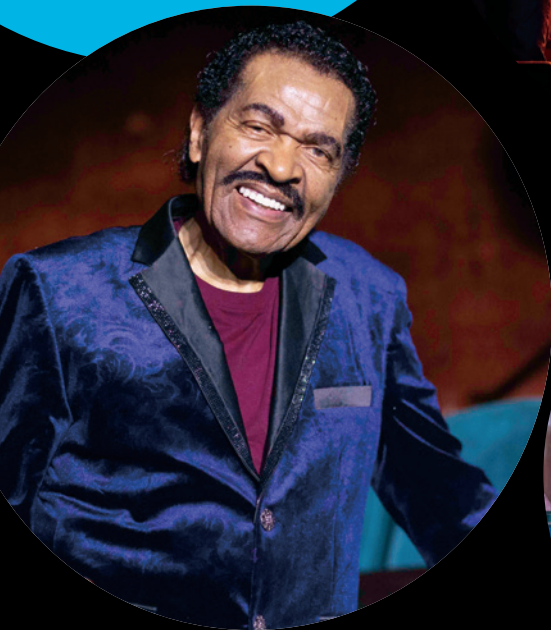




**CHANDLER
CENTER**
FOR THE ARTS



PROGRAM

THE TEXAS TENORS

MUDDY & WOLF
REVISITED

LITERATURE TO LIFE:
THE GREAT GATSBY

STOMP

**VOL. XXXV
ISSUE 5**

**CELEBRATE
35
YEARS**



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The arts celebrate culture and enrich our lives. A vibrant arts community is a key indicator of a thriving economy. That's why SRP is proud to support organizations like Chandler Center for the Arts that are committed to unifying our region through creativity, innovation and shared experiences that connect us all.

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CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Dynamic leaders, loyal supporters and visionaries describe the Board members of Chandler Cultural Foundation. The Chandler Cultural Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation established in 1989 to program and raise funds for the Center's artistic and outreach programs. Ticket sales and other earned income cover only part of the Center's programming expenses, which means that the Chandler Cultural Foundation's fundraising efforts play a vital role in delivering quality arts programs at an affordable cost to the public.

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WELCOME TO CHANDLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS!



On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the CCA, welcome to Chandler Center for the Arts. We are delighted to have you join us for our 35th Season! It is an honor to serve you in Downtown Chandler's premier arts and entertainment destination. We are committed to creating a welcoming experience for all. Should you

have any feedback regarding your visit to the CCA, please feel free to share it with one of our staff members or volunteers.

This season features a diverse array of artists and musical talents. I am particularly enthusiastic about the theatrical performances. Literature to Life's new production offers a fresh perspective on F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic, *The Great Gatsby*. A musical biography about Aretha Franklin, appropriately titled "R.E.S.P.E.C.T" will captivate even the most devoted fans of her music. These, along with other dynamic performances such as *STOMP*, *Syncopated Ladies*, and *The Wizard of OZ* will all take to the Steena Murray Mainstage this season.

This exceptional season is made possible by your generous support through ticket purchases, memberships, and donations. Your contribution enables us to provide free arts experiences to over 15,000 families, seniors, and veterans each year. We invite you to consider making a deeper investment to your local arts center by visiting chandlercenter.org/donate. Now, as we dim the house lights, please sit back and enjoy the show. It is showtime!

With gratitude,

Michelle Mac Lennan

General Manager, Chandler Center for the Arts

OUR IMPACT

In the **2023-2024 SEASON**, the Chandler Center for the Arts had the following impact on our community.

8,666 young people were reached with performing and visual arts programs through Connecting Kids.

160,000 patrons experienced the arts through diverse programming

3,000 individuals and families attended with free admission to ticketed performances

3,000 creative workers engaged on a creative basis

9,300 community members attended free concerts

1,300 tickets were provided to veterans, active duty members & their families

138 volunteers donated **7,063** hours of their time to CCA



WELCOME

On behalf of the City of Chandler, thank you for choosing Chandler Center for the Arts. Chandler Center for the Arts is a cornerstone in our community, offering a myriad of distinct entertainment options and conveniently located in Chandler's vibrant Downtown. I am confident you will have an unforgettable experience. The diversity that makes our community unique is showcased and celebrated through the programs the CCA presents.

The 35th Anniversary Season promises an eclectic mix of performances, featuring renowned artists like Bobby Rush, Boney James and Syncopated Ladies. The season also includes performances by The Texas Tenors, the highest-ranking vocal group in the history of *America's Got Talent*, and DRUMLine Live, showcasing the electrifying marching bands from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, among others.

Chandler Center for the Arts is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and delivering some of the best entertainment in the Valley. Enjoy the performance; we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Mayor Kevin Hartke
City of Chandler



CHANDLER CITY COUNCIL

Front row, from left: Councilmember Jane Poston, Councilmember Angel Encinas, Councilmember Matt Orlando, Councilmember Christine Ellis. **Back row, from left:** Vice Mayor OD Harris, Mayor Kevin Hartke, Councilmember Mark Stewart.



CHANDLER CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Back row, from left: David Woodruff, Christopher McMullan, Michelle Mac Lennan
Front row, from left: Jennifer Sanchez, Julia Marreel, Mari Jo Woolf-Whitaker, LaTricia Woods, Susan Baker, Terri Rettig, Erika Castro, Peppur Chambers, Sherida McMullan
Not pictured: Mike Halle, Candy Yu, Jeanne Forbis, Ellie Watland and Jyoti Pathak



CHANDLER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (CUSD) GOVERNING BOARD



A Distinct Performing Arts Center

Chandler Center for the Arts serves as a leader and one of the most collaborative multi-theatre performing and visual arts facilities in the country. Through a partnership between the City of Chandler, the nonprofit Chandler Cultural Foundation and Chandler Unified School District, Chandler Center for the Arts is the central space for Chandler's cultural activities. Serving a diverse community comprised of many ages, backgrounds and interests, the Center presents outstanding performances, exhibitions and events for the public each weekend, while providing a state-of-the-art facility for Chandler's students to use for their arts curriculum and school performances during the week.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation, which was formed upon the Center's opening in 1989, oversees all artistic programming and operations, and provides fiscal oversight for the Chandler Center for the Arts on behalf of the city.

