in collaboration with

**ARTS @STRITCH**
**CARDINAL STRITCH UNIVERSITY**

Present

![A Chorus Line poster](image)

Conceived and Originally Directed and Choreographed by Michael Bennett

**Book by**
James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante

**Music by**
Marvin Hamlisch

**Lyrics by**
Edward Kleban

**Co Choreographed by** Bob Avian

Original Broadway production produced by the New York Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Papp, Producer, in association with Plum Productions, Inc.

**Stage Direction By** Jill Anna Ponasik
**Music Direction By** Ryan Cappleman
**Choreography By** James Zager

A CHORUS LINE is presented by arrangement with TAMS-WITMARK MUSIC LIBRARY, INC. 560 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022
Support for the arts continues with a move to Milwaukee Catholic Home.

Milwaukee Catholic Home’s exciting schedule of performing arts events has included performances by Paul Cebar, Robin Pluer, the Radio Rosies, and many others. Visit our website’s “Community Life” page to learn more.
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Zach ................................................................................................................................................. Joe Picchetti
Larry .................................................................................................................................................. Ryan Cappleman

Auditioners:
Cassie (no number) ......................................................................................................................... Beth Mulkerron*
Sheila (152) ....................................................................................................................................... Angela Iannone*
Val (179) ............................................................................................................................................ Marcee Doherty-Elst
Diana (2) ............................................................................................................................................. Rána Roman*
Judy (23) ............................................................................................................................................... Diane Lane
Kristine (10) ......................................................................................................................................... Karen Estrada
Maggie (9) ............................................................................................................................................ Jenny Wanasek*
Bebe (37) ............................................................................................................................................ Melissa Kelly Cardamone
Connie (149) ....................................................................................................................................... Carol Greif
Mike (81) ................................................................................................................................................ David Flores
Richie (44) ........................................................................................................................................... Bill Jackson
Don (5) .................................................................................................................................................... Joel Kopischke
Paul (45) .............................................................................................................................................. C. Michael Wright*
Mark (63) ............................................................................................................................................ James Zager*
Greg (67) ............................................................................................................................................. Mark Bucher
Bobby (84) ........................................................................................................................................... Karl Miller
Al (17) ..................................................................................................................................................... Doug Jarecki

Ensemble/Understudies:
James Carrington, Becky Cofta, Zachary Dean, Solana Ramirez-Garcia,
Sean Jackson, Stephanie Staszak, Matt Zeman, and Rachael Zientek

Dance Captain: Becky Cofta

*The actor appears through the courtesy of Actors’ Equity Association,
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director ....................................................................................................................................... Jill Anna Ponasik
Music Director ....................................................................................................................................... Ryan Cappleman
Percussionist ....................................................................................................................................... Michael “Ding” Lorenz
Stage Manager ...................................................................................................................................... Sarah Acker
Production Manager .......................................................................................................................... Jim Padovano
Lighting Designer .............................................................................................................................. Antishadows LLC
Photography/Videography .............................................................................................................. Traveling Lemur Productions
Mark T. Boergers ............................................................................................................................... Chair, Theatre Arts, Cardinal Stritch University
Allyn J. Weber ...................................................................................................................................... Technical Director, Cardinal Stritch University

SPECIAL THANKS

Cardinal Stritch University and the Arts@Stritch Performance Series, Footlights,
and Patrick Thompson
**PRODUCTION NOTES**

“Michael did something today that had a profound effect on the show and on me. He drew a white line on the floor, and in that simple act was the epitome of Michael’s genius. What he did was symbolize the show in one fell swoop. For A Chorus Line is all about being on the line, all of us, auditioning all the time.” ~Excerpt from Marvin Hamlisch’s Journal

At a time when the Bronx was burning, and many Broadway theatres were shuttered, A CHORUS LINE revitalized the American Musical with a ground-breaking focus on an ensemble of individual characters based on the real lives of Broadway dancers. All-night rap sessions produced a series of tapes containing the intimate details of the dancers’ drives, ambitions, dreams, and the daily challenges of existence in the theatre. Through a lengthy workshop process (unheard of at that time), these were woven into a piece that was both conceptually and structurally trail blazing. Never before had American audiences heard a work that so seamlessly navigates show stopping numbers, dialogue, montage, ensembles, and monologues. For those in early audiences, it was nothing short of revolutionary.

