* (Off BDWY), and took over the drum chair at SUFFS at the Public Theatre. Broadway recording credits include *Harry Potter Live on Broadway*, Tony Award Winner Britton Smith, and John Cardoza (*Jagged Little Pill*). Josh prides himself in his work with the LGBTQIA+ community. In August Josh completed the JAG artist residency with Tony Award Winner Britton Smith developing a show with the mission of Black Queer Liberation.



## Kate Rockwell

Kate Rockwell starred as the original Karen Smith in *Mean Girls: The Musical* at the August Wilson Theater, which garnered her a Drama Desk Nomination. A natural brunette, her previous Broadway dumb

blondes include originating the role of Skylar in *Bring It On: The Musical*, as well as roles in *Rock of Ages*, *Hair*, and *Legally Blonde*. She's been seen recently as Anna on Amazon Prime's *Harlem* and Nina Bennett on Fox's *Almost Family*, and on *Blue Bloods*, *High Maintenance*, *Deadbeat*, and *Sex and the City: the Movie*. Some select regional theater highlights include Maria Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* (Muny), Carrie Piperidge in *Carousel* (Arena Stages), Belle in *Beauty and the Beast* (Muny), and Mabel Normand in the world premiere of *Hollywood* (La Jolla Playhouse). Rockwell released her debut solo album, *Back To My Roots*, in 2018 on Broadway Records, and has performed her solo concert by the same name at Birdland Jazz Club, City Winery, and other venues in NYC. She is a WSET-certified wine lover, a brand new mom, and has the two cutest dogs on the planet (no offense to all other dogs).



## Shay Rodgers

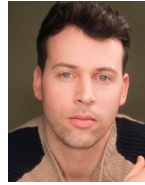
Shay works as a choreographer with iTheatrics and has created more than 30 instructional choreography videos for MTI, Disney, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Samuel French, and Tams-Witmark. She is currently

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*.



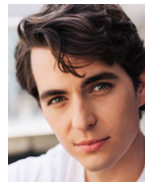
## Frankie Rodriguez

Frankie Rodriguez is an actor and singer best known for playing Carlos on the Emmy-nominated Disney+ series, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* which just wrapped production on its fourth season! He has also appeared on NBC's "Will & Grace" and on the final season of ABC's "Modern Family." Frankie will play the title role in "Calvin Berger" opening soon at the Colony Theatre in Burbank, CA.



## Evan Ruggiero

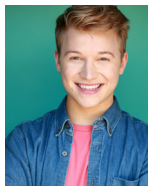
Evan Ruggiero began dancing at the age of five in his hometown studio and by age ten, he was accepted into the famed New Jersey Tap Ensemble. Upon entering his sophomore year at Montclair State University while pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre, Evan was suddenly diagnosed with Osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer of the right leg. Enduring nine surgeries in a six-month period in an effort to save the leg, the cancer returned more aggressively than the original diagnosis. He was faced with the ultimate decision of amputation in order to stop the cancer and save his life, as well as undergoing chemotherapy for sixteen months. Eighteen months after the amputation, and only two days after receiving his "peg leg," Evan was tap dancing again. In 2018 he received a Drama Desk Nomination for Best Actor in a Musical, a Chita Rivera Award Nomination for Best Dancer in a Musical, and was awarded a Clive Barnes Award in Theatre for his portrayal of Tom Jones in NYC's off-broadway hit *Bastard Jones*. Evan has been seen performing at Carnegie Hall and at the 90th Oscars, as well as performing for many notable individuals such as Ellen Degeneres, President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, Egypt's sixth and current president, President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and most recently performing alongside two-time Grammy winning artist, Jason Mraz. Theatre credits include: *Camelot* (Sir Dinadan, The Muny), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast, Olney Theatre Center), *The Wizard of Oz* (Tin Man, Pittsburgh CLO), *Toxic Avenger* (Melvin/Toxie, Pittsburgh CLO), *Shrek* (Pied Piper, Pittsburgh CLO) *Man of La Mancha* (Manuel, Pittsburgh CLO) and *Baby* (Danny, NYC off-b'way). Social media: @Lord\_Peglegseries.



