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music theatre
presents

A ROCKIN'
Midsummer
Night's Dream

2025
2026
SEASON

APRIL 10 - 26, 2026

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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As we close this remarkable season at Skylight Music Theatre, we are thrilled to share a production that we have been waiting years to present: *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream*. This vibrant, musical reimagining of William Shakespeare's beloved comedy represents not just a joyful finale, but the realization of a long-held artistic vision.

Back in 2019, our Artistic Director, Michael Unger, first introduced this piece to the Skylight team. From that moment, it sparked excitement and curiosity; an idea waiting patiently for the right moment to come to life on our stage.

That moment is now. This production brings together the timeless wit of Shakespeare with the energy of rock music, creating a theatrical experience that is both contemporary and deeply rooted in the joy of classic storytelling.

For me, this production also fulfills another dream, one that extends beyond the stage and into our community. I have long hoped to partner with a rescue organization to help shine a light on adoptable animals in need of loving homes. Thanks to our collaboration with Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission (MADACC), that dream has become a reality. With adoptable pets onsite for some performances, it is our hope that the magic you experience in the theatre might evoke not only laughter but also love... and perhaps even lead to a furry friend finding their forever home.

This season has been one of momentum and connection. To our devoted patrons, thank you for your unwavering support. To those joining us for the first time, welcome! We are so glad you are all here. It is because of you - your presence, your support, and your applause, that we are able to do this work and bring these stories to life.

As Shakespeare so beautifully wrote, "*If music be the food of love, play on.*" May this production nourish your spirit with joy long after you leave the theatre. And as you carry that joy with you, we hope it inspires you to return next season... and perhaps to welcome a rescue dog or cat into your home.

Thank you for being here — and see you next season!

Susan Varela
Executive Director
Skylight Music Theatre



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Music by
ERIC SVEJCAR

Adapted and Additional Lyrics by
ERIC SVEJCAR & MICHAEL UNGER**

April 10-26, 2026 | Cabot Theatre | Broadway Theatre Center

Directed by Artistic Director
Michael Unger**

Choreographer
Jennifer Paulson-Lee**

Music Director
Jeffrey Saver

Orchestrator
Kim Scharnberg

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Sami Pekelnicky*

Assistant Stage Manager
Lillian Hayward

A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream

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

A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream **5**

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *A ROCKIN' MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*



Photo by Phil Kidd,
MKE Lifestyle

How can we be at the final show of our 2025-26 season already? What a wonderful year it has been, thanks to all of you and the phenomenal artists on both sides of our beautiful proscenium! We greatly appreciate your choosing to spend time with us today as we offer a show that holds a very special place in my heart for myriad reasons.

A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream was born in Newtown, CT at NewArts, the performing arts division of the 1214 Foundation, a youth empowerment non-profit started in 2013 by local father Dr. Michael Baroodly in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy. After having been contacted by Broadway producer and CT native, Van Dean, I directed *From Broadway With Love*, a Benefit Concert for Sandy Hook. As a result, I met the tireless Dr. Baroodly

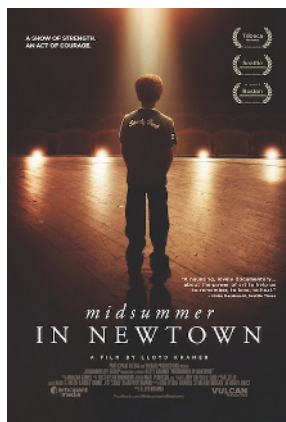
who asked me to help him start this meaningful organization dedicated to fostering well-being, grit, and resilience in children through character development and high-level performing arts mastery experiences. The slogan was, "Rise Above and Go Beyond." Over nine years, NewArts presented 17 large-scale musicals involving over 650 children onstage, backstage, and in the orchestra. These young theatre artists gained confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friends as they worked alongside Broadway professionals on a daily basis. As Baroodly stated, "They gained tools to thrive, as well as positively influence the lives of others."



The cast of *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream* — NewArts, Newtown, CT, Summer 2014

In addition to Dr. Baroodly's commitment to helping heal his community, I must also make mention of Sandy Hook Elementary School's music teacher, Maryrose Kristopik, whose grace, humanity, and warm smile was a guiding light with us every step of the beautiful way in Newtown over those nine years.

