BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL

Books and Lyrics by
LEE HALL

Music by
ELTON JOHN

Direction and Co-Choreography by
BRENDA DIDIER

Co-Choreography by
CRAIG V. MILLER

Music Direction by
LINDA MADONIA

Originally directed in London by STEPHEN DALDRY
Orchestrations by MARTIN KOCH
Executive Producers (Original London Production)
ANGELA MORRISON DAVID FURNISH
Producers (Original London Production)
TIM BEVAN ERIC FELLNER JON FINN SALLY GREENE

Originally presented in London by Universal Pictures Stage Productions,
Working Title Films, Old Vic Productions in association with Tiger Productions

Based on the Universal Pictures/Studio Canal Film

Scenic Design.................................................................CHRISTOPHER RHOTON
Costume Design ............................................................ BILL MOREY
Lighting Design ............................................................. DENISE KARCZEWWSKI
Sound Design ................................................................. ROBERT HORNBOSTEL
Properties Design ......................................................... MEALAH HEIDENREICH
Assistant Director ............................................................ ADRIAN ABEL AZEVEDO
Fight Designer and Angry Dance Shield Choreographer .................. JAQ SEIFERT
Dialect Coach ................................................................. SAMMI GRANT
Technical Director .......................................................... JOHNNIE SCHLEYER
Production Stage Manager .................................................. SEAN McSTRAVICK
Production Manager ........................................................ ALEX RHYAN

Porchlight Music Theatre acknowledges the generosity of

BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
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CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Tony Elliot.................................................................ADAM FANE
Big Davey.................................................................JOHN GURDIAN
Dad .............................................................................SEAN FORTUNATO*
Tall Boy .................................................................ALEJANDRO MEDINA
George .................................................................JORDAN DeBOSE
Scab ...............................................................JEFF BOUTHETTE
Michael Caffrey ..................................................PEYTON OWEN
Billy Elliot ............................................................JACOB KAISER AND LINCOLN SEYMOUR
Small Boy ..........................................................GABRIEL ROBERT
Lesley .................................................................MICHELLE McKENZIE-VOIGT
Grandma ............................................................IRIS LIEBERMAN*
Mum .................................................................NICOLE CREDAY
Mrs. Wilkinson ...................................................SHANESIA DAVIS*
Angela Robson ..................................................PAULA HLAVA
Tracy Atkinson ..................................................AYLA GRAY
Keeley Gibson ..................................................MORIAH MITCHELL
Debbie Wilkinson ..........................................PRINCESS ISIS Z. LANG
Karen Davidson ...................................................MCKENNA ROGERS
Tina Harmer .........................................................KENDALL SORKIN
Susan Parks ....................................................BERNADETTE OLIVIA SCHWEGEL
Sharon Percy .........................................................EMERSON TAIT
Alison Summers ..................................................DARBY LEETCH
Julie Hope ..........................................................ANNA L. BRAMLETT
Margaret Gormley ...........................................KATELYN MONTGOMERY
Mr. Braithwaite ...............................................TOMMY NOVAK
Grandma Dancer ...................................................JENNY McPHERSON
Grandma Dancer ............................................GRAHAM HAWLEY
Older Billy ..................................................IVAN BRUNS-TRUKHIN
Pit Supervisor ....................................................BERNELL LASSAI III
Clipboard Woman ..............................................JESSICA VANN
Posh Dad .............................................................JEFF BOUTHETTE
Posh Boy ...........................................................LOGAN BAFFICO
Ensemble ..................................................JEFF BOUTHETTE, KAYLA BOYE, ROY BROWN, IVAN BRUNS-TRUKHIN,
JORDAN DeBOSE, JOHN GURDIAN, GRAHAM HAWLEY,
BERNELL LASSAI III, MICHELLE McKENZIE-VOIGT, JENNY McPHERSON,
TOMMY NOVAK, JESSICA VANN, JACOB VOIGT

UNDERSTUDIES

Understudy performance will occur only with an announcement to the audience prior to the show.

Tony Elliot: ROY BROWN; Big Davey: JACOB VOIGT; Dad: JOHN GURDIAN;
Tall Boy: LOGAN BAFFICO; George: JACOB VOIGT; Scab: BERNELL LASSAI III;
Michael Caffrey: LOGAN BAFFICO; Lesley: JESSICA VANN; Small Child: DARBY LEETCH;
Grandma: MICHELLE McKENZIE-VOIGT; Mum: MICHELLE McKENZIE-VOIGT;
Mrs. Wilkinson: JESSICA VANN; Debbie Wilkinson: MORIAH MITCHELL;
Mr. Braithwaite: JEFF BOUTHETTE; Grandma Dancer: KAYLA BOYE;
Grandma Dancer: IVAN BRUNS-TRUKHIN; Older Billy: GRAHAM HAWLEY;
Pit Supervisor: ROY BROWN; Clipboard Woman: JENNY McPHERSON;
Posh Dad: BERNELL LASSAI III; Posh Boy: ALEJANDRO MEDINA
**MUSICIANS**

Conductor/Pianist .................................................................................................LINDA MADONIA+
Drums/Percussion .................................................................................................JUSTIN KONO
Guitar .......................................................................................................................CESAR ROMERO
Trumpet ...................................................................................................................GREG STRAUSS
Reeds ......................................................................................................................CARA HARTZ
Electric Bass ...........................................................................................................DAN KRISTAN
French Horn ...............................................................................................................SARAH YOUNKER

