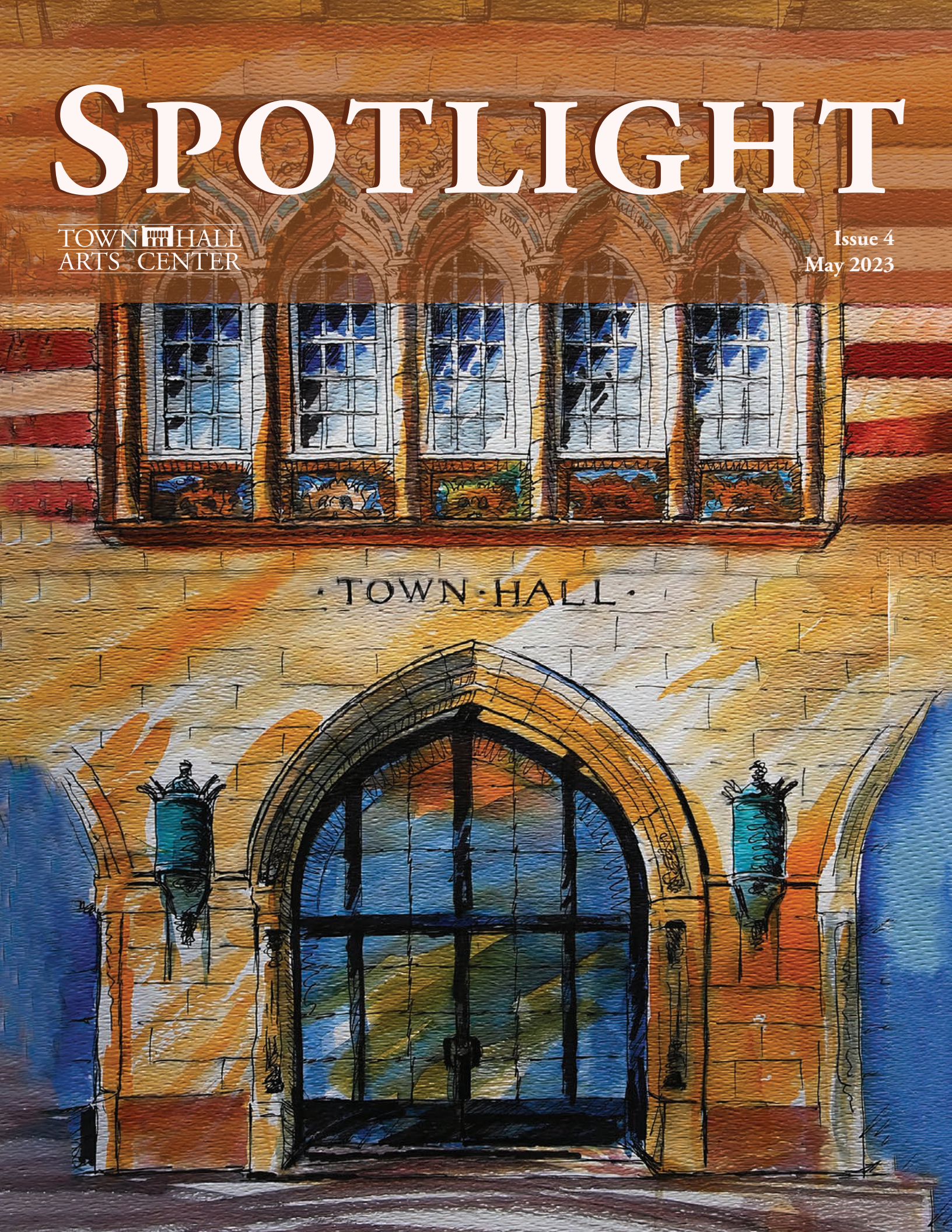


SPOTLIGHT

TOWN HALL
ARTS CENTER

Issue 4
May 2023



UPCOMING LITTLETON ARTS & CULTURE EVENTS

ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(www.arapahoe.edu/campus-community/art-galleries)

THIS IS COLORADO – PAINTINGS FROM LOCAL ARTISTS

Colorado Gallery of the Arts at ACC
August 29 – September 21, 2023

ARAPAHOE PHILHARMONIC

(www.arapahoe-phil.org)

“STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER”

Breckenridge Brewery | July 2, 2023

BEMIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

(www.library.littletonco.gov)

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Bemis Library | May 30 – July 31, 2023

LITTLETON FINE ARTS GUILD

(www.depotartgallery.org)

BEING HUMAN

Depot Art Gallery | July 11 – August 5, 2023

BEMIS LIBRARY SHOW

Bemis Library | August 1 – 31, 2023

BEST OF COLORADO

Depot Art Gallery | August 8 – September 10, 2023

BEGA PARK ART SHOW

Bega Park | August 12, 2023

LITTLETON MUSEUM

(www.museum.littletonco.gov)

EXHIBIT: A COLORFUL DREAM

Littleton Museum | Opens June 15, 2023

DRAFT ANIMAL DAY

Littleton Museum | June 17, 2023

EXHIBIT: BELOW THE SURFACE: HOW MINING ALTERED COLORADO'S SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Littleton Museum | Opens July 12, 2023

VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME

Littleton Museum | September 9, 2023

LITTLETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

(www.littletonsymphony.org)

“APPALACHIAN SPRING”

Littleton United Methodist Church | May 19, 2023

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AT LITTLETON MUSEUM

(www.friendslittleton.org)

MIGUEL ESPINOZA FUSION

June 7, 2023

SLOPESIDE

June 14, 2023

JUICE O'THE BARLEY

June 21, 2023

THE 17TH AVENUE ALLSTARS

June 28, 2023

AFTER MIDNIGHT

July 12, 2023

DELTA SONICS

July 19, 2023

DAKOTA BLONDE

July 26, 2023

WESTERN WELCOME WEEK

(www.westernwelcomeweek.org)

OPENING CONCERT

Sterne Park | August 11, 2023

TASTE OF WWW & SILENT AUCTION

Littleton Center Courtyard | August 16, 2023

94th GRAND PARADE

Downtown Littleton | August 19, 2023

63RD ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Downtown Littleton | August 19, 2023



Photo: Courtesy City of Littleton

To submit an event for inclusion on this calendar,
please email spotlight@townhallartscenter.org

UPCOMING TOWN HALL EVENTS

MEMPHIS

May 19 – June 17, 2023

Denver Actors Fund Benefit Performance
June 12, 2023

“Southern Charm”, Stanton Art Gallery
May 8 – June 18, 2023

Student Showcases for Spring Classes
June 5 – 7, 2023

Ovation Gala
June 24, 2023

Summer Camp – *Seussical the Musical! Kids*
June 29 – 30, 2023

Summer Camp – *Seussical the Musical! Jr.*
July 21 – 29, 2023



Photo: Rachel Graham - RDG Photography



Photo: Ryan Landell (mr. bhuetful)

2023 / 2024 SEASON PRODUCTIONS

Main Stage

ALL SHOOK UP

September 22 – October 15, 2023

Roald Dahl's MATILDA THE MUSICAL

December 1 – 31, 2023

URINETOWN

January 26 – February 25, 2024

RAISIN

March 22 – April 14, 2024

THE PROM

May 24 – June 23, 2024

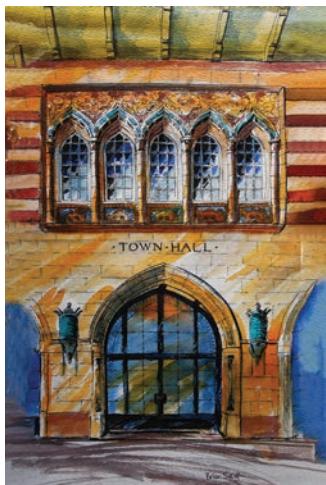
Limited Engagements

THE LAST SESSION

November 3 – 5, 2023

RED

April 25 – May 5, 2024



**CONGRATULATIONS
to Brian Serff on his artwork
being selected for the cover
of this issue!**

“The Littleton Town Hall”

Watercolor and pen

Painted at the 2015 Littleton
Plein Air Paint Out,
sponsored by Depot Art Gallery

www.brianserff.com

As some dates are subject to change, please visit www.TownHallArtsCenter.org for more information and tickets to these exciting events. And don't forget to follow us on social media for the most up-to-date news!



