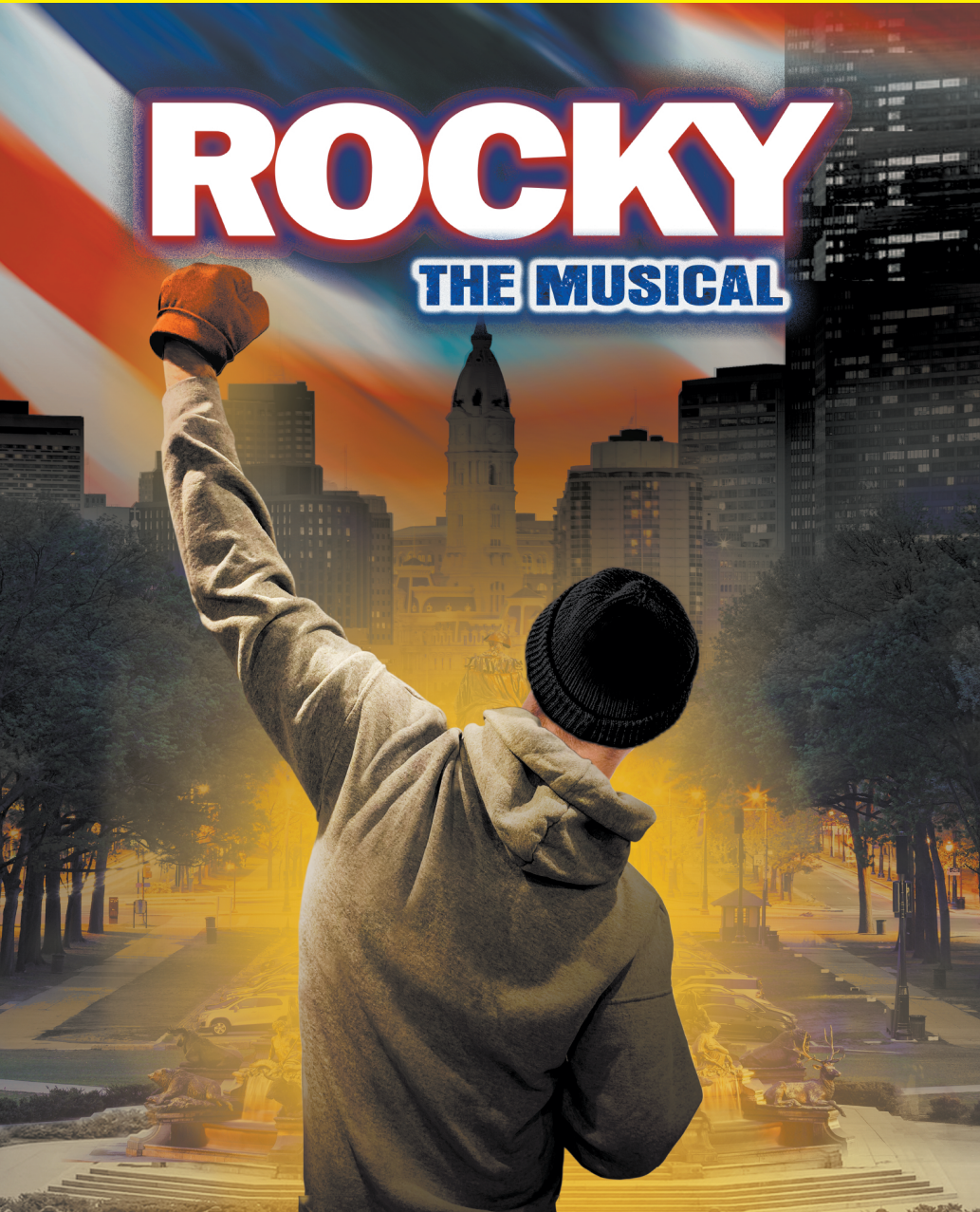


PLAYBILL®

 WALNUT STREET THEATRE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

ROCKY

THE MUSICAL





FOUNDED 1808

AMERICA'S OLDEST THEATRE – PHILADELPHIA'S MOST POPULAR THEATRE COMPANY

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

825 WALNUT STREET • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

Dear Theatregoer,

Welcome back to another exciting season at the Walnut! As we enter our 214th season (and my 40th), I want to thank you for your continued support to which we owe our remarkable success.

I am delighted that you've joined us for our 2022-23 season premiere, *Rocky, the Musical*. We've been excited for some time to have this truly Philadelphian story on our stage, and I could not be more thankful for the talented artists bringing it to life. I hope that you will join us for our other shows that we'll bring to life this season, each of which will celebrate love in its own unique way.

