

2024-2025 SEASON

APRIL 4 - 27, 2025 www.SMTMKE.org SKYLIGHT'S 65TH SEASON Milwaukee's Home for Music Theatre

















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Michael Unger
Artistic Director

Susan Varela

Executive Director





Music ALAN MENKEN

Lyrics
GLENN SLATER

Book
CHERI & BILL STEINKELLNER

Additional Book Material DOUGLAS CARTER BEANE

Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture "Sister Act" written by Joseph Howard

April 4 - 27, 2025 | Cabot Theatre | Broadway Theatre Center

Orchestrations by **Doug Besterman** Vocal and Incidental Music Arrangements by **Michael Kosarin** Dance Music Arrangements by **Mark Hummel**

Directed by

Molly Rhode

Choreography **Alexis J. Roston**

Costume Designer

Music Direction

Alissa Rhode

Lighting/Projection Designer

Sound Designer

John Tanner

Jonathan Berg-Einhorn
Production Stage Manager
Emily Wright*

Scenic Designer

Bobby Sharon Smooch Medina

Resident Assistant Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Manager
Mallory Topel

Produced on Broadway by Whoopi Goldberg & Stage Entertainment in association with

The Shubert Organization and Disney Theatrical Productions

Originally Production Developed in Association with Peter Schneider & Michael Reno And Produced by Stage Entertainment

World Premiere Produced by

Jordan Ilyssa Angelo

Pasadena Playhouse, Pasadena, CA Sheldon Epps, Artistic Director Lyla White, Executive Director Tom Ware, Producing Director

and

Alliance Theatre, Alliance Theatre, Atlanta, GA Susan V. Both, Artistic Director Tom Pechar, Managing Director

SISTER ACT Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

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www.mtishows.com

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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.



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

A NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR OF SISTER ACT



How can it be that we are on the final production of our 65th season already? Time flies when you're making art. And having fun. Speaking on behalf of all of us here at Skylight, it is our joy to do what we do, and a privilege to create the magic you see on this stage. As we look back on the past four productions of this season, I am proud of the variety of material we have presented, and of every individual in this building who has contributed to our success thus far. Each show has been ambitious and our teams have leapt way beyond expectations to create shows filled with wonder and wow. Our current production, Sister Act, promises to be no different.

Sister Act truly is, indeed, a sister act, as it is led by the mighty Rhode sisters - Molly directing, with sixteen Skylight productions to her credit onstage and off, Alissa music directing, making her Skylight debut. We also have Alexis J. Roston, returning to Skylight for her choreographic debut after having performed here in Hot Mikado. This Sister Act is a joy-fest for the record books filled with great heart and humor. Like Deloris Van Cartier, we may sometimes find ourselves in surprisingly challenging situations; and in the process of learning how to navigate our way through those experiences, we learn a great deal about ourselves and may unwittingly inspire others along the way.

Being true to yourself is a theme that runs throughout this brilliant musical, penned by some of Broadway's (and Hollywood's) finest writers. The indomitable spirit of Deloris is infectious and through her own brand of glorified music, she changes the perspective of those around her. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time lands Deloris in the right place at the right time.

I have had the honor of working with *Sister Act* composer Alan Menken on several occasions, one of which was the Broadway production of *King David* in 1997. Andrew Varela was in that show and during that process, I met my future and current "partner in crime" here at Skylight, Susan Varela. When I directed Menken's *Newsies* in Newtown, CT in 2019, he visited a rehearsal one day and sat down to do a 20-minute impromptu concert - inspiring 100 young theatre kids beyond imagination. Mr. Menken is not only one of Broadway's and Hollywood's finest writers, but he is also one of the kindest.



Deloris inspires and raises spirits and roofs in equal measure, teaching all who come within her sphere, willingly or not, that music can both break down barriers and elevate the sacred and mundane in extraordinary ways. That is the best of what theatre can do: uplift all who are witness.

We at Skylight also spend our lives and livelihoods hoping that our stories and music can help our audiences transcend the challenges of our world – and inspire all of you, like Deloris, in uncharted and unexpected ways. The varied titles of next year's 66th season promise to do the same: lift spirits with five more stories that will bring re-imagined inspiration, joy, passion, redemption, and hilarity to the beautiful Cabot Theatre.