*Denotes member of Actors’ Equity Association,  
the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in America  
+Denotes Porchlight Music Theatre Artistic Associate

**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

“Billy Elliot” the movie was released in 2000. Sir Elton John was reduced to tears during the movie's screening at the Cannes Film Festival. He related to Billy's struggle for his right to dance against his father's wishes. Sir Elton John's father highly disapproved of his music passion and the tension during his childhood was similar to Billy's family life story line. He proposed making the movie into a musical and wrote the score for the very successful production which premiered in London in 2005 and Broadway in 2008 where it received ten Tony Awards- including a first Best Actor Tony Award going to the three young actors playing Billy Elliot.

The story is set against the 1984-1985 coal miners' strike in Northeastern England. The community, Billy's family, and Billy are all in crisis. Billy's journey discovering ballet, a passion for dance, and an unlikely mentor in his dance teacher Mrs. Wilkinson, makes this story universal and captivating. Arts are important. Arts can heal people, families, and communities.

We all have a “Billy” inside of us. This story of a motherless boy who fights for his right to dance is an inspiration to all of us. I hope you feel the joy that we have all felt during our rehearsal process. We all deserve the freedom to express ourselves and embrace our individuality. Children need their parents to support their passions. Enjoy!

Brenda Didier, Director
WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Logan Baffico

Jeff Bouthiette

Kayla Boye

Anna L. Bramlett

Roy Brown

Ivan Bruns-Trukhin

Nicole Cready

Shanésia Davis

Jordan DeBose

Adam Fane

Sean Fortunato

Ayla Gray

John Gurdian

Graham Hawley

Paula Hlava

Jacob Kaiser

Princess Isis Z. Lang

Bernell Lassai III

Darby Leetch
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST

Iris Lieberman

Michelle McKenzie-Voigt

Jenny McPherson

Alejandro Medina

Moriah Mitchell

Katelyn Montgomery

Tommy Novak

Peyton Owen

Gabriel Robert

McKenna Rogers

Bernadette Olivia Schwengel

Lincoln Seymour

Kendall Sorkin

Emerson Tait

Jessica Vann

Jacob Voigt
**TIME AND PLACE**

County Durham, England during the 1984-1985 coal miners’ strike

**MUSICAL SYNOPSIS**

**ACT I**

THE STARS LOOK DOWN ................................................................. Full Company
SHINE .............................................................................................. Mrs. Wilkinson, Billy Elliot
GRANDMA’S SONG ................................................................. Grandma, Ensemble
SOLIDARITY ................................................................................. Full Company
EXPRESSING YOURSELF ........................................................ Billy Elliot, Michael, Ensemble
THE LETTER .................................................................................. Billy Elliot, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mum
BORN TO BOOGIE ........................................................................ Billy Elliot, Mrs. Wilkinson, Mr. Braithwaite
ANGRY DANCE ................................................................................ Billy Elliot

**ACT II**

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MAGGIE THATCHER ........................................ Full Company
DEEP INTO THE GROUND ............................................................. Dad, Full Company
HE COULD BE A STAR ................................................................... Dad, Tony, Ensemble
ELECTRICITY .................................................................................. Billy Elliot
ONCE WE WERE KINGS .................................................................. Full Company
THE LETTER (REPRISE) .............................................................. Billy Elliot, Mum
FINALE ......................................................................................... Full Company

*Billy Elliot the Musical*  
is presented with one fifteen-minute intermission

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On March 5, 1984, the British National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) went on strike in response to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher’s plan to close pits, a plan that would lead to the loss of thousands of mining jobs. The 1984/85 strike was “as close as [Britain] came to a civil war” and led to the destruction of a centuries-old industry. In 1984, 170 collieries were working in the UK and employing more than 190,000 people. Today centuries of deep coal mining in Britain has all but ended. Thousands lost jobs and entire communities were destroyed.

Margaret Thatcher was politically opposed to state-owned industry and determined to crush the unions, arguing that the power of the unions had to be curbed for free markets to flourish. Thatcher referred to the unions as “the enemy within” and claimed that they needed to cure the “British disease” of constant union strikes. Prior to the 1984 strike, Thatcher equipped a large, mobile squad of police ready to employ riot tactics at picket lines and bought and stocked foreign coal. Throughout the strike, the police and miners clashed often. Police intimidated them in their communities and on the picket lines as police escorted working miners, or scabs, past protesting strikers and into the mines. The most notable confrontation was at the Battle of Orgreave on June 18, 1984 where police in riot gear with police dogs and horses charged a largely peaceful crowd of miners on the picket line. In the chaos, dozens of miners and officers were injured and thousands of miners arrested.

