

Skylight
music theatre

Oct. 4 - 27, 2024
Skylight's 65th Season
www.SMTMKE.org

2024-2025 SEASON

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WAITRESS

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LIONEL BART'S

Oliver!

SKYLIGHT
PREMIERE!

NOV. 15 - DEC. 29, 2024

Book, Music and Lyrics by **Lionel Bart**
Freely adapted from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*
Directed by Artistic Director **Michael Unger**
Choreographed by **Stephanie Staszak**
Music Direction by **David Bonofiglio**

Consider yourself at home, just in time for the holidays, as Skylight presents the heartwarming and joyous musical *Oliver!* This Skylight premiere is a captivating musical version of Charles Dickens' classic novel, *Oliver Twist*. This is one of the few shows that has won Tony, Olivier, and Academy awards, making it a musical masterpiece. Joining the fantastic professional adult cast on stage will be 24 of Milwaukee's most talented young performers.

Recommended for ages 8 and up.

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Associate Producer

Moira J. Kelly

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World Premiere!
Jan. 17 - Feb. 2, 2025

Midwest Premiere!
Feb. 21 - Mar. 9, 2025

Skylight Premiere!
April 4 - 27, 2025

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ACT**

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Skylight Music Theatre | Milwaukee's Home for Music Theatre | 158 North Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward
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Skylight

music theatre

Help Us to Raise the Curtain!

As a non-profit theatre, ticket sales only cover 50% of our overall costs to produce a show. Your tax-deductible gifts will allow us to continue our incredible productions, invite students in the area to attend at no cost to them, and continue our outstanding educational programs like KidsWrites.

Thank You for Your Support of Skylight!



Michael Unger
Artistic Director



Susan Varela
Executive Director



**SCAN HERE
TO MAKE
YOUR GIFT**

Michael Unger
Artistic Director

Susan Varela
Executive Director



Presents:

WAITRESS

Book **JESSIE NELSON** Music and Lyrics **SARA BAREILLES**

Based upon the motion picture by **Adrienne Shelley**

October 4 – 27, 2024 | Cabot Theatre | Broadway Theatre Center

Co-Directors
Trey Compton and Lisa Shriver***

Co-Choreographers
Katy Tabb* and Lisa Shriver*****

Music Director
Janna Ernst

Scenic Designer
Jonathan Berg-Einhorn

Lighting Designer
Rachel West

Orchestrations by
Sara Bareilles & The Waitress Band

Music by Arrangement with
Sony Music Publishing

Alecia Parker, Executive Producer

Costume Designer
Lisa Quinn

Sound Designer
Steve Tonar

Production Stage Manager
Louis Crocco*

Resident Assistant Stage Manager
Jordan Ilyssa Angelo

Assistant Stage Manager
Sami Pekelnicky

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Benjamin Simpson & Joseph Langthorne/Shira Friedman

Original motion picture produced by Michael Roiff/Night & Day Pictures
World premiere produced by the American Repertory Theater at Harvard University, August 2, 2015
Waitress is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.mtishows.com

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Season Sponsored by



Appearing through an agreement between Skylight Music Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



*** The Director and Choreographer are members of the STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY, a national theatrical labor union.



**JAN SERR &
JOHN SHANNON**



This project is sponsored in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with Endowment from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Waitress 5

A NOTE FROM THE

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the opening production of our Blockbuster 65th Season. In those 65 years, Skylight Music Theatre has presented 428 productions made up of a gloriously wide range of musical material. What an important and impressive legacy we have to be proud of. We also have you, our loyal audience, to thank for that longevity, variety, and vitality. In exchange for your support, we endeavor to challenge, inspire, and entertain you with five more terrific titles.

The traditional gift for the 65th anniversary is Blue Sapphire. How fitting that Skylight's logo, not to mention the seats in which you are sitting, are close in hue to that precious gemstone. It is further fitting that the Cabot Theatre is known to many as the Jewel of the Historic Third Ward. It certainly is to us.

Skylight tells stories in the *highest definition*, in literal *surround sound*, and in at least *three dimensions*, with a level of collaboration and immediacy not found in many other artistic endeavors. The live performing arts offers an exchange between audience and artist that cannot be replicated elsewhere. Further, few other art forms need you, the live audience, as much as we do. You are the final "character" to add to our cast list. Feel free to stand up and take a bow at the end of the show!

None of this could happen without the unbelievably talented individuals you see onstage, those you don't see who are backstage, and all others who have contributed to the magic you are about to witness.

