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Including Cast, Who's Who and Credits

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, 22
FOR 200

At this Philadelphia school, the annual production involves everybody.
By Dylan Parent





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I am thrilled to share the lineup for our 218th Season - what might be our most exciting season yet! Join us for **THE ADDAMS FAMILY: THE MUSICAL**, Disney's **FROZEN THE BROADWAY MUSICAL**, David Mamet's **GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS**, Noël Coward's **PRESENT LAUGHTER**, and lastly, **COME FROM AWAY THE MUSICAL**. Information can be found in your Playbill or online.

In addition to our unforgettable Mainstage Season, we are delighted to open our doors to the Theatre School at Walnut Street Theatre, welcoming students of all ages to explore their passion for theatre in our summer camp. And don't miss our Walnut Street Theatre for Kids series, with the rousing, high-energy musical, **Disney's NEWSIES JR.** with matinee performances from May 9 - 31.

But for now, sit back and enjoy the story of America's journey to independence just steps from where it all took place!

Sincerely,

Bernard Havard,
President and Producing Artistic Director

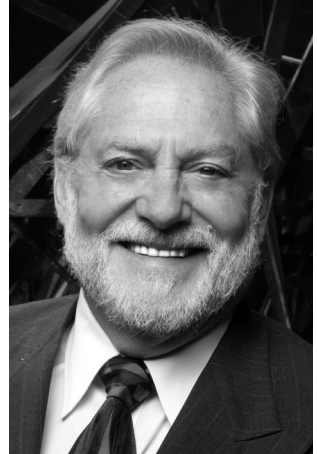


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President and Producing Artistic Director

April 14 – May 31, 2026

1776

America's Prize Winning Musical

Music and Lyrics by
SHERMAN EDWARDS

Book by
PETER STONE

Based on a concept by
SHERMAN EDWARDS

Original Production Directed by
PETER HUNT

Originally Produced on the Broadway Stage by
STUART OSTROW

Set Design
ROMAN TATAROWICZ

Costume Design
MARY FOLINO

Lighting Design
RYAN O'GARA

Sound Design
ED CHAPMAN

Wig and Makeup Design
CARISSA THORLAKSON

Director of
Production
SIOBHÁN RUANE

Stage Managers
MICHELE BEGLEY
SOPHIA DEVEREUX
ABIGAIL STURGIS

Associate
Artistic Director
BRIAN KURTAS

Music and Vocal Direction by
CHRIS BURCHERI

Directed and Choreographed by
GLENN CASALE

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CAST

(in order of appearance)

John Adams	Ben Dibble*
John Hancock	Danny Vaccaro*
James Wilson	David Bardeen*
Abigail Adams	Lucy Horton*
Benjamin Franklin	Scott Greer*
Richard Henry Lee	Jeffrey Coon*
Andrew McNair	Bill Van Horn*
Dr. Lyman Hall	Harley Diamond
Stephen Hopkins	Paul L. Nolan*
Edward Rutledge	Ben Michael*
Thomas McKean	Anthony Lawton*
Caesar Rodney	Jim Fitzpatrick*
John Dickinson	Scott Langdon*
Charles Thomson	Johnny Fernandez
Thomas Jefferson	Grant Struble*
Dr. Josiah Bartlett	Robert Kramer
George Read	Carl Nathaniel Smith*
Roger Sherman	Andrew Leggieri*
Lewis Morris	Ryan Kleinman*
Samuel Chase	Bradley S. Kieper*
Joseph Hewes	Mark Donaldson*
Reverend John Witherspoon	Peter Schmitz*
Robert Livingston	Fran Prisco*
Martha Jefferson	Kathryn Brunner*
Courier	Isaac Ripley
Leather Apron/Painter	Jordan Eck