I was inspired to create this musical version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* during NewArts' second year because few endeavors can challenge a group of people more than creating a new musical and, therefore, few endeavors can make children feel more empowered to look back on what they have created with such pride.



My creative partner on this show is its composer, the brilliant Eric Svejcar. We adapted the play together, excising a bit here, augmenting a bit there. Proudly, 85% of the text in this musical is Shakespeare's verbatim; and the remaining 15% is extremely close — adjusted for musical and comic effect. With an emphasis on the comic. Laughter is the balm of which we can all use plenty more.

An award-winning documentary film, "Midsummer in Newtown," was made about the creation of this show, which also follows a couple whose daughter was killed on that horrible day in December of 2012. The film is a testament to the community of Newtown, and how the arts can help to heal when the world turns hopelessly bleak.

Eric and I were next involved with this show at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, site of the Parkland, FL tragedy. Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School's theatre teacher (and first educational Tony-Award recipient), Melody Herzfeld and I met after I directed another

From Broadway With Love benefit concert, this one for Parkland and their spring musical *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream*.

When several of the Newtown families attended the opening night in Parkland in the spring of 2019, we were shown the healing power of the arts in as profound a way as I can imagine. These

two bucolic communities, who shared a horrific bond, were also bonded by a shared arts empowerment experience. We know that many of the high school students from Parkland actuated actual change in their state and our nation with their Never Again MSD and March for Our Lives movements.

Eric and I offer unending gratitude to all the Newtown and Parkland participants and families for leaving their stamp lovingly and indelibly etched into the DNA of this production, as well as to all the teachers referenced above. And, frankly, teachers everywhere, for the invaluable support and guidance they give our children.

In our version of Shakespeare's adored masterpiece, true love can restore order out of chaos. This theme of restoration would resonate anywhere at any time, but nowhere more than Newtown, CT in December of 2012 and Parkland, FL in February of 2018. And we can certainly use it now in these monumentally divided times. In the first scene of the play, Hermia says, "I know not by what power I am made bold!" I think this production, having been created in Newtown, and then performed in Parkland, is proof of how the arts helped to make bold the young artists in those two towns. And now here as well, partnering with our friends at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee – Peck School of the Arts, led by the indomitable Sheri Williams Pannell and Bill Watson.

This is the professional world premiere production (and is part of World Premiere Wisconsin) and we welcome several of my original collaborators from twelve years ago: Jeffrey Saver as Music Director, Jennifer Paulson-Lee as Choreographer, Kim Schamberg as Orchestrator, and Saum Seyed, who reprises the role of Bottom, which he created in Newtown. Eric is also on keyboards because nobody can play Svejcar like Svejcar. We are also excited to feature the leather crafts of Newtown native, Andrew Mangold, whose brother was in the original production. To combine the talents of the aforementioned artists with our phenomenal local Milwaukee talent is a thrill that fills this director's heart with great pride.

It is my hope that, as in the play, love, alongside the type of boldness that demands compassion, builds community, and promotes understanding, will combat the negative forces that inevitably get thrown in our path. After working with the young people of Newtown, Parkland, and Milwaukee, I am certain that we leave the world in impressive and eminently capable hands.

And so, I wish a good night unto you all. Give me your hands, if we be friends, because to repair the damage in this world, we all must work together to restore amends.



Michael Unger
Artistic Director & Director of *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream*



The Parkland, FL cast and crew and Newtown, CT visiting families, Spring 2019

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ATHENIAN COURT

Theseus Joe Picchetti
Hippolyta Jackey Boelkow
Hermia Serena Vasquez
Lysander Lucas Drube
Helena Logan Grace
Demetrius Nathaniel Contreras
Egeus Jesse Weinberg

RUSTICS

Nick Bottom Saum Seyed*
Peter Quince Zach Thomas Woods
Francis Flute Mitchell Blohm
Robin Starveling Larissa Beckman
Snug Silvia Stoeger
Snout Sanaa Harper
Dog KC / Otter

THE WOODS

Titania Stephanie Staszak
Oberon Frankie Breit
Puck Lainey Techtmann

TITANIA'S FAIRIES

Orchid Finley Brown
Peaseblossom Zoah Hirano
Cobweb Alexis Coleman
Moth Averil Lauren Grier
Mustardseed Jillian Vogedes
Changeling Layla Clobes,
 Victoria Bruss

ENSEMBLE

Olivia Coleman, Gwendolyn Grace,
 Samantha Knapp, Alannah Parlich
 Robert Stewart

DANCE CAPTAIN

Samantha Knapp

*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 ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream has a runtime of 2 hours and 15 minutes plus a 20 minute intermission.