The Chandler Cultural Foundation is comprised of 15 board members; all of whom are appointed by the Mayor. The members review and approve proposed management policies of the CCA, as well as review the budgets of the CCA's operating and endowment funds.

THANK YOU

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Jerry Brooks Legacy Society

Mayor of Chandler from 1984-1988, Jerry Brooks was a visionary leader, dedicated to the cultural life of Chandler. In his honor, the Chandler Cultural Foundation established the Jerry Brooks Legacy Society. Those who give to the Legacy Society are dedicated to ensuring a lasting foundation of support for Chandler Center for the Arts, in keeping with Jerry's vision for a strong cultural center for Chandler and its residents.

Harriet Rickert Barnes

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Sandra Bassett



Arts Leader Joins Chandler Center For The Arts Team

Chandler Center for the Arts is delighted to announce the appointment of Sandra Bassett, a seasoned leader in the Arizona arts and culture community, to its leadership team as the head of Development and Communications.

Previously serving as CEO of the Phoenix Center for the Arts, Sandra Bassett's leadership brought unprecedented growth to the organization. She was instrumental in securing major funding, including a transformative \$1.24 million grant for the BIPOC Arts program, designed to foster economic development for BIPOC artists. Additionally, she led efforts to secure a \$1.194 million City of Phoenix bond for the renovation of the center's theater, ensuring that the historic venue remains a vital part of the city's cultural landscape.

Sandra earned her M.B.A. in marketing from Walden University and holds a bachelor's degree in business management from Kentucky State University, a renowned HBCU. Originally from Detroit, she has made Phoenix her home for over 12 years, becoming a powerful advocate for arts and culture.

In addition to her professional achievements, Sandra is deeply committed to community service. She serves on several key arts and civic boards, including the Arizona Presenters Alliance, the American Federation for Musicians Local #586, Downtown Phoenix Inc., Evans Churchill Community Association, and the Hance Park Conservancy. She also founded the Hance Park Nonprofit Coalition, connecting local nonprofits with critical resources to support their missions.

Sandra's impact goes beyond leadership—she is also a gifted performer and mentor. Known for her powerful vocals and versatility in jazz, R&B, Motown, and blues, Sandra is also an accomplished pianist, organist, and alto saxophonist. Often seen performing the National Anthem at Phoenix Suns and Phoenix Mercury games, Sandra regularly performs at top venues in Arizona, including Westside Blues and Jazz, Tempe Center for the Arts, The MIM and The Nash.

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Terri Rettig
Assistant Art Center Manager

Sandra Bassett
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Tracey Wyatt
Management Analyst

Danielle Sezairi
Rental & Program Specialist

Lindsay Bernardez
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Lighting Supervisor

Jason Krull
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Starring **BRIAN DUPREY** as **FRANK SINATRA**
with LIVE BIG BAND & SPECIAL GUEST

SAT, JUNE 28
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Presented by Diamond Horseshoe Productions

THE TEXAS TENORS



SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

The Texas Tenors are the most successful music group and third highest selling artist in the history of *America's Got Talent!* Since appearing on the series in 2009, JC, Marcus and John have released 5 studio albums, 2 PBS Specials, 4 DVDs, multiple singles and a children's book that have earned them impressive recognition including 3 Emmy Awards, The Gelett Burgess Award for Excellence in Children's Literature and the distinction of being

Billboard Magazine's #10 Classical Artist in the World. The tenors' most recent albums *Outside the Lines*, *Rise* and *A Collection of Broadway and American Classics* all debuted at #1 on the Billboard Charts.

These classically trained, versatile tenors have performed more than 1700 concerts around the world including headline shows in Las Vegas, China and a 24-city tour of the United Kingdom.

Recently they were honored to be included among the top 50 acts in the world and the only vocal group from the United States invited to appear on NBC's *America's Got Talent: The Champions*.



JOHN HAGEN has been described as, "astonishing, a superb tenor of deep musicality." He made his Lincoln Center debut in New York City in Teatro

Grattacielo's mounting of Mascagni's *Gulielmo Ratcliff*. Mr. Hagen created 3 tenor roles in the world premier of *The Lost Dauphine* for Pamiro Opera airing on PBS. He has performed a vast array of operatic roles ranging from Alfredo in *La Traviata*, to the title role of *Otello* for Cleveland Opera on tour. Mr. Hagen is highly regarded for his performances of the Verdi Requiem and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, having performed these works with more than a dozen symphonies across the United States. He has received many awards throughout his career including finalist in the New Jersey Opera Association of Verismo Opera competition held at Carnegie Hall, Metropolitan Opera Auditions Regional Finalist, and winner of numerous other competitions



MARCUS COLLINS was born in a small town and began performing at the age of 4. He first learned how to sing by emulating his favorite artists like Garth Brooks, George

Michael and Freddie Mercury before training classically in college. Marcus has performed throughout the world on cruise ships and numerous stage productions including a performance in Times Square with the Broadway cast of *Hairspray* and Off-Broadway's *Altar Boyz* as Matthew. Beyond music he has worked extensively as an actor with appearances in more than 100 episodes of network television and 25 films including *P.S. I Love You*, *Semi-Pro*, *Delirious*, *30 Rock*, *Sex and the City*, recurring roles on *One Life To Live* and *As The World Turns*, and a Guest VJ on MTV.



