



junior
theater
Festival®
'25
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DIGITAL PROGRAM

SACRAMENTO, CA — FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025





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



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

SPECIAL THANKS

Julia Averill, Susan Babich, Alex Birsh, Philip S. Birsh, Emma Bishop, Shane Bransdon,
Jason Cocovinis, Drew Cohen, Logan Culwell-Block, Carol Edelson, Jim Funk, Freddie Gershon,
Myrna Gershon, Stuart Hendricks, Andrew Kaufman, Ryan Macaulay,
Brian O'Sullivan, Ann Pang, Nick Pramik, John Prignano, Dan Rudin,
David R. Scott, Jennifer St. Amour, Daniel Stoddart

Finally, thank you to Pasadena Playhouse and all of our wonderful volunteers and JTF Interns!

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Welcome to JTF West 2025

Table of Contents

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| About iTheatrics..... | 1 | MUSICALSINC.COM Store..... | 14 |
| JTF 2025 Schedule of Events..... | 2 | Team iTheatrics..... | 15 |
| New Works Showcase | 5 | Production & Design..... | 19 |
| Pod Schedule | 7 | Adjudicators, Workshop Leaders, & Special Guests | 25 |
| Mainstage Programs..... | 9 | JTF West 2025 Participating Groups..... | 32 |
| Disney's <i>Dare to Dream JR.</i> | 12 | | |

The Team

Welcome to JTF West! We are thrilled to be back at the Cobb Galleria Centre. So many people have been working behind the scenes to ensure this festival is chock-full of musical theatre magic, and we can't wait to share it with you! Before you run off to your pods, jump into a workshop, or try on your MUSICALSINC.COM 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**, Director of Education **Marty Johnson**, and Senior Vice 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



From left; Laura Jo Schuster, Daniel Mertzlufft, Joseph Ayala, Mary-Catherine Chambliss, Steven G. Kennedy, Susan Fuller, Timothy Allen McDonald, Cindy Ripley, Lindsay Weiner Lupi, Jenna Barricklo, Marianne Phelps, Jiana J. Odland, Rob Rokicki
Photo: Jacob Schirmer ©2024

the JTF Atlanta mainstage programs and many other iTheatrics projects.

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

The Educational Theatre Foundation (ETF), in collaboration with iTheatrics and Music Theatre International (MTI), created JumpStart Theatre (JST), a three-year scalable program designed to create sustainable theatre arts programs in underserved middle schools where there were none. These programs

are active in Cincinnati, St. Louis, San Diego, Atlanta, Frostburg, and Detroit.

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

The Junior Theater Festivals® are the world's biggest and best festivals exclusively dedicated to musical theatre education. These festivals are held in Atlanta, Sacramento, 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 West 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Festival Sign-In | Convention Center – MR 9/10 |
| 12:00 PM – 5:30 PM | Optional Group Rehearsals | Convention Center |
| 12:00 PM – 5:30 PM | iTheatrics Audition | Convention Center |
| 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Festival Sign-In | Convention Center – MR 9/10 |
| 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM | Professional Development Orientation | Convention Center – MR 9/10 |
| 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM | Theater Opens | Memorial Auditorium |
| 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM | <i>Festival Kick-Off!</i> | Memorial Auditorium |
| 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Optional Group Rehearsals | Convention Center |
| 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | iTheatrics Audition | Convention Center |

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM | Adjudications | Convention Center/Sheraton Grand |
| 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM | Lunch | On Your Own |
| 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM | Theater Opens | Memorial Auditorium |
| 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM | <i>Direct From Broadway</i> | Memorial Auditorium |
| 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM | Student Workshops | Convention Center/Sheraton Grand |
| 4:00 PM – 5:45 PM | Teacher Workshops | Convention Center/Sheraton Grand |
| 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Parent/Guardian Panel | Jean Runyon Little Theatre |
| 5:45 PM – 7:30 PM | Dinner | On Your Own |
| 7:30 PM – 8:00 PM | Theater Opens | Memorial Auditorium |
| 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM | <i>New Works Showcase</i> | Memorial Auditorium |

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM | iTheatrics Callback | Convention Center |
| 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Tech Olympics | Convention Center – Ballrooms 8 or 10 |
| 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM | Social Media Ambassadors | Convention Center – Ballroom 1 |
| 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM | Theater Opens | Memorial Auditorium |
| 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM | <i>Growin' Up Broadway!</i> | Memorial Auditorium |
| 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | JTF All-Stars Rehearsal | Memorial Auditorium |
| 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Student Workshops | Convention Center/Sheraton Grand |
| 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Teacher Workshops | Convention Center |
| 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM | Parent/Guardian Panel | Jean Runyon Little Theatre |
| 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Lunch | On Your Own |
| 2:30 PM – 3:00 PM | Theater Opens | Memorial Auditorium |
| 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | <i>Freddie G Awards Ceremony</i> | Memorial Auditorium |
| 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM | Dinner | On Your Own |
| 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM | Theater Opens | Memorial Auditorium |
| 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM | <i>Disney's Dare To Dream JR.</i> | Memorial Auditorium |

MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

WE ARE
BROADWAY JUNIOR



Bravo to all the New Works Showcase performers. We can't wait for these brand-new musicals to join the Broadway Junior® catalog.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
Disney
BROADWAY
JUNIOR

DARE TO
DREAM
JR.
A Disney MUSICAL REVUE

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2025 New Works Showcase

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



Music and Lyrics by
DOLLY PARTON
Book by
PATRICIA RESNICK

Based on the 20th Century Fox Picture

Originally produced on Broadway by Robert
Greenblatt, April 2009

**PRESTON CENTER DANCE
DALLAS, TX**



Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture

Book by
KEVIN DEL AGUILA

Original Music & Lyrics by
GEORGE NOREIGA & JOEL SOMEILLAN

**BOOTHBAY REGION YMCA: YARTS!
BOOTHBAY HARBOR, ME**



**She
Persisted JR.**
The Musical

Script and Lyrics by
ADAM TOBIN
Music by

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

Adapted from the Book Written by **CHELSEA CLINTON**
and Illustrated by **ALEXANDRA BOIGER**

Published by Philomel Books

**Ovation Academy
Oak Park, IL**



Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture
and the Book by William Steig

Book and Lyrics by
DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

Music by
JEANINE TESORI

Originally produced on Broadway by **DreamWorks
Theatricals** and **Neal Street Productions**

**CHRISTIAN ARTS AND THEATRE
CORONA, CA**



2025 New Works Showcase Groups



PRESTON CENTER DANCE, in its 35th year, Preston Center Dance serves more than 1200 students in the Dallas area. The musical theatre program within PCD, founded by Freddie G recipient, Megan Kelly Bates, develops comprehensive musical theatre skills including theatre dance, partnering, acting, character development and chorus singing for students of all abilities. Our Broadway Bound Company creates confident performers who are team players through the experience of performing at JTF and community events all year. Since 2016, PCD groups have attended JTF Atlanta, JTF Texas and JTF West, and in 2023 premiered *Mean Girls JR.* for the New Works Showcase. PCD is excited to be back to present *9-to-5 JR.* in 2025!



OVATION ACADEMY in Oak Park, IL provides the highest quality of training and instruction in the arts, encouraging excellence, enthusiasm, professionalism and passion in our students. Ovation believes every young person should have access to high quality arts education, and that the arts inspire creativity, intellectual development, confidence, team-work, discipline, enthusiasm, active living, and leadership in our children and youth. By participating in the Junior Theater Festival, Ovation Academy offers its student performers the opportunity to work hard and grow together while creating powerful and unforgettable performances. Ovation is thrilled to be participating in our 7th year of attending JTF, and our 10th JTF experience. Ovation is honored to be invited to present such an impactful and powerful New Works Showcase, *She Persisted JR.* with direction by Tina Reynolds and a wonderful team of designers.



