

PLAYBILL®

JTF TEXAS



DIGITAL PROGRAM





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



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



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Thanks to our volunteers and to Visit Sugar Land!



**MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL**

The logo for Playbill, featuring the word "PLAYBILL" in black on a yellow background.

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Welcome to JTF 2021 Texas

I am incredibly excited to welcome you to JTF Texas. Can I get a YEEEEEEE-HAW!!!

The origin story of this JTF began on March 23, after I recovered from Covid-19. I emerged from bedrest with the overwhelming need to address two challenges. The first? How the heck are we going to continue making theatre when we cannot be in the same room with theatre makers? The second? Well, that was the realization that JTF Atlanta and JTF West 2021 were surely going to be cancelled.

To address the first challenge, the team at iTheatrics began exploring Zoom as both a theatre rehearsal and performance platform. It took us about three weeks to customize Zoom’s settings so that it served our dramatic needs. It was never the perfect fit, but it worked. We launched the world’s first Zoomsical (*The Big One-Oh! Online Edition*) on April 17, 2020 and nearly 50,000 people tuned in to watch.

Solving the second challenge took much, much longer. I started by trying to push the dates of JTF Atlanta to late June of 2021. Good news! The convention center was available! Bad news! Major League Baseball had a hold on every hotel room in the area, and would not release the rooms until they knew what their 2021 season would look like. Since the 2020 season had not even been announced yet, I knew we had to pivot-step somewhere else.

So, I started cold-calling theaters in the southeast. Most of them didn’t answer my call or my emails, but one theater did: The Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land, Texas. This theater was at the top of my list in part due to Freddie G Fellows alumnus, Mandy Seymore-Sensat. Mandy was one of many JTF Directors that I spoke to regularly during the pandemic, and she was adamant that I call Lynn Forte who runs the Smart Financial Centre. Lynn did take my call, but she couldn’t promise me anything. Who could in April of 2020? So, she suggested I call her back in two weeks.

I did call Lynn back in two weeks, and then again two weeks later, and then again, and again two weeks after that. Lynn’s answer never wavered. It was a solid, “probably not going to happen.” But it wasn’t “no,” so I continued to call her, and we became fast theatre buddies.

And then Lynn’s answer changed to, “maybe.” And then, “what might the schedule look like.” And then she said, “let’s do it!” Just typing these words brings tears to my eyes even today! This was the first sign of tangible hope!

So, we had a venue! Hooray! The next challenge: how to produce a safe festival. That’s when I got an email from JTF alumnus Kush Shankar offering to help us come up with a Covid-19 safety plan. Kush’s scientific expertise plus his familiarity with all things JTF was the exact kind of jazzhand warrior we needed!

And so here we are! Several thousand of us coming together to do what we do best: make the world a better place one musical at a time! I for one have never looked more forward to any one event in my entire lifetime! So, dust off those spirit fingers ‘cuz JTF Texas 2021 starts now!

May the Schwartz be with us all!

Timothy Allen McDonald
Founder and Executive Producer
Junior Theater Festivals Worldwide

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The Team

Welcome to the very first JTF Texas! We are thrilled to be at the beautiful Smart Financial Centre in Sugar Land, Texas for this inaugural festival. This festival is a triumphant return to the way theatre should be done – live and in person! Before you run off to your pods, jump into a workshop, or try on your pre-ordered 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 VP and Choreography Supervisor **Steven G. Kennedy**, Director of Education **Marty Johnson**, Senior Education Consultant **Cindy Ripley**, and Senior Managing Editor **Susan Fuller**. These amazing folks, through hard work, an unwavering commitment to theatre education for young people, and a deep dedication to all things jazz hands, brought Broadway Junior® into the world.

Soon enough, the fabulous **Lindsay Weiner Lupi** joined the team as Music Supervisor and took on the (now colossal) task of JTF Administrator; then, the team gained Music Engraver and Composer **Rob Rokicki** (ever heard of *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical?* Rob wrote that!). Associate Editor **Laura Jo Schuster** arrived next to help make sure every Broadway Junior ShowKit® is picture perfect and has taken over this year as Creative Media Director. 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 Education Associate/ Jill-of-all-trades powerhouse **Jiana J. Odland** hopped on board. Last but not least, **Mary-Catherine Chambliss** has joined the team as Education Advisor after many years of collaborating as a teaching artist.



2020 was a challenging year to say the least. For Team iTheatrics, a world where people couldn't gather safely meant that many of our projects were suddenly, abruptly, and indefinitely put on hold. None of us realized when we left our Manhattan office on March 13, 2020 that it would be the last time all of us would gather in the same space for 15 months. Like the rest of the world, we were unsure of how to move forward among frightening and rapidly changing circumstances – and then, we got to work. Just because we were unable to gather didn't mean that the world needed the magic of musical theatre any less, so we created the Online Edition musicals. We held workshops with students to troubleshoot and test the new format, and then we held workshops with teachers to share what we learned. We then created the JTFriday program when we realized the folks in our community needed a weekly check in with other theatre people. We produced an entirely online JTF experience, and while it was strange to be separate, we are so grateful to have learned that we can expand the festival in this way.

WHICH ALL IN ALL MEANS THAT WE

- Produced 2 Live Junior Theater Festivals
- Taught and Adjudicated at 3 International Junior Theater Festivals
- Produced 1 Online Extravaganza!
- Created 5 Online Editions
- Produced 13 Zoomsicals
- Taught 5 Dance Intensives
- Held 6 Training Sessions for Teachers
- Taught 8 Professional Development Workshops
- Filmed 10 Training Videos for the NYC Department of Education
- Published 2 New Shows

iTheatrics has helped to make the world a better place one musical at a time by working directly with 428 teachers and 18,500 students. We are committed to making sure every kid has the life-changing opportunity to make a musical. So, what are you waiting for? Put on your wristbands, warm up your voices, mask up, and get ready for even more musical theater magic. Welcome back to the Junior Theater Festival.