UNDERSTUDIES

SEBASTIAN ANTONIO (Edward Rutledge), ANDREW BARR (Robert Livingston), WILLIAM BRYANT (John Adams), RAVEN BURCKHALTER (2nd Cover Martha Jefferson), PETER CAMP (Stephen Hopkins/Reverend John Witherspoon), MIKE DOHENY (John Hancock), DREW RUSSELL DUBOFF (Dr. Josiah Bartlett/Dr. Lyman Hall), VINNIE EMILIANOWICZ (Samuel Chase), SOFIA FARRELL (Abigail Adams), NATHAN FITCH (Richard Henry Lee), TODD HATTON (Thomas McKean/Joseph Hewes), EVAN HILBORN (Courier/Leather Apron/Painter), RAYMOND INGRAM (2nd Cover Robert Livingston), EMMA ROSE JOHNSON (Martha Jefferson), CODY LEWANDOWSKI (2nd Cover John Adams), JASON LINDNER (Charles Thomson/James Wilson), GRACE MCKENNA (2nd Cover Abigail Adams), JORDAN REDIGER (Thomas Jefferson), WILLIAM REID (Lewis Morris/George Read), AL RO (Benjamin Franklin), MICHAEL TOOLAN ROCHE (John Dickinson), RICHIE SKLAR (Roger Sherman), JAY W. STEINBERG (Caesar Rodney/Andrew McNair)

DANCE CAPTAIN: MARK DONALDSON

*The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the theatre union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

Sophia Devereux is an Equity Professional Theatre Intern.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Artwork by Kristy Giballa Machusko

1776

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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

“For God’s Sake, John, Sit Down”	John Adams, The Congress
“Piddle, Twiddle”	John Adams
“Till Then”	John Adams, Abigail Adams
“The Lees of Old Virginia”	Richard Henry Lee, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams
“But, Mr. Adams”	John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston
“Yours, Yours, Yours”	John Adams, Abigail Adams
“He Plays The Violin”	Martha Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams
“Cool, Cool Considerate Men”	John Dickinson, The Conservatives
“Momma Look Sharp”	Courier

THERE WILL BE ONE 20-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

ACT II

“The Egg”	Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, The Congress
“Molasses to Rum”	Edward Rutledge
“Compliments”	Abigail Adams
“Is Anybody There?”	John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Thomson

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard 2/Conductor: CHRIS BURCHERI
Keyboard 1/Rehearsal Pianist/Associate Conductor: DANIEL ESPIE
Reeds: BOB QUAILE
Trumpet: ANDREW CONNORS
Trombone: BOB GALE
Horn: BRYN COVENEY
Violin 1/Concertmaster: REBECCA ANSEL
Violin 2: ALEXANDRA CUTLER-FETKEWICZ
Cello: SUE LERNER
Bass: DAVID WEISS
Percussion: KEVIN BLANKE

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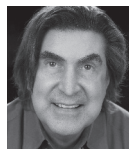
**DAVID
BARDEEN**



**KATHRYN
BRUNNER**



**JEFFREY
COON**



**HARLEY
DIAMOND**



**BEN
DIBBLE**



**MARK
DONALDSON**



**JORDAN
ECK**



**JOHNNY
FERNANDEZ**



**JIM
FITZPATRICK**



**SCOTT
GREER**



**LUCY
HORTON**



**BRADLEY S.
KIEPER**



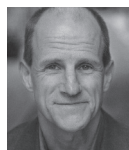
**RYAN
KLEINMAN**



**ROBERT
KRAMER**



**SCOTT
LANGDON**



**ANTHONY
LAWTON**



**ANDREW
LEGGIERI**



**BEN
MICHAEL**



**PAUL L.
NOLAN**



**FRAN
PRISCO**



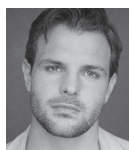
**ISAAC
RIPLEY**



**PETER
SCHMITZ**



**CARL
NATHANIEL
SMITH**



**GRANT
STRUBLE**



**DANNY
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WHO'S WHO

DAVID BARDEEN (*James Wilson*) Regional: Walnut Street Theatre, Yale Rep, South Coast Rep, Arden Theatre Company, Wilma, DTC, Lantern, InterAct, Theatre Horizon, Azuka, Philadelphia Orchestra. TV: *Weeds*; *Medium*; *NUMB3RS*. David is a seven-time Barrymore nominee, receiving the supporting actor award twice. MFA: Yale School of Drama. Thanks to Bernard, Glenn, Brian, Mark, and Jeff!