@townhallartsctr



TownHallArtsCenter



@TownHallArtsCtr

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TOWN HALL ARTS CENTER STAFF

Founded in 1982, Town Hall Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Our mission is to enrich the cultural, social and educational life of the community through professionally-produced live theatre, concerts and other cultural events, and through year-round educational programs for children and adults.

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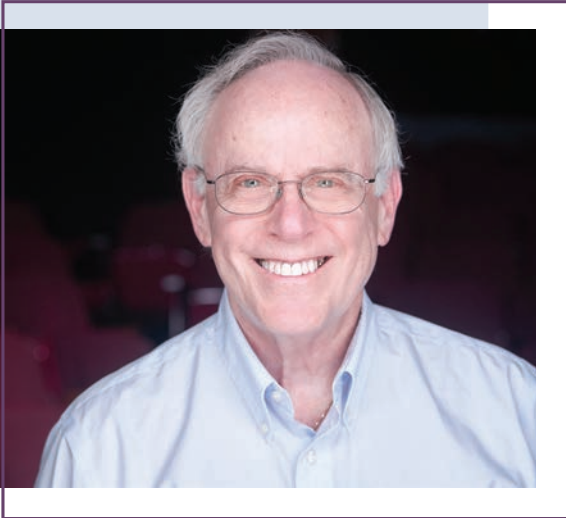
Patron Experience Associates
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Dave Taylor	<i>Emeritus Board Member</i>



To all the patrons and supporters of Town Hall Arts Center, and our friends of the arts in the Littleton area, what a season it has been!

I find it hard to believe that our 40th season has nearly concluded. Believe it or not, we started planning for this milestone in early 2021. It was hard to fathom at that time of isolation and uncertainty that we would be celebrating sold-out main stage productions, limited engagements, and educational performances. We are also celebrating the success of our special events such as the Annual Appreciation Dinner and Ovation Gala! Live theater is back and stronger than ever.

However, there is still more to do and see before we close the book on this season. In this issue of Spotlight you'll read about our final main

stage production of the year, *Memphis* – a powerful love story about how music can bring very different people together. We'll also share with you a great deal about our upcoming educational programs.

We are introducing three of our regional partners – the Denver Actors Fund, North Littleton Promise, and Shakespeare in the Wild – all organizations worthy of your time and attention. We have an exciting update to the historic Town Hall building as well – be sure to check out the new 30-foot by 50-foot mural installed on the south side of the theater celebrating arts of all forms. Finally, you'll be among the first to learn about the shows we'll present to you in our upcoming 41st season!

I am so immensely proud to be a part of this Littleton institution. The board members, staff, volunteers, directors, actors, crew, and especially you – our patrons – demonstrate over and over again why I can say with certainty that our first 40 years were just the beginning.

Bravo, and thank you so much.

With appreciation,
Sam Cheris, President
Town Hall Arts Center

2023-2024 Sponsors



ASPEN GROVE



KENNETH KING FOUNDATION



When actors need offstage help, Denver Actors Fund is there

By: Lisa Bornstein



When actress Anna High got involved with the Denver Actors Fund, she had no idea she'd be availing herself of their services in the future.

"I went to the first fundraiser they did," she says. "I'm just utterly impressed at the work and the support they give this community."

When her mother, Laura High, died this winter, Anna lost her best friend and her roommate. In addition to the emotional pain, Anna needed to find a way to bury and honor her mother. Both are fixtures of Denver's theater community. Laura was a costumer and voice and piano teacher who died at 60 after multiple bouts of COVID. Anna performs regularly in the area, including Town Hall, where her shows include *Swing*, *Avenue Q*, *Shrek the Musical*, and *Violet*.



"Sadly, losing my mom, the Denver Actors Fund saved me," High explains. "My mom did not have life insurance. They have made my life so much easier. It's just an insane, amazing organization. I don't know how we survived without them."

This June, the nonprofit celebrates its 10th anniversary, beginning in a Whole Foods parking lot where theater journalist John Moore and actor/attorney Chris Boeckx sketched out its beginnings.

"Several things were going on that called attention to the fact that artists are living life on a high wire, and there is no net," Moore says. Artists usually work job to job, with no health insurance provided. When medical emergencies arise, a crisis is born.

Last summer, Denver Actors Fund celebrated a different milestone: \$1 million disbursed to area artists since the organization's creation. Members of the theater community and their immediate families can apply for grants without showing their own financial histories or justifying their need. The fund then pays health care providers directly.



Photos: Rachel Graham - RDG Photography



“We’re a no-judgment organization,” Moore says. “We never measure one person’s need against another person’s need. If we can help you, we can help you.”

For Littleton-raised Anna High that meant a \$12,500 grant toward funeral expenses, ensuring that financial fear would not mingle with her grief. For other artists, grants have paved the way for surgeries or medical devices. That money filled a gap during more than a year that theater artists were out of work as a result of the pandemic.

“The only reason we exist is because we have a broken health care system,” Moore continues. “If we had a health care system that worked, we could fold up shop. It doesn’t make the needs outside of our community any less important, but this is our little corner where we can make a difference.”

To learn more, visit the organization online at www.denveractorsfund.org.



Town Hall Arts Center has been a supporter of Denver Actors Fund since 2014 and is proud to have contributed more than \$50,000 to support local artists in that time. For each main stage production, a special performance is designated to benefit the fund and all ticket sales from that night are donated to the organization. Town Hall is thrilled to have contributed more than \$15,000 this season – so far! On June 12, join the cast of *Memphis* to be a part of this brilliant partnership. Tickets are available at **TownHallArtsCenter.org**.

Photos: Rachel Graham - RDG Photography

HOUSE RULES

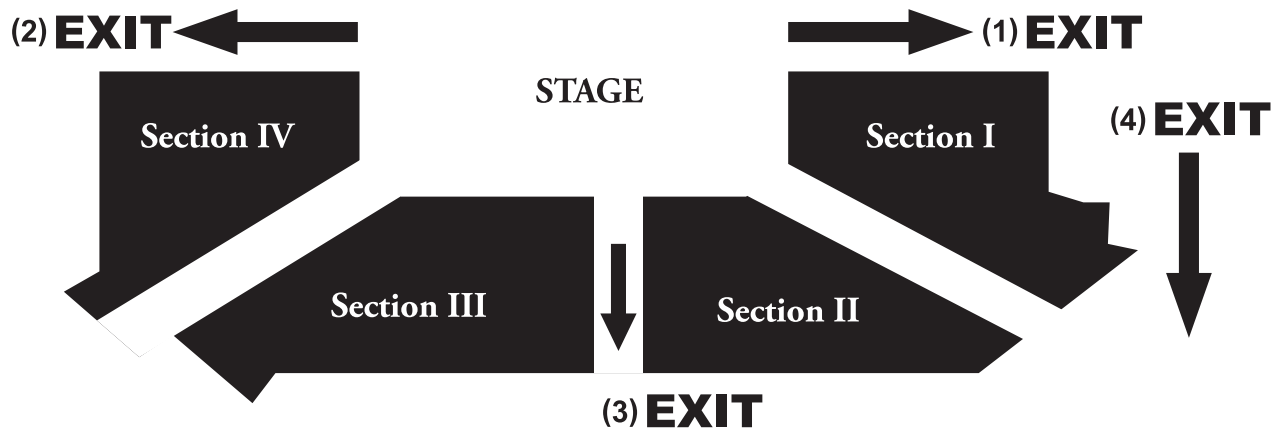
**ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION
IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED**

NO CALLS NO VIDEOS NO CAMERAS NO LATE SEATING

If you must leave the theater during a performance, please wait until the lights are bright enough to see and walk along the edge of the stage to the exit to your right.

You will not be readmitted to the theater until the act is over. You may watch the remainder of the act on the closed-circuit television in Stanton Art Gallery.

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: DO NOT PANIC
THE TOWN HALL CREW WILL GUIDE YOU TO ONE OF OUR 4 EXITS**



ELEVATOR ACCESS

Please wait at the closed door by the sink in Stanton Art Gallery or in front of Section IV in the theater. A Town Hall staff member or volunteer must be present in the operation of the elevator.