#TeamiTheatrics

2021 Junior Theater Festival

In-Person Festival Schedule

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

7:00 PM	Festival Sign-In Opens	Smart Financial Centre
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FRIDAY, JUNE 25

10:00 AM	Festival Sign-In Opens	Smart Financial Centre
1:00 PM	Adjudications	Houston Marriott Sugar Land
6:00 PM	Adjudications	Houston Marriott Sugar Land
9:30 PM	Director's Welcome	Houston Marriott Sugar Land Ballroom V

SATURDAY, JUNE 26

8:00 AM	Adjudications/Workshops	Smart Financial Centre/ Houston Marriott Sugar Land
1:30 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
3:00 PM	Workshops	Smart Financial Centre/ Houston Marriott Sugar Land
6:00 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:30 PM	Theater Opens	Smart Financial Centre
8:00 PM	<i>New Works Showcase</i>	Smart Financial Centre

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Tech Olympics	Houston Marriott Sugar Land
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Teacher Workshop	Smart Financial Centre
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Student Workshops	Smart Financial Centre/ Houston Marriott Sugar Land
12:00 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
1:30 PM	Theater Opens	Smart Financial Centre
2:00 PM	<i>Growin' Up Broadway Live!</i>	Smart Financial Centre
3:00 PM	<i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>	Smart Financial Centre
4:30 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:30 PM	Theater Opens	Smart Financial Centre
8:00 PM	<i>Michael James Scott In Concert</i>	Smart Financial Centre



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TIMOTHY ALLEN McDONALD, CYNTHIA A. RIPLEY & MARTY JOHNSON

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2021 Junior Theater Festival

Online Festival Schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Director's Welcome	8:00 pm - 8:30 pm CT	JTF Studio Spaces
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SATURDAY, JUNE 26

Adjudication	9:00 am - 1:00 pm CT	Broadway JR. Theatre
Lunch Break	1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CT	On Your Own
Student Workshop #1	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm CT	JTF Studio Spaces
Student Workshop #2	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm CT	JTF Studio Spaces
<i>New Works Showcase</i>	8:00 pm - 9:30 pm CT	Broadway JR. Theatre
Dance Party	9:30 pm - 10:00 pm CT	Broadway JR. Theatre

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Director's Mix and Mingle/Workshop	11:00 am - 12:00 pm CT	JTF Studio Spaces
Student Workshop #3	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT	JTF Studio Spaces
<i>Growin' Up Broadway Live</i>	2:00 pm - 3:00 pm CT	Broadway JR. Theatre
<i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>	3:00 pm - 4:30 pm CT	Broadway JR. Theatre
<i>Michael James Scott In Concert</i>	8:00 pm - 9:00 pm CT	Broadway JR. Theatre

BLUE POD Friday, June 25 Sugar Land Marriott Ballroom V		
1:00 PM	Jeter Backyard Theater	<i>Children Of Eden JR.</i>
1:30 PM	MelloDrama Productions	<i>Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
2:00 PM	Carpe Artista	<i>Disney's The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
3:00 PM	Granbury Theatre Academy	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
3:30 PM	KidsAlive!	<i>Disney's Frozen JR.</i>
4:00 PM	North Texas Performing Arts	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
6:00 PM	Greater Austin Dance Company	<i>Fiddler On The Roof JR.</i>
6:30 PM	Colorado Children's Theatre	<i>Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
7:00 PM	From the Top Theatrics	<i>Disney's The Lion King JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Ohlook Performing Arts Center	<i>Disney's 101 Dalmatians KIDS</i>
8:30 PM	Plaza Academy	<i>Roald Dahl's James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
Saturday, June 26 Sugar Land Marriott Ballroom V		
8:00 AM	Preston Center Dance	<i>Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Bay Area Arts Conservatory	<i>Sister Act. JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Center Stage Academy	<i>Godspell JR.</i>
10:00 AM	Carolina Academy of Performing Arts	<i>Into the Woods JR.</i>
10:30 AM	The PACT Theatre Company	<i>Children Of Eden JR.</i>
11:00 AM	iStage	<i>The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley JR.</i>
12:00 PM	LifeStage Theatre	<i>Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Broadway at The Rose	<i>Disney's My Son Pinocchio JR.</i>
1:00 PM	Innovation Drama Academy	<i>Legally Blonde The Musical JR.</i>

PURPLE POD
Friday, June 25
 Sugar Land Marriott Ballroom VI

1:00 PM	Moorestown Theater Company	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
1:30 PM	Barn Theater Junior Company	Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>
2:00 PM	The JET-PAC	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
3:00 PM	New Spark Performing Arts	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
3:30 PM	JBT Kids	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
4:00 PM	The Actor's Charitable Theatre	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
6:00 PM	Elgin Opera House	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
6:30 PM	InnOVATION Arts Academy	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda JR.</i>
7:00 PM	Musical Mayhem Productions	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
8:00 PM	Holly Performance Academy	Disney's <i>Aladdin JR.</i>
8:30 PM	Spark Theater Company	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda JR.</i>
9:00 PM	Wildfish Theatre Company	<i>Guys and Dolls JR.</i>

Saturday, June 26
 Sugar Land Marriott Ballroom VI

8:00 AM	City Kidz Playhouse	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda JR.</i>
8:30 AM	The Rose Theater	<i>Thoroughly Modern Millie JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Inspiration Stage	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
10:00 AM	Artistic Civic Theatre	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Spotlight Players	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Spark Of Creation Studio	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Edge Dance & Performing Arts Center	<i>Children of Eden JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Wings Performing Arts	Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>
1:00 PM	Stage Center's School of Performing Arts	Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i>

Pod Schedule

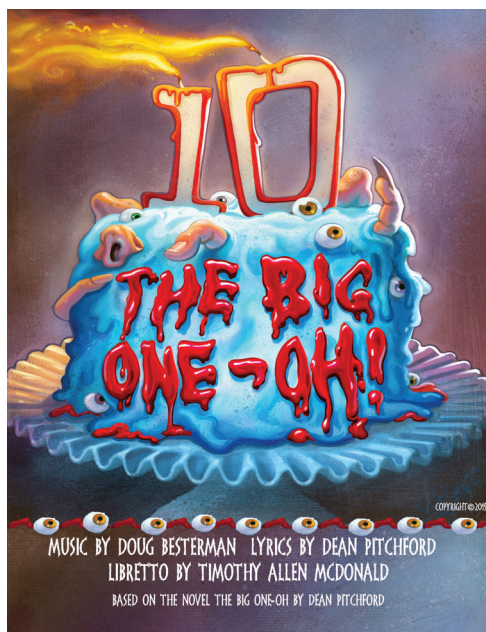
YELLOW POD *Saturday, June 26* Smart Financial Centre