The strike lasted nearly a year and, throughout, miners and their families relied on their close-knit mining communities and outside generosity to survive. During the strike, miners and their families still lived on very little and, in the end, they were unable to outlast Thatcher’s government. In November of 1985, a growing number of miners returned to work as Christmas approached and violence on the picket lines became more widespread. On March 3, 1985 delegates at the NUM conference decided 98 to 91 to end the strike.
LOGAN BAFFICO (Posh Boy) is ecstatic to be making his debut with Porchlight Music Theatre! Favorite previous roles include “James” in James and the Giant Peach, “Chip” in Beauty and the Beast, “Michael Banks” in Mary Poppins, and “Michael Darling” in Peter Pan. Overwhelming thanks to his parents, family and friends for their love and tremendous support and a huge shout out to Lively Arts Dance and SDFA!

JEFF BOUTHETTE (Posh Dad) is excited for his first Mainstage production with Porchlight Music Theatre following his performance in Porchlight Revisits Anyone Can Whistle! Other favorite roles include “Mr. Bobo” in Coraline, “Jesus/Montel” in Jerry Springer: The Opera, and “Whiskey” in Bite: A Pucking Queer Cabaret. Jeff is a proud graduate of the Academy at Black Box Acting. He is also an accomplished improviser, and can be seen with Fraudway: An Improvised Musical at iO and The Improvised Sondheim Project.

KAYLA BOYE (Ensemble/Assistant Choreographer/Dance Captain) returns to Porchlight Music Theatre following her performances in New Faces Sing Broadway 1969 and Porchlight Revisits Little Me. Other Chicago credits include Mary Poppins with Mercury Theater Chicago, Gypsy and Mame with Music Theater Works, A Christmas Story with Citadel Theatre, and Not Now Darling with BrightSide Theatre. She has also done regional work at Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Huron Playhouse, and The Youngstown Playhouse. www.kaylaboye.com

ANNA L. BRAMLETT (Julie Hope) is thrilled to be in her first Porchlight Music Theatre production! Currently in 8th grade, Anna has been performing in dance and theatre productions since she was 4. Favorite past productions include: Singin’ In The Rain Jr., Sleeping Beauty, and Let It Be Christmas. Anna is also a member of the Naperville School of Performing Arts competitive dance ensemble. She wants to thank her family for the opportunity to be in this amazing show!

ROY BROWN (Ensemble) is excited to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut! He recently appeared as “Nicely-Nicely Johnson” in Guys and Dolls with Williams Street Rep. Other favorite credits include The Most Happy Fella, Titanic, Plaid Tidings, Gypsy, Glory Days, American Idiot, and Hands On A Hardbody. Roy is a graduate of AMDA NYC. Huge thanks to everyone at Porchlight, the Billy Elliot the Musical team, and Noreen.

IVAN BRUNS-TRUKHIN (Older Billy), from Siberia, Russia, was admitted to the Novosibirsk Choreography College, Russia at 10 years old, graduating in 2002. He went on to the Russian University of the Arts in 2009, graduating in 2014 as a teacher of ballet. Ivan has performed as a soloist dancer with ballet theatres and dance companies in Russia, Spain, Japan, and Turkey. He also performed in the Russian production of Cats. After moving to Chicago in 2015, Ivan has been teaching and performing with Elements Contemporary Ballet.

NICOLE CREADY (Mum) is delighted to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Chicagoland credits include Little Shop of Horrors with Drury Lane Oakbrook, Kiss Me Kate with Light Opera Works, the Chicago premiere of The Taffetas with Dream Street Theatre, and various productions with Bailiwick, Emerald City, and Classics On Stage. Regional credits include: The Old Creamery. TV credits include: Chicago Fire. Love and gratitude to my family and big kisses to River and Matilda. For Flora and Ollie-love you forever!

SHANÉSIA DAVIS* (Mrs. Wilkinson) is excited to make her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Her most recent theatre
credit was “Violet” in the Baltimore Center Stage World Premiere of Jazz. Select Chicago credits include: Immediate Family (Goodman Theatre), What I Learned in Paris (Congo Square Theatre), Native Son (Court Theatre/American Blues Theatre) and Richard III (The Gift/Steppenwolf Theatre). Select Film/TV credits include: Empire, Chicago Fire, The Chi, and Early Edition. She is a recipient of the Black Theatre Alliance Award and the Excellence in the Arts Award for Best Actress.

JORDAN DeBOSE (George) is thrilled to be back with Porchlight Music Theatre for his second show. He was last seen with Porchlight as “Kevin Rosario” in In The Heights. Chicago credits include: The Fantasticks, Tarzan, and Candide. Other credits include: The Full Monty, Rent, Jesus Christ Superstar, and Once on this Island. Thanks to Porchlight for another incredible opportunity!

ADAM FANE (Tony Elliot) couldn’t be happier to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Select credits include: Rock of Ages (National Tour), Disney’s The Little Mermaid (Paramount Theatre), Gypsy & Shrek the Musical (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), Cabaret (Theatre at the Center), First Date (Royal George), Spring Awakening (Griffin Theatre Company), and Avenue Q (Nightblue), which earned him a Jeff nomination. Film/TV credits include: Canal Street and Chicago PD (NBC). Thanks to Brenda, Michael, and Linda for this opportunity.

SEAN FORTUNATO* (Dad) has appeared as “the Emcee” in Cabaret (Theatre at the Center), “Joseph” in Book of Joseph, “Prime Minister Evans” in King Charles III (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), “George” in Sunday in the Park with George (Peninsula Players, WI), and “Detective Cioffi” in Curtains (Drury Lane Theatre). Other credits include: 2666 (Goodman Theatre), Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf (Writers Theatre), and work at Court Theatre, Northlight Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Marriott Theatre, Remy Bumppo Theatre, About Face Theatre, Old Globe Theatre, CA, and The Duke on 42nd, NY. Film/TV credits include: The Merry Gentleman and Chicago PD.