Please do not stand in the hallway access to backstage as this is a fire exit and must be kept clear.

COUGH DROPS

Complimentary cough drops are available for use during the performance. Please inquire at the box office.

MASKS/FACE COVERINGS

Masks are strongly recommended but not required. These practices are subject to change with the ever-evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and continuous support of Town Hall.

MEMPHIS

Presented in partnership with
PERRY PROPERTIES GROUP & THE HAMILTON GROUP AT CHERRY CREEK MORTGAGE



TOWN  HALL
ARTS CENTER

The Town Hall Arts Center
production of

MEMPHIS

Book by
JOE DIPIETRO

Music and Lyrics by
DAVID BRYAN

Based on a Concept by
GEORGE W. GEORGE

Originally produced on Broadway by Junkyard Dog Productions, Barbara and Buddy Freitag, Marleen and Kenny Alhadeff, Latitude Link, Jim and Susan Blair, Demos Bizar Entertainment, Land Line Productions, Apples and Oranges Productions, Dave Copley, Dancap Productions, Inc., Alex and Katya Lukianov, Tony Ponturo, 2 Guys Productions, Richard Winkler, in association with Laren Doll, Eric and Marsi Gardiner, Linda and Bill Potter, Broadway Across America, Jocko Productions, Patty Baker, and Dan Frishwasser, Bob Bartner/Scott and Kayla Union, Loraine Boyle/Chase Mishkin, Remmel T.Dickinson/Memphis Orpheum Group, Shadocatcher Entertainment/Vijay and Sita Vashee.

Orchestrations by Daryl Waters and David Bryan

MEMPHIS

is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights
Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

Notes From Our Directors, Mykai Eastman and Billie McBride

“You don’t make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.” ~ Shirley Chisholm

When I was asked to take part of the helm of the ship we call *Memphis*, it was an immediate and resounding acceptance from me. To tell the story of progress and change in a society that falls victim to hate so easily is apropos in the current age we live in. Human nature is to survive and move forward. Though there are fringe members of society that attempt to permeate and poison with ignorant acts of aggression, the strength that comes with being agents of change will always persevere. Race relations in this country will never be on the mend with “passivism.” White supremacy is a chronic illness in the Western world, and it is up to us as a people to be the antibodies we need to heal. Allyship is the diagnosis, to be an accomplice is the medicine, activism is the healing. As you join us on this journey of love conquering hate, I implore you to dare to allow the ideas to be planted. Challenge yourself with perspectives on all sides, let the catharsis lead you to action as you leave this space. Let the music, the text, and the rhythm spur a movement in your own lives. If discomfort is part of the experience, that’s okay. True growth does not occur in places of comfortability. Don’t just talk about the change; dare to be the change. <https://naacp.org/> ~ *Mykai Eastman*

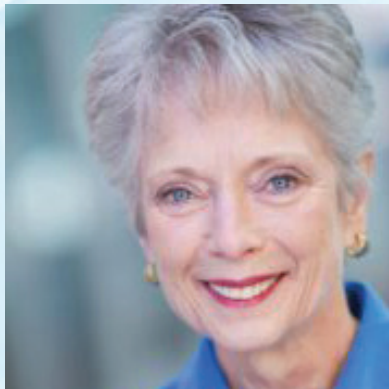
“Biological classification by race is the basis for racism, which is the belief that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. A racist is someone who follows the beliefs of racism.”

I fear that racism has been going on since mankind first noticed someone other than “them.” Big organizations like the KKK became popular and successful by using fear of “the other.” *Memphis* is about racism – but more than that, it’s about music. The music of Beale Street. Had there been no Beale Street, there would have been no Elvis as we know him. It was in Beale Street clubs and juke joints that locals, many of whom were cotton field workers, gathered to enjoy good music. They brought with them the unique sound of field hollers. Tonight our theater family – because that’s what we all are – will take you to Beale Street and believe me, you’re gonna want to dance! Enjoy! ~ *Billie McBride*

Directorial Staff



Mykai Eastman
Co-Director & Choreographer



Billie McBride
Co-Director



Trent Hines
Music Director

CAST

Krisangela Washington – Felicia

Carter Edward Smith – Huey

Jozeph Mykaels – Delray

Abby Apple Boes – Gladys

John C. Ashton – Mr. Simmons

Preston “P-Jay” Adams – Gator

Joseph Sanford IV – Bobby

Rick Long – Ensemble

Ronald McQueen – Ensemble

eden origin – Ensemble

Alex Fox – Perry Como, Ensemble

John Mackey – Ensemble, Understudy (Male Roles)

Justin Gardner – Ensemble

Ryan Buehler – Ensemble

Daja McLeod – Ensemble

Nicole Siegler – Ensemble

Jahalia Coleman – Ensemble

Jasmyne Pierce – Ensemble

Kayleigh Bernier – Ensemble

Sarah Atkinson – Ensemble

Bussy Gower – Ensemble

Jade McGee – Ensemble

Colleen Lee – Ensemble, Understudy (Gladys)

Matt LaFontaine – Swing (Huey)

MUSICIANS

Trent Hines – Piano

Micah Thole – Bass

Brian Jaffe – Drums

Jesse Winchester – Reeds

Ashley Stitt – Keyboards

SONGS

ACT 1

Underground

The Music of My Soul

Scratch My Itch

Ain't Nothin' but a Kiss

Everybody Wants to Be Black on a Saturday Night

Make Me Stronger

Colored Woman

Someday

She's My Sister

Radio

Say a Prayer

ACT 2

Crazy Little Huey

Big Love

Love Will Stand When All Else Falls

Stand Up

Change Don't Come Easy

Tear Down the House

Love Will Stand When All Else Falls (Reprise)

Memphis Lives in Me

Steal Your Rock 'N Roll

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

DESIGN TEAM

Mykai Eastman – Co-Director & Choreographer

Billie McBride – Co-Director

Samantha Piel – Assistant Director

Trent Hines – Music Director

M Curtis Grittner – Scenic Designer

Erin M. Banta – Props Designer

Nicole M. Harrison – Costume Designer

Diana Ben-Kiki – Wig Designer

Kate Bashore – Lighting Designer

Curt Behm – Sound Designer

El Armstrong – Projection Designer

Miranda Guettlein – Dialect Coach

CREW

Emily MacIntyre – Production Stage Manager

Sierra “Max” Suda – Assistant Stage Manager

Matthew Dugger – Sound Board Operator

Samantha Stump – Run Crew

Gilbert “Gib” Smith – Run Crew

Cate Behm – Spotlight Operator

Natalie Loring – Spotlight Operator

Emily Maddox – Master Electrician

Tanner Morton – Electrician

Zach Gonsoulin – Electrician

TOWN HALL STAFF

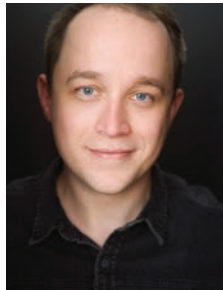
Mike Haas – Technical Director

Kevin Chung – Master Carpenter

Dustin Harley – Scenic Artist



Krisangela Washington



Carter Edward Smith



Jozeph Mykaels



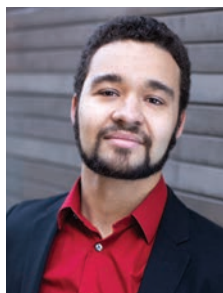
Abby Apple Boes



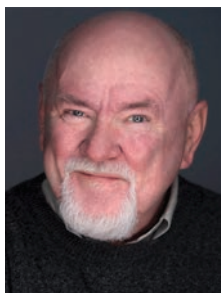
John C. Ashton



Preston "P-Jay" Adams



Joseph Sanford IV



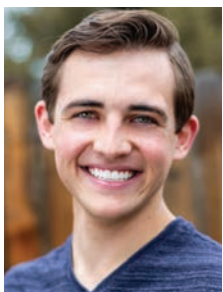
Rick Long



Ronald McQueen



eden origin



Alex Fox



John Mackey



Justin Gardner



Ryan Buehler



Daja McLeod



Nicole Siegler



Bussy Gower



Jahalia Coleman



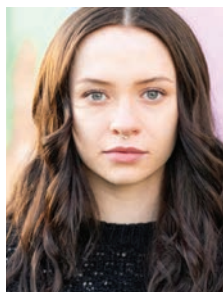
Jasmyne Pierce



Kayleigh Bernier



Sarah Atkinson



Jade McGee



Colleen Lee



Matt LaFontaine

BIOS

Bios presented in alphabetical order by artist's first name.