You have often heard us say that ticket sales make up only a fraction of what it takes to put on the type of productions you have come to expect here at Skylight. If you like what you experience, please consider engaging further with us if you are able by making a donation at any level to help ensure that Skylight will be here for another 65 years (at least!).

This season focuses on stories of transformation. Each leading character, and many others, go on journeys that change their lives forever. That is what makes good storytelling. We hope that you will be here for all five of our productions and that you will be transformed as well, through laughter, empathy, and compassion.

The first show of our season, the musical *Waitress*, is based on the film of the same name and has a score by the phenomenal Sara Bareilles. *Waitress* is filled with hit song after hit song including "Opening Up" - perfect for our season opener. It is a story of empowerment, focusing on a woman who is unaware of her potential. She lets external forces define her until a new influence and newfound confidence reveal the possibilities buried within.

We here at Skylight literally and figuratively shine the light on vital people and vital stories. "Light" is even in our name! The world has so many dark spots in it these days. We hope that by going on Jenna's journey with us today you are encouraged to shine your personal light a bit brighter - on yourselves, and others. We certainly appreciate your shining and sharing it with us today.

-Michael Unger, Artistic Director

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to Skylight Music Theatre! I am absolutely thrilled to have you join us as we embark on our 65th season—a milestone made possible by the unwavering support of patrons like you. This year promises to be especially meaningful, as we celebrate both our legacy and the future we are building together through the power of theatre.

The stories we will bring to life on stage this season each center around a powerful theme: self-actualization. Whether through moments of quiet resolve or bold leaps of faith, these characters will show us the strength that lies within each of us. Often, we surprise even ourselves with the courage and resilience we possess. These tales of personal growth, discovery, and triumph serve as a reminder that we all have untapped potential waiting to be unleashed.

I invite you to be inspired by the journeys we will share, and to reflect on your own inner strength as we explore these remarkable narratives together. Skylight has always been a place where stories come alive, and I hope this season encourages you to find the strength within yourself as we embark on this incredible artistic adventure.

Thank you for being part of our Skylight family. Cheers to 65 years!

Susan + Oscar's Perfect Apple Pie

Serving: 8 Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 40 minutes Temp: 425 ° F

INGREDIENTS

FILLING

- + 6 cups (8-10) apples (I prefer Granny Smith)
- + 1/2 cup brown sugar
- + 1/4 cup white sugar
- + 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- + 1/4 tsp salt
- + 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- + 1 Tbs lemon juice
- + 2 Pie Crusts (home made or Pillsbury ready-made is also great!)

TOPPING

- + 1 Tbs white sugar
- + 1 Tbs milk

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oven to 425 ° F
2. Place one pie crust in a 9-inch pie dish
3. Peel + core + slice apples into small slices
4. In large bowl, mix all ingredients w/ apples
5. Spoon into crust-lined pie dish
6. Top w/ second crust + squeeze edges together
7. Cut slits in top crust
8. Use 1 Tbs milk + brush on top crust; sprinkle 1 Tbs sugar on milk
9. Bake 40-45 minutes or until golden brown
10. Let sit for 15 minutes before cutting
11. Serve warm with a chunk of cold, sharp cheddar cheese on the side
12. Kiss the chef and enjoy!

Susan Varela

-Susan Varela, Executive Director

Waitress 7



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DECEMBER 16 | 7:30PM



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WAITRESS

Jenna	Julia Levinson
Cal	Andrew Varela*
Earl	Jared Brandt Hoover
Ogie	Brade Bradshaw
Dr. Pomatter	Matthew Kacergis*
Dawn	Alex Merkel
Joe	Robert A. Zimmerman
Becky	Raven Monique Dockery
Nurse Norma	Danielle Katers
Jenna's Mother	Jackey Boelkow
Jenna's Father	Nathan Danzer
Lulu	Melody Tajnai
Ensemble	Jackey Boelkow, D Eric Woolweber, Nathan Danzer, Ciara Hart°, Danielle Katers°, Abby McBee°, Mary Nink°, Josh Pope°, William Toney°

Dance Captain

Abby McBee

* Appearing through an agreement between Skylight Music Theatre and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

° Early Career Professional Ensemble Cast

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudies/Standbys never substitute for listed players unless a specific notification is made at the time of the performance.