UNDERSTUDIES

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

Titania - Jackey Boelkow; **Theseus** - Frankie Breit; **Oberon** - Joe Picchetti,
Hippolyta - Stephanie Staszak; **Nick Bottom** - Zach Thomas Woods;
Helena - Olivia Coleman; **Demetrius** and **Egeus** - Robert Stewart;
Hermia - Alannah Parlich; **Lysander** - Mitchell Blohm;
Snout and **Starveling** - Samantha Knapp; **Flute** - Gwendolyn Grace;
Peter Quince - Larissa Beckman; **Egeus** - Sanaa Harper

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Puck's Prologue	Puck, Fairies
Four Days	Hippolyta, Theseus
The Course of True Love	Lysander, Hermia
How Happy Some Can Be	Helena
I Can Play That Too	Bottom, The Rustics
Over Hill Over Dale	Orchid, Puck, Fairies
Merry Wanderer	Puck
The Forgeries of Jealousy	Titania
Fetch Me That Flower	Oberon, Ensemble
Spaniel	Helena, Demetrius
I Know A Bank	Oberon, Puck
Fairies' Lullaby	Fairies
The Course of True Love (Reprise)	Lysander, Hermia
Run Through Fire	Lysander, Helena
What A Dream	Hermia
Follow/Lead	Puck
Donkey/Angel	Bottom, Titania
Be Kind and Courteous	Titania, Fairies
Pas De Quatre – An Operetta-ette in Four	Demetrius, Lysander, Helena, Hermia

ACT 2

Continued... ..	Helena, Hermia, Demetrius, Lysander
Overcast the Night	Oberon
Up and Down	Puck, Demetrius, Lysander, Helena, Hermia
Come Sit Thee Down	Titania
Swifter Than the Wandering Moon	Oberon, Titania, Ensemble
I Just Had the Strangest Dream	Lysander, Hermia, Demetrius, Helena
More Strange Than True	Theseus, Hippolyta
The Revels	Egeus
Pyramus and Thisbe	The Rustics
Sonnet 75 (So Are You To My Thoughts)	Rustics, Athenians
Midnight	Puck, Oberon, Titania, Full Company
If We Shadows Have Offended	Puck, Ensemble

MUSICIANS

Conductor/Keyboard	Jeff Saver
Keyboard	Eric Svejcar
Guitar	Bob Monagle
Bass	Michael Ritter
Woodwind	Jon Lovas
Drums/Percussion	Patrick Morrow
Woodwind Sub	Johnny Padilla

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Director of Production and Facilities	Joey Welden
Interim Production Manager	Kathleen Dickinson
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Costume Director	Jeanne Schrank
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Cabot Audio/Video Supervisor	Ev Ponder
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Scene Shop Supervisor	Rachel Stewart
Head Scenic Carpenter	Michael Boyle
Scenic Carpenters	Erin Lyn Chin, Kenan Pulver, Rachel Stewart
Scenic Painters	Nora Brooks, Devin Meseke
Props Artisans	Zoe Lucas, Aminah Rockett, Ava Rodriguez
Follow Spot Operators	Jen Letscher, Zoe Lucas
Electricians	Isaac "Izzy" Brust, Star Howard, Jen Letscher, Zoe Lucas
Audio / Deck Crew	Riley McTaggart
Wardrobe / Youth Performer Supervisor	Daniel Rusch
Stitchers	Marites Guarin, Shima Orans, Bailey Staerkel, Brooke Wallo
Draper	Leslie Vaglica
Craft Artisans	Lisa Quinn, Kasey Wolfgang
Leather Artisan.....	Andrew Mangold
Intimacy/Fight Director.....	Marcee Doherty
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The Families of NewArts/12.14 Foundation, Dr. Michael Baroody, Sarah Baroody, Maryrose Kristopik, Melody Herzfeld, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Aaron Hubbard, act entertainment, Van Dean, Newtown High School, Northwestern University Theatre Department, and Cosmo Unger.

