

# DIGITAL PROGRAM

 junior  
theater  
**Festival**<sup>®</sup>  
'24

FEBRUARY 9 - 11, 2024  
SACRAMENTO, CA





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

BROADWAY SACRAMENTO



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

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**JTF PHOTOGRAPHY BY**

Avery Brunkus, Caitlyn Gallip, Marcus Woollen

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Susan Babich, Alex Birsh, Philip S. Birsh, Erin Breznitsky, Jason Cocovinis,  
Drew Cohen, Logan Culwell-Block, Carol Edelson, Freddie Gershon, Myrna Gershon,  
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# Welcome to JTF West 2024

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# About iTheatrics

## The Team

Welcome to JTF West! We are thrilled to be back in Sacramento. 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://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**, 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 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!). Social 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 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** joined the team as Education Director after many years of collaborating as a teaching artist. Longtime freelancer **Marianne Phelps** became the full-time Publications Associate Editor and General Manager of JTF. The illustrious **Richard Frazier** directs the JTF mainstage programs and many other iTheatrics programs.



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

Last but not least, former JTF kid **Rebecca Marlowe** came on board in 2022 as Education Associate.

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

The Educational Theatre Foundation (ETF), in collaboration with iTheatrics and Music Theatre International (MTI), created JumpStart Theatre (JST), a three-year scalable program designed to create sustainable theatre arts programs in under-served middle schools where

there were none. These programs are active in Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Diego, Atlanta, Frostburg, and Detroit.

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

The Junior Theater Festivals® are the world's biggest and best festivals exclusively dedicated to musical theatre education. These festivals are held in Atlanta, Sacramento, 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 2024 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Festival Sign-In	Convention Center
12:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Optional Group Rehearsals	Convention Center
1:00 PM – 7:00 PM	iTheatrics Video Audition	Convention Center
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Festival Sign-In	Convention Center
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	PD Orientation	Convention Center
7:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Theatre Opens	UC Davis Health Pavilion
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	<i>Festival Kick-Off!</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Adjudications	Convention Center
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Snack Break	On Your Own
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	Adjudications	Convention Center
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Theatre Opens	UC Davis Health Pavilion
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	<i>Direct From Broadway</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion
4:00 PM – 5:45 PM	Student Workshops	Convention Center
4:00 PM – 5:45 PM	Teacher Workshops	Convention Center
5:45 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Theatre Opens	UC Davis Health Pavilion
8:00 PM – 9:30 PM	<i>New Works Showcase</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	iTheatrics Video Callback	Convention Center
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Tech Olympics	Convention Center
9:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Theatre Opens	UC Davis Health Pavilion
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	<i>Growin' Up Broadway: LIVE!</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	JTF All-Stars Rehearsal	Convention Center
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Student Workshops	Convention Center
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Teacher Workshop	Convention Center
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch	On Your Own
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Theatre Opens	UC Davis Health Pavilion
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	<i>There's a Place for Us</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	<i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion
4:45 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner	On Your Own
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Theatre Opens	UC Davis Health Pavilion
8:00 PM – 9:00 PM	<i>JTF Concert</i>	UC Davis Health Pavilion



# 2024 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 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.

## Junie B.'s Essential SURVIVAL GUIDE TO SCHOOL JR.

Book and Lyrics by  
**Marcy Heisler**

Music by  
**Zina Goldrich**

Adapted from the JUNIE B. JONES series of books by  
**Barbara Park**

**WILDFISH THEATRE COMPANY**  
HOUSTON, TX



Music and Lyrics by

**Danny Elfman, Sammy Fain & Bob Hilliard,**  
**Oliver Wallace & Cy Coben, Michael Abbott & Sarah Weeks,**  
and **Mack David, Al Hoffman & Jerry Livingston**

Music Adapted and Arranged and Additional Music and Lyrics by  
**Bryan Luiselle**

Additional Arrangements & Orchestrations by  
**Patrick Sulken**

Book and Additional Lyrics by  
**David Simpatico**

Based on the 1951 Disney film *Alice in Wonderland* and the novels *The Adventures of Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass* by Lewis Carroll

**BAMTHEATRE**  
HINSDALE, IL

## BETWEEN THE LINES JR.

Music & Lyrics by  
**Kate Anderson & Elyssa Samsel**

Book by  
**Timothy Allen McDonald & Jodi Picoult**

Based on the book by  
**Jodi Picoult & Samantha van Leer**

**COMMUNITY THEATRE OF GREENSBORO**  
GREENSBORO, NC

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN JR. A Musical Fable of Copenhagen

Music and Lyrics by  
**Frank Loesser**

Book and Additional Lyrics by  
**Timothy Allen McDonald**

Additional Arrangements and Incidental Music by  
**Daniel Mertzlufft**

**MUSICAL MAYHEM PRODUCTIONS**  
ELK GROVE, CA



Music & Lyrics by  
**Eddie Perfect**

Book by  
**Scott Brown & Anthony King**

Based On The Geffen Company Picture, With a Story by  
**Michael McDowell & Larry Wilson**

**POISON APPLE PRODUCTIONS**  
MARTINEZ, CA



# JTF West New Works Showcase Groups



**WILDFISH THEATRE** is a Houston-area musical theater school that provides children an opportunity to hone a sense of leadership, discipline and confidence through the challenge of rehearsals and live performances. Wildfish started participating with JTF back in 2017 when we brought an ASL-integrated *Mulan JR.* to the festival. Over the years, Wildfish was given the opportunity to showcase *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang JR.*, *Oliver JR.*, and *The Big One-Oh! JR.* This year Wildfish is presenting *The Drowsy Chaperone JR.* for adjudication and showcasing *Junie B's Essential Survival Guide to School JR.*



**COMMUNITY THEATRE OF GREENSBORO** is located in the heart of downtown Greensboro, North Carolina. We are the oldest arts organization in Guilford County. Throughout the year, we offer 8 productions and a variety of classes for both youth and adults. We have loved attending the Junior Theater Festival since 2007. We have had the honor of showcasing *Madagascar JR.* and *Sister Act JR.* at JTF. Our Executive Director, Rozalynn Fulton (Ms. Roz), is a Freddie G award recipient. (2011) She also was awarded Small Business Woman of the Year (2018) from the Chamber of Commerce and recognized as one of the 40 under 40 NC Leaders in our community. (2015) Thank you to everyone who makes JTF such an amazing opportunity for students.



**POISON APPLE PRODUCTIONS** has been a non-profit 501(c)3 family-run, volunteer-based theater company since 2000 – and developed into a professional children's theater training program, and high-quality production company. Originally started by a 13-year-old girl, supported by theater parents and creative friends, our roots are humble, and based in imagination and collaboration. Don't be fooled though, while we are primarily a "children's theater" we deeply believe that children being involved is happenstance – we create high quality theater, that happens to include children. We have participated in JTF WEST annually since 2017. We made our first venture to Atlanta last year in 2023. We've been honored with multiple Outstanding Production Awards (2017, 2019, 2022, 2023) and New Works Showcase productions (*Children of Eden JR.* 2018, *The Drowsy Chaperone JR.* 2020, *Beetlejuice JR.* 2024). Our favorite recognitions remain our Excellence in Ensemble work, as we believe the Ensemble is where the magic of theater comes from.



**BAMtheatre** is beyond excited to join the 2024 JTF New Works Showcase! Founded in 2001, BAM is a Chicago-based educational theatre organization, empowering young performers with top-notch musical theatre training. Committed to integrity, creativity, and inspiration, our mission is to shape skilled artists who contribute positively to the world. Aligned with our pillars—focus, energy, enthusiasm, and joy—we ensure that these principles resonate both on and off the stage, creating transformative experiences for our performers. Since our debut at JTF West in 2022, BAM is proud to have earned accolades such as "Outstanding Production" as well as the Freddie G award for Excellence in Dance. Explore more at [bamtheatre.com](http://bamtheatre.com)!