For Jenna - Mary Nink; **For Earl** - Nathan Danzer; **For Ogie** - Josh Pope;

For Dawn - Jackey Boelkow; **For Dr. Pomatter** - D Eric Woolweber;

For Becky - Ciara Hart; **For Lulu**- Annie Tajnai

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

What's Inside	Jenna
Opening Up	Jenna, Becky, Dawn, Cal, Company
The Negative	Jenna, Becky, Dawn
What Baking Can Do	Jenna
Club Knocked Up	Company
When He Sees Me	Dawn
It Only Takes a Taste	Dr. Pomatter, Jenna
You Will Still Be Mine	Earl
A Soft Place to Land	Jenna, Becky, Dawn
Never Getting Rid of Me	Ogie, Company
Bad Idea	Jenna, Dr. Pomatter

ACT 2

I Didn't Plan It	Becky
Bad Idea (Reprise)	Jenna, Dr. Pomatter, Becky, Cal, Dawn, Ogie, Company
Mama's Pie Song	Jenna
You Matter to Me	Dr. Pomatter, Jenna
I Love You Like A Table	Ogie, Dawn, Company
Take It From An Old Man	Joe, Company
She Used To Be Mine	Jenna
What's Inside (Reprise)	Company
Everything Changes (Part I)	Jenna, Becky, Dawn
Everything Changes (Part II)	Jenna, Company
Opening Up (Finale)	Full Company

ORCHESTRA

Music Director/Keyboard 1	Janna Ernst
Keyboard 2	David Bonofiglio
Guitar	Caeli Massey
Cello	Braden Zitoun
Bass	Mike Ritter
Drums	Mike "Ding" Lorenz

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Interim Director of Production and Facilities	Joseph Piirto
Head Carpenter/Fleet Manager	Islay Reed
Scenic Carpenters	Islay Reed, Hans Michaelis, Rachel Stewart, Megan Murray
Scenic and Properties Painter	Wendy Ann
Properties Supervisor	Amaya Rockett
Resident Assistant Stage Manager	Jordan Ilyssa Angelo
Assistant Stage Manager	Sami Pekelnicky
Props Builders	Jonathan Berg Einhorn
Lighting Supervisor	Dovie Hughes
Electricians	Zoe Lucas, Anthony Metz
Follow Spot Operators	Zoe Lucas
Interim Audio Supervisor	Steve Tonar
Front of House Audio Engineer	Elizabeth Weber
Costume Director	Jeanne Schrank
Wardrobe Supervisor	Courteney Shipley
Stitchers	Kennedy Frick, Braden Miller, Michelle Catalan, Kalyn Diercks
Intimacy and Fight Director	Marcee Doherty
Additional Electronic Music Design	David Bonofiglio
Graphic Design Support	Rylee Zuniga
Photographer	Mark Frohna
Videographers	Traveling Lemur Productions
Special Thanks	Aaron Hubbard, Michael Weber

2024/25 SEASON

LOVE & LUST

CASANOVA
NOVEMBER 1-3

THE NUTCRACKER
DECEMBER 7-24

MKE MIX
FEBRUARY 7-16

SLEEPING BEAUTY
APRIL 11-13

CARMEN
MAY 16-18

**MILWAUKEE
BALLET**

MICHAEL PINK, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



THE 2024/25 SEASON IS PRESENTED BY



UNITED PERFORMING ARTS FUND

**DONALD & DONNA
BAUMGARTNER**



This program is supported in part by grants from the Wisconsin Arts Board and Milwaukee Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Marize Fumero & Eric Figueredo, Photo Rachel Malehorn.

Thank You to Our **WAITRESS** Pride Night Sponsors

Xanadu (2024) Photo: Mark Frohna



Mark Your Calendars for Our Upcoming Spring Pride Nights!

FRANKENSTEIN
THE MUSICAL

February 22, 2025

**SISTER
ACT**

April 5, 2025

Thank You to Our Veteran's Night Season Sponsor!



GARY SINISE
* FOUNDATION *

We are grateful to Gary and his Foundation for giving our local veterans a night out at the theatre.

Exciting news!

Skylight is thrilled to partner with **Third Coast Gourmet** for delightful bites to enjoy pre-show in our **Skylight Bar**.

Visit our website to browse the menu.



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Offer valid October 4 - November 3, 2024. Cannot be combined with any other offer.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Center for Arts and Performance

2024-2025 SEASON



THE MANCINI CENTENNIAL
October 19, 2024 • 2:30 p.m.



PIANIST CLARE LONGENDYKE
November 9, 2024 • 2:30 p.m.



MERRY AND BRIGHT
Songs of Christmas Cheer
with Ryan & Ryan
December 13, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.



**BILLY McGUIGAN'S
POP ROCK ORCHESTRA**
February 2, 2025 • 2:30 p.m.



BACHELORS OF BROADWAY
February 21, 2025 • 7:30 p.m.