We thank you for joining us today as we close out our 65th season. May you all enjoy a great summer of "intermission," and we will hope to see you at least five times during our 66th season!





A NOTE FROM THE

I grew up in the Catholic Church. Good Shephard was our parish in Menomonee Falls, and my parents were in the Music Group for the 9:15 Mass every Sunday. My mother played piano, my father played string bass, there were three guitars, and I wanted to grow up to be the lady that sang alto and played tambourine. So for me, church always meant music. I love that about this show--how the two are inextricably linked. Music is a way that we worship, a way we transcend, a way to connect in community and see beyond ourselves.

Sometimes, making a joyful noise is an act of rebellion.

We aim to keep at it, because joy is infectious, and we all need more of it. Sing loud, sing proud, and spread the love around!

-Molly Rhode, Director of Sister Act

A NOTE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



At its heart, Sister Act is a joyful celebration of unexpected friendships—how strangers can become the most important people in our lives, enriching us in ways we never imagined. At Skylight Music Theatre, we are deeply grateful for the incredible patrons who have become part of our family, supporting us through every high note and harmony.

Your presence and passion make our work possible, and we look forward to sharing many more unforgettable moments together.

Thank you for an incredible 65th season... and for being an essential part of our journey!

Susan Varela
-Susan Varela, Executive Director







Deloris Van Cartier	Mona Swain
Mother Superior	Janet Metz*
Sister Mary Robert	Hope Riesterer
Sister Mary Patrick	Amanda Satchell
Sister Mary Lazarus/Ensemble	Laura Monagle
Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours/Ensemble	Nicole McCarty
Sister Mary Theresa/Ensemble	Jenny Rudnick
Curtis	Shawn Holmes
Eddie Souther/Ensemble	Dennis Lewis
TJ/Ensemble	Rashard "Rai" Hudson
Joey/Ensemble	Miss Kyle Blair
Pablo/Ensemble	Tomás Dominguez
Monsignor O'Hara/Ernie	Robby McGhee
Michelle/Ensemble	Courtney Giovanazzo
Tina/Ensemble	Jasmine Johnson
Ensemble	Rachel Bednarowski, William Toney

Dance Captain

Rachel Bednarowski

UNDERSTUDIES

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

For Deloris - Jasmine Johnson; For Mother Superior - Laura Monagle;
For Sister Mary Robert - Courtney Giovanazzo; For Sister Mary Lazarus - Jenny Rudnick;
For Monsignor O'Hara - Miss Kyle Blair; For Eddie, Curtis, Joey, Pablo, TJ - William Toney;
For Sister Mary Patrick, Sister Mary Theresa,

Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours, Michelle, Tina - Rachel Bednarowski

Sister Act has a runtime of 2 hours and 30 minutes, including a 20 minute intermission.