**MUSICAL MAYHEM PRODUCTIONS (MMP)** was founded in 2012 to serve the youth of Elk Grove, CA. Currently, MMP produces 20 youth musicals each year and trains 140 young people annually in their "Master Academy" Training program. MMP first attended JTF Atlanta in 2016 and has attended every festival (Atlanta, West, and Texas) since, taking home 3 Outstanding Production awards, and presenting 4 New Works, most recently *Something Rotten JR.* at JTF West. Artistic Director Anne-Marie Pringle is the proud recipient of the Freddie G Broadway JR. Spirit award. MMP is thrilled to bring *Hans Christian Andersen JR.* to life on the New Works stage after piloting the show last fall. MMP has over 1400 cast members each year and over 30,000 costume pieces on site (and more in storage).



# Pod Schedule

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

8:00 AM	Melody Lane Performing Arts Center	Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Wildfish Theatre Company	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone JR.</i>
9:00 AM	SOC Studio Jr. Team	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Porterville Children's Theater	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Granbury Theatre Academy	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Miracle Works Musical Studio	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>

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

8:00 AM	Artistic Civic Theatre	<i>Legally Blonde The Musical JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Christian Arts and Theater	<i>Into The Woods JR.</i>
9:00 AM	MacKillop Catholic College Warnervale	Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Elk Grove Musical Theatre Company	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Community Theatre of Greensboro	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Poison Apple Productions	<i>Mean Girls JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Studio Bleu Vocal & Theatre Arts	<i>Godspell JR.</i>

## YELLOW POD | SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 5

8:00 AM	The Rose Theater	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
8:30 AM	California Middle School	<i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Tahoe Expedition Academy	<i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Katherine L. Albani Middle School	<i>Xanadu JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Conwell Kidz Drama Program	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Foothill Christian School	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>
11:30 AM	The Riviera Ridge School	<i>13 JR.</i>
12:00 PM	BAMtheatre	<i>Seussical JR.</i>



## Pod Schedule

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

8:00 AM	Preston Center Dance	Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Upstart Crow Youth Theatre	Disney's <i>Descendants: The Musical</i>
9:00 AM	Musical Mayhem Productions	<i>The Drowsy Chaperone JR.</i>
9:30 AM	On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts	<i>Into The Woods JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Spark Of Creation Studio	<i>Once On This Island JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Woodland Opera House	Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i>
11:30 AM	The SEED Falcon Theatre	<i>Do You Wanna Dance? One-Act Edition</i>
12:00 PM	Australasia All-Stars	<i>Dot and the Kangaroo JR.</i>

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

8:00 AM	Starbound Theatre	<i>Honk! JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Opening Night Theater	<i>Annie JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Plaza Academy	<i>Madagascar - A Musical Adventure JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Big Star Performing Arts Studio	Disney's <i>Beauty and the Beast JR.</i>
10:30 AM	Auburn Dance Academy	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Greater Austin Dance Academy	<i>The Music Man JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Decatur Community Players	Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i>

### PURPLE POD | SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 6

8:00 AM	Kettleworks Performing Arts	Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i>
8:30 AM	Grandstreet Theatre School	Disney's <i>Frozen JR.</i>
9:00 AM	Lyric Theatre Thelma Gaylord Academy	Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i>
9:30 AM	Chapelhouse Studios	<i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i>
10:30 AM	SOPOT Musical Theater Baabus Musicalis Fundation	<i>Annie JR.</i>
11:00 AM	Wild Horse Children's Theater	Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i>
11:30 AM	Sacramento Theatre Company	Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i>

## Festival Kick-Off!



Are you ready for it?  
Our *Festival Kick-Off!* is a Junior Theater Festival-style welcome designed to get you jazz-hands-ready for the weekend ahead! Hosted by JTF Founder and CEO Timothy Allen McDonald, this cavalcade of talent features a student performance of the US National Anthem, the Sondheim pledge, and an unforgettable surprise... or three.

McKenna Michael, JTF West 2023

## Direct From Broadway

JTF is lucky to have some of the best composer/lyricists in the world in our family. This year, we get to know some of them even better through writers-on-writers conversations and learn how shows go from an initial idea to Broadway, film, TV, or even Broadway Junior®. Featuring conversations and performances from Rob Rokicki (*The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical*), Zina Goldrich (*Junie B. Jones The Musical*, *Dear Edwina*), Kate Anderson and Elyssa Samsel (*Between the Lines*, *Olaf's Frozen Adventure*) and Daniel Mertzlufft and Jacob Ryan Smith ("In My Head," *Grumpy Monkey*).



Adrian Lyles, JTF West 2023



## Growin' Up Broadway: LIVE!

Hosted by AKA North America's SJ Arnegger and Timothy Allen McDonald, this live talk show (based on the hit podcast) features career conversations, an out-of-control quiz game, and mind-blowing performances from today's hottest theatre makers.



Arielle Jacobs, JTF West 2023

## There's a Place for Us

Hosted by JTF Director of Programming Jiana Odland, this gathering of theatre's brightest and best celebrates diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility through conversation and performance. You'll want to be a part of the conversation as these brilliant professionals share their personal stories and lead us on an exploration of how we can all work together to create a brighter theatre future for everyone.



Michael Wordly, JTF West 2023



# ★ *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!**

# SUNDAY CONCERT

Andrew Barth Feldman (*No Hard Feelings*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Ratatouille: the TikTok Musical*) is here to be CTN (Chief Theatre Nerd) for one hour with you all, alongside Dan Rudin (*Third Reprise*) on the keys. Andrew will be performing some of his favorite theatre songs, some that he's known for, and some that he's written himself. He is truly out of his mind excited to sing for you!



## SUNDAY CONCERT HISTORY

The JTF Sunday Night Concert has been a festival tradition since 2014. A chance for everyone to come together one last time after a jam-packed, fun-filled weekend of musical theatre magic, the concert features a Broadway star (or stars!) performing a one-night-only show for our JTF audience. Past headliners include: Ashley Brown, Josh Strickland, Alton Fitzgerald White, Heidi Blickenstaff, Merle Dandridge, Megan Hilty, Darren Criss, Benj Pasek & Justin Paul, Lindsay Mendez, Caissie Levy, Marcy Heisler & Zina Goldrich, Michael James Scott, Ali Stroker, Stephanie J. Block & Sebastian Arcelus, and Arielle Jacobs & Adam Jacobs! Special guests over the years have included musical theatre's best and brightest, including Skylar Astin, Joshua Bassett, Shoshana Bean, Sierra Boggess, Zac Efron, Cynthia Erivo, and Olivia Rodrigo!

# MUSICALSINC.COM Store

## AN ALL-THINGS-THEATRE SHOP!

At the MUSICALSINC.COM Store, pick up official merchandise from some of Broadway's best musicals! Also available to purchase is special JTF merchandise that you won't be able to get anywhere else!

### WHEN TO SHOP

**Friday, February 9**

12:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Saturday, February 10**

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

**Sunday, February 11**

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\*\*\*The store will be closed during mainstage performances\*\*\*



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 T-Shirt and Rainbow Heart Pin

This limited-edition Junior Theater Festival rainbow T-shirt and rainbow heart pin will be for sale at the MUSICALSINC.COM store. All profits from this T-shirt and pin will be donated to JumpStart Theatre.

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



# 2024 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 COVID 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 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.

Since the fall of 2022, so many dreams have come true. *Between the Lines* opened Off-Broadway at the Tony Kiser Theatre. *The Book Thief* continued its West End journey with performances in Coventry and Leicester. I produced Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* at Chicago's Studebaker Theatre. Prior to JTF West, the debut reading of *Austenland* took place in NYC starring the incomparable Arielle Jacobs. Fortunately, people seem 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

*Associate Producer (Production)*

Susan's theatre career began in the third grade when she starred as the title character in *Miss Louisa* and *The Outlaws*. It wasn't until her sophomore year of high school

when her drama teacher made her the stage manager of the spring musical that she realized (for her) backstage is where the theatre magic really happens. Susan is an Equity Stage Manager with a BFA in Theatre Design and Production from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Her involvement with Broadway Junior® started in 2001 when she served as Production Stage Manager for the pilot of *Les Misérables School Edition*. Susan has been a part of iTheatrics from day one (although how many summers that includes is the topic of some debate), where she is the Senior Managing Editor, overseeing the publication process for all materials released by iTheatrics, from adapted titles to study guides and educational materials currently circulating in classrooms worldwide. She is married to a ridiculous man who thinks she's hysterically funny and is the mom of two school-aged gingers, Beckett and Gus.