ALIVE AGAIN
A Tribute to Chicago
April 12, 2025 • 2:30 p.m.





For more information, tickets,
and video samples visit:
WLC.EDU/GUESTARTISTSERIES

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SCAN ME

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST



Jackey
Boelkow



Brade
Bradshaw



Nathan
Danzer



Raven Monique
Dockery



Ciara
Hart



Jared Brandt
Hoover



Matthew
Karcergis*



Danielle
Katers



Julia
Levinson



Abby
McBee



Alex
Merkel



Mary
Nink



Josh
Pope



Annie
Tajnai



Melody
Tajnai



William
Toney



Andrew
Varela*



D Eric
Woolweber



Robert A.
Zimmerman

BIOS

Jackey Boelkow (Jenna's Mother/Ensemble/Dawn Understudy) Select credits include Alison in *Beehive* and Offstage Swing in *Titanic* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Patty in *School of Rock*, Ensemble/Romani Cultural Consultant in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and Molly/Dolores/Vicki u/s in *The Full Monty* at Skylight Music Theatre, Elizabeth in *Laundry and Bourbon* at Next Act Theatre, and Bossanova in *Elixir* and Vocalist in *Tribute: The Mamas and The Papas*. @JackeyBoelkow www.Jackey-Boelkow.com

Brade Bradshaw (Ogie) is thrilled to be making his Skylight Music Theatre debut! Previous theatre credits include: Chicago Shakespeare Theater, The Second City, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Baltimore Center Stage, About Face Theatre, and Creede Repertory Theatre. Brade received his BFA in Acting and Directing from Oklahoma City University and completed the EPR Program at Milwaukee Rep post-graduation. Special thanks to his incredible support system, including his parents, Simon, and all-star team at Paonessa Talent Agency. (bradebradshaw.com)

Nathan Danzer (Jenna's Father/Ensemble/Earl Understudy) could not be more excited to be back on the Cabot Theatre stage! Recent Skylight credits include *School of Rock*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Full Monty*, and *Songbook*. Some of his past roles include Barry in *Tony N Tina's Wedding*, Giovanni in *The Glance*, Kilroy in *Camino Real* at Off The Wall, Dr. Bullard in *Lobotomy the Musical* at The Alchemist, and John in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Summerstage. Nathan also enjoys working on short film projects and cooking with artichokes.

Raven Monique Dockery (Becky) Raven is a local performing/teaching artist. Previous Skylight credits: *Raisin*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *The Gospel of Colonus*, *Violet*, *Raven* and *Ryan on Shuffle*, *Crowns*, *Once on This Island*, and *Hair*. She was recently seen as Dolly in *Hello Dolly* and Calpurnia in *To Kill a Mockingbird* with American Gothic Performing Arts. Many thanks to her family and friends for their never-ending support and her Angel, Brenda. @lamravenmonique

Ciara Hart (Ensemble/Becky Understudy) is thrilled to join Skylight Music Theatre in their production of *Waitress*. Previously, she

showcased her talent in the Adult Ensemble of *School of Rock* at Skylight Music Theatre and portrayed Khloe in *Khloe's Beautiful Blues* with Bronzeville Art Ensemble. Ciara studied Musical Theatre Performance at UW Stevens Point and eagerly continues her career in theater in the vibrant Milwaukee community. Grateful for unwavering support, Ciara extends heartfelt thanks to her family, friends, Tay, her partner Davin, and their beloved cat Solana.

Jared Brandt Hoover (Earl) is honored to be brought back for Skylight's 65th season. He made his Skylight debut last season as Judson in *From Here To Eternity*. Jared moved to Milwaukee in 2021 for the Milwaukee Rep Residency program, he has been seen in Milwaukee at the Milwaukee Rep, Vanguard Productions, Renaissance Theaterworks, and Outskirts Theater. Jared would like to thank Michael, Susan, and the creative team for allowing him to continue to tell the stories worth telling. He would like to thank Mom and Dad, Ethan and Conor, Aunt Vicki, Papaw, and Mimi for their support in making his life passion possible. Insta: @jared_hoover

Matthew Kacergis* (Dr. Pomatter) is overjoyed to make his Milwaukee debut with Skylight Music Theatre. Favorite performance credits: Prince Eric on the National Tour of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*, Joe Gillis in *Sunset Boulevard*, Tony in *Billy Elliott*, Marius in *Les Misérables*, Younger Brother in *Ragtime*, and Georg Novack in *She Loves Me*. Thanks to Lisa and the Skylight team for this wonderful opportunity. Love to Katy. Proud AEA and SAG-AFTRA member and Associate Member of SDC. MatthewKacergis.com