A CHORUS LINE opened at The Schubert Theatre on Broadway in July of 1975. The original production ran for 6,137 performances over 15 years, becoming the longest-running production in Broadway history.

Both Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED are committed to growth in craft for artists and emphasize the use of local talent. These two companies are proud to bring A CHORUS LINE to the Nancy Kendall Theater at Cardinal Stritch University with 100% local artists.

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**Two ground-breaking theater companies, One singular sensation!**

“I don’t think there has ever been a time when, during the opening dance combinations, the tiny hairs on my arms and along my spine haven’t stood erect in honor of the pure, raw energy of the actor-dancers upholding the tradition and discipline of the theatre.” ~James Kirkwood, Playbill Magazine 1983

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SONG LIST

Opening: I Hope I Get It .............................................................................................................. Company
I Can Do That ................................................................................................................................. Mike
At the Ballet ................................................................................................................................. Sheila, Bebe and Maggie
Sing ................................................................................................................................................ Kristine and Al
Montage Part 1: Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello Love .................................................. Company
Montage Part 2: Nothing .............................................................................................................. Diana
Montage Part 3: Mother ................................................................................................................ Company
Montage Part 4: Gimme the Ball ................................................................................................. Richie and Company
Dance: Ten; Looks: Three ................................................................................................................. Val
The Music and the Mirror ............................................................................................................. Cassie
One .............................................................................................................................................. Company
What I Did For Love .................................................................................................................... Diana and Company
One (Reprise) / Finale ..................................................................................................................... Company
ABOUT MILWAUKEE OPERA THEATRE

Creating dynamic, singer-centered art; exploring the beauty of the human voice; sparking the imagination of both audiences and artists; and transforming the bountiful landscape of classic and contemporary lyric theatre.

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ABOUT THEATER RED

Founded in 2013 by local actors Christopher Elst and Marcee Doherty-Elst, Theater RED produces theater in Southeastern Wisconsin. Each production addresses three founding tenets: Substantial roles for women, growth in craft for artists, and support for new playwrights.

THEATER REDHEADS

Barb and Jim Blechl
Bill and Carrie Colella
Danny and Kay Esposito
David Flores

Rene Kossow
Susan and Ron Scot Fry
Susan Tatreux
Randy and Patty Vrzal

ABOUT ARTS@STRITCH

Arts@Stritch is a new performing arts series hosted by Cardinal Stritch University that presents exciting professional performances on the beautiful main campus in Glendale, WI. Inspired by the University’s rich Liberal Arts tradition, Arts@Stritch provides an opportunity to expand the landscape of exciting performing arts experiences for both the Cardinal Stritch community, and the greater Milwaukee area as a whole.
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A Chrous Line
BIOGRAPHIES

Sarah Acker (Stage Manager)
Sarah fell in love with theater when she was eight years old and tagged along with her sisters for a Shorewood summer rec dept. production of THE MIKADO and was put in the chorus. She ate, slept and breathed theater after that. Sarah attended UWM in the Professional Theater Training Program, in Stage Management. Sarah’s professional credits include working at Alaska Repertory Theater, Anchorage Opera, Alaska Light Opera, Skylight Music Theater, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Sarah has toured shows all over the US, to the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore. Sarah paused her stage management career for another love: motherhood. She is a proud Mom to Alex, Ben and Emily. Her husband Tom is a member of Milwaukee’s Stagehand union, Local 18. Recently Sarah has stage managed for the Milwaukee Symphony, UWM and Milwaukee Opera Theatre. A CHORUS LINE was the first show Sarah saw on Broadway, when she saw the original cast on a Shorewood High School theater trip.