### Lindsay Weiner Lupi

*Associate Producer (Administration)*

Lindsay (she/her) was part of the first generation of young people to experience the transformative power of the arts through Broadway Junior®. She made her theatrical

debut as a seven-year-old with no front teeth, playing the role of Molly in *Annie*. Subsequently, she played the role of Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof JR.* and then continued her work with Broadway Junior® as the Music Director of multiple pilot productions at North Shore Music Theatre. It was there she met Marty Johnson, which led her to join the iTheatrics team after receiving her BFA in drama from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. At iTheatrics, Lindsay serves as the Vice President of Education and as the Music Supervisor, where she has music directed, musically adapted, and/or helped creatively shape over 90 adaptations for Music Theatre International, Disney Theatricals, Tams-Witmark, The Rodgers & 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 eight-year-old Tucker and six-year-old Talia! @lindsayariennelupi



## Steven G. Kennedy

*Director of Choreography*

From an early fascination with the magic of the stage, Steven knew he found his passion. His performance career led into a commitment to transformative education, reflecting a blend of creativity and mentorship. Steven endeavors to infuse innovation into the learning process, encouraging students to embrace their individuality and express themselves with confidence. As Steven continues to shape the next generation of thinkers and doers, he hopes to inspire others to embrace their unique talents. Steven extends heartfelt love to his husband, Tim, whose unwavering encouragement and support has been a beacon throughout their journey together, and their sweet and loyal schnoodle, Duch.



## 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. Following her undergraduate education at Troy University, Mary-Catherine served as an Associate Teaching Artist at Lexington Children's Theatre. 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 New York she developed curriculum for Manhattan Youth's Summer Musical Theatre Intensive and Manhattan Youth's Education Director, serving schools including The Anderson School and The Professional Performing Arts School. She 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; 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 has her MED in Theatre Education from Columbus State University. She 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!



## Richard Frazier

*Mainstage Director*

Richard holds a BSEd in Theatre Education from Columbus State University. He is the Executive/Artistic Director of Theatre Macon, where he established Theatre Macon Education. Richard is this year's JTF Mainstage Director and has worked with iTheatrics for nearly 6 years. He directed and choreographed the workshop productions of *Between the Lines JR.* and *Beetlejuice JR.* Richard was recently elected Vice President of the Educational Theatre Association's Board of Directors and will become the Association's first Black president in 2025. Richard serves as Assistant Chapter Director for Georgia Thespians.



## 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 & co-orchestrator of the Broadway show *The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical* (Lortel, Off-Broadway Alliance, & 3 Drama Desk nominations, book by Joe Tracz). Projects: the graphic novel musical *Monstersongs* (NAMT); the immersive 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* (with Rebecca Murillo; 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](mailto:robokicki.com) @rrokicks





## Laura Jo Schuster

### Special Teams Coordinator

Laura Jo's love for musical theatre began in the sixth grade after being cast as an orphan in the school production of *Annie*. She pursued a career in theatre 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 transcriptionist before joining iTheatrics in 2012. As Publications Editor, Laura Jo helped publish more than 70 shows for young people. She is delighted to be back at JTF!



## Daniel Mertzluft

### Mainstage Music Supervisor

Daniel Mertzluft is a NYC-based composer/arranger most known for his viral sensation *The Thanksgiving Musical* on *The Late Late Show* with James Corden and for launching the TikTok *Ratatouille* musical movement, and he 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 an Actors' Equity actor living and working in Lexington, KY. She received her bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of Evansville and her MFA in acting from University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill/PlayMakers Repertory Company. After living and working in New York City in television, film, voice over, and the stage, she returned to her home state to fulfill a lifelong promise of expanding the arts in central Kentucky. Marianne also sings, plays various instruments, teaches and coaches acting, directs plays, and has experience in arts administration and operational planning. She is the associate editor for iTheatrics, where she's worked for nine years. She is honored to be part of both Team iTheatrics and Team JTF!



## Rebecca Marlowe

### Administrative Associate

Rebecca Marlowe is thrilled to be back at JTF! 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.

# Meet the Team

## 2024 Junior Theater Festival Production & Design



### John Edkins

#### Production Supervisor

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 Apjac 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

#### Technical Director

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 West Technical Director 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.



### 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 *NBA's 2020 Bubble*. Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Walnut Street, Ogunquit Playhouse, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Sound Designer for the iTheatrics Junior Theater Festival 2008–2024. 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.



### 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 UNCSCA 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.



### Stephen Jones

#### Lighting Designer

(United Scenic Artists Local 829 Lighting and Scenic Designer) Selected Regional Theatre and Off-Broadway design credits include: Utah Shakespeare Festival (UT), Orlando Shakespeare Theatre (FL), *The Dressmaker's Secret* (Off-Broadway), Colorado Shakespeare Festival (CO), Portland Stage Company (ME), Sacramento Ballet (CA), Alley Theatre (TX), B Street Theatre (CA), Capital Stage Theatre Company (CA), *Sting and Honey* (UT), American Stage Theatre (FL). Stephen has served as a design consultant for Viacom, Inc., a software BETA tester for Vectorworks Spotlight (Industry standard 3D drafting and rendering software) and is a Vectorworks scholarship judge for rising design students.



## Meet the Team

Publishing credits include serving as Contributing Researcher for a book on world scenography, Technical Editor for a book on computer-aided drafting, and a contributing writer for a book titled Experimental Theatre-Praxis-based approaches to training 21st century Artists. Stephen is a professor of theatrical design and technology in the California State University system. He also conducts regular webinars on design and drafting techniques, speaks at national conferences such as Lighting Dimensions International (LDI), United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT), Vectorworks Design Summit, and the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. He has been highlighted in Live Design Magazine for the creativity of his design process using 3D software. \*Member Of United Scenic Artist.



### Jay Rabbitt

*Audio Coordinator/CEO of ICP*

Jay is the CEO of ICP – In Concert Productions Companies, Inc. ICP is JTF's supplier of audio, video projection, and staging services, and he is one of the festival's project managers. Since 1980, Jay and his company have provided production services for many of your favorite broadcast TV and film shows, from *Family Feud* to *The Hunger Games*, along with corporate events for Fortune 500 companies such as Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, Chick-Fil-A, and Mercedes Benz. Tim McDonald and the iTheatrics organization are one of ICP's longest-running clients, since back in the days when only 800 people attended and the production took up ¼ of the space it does now. Jay has been married to the love of his life, Maria, since 2010. Jay is proud to have two grandchildren from his oldest daughter, Payton, and her husband, Andrew: Mason (12) and Brynlee (10). Jay's youngest daughter, Jaycie, and her husband, TJ, have their hands full with 3 boys: Walker (3), and twins Charlie and Sutton (2).



### Hayden Bearden

*Sound Designer Associate*

Hayden H. Bearden is so excited to join the iTheatrics team for his fourth year at JTF West! He first appeared at JTF West as a volunteer from Chico State in 2017. Since then, Hayden was Matt Kraus's Associate Sound Designer for JTF West in both 2018 and 2019. Hayden began his sound design career in his first year of undergrad at Chico State when he designed their spring production *The Addams Family*. Since then, Hayden has graduated from Chico State with a Bachelors in Theatre & Recording Arts. Then in 2021, Hayden made the big move to NYC where he has been working for FiveOhm Productions as Production Audio, Designer, and Technician ever since. Hayden would like to thank Matt Kraus and the iTheatrics family for this exciting opportunity and for always being such amazing people to work with.