Abby Apple Boes | Gladys

Memphis marks Abby's first production with Town Hall Arts Center; however, treading the Town Hall boards is not new to her. In the early 2000s, the now defunct Main Street Players produced shows at Littleton's historic theater, and Abby appeared in their productions of *Lend Me A Tenor* and *A 1940s Musical Revue*. Other Colorado credits include Mama Murphy in *Bright Star* and Frieda/Betty in *Sunday in the Park With George* (Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities); Jeannie in *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, Charlotte in *Moon Over Buffalo*, and Mae Brussell in *Queen of Conspiracy* (Miners Alley Playhouse); Rosemary Clooney in *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*, Polly in *Other Desert Cities* (Cherry Creek Theatre Company); Edna in *A Delicate Balance*, Beatrice in *A View from the Bridge*, and Alice McAlary in *Lucky Guy* (Edge Theater Company); Margie in *Good People* (Pagosa Springs Fine Arts); Barbara in *August: Osage County* (Abster Productions at The Dairy Center).

Alex Fox | Perry Como, Ensemble

Alex is truly grateful to make his Town Hall Arts Center debut in a great show like *Memphis*. He graduated from Colorado Christian University in 2020 where he had the privilege of playing roles such as Bert in Disney's *Mary Poppins the Musical*, Nicely Nicely Johnson in *Guys and Dolls*, Curly in *Oklahoma!*, and Charlie Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Alex hopes to continue performing in the Denver area and exploring the intersection of the arts and the Christian faith.

Ashley Stitt | Keyboards

Ashley just graduated this spring from Metropolitan State University of Denver, completing a Bachelor of Music with majors in Music Composition and Piano Performance, and minors in Computer Science and Sustainability Studies. She has also been studying the harp and violin as her secondary instruments. Lately, she has been playing in a small combo as a jazz harpist and exploring the world of Balinese music in the local Gamelan Tunas Mekar group. Outside of her studies, Ashley spends way too much time gaming on her PC, loves baking and cooking, and tries getting into nature as much as she can.

Billie McBride | Co-Director

Billie has directed for many Colorado theater companies. Highlights include ten years at The Denver Children's Theatre; the recent One Act Play Festival for the Denver Center Academy; *The Fantasticks* for Town Hall Arts Center; *Same Time Next Year* for Cherry Creek Theatre; *Grease!* for Center Stage in Louisville; and a new play for the Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is also an actress. Recent productions are *The Year of Magical Thinking* and *Life Sucks* at The Aurora Fox Arts Center; *The Treasurer* and *Before You Go* at Miners Alley Playhouse; *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* for Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado; *Sunday in the Park with George* at The Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities; and *Enchanted April* at Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Before moving to Colorado, she spent 20 years in New York City doing theater and television. Her Broadway credits include *Torch Song Trilogy* (Helen Hayes), *Safe Sex* (Lyceum) and *The Kurt Weill Cabaret* (Bijou Theatre). She has won three Henry Awards; the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award; and the 2016 True West Award.

Brian Jaffe | Drums

Brian earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Jazz Studies / Drum Set Performance from the Lamont School of Music at the University of Denver. He has been performing in musical theater pit orchestras around the Denver metro area since 2011. This is Brian's first show at Town Hall Arts Center. He is very excited to be a part of *Memphis*.

Bussy Gower | Ensemble

Bussy is excited to be making her Town Hall Arts Center debut in *Memphis*. Favorite Colorado credits include *HAIR* (Jeannie), *First Date the Musical* (Casey), *Baby!* (Lizzie), *Footloose the Musical* (Urlene), *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Pippi, 2019 True West Award), *South Pacific* (Nellie), *Hello, Dolly!* (Ermengarde). Regional credits include *Into the Woods* (Little Red), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Margot), *The Hot I Baltimore* (The Girl). National tour: *A Christmas Carol* (Lucy). Bussy is originally from Anchorage, Alaska and studied acting at Radford University in Virginia.

Carter Edward Smith | Huey

Carter says he is still in disbelief that he gets to play this role amongst this incredible cast and creative team. He studied at Casper College and the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and is grateful to have been performing professionally in the state of Colorado for the last 10 years. Carter was most recently seen in the role of Laurie in Performance Now Theatre Company's production of *Little Women the Musical* at the Lakewood Cultural Center. Town Hall Arts Center credits include

Brown in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors* (2022 Henry Award Nomination). Other Colorado credits include Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Cherry Creek Theatre); Willard in *Footloose the Musical* (Give 5 Productions); Snail / Ensemble in *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities); and Miles Tuck in *Tuck Everlasting the Musical* (Vintage Theatre). Carter would like to thank Mykai, Billie, and Trent for this opportunity; the cast and crew of *Memphis* for their work; and his friends and family for their unconditional love and support.

Cate Behm | Spotlight Operator

Cate is so glad to be back doing technical theater at Town Hall Arts Center. She has been seeing shows here since she was a kid and has even performed here a few times. "Enjoy the show!"

Colleen Lee | Ensemble, Understudy (Gladys)

Colleen is a Colorado-based actor and photographer. She is very honored to be performing at Town Hall Arts Center with such a talented cast and crew. Favorite Colorado credits include *A Christmas Story* and *The Crucible* (Miners Alley Playhouse); *An Octoroon* and *Meteor Shower* (Benchmark Theatre); and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, *The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of*, and *Hansel and Gretel* (Miners Alley Children's Theater). Colleen would like to thank her husband, Patrick, and daughters, Stella and Alice, for all their love and support at home.

Curt Behm | Sound Designer

Curt is very grateful to be back sound designing again this season for Town Hall. He is a three-time Henry Award nominee, a 2019 True West Award winner, and has been mixing bands and mixing / designing sound for theatrical productions for more than 30 years. Favorites gigs include Green Day's *American Idiot*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Dracula the Musical*, *Violet*, *Young Frankenstein the Musical*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and mixing Blues artist, Susan Tedeschi. Curt would like to thank Mykai, Billie, and the Town Hall staff for the continued opportunities, and his family for their love and never-ending support.

Daja McLeod | Ensemble

Daja is thrilled to make her Town Hall Arts Center debut in *Memphis*. She graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 2021 and earned her Bachelor of Arts in Acting. She appreciates any opportunity to tell stories of people who look just like her. She'd like to thank God, as well as her friends and family, for their unwavering support!

David Bryan | Music and Lyrics

David is a Grammy® Award-winning keyboard player and founding member of Bon Jovi. Over the past 26 years the band has sold more than 130 million records and toured the world, playing to millions of people. Their recent Lost Highway Tour was the #1 grossing tour in the world. David Bryan and Joe DiPietro have also co-written the award-winning musical *The Toxic Avenger*. David is a National Spokesperson for VH1's *Save the Music* Program.