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

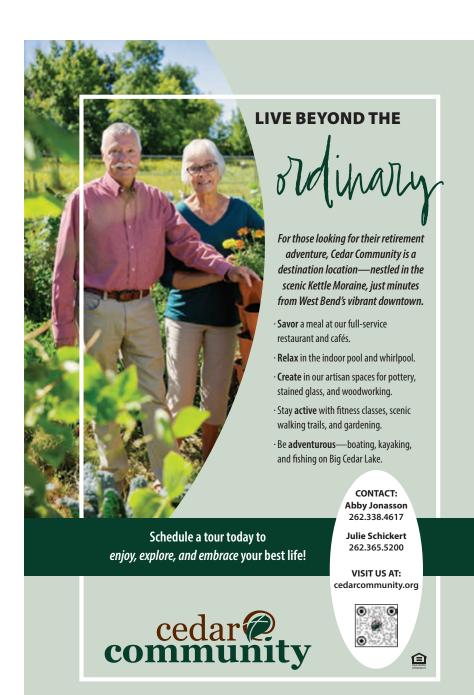
MUSICAL NUMBERS

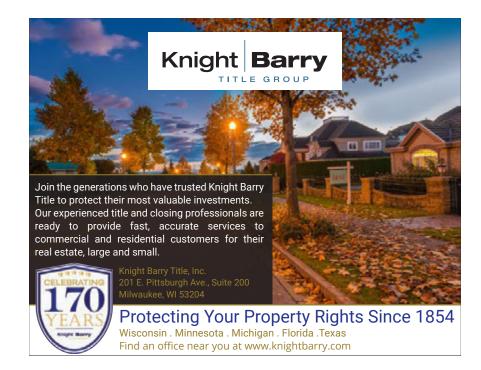
	ACT1
Take Me to Heaven	Deloris, Michelle, Tina
Fabulous, Baby!	Deloris, Michelle, Tina
Here Within These Walls	Mother Superior, Deloris
It's Good to Be a Nun	Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns
When I Find My Baby	Curtis, Joey, Pablo, TJ
I Could Be That Guy	Eddie, Bums
Raise Your Voice	Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns
	Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns
	ACT 2
Sunday Morning Fever Deloris, Mother Superior, Monsignor O'Hara, Eddie, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns, Workers	
Lady in the Long Black Dress	Joey, Pablo, TJ
Haven't Got a Prayer	Mother Superior
Bless Our Show	Deloris, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns
The Life I Never Led	Mary Robert
Fabulous, Baby! (Reprise)	Deloris, Eddie, Nuns, Fantasy Dancers
Sister Act	Deloris
When I Find My Baby (Reprise	e) Curtis
The Life I Never Led (Reprise)	Mary Robert
Sister Act (Reprise)	Deloris, Mother Superior, Mary Patrick, Mary Robert, Mary Lazarus, Nuns

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

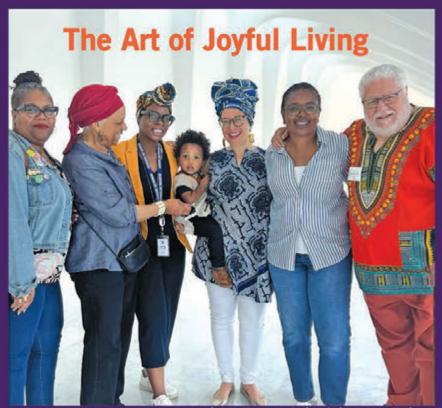
Director of Production and	Facilities	Terry Harper
Head Carpenter/Fleet Ma	nager	Islay Reed
Resident Assistant Stage N	1anager	Jordan Ilyssa Angelo
Assistant Stage Manager		Mallory Topel
Scenic Carpenters	Michael Boyle, Eryn Brenner, Bia Jonnie Painter, Na	nca Gonzalez, Austin Hobbs, thaniel Unger, Mark Warden
Scenic Painter	N	ora Brooks, Devin Meseke
Properties Supervisor		Amaya Rockett
Props Artisan		Ava Rodriguez
Lighting Supervisor		Dovie Roberts
Electricians		Zoe Lucas, Eden Skoug
Fly/Deck Crew		Nathaniel Unger
Follow Spot Operators		Zoe Lucas, Dovie Roberts
Audio/Video Supervisor		Jack Albert
Audio Assistant/Deck Crev		Kenan Pulver
Costume Director		Jeanne Schrank
Wardrobe Supervisor		Courteney Shipley
Stitchers	. Brooke Wallo, Shima Orans, Jude	Martina, Jamie Mercado
Wardrobe Crew	Brooke Wallo, A	ngeline Holtzman-Forbes
Wig Stylist		Elle Bayuk
Fight and Intimacy Directo	r	Marcee Doherty
Assistant to the Director		Eva Nimmer
Assistant Choreographer		Rueben Echoles
Graphic Design Support		Rylee Zuniga
Photographer		Mark Frohna
Videographers	Tro	veling Lemur Productions

Special thanks to Lisa Quinn, Sunset Playhouse, Alexandra Schaller, Fireside Dinner Theater, Erica Cartledge, Jordyn Meyer, Florentine Opera Company, The Milwaukee Ballet, Colleen Scott Trivett, Theresa Hughes, Santa Rosa Junior College, Matt Wanner at Muskego High School, Carole and Phil Walthers, Prather Entertainment Group (www.PratherTheatres.com)









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Charles Chung, M.D.