### Avery Bruckus

*Festival Photographer*

Avery is a New York City-based photographer and designer specializing in theatre, film, and behind-the-scenes content capture. Select work includes ten-time Tony Award-winning *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*, *The Music Man*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Death Becomes Her*, *Boop!*, *Chicago*, *Take Me Out*, and Mike Birbiglia's *The New One*. Her images have been featured in Vogue, Vanity Fair, Variety, Forbes, Paper Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, among others. She is currently the Content Director at RPM.



### Ali Caiazzo

*Assistant Event Manager*

Ali Caiazzo is thrilled to be a part of this year's Junior Theater Festival! Ali's love of children's theater began at Upper Darby Summer Stage. She spent many summers as an audience member, a performer, and eventually a staff member bringing children's theater to the community. Ali has since worked on many Junior Theater productions across the greater Philadelphia region. On stage, Ali can sometimes be found touring or on Paramount Plus performing as Rocky in Nickelodeon's *Paw Patrol, Live!*. She offers many thanks for having her and hopes everyone enjoys the Junior Theater Festival!



### Tommy Figel

*Projections/Slides*

Tommy Figel is a video production specialist, narrative filmmaker, writer, and project producer. Figel has spent over a decade crafting stories for both the stage and screen. He made his directorial debut at 23 with the Emmy® Award-winning sports network "Big Ten Network" heading their studio shows. Figel has a BA in Communications from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with a specialization in Mass Media and Communication Technologies. Throughout his studies and professional career, Figel has learned the art of visual storytelling and its subtle influence on our everyday existence. It is this influence (and often manipulation) that has sparked his desire to capture and share the narratives of our world.



### Kathleen Flint

*Information Booth*

Kathleen has been involved with theater one way or another since 4th grade. She has been onstage, behind the scenes (props coordinator), front of house with box office and ticket sales and producer and director of Storybook Theater until 2012. She works with Musical Mayhem Theater in Elk Grove, CA, as a Director and Level 1 and 2 Acting Teacher.



# Meet the Team

Working with children has been the greatest joy these past few years, getting to pay her theater knowledge forward and share ways to build a strong foundation and a lifetime love of theater is always a win!



## Caitlyn Gallip

*Festival Photographer*

Caitlyn is a New York based award-winning social media strategist and content expert who has worked with Broadway's most significant producers, creating arguably the strongest social media campaigns in the industry. Her passion for online community-building creates viral moments and unique opportunities to reach people all over the world. She is currently the Social Media Director at RPM.



## Scott Goodell

*Video Auditions Manager*

Husband to the adorable Shay Rodgers; lover of all things Broadway; Medicare Broker by Day, Choreography Supporter by night. I am happy to spend time in the musical theatre world and excited to see the kids audition.



## Michael Herwitz

*Script Supervisor*

Michael Herwitz made his JTF debut in *The Aristocats KIDS* and is thrilled to be on the festival staff 17 years later. Michael is a New York City-based director and producer.

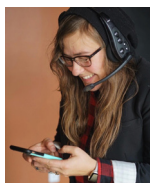
Most recently, Michael directed the twice-extended, sold-out, and critically acclaimed run of *Job* at the SoHo Playhouse and has developed and staged new plays and musicals at HERE Arts Center, Ensemble Studio Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse and the Pasadena Playhouse. His education spans Northwestern University to LaGuardia Arts to watching countless movie musicals as a kid.  
www.michaelherwitz.com.



## Shirlee Idzakovich

*MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate*

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



## Melissa Jernigan

*Assistant Event Manager*

Melissa most recently worked at Capital Stage in Sacramento on *CLYDE'S* by Lynn Nottage. She has been lucky to have been stage managing at Capital Stage since 2016. Some of her favorites include *VIETGONE*, *THE NETHER*, *MISS BENNET*, *STUPID F##KING BIRD* and

*PASSOVER*. Other theatrical credits include Production Assisting on Broadway's *LENNON*, Off-Broadway: *FELA!* the Lagos Tour, David Cromer's *OUR TOWN*, John Leguizamo: *A WORK IN PROGRESS*, *BEAUTY OF THE FATHER* at Manhattan Theatre Club, *BREATH & IMAGINATION* at Hartford Stage, *OUR TOWN* starring Helen Hunt at The Broad Theatre in Santa Monica and *THE LASSO OF TRUTH* at Marin Theatre Company. Last year she was a sub stage manager on *HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD* in SF. She is a proud Equity Member. When she's not working, Melissa enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons.



## 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*. Lavaia has toured internationally through China, The Republic of Georgia, Hong Kong, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. Education: MFA, Columbia University. BA, Gonzaga University. Member of AEA, Local 764, and SITI Company. She currently is working for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS as a producer.



## Chris Luner

*Production Manager*

Chris Luner is the Artistic & Managing Director of Upper Darby Summer Stage, one of the nation's oldest & most successful youth theater programs. Chris is excited to bring Luner Eclipse Productions on board to serve as the festival 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*, *The Illusionists*. Luner Eclipse has worked with Fiasco, Transport Group, Classic Stage Company, The Acting Company, Bedlam, SoHo Rep. as well as The Alliance, Paper Mill Playhouse & more. Chris produced *Ranch Water*, an Indie Award-winning film.  
@Chris\_Luner @LunerEclipseProductions



## 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 MUSICALSINC.COM Store!



## Meet the Team



### Jakob Plummer

#### Assistant Event Manager

Originally from Galion, Ohio. Broadway: *Oslo* (Tony Award Best Play), *Sunday in the Park with George*, *A View from the Bridge* (Tony Award Best Revival of a Play), *The Crucible*,

*KPOP*, *Dancin'*, *Hadestown*. Additional: The MET Gala, Tiffany & Co., The GRAMMY Awards, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Juilliard, A.R.T., The U.S. Open, TEDTalks, The New Group, Primary Stages, Classic Stage, Weston Theatre Company, Arizona Theatre Company, The Junior Theater Festival ('15-'16), Heartbeat Opera, Baldwin-Wallace Alum. Upcoming: *Gun & Powder* (PaperMill Playhouse).



### Tim Prestridge

#### VIP Coordinator

Tim has been working in general management and fundraising for arts and media organizations throughout his entire career. He currently serves as the Director of

Advancement Operations and Engagement for the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park and Conservation Biology Institute. Prior to his role as the Zoo, he has worked for NPR, the Kennedy Center, other Smithsonian museums in Washington, DC as well as regional theaters in the Boston area. And to top it off, he secretly knits in his spare time.



### 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.



### Nicholas Sostillio

#### Associate Mainstage Director

Nicholas Sostillio is a dedicated educator and advocate for the arts, with a passion for theater education that has shaped his career and mission. Holding a master's degree in

Theatre Education, Nicholas is a theatre director at Warner Robins High School in Warner Robins, Georgia. He proudly serves as the Chapter Director of Georgia Thespians and Educational Theatre Association, an organization that nurtures the creative talents of young Thespians and teachers across

the state. His unwavering mission is to guarantee that theater becomes an accessible and enriching experience for every student.



### 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: iTheatrics' Choreography Video Shoots, Freddie G Fellowship, and the Summer Academy. Other credits include: Kentucky Opera and America's Got Talent. Member of AEA.



### Alexandra Warner-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.



### Marcus Woollen

#### Festival Photographer

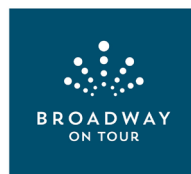
Former actor + singer, now happily working at MTI, Marcus grew up in Washington State, California, Belgium and New Hampshire, and has lived in New York City since 1993. He

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.