BOOTHBAY REGION YMCA: YARTS! The Y Arts program hails from the Boothbay Region YMCA in Maine! Bringing youth performers together from the Boothbay Region and surrounding communities, this is the group's 13th time attending a Junior Theater Festival since 2009. The ensemble is comprised of youth, ages 7-17, and welcomes all levels of experience to take part in the joy of JTF! The Y Arts Program is dedicated to the growth of all persons in spirit, mind, and body and welcomes you to join us as we "Move it, Move it"!



CHRISTIAN ARTS AND THEATER (CAT) is a performing arts education program for children that offers classes in all aspects of the performing arts in both weekly classes and major stage productions, Now in our 27th year, CAT's mission is to provide the incredible life lessons performing arts can bestow on all children, building self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-esteem in a positive and fun atmosphere. This is CAT's 5th appearance at JTF West. We made our first trip in the first year JTF expanded to Sacramento. Having the experiences of being mentored by successful Broadway stars, meeting other liked minded theater kids and having the chance to perform a piece we worked on for months is thrilling and wonderful. CAT loves JTF!

Pod Schedule

| BLUE POD SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 10 | | |
|---|--|---|
| 8:30 AM | Boothbay Region YMCA: YARTS! | Disney's <i>Finding Nemo JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Helena Academy of Drama and Expression | <i>Children Of Eden JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | The Venue Theatre | <i>Beetlejuice JR.</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Fort Myers Theatre | Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Grandstreet Theatre School | Disney's <i>Descendants One-Act Edition</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Stand Stage | <i>The Drowsy Chaperone JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Lyric Theatre Thelma Gaylord Academy | <i>Seussical JR.</i> |
| 12:30 PM | Auburn Dance Academy | Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i> |

| RED POD SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 9 | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 8:30 AM | Christian Arts and Theater | Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Elk Grove Musical Theatre Company | Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | Redding Performing Arts Center | Disney's <i>The Lion King KIDS</i> |
| 10:00 AM | NorCal School of the Arts | Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Preston Center Dance | <i>Children Of Eden JR.</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Woodland Opera House | <i>Mean Girls JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Kids On Stage | Cameron Mackintosh and Disney's <i>Mary Poppins JR.</i> |

| GREEN POD SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 8 | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 8:30 AM | Pasadena Playhouse | Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Imagine Theatre Experience | Roald Dahl's <i>Matilda The Musical JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | Poison Apple Productions | <i>Oliver! JR.</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Children's Theatre of Charlotte | <i>Seussical JR.</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Plaza Academy | Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Ignite the Light Performing Arts LLC | <i>Singin' in the Rain JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Kiwi All-Stars | <i>Beetlejuice JR.</i> |
| 12:30 PM | Upstart Crow Youth Theatre | <i>Something Rotten JR.</i> |

| YELLOW POD SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 3 | | |
|--|---|---|
| 8:30 AM | Wild Horse Children's Theater | Roald Dahl's <i>Willy Wonka JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts | Roald Dahl's <i>James and the Giant Peach JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | Chapelhouse Studios | Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Spark Of Creation Studio | Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Miracle Works Musical Studio | Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Beacon Performing Arts Center | <i>13 JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center | <i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i> |
| 12:30 PM | Porterville Children's Theater | <i>Seussical JR.</i> |



| PURPLE POD SAFE Credit Union Convention Center - Ballroom 1 | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 8:30 AM | Inspiration Stage | Disney's <i>Moana JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Katherine L. Albiani Middle School | <i>Elf The Musical JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | Wildfish Theatre Company | Disney's <i>Finding Nemo JR.</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Riverside Children's Theatre | <i>Once on This Island JR.</i> |
| 11:00 AM | BAMtheatre | <i>Junie B. Jones The Musical JR.</i> |
| 11:30 AM | SOC Studio Jr. Team | Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Ramona Middle School Drama Society | <i>Annie JR.</i> |

| ORANGE POD Sheraton Grand - Gardenia Ballroom | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 8:30 AM | Tahoe Expedition Academy | <i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Colorado Community Theatre | Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | Kettleworks Performing Arts | Disney's <i>Alice in Wonderland JR.</i> |
| 10:00 AM | Opening Night Theater | <i>Peter Pan JR.</i> |
| 11:00 AM | Starbound Theatre | Disney's <i>Aladdin JR.</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Musical Mayhem Productions | <i>Beetlejuice JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Big Star Performing Arts Studio | <i>Annie JR.</i> |
| 12:30 PM | CampTMP/Tacoma Musical Playhouse | <i>Guys and Dolls JR.</i> |

| NAVY POD Sheraton Grand - Camellia Ballroom | | |
|--|---|--|
| 8:30 AM | Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts | <i>Junie B.'s Essential Survival Guide To School JR.</i> |
| 9:00 AM | Granbury Theatre Academy | Disney's <i>The Lion King JR.</i> |
| 9:30 AM | Northwest Theatre Lab | <i>The Music Man KIDS</i> |
| 10:00 AM | California Middle School | Disney's <i>Descendants One-Act Edition</i> |
| 11:00 AM | The Rose Theater | Disney's <i>The Little Mermaid JR.</i> |
| 11:30 AM | Acting Academy for Kids & Teens | <i>Shrek The Musical JR.</i> |
| 12:00 PM | Fort Bend Christian Academy | Disney's <i>Newsies JR.</i> |
| 12:30 PM | SaskExpress Musical Theatre Studio | <i>Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer JR.</i> |



Festival Kick-Off!

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.



Direct From Broadway

Direct From Broadway: JTF West is spirit-finger excited to welcome cast and creative team members from a brand-new show *LYLE, LYLE, CROCODILE: THE MUSICAL!* Based on the beloved children’s book by Bernard Waber, *LYLE* features music and lyrics from JTF friends Pasek and Paul, plus lots of other familiar JTF faces! We are also thrilled to welcome back L.A.-based theatre company DEAF WEST, with special appearances by Jeff Calhoun, Morgan Siobhan Green, Adam Faison, and more!



Growin' Up Broadway!

Hosted by AKA North America's Sarah Jane 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.



Freddie G Awards Ceremony

Welcome to the *Freddie G Awards Ceremony*, the ultimate celebration of the dedication of students, teachers, and communities who make the journey to JTF West! Named after the man who started it all, Music Theatre International's Freddie Gershon, this event is like no other. Get ready for rousing cheers, inspiring performances, and, most of all, incredible support from the JTF family!



DARE TO DREAM

A  MUSICAL REVUE 

©Disney

Celebrate 20 years of Disney and Broadway Junior® with an unprecedented special event: the fully staged world premiere production of a brand-new Junior musical on the JTF stage!

This Sunday, be the first to experience *Dare to Dream JR.*, Disney's new musical revue. *Dare to Dream JR.* follows an eager group of trainees on their first day at a fictional Walt Disney Imagineering Studio. As they work together to discover the inspirational power of dreams, they share music from nearly 100 years of Disney films: including contemporary favorites, timeless classics, brand-new medleys... and some songs appearing for the first time ever in a Disney stage musical.

In an extraordinary collaboration, the show will be performed for one night only by 100 performers, ages 8-18, from Musical Mayhem Productions, Spark of Creation Studio, and Woodland Opera House. This musical spectacular turns a century of Disney magic into a theatrical celebration of music, creativity, and the dreams that live inside us all.