Obstetrics & Gynecology Dr. Chung received his medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He provides a full range of general gynecologic services, low- and high-risk obstetrics, and GYN surgeries utilizing hysteroscopic, laparoscopic, and open approaches. Dr. Chung looks forward to starting a conversation, listening to your concerns, and working diligently to help



WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

BIOS



Rachel Bednarowski



Courtney Giovinazzo



Dennis Lewis



Janet Metz*



Hope Riesterer



Miss Kyle Blair



Shawn **Holmes**



Nicole McCarty



Monagle



Jenny Rudnick



William



Tomás Dominguez



Rashard "Rai" Hudson



Robby McGhee



Jasmine Ridgell Johnson



Amanda Satchell



Toney

Rachel Bednarowski (Ensemble) is thrilled to be returning to Skylight after Oliver! earlier this season! Other favorite credits include Xanadu (Skylight), Mamma Mia! (GCT), 9 to 5 (UWM), and The Marvelous Wonderettes (AEP). Additionally, she teaches and directs at the Fine Arts Academy in Muskego, WI. Rachel holds a BFA in Musical Theatre and minors in Dance Performance and Music from UW-Milwaukee. Love to Gavin, Mom & Dad, family, friends and mentors. Spread the love around! @rachel.bednarowski.pope

Miss Kyle Blair (Joey/Ensemble) Celebrates their Third show at Skylight! Miss Kyle has spent a sizeable portion of their career in international waters, performing with Disney Cruise Line as Kings, Clocks, and Genies, and originating the role of Hook Hand in Tangled: the Musical. They have worked regionally in Chicago, Portland, Memphis, Arizona, and Colorado; with the National Players - America's Longest-Running Touring Company (Olney, MD); and sometimes performs in drag as @greatauntmavis. Love to family and forever friends. Hi, Georgia!

Tomás Dominguez (Pablo/Ensemble) is a Wisconsin native who performs locally and abroad in various music ensembles and on stage. He holds performance degrees from DePaul University and UW-Eau Claire. Recent credits include Cosí fan tutte, Amahl and the Night Visitors, All is Calm, The Importance of Being Earnest, Songs for a New World, Little Shop of Horrors, and Mary Poppins. He is grateful for the love and support from his family and friends. QEPD EGD

Courtney Giovinazzo (Michelle/Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Skylight debut this season. Some of her favorite previous credits include Amneris in AIDA, Peggy in 42nd Street, Dorothy in Wizard of Oz, Ella in Cinderella, and Sophie in Mamma Mia! Sending love to her family, 143 to D Eric, IG: shortney318

Shawn Holmes (Curtis) is a local actor/singer based in Milwaukee. He has been performing with theatres all throughout Wisconsin, Some theatres include Florentine Opera, First Stage, Middleton Players Theatre, Black Arts MKE, and Four Seasons Theatre. Some of his favorite past performances were Coalhouse Walker Jr. in Ragtime (winner of Best Actor in a Musical - Broadway World), Sebastian the Crab in The Little Mermaid, and Jacob in La Cage aux Folles (winner of Best Supporting Actor in a Musical - Footlights). Outside of performing on stage, Shawn works in an emergency department as a registered nurse. Follow him on social media: @Gynepe

Rashard "Rai" Hudson (TJ/Ensemble) is a musician, songwriter, and producer known for his unique, androgynous style. A former American Idol contestant, Rai creates music for TV and film with Warner Chappell and MidCoast Music. He recently played Thalia in Xanadu at Skylight Music Theatre and has danced under renowned choreographer Frank Gatson Jr. Rai also performs and co-produces shows like Vaudeville Vixens and Caba-Rai. Follow him on Instagram @raihudson.

Dennis Lewis (Eddie Souther/Ensemble) is thrilled to be here with you all making his Skylight debut. Theater credits include: Montrellous (U/S) in CLYDE'S at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre. Frederick Douglass in *The Agitators* at Acacia Theatre, and Hanschen Rillow in Spring Awakening at Three Brothers Theatre. When offstage, Dennis can be found serving his hometown as a Lieutenant on the Milwaukee Fire Department.

Nicole McCarty (Sister Mary Martin-of-Tours/ **Ensemble)** holds a BM in music education from UW-Whitewater and an MM in vocal performance from UW-Milwaukee. Her recent stage credits include Ensemble in Spring Awakening at Skylight Music Theatre, Ruth Younger in A Raisin in the Sun with the Fleeing Artists, and Martha Dunnstock in Heathers the Musical with Outskirts Theatre. As a music director in Milwaukee, her recent credits include A Christmas Carol, Annie Jr., Into the Woods Jr., and Peter and the Starcatcher.