AYLA GRAY (Tracy Atkinson) is thrilled to be performing in her first production with Porchlight Music Theatre! Her favorite roles include “Tinkerbell” in Peter Pan and “Shprintze” in Fiddler on the Roof. Ayla loves dancing, acting, and singing and is currently training at Integrity School of Dance. She is grateful to her friends and family for their love and support, and gives God all the glory!

JOHN GURDIAN (Big Davey/Fight Captain) couldn’t be more excited to make his Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Select credits include Guys and Dolls (William Street Rep), Young Frankenstein (Metropolis Performing Arts), Chicago (Little Theatre on the Square), The Producers (NightBlue), and A Christmas Story (Theatre at the Center). He is a student of John Komaras and a graduate of Oklahoma City University. Thanks to the cast, crew, Porchlight, my friends, family, the audience, and Mom.

GRAHAM HAWLEY (Accordion Player/Grandma Dancer) is thrilled to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre where he was last seen in Porchlight Revisits Little Me! Other select Chicago credits include Mary Poppins with Mercury Theater and Tonya and Nancy the Rock Opera with Underscore Theatre Company. Graham holds a BA in Theatre and Drama from Indiana University and is a proud alumnus of the Singing Hoosiers and Varsity Singers. Huge thanks to his parents, sister, and friends for their endless love and support.

PAULA HLAVA (Angela Robson) is thrilled
to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Paula was previously seen in *Lion King* and *Sleeping Beauty* with the Wilmette Children’s Theater. She studies voice with Ellen Morris and dance at Dance Center Evanston and loves volunteering at animal shelters in her spare time. She would like to thank her family and Stewart Talent! Huge shout out to Brenda for giving her this amazing opportunity!

**JACOB KAISER** (*Billy Elliot*) is thrilled to be making his debut with Porchlight Music Theatre. He is a member of the All About Dance Company, where he studies tap, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern, and tumbling, performing competitively in and around Chicago. He is grateful to his dance teachers and AAD family for pushing him to be the best dancer he can be. Thanks to his family for sharing in and supporting his love of music and the performing arts.

**PRINCESS ISIS Z. LANG** (*Debbie Wilkinson*) is delighted to return to Porchlight Music Theatre where she was last seen in *Far From Heaven*. She is also excited to return to this wonderful show following her performance in *Billy Elliot the Musical* with Drury Lane Theatre. Other local credits include: *Stairway to The Stars, Books Alive*, and the Joffrey Ballet. Her educational institution credits include: *In The Heights*, *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, and *The Nutcracker*. She is a proud honor roll student at Chicago Academy for the Arts with big dreams!

**BERNELL LASSAI III** (*Pit Supervisor*) is grateful to work with Porchlight Music Theatre again following his performance in Porchlight Revisits *The Rink*. Born and raised in Chicago, Bernell has been seen in regional productions of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, A Christmas Carol, Antony & Cleopatra, West Side Story, Romeo & Juliet*, and *Giggle, Giggle, Quack*. Bernell is a proud graduate of The Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

**DARBY LEETCH** (*Alison Summers*) is thrilled to be making her theatrical debut with Porchlight Music Theatre. Darby is an accomplished dancer and was awarded Dance Extreme’s highest honor of National All American for 2017. As a newcomer to the stage, she is excited to get to know her fellow cast members and learn about theater life. Darby would like to thank her family and friends for always being her biggest fans.

**IRIS LIEBERMAN** (*Grandma*) returns to Porchlight Music Theatre where she was last seen in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. A Jeff Award-winning actress, she has performed leading and featured roles in over 165 productions. Some recent credits include *Cabaret* (Theatre at the Center), *Beauty and the Beast* (Fireside Theatre), *Elegy* (Richard Christiansen Theatre), and *Fiddler on the Roof* (Paramount Theatre). Select favorites include: *Ballad of Little Jo* (Steppenwolf Theatre), *Caroline, or Change* (Court Theatre), and *Theda Bara and the Frontier Rabbi* (JRT, off-Broadway). Select Film/TV credits include: *Hoodlum*, *Groundhog Day*, and *Missing Person*.

**MICHELLE McKENZIE-VOIGT** (*Lesley*) is thrilled to make her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Recent credits include *Coriolanus* (Commission Theatre), *Mame* and *Guys and Dolls* (Light Opera Works), *Gypsy* (Harper Ensemble Theatre Company), *The Boy from Oz* (Pride Films & Plays), and *Cabaret* (Citadel Theatre). A five-time Chicago Emmy nominee, she has also appeared as a soloist with the Southwest Symphony Orchestra and is a company member of Glitterati Productions and Pride Films and Plays. Huge gratitude to Brenda, Linda, Michael, and this supremely talented company.
JENNY MCPHERSON (Grandma Dancer) is thrilled to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre, where she was last seen in Porchlight Revisits Little Me. Other credits include Audition Diaries, The King’s Critique, and Songs For A New World. She holds a BA in Theatre and Drama with High Distinction from Indiana University, where she served as Varsity Co-Choreographer for the Singing Hoosiers. She is incredibly grateful to her family and loved ones for all their support. www.jenny-mcpherson.com

ALEJANDRO MEDINA (Tall Boy) is ecstatic to be making his professional debut with Porchlight Music Theatre! Alex has performed with the nationally award-winning Bravo! and Ovation Performing Arts Academies in Oak Park. When not on stage, he is a busy 5th grader and enjoys playing with his dogs, singing with the Chicago Children’s Choir (Lincoln Park/DePaul), playing viola, dancing, and math! Alex wants to thank his parents, sisters, extended family, Bravo! Instructors, and Transcendance Studio teachers.