JC FISHER has entertained audiences around the world for the past 15 years. In high school, he had a passion for sports and also enjoyed singing in church. He discovered a deeper love for singing at

Wichita State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music. JC performed various roles including Rodolfo in *La Boheme*, Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, Henrick in *A Little Night Music* and even Miss America's duet partner at the 1997 Miss Kansas Pageant. After college, JC traveled to Lucca, Italy where he sang in the Puccini festival under the direction of acclaimed Italian maestro Lorenzo Malfatti. He then created a home base in Katy, TX before sailing the high seas aboard more than 75 cruise ships worldwide as a guest entertainer. This allowed JC to create a show featuring many different genres of music and world class arrangements, which eventually led to his idea of forming The Texas Tenors. After many years of traveling and concerts, his most memorable performance is still one from college where he found his future wife and mother of their 3 beautiful children.

MUDDY & WOLF REVISITED WITH BOBBY RUSH AND THE NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALLSTARS



Bobby Rush

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

During his renowned stage show **Bobby Rush** frequently jumps high into the air, arms spread and legs tucked, only to land gracefully and return without a hitch to his dazzling routine. It's a move you might expect at a contemporary R&B show, but it's downright shocking when you realize that Rush is in his early 90s.

"I never thought I would be here this long," says Rush. "I was 83 years old before I won a GRAMMY®, but it's better late than never. I laugh about it, but I'm so blessed and I surely never thought I'd be making a

living doing what I'm doing. I'm not just an old guy on my way out."

Hardly. Rush's busy schedule includes headlining European festivals with his band and solo programs at venues including Jazz at Lincoln Center. Over the last several years he's won a second GRAMMY®, re-recorded his 1971 hit "Chicken Heads" together with his old friend Buddy Guy and young blues star Christone "Kingfish" Ingram, and written a critically acclaimed autobiography, *I Ain't Studdin' You: My American Blues Story*. In addition to his

two GRAMMY® wins (and six nominations), he's in the Blues Hall of Fame, and has won 16 Blues Music Awards (among 56 nominations).

Rush—born Emmett Ellis, Jr.—grew up on his family's farm picking cotton, tending to mules and chickens, and living in a home without electricity nor indoor plumbing. He built his first guitar on the side of the family's house out of broom wire, nails, bottles and bricks.

The blues, Rush recalls, provided "an escape from the cotton fields. You'd go out on Saturday night to the juke joints, but then on Monday morning you'd go

back into the cotton fields to work for your bossman."

He left behind farm work to perform on the road with the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, and as "Bobby Rush"—a name he took on out of respect to his father, a minister—he toured the juke joints and clubs of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi before settling in Chicago in the 1950s.

Rush has become one of the most prominent advocates for the blues tradition, and says "it's the root of all music, it's the mother of all music. If you don't like the blues, you probably don't like your mama." And he has no plans to slow down.



North Mississippi Allstars

After 25 years, twelve albums, four GRAMMY® Award nominations, and sold-out shows everywhere, **North Mississippi Allstars** open up their world once again on their thirteenth album, *Set Sail* [New West Records]. As legend has it, Luther and Cody Dickinson started the band in 1996 as a loose collective of like-minded second-generation musicians who shared a local repertoire and regional style. Over the years, the lineup shifted by design,

and each subsequent record offered up a different combination of collaborators.

As sons of legendary producer and musician Jim Dickinson, Luther and Cody have been producing records themselves since they were teenagers. Separately, the brothers have produced albums by Samantha Fish, R.L. Boyce, Lucero, Amy Lavere, the Birds of Chicago, Ian Segal, and more. Luther produced two records from Otha Turner, including *Everybody*

Hollerin' Goat, which was named one of the ten most important blues albums of the nineties. Luther and Cody co-produce North Mississippi Allstars records as the "Dickinson Brothers."

"We learned an enormous amount from our father," Luther says, "Cody and I made mistakes, but we've always believed in ourselves, and we had to learn for ourselves. Rock 'n' roll is self-taught. Each generation has to reinvent itself and shed the skin of the elders. On Set Sail, we feel as if we've once again 'broken the code,' and know what we want and how to get it."

Following 2019's Up and Rolling, which received a GRAMMY® Award nod in the category of "Best Contemporary Blues Album," Set Sail continues the band's tradition of creating roots music that displays remarkable variety. Luther and

Cody Dickinson dig in with the production and different guitar tones; the record sizzles with hard yet understated groove, grown folk music. Luther's wide-ranging guitar style features jazz riffs, psychedelic sounds, and soulful slide. Drummer and multi-instrumentalist Cody draws on roots music, rock, jazz, rap, and other styles to create rhythms that propel the band's sounds and move it forward.

The Dickinson brothers have recorded and toured with Mavis Staples, Charlie Musslewhite, John Hiatt, Robert Plant and Patty Griffin, G Love, Jon Spencer, the Tedeschi Trucks Band, Los Lobos, and the Black Crowes. Meanwhile, their seminal debut, Shake hands with Shorty (2000), earned the band the first of four GRAMMY® nominations, and changed the Dickinson brothers' lives forever.



chandler MUSEUM

Free Admission Tues.- Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 1-5pm
chandlermuseum.org

Late Night Eats



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LITERATURE TO LIFE: THE GREAT GATSBY



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | 3:00 P.M.

ABOUT THE GREAT GATSBY

Based on the novel *The Great Gatsby*
by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Adapted and Directed by Kelvin Grullon

Performed by Bryce Foley



Kelvin Grullon



Bryce Foley

Literature to Life adapts F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic work as their newest title in their Signature Performance series. *The Great Gatsby* takes place on Long Island and New York City in the early twentieth century, at the height of the Jazz Age and the Prohibition Era. The novel touches on the treatment of different social classes, "old money" versus "new money" ideology, gender, race, environmentalism, and the price of the American Dream.

ACTOR BIO

Bryce Foley is an American actor from Ypsilanti, Michigan. He received his B.A. in Drama from the University of Michigan and is a recent graduate of the Terry Knickerbocker studio. He has performed at UofM (*Pass Over*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Bacchae*), Davis Shakespeare Festival (*The Reaper & The Whale*), and is pleased to make his New York theatre debut in *The Great Gatsby* with Literature to Life.