## Kyle Selig

Broadway: Originated the role of Aaron Samuels in *Mean Girls*, Elder Price in *The Book of Mormon* on Broadway. National Tour/Regional: *The Book of Mormon*, *October Sky*, *Joan of Arc: Into the Fire* by David Byrne, *West Side Story* at the Hollywood Bowl. Film/ television: Dylan in the Fox mocu-comedy, "Welcome to Flatch", "Monster High", "Cat Person", "The Housewives of the North Pole", "Christmas in Tahoe" for Hallmark Channel, "Madame Secretary", "Evil". 2010 Jimmy Award winner and Graduate of Carnegie Mellon School of Drama.

## Meet the Team



### Joe Serafini

Joe Serafini is an actor, singer & musician, best known for his role as Seb Matthew Smith on the Disney+ original series, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. A Pittsburgh native, he has been performing on

stage regionally since the age of seven. This past summer, Joe made his solo show debut at The Green Room 42 in NYC. He is a proud alum of the University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department, and currently resides in Los Angeles, CA. @joe\_serafini\_



### Kenny Shepard

Kenny Shepard, AEA, ASCAP, SDC is the resident choreographer for the world's largest children's museum, TCM of Indianapolis. He is also an on camera choreographer for Broadway Jr, MacMillan

McGraw-Hill, and the Galleries for American Art and Popular Culture's current exhibit, Dance!. Kenny co-owns www.WorcelShepardProductions.com directing/casting/choreographing projects starring Grammy, Tony, Oscar and Emmy winners and American Idol stars. He is also an adjunct professor at Anderson and Ball State Universities. Kenny has over 100 performance credits including Off-Broadway, Disney World, regional theatre, Atlantic City, Branson and world cruise ships.



### 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.



### Theresa Squire

Theresa Squire (she/her) has been designing costumes in New York City and beyond since graduating from NYU in 1997. She designs mainly for theatre, but her work has also been seen in dance, film,

print, industrials, commercials and on her child for their favorite holiday, Halloween. Favorite productions include *Fun Home*; *High Fidelity* (Broadway); *Into the Woods*; *Small Engine Repair*; *Found, a New Musical*; the off-Broadway premier of *Dear Edwina*; the tours of *A year with Frog & Toad KIDS*, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley JR*, and *The Jungle Book KIDS*.



### Holly Stanfield

Holly Stanfield is privileged to teach theatre at Mary D Bradford High School in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She has worked as a public school theatre and music educator for over 38 years. Awards include:

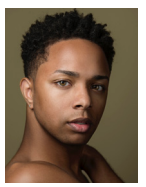
Educational Theatre Association Hall of Fame; The Reba Robertson Award; 2016, and 2018 Tony: Excellence in Theatre Education Award - Honorable Mentions: and the Stephen Schwartz Musical Theatre Teacher of the Year. Under her direction, KUSD students have recorded seven reference CDs for MTI's School Edition series. She is also a clinician for Jump Start Theatre.



### Lotte Wakeham

Lotte is a British director, and Artistic Director of the Octagon Theatre in the UK, where she recently directed the world premiere new musical *The Book Thief*, adapted by Tim McDonald & Jodi Picoult,

with songs by Kate Anderson & Elyssa Samsel. She directs plays and musicals in the UK and internationally, and spent many years as Associate Director of *Matilda the Musical* in the West End and on Broadway. Lotte has previously adjudicated at JTF Europe & is thrilled to be back for her 5th time at JTF Atlanta! @LotteWakeham



### Brion Marquis Watson

Brion Marquis Watson is a performer originally from Greensboro, NC where he found his love for theater at The Community Theatre of Greensboro. His training includes Cincinnati Conservatory of music (CCM) and

the Alvin Ailey American dance theatre. Some notable credits include *Hamilton* (And Peggy Tour), *Wicked* (National Tour), and countless productions at the Mundy. TV/film POSE (FX). Shine bright JTF 2023!