Next on our stage, make your holidays truly enchanting with *Rodgers and Hammerstein's CINDERELLA*, a magical love story for the ages. We'll kick off the new year with a classic Neil Simon comedy, *LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS*, where the pursuit of love leads to a laugh-out-loud romantic confusion. Then, the veneer of love and southern gentility slips away to reveal long-hidden truths in Tennessee Williams' *CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF*. Lastly, we'll end our season with *Jimmy Buffett's ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE*, where love and laughter are the keys to 'growing older but not up' in a heartwarming tropical getaway.

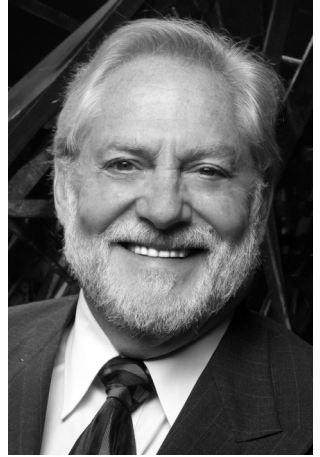
In addition to our exciting Mainstage Season, we are thrilled that classes at The Theatre School at Walnut Street Theatre are underway for our fall semester, serving students of all ages. If you or someone you know has a passion for performance, I encourage you to review our offerings for this and upcoming semesters.

Our Adopt-a-School and Touring Outreach programs continue to serve students and faculty in schools throughout the region. Last season, over 176 schools across 21 districts received access to our virtual production of *The P-Funk Posse*. This season, we are excited to return to live in-school performances to continue serving communities in the area. None of this would be possible without your support.

For tonight, sit back and enjoy the heart-stopping excitement of *Rocky, the Musical*. We are honored to have you back at the theatre and look forward to seeing you again soon!

Sincerely,

Bernard Havard, President and Producing Artistic Director



Page 7

Advertising



AMERICA'S OLDEST THEATRE – PHILADELPHIA'S MOST POPULAR THEATRE COMPANY

WALNUT STREET THEATRE

FOUNDED 1808

825 WALNUT STREET • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

BERNARD HAVARD

President and Producing Artistic Director

October 4 – November 6, 2022

ROCKY, THE MUSICAL

Book by
THOMAS MEEHAN
SYLVESTER STALLONE

Music by
STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Lyrics by
LYNN AHRENS

Based on the MGM/United Artists Motion Picture

Orchestrations by
STEPHEN TRASK and DOUG BESTERMAN

Scenic Design
ROMAN
TATAROWICZ

Costume Design
MARY FOLINO

Lighting Design
JULIE DURO

Sound Design
ED CHAPMAN

Director of Production
SIOBHÁN RUANE

Stage Managers
ELIZABETH HAROIAN
MATTHEW LUPPINO

Associate Artistic Director
BRIAN KURTAS

Boxing Consultant
MALEEK JACKSON

Associate Choreographer
KRISTYN POPE

Music and Vocal Direction by
CHRIS BURCHERI

Directed and Choreographed by
RICHARD STAFFORD

SHOW SPONSOR



SUPPORTING SPONSORS



Original Broadway Production produced by
Stage Entertainment USA & Sylvester Stallone
Metro-Goldwyn

The Shubert Organization Kevin King-Templeton
James L. Nederlander & Terry Allen Kramer Ray Furman Cheryl Wiesenfeld
Zane Tankel Lucky Champions Scott Delmon JFL Theatricals/Judith Ann Abrams
Latitude Link Waxman/Shin/Bergère Lauren Stevens/Josh Goodman

MARK D. SYLVESTER
Managing Director

Director of
Development
REGINA SUKANICK

Director of
Education
T.J. SOKSO

Director of Marketing
and Public Relations
ED GILCHRIST

Page 9

Advertising

CAST

Rocky Balboa.....	MATTHEW AMIRA*
Adrian Pennino.....	GIANNA YANELLI*
Apollo Creed.....	NICHALAS L. PARKER*
Mickey Goldmill.....	BILL VAN HORN*
Paulie Pennino.....	FRAN PRISCO*
Gloria.....	REBECCA ROBBINS*
Joanne.....	KARISSA HARRIS*
Angie.....	JENNY LEE STERN*
Gazzo/Tom Crosetti.....	JAKE BLOUCH*
News caster/Miles Jergens/Referee.....	BEN DIBBLE*
Spider Rico.....	DANIEL MILLER
Mike/Apollo's Manager.....	DANA ORANGE*
Dipper/First Cameraman/Doctor.....	MARK DONALDSON*
Buddy.....	ADAM MANDALA*
Shirley.....	SABRINA PROFITT*
Bob Dunphy.....	JESSE JONES*

ENSEMBLE

JAKE BLOUCH*, BEN DIBBLE*, MARK DONALDSON*, KARISSA HARRIS*,
JESSE JONES*, BONNIE KELLY*, SCOTT LANGDON*, ADAM MANDALA*,
JARRET MARTIN, DANIEL MILLER, DANA ORANGE*, KRISTYN POPE*,
SABRINA PROFITT*, JENNY LEE STERN*, SIERRA WILSON