MORIAH MITCHELL (Keeley Gibson) made her stage debut in The Three Little Pigs. Now 12 years old, she has been seen in Excerpts from The Nutcracker and The Holiday Musical at the Beverly Arts Center and Coppelia and The Nutcracker with the Ruth Page Civic Ballet.

KATELYN MONTGOMERY (Margaret Gormley) is a new face to Porchlight Music Theatre and is excited to share this amazing show and experience with you all. Acting since she was 8 and dancing since she was 3, Katelyn has a long resume of productions including Godspell, Cinderella, Ballet Shoes, and Calvin Burger. Katelyn would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her. She hopes you have a great time and enjoy the show!

TOMMY NOVAK (Mr. Braithwaite) is over the moon to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut. After earning a BA in Acting, Directing and Dance from Carthage College he has performed regionally and internationally. Recently Tommy played “Horton the Elephant” in Seussical for an educational tour of China. Regionally Tommy received a Jeff Award nomination for Best Lead Actor in a Musical for his role in The Producers. He’d like to thank his friends and family for their love and support.

PEYTON OWEN (Michael Caffrey) is thrilled to be making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut! His recent credits include Mary Poppins, The Christmas Schooner (Mercury Theater), and The Who’s Tommy (Paramount Theatre). Last fall he was featured in a new independent film: Breaking. Thanks to Marty Bronson for being such an excellent tap teacher and Tony Pape for all the vocal guidance. Never ending gratitude to his Mom, Dad and twin sister, Maggie, for all their support.

GABRIEL ROBERT (Small Boy) is thrilled for his Porchlight Music Theatre debut. He was recently seen in Gypsy with Jedlicka Performing Arts Center and The Magic Flute with the Lyric Opera. Gabriel plays the drums and piano and is studying tap, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and tumbling in hopes of following in the footsteps of his wonderfully talented cast-mates. He would like to thank the wonderful team at Paonessa Talent and thanks to his Mom, Dad and brothers for supporting his love of the performing arts. Follow my adventures @gabrielrobertofficial.

McKENNA ROGERS (Karen Davidson) is new to Porchlight Music Theatre and looking forward to this exciting opportunity. She has been dancing for nine years, seven with Dance and Music Academy whose mission is to positively affect people in the community through
dance. She has performed at Anita’s Way Stage in Times Square, Winter Wonderfest at Navy Pier, and The Chicago Sky and Northwestern University halftime shows. McKenna is happiest dancing and is honored to be part of this production.

BERNADETTE OLIVIA SCHWEGEL (Susan Parks) is thrilled to make her Porchlight Music Theatre debut. Recent credits include: Wastwater with Steep Theatre, Christoper Wheeldon’s The Nutcracker with the Joffrey Ballet, and The Nutcracker with Ballet Chicago. Film/TV credits include: The Ladies Almanack and Shameless. She is a schola soloist and sings duets with her brother Benedict at churches throughout Chicagoland. Bernadette trained at Acting Studio and Lookingglass Arts Camps, attends Skinner North Classical, and, when not performing, studies ballet, tap, piano, and harp.

LINCOLN SEYMOUR (Billy Elliot) is thrilled to be making his theatre debut with Porchlight Music Theatre! Lincoln is 14 and has been training in ballet, jazz, hip-hop, modern technique, tap, and contemporary at All About Dance Chicago for the past six years. He also trains in ballet at the Ruth Page Centre for the Arts and is a member of his school’s a cappella group. Lincoln would like to thank all his dance teachers and his incredible family for their love and support throughout the years!

KENDALL SORKIN (Tina Harmer) is excited to make her professional debut at Porchlight Music Theatre! She is in 7th grade and a proud member of the Trifecta Youth Company at Dance & Music Academy, where she has been studying contemporary, ballet, jazz, tap and acro dance since she was 3. Kendall would like to thank her family and friends for being so supportive and her DMA teachers for bringing her this far in her dance and acting career.

EMERSON TAIT (Sharon Percy) is thrilled to be making her debut with Porchlight Music Theatre. Previous credits include Ruthless! The Musical, Gypsy, and numerous productions with Christian Youth Theatre. Her favorite roles are “Lucy” in Narnia and “Amaryllis” in The Music Man. Emmy is currently training at Integrity School of Dance in Elgin. She would like to thank everyone at Porchlight for this wonderful opportunity, and her friends and family for their love and support!