# Meet the Team

## BROADWAY SACRAMENTO



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

### Executive Team

**SCOTT KLIER** | *PRESIDENT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER*

**JAMES LAWSON** | *DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING*

**STEPHANIE TABOR** | *CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER*

**GLENN CASALE** | *ARTISTIC CONSULTANT*

### Production & Operations

**BENJAMIN MACIAS** | *DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS*

**Katie Cannon** | *Production Manager*

**Christian Johnson** | *Technical Director*

**Joel Virgen** | *Casting Coordinator*

**Gabriella Nance** | *Costume Director*

**Kyle Roddy** | *Production Center Coordinator*

### JTF Event Team

**Stephen Jones** | *Lighting Designer*

**Julie Stephens** | *House Manager*

**Fiona Sharkey** | *Sound Assistant*

**Jaycee Wassell** | *Production Assistant*

### Administrative & Finance

**Corinne Wihl** | *Accountant & Human Resources Manager*

**Dori Gough** | *Executive Assistant to the President*

**Andrea Izumi** | *Senior Accountant*

**Seth Minnihan** | *IT Manager*

**Jouni Kirjola** | *Office Supervisor*

**Bonnie Clark** | *AP/AR Coordinator*

**Elijah Bailey** | *IT Assistant*

### Marketing & Public Relations

**MATT HESSBURG** | *DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS*

**SARA HANSON** | *ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS*

**Gina Harrower** | *Database Administrator*

**Caleb Larrosa-Colombo** | *Creative Project Manager*

**Rebekah Lundin** | *Digital Marketing Specialist*

**Max Nannini** | *Graphic Designer*

### Development

**S.B. HADLEY WILSON** | *DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT*

**Michelle Hollis** | *Development Associate*

**Nicolette Thayer** | *Donor Services Coordinator*

### Education and Community Engagement

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

**Ophena De La Rosa, Jolie Perez** | *Education & Community Engagement Assistants*

### Box Office

**SALLY SLOCUM** | *DIRECTOR OF TICKETING & ANALYTICS*

**Susie Evon** | *Box Office Manager*

**Joy Eakin** | *Subscriber Services Manager*

**Rachel Armour** | *Box Office Assistant Manager*

**Shayla Rios** | *Box Office Assistant Manager*

**David Fox** | *Group Sales Assistant*





**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 • Jeremy Barfield • Brandon Lamons • Paul Fehling



**PRINT SHOP PR** – led by partners Matt Ross and Nicole Capatasto – brings an old-school sensibility and tenacity to the modern press landscape to craft focused, impactful publicity campaigns for theatre productions, companies and artists in New York and beyond.

Originally founded in 2014 as Matt Ross PR, Print Shop's current and recent clients include: New York Theatre Workshop, The Irish Repertory Theatre, MCC Theater, *What the Constitution Means to Me* (Broadway, National Tour, Amazon Studios), *Sweeney Todd*, Classic Stage Company, Primary Stages, *Pass Over*, *Is This A Room*/Dana H., Josh Groban, The Tank, Clubbed Thumb, 59E59, Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, The Civilians, Center Theatre Group, Dramatists Guild, New Georges, The Sol Project, The Movement Theatre Company, LAByrnth, Gingold, Breaking the Binary, The Fred Ebb Awards, and the TEAM.

## Meet the Team

### 2024 Junior Theater Festival

# Adjudicators, Workshop Leaders, & Special Guests



#### Elyssa Samsel & Kate Anderson

Elyssa Samsel and Kate Anderson are the Drama Desk- and Outer Critics Circle-nominated songwriting

duo behind Apple TV's Central Park, Disney Animation's "Olaf's Frozen Adventure" (Annie nomination), the Off-Broadway musical "Between the Lines" (Drama Desk, OCC nominated), and "The Book Thief," which just played the Leicester Curve and Coventry's Belgrade Theatre in the UK. It is now eyeing a West End Transfer.



#### Sarah Jane Arnegger

Sarah Jane (SJ) Arnegger is currently the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement for AKA, the Broadway advertising agency where her clients include & Juliet, The Wiz, Hell's Kitchen, Cabaret,

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Back to the Future, Water For Elephants and An Enemy of the People. SJ's Broadway career has included positions at some of the most prestigious firms – Douglas & Kopelman, Disney Theatrical Group, Boneau/Bryan-Brown, The Karpel Group, Playbill and iHeartMedia, where she launched and served as the Executive Producer for the iHeartRadio Broadway platform as well as the on-camera host for the iHeartRadio Broadway Mercedes-Benz Interview Lounge and the co-host for the 'Growin' Up Broadway' podcast. @sjarnegger



#### 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

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

in his second year as Lead Teacher with the FRESHFARM FoodPrints program in Washington, DC, helping elementary school students "grow, cook, eat and learn" with fresh seasonal produce. You can also catch him cooking against Antonia Lofaso in Food Network's *Outchefs'd* (season 1, episode 2).



#### 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



#### Daniel Chavez Jr.

Daniel Chavez Jr. received his B.A. Degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance from California State University, Chico.

After obtaining his degree, he moved to NYC to explore, grow, and refine his craft

in musical theatre. He was fortunate enough to come in contact with Music Theatre International, where he worked in The Broadway Junior department during the early stages of developing the Broadway Junior collection. Daniel toured Italy in *West Side Story* playing Bernardo and in the US in *Kiss Me, Kate* playing Gremio. Now, Daniel is the Artistic Director and General Manager of California Arts Academy in Fresno, CA. California Arts Academy received the Business



## Meet the Team

Award and Daniel received the Educator Award from Fresno Arts Council in 2022. Daniel is pleased and excited to be working JTF West this year.



### Vichet Chum

Vichet Chum is a writer! He's earned various honors including the Lucille Bulger Service Award, the Laurents/Hatcher Award in Playwriting, the Edgerton Foundation New Play Award, the Princess Grace

Award in Playwriting, and a special state citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives for his production of *KNYUM* in 2018. He's a curator for Space on Ryder Farm, a board member for the New Harmony Project, and a steering committee member for the Tony Award-winning organization AAPAC. Vichet's debut YA novel "Kween" was released this last fall with HarperCollins Publishers.



### Romney Clements

M. Romney Clements has spent her teaching career in educational theatre. Romney discovered her love of musical theatre at a very young age and attended California State University Chico as a Vocal Performance

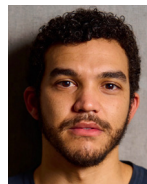
Major. Romney spent most of her time in Chico performing alongside Timothy Allen McDonald, whom you all may have heard of. Romney eventually graduated from Simpson College as a Liberal Arts Major and began teaching drama at University Preparatory School in Northern California, where she has taught for 19 years. As well as teaching she directs the school's annual musical, producing *The Descendants* this past fall. Although Romney no longer performs, she finds immense joy in introducing students to the same love of theatre that she discovered in school.



### Marissa Davis

Marissa Davis is a New York City-based voice teacher, writer, music director and performer. She is currently the Head of Voice and Middle School Team Lead 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.



### Adam Faison

Adam Faison recently wrapped a starring role opposite Katherine Langford in the Starz series *THE VENERY OF SAMANTHA BIRD*. His most recent features include Hulu's hit reboot of the *HELLRAISER*

franchise. He can next be seen in the features *SWEET DREAMS* with Johnny Knoxville, Theo Von and Bobby Lee, and *WILDER THAN HER* opposite Sunita Mani. Faison is also known as a series lead on Freeform's *EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OKAY*. Other credits include Netflix's *YES DAY* with Jennifer Garner and Jenna Ortega, Hulu's *INTO THE DARK*, HBO/Alan Ball's *HERE AND NOW*, Marvel's *AGENTS OF SHIELD*, Netflix's *GRACE AND FRANKIE*, Warner Bros' *DAPHNE & VELMA*, and a series regular role on the go90 show *LIBERTY CROSSING*. Faison is a graduate of Pitzer College, a Claremont member college, and resides in Los Angeles.