EXTRAS

DANTE BRATTELLI, JORDAN CHALL

UNDERSTUDIES

ROBERT CHARLES AVIGDOR (Ensemble/Dipper/First Cameraman/Doctor/Buddy),
NEENA BOYLE (Gloria), DANTE BRATELLI (Ensemble), JORDAN CHALL
(Ensemble/Spider Rico/Gazzo/Tom Crosetti), JOSEPH CARTAGENA JR. (Paulie),
MAURICE ANDREW CHARLES (Apollo), SOPHIA DILEO (Adrian),
BRIAN KEITH GRAZIANI (Ensemble/News caster/Miles Jergens/Referee),
PETER HOEFLER (Extras), GREGORY HOLMES JR. (Ensemble/Mike/Apollo's Manager/
Bob Dunphy), DANIEL MILLER (Rocky), ANGELO RAGONESI (Mickey),
RACHEL ROMEAN (Ensemble), ANDY SPINOSI (Rocky 2nd Cover),
GRACE SZCZEPKOWSKI (Ensemble/Angie), FAYE TELEMACO-BEANE (Ensemble),
NATASHA S. TRUITT (Ensemble/Joanne)

* 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.

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

Show logo artwork by Mark Shockley © 2022

ROCKY

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

All authorized performance materials are also supplies by MTI.

www.MTIShows.com

Page 11

Advertising

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

“Rocky Fanfare”	Orchestra
“Ain’t Down Yet”	Company
“Holiday”	Gloria, Angie, Joanne
“Raining”	Adrian
“Patriotic”	Apollo Creed, Miles Jergens, Apollo’s Manager, Apollo Girls, Entourage
“My Nose Ain’t Broken”	Rocky
“The Flip Side”	Rocky, Adrian, Watchman
“Adrian”	Rocky
“Wanna Know Why”	Gazzo, Buddy, Rocky, Mickey
“Fight From The Heart”	Rocky
“One of Us”	Company

THERE WILL BE ONE 20-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

ACT II

“Entr’acte” / “Training Montage”	Orchestra
“In the Ring”	Mickey
“Eye of the Tiger”	Company, Apollo Creed, Adrian, Apollo’s Manager, Trainers
“Holiday (Reprise)”	Gloria, Angie, Joanne
“Happiness”	Rocky, Adrian
“I’m Done”	Adrian
“South Philly Celebrity”	Company, Rocky, Apollo
“Adrian (Reprise)”	Adrian
“Keep On Standin’”	Rocky
“Undefeated Man”	Apollo Creed, Apollo Girls, Entourage
“The Fight”	Company

Place: Philadelphia **Time:** 1975

ORCHESTRA

Keyboard 2/Conductor: Chris Burcheri
Keyboard 1/Associate Conductor: Daniel Espie
Reed (Flute, Clarinet, Tenor Sax): Frank Mazzeo
Trumpet 1: Jim Ward
Trumpet 2: Joe Scannella
Trombone: Bob Gale
Guitar 1: Mike Quaile
Guitar 2: Tim Schilling
Bass: Fred Weiss
Drums: Kevin Blanke
Cello, Concertmaster: Sue Lerner

Page 13

Advertising

CAST



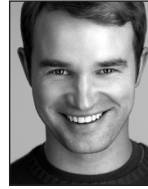
**Matthew
Amira**



**Ben
Dibble**



**Jake
Blouch**



**Mark
Donaldson**



**Karissa
Harris**



**Jesse
Jones**



**Bonnie
Kelly**



**Scott
Langdon**



**Adam
Mandala**



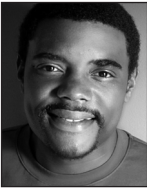
**Jarret
Martin**



**Daniel
Miller**



**Dana
Orange**



**Nicholas L.
Parker**



**Kristyn
Pope**



**Fran
Prisco**



**Sabrina
Profft**



**Rebecca
Robbins**



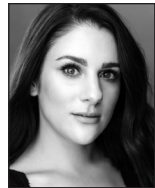
**Jenny Lee
Stern**



**Bill
Van Horn**



**Sierra
Wilson**



**Gianna
Yanelli**

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

MATTHEW AMIRA (*Rocky Balboa*) is humbled to bring this iconic underdog story to life in Philadelphia! *Jersey Boys*: Ogunquit Playhouse, Fulton Theatre, Maine State Music Theatre as Nick Massi. Broadway National Tour: *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* (Donnie, Nick/Low Rhythmic Brother), *Dirty Dancing* (Robbie Gould). Regional: Goodspeed Opera House, Asolo Repertory Theatre, MTW, Gloucester Stage, and many more. BFA: CCM. IG: @matthewamira. Coaching: @loveforthecraft. Huge thank you to Brian, Richard, and Avalon Artists Group. Love to my family, my cornermen Ivan and Darryl, and Kat. For Dad - the original Philly sports hero.