8:30 AM	CharACTers Children's Theatre	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Sunny Side Theater	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Purple Box Theater	<i>Oliver JR.</i>
10:00 AM	Magic Curtain Productions	Disney's <i>High School Musical 2 JR.</i>
10:30 AM	CAST Academy of Performing Arts	<i>Legally Blonde JR.</i>
11:30 PM	The Lighthouse Theatre Company	Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>
12:00 PM	Spotlight Theatre Productions	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
12:30 PM	Creative Theater Workshop	<i>High School Musical JR.</i>
1:00 PM	Melody Lane Performing Arts Center	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda JR.</i>

RED POD *Saturday, June 26* Online

9:00 AM	Grandstreet Theatre School	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Kettleworks Performing Arts	Disney's <i>Frozen KIDS</i>
10:00 AM	Hub Junior Musical Theatre Team	<i>Dear Edwina JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Seattle's Performers	<i>Seussical JR.</i>
11:15 AM	Hub Senior Musical Theatre Team	<i>Sister Act JR.</i>
11:45 AM	Starbound Theatre	Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>
12:15 PM	Grandstreet Theatre School SAB	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>

2021 New Works Showcase



PERFORMED BY:

Inspiration Stage

Sugar Land, TX

CAST

Charley - Jaxon Daniel • Boing Boing - Nic Schweers • Mrs. Cleveland - Violet Miles •
Mom - Emily Adams • Monster 1 - Andrew Sackett • Monster 2 - Jane Delahoussaye •
Monster 3 - Holden Hagelberger • Lorena - Caitlin Raffield • Lillian - Mabyn Coleman • Lillith - Ashley Janak •
Leilani - Bianca Ramirez • Dad - Clayton Syfert • Garry - Patrick Cashion • Stacy - Aly Gregorek •
Vince - Nate Sarlls • Jennifer - Gentry Claire Lumpkin • Darryl - Patrick Tsang • Donna - Madi McClellan •
Dana - Campbell Baldon • Dina - Kaitlyn Jackson • Scottie - Elyse Simmons • Cougar - Erin Brogan

ENSEMBLE: Nic Schweers, Joseph Henry, Dylan Mohwinkel, Sophie Lowe, Megan Edwards,
Lexi Shingleton, Ashby Stanford, Ashley Janak, Karli Nimmo, Abigail Allen, Ryley Sabin,
Jordynn King, Macie Tielke, Bellamy Tones, Lola Tielke, Landry Lumpkin, Gemma Riffel,
Alexander Eshaghy, Kathryn Otto, Sophie Dickson, Kate McMurtrey, Ashley Gilberg, Coral Maxwell, Isabella
Fish, Colette McMurtrey, Keira Wagner, Avery Martin, Brynn Pera, Mia de la Garza,
Grace Morgan, Brayden Hayes

Director/Choreographer - Mandy Seymore-Sensat • Music Director - Jonathan Craft •
Additional Choreography - Annelea Bootle • Stage Managers - Courtney Sackett and Charlotte Harris •
Student Technician - Lily Delahoussaye

Growin' Up Broadway Live!

Growin' Up Broadway Live! Is the world's first podcast dedicated to theatre makers who are young, or young at heart. Co-hosted by iHeart Radio Broadway's Director SJ Arnegger and iTheatrics and Junior Theater Festival Worldwide Founder and librettist Timothy Allen McDonald, each podisode features a mix of the latest Broadway news, interviews with theatre makers, live performances, and spotlights on educational theatre organizations from all over the world.

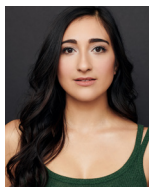
Now, JTF participants get to enjoy the spontaneity of *Growin' Up Broadway Live!* with special guests and one-of-a-kind performances!



Sarah Jane Arnegger

Co-host

Sarah Jane (SJ) (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 on camera host for the iHeartRadio Broadway Mercedes-Benz Interview Lounge and the co-host for the 'Growin' Up Broadway' podcast.



Krystina Alabado

Krystina is a NYC based actor and voice over artist. She was last seen starring as Gretchen Wieners in *Mean Girls* on Broadway! Other Broadway credits include *American Psycho* (Vanden, OBC) and *Green Day's American Idiot*. National Tours: *Evita* (Mistress), *American Idiot*, *Spring Awakening*. Off-Broadway: *The Mad Ones* (Samantha Brown, listen on Spotify!), *This Ain't No Disco* (Atlantic Theater), *David Bowie's Lazarus* (NYTW), *Camp Wanatachi* (La MaMa). Selected Regional: *Burn All Night* (American Repertory Theater). *Miss You Like Hell* (La Jolla Playhouse). TV/Film: "A Killer Party" (Lily Wright), Voice of Veronica on "Voltron Legendary Defender" (Netflix), "Sunny Day" (Nick Jr.) "God Friend Me" (CBS), *First Reformed*, "Tyrant" (FX).



Katy Geraghty

Katy is thrilled to be back with JTF after this long and crazy year! An actor based out of New York, Katy made her Broadway debut in the original cast of *Groundhog Day*. Since then, she has worked all over the country; including spending a year at Oregon Shakespeare Festival playing Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray*; as well as debuting the new musical *Bliss* in the pre-Broadway run at The 5th Avenue Theatre in Seattle. Let's do this!



Douglas Lyons

Douglas is an actor, writer, director, composer, and playwright. Writing - TV: *Fraggle Rock* (Apple TV). Theater: *Polkadots* (Off Broadway Alliance Winner Best Family Show, Atlantic Theater Company), *Chicken and Biscuits* (Queens Theatre), *Sunshine* (Long Wharf Theatre), *Pete(He)Pan* (Pace New Musicals), *Five Points* (world premiere Theater Latte Da), now directed by Hamilton's Andy Blankenbuehler, *Fatigue* with Jodi Picoult, and *Sunflower* (Flint Rep). Acting - Broadway: *Beautiful* (Original Cast) and *The Book of Mormon*. Tours: *Rent*, *Dreamgirls* and *The Book of Mormon* 1st National. Douglas is also the founder of The Next Wave Initiative, a scholarship program dedicated to supporting the future of Black Theater artists. @chocolatehipster



Daniel 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).