### Court Watson

Court Watson is a New York-based set and costume designer. Credits range from operas *La bohème*, *Rigoletto* (Wolf Trap), *King for a Day*, *Blizzard at Marblehead Neck* (Glimmerglass), *Tales of Hoffmann* (Beijing),

*Samson and Dalilah*, *Three Decembers* (Virginia Opera), *Fledermaus* (Salzburg) to musicals *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Guys & Dolls* (Ford's Theatre), *Sound of Music* (Salzburg), *Dear Edwina* (Off-Broadway), and plays *Hannah Senesh*, *It Must Be Him*, *Harvey and the Princess* (Off-Broadway). He has designed multiple TYA productions with Ernie Nolan at Nashville Children's Theatre and Nina Meehan at the Bay Area Children's Theatre and multiple live theme park shows for Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld.



## Cam Williams

Cam Williams (he/him/his) is proud to call Alabama home. He graduated from Troy University with a B.S.E. in Theatre Education p-12. He has worked with the Johnson Center for the Arts and Troy University for Arts Education-based programming. Most recently, Cam has been featured in Live and in Color's workshops of a brand new musical titled *With Bells On* (CT, NYC). Cam taught theatre in the Troy City School System for two years before joining the producing team at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival! Cam is passionate about creating avenues for access for younger people who wish to pursue the arts.



## Carol Worcel

Carol Worcel played in the National Broadway Tours of 42nd STREET (lead dancer and understudy for Peggy Sawyer and Anytime Annie) and ANYTHING GOES starring Leslie Uggams (Virtue). Regional credits include A CHORUS LINE (Cassie and Val); ANNIE (Lilly St. Regis); GODSPELL (Player); HAIRSPRAY (Velma Von Tussle); SWING! (principal singer); The ISO's YULETIDE CELEBRATION (singer/dancer); and THE KINGS SIX USO SHOW (European Tour). ATI credits include CHICAGO (Go-to-Hell Kitty/Co-Choreographer); GYPSY (Electra/Director/Choreographer); COLE (singer/dancer/Choreographer) and I LOVE A PIANO (Co-Director/Choreographer). Carol co-owns [www.WorcelShepardProductions.com](http://www.WorcelShepardProductions.com) with directing/choreography credits including Sandi Patty's LE VOYAGE, the NBA Pacer's Pacemates, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Circle of Lights, IndyFringe, Beef and Boards, Actors Theatre of Indiana, The Indy 500, as well as regional theatres, tours and opening ceremonies for national clients. As an educator, she has worked with iTheatrics, Ball State University, Anderson University, Palladium's Dance Discovery as well as many private studios across the United States.



## Michael Wordly

Michael has been seen on stage as a Lead Vocalist in 40+ Countries & 30+ States in the U.S. with "The Young Americans" and various Cruise Ship's Lines. In 2015 he won the Henry Award for "Best Supporting Male Actor" for his portrayal as Gator in *Memphis the Musical!* His favorite credits include *The Color Purple* (Revival), *Miss Saigon* (Revival), *The Little Mermaid* (5th Avenue theatre), and *Cinderella* (Paper Mill Playhouse). Michael was last seen starring as Lola in *Kinky Boots the Musical*. @mwordly



## Daniel J. Yearwood

Daniel was born and raised in Harlem, NYC in Riverton Houses. Playgrounds, grown-ups teaching him how to play chess on the corner, and The Harlem School of the Arts were all some of the integral parts of his childhood. After attending The Bronx High School of Science from 2009-2013 he attended Pace University for a Bachelor in Fine Arts with a concentration in Musical Theatre. Post graduation in 2017 his credits include: Broadway: *Once On This Island* (2017 Revival), *Hamilton*; Off Broadway: *Grand Hotel*; Regional: *In The Heights* (Fulton Theatre), *Newsies* (Fulton Theatre).