"Much Love to Lexi, Colton, Gabby, Lily and my family."

eden origin | Ensemble

Pronouns: She/He

eden origin is excited to be a part of Town Hall Arts Center's production of *Memphis!* A scholar at the University of Northern Colorado (Acting Class, 2022), eden has been seen as Millie in *Toni Stone* at the Aurora Fox Arts Center; a Dancer in Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies* and Schroeder in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Vintage Theatre; and Professor Plum in *Clue* with Little Theatre of the Rockies. Next up, you can see eden as Benny in Vintage Theatre's *In The Heights*. eden thanks her family, her ancestors, and all those who bled so that we could breathe, and sing, for ourselves. Asé. Instagram: @afro_eden

El Armstrong | Projection Designer

El is a Primetime Emmy®-nominated editor and Grammy®-nominated sound engineer. Colorado theater credits include: *The 39 Steps*; *Great Wall Story*; *Fahrenheit 451*; *Charley's Aunt*; *Ah, Wilderness* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); *Citizen* and *Skeleton Crew* (Curious Theater Company); *Dead Man Walking*; *Voices in the Dark* (Ovation Award – Best Sound Design); *The Creation* (The Victorian Theater); *Metamorphosis*; *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (17th Avenue Playhouse); *American Girls* (The Edge Theater); *Evita*; *Fuddy Mears*; *The Immigrant*; *Our Town*; *It's A Wonderful Life*; *The Glass Menagerie*; *The Fantasticks*; *The Elephant Man*; *The Diviners* (Phamaly Theater Company); *Porgy and Bess*; *Arabian Nights*; *Myth*; *Painted Bread*; *Something Wicked This Way Comes*; *Fully Committed*; *The Miracle Worker*; *Little Shop of Horrors* (The Aurora Fox Arts Center). Colorado Theater Guild Henry Award winner for Special Achievement in Theater Technology and Engineering.

Emily MacIntyre | Production Stage Manager

Emily is thrilled to return to Town Hall Arts Center for *Memphis*, after previously working on *Shout! A Mod Musical* and *Little Shop of Horrors*. Emily has worked professionally as a production stage manager for over 25 years. Emily holds a Bachelor of Arts in Theater from California Lutheran University and a Master of Fine

Arts in Creative Writing from Mississippi University for Women. She currently works as a guest artist for the stagecraft department at Denver School of the Arts, teaching and mentoring stage management students and serving as a part-time production manager. Additional companies worked for include: Mizel Arts and Culture Center, Denver Children's Theatre, Wolf Theatre Academy, the Denver Zoo, and Kingsmen Shakespeare Company among others. Favorite productions include: *Poignant Irritations* (Mizel Arts and Culture Center), *Rumpelstiltskin* (Denver Children's Theatre), and *Mrs. Claus Story Hour* (The Denver Zoo). Her passion project is performing as a poet / spoken word artist – she has appeared with Davis Contemporary Dance and Women's Voices Theater Festival.

Erin M. Banta | Props Designer

Erin is a Denver-based theatrical artist who is always on the hunt for the next creative opportunity. By day she serves as the Operations Manager for Phamaly Theatre Company, where she navigates the creation of stigma-abolishing theater. By night she is trying to find time for everything else: performance, podcasting, design, directing, and spending time with her beloved pets. Every day she is thankful for her supportive circle, and for her partner-in-crime, Jeremy Althoff. Erin is thrilled to return to Town Hall Arts Center as part of the creative team for *Memphis*.

Gilbert "Gib" Smith | Run Crew

Gib is a recent graduate of Metropolitan State University of Denver's Bachelor of Fine Arts Theater Technology and Design program. He's excited to return to the stage after the industry-wide pandemic related shutdowns. "As always, I'd like to thank my legs for supporting me, my fingers for being there to count on, and my arms for being by my side."

Jade McGee | Ensemble

Jade made her professional theatrical debut in Colorado at Miners Alley Playhouse in *HAIR* and is elated to be taking the stage in *Memphis* for her first production at Town Hall Arts Center. She grew up performing in Cleveland, Ohio, and graduated in August 2022 from the University of Colorado – Boulder with a Bachelor of Arts in Dance. She is now working to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Jade would like to thank Mykai, Billie, Trent, and the whole creative team; the tech crew; and her castmates for the opportunity to be a part of this show.

Jahalia Coleman | Ensemble

Jahalia is a professional performer from just outside of Boulder, Colorado. A proud Afro-Latina, she is overjoyed to be making a return to the Town Hall Arts Center stage for her third show, and to be sharing this experience with such an incredible cast and crew. Having grown up a performer and model since 1999 and continuing her professional theater journey at Metropolitan State

University of Denver, Jahalia has a deep passion and appreciation for the arts, but an even deeper passion for bringing people together through the art of theater. She is eager to welcome audiences to share in the experience that is theater at Town Hall Arts Center.

Jasmyne Pierce | Ensemble

Jasmyne made her Town Hall Arts Center debut tumbling all over the stage as Mush in Disney's *Newsies the Musical*, and is honored to be returning now for her second show this season. She would like to give endless gratitude to everyone at Town Hall for their continuous care and support, and for the opportunity to tell such a powerful story with so many great artists. Other Colorado credits include Juliet / Helena / Witch in *Shakespeare in the Parking Lot* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); A Sophisticated Lady in Duke Ellington's *Sophisticated Ladies* (Vintage Theatre); Dionne in *HAIR* (Miners Alley Playhouse); Ensemble / Tumbler / Aerialist in *Footloose the Musical* (Parker Arts, Culture & Events Center); and Pearl the Mermaid in *The Little Mermaid Cocktail Experience* (Fever). As always, she is sending love and appreciation to her family for years of gymnastics training, and extra kudos and love to Jason, who is her biggest supporter.

Jesse Winchester | Reeds

Jesse has played the oboe for twelve years and has studied under Carla Scott and Kathryn Simpson. He will soon graduate from Metropolitan State University of Denver with degrees in biochemistry and oboe performance and hopes to continue his studies with a master's degree. He has played with the Colorado College Concert Band, the Pikes Peak Philharmonic, the MSU-Denver Symphonic Band, and the MSU-Denver Symphony Orchestra.

Joe DiPietro | Book and Lyrics

Joe has won two Tony Awards, a Drama Desk Award and two Outer Critics Circle Awards. Broadway: *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Tony noms – Best Book, Best Musical); *Memphis* (Tony winner – Best Book, Best Score, Best Musical); *All Shook Up*; *Living on Love*. Off-Broadway: *Clever Little Lies*; *The Toxic Avenger*; *The Thing About Men*; *Over the River and Through the Woods*; *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. His most recent play, *Hollywood*, debuted at La Jolla Playhouse. Other recent regional credits include: *The Second Mrs. Wilson* (Long Wharf Theatre & George Street Playhouse); *Chasing the Song* (La Jolla Playhouse); *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me* (Arts Emerson); *The Last Romance* (Old Globe); *Creating Claire* (George Street Playhouse). He sits on the board of Only Make Believe, a charity dedicated to bringing interactive, therapeutic theater to chronically ill children.

John C. Ashton | Mr. Simmons

John might be the only person in this cast who actually lived through the times represented in this musical. In

the '50s and early '60s in St. Louis, he was a big fan of both KXOK (top 40 rock-n-roll) and KATZ (R&B, mostly B). John has been actively involved in live theater, both onstage and off, since 8th grade, and in Colorado's theater scene since 1971. He was last seen at Town Hall Arts Center as Henry Albertson, the Shakespearean actor in *The Fantasticks*. His original play, *Before You Go*, had its world premiere last spring at Miners Alley Playhouse in Golden. John has appeared on screen with Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad* Ep. 504), Robert Redford (*Our Souls at Night*), and Steve Howey (*Class*), among others. He also appears on video, et cetera, as Walter Dram in Meow Wolf's *Omega Mart* exhibition at AREA15, an immersive art and entertainment district in Las Vegas. John is a proud recipient of the Colorado Theatre Guild's Lifetime Achievement Award.

John Mackey | Ensemble, Understudy (Male Roles)

John is excited to return to the Town Hall stage after a three-year absence. Previous Town Hall Arts Center credits include *Meet Me in St. Louis* (Ensemble, Dance Captain), *Dames at Sea* (Lucky), *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Present), *Seussical the Musical* (Wickersham Brother), and others. John performs throughout the Denver metro area and teaches theater to young artists through Town Hall Arts Center's robust education programming. He thanks you for supporting live theater, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Joseph Sanford IV | Bobby

Joseph is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theater. Favorite college credits include St. Jimmy in Green Day's *American Idiot* and Trebonius in *Julius Caesar*. Other favorite credits include Specs in the Town Hall Arts Center production of Disney's *Newsies the Musical*, Sasha in *Fiddler on the Roof*, a Disciple in *Godspell*, and Ensemble in *Gypsy*. When not performing, Joseph is building computers, creating original songs, or learning about the newest technology out in the world.