The 60-minute musical, available now for licensing worldwide, features songs from *Encanto*, *Coco*, *The Princess and the Frog*, and many more!

Prepare to sing, dance, cheer, and, most importantly, dream!

Disney's *Dare to Dream JR.* Cast



MUSICAL MAYHEM PRODUCTIONS (MMP), based in Elk Grove, CA, was founded in 2012 and produces 25 youth musicals annually with over 1,400 talented cast members. Beyond full-scale productions, MMP's Master Academy fosters the next generation of performers with specialized training and classes. Since their debut at the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta in 2016, MMP has consistently participated in festivals across the country, including both coasts and Texas. The company has earned numerous Outstanding Performance awards and garnered viral attention with their unforgettable *Aladdin JR.* magic carpet moment. Additionally, MMP has premiered four new works, including *Something Rotten! JR.* MMP is proud to be a part of the team presenting Disney's *Dare to Dream JR.* at JTF West, 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).



SPARK OF CREATION STUDIO, located in South San Francisco, CA, is committed to helping young performers discover their love for the arts in a supportive and inspiring environment. We've proudly attended JTF West since its inception in 2017, earning Outstanding Production awards for *Seussical JR.*, *Once On This Island JR.*, and *Shrek JR.* (JTF Texas). Our students have also performed *Sister Act JR.*, *Moana JR.*, *Freaky Friday (One Act)* and *Finding Nemo JR.* in the New Works Showcase. Thank you to iTheatrics and Disney Theatricals for the honor of premiering *Dare to Dream JR.* with our friends at Musical Mayhem Productions and Woodland Opera House at JTF West.



THE WOODLAND OPERA HOUSE, located just outside of Sacramento, CA, was originally built in 1885 and restored as a historic landmark. Since its founding in 1989, it has produced 5-7 mainstage shows and 2-3 youth productions annually. The theatre also boasts a thriving education program with over 400 students participating in dance, acting, and musical theatre classes. The Woodland Opera House first attended the Junior Theatre Festival in 2020, earning several accolades, including the Outstanding Performance Award in 2024 for *Matilda the Musical JR.* We are proud supporters of the Broadway Junior library and grateful for iTheatrics' contributions to youth theatre.



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iTheatrics
Method

THE QUINTESSENTIAL GUIDE
TO CREATING QUALITY
MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMS



TIMOTHY ALLEN McDONALD, CYNTHIA A. RIPLEY & MARTY JOHNSON

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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 7

12:00pm – 6:00pm

6:30pm – 7:00pm

Saturday, February 8

8:00am – 12:30pm*

2:00pm – 2:30pm

3:30pm – 5:30pm

7:00pm – 8:00pm

9:30pm – 10:00pm

Sunday, February 9

9:00am – 10:00am

11:00am – 1:00pm

2:00pm – 3:00pm

4:00pm – 4:30pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

Hours marked with an asterisk () are for the Convention Center; all other hours apply to Memorial Hall.
—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 ITEMS

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.



2025 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 20,000 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 *Annie JR.* to *Xanadu 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.

The live capture of *Between The Lines* will soon debut on Amazon Prime, *The Book Thief* is preparing for its West End debut, Jim Henson's *Emmet Otter's Jug-Band Christmas* is fresh of its massively successful run at Chicago's Studebaker Theatre, and *Austenland* made it London debut starring the incomparable Lucie Jones (*Elphaba Wicked*, *Jenna Waitress*). I'm also working on a new Pasek and Paul musical (more on that at JTF 2026). I'm also the co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*, (GIA Publications, Inc.), which is available on Amazon.

As a kid growing up in rural Northern California my life was saved by the arts. (Thanks, Mrs. Bowman!) Ensuring every young person, everywhere has access to quality arts programs in their schools and communities will forever be my first passion. 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 ginger, 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, Samuel French, Concord Theatricals, and The Really Useful Group. 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 nine-year-old Tucker and seven-year-old Talia! @lindsayariennelupi





Steven G. Kennedy

Director of Choreography

Steven serves as the Supervising Choreographer for iTheatrics, the leading authority on musical theatre education. Having performed around the world, he has built a rich foundation in musical theater and dance. Drawing on his extensive background, Steven shares his expertise with students, aiming to build their knowledge, skills, and confidence in the art of musical theater. Through programs like Inspire Change (a collaboration with the Tony Award-winning musical *Memphis*), the Shubert Foundation/MTI Broadway Junior Project, the NYC Department of Education, NBC's *SMASH! Make A Musical*, and the JumpStart Theatre program with EdTA, Steven has introduced arts education to thousands of underserved young people. His work with major theatrical organizations—including Music Theatre International, Disney Theatricals, Concord Theatricals, Tams-Witmark, The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization, Samuel French, and the Really Useful Group—includes producing show-specific choreography videos. Steven is also a contributing writer for *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theater Programs*. His distinguished credits include collaborations with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities for the White House Turnaround Arts Talent Show for former First Lady Michelle Obama, starring Sarah Jessica Parker; the opening gala for the John F. Kennedy Center's Family Theater with Kristin Chenoweth and Andrew Lippa; the U.K. premiere of *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*; and the national tours of *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*, *The Ant and The Elephant*, *Cassandra's Angel*, and *A Year With Frog and Toad*. Steven was thrilled to choreograph the Off-Broadway smash hit *Dear Edwina*, produced by 13-time Tony Award-winning and 7-time Pulitzer Prize-winning producer Daryl Roth. Steven thanks his husband, Tim, for his steadfast support throughout their journey together, along with their loyal and lovable 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 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 Ripley is a leading authority on musical theater for young people and as such serves as Senior Educational Consultant for iTheatrics and MTI, leading workshops for kids and teachers across the country. She is also MTI's online show support guru and namesake of "Cindy Says" for Broadway Junior®. Cindy piloted the first-ever Broadway Junior production (*Annie JR.*), and used her experience to develop the Broadway Junior Director's Guide. Cindy is a co-author of *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs* published by GIA Publications, Inc. and finds the recipe comprised of young people, teachers, parents, musical theater and enthusiasm life affirming!



Richard Frazier

Mainstage Director for JTF Atlanta

Richard holds a BEd 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 Specialist

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
@robokicks



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 Mertzlufft

Mainstage Music Supervisor

Daniel Mertzlufft 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](https://www.instagram.com/jianaodd)

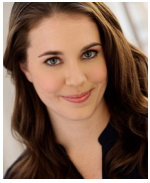


Tammy Dinger

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 ten years. She is honored to be part of both Team iTheatrics and Team JTF!



Jenna Barricklo

iTheatrics Office Manager

Jenna Barricklo made her stage debut as a child in *Annie JR*. She started with iTheatrics as a student when she was 15 years old as a part of their choreography DVDs and workshopping the high school edition of *Heathers: The Musical*. She received her B.F.A. in Musical Theatre from Shenandoah University. As an actor, Jenna has performed across the country at Charleston Stage Company, Moonbox Productions, and Shenandoah Music Theatre. She performed the role of Skye on the hit national tour *Paw Patrol LIVE: The Great Pirate Adventure*. In addition to onstage work, Jenna has been working in the education sector for over 10 years. She began her career teaching dance and has since choreographed many Broadway JR. musicals. She is thrilled to be back with iTheatrics creating theater for future generations!