Danielle Katers (Nurse Norma/Ensemble) is deeply honored to be making her Skylight Music Theatre debut! Recently she had the amazing opportunity to portray Ma' Riley in the Midwest Debut of *The Clockmaker's Daughter* at the Lake Country Playhouse. Danielle has also been seen at the Racine Theatre Guild as Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, The Witch in *Into The Woods*, and as a soloist in a number of their Signature Spotlight Series concerts. When not on stage singing about pie, Danielle works for PIE (Professional Interpreting Enterprise) as a certified American Sign Language interpreter. She sends an immense amount of love and gratitude to Ryan, Layla, Kellen, and Kieran for supporting her passion.

18 Skylight Music Theatre

BIOS CONTINUED

Julia Levinson (Jenna) is thrilled to be making her Skylight debut in *Waitress!* Favorite credits include Nellie in *South Pacific*, Guinevere in *Camelot*, Betty in *White Christmas* and Nicola in *Kinky Boots*. She is a proud graduate of the Manhattan School of Music. She would like to thank her family and all of the strong and powerful women in her life that helped inspire her "Jenna." Thank you for the sugar, butter and flour. @julialev

Abby McBee (Ensemble/Dance Captain) is ecstatic to be making her Skylight debut in one of her favorite musicals! She is a senior BFA Musical Theatre/Dance Minor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Recent credits include: *Kinky Boots* (Milan Stage Manager/Dance Captain), *Hello Dolly!* (Minnie Fay), *All Night Strut* (Rosie/ Associate Choreographer), *Heathers* (Young Republicanette) & *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (Flo/Company). Keep up with her on Instagram @abby.m17

Alex Merkel (Dawn) is a recent graduate from Marquette University and is absolutely ecstatic to be making her Skylight debut in *Waitress!* Recent university credits include Mrs. Lovett in *Sweeney Todd*, #7 in *The Wolves*, Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Lisa/U.S Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* Special thanks to her Marquette professors, as well as her friends and family for their endless support... and audition prep as well!

Mary Nink (Ensemble/Jenna Understudy) Skylight Music Theatre debut! Mary has a Master of Music from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts from Saint Louis University. Select credits include *Heroes Forged in the Flame* and *A Broadway Holiday* at 54 Below. Thank you to God, my family, Matt, and my friends. Instagram: @mary_nink

Josh Pope (Ensemble/Ogie Understudy) is ecstatic to return to SMT for this heartwarming production of *Waitress!* His past Skylight credits include ensemble in *SuperYou*, and the external cover for *Candide* in *Candide* and *Sonny in Xanadu*. Other recent roles include Jesus in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Sunset Playhouse, Frederick Fellows in *Noises Off!* and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* at Falls Patio Players. As a MKE local, he also performs with Bel Canto Chorus. He sends love and pie to his parents!

Annie Tajnai (Lulu Understudy) Annie Tajnai (6) is so excited to be a part of this amazing production! Annie was previously in *The Wizard of Oz* as a munchkin. She absolutely loves performing and singing. She'd like to thank Skylight for this incredible opportunity and her parents (Ben and Sarah) and siblings (Joey Melody and Lily) for their support!

Melody Tajnai (Lulu) Melody Tajnai (4) is over the moon to be joining the spectacular cast of Skylight's *Waitress the Musical* as Lulu. Melody is true to her name and is always singing and dancing throughout life. She would like to thank the staff at Skylight for this wonderful opportunity and her loving family (Ben, Sarah, Joey, Annie, and Lily).

William Toney (Ensemble) is a Milwaukee native Bass-Baritone, whose passion is using his voice to make a connection with his audience. He received his BA in Vocal Performance from University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Some past roles include Joseph in *The Black Nativity* By Langston Hughes, Wolf from *Into the Woods* (Sondheim), Gianni Schicchi from the opera *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini), and Coalhouse Walker Jr. from *Ragtime* (Flaherty). You can follow William on Instagram @williamtoneybass

D Eric Woolweber (Ensemble/ Dr. Pomatter Understudy) A native of SE Wisconsin, D Eric has performed globally aboard Crystal Cruises; in the Chicago area with Bailiwick Arts Center, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, Theatre at the Center and Music Theatre Works; in Branson with Dolly Parton's Stampede, Silver Dollar City and the Clay Cooper Theater; in the Milwaukee/Madison area with MKE Rep, First Stage, Forward Theater Co, Renaissance Theaterworks and this is his second appearance with Skylight Music Theatre. 143 mum and Gale