## Elmo Zapp

A bicoastal cellist/bassist/vocalist/arranger/producer/music director. Has done all the above for several Los Angeles and NYC artists and groups. Notable credits: MD'd LA revival of *Bare*, Ovation Nom. for an LA prod. of *Dogfight*. Bass for Off-Broadway & OCR of *Cruel Intentions the Musical*. Co-Developed and arranged the music for unauthorized Jukebox musicals: *A Walk to Remember* and *I Know What You Did Last Summer*. Known for his "spin" he puts on his arr, Elmo also arranges for several HS showchoirs and you can find all of his recordings on youtube/streaming services.

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Academy Team Rock Hill**  
Rock Hill, SC



**Apex Performing Arts**  
Wheat Ridge, CO



**Act3 Arts Academy**  
Marietta, GA



**Asheville Performing Arts Academy**  
Asheville, NC



**Acting Upon Faith Productions**  
Hammond, LA



**Backstage Theater**  
Lakeland, FL



**ACTivate LLC**  
Lexington, KY



**BAMtheatre**  
Hinsdale, IL

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**BRAVO**  
Oak Park, IL



**C.W. Davis Middle School**  
Flowerly Branch, GA



**British Academy of Performing Arts**  
Marietta, GA



**Carolina Academy of Performing Arts**  
Apex, NC



**Broadway Center for the Arts**  
Maryville, TN



**Carpe Artista**  
Smyrna, TN



**Brilliant Acting Studio**  
Alpharetta, GA



**Caryl Crane Youth Theatre**  
Huron, OH

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



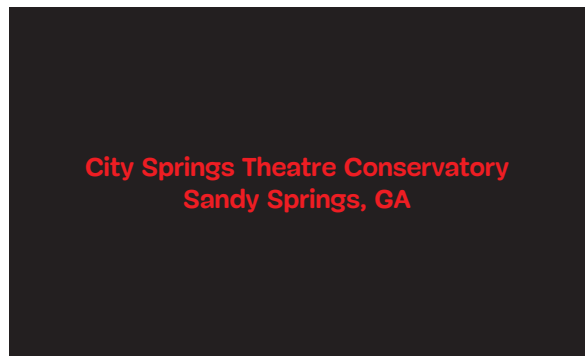
**CAST Theatre**  
Anniston, AL



**City Kidz Playhouse**  
Bayonne, NJ



**Center Stage Academy**  
Warrensburg, MO



**City Springs Theatre Conservatory**  
Sandy Springs, GA



**Center Stage Productions**  
Ypsilanti, MI



**Community Theatre of Greensboro**  
Greensboro, NC



**Center Stage Youth Theatre**  
Odessa, FL



**DM Performance Works**  
Sugarloaf, PA



# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**DMR Adventures**  
Charlottesville, VA



**Encore Theatrical Company**  
Morristown, TN



**Durant Road Musical Theatre**  
Wake Forest, NC



**Final Bow Center For Children's Performing Arts**  
Versailles, OH



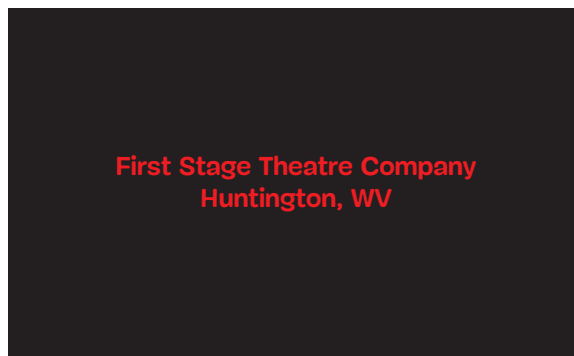
**Eastern Shore Repertory Theatre**  
Fairhope, AL



**Firefly Theatrical**  
Kennesaw, GA



**Edge Dance & Performing Arts Center**  
Plano, TX



**First Stage Theatre Company**  
Huntington, WV

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Florida Academy of Performing Arts**  
Brandon, FL