Meet the Team

2025 Junior Theater Festival

Production & Design



John Edkins

Technical Director

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



Jordan M. Edkins

Associate Carpenter

Jordan is the Foreman for the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera's Construction Center for the Arts. He primarily works on planning and building for a wide variety of theatrical productions. This is Jordan's 10th year as the Associate Carpenter for the Junior Theater Festival. Jordan has worked as a carpenter on the national tours of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and the Asia tour of *An American In Paris*.

Cameron Edkins

Associate Carpenter



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 2008-2025. 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 UNCSA in Sound Design. She has had the opportunity to create sound all over the world and is extremely proud to be part of the JTF team. Kim currently resides in Oregon, where she designs, engineers, and teaches.



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,



Meet the Team

a software BETA tester for Vectorworks Spotlight (Industry standard 3D drafting and rendering software) and is a Vectorworks scholarship judge for rising design students. 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.



Julianna Babb

MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate

Julianna is a director/choreographer and teaching artist based in Philadelphia, PA. Since graduating from University of the Arts with a BFA in Musical Theatre, she has worked with both regional theatres and schools to create exciting and heartfelt productions with young actors. Julianna is thrilled to experience the magic of JTF for a second time!



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 Brunkus

Festival Photographer

Avery is a Clio Award-winning photographer, designer and social media strategist specializing in theatre, film and behind-the-scenes content capture. Select work with RPM includes ten-time Tony Award-winning *Moulin Rouge! The*

Musical, Death Becomes Her, Boop! The Musical, Take Me Out, The Music Man, Mike Birbiglia's The New One and Harvey Fierstein's Torch Song. 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 keeps a dill plant at her desk and thinks car horns are funny. @abrunkus



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

Videography Team

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. 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!

Meet the Team



Caitlyn Gallip

Social Media Content Specialist

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.



Jonah Goldman

Associate Production Manager

Jonah is excited for his first year with JTF Atlanta. While studying Mechanical Engineering in college, he spent his free time producing original student works in his university's black box, so this is a nice upgrade. Now based in NY, he continues to work in event and theater production with The Shubert Organization and Daryl Roth Theater.



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 is a theater director based in New York City. This past Summer, he became one of the youngest directors in Broadway history with the psychological thriller *JOB* that played a limited run at the Hayes Theater. Michael has developed and staged new plays and musicals at Ensemble Studio Theater, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Martha's Vineyard Playhouse, Fault Line Theater, and the Pasadena Playhouse. His education spans Northwestern University to LaGuardia Arts to watching countless movie musicals as a kid. A proud former JTF and iTheatrics kid. www.michaelherwitz.com.



Shirlee Idzakovich

MUSICALSINC.COM Store Associate

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



Marty Johnson

Mainstage Director

Named by Playbill.com as one of the top ten educators shaping Broadway, Marty is an international recognized director, educator, and producer currently serving as the Head of School for Simon Fuller's *Academy of Pop*. Previously Marty served as the Director of Programming for JTF and had the honor of developing and directing over 60 new educational titles throughout the world, including in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, China, and the US. He holds an MFA in Theatre for Youth and is the co-author of the book, *The iTheatrics Method: The Quintessential Guide to Creating Quality Musical Theatre Programs*.



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.



Madeline Lenhausen, Ph.D.

Videography Team

Madeline Lenhausen, Ph.D., is a Northern California-based creative and the founder of MadHause Media, specializing in photography, videography, and web design. With expertise in editing and color grading, she crafts visually stunning content, including music videos, short films, and social media reels. Madeline's attention to detail and storytelling shine in both her professional and personal projects. Dedicated to her craft, she blends creativity with precision to deliver impactful visuals that inspire and engage.



Aaron Leong

Videography Team

Aaron Leong went to SF State University's Theatre Dept for a double emphasis in Performance and Directing, went back to school for film at The Art Institute in Sacramento with an emphasis on Directing and Cinematography and continued his cinematography training at the Global Cinematography Institute in Los Angeles with Academy Award winning Cinematographers. In his 23+ years in the industry Aaron has directed features, shorts and commercials and was the cinematographer for several features, shorts, documentaries, reality TV and



Meet the Team

commercials. Aaron is also a well versed Steadicam Operator.



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. His production company, Luner Eclipse Productions, is proud to serve as the Production Manager for the Junior Theater Festival in Atlanta & Sacramento. 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: Celebrating 10 years as the lead of merchandising for JTF! Previously oversaw merch operations and retail displays for over 150 Broadway, touring and international productions, including *Wicked* in Tokyo. Currently a Project Manger for theatrical and live entertainment at New World Group, a creative agency with clients that include Disney, Marvel, The McKittrick Hotel, Broadway Up Close, and high-end NYC real estate. Kyle resides in NJ with his husband, Paul, and their dog, Desilu.



Rosie Jo Neddy

Script Associate

Rosie Jo Neddy (she/her) is a theatre artist based in New York City. She is so excited to be here for her first ever JTF! Previous credits include: *FIDDLER ON THE ROOF* in Yiddish, directed by Joel Grey and *CAROUSEL* at Lyric Opera Chicago. As a teaching artist, Rosie Jo works with Broadway Bound Kids, Notes in Motion Dance Theatre, and the Shubert Foundation/MTI Broadway Junior Program to bring theatre and dance education to the New York City public schools.



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.

Caitlin Sapunor-Davis

Assistant Event Manager

Caitlin Sapunor-Davis is delighted to return to JTF West for the third time. She recently finished her 23rd season with Broadway at Music Circus. Favorite past productions there include *Big River*, *Gypsy*, *In the Heights*, *The Color Purple*, *Rent*, and *Jersey Boys*. Caitlin has stage managed for Sacramento Ballet, New Helvetia Theatre, APAP|NYC, and currently for the UC Davis Department of Music.



Andrew Volzer

Event Manager

Andrew is currently on the 25th Anniversary Tour of *Mamma Mia!* Previous Credits include: 1st National Tour of *Ain't Too Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations*, Kentucky Opera, America's Got Talent. BFA in Stage Management from University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Previous iTheatrics credits include: Choreography Video Shoots, Freddie G. Fellowship, and the Summer Academy. Member of AEA.

Meet the Team



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.





IN CONCERT PRODUCTIONS, INC. (Audio, Video Projection, and Staging Services)

ICP Audio, LLC and ICP Comms, LLC, both part of the In Concert Productions Companies, Inc., are JTF's long-time Audio, Intercom, Video Projection, and Staging Services providers. For the past 43 years, ICP has provided services to the TV broadcast, film, corporate, theatrical, and special events industries across the USA.

A partial list of projects includes *Family Feud*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, *We Are Family*, *Snake Oil*, *I Can See Your Voice*, *Judge Steve*, *The Cube*, *Chick-Fil-A*, *Delta Air Lines*, *US Army Aviation*, *USN Blue Angels*, *NBA*, *Porsche*, *Tyler Perry Studios*, and many more.

ICP Crew:

Jay Rabbitt, Cody Denson, Ben Crews, Jeremy Barfield, Brandon Lamons, Soloman King, Cameron Terry, Joel Barnes, Noah Kess, Stan Chaney



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

Our team works directly with clients on campaigns that are effective and progressive in both strategy and creativity. Some current Broadway clients include *Hamilton*, *Moulin Rouge*, *Chicago*, *Death Becomes Her*, *Betty Boop!*, *Oh Mary*, *Real Women Have Curves* and next seasons *Queen of Versailles* starring Kristin Chenoweth and *The Lost Boys*.

Team:

Founders – Ilene Rosen, Nick Pramik, Pete Milano • Managing Partner – Kara Carothers
Content Director – Avery Brunkus



PRINT SHOP PR – led by partners Matt Ross and Claire Wojciechowski – 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. Liz Lombardi and Grace Walker will head up the Print Shop PR team at JTF West.