BEN DIBBLE (*Newscaster/Miles Jergens/Referee/Ensemble*) Honored to be in his 25th Mainstage WST production! WST: *Young Frankenstein* (Frederick Frankenstein), *The Little Mermaid* (Chef Louis), *Shrek* (Lord Farquaad), *Comedy of Tenors* (Max), *Holiday Inn* (Jim Hardy), *Noises Off* (Garry LeJeune), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Freddy-Barrymore nom.), *The Producers* (Leo-Barrymore nom.), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Teddy), *9 to 5*, *Hairspray* (Corny Collins), many others. Other favorites include the Baker in *Into the Woods* (Arden), Leo Frank in *Parade* (Arden-Barrymore Award) and *Herringbone* (Flashpoint-Barrymore Award). Love to Amy and the Dibbles.

JAKE BLOUCH (*Gazzo/Tom Crosetti/Ensemble*) Philadelphia based actor and musician, previous Walnut credits include *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Meteor Shower*. Other credits include *Something Wicked This Way Comes* and *Honk!* (Delaware Theatre Co.), *See What I Wanna See* (11th Hour Theatre Co., Barrymore Award), and *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (Theater Exile). Co-creator of Mythic Thunderlute: A DnD Podcast Musical, presented by Broadway Podcast Network. MythicThunderlute.com All my love to Sophie and the Pets.

MARK DONALDSON (*Ensemble*) Walnut Street Theatre: *The Little Mermaid*, *Shrek*, *Matilda* (Michael Wormwood). National Tours: *Fiddler on the Roof* starring Harvey Fierstein, *Cats* (Mungojerrie). Regional: Sacramento Music Circus, TUTS, North Shore, Maltz-Jupiter, Fulton, Flat Rock, Arvada Center. BFA from The Hartt School. Mom and Dad, I love you! @markyd1982

KARISSA HARRIS (*Joanne/Ensemble*) is ecstatic to be back at the Walnut in this fantastic show! Fav past credits include: *Sister Act* and *9 to 5* (Sacramento Music Circus); *Beehive*

(WST, Riverside); *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Tarzan*, and *Peter Pan* (Tuacahn Amphitheater); *Passing Strange* and *Hair* (Playhouse on Park); *RENT*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Civic Theatre of Allentown). Big thanks and congratulations to the cast, creative team and crew! Special thanks to Richard, The Roster, her fam, and tribe for their continued love and support. karissaharris.com @karissanharris

JESSE JONES (*Bob Dunphy/Ensemble*) Regional: Walnut St. Theatre *Mamma Mia*, *High Society*; Riverside Theater *Verlo La Cage Aux Folles* (Jacob); Gateway Playhouse *Swing!* (West Coast Swing Feature); Broadway Sacramento Music Circus *In the Heights*; North Carolina Theater *Dreamgirls*; Arkansas Rep *The Wiz*; Barter Theater *Cabaret*; Alliance Theater *Jesus Christ Superstar Gospel*; BCCPA South Pacific (Dance Captain); Fulton Theatre *Smokey Joe's Café* (Associate Choreographer). Other: Philadelphia Opera Company, Tokyo Disney, PBS Dance Masters @jessejdance

BONNIE KELLY (*Ensemble; Fight Captain*) is a purebred Philadelphian ready to bring an iconic Philly story to the Walnut stage! Last seen in *The Little Mermaid*. Bonnie has been in several WST productions including *Beehive* (Pattie), *Holiday Inn* (Lila Dixon), *Shrek* (Sugarplum Fairy), and more. Coming up: *Cinderella!* National Tours: *Beauty and the Beast* (Silly Girl/Babette Understudy) and *A Chorus Line* (Bebe). Regional: *Nice Work If You Can Get It* (Sacramento Music Circus). This one is for Pat - my Philly lovin', sweatsuit wearin' dad.

SCOTT LANGDON (*Ensemble*) is extremely grateful to return to the Walnut to help tell this fantastic story! He was last seen here as Dr. Bradman in *Bliethe Spirit*. WST favorites include: *I Love a Piano* (Alex); *The Music Man* (Charlie Cowell); *Love Story-The Musical* (Dr. Ackerman). Regional: *Spamalot* (Arthur); *Oliver!* (Fagin); *The Who's Tommy* (Uncle Ernie); *Grand Hotel* (Otto). Thanks to Bernard and Mark. Thank you, Richard. Love to Mikaela and Connor, and his wife, Sarah.