A Discussion of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Theater

Join iTheatrics' own Jiana Odland as she invites Michael J. Bobbitt, the Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council, and Kikau Alvaro, the head of Musical Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University, to discuss the history and future of diversity in the theatre industry. Race is an issue that affects every single person across the world, and we want to make theatre – which for many of us is our home – a fairer, safer environment. From kids' theatre to Broadway producers, everyone needs to look at the numbers, take responsibility, and take action. During this panel, we will review those statistics as well as the real-life effect on individuals of color in the industry. The Junior Theater Festival family is massive and beautiful, and we want to not only celebrate that beauty, but advocate for every different shade of that beauty and remind everyone that “there’s a place for us.”



Jiana J. Odland

Jiana first met the fine folks at iTheatrics when she was 16 years old as a stage manager of one of their pilot workshops outside of Chicago. 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. After touring, she produced live events across America for major companies such as Nike, Toyota, and Sonos Digital. For iTheatrics, she oversees the partnership with the Shubert Foundation/NYC Department of Education; administrates, directs, and choreographs for the iTheatrics Academy; writes educational content for the Broadway Junior® ShowKits; and assists with management of the international iTheatrics Junior Theater Festivals and Junior Theater Celebrations. In 2018, Jiana choreographed a nationwide music video for Turnaround Arts, working with stars such as Misty Copeland, Jason Mraz, and Paula Abdul. That same year, Jiana was lucky enough to travel to China to teach classes and choreograph for the Broadway Academy in Ningbo. Jiana is so grateful for the opportunity to continue sharing musical theatre with people around the world. @jianaodd



Michael J. Bobbitt

Michael is the Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council, the highest-ranking cultural official in Massachusetts. Recently, he was the Artistic Director of New Repertory Theatre in Boston and previously the

Artistic Director for Adventure Theatre-MTC in Maryland. Bobbitt has directed/choreographed at Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Olney Theatre Center, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Center Stage, Roundhouse Theatre, The Kennedy Center, and the Washington National Opera. His national and international credits include the NY Musical Theatre Festival, Mel Tillis 2001, La Jolla Playhouse, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Jefferson Performing Arts Center, and the Olympics. As a writer, his work was chosen for the NYC International Fringe Festival and The New York and Musical Theatre Festival. He has two plays published by Concord Theatricals. He trained at Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management, The National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program, Certificates in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell, artEquity and People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and other top leadership programs. He earned the Excel Leadership Award (Center for Nonprofit Advancement) the Emerging Leader Award (County Executive's Excellence in the Arts and Humanities), and Person of the Year Award (Maryland Theatre Guide), among others.



Kikau Alvaro

Kikau is the head of Musical Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University and the Associate Artistic Director at Virginia Repertory Theatre. He lives with his husband Derrick and puppy Boggnes (named after

Sierra Boggess and Laura Osnes) in Richmond, VA. He has been involved with JTF since 2013. Next year he will be working on a production of *Mamma Mia* at VaRep. @kikautown

Michael James Scott in Concert



Michael James Scott has played the Genie in Disney's *Aladdin* internationally including Broadway, London, the North American Tour, and originating the role in the Australian Production for which he won the prestigious Helpmann Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical.

He's also known for originating the role of the Minstrel on Broadway in *Something Rotten* and originating Dr. Gotswana (aka The Maggots Guy) in the Tony-winning phenomenon *The Book of Mormon*. Other Broadway credits include *Mamma Mia*, *Tarzan*, *All Shook Up*, *The Pirate Queen*, *Elf*, and *Hair*.

On the West End, he was the associate choreographer and performed in the Broadway revival transfer of *Hair*. Off-Broadway, he co-starred in *Here's to the Public* opposite Donna McKechnie, and was also part of the concert cast of *Jerry Springer: The Opera* at Carnegie Hall. He was the standby for the legendary Ben Vereen in the International tour of *Fosse*, taking over the role in Paris, France at the Théâtre du Châtelet. Outside NYC, he performed in the original Las Vegas Company of *Jersey Boys* and in *Shrek the Musical* as the Donkey at the famous St. Louis Muny.

Regional credits include *Aida*, *Ragtime*, *South Pacific*, *Cinderella* and *Little Shop of Horrors* to name a few. Numerous television and film appearances include *The Carrie Diaries* (The WB), *Independent Woman* (Feature Film), *The View* (ABC), *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon* (NBC), *The Late Show with Conan O'Brien* (NBC), *Good Morning America* (ABC), *The Today Show* (NBC) *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade* (CBS), *The TONY Awards* (CBS) and the new Showtime series *Black Monday*.

He was a member of the critically acclaimed singing group *The Broadway Boys* and Grammy-nominated *Broadway Inspirational Voices* and he can be heard on many original Broadway cast albums, multiple studio recordings, and the Broadway Boy's debut Album *Lullaby of Broadway*. MichaelJamesScott.com
(Instagram/Twitter @iamMJScott)



JTF TEXAS MUSICALSINC.COM ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN!

Covid might mean we can't have an in-person MUSICALSINC.COM store, but it doesn't mean you can't take home JTF merch! The MUSICALSINC.COM online store is open and taking orders for in-person pick-up during JTF Texas! Order now and you can wear your new JTF swag during the festival!

HOW TO SHOP:

1. The MUSICALSINC.COM Online Store is open now and throughout JTF!
2. Go to MUSICALSINC.COM or on the JTF App click on MUSICALSINC.COM Store
3. Check out the JTF merch and place your order. **Individuals can place their own orders but must include the name of their group.**
4. Based on when you order, either your director will pick up all orders made by the group at Festival Sign-In OR orders will be delivered to your group at your assigned seats in the Smart Financial Centre at designated times during the festival. Keep reading for more details.

WHEN TO SHOP:

- Orders placed between **Friday, June 3 to 5pm on Tuesday, June 22** will be given to your group's director at sign-in.
- Orders placed between **5pm on Tuesday, June 22 to 2pm on Saturday, June 26** will be delivered to directors in the theater on Saturday evening to distribute to their groups.
- Orders placed between **2pm on Saturday, June 26 to 3pm on Sunday, June 27** will be delivered to directors in the theater Sunday afternoon to distribute to their groups.
- No orders can be placed after the online store closes on **Sunday, June 27 at 3pm.**

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE:

- **Merchandise stock is extremely limited; early ordering strongly recommended.**
- **All orders are delivered in person during JTF Texas only. No orders will be shipped to homes.**
- **The MUSICALSINC.COM store is not currently accepting any orders for shipping to homes.**
- **Orders cannot be changed once submitted.**
- You will be able to order merch when you are in Texas, but no, there will be no pop-up store and no items to look at in person.
- Items purchased on MUSICALSINC.COM during the festival will only be delivered as outlined above (see "WHEN TO SHOP").
- If you want your director to pick up your merch at sign-in, you must order by Tuesday, June 22 at 5pm ET.
- Our fabulous merch folks will be live at the Smart Financial Centre Information Booth starting at 4pm on Sunday, June 27 to answer any questions about orders that might pop up. Need answers sooner? Send all JTF Merchandise inquiries to jftexas@musicalsinc.com



ALL SALES ARE FINAL, NO RETURNS OR EXCHANGES.