Jozeph Mykaels | Delray

Jozeph is a native Coloradan by way of Denver. He was educated in the public school system of Denver, and his love for the arts began to flourish when he became a member of Denver East High School's Speech and Debate team. After graduating from East High in 2015, Jozeph attended William Carey University, where he was cast in the role of Asagai in *A Raisin in the Sun*. In 2021, he was in Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado's production of *JQA*. In addition to his love for the arts, Jozeph has always made room in his life and time in his schedule to give back to his community. By participating in many organizations, he has been able to lend his talents in public speaking and singing to various events across the Midwest. Jozeph's goal is to continue to

build his experience in his chosen craft (or rather, the craft that chose him) to fine tune his abilities.

Justin Gardner | Ensemble

Justin is excited to be making his Town Hall Arts Center debut. After growing up in Vermont and earning his Bachelor of Arts in Theater from Castleton University, Justin decided to move to Denver to be involved in a much larger theater community. Favorite credits include Moritz in *Spring Awakening* (Castleton University), Mitch Maypole in *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* (ArtsRiot), Pepper in *Mamma Mia the Musical* (Lyric Theatre Company), and more. These days, you can find Justin at Meow Wolf Denver | Convergence Station sending guests on crazy quests and doing some mad yo-yo tricks!

Kate Bashore | Lighting Designer

Kate is thrilled to be returning to Town Hall Arts Center where previous designs include *Disenchanted!*, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, *Cabaret*, *Sister Act the Musical*, and *Casa Valentina*. Other recent designs include *The River Bride*, *Kinky Boots the Musical*, *Elf! the Musical*, and *Million Dollar Quartet* (Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities); *Little Women* (Theatreworks); *The Sound of Music* (The Rose Theater, Nebraska); and *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Butterfly Effect Theatre of Colorado). In addition to her design work, Kate serves as the Director of Dance Production for the University of Colorado – Boulder. Training: Master of Fine Arts, University of Tennessee – Knoxville. KateBashoreDesigns.com

Kayleigh Bernier | Ensemble

Kayleigh is thrilled to be back on stage for her third show at Town Hall Arts Center. Originally from Las Vegas, Nevada, Kayleigh graduated from the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts as a Dance and Theater Major. She then continued her voice and acting training at Colorado Christian University. Throughout her career Kayleigh has taken the stage in numerous Las Vegas hotels and casinos, as well as the Lowden Theater; the Parker Arts, Culture & Events Center; Lakewood Cultural Center; and the White House. Her favorite roles include Woman 2 in *Putting It Together*, a staged concert here at Town Hall Arts Center; Sister Mary Leo in *Nunsense*; Laurey in *Oklahoma!*; Amber in *Hairspray the Musical*; Marian in *Swingtime Canteen*; and featured dance roles in *The Wedding Singer the Musical*; *9 to 5 the Musical*; *Guys and Dolls*; and *West Side Story*.

Krisangela Washington | Felicia

Krisangela is a well-known Colorado-based actor and recording artist. During the pandemic she wrote and released her first R&B album and is currently touring. Information at Krisangela.com. Theatrical highlights include Charlain in *Ain't Misbehavin'* and The Night Club Singer in *Violet* (Town Hall Arts Center); The Church

in *The Christians* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); Emmie in *Caroline or Change*, Nettie in *The Color Purple the Musical*, and Earnestine in *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Aurora Fox Arts Center); and Tina in *Sister Act the Musical* (Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities).

M Curtis Grittner | Scenic Designer

Mr. Grittner is an adjunct instructor at University of Colorado – Denver, as well as a designer, and a director. In Colorado he has designed scenery for Backstage Theater, BDT Stage, Candlelight Dinner Playhouse, The Catamounts, Cherry Creek Theater, Denver Children's Theater, Ignite Theatre, Mizel Arts and Cultural Center, Ovation West, Phamaly Theatre Company, The Aurora Fox Arts Center, and Vintage Theatre. He received Henry Nominations in 2019 for *Boys in the Band* (Vintage Theatre) and in 2017 for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* at Breckenridge Backstage. He received a 2019 True West Award for Disney's *Tarzan the Musical* at Candlelight Dinner Playhouse and a Boulder Camera Eye Award for *God's Ear* with The Catamounts. "Maggie, thanks for your support of this artistic life!"

Matt LaFontaine | Swing (Huey)

Matt is so happy to return to live theater again! He was last seen at Town Hall Arts Center as Schroeder in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Monty in *A Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder*, and *Almost Heaven – The Songs of John Denver*. Favorite roles include *Evita* (Che), *Into the Woods* (the Baker), *Green Day's American Idiot* (St. Jimmy), *Cabaret* (Emcee), *HAIR* (Berger), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas, 2017 Best Supporting Actor Henry Award.) "Huge shout outs to this awesome company and as always, to Harold, the Fuzziest in all of the land."

Matthew Dugger | Sound Board Operator

Matthew Dugger is excited to return to Town Hall Arts Center after having just finished the world premiere of David Byrne's *Theater of The Mind*. This will be his 15th show with Town Hall Arts Center, and he is happy to be jumping back into "traditional theater."

Miranda Guettlein | Dialect Coach

Miranda is a Fort Collins-based dialect coach, actor, and professor of voice, speech, and accents at the University of Northern Colorado. She has a Master of Arts in Linguistics from the University of Colorado – Boulder and a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics from Regis University. Miranda is a Knight-Thompson Speechwork certified teacher, KTS Webinar Curator for 2023, and serves as a peer reviewer for the Voice and Speech Review. Favorite coaching credits include *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and *Shout! The Mod Musical*.

Mykai Eastman | Co-Director & Choreographer

Mykai is a director and playwright currently based in Denver, Colorado. He dedicates his career to giving a voice to the voiceless. With a Bachelor of Arts in Theater, and a Master of Arts in Professional Communication, Mykai takes a multi-disciplinary approach to theater that pushes the boundaries of what is expected on stage. Mykai is currently working on publishing a new dramatic theory that combines theater and film practices for producers to implement in their artistic practices, with a goal of expanding the American theater's audience. He would like to thank God, his wife Sydney, and his family for keeping him on track to create good work.

Natalie Loring | Spotlight Operator

Natalie is a Colorado-based stage manager, electrician, and theatrical generalist. She recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Applied Theater Technology and Design from Metropolitan State University – Denver, where she researched intimacy choreography for her undergraduate thesis. Natalie's passion lies in education and non-traditional theater – specifically found spaces and devising. "Onward with joy!"

Nicole M. Harrison | Costume Designer

Nicole is pleased to be a part of this awesome production team and to work with so many talented artists. She is a freelance costume designer in Denver, working with Rocky Mountain Repertory Theater, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Performance Now, the Aurora Fox Arts Center, Phamaly Theater Company, Lone Tree Arts Center, Theater Aspen, and Lake Dillon Theater Company, among others. She has designed professionally in Denver for more than 30 years, and has received a Denver Drama Critics Circle Award, a Henry Award, and a Denver Post Ovation Award for her designs. Nicole is a guest artist and the Costume Shop Manager at Denver School of the Arts, and an affiliate professor at Metropolitan State University, where she teaches Stage Makeup. When Nicole isn't designing or teaching, she runs her growing costume rental business, Nikki's Costume Closet.

Nicole Siegler | Ensemble

Nicole is a 10th grade Theater Major at Denver School of the Arts. This is her second show at Town Hall Arts Center, and she's thrilled to be returning after *Once On this Island* (2022). Nicole is honored to be working on *Memphis* with such an amazing cast and crew. Other performing credits include: *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Imaginary Invalid* (Toinette), *Once on This Island* (Erzulie), a staged reading of *FairView* (Keisha), *Pop of Ages* (Choreographer), and a *Morning Glow* soloist at the Arts for Autism fundraiser at the Gershwin

Theatre in NYC. Nicole also has a passion for playwriting and wrote *A Day in Black Shoes*, a play about police brutality that was produced and performed at Denver School of the Arts (2022). Nicole would like to thank her friends and family for helping her become the young woman she is today and gives all the credit to God. "I hope you'll enjoy the show!"