Andrew Varela* (Cal) Broadway/National Tours- *Les Miserables* (Jean Valjean, Javert) *Phantom of the Opera* (The Phantom), *Little Women* (Prof. Bhaer), Roundabout's *Sunday in the Park with George* (Jules); *South Pacific* in concert at Carnegie Hall. Skylight credits include *Candide* (Pangloss), *Evita* (Peron), *Sweeney Todd* (Sweeney), *Les Miserables* (Javert), *Wizard of Oz* (Lion), *The Pirates of Penzance* (Pirate King), *Annie* (Warbucks) and *Kiss Me Kate* (Fred). Other Milwaukee theatre includes MKE Rep,

BIOS CONTINUED

First Stage, Florentine Opera, In Tandem, Optimist Theatre. Film/TV- NBC's *Chicago Justice*, *Chicago Fire*, Showtime's *The Chi*, and numerous commercials. AndrewVarela.com IG/X: @AndrewVarela525. For Susan.

Robert A. Zimmerman (Joe) After over 45 years of theatre all over Southeastern Wisconsin, Bob is elated to finally make his Skylight debut. His passion for all things stage-related includes acting, directing, producing, writing, graphics, scenic design and sweeping the boards. Some of his favorite past roles are Max Bialystock in *The Producers*, Tevye in *Fiddler* and Noah in *Two By Two*. Bob is grateful for his family and friends who have always encouraged him.

CREATIVE TEAM

Trey Compton (Co-Director) A New York City-based director, regional directing credits include: The Fulton, Riverside, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, The Engeman, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, Millbrook, Mac-Haydn, and Cortland Repertory. As an assistant or associate director, Off-Broadway credits include *Yank!* (The York) and *White's Lies* (New World Stages.) Also, multiple credits regionally at Seattle 5th Avenue, Goodspeed, and The Ogunquit Playhouse. He has directed at various Universities and Colleges including Penn, Georgetown, Stephens, Nazareth, and his alma mater, Pace University. Upcoming, *Who's Holiday* at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera. treycompton.com

Lisa Shriver* (Co-Director/Co-Choreographer)** is thrilled to return to Skylight! Broadway: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Farnsworth Invention*, *The Story of My Life*, *Ring of Fire*. Selected Off-B'way/Regional: *Into the Woods* (Roundabout Theatre Co; *The Old Globe*; Menier Chocolate Factory); *Rock of Ages* (The 5th Avenue); *Austen's Pride* (Carnegie Hall). *Beautiful* (Village Theatre) Film: *A Beautiful Mind*, Disney's *A Christmas Carol*. TV: *A Very Murray Christmas*, *Broad City*, *The Detour*, *Evil*. Other: Phish (Madison Square Garden), Disney Cruise Line, and Busch Gardens.

Katy Tabb* (Co-Choreographer)** is a Seattle-based choreographer, director, performer, and teaching artist. She is honored to be a part of the *Waitress* team in her Skylight debut! Select choreography: *Come From Away* (Theatre Aspen); *Spring*

Awakening, *Sweeney Todd* (The 5th Ave. Theatre); *Billy Elliot*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Newsies*, *Cinderella*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Fantasticks* (Village Theatre). Her work has also been seen at Olney Theatre Center, Taproot Theatre Co., Cornish College of the Arts, and Seattle Symphony.

Janna Ernst (Music Director) With over 25 years of coaching and music directing experience, Janna Ernst has performed at opera and theater houses all over the country. She held teaching positions at major universities and currently resides in Shorewood with her husband and two daughters. Janna has a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from San Diego State University, a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Vocal Specialist degree from the University of Michigan.

Louis B. Crocco* (Production Stage Manager) National Tours: *A Soldiers Play* starring Norm Lewis, *All Things Equal - The Life and Trials of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*, and *Menopause the Musical*. When not stage managing, Louis is a podcast host for *The Loyal Littles Podcast* www.loyallittlespod.com and is also an accomplished Actor / Musician / Director. Favorite productions include National Tours of Disney's *High School Musical*, *Rent*, *Irving Berlin's White Christmas*, and *Cheek to Cheek*. He would like to thank Megan for all her love and support and dedicate his stage management work on this production to the late Thomas Gates.

Jordan Ilyssa Angelo (Resident Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be a part of this beautiful production, making it her 16th show with Skylight! Originally from Rhode Island, Jordan relocated to Milwaukee to pursue her love of theatre. Skylight favorites include *From Here to Eternity*, *SuperYou*, and Dennis DeYoung's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Select Rhode Island credits: *42nd Street*, *The Sound of Music* (Theatre By The Sea), and *The Secret Garden* (Epic Theatre Company). Much love to her family, 3 kitties, and Steve.