KATHRYN BRUNNER (*Martha Jefferson*) Thrilled to be back! WST favorites include Elle in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*; Ella in Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*; Jovie in *Elf-The Broadway Musical*; and Dyanne in *Million Dollar Quartet*. Other credits include Elle in *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (La Mirada, Riverside Theatre); Sophie in *Mamma Mia!* (Pioneer Theatre, Arrow Rock Lyceum), and Ella in Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Sacramento Music Circus). Big thanks to Glenn and Bernard! Love to Blake, Mom, and Matt. For Dad.

JEFFREY COON (*Richard Henry Lee*) Over the moon! Thank you Bernard, Mark, Brian, Glenn, Chris, and the Development Team on the 2nd floor for this opportunity to work with so many friends in a place I care so deeply about. 29 years ago, this was my first show at the Walnut. Love to P, J, & J.

HARLEY DIAMOND (*Dr. Lyman Hall*) is thrilled to be making his on stage Walnut debut after understudying here twice. He is a native New Yorker and a semi-retired attorney. He has appeared locally in too many plays to mention. A graduate of Hofstra University and Stella Adler Conservatory, he has toured as *Tartuffe* and performed in several New York cabarets.

BEN DIBBLE (*John Adams*) Thrilled to be back! WST: *Young Frankenstein* (Frederick Frankenstein); Disney's *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis); *Shrek The Musical* (Lord Farquaad); *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Freddy-Barrymore nom.); *The Producers* (Leo-Barrymore nom.); Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (Lord Pinkleton), and many others. Other favorites include the title role in *Henry V* (Lantern); Leo Frank in *Parade* (Arden-Barrymore Award) and *Herringbone* (Flashpoint-Barrymore Award). Thanks to The Baldwin School for making this possible. Love to Amy and the Dibbles.

MARK DONALDSON (*Joseph Hewes/Dance Captain*) WST show #6! National Tours: *Fiddler on the Roof* starring Harvey Fierstein and *Cats* as Mungojerrie. Regional: Broadway at Music Circus, Tuacahn, Maltz-Jupiter, Riverside, Fulton, Maine State, Flat Rock, North Shore, TUTS, and Arvada. Thanks to Glenn and the whole Walnut team. Love to Mom and Dad! IG: @markyd1982

JORDAN ECK (*Leather Apron/Painter*) Jordan is ecstatic for his Walnut mainstage debut. Previous credits: *American Revolution* (National Tour); *Spring Awakening* (CTC); Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella* (WST understudy); *The Spongebob Musical* (EPAC); Storybook Musical Theatre. UArts BFA Alum & SAFD/FDC Adv. Actor Combatant. Thank you to the WST team, friends, family, Liz. More: www.jordanparkereck.com

JOHNNY FERNANDEZ (*Charles Thomson*) is thrilled to return to the Walnut. Recent regional: *Gemini* (Fran); *Alibi* (Ackroyd); *A Christmas Carol* (Scrooge); *Kinky Boots* (George); *Julius Caesar* (Brutus). 1st National Tour - *Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol* (Ghost of Christmas Present). Thanks family and friends for the love and support. Te quiero, mi amor!

JIM FITZPATRICK (*Caesar Rodney*) Jim Fitzpatrick has 50 years experience across theatre, film and television. Favorite roles: Captain Andy *Showboat*; Miller/Heppenstahl National Tour *State Fair*; Butler, etc. *Silent Laughter*; and a best actor award for the lead in *Who Wants to Live With Barney Johnson Anyway*. Thanks to family Marty and Seamus.

SCOTT GREER (*Benjamin Franklin*) Scott is thrilled to be back at the Walnut, after last season's *Driving Miss Daisy*. He is a 32-year veteran of Philadelphia theatre, and has worked for Arden Theatre Company, 1812 Productions, InterAct Theatre Company, The Wilma Theater, People's Light, Act II Playhouse, Theatre Exile, Quintessence, and many more. Regionally, he has worked for Actors Theatre of Louisville, Round House, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and the Pearl Theatre in New York. He has won six Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre, including the F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Theatre Artist. He was named "Best Theatre Talent" by *Philadelphia Magazine*. Love to Jen & Lily.