Mark Bucher (Greg)
Actor, director, and producer Mark Bucher founded Milwaukee’s Boulevard Theatre in 1985. This charming 40-seat black box studio theatre staged works by Shakespeare, Moliere, Chekhov, Pinter, Beckett, Sondheim, & Wisconsin writers and also sparked commercial interest along Kinnickinnic Street, which grew into a bonfire of expansive urban renewal. Widely credited for initiating the Bay View “renaissance,” Boulevard sold its theatre building in 2013 and now enjoys staging most of its events at Plymouth Church, 2717 East Hampshire. Boulevard’s “SEASON 32” begins September 21, with the Midwest premiere of Daniel MacIvor’s domestic comedy of manor, SMALL THINGS. Past acting credits include Skylight Music Theatre (THE MUSIC MAN), Windfall Theatre (Sondheim’s ASSASSINS), Theatre Gigante (John Gay’s THE BEGGAR’S OPERA), and appearances with Theatre X, Milwaukee Rep, and Chamber Theatre. A CHORUS LINE marks (pun intended!) his first time working with both MOT and Theater RED. He is indebted to these brilliant organizations for granting a shaggy, old dog a brief respite from the nonprofit, administrative “kennel.”

Ryan Cappleman (Larry)
Ryan is a performer, choreographer, music director, director, and teacher from Milwaukee. MOT and Theater RED debut! Ryan works frequently at Skylight where he played the Scarecrow in OZ, Woof in HAIR, Clo-Clo in LA CAGE, and will be playing Pooh Bah next in HOT MIKADO. He also choreographed SWEENEY TODD last season, took home an inaugural Footlights Award for choreographing PIRATES OF PENZANCE, and will be choreographing once again for URINETOWN. He has worn many hats at Danceworks, Children’s Theater of Madison, Northbrook Theater for Young Audiences, First Stage, In Tandem, Milwaukee Chamber Theater, Windfall Theater, Musical Mainstage, Sunset Playhouse, Northern Sky Theater, Overture Center for the Arts, Marcus Center, Shorewood High School, Minnesota Conservatory for the Arts, and Off Broadway at the Cherry Lane Theater. All my love to husband, Gio. Ryan played the harp book on keyboard a decade ago for Modjeska Youth Theaters’ production of A CHORUS LINE.
Melissa Kelly Cardamone (Bebe)
Melissa is delighted to share the stage with these talented artists. A soprano and pianist performing in the Milwaukee area, Melissa appeared with Milwaukee Opera Theatre in FORTUNA THE TIMEBENDER VS. THE SCHOOL GIRLS OF DOOM, TOO MANY SOPRANOS, MASTER CLASS (with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre), COSI FAN TUTTE (cover), A MIDWINTER’S AFTERNOON, and HOME. Local credits include Sunset Playhouse’s Musical Mainstage series, Music by the Lake, Lakeside Players, PM&L Theatre, Festival Arts Antioch, The Belle Ensemble, and 2 tours with Opera for the Young. She sang with the Florentine Opera Chorus for several seasons. Ms. Cardamone looks forward to her debut with Skylight Music Theatre in TALES OF HOFFMANN in March, and to singing/playing keyboard for a YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND at the SideNotes Cabaret series in October. Melissa is a coach/accompanist at Carthage College. She thanks Jill Anna and Marcee for this incredible opportunity.

James Carrington (Ensemble)
James is delighted to be working with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED again! He was last seen in Milwaukee Opera Theater’s 1776 and Theater RED’s BONNY ANNE BONNY. Some favorite roles include: Matt in MR BURNS: A POST ELECTRIC PLAY (Luminous Theatre) Donner in RUDOLPH THE RED NOSED REINDEER THE MUSICAL, Man 3 in THE BALLAD OF EMMETT TILL, Francis Flute in A MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM. James has worked with First Stage, Renaissance Theaterworks, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, In Tandem. His regional work includes: The Ordway Center for the Arts, Childrens Theater of Madison, Door Shakespeare. Up next James will be appearing in HOT MIKADO with Skylight Theater. Thank you for coming! Support the arts!!!