ADAM MANDALA (*Buddy/Ensemble*) is thrilled to be returning to the Walnut Street Theatre! Regional: *Matilda* (Gretna Theatre); *The Little Mermaid*, *Shrek*, *Young Frankenstein* (WST); *Legally Blonde*, *Mamma Mia* (WST and Riverside); *Evita* (Riverside); *Newsies* (Coastal Carolina); *West Side Story*, *On The Town* (Finger Lakes MTF). Television: "iCarly." Cruise: Royal Caribbean International. Adam is a proud alum

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

of Temple University. Catch him next in the Walnut's holiday production of *Cinderella*! For my love, Adam Hoyak. @adammandallla

JARRET MARTIN (*Ensemble*) is thrilled to be making his debut at Walnut Street Theatre! Credits include: *In the Heights* (Benny), *The Color Purple* (Harpo), *RENT* (Benny), *The Wizard of Oz* (Lion/Zeke), *Children of Eden* (Cain/Japheth), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II). Many thanks to the cast and crew. Special thanks to God, family, and friends for their never-ending love and support! @jarrettmartin

DANIEL MILLER (*Spider Rico/Ensemble*; *u/s Rocky Balboa*) Walnut debut! International: *Jersey Boys* (NCL), *Legally Blonde The Musical* (China Tour); Regional: *Chicago* (Arizona Broadway Theatre), *A Chorus Line* (The Palace Theatre); *West Side Story* (Ivoryton Playhouse); *The Playboy of the Western World*, *The Sygne Triptych*, *Oliver!*, *The Broken Heart*, *Love's Labors Lost*, *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Quintessence Theatre Group); *Macbeth*, *Cymbeline* (Texas Shakespeare Festival); *Tarzan*, *Damn Yankees*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Thingamajig Theatre Company). www.iamdanielmiller.com

DANA ORANGE (*Mike/Apollo's Manager/Ensemble*) is happy to be back on stage at the Walnut! Past WST credits: *Disney's The Little Mermaid* (Sebastian), *Shrek The Musical* (Donkey). Other credits: *The Color Purple*, *Kiss Me Kate* (Broadway at Music Circus), *Choir Boy* (Philadelphia Theatre Company), *In The Heights* (Park Playhouse), *Sister Act* (Millbrook Playhouse). Much thanks to Richard, Brian, Bernard, and the entire team here at the Walnut! Love to my amazing support system that keeps me going! www.danaorange.com

NICHALAS L. PARKER (*Apollo Creed*) Happy to return! Recent credits: *Shrek: The Musical*, *Civil War Voices*, *A Funny Thing Happened....*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (WST). Graduate of The University of the Arts and Musical Theater Intensive at Stella Adler School of Drama, NY. He is currently a Drama and Vocal Faculty Member at the Brooklyn Music School. He would like to thank all his family and, of course, Jasmine for all the love and support. IG: @Nickparker202

KRISTYN POPE (*Ensemble*; *Associate Choreographer*) is excited for this creative space. Thanks to WST, Richard, and the *Rocky* family for this opportunity. "You have to take risks..."

We will only understand the miracle of life fully when we allow the unexpected to happen." ~Paulo Coelho. Now and always, in loving memory of her mom. Agape...Ps100.

FRAN PRISCO (*Paulie*) This Philly Boy is elated to return to the Walnut in this (Brotherly) Love Story! *Rocky* marks Fran's 37th (IYKYK) Walnut production since *Singing in the Rain* in 2000. Favorite roles include: The Inspector & Blind Hermit in *Young Frankenstein*; Billis in *South Pacific*; Andre in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*; and directing and starring in *My Way* for the Independence Studio on 3. Thank you to the entire Walnut family. Thank you, Bernard, Judy, Mark, and especially Siobhán without whom I would not have made it through these past few years, and thank YOU for supporting LIVE THEATRE!!!

SABRINA PROFFT (*Shirley/Ensemble*) has performed on WST stages in *Saturday Night Fever* and *Mickle Street*. Recent local credits include the critically acclaimed one woman show *Donna Orbits the Moon* with Tiny Dynamite and *Awake and Sing!* at Quintessence Theatre. Regional credits include: Syracuse Stage, Florida Studio Theatre, The Asolo Theatre, Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival and Bristol Riverside Theatre. She is endlessly grateful for her three astonishing daughters and her two far less astonishing dogs.

REBECCA ROBBINS (*Gloria*) is delighted to be returning to the Walnut after playing Ursula in *The Little Mermaid* and Louise in *Always Patsy Cline* last season. Broadway: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Phantom of The Opera* (also North American Tour). Walnut favorites: *Legally Blonde* (Paulette), *Souvenir* (Florence Foster Jenkins), *Mary Poppins* (Mrs. Banks). Heartfelt thanks to Bernard, Mark, Bryan, Richard, and everyone at the Walnut. Love to MFK. Proud cancer survivor. Check out my history podcast at HistoricallySpeakingPodcast.com or find me at RebeccaRobbins.com or @rebrobbins.