WHO'S WHO

LUCY HORTON (*Abigail Adams*) Walnut Street Theatre debut! National Tours: *Anastasia* (Tsarina Alexandra); *The Bridges of Madison County* (Swing, u/s Francesca); *Cats* (Jellylorum). Selected Favorites: *Arcadia* and *The Thanksgiving Play* (Villanova Theatre); *School of Rock* (Media Theatre); *The Bridges of Madison County* (Bucks County Playhouse); *Mary Poppins* (The REV); *Chasing Rainbows* (Goodspeed Opera House). Team BWA. @lfhorton

BRADLEY S. KIEPER (*Samuel Chase*) Walnut Debut! Regional: Seymour (*Little Shop of Horrors*); Dr. Madden (*Next to Normal*); Luther Billis (Rodgers + Hammerstein's *South Pacific*); Herman (*Sweet Charity*); Charlie/Robert u/s (*The Bridges of Madison County*). Other Credits: *Annie*; *Grey Gardens*; *Anything Goes*; *Man of La Mancha*; *Memphis*; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; *Billy Elliot*; Disney's *Mary Poppins*. Thanks to Brian, Glenn, & WST. Love to his family & Jackie. Enjoy the show! IG: @heisakieper88

RYAN KLEINMAN (*Lewis Morris*) Mr. Playbill, Ryan Kleinman abstains from his bio – courteously. Ryankleinman.com @showtunesleepies

ROBERT KRAMER (*Dr. Josiah Bartlett*) is thrilled to be making his WST debut in this celebration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's birth! Recent Credits: Marc Antony (*Julius Caesar*); Guiteau (*Assassins*); Trucker/Mason (*Working*) and Banquo (*Macbeth*). Many thanks to the entire Walnut Street Theatre Family. Love to Mom & Nicole!

SCOTT LANDGON (*John Dickinson*) Grateful to return! WST favorites: *A Christmas Story The Musical* (Jean Shepherd); *Rocky, The Musical* (Eye of the Tiger); *The Music Man* (Charlie Cowell). Regional favorites: *Man of La Mancha* (Quixote - Barrymore nom.); *The Crucible* (John Proctor); *Grand Hotel* (Otto Kringlein). Love to his wife Sarah, Connor, Mikaela and Dylan. Insta: @scottlangdon_actor

ANTHONY LAWTON (*Thomas McKean*) Anthony Lawton has acted in Philadelphia for thirty-four years. Favorite roles include George in *Of Mice and Men* (Walnut); Friar Laurence in *Romeo and Juliet* (Arden); and Feste in *Twelfth Night* (PSF). In 2005, Lawton wrote *The Foocy*, which



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WHO'S WHO

garnered five Barrymore nominations (including Best New Play). For more information, go to: www.anthonylawtonactor.com.

ANDREW LEGGIERI (*Roger Sherman*) is so excited to return to the Walnut! Broadway: *Bandstand* (Original Cast); Tours: Monty Python's *Spamalot*; *Fame*; *Grease*. Other Credits: Disney's *Mary Poppins*; *Dreamgirls* (Walnut); *Fiddler on the Roof*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *The Bandstand*; *Sugar*; *A Class Act*; *Grease*; *Cabaret*; *Damn Yankees* and others. TV: *Unforgettable*. BFA-Penn State University. Love to my family! Insta: @awleggy

BEN MICHAEL (*Edward Rutledge*) Ben Michael is very grateful for and aware of the impact this show can have at this time, in this city. Select WST: Rodgers + Hammerstein's *South Pacific* (Cable); *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*; *Plaid Tidings*. Other credits include: *Paradise Square* (OBC); *An American in Paris* (Henri); *Next to Normal* (Dan); and *White Christmas* (Bob Wallace). benmichael.net

PAUL L. NOLAN (*Stephen Hopkins*) An award-winning actor and writer, Paul L. Nolan has been performing on The East and West Coasts and points in between on stages, on camera and behind microphones since the Nixon administration. He's performed in quite a number of Walnut Street Theatre productions over the past twenty years including, most recently, as Tobias in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. For more PLN information: paulnolanactor.com

FRAN PRISCO (*Robert Livingston*) #45! Most recent WST Roles: The Old Man in *A Christmas Story The Musical*; Sam Phillips in *Million Dollar Quartet*. Others: *Elf The Broadway Musical* (Walter Hobbs); *Jersey Boys* (Gyp DeCarlo); *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* (Donny Kirshner); Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth); Rodgers + Hammerstein's *South Pacific* (Billis); *The Music Man* (Marcellus). Many thanks to Glenn and the entire WST Family. Love to Siobhán.