Robby McGhee (Monsignor O'Hara/Ernie) is an actor with over 20 years of experience gracing stages in the Milwaukee area. In the winter of 2023, he was awarded Best Actor at the New York Theatre Festival in the original production of Paradise. Robby has become a familiar face to local theatergoers, particularly at the Greendale Community Theatre. Robby's previous work at Skylight includes Violet and The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. He is deeply grateful for the dedication to hiring Milwaukee talent and to be part of such a special production. Samantha Sostarich, this one is for you - always my Rona Lisa Peretti.

Janet Metz (Mother Superior)* Broadway: Once Upon A Mattress, Marie Christine, On the Town, Fiddler... Off-Broadway: Bingo (Drama League nomination), Falsettoland, I Love You, You're Perfect..., Big, Lucky Stiff, Stars of David, Hurrah at Last, I Love NY (Bistro Award). Tours: Joseph... (Narrator opposite Donny Osmond - platinum recording), The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stop the World..., Music of the Night, Fame. Regional: Harmony (Drama-Loque Award), The Spitfire Grill, Casino Paradise, The Rink, Mack and

Mona

Swain

BIOS CONTINUED

BIOS CONTINUED

Mabel, Funny Girl, Sunday in the Park..., A Christmas Carol. At Skylight: Full Monty, Hunchback.., An Evening with Sir Tim Rice Concert. Twelve original cast recordings.

Laura Monagle (Sister Mary Lazarus/Ensemble) is sanctifunkadelically delighted to be back at Skylight Music Theatre! Also seen onstage with The Fireside Theatre, Bombshell, Optimist, Boulevard, Outskirts, Sunset and others. Favorite roles: Diana Goodman in Next to Normal, Donna Sheridan in Mamma Mial, Sally Durant in Follies, The Witch in Into the Woods, Tamora in Titus Andronicus, Ouisa in Six Degrees of Separation. Grateful for this fabulous cast and crew. Laura's mom will be glad Laura is finally a nun.

Jasmine Ridgell Johnson (Tina/Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Skylight debut after a five-year hiatus from theatre. She has been on several local stages, most notably as Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act at Racine Theatre Guild and Joanne in RENT at Rhode Center for the Arts. Jasmine would like to thank her husband for his unwavering support...and for entertaining the kids (4- and 1-year-old) while she enjoys her passion.

Hope Riesterer (Sister Mary Robert) feels privileged to bring to life this dream role in her fourth Skylight production. Recent performance credits: Bet in Oliver!, Thea in Spring Awakening, Sophie Sheridan in Mamma Mia!, Amber Von Tussle in Hairspray, Malvolio in Twelfth Night, and the Kids from Wisconsin tour for four seasons! Hope also has a passion for choreographing and is a recent recipient of the "Outstanding Choreography" Jerry Award from the Overture Center of the Arts.

Jenny Rudnick (Sister Mary Theresa/Ensemble) is excited to venture 'up north' to Skylight for the first time. Chicago area roles: Madame Armfeldt in A Little Night Music at Theo, Grandma in The Addams Family at Metropolis, Sister Mary Lazarus in Sister Act at the Mercury Theater, Mama Murphy in Bright Star with Boho, and Caesar Rodney in 1776 at Porchlight Music Theatre. Jenny is also a CPA and works with non-profit organizations.

Amanda Satchell (Sister Mary Patrick) previous Skylight roles include: a soloist in An Evening With Sir Tim Rice, Rosie in Mamma Mia!, Bourgeoisie in Dennis DeYoung's The Hunchback of Notre Dame, and Claire in Fortunate Sons. Recent performances as Teagarden in a staged reading of Lily and the Pirates at First Stage, DeeDee in The

PROM at Bombshell and Meredith in Batboy at Outskirts. A proud mother, wife, educator, and graduate of the University of Michigan's Musical Theatre program. Love my roots!

Mona Swain (Deloris Van Cartier) is thrilled to be making her Skylight Theatre debut! Aside from her theatrical achievements, she has also built a social media following of more than 2 million people across her platforms (@monaswain). Credits: Tina Turner (Alternate) in TINA: The Tina Turner Musical in the 2nd Broadway National Tour, Serena in Legally Blonde at City Springs Theatre, Disco Donna (U/S) in Summer: The Donna Summer Musical at the Aurora Theatre.