Sami Pekelnicky (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be back at Skylight! Originally from Georgia, she is a UW-Whitewater alum who stayed in Wisconsin and never left. This is her 9th show with Skylight, having previously worked on select favorites *From Here To Eternity*, *School of Rock*, and *Noises Off*.

BIOS CONTINUED

Jonathan Berg-Einhorn (Set Designer)

(he/him) is a Chicago based scenic designer. Favorite design credits include *Hand to God* (Paramount Theatre); *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (Mercury Theater); *The Reclamation of Madison Hemmings* (American Blues Theater); *The Spongebob Musical* (Kokandy Productions); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* (Haven Theatre); *The Producers* (Music Theater Works); *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Christians* (Citadel); Associate designer for *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me* (Porchlight); *Babel*, *Isaac's Eye* (Jeff nominated, Redtwist).
Jonathanbergeinhorn.com.

Lisa Quinn (Costume Designer) is excited to add Designer to her list of jobs here at Skylight. Lisa has been costume designing in Milwaukee for the last decade. Favorite design shows include *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Chorus Line*, *Something Rotten*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Mamma Mia!* (Sunset), *Hello Dolly!*, *Little Mermaid*, *Joseph...*, *Newsies!* (area high schools), *Firebringer*, *Preludes*, *Tartuffe* (area college and professional theaters). Thank you to William for all the things.

Rachel West (Lighting Designer) Based in Chicago, Rachel is thrilled to be designing at Skylight Music Theatre for the first time! She is the Lighting Director for Porchlight Music Theater, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *I Am A Camera*. She is also a proud Artistic Affiliate of American Blues Theatre, *The Reclamation of Madison Hemings*, *Alma*, *Fences*. She is a graduate of the Boston University School of Theatre.

Steve Tonar (Sound Designer) is excited to be back designing at Skylight Music Theatre. He was last heard designing sound for Skylight's *Spring Awakening* and seen designing lights for Skylight's production of *Raisin*. Past favorite design credits at Skylight include *School of Rock* and *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me*. Steve is a freelance lighting designer, sound designer, and photographer based in Milwaukee, as well as Technical Director at Greenfield High School. For Rexxy, Beary, Cleo, and Jordan.

Amaya Rockett (Props Supervisor) is excited to be working on Skylight's production of *Waitress*. She has been involved in Milwaukee theatre for almost 5 years. Previously set designing shows such as *The Forgotten Girl* (First Stage), *AIDA*

(Waukesha Civic Theatre) and *Zuri's Crown* (Bronzeville Arts Ensemble). Her previous Properties work includes *Black Arts MKE's Mudrow*, and UW-Milwaukee's *Piggsville* and *Into The Woods*.

Wendy Ann (Scenic Artist, she/her) is a rising phoenix. She loves painting scenery and has done so for almost 20 years. She is also a veteran Prop Designer having built well over 50 shows, including a Chicago Jeff award; all with companies such as The Chautauqua Institute, Porchlight, Joffrey Ballet, Peninsula Players, Children's Theatre of Madison, Pegasus, St. Norbert College, NEWDO's Nutcracker, and Wesleyan University to name a few. She is an alumni of AmeriCorps NCCC, a national service program.

Michael Unger (Artistic Director) For Skylight, Michael has directed Dennis DeYoung's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (nine BroadwayWorld Awards – including Best Director and Best Musical), the Deaf and Hearing production of *Spring Awakening*, *School of Rock*, *Noises Off*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Jolly Holiday: Celebrating Disney's Broadway Hits*, as well as *Me, Myself and I* for Skylight's Education program. Amongst many virtual offerings, he directed Skylight's BroadwayWorld Award-winning *Being Earnest*, now available worldwide online. He was previously the Associate Artistic Director of Off-Broadway's York Theatre; credits there included *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Big*. For nine years, he was the Producing Artistic Director of NewArts, started with a local father in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy; directing 17 productions working with over 650 area-children. Other selected directing credits include *A Christmas Carol* (McCarter Theatre for 18 years), *Two Point Oh* (NY Times Critics' Pick), *Time Stands Still* (Cape Cod Chronicle Best 2015), *My Sister in This House* (Deaf West, Ovation Recommended), and new versions of Kander and Ebb's *The Happy Time* and *The Rink*. World premieres include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Caligula*, and *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream* (featured in the award-winning documentary film "Midsummer in Newtown"). He has directed 14 operas plus benefit concerts honoring Susan Stroman, André DeShields, Maltby and Shire, and Leslie Uggams, as well as for the communities of Sandy Hook, CT and Parkland, FL.