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, LABYrinth, Gingold, *Breaking the Binary*, The Fred Ebb Awards, and the TEAM.

Meet the Team

2025 Junior Theater Festival

Adjudicators, Workshop Leaders, & Special Guests



Trae Adair

Trae Adair is excited to be making his Pasadena Playhouse debut! He was recently seen as Hud in *HAIR* at Sierra Repertory Theatre. Some of his past favorite roles include: Willard in *Footloose!* (Morgan-Wixson Theatre) (Geoffrey Awards-Best Supporting Actor), Jack in *Into the Woods* (CupcakeTheatre), Benny in *Rent*, Ernst in *Spring Awakening* (CupcakeTheatre), Lamar in *Godspell*, and Brandon Greebs in the series, "Mr. Student Body President" (Streamy Awards- Ensemble Cast) He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the University of Texas at Arlington, then moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting. @itsatraeslife



Isaiah Bailey

Isaiah Bailey, a versatile vocalist and performer based in Los Angeles, has been immersed in music since age three. Trained classically and with a deep love for gospel, he honed his craft through theater and music education at Oklahoma City University. With over a decade of professional experience, Bailey toured with *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* and was a Mufasa understudy on the National Tour of *The Lion King*. He has performed with top regional theaters across the country and is a passionate voice teacher, songwriter, and master class clinician. He's beyond excited to be a part of the epic world known as JTF!



Steven Agdeppa

Steven, a multi-talented artist from Los Angeles. Recent credits: Deaf West's **American Idiot** and the original cast and record album of **On This Side of the World** at nationally acclaimed Asian-American theater, East West Players. Some other favorite credits: **Newsies**, **In the Heights**, and **Mamma Mia!**. Steven has voiced characters in games and for Netflix English dubs, and is a long-time stage performer at Disneyland. Over their 11-year career, they have provided expertise in direction and choreography to outreach programs across Southern California, ensuring the arts reach a younger audience.



Emma Bishop

Emma is an award-winning theatre and education practitioner from Aotearoa, New Zealand. Emma spent 15 years as a secondary educator before setting up her company StageAntics. Emma serves on a number of national boards including being a Life Member and the Past President of Drama NZ: the National Subject Association for Drama in Education; and is the current Vice-President of Musical Theatre NZ. Emma is the Producer of JTF New Zealand and has been a member of the education team at JTF Atlanta, JTF Europe and JTF Australia.



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.



Meet the Team



Sam Bolar

Sam Bolar proudly represents the Springer Opera House at JTF Atlanta. As an educator at Georgia's Historic State Theatre, he teaches year-round theatre classes, manages Theatre for the Very Young productions, and serves as a PAIR Specialist, teaching arts integration in schools. With fond childhood memories of attending JTF, Sam is thrilled to return to this exciting weekend of theatre!



Derek Bowley

Derek has worked all over the country with iTheatrics on innumerable projects as a music director, teaching artist, and writer. Outside of the iTheatrics Multiverse, Derek is a Lead Teacher & Culinary Coach 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 *Outchef'd* (season 1, episode 2).



Paul Brewster McGinley

Paul Brewster McGinley (he/him) remembers falling in love with musical theatre at a community theatre production of *42nd Street* in southern New Hampshire. He got involved in school and local productions, and would spend summers wrangling his sisters and friends into self-produced shows. Paul moved to New York City to attend college and has since had the opportunity to design artistic and education programs, teach across the five boroughs of NYC, produce original work for kids and families, and stage manage and direct for Off-Broadway and regional theatres. Paul is currently on the strategy & operations team at Theatre Projects, a global firm that helps people design and plan the operations of theatre spaces. He's thrilled to return to JTF for a ninth year, and encourages you to find the opportunity for growth in every offering of this experience.



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



Diego Caoili

Diego Caoili is a Filipino-Mexican theatre artist with a passion for both technical and creative elements of the stage. He grew up a competitive performer from a young age, with his passion for theater compounding after being invited to an iTheatrics Choreo recording. Recently earning his BFA in Acting and Minor in Environmental Studies from Marymount Manhattan College, he now works at The 52nd Street Project in Hell's Kitchen as Assistant Production Manager. Special thanks to his home studio Spark of Creation, for they shaped the dedicated learner he's become.



John Clay III

JOHN CLAY III: Broadway: *New York, New York*, *Choir Boy* (MTC, OCC nominee). Off-Broadway: *Ragtime* (Encores!) *Jelly's Last Jam* (Encores!) *A Raisin in the Sun* (The Public Theater), *Grand Hotel* (Encores!). TV: "Raising Kanan," "PBS' 'Great Performances'" (Mass). Education: Carnegie Mellon University. John thanks his wife for challenging him to be the best man he can be. IG: @johnclayiii



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.

Meet the Team



Khalia Davis

Khalia Davis(she/her): a multidisciplinary artist, former Artistic Director for Bay Area Children's Theatre and new Producing Artistic Director for The Coterie Theatre.

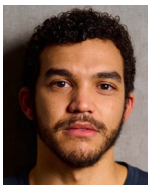
As a director and arts educator, she has worked on Broadway, off-Broadway and regionally with prominent theaters such as A.C.T., First Stage, Atlantic for Kids, New York City Children's Theater, Disney Theatrical Group, Seattle Children's Theatre and more. Proud board member for TYA/USA, Spellbound Theater, and The Story Pirates. Awards: 2019 Emerging Leader Fellowship-TYA/USA, 2019 NYCCT Leader Fellowship, 2021 Corey Medallion Award-Children's Theatre Foundation of America. BA in Theater Arts from the University of Southern California. www.khaliadavis.com!



Alexis Duermeyer

Alexis is the founder and Artistic Director of Backyard Kids' Theater in Marin County and Sonoma County, CA. She has over two decades of experience in theater education. Alexis returned to the Bay area in 2020

and after serving as Artistic Director of The Random Farms Kids' Theater in Westchester County, NY. In addition, she has taught children of all ages throughout the country with programs such as Camp Broadway, Broadway Bound Kids, The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and The D.A.R.E dance program. Over the past 20 years, Alexis has worked with thousands of students throughout the Tri-State area. Alexis' students have appeared on Broadway in *Matilda*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *School of Rock*, *Fun Home*, *Kinky Boots*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Billy Elliot*, *Mary Poppins* and *Les Miserables*. On TV in *Saturday Night Live*, *The John Oliver Show*, *Billions*, *John Mulaney* and *The Sack Lunch Bunch* as well as many films and major motion pictures. Alexis has a B.F.A. from the Tisch School of the Arts (NYU) where she studied at the Atlantic Theater Company as well as musical theater at Cap 21. During her time as an actor, she appeared in numerous productions throughout New York City as well as National Tours. Alexis is a member of Actors Equity Association. She is so thrilled to create and grow Backyard Kids' Theater in the Bay Area where she first fell in love with musical theater.



Adam Faison

Adam Faison recently wrapped on the upcoming Pixar movie, *ELIO*, opposite Zoe Saldana. His most recent features include Hulu's hit reboot of the *HELLRAISER* franchise and Netflix's *YES DAY* with Jenna

Ortega and Jennifer Garner. He can also be seen in the features *SWEET DREAMS* with Johnny Knoxville, Theo Von and Bobby Lee, and *WILDER THAN HER* opposite Sunita

Mani. Faison is probably most known for his work as a series lead on *EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE OKAY*, streaming on Hulu. Other credits include 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.