**Forsyth Academy of Performing Arts Company**  
Cumming, GA



**Florida Repertory Theatre – Education**  
Fort Myers, FL



**Fort Bend Christian Academy**  
Richmond, TX



**Folsom Academy Of The Arts**  
Louisville, KY



**FRC Acting Up**  
Cumming, GA



**Forefront Arts**  
Lilburn, GA



**From the Top Theatrics**  
Marietta, GA

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Granbury Theatre Academy**  
Granbury, TX



**Humphreys School of Musical Theatre**  
Houston, TX



**Gypsy Playhouse**  
Fort Myers, FL



**Ignite Theatre Company**  
St. Louis, MO



**High Point Community Theatre**  
High Point, NC



**InNOVATION Arts Academy**  
Lexington, KY



**Holly Performance Academy**  
Dahlonega, GA



**Innovation Drama Academy**  
Monroe, NC

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Inspiration Stage**  
Richmond, TX



**Legacy Theater and Music Company**  
Indian Trail, NC



**Jeter Backyard Theater**  
Gibsonia, PA



**Lewisville Arts Conservatory**  
Lantana, TX



**Junior Aussie All-Stars**  
NSW, Australia



**Lopez Studios, Inc.**  
Reston, VA



**Kids On Stage**  
Snow Hill, NC



**Magic Curtain Productions**  
Orlando, FL

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Marietta Middle School**  
Marietta, GA



**Mill Creek Musical Theatre**  
Nolensville, TN



**Marietta Sixth Grade Academy**  
Marietta, GA



**Momentum Arts**  
Snellville, GA



**Masquerade Theatre**  
Cinnaminson, NJ



**Moorestown Theater Company**  
Moorestown, NJ



**MelloDrama Productions**  
Dahlonega, GA



**Mountain City Center for the Arts**  
Frostburg, MD

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups

**Moving Art  
Barrie, ON**



**Naples Performing Arts Center  
Naples, FL**



MRS. Z'S PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO

**Mrs. Z's Performing Arts Studio  
Abilene, TX**



**Nashville Theatre School  
Nashville, TN**

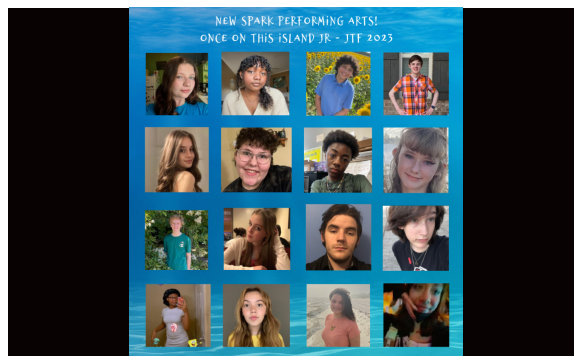


**Musical Mayhem Productions  
Elk Grove, CA**



**New Albany Middle School  
New Albany, OH**

**Myrtle Beach Area Children's Theater  
Myrtle Beach, SC**



**New Spark Performing Arts  
Memphis, TN**

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**NGMSDrama**  
Sugar Hill, GA



**Northwestern Middle School**  
Milton, GA



**North Texas Performing Arts - Fairview Youth Theatre**  
Fairview, TX



**Oakland Middle School**  
Murfreesboro, TN



**North Whitfield Middle School**  
Dalton, GA



**Off Broadway Childrens Theatre**  
Alpharetta, GA

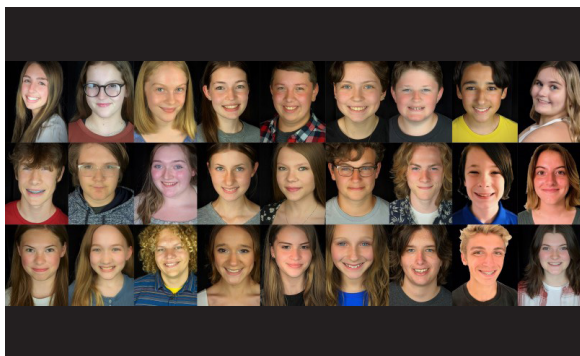


**Northwest Theatre Lab**  
Puyallup, WA



**Ohlook Performing Arts Center**  
Lewisville, TX

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Olde Towne Hall Theatre**  
Elyria, OH