Becky Cofta (Ensemble/Dance Captain)
Becky is beyond excited to be make both her Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED debuts with A CHORUS LINE. Her favorite credits include HELLO, DOLLY! (Sunset Playhouse), ONLY WE KNOW BEST (Milwaukee Metro Voices), VENUS IN FU (Off The Wall Theatre), THE WILD PARTY (All In Productions) and ROCKY HORROR: LIVE (Alchemist Theatre). Endless thanks to her family and friends for their unconditional love and support!

Zachary Dean (Ensemble)
Zachary can’t even describe the amount of joy it brings him to return to Milwaukee Opera Theatre after last summer’s 1776 and to be debuting with Theater RED! This isn’t the first time that he’s dabbled with A CHORUS LINE either. Zachary’s had the pleasure to work with Sunset Playhouse and their Bug in the Rug Theatre, Boulevard Theatre, Off the Wall, Music Theatre of Madison, and most recently Bad Example Productions in the Wisconsin Premier of CORALINE THE MUSICAL as Miss Forcible. This coming weekend, Zachary will be making his Bard & Bourbon debut in TWELFTH NIGHT! Zachary is honored to be able to join this ensemble of talented artists and hopes you all enjoy the show! Thank you! zacharydean.com
Marcee Doherty-Elst (Val)
Marcee is honored to perform amongst the singularly sensational cast of A CHORUS LINE! Marcee was last seen with Milwaukee Opera Theatre in last summer’s 1776 as Samuel “Old Bacon Face” Chase. Marcee is a Milwaukee-based actor and singer whose recent credits include SAYING GRACE (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre YPF), THE DROWNING GIRLS (Renaissance Theaterworks), MARY POPPINS (Racine Theatre Guild), and THE LITTLE MERMAID and JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (GCT). Marcee is co-founder and Producing Director of Theater RED, a theater company co-founded with her husband and fellow Actor/Fight Director Christopher Elst. Marcee extends her heartfelt thanks to the thrilling combination of the Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Theater RED, and Arts@Stritch production teams who gave this dream its legs. To Jill Anna – “One moment in her presence and you can forget the rest. For the girl is second best to none.”

Karen Estrada (Kristine)
Karen has had the privilege of working with Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, In Tandem Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, First Stage, Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Splinter Group, numerous shows with Sunset Playhouse’s bug in a rug children’s theater, Musical Mainstage, Bunny Gumbo’s Combat Theater, and a collaboration with her sketch comedy troupe, THE SHOW and Danceworks Performance Company. Karen is a proud alumna of Disney on Classic in Japan. She has taught at many schools of theater, including First Stage, MITY, Waukesha Civic, and Next Act Theatre’s Next Actors program.

David Flores (Mike)
David has performed extensively with many Milwaukee theater, music, and dance companies including Alchemist, Boulevard, Cornerstone, First Stage, In Tandem, Milwaukee Chamber, Milwaukee Shakespeare, Off The Wall, Renaissance, Skylight, Theater X, Windfall, Florentine Opera, and Wild Space Dance. Credits include everything from Albee to DIE ZAUBERFLOTTE and Shakespeare to Sondheim. For the Boulevard Theatre, he was stage director of well-received productions of PAL JOEY and WHERE THE STREETCAR BENDS THE CORNER, DOWN BY THE ZOO (for which also served as writer/creator). For MOT, he performed in 1776 and ERNEST IN LOVE (co-production with In Tandem Theatre) and was co-director of THANK YOU. NEXT? He played “Mike” in A CHORUS LINE with the West Allis Players in the summer of 1987 (that’s right — 30 years ago). Special thanks to my tap and musical theater dance teacher, the one and only Pam Kriger!