2021 Junior Theater Festival iTheatrics



Timothy Allen McDonald

Founder and CEO

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

In 1997, Tim moved to New York City from Northern California to become a musical theatre librettist. Credits include Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* (Pasek and Paul), Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* (Paul Williams, directed by Christopher Gattelli), and Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* (Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley). Tim's current projects include *The Big One-Oh!* (Doug Besterman, Dean Pitchford), which premiered Off-Broadway at the Atlantic Theater Company in the fall of 2019 and was reimaged as the world's first "Zoomsical" and one of the most produced musicals during the 2020-2021 pandemic. In addition McDonald penned *Hans Christian Andersen* (Frank Loesser), which opened at Nashville Children's Theater February 20, 2020; *Between The Lines* (Samsel and Anderson) which will open Off Broadway in June of 2022, *The Book Thief* (Samsel and Anderson), opening in the U.K. fall 2022, and *Breathe: Portraits From A Pandemic* 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). Jodi and Tim began writing *Breathe* as soon as Tim recovered from Covid-19. The show chronicles the impact of the pandemic on five different couples. The show premiered in April of 2021, streamed from New York City's famed 92nd Street Y, followed by a cast album which is available from Broadway Records. The star-studded cast of *Breathe* includes Broadway royalty Brian Stokes Mitchell, and Kelli O'Hara,

Tim is the co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*, the world's first-ever educational musical theatre textbook (GIA Publications, Inc.), which is available everywhere books are sold. Tim dedicates this festival to the memory of his father-in-law, the dashing handsome and charming Jack Kennedy who passed away due to complications from Covid-19.



Marty Johnson

Director of Education

Named by Playbill.com as one of the top ten educators who are shaping Broadway, Marty first became involved in the world of musical theatre when he was 10 years old and his 4-H club put on an amazing rendition of *Peter Pan*, where he made his own top hat. He is now the Director of Education and Resident Director for iTheatrics, a New York City-based musical theatre education company. Since 2004, Marty has had the honor of developing and directing over 50 new titles for iTheatrics throughout the world, including projects in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, China, and the United States. He also oversees all of iTheatrics' educational programs, including the iTheatrics Summer Academy, all professional development workshops for teachers, and partnerships with such organizations as Turnaround Arts and the Educational Theater Association. Additionally, Marty happily takes on the role of Director of Programming for the Junior Theater Festivals and Celebrations worldwide. In 2018, Marty was honored to direct the first Turnaround Arts National Talent Show held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. That year he also traveled to China to teach classes and direct the *The Music Man JR.* for the Broadway Academy in Ningbo. Additional directing credits include the world premiere of two musicals written by Laurie Berkner, *Interstellar Cinderella* and *The Amazing Adventures of Harvey and the Princess*, for New York Children's Theater, and the world premiere of the new musical *Llama Llama Live!* for Bay Area Children's Theater. Marty holds a graduate degree in Theatre for Youth from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and served for nine years as a board member for TYA/USA, the leading organization for the advancement of theatre for young audiences in the world. He is the proud co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*, published by GIA Publications, Inc.



Lindsay Weiner Lupi

Music Supervisor

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 has the true pleasure of serving as the Music Supervisor, where she has music directed, musically adapted, and/or helped creatively shape over 90 adaptations for Music Theatre International, Disney Theatricals, Tams-Witmark, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, and Samuel French. Additional music directing credits include the Disney+ series *Encore!*, NYMF, multiple national tours, and *The Sign of the Seahorse* and *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley JR.* for the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center. She holds an MA in Music and Music Education from Teachers College at Columbia University. Proud mom of six-year-old Tucker and three-year-old Talia! @lindsayariennelupi



Susan Fuller

Senior Managing Editor

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



Steven G. Kennedy

Veep/Choreography Supervisor/Designer

Steven has done some stuff, taught some people, and traveled to some places, but by far one of his greatest joys was performing in the ensemble of musicals all over the world. To all of you wonderfully talented young performers, teachers, directors, and especially parents, please remember that being in the ensemble of a show is a life-changing and powerful experience – never to be discredited or discounted, but celebrated! Steven dedicates JTF Texas in honor of the best ensemble member ever, John “Jack” Anthony Kennedy, who passed July 25, 2020 due to complications from COVID. Rest in Peace, Dad. We love you and miss you. Oh, and so not to leave anyone on a sad note, Steven and Tim have a really cute puppy named Duch.



Cindy Ripley

Senior Education Consultant

is a leading authority on musical theater for young people and as such serves as Senior Educational Consultant for iTheatrics, leading workshops for kids and teachers across the country. She is also MTI's online Show Support guru and namesake of “Cindy Says” for Broadway Junior®. Cindy piloted the first-ever Broadway Junior production (*Annie JR.*), and used her experience to develop the Broadway Junior Director's Guide. 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 theater and enthusiasm life affirming!



Laura Jo Schuster

Creative Media Director

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

Music Associate

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



Jiana J. Odland

Education Associate

Jiana first met the fine folks at iTheatrics when she was 16 years old as a stage manager of one of their pilot workshops outside of Chicago. 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. After touring, she produced live events across America for major companies such as Nike, Toyota, and Sonos Digital. For iTheatrics, she oversees the partnership with the Shubert Foundation/NYC Department of Education; administrates, directs, and choreographs for the iTheatrics Academy; writes educational content for the Broadway Junior® ShowKits; and assists with management of the international iTheatrics Junior Theater Festivals and Junior Theater Celebrations. In 2018, Jiana choreographed a nationwide music video for Turnaround Arts, working with stars such as Misty Copeland, Jason Mraz, and Paula Abdul. That same year, Jiana was lucky enough to travel to China to teach classes and choreograph for the Broadway Academy in Ningbo. Jiana is so grateful for the opportunity to continue sharing musical theatre with people around the world. @jianaodd



Joseph Ayala

Information Technology

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



Mary-Catherine Chambliss

Education Advisor

Mary-Catherine grew up with iTheatrics after meeting the team in 6th grade at the first Junior Theater Festival. Over 17 years, she has worked with iTheatrics as an adjudicator, teaching artist, and associate choreographer for Choreography Videos with iTheatrics, most recently *Oliver JR.* and *Getting to Know... Cinderella*. The iTheatrics team created a love and foundation for Musical Theatre Education. She decided to pursue a career in Theatre Education with a BS from Troy University. 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 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 *The Little Mermaid*. Mary-Catherine made a move to New York City to act as Program Director for The Anderson School and develop a curriculum for Manhattan Youth's Summer Theatre intensive. She most recently served Manhattan Youth as Education Director for The Professional Performing Arts High School, Simon Baruch Junior High School, Yorkville East Middle School, and The Anderson School.