JENNY LEE STERN (*Angie/Ensemble*) is thrilled to bring *Rocky* to her hometown after performing in the original Broadway cast (Joanne, OBC Cast Album). Other Broadway/Off-Broadway/NYC/Tour: *A Christmas Story* (Mrs. Schwartz), *Forbidden Broadway: Alive & Kicking* (Cast Album), *Spamilton*, and the North American Tour of *Jersey Boys* (Mary Delgado). Most recently at WST: *Patsy Cline* on the Mainstage in *Always Patsy Cline*. Other WST: *West Side Story*, *Godspell*, *42nd Street*, *Lobby Hero*, and *High Society*. Mother of 3

Page 17

Advertising

WHO'S WHO

incredible daughters. Follow their adventures on Instagram: @pinneddownpinup. These 12 rounds are for Jenna.

BILL VAN HORN (*Mickey*) Recently at Walnut: *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, *The Little Mermaid*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *Gifts of the Magi*, *Annie*, *Forum*, *Oz*, *A Christmas Story*, *Mary Poppins*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Elf*, *The Prince*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Directed *Speckled Band*, *Civil War Voices*, *The Curious Incident...*, *The Glass Menagerie*, and created and starred in *O Captain, My Captain: Whitman's Lincoln*. Bill is a permanent member of the acting company at Theatre at Monmouth in Maine. Proud member of Actors' Equity.

SIERRA WILSON (*Ensemble*) Onstage Walnut debut! Musical Theatre BA from Temple University. Regional: Helene (*Sweet Charity*, BCCPA), Deloris u/s/Ensemble (*Sister Act*, Media Theatre), Soprano Swing (*Other World*, Delaware Theatre Co.), Wanda u/s (*Beehive*, WST), Esmeralda (*Hunchback of Notre Dame*, UD Summer Stage), Lisa (*Mamma Mia!*, Media Theatre), Ensemble (*Chess*, 11th Hour), Armelia (*Ain't Misbehavin'*, Candlelight Theatre). She thanks her friends and family for supporting her dreams and feels blessed to perform for audiences again. Instagram: @sierrajwilson and @mezzomango for her cosplay.

GIANNA YANELLI (*Adrian*) is thrilled to be returning to the Walnut Street Theatre, where she made her professional debut in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Hodel) right out of high school! Gianna is a Philly native who has appeared in the original company of *Mean Girls* on Broadway (Ensemble/Janis) and recently originated Jojo in the new musical, *Mystic Pizza*. TV: Law and Order: SVU, SNL, Seth Meyers. Go Birds! Instagram: @giannayanelli

SYLVESTER STALLONE (*Book*) has established worldwide recognition as an actor, writer, and director since he played the title role in his own screenplay of *Rocky*, which won the Academy Award in 1976 for Best Picture. *Rocky* grew to a franchise which resolutely confirmed both Stallone and Rocky as iconic cultural symbols. Stallone wrote, directed, and starred in *Rambo*, and the action thriller *The Expendables*. Stallone's other credits as actor/writer/director are *Rocky II* and *Paradise Alley*. As actor and co-writer, Stallone filmed *F.I.S.T.*, *First Blood*, *Rambo: First Blood Part II*, *Rhinstone* and *Rambo III*. Stallone's numerous other film credits include *Nighthawks*, *Victory*, *Tango & Cash*,

Lock Up, *Demolition Man*, *The Specialist*, *Assassins*, *Daylight*, *Cop Land*, and *Get Carter*. In March 2014 *Rocky: The Musical* opened at The Winter Garden on Broadway. In 2015, *Creed* was shot on location in Philadelphia for director Ryan Coogler, and featured Stallone reprising his role as Rocky Balboa opposite Michael B. Jordan. The role earned Stallone an Academy Award nomination in 2016.

THOMAS MEEHAN (*Book*) received the Tony Award for co-writing the book for *The Producers* in 2001 and in 2003 for co-writing the book for *Hairspray*. He received a Tony Award in 1977 for the book of *Annie*, his first Broadway show, and has written the books for the musicals *Rocky*, *Elf the Musical*, *Cry-Baby*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Chaplin*, *Bombay Dreams*, *I Remember Mama*, *Ain't Broadway Grand* and *Annie Warbucks*. He was a long-time contributor of humor to *The New Yorker*, an Emmy-Award winning writer of television comedy, and a collaborator on several screenplays, including Mel Brooks' *Spaceballs* and *To Be Or Not To Be*. Mr. Meehan was also a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild. He and his wife, Carolyn, divided their time between a home in Nantucket and an apartment in Greenwich Village, near which, on Hudson Street, she owned and presided over the long-running and near-legendary children's store Peanut Butter & Jane.