Carol Greif (Connie)
Carol is delighted to return to the Cardinal Stritch University stage where she has been a vocal coach/music director for many of their college musical productions. Over the years, this is also what Carol did for love: performed with the Skylight Music Theatre (where she was last seen as “Marie Dindon” in LA CAGE AUX FOLLES), In Tandem Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and Melody Top Theatre. Carol has appeared with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, the Aspen and Blossom Music Festivals and has been a recitalist at St. Patrick’s Cathedral – NYC and the Cathedral of St. John. As an educator, Carol has been on the voice faculty at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and Cardinal Stritch University as well as an adjunct teacher/vocal
A Chorus Line

BIOGRAPHIES cont.

coach at UWM. Carol’s singular sensation though is her family… Kevin, Christopher (Lizzy) and Katy!

Angela Iannone (Sheila)

Angela is very, very happy to be back “on the line.” Ms. Iannone first appeared as Sheila in A CHORUS LINE back when her resume contained roles like Anita in WEST SIDE STORY, Aldonza in MAN OF LA MANCHA, Bianca in THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, Roxanne in CYRANO DE BERGERAC, Rhetta in PUMP BOYS & DINETTES and Maggie in CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF. Since then, Ms. Iannone has also played the roles of Medea in MEDEA, Maria Callas in MASTER CLASS, Roxie in CHICAGO, Adelaide in GUYS & DOLLS, Lady MacBeth in MACBETH, Lady Bracknell in EARNEST IN LOVE and Brutus in JULIUS CAESAR. She is a Joseph Jefferson Award Winner, a two-time Lunt/Fontanne Fellow, a Queen’s Kudos Award Winner, a Footlights Award Winner and was named a Folger Shakespeare Library Research Fellow for her work as the playwright of THE EDWIN BOOTH PLAY CYCLE.

Bill Jackson (Richie)

Bill debuted with Theater RED as Richard Lionheart in A LADY IN WAITING. His credits include Skylight’s LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, AIN’T MISBEHAVIN, and ONCE ON THIS ISLAND, THE TEMPEST with Milwaukee Shakespeare, Windfall Theatre in Storefront Church, in Milwaukee Chamber Theatre’s ANGELS IN AMERICA: PERESTROIKA, HOMEBODY/KABUL, and MY CHILDREN, MY AFRICA, and teaching at First Stage. Bay View Players musicals include PETER PAN, SWEENEY TODD, CHESS, and SIDESHOW. In collaboration with the Boulevard Ensemble and Milwaukee LGBT, he appeared in JERKER. Bill directed HAIRSPRAY for the Falls Patio Players. He founded The Pride Theatre Company to produce and direct THE LION IN WINTER at The Alchemist Theatre in which he also played Henry II. He wrote the original plays, THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH and IMMORTAL. Bill has a Master of Arts from Alverno College and founded the Creative Writing Department at Milwaukee High School of the Arts.

Sean Anthony Jackson (Ensemble)

Sean is a local performer, born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. After studying theatre at Cardinal Stritch University, Sean has been enjoying the Milwaukee theatre community. Sean has appeared on Milwaukee stages such as In Tandem Theater, Skylight Music Theater, and a few more. Sean’s previous shows include CARNIVAL, MY FAIR LADY, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, TARTUFFE, LA Cage aux FOLLES, though he has not yet performed in A CHORUS LINE.

Doug Jarecki (Al)