### Adam Fane

Adam Fane is a Chicago actor of 15 years! Credits include: *Rock of Ages* (National Tour); Jim Hensen's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* (Studebaker Theater); *Ms. Blakk for President* (Steppenwolf Theatre); *Campy*

- reading (Goodman Theatre); *Leather Daddies* - reading (About Face Theatre); *Shrek the Musical*, *Gypsy*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, & *Ride the Cyclone* - US Premiere (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Into the Woods*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Producers*, Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Hairspray*, & *Mary Poppins* (Paramount Theatre); *Jersey Boys* (Norwegian Cruise Line); *Billy Elliot: The Musical* (Porchlight Music Theatre); *Chicago* (Mason Street Warehouse); *Cabaret* (Theatre at the Center); *Alice in Wonderland* (Marriott Theatre); *First Date* - Chicago Premiere (Royal George Theater); *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man* (Chicago Premiere & Edinburgh Fringe Festival); *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*, *Pippin*, & *Avenue Q* (Mercury Theater Chicago); *Spring Awakening* - Chicago Premiere (Griffin Theatre Company), *Cats*, *Aspects of Love*, & *The Light in the Piazza* (Theo Ubique), *Hello Again* (BoHo Theatre); *Little Fish* (Kokandy); *The Fantasticks* (Quest Theatre); *Lucky Stiff* (The Music Theatre Company); *Pinkalicious* (Broadway Playhouse). Film: "Canal Street" TV: "Chicago PD". Commercials work includes: Wisconsin Lottery, Rise of Kingdoms, & LYFT. A 2013 Joseph Jefferson Award Nomination for Actor in a Principal Role - Musical (Princeton / Rod) "Avenue Q" NightBlue Performing Arts Company. Repped by DDO. IG: @almostfanemous



## Meet the Team



### Andrew Barth Feldman

Andrew Barth Feldman (he/him) is a multi-talented actor and musician known best for his starring role on Broadway as the title character Evan Hansen in the Tony Award-winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen* at age sixteen. He can be seen as Percy in the raunchy summer comedy *No Hard Feelings* alongside Jennifer Lawrence, which was released in theaters and on Netflix to rave reviews (that's his smushed face on those posters). After winning the 2018 National High School Musical Theater Award (the Jimmy Award) as a high school sophomore and making his Broadway debut, he later went on to star on-screen in Netflix's *A Tourist's Guide to Love*, the Disney+ hit show "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," and the cult pandemic hit "Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical." When he's not on stage or on-screen, he's a passionate musician; his debut album, "Penn Station," is now available on all streaming platforms.



### Zina Goldrich

Zina Goldrich is an award-winning composer, conductor, musical director, and performing artist. Her musical *Ever After*, written with longtime collaborator Marcy Heisler, enjoyed several regional productions. She is currently working on the new musical *Stage Mother*. Recently, she wrote *Yay People Yay!* with multi-E Emmy award winner David Javerbaum. Previous musicals include *The Great American Mousical*, directed by Julie Andrews, *Junie B. Jones*, and *Dear Edwina*. Zina has composed for Walt Disney Feature Animation, The Kennedy Center Honors, Nickelodeon, ABC, NBC and PBS. As a musician, Broadway credits include *Avenue Q*, *Titanic*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Grand Hotel*, among others. She studied with legendary Oscar winner Jerry Goldsmith and is a graduate of the USC Scoring for Motion Picture and Television program. [zinagoldrich.com](http://zinagoldrich.com)



### Max Antonio Gonzalez

Max Antonio Gonzalez (he/him) is an actor, singer, dancer, choreographer based in Brooklyn. Recent credits: *Cabaret* (Barrington Stage Co.), *The Three Musketeers* (National Tour), *Romeo & Juliet* (National Tour), Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival), *The Death of Dessert Rose* (Off-Broadway developmental workshop), *Aura* 29-Hour Reading (New York Theatre Workshop), and *For You, Paige: The Live TikTok Musical*. Training: NYU Tisch at the New Studio on Broadway. Get in touch: [Maxantoniogonzalez.com](http://Maxantoniogonzalez.com) and [@maxgonzo13](https://twitter.com/maxgonzo13)



### Cori Jaskier

Cori is so excited to be back at JTF West! Education: NYU/Tisch School of the Arts, New Studio on Broadway. Past projects: *For You, Paige on TikTok* (Ensemble), TheaterWorksUSA's *Charlotte's Web* (Charlotte), *Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical* (Ensemble), the off-Broadway premiere of *The Scarlet Savior* (Emma), new musicals: *Absolute Zero* (Edith), *Mimosa* (Mimosa), *The Valley* (Colby), *America Project* (Madison) 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 and iTheatrics for their love and support.



### Celeste Javier

Celeste was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she grew up dancing competitively in musical theatre, jazz, hip hop, and tap. She is pursuing her BFA in Musical Theatre while double minoring in Communications and Arts Management at Marymount Manhattan College. Past credits include: *A Chorus Line* (Marymount Manhattan), *Carrie: The Musical* (Marymount Manhattan), *Moana JR.* (JTF West New Works Showcase), *The 2023 BIPOC Cabaret* (The Green Room 42), and debut voice of Karen McCormick in South Park's "The Poor Kid" episode. Instagram: [@cuhleste](https://www.instagram.com/cuhleste).



### 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!!!



### Mary Kennett

A 2016 graduate of the Young Americans College of Performing Arts, Mary embarked on a journey to share her passion for the arts through teaching musical theatre. In 2020, she transitioned into the film and TV industry in Los Angeles as a makeup artist, collaborating with renowned brands like Clarins, Fresh Clean Threads, and Culture Kings. Her work is a canvas where she merges creativity and her love for the arts, always striving to create a safe, nurturing space that fosters boundless creativity and self-expression.



## Meet the Team

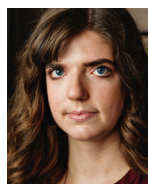


### DJ Kurs

DJ Kurs became the Artistic Director of Deaf West Theatre in 2012. He has produced several award winning plays and musicals, including *Spring Awakening*, which he

shepherded from its beginnings as an intimate 99-seat theater production in Los Angeles before it went on to Broadway, earning multiple Tony Award nominations. Kurs sees his role at Deaf West as integral to his continued advocacy and activism within the Deaf community. To that end, he is an in-demand public speaker and panelist: he has given talks at the Berkeley Forum and special events such as the 50th Anniversary of the National Endowment of the Arts.

Founded in 1991 in Los Angeles, Deaf West Theatre, led by Artistic Director DJ Kurs and Managing Director Jeff Perri, is a Tony Award®-winning company blending American Sign Language with spoken English to create innovative, culturally rich theater experiences. Notable productions include the groundbreaking staging of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Broadway productions of *Spring Awakening* *Big River*. Building upon a commitment to bridging the Deaf and hearing worlds, their repertoire includes acclaimed musicals, plays and works. The company has been honored with a variety of national and international awards for its significant contributions to the cultural enrichment of the Deaf arts landscape. Visit [deafwest.org](http://deafwest.org) to learn more.



### Eve La Puma

Eve La Puma (She/They) is a middle and high school drama teacher based in Dublin, CA. As a theater artist, she is drawn to the intersection between art, activism, and education. They have taught playwriting/

acting at Deerfield Academy, worked at the Gaiety School of Acting in Ireland, studied Shakespearean adaptation at Oxford University, and helped develop pieces such as *She Persisted*, *The Musical*. She holds a B.A. in Theater and Performance Studies from Stanford University and an M.S.Ed from the University of Pennsylvania.



### Kelly Lomonte

Kelly is ecstatic to be returning to JTF ATL as a staff member this year! Stage: *Rent* (DC), *Sophisticated Ladies* (DC), *Fiddler on the Roof* (CHAVA), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (u/s PUCK), *Jerome Robbins*

*Broadway*, *Cinderella*, *Seussical* (JOJO), *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mamma Mia!* (DC); Film: *Lessons* (DANA), *Sometimes* (KATIE), *Undeclared* (EK), *Strangers Anthology*. UMICH MT alum, Go Blue! @kellylomo



### Aubrey Matalon

Aubrey Matalon is an actor in New York City. Aubrey is currently in *SIX: The Musical* on Broadway as an alternate covering Anne Boleyn, Jane Seymour, and Katherine Howard. Other credits: Off-Broadway

Premiere of *Between the Lines* directed by Jeff Calhoun, *Hair* at Asolo Rep, and assistant directed *A Commercial Jingle for Regina Comet* Off-Broadway.