William Toney (Ensemble) is a Bass-Baritone who loves to make a connection with his audience. He received his BA in Vocal Performance from UWM. Some past roles include Joseph in The Black Nativity by Langston Hughes with Black Arts MKE, The Wolf in Into the Woods at UWM, ensemble in Waitress at Skylight Music Theatre, and Coalhouse Walker Jr. in Ragtime at American Gothic Performing Arts Festival. You can follow William on Instagram @williamtoneybass.

CREATIVE TEAM

Molly Rhode (Director) Molly's largest directing projects have all been right here! At Skylight, she staged Newsies, Annie, Les Miserables, and Sound of Music. She's also been onstage as Melpomene in Xanadu, Ulla in The Producers, Sally Bowles in Cabaret, as well as Pump Boys and Dinettes, Chicago, Hello Dolly and others. Molly enjoys making a career in theaters across Wisconsin. She is the Artistic Director of Northern Sky Theater in Door County, where she's helped bring 30 world premieres to the stage. Molly is also on the leadership team of World Premiere Wisconsin, planning now for the state's second festival year in 2026!

Alexis J. Roston (Choreographer) is honored to make her Skylight choreography debut. She was last seen with Skylight in *The Hot Mikado* as Pitti-Sing. Roston received her official Musical Theatre training at Howard University, where the mediums of acting, music, and dance were regarded with equal reverence. Her professional choreography career began at the right hand of friend and colleague Rueben D. Echoles. Over many years, Roston served as assistant to his choreography genius at Chicago's Black Ensemble Theater.

Alissa Rhode (Music Director) returns to Skylight after serving as Associate Music Director for Newsies. She has worked for most of Milwaukee's professional theatres and assisted in developing 20+ original musicals for Northern Sky Theater in Door County. Alissa is the composer of Girls On Sand, Sunflowered, Dairy Heirs, and Victory for Victoria. She holds a Bachelors in Music Composition, Masters in Liberal Studies, and is a proud member of ASCAP, Dramatists Guild, and Maestra Music.

Eva Nimmer (Assistant to the Director) is a multidisciplinary theatre artist whose work has been featured on stages across Wisconsin, including recent credits with Milwaukee Repertory Theater (Lumberjacks in Love, The Nativity Variations); Next Act Theatre (God's Spies, The Revolutionists); Renaissance Theaterworks (Witch, Actually); and Peninsula Players Theatre (Write Me a Murder, Ripcord). She is, along with Joel Kopischke and Alissa Rhode, co-author of the musical Dairy Heirs, which will be produced at Northern Sky Theater this summer. www.evanimmer.com

Rueben D. Echoles (Assistant Choreographer) [he/him] is an accomplished playwright, director, choreographer, illustrator, costume and wig designer. He has had the pleasure of working with many theater companies across the country and in the Chicagoland area such as ETA, Black Ensemble, MPAACT, Congo Square, Refuge, Porchlight Music Theatre, Drury Lane Oakbrook, Writers Theater, Theo Ubique, Invictus, Goodman Theatre, Phoenix Theatre Company, and Studio One Dance Theatre, just to name a few. His most recent projects include Wig Design for Fat Ham at Cleveland Playhouse., Wig Design for Lion in Winter at Court Theatre. Director of Timon for Obsidian Theatre Festival, Costume and Wig Design for Fela at Olney, Director and Choreography In the Heights at UAC Theatre, Choreography and Costume Design for The Color Purple with Pheonix Theatre Company. Wig Design for Rent at The Munv. Wia Design for Dreamairls at Paramount Aurora and North Carolina Theatre, as well as Costume Design for You Can't Fake the Funk, which was featured at The National Black Theatre Festival and earned Rueben a Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Costume Design in a Large Theater. Rueben has also designed costumes for four episodes for WTTW's Chicago Stories docu-series, two of which (Ida B. Wells and The History of Gospel) have won Emmys for Best Production. Rueben would like to thank Christ his Savior for Everything!

Jonathan Berg-Einhorn (Scenic 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.