ISAAC RIPLEY (*Courier*) is thrilled to be back at the WST after spending a year as one of their '24/'25 acting apprentices! Regional: *A Christmas Carol* (WST); *Rock of Ages*; *Clue: on Stage* (Maples Rep). Thank you to the entire WST family for this amazing opportunity! @isaacripley_

PETER SCHMITZ (*Reverend John Witherspoon*) recently appeared at WST in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*. In addition to being a local actor and dialect coach, Peter hosts a podcast about Philadelphia theater history – and is the author of the book *Adventures in Theater History: Philadelphia*. Look for a copy in the lobby gift shop! www.aithpodcast.com

CARL NATHANIEL SMITH (*George Read*) Carl is thrilled to make his WST debut! Regional favorites include Farquaad (*Shrek-DTC/WolfPAC*); Frederick (*Young Frankenstein- Media*); Oliver (*Theatre People - Act 2*); Scarecrow (*The Wizard of Oz - Media*); and Frankie (*Forever Plaid - Montgomery*). Credit to God, and love to my family: Sarah, Anastasia, Oliver, mom, dad, Hus, and Lee.

GRANT STRUBLE (*Thomas Jefferson*) Philly raised and Temple Made! Previous credits: *The Night Alive - Inis Nua Theatre*, *Bus Stop - Bristol Riverside Theatre*, *West Side Story - The Media Theatre*. Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of Relic Theatre Company. Many thanks to Bernard, Glenn, Mark, Brian and the entire Walnut family. Love always to Kendyll. relictheatre.org

DANNY VACCARO (*John Hancock*) is thrilled to return to Walnut Street Theatre! NY/Tour: *Girl From the North Country*; *La Cage Aux Folles*; *The Wizard of Oz*; *Streakin'*; *Nonsense A-men*; *Truman v. Isreal*. Regional Favorites: *Lost in Yonkers*; *Time Stands Still*; *Next to Normal*. TV - *Love Story*; *Feud*; *Younger*; *L&O SVU*. Proud Northwestern Alum. Love to Mom, Dad, Jamie and the Irish5.

BILL VAN HORN (*Andrew McNair*) Bill Van Horn was last seen as Dr. Watson in the Walnut's original production of *Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective*. He is currently working on a new musical with Gene Scheer.

PETER STONE (*Book*) One of the most accomplished Broadway bookwriters, Stone graduated from Bard College and earned an MFA from the Yale School of Drama. He began writing for CBS Radio and soon moved to writing for television, including the shows *Studio One*, *The Defenders* (for which he won an Emmy Award); *Asphalt Jungle* and *Espionage*. He has written the plays *Friend of the Family* and *Full Circle*. In addition to 1776, his Broadway bookwriting

WHO'S WHO

credits include the musicals *Kean*; *Skyscraper*; *Two by Two*; *Sugar*; *Woman of the Year* (for which he won a 1981 Tony Award); *My One and Only*; *Grand Hotel* and *The Will Rogers Follies* (1991 Tony Award for Best Musical). Stone also wrote the screenplay for the film version of *1776*. His other screenplays include *Charade*; *Father Goose* (for which he won a 1964 Academy Award); *Mirage*; *Arabesque*; *Sweet Charity*; *The Taking of Pelham 1-2-3* and *Who Is Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?*

SHERMAN EDWARDS (*Music and Lyrics*) was born in New York taught American history at James Monroe High School. After earning an undergraduate degree in history, at New York University, he later did graduate work in history at Cornell University. He appeared as an actor in *My Sister Eileen* and the Broadway revue *Pins and Needles*. He began working as a pianist, playing for performers Lisa Kirk, Eddie Fisher and Mindy Carson. Later, he played in the bands of Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman and Louis Armstrong. In the late 1950s, he began writing popular music, including the hit songs *Broken-Hearted Melody* (lyrics by Hal David); *See You in September* (music and lyrics co-written by Sid Wayne); and *Wonderful, Wonderful* (lyrics by Ben Raleigh). *1776* (for which he won a 1969 Tony Award) was his only Broadway score.