Doug has performed with MOT in THE MIKADO and IOLANTHE, but has never worked with Theater RED. However, Doug enjoys both the theater AND the color red, so he does not anticipate any problems working with that group. Doug can be seen this fall in In Tandem’s ALL THE GREAT BOOKS ABRIDGED. And he will be remounting his Christmas play, TWAS THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS, at Next Act Theatre December 15-23. Doug could go on and on, but he thinks maybe you should move on to some of the other bios. They are really impressive and packed with interesting information about the other performers. Except for Estrada’s—her bio is just a pile of lies. Don’t believe a word of it.
Joel Kopischke (Don)
Joel began his professional career at the age of 9, performing at Melody Top as Winthrop Paroo to Van Johnson's Music Man and continued these many years, singing loudly and having fun on stage, TV, radio, film, and more. Joel is thrilled to once again be part of MOT, having previously appeared in VICTORY FOR VICTORIA & 1776 and is delighted to make his Theater RED debut. He has worked with Skylight Music Theatre (most recently as Alfred P Doolittle in MY FAIR LADY), First Stage, Northern Sky, Present Music, TAP, & the Milwaukee Symphony. Joel has upcoming performances with Bard & Bourbon (TWELFTH NIGHT, later this week!), Musical Mainstage at Sunset Playhouse (ELTON JOHN: ROCKET MAN) and will be returning to Waukesha Civic Theatre Dec. 5 & 7, where he and his band will perform humorous songs, including hits from his CDs I Got Yule Babe & Ground Control To Santa Claus. Joel's short play ROLE PERVERSAL was part of Cooperative Performance's 2017 One Act Play festival and he is currently writing a new musical, DAIRY HEIRS, with Alissa Rhode & Eva Nimmer. JoelVoice.com

Michael “Ding” Lorenz (Percussion)
Michael currently serves as Staff Percussionist and Orchestra Contractor for the Skylight Music Theatre and since 1972 has performed in over 125 productions. His percussion/comedy show THINGS THAT GO DING! was a smash hit (pun intended) and played to sold-out audiences. The Christmas version, THINGS THAT GO DING (DONG, MERRILY ON HIGH)! packed the Skylight Cabaret for six weekends. These days, when not haunting the Skylight orchestra pit, you can find Ding playing in several of the area's orchestras, the touring Broadway shows (including several productions over the years of A CHORUS LINE), collaborating with the Milwaukee Opera Theatre on such amazing productions as THE MIKADO and 1776, as well as the occasional bar mitzvah.

Karl Miller (Bobby)
Karl has been active in Milwaukee Theater for over 35 years as an Actor, Dancer, Singer, Choreographer, Director and Teacher. He has worked with In Tandem, First Stage, The Skylight, Off The Wall, UW Whitewater, UW Milwaukee and Sunset Playhouse to name a few. Karl currently choreographs at Oconomowoc, Greendale and Whitnall High Schools. He directs for the Whitnall Summer Theater Program, Disney Musicals In Schools in Madison and St Robert Middle School. Karl is the proud recipient of 13 TOMMY Awards for his High School Choreography and was the 2014 TOMMY Award Hall of Fame Inductee for Excellence in High School Musical Theater. Karl studied dance at the PAC School, William Reilly School of Ballet and Dance Spectrum, Karl would like to dedicate his performance to Pam Kriger and the late John Bohan for first casting him as Bobby in the 1988 production of A CHORUS LINE at the JCC.

Diane Lane (Judy)
Diane has performed over 50 roles with companies such as Glimmerglass Opera, Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Omaha, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Toledo Opera, Orlando Opera, Stadttheater Biel in Switzerland, Skylight Music Theatre, and Milwaukee Opera Theatre. When she was a kid, her Mom played A CHORUS LINE on the hi-fi for about two years straight – Diane's pretty sure it's now in her DNA.
BETH MULKERRON
(Cassie)
Beth is thrilled to be joining Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED for A CHORUS LINE. Additional stage highlights: Off-Broadway: REDHOOK-H.C. (Lambs Theatre); In Concert: An Evening with Davis Gaines, The LinkUp Series with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; Regional highlights: MAN OF LA MANCHA-Maria (Milwaukee Rep), FALLEN ANGELS-Jane (Milwaukee Chamber Theatre), THE WINTER’S TALE-Hermione/Autolycus (Optimist Theatre), BIG-Susan (First Stage), THE SIZZLIN’ 60’s (The Fireside), CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES-Signe (The Marcus Center), SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE-Dot (Windfall Theatre). Television and voiceover credits include NBC, Miller, GE, Kohl’s, Russell Hobbs, the Wisconsin Lottery, Children’s Hospital and the computer game Gloom. Beth has also appeared in independent films, and has enjoyed recording extensively for Hal Leonard. Beth feels fortunate for the opportunity to be playing with this incredible cast and revisiting the role of Cassie. She is grateful for the opportunity to see her in a whole new light since the first time around she was a junior in high school!