Preston "P-Jay" Adams | Gator

Pronouns: they / she

Preston graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Northern Colorado and is returning to Town Hall Arts Center to play Gator in *Memphis* after their turn as Audrey II in last season's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. They were most recently seen in the Miners Alley Playhouse productions of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical* (Lin) and *HAIR* (Hud). Past performances include Lord Pinkleton in Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Vintage Theatre), Man 1 in *Songs for a New World* (The Spark Theater), and an original musical they wrote and starred in called *There Will Be Light* (Wellspring Theatre). "As you experience this show, remember to say a prayer that change is coming."

Rick Long | Ensemble

Rick is a native of Littleton, but he has been seen on stages all over the United States and Europe. *Memphis* marks his second show at Town Hall Arts Center. Audiences raved about Rick's Town Hall debut last season, as The Father in *The Fantasticks*, directed by Billie McBride. In 2022 Rick was nominated for a Henry Award for his work as Big Daddy in the Vintage Theatre's *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*. Rick has appeared with The Arizona Theatre Company, the Monomoy Theatre on Cape Cod, and appeared as a guest artist at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and the Tony Award-winning Utah Shakespearean Festival. Rick is thrilled to be back home in Littleton.

Ronald McQueen | Ensemble

Ronald is a 24-year-old Colorado Native and has been performing / acting professionally since 2017. He graduated from Rangeview High School where he was in theater and show choir (The Chromatics), and spent some time at Metropolitan State University of Denver where he studied theater and dance. He also trained at Cleo Parker Robinson Dance. Ronald would like to thank his family and close friends for all their love and support in his journey.

Ryan Buehler | Ensemble

Ryan was last seen at Town Hall Arts Center in *Cabaret*. A few of his other favorite productions at Town Hall include *Oklahoma!* (Jud), *Brigadoon* (Harry), *Legally Blonde the Musical* (Kyle and others), *The Producers the Musical*, and *Hairspray the Musical*. Other favorite shows include Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *South Pacific*

(Emile), and *Titanic the Musical* (Barrett).

"Thank you to my family for your constant love and support!"

Samantha Piel | Assistant Director

Samantha is a local actor, stage manager, and now assistant director. She loves creating art, both on and off the stage, and is so excited to be a part of this journey!

"Thank you for coming!"

Sam Stump | Run Crew

Sam is excited to return to theater as part of the Memphis team. Past credits include stage manager for *The Nerd*, Phoebe in *As You Like It*, and a lengthy stint as a Cast Member at Walt Disney World.

Sarah Atkinson | Ensemble

Sarah is ecstatic to be returning to Town Hall Arts Center after making her Town Hall debut with *Meet Me in St. Louis* in 2019. She has been awarded the Best of the Springs silver medal for Best Actress, as well as first place in the Pikes Peak Opera League's Young Voice Competition. Some of her favorite credits include Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Zazzalil in *Firebringer*, and Sister Mary Robert in *Sister Act the Musical*. Sarah would like to thank her family, friends, and partner for their constant love and support!

Sierra "Max" Suda | Assistant Stage Manager

Max is excited to continue her work at Town Hall Arts Center. Her time away from theater has been ever so relaxing and she is quite tired of that nonsense. She is ready to fully return to her shadow-lurking, prop-finding, headset-wearing way of life. She thanks those who stayed by her, who allowed her voice to be heard, and who wanted to be a part of her world.

Trent Hines | Music Director, Piano

Trent is a Henry Award-nominated Music Director / Pianist / Conductor, working with many theaters in the Denver area. His recent credits include Music Director / Pianist / Conductor for *Into the Woods* and *I Do! I Do!* at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities; Pianist / Actor for *The Wild Party* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; Music Director / Pianist / Conductor for *Something Rotten* at the University of Northern Colorado; Pianist / Conductor for *Matilda the Musical* for Sasquatch Productions; Musical Director / Pianist for *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at the Vintage Theatre and the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; *Gypsy* at the Vintage Theatre; Pianist for *A Little Night Music* at Cherry Creek Theatre; Musical Director/ Pianist / Conductor for Disney's *Freaky Friday the Musical* at the Aurora Fox Arts Center; and Keyboardist / Conductor for *The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes* with Forge Light Theatreworks.

“A Celebration of the Performing Arts” Installed at Town Hall Arts Center



In 2000, the first – and only – building mural commissioned by the City of Littleton, “Passages,” was installed at the Littleton Downtown Light Rail Station. Since that time Littleton’s murals have been commissioned and installed by private property owners – until now.

Town Hall Arts Center is proud to partner with the city for the installation of “A Celebration of the Performing Arts,” by Denver-based artist Michael Ortiz. This colorful piece was installed on the exterior south-facing wall of Town Hall’s historic downtown theater. At nearly 50 feet wide by 30 feet high, this spectacular piece can be seen and enjoyed by drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians driving east on Alamo Street or from just about anywhere on the south side of downtown Littleton.

Michael Ortiz, also known as “ILLSON,” is a multi-disciplinary artist originally from Pueblo, Colorado. He specializes in large scale public art and his work can be seen throughout the U.S. and internationally. His art is described as geometric, abstract, forms of figurative work, and colors composed in his recognizable artistic vision. The leadership at Town Hall Arts Center selected Ortiz’s concept from three finalists presented by the city.

Unlike many other artforms, murals are relatively simple – needing only a wall and paint. They are approachable – frequently found in nontraditional “art locations” like alleys – and can be experienced at any time of the day or night without appointment or admission tickets. All these factors lead to a unique experience for both the artist and viewer. They also contribute significantly to creating a sense of place, transforming public spaces to strengthen the connections between people and places they share.

To this end, the City of Littleton launched its mural program in 2022. In addition to seeking artists and walls for new installations, there are efforts to celebrate and preserve the 30-plus murals that already exist in the city. Debuting in 2023 are local “Mural Crawls,” professionally curated and guided walking tours that afford participants a deep dive into the location and history of some of Littleton’s unique murals.

To learn more about this vibrant but overlooked part of Littleton, visit www.artworkarchive.com/profile/littleton/collection/murals. And be sure to take a peek at Littleton’s newest mural right here at Town Hall Arts Center.

Shakespeare to Shine in the Southern Suburbs

By: Steve Wilson

For theater lovers, something truly magical happened under the stars in Centennial last summer. An audience gathered in a field behind the Goodson Rec Center to experience an exhilarating free performance of a 400-year-old comedy and just like that – a new theater company was born.

The summer of 2022 was a transformative time for many performing arts groups. While the dark specter of the pandemic had not fully receded, many organizations were beginning to emerge from their long hiatus. This atmosphere of growth cultivated the creation of Shakespeare in the Wild – incubated in the south suburban wilds only a few miles from the cozy environs of Town Hall Arts Center.

Many believe the only way to appreciate the magnificence of the stories and language of Shakespeare is to do so in the great outdoors – harnessing the natural power of this “wide and universal theater” that was so brilliantly set forth in the works of the greatest playwright of all time. Shakespeare in the Wild has two central tenets – perform high quality classical works in natural settings and do it for free.

The company’s inspiration is the brainchild of local actor and educator, Leigh Miller, whose epiphany came when running along Highline Canal near the spot that would become his space for making magic. After creating a partnership with South Suburban Parks and Recreation in 2019, dreams and plans were dashed by the arts-crushing pandemic. Never deterred through the shutdowns, Miller was joined by Sam Gregory (another favorite local actor, educator, and director) who would become the company’s Artistic Director and director of their first show. By early 2022, they were ready to assemble a company to mount their inaugural production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

The original company featured some of Denver’s finest performers including Shannon Altner, Iliana Barron, Grant Bowman, Mikah Conway, Mare Trevathan, Courtney Esser, Chris Kendall, Anne Marie Nest, Chelsea Frye, Karen A. Wibrew, Frank Oden, Leslie O’Carroll, and Steve Wilson

During the busy summer company members swung hammers and built costumes, friends and family pitched in as ushers and fundraisers, children danced on stage as fairy sprites, and no one was charged a dime. Free Shakespeare in the Park – Colorado style!

In recognizing the company with a 2022 True West Award, John Moore wrote in the Denver Gazette, “Their entire cast was impeccable... If it’s true what they say — that there’s nothing better than a warm Colorado summer evening under the stars at Red Rocks (and it is true) — then what Miller and Gregory delivered was the next best thing. (But the grass is so much softer.)”