LYNN AHRENS (*Lyrics*) & **STEPHEN FLAHERTY** (*Music*) have been collaborators since 1983. Broadway: *Ragtime*, *Anastasia*, *Seussical*, *Rocky*, *My Favorite Year*, *Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life*, and *Once On This Island*. Off-Broadway and regional: Lincoln Center Theater's *A Man of No Importance*, *Dessa Rose*, *The Glorious Ones*; *Lucky Stiff*; Kennedy Center world premiere of *Little Dancer*. Honors: Tony Award, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, Olivier, Oscar Hammerstein Award for Lifetime Achievement and multiple nominations for the Academy Award, Golden Globe and Grammy. They are members of the Theater Hall of Fame. Individually, Ms. Ahrens wrote book and lyrics for Madison Square Garden's *A Christmas Carol*. She has received the Emmy and the Lilly; NAACP Best Playwright Award for *Once On This Island*. Her extensive work in television and film includes "Schoolhouse Rock" (ABC-TV), *Camp* (IFC) and many others. Mr. Flaherty composed the score of the new dance play *In Your Arms* (Old Globe), incidental music for Neil Simon's *Proposals* (Broadway) and the score for *Loving Repeating: A Musical of Gertrude Stein* (Joseph Jefferson Award, Best New Musical).

WHO'S WHO

His work has been performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall and others. Ahrens and Flaherty are members of Council, Dramatists Guild of America. www.ahrensandflaherty.com

RICHARD STAFFORD (*Director/Choreographer*) happily returns to the Walnut where he directed/choreographed *Beehive*, *Legally Blonde*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Sister Act*, *Memphis*, *Curtains*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Cats*, and choreographed *La Vie En Blue*, *Evita*, *Camilla*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Grand Hotel* and *The Goodbye Girl*. On Broadway, Mr. Stafford was the choreographer for *In My Life* (Music Box Theatre). New York City Opera: director/choreographer for *Los Elementos* (2017), *Pygmalion* (2018); Off-Broadway: choreographer for *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and director/choreographer for *Castle Walk*. richardstafford.net

CHRIS BURCHERI (*Music and Vocal Direction*) is excited to be starting his third season as the Walnut's Mainstage music director with Rocky, after previously music directing *Young Frankenstein*, *Shrek*, *Beehive*, *The Little Mermaid*, and most recently, *Always...Patsy Cline*. Based in Philadelphia, he has also music directed at Bucks County Playhouse (*Kinky Boots*), Rutgers-Camden, Arcadia University, and the WST for Kids series, where his musical arrangements have been heard in *A Christmas Carol*. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. Thank you to Bernard, Mark, and the entire Walnut staff. Love to Mom, Dad, and Maura.

MALEEK JACKSON (*Boxing Consultant*) is a South Philly native, authentic boxing coach, and consultant. He is a published author and the founder of Northern Liberties' Maleek Jackson Fitness Boxing Gym and the Azzim Dukes Initiative, an anti-gun violence and nonviolence program for inner-city and income-restricted Philadelphia kids. He works with professional talent and confidential clients to develop authenticity in their performance related to boxing. www.maleekjacksonfitness.com @maleek_jackson @mjfitnessboxing

ROMAN TATAROWICZ (*Scenic Design*) Walnut: *Blithe Spirit*, *The Best Man*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *The Curious Incident...*, *The Humans*, *Thurgood*, *Oleanna*, *Meteor Shower*, *Souvenir*, *Jerry's Girls*, *The Other Place*, *Red, I Love a Piano*. Selected Off-B'way: *The Banana Monologues* (Acorn Theatre); *Honky*, *Roses in December* (Urban Stages); *Mother Courage*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Dames at Sea*, *The*

Threepenny Opera (Jean Cocteau Rep.). Many Off-Off-B'way including *Bee-Luther-Hatchee* (Audelco Award nom). Regional credits: Capital Rep., Merrimack Rep., Queens Theatre in the Park, Florida Studio Theatre, Azuka Theatre, Act II, InterAct, Bristol Riverside, People's Light, Pa. Shakespeare Festival, Delaware Theatre Company and ETC (Santa Barbara). Member United Scenic Artists Local 829. tatarowicz.com

MARY FOLINO (*Costume Design*) is currently Arcadia University's Costume Shop Manager, having previously worked as the Walnut's Costume Shop Manager, and as the Costume Director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. Favorite WST designs include *Holiday Inn*, *A Comedy of Tenors*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Shrek*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *Beehive*, and *The Little Mermaid*. Many thanks to Bernard and the WST family, all of my collaborators on this piece, and the amazing costume and wardrobe staff!