Zina Goldrich

Zina Goldrich is an award-winning composer, conductor, musical director, and performing artist. Her romantic comedy and theatre songs have been sung around the world by Broadway stars including Audra

McDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Megan Hilty, Kelli O'Hara and Alan Cumming. She and longtime collaborator Marcy Heisler won the 2009 Fred Ebb Award for excellence in songwriting, the first women to do so. Their musical, *Ever After*, enjoyed a sold-out run and was the first production on the Coca Cola Stage at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. Current projects include a new musical, *Stage Mother*, with lyricist Heisler and bookwriter Brad Hennig, and a new revue, *#IRL* with multi-E Emmy Award winning writer, David Javerbaum. Other Goldrich and Heisler collaborations include *Dear Edwina* (Drama Desk Nomination) and *Junie B. Jones* (Lucille Lortel Nomination) which ran successfully Off-Broadway, as well as Goodspeed's *The Great American Mousical*, directed by Julie Andrews. On television, she has composed for AppleTV's *Wonderpets in the City*, ABC's *The Middle*, *Pooh's Learning Adventures* and *Peg + Cat*, on PBS. Ms. Goldrich was a staff songwriter for Disney's Feature Animation. As a performing artist, she has appeared in numerous Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center concerts, conducted the Mazatlán Camerata, and will be a guest soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She is the recipient of the ASCAP Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award, the Harry Warren Award, a Larson grant, Seldes-Kanin fellowship and was an Artist-In-Residence at Second Stage. She has played keyboards on Broadway for *Avenue Q*, *Bombay Dreams*, *Oklahoma!* and *Titanic*, where she also conducted. She studied with Jerry Goldsmith and is a proud graduate of the University of Southern California (USC) Scoring for Motion Picture and Television program. Ms. Goldrich has taught at Temple University, and has led master classes at NYU, Northwestern, Carnegie Mellon as well as many other universities. www.zinagoldrich.com



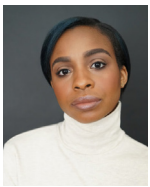
Meet the Team



Max Antonio Gonzalez

Max Antonio Gonzalez (he/him) is an actor, singer, dancer, and choreographer based in Brooklyn. Recent credits: *The Angel Makers* (Off-Broadway), *Music Man* (Marriott Theatre), *Cabaret* (Barrington Stage Co.),

The Three Musketeers (National Tour), *Romeo & Juliet* (National Tour), and Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Alabama Shakespeare Festival). Developmental: *Lempicka* (Broadway Choreography Pre-Pro), *The Death of Desert Rose* (Off-Broadway Work Session), *Aura* (New York Theatre Workshop), and *Lyle Lyle Crocodile The Musical* (Atlantic Theater Co.). Training: NYU Tisch at the New Studio on Broadway. Get in touch: Maxantoniogonzalez.com and [@maxgonzo13](https://www.instagram.com/maxgonzo13)



Morgan Siobhan Green

Broadway: *Be More Chill*, National Tours: *Hadestown* (Original Company, *Eurydice*), Regional and Off-Broadway: *White Girl In Danger* (Secondstage, Caroline), *Moby Dick* (American Repertory Theatre, Cambridge),

Between The Lines (Kansas City Repertory Theatre), *Folk Wandering* (ART NY) *Avalanches* (Because I'm Me) *Dick Johnson Is Dead* (Billie Holiday) TV: *The Bold Type* (*Zuri*) Pip and Vernie's mom. For my Angel. www.morgansiobhan.com [@morgansiobhang](https://www.instagram.com/morgansiobhang)



Jeff Hall

Act Three of Jeff's theatrical career is as a Project Manager for Disney Live Entertainment, the theatrical production division of Walt Disney Imagineering, serving the company's theme parks, resorts, and cruise ships. This follows 32 years directing the nationally recognized Theatre Program at Jesuit High School in Portland, OR, and several years touring the Western United States and Canada as a Teaching Artist. Jeff currently serves on the National Board for the Educational Theatre Association, where he received the Hall of Fame Award in 2016.



Robert Hindsman

Robert (he/him/his) is an actor, teaching artist, and theatre administrator in Atlanta, GA. He currently works with Alliance Theatre as the Adult Programs Manager. He has worked with many Atlanta theatres over

the past 10 years, and is so proud to be a part of this artistic community. He is so excited to get to work with passionate, talented actors from across the country in his home city!



Kiana Holmes

Kiana Holmes (she/her) is an actor, director, stage manager, playwright, and theatre educator who splits her time between NYC and Colorado. She previously worked with iTheatrics as a production

assistant at Disney Theatrical Group for the licensing of *Finding Nemo The Musical*. When she's not kick-ball-changing the world while wearing her many theatrical hats, she is a ski instructor at Breckenridge and a nationally ranked competitive air guitarist.



Cori Jaskier

Cori is so excited to be back at JTF Atlanta! 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.



Hannah Johnson

Hannah is pursuing a BFA in Stage Management and a minor in Applied Human Development at Boston University. Recent credits include *Constellations* (Boston Center for the Arts) and *The Sweet Science*

of Bruising and *Dark Sisters* (BU). Prior to attending BU, she worked as a stage manager and teaching artist for Bay Area Children's Theatre, sparking her love for educational theatre. She has attended JTF West since 2017 as a performer and stage manager, interned at JTF Atlanta since 2024, and is thrilled to be back again.



Jetta Juriansz

Jetta Juriansz is a winner of the Diversity Scholarship at The Groundlings, was a cast member in the CBS Showcase 2023, and most known for sketch comedy TV show, *Studio C*. Theatre: Currently *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile: The Musical* (Pasadena Playhouse). Pre-Broadway

premiere of *The Karate Kid: The Musical* (Stages), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (The Goodspeed), *Incomplete List* (Prism Fest), *Science Park* (Judson). Television: *Station 19* (ABC), *S.W.A.T.* (CBS) and *Kickin' It* (Disney). Jetta is currently on the UCB Maude team, Petty Crime. Instagram: [@shmetta](https://www.instagram.com/shmetta)

Meet the Team



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.



Michael Lunder

Michael is so excited to be joining the JTF team for the first time this year! Michael grew up in a small town in Minnesota, moved to So Cal after High School, and is now a professional performer in Chicago. Throughout his career, he has had the privilege of working with companies like Virgin Voyages *Scarlet Lady*, originating roles (and touring as Dance Captain) for *Sesame Street Live! Make Your Magic*, and theaters at home in Chicago such as The Black Ensemble Theater, The Marriott, Paramount Theater, and Drury Lane. Michael's foundation is in outreach and teaching, and he has been teaching music, dance, and gymnastics for over 10 years. He's been lucky enough to teach and perform all over the world and can't wait to share his experience and passion with everyone at JTF!



Giovanni Maucere

Giovanni Maucere was recently seen as Johnny in Deaf West Theatre and Center Theatre Group Los Angeles' *American Idiot* and appeared as Pizarro in LA Philharmonic's *Fidelio*. He has worked as Director of ASL for Deaf West productions, collaborated with Disney Music, and contributed to projects like Calum Scott's Biblical music video. As a social media content creator, Giovanni shares Deaf culture with a wide audience. He holds a Master's in Linguistics and has served as a music deaf interpreter at concerts and festivals nationwide.
(Instagram: giovanni.maucere; TikTok: gio..24)



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*.