ABOUT LITERATURE TO LIFE (LTL)

LITERATURE TO LIFE (LTL) is a performance-based literacy program that presents professionally staged verbatim adaptations of American literary classics. LTL's mission is to perform great books that inspire young people to read and become authors of their own lives. LTL was founded more than three decades ago as the educational program of the American Place Theatre. Now an independent organization, this mighty collective of artists and educators brings the voices of diverse authors to thousands of students and audiences nationwide, giving them the tools to become the empowered "voices worth hearing" of our future.

ARTIST Q & A



Kelvin Grullon - Director - *The Great Gatsby*

What was the process for taking an entire novel and developing a script for a solo performer?

Because of my arts and architectural background, I think I took a very structuralist approach to the adaptation. It was about identifying the core of this American classic and then sculpting the narrative for the stage based on that core. I wanted to include elements of the story that everyone remembers about *Gatsby*, so I researched extensively—watching documentaries, interviews, all the films, and rereading the novel multiple times. I gathered all those pieces and crafted the adaptation the same way an architect would design a structure. It was about honoring Fitzgerald’s words as the writer, but also honoring my understanding of what he wrote. Throughout this process, I had the support of my Lit to Life artistic director Elise Thoron and executive director Lisa Beth Vettoso, as well as our partners at Northern Stage Theater in VT, and we did a good number of draft readings (about 5 drafts) before casting Bryce. Once we cast Bryce in the role, his sensitivity as a performer was the final element that helped refine the script further. I believe the actor has to use their entire life, their whole being, every absolute skill, who they’ve been and who they have yet to be, to do the solo show, and they must bring that to (or perhaps discover it in) the rehearsal process. This in turn affects the written story and leads us to the “completed” script.

What were you looking for in the actor who would perform *The Great Gatsby* during the audition process?

Initially, I wasn’t sure what I was looking for. As a long-time actor and first-time director, I wanted to honor my fellow actors’ work. Quickly though, I realized I needed someone with a deep understanding of the story and a personal connection to the words—someone who seemed to “get it”, or at least their own version of “it”, and wanted to tell it. I know now this is what people might call “a spark” or “stage presence.” After three rounds of auditions, we narrowed down from over 300 submissions to three actors who were all right for the part. It then came down to who I collaborated with most naturally. I had envisioned this process as two adventurers, actor and director, going into the untamed wild of theater making, so it was about finding a good partner that shared bidirectional creativity and support.

What do you want viewers to take away from the performance?

I can’t prescribe what viewers should take away, but I hope they feel something—a connection to human truth and struggle. The performance explores what it means to desire something so intensely that you’re almost blinded to the cost, and the weight that cost imposes on those around you. I’d hope they experience the value of love and friendship, and the hurt of lies and betrayal, alongside all the characters coming to life on stage.

What was the most challenging part about directing “*The Great Gatsby*” with a solo performer?

Everything, everything was challenging, especially since it was my first time directing. It was a constant see-saw of uncertainty and discovery, of “I’m not sure if this would...” combined with “but I think we could just...” - LOL - Thankfully, I had support from my executive and artistic directors, who helped refine my vision by asking the right questions and giving me the space and autonomy to explore. The real challenge though was understanding and articulating my vision, and determining on the go when that vision was coming together.

What was the most surprising? Why?

Seeing Bryce’s growth. It was to be expected, sure, but actually witnessing it was incredible! Watching him get deeper into the different characters, take command of the story, and truly live inside the story made me feel like a proud colleague; like a proud brother in the arts. Long ago, and thanks to the guidance

of writer, poet, and solo-show performer Lemon Andersen, when I was undergoing my own acting work on another Lit to Life adaptation (*The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*) I came to see solo-show development as discovering new doors in a big labyrinth, and watching Bryce find new doors was exhilarating.

What was the most important thing you’ve gained from recreating the *Great Gatsby* that has changed or developed your creative process in writing and directing?

The process deepened my understanding of storytelling. By engaging in the writing and directing aspects and drawing from my own solo acting experience, I now have a clearer sense of how “the need to tell” drives a story forward. That’s why a writer writes, an actor acts, and a director directs—it comes from a strong desire to tell. Working on this side of the table has allowed me to see that “need to tell” through various lenses—and for me, that’s a true blessing.



CHANDLER
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Vanja Gjumar Nikolovski, Conductor

Mozart and More
Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 5 p.m.

Kenneth Fuchs: *Rush for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra*,
Andrew Harrison, soloist; Wolfgang Amadeus
Mozart: *Concerto for Flute and Harp*, Lisa Tharp
Friedeman, flute & Pamela Hahn, harp.

International Flair
Sunday, May 4, 2025 | 5 p.m.

Vanja Gjumar Nikolovski, Conductor, H. Owen
Reed: *La Fiesta Mexicana*, Alexander Borodin:
March from Prince Igor, Alexander Borodin:
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BANG! Theatricals
Harriet Newman Leve James D. Stern Morton Wolkowitz
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present

STOMP™

Created and Directed by
Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas

Jude Caminos, Dilian Cantrell, Micah Cowher,
John Gavin, Danielle Imani, Ben Johnson,
Zahna Johnson, Michael Mendoza, Jayme Overton, Andrew Patrick,
Isaiah Robinson, Cade Slattery, Daysha J Williams

Lighting by
Steve McNicholas and Neil Tiplady

US Rehearsal Director
Fiona Wilkes

Tour Resident Director
Andrew Patrick

Production Manager
Ricardo De Arruda Camargo

General Manager
Roberta Roberts

Associate Producer
Fred Bracken

Executive Producers

Richard Frankel Productions / Marc Routh / Alan Schuster / Aldo Scrofani

STOMP IS PERFORMED WITHOUT INTERMISSION.

**THE USE OF ANY CAMERA, RECORDING DEVICES OR
LASER POINTERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

STOMP WEBSITE: <http://www.stomponline.com>

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 | 3:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025 | 7:30 P.M.