GLENN CASALE (*Director/Choreographer*) is thrilled to be back! Broadway: *Peter Pan* starring Cathy Rigby (Tony Award nomination Best Revival), filmed by A&E (two Emmy Awards). Off-Broadway: *The Property Known as Garland, Dragapella* at Studio 54 (Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Award Nominations for Best Production). International: For Stage Entertainment and Disney Theatrical: Disney's *The Little Mermaid*; *Beauty and the Beast*; and *The Wiz*. Tours and Regional Theater: *Disney's The Little Mermaid*; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*; *Doctor Dolittle*; *Camelot*; *Ballroom*; *Wrestlers*; *From the Top*; *Company*; *Bingo!*; *Anything Goes* (Ovation Award-winning Best Musical) for Reprise, and *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*. Television directing credits include: ABC TV's *The Faculty* starring Meredith Baxter and *The Wayans' Brothers*. Glenn is on the staff of the California Musical Theater in Sacramento.

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CHRIS BURCHERI (*Music and Vocal Director*) 16th Walnut Mainstage show. Previous Walnut credits include *A Christmas Story The Musical*; *Dreamgirls*; *Elf The Broadway Musical*; and *Jersey Boys*. Also, recently at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival (Mel Brooks' *The Producers*), Broadway at Music Circus (Rogers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*) and Bucks County Playhouse (*Kinky Boots*). University of Pennsylvania graduate. Love to Maura, Mom, and Dad.

ROMAN TATAROWICZ (*Set Design*) Walnut: Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*; *Million Dollar Quartet*; Noël Coward's *Hay Fever*; *Driving Miss Daisy*; *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*; Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; *Elvis: A Musical Revolution*; *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*; *Rocky, The Musical*; Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*; *The Best Man*; *A Woman of No Importance*; *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*; *The Humans*. Selected Off-B'way: *The Banana Monologues* (Acorn Theatre); *Honky* (Urban Stages); *Dames at Sea*; *The Threepenny Opera* (Jean Cocteau Rep.). Also many Off-Off-B'way. Regional credits: Capital Rep., Merrimack Rep., Florida Studio Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Azuka Theatre, Act II, InterAct, Bristol Riverside, People's Light, Pa. Shakespeare Festival, Delaware Theatre Company and ETC (Santa Barbara). tatarowicz.com

MARY FOLINO (*Costume Design*) has designed over 50 productions for the Walnut Street Theatre. Mary is currently Arcadia University's Costume Shop Manager and Resident Costume Designer, having previously worked as WST's Costume Shop Manager, and as the Costume Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Many thanks to Bernard and the WST family, all of my collaborators, and the amazing costume and wardrobe team!

RYAN O'GARA (*Lighting Design*) Broadway-*The WIZ*; *Thoughts of a Colored Man*. Select-Cirque, Norwegian Cruise Line, Tokyo DisneySea, NYC Opera, Paper Mill Playhouse, Walnut Street Theatre, Drury Lane, TUTS, Baltimore Center Stage, Syracuse Stage, Signature DC, Lincoln Center Festival, Capital Repertory and Bristol Riverside. Associate Lighting Designer for 29 Broadway productions. www.ryanogara.com

ED CHAPMAN (*Sound Design*) Happy to return for the 12th Year at the Walnut. Broadway: *Leopoldstadt* (Associate Designer); *Ink* (2019 Tony nomination Best Sound Design, Associate Designer) and *Travesties* (2018 Tony nomination Best Sound Design, Associate Designer). Touring Productions: Disney's *The Little Mermaid*; *A Christmas Story The Musical*; *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*; *Guys and Dolls*; Mel Brooks' *The Producers*. Other award-nominated work: *Holiday Inn* (2018 SALT Award nomination), *Mamma Mia!* (2016 Berkshire Theatre Award nomination).