Kelby McIntyre-Martinez

Kelby McIntyre-Martinez is currently the Associate Dean for Arts Education & Community Engagement, Director, Fine Arts, Master of Arts in Teaching Program, and Director of the Endowed Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Program at the University of Utah. Kelby is passionate about establishing pathways to higher education through sustainable arts programming that allows university and school-aged youth opportunities to create new artistic works alongside cultural workers, artists, organizations, and arts advocates to encourage cultural democracy, ways of knowing, and the generation of new knowledge. She values the mutual exchange of creativity, and the reciprocal benefits this research and learning model creates for all participants and the field of arts education.



Nina Meehan

Nina Meehan 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.



Meet the Team

McKenna's passion for theater education grows more and more with each show they direct.



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.



Siena Rafter

Rosemary Siena Rafter (they/he) is a nonbinary theater artist born and raised in New York City. They're a proud graduate of LaGuardia High School's Drama program and Brown University's Theater Arts class of 2020. Off-Broadway/ Lincoln Center: Liz Swados' *Runaways* (directed by Sam Pinkleton), *Deep Blue Sea* (directed by Bill T Jones at the Park Avenue Armory), *The Division* (directed by SRDA), *Thank you Ryan...* (Ars Nova), *T (The Tank)*, *American Song Book Series*. The Public Theater/Delacorte: *Twelfth Night* (written by Shaina Taub), *Runaways*, *For the Love of Vinyl* (Joe's Pub), *From Hair to Hamilton...Gala '17*. GoodSpeed/Regional: *A Complicated Woman*, *Spring Awakening*. TV: HBO's *Crashing*.



Grayson Reed

Grayson Reed is a graduate of the Boston Conservatory at Berklee College of Music with a major in Musical Theater and a minor in Stage Management! He loves to work onstage and off, as a performer, director, stage manager, producer, designer, and creator! He is thrilled to be joining the team for JTF West after working with JTF Atlanta for the first time last year!



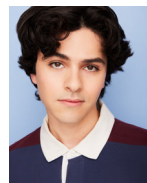
Shay Rodgers

Shay works as a choreographer with iTheatrics and has created more than 30 instructional choreography videos for MTI, Disney, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Samuel French, and Tams-Witmark. She is currently on staff at Houston's High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Wildfish Theatre. She created the Academy for Theatre Under The Stars in 2003 and managed the program until 2016. Choreography highlights include iTheatrics: *West Side Story School Edition*, *Getting To Know... Footloose*, Disney's *The Jungle Book KIDS*, *Junie B. Jones JR*. Theatre Under The Stars: *Bring It On*, *Heathers*, *The Who's Tommy*, World Premiere of *The Stephen Schwartz Project*. Wildfish Theatre: *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *School of Rock*, *Spring Awakening*.



Nicholas Roehler

Nicholas Roehler, pianist and coach, has served as music staff for LA Opera's productions of *The Barber of Seville*, *El ultimo sueño de Frida y Diego*, *Der Zwerger*, *Highway One*, and *Turandot*. He was a member of the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program at LA Opera where he served as music staff for *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tannhäuser*, *Cenerentola*, *Aida*, *Oedipus Rex*, *St. Matthew Passion*, and Joseph Bologne's *The Anonymous Lover* assisting conductors James Conlon, Roberto Abbado, and Lina Gonzales-Granados. He also had the distinct pleasure of preparing *The Brightness of Light* with Renée Fleming and Rod Gilfrey under the baton of Gemma New. This season he serves on music staff for *Madama Butterfly* and *Adoration* at LA Opera, plays continuo for *La Cenerentola* at Houston Grand Opera under Lorenzo Passerini, and serves as répétiteur for *Don Pasquale* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Nicholas was répétiteur for *Tosca* and *Susannah* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis in 2023. He was coach and pianist for a musical workshop of Peter Knell's *Arkhipov* at Seattle Opera and for the world premiere with Jacaranda Music under the baton of Daniela Candillari, the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *If I Were You* at Merola, *Rigoletto* with Berkshire Opera Festival, *Il tabarro* with Bronx Opera, *Candide* with University of Michigan Opera, and *The Marriage of Figaro* with University of Michigan and Opera in the Ozarks. He has also served as guest coach for the resident artists at the Detroit Opera. Recital highlights include San Francisco Opera's Schwabacher Debut Recital Series, "Meet Joe Green" at the Berkshire Opera Festival, and a Liederabend curated by Susan Graham at the Colburn School. Nicholas holds a Bachelor of Music in vocal and piano performance from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, a Master of Music and Specialist in Music in vocal coaching and collaborative piano from the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Martin Katz, and is an alumnus of the Merola Opera Program. He resides in Los Angeles, California.



Christopher Romero Sosa

Christopher Romero Sosa has been performing for 16 years, having been in over 25 stage productions including *Spring Awakening* (Moritz), *A Chorus Line* (Paul), and a regional tour of *Newsies* (Crutchie). Since 2022, he has worked on 20 short-form film projects including multiple theses at Chapman University. Most recently Christopher starred in a proof of concept which he co-wrote and executive produced. A Mexican-American, 1st Gen graduate from UCLA, Christopher finished with a degree in Global Studies, though – he spent his first 3 years in the competitive Ray Bolger Musical Theater program. He is more than ecstatic to be making a return to stage in *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile!*

Meet the Team



Billy Rude

Billy Rude is proud to be here at Junior Theater Festival 2025! As an educator, he teaches private music lessons, has worked with several programs across Chicago Public Schools and beyond to bring music education and enrichment to hundreds of students, and performances to audiences of thousands across the country. As a performer, some of Billy's credits include *Goodman Theatre*, *Berkeley Repertory*, *D.C. Shakespeare*, *Berkshire Theatre*, *Marriott Theatre*, *Paramount Theatre*, *Drury Lane Oakbrook*, *Laguna Playhouse*, *South Coast Repertory*, *Porchlight Music Theatre*, and more. TV/Film: *Chicago Fire* (NBC). www.billyrude.com



Darian Sanders

Meet Darian Sanders, an extraordinary artist who recently captivated audiences nationwide as Simba in the National tour of Disney's *The Lion King*. The excitement continues as he embarks on a thrilling new adventure, having just released his inspiring book, "Don't Fear Your Roar," along with fresh original music. Darian is ready to embrace the vibrant energy of New York City in this next chapter of his life. A shining example of faith and talent, he inspires everyone he meets through his mesmerizing performances and heartfelt ministry. Darian is back with the JTF community for his second year, eager for amazing possibilities ahead!



Court Watson

Court Watson is a New York-based set and costume designer. Credits range from operas *La bohème*, *Rigoletto* (Wolf Trap), *King for a Day*, *Blizzard at Marblehead Neck* (Glimmerglass), *Tales of Hoffmann* (Beijing), *Samson and Dalilah*, *Three Decembers* (Virginia Opera), *Fledermaus* (Salzburg) to musicals *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Guys & Dolls* (Ford's Theatre), *Sound of Music* (Salzburg), *Dear Edwina* (Off-Broadway), and plays *Hannah Senesh*, *It Must Be Him*, *Harvey and the Princess* (Off-Broadway). He has designed multiple TYA productions with Ernie Nolan at Nashville Children's Theatre and Nina Meehan at the Bay Area Children's Theatre and multiple live theme park shows for Busch Gardens Williamsburg and SeaWorld.



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.