STOMP, a unique combination of percussion, movement and visual comedy, was created in Brighton, UK, in the summer of 1991. It was the result of a ten-year collaboration between its creators, Luke Cresswell and Steve McNicholas.

They first worked together in 1981, as members of the street band Pookiesnackenburg and the theatre group Cliff Hanger. Together, these groups presented a series of street comedy musicals at the Edinburgh Festival throughout the early '80s. After two albums, a UK TV series and extensive touring throughout Europe, Pookiesnackenburg also produced the highly acclaimed "Bins" commercial for Heineken lager.

The piece was originally written and choreographed by Luke as part of the band's stage show; it proved to be the starting point for *STOMP*'s climactic dustbin dance.

In 1986, Luke and Steve created an eight-minute 'percussive movie' for Bette Midler's HBO special *Mondo Beyondo*. Between 1987 and 1990, Luke staged, as Artistic and Musical Director, four large-scale outdoor events, including "Beat the Clyde," which involved floating a drum orchestra on a pontoon in the center of Glasgow; the largest of these events, "The Heineken Hove Lagoon Show," involved a 120-piece drum orchestra featuring the Brighton Festival Chorus and a full orchestral string section.

In 1991, Steve and Luke first created *STOMP*, previewing at London's Bloomsbury Theatre and premiering at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh, where it became The Guardian's "Critics' Choice" and won The Daily Express "Best of the Fringe Award."

Between 1991 and 1994, the original cast of *STOMP* played to capacity audiences

around the world: from Hong Kong to Barcelona, from Dublin to Sydney. The touring culminated in a sell-out season at London's Sadler's Wells Theatre in January 1994, where *STOMP* received an Olivier nomination for Best Entertainment and won Best Choreography in a West End Show.

An expanded version of *STOMP*, involving up to 30 cast members, was originally created for the Brighton Festival, UK, and was subsequently presented in Melbourne, Australia. It was most recently seen in September 1995, open-air, at the Acropolis in Athens and at the Royal Festival Hall, London. This production broke all box office records, which had been established by Frank Sinatra in 1972.

STOMP began its run at the Orpheum Theatre in New York in February 1994 and quickly went on to win both an Obie and a Drama Desk Award for Most Unique Theatre Experience. By the summer of 1994, the first American cast was in place at the Orpheum, freeing the original cast for sell-out tours of North America and Japan.

In the summer of 1995, two more American productions were created for the sole purpose of US touring, which continues to this day. US casts have also debuted *STOMP* in Chile, Brazil and Korea. Meanwhile, a fifth *STOMP* company, also touring from the UK, was formed in 1997 and has consistently toured the world ever since. This company presented *STOMP* for the first time in Scandinavia and South Africa, and has been a regular visitor to Germany, Holland and France. Another *STOMP* production opened in San Francisco in May 2000, running for two and a half years.

The original cast of *STOMP* have recorded music for the *Tank Girl* movie soundtrack and appeared on the Quincy Jones album, *Q's Jook Joint*. A soundtrack recorded by Steve and Luke for the Showtime movie

Riot was released in the spring of 1997. *STOMP* has also featured in a number of commercials, including Coca-Cola's "Ice Pick" and numerous spots for both Target stores in the US and Toyota in Japan.

STOMP also created the *Mr Frears' Ears* series of short films created for Nickelodeon, whilst *Brooms*, a 15-minute short based around the opening routine, was nominated for an Academy Award. *Brooms* was also selected for screening at Robert Redford's Sundance Festival and for competition at the Cannes Film Festival.

STOMP made a special appearance at the Academy Awards in March 1996, with an original piece involving the live synchronization of classic film clips and onstage action, featuring 20 performers from all five productions.

In the summer of 1997, Steve and Luke created and directed *STOMP OUT LOUD*, a 45-minute television special for HBO, which combined stage material with new pieces created for TV. It was premiered in the USA in December 1997 and subsequently received four Emmy nominations, for direction, sound mixing, multi-camera editing and art direction. 1998 saw the release of the *STOMP OUT LOUD* video and DVD around the world. Another unique blend of live action and film footage was created for the Emmy Awards, in which *STOMP* effectively performed with Spike Jones!

STOMP performed after midnight on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at US President Clinton's millennium celebrations. During 2000, a *Sesame Street* special "Let's Make Music," a collaboration between *STOMP* and the Muppets, was released on TV and video in North America.

Luke and Steve began production of their IMAX movie *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey* in Brazil during Carnival 2000 and completed it in the summer of 2002. *Pulse*

takes the IMAX audience on a spectacular global journey, featuring performances from Kodo, Timbalada and Eva Yerbabuena. It was released to critical acclaim in New York in the autumn of 2002, and went on to win two major awards at the International Festival of La Géode in Paris.

In September 2002, *STOMP* finally entered London's West End at the Vaudeville Theatre, and later that year *STOMP* performed as part of The Royal Variety Show for the second time.

2003 saw a new *STOMP* production open at the Stuart Street Theatre in Boston and a unique Dolby Digital trailer featuring *STOMP* performances debuted in cinemas across the globe.

In 2004, New York celebrated 10 years of continuous performances of *STOMP* at the Orpheum Theatre by renaming 2nd Avenue at 8th Street Stomp Avenue.

In addition to the European tour, in 2005 *STOMP* returned to Tokyo for three weeks and also toured to Hong Kong, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

In 2006, *STOMP*'s New York production passed its 5,000th performance mark. In the same year, Luke and Steve directed a public service announcement for television called "Stomp Out Litter," which featured the cast 'sweeping up' at iconic locations in the five boroughs.

In addition, they were commissioned to create and produce The Lost and Found Orchestra, which takes the ideas behind *STOMP* to a symphonic level, in celebration of 40 years of the Brighton Festival. The LFO subsequently performed at the Sydney Opera House as part of the Sydney Festival early in 2007, was seen at the Royal Festival Hall in London at Christmas 2008 and the Theater Carré in February 2009.