JESSICA VANN (Clipboard Woman) is super elated and blessed to be making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Select Chicago credits include the Jeff Recommended Story of a Story (The Untold Story), Hair, Ragtime, Beehive, and Crazy for Swayze: A Swayzical. She hopes to take over the world by bringing equal Arts education programs to America’s youth. Oh…and win a Tony Award one day! Love you Mom, Dad, broham, and Granny, you all are my rock!

JACOB VOIGT (Ensemble) is making his Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Previous NYC roles include: “Lord Capulet” in Romeo and Juliet, “Bradley Headstone” in Our Mutual Friend, “J.P. Morgan” in Ragtime, and “Edna Turnblad” in Hairspray. He is a proud graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, and has performed in concert at Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall. Thanks to Michael, Brenda, and Linda for this incredible experience. Love to Rob and Mandy. @thejacobvoigt www.thejacobvoigt.com

ELTON JOHN (Music), the international singer/songwriter and performer, has had a monumental career that has spanned more than 4 decades. He is one of the top-selling solo artists of all time, with 38 gold and 31 multi-platinum albums and more than 300 million records sold worldwide. The national Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences has awarded Elton multiple Grammys, including the Grammy
legend award. In the early 1990s, Elton collaborated with lyricist Tim Rice on the soundtrack for *The Lion King*, winning him an Academy Award. The album produced two top-selling, award-winning singles: “Can You Feel the Love Tonight” and “Circle of Life.” The Tony Award-winning Broadway production of *The Lion King* and *Aida* both awarded Elton with Grammys for Best Musical Show Album. Elton composed the music for *Billy Elliot the Musical*, which was nominated for a record 9 Olivier Awards and 10 Tony awards, winning Best Musical, among others. He garnered a top-five UK hit with the song “Electricity.” In 1992 Elton established the Elton John AIDS Foundation, which today is one of the leading nonprofit HIV/AIDS organizations. In 1998, the Queen of England knighted him Sir Elton John, CBE. In 2004, Elton received the Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime of contributions to American culture and excellence through the performing arts.

**LEE HALL** (*Book & Lyrics*) was born and bred in Newcastle Upon Tyne and educated at Cambridge University. Lee was nominated for an Oscar for his screenplay of *Billy Elliot* the movie. Among his theatre work are *The Pitmen Players* (Live Theatre/Royal National Theatre, 2008) *Cooking With Elvis* (Nominated for an Olivier Award) and the multi-award winning *Spoonface Steinberg*. He has also adapted many plays including *The Good Hope* (Royal National Theatre), *A Servant to Two Masters* (RSC/Young Vic), *Mr. Puntila and His Man Matti* (Almeida), *Leonce and Lena* (Gate Theatre), *Mother Courage* (Shared Experience), and *The Barber of Seville* (Old Vic Bristol). His most recent works include *Shakespeare in Love* (Noel Coward Theatre) in 2014, adapted from the film by the same title and his adaptation of Alan Warner’s novel *The Sopranos*, entitled *Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour* (The Duke of York Theatre) in 2015. He has been writer in residence at the Live Theatre, Newcastle Upon Tyne and at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

**BRENDÁ DIDIER** (*Director/Co-Choreographer*) is thrilled to be directing her 5th mainstage production for Porchlight Music Theatre after *Dreamgirls*, *In the Heights*, and the revues *Putting It Together* and *Ain’t Misbehavin*. Most recently she directed *Hair* at Mercury Theater Chicago. Ms. Didier is a director, choreographer, and owner/director of the Lincolnshire Academy of Dance — now celebrating its 20th season! Ms. Didier is a multiple Jeff Award recipient in both direction and choreography. Her greatest joy is the rehearsal process and collaboration with actors, designers, musicians and, finally, the audience. “Much gratitude to the entire Porchlight staff, Michael, Jeannie, Craig, Kayla, Linda, Adrian and this inspiring cast, creative team and band! My love to Mom and Mike. Electricity- find yours and give back when you can! We have the power within each of us to make a difference in our lives, our neighborhoods and the world. Peace and Love!”

**CRAIG V. MILLER** (*Co-Choreographer*) is returning to Porchlight Music Theatre after choreographing Porchlight Revisits *Little Me* and working as assistant choreographer for Porchlight’s production of *Ain’t Misbehavin’.* Additional credits include: choreographer for Artists Giving Back World AIDS day’s performance of *Rent* and assistant choreographer for Mercury Theater Chicago’s production of *The Color Purple*, which won a Broadway World Award for Best Choreography in a Musical. His work has also been presented at Dance Chicago, Dance Chance, and Chicago Freelance Dance. Craig has danced for Eisenhower Dance Ensemble, Michigan Dance Project, Inaside Chicago Dance, Esoteric Dance Project, Chicago Repertory Ballet, Dance in the Parks, Dance for Life finale, and Chicago Dance Crash. He holds
a BA in Dance Performance from Oakland University and is a Peffpointe© certified teacher at the 25-hour level, teaching workshops, and choreographing for competitive dance studios.

LINDA MADONIA+ (Music Director) is thrilled to be back at Porchlight Music Theatre where she serves as an Artistic Associate. Select credits from her past 30 years as a Music Director and Conductor in Chicago include: Little Me, In The Heights, and Double Trouble at Porchlight, the UK tour of Persuasion with Chamber Opera Chicago, I Left My Heart with Mercury Theater, and Cabaret with Light Opera Works. For the past 10 years, Linda has been the music director for Chicago’s Equity Joseph Jefferson Awards. During the day, Linda owns American Eagle Productions, a touring theatre company that takes shows and workshops directly into schools. American Eagle has been doing shows for 25 years and presents 250 shows a year to Chicago area schools. Linda would like to dedicate this show to her Mom, who was a Geordie from Newcastle!