Sheri Williams Pannell, Bill Watson, and UWM Peck School of the Arts.

All the artists who contributed to the Sandy Hook, CT and Parkland, FL productions.

A portion of the authors' royalties goes towards Sandy Hook Promise and Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement.



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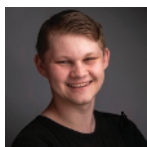
BIOS



Larissa Beckman

(Robin Starveling) is thrilled to be making her Skylight Music Theatre debut! Past credits: *Cousin Hebe*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, (Milwaukee Opera Theatre and UWM Theatre) Marci/En-

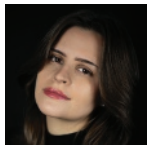
semble, *Cruel Intentions: The 90's Musical* (Outskirts Theater Company). Larissa also teaches at First Stage Theater Academy! Endless thanks to friends and family. @larissa.e.beckman



Mitchell Blohm (Francis Flute)

is ecstatic to be making his debut at Skylight Music Theatre! He is currently finishing up his BFA in musical theatre at UWM. A few previous roles at UWM include Lucky in

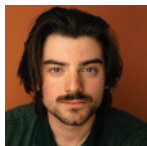
Dames at Sea, Daddy Murphy in *Bright Star*, and a dancer in *Winterdances 2025* and *2026*.



Jackey Boelkow (Hippolyta)

Recent select credits include Alison in *Beehive* and Offstage Swing in *Titanic* at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Fruma-Sarah in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Patty in *School of Rock*, Jenna's

Mother in *Waitress* at Skylight Music Theatre, and Elizabeth in *Laundry and Bourbon* and Understudy in *Boswell* at Next Act Theatre.



Frankie Breit (Oberon)

was just seen as Sheriff Joe Sutter in *The Spitfire Grill* at Skylight! Regional Theatre Credits include: Duluth Playhouse, La Comedia Dinner Theatre, and Peninsula

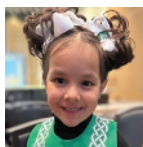
Players. Frankie extends his thanks to his family, friends and to Mom and Dad for their endless support! He is represented by SCE Agency in Chicago. frankiebreit.com @frankiejazzz



Finley Brown (Orchid)

9, welcomes you into the magical fairy realm in her first Shakespeare production. Professional Credits: *South Pacific* at Forte Theatre Company, *Oliver!* at Skylight Music

Theatre, *A Christmas Carol* at Milwaukee Rep, and commercial and voiceover work. Training: Milwaukee Ballet and Wisconsin Conservatory of Music.



Victoria Bruss (Changeling)

is thrilled to join the Skylight production! A kindergartener at USM, Victoria loves expressing herself through the arts. She plays violin and trains for Irish dancing. Victoria enjoys

exploring music, art, and dance in all their forms. She is excited to share her passion for creativity on stage!



Layla Clobes (Changeling)

is thrilled to be part of A *ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream* at Skylight. She loves singing, dancing, and making audiences smile with her joyful, infectious personality.

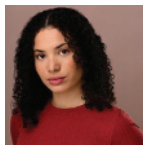
With two professional musician parents, Layla has been surrounded by music her whole life, so performing comes naturally. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Alexis Coleman (Cobweb)

is 12 years old and she is excited about making her debut with Skylight Music Theatre! A seasoned performer, she has graced the stage in many productions for Forte Theatre

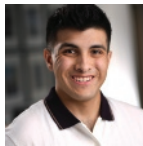
Company, like *Miracle on 34th Street* (Susan Walker), *Suessical Jr.* (Young Kangaroo) and *Sound of Music* (Gertl von Trapp).



Olivia Coleman (Ensemble)

is a senior at UW-Milwaukee pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre and is thrilled to be making her Skylight debut! Previous credits include Alice Murphy in *Bright Star*

at UWM-PSOA, Ensemble in *Rent* at Outskirts Theatre Company, and Diana in *A Chorus Line* at Sunset playhouse.