In 2007, *STOMP OUT LOUD* opened in Las Vegas at Planet Hollywood Resort

and Casino with an expanded cast and performed inside a new \$28 million theatre, specifically created for the production. The West End entered its 6th consecutive year with a move from the Vaudeville to the Ambassadors Theatre.

In 2008, *STOMP* returned to its roots for a new DVD shoot at the Brighton Dome, bringing together a cast from all over the *STOMP* world. For the first time, the entire show has been captured in high-definition sound and video. 2008 also saw Steve and Luke expand into new areas with the release of their IMAX 3D nature documentary *Wild Ocean*, with a symphonic mix of percussion and traditional orchestra in the soundtrack. In September of the same year, *Wild Ocean* won two awards at the Giant Screen Cinema Association for Best Sound and Best Original Score at their annual conference held in New York.

The Lost and Found Orchestra reunited in 2010 for a new show, *PANDEMONIUM*, which appeared in several US cities throughout the autumn.

In 2011 the New York production of *STOMP* entered its eighteenth year, trouncing the Orpheum house record set by *Little Shop of Horrors*. It also entered its tenth year in the West End at the Ambassadors Theatre, whilst at the same time Steve and Luke continued with their 3D film work. 2012 has seen the release of *The Last Reef 3D*, a film about the beauty and the plight of reefs worldwide. As with *Wild Ocean*, Luke and Steve composed the film's orchestral soundtrack, recording it at The Old Market Theatre in their hometown of Brighton & Hove in the UK. They have also celebrated the one year anniversary of The Old Market Theatre, which, having renovated it back in 2011, they now run as a full time venue, bringing music, theatre, dance, comedy and visual arts to the UK's south coast.

Most recently, in August 2012, the largest ever assembly of *STOMP* performers (40 performers from 12 different countries) were brought together for a specifically choreographed appearance in the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

STOMP was created with the original U.K. cast: Luke Cresswell, Nick Dwyer, Sarah Eddy, Theseus Gerard, Fraser Morrison, David Olrod, Carl Smith and Fiona Wilkes.

JUDE CAMINOS (*Performer*) is a music director and musician based in Brooklyn, NY. He is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, where he majored in percussion performance and music education, with a minor in Drama. He moved to NYC in 2021 and has since been a freelance artist, preschool teacher, and children's music performer. He has since music-directed and performed in various cabarets across NYC. Most recently, Jude music-directed *Rent* at Southern Plains Productions in Spring of 2024. "I am endlessly grateful for this opportunity! Thank you to my family, friends, and especially my girlfriend for their undying support and love!"

DILIAN CANTRELL (*Performer*) is a classically trained technical and street dancer out of Stamford, CT. He has trained and been mentored by Jimmy Locust. Studying Giordano jazz technique since a young age, Dilian was able to learn the structure, maturity, technique, and professionalism that it takes to be a dancer and performer. He has performed across the tri-state area in private performing art festivals, parades, charity events, and competitions. He is beyond thrilled to be a part of the cast of *STOMP* and can't wait to share his love for dance and music with everyone.

MICAH COWHER (*Performer*) is a New York native with a passion for all things rhythm. Growing up playing drums, Micah went on to major in music education at NYU-Steinhardt before studying musical theatre and dance at AMDA. Since then, he's traveled the world acting and drumming in various musicals and rock bands. Favorite theatre credits include *Rock of Ages*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Monty Python's Spamalot*, *Footloose*, and *Bayside the Musical*. Current band/producing projects include [@nightwithoutcars](#), [@theduderanch](#), and [@thealicevalentine](#). When not performing, Micah teaches percussion and tap dance at Dance Molinari while also managing his entertainment company, Imperial Entertainment NYC. [@micah.cowher](#)

JOHN GAVIN (*Performer*) is an in-demand drummer and percussionist based out of Brooklyn, NY. Originally from Florida, he has performed as a musician for the Walt Disney Company at their theme parks across the United States. Recently, he has performed and recorded with the ska-rock group Streetlight Manifesto and played percussion on the soundtrack of the film, *CAM*. John would like to thank his friends and family for the unending support and every teacher who has shared their knowledge. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Music from New York University.

DANIELLE IMANI (*Performer*) is a powerhouse performer with a Bachelor's in Kinesiology from UNLV. Skilled in West African, Modern, Jazz, Hip-Hop, and Body Percussion, she has graced the stage with Cirque du Soleil, Jessica Reedy, Shaq, and Gwen Stefani. As Director of *AFROSEXY* in Las Vegas, she leads productions that inspire confidence and empowerment. Passionate about teaching artistic expression, Danielle has toured globally with the renowned body percussion

company, MOLODI. Through her company, BLVK EMPOWER, she helps others discover healing through movement-based energy flow. Recently married and a proud dog mom of two, she continues to create and inspire.

BEN JOHNSON (*Performer*) It's a dream come true for Ben to be an official member of the *STOMP* family. Raised in Rockford, Illinois, Ben graduated from Rockford University with a BFA in Musical Theatre. He most recently performed as Big Bird in the National Tour of *Sesame Street Live!* Credits also include: *The Buddy Holly Story* (Weston), *Grease*, *Once* (PMT), and *Elf* (The Studio). Theme Park goers may have seen him perform at Cedar Point and Kings Dominion. Offstage, Ben loves to songwrite and release music online. He thanks his friends and family for all their support! Tag along [@bennjohnsonn](#) or [www.benjohnsonofficial.com](#)

ZAHNA JOHNSON (*Performer*) is a dance artist and performer based in Dallas, TX. She earned her BFA in Dance at Sam Houston State University in 2021 and is so excited to embark on her journey as a professional. A New Jersey native, her training spans across the country and across styles. Tap has always been her favorite; she can't keep her feet still! Zahna feels blessed that God gave her a passion for the arts and has her friends and family to thank for supporting her every step of the way.