If you believe that “all the world’s a stage,” then join Shakespeare in the Wild for their second season featuring the pastoral comedy *As You Like It*, set in the mystical Forest of Arden (by way of DeKoevend Park in Centennial) – playing Aug. 18 – 27, 2023. **For more info, visit the company website at ShakesInTheWild.com.**



Photos: Courtesy Shakespeare in the Wild

Learn More About Our Partner: North Littleton Promise



For nearly 20 years North Littleton Promise (NLP) has served countless families who emigrated to the United States and now call Littleton home. What started out as a single after-school club based in an apartment right in the neighborhood, quickly outgrew its space and joined forces with a neighborhood church that offered up use of their building. Today North Littleton Promise has matured into a vital member of the community, partnering with more than 45 local churches, schools, organizations, and businesses offering a variety of community programs and events.

It became clear to NLP very early on that children are the priority in Littleton's immigrant families. Accordingly, much of NLP programming is focused on school-aged children. The after-school Kids Club is focused on offering academic support, leadership development, and strengthening faith for elementary aged kiddos. The Leadership in Faith and Education Program (L.I.F.E.) program offers similar support for middle school students. Both programs offer positive, reliable role models and spiritual support.

When the school year ends, a robust offering helps prevent "summer slide" by providing active and engaging full-day

summer camps. The summer program is designed to help students continue to grow spiritually, academically, physically, and socially with weekly field trips to locations throughout the community.

New initiatives and programs are frequently evaluated based on feedback and observations. The soccer program, for example, is wildly successful by combining teamwork among the young athletes with purposeful mentorship by committed volunteer coaches. NLP also began to offer adult programming five years ago, including parenting classes, resource navigation, and Bible studies. Additionally, a new high school leadership program was launched in the fall of 2022, continuing the support from NLP, and offering additional opportunities to develop skills beyond eighth grade.

North Littleton Promise is a safe and trusted institution for the families they serve. This comes not only from 20 years of demonstrating love and compassion, but also from the strategic partnership with area churches. For most participating families, the community church is a space where they can feel safe and supported. And while not an

Photos: Courtesy North Littleton Promise



advocacy organization in the traditional sense, NLP has a history of helping first generation Americans and other find their voices by creating a space to build community, connect with each other and the community at large, and pointing the way toward existing resources. Executive Director Maureen Shannon put it best when she said, “when people feel valued and belong in a community, they can grow.”

Learn more about North Littleton Promise by visiting www.northlittletonpromise.org.

Town Hall Arts Center strives to be a welcoming space for the entire community and has a goal to ensure all elementary aged children have at least one opportunity to experience live theater before entering middle school.

Each summer, Town Hall Arts Center welcomes approximately 50 students from the North Littleton Promise summer camps to our historic downtown theater for a youth production and behind the scenes tour. Additionally, a member of the theater’s educational team visits the NLP summer program to facilitate a participation play. The result is a magical and engaging group experience where artists and audiences create something wonderful together.

This partnership has numerous benefits for both Town Hall and NLP. First, students are exposed to opportunities that would otherwise be available – most NLP families wouldn’t go downtown or other places to see a theater performance. Second, theater becomes more accessible by allowing students to meet the actors after the show and potentially see the arts as a viable career path. In the last several years, NLP staff has observed that 25% of their students are now involved in their school’s theater programs – far exceeding numbers before this partnership.

For others, the behind-the-scenes Tech Tour is the most empowering, demonstrating a creative path that doesn’t require time in front of an audience. Observing the use of computer, electric, and carpentry skills in new ways resonates for many NLP participants.

In 2022, Town Hall Arts Center also sponsored a North Littleton Promise Pumpkin Pole display on Main Street in Littleton, bringing Mexican culture to downtown and giving students the opportunity to publicly display their pumpkin art to their families and the community.



Photos: Courtesy North Littleton Promise

A Summer of Seuss!

Town Hall Arts Center is known for producing spectacular musicals on its main stage throughout the year, but summer at Town Hall is all about the kids. Every year two fully conceived productions are brought to life for, and by, young performers aged 6 through 17. This is their opportunity to learn the craft of theater by engaging in a month-long rehearsal process with professional directors, choreographers, designers, and more. They get the full professional experience.

The youth productions have multiple performances that are open to public audiences. After all, if there is no one to hear the stories on the stage, what's the point? Every summer day camps, child care centers, schools, and special groups take in the shows.

Part of the magic created here at Town Hall comes from a room full of young audience members being exposed to live theater, perhaps for the first time. The wide-eyed wonder is heightened when they see that the performers on stage are just like themselves, maybe even the same age. This might be the first time the young performers and audiences feel the exchange of energy and the joy of experiencing a moment or a story together.

Town Hall strives to continue making these experiences available to everyone. It's the perfect way to add some fun into summer plans – get out of the heat and enjoy some live theater.

This summer will feature *Seussical the Musical!* for both programs: a “kids” version for actors ages 6 to 12, and a “junior” version for the 13 to 17-year-old group. Tickets for all shows are only \$5, available in advance or at the door.

Visit TownHallArtsCenter.org for tickets!



Seussical the Musical! Kids

Show Dates: June 29, 30

Show Time: 6 p.m.

Approximately 40 minutes long

Seussical the Musical! Jr.

Show Dates: July 21, 22, 28, 29

Show Time: 7 p.m.

Approximately 65 minutes long



Seussical the Musical! is a delightful musical based on the imaginary characters created by Dr. Seuss and is perfect for all ages. The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Maisie the Bird, the Who's from Whoville, plus other well-known characters come together to tell a wonderful story full of humor and inspirational moments.

Photos: Courtesy Town Hall Arts Center

Limited Engagements Offer Something New to Town Hall Audiences

Town Hall Arts Center is known for producing larger, “mainstream” musicals with Broadway credits, like this production of *Memphis the Musical* or last season’s Henry-nominated *Once on This Island*. While incredibly proud of that work and what is produced within the confines of such an intimate space, this season explored a new creative endeavor – a Limited Engagement series.

“The Limited Engagement series was created to provide space for theatrical pieces that may be lesser known to our audiences, but are still just as enticing,” explains Town Hall Arts Center’s Director of Programming, Matthew Kepler. “Through the [Limited Engagement] series, we were able to expand our existing programming. We introduced patrons to a beautiful non-musical piece called *Master Class*, which would normally be outside the scope of our typical work but was incredibly well received. We also produced a brand-new show called *In the Trenches* by Colorado creatives, Graham and Kristina Fuller.”

Season 41 will continue the Limited Engagements series with two intriguing productions. *The Last Session*, by Steve Schalchlin and Jim Brochu, is a story about a Gospel singer turned pop star coming to terms with his positive HIV status. *Red* is a six-time Tony Award winning play by John Logan.

“*Red*, in particular, is quite a departure from our typical mainstage programming,” says Kepler, who will also direct the piece in 2024. “It’s a very cerebral non-musical that explores questions about art and the role art plays in a larger society.”

Kepler says its inclusion in the Limited Engagement lineup, next season, is a direct response to audience feedback asking for non-musicals and dramas. *Red* is both.

“We’re a small organization with a small team,” says Kepler. “When our audiences speak, we listen. We process. And when possible, we deliver. *Red* is proof of that.”

Through the Limited Engagement series, the theater hopes to not only enhance the already thriving arts and cultural life in Littleton, Colorado, but also to employ even more artists of all disciplines in a single season.

Are you a fan of this new programming initiative? Is there a little-known show or a nonmusical you’d like to see in a future Limited Engagement series? Let us know! Email Matthew at mkepler@townhallartscenter.org and make your voice heard.



Photos:
Top: Gail Bransteitter
Middle, Bottom: Rachel Graham - RDG Photography



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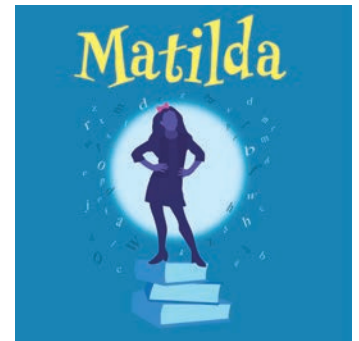
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