**Plaza Academy**  
Cleburne, TX



**Pace School of the Arts**  
Jonesboro, GA



**Poison Apple Productions**  
Martinez, CA



**Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation**  
Lynchburg, VA



**Preston Center Dance**  
Dallas, TX



**Pittsboro Youth Theater**  
Pittsboro, NC



**Purple Box Theater**  
Pearland, TX



# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



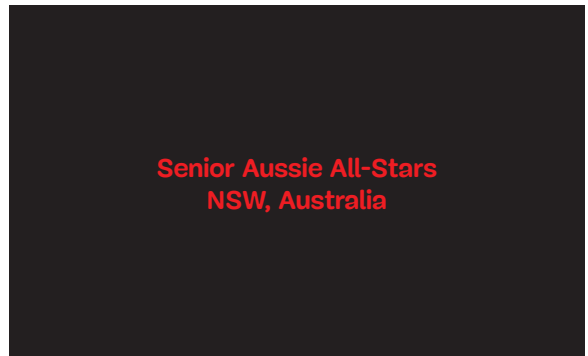
**Raleigh Area Children's Theatre**  
Raleigh, NC



**SAC Youth Arts Ambassadors**  
Springfield, OH



**Red Mountain Theatre Company**  
Birmingham, AL



**Senior Aussie All-Stars**  
NSW, Australia



**Red Phoenix Theatre Company**  
Marietta, GA



**SET Studios**  
Jacksonville, FL



**Riverside Theatre**  
Vero Beach, FL



**Showtime Theatre Company**  
Rock Hill, SC

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**Smoke Rise Academy of Arts**  
Stone Mountain, GA



**Spirit of the Stage**  
Hammond, LA



**Snellville Performing Arts**  
Snellville, GA



**Spotlight Acting Academy**  
Oklahoma City, OK



**Spark Theater Company**  
Dothan, AL



**Spotlight Players**  
Mint Hill, NC



**Spartan Performing Arts Academy**  
Oakwood, GA



**Spotlight Theatre Productions**  
Sarasota, FL

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**St. Johns Middle School**  
St. Johns, MI



**Studio Bleu Vocal & Theatre Arts**  
Ashburn, VA



**Stage Center's School of Performing Arts**  
Shreveport, LA



**Texas Music Theatre Company**  
Fort Worth, TX



**Stars That Act**  
Miami, FL



**The Actor's Charitable Theatre**  
Tuscaloosa, AL



**Stopher Elementary**  
Louisville, KY



**The Anthony School**  
Little Rock, AR

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups



**The Belle Theatre**  
Cape Coral, FL



**The Rose Theater**  
Omaha, NE



**The Biz Academy of Musical Theatre**  
Avon, IN



**The SEED Falcon Theatre**  
Washington, DC



**The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati**  
Cincinnati, OH



**The Studio of The Sooner Theatre**  
Norman, OK



**The PACT Theatre Company**  
Mobile, AL



**Time to Shine Performing Arts LLC**  
Fort Worth, TX

# JTF Atlanta 2023 Participating Groups

**Treehouse Theater  
Manitowoc, WI**



**Wings Performing Arts  
Biloxi, MS**

**University School of Nashville  
Nashville, TN**



**Woodford Theatre Young Artists  
Versailles, KY**



**Wellesley Theatre Project  
Wellesley Hills, MA**



# iTheatrics Summer 2023



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 3 - August 11.

Auditions for the summer 2023 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 2023 season! A great candidate is someone interested in theatre education.

Email [academy@itheatrics.com](mailto:academy@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 14 - July 16 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 [ACADEMY@ITHEATRICS.COM](mailto:ACADEMY@ITHEATRICS.COM)