### Dean McFlicker

As a former SVP and creative director, Dean has worked on all of NBC's live musicals: *Sound of Music*, *Peter Pan*, *The Wiz*, *Hairspray*, *Superstar*, and *Annie*. He also helped launch *The Voice*, *AGT*, and dozens of other shows. At Radio City Music Hall, he has

directed JLo, JHud, JAniston, and many other A-listers with and without the name Jennifer. Plus, if you've got a good eye, you might spot him on Disney+ as one of the original *Newsies*.



### Nina Meehan

Nina Meehan is a creativity expert and award-winning director, playwright and producer. She has commissioned and produced over 40 new musicals for young audiences and is an internationally

recognized arts educator. Her work on creativity, communication and connection spans many industries (including theatre, tech, finance, and education) where she supports individual and organizational growth through coaching, consulting and speaking. She holds her BS in theatre from Northwestern University, a Master's of Nonprofit Administration from the University of San Francisco, and is working on her PhD in Creativity, Innovation and Leadership.



### McKenna Michael

McKenna has been directing and choreographing youth theatre for over 10 years. 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 a 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.

## Meet the Team



### Coy Middlebrook

FOR SPACIOUS SKY (Tribeca Film Festival, London BFI, Clermont Ferrand International Film Festival and sold to French, Italian and Belgium television) is Coy's first film. TV includes directing for

the Peabody nominated THIS CLOSE for AMC and he was the supervising producer and a director for the DGA Award winning ENCORE! On Disney+. Executive producers on ENCORE! include Will Gluck and Kristen Bell. Broadway credits include: Associate Director for the acclaimed revival of BIG RIVER with Deaf West Theatre (Tony Award for Excellence in the Theater), BROOKLYN THE MUSICAL, BONNIE & CLYDE, and the US, UK and Australian Tours of Disney's HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL ON STAGE all directed by Jeff Calhoun. NYC directing includes THE ROADS THAT LEAD HERE, ORPHANS and Tennessee Williams' SPRING STORM. LA directing includes EDWARD ALBEE'S AT HOME AT THE ZOO, BASEBALL SWING, TRUMPET AND THE SWAN and IT CAME FROM BEYOND (Ovation Award Nomination Best Musical), NOBODY'S PERFECT for The Kennedy Center and LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS for Ford's Theatre also in Washington, DC. Coy is a life member of the Actors Studio and is the Acting Chief Artistic Officer for the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (The Wallis) in Beverly Hills programming local, national and international art in performance for one of Los Angeles' leading cultural destinations. MFA directing from New School University, NYC. Walt Disney Television Directing Program Class of 2020.



### Lisa Morrow

Lisa is a producer and designer. In 2015, Lisa received the Freddie G Teaching Experience Award. Lisa has a BA in Theater and Communications and an MSW from the University of Illinois in Chicago.



### John Prignano

John is the Chief Operating Officer and Director of Education and Development for Music Theatre International. He is a lifelong advocate of Educational Theatre, having worked in the arts in many facets—including touring in productions of *A Chorus Line*, *West Side Story*, *Damn Yankees*, and *Guys And Dolls*. In his twenty-plus years at MTI, John has led workshops around the world and has been instrumental in creating tools that encourage meaningful dialogue and interaction between the licensing house and theatre educators.



### Frankie Rodriguez

Frankie Rodriguez is an actor and singer who most recently appeared as Calvin in the west coast premiere of *Calvin Berger: A Musical*. Frankie is best known for playing Carlos in the Emmy-nominated Disney+ hit

*High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. You can see them pop up in other TV shows like *Bunk'd*, *Will & Grace*, and *Modern Family*.



### Morgan Rose

Morgan is absolutely thrilled to be returning to the Junior Theater Festival! Favorite performing credits include Broadway: *School of Rock*; Off-Broadway: *Dear Edwina*; National Tours: *Evita* Revival 1st Nat'l

Tour, *Shrek The Musical* 1st Nat'l Tour, *Elf The Musical*. In addition to performing, Morgan is a passionate arts educator. You can find her teaching all over New York City, at Broadway Dance Center, Joffrey Ballet School, MTCA and AMDA. Morgan holds a BFA in Music Theatre from Florida State University and is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association. Her work is inspired by her wonderful husband Trey and the sweetest little boy around, Theo.



### 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*.



## Meet the Team



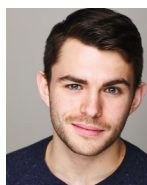
### Daniel Rudin

Daniel Rudin is a composer, musical director, pianist, and orchestrator with a passion for bold musical storytelling. Moving fluently between musical vernaculars, he strives to create music that connects people to a sense of wonder and to each other. At just 26 years old, Daniel made his Broadway conducting debut with the smash hit *MJ: The Musical*, having previously made his Broadway piano debut at 24 with the critically acclaimed *Caroline, or Change*. He is a trusted musical director for some of Broadway's most exciting rising stars, including Andrew Barth Feldman (*Dear Evan Hansen*), Samantha Williams (*Caroline, or Change*), and Brittney Mack (*Six*), and has played in galas, concerts and readings with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Tony Yazbeck, Sutton Foster, Jonathan Groff and many others. Daniel is the creator of *Third Reprise*, a genre-bending, community-bridging musical project that reimagines iconic show tunes in creative arrangements. He is also a musical director and facilitator with the *Gaia Music Collective*, whose viral content have built a vibrant scene of community music-making in NYC. As an orchestrator and producer, Daniel has been trusted to breathe new life into a variety of projects, including a big band arrangement for Ilana Glazer's Comedy Central Special *Comedy On Earth* (song by Mark Sonnenblick, featuring Larry Owens), string arrangements for the debut album of MALINDA (1.4 Million subscribers on YouTube), and full orchestrations for 3 original musicals and cast albums to date. In addition to these recorded projects, Daniel orchestrated an oratorio by Julian Hornik for The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and Alex Newell at Davies Hall. As a composer, Daniel has produced a wide range of works sporting impressive stylistic agility and depth, including a sweeping orchestral score for the feature film *Cram* (Austin Film Festival Winner), the musical *May Day* (developed in residency with the Signature Theater in Arlington), the evening-length jazz/classical fusion work *Songs of the Nothing*, commercial jingles for the hit toy *LOL Surprise!*, and dozens of instrumental concert works for orchestral and chamber ensembles. Daniel began his musical studies in piano, voice, and violin at age 6. Throughout middle and high school he composed and conducted works for his school orchestra and chamber choir. He went on to study composition at the Julliard Pre-College Division and Tanglewood. He completed his B.A. in music at Yale, where he received the Abraham Beekman Cox Award for Musical Composition as "the most promising and gifted composer in his class." Daniel's teachers and mentors have included Jeanine Tesori, Jason Michael Webb, Joseph Joubert, Scott Frankel, Michael Gilbertson, and Christopher Theofanidis.