ADRIAN ABEL AZEVEDO (Assistant Director) is thrilled to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre and working with Brenda Didier again after last season’s successful run of In The Heights. Other work with Porchlight includes: New Faces Sing 2001, New Faces Sing 1969 and the upcoming New Faces Sing 1959. He has previously assisted for productions in various Chicago houses including: Steep Theatre, Goodman Theatre, and Teatro Vista. Azevedo is on staff for Goodman Theatre in the Education and Engagement Department. He also tweets and instgrams (Twitter: @CafeConLin Instagram: adrian_abels_album). Thank you to Brenda, Michael, Craig, Linda, the entire cast and crew for this amazing show and welcome to Porchlight’s new home, the Ruth Page Center for the Arts. Y Yando te amo mucho!

CHRISTOPHER RHOTON (Scenic Designer) is delighted to be back at Porchlight Music Theatre where his work was last seen in End of the Rainbow. For the past two years, he has served as the Festival Scenic Designer at Texas Shakespeare Festival and he has worked regularly with Adirondack Theatre Festival, Bloomington Playwrights Project, and The Rose Theater. Christopher earned his MFA in Scenic Design from Indiana University in Bloomington. For more information, please visit www.Christopher-Rhoton.com

BILL MOREY+ (Costume Designer) is an Artistic Associate at Porchlight Music Theatre. Bill is a twelve time Jeff Award Nominee in Costume Design and has won the Equity Jeff Award for Porchlight’s productions of Nine, The King and I, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, and Dreamgirls. He is also the recipient of two After Dark Awards and the BroadwayWorld Chicago Award for Costume Design. His work has been seen at Theo Ubique, TimeLine, Lifeline, Piven, BoHo, and Off Broadway at the York Theater. www.billmorey.com

DENISE KARCZEWSKI (Lighting Designer) is thrilled to return to Porchlight Music Theatre after designing In The Heights and Dreamgirls. Denise is the resident lighting designer at Black Ensemble Theatre where she received BTAA awards for her designs of Indigo Blues and One Name Only as well as an African American Arts Alliance Award for her set and lighting design of Ella: the First Lady of Song. Denise is one of the technical directors and designers at New Trier Township High School. She would like to thank Michael and Brenda for the opportunity and Daryl for all his love and support. Maya, mommy loves you!
ROBERT HORNBOSTEL (Sound Designer) is excited to be back for his third season with Porchlight Music Theatre and this amazing team! Recent Porchlight credits include *In The Heights, Dreamgirls, End Of The Rainbow, Far From Heaven, Ain't Misbehavin', Side Show*, Porchlight Revists Babes in Arms, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Robert is a freelance composer, designer, and engineer in Chicago, including work with New Millennium Theater, Raven Theater, Eclectic Theater, First Floor Theater, Roosevelt University, and many others. Robert would like to thank his fellow designers, friends, and family for their continued support. Selections of his previous work can be found at www.TechmagicDesigns.com.

MEALAH HEIDENREICH (Properties Designer) is excited to be returning to Porchlight Music Theatre to prop her sixth show with these powerful talents. Some of her previous designs include: *In The Heights* and *Dreamgirls* with Porchlight, *Caged Dames* With Hell in a Handbag Productions, *The House That Will Not Stand* with Victory Gardens Theatre, *Really, Really* with Interrobang Theatre Project, and *Chalk* with Sideshow Theatre Company. Mealah is an ensemble member with Hell in a Handbag Productions and owes most of her success to her bestie, Isaac, and wife, Debbie.

JAQ SEIFERT (Fight Designer and AngryDance Shield Choreographer) is excited to return to Porchlight Music Theatre and to be working with such an excellent team of performers and designers.Previously with Porchlight they choreographed the violence for *The Scottsboro Boys*. Jaq is a Certified Teacher and Certified Theatrical Firearms Instructor with The Society of American Fight Directors, a Certified Laban Movement Analyst, and an Intimacy Choreographer. Select other violence and intimacy design credits include: *Bonnie and Clyde* (Kokandy Productions), *Bad Jews* (Theater Wit), *The Room* (A Red Orchid Theater), *good friday* (Oracle Productions), and *Parachute Men* (Teatro Vista). They are an MFA graduate of Western Illinois University, a national and international performer, and the producer of the hit show *The Buttcracker: A Nutcracker Burlesque*. www.jaqseifert.com.

SAMMI GRANT (Dialect Coach) is thrilled to be working with Porchlight Music Theatre on this fantastic show. Other Chicago theatres she has worked with include: Goodman Theatre, Drury Lane, TimeLine Theatre, The Gift Theatre, Windy City Playhouse, Strawdog Theatre, Steep Theatre, Jackalope Theatre, Sideshow Theatre, Eclipse Theatre, Bailiwick Chicago, and many more. Her TV coaching credits include: *The Exorcist* (Fox) and *Patriot* (Amazon Prime). Sammi also works as a voiceover artist and is represented by Big Mouth Talent. She would like to thank her Mom and Colin for all of their support.