2021 Junior Theater Festival Production & Design



John Edkins

Technical Director

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



Lori Holt

Facilities Director

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 thirteenth 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

Matt has worked as a designer for more than 100 theatrical productions including the Tony award-winning Broadway show *Liza's at the Palace*, *Kathy Griffin Wants a Tony*, *Kristen Chenoweth - My Love Letter to Broadway*, *SuperFly* (directed by Bill T. Jones), and *Absinthe* at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas. For television, Matt won an Emmy award as the sound designer for *Disney's Broadway Hits at Royal Albert Hall*. Matt is the Audio Coordinator on remote shoots of *The Tonight Show*, which has filmed all over the country. Other professional highlights include, *Jesus Christ Superstar LIVE*, *The Sound of Music LIVE*, *The 2016 International Jazz Day live from the White House*, and *Elton John's 60th Birthday Celebration*. Matt has enjoyed working on several of Paul Newman's *Hole in the Wall Gang Galas*.

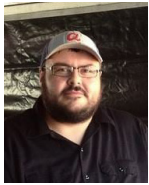


Jay Rabbitt

Audio Coordinator

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

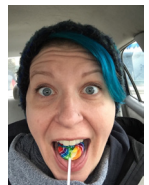
Meet the Team



Jeremy Barfield

In Concert Productions

Jeremy is a live audio engineer with over 15 years of national touring and event experience. He has worked with many styles of music and world class musicians and engineers. Jeremy has toured with Grammy™ Award winning and multi-platinum artists and has been the system engineer and monitor tech for music festivals such as Lollapalooza and Governor's Ball NYC. He has worked with artists such as Julio Igesias, T-Pain, Austin Mahone, Michael McDonald, Alabama's Randy Owen, and many others. Jeremy has been the production audio system engineer and RF coordinator for the Junior Theater Festivals, and has been the mainstage FOH engineer for 50+ music theme charter cruises.



Kim Carbone

Production Sound Designer

Kim has been a sound engineer and designer 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 JTF. Kim currently resides in Oregon, where she designs, engineers, and teaches.



Cody Denson

In Concert Productions

Cody oversees the audio, RF coordination, and is the intercom engineer at the Junior Theater Festival. Cody has worked with artists ranging from Keith Urban, to Timothy B. Schmidt from the Eagles, to Dionne Warwick. Cody has also provided his can-do work ethic to the TV and film industries like Family Feud, The Go-Big Show, Titan Games, Hidden Figures, Cobra Kai; ABC, NBC, BET Networks, TBS, and Tru-TV shows. An avid outdoorsman, Cody enjoys hiking, kayaking, and generally anything that keeps him in nature, and spending time with his rescue pup "Sir."



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.



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 6th 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*.



Shirlee Idzakovich

MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate

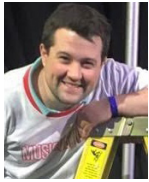
Shirlee is a professional costumer from NYC.



Ellen Mezzera Lavaia

Event Manager

Originally from San Francisco, Mrs. Lavaia now resides in New York City. Broadway: *The Lion King*, *Annie*, *Les Misérables*, and *Matilda*. New York: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Macbeth*, and *A Man's a Man*. Regional: *Steel Hammer*, *Persians*, *the theater is a blank page*, and *The Bacchae*. Lavaia has toured internationally through China, Georgia, Hong Kong, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and Japan. Additional Credits: NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!* and the 2013 Tony Awards. Education: MFA, Columbia University. BA, Gonzaga University. She is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, Local 764, and SITI Company.



Kyle Brewster McGinley

MUSICALSINC.COM Store Manager

As Director of Visual Merchandising & Logistics for Creative Goods Merchandise, Kyle has supervised the merchandise operations for over 150 shows. Select career

highlights include *Wicked* (Broadway, Tours, Tokyo), *Hamilton* (Broadway, *Chicago*, Tours, London, NYC Retail Store), *The Pee-wee Herman Show*, and *The Cher Show*. This is his 5th year coordinating operations and designing merchandise for the JTF Store!

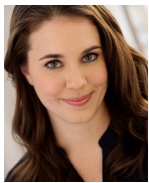


Kathleen J. Parsons

Event Manager

Kathleen J. Parsons is excited to be working as an Event Manager for JTF. When not with the JTF, Kathleen is a freelance Stage Manager, Electrician, and Girl Scout Leader

living in Richmond, CA. Recent shows she has worked on include *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*; *Matilda*; *Murder For 2*; *Freaky Friday*; *Mamma Mia*; and *Communicating Doors*. Other companies Kathleen has stage managed for include Center REPeritory, The Rubicon Theatre Company, San Jose Repertory Theatre, Shakespeare Sedona, Access Theatre, North Shore Music Theatre, The American Conservatory Theatre, American Musical Theatre of San Jose, Aurora Theatre Company, and the National Theatre of the Deaf.



Marianne Phelps

Information Booth Specialist

Marianne is a contributing editor for, and longtime lover of, iTheatrics! This is her third year at the Junior Theater Festival, and she's thrilled to be participating.

When she's not working for iTheatrics, Marianne is a professional AEA actor who teaches acting and serves as the associate producer for AthensWest Theatre Company. She also spends time in Lexington, KY, singing show tunes to her little ones, husband, and dachshund, all of whom she loves very much!



Al Ripley

Information Booth Specialist

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

Broadcast Sound Engineer

Kevin is a freelance sound designer and audio engineer based out of Cincinnati, OH. Past credits include many productions with The Park Ave Armory and Second Stage Theatre in

NYC. He is currently the resident Sound Designer for the Xavier University Theatre Department and The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati.