JOE PICCHETTI (Zach)
Joe is so excited and so humbled to be working with Theater RED again, as well as making his Milwaukee Opera Theatre debut as a part of this truly wonderful and inspiring show. He was last seen with Theater Red in BONNY ANNE BONNY as well as ‘A Thousand Times Goodnight.’ He has been lucky enough to perform with other Milwaukee theatre companies including Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, Summit Players Theatre, Splinter Group, Windfall Theatre, and MMVoices. He would like to send a very heartfelt thank you to Marcee, Chris, Jill Anna, and the rest of the cast and crew for this amazing opportunity to be surrounded by so much incredible talent with a show that resonates with so many. He would also like to thank his family, friends, and Maddy for their never-ending love and support.

JILL ANNA PONASIK
(Stage Director)
Now in her 9th season as Artistic Director of Milwaukee Opera Theatre, Jill Anna continues to revel in the opportunity to connect artists and audiences in unexpected ways. Upcoming projects include: THE CAT IN THE HAT at First Stage Children’s Theater, an original adaptation of TALES OF HOFFMANN with MOT and Skylight Music Theatre, and SVADBA-WEDDING, a 6 woman a cappella opera with MOT and Wild Space Dance Company. Since moving to Milwaukee, she has had the pleasure of working with Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, In Tandem Theatre, Present Music, Danceworks Performance Company, Wild Space Dance Company, Sunset Playhouse, and The Alchemist. Jill Anna holds degrees from the University of Minnesota and Rice University. She played the role of Cassie in high school.

www.milwaukeeoperatheatre.org

SOLANA RAMIREZ-GARCIA
(Ensemble)
This is Solana’s second time working with Milwaukee Opera Theater and first time with Theater RED and she couldn’t be more excited to be sharing this experience with such a remarkable cast! She’s a recent UW-Milwaukee graduate with a BFA in Musical Theatre. You might’ve seen her previously in MOT’s 1776 (Leather Apron), Renaissance Theatreworks’ LUNA GALE (Lourdes) or directing her first original musical,
PLATONIC at UW-M. She thanks her familia and loved ones as always, and hopes you enjoy the show!

Rána Roman (Diana)
Rána is a Milwaukee native and proud graduate of the Milwaukee H.S. of the Arts. She was last seen with MOT in 1776, last season and previously in FORTUNA THE TIME BENDER VS. THE SCHOOLGIRLS OF DOOM. Some of Rána’s recent work includes, A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Milwaukee Rep), VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE (MCT), MR. BURNS (Forward Theater) and AGNES OF GOD (RTW). This season you can catch her in HOT MIKADO at Skylight, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, and OUR TOWN at the Milwaukee Rep. Rána owes everything to her parents and teachers who encouraged her to push harder and never get discouraged. Although her brother David, is the dancer in the family, Diana's story is Rána's story. When asking, “If today were the day you had to stop dancing, how would you feel?” Insert “singing”. The answer is, “If I can't sing, I don’t know who I am.”

Stephanie Staszak (Ensemble)
Stephanie feels extremely blessed to be a part of this staged reading of A CHORUS LINE. This is her first production with both MOT and Theater RED. She has most recently been seen on stage in Skylight Music Theatre’s productions of PIRATES OF PENZANCE and LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, as well as in CARNIVAL at In Tandem Theatre. Stephanie also performs as the bridesmaid “Donna Marsala” in TONY N’TINA’S WEDDING at Turner Hall when it comes to town. In addition to performing, Stephanie also choreographs for various theatres and high schools around the Milwaukee area. Stephanie could not be more thrilled with this opportunity to work with both of these amazing theatre companies in a group filled with incredible talent and profound passion for the arts. Many thanks to her family and Mike for supporting this wild and crazy ride.