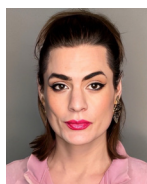
### Darian Sanders

Darian Sanders is currently playing Simba on the National tour of Disney's *The Lion King*. Trained as a musician both with voice and trumpet from an early age, he's toured with international music groups as an instrumentalist, conductor, and performer. An ordained worship pastor, Darian regularly leads worship around the country. Broadway Credits: *The Lion King* National Tour Regional Credits: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Jesus), *Songs For A New World* (Man One), *Hairspray* (Seaweed). Film/TV: *Someone Worthy* (original short film), *New York Homicide* (2023) Rep: Peggy@TheSquarePegGroup, Inc. IG/Twitter: @\_DarianSanders\_ ; www.dariansanders.com



### Jacob Ryan Smith

Jacob Ryan Smith is a writer/performer living in New York, originally hailing from Atlanta, GA. Some of his writing credits include LIKE FATHER, (Book, Music, Lyrics), MR. SIPPLE (Book, Music, Lyrics), INTO THE BURROW: A PETER RABBIT TALE (2023 Alliance Theater Commission, Music & Lyrics), and PAINLESS: THE OPIOID MUSICAL (Book, Music, Lyrics). His original compositions have been featured on Disney+ (HAMSTER & GRETEL, co-written with Dan Povenmire), The Today Show, NPR, Out Magazine, and many other publications. He loves to dive into other mediums with his music as well, including ballet (MARLEY WAS DEAD, TO BEGIN WITH. Commissioned by Terminus Modern Ballet and produced in 2020) and choral work (SHELTER ME: AN ORATORIO ON HOMELESSNESS - commissioned by The Dallas Street Choir and to be produced in 2024). His theatrical pop single "In My Head," which he wrote with his writing partner Daniel Mertzlufft, has accumulated millions of streams on Spotify. Jacob is also a working performer, most recently being in the Off-Broadway cast of LIZARD BOY and originating the role of Adam in RELAPSE: THE MUSICAL Off-Broadway. He also won a 2023 Suzi Bass Award for his performance as Gabe in NEXT TO NORMAL at the Jennie T Anderson Theater. He holds a BFA in Musical Theater Performance and a Minor in Composition from The University of Michigan.



### Sawyer Smith

Sawyer Smith is thrilled to be at JTF! Sawyer has appeared on stages all over Chicago. Credits: *The Devil Wears Prada* – Pre-Broadway, Steppenwolf Theater, Paramount Theater, Mercury Theater, Drury Lane Theater, Marriott Theater, Chicago Shakespeare. Thanks to family, Ben, and friends for their support! Follow them @thesawyersmith

## Meet the Team



### Joe Serafini

Joe Serafini is an actor, singer & musician, best known for his role as Seb Matthew Smith on the Disney+ hit, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. A theatre kid from Pittsburgh, PA, Joe grew up playing piano and performing on stages regionally from a very young age. This past summer, he starred as Jack in *Into the Woods* at Pittsburgh CLO. Joe has enjoyed performing his own solo shows in cabarets across the US, and has also been developing his own original music. He kicked off 2024 releasing his debut single, *THAT SPECIAL*, with a special performance at JTF Atlanta! He is a proud alum of the University of Michigan, and currently resides in New York City. @joe\_serafini\_



### Kenny Shepard

Kenny Shepard (AEA, SDC, AAUP) is the resident TYA choreographer for the world's largest children's museum, TCM of Indianapolis, and for Michael Feinstein's Songbook Academy. Kenny writes, directs, and choreographs projects starring Grammy-, Tony-, and Emmy-award winners as well as *American Idol* stars. He is an on-camera choreographer for Broadway JR., The Disney Collection, MacMillan/McGraw Hill, and Perfect Harmony and is a professor at Ball State and Anderson Universities. Performance credits include over 100 productions: Off-Broadway, Disney World, Atlantic City, Branson, symphony orchestras, regional theatre, world cruise ships and more.



### Eli Weinberg

Eli Weinberg is a Los Angeles-based actor and teacher. Weinberg's love for theatre began at age thirteen after he saw a production of *High School Musical II* at BRAVO Performing Arts Academy in Oak Park, Illinois. He graduated with Bachelor's of Fine Arts from The University of Texas at Austin in 2018. In 2019, he toured Australia performing Kirk Lynn's acclaimed one man show, "THE COLD RECORD." Since then, he's appeared in a number of short films and plays, and has taught acting across the country.



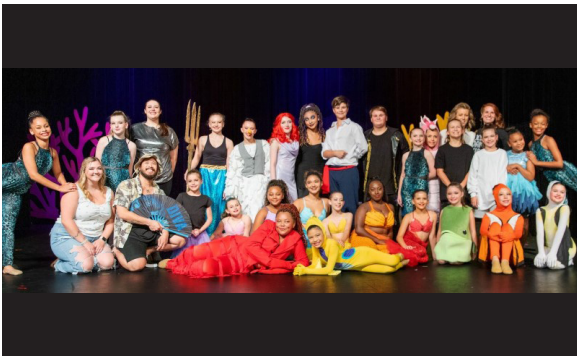
# JTF West 2024 Participating Groups



Artistic Civic Theatre  
Dalton, GA



Big Star Performing Arts Studio  
Snoqualmie, WA



Auburn Dance Academy  
Auburn, WA



California Middle School  
Sacramento, CA



Australasia All-Stars  
Australia & New Zealand



Chapelhouse Studios  
Godley, TX



BAMtheatre  
Hinsdale, IL



Christian Arts and Theater  
Corona, CA

# JTF West 2024 Participating Groups



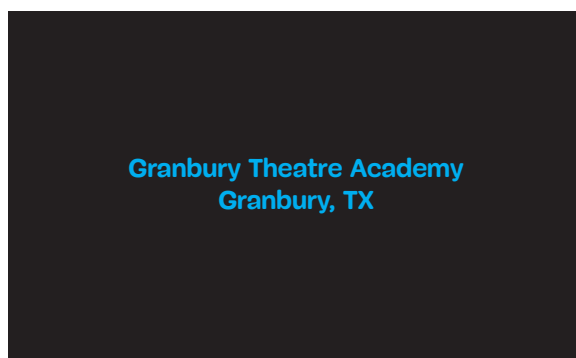
Community Theatre of Greensboro  
Greensboro, NC



Foothill Christian School  
Glendora, CA



Conwell Kidz Drama Program  
Jersey City, NJ



Granbury Theatre Academy  
Granbury, TX



Decatur Community Players  
Decatur, GA



Grandstreet Theatre School  
Helena, MT



Elk Grove Musical Theatre Company  
Elk Grove, CA



Greater Austin Dance Academy  
Round Rock, TX



# JTF West 2024 Participating Groups



**Katherine L. Albani Middle School**  
Elk Grove, CA



**Melody Lane**

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



**Kettleworks Performing Arts**  
Renton, WA



**Miracle Works Musical Studio**  
Seoul, South Korea



**Lyric Theatre Thelma Gaylord Academy**  
Oklahoma City, OK



**Musical Mayhem Productions**  
Elk Grove, CA



**MacKillop Catholic College Warnervale**  
New South Wales, Australia



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

# JTF West 2024 Participating Groups



Opening Night Theater  
Glendale, CA



Porterville Children's Theater  
Porterville, CA



Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts  
Oak Park, IL



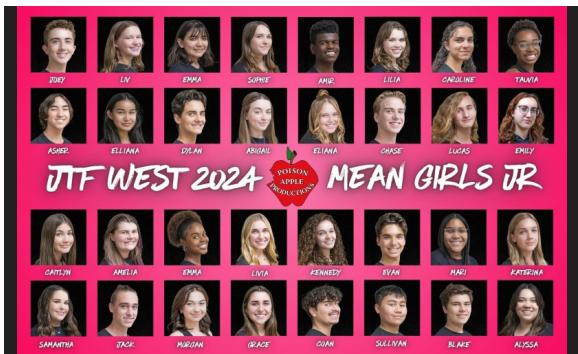
Preston Center Dance  
Dallas, TX



Plaza Academy  
Cleburne, TX



Sacramento Theatre Company  
Sacramento, CA



Poison Apple Productions  
Martinez, CA



SOC Studio Jr. Team  
South San Francisco, CA



# JTF West 2024 Participating Groups



**SOPOT Musical Theater Baabus Musicalis Foundation**  
Sopot, Poland



**Tahoe Expedition Academy**  
Truckee, CA



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



**The Riviera Ridge School**  
Santa Barbara, CA



**Starbound Theatre**  
Suisun City, CA



**The Rose Theater**  
Omaha, NE



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



**The SEED Falcon Theatre**  
Washington, D.C.

## JTF West 2024 Participating Groups



Upstart Crow Youth Theatre  
Eugene, OR



Wildfish Theatre Company  
Houston, TX



Wild Horse Children's Theater  
Carson City, NV



Woodland Opera House  
Woodland, CA





# Summer 2024

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SCAN ME



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