CARISSA THORLAKSON (*Wig and Makeup Design*) is a freelance wig and makeup designer. You may have seen her recent work here at WST in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; *Jersey Boys*; *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*; *Elvis - A Musical Revolution*; Rodgers + Hammerstein's *Cinderella*; *Rocky, the Musical* and more. You may have noticed her recent work locally in *Kinky Boots* at Delaware Theatre Company. She has also designed for New York City Center, The Old Globe, A.R.T., Paper Mill Playhouse, McCarter Theatre Center, Hartford Stage, Lookingglass Theatre Company, Lantern Theatre Company, Two River Theatre, Bay Street Theater, Olney Theatre Center, and The Princeton Festival. She has served as a wig and makeup artist across the country. Carissa also creates custom medical wigs, cosplay wigs, and teaches classes in wigs and makeup. Find her on Instagram as @wigician or see her work or rent wigs at CThorwigs.com.

MICHELE BEGLEY (*Stage Manager*) is so excited to be returning to WST for her third professional season! She started out here as a Stage Management Apprentice for the Mainstage under Lori Aghazarian and Angela Cucco Jenkins in the 2017-18 season. Some favorite WST productions are: Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical*, *Jersey Boys*, *Elf The Broadway Musical*, and *Dreamgirls*. Other regional credits include: Bristol Riverside Theatre; Theater at Monmouth; Penobscot Theatre Company; First Stage and The Barnstormers Theatre. Special thanks to the cast, crew, apprentices, production, creative staff, Abby, Sophia, and Annalee who make this show possible. Proud member of AEA. Enjoy the show!

WHO'S WHO

SOPHIA DEVEREUX (*Assistant Stage Manager/ Equity Professional Theatre Intern*) Grateful to be a part of this team! Select credits include: *A Christmas Story The Musical* (Walnut Street Theatre); *Anastasia*; *Tootsie*; *Footloose*; *West Side Story* (Maine State Music Theatre); *The Barber of Seville*; *Pelleas et Melisande* (Des Moines Metro Opera). Former WST production management apprentice. Love to mamá and papá!

ABIGAIL STURGIS (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back for her 3rd season at WST! Select stage management credits: WST: *Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective*, Noël Coward's *Hay Fever*; *Driving Miss Daisy*; *Jersey Boys*; *Groucho: A Life in Revue*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; PSF: *The Producers*; InterAct Theatre Company: *Walden*, *The Last Yiddish Speaker*, Media Theatre: *Rent*; Quintessence Theatre Group: *Flyin' West*; *The Skin of Our Teeth*; Opera Philadelphia: *10 Days in a Madhouse*. Proud graduate of Temple University. Love to Jon and Minnie.

SIOBHÁN RUANE (*Director of Production*) This is Siobhán's 13th season at WST. With over 25 years in the business, Siobhán has worked internationally as a Production Manager and Stage Manager. Previously, Siobhán held the faculty position of Stage Management Advisor at Florida State University's School of Theatre. Additional credits include *Cirque du Soleil*, Norwegian Cruise Line, Cirque Productions, and various regional theatres. Siobhán holds an undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, an MFA from the University of Delaware, and is (proudly!) originally from the Jersey Shore.

BRIAN KURTAS, CSA (*Associate Artistic Director*) has been associated with WST since 2007. He began his career here as a performer and in the apprenticeship program and has since dedicated himself to bringing artists together. He now serves our audiences in the various capacities of casting, directing, programming, and literary management, as his function is to bring the finest artists to our historic stage. His vision behind unforgettable live experiences and storytelling has become a creative solution from the stage to the screen - he spent 4 seasons as the Executive Producer of Greta Theatre, cast for commercials and films, and helped create events for brands such

as T-Mobile and Walmart while at Live Nation. Originally from Lancaster, Brian is a proud Temple alum, a published playwright, and a member of the Casting Society of America.

MARK D. SYLVESTER (*Managing Director*) Mark is proud to be celebrating over three decades at America's Oldest Theatre. His extensive career has spanned Summer Stock to Broadway as an actor, stage manager, box office treasurer, theatre manager, marketing and public relations director and general manager. After several years working with commercial theatre, he has devoted his career to non-profit theatre companies since 1987. To date, Mark has been associated with more than 500 stage productions. An avid collector of musical theatre recordings, his collection contains over 3,500 cast albums from around the world. He has served on several boards including the National Alliance for Musical Theatre where he now holds the honorary position of Board Emeritus and the Advisory Committee of Samuel French, the international play publisher and licensing company. With Bernard Havard he co-authored the book *Walnut Street Theatre*.