Kushal Shankar

Covid-19 Protocol Advisor

Kush is a Pharmaceutical Engineer residing in Raleigh, North Carolina. Originally from Atlanta, Kush has volunteered, interned, and worked for Junior Theater Group for years

assisting with JTF Atlanta and now JTF Texas! Kush is a massive musical theater nerd and is happy to talk Broadway any time! He is so excited to mesh science with the magic of theater to help ensure the safety and fun of all JTF Texas participants!



Super Awesome Friends

Digital Content & Production

With over two decades of content creation and storytelling, Super Awesome Friends is a full service digital marketing agency. Select

Current Clients: Broadway's Best Shows'

"Spotlight on Plays" series; Broadway Biz with Hal Luftig podcast; Concord Theatricals; Company; *Gazillion Bubble Show*; *Girl from the North Country*; Music Theatre International; *Officer and a Gentleman*; Pixar Putt; *Plaza Suite*; Streaming Musicals; Disney's *Winnie the Pooh*; *Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*; and more.

Meet the Team



Alexandra Valley

Social Media 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.



Andrew Volzer

Assistant Event Manager

Andrew is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM) with a BFA in Stage Management. He has been part of the JTF family since 2018. Andrew has stage managed operas, musicals, and dance recitals. Credits include: *Social Distance* (Netflix), *America's Got Talent*, The Kentucky Opera, promotional video for Broadway's *Anastasia*, iTheatrics Choreography Video Shoots, and the Freddie G Fellowship. He can't wait to celebrate live theatre again! #JTFTexas



Allison Van Etten

Publicist

Allison is principal of Ravenscroft Public Relations (RPR). RPR is proud to represent iTheatrics and the Junior Theater Festival. This year RPR has worked on campaigns on behalf of clarinetist Anthony McGill, the 2020 Avery Fisher Prize recipient and the first African-American principal player of the New York Philharmonic, violinist Rachel Barton Pine, and RGWW dance in Los Angeles. Allison dedicates her 2021 #JTF work in memory of theatre teacher Lois Goutman.



Mya Bryant, a Texas native, dazzles the audience at the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta (2019)

2021 Junior Theater Festival

Adjudicators & Workshop Leaders



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.

Theatricals. He trained at Harvard Business School's Strategic Perspectives in Nonprofit Management, The National Arts Strategies Chief Executive Program, Certificates in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell, artEquity and People's Institute for Survival and Beyond, and other top leadership programs. He earned the Excel Leadership Award (Center for Nonprofit Advancement) the Emerging Leader Award (County Executive's Excellence in the Arts and Humanities), and Person of the Year Award (Maryland Theatre Guide), among others.



Kikau Alvaro

Kikau is the head of Musical Theatre at Virginia Commonwealth University and the Associate Artistic Director at Virginia Repertory Theatre. He lives with his husband Derrick and puppy Boggnes (named after

Sierra Boggess and Laura Osnes) in Richmond, VA. He has been involved with JTF since 2013. Next year he will be working on a production of *Mamma Mia* at VaRep.

@kikautown



Derek Bowley

Derek has been a part of the JTF family since the very first festival in 2003, and he is thrilled to be part of JTF Texas. Derek has worked all over the county with iTheatrics on innumerable projects as a teaching artist, music director, and writer, but his "day job" is teaching Speech and Drama at Congressional School in Falls Church, Virginia. When not working with young people, Derek can be found in his kitchen, exploring his passion for food.



Khalia Davis

Khalia (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist recently named Artistic Director of Bay Area Children's Theatre where she led the premiere of *A Kids Play About Racism*, creating a new hybrid between live theatrical storytelling and film. 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. BA in Theater Arts from the University of Southern California www.khaliadavis.com!



Michael J. Bobbitt

Michael is the Executive Director of Mass Cultural Council, the highest-ranking cultural official in Massachusetts. Recently, he was the Artistic Director of New Repertory Theatre in Boston and

previously the Artistic Director for Adventure Theatre-MTC in Maryland. Bobbitt has directed/choreographed at Arena Stage, Ford's Theatre, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Olney Theatre Center, Studio Theatre, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Center Stage, Roundhouse Theatre, The Kennedy Center, and the Washington National Opera. His national and international credits include the NY Musical Theatre Festival, Mel Tillis 2001, La Jolla Playhouse, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Jefferson Performing Arts Center, and the Olympics. As a writer, his work was chosen for the NYC International Fringe Festival and The New York and Musical Theatre Festival. He has two plays published by Concord

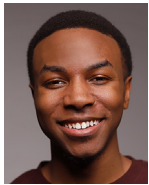


Richard Frazier

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

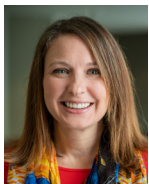
Meet the Team

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.



Fernell Hogan

Fernell is a Houston native. He made his Broadway debut in the hit musical *The Prom*. Later, he toured the country as Martin Jitla in the First National Tour of *Mean Girls the Musical*. Fernell is a graduate of Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. He is glad to be surrounded by such supportive and loving friends and family.



Kelby McIntyre-Martinez

Kelby draws upon years of experience as an arts educator, choreographer, and director in the field of Theatre for Young Audiences. She has done extensive collaborative work with school districts, universities, and non-profit organizations to create quality educational fine arts programs that are more inclusive and accessible for youth in the greater community. Kelby is currently the Assistant Dean of Arts Education and Community Engagement in the College of Fine Arts, Director of the Fine Arts, Master of Arts in Teaching Program, and the Endowed Program Director of the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program at the University of Utah.



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*.



Nicholas Sostillio

Nicholas graduated from Columbus State University with a Bachelor of Science in Theatre Education and is currently the Director of Theatre at Warner Robins High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. His program produces four shows annually that involve more than 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 Georgia Thespians and Georgia Junior Thespians boards as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator. He is also the Co-Chair for the Georgia Theatre Educators Conference.