MICHAEL MENDOZA (*Performer*) is a Brooklyn-based musician and educator with over a decade of experience. He passionately teaches young musicians through The Brooklyn Steppers, nurturing their talents across New York. He performs with Blue Devils Entertainment, playing with the Giants Drumline and major events. His standout moments include performing at Spike Lee's *Purple People Party*, featured on Netflix's *She's Gotta Have It*, and with Lil Nas X at the 2021 VMAs. In his free

time, he enjoys photography, anime, and video games. "I'm grateful for my journey with *STOMP* and the unwavering support from my loved ones! Follow my journey [@LittleBigDrummer!](#)"

JAYME OVERTON (*Performer*) is from Williamsburg, VA and received a degree in therapeutic recreation at St. Joseph's University in 2023. She has trained in various styles of dance but found her love for tap dance at age 10. Now a New York City resident, she has been fortunate enough to attend several dance intensive festivals, such as the tap dance program at The School at Jacob's Pillow, and perform in shows under the direction of Michelle Dorrance, Dormeshia, Derick K. Grant, and many more. Jayme was a member of the final cast of *STOMP NYC*. She is so grateful to be a part of *STOMP* and create music with her fellow artists.

ANDREW PATRICK (*Performer*) Massachusetts native and now a London, UK resident, Andrew began his *STOMP* journey in 2002 in NYC. Having spent the past 22 years performing in the London and Boston productions, the US tour, and the International tour, he is excited to return to North America for the 2024-2025 season 30th Anniversary tour. Andrew feels very fortunate to have been a part of the *STOMP* family as long as he has. Seeing the world and putting smiles on audience's faces while playing music and performing has been an absolute dream come true. Outside of *STOMP* he is also a singer songwriter and is involved with various music projects playing drums. [@andygpatrick](#)

ISAIAH ROBINSON (*Performer*) is excited to be making his *STOMP* debut on the 30th anniversary national tour. Originally from South Jersey, Isaiah graduated from Montclair State University's BFA Acting program in May of 2024. He'd like to thank the entire *STOMP* cast and crew for welcoming him into the family.

He'd also like to give a special shout out to Jasmine, Sean, and Jordan for their time and mentorship. He continues to be encouraged, loved, and supported by his family and friends who he cherishes deeply. Follow him on Instagram [@isaiah_robinson](#)

CADE SLATTERY (*Performer*) Originally from San Diego, Cade joined a percussion motivational performance group called Jr. Crew in 2006 run by Chris Rubio, formerly of *STOMP*, which sparked his love for the show. He is extremely grateful to be part of the *STOMP* family. He thanks Sophie, Mom and Dad, Chris, his best friends Alex and Suco, and Uncle Paul. Outside of *STOMP*, Cade creates electronic music. Find out more at <https://soundcloud.com/cade-slattery>.

DAYSHA J. WILLIAMS (*Performer*) is an award-winning actress, vocalist, dancer & teaching artist. This Brooklyn Native studied Theater at Clark University. Since discovering her passion, she has trained and performed at The National Theater of Scotland, Dartmouth College, University of Chicago, Mass MoCA, Stellar Adler, Jacob's Pillow & Netflix Studios. Daysha J Williams recently began shooting the trailer for her first full length feature film, *LUNA* & is currently originating the lead role in *Step Show: The Musical*. She is very excited to join the Company of *STOMP* bringing her love of rhythm to audiences worldwide!

LUKE CRESSWELL (*Director*) is a self-taught percussionist from Brighton. His session work as a drummer and rhythm programmer includes Beats International, Bette Midler, Elvis Costello, and Bryan Ferry. After working for several years as a street musician and performer, he first created *STOMP* in 1991. He has directed, with Steve McNicholas, several award-winning commercials and short films. He received an Oscar® nomination for the film

Brooms, an Emmy® nomination for *STOMP OUT LOUD*, and co-directed the award-winning IMAX movie, *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey*. He has also received a special achievement award from the Chicago Human Rhythm Project. More recently, Luke co-created the *Lost and Found Orchestra* and the Vegas production of *STOMP OUT LOUD* and also co-directed the 3D IMAX movie *Wild Ocean*. Luke occasionally performs with *STOMP*, and is currently conductor of the LFO.

STEVE McNICHOLAS (Director), from Yorkshire, has worked as an actor/singer/musician/writer with various theatrical and musical groups, starting out with the Bradford Theatre Group in 1973. Through the '80s he worked with Cliff Hanger, Covent Garden Community Theatre, and Pookiesnackenburger. Despite also being an original member of the a cappella group the Flying Pickets, and a final appearance in *Mr. Bean*, Steve no longer performs. He shares directorial credits with Luke Cresswell on *STOMP*-based films and commercials, and their new show, the *Lost and Found Orchestra*. With Luke, he composed the soundtrack to the Showtime movie, *Riot*, and shares the Oscar® and Emmy® nominations for his work on *Brooms* and *STOMP OUT LOUD*, and co-directed the award-winning IMAX movie, *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey*. Steve also co-created the LFO and co-directed the 3D IMAX movie *Wild Ocean*, released worldwide in 2008.

FGTM / Roberta Roberts (General Management) Richard Frankel and Roberta Roberts have been working together for the past 11 years in New York and on tour in the U.S. Shows general managed by Richard Frankel Productions and FGTM include *STOMP*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Weir*, *Swing!*, *The Producers*, *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*,

Young Frankenstein, *Gypsy*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Finian's Rainbow*, *Burn the Floor*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Forever Tango*, *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays*, *Necessary Targets*, *Old Jews Telling Jokes*, *Murder Ballad*, *Los Monólogos de la Vagina*, *Lennon: Through a Glass Onion and Flashdance*. Richard and his partners Tom Viertel and Steve Baruch own and operate 54 Below, Broadway's supper club.

BANG! THEATRICALS (Producer) is a company whose principals are Richard Frankel, Alan Schuster and Aldo Scrofani. They, along with the late Gary McAvay, have been the producers, managers and touring executives of *STOMP* since they premiered the show in North America in 1994. Their collective professional experience in the theatre totals 190 years.