BERNARD HAVARD (*President and Executive Producing/Artistic Director*) *Vox Populi* (The Voice of the People) was written on WST Playbills in the 1800s. Whenever WST has strayed from a populist program, the theatre has gone bankrupt. When I came here 43 years ago, we had no programs and no audience. Today we enjoy one of the largest subscription bases of any theatre in the world. So, my thanks to our loyal audience and a warm welcome to newcomers who enjoy and believe in what we do. I admire the artists who dedicated their lives to the theatre and WST, particularly. Our theatre is a non-profit 501-C3 institution, and we rely on contributed income to extend our reach into the community. Last season we reached more than 62,743 students in our city schools. We have 19 esteemed trustees who give their time, wisdom, and contributions to help guide this historical treasure. I came to WST in 1982, and I am as excited now about our future as I was in the beginning. My heartfelt thanks to all who enter this theatre. For my biography, go to About Us on our website at WalnutStreetTheatre.org

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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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The Director-Choreographer is a member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.



The mission of the Walnut Street Theatre Company is to sustain the tradition of professional theatre and contribute to its future viability and vitality. It does so through the production and presentation of professional theatre; the encouragement, training, and development of artists; the development of diverse audiences; and the preservation and chronicling of its theatre building, a National Historic Landmark.



Walnut Street Theatre is a member of the league of Historic American Theatres. Walnut Street Theatre receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



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Walnut Street Theatre receives additional season operating support from Actors Equity Foundation and Independence Foundation.



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Beauty and the Beast, For 200

At this Philadelphia school, the annual production involves everybody.

By Dylan Parent

Welcome to PLAYBILLDER Spotlight, where Playbill highlights shows from educational institutions or regional theatres and special events around the country (who have used Playbill's program-building service). By welcoming these PLAYBILLDERs center stage, we hope to give our readers a more in-depth look at theatre programs that are fostering the love of the performing arts in the next generation and the way theatre lovers are bringing Playbill along for life's big moments.

Below, we spotlight Julia R. Masterman Laboratory and Demonstration School of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and their production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Instrumental Music teacher Kim Kelter Neu shared with Playbill just how many children came together to put up the show.

Tell us a little about yourself.

How many years have you been teaching?

Kim Kelter Neu: I've been teaching for 25 years and our musical is certainly the highlight each year.

How does your school's performing arts program impact your community?

Our school musical brings together our community, involving over 200 students from both middle and high school. Students make the sets and the props as well as run the sound control, the lights, play in the orchestra, and, of course, star in the show! Families leave our show amazed at what the students have achieved.

How do you choose shows for your students?

When we choose our show, we always pick something that involves all the students. It must have a chorus and a full orchestra. This limits our choices but allows us to include the most students. We also must keep in mind that our school is grades five through 12, so



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASTERMAN HIGH SCHOOL

whatever show we pick must work for fifth and 12th graders alike. *Beauty and the Beast* was an easy and perfect choice this year!

What reactions do you expect to see in students when they see their name printed in this Playbill for the first time?

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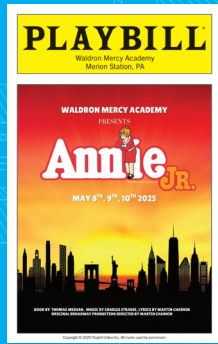
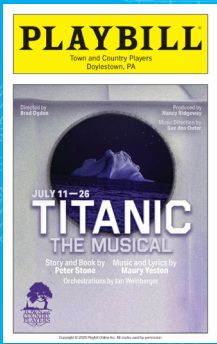
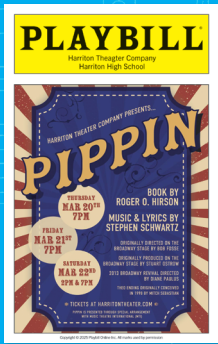
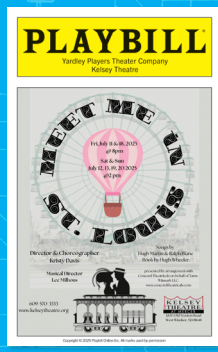
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