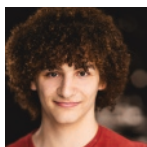


Nathaniel Contreras

(Demetrius) is thrilled to make his Skylight debut. He studies Musical Theatre and Dance at UW-Milwaukee. Credits include *Dairy Heirs* (Jaytee, Northern Sky), *Hello, Dolly!*

(Forte Theatre), *Bright Star* (Daryl, UWM), and touring with *Kids From Wisconsin* as a Principal Performer. With thanks to family and friends.

BIOS CONTINUED



Lucas Drube (Lysander) was born and raised in Toronto, Canada and currently studies at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee. Credits include *Dickon* in *The Secret Garden*, Ensemble/Burnaby US

in *Hello Dolly!* At Forte Theater Company, *Dick* in *Dames At Sea*, *Max* in *Bright Star* at UWM and *Race* in *Newsies* at Greendale Community Theater.



Gwendolyn Grace (Ensemble) is so excited to make her Skylight debut! Previous collegiate roles: *Boatswain* in *HMS Pinafore* at UWM and *Phoebe Stowe* in *The Ballad of Maria Marten* at

UWM. Other roles: *Wadsworth* in *Clue*, *Morticia* in *The Addams Family Musical*, and *Ella* in *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*.



Logan Grace (Helena) is thrilled to be making her Skylight debut! A junior Musical Theatre Major at UWM, university credits are *Cecily Cardew* in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Lucy Grant*

in *Bright Star*. Other stage credits: *Percy* in *The Spitfire Grill*, *Ariel* in *The Little Mermaid*, and *Mary Poppins* in *Mary Poppins*.



Averil Lauren Grier (Moth) is excited to return to the Skylight. She has also performed with First Stage Theater, Accompany of Kids Summer Theater, the Milwaukee Rep, and has appeared on NBC's

Chicago Fire. She studies voice with Allison Hull and also enjoys horseback riding. Many thanks to her teachers, friends, and family!



Sanaa Harper (Snout) makes her Skylight debut! A UW-Milwaukee BFA Theatre Production student with a Musical Theatre certificate and Dance minor, her credits include *Something In The Water*

(Northern Sky Theatre), *Bright Star* (UW-Milwaukee), *Legally Blonde* (Waukesha Civic Theatre), and ASM work on *Scapino!* and *Dames At Sea* (UW-Milwaukee).



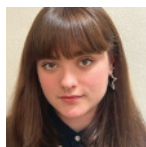
Zoah Hirano (Peaseblossom) is excited to make her Skylight debut! She studies classical voice with Roberta Ricci, and trains with First Stage's Young Company. Favorite performances include *Titanic the*

Musical and *A Christmas Carol* at Milwaukee Rep; *Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium* at First Stage; and *The Nether* at Renaissance Theaterworks.



Samantha Knapp (Ensemble) is thrilled to make her Skylight Music Theatre debut. She studies Musical Theatre at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Recent credits include *Specs* in *Newsies* at Waukesha

Civic Theatre and *Judy Turner* in *A Chorus Line* at HOTT Productions. She's endlessly grateful for her family's unwavering support and constant encouragement.



Alannah Parlich (Ensemble) is excited to make her Skylight debut. A well know Shakespeare enthusiast, she has previously played *Oberon* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at

American Players Theatre and *Hero* in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Reedsburg Area High School.



Joe Picchetti (Theseus) is thrilled to return to Skylight! Previously seen in *Amadeus* and *Frankenstein*. Regional: *Bachelors* at NST, *Lumberjacks* in *Love* at MKE Rep, *Witch* and *Photograph 51* at Renaissance

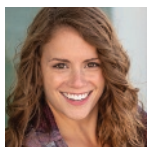
Theaterworks, *Airmen* at Forward Theatre, and *Preludes* at MOT. Sending his love to his family, friends, Maddy, and Poe!



Saum Seyed (Nick Bottom) is delighted to return to A ROCKIN' *Midsummer Night's Dream*. His credits include *Kismet* (dir. Lonny Price) and the original Off-Broadway cast of *Disaster!* He is currently

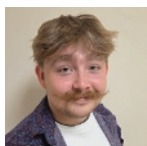
developing the role of *Khalo* in the pop/punk satire *Fouad of Nazareth* with 2026 Jonathan Larson Grant recipient *Fouad Dakwar*. Outside theatre, he returns to Las Vegas this summer for his 15th year producing the World Series of Poker broadcast.