JULIE DURO (*Lighting Design*) is delighted to be returning to the Walnut Street Theatre. She has designed extensively for opera, theatre, and dance throughout the United States. Theatre: Riverside Theatre, Paper Mill Playhouse, Florida Repertory Theatre, the Emerson String Quartet, Olney Theatre, Westport Country Playhouse, the Kennedy Center Jazz Program, the Drama Desk Awards. Opera: Arizona Opera, Connecticut Opera, Kentucky Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Manhattan School of Music, Palm Beach Opera, Mannes Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Illinois, Dayton Opera, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Dance: Pittsburgh Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, Mark Stuart Dance Theatre, Ohio Ballet.

ED CHAPMAN (*Sound Design*) Happy to be returning. Walnut Street Theatre: *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *Shrek*, *Young Frankenstein*, *In the Heights*, *Mary Poppins*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Annie*. 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*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Producers*. Other award-nominated work: *Holiday Inn* (2018 SALT Award nomination), *Mamma Mia!* (2016 Berkshire Theatre Award nomination).

ELIZABETH HAROIAN (*Stage Manager*) is thrilled to be back with WST for the season after joining the stage management team last

WHO'S WHO

February. Stage management credits: *Further Than the Furthest Thing* (NYU Tisch), *Symphonic Fantastique* (Basil Twist), *The Pirate La Dee Da* (ATC), *The Secret Garden* and *Sister Act* (NYU Steinhardt), *Grease* (New London Barn Playhouse), and *Richard III* (Juilliard). Last fall, Liz was in Saudi Arabia managing a truly magical show with five international illusionists. She's worked with many academic programs including NYU Tisch, The Juilliard School, NYU Steinhardt, Atlantic, and ART/Harvard. Amid all of the chaos remember to have fun!

MATTHEW LUPPINO (*Stage Manager*) Matthew is thrilled to be back at the Walnut! WST credits: *Blithe Spirit*. Broadway: *Bandstand*, *The Illusionists: Turn of the Century & Live on Broadway*. Additional NYC: The Public Theatre, The Pearl Theatre Company, The Flea. Select Regional: People's Light, Montana Repertory Theatre, Geva Theatre Center, Hangar Theatre, Kitchen Theatre Company, 4 seasons with Shakespeare & Company, and Barrington Stage Company. Matthew is an alum of The College of New Jersey and a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.

SIOBHÁN RUANE (*Director of Production*) This is Siobhán's tenth season at the Walnut. With over 20 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 (*Associate Artistic Director*) has been associated with the Walnut Street Theatre since 2007. He began his career here as a performer and in the professional apprenticeship program, and has since dedicated himself to bringing artists together. He now serves our artists and audiences in the various capacities of casting, directing, programming, and literary management, as his function is to identify the highest quality of artists for our historic theatre. 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 Gretna Theatre, has worked on television networks and films including TLC and HGTV, and helped create events and entertainment for brands such as T-Mobile and

Walmart while at Live Nation. Originally from Lancaster, Brian is a proud Temple alum and a member of the Casting Society of America.

MARK D. SYLVESTER (*Managing Director*) Mark is proud to be celebrating his 29th season at the Walnut. 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. Widely regarded as a theatrical marketing expert, Mark lectures and consults with organizations internationally. He has served on several boards including seven years with 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*. Since he joined the Walnut in 1994, it became the most subscribed theatre company in the world.

BERNARD HAVARD (*President and Executive Producing/Artistic Director*) *Vox Populi* (*The Voice of the People*) was written on the Walnut Playbills in the 1800s. Whenever the Walnut has strayed from a populist program, the theatre has gone bankrupt. When I came here 40 years ago, we had no programs and no audience. Today we enjoy the largest subscription 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 have tremendous admiration for the artists who have dedicated their lives to the theatre and the Walnut, in particular. 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 150,000 students in our city schools. We have 20 trustees who give their time, wisdom, and contributions to help guide this historical treasure. I came to the Walnut 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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AT THIS THEATRE!

MAINSTAGE

Our 2022–23 Season includes

- *Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella*
(starts Nov. 22, 2022)
- Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*
(starts Jan. 10, 2023)
- Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
(starts Feb. 14, 2023)
- Jimmy Buffett's *Escape to Margaritaville*
(starts Mar. 28, 2023)

WST FOR KIDS

- *Disney's FROZEN JR.*
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Page 21

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Page 21

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Actors' Equity Association (AEA), founded in 1913, represents more than 45,000 actors and stage managers in the United States. Equity seeks to advance, promote and foster the art of live theatre as an essential component of our society. Equity negotiates wages and working conditions, providing a wide range of benefits for its members, including health and pension plans. AEA is a member of the AFL-CIO, and is affiliated with FIA, an international organization of performing unions. The Equity emblem is our mark of excellence. actorsequity.org



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Metro, Philadelphia's #1 newspaper, is proud to partner with Walnut Street Theatre, now in its 214th season, in supporting Philadelphia's artists and promoting art education in the local communities. Pick up Metro every Thursday for our Going Out section or read it online at metro.us.



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 Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, and the league of Historic American Theatres.



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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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