Bobby Sharon (Costume Designer) studied Costume Design and Technologies at UW-Parkside. Professionally he has worked in various roles at Fireside Dinner Theater, Florentine Opera Company, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Outskirts Theater Company, and Skylight. In 2023 he was named Artistic Director of Purse String Productions, which produces drag parodies of beloved TV shows. Bobby became a member of IATSE TWU Local 777 in October 2024. Bobby's design work can be seen on local drag performers and has appeared on Camp Wannakiki and The 2023 Macy's Thanksqiving Day Parade. (Ortsharon_design

Smooth Medina (Lighting/Projection Designer) is thrilled to be working with a wonderful team of artists on Sister Act. Smooch is a Chicagoarea designer whose other show credits include Projection Design for Cabaret, Rent, Ernest Shackleton Loves Me - Jeff-nominated (Porchlight Music Theatre) Sheep Dog, London Road (Shattered Globe), The Watsons Go to Birmingham (Chicago Children's Theatre), Alice in Wonderland (Governors State University) A Swell in the Ground, Pilgrims, and A Life Extra Ordinary (The Gift Theatre), Women in Jeopardy, Silent Sky (First Folio), Saturn Returns (Neo-Futurists), Estrella Cruz [The Junkyard Queen] (Halcyon Theatre), The White Road - Jeff-nominated (Irish Theatre of Chicago), Tightwire (Chicago Tap Theatre). He currently is the Technical Supervisor at Hemmens Cultural Center as well as the City of Elgin Special Events Dept. Smooch holds a BFA in Lighting Design from Columbia College Chicago.

John Tanner (Sound Designer) is a composer, recording engineer, and sound designer. His experience covers a broad range of work in scoring, arranging, recording, and music composition for television, documentaries, radio, industrial video, and theatre. His original music has won numerous awards, including Golden Reel Awards; Telly Awards; national American Advertising Federation Awards, and Silver Microphone Awards. John has garnered Gold and Platinum sales certifications for his album engineering work. johnt@tannermonagle.com

BIOS CONTINUED

BIOS CONTINUED

Terry Harper (Director of Production and Facilities) is originally from Houston, Texas where he began his career as a Rock and Roll Lighting Designer, a Musical Theater Sound Engineer, and an Opera Technical Director. Opera has taken up most of his time, working for Texas Opera Theater, Central City Opera, Opera Omaha, Vancouver Opera, The Atlanta Opera, and most recently Houston Grand Opera. Terry spent five years on the road touring the world with magician David Copperfield. He also helped take Mr. Copperfield's show to Broadway for a limited, record breaking run.

Emily Wright (Production Stage Manager)* is happy to return to Skylight for this joyful production! She previously stage managed Noises Off at Skylight. Other Milwaukee stage management credits include Lumberjacks in Love and Guys On Ice (Milwaukee Rep); An Iliad and Liberace! (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre); Emily Song and the Queen of the Night and Escape From Peligro Island (First Stage). Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, she is a graduate of Denison University and a proud member of Actors Equity Association.

Jordan Ilyssa Angelo (Resident Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to be a part of this joyous production, making it her 20th show with Skylight! Originally from Rhode Island, Jordan relocated to Milwaukee to pursue her love of theatre. Skylight favorites include Frankenstein, Waitress, From Here to Eternity, 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 and three kitties.

Mallory Topel (Assistant Stage Manager)

[she/her] is excited to return to Skylight for 'more' after a memorable run of Oliver! A Wisconsin native and Viterbo University alumni, she's excited to continue creating theater close to home. Favorite credits include Next to Normal. A Christmas Carol, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Million Dollar Quartet (Greenbrier Valley Theatre), Joseph... Dreamcoat, 9 to 5, (Cedar Summerstock Theater), and shows with Portland Stage Company and Portland Theater Festival in Maine. Beyond the stage, Mallory supports Legendary Lake Mills as a Program Assistant and freelances as a Marketing & Administrative Consultant. Catch her on Instagram at @stage.mal.ager!

Amaya Rockett (Props Supervisor) is excited to be working on Skylight's production of Sister Act! She has been involved in Milwaukee theatre for almost five 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.