BIOS CONTINUED

Susan Varela (Executive Director) Originally from Milwaukee and a graduate of UW-Stevens Point, her professional career as a performer landed her in New York City for 20 years. She performed on Broadway in *Les Misérables* and at Radio City Music Hall in *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*. Other notable performances include *Jo March* in *Little Women: The Musical*; *Grizabella* in *Cats* and *Eva Peron* in *Evita*. Susan performed in world premieres at both the Denver Center Theater (for their Tony-award winning season) and the Yale Repertory Theater. Before joining the Skylight staff in 2019, she appeared on the Cabot stage in *Sweeney Todd*, *Into the Woods*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Les Misérables*. Susan has produced, directed, performed and written for the stage and television alongside her husband, actor Andrew Varela. Susan serves on the Board of Directors for The Historic Third Ward Association and Brew City Opera.

Sara Bareilles (Composer and Lyricist) can next be seen starring in Tina Fey's series, *GIRLS5EVA*. Bareilles first achieved mainstream critical praise in 2007 with her widely successful hit "Love Song," which reached No. 1 in 22 countries around the world from her debut album *Little Voice*. Since then, Sara has gone on to receive seven Grammy® nominations throughout her career, which include Song of the Year and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for "Love Song" and one Album of the Year for her highly acclaimed third studio album, *The Blessed Unrest*. Her book, *Sounds Like Me: My Life (So Far) in Song*, was released in the fall of 2015 by Simon & Schuster and is a New York Times best seller. Making her Broadway debut, Sara composed the music and lyrics for *Waitress*, for which she received her first Tony® Award nomination for Best Score and a 2017 Grammy® Award nomination for Best Musical Theater Album. She also made her Broadway acting debut in 2017 by stepping into the lead role in *Waitress*. 2018 was a big year for Sara, she co-hosted the Tony Awards®, was nominated for an Emmy® and Grammy® for her role in *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert* and was awarded with the Songwriters Hall of Fame's Hal David Starlight Award. Sara also teamed up with Apple as an executive producer for *Little Voice* a 10-episode series, for which she created the original music. *What's Inside: Songs from Waitress*, her most recent solo studio album, is out on Epic Records. On April 5, 2019 Sara released her fifth full-length and

first album of original material since 2013, entitled *Amidst the Chaos*. For this latest body of work, she joined forces in the studio with legendary Academy® Award-winning producer T Bone Burnett. As a result, the album spotlights her voice as a singer and storyteller like never before, while making an enduring statement.

Jessie Nelson (Book) wrote the musical *Waitress* with music and lyrics by Sara Bareilles. The show played on Broadway for 4 years and moved to the West End in London. Sara and Jessie went on to create the show *Little Voice* which they Executive Produced with JJ Abrams for Apple TV. Jessie wrote, directed and produced *Corrina Corrina* and *I Am Sam* starring Sean Penn, who received an Academy Award® nomination for his performance. Among her other directing credits are *Curb Your Enthusiasm* and *Love, the Coopers* with Diane Keaton. Her writing credits include *Step Mom* and *The Story of Us*. She produced *Fred Claus* and *Danny Collins*. In London, Jessie directed *Alice By Heart* which she co-wrote with Steven Sater with music by Duncan Sheik at the National Theater Connections Program and again at MCC in NYC. She began her career as an actress at the Public Theater working with the award-winning experimental theater Mabou Mines and at the New York Shakespeare Festival. She wrote the children's book *Labradabra*. She has been the Artistic Director of the Sundance Screenwriters Lab.

Adrienne Shelly (Film) was born in Queens, New York, to Elaine Langbaum and Sheldon Levine. After graduating Jericho High School in Jericho, New York, she enrolled at Boston University and majored in film production. She dropped out after her junior year and moved to Manhattan, where she made a name for herself in independent films with her work in *The Unbelievable Truth* (1989) and *Trust* (1990). She eventually moved behind the camera, writing and directing *I'll Take You There* (1999) and *Waitress* (2007) (her final film).

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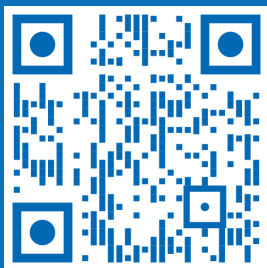


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