HARRIET NEWMAN LEVE Broadway: four-time Tony award winning producer: *Anastasia*; *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*; *An American in Paris*; *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*; *Of Mice and Men*; *Ann*; *One Man Two Guvnors*; *War Horse*; *Norman Conquests*; *Mountaintop*; *La Cage Aux Folles*; *A Little Night Music*; *39 Steps*; *Diary of Anne Frank*; *Crucible*; *Hedda Gabler*; *Lieutenant of Inishmore*; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. Off Broadway: *Beebo Brinker Chronicles*; *Family Secrets*; *Shockheaded Peter*; *Necessary Targets*; *Communicating Doors*. She is a member of The Broadway League and was on the Board of Directors of New York Stage and Film for four years.

JAMES D. STERN CEO of Endgame Entertainment. Has produced or directed over 50 shows or movies including Broadway: *A Little Night Music*, *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, *Legally Blonde*, and *STOMP*. Film: *An Education*, *Every Little Step*, *It's the Rage*, *Pulse: A STOMP Odyssey*, *Michael Jordan to the Max*, *Proof*, *Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle*, *I'm Not There*.

MORTON WOLKOWITZ Theatrical Producing Credits: *Donnybrook*, music and lyrics by Johnny Burke; *The Enemy Is Dead* starring Linda Lavin; *My Astonishing Self*, starring Donal Donally; *The Unexpected Man*, by Yasmina Reza starring Alan Bates and Eileen Atkins; *From Door to Door* by James Sherman; *One Shot One Kill* by Richard Vetere; *Tryst* by Karoline Leach, directed by Joe Brancato; *STOMP OUT LOUD* in Las Vegas. He is managing partner of "Sultz LLC" with Richard Sudock and Michael Wolkowitz. He has enjoyed success in the industrial and financial worlds and is former Chairman and current Director of Key Energy Services, Inc. He is married to the actress Anita Keal.

MITCHELL MAXWELL has produced six Broadway shows, twenty-one Off-Broadway shows, four national tours, three West End shows, and five feature films. His shows have won the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Obie Awards and his long-running Off-Broadway hit, *Dinner With Friends* by Donald Margulies, was the recipient of the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

SUSAN QUINT GALLIN / SUKI SANDLER Productions include *Desperately Seeking Susan* (London, opening November 2007); *Spamalot*; *STOMP* (NY & tour); *Woman Before A Glass*; *The Retreat From Moscow*; *Man Of La Mancha* (2002 Revival); *The Shape Of Things*; *Hedda Gabler* (2001 Broadway); *Fully Committed*; *Cowgirls*; *Angels In America*; *From The Mississippi Delta*; *The Rothschilds* (Revival); *Other People's Money*; *Burn This*; *The Cryptogram* (London).

DAN MARKLEY Producing credits include Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *High Fidelity*, *Family Secrets* (rev.), *Vagina Monologues*, *Lifegame*, *Damn Yankees*, *On The Waterfront*, *Oleanna*, and *Jeffrey* (film), with Alison Sheehy, Sarah, Hayden and Sander.

JENNIFER MANOCHERIAN Broadway credits include *Spring Awakening*; *The Little Dog Laughed*; *Caroline, or Change*; *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *The Crucible*; *Jane Eyre, the musical*; and *The Kentucky Cycle*. Off Broadway: *Berkshire Village Idiot*; *STOMP*; *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh*; *Showing Off*; *Palace of Amateurs*. Film: *Family Blues*, which she also co-wrote.

FRED BRACKEN (Associate Producer) first saw *STOMP* in Australia and resolved to see it performed in New York. Mr. Bracken works for CNN.

RICHARD FRANKEL PRODUCTIONS / MARC ROUTH (Executive Producers) Richard Frankel and Marc Routh have been producing and general managing shows together since 1985. Some of their productions include *Young Frankenstein*, *Hairspray*, *Gypsy*, and *STOMP* in New York, and *STOMP OUT LOUD* in Las Vegas, *Sweeney Todd* on tour, *Little Shop of Horrors* in London as well as a UK tour of *The Producers* and *The King and I* and *SpongeBob SquarePants Live* in Asia. With their partners Tom Viertel and Steve Baruch they have produced some 60 additional musicals and plays in New York, London, and in Asia, including *Back to the Future*, *Company*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Swing*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Penn and Teller*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Love Letters*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, and *Angels in America*.

ALAN J. SCHUSTER (Executive Producer) has operated the Orpheum, Minetta Lane, Union Square, 2nd Avenue and The Cherry Lane Theatres in New York and The Royal George Complex in Chicago. He built 37 Arts the home to the Baryshnikov Arts Center and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. He has produced over 25 productions including *STOMP OUT LOUD*, *Key Exchange*, *Mamet's Oleanna*, *Marvin's*

Room, Jeffrey, Vita and Virginia and Shockheaded Peter.

ALDO SCROFANI (Executive Producer) is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Apollo Theater Foundation which includes the iconic Apollo Theater. Founding producer of STOMP. President and CEO of Theatre Management Associates, Inc. COO of Columbia Artists Theatricals (18 years). Executive VP of

Jujamcyn Theatres (13 years). Over 100 productions including: *Gone With The Wind*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, *Lovemusik*, *Elaine Stritch At Liberty*, *Noise/Funk*, *Tap Dogs*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Carousel*, *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, *City of Angels*, *Grand Hotel*, *M. Butterfly*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Into The Woods*, *Gypsy*, *Big River*, *My One and Only*, and *Dracula*.

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FGTM

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COMPANY MANAGER

Carla Marie Rugg

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BONEAU/BRYAN-BROWN

Chris Boneau Jackie Green

TOUR PRESS REPRESENTATIVE

C MAJOR MARKETING & PUBLICITY

Catherine Major

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Assistant Company Manager **George Finley-Pyle**
Production Carpenter **Mark Miller**
Lighting Director **Vivian Santana**
Production Props **Austin Huehn**
Production Electrician **Andrew Hildner**
Production Sound **Steve J. Reynolds**
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