BIOS CONTINUED

**Stephanie Staszak (Titania)**

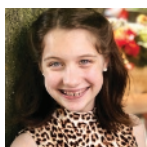
This is Stephanie's twentieth production with Skylight! Most recent performances: *Frankenstein* (Elizabeth) and *School of Rock* (Rosalie Mullins). Choreographic work:

Smash hit *Joseph, Oliver, Xanadu*. Other credits: First Stage (*Goosebumps* – Choreographer), MOT and Fireside Theatre. Thanks to her family and friends for their ROCKIN' support. For Jim Butchart. Follow her on Instagram: @stephaniemarie11

**Robert Stewart (Ensemble)**

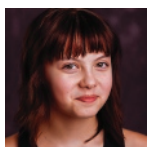
is a sophomore Musical Theatre BFA at UW-Milwaukee and is ecstatic for his Skylight Debut. A recent show credit includes Beck Bobbit in *H.M.S. Pinafore*

through a partnership between UW-Milwaukee and Milwaukee Opera Theatre. He would also like to thank his loved ones for their continued support!

**Silvia Stoeger (Max Snug)**

is psyched to debut here at Skylight where her parents met performing! Favorite roles include Rudolph in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* at First Stage, Colin in *Secret*

Garden at Forte Theater, Rusty in *Footloose* at Creator Collaborative, Ulysses in *Flora and Ulysses* at Milwaukee Youth Theater, and Spring in *Maybe We'll Fly* at Milwaukee Opera Theater.

**Lainey Techtmann (Puck)**

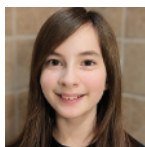
is excited to make her Skylight debut! Recent credits include Girl in *Lovabye Dragon* at First Stage, Boy Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* at Milwaukee Rep (2025, 2024), Nemo in *Finding*

Nemo at First Stage, Nemo in *Finding Nemo Jr.* at Forte Theater and Fregley in *Diary of A Wimpy Kid The Musical* at First Stage. Lots of love to Mom, Dad and Moon.

**Serena Vasquez (Hermia)**

is making her professional theatre debut! Previous credits: Josephine in Milwaukee Opera Theatre's reimagined *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Pilar in *Legally Blonde* at Racine Theatre

Guild, and Spirit in *Bright Star* at UWM Mainstage. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support.

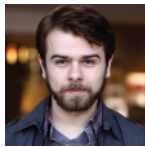
**Jillian Vogedes (Mustardseed)**

is thrilled to be returning to Skylight. She was last seen onstage as *Defining Squirrel* in *Pigeon...* at First Stage. Some of Jillian's favorite roles include: Student Ensemble &

Summer Hathaway u/s in *School of Rock: The Musical*, as well as Nipper in *Oliver!* at Skylight Music Theatre; Olive Biddle in *Pete The Cat* and the Ice Cream Penguin in *Elephant & Piggie* at First Stage.

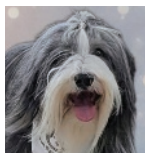
**Jesse Weinberg (Egeus)**

loves to rock the Cabot! Onstage highlights: *Father/Dragon* in *Lovabye Dragon*, First Stage; Reuben in *Joseph...* and Dewey Finn (cover) in *School of Rock*, Skylight; Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, Sunset Playhouse; Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, Bombshell Theater. He sings with the band Platinum. Love to Katie, Felix and Clara.

**Zach Thomas Woods**

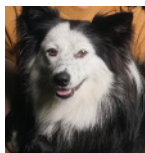
(Peter Quince) has worked professionally in the greater Milwaukee area for over 10 years. Past Skylight roles include Mozart in *Amadeus*, Harold in *The Full Monty*, and

Ensemble in *Les Misérables*, *Urinetown*, and *Hair!* Regional: *God's Spies*, *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*, *Red Herring*, *Finding Nemo*, *Great Expectations*, and *Big Fish*.



KC (Dog) is a five-year-old Bearded Collie and this is her first time on stage. She is absolutely delighted. Her loving pet parents are thrilled that she got the part and looks forward to a fine career on stage and screen. KC is a

Certified Therapy dog and loves making people happy.



Otter (Dog) is a rescued two year-old Mini American Shepherd mix. She competes in agility, loves the beach, and lives with her parents, Shaun and Olivia.