Deborah Wicks La Puma

Composer and music director Deborah Wicks La Puma is one of the most produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today. Popular titles include *ELLA ENCHANTED* (based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), with Karen Zacarias, *SHE PERSISTED* (based on the book by Chelsea Clinton) with Adam Tobin, and *ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE'S WE ARE IN A PLAY* with bestselling children's author Mo Willems. With Willems she also created the animated movie *NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED: THE UNDERGROUND ROCK EXPERIENCE* and the upcoming animated series *UNLIMITED SQUIRRELS*. She has music directed at theatres across the country, including the Guthrie, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, South Coast Repertory, La Jolla Playhouse and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Honors include an Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Musical, two Parents' Choice Awards, and a Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Adaptation. A proud Mexican-American and "Navy brat" who grew up in Brazil, Portugal and California, La Puma is a member of TYA/USA, ASCAP and The Dramatists Guild. www.crunchynotes.com



Carol Worcel

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



JTF West 2025 Participating Groups



Acting Academy for Kids & Teens
Foothill Ranch, CA



Big Star Performing Arts Studio
Snoqualmie, WA



Auburn Dance Academy
Auburn, WA



Boothbay Region YMCA: YARTS!
Boothbay Harbor, ME



BAMtheatre
Hinsdale, IL



California Middle School
Sacramento, CA



Beacon Performing Arts Center
Beacon, NY



CampTMP/Tacoma Musical Playhouse
Puyallup, WA

JTF West 2025 Participating Groups



**Chapelhouse Studios
Godley, TX**



**Elk Grove Musical Theatre Company
Elk Grove, CA**



**Children's Theatre of Charlotte
Charlotte, NC**



**Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center
Houston, TX**



**Christian Arts and Theater
Corona, CA**



**Fort Bend Christian Academy
Sugar Land, TX**



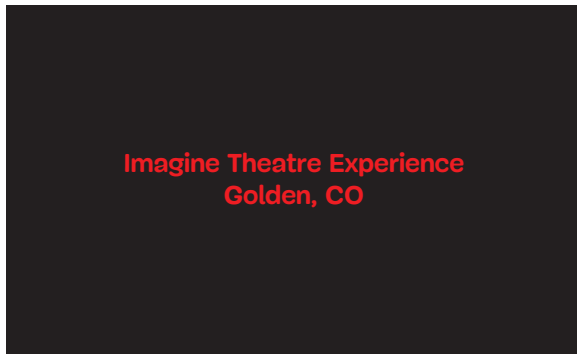
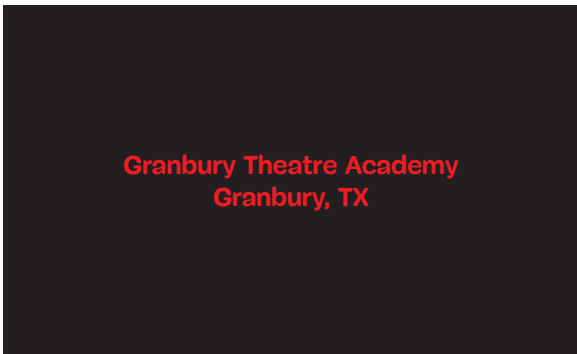
**Colorado Community Theatre
Golden, CO**



**Fort Myers Theatre
Fort Myers, FL**



JTF West 2025 Participating Groups

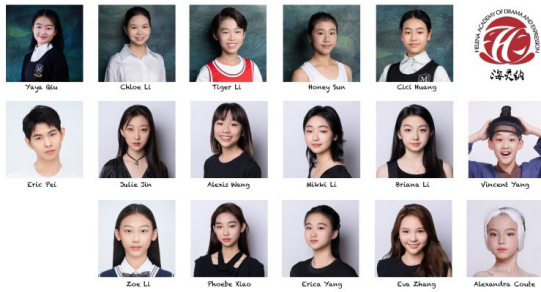


**Grandstreet Theatre School
Helena, MT**



**Inspiration Stage
Richmond, TX**

HELENA ACADEMY OF DRAMA AND EXPRESSION



**Helena Academy of Drama and Expression
Shenzhen, China**



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



**Ignite the Light Performing Arts LLC
Ashburn, VA**



**Kettleworks Performing Arts
Renton, WA**

JTF West 2025 Participating Groups



Kids On Stage
Snow Hill, NC



Musical Mayhem Productions
Elk Grove, CA



Kiwi All-Stars
Wallsend, New Zealand



NorCal School of the Arts
Sacramento, CA



Lyric Theatre Thelma Gaylord Academy
Edmond, OK



Northwest Theatre Lab
Puyallup, WA



Miracle Works Musical Studio
Seoul, South Korea



On The Fringe Visual and Performing Arts
Suisun City, CA



JTF West 2025 Participating Groups



Opening Night Theater
Glendale, CA



Poison Apple Productions
Martinez, CA



Ovation Academy for the Performing Arts
Oak Park, IL



Porterville Children's Theater
Porterville, CA



Pasadena Playhouse
Pasadena, CA



Preston Center Dance
Dallas, TX



Plaza Academy
Cleburne, TX



Ramona Middle School Drama Society
La Verne, CA

JTF West 2025 Participating Groups



Redding Performing Arts Center
Redding, CA



Spark Of Creation Studio
South San Francisco, CA



Riverside Children's Theatre
Riverside, CA



Stand Stage
North Richland Hills, TX



SaskExpress Musical Theatre Studio
Saskatchewan, Canada



Starbound Theatre
Suisun City, CA



SOC Studio Jr. Team
South San Francisco, CA



Tahoe Expedition Academy
Truckee, CA



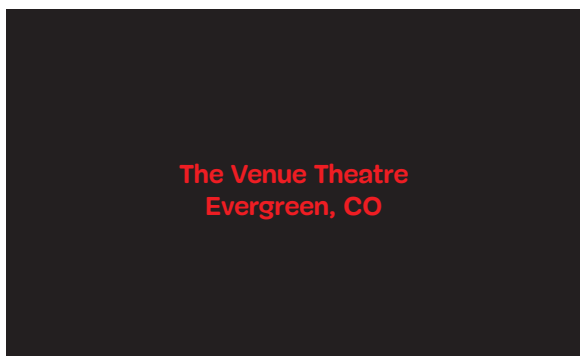
JTF West 2025 Participating Groups



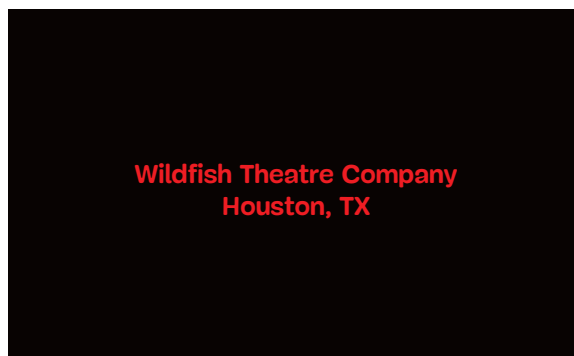
**The Rose Theater
Omaha, NE**



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



**The Venue Theatre
Evergreen, CO**



**Wildfish Theatre Company
Houston, TX**

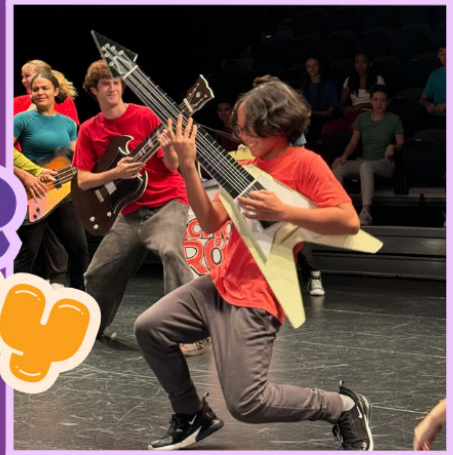


**Upstart Crow Youth Theatre
Eugene, OR**



**Woodland Opera House
Woodland, CA**

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