Brion Marquis Watson

Brion is a NY-based originally from Greensboro, NC. He has trained at the University of Cincinnati (CCM) as an MT major and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Some of his credits include *Hamilton* in Puerto Rico and San Francisco, *FX POSE*, and countless productions at The Muny in ST Louis, MO. He has had the pleasure of working with and alongside Lin Manuel-Miranda, Billy Porter, Heather Headley, Camille A. Brown, Matthew Morrison, and Chita Rivera, just to name a few. He is excited to be a part of JTF 2021. Let's Go! Hebrews 11:1



Samantha Williams

Samantha, a Texas native, made her Broadway debut in the Tony award-winning hit musical *Dear Evan Hansen* playing the principal role of "Alana Beck" when she was in her junior year at Pace University. Prior to the pandemic, she was set to star in the Broadway revival of *Caroline, or Change* as "Emmie" and is excited to be returning with the show this Fall! Samantha also spent a brief time reprising the role of "Alana Beck" on the national tour of *Dear Evan Hansen*. She is also a certified yoga instructor, activist, and teacher.

The Wonderful World of JTF! Which ones will you attend?



2021 JTF Texas Participating Groups



Artistic Civic Theatre
Dalton, GA



Carolina Academy of Performing Arts
Apex, NE



Barn Theater Junior Company
Porterville, CA



Carpe Artista
Smyrna, GA



Bay Area Arts Conservatory
League City, TX



CAST Theatre
Anniston, AL



Broadway at The Rose
Omaha, NE



Center Stage Academy
Warrensburg, MO



CharACTers Children's Theatre
Rainbow City, AL



Edge Dance & Performing Arts Center
Plano, TX



City Kidz Playhouse
Bayonne, NJ



Elgin Opera House
Elgin, OR



Colorado Children's Theatre
Littleton, CO



From the Top Theatrics
Marietta, GA



Creative Theater Workshop
Ft. Myers, FL



Granbury Theatre Academy
Granbury, TX

Groups



Grandstreet Theatre School Junior Cast
Helena, MT



Hub Performing Arts School - Junior Team
Lubbock, TX



Grandstreet Theatre School Student Advisory Board
Helena, MT



Hub Performing Arts School - Senior Team
Lubbock, TX



Greater Austin Dance Academy
Round Rock, TX



InNOVATION Arts Academy
Lexington, KY



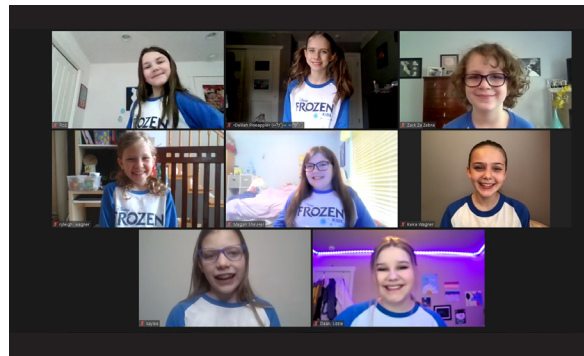
Holly Performance Academy
Dahlonega, GA



Innovation Drama Academy
Monroe, NC



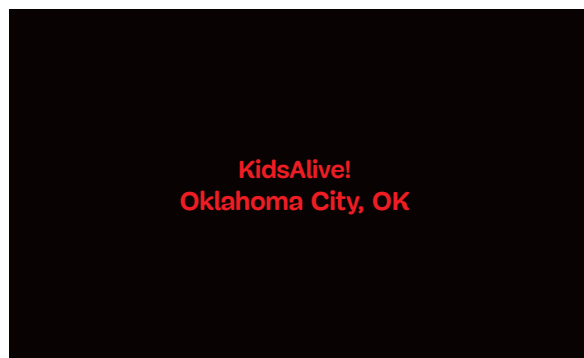
**Inspiration Stage
Sugar Land, TX**



**Kettleworks Performing Arts
Renton, WA**



**iStage
Sugar Land, TX**



**KidsAlive!
Oklahoma City, OK**



**JBT Kids
Gibsonia, PA**



**LifeStage Theatre
Grapevine, TX**



**Jeter Backyard Theater
Gibsonia, PA**



**Magic Curtain Productions
Orlando, FL**

Groups



**MelloDrama Productions
Dahlonega, GA**



**Melody Lane Performing Arts Center
North Ft. Myers, FL**



**North Texas Performing Arts
Fairview, TN**



**Moorestown Theater Company
Moorestown, NJ**



**Ohlook Performing Arts Center
Lewisville, TX**



**Musical Mayhem Productions
Elk Grove, CA**



**Plaza Academy
Cleburne, TX**

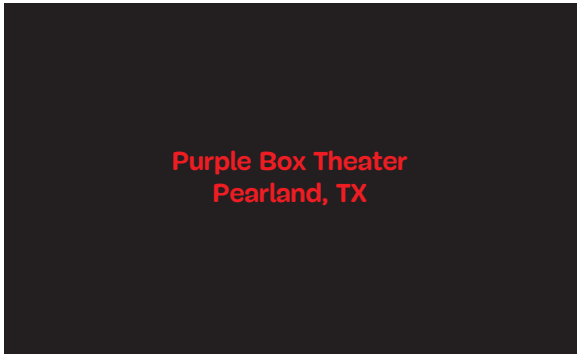
Groups



Preston Center Dance
Dallas, TX



Spark Theater Company
Dothan, AL



Purple Box Theater
Pearland, TX



Spotlight Players
Mint Hill, NC



Seattle's Performers
Seattle, WA



Spotlight Theatre Productions
Sarasota, FL



Spark Of Creation Studio
South San Francisco, CA



Stage Center's School of Performing Arts
Shreveport, LA

Groups



Starbound Theatre
Suisun City, CA



The Lighthouse Theatre Company
Albertville, AL



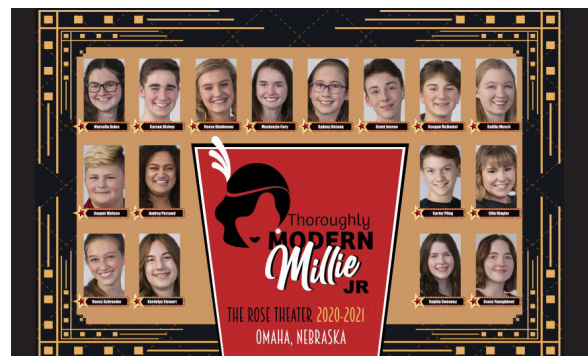
Sunny Side Theater
Mobile, AL



The PACT Theatre Company
Mobile, AL



The Actor's Charitable Theatre
Northport, AL



The Rose Theater
Omaha, NE

**The JET-PAC
Houston, TX**



**Wildfish Theatre Company
Houston, TX**



**Wings Performing Arts
Gulfport, MS**