BIOS CONTINUED

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Michael Unger** (Director/Artistic Director)

Artistic Director since September, 2019, Michael has directed Dennis DeYoung'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*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph ...*, *Frankenstein*, *Oliver!*, *Juliet & Romeo*, *School of Rock*, *Noises Off*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *A Jolly Holiday*, the virtual *Being Earnest*, as well as *Me, Myself and I* for Skylight's Education program. He was previously the Associate Artistic Director of Off-Broadway's York Theatre where credits included *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Big*. For nine years, he was the Producing Artistic Director of NewArts, started 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 – 18 years), *Two Point Oh* (NY Times Critics' Pick), *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.

Eric Svejcar (Composer/Keyboard) has music directed several Skylight productions including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Ernest Shackleton Loves Me*, and *Spring Awakening*. Composing credits include *Caligula*, *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream*, *White Noise*, *The F-ing Wright Brothers*, and the musical podcast *Loveville High*, also recorded in Portuguese as *Amorlândia*. On Broadway he has played in the orchestras for *The Little Mermaid*, *Big River*, and *A Chorus Line* at City Center. Off-Broadway he music directed *Jacques Brel Is Alive And Well...* and many productions for the York Theatre's Musicals in Mufti series including *Big*, *Jerry's Girls*, and *The Lieutenant*. By day he is one of Broadway's most active audition accompanists.

Jeffrey Saver (Music Director) is so happy to work with his *Midsummer* collaborative team once again and be back at Skylight after *Candide*! 18 Broadway shows, including: *Allegiance*, *Sister Act*, *Chicago*, *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, *Sunday in the Park with George*. Wrote and arranged material for: Chita Rivera, Christine Baranski, Joel Grey, Bebe Neuwirth and many others. Recently conducted a star-studded con-

cert at Carnegie Hall honoring longtime friend and colleague Stephen Flaherty.

Jennifer Paulson-Lee (Choreographer)** Lincoln Center: *Scarlet Pimpernel*; *Annie Get Your Gun*; *The Four Seasons*. Pre-Bway Little Women Opera: *Susannah*; *HMS Pinafore*; *The Consul*. Currently on Princess Cruises: *Magic To Do*. Off B'way: *Enter Laughing*; *Stars in Your Eyes*; *The Last Starfighter*; *Lola*. Regional: *Dear World*; *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, *Finian's Rainbow*; *Just So*; *Houdini*; *Sweeney Todd*; *City of Angels*; *Freaky Friday*; *Camelot*; *Seussical*; *The Rink*. Co-author Revised *WONDERLAND* (Wildhorn/Murphy) available via MTI. Co-author/Director: *Truly*, *Howard Hughes* opening this fall at The York in NYC.

Jonathan Berg-Einhorn (Scenic Designer)

(he/him) previously had the privilege of designing Skylight's 24-25 season and is very fortunate to return for the 25-26 season this year. Jonathan has worked with companies such as, Paramount Theatre, Metropolis, Porchlight Music Theatre, Kokandy Productions, American Blues Theater, Haven Theatre, Music Theater Works, Citadel Theatre, and Redtwist Theatre, to name a few. Jonathanbergeinhorn.com.

Josephine Everett (Costume Designer)

(She/Her) is a costume designer and print-maker. Recent design credits include *Man of La Mancha*, *Museum*, *Durango*, *The Space of Uncertainty*, and *How to Know the Wildflowers*. She has worked with theaters including The Guthrie Theatre, Children's Theatre Company, Steppenwolf, Paramount Theater, The Jungle, Minnesota Opera, Remy Bumppo and Court Theater. She holds an MFA in costume design from Northwestern University and is excited to be making her Skylight Music Theatre debut.

Smooch Medina (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to be working on *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream* with Skylight Music Theatre. A Chicago-based designer, Smooch's credits include *Cabaret*, *Rent*, *Watsons Go to Birmingham*, and Jeff-nominated work with Porchlight and Irish Theatre. Smooch is also Technical Supervisor at Hemmens Cultural Center. More at smoochdesign.com.

Chad Parsley (Sound Designer) is thrilled to be joining his friends at Skylight for another adventure. Prior Skylight shows include *Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Candide*, *Evita*, *Spring Awakening*, and *To Catch a Thief*. Chad has spent 30 years touring in various roles. Favorites include *Book of Mormon*, *Jersey Boys*, *Hamilton*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Great Gatsby*, and *Beautiful the Carol King Story*.