SEAN McSTRAVICK* (Stage Manager) has recently arrived from the San Francisco Bay Area, and is pleased to join Porchlight Music Theatre for the start of their 17/18 season. Recent credits include: *Monsoon Wedding* with Berkeley Repertory Theatre, and Marin Theatre Company where Sean served as the production stage manager from 2013 – 2017. Sean has also worked with The Reduced Shakespeare Company, Shotgun Players, 42nd Street Moon, North Coast Repertory Theatre, and the Willows Theatre Company. Sean is a proud member of the Actors’ Equity Association.

COREY BOUGHTON* (Assistant Stage Manager) is excited to start his first Chicago production. He originally hails from Michigan where he attended The University of Michigan Flint. Recently, he has managed productions at The Barn Theater. Personal favorites include: *Avenue Q* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Corey is also established in carpentry, lighting, and sound and
has worked with Jenny Wiley Theatre, Meadowbrook Theatre, and The Barn Theatre. “I hope through this performance of *Billy Elliot the Musical* we may educate and bring entertainment and wonder into your lives.” Corey dedicates his work and effort to the memory of his mentor Stephan Landon and his family who supports his desire to dream big even if he falls short.

**SHANNON DESMOND** (Assistant Stage Manager) is making her Porchlight Music Theatre debut! Select previous credits include: *Resolution* with Pride Films and Plays, *Elliot, A Soldier’s Fuge* with Curious Theatre Company, *How the World Began* with Rivendell Theatre Ensemble, and productions with Chicago Dance Crash and Chicago Reparatory Ballet. She is also a Vinyasa Yoga Instructor and a proud Northwestern University graduate.

**MATTHEW NADLER** (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be back with Porchlight Music Theatre where he worked on *Dreamgirls*, *In The Heights*, *The Scottsboro Boys*, and *Marry Me A Little*. He graduated from Emerson College in 2015 with a BFA in Stage Management. Much love to his family for always supporting him in his goals.

**MICHAEL WEBER** (Artistic Director) most recently directed *End of the Rainbow* for Porchlight Music Theatre as well as the Porchlight Revisits productions of *Chess*, *Mack & Mabel*, *Bells Are Ringing*, and *Fade Out – Fade In*. His productions of *Sweeney Todd*, *Pal Joey* and *Assassins* at Porchlight Music Theatre, *Grand Hotel* at Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place and *She Loves Me* at Theatre at the Center were each nominated for the Equity Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Production-Musical. Other directing credits include *Living the History-125 Years of the Auditorium Theatre* starring Patti LuPone, John Mahoney and stars of Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Joffrey Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and more, *Fifth of July* and *Talley’s Folly* at the Oak Park Festival Theatre, *The Petrified Forest* at Theatre at the Center, *Beauty and the Beast* at Marriott Theatre, *Over the River and Through the Woods* at Mercury Theater and *Cirque du Symphony* at Sears Center Arena. The recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards, he has written and directed the past nine Joseph Jefferson Awards ceremonies. Weber’s regional acting credits include *The Merry Widow* and *The Sound of Music* at Lyric Opera, *42nd Street* at Paramount, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Gypsy* (both starring Patti LuPone) at Ravinia, *Disney’s My Son Pinocchio* at First Stage Milwaukee, *Around the World in 80 Days* at Cleveland Playhouse, *The Winter’s Tale* and *Henry V* at Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, *Angel Street* at First Folio Shakespeare, and *The Gifts of the Magi* at Indiana Repertory. Having served previously as artistic director of Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower Place (now The Broadway Playhouse) and Theatre at the Center, Michael is proud to serve as a pledge host on WTTW, Channel 11. He is author of the play, *WAR of the WELLeS*.

**JEANNIE LUKOW** (Executive Director) is a founding member of Porchlight Music Theatre’s board of directors and served for six years as its president. She was thrilled to join the staff in September 2014 as the company’s first Executive Director. Prior to taking the helm at Porchlight, Jeannie ran Bespoke Cuisine, one of Chicago’s leading cooking party venues, which she co-founded/owned for 12 years. Before the hospitality/food business, Jeannie built a 15-year career in marketing communications, much of it spent in association management. Her most recent position was as Managing Director of Marketing Communications for the National Association of Realtors, one of the nation’s largest trade associations. She is a native Michigander and graduate of Michigan State University.
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Porchlight Music Theatre is Chicago’s home for music theatre, providing performance, education and appreciation opportunities that celebrate and sustain this unique American art form. With special opportunities for under-served communities, we nurture young artists and new works, and redefine the classic music theatre genre in our signature intimate style.

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Generous Donors Help Fund Porchlight’s Youth Programming

- Community Outreach Partnerships Program hosts underserved youth at main stage productions and post-show discussions
- Porchlight artists attend rehearsals at partnership schools and provide feedback
- Scholarships bring deserving youth to Porchlight’s "Write Your Own Musical" summer music theatre camps
- After-school music theatre activities at Chicago Public Schools provide enrichment

Thanks to Chicago Sings Sinatra & the Rat Pack attendees who raised their "paddles" and contributed over $19,000 to Porchlight’s youth programming.

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