Alan Menken (Composer) Theater: God Bless You Mr Rosewater, Little Shop Of Horrors, Real Life Funnies, Atina: Evil Queen Of The Galaxy, Kicks, The Apprenticeship Of Duddy Kravitz, Beauty And The Beast, A Christmas Carol. Weird Romance, King David, Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame. The Little Mermaid. Sister Act. Leap Of Faith, Aladdin and Newsies. Film: Little Shop Of Horrors, The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, Newsies, Aladdin, Pocahontas, The Hunchback Of Notre Dame, Hercules, Life With Mikey, Lincoln, Home On The Range, Noel, Enchanted, Shagay Dog, Tangled and Mirror Mirror. Songs: Rocky V, Home Alone 2, and Captain America. Awards: 8 Oscars (19 nominations), 11 Grammys (including Song of the Year), 7 Golden Globes, Tony® (plus 4 nominations), Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Drama Critics, Olivier and London's Evening Standard Award, Drama League. Honors: Songwriter's Hall of Fame, Doctorates from New York University and University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

Glenn Slater (Lyrics) co-created Disney's 2010 worldwide smash Tangled (2011 Grammy Winner, 2010 Oscar and Golden Globe nominee), as well as the Broadway and international hit musicals Sister Act (2011 Tony nominee - Best Score) and The Little Mermaid (2008 Tony nominee - Best Score, Grammy nominee - Best Cast Album), and, most recently School of Rock (2015). With longtime collaborator Alan Menken, he is Executive Producer and Lyricist for the ABC-TV musical comedy series *Galavant*, and has also written songs for the Disney animated film Home On The Range (2004) and the Broadway musical Leap of Faith (Tony nominee - Best Musical, 2012). In the West End, Glenn provided both book and lyrics for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies (2010 Olivier nominee - Best Musical), the sequel to Phantom of the Opera. Other work includes an Emmy-nominated song for the ABC-TV comedy The Neighbors (2013), and the stage revue Newyorkers at The Manhattan Theatre Club (Lucille Lortel, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle nominations). Glenn is the recipient of the prestigious Kleban Award for Lyrics, the ASCAP/Richard Rogers New Horizons Award, and the Jonathan Larson Award. He is an alumnus of the BMI Musical Theatre Workshop, and a member of both ASCAP and the Dramatists' Guild.

Cheri Steinkellner (Book) has won four Emmy Awards, two Golden Globes, The People's Choice, BAFTA, Writers Guild Award, Parent's Choice, and TV-Land Legend Awards, for writing and producing Cheers (recently named one of the Top 10 Best Written Comedies in TV history), and The Jeffersons, Facts of Life, Family Ties, and Who's The Boss, and for creating the acclaimed Disney animated Saturday morning TV series and feature film, Teacher s Pet. A 2011 Tony-nominee for Sister Act (with husband Bill Steinkellner, Alan Menken, and Glenn Slater); Cheri has also written Princesses (with Bill, David Zippel, and Matthew Wilder); and book and lyrics for Mosaic (with Georgia Stitt), and Jailbirds on Broadway (with Bill and Jeff Rizzo). Other stage includes Our Place, and Instaplay - L.A. s original and longest-running improvised musical-comedy. An Indy Award winner and Ovation nominee for Hello! My Baby, Cheri currently teaches writing at Stanford and UCSB and directs youth theatre in beautiful Santa Barbara, where she and Bill raised their three favorite children/writers/artists: Kit, Teddy, and Emma.

Bill Steinkellner (Book) Award-winning television and screenwriter: Cheers and Disney's Teacher's Pet (Emmys, Golden Globes, BAFTAS, Writers Guild and People's Choice Awards). Book writer (with wife, Cheri): Sister Act (London Palladium, Hamburg, Broadway 2011), Princesses (Goodspeed, 5th Avenue). Writer/director (with Paul Reubens): the original Pee-wee Herman Show (Groundlings, Roxy Theatre, HBO). Creator/director: Instaplay, L.A.'s first all-improvised musical-comedy. Author: the L.A. Times bestseller Postcards From the Moon.

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Michael Unger (Artistic Director) For Skylight, Michael has directed Dennis DeYouna's The Hunchback of Notre Dame (nine BroadwayWorld Awards - including Best Director and Best Musical), the Deaf and Hard of Hearing production of Spring Awakening, Oliver!, Juliet and Romeo, Frankenstein, 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 Bia. 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 premiere directing credits 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.

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 Theatre. Before joining the Skylight staff, 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 currently serves on the board of directors for Brew City Opera and The Historic Third Ward Association. Susan is honored to be a new member of TEMPO - a group of executive women leaders from Milwaukee and SE Wisconsin.

22 Skylight Music Theatre

Building Magic One Act at a Time

From the help of over 680 volunteers

To our small but mighty staff and crew

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