BIOS CONTINUED

Emily Wright* (Production Stage Manager) is happy to return for her fourth show at Skylight! She recently stage managed *The Fisherman's Daughters* at Milwaukee Rep. Favorite credits include *Sister Act* and *Noises Off* (Skylight Music Theatre), *Guys On Ice* (Milwaukee Rep), *Liberace!* (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre), and *Escape From Peligro Island* (First Stage).

Sami Peckelnicky* (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 13th show with Skylight having previously worked on select favorites *Waitress* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Lillian Hayward (Assistant Stage Manager) is back again after *Joseph...* earlier this season. Previous Milwaukee credits include *Buyer & Cellar* (RTW), *A Doll's House* (MCT), and *AN ILIAD* (Oddbird). Education: UW- Milwaukee. This summer, She returns to the woods for another summer at APT. Love to Mom, Dad, and Ella.

Marcee Doherty (Intimacy/Fight Director) is an Intimacy Director trained with Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (IDC), Theatrical Intimacy Education (TIE), and Intimacy Coordinators of Color (ICOC), and is a Certified Intimacy Captain (iCap) and Consent Forward Artist (CFA). As an actor/singer, she brings over 20 years of performance experience to her work, grounding intimacy direction in consent, communication, and repeatable storytelling practices. A resident Intimacy Director with Skylight Music Theatre, the Fireside Theatre, and Bombshell Theatre Company, Marcee is also a doctoral candidate in Global Leadership and Change.

Andrew Mangold (Leather Artisan) is an artist with 20 years of experience working with leather. He creates fine historical and fantasy leather work from his shop in Shelburne MA. His work includes costumes, bags, leather dragon heads, jewelry and home decor. To see more of his work visit: @mangold_leather on social media. It is thrilling to have a hand in the 2026 adaptation of *A ROCKIN' Midsummer Night's Dream* after working with Michael and the team of the original 2014 debut in Newtown, CT.

Kim Scharnberg (Orchestrations) *Broadway:* *The Great Gatsby*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Civil War*, *Little Women* (Drama Desk Award nomination), *Wonderland*, *Jekyll & Hyde* revival. *International:* *No Longer Human*, *The Legend of 1900*, *Carmen*, *Rudolf*, *Monte Cristo*, *Phantom* (Yeston/Kopit), *Ragtime* (MTI 9 - piece orchestration), *Ragtime* (symphonic concert version), *Rocktopia & Wonderland* (music supervisor) *Film:* *A River Runs Through It*, *Quiz Show*, *Fly Away Home*, *The*

Net. Other: *Handel's Messiah Rocks*, Linda Eder, Mandy Gonzalez, Boston Pops, Atlanta Symphony, Vienna Symphony. *From Broadway with Love* (Sandy Hook, Orlando, Parkland), Associate Artist at Ford's Theatre (Washington, DC), Composer/Arranger for the Pageant of the Masters (Laguna Beach, CA). Much more at www.KimScharnberg.com

Susan Varela (Executive Director) Susan was named a 2026 Power Player, a 2025 Women of Influence by the Milwaukee Business Journal. Her professional career began as a performer, which landed her in New York City for 20 years. She performed on Broadway in *Les Misérables* and at the famed Radio City Music Hall; across North America in National Tours and all the way to Hamburg, Germany. Before joining the Skylight staff, she performed here 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. She currently serves on the board of directors for Brew City Opera and The Historic Third Ward Association and is a member of TEMPO - a group of executive women leaders in Milwaukee.

***Actors' Equity Association ("Equity")** founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 51,000 professional Actors and Stage Managers. Equity fosters the art of live theatre as an essential component of society and advances the careers of its members by negotiating wages, improving working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits, including health and pension plans. Actors' Equity is a member of the AFL-CIO and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing arts unions. #EquityWorks

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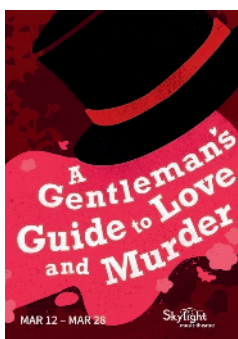
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