Jenny Wanasek (Maggie)
Jenny is beyond delighted to be making her debut with Milwaukee Opera Theatre and Theater RED. She has a lively career spanning acting, singing, directing, teaching at UWM, and social activism through the Center for Applied Theatre, which she co-founded with husband Mark Weinberg. She has appeared with Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Renaissance Theateworks, Chamber Theatre, Next Act, Great American Children’s Theatre and in many musicals at Skylight Opera Theatre, First Stage, the Marcus Center, and Northern Lights Summer Playhouse including JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH, MAN OF LA MANCHA, I DO! I DO!, MOST HAPPY FELLA, ANIMAL FARM, THE MIKADO, LADY IN THE DARK, and INTO THE WOODS. She is a recipient of the Footlights Award for leading actress in a play. She would like to thank her mother, Joanne Wanasek, for a childhood filled with music and for making her practice the piano.

C. Michael Wright (Paul)
Michael has been acting professionally for forty years now and has appeared in regional theatres all across the country. Many moons ago, he played Hally in Athol Fugard’s “MASTER HAROLD”...AND THE BOYS on Broadway, in Israel and in the national tour. His most recent performance was as Vanya in VANYA AND SONIA AND MASHA AND SPIKE at Milwaukee Chamber...
Theatre, where he also plays the role of Producing Artistic Director. Since joining the MCT staff in 2005, Michael has directed quite a number of productions, including THE FEW, LOBBY HERO, SLOWGIRL, FALLEN ANGELS, THE TRAIN DRIVER, UNDERNEATH THE LINTEL, THE DAILY NEWS and DICKENS IN AMERICA (which he also directed at American Players Theatre). One of his favorite directing projects has been THE STORY OF MY LIFE for Milwaukee Opera Theatre. In 2009, Michael was honored with an “Artist of the Year” award by the City of Milwaukee Arts Board.

James Zager (Mark)
James is proud to be an Associate Artist with MOT partnering with Producing Artistic Director Jill Anna Ponasik to direct, stage, and/or choreograph over a dozen critically acclaimed productions including: THE MIKADO, ERNEST IN LOVE, FAIRY QUEEN, FORTUNA THE TIME BENDER VS. THE SCHOOLGIRLS OF DOOM, LA CENERENTOLA, MASTER CLASS, IOLANTHE, AMAHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS. Zager has been directing, choreographing, and acting in professional theaters throughout the United States for the past 25 years winning numerous awards for his work. Milwaukee acting credits include: “Lord Henry Wotton” in DORIAN GRAY with Milwaukee Ballet, “Ambrogio” in THE BARBER OF SEVILLE with Florentine Opera, “Charles Thomson” in 1776 with Milwaukee Opera Theatre. He played “Zach” in ACL in 2007 and again in 2011. You can view the full pantheon of his professional work at: www.jameszager.com

Matt Zeman (Ensemble)
Matt is ecstatic to work with both MOT and Theater RED for the first time. Seen last season in Skylight Music Theatre’s SWEENY TODD and LA CAGE AUX FOLLES. Other credits include HAIR (Sklight), SPRING AWAKENING and THE WEDDING SINGER (GCT), DOGFIGHT (All In Productions), and CABARET (Off The Wall). Graduate of UW-Milwaukee with his Bachelor of Science in Nursing; he is an RN at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Much love to Doug, Selma, and Nigel.

Rachael Zientek (Ensemble)
Rachael has a BFA in Musical Theater from UW-Milwaukee. She has worked with Wisconsin theatre companies such as In Tandem Theatre, First Stage Children’s Theatre, Optimist Theater, Skylight Music Theatre, Northern Sky Theater, Luminous Theatre and Forward Theater. Enjoy the show!

I need this house, oh God, I need this